

**Table 3:** Major errors (mutually exclusive) were found in 64.6 % of the 5,828 death certificates, and minor errors (not mutually exclusive) practically in all certificates. Major errors are arbitrary to the use and interpretation of certificates while minor errors do not prohibit their use.

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**Major errors**

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Mechanism of death without an underlying cause	339 (5.8 %)
Non-acceptable cause of death	1,818 (31.2 %)
Improper sequencing of causes	980 (16.8 %)
Multiple and independent causes	628 (10.8 %)
Total	3,765 (64.6 %)

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**Minor errors**

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Absence of time intervals between causes	5,780 (99.2 %)
Use of abbreviations	2,126 (36.5 %)
Mechanism of death with incomplete information on underlying cause	3,343 (57.4 %)
Two minor errors	4,236 (72.7 %)

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