

## 3. Results of study

### Demographic data

The first part of an autopsy report indicates the demographic data: who the patient was, how old they were, when and where they died, and many other important data (Table 6). The following sections relate to the information as presented in the autopsy report as a stand alone document, and not the supporting documentation (i.e. this is material that the pathologist him/herself presents in the report).

<b>Table 6:</b> Information contained within the autopsy report (answers may be multiple <i>n</i> =1691)		
	<b><i>n</i></b>	<b>% of cases</b>
Name of the deceased	1691	100
Pathologist's name	1689	100
Date of autopsy	1675	99
Sex	1667	99
Location of autopsy	1655	98
Date of death	1624	96
Autopsy report number	1535	91
Age	1445	85
Location of death	1287	76
Date of birth	1230	73
Address of deceased	1218	72
Pathologist's appointment	1187	70
Time of death	1143	68
Coroner instructing (or jurisdiction)	1078	64
Pathologist's qualifications*	1071	63
Other persons present at the autopsy	610	36
Time of autopsy	594	35
Statement of presence (or absence) of pacemaker	561	33
Deceased identified by **	516	31
Mode of identification ***	474	28
Hospital / NHS number	355	21

\* *What is a pathologist? Most of those performing the autopsies were consultants, most but not all of whom were members/fellows of the Royal College of Pathologists; there were also specialist registrars and senior house officers performing autopsies and signing reports (described in more detail later). A proportion of pathologists were forensic specialists, but the study did not distinguish those belonging to a forensic department from those who were independent, self-employed practitioners.*

\*\* *This refers to a named person who identified the body to the pathologist.*

\*\*\* *This refers to the method by which the pathologist identified the body, for example, by wrist band.*

From the autopsy report, a note was made of the pathologists' appointment (Table 7).

<b>Table 7: Pathologists' appointment</b>		
	<b><i>n</i>=</b>	<b>%</b>
Consultant histopathologist	1002	59.3
Forensic pathologist	122	7.2
Specialist registrar or senior house officer	54	3.2
Associate specialist histopathologist	10	<1
Consultant neuropathologist	8	<1
Consultant paediatric pathologist	5	<1
Not stated	490	29.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1691</b>	<b>100</b>