

PP035

## Knowledge and attitudes on non-communicable disease screening among 35-65 year adults in Medical Officer of Health Area, Dimbulagala

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**Introduction & Objectives:** Non-communicable diseases (NCD) account for 70% deaths worldwide. Annually, 15 million people die from NCD between ages of 30-69 years. The objective of this study was to describe the knowledge on NCD and attitudes on NCD screening of adults (35-65-years) in Dimbulagala Medical Officer of Health (MOH) area.

**Methods:** A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among adults aged 35-65, permanent residents in MOH area, Dimbulagala. Estimated sample size of 537 was selected from 30 clusters by probability proportionate to the number of households in each Grama Niladari division. In the case of more than-one eligible participant present in a selected household, the 'Kish' method was used to identify a participant in a random manner. A pre-tested interviewer administered questionnaire was used to ascertain the data. The knowledge score was calculated on a 0-10 scale. Responses to the statements in attitudes were assessed on a five-point Likert scale

**Results:** Five-hundred-thirty-seven (n=537) questionnaires were administered with a response rate of 93%. The mean age of the study population was 46.5 (SD=8.75) years. Majority (83.2%) of the study population had scored more than the middle value (i.e. 10) of the knowledge score. Only 37.8% individuals had ever attended a NCD screening clinic. The majority (77.8%, n=418) did not have positive attitudes towards NCD screening. There was a significant association ( $p<0.05$ ) between levels of knowledge with level of education and employment.

**Conclusion:** The overall level of knowledge among the participants was satisfactory, and the majority did not have positive attitudes towards screening. Results indicated a gap between peoples' knowledge and attitudes.