# Estimates of Diabetes Mellitus and Hypertension and Associated Risk Factors 

Jeyanthi Shanmugam $K^{\mathbf{1}}$, Chitra $\mathbf{P}^{\mathbf{2}}$, Sujitha Rani $\mathbf{P}^{\mathbf{3}}$, Belsie $\mathbf{P}^{\mathbf{4}}$, Vetri Selvi $\mathrm{A}^{\mathbf{5}}$<br>${ }^{1}$ Principal, ${ }^{2}$ Professor, ${ }^{3}$ Nursing Tutor, ${ }^{4}$ Nursing Tutor, ${ }^{5}$ Nursing Tutor; Department of Fundamentals of Nursing, V. V. Vanniaperumal Nursing College for Women, Virudhunagar<br>Corresponding Author: Jeyanthi Shanmugam K

DOI: https://doi.org/10.52403/ijhsr. 20240611


#### Abstract

Background: Non-communicable diseases are among the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in India Objective: The present study aimed at identifying the prevalence of Diabetes mellitus, hypertension and their associated risk factors. Methods: Descriptive survey design was used and 145 adults were selected by using nonprobability purposive sampling technique. Random blood sugar and blood pressure were measured. Risk factors such as Smoking, alcohol intake, unhealthy dietary habits, physical inactivity and BMI were assessed. Results: $16 \%$ of subject's blood sugar was above normal. Blood pressure was high among $41 \%$ of subjects. $10 \%, 9 \%$ of subjects reported smoking, alcohol intake respectively. BMI was high among $43 \%$ of subjects. A significant portion of study subjects had unhealthy dietary habits and physical inactivity. $46.3 \%$ subjects had more than two risk factors. Conclusion: The current study reveals a high prevalence of DM, HTN and several risk factors among the study subjects, which calls for immediate action to curb this epidemic.


Key words: Non communicable diseases (NCDs), Diabetes mellitus, Hypertension, Risk factors

## INTRODUCTION

Recent reports on health scenario in India indicates a significant growth of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) across the nation. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as Hypertension, diabetes, cancer, and chronic respiratory diseases have emerged as a predominant public health concern.
Apollo Hospitals' flagship Health of Nation Report on World Health Day 2024, presents that, one in three Indians are pre-diabetic and two in three are pre-hypertensive ${ }^{[1]}$.
World Health Organization (WHO) in their report titled 'Invisible Numbers', reveals that $66 \%$ of deaths in India in 2019 were attributed to NCDs. The report also suggests
that $22 \%$ of individuals aged 30 or older in India would be a victim to NCDs before reaching their 70 years ${ }^{[2]}$.
Indian Council of Medical Research-India Diabetes (ICMR-INDIAB), carried out a cross-sectional population-based survey among population 20 years and above in the period between 2008 and 2020. The study recruited $1,13,043$ adults from urban and rural residents of 31 states and union territories of India. The prevalence of diabetes was $11.4 \%$, pre-diabetes was $15.3 \%$, hypertension was $35.5 \%$ and generalized obesity was $28.6 \%$. Hypertension was the most prevalent NCD throughout the country except the central regions. It was also found
that southern and northern regions of India had high prevalence of diabetes ${ }^{[3]}$.
STEPwise approach to NCD risk factor surveillance (STEPS) survey 2020 indicated a community prevalence of $33.9 \%$ for hypertension, $17.6 \%$ for diabetes, in Tamil Nadu ${ }^{[4]}$.
NCDs are primarily driven by the high prevalence of major preventable risk factors - tobacco use, consumption of alcohol, unhealthy dietary practices, lack of sufficient physical activity and obesity.
National NCD Monitoring Survey (NNMS) in six geographic regions of India reported an increased prevalence of risk factors for NCDs. Tobacco ( $45.7 \%$ ) and alcohol use (22.3\%) was highly prevalent in Northeast region. Northern region reported low levels of physical activity (49.6\%), while the southern region had high prevalence of metabolic risk factors - obesity ( $12.5 \%$ ), raised fasting blood glucose ( $21.2 \%$ ) and raised blood pressure ( $35.6 \%$ ). Presence of $\geq 3$ risk factors ( $50.1 \%$ ) was highest in south India when compared to other regions. Older age, urban residents, alcohol consumption and overweight/obesity were significantly associated with higher odds of raised blood pressure and raised fasting blood glucose ${ }^{[5]}$. Furthermore, as regions and states in India differ widely from each other in ethnic composition, dietary habits, and socioeconomic development, overall NCD estimates for the state/country have failed to figure out the wide inter-regional and intraregional differences. Region wise estimation of risk factors is essential to enable state governments to plan and implement programmes aimed at preventing and managing NCDs in their respective jurisdictions.
This study attempts to identify the Prevalence of risk factors for NCDs in population of Virudhunagar district which is situated in the southern portion of Tamilnadu state.

## AIM

The present study aimed at identifying the prevalence of Diabetes mellitus,
hypertension and their associated risk factors among patients attending the OPD of selected hospital, Virudhunagar

## METHODOLOGY

Descriptive survey design was used to collect data. By using non-probability purposive sampling 145 patients were selected. Permission was obtained from the hospital authority and oral consent was obtained from the study subjects.

## Tool-Instrument for data collection consisted of five sections

Section A. Demographic Proforma which includes age, gender, educational status, marital status, place of residence, religion, occupation, family monthly income, History of DM, HTN, cancer, heart disease in the family
Section B. Checklist to assess the following behavioural risk factors

- Smoking
- Alcohol intake,
- Food habits
- Practices related to physical activity

Section C. Anthropometric measurement Measurement of height and weight
Section D. Measurement of blood pressure using sphygmomanometer
Section E. Random blood sugar was estimated using Glucose oxidase-peroxidase method (GOD - POD)

## RESULTS

## I. Demographic characteristics of the subjects

The age of the study subjects ranged from 18 to 80 years with the mean age of $47.90 \pm 13.72$. Majority subjects ( $83 \%$ ) were between $26-65$ years. $62 \%$ of subjects were females. More than half of the subjects have completed primary education. Almost all the subjects ( $95 \%$ ) were married. Nearly one quarter of the subjects ( $73 \%$ ) resides in rural area. Nearly all the subjects ( $96 \%$ ) were Hindus. Coolie work was the predominant occupation. A significant portion of the study subject's ( $53 \%$ ) family monthly income was between Rs 5000-10000. Very few subjects
(8.3\%) had the family history of DM and HTN.

## II. Prevalence of smoking and alcohol consumption among the subjects

Table 1. Distribution of subjects based on smoking and alcohol consumption $\mathbf{N}=145$

| S. No | Risk factor | Yes |  |  | No |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  | Frequency | Percentage | Frequency | Percentage |
| 1 | History of smoking | 14 | $10 \%$ | 131 | $90 \%$ |
| 2 | History of alcohol intake | 10 | $7 \%$ | 135 | $93 \%$ |

All the 14,10 subjects who have reported smoking and alcohol intake were males. None of the female subjects have reported either smoking or alcohol intake. Among the 14,10 subjects who smoke, drink alcohol 12 ,

7 subjects were from rural area respectively (Table 1).

## III. Prevalence of unhealthy food habits among the subjects

Table 2. Distribution of subjects based on food habit $\mathbf{N}=\mathbf{1 4 5}$

| S. No | Food item | Never |  | Daily |  | Weekly once |  | Monthly once |  | Rarely |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  | $\mathbf{F}$ | $\boldsymbol{\%}$ | $\mathbf{F}$ | $\boldsymbol{\%}$ | $\mathbf{F}$ | $\boldsymbol{\%}$ | $\mathbf{F}$ | $\boldsymbol{\%}$ | $\mathbf{F}$ |
| $\boldsymbol{\%}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1 | Parotta | 46 | 32 | 5 | 3 | 24 | 17 | 24 | 17 | 46 | 32 |
| 2 | Fried items | 58 | 40 | 4 | 3 | 21 | 14.4 | 21 | 14.4 | 41 | 28.2 |

$79 \%$ of subjects had the habit of consuming outside food items. Nearly $1 / 4^{\text {th }}$ of the subjects ( $17 \%$ ) consumes parotta every week. Very few subjects reported intake of parotta and fried items regularly (Table 2).
IV. Prevalence of physical inactivity among the subjects

Table 3. Distribution of subjects based on physical activity $\mathbf{N}=\mathbf{1 4 5}$

| S. No | Physical activity | Never |  | Daily |  | Weekly once |  | Monthly once |  | Rarely |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
|  |  |  | $\mathbf{F}$ | $\boldsymbol{\%}$ | $\mathbf{F}$ | $\boldsymbol{\%}$ | $\mathbf{F}$ | $\boldsymbol{\%}$ | $\mathbf{F}$ | $\boldsymbol{\%}$ |  |
| $\mathbf{F}$ | $\boldsymbol{\%}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1 | Walking | 59 | 41 | 62 | 43 | 11 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 9 |  |
| 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | Exercise | 119 | 82 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 9 |  |
| 3 | Yoga | 124 | 86 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 8 |  |

Nearly half of the subjects ( $41 \%$ ) never have the practice of walking. Majority of the subjects $(82 \%, 86 \%)$ have never practiced exercise, yoga respectively (Table 3 )

## V. Prevalence of Increased BMI among the subjects

Table 4. Distribution of subjects based on the
BMI N=145

| S. No | BMI | Frequency | Percentage |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | Underweight (<18.50) | 16 | 11 |
| 2 | Normal (18.50-24.99) | 66 | 45.5 |
| 3 | Pre-obese (25-29.99) | 40 | 27.6 |
| 4 | Obese class I (30- <br> $34.99)$ | 18 | 12.4 |
| 5 | Obese class II (35- <br> $39.99)$ | 4 | 2.8 |
| 6 | Obese class III (>40) | 1 | 0.7 |

A substantial number of study subjects (63) had BMI above normal. Among those who had high BMI 45 subjects were between the
age group of $36-65$ years, 44 resides at rural area. Family monthly income of 52 subjects was less than 10,000. Occupation of 42 subjects was coolie work (Table 4).

## VI. Prevalence of risk factors among the subjects

Table 5. Distribution of study subjects based on the risk factors $\quad \mathrm{N}=145$

| S. No | Number of risk factors | Frequency | Percentage |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | 0 | 33 | $22.8 \%$ |
| 2 | 1 | 45 | $31.0 \%$ |
| 3 | 2 | 43 | $29.7 \%$ |
| 4 | 3 | 20 | $13.8 \%$ |
| 5 | 4 | 3 | $2.1 \%$ |
| 6 | 5 | 1 | $0.7 \%$ |

Prevalence of Smoking, alcohol intake, physical inactivity, unhealthy food habit and increased BMI among study subjects were assessed. Less than one quarter of subjects
(22.8\%) had no risk factors for DM and HTN. Majority of the subjects had at least one risk factor. $17 \%$ of subjects had three or more risk factors (Table 5).

## VII. Prevalence of increased blood pressure among the subjects

Table 6. Distribution of subjects based on the level of blood pressure $\mathrm{N}=145$

| S. <br> No | Blood pressure in mm <br> of hg | Frequency | Percentage |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | Optimal (<120/80) | 59 | 40 |
| 2 | Normal (120/80-129/84) | 27 | 19 |
| 3 | High normal (130/85- <br> $139 / 89)$ | 24 | 17 |
| 4 | Grade I Hypertension <br> $(140 / 90-159 / 99)$ | 29 | 20 |
| 5 | Grade II Hypertension <br> $(160 / 100-179 / 109)$ | 3 | 2 |
| 6 | Grade III Hypertension <br> $(>180 / 110)$ | 3 | 2 |

Nearly half of the study subjects had their blood pressure above normal. $1 / 5^{\text {th }}$ of the
study subjects had grade I hypertension (Table 6).

## VIII. Prevalence of increased blood sugar among the subjects

Table 7. Distribution of subjects based on the level of blood sugar $\mathrm{N}=145$

| S. No | Random blood sugar | Frequency | Percentage |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | $<140 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{dl}$ | 127 | 88 |
| 2 | $140-200 \mathrm{mg}-\mathrm{dl}$ | 12 | 8 |
| 3 | $>200 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{dl}$ | 6 | 4 |

Majority of the subjects ( $88 \%$ ) had normal blood sugar level. $12 \%$ of subject's blood sugar is above normal. The random blood sugar of the subjects ranged between 59 and $346 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{dl}$. The mean RBS was $107.31 \pm 45.82$ (Table 7).

## IX. Association between random blood sugar and selected demographic variables

Table 8. Association of level of random blood sugar with selected demographic variables $\mathbf{N}=\mathbf{1 4 5}$

| S. No | Demographic variables | Random blood sugar in mg/dl |  |  | Chi-square value |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | <140 | 140-200 | >200 |  |
| 1 | Age in years |  |  |  |  |
|  | <25 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 10.745 ${ }^{\text {\# }}$ |
|  | 25-35 | 20 | 1 | 2 |  |
|  | 36-45 | 34 | 2 | 3 |  |
|  | 46-55 | 34 | 2 | 0 |  |
|  | 56-65 | 19 | 2 | 1 |  |
|  | >65 | 15 | 4 | 0 |  |
| 2 | Gender |  |  |  | $0.488{ }^{\text {\# }}$ |
|  | Male | 47 | 5 | 3 |  |
|  | Female | 80 | 7 | 3 |  |
| 3 | Educational status |  |  |  |  |
|  | No formal education | 45 | 2 | 2 | 18.932* |
|  | Primary education | 69 | 7 | 2 |  |
|  | Completed schooling | 2 | 1 | 0 |  |
|  | Under graduate | 11 | 1 | 2 |  |
|  | Post graduate | 0 | 1 | 0 |  |
| 4 | Marital status |  |  |  |  |
|  | Married | 120 | 11 | 6 | $0.533^{\#}$ |
|  | Unmarried | 7 | 1 | 0 |  |
| 5 | Place of residence |  |  |  |  |
|  | Rural | 94 | 7 | 5 | $4.530^{\text {\# }}$ |
|  | Urban | 24 | 5 | 1 |  |
|  | Semi urban | 9 | 0 | 0 |  |
| 6 | Occupation |  |  |  |  |
|  | Coolie workers | 89 | 7 | 4 | $2.861^{\text {\# }}$ |
|  | House wife | 28 | 2 | 1 |  |
|  | Private employee | 8 | 2 | 1 |  |
|  | Government employee | 1 | 0 | 0 |  |
| 7 | Family monthly income in rupees |  |  |  |  |
|  | <5000 | 39 | 2 | 1 | $4.395^{*}$ |
|  | 5000-10000 | 66 | 8 | 3 |  |
|  | 10000-15000 | 18 | 1 | 2 |  |
|  | $>15000$ | 4 | 1 | 0 |  |
| 8 | History of smoking |  |  |  |  |
|  | Yes | 13 | 1 | 0 | $0.714^{\text {\# }}$ |
|  | No | 114 | 11 | 6 |  |
| 9 | History of alcohol consumption |  |  |  |  |


|  | Yes | 8 | 2 | 0 | $2.299^{\text {\# }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | No | 119 | 10 | 6 |  |
| 10 | Habit of taking outside food items |  |  |  |  |
|  | Yes | 97 | 10 | 6 | $2.081^{\text {\# }}$ |
|  | No | 30 | 2 | 0 |  |
| 11 | Frequency of parotta intake |  |  |  |  |
|  | Never | 42 | 4 | 0 | $14.405^{\#}$ |
|  | Daily | 2 | 2 | 1 |  |
|  | Weekly once | 21 | 2 | 1 |  |
|  | Monthly once | 20 | 2 | 2 |  |
|  | Rarely | 42 | 2 | 2 |  |
| 12 | Frequency of intake of fried items |  |  |  |  |
|  | Never | 53 | 4 | 1 | $13.239^{\text {\# }}$ |
|  | Daily | 2 | 2 | 0 |  |
|  | Weekly once | 17 | 3 | 1 |  |
|  | Monthly once | 19 | 1 | 1 |  |
|  | Rarely | 36 | 2 | 3 |  |
| 13 | Family history of DM |  |  |  |  |
|  | Yes | 11 | 0 | 1 | $1.664^{\#}$ |
|  | No | 116 | 12 | 5 |  |
| 14 | Habit of walking |  |  |  |  |
|  | Never | 50 | 5 | 4 | $16.839^{*}$ |
|  | Daily | 59 | 2 | 1 |  |
|  | Weekly once | 9 | 1 | 1 |  |
|  | Monthly once | 2 | 2 | 0 |  |
|  | Rarely | 7 | 2 | 0 |  |
| 15 | Habit of exercise |  |  |  |  |
|  | Never | 106 | 8 | 5 | 6.803 ${ }^{\text {\# }}$ |
|  | Daily | 5 | 0 | 0 |  |
|  | Weekly once | 7 | 1 | 0 |  |
|  | Monthly once | 3 | 1 | 0 |  |
|  | Rarely | 6 | 1 | 1 |  |
| 16 | Habit of yoga |  |  |  |  |
|  | Never | 111 | 8 | 5 | $10.000^{\text {\# }}$ |
|  | Daily | 2 | 0 | 0 |  |
|  | Weekly once | 5 | 1 | 0 |  |
|  | Monthly once | 3 | 2 | 0 |  |
|  | Rarely | 6 | 1 | 1 |  |
| 17 | Body Mass Index |  |  |  |  |
|  | <18.50 | 15 | 1 | 0 | 8.185 ${ }^{\text {\# }}$ |
|  | 18.50-24.99 | 61 | 3 | 2 |  |
|  | 25-29.99 | 33 | 5 | 2 |  |
|  | 30-34.99 | 13 | 3 | 2 |  |
|  | 35-39.99 | 4 | 0 | 0 |  |
|  | >40 | 1 | 0 | 0 |  |

*- Significant
\# - Not significant
The level of blood sugar was associated with educational status ( $\mathbf{p}-\mathbf{0} .015$ ) and habit of walking ( $\mathbf{p}-\mathbf{0} \mathbf{0} \mathbf{0 3 2}$ ).
Table 9. Association of level of blood pressure with selected demographic variables N=145

| $\begin{aligned} & \text { S. } \\ & \text { No } \end{aligned}$ | Demographic variables | Blood pressure in mm of hg |  |  |  |  |  | Chi-square value |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | <120/80 | $\begin{aligned} & 120 / 80- \\ & 129 / 84 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 130/85- } \\ & \text { 139/89 } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { 140/90- } \\ & \hline 159 / 99 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 160/100- } \\ & \mathbf{1 7 9 / 1 0 9} \end{aligned}$ | >180/110 |  |
| 1 | Age in years |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | <25 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | $53.798^{*}$ |
|  | 25-35 | 14 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |  |
|  | 36-45 | 18 | 12 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 0 |  |
|  | 46-55 | 13 | 4 | 8 | 10 | 0 | 1 |  |
|  | 56-65 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 2 |  |
|  | $>65$ | 4 | 0 | 3 | 10 | 2 | 0 |  |
| 2 | Gender |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Male | 17 | 10 | 11 | 16 | 0 | 1 | $8.251^{\text {\# }}$ |
|  | Female | 42 | 17 | 13 | 13 | 3 | 2 |  |
| 3 | Educational status |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | No formal education | 19 | 6 | 11 | 9 | 2 | 2 | $16.426^{\#}$ |
|  | Primary education | 30 | 18 | 10 | 18 | 1 | 1 |  |
|  | Completed schooling | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
|  | Under graduate | 8 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |  |
|  | Post graduate | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| 4 | Marital status |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |



## DISCUSSION

This study attempted to find out the prevalence of diabetes mellitus and Hypertension and their associated factors.
This study found that $10 \%$ of subjects had the habit of smoking and alcohol was consumed by 7\% of subjects A cross-sectional study conducted among 502 tribal population 40 years and above in three villages of Vellore district showed a similar prevalence of smoking among the study subjects which was $9 \%$. They also found that $38.8 \%$ people had high BMI, which is almost similar to finding of the current study in which $43 \%$ of subjects had high BMI. $12 \%$ of study subjects in the current study had a family history of DM and HTN, which was much high comparing to the other study in which only $2.4 \%$ of subjects had a family history of DM and HTN each ${ }^{[6]}$. The current study found that $79 \%$ of subjects consume outside food items, also found consumption of unhealthy food items such as parotta and fried items. Majority of the study subjects were physically inactive. This study findings are comparable to the study conducted among 370 adults in the rural areas of Kancheepuram district, which also revealed a significant portion of study subjects with physical inactivity (50.2\%) and unhealthy diet ( $62 \%)^{[7]}$.
With regard to hypertension, $17 \%$ of subjects were in pre-hypertensive stage and $24 \%$ had hypertension. These findings are dissimilar to the findings of the cross-sectional study conducted among 420 study subjects aged 20-40 years residing in urban area of Bagalkot city, Karnataka, which revealed a $17.9 \%$ of hypertension and $52 \%$ of prehypertension ${ }^{[8]}$.
In the present study $8 \%$ of subjects had their Random blood sugar between $140-200 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{dl}$. Random blood sugar of $4 \%$ of subjects was more than $200 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{dl}$. This is almost identical to the study conducted among 525 tribal adults above 40 years in Salem district of Tamil Nadu, where $7.42 \%$, $5.33 \%$ of subject's Random blood sugar was between $140-200 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{dl}$, above $200 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{dl}$ respectively ${ }^{[9]}$.

In our study age and hypertension had a statistically significant association, and educational status and random blood sugar also had a significant association. A similar finding was observed a study conducted among 1003 geriatric subjects aged 60 years and above in Nainital, Uttarakhand. In that study there was a statistically significant association found between age and hypertension ( $p-0.004$ ), Educational status was associated with Random blood sugar (p$0.000)^{[10]}$.
Several research studies found a significant association between BMI and HTN, DM. In our study BMI was neither associated with Blood pressure nor with Random blood sugar.
Regarding the risk factors for NCDs, $16.6 \%$ of subjects had 3 or more risk factors. Regional estimates of NCDs and associated risk factors among adults in India found that $50.1 \%$ subjects had clustering of three or more risk factors for NCDs in the south region.
The finding of the current study reveals clustering of risk factors for DM and HTN. $46.3 \%$ subjects had more than one risk factor. $16.6 \%$ had more than three risk factors. Almost identical result was found in a study among 12012 subjects aged between 18-69 years, in which $47.1 \%$ study subjects had more than single risk factor. More than three risk factors were found in $16.6 \%$ of subjects ${ }^{[11]}$.

## CONCLUSION

Considerable portion of study subjects had high RBS. Nearly half of the study subjects had high blood pressure. There were multiple risk factors found among the study subjects. This calls for urgent and concerted primary and secondary prevention activities to address the future burden of NCDs. Studies need to be carried out to assess the magnitude, Socio-demographic determinants and preventive measures for diabetes and hypertension. There is a need to promote and strengthen health care delivery system to address the growing burden of hypertension and diabetes mellitus in the country.

## Declaration by Authors

Ethical Approval: Approved
Acknowledgement: None
Source of Funding: None
Conflict of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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How to cite this article: Jeyanthi Shanmugam K, Chitra P, Sujitha Rani P, Belsie P, Vetri Selvi A. Estimates of diabetes mellitus and hypertension and associated risk factors. Int J Health Sci Res. 2024; 14(6):72-79. DOI:
https://doi.org/l0.52403/ijhsr. 20240611

