

II. SUMMARY

This descriptive cross sectional community based study was designed to assess the prevalence of condom use and factors affecting it, among males (n=470) in Dehiwela Mount Lavinia Municipal area. The study describes their socio demographic profile, sexual preferences, knowledge and perceptions of condoms and problems faced by condom users.

The mean age of the respondents was 32.6 years. Out of the 470 respondents 285 (60.6%) had ever used the condom during their life time. 57 had used it during the time of interview or one month prior to the interview giving a prevalence rate of 12.1%. Never users of condom among them were 39.4%. Majority of the ever users of the condom belonged to 35 - 39 year group. Almost all of the respondents have heard of a condom and 86% have seen it. Amongst the ever users (n=285) 44% had obtained the first information about condom use from the mass/electronic media.

There were 32% (n=91) ever users who had experienced problems while using the condom. The main problems experienced by them were bursting of condom, slippage and difficulty in wearing. Popular source of supply of condom was the pharmacy followed by grocery shops. Only a few condom users had purchased their required condoms through government health institutions.

Hesitancy to ask for the condom was the main problem of purchasing followed by lack of money. Majority of the ever users have used the condom to prevent pregnancy and only a few had used it to prevent STD/AIDS transmission.