**PREVALENCE OF HYPERTENSION AND FACTORS ASSOCIATED AMONG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN ZAHEDAN, IRAN**

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Hypertension is the leading treatable risk factor for CVD mortality. The objective of the study was to determine the prevalence and factors associated with hypertension among high school students in Zahedan, Iran. The overall mean systolic blood pressure [SBP] and diastolic blood pressure [DBP] of 1440 respondents was 109.95 (95% CI=108.99-110.11) and 68.03 (95% CI=67.59-68.47) respectively. The mean SBP was significantly higher in males (111.85 mmHg) as compared to

(106.73 mmHg) in females (p<0.001). The mean DBP in males (70.92 mmHg) was significantly higher as compared to 64.8 mmHg in females (p<0.001). The overall prevalence of pre-hypertension, hypertension stage one and hypertension stage two was 16.4%, 4.8% and 1.8% respectively. The prevalence rates of pre-hypertension, hypertension stage one and two (24.3%, 5.8% and 2.1%) were significantly high in male as compared to female respondents (6.7%, 3.6% and 1.4%). The mean of SBP and DPB in Sunni religious group (110.98, 69.31mmHg) was significantly higher as compared to 108.56 and 67.14 mmHg in Sheath religious group (p<0.001) respectively. The mean of SBP was significantly higher in smokers (113.04 mmHg) as compared to 109.44 mmHg in non-smokers (p<0.001). The mean DBP in smokers (70.65 mmHg) was significantly higher as compared to 67.95 mmHg in non-smokers (p<0.001). There was a significant but very weak positive correlation between BMI and SBP (r = 0.14, r2 = 0.02, p= 0.001) and BMI and DBP (r = 0.06, r2 = 0.004,

p= 0.001). The mean SBP and DBP was not associated with family history of hypertension (p>0.05).