

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Undiagnosed hypertension and associated factors among bank workers in Bahir Dar City, Northwest, Ethiopia, 2020. A cross-sectional study

Mekdes Dejenie¹ , Sitotaw Kerie² *, Kidist Reba² 

1 Department of Nursing, Debre Tabor Health Science College, Debre Tabor, Ethiopia, **2** Department of Nursing, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, Bahir Dar University, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia

 These authors contributed equally to this work.

* sitkere5@gmail.com



Abstract

Background

Undiagnosed hypertension is defined as individuals who were hypertensive but did not report having been told by a health professional that they have hypertension. It is an important risk factor for development of chronic kidney disease, cardiovascular disease and all-cause mortality. Despite those problems and benefits of finding individuals with undiagnosed hypertension to prevent its outcomes, no enough investigations have been done regarding the prevalence and associated factors of undiagnosed hypertension. Therefore, the objective of this study was to assess the prevalence of undiagnosed hypertension and its associated factors among bank workers in Ethiopia.

Methods

An institutional based cross-sectional study was held at Bahir Dar city bank workers. The simple random sampling technique was used to select the study participants. Self-administered structured questionnaire and physical measurement were used to collect data. The data were entered into EPI data 3.1 versions and exported to SPSS version 23.0 statistical software for further analysis. In order to decide the association between independent and dependent variables; multivariate logistic regression analysis was implemented. A P-value of < 0.05 was used as the criterion for statistical significance and OR with 95% confidence interval was used to indicate the strength of association.

Result

In this study from a total of 524 participants 513 were completed the questionnaire correctly, which gives a response rate of 97.9%. The overall prevalence of undiagnosed hypertension among bank workers was 24.8% with (95% CI 21.1–28.5). Multivariate logistic regression revealed that age 35–44 [AOR = 2.56, 95% CI: (1.60–4.09)], being male [AOR = 3.61, 95% CI: (1.84–7.05)], having moderate knowledge [AOR = 3.81, 95% CI: (2.29–6.34)], having

OPEN ACCESS

Citation: Dejenie M, Kerie S, Reba K (2021) Undiagnosed hypertension and associated factors among bank workers in Bahir Dar City, Northwest, Ethiopia, 2020. A cross-sectional study. PLoS ONE 16(5): e0252298. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0252298>

Editor: Colin Johnson, Oregon State University, UNITED STATES

Received: September 7, 2020

Accepted: May 12, 2021

Published: May 27, 2021

Peer Review History: PLOS recognizes the benefits of transparency in the peer review process; therefore, we enable the publication of all of the content of peer review and author responses alongside final, published articles. The editorial history of this article is available here: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0252298>

Copyright: © 2021 Dejenie et al. This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

Data Availability Statement: All relevant data are within the paper and its [Supporting Information](#) files.

Funding: This study was funded by Amhara regional health bureau.

Competing interests: The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

Abbreviations: AOR, Adjusted Odds Ratio; BMI, Body Mass Index; CI, Confidence Interval; NCD, Non-Communicable Disease; P/E, Physical Exercise; SD, Standard Deviation; WHO, World Health Organization; Wt, Weight.

poor knowledge [AOR = 6.19, 95% CI: (3.07–)12.48], and being physically inactivity [AOR = 2.91, 95% CI: (1.26–6.76)] were variables significantly associated with undiagnosed hypertension.

Conclusion

The prevalence of undiagnosed hypertension among bank workers in Bahir Dar city was found to be high. An age group of 35–44 years, being male, having moderate and poor knowledge and being physically inactivity was the variables that were significantly associated with undiagnosed hypertension. Therefore, creating awareness, frequent screening and implementation of an appropriate intervention for this vulnerable group is important.

Introduction

Hypertension is defined as two or more readings of systolic blood pressure measurement of 130 mm Hg or higher or diastolic blood pressure measurement of 80 mm Hg or higher [1]. Globally, around one billion people are affected by hypertension and it is predicted to increase to 1.5 billion by 2025 [2].

Hypertension accounts for an estimated 54 percent of all strokes, 47 percent of all ischemic heart disease and 7.6 million premature deaths universally [3]. It rarely causes symptoms in the early stages and many people go undiagnosed [4].

Undiagnosed hypertension is defined as individuals who were hypertensive but did not report having been told by a health professional that they have hypertension. It is an important risk factor for development of chronic kidney disease, cardiovascular disease and all-cause mortality [5].

In 2007, around 50% of the world population were living with undiagnosed hypertension [6]. One out of three adults have hypertension and more than 50% of them are unaware of their status [7]. The burden of undiagnosed hypertension increases with age increases, it ranges from 6.0% in the age group of 18–19 years to 28.7% in the age group of 65–69 years [8]. Its prevalence is also significantly higher in the rural areas 20.7% compared to urban areas 16.1% and regarding sex it is higher in males 18.6% than in females 15.6% [9].

The number of people with hypertension who are undiagnosed, untreated and uncontrolled are higher in low- and middle-income countries than developed countries [4]. In Sub Saharan Africa a large proportion of the population with hypertension remains undiagnosed, untreated, or inadequately treated, and this results in a significant burden on health, economic, and cardiovascular disease [10]. Poor access to health information and services and low socio-economic status were some of the factors contribute to the high prevalence of undiagnosed hypertension in the region [10].

In Ethiopia, the magnitude of undiagnosed hypertension is 15.6% and only a very small percentage of people had been aware of their high blood pressure [11].

Different studies conducted in different areas revealed that younger and older age, lower socioeconomic status, drinking alcohol, being underweight, absence of associated cardiovascular co-morbidities, no familial history of hypertension and primary educated individuals are more likely to have undiagnosed hypertension [12–17].

Even though, some studies have been conducted on the assessment of the prevalence and associated factors of undiagnosed hypertension in different countries. In Ethiopia, there are only few studies conducted regarding the prevalence of undiagnosed hypertension and its

associated factors in the general community. However, bank workers are at greater risk for cardiovascular diseases than the general community because of using mechanized transportations and prolonged sitting due to their job behaviors [18], there is no research conducted among bank workers to identify the prevalence and associated factors of undiagnosed hypertension in Ethiopia [19]. Therefore, this study was conducted to assess the prevalence and associated factors of undiagnosed hypertension among bank workers in Bahir Dar city to fill the gap.

Methods and materials

Study design and period

An institutional based cross-sectional study was conducted on 513 participants in Bahir Dar city Northwest Ethiopia from February 24 to March 24, 2020. The site is located 565 km northwest of Addis Ababa and it is the capital city of Amhara regional state. There are 2 governmental and 16 private banks with 624 and 995 workers respectively in the city.

Sample size calculation

The number of samples required for this study was calculated for each specific objective by considering double population proportion formula by using Epi-Info version-7.2 for associated factors and the single population proportion formula was employed for the dependent variable. For single population proportion formula, the following assumptions were considered.

$$n = \frac{[(z \alpha/2)]^2 p (1 - p)}{d^2}$$

Where: n = the required sample size

α = level of significance (0.05)

Z = the standard normal distribution with 95% CI (1.96)

P = prevalence of undiagnosed hypertension (13.25%)

d = tolerable margin of error (d) = 0.05

$$\Rightarrow n = (1.96)^2 0.1325(1-0.1325) / (0.05)^2 = 177$$

- Adding 10% non-response rate and with design effect of 2 = 390

For the second objective sample size was determined by using double population proportion formula and two key factors were taken from the previous literature and sample size was computed by Epi info version 7.2 software (Table 1).

Thus the required sample size of this study was determined by taking the maximum sample size from the second objective. Therefore the final sample size for this study was 524 bank workers.

Table 1. Sample size calculation by using different variables.

S. no	Associated factors	Assumptions	The final sample size
1	BMI (body mass index)	Power = 80%, Ratio = 1:1, Outcome in unexposed group = 12.52%, AOR = 2.7, Outcome in exposed group = 27.9% and adding 10% non-response rate and with design effect of 2.	524
2	Alcohol drinking	Power = 80%, Ratio = 1:1, Outcome in unexposed group = 20.37%, AOR = 2.9, Outcome in exposed group = 42.6% and adding 10% non-response rate and with design effect of 2.	338

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0252298.t001>

Participants

Bahir Dar city has 18 banks with a total of 1,697 workers. All bank workers in the city were the source population of this study. Bank workers who were working in the selected banks and available during the time of data collection and those who were not diagnosed as hypertensive and/or use of anti-hypertensive medications were included from the study. Pregnant bank workers and Janitors were excluded from the study. Nine banks with a total of 916 workers were selected by using the lottery method. To select the study participants from each selected bank, first the list of all bank workers were obtained from each selected bank. Secondly, each member was numbered or assigned a sequential number. The sample size was proportionally allocated for each bank. Finally, a total of 524 bank workers were selected by using the random generator software.

Data collection and quality control

The data collection has two components: first there were questionnaires to collect socio-demographic, behavioral characteristics, history of chronic illnesses, hypertension related knowledge questions. Second, measurements of weight, height and blood pressure.

The questionnaire is adapted from previous similar studies and the WHO STEPS wise approach guidelines on NCD risk factor surveillance questionnaire. It contains information about socio demographic characteristics, behavioral characteristics, history of chronic illnesses, hypertension related knowledge questions and weight, height and blood pressure measurements [6, 13, 20–30]

Auscultatory method of BP measurement was used. Two measurements were taken with a minimum of 15 minutes apart using left arm consistently and the average of two BP measurements was used to determine the status of the participant.

Firstly, they were requested to avoid caffeine for 30 minutes prior to measurement. Participants were seated quietly for 5 minutes in a chair with feet on the floor and right arm was bared and supported at heart level. A standard sphygmomanometer and a standard stethoscope were used to ensure accuracy. For manual determinations, palpated radial pulse obliteration pressure was used to estimate systolic blood pressure (SBP), the cuff was inflated 20–30 mmHg above this level for the auscultatory determinations; the cuff deflation rate for auscultatory readings was 2 mmHg per second. SBP was recorded at the point at which the first of two Korotkoff sounds was heard and the disappearance of Korotkoff sound was used to define diastolic blood pressure (DBP).

Weight was measured, in kilograms using a portable weighing scale with the subjects standing, arms hanging naturally at the sides, without footwear material that may increase the body weight of the participant. Height was measured, in meters, using a stadiometer, to the crown of the head, the subject standing without any footwear or headgear and looking straight ahead.

Then body mass index was calculated by using the formula (weight in Kg/ height in m²) and classified based on the WHO classification [31]. Four BSc trained nurses were participated to collect the data.

Two days training was given for data collectors about data collection techniques and measurement procedures. Pre-test was done on (5%) of our sample size at Debre Tabor town bank workers who were not part of the study participant. The data collectors were supervised daily and the collected data were checked daily by the principal investigators for completeness. Blood pressure and physical measures were done by using standard measurement tools.

Measurement

Hypertension was measured based on the American Heart Association Hypertension Guideline [1]. It was developed by the American college of cardiology and American heart

association, in 2017 for the prevention, detection, evaluation, and management of high blood pressure in adults.

According to this guideline, the level of blood pressure is classified as Normal; systolic blood pressure <120 and diastolic blood pressure <80 mm Hg, Elevated; systolic blood pressure 120–129 mm Hg and diastolic blood pressure <80 mm Hg, Hypertension: stage 1; systolic blood pressure 130–139 mm Hg or diastolic blood pressure 80–89 mm Hg and Hypertension: stage 2; systolic blood pressure \geq 140 mm Hg or diastolic blood pressure \geq 90 mm Hg. Knowledge about hypertension was assessed by questionnaires adapted from the previous studies. Level of knowledge was categorized as Good: Knowledge scores 80% and above, Moderate: Knowledge scores between 60 and 79% and Poor: Knowledge scores below 60% [6, 13, 20–28, 32]. Personal behavior and clinical related variables were assessed by using WHO STEPS wise approach guidelines on chronic risk factor surveillance questionnaire, which was developed in 2005 [30].

Statistical analysis

The data were cleaned, coded and entered to Epi Data version 3.1 for further organizing and processing. Then, transported to IBM SPSS version 23 for analysis. The first association between each independent variable and dependent variable was assessed in bivariable analyses. Then, those independent variables with P value < 0.25 were transported to multivariate logistic regression to control the cofounders and to identify predictors of hypertension. A P-value of < 0.05 was used as the criterion for statistical significance and OR with 95% confidence interval was used to indicate the strength of association. Model fitness was tested by the Hosmer and Lemeshow goodness of fit test (P-value = 0.130).

Ethical consideration

Ethical clearance was obtained from an ethical review committee of Bahir Dar University, College of Medicine and Health Sciences. The letter was obtained from the department of adult health nursing to each selected bank. During the data collection time the aim of the study was explained and written informed consent was obtained from study participants. Confidentiality of the information was assured throughout the data collection process. There was no invasive procedure performed to conduct this study, instead measuring of physical composition was performed. This really consumed their time and to some extent disturbed their participants. Participants with increased blood pressure were advised regarding appropriate medical care.

Results

Socio demographic characteristics of the respondents

Of the total 524 eligible respondents, 513 respondents were complete the study with a response rate of 97.9%. Of the respondents 394 (76.8%) were males, 284 (55.4%) were age ranged from 20 to 34 years, with a mean age of 34.1 years (SD \pm 6. 6), regarding to the educational status 293 (57.1%) were educated at degree. About 309 (60.2%) were married, 484 (94.3%) were Orthodox Christianity followers and 370 (72.1%) had \leq 10-year work experience (Table 2).

Behavioral characteristics of the participants

Among respondents, none of them were smoking cigarettes, 11 (2.1%) of them were chewing khat. Three hundred thirty-seven (65.7%) of respondents were drinking alcohol, of those, two hundred ninety-eight (58.1%) of respondents were eating fruits, 407 (79.3%) of respondents

Table 2. Socio-demographic characteristics of bank workers in Bahir Dar city, Northwest, Ethiopia, 2020 (n = 513).

Variables		Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age	20–34	284	55.4
	35–44	217	42.3
	≥45	12	2.3
Sex	Male	394	76.8
	Female	119	23.2
Marital status	Single	194	37.8
	Married	309	60.2
	Divorced	10	2.0
Educational level	High school	36	7
	Diploma	40	7.8
	Graduate	293	57.1
	Post graduate	144	28.1
Job description	Manager	38	7.4
	Officer	380	74.1
	Clerical	21	4.1
	Guard	74	14.4
Working experience	≤ 10 years	370	72.1
	>10 years	143	27.9

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0252298.t002>

were eating vegetables and 119 (23.2%) of respondents were performed physical exercise (Table 3).

Table 3. Behavioral characteristics of bank workers in Bahir Dar city, Northwest, Ethiopia, 2020 (n = 513).

Variables		Frequency (%)		Number of drinks	Sex	
					Male	Female
Alcohol drinking	Yes	337 (65.7%)		Less than 1 drink	30 (8.9%)	22 (6.5%)
				1–3 drinks	159 (47.2%)	10 (3.0%)
				4–6 drinks	116 (34.4%)	(0.0%)
	No	176 (34.3%)				
Eating fruits	Yes	298 (58.1%)	Frequency	Daily	57 (19.1%)	
				1–4 d/wk	241 (80.9%)	
			Serving	1–4 servings	262 (87.9%)	
				≥5 servings	36 (20.1%)	
	No	215 (41.9%)				
Eating vegetables	Yes	407 (79.3%)	Frequency	Daily	45 (11%)	
				1–4 d/wk	362 (89%)	
			Serving	1–4 servings	372 (91.4%)	
				≥5 servings	35 (8.6%)	
	No	106 (20.7%)				
Performing P/E	Yes	119 (23.2%)	frequency	<5 d/wk	43 (36.1%)	
				≥5 d/wk	76 (63.9%)	
			duration	<30 m	47 (39.5%)	
				≥30 m	72 (60.5%)	
		No	394 (76.8%)			

P/E = physical exercise, d/wk = day per week, m = minute

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0252298.t003>

Clinical related characteristics

All study participants do not have a history of cardiovascular disease, sixty-five (12.7%) of respondents have a family history of hypertension, eleven (2.1%) of respondents have a history of diabetes mellitus and seven (1.4%) of respondents have a history of kidney problem. Regarding body mass index the majority 381 (74.3%) of respondents have a normal body mass index, 4.7% of them were underweight, 18.5% were overweight and 2.5% were obese.

Knowledge of participants regarding hypertension

The majority 235 (45.8%) of respondents had a good level of knowledge, 42.9% had moderate level of knowledge and 45.8% had poor level of knowledge regarding hypertension.

Blood pressure status of respondents

Out of 513 participants 174 (33.9%) have normal blood pressure, 212 (41.3%) have elevated blood pressure, and 127 (24.8%) was hypertensive. Among those hypertensive individuals, 69 (13.5%) have stage 1 and 58 (11.3%) have stage 2 hypertension.

Factors associated with undiagnosed hypertension

All independent variables were analyzed in the bivariable analysis. Of all variables age, sex, marital status, educational level, job description, knowledge about hypertension, consuming vegetables, performing regular physical exercise and body mass index were included in the multivariable analysis. In the multivariable logistic regression analysis age, sex, hypertension knowledge and performing regular physical exercise were significantly associated with undiagnosed hypertension (P -values < 0.05).

Respondents with age group of 35–44 were 2.56 times more likely to have undiagnosed hypertension as compared with age group of 20–34 (AOR = 2.56, 95% CI: 1.60–4.18), males were 3.61 times more likely to have undiagnosed hypertension as compared with females (AOR = 3.61, 95% CI: 1.84–7.05). Those who had moderate knowledge about hypertension were 3.81 times more likely to have undiagnosed hypertension as compared with those who had good knowledge with (AOR = 3.81, 95% CI: 2.29–6.34). And those who had poor knowledge about hypertension were 6.19 times more likely to have undiagnosed hypertension as compared with those who had good knowledge with (AOR = 6.19, 95% CI: 3.19–12.48). Those who had not performed regular physical exercise were 2.91 times more likely to have undiagnosed hypertension than those who were performing regular physical exercise with (AOR 2.91, 95% CI: 1.26–6.76) (Table 4).

Discussion

This an institutional based cross-sectional study with the objective of the assessment of the prevalence of undiagnosed hypertension and its associated factors among bank workers in Bahir Dar city, Northwest Ethiopia was assessed the magnitude of undiagnosed hypertension and associated factors.

This study revealed that the magnitude of undiagnosed hypertension among bank workers was found to be 24.8% with (95% CI 21–29). This finding is consistent with studies done in Western India, 26% [33], Nigeria 25% [34], rural area of West Bengal 24.1% [35], and in Finland 24% [36].

On the other hand, the result of this study is higher than studies conducted in the Byblos, Lebanon 16.9% [13], in India 10.1% [37], in United States of America 19.7% [38], in Iran 4.8% [21], in Ghana 18.5% [39], in Hosanna 10.2% [40], in Addis Ababa 13.25% [41] and Hawassa 12.3% [42].

Table 4. The bivariable and multivariable logistic regression analysis for factors associated with undiagnosed hypertension among bank workers in Bahir Dar city, 2020.

Variables		Undiagnosed Hypertension			
		Yes	No	COR (95% CI)	AOR (95% CI)
Age	≥45	5 (0.6)	7 (1.4)	3.52 (1.07–11.53) *	2.32(0.63–8.63)
	35–44	74 (14.6)	143 (27.9)	2.54 (1.67–3.87) **	2.56 (1.60–4.18) **
	20–34	48 (9.6)	236 (46)	1	1
Sex	Male	115 (22.4)	279 (54.4)	3.68(1.95–6.94) **	3.61(1.84–7.05) **
	Female	12 (2.3)	107 (20.9)	1	1
Marital status	Single	39 (7.6)	155 (30.2)	0.25 (0.07–0.91)	0.47 (0.10–2.14)
	Married	83 (16.4)	226 (44.1)	0.37(0.10–1.30)	0.54 (0.13–2.34)
	Divorced	5 (0.8)	5 (1.0)	1	1
Educational level	H/school	6 (1.2)	30 (5.8)	0.50(0.25–1.37)	0.35 (0.15–1.40)
	Diploma	6 (1.2)	34 (6.6)	0.44 (0.17–1.14)	0.54 (0.15–1.96)
	Degree	74 (14.4)	219 (42.7)	0.85 (0.54–1.33)	1.01(0.58–1.75)
Job description	Manager	16 (3.1)	22 (4.3)	2.86 (1.21–6.75) *	2.03 (0.78–5.30)
	Officer	90 (18.5)	290 (55.4)	1.22(0.66–2.26)	1.20 (0.68–2.37)
	Clerical	6 (0.2)	15 (4.1)	1.57 (0.52–4.74)	2.32 (0.62–8.44)
	Guard	15 (2.9)	59 (11.)	1	1
Knowledge level	Poor	25 (4.9)	33 (6.4)	4.99 (2.62–9.48) **	6.20(3.07–12.59) **
	Moderate	71 (13.8)	149 (29)	3.14 (1.96–5.03) **	3.81 (2.35–6.34) **
	Good	31 (6.0)	204 (39.8)	1	1
Consuming vegetables	Not consume	33 (6.4)	73 (14.2)	2.71(0.97–7.61)	2.00(0.65–6.22)
	Low	89 (17.5)	283 (55.2)	1.89 (.71–5.01)	1.56 (0.54–4.54)
	Normal	5 (0.8)	30 (5.8)	1	1
Performing regular P/E	Yes	7 (1.4)	65 (12.7)	1	1
	No	120 (23.4)	321 (62.6)	3.47(1.55–7.78) *	2.91 (1.26–6.76) *
BMI	Under Wt	5 (0.6)	19 (4.1)	1	1
	Normal Wt	94 (18.7)	287 (55.6)	1.25 (0.45–3.43)	0.71 (0.24–2.15)
	Over Wt	22 (5.1)	73 (13.5)	1.15(0.38–3.42)	0.78 (0.24–2.69)
	Obese	6 (0.4)	7 (2.1)	3.26(0.75–14.16)	1.27 (0.25–6.50)

* = P-value < 0.05,

** = P-value <0.01, P/E = Physical exercise, BMI = body mass index, Wt = weight

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0252298.t004>

This discrepancy may be due to the difference study participants. In this study only bank workers were involved as a study participant and the nature of work can dispose of them to a sedentary life and varying level of stress. Sedentary life cause hypertension by increasing atherosclerosis and stress also causes high blood pressure by causing the secretions of hormones that has vasoconstriction effect [43]. The other possible reason for the discrepancy may be due to the use of different guidelines to define hypertension. This study uses the new hypertension guideline to define hypertension, as any systolic BP measurement of 130 mm Hg or higher or any diastolic BP measurement of 80 mm Hg or higher [1]. While, the previous studies used the previous guideline to define hypertension as any systolic BP measurement of 140 mm Hg or higher or any diastolic BP measurement of 90 mm Hg or higher. The new definition of hypertension contributes to high prevalence of undiagnosed hypertension in the current study.

But this finding was lower than from studies done in Bangladeshi 59.9% [17], in Nigeria 36.1% [44], in Central Province of Sri Lanka 31.7% [45], in Ireland 41.2% [24], and in Sudan

38.2% [46]. This discrepancy may be due to the study subject and sociodemographic differences; the current study was conducted among the banking workers with the mean age of 34.1 ± 6.6 and includes both sexes. Whereas, the study conducted in Bangladesh was among patients with age greater than 35 years [17], and studies in Nigeria and Ireland were conducted among the participants with age 40 ± 8.5 and 50+ years, respectively [44, 45]. And also, a study done in Central Province of Sri Lanka was included only males as a participant [47]. Being sick, older age and male can contribute to the prevalence of high blood pressure.

In this study age, sex, knowledge about hypertension and regular physical exercise were found to be significantly associated with undiagnosed hypertension.

Respondents with the age group of 35–44 were 2.56 times more likely to have undiagnosed hypertension as compared with age group of 20–34. This finding was supported by a study done in Malaysia, in north central Nigeria, in Sudan, in Hosanna and in Addis Ababa [12, 21, 40, 41, 48]. It is known that arterial stiffness become increased with age, which will contribute to the higher prevalence of hypertension [49].

Sex was also another variable which was significantly associated with undiagnosed hypertension. Male participants were 3.61 times more likely to have undiagnosed hypertension than females. This finding was supported by the previous studies conducted in Bangladesh and North West of Iran [17, 50]. And women had a higher rate of getting their blood pressure checked than men [51]. Women have more chance to get frequent health services like family planning, antenatal care, delivery and immunization and have to visit health professionals. This creates an opportunity to early diagnose with some typical health screening, including hypertension. On the other hand, males are more alcohol drinker than women and this contributes for hypertension and negligence for early diagnosed.

Respondents with poor and moderate knowledge about hypertension were 6.2 and 3.81 times more likely to have undiagnosed hypertension as compared with those who had good knowledge respectively. This finding was supported by the study conducted in rural Rwanda and Cracow [6, 52]. The respondents with good knowledge about hypertension might have a better healthy lifestyle and health-seeking behavior.

Physical exercise was also another variable which had a significant association with undiagnosed hypertension. Respondents who did not perform regular physical exercise were 2.91 times more likely to have undiagnosed hypertension than those respondents who perform regular physical exercise. This finding was supported by the previous study conducted in Hawassa [42]. Physical exercise can prevent blood pressure by reducing blood vessel stiffness [53].

The possible limitations of this study are; first, there was not pregnancy test for female participants and females with early pregnancy had chance to include in this study. Second, community-based studies were used for sample size calculation and for comparison of the results of this institutional-based study. Third, substance use related factors were not assessed by standard tool. Fourth, using of old version WHO STEPS guideline to assess personal behavior and clinical related variables.

Conclusion

The prevalence of undiagnosed hypertension among bank workers in Bahir Dar city northwest Ethiopia was found to be high. Being age group of 35–44 years, being male, having poor and moderate knowledge about hypertension and being physically inactivity was significantly associated with undiagnosed hypertension. Therefore, frequent screening and creating awareness on asymptomatic nature of hypertension and the benefit of physical exercise for preventing high blood pressure for bank workers is significant.

Supporting information

S1 Data.

(SAV)

S1 Questionnaire.

(DOCX)

Acknowledgments

The authors are grateful to the participants who participated in the study.

Author Contributions

Conceptualization: Mekdes Dejenie, Kidist Reba.

Data curation: Mekdes Dejenie.

Formal analysis: Sitotaw Kerie.

Methodology: Sitotaw Kerie.

Software: Sitotaw Kerie.

Supervision: Kidist Reba.

Validation: Sitotaw Kerie.

Writing – original draft: Mekdes Dejenie, Sitotaw Kerie.

Writing – review & editing: Kidist Reba.

References

1. Carey RM, Whelton PK: Prevention, detection, evaluation, and management of high blood pressure in adults: synopsis of the 2017 American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Hypertension Guideline. *Annals of internal medicine* 2018, 168(5):351–358. <https://doi.org/10.7326/M17-3203> PMID: [29357392](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29357392/)
2. Chockalingam A: Impact of world hypertension day. *Canadian journal of cardiology* 2007, 23(7):517–519. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0828-282x\(07\)70795-x](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0828-282x(07)70795-x) PMID: [17534457](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/17534457/)
3. Lawes CM, Vander Hoon S, Rodgers A: Global burden of blood-pressure-related disease, 2001. *The Lancet* 2008, 371(9623):1513–1518. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(08\)60655-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(08)60655-8) PMID: [18456100](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18456100/)
4. Organization WH: A Global Brief on Hypertension: World Health Day. WHO: Geneva, Switzerland 2013.
5. Choo EH, Ihm S-H, Lim S, Chang K, Seung K-B: A simple screening score for undiagnosed hypertension. *International Journal of Cardiology* 2014, 172(3):e465–467. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijcard.2014.01.040> PMID: [24485623](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24485623/)
6. Mazimpaka C, Nsanzimana S, Logan J, Binagwaho A, Wong R: Assessing the Magnitude and Risk Factors Associated With Undiagnosed Hypertension in Rural Rwanda.
7. Gulec S: Early diagnosis saves lives: focus on patients with hypertension. *Kidney international supplements* 2013, 3(4):332–334. <https://doi.org/10.1038/kisup.2013.69> PMID: [25019014](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25019014/)
8. Yoon SS, Gu Q, Nwankwo T, Wright JD, Hong Y, Burt V: Trends in blood pressure among adults with hypertension: United States, 2003 to 2012. *Hypertension* 2015, 65(1):54–61. <https://doi.org/10.1161/HYPERTENSIONAHA.114.04012> PMID: [25399687](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25399687/)
9. Volume I: Non-Communicable Diseases, Risk Factors & Other Health Problems. Institute for Public Health: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 2015, 2.
10. Ataklte F, Erqou S, Kaptoge S, Taye B, Echouffo-Tcheugui JB, Kengne AP: Burden of undiagnosed hypertension in sub-saharan Africa: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Hypertension* 2015, 65(2):291–298. <https://doi.org/10.1161/HYPERTENSIONAHA.114.04394> PMID: [25385758](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25385758/)

11. Bekele A, Gelibo T, Amenu K, Getachew T, Defar A, Teklie H, et al: The hidden magnitude of raised blood pressure and elevated blood glucose in Ethiopia: A call for initiating community based NCDs risk factors screening program. *Ethiopian Journal of Health Development* 2017, 31(1):362–369.
12. Lim OW, Yong CC: The Risk Factors for Undiagnosed and Known Hypertension among Malaysians. *The Malaysian journal of medical sciences: MJMS* 2019, 26(5):98. <https://doi.org/10.21315/mjms2019.26.5.9> PMID: 31728122
13. Kanj H, Khalil A, Kossaify M, Kossaify A: Predictors of Undiagnosed and Uncontrolled Hypertension in the Local Community of Byblos, Lebanon. *Health services insights* 2018, 11:1178632918791576. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1178632918791576> PMID: 30127615
14. Ayanian JZ, Zaslavsky AM, Weissman JS, Schneider EC, Ginsburg JA: Undiagnosed hypertension and hypercholesterolemia among uninsured and insured adults in the Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. *American Journal of Public Health* 2003, 93(12):2051–2054. <https://doi.org/10.2105/ajph.93.12.2051> PMID: 14652333
15. Kanungo S, Mahapatra T, Bhowmik K, Saha J, Mahapatra S, Pal D, et al: Patterns and predictors of undiagnosed and uncontrolled hypertension: observations from a poor-resource setting. *Journal of human hypertension* 2017, 31(1):56–65. <https://doi.org/10.1038/jhh.2016.30> PMID: 27193382
16. Chau K, Girerd N, Zannad F, Rossignol P, Boivin J-M: Health-related determinants of undiagnosed arterial hypertension: a population-based study. *Family practice* 2019, 36(3):276–283. <https://doi.org/10.1093/fampra/cmy075> PMID: 30165649
17. Ahmed S, Tariqujjaman M, Rahman MA, Hasan MZ, Hasan MM: Inequalities in the prevalence of undiagnosed hypertension among Bangladeshi adults: evidence from a nationwide survey. *International journal for equity in health* 2019, 18(1):33. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12939-019-0930-5> PMID: 30770739
18. Young DR, Hivert M-F, Alhassan S, Camhi SM, Ferguson JF, Katzmarzyk PT, et al: Sedentary behavior and cardiovascular morbidity and mortality: a science advisory from the American Heart Association. *Circulation* 2016, 134(13):e262–e279. <https://doi.org/10.1161/CIR.0000000000000440> PMID: 27528691
19. Ismail IM, Kulkarni AG, Kamble SV, Borker SA, Rekha R, Amruth M: Prevalence of hypertension and its risk factors among bank employees of Sullia Taluk, Karnataka. *Sahel Medical Journal* 2013, 16(4):139.
20. Semachew A, Shifa A: Prevalence and Assessment of Knowledge and Practice Towards Hypertension among Bahir Dar City Communities, 2016: A Community Based Cross-sectional Study. *J Hypertens (Los Angel)* 2017, 6(243):2167–1095.1000243.
21. Bushara SO, Noor SK, Elmadhoun WM, Sulaiman AA, Ahmed MH: Undiagnosed hypertension in a rural community in Sudan and association with some features of the metabolic syndrome: how serious is the situation? *Renal failure* 2015, 37(6):1022–1026.
22. AKINLADE AF: KNOWLEDGE AND PERCEPTION ABOUT HYPERTENSION AND ITS RISK FACTORS AMONG STAFF OF IBADAN NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT, IBADAN, NIGERIA. 2016.
23. Rahman M, Alam S, Mia M, Haque M, Islam K: Knowledge, attitude and practice about hypertension among adult people of selected areas of Bangladesh. *MOJ Public Health* 2018, 7(4):211–214.
24. Parmar P, Rathod GB, Rathod S, Goyal R, Aggarwal S, Parikh A: Study of knowledge, attitude and practice of general population of Gandhinagar towards hypertension. *International journal of current microbiology and applied sciences* 2014, 3(8):680–685.
25. Desta DM, Nedi T, Hailu A, Atey TM, Tsadik AG, Asgedom SW, et al: Treatment outcome of acute coronary syndrome patients admitted to Ayder Comprehensive Specialized Hospital, Mekelle, Ethiopia; A retrospective cross-sectional study. *Plos one* 2020, 15(2):e0228953. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0228953> PMID: 32053702
26. Egan BM, Lackland DT, Cutler NE: Awareness, knowledge, and attitudes of older Americans about high blood pressure: implications for health care policy, education, and research. *Archives of Internal Medicine* 2003, 163(6):681–687. <https://doi.org/10.1001/archinte.163.6.681> PMID: 12639200
27. Osman H, Mohamed A, Salum A, Zakaria K, Salum M: Assessment of Knowledge about Hypertension. *Diagn Pathol Open* 2018, 3(142):2476–2024.1000142.
28. Alfred R: KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE TOWARDS RISK FACTORS OF HYPERTENSION AMONG OUTPATIENTS AT BUGESERA DISTRICT HOSPITAL. Mount Kenya University; 2018.
29. Salaudeen A, Musa O, Babatunde O, Atoyebi O, Durowade K, Omokanye LO: Knowledge and prevalence of risk factors for arterial hypertension and blood pressure pattern among bankers and traffic wardens in Ilorin, Nigeria. *African Health Sciences* 2014, 14(3):593–599. <https://doi.org/10.4314/ahs.v14i3.14> PMID: 25352877
30. Organization WH: WHO STEPS surveillance manual: the WHO STEPwise approach to chronic disease risk factor surveillance. In.: World Health Organization; 2005.

31. Lim JU, Lee JH, Kim JS, Hwang YI, Kim T-H, Lim SY, et al: Comparison of World Health Organization and Asia-Pacific body mass index classifications in COPD patients. *International journal of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease* 2017, 12:2465. <https://doi.org/10.2147/COPD.S141295> PMID: 28860741
32. Salaudeen A, Musa O, Babatunde O, Atoyebi O, Durowade K, Omokanye L: Knowledge and prevalence of risk factors for arterial hypertension and blood pressure pattern among bankers and traffic wardens in Ilorin, Nigeria. *African health sciences* 2014, 14(3):593–599. <https://doi.org/10.4314/ahs.v14i3.14> PMID: 25352877
33. Shukla AN, Madan T, Thakkar BM, Parmar MM, Shah KH: Prevalence and predictors of undiagnosed hypertension in an apparently healthy western Indian population. *Advances in Epidemiology* 2015, 2015.
34. Vincent-Onabajo GO, Adaji JO, Umeonwuka CI: Prevalence of Undiagnosed Hypertension Among Traders at A Regional Market in Nigeria. *Annals of Medical and Health Sciences Research* 2017, 7(2):97–101.
35. Chakraborty N, Mandal AK: A study on undiagnosed hypertension and its associated factors among adults residing in a rural area of West Bengal. *Int J Community Med* 2017, 8:60–63.
36. Korhonen PE, Kautiainen H, Mäntyselkä P: Screening for cardiovascular risk factors and self-rated health in a community setting: a cross-sectional study in Finland. *British Journal of General Practice* 2014, 64(627):e611–e615.
37. Undavalli VK, MP H: Prevalence of undiagnosed hypertension: a public health challenge. *International Journal Of Community Medicine And Public Health* 2018, 5(4):1366.
38. Dolatabadi AA, Motamedi M, Hatamabadi H, Alimohammadi H: Prevalence of undiagnosed hypertension in the emergency department. *Trauma monthly* 2014, 19(1).
39. Solomon I, Adjuik M, Takramah W, Axame WK, Owusu R, AttaParbey P, et al: Prevalence and awareness of hypertension among urban and rural adults in Hohoe Municipality, Ghana. *Journal of Marketing Research* 2017, 3(3):136–145.
40. Dereje N, Earsido A, Abebe A, Temam L: Undiagnosed and diagnosed hypertension in a community setting at Hosanna town: Uncovering the burden. *BioRxiv* 2019:560748.
41. Getachew F, Dirar A, Solomon D: Prevalence of undiagnosed hypertension and associated factors among residents in Gulele Sub-City, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. *J Community Med Health Educ* 2018, 8(590):2161–0711.1000590.
42. Wachamo D, Markos E, Geleta D: Undiagnosed Hypertension and Associated Factors among Adult Dwellers in Hawela Tula Sub City, Hawassa, Southern Ethiopia: A Community Based Cross-sectional Study. 2019.
43. Kumar SG, Sundaram ND: Prevalence and Risk Factors of Hypertension among Bank Employees in Urban Puducherry, India. *Int J Occup Environ Med (The IJOEM)* 2014, 5(2 April):344-394-100.
44. Vincent-Onabajo G, Mohammad H, Umeonwuka C: Research article prevalence of undiagnosed hypertension among a cohort of university workers in Nigeria. *Int J Community Med Public Health* 2016, 3:1963–1967.
45. Mosca I, Kenny RA: Exploring differences in prevalence of diagnosed, measured and undiagnosed hypertension: the case of Ireland and the United States of America. *International journal of public health* 2014, 59(5):759–767. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00038-014-0573-7> PMID: 24942996
46. Noor SK, Elsugud NA, Bushara SO, Elmadhoun WM, Ahmed MH: High prevalence of hypertension among an ethnic group in Sudan: implications for prevention. *Renal Failure* 2016, 38(3):352–356. <https://doi.org/10.3109/0886022X.2015.1128839> PMID: 26738696
47. Jayawardana N, Jayalath W, Madhujith W, Ralapanawa U, Jayasekera R, Alagiyawanna S, et al: Aging and obesity are associated with undiagnosed hypertension in a cohort of males in the Central Province of Sri Lanka: a cross-sectional descriptive study. *BMC cardiovascular disorders* 2017, 17(1):165. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12872-017-0600-8> PMID: 28637427
48. Gyang MD, Danjuma SA, Gyang BZ, Sule H, Musa D: Correlates of undiagnosed hypertension among health care workers in a secondary health care facility in north central nigeria. *Highland Medical Research Journal* 2018, 18(1):22–28.
49. Chikhladze N: Effektivnost'terapii lerkanihidipinom pri arterial'noy gipertenzii u pozhilykh. *Systemic Hypertension* 2012(3):29–33.
50. Ghannadiasl F: Undiagnosed Hypertension among Youth (18–24 years) Referred to the Nutrition Clinic in Ardabil City, North West of Iran, from 2016 to 2018. *Journal of Community Health Research* 2019, 8(4):203–210.
51. Ramirez LA, Sullivan JC: Sex differences in hypertension: where we have been and where we are going. *American journal of hypertension* 2018, 31(12):1247–1254. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajh/hpy148> PMID: 30299518

52. Wizner B, Grodzicki T, Gryglewska B, Gasowski J, Kocemba J: Knowledge about hypertension and blood pressure level. *Przegląd lekarski* 2000, 57(7–8):402–405. PMID: [11109314](#)
53. Mosca L, Linfante AH, Benjamin EJ, Berra K, Hayes SN, Walsh BW, et al: National study of physician awareness and adherence to cardiovascular disease prevention guidelines. *Circulation* 2005, 111(4):499–510. <https://doi.org/10.1161/01.CIR.0000154568.43333.82> PMID: [15687140](#)