

4. Health

In this section of the questionnaire the data was collected from each and every person usually lived in surveyed households considering two different survey periods. One month (last month) reference period is considered to investigate person visits to any of the government hospitals, private hospitals, medical centers, health centers to obtain out- patient health care and one year (last year) reference period is considered for person obtains treatment at a government hospital or a private hospital as an in-patient. The survey results reveal that nearly 31 percent of the household population obtains health treatments as an out-patient in the reference month and about 11 percent persons of all household population have sought treatments at a hospital at least once during the reference year as an in-patient for any treatment. There is no marked difference between sectors during the reference periods to obtain health treatments as an inpatient or out-patient. Out of total household population, nearly 16 percent of persons in Sri Lanka were suffering from chronic illness or disability at the time of the survey period.

Table 4.1: Percentage distribution of health status of household population by sector- 2006

Sector	Health status of household population		
	Obtained out patient health care (%)	Stayed at a hospital as an in patient (%)	Suffering from chronic illness/ disability (%)
Sri Lanka	31.4	10.6	15.8
Urban	29.2	10.8	18.2
Rural	31.9	10.5	15.7
Estate	30.5	11.3	10.6

Table 4.2 shows that the percentage distribution of household population by reason for visiting hospitals to obtain treatment as an outpatient. According to Table 4.2 (considering persons who have obtained treatment as an out patient) about 87 percent had obtained treatment for illness such as cold, cough, fever, stomach disorder etc.

Nearly 11 percent persons of all household population have sought treatments at hospitals as in patients. Of that nearly 60 percent had stayed at hospitals at least once a year to obtain treatment for illness and 12 percent had stayed for operation / surgery (Table 4.3).

In Sri Lanka about 28 percent of heads of households was suffering from chronic illness or long term illness or disability at the time of the survey period (Table 4.4).