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Factors associated with the use of selected health legislation by public health inspectors in the western province of Sri Lanka

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A descriptive cross sectional study was carried out to determine the factors associated with the use of important Health Legislation (HL) by Public Health Inspectors (PHI) in the Western Province. A self-administered questionnaire was used to collect basic socio-demographic and service information, determine "self competency", identify constraints and to identify "methods of empowering" PHI in implementation of HL. To determine the degree to which HL have been implemented, a data extraction schedule was used among a 10 percent sub sample of the study population. Among the different types of HL used by PHI Food Act was selected as the most important legislation. Public Health Inspectors were relatively more self: competent in food Act than the other legislation with regard to use of these legislation. Making all Health Legislation with amendments freely available to them and the provision of systematic in-service training on Health Legislation was regarded as important methods of empowering PHI in improving the level of implementation of Health Legislation.