PRESS RELEASE

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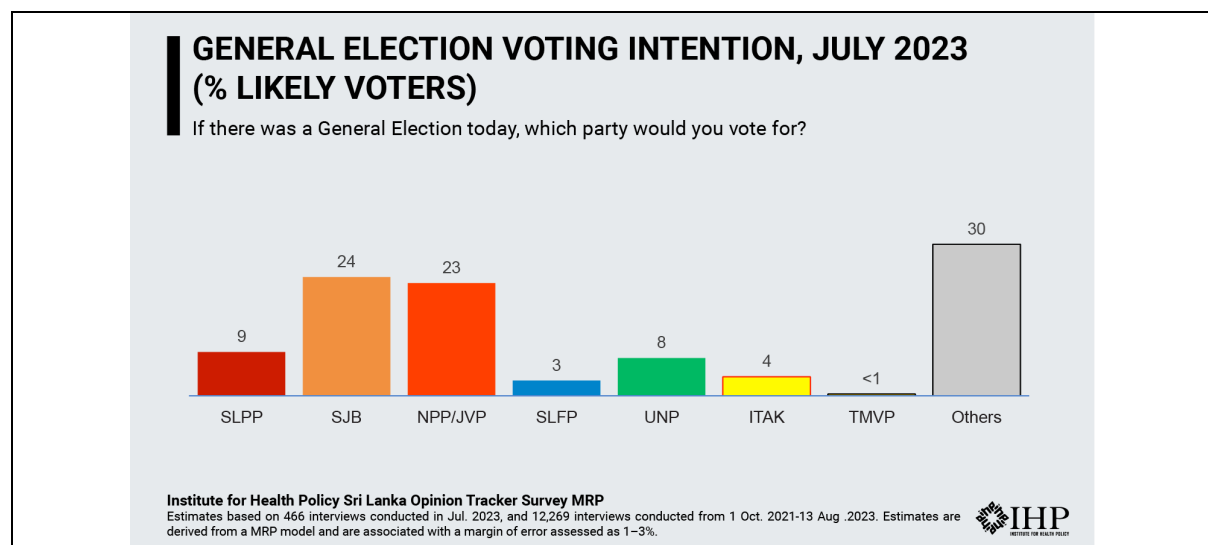
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Support for major parties changes little in July, with NPP/JVP and SJB ahead, but large numbers of voters uncommitted
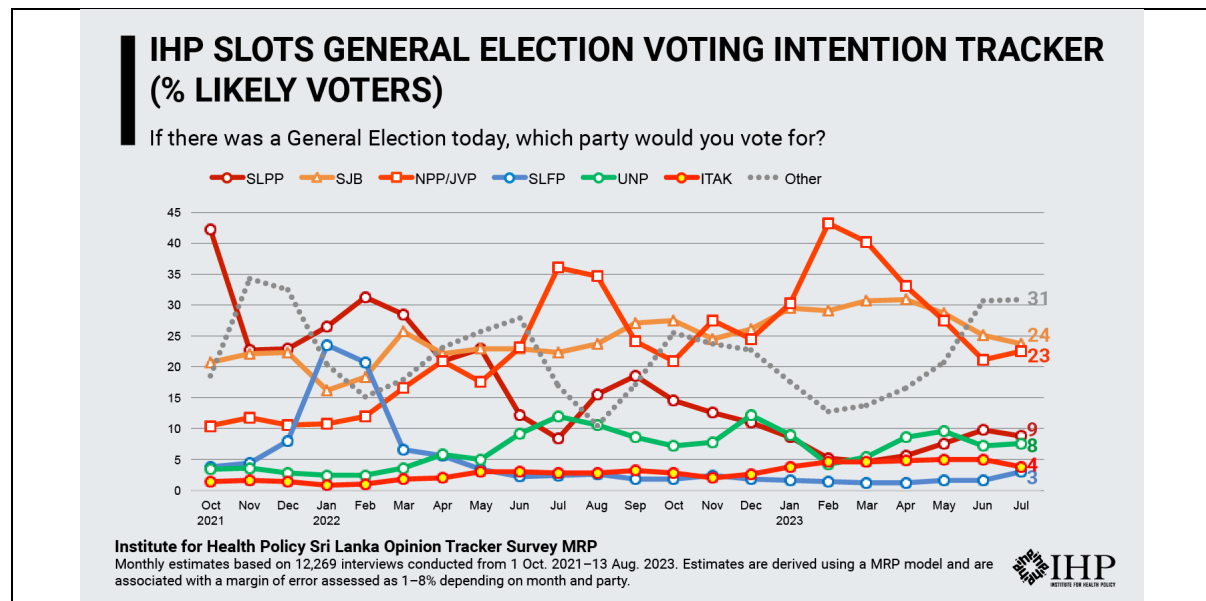
IHP MRP General Election Voting Intentions Update July 2023

In the Sri Lanka Opinion Tracker Survey (SLOTS) polling for July 2023, support amongst likely voters for the major parties remained with little change from the previous month. The SJB and NPP/JVP remain ahead with 24% and 23% each, and the SLPP and UNP on 9% and 8% each. But the largest share–30% of likely voters–remained unwilling to name any party.

**GENERAL ELECTION VOTING INTENTION, JULY 2023
(% LIKELY VOTERS)**

If there was a General Election today, which party would you vote for?

SLPP	SJB	NPP/JVP	SLFP	UNP	ITAK	TMVP	Others
9	24	23	3	8	4	<1	30

Institute for Health Policy Sri Lanka Opinion Tracker Survey MRP
Estimates based on 466 interviews conducted in Jul. 2023, and 12,269 interviews conducted from 1 Oct. 2021-13 Aug .2023. Estimates are derived from a MRP model and are associated with a margin of error assessed as 1−3%.

The latest MRP estimates using the SLOTS polling data confirms a general decline in support for the NPP/JVP and SJB since early 2023, with modest increases in support for the UNP and SLPP, which both remain behind. They also confirm a large increase in voters who say they will vote for another party but are unwilling or unable to say which.

Dr. Rannan-Eliya, IHP Executive Director, commented: "These latest results again confirm that a large share of the electorate is increasingly uncertain who to support. This would suggest that none of the major parties have succeeded in making a convincing case to the public, and it implies that there is potential for big changes in support in coming months."

IHP SLOTS GENERAL ELECTION VOTING INTENTION TRACKER (% LIKELY VOTERS)

If there was a General Election today, which party would you vote for?

Legend: SLPP, SJB, NPP/JVP, SLFP, UNP, ITAK, Other

Institute for Health Policy Sri Lanka Opinion Tracker Survey MRP
Monthly estimates based on 12,269 interviews conducted from 1 Oct. 2021–13 Aug. 2023. Estimates are derived using a MRP model and are associated with a margin of error assessed as 1–8% depending on month and party.

Previous reports available from ihp.lk

Institute for Health Policy, February 2023, "IHP MRP Voting Intentions Estimates January 2023. NPP/JVP and SJB running neck-and-neck amongst voters, but no party dominates", SLOTS Report #2023-03.
Available at: https://ihp.lk/publications/docs/SLOTSReport202303.pdf

Institute for Health Policy, March 2023, "IHP MRP Voting Intentions Estimates February 2023. Voters consolidate around the NPP/JVP, SJB and ITAK, with NPP/JVP taking a clear lead", SLOTS Report #2023-06.
Available at: https://ihp.lk/publications/docs/SLOTSReport202306.pdf

Institute for Health Policy, April 2023, "Little change in voting preferences in March, with NPP/JVP maintaining a clear lead over SJB, amidst possible signs of a UNP rise. IHP MRP General Election voting intentions update March 2023", IHP Press Release #2023-11.
Available at: https://ihp.lk/news/pres_doc/IHPPressRelease20230419.pdf

Institute for Health Policy, May 2023, "NPP/JVP maintains a lead, but loses support to UNP and other parties, whilst SJB flatlines. IHP MRP General Election voting intentions update April 2023", IHP Press Release #2023-15.
Available at: https://ihp.lk/news/pres_doc/IHPPressRelease20230525.pdf

Institute for Health Policy, June 2023, "NPP/JVP support fell to 23% behind SJB on 26%, whilst support for UNP and SLPP rises amongst likely voters during May 2023. IHP MRP General Election voting intentions update May 2023", IHP Press Release #2023-18. *Available at: https://ihp.lk/news/pres_doc/IHPPressRelease202306301.pdf*

Institute for Health Policy, July 2023, "Support for NPP/JVP and SJB fell, with evidence of growing vote disillusionment with all established parties in June 2023. IHP MRP General Election voting intentions update June 2023", IHP Press Release #2023-28. *Available at: https://ihp.lk/news/pres_doc/IHPPressRelease20230727.pdf*

About IHP

IHP is an independent, non-partisan research centre based in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The SLOTS lead investigator is Dr Ravi Rannan-Eliya of IHP, who has trained in public opinion polling at Harvard University and has conducted numerous surveys over three decades.

Methodology

SLOTS combines interviews from a national sample of adults (ages 18 and over) reached by random digit dialling of mobile numbers, and others coming from a national panel of respondents who were previously recruited through random selection. IHP estimates voting intent using an adaptation of Multilevel Regression and Post-Stratification (MRP), with multiple imputation to account for uncertainties in its modelling, exploiting data from all SLOTS interviews to estimate voting in a particular month.

The July 2023 MRP estimates are based on 466 interviews conducted in July 2023, and 12,269 interviews conducted overall from 1 October 2021–13 August 2023, with a margin of error assessed as 3–5% for the NPP/JVP, SJB, UNP and SLFP, and 1–3% for the other parties. As the May update uses a more recent data set than the previous update, there are small changes in estimates of voting shares for previous months. A total of 62 stochastic simulations were used in the modelling to estimate margins of error.

MRP is a method that is increasingly used by polling firms in other countries to leverage small samples, most notably by YouGov which used it to forecast results of the UK Brexit Referendum and recent UK general elections. All estimates are adjusted to ensure the sample matches the national population with respect to age, sex, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, education, geographical location, and voting in the 2019 Presidential and 2020 General Elections.

Funding

The SLOTS has been funded by the Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust, the UK National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), The Asia Foundation in Sri Lanka, and others, but the sponsors play no role in the study design, analysis, or interpretation of findings. Interested parties can contact IHP for more detailed data and results.