

PRESS RELEASE

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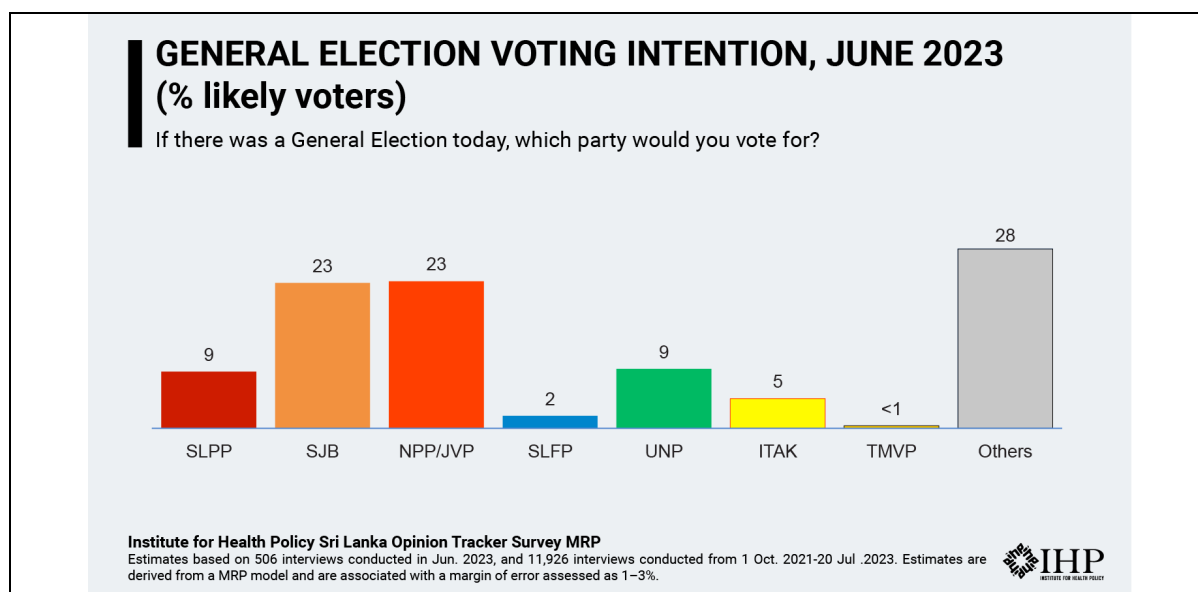
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Support for NPP/JVP and SJB fell, with evidence of growing voter disillusionment with all established parties in June 2023

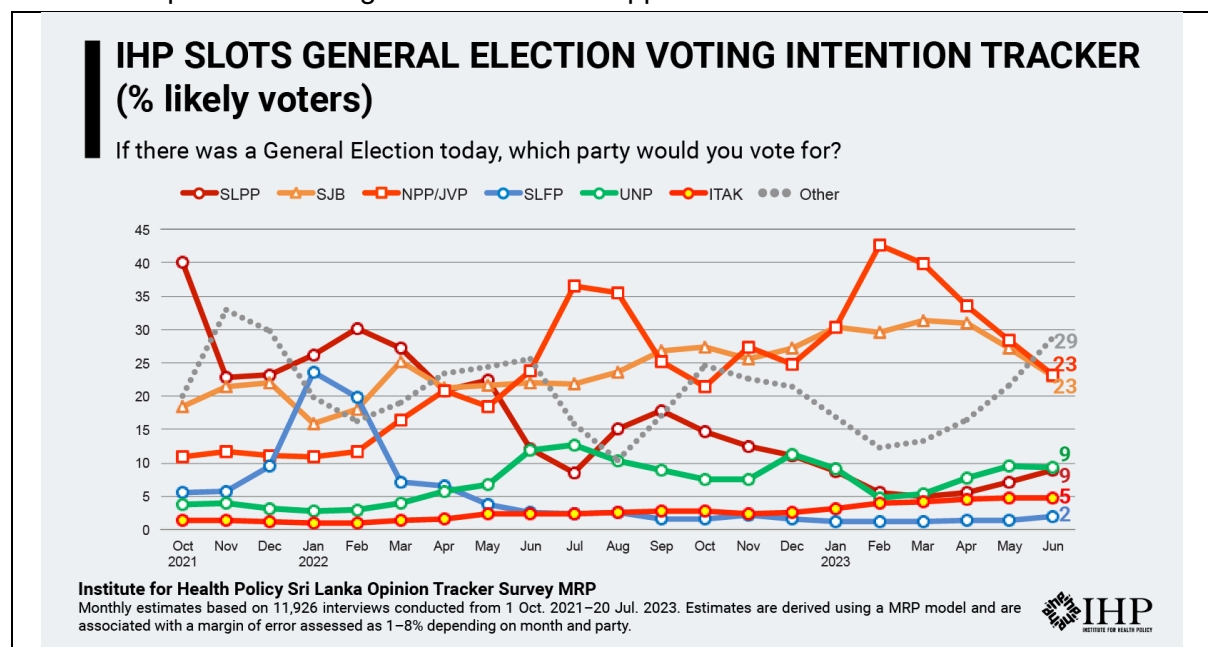
IHP MRP General Election Voting Intentions Update June 2023

In the latest Sri Lanka Opinion Tracker Survey (SLOTS) polling in June 2023, support amongst likely voters for the NPP/JVP fell 5 points and for the SJB 4 points from May to 23% each. The UNP saw no gains, with a big increase of 7 points to 28% in the share of voters saying they would vote for other parties.



In the four months since February, the two leading parties, the NPP/JVP and SJB, have experienced substantial declines in support in the SLOTS polling, with the share of voters saying they would vote for other minor and unnamed parties increasing by 17 points to 28%. The UNP and SLPP have seen modest gains, but support for the UNP seems to be plateauing at one in ten likely voters, neck and neck with support for the SLPP.

“Other” parties in the SLOTS polling includes both smaller parties that ran in the 2020 General Elections, such as the AITC and OPDP, as well responses where respondents indicated they would vote another unnamed party. Dr Ravi Rannan-Eliya, director of the SLOTS polling, revealed that in most cases these respondents are opting for an unnamed other party, and that the SLOTS poll is working on identifying these further. He also commented that whilst the “Other” category in the SLOTS polling in late 2021 was probably dominated by respondents who were too shy to voice opposition to the ruling party, the recent increase in this category seems to signal growing disillusionment with all the established parties in both government and in opposition.



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

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 June 2023 MRP estimates are based on 506 interviews conducted in June 2023, and 11,926 interviews conducted from 1 October 2021 to 20 July 2023, with a margin of error assessed as 1–3% the various parties. As the June 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 60 stochastic simulations were used in the modelling to estimate the uncertainty associated with the estimates arising from sampling noise in respondent interviews and uncertainties in the modelling process.

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.