PRESS RELEASE

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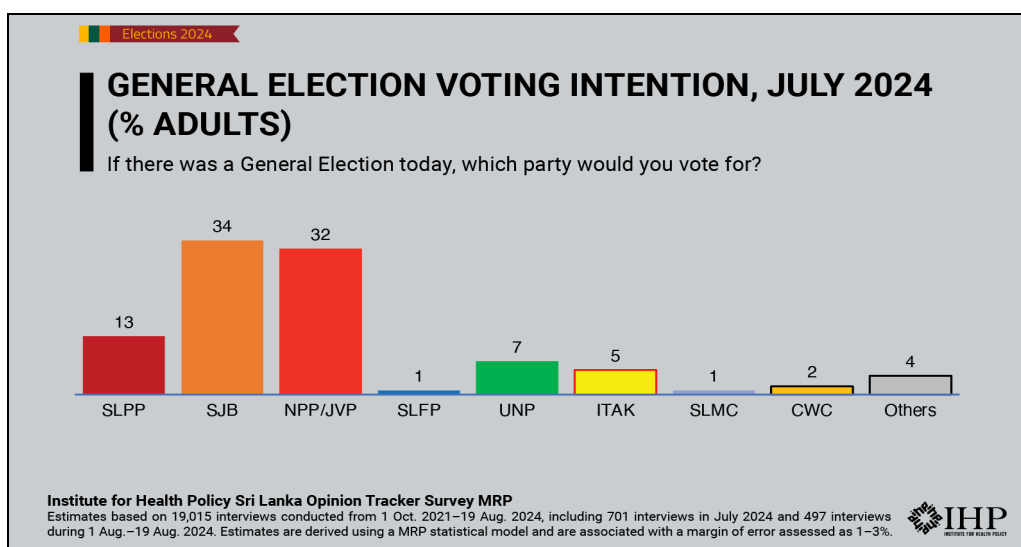Secretary/Administrator
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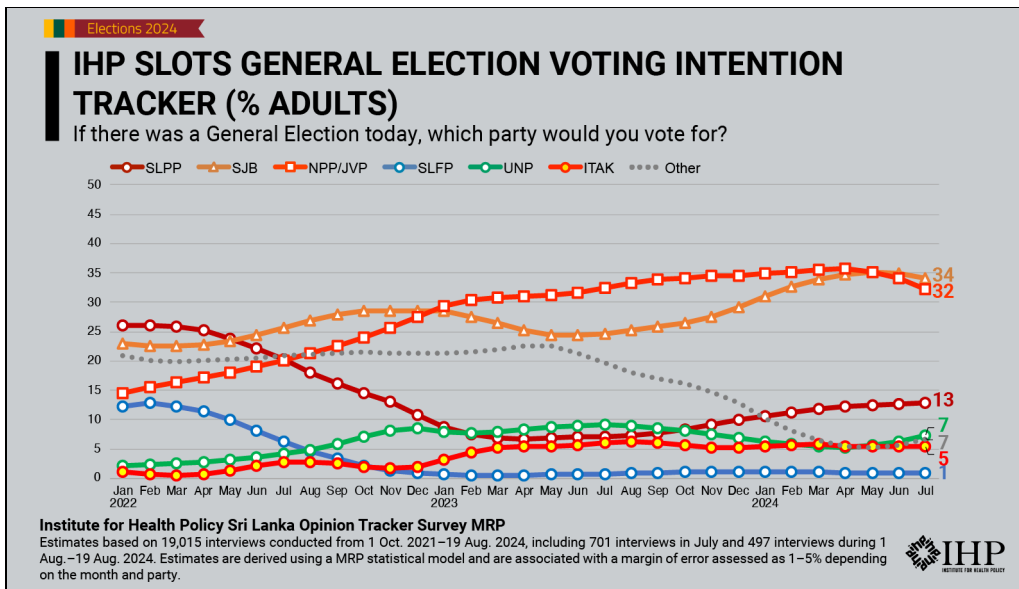
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SJB and NPP/JVP lead in voting intent in July but both stuck at one-third of adults

IHP MRP General Election Voting Intentions Update July 2024

The latest estimates of General Election voting intent from IHP's SLOTS MRP model (revised 01/2024) show SJB and NPP/JVP leading with 34% and 32% of voters' support, respectively, followed by the SLPP with 13%, the UNP with 7%, and ITAK with 5% in July 2024. Voting intentions in July have not changed substantially compared to the previous month. The July estimates are provisional and carry a margin of error of 2–3% for the two leading parties.

GENERAL ELECTION VOTING INTENTION, JULY 2024 (% ADULTS)

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

SLPP: 13, SJB: 34, NPP/JVP: 32, SLFP: 1, UNP: 7, ITAK: 5, SLMC: 1, CWC: 2, Others: 4

Institute for Health Policy Sri Lanka Opinion Tracker Survey MRP
Estimates based on 19,015 interviews conducted from 1 Oct. 2021–19 Aug. 2024, including 701 interviews in July 2024 and 497 interviews during 1 Aug.–19 Aug. 2024. Estimates are derived using a MRP statistical model and are associated with a margin of error assessed as 1–3%.

IHP SLOTS GENERAL ELECTION VOTING INTENTION TRACKER (% ADULTS)

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

Institute for Health Policy Sri Lanka Opinion Tracker Survey MRP
Estimates based on 19,015 interviews conducted from 1 Oct. 2021–19 Aug. 2024, including 701 interviews in July and 497 interviews during 1 Aug.–19 Aug. 2024. Estimates are derived using a MRP statistical model and are associated with a margin of error assessed as 1–5% depending on the month and party.

Compared to IHP's July release, estimates of NPP/JVP and SJB support in June 2024 were revised +8 and -3 points, respectively. IHP polling director, Dr. Rannan-Eliya commented that there was unusual instability in the model estimates in recent months which may reflect fluidity in voting intentions, but that IHP is aiming to address this by increased numbers of interviews in coming months.

These estimates are for all adults, not just for likely voters. They are based on the January 2024 revision of the IHP SLOTS Multilevel Regression and Poststratification (MRP) model. IHP is working on improving its likely voter model and will resume the release of voting intent in likely voters in a future update. It should be noted that differences in voting intent shares between all adults and likely voters have typically been 1–2% for most estimates in the past two years.

This July 2024 update is based on 19,015 interviews conducted with adults across Sri Lanka since Oct. 2021, including 701 interviews during July and 497 interview in August 2024. IHP's SLOTS MRP methodology first estimates the relationship between a wide variety of characteristics about respondents and their opinions – in this case, 'If there was a General Election today, which party would you vote for?'– in a multilevel statistical model. It then uses a large data file that is calibrated to the national population to predict voting intent in each month since Oct. 2021, according to what the multilevel model says about their probability of voting for various parties ('post-stratification') at each point in time. The multilevel model was estimated 100 times to reflect underlying uncertainties in the model and to obtain margins of error. The voting intent results for previous months have changed in this update as more data were collected after the last release, and these changes are within the margin of error.

Previous reports available from ihp.lk

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".
Available at: https://ihp.lk/news/pres_doc/IHPPressRelease20230727.pdf

Institute for Health Policy, August 2023, "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".
Available at: https://ihp.lk/news/pres_doc/IHPPressRelease20230821.pdf

Institute for Health Policy, September 2023, "NPP/JVP retain an edge over the SJB amongst voters in August. IHP MRP General Election Voting Intentions Update August 2023".
Available at: https://ihp.lk/news/pres_doc/IHPPressRelease20230925.pdf

Institute for Health Policy, October 2023, "NPP/JVP leads with 42% of likely voters, ahead of the SJB (22%) and UNP (13%) in September. IHP MRP General Election Voting Intentions Update September 2023".
Available at: https://ihp.lk/news/pres_doc/IHPPressRelease20231023.pdf

Institute for Health Policy, November 2023, "Little change in voter intentions in October, with NPP/JVP consolidating its lead at 40%. IHP MRP General Election Voting Intentions Update October 2023".
Available at: https://ihp.lk/news/pres_doc/IHPPressRelease20231123.pdf

Institute for Health Policy, January 2024, "NPP/JVP on 39% of all adults, ahead of SJB (27%) and SLPP (10%) in December '23. IHP MRP General Election Voting Intentions Update December 2023". *Available at:* https://ihp.lk/press-releases/nppjvp-39-all-adults-ahead-sjb-27-and-slpp-10-december-23

Institute for Health Policy, February 2024, "NPP/JVP maintains lead in voting intentions, with continuing increase in SJB support. IHP MRP General Election Voting Intentions Update January 2024". *Available at:* https://ihp.lk/press-releases/nppjvp-maintains-lead-voting-intentions-continuing-increase-sjb-support

Institute for Health Policy, March 2024, "NPP/JVP (44%) and SJB (30%) continue to consolidate support in February 2024. IHP MRP General Election Voting Intentions Update February 2024". *Available at:* https://ihp.lk/press-releases/nppjvp-44-and-sjb-30-continue-consolidate-support-february-2024

Institute for Health Policy, April 2024, "Increasing support for SJB (38%) pushes it ahead of NPP/JVP (35%) in March 2024. IHP MRP General Election Voting Intentions Update March 2024". *Available at:* https://ihp.lk/press-releases/increasing-support-sjb-38-pushes-it-ahead-nppjvp-35-march-2024

Institute for Health Policy, May 2024, "SJB and NPP/JVP neck-and-neck with 34% support amongst adult voters in April. IHP MRP General Election Voting Intentions Update April 2024". *Available at:* https://ihp.lk/press-releases/sjb-and-nppjvp-neck-and-neck-34-support-amongst-adult-voters-april

Institute for Health Policy, June 2024, "General Election voting intention shows marginal changes in May, SJB and NPP/JVP lead with 34% of support. IHP MRP General Election Voting Intentions Update May 2024". *Available at:* https://ihp.lk/press-releases/general-election-voting-intention-shows-marginal-changes-may-sjb-and-nppjvp-lead-34

Institute for Health Policy, July 2024, "Decreasing support for NPP/JVP, SJB leads with 38% of all adults in June. IHP MRP General Election Voting Intentions Update June 2024". *Available at:* https://ihp.lk/press-releases/decreasing-support-nppjvp-sjb-leads-38-all-adults-june

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 details

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 and face-to-face interviews. IHP estimates voting intent using an adaptation of Multilevel Regression and Post-Stratification (MRP), with multiple imputations to account for uncertainties in its modelling, exploiting data from all SLOTS interviews to estimate voting in a particular month.

The July 2024 MRP estimates are based on 19,015 interviews conducted from 1 October 2021–19 August 2024, including 701 interviews conducted in July 2024. The margin of error is assessed as 0.6–1.6% for the UNP, SLPP, SLFP, SLMC, CWC, ITAK and the "other" parties, and 2.5–2.6% for NPP/JVP and SJB. A total of 100 bootstraps were used 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