

PRESS RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL

Date: 23 October 2023
Time: 10:00 AM Sri Lanka Time

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

Dalreen Barthelot
Email: dalreen 'at' ihp.lk

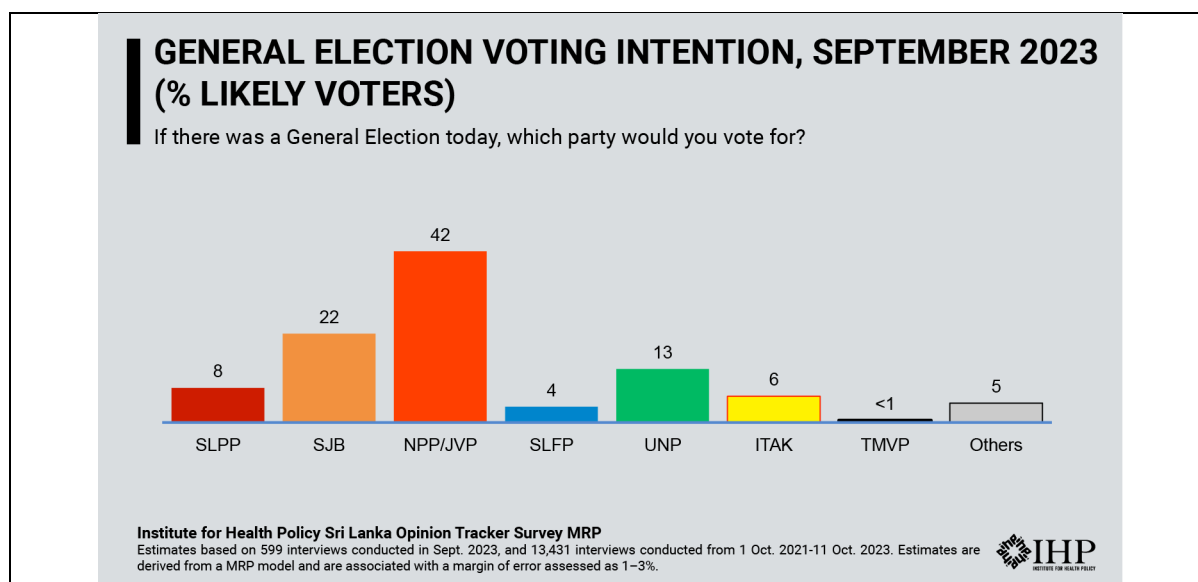
TO CONTACT LEAD INVESTIGATOR

Dr. Ravi Rannan-Eliya
Email: ravi 'at' ihp.lk Twitter: @ravirannaneliya

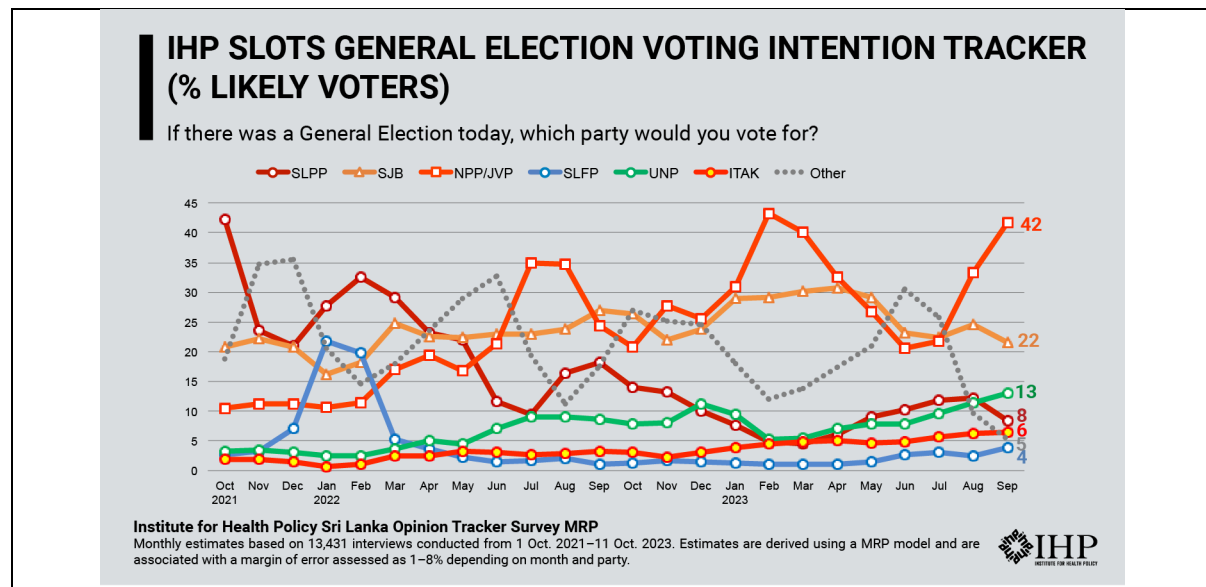
NPP/JVP leads with 42% of likely voters, ahead of the SJB (22%) and UNP (13%) in September

IHP MRP General Election Voting Intentions Update September 2023

In Sri Lanka Opinion Tracker Survey (SLOTS) polling for September 2023, support amongst likely voters for the NPP/JVP increased to 42% (+9). This put them well ahead of the SJB on 22%, the UNP on 13%, and the SLPP on 8%.



In the three months since June 2023, the most notable trends in the SLOTS MRP polling are a significant increase in support for the NPP/JVP, a fall in respondents saying they will vote for other minor or unnamed parties, and a modest upward trend in support for the UNP. Dr Rannan-Eliya, the SLOTS director, commented that this suggests that the current surge in support for the NPP/JVP is driven largely by undecided or floating voters opting for the NPP/JVP, instead of a swing away from the UNP which was the case earlier in the year.



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 #2023-22.

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”, IHP Press Release #2023-26.

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”, IHP Press Release #2023-30.

Available at: https://ihp.lk/news/pres_doc/IHPPressRelease20230925.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 September 2023 MRP estimates are based on 599 interviews conducted in September 2023, and 13,431 interviews conducted overall from 1 October 2021–11 October 2023, with a margin of error assessed as 1–3% for the SJB, NPP/JVP, UNP, SLPP, SLFP, ITAK, TMVP and the other parties. As the September 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.