

Key Findings

- **Source of drinking water:** One in ten households obtain drinking water from an unimproved source in the country as a whole and six out of ten households do so in the estate sector.
- **Toilet facilities:** Ninety-one percent of households have improved toilet facilities and 7 percent have improved shared toilet facilities.
- **Electricity:** Ninety-seven percent of households have access to electricity.
- **Flooring:** Ninety-five percent of households have some type of durable flooring, cement, terrazzo, tiles, granite or concrete.
- **Wealth quintile:** forty-three percent of the population in urban areas are in the highest wealth quintile and 71 percent of the population in the Estate sector are in lowest wealth quintile.
- **Sex ratio:** Sri Lanka has an unbalanced sex ratio of 89 men per 100 women.
- **Means of transportation:** Over 41 percent of households own a motorcycle or a scooter.
- **Cooking fuel:** Mostly used in the urban sector is LPG (67 percent) while wood is mostly used in the rural and estate sectors (73 and 80 percent respectively).
- **Dependency ratio:** The overall ratio is 54.9 percent, which represents 1.8 working persons per 1 dependent person (<15 or >65 years of age).
- **Head of the household:** Twenty four percent of households are headed by a woman.
- **Net Attendance Ratio at the primary and secondary level:** There is high school attendance at the primary level with an equal sex ratio, compared to secondary school where about 17 percent of children 10-15 are not attending school.

This chapter provides a descriptive summary of some demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population in the households sampled in the 2016 SLDHS. Such information is intended to facilitate interpretation of the key demographic, socio-economic, and health indicators presented later in the report. It is also intended to assist in the assessment of the representativeness of the survey sample.

For the purposes of the 2016 SLDHS, a household was defined as a person or a group of persons, related or unrelated, who live together and share a common source of food. The household questionnaire included a schedule collecting basic demographic and socio-economic information for all usual residents and visitors who spent the night preceding the interview in the household. This method of data collection allows the analysis of the results for either the *de jure* (usual residents) or *de facto* (those who are there at the time of the survey) populations. The household questionnaire also obtained information on housing facilities and household possessions and a number of health conditions.

2.1 HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

Household characteristics surveyed are access to basic facilities such as, sources of drinking water, access to sanitation facilities, housing structure; and type of fuel used for cooking as well as the general socio-economic status of household members.



2.1.1 WATER AND SANITATION

Two basic determinants of good health, are access to safe water and sanitation, Access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities are important to protect people from diseases, such as diarrheal diseases, typhoid, and other water related diseases.

2.1.2 DRINKING WATER

Improved source of drinking water

Include piped water, public taps, tube wells, protected wells, semi protected wells, rural water supply projects, bottled water. Because the quality of bottled water is unknown, households that use bottled water for drinking are classified as using an improved source only if their water source for cooking and hand washing comes from an improved source.

Increasing access to improved drinking water is one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (and previously the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)). According to the 2016 SLDHS, in Sri Lanka, 90 percent of households have access to improved drinking water. Sources of drinking water vary in their suitability for drinking. Sources that are likely to provide safe drinking water are identified as improved sources in Table 2.1. They include a piped source within the dwelling or yard, a public tap, a tube well, rural water supply project, bottled water and protected well. Lack of a readily accessible source of water may limit the quantity of suitable drinking water that is available to a household.

Table 2.1 shows the percent distribution of the households and the population by source of drinking water, time to obtain drinking water, and treatment of drinking water, according to background characteristics. The source of drinking water is an indicator of its suitability for drinking. Even if the water is obtained from an improved source, it may be contaminated during transport or storage if fetched from a source not immediately accessible to the household. Finally, home water treatment can be effective in improving the quality of drinking water. Nine in ten households in Sri Lanka obtain drinking water from an improved source, and ten percent of households still use water from an unimproved source. Households in the urban areas have greater use of improved sources than those in other areas.

Overall, 36 percent of households have piped water into their dwelling or yard. The prominent type of improved source varies across the residence sectors. In urban areas, household-level piped water (74 percent) is most frequent, but in rural areas, it is protected dug wells (34 percent). In the estate sector, tap borne water (19 percent), followed by rural water supply projects (11 percent) are the most common safe water sources. Non-improved sources of water are used by 57 percent of households in the Estate sector¹, but only 10 percent out of all households use risky sources of drinking water. The majority of households do not need to collect water, as it is piped onto the premises. Overall, 19 percent of households have to travel to get water, but are able to obtain it within 30 minutes. Naturally, this percentage is higher for the estate sector (30 percent) because rivers/ tanks/ streams/ springs are a frequent source for them.

Figure 2.1 shows 99 percent of the households in the urban sector are using an improved source of drinking water, followed by 91 percent in rural sector and 43 percent in estate sector. The definition of improved water sources differs between 2006/07 SLDHS and 2016 SLDHS and for this reason no attempt is made to identify trends. Protected springs which are considered as improved water sources in the 2006/07 SLDHS, but are not considered as such in the 2016 SLDHS as all springs are categorized as unimproved water sources.

The incidence of water-borne diseases can be reduced by treating water for drinking. Table 2.1 shows that more than half of Sri Lankan households boil water before drinking. The percentage of households that boil water is much greater (69 percent) in the estate sector compared to the other two sectors. So, even

¹ The “River/Streams/Spring” category is considered as un-improved water source, compared with 2006-07 SLDHS when was considered as improved water source. This change has an important effect on the percentages for the Estates sector values.

though the sources in the estate sector may not have suitable water for drinking to begin with, the majority of households take appropriate action to make the water safe to drink.

Figure 2.1 Percentage of Households with improved source of drinking water by residence

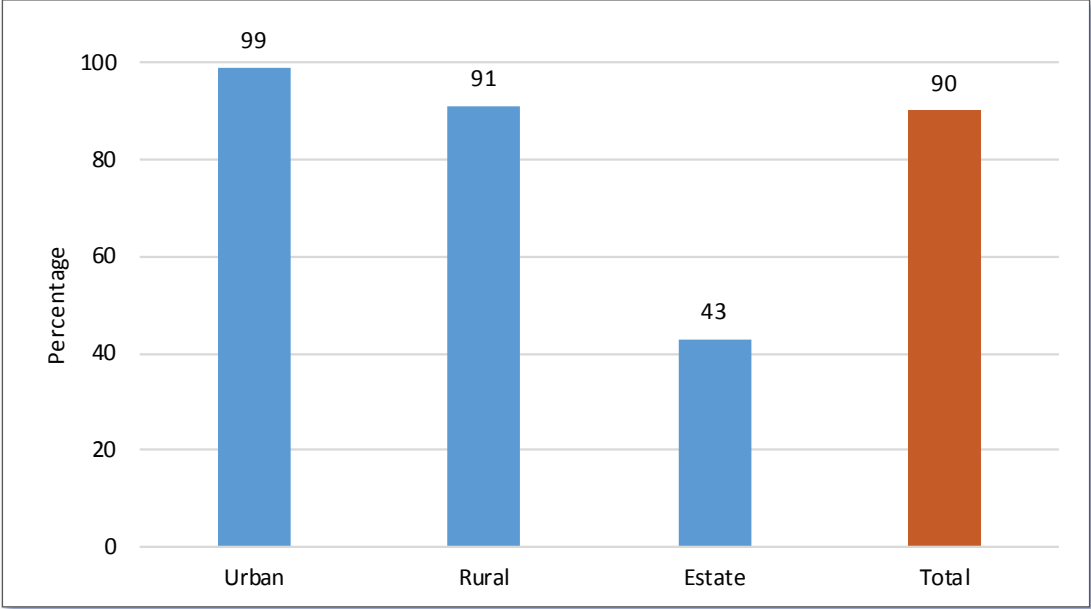


Table 2.1 Household drinking water

Percent distribution of households and *de jure* population by source of drinking water, time to obtain drinking water, and treatment of drinking water, according to residence, Sri Lanka 2016

Characteristic	Households				Population			
	Urban	Rural	Estate	Total	Urban	Rural	Estate	Total
Source of drinking water								
Improved source	98.7	91.0	43.0	90.2	98.7	91.2	43.8	90.4
Tap borne water (main line)	73.5	28.3	19.2	35.1	73.6	28.7	19.7	35.7
Tube well	2.9	3.8	0.4	3.6	2.9	4.0	0.4	3.6
Protected well	11.0	33.8	8.1	29.1	10.7	33.6	8.2	28.7
Semi Protected well	3.4	13.1	4.3	11.2	3.5	12.9	4.3	11.0
Rural water supply project	4.3	8.7	11.0	8.1	4.7	8.7	11.3	8.1
Bottled water, improved source for drinking ¹	3.5	3.2	0.1	3.1	3.3	3.4	0.1	3.3
Unimproved source	1.0	8.2	56.7	9.1	1.0	8.0	55.9	8.9
Unprotected well	0.2	2.4	2.8	2.0	0.2	2.4	3.0	2.0
Rain water	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
River/tank/streams/spring	0.5	5.2	53.6	6.4	0.5	5.0	52.7	6.3
Bowser	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.5
Other	0.3	0.8	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.8	0.3	0.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Time to obtain drinking water (round trip)								
Water on premises	91.6	77.9	69.1	79.7	91.8	78.4	69.2	80.2
Less than 30 minutes	7.0	18.3	27.0	16.9	7.0	17.7	26.8	16.4
30 minutes or longer	1.0	3.2	3.0	2.8	0.9	3.1	3.1	2.7
Don't know/missing	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.7	0.9	0.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Water treatment prior to drinking²								
Boiled	46.9	38.0	68.7	40.6	45.6	38.1	69.0	40.6
Bleach/chlorine added	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.7
Strained through cloth	2.9	4.5	6.2	4.3	3.0	4.5	6.6	4.4
Ceramic, sand or other filter	22.8	21.1	4.8	20.7	23.5	22.0	4.9	21.5
Solar disinfection	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Let it stand and settle	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.4
Other	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
No treatment	36.2	44.0	25.1	42.0	36.7	43.3	24.6	41.4
Percentage using an appropriate treatment method ³	61.7	52.8	70.5	55.0	61.2	53.5	70.7	55.5
Number	4,309	21,778	1,122	27,210	17,212	82,864	4,492	104,569

¹ Because the quality of bottled water is not known, households using bottled water for drinking are classified as using an improved or unimproved source according to their water source for cooking and washing.

² Respondents may report multiple treatment methods so the sum of treatment may exceed 100 percent.

³ Appropriate water treatment methods include boiling, bleaching, filtering, and solar disinfecting.

2.1.3 SANITATION

Improved toilet facilities
Include any non- shared toilet of the following types : flush/pour flush toilets to piped sewer systems, septic tanks, and pit latrines; ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrines; pit latrines with slabs; and composting toilets.

Ensuring adequate sanitation facilities is another goal of the Government of Sri Lanka, particularly in the context of the recently agreed SDGs. Table 2.2 shows that 91 percent of households have improved toilets and 7 percent have a shared improved toilet facility. The most common type of toilet is an unshared, pour/flush toilet (72 percent). Only 2 percent of households do not have access to any toilet facility, though this percentage is as high as 4 percent in the estate sector. Figure 2.2 shows the sanitary facilities among the sectors. In the estate sector, only 79 percent of households have improved facilities, compared with 90 percent and 91 percent in urban and rural sectors, respectively.

Figure 2.2 Percentage of Households with improved, not shared, sanitation facilities by sector

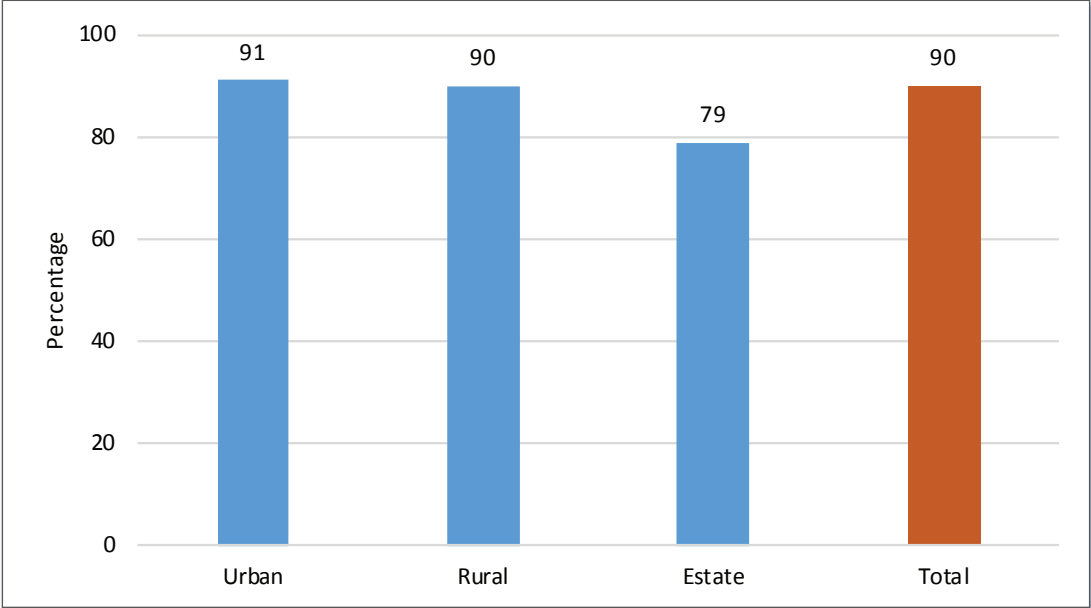


Table 2.2 Household sanitation facilities

Percent distribution of households and *de jure* population by type and location of toilet/latrine facilities, according to residence, Sri Lanka 2016

Type and location of toilet/latrine facility	Households				Population			
	Urban	Rural	Estate	Total	Urban	Rural	Estate	Total
Improved, not shared facility								
Flush/pour flush to piped sewer system	11.1	1.9	0.6	3.3	11.3	2.0	0.5	3.4
Flush/pour flush to septic tank	4.5	1.5	3.7	2.1	4.6	1.5	3.3	2.1
Flush/pour flush to pit latrine	72.1	84.6	72.0	82.1	72.3	85.9	73.4	83.1
Ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrine	1.1	1.5	2.1	1.4	1.3	1.5	2.1	1.5
Pit latrine with slab	1.9	0.9	0.3	1.0	2.0	0.9	0.4	1.1
Composting toilet	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	90.8	90.3	78.7	89.9	91.5	91.7	79.8	91.2
Shared facility¹								
Flush/pour flush to piped sewer system	1.0	0.2	0.1	0.4	1.0	0.2	0.1	0.4
Flush/pour flush to septic tank	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.2
Flush/pour flush to pit latrine	5.5	7.2	16.3	7.3	4.6	6.1	15.6	6.3
Ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrine	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
Pit latrine with slab	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	7.2	7.6	17.0	8.0	6.2	6.6	16.3	6.9
Unimproved facility								
Flush/pour flush not to sewer/septic tank/pit latrine	1.1	0.3	0.6	0.4	1.2	0.2	0.5	0.4
Pit latrine without slab/open pit	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.2
Bucket	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
No facility/bush/field	0.4	1.3	3.0	1.2	0.4	1.1	2.6	1.0
Other	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.7	0.2
Total	2.0	2.0	4.3	2.1	2.2	1.7	3.9	1.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,309	21,778	1,122	27,210	17,212	82,864	4,492	104,569

¹ Facilities that would be considered improved if they were not shared by two or more households.

2.2. HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Housing characteristics and household assets can be used as a measure of the socioeconomic status of household members. Cooking practices and cooking fuels also affect the health of family members and the environment. For example, the use of biomass fuels exposes household members to indoor pollution, which has a direct bearing on their health and surroundings.

Table 2.3 presents information on the availability of electricity, type of flooring material, type of fuel used for cooking, and place where cooking is done. Overall, 97 percent of households in Sri Lanka have access to electricity, 99 percent in urban areas and 97 percent in rural areas. This shows a marked improvement since 2006.

Table 2.3 Household characteristics

Percent distribution of households by housing characteristics, by place used for cooking and by the type of fuel used and by percentage using solid fuel for cooking, according to residence, Sri Lanka 2016

Housing characteristic	Residence			Total
	Urban	Rural	Estate	
Electricity				
Yes	98.6	96.7	95.3	97.0
No	1.4	3.3	4.7	3.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Flooring material				
Cement	62.5	68.6	85.0	68.3
Terrazzo/Tile/Granite	32.8	15.8	2.4	17.9
Mud	0.6	4.3	9.0	3.9
Wood	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sand	0.2	0.4	1.4	0.4
Concrete	3.6	10.7	1.8	9.2
Other	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Place for cooking				
In the house	88.9	79.3	65.7	80.3
In a separate building	3.8	6.2	19.9	6.4
Temporary hut	4.1	11.9	11.9	10.7
Outdoors	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.6
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
No food cooked in household	2.5	2.0	2.0	2.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cooking fuel				
Electricity	0.9	1.5	1.8	1.4
Gas (LP)	67.1	22.5	15.3	29.3
Kerosene	4.5	0.5	0.9	1.1
Wood	24.9	73.4	79.9	66.0
Saw dust/rice husk/charcoal	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
No food cooked in household	2.5	2.0	2.0	2.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percentage using solid fuel for cooking ¹	25.0	73.5	80.0	66.1
Number	4,309	21,778	1,122	27,210

LPG = Liquefied petroleum gas

¹ Includes wood, saw dust/rice husk/charcoal

Among flooring materials, cement is the most common (68 percent) material for floor. Urban sector households used with Terrazzo/ Tile/ Granite (33 percent) as floor material.

Almost 95 percent of households in Sri Lanka have some type of durable flooring, cement, Terrazzo/ tiles/ Granite or concrete). The remaining 5 percent have rudimentary flooring, such as mud and sand, the percent with permanent flooring is higher in urban areas.

Households were asked about cooking fuel and the place used for cooking. Overall 80 percent of households cook in the house, whereas 12 percent of households in the rural sector cook in a temporary hut, and 20 percent of estate-sector households use a separate building. The majority (66 percent) of households uses wood for cooking, and there is wide variation by residence. Almost all households in the estate sector (80 percent) and most of those in the rural sector (73 percent) use wood. The majority (67 percent) of urban households use LP gas or natural gas; only one-fourth of urban households use wood. Nearly one fourth of household use LP gas in the rural sector and in the estate sector it is 15 percent.

2.2.1 HOUSEHOLD POSSESSIONS

The availability of durable consumer goods is a good indicator of a household's socioeconomic status. In the 2016 SLDHS, information on the possession of selected consumer goods was asked; results are shown



Table 2.4 Household possessions

Percentage of households possessing various household effects, means of transportation, agricultural land and livestock/farm animals by residence, Sri Lanka 2016

Possession	Residence			Total
	Urban	Rural	Estate	
Household effects				
Radio	68.2	70.1	64.4	69.5
Television	91.0	86.5	82.3	87.1
Mobile phone	94.7	90.8	81.1	91.0
Computer	42.0	21.5	8.1	24.2
Non-mobile telephone	41.9	29.8	32.9	31.9
Refrigerator	71.7	54.3	24.6	55.8
Washing machine	42.5	17.6	4.1	21.0
Rice cooker	68.7	60.4	55.9	61.5
Means of transport				
Bicycle	33.3	37.8	8.3	35.8
Motorcycle/scooter	37.0	43.7	10.1	41.2
Motor car/van/jeep	21.9	9.8	2.3	11.4
Boat with a motor	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.5
Trishaw	14.6	16.7	10.9	16.1
Tractor/land master	0.7	4.1	0.3	3.4
Bus/lorry/truck	2.0	3.6	1.4	3.3
Ownership of agricultural land	12.6	41.8	17.0	36.1
Ownership of farm animals¹	4.0	10.3	19.6	9.7
Number	4,309	21,778	1,122	27,210

¹ Cows, bulls, other cattle, goats, chickens or pigs

in Table 2.4. There is some difference between urban and rural households, with urban households much more likely to own these durable consumer items than rural households. Information on household's ownership of selected assets has a strong association with poverty levels. Looking first at consumer goods, almost 70 percent of the households have a radio and a television in their home. Possession of other household items, such as mobile and land phones, and refrigerators is higher in the urban sector than other sectors. With regard to means of transportation, many households own a bicycle (36 percent) and over 41 percent have a motorcycle or scooter. Some urban households (22 percent) own a car or similar motor vehicle.

2.2.2 WEALTH INDEX

The wealth index is a socio-economic indicator that is used throughout the report as a proxy for long-term standard of living of the household. It is based on data on the household's ownership of consumer goods; dwelling characteristics; type of drinking water source; toilet facilities; and other characteristics that are related to a household's socio-economic status. To construct the index, each of these assets was assigned a weight (factor score) generated through principal component analysis, and the resulting asset scores were standardized in relation to a standard normal distribution with a mean of zero and standard deviation of one (Gwatkin et al., 2000). Each household was then assigned a score for each asset, and the scores were summed for each household. Individuals were ranked according to the total score of the household in which they resided. The sample was then divided into quintiles from one (lowest) to five (highest). A single asset index was developed on the basis of data from the entire country sample and this index is used in all the tabulations presented (Rutstein and Johnson, 2004).

Table 2.5 shows the distribution of the *de jure* household population into the five wealth quintiles, by residence. These distributions indicate the degree to which wealth is evenly (or unevenly) distributed by geographic areas. Table 2.5 illustrates that 43 percent of the population in urban areas is in the highest wealth quintile. In estate sector 71 percent of population in lowest wealth quintile. These results further confirm

that poverty is more concentrated in the estate sector. Table 2.5 further shows that higher percentages of people in Colombo and Gampaha districts, which are relatively more urbanized, are in the highest quintile. Kilinochchi, Mullativu, Mannar and Nuwara-Eliya, fall into the lowest wealth quintile. Several districts have a fairly balanced distribution across all quintiles, namely, Kalutara, Kandy, Galle, Kurunegala, Matara and Hambantota.

Table 2.5: wealth quintile
Percent distribution of the *de jure* population by wealth quintiles, and the Gini Coefficient, according to residence and region, Sri Lanka 2016

Residence/region	Wealth quintile					Total	Number of persons	Gini coefficient
	Lowest	Second	Middle	Fourth	Highest			
Residence								
Urban	7.6	11.4	15.3	23.3	42.4	100.0	17,212	0.07
Rural	19.8	21.8	21.8	20.3	16.4	100.0	82,864	0.05
Estate	70.8	20.5	5.4	2.6	0.8	100.0	4,492	0.08
District								
Colombo	4.4	8.1	14.2	23.4	49.9	100.0	10,478	0.06
Gampaha	8.5	16.3	18.8	24.3	32.1	100.0	10,780	0.06
Kalutara	12.6	17.3	19.4	25.2	25.5	100.0	6,429	0.07
Kandy	16.3	15.4	18.9	22.7	26.7	100.0	7,195	0.06
Matale	21.9	20.9	24.5	18.2	14.6	100.0	2,701	0.07
Nuwara-Eliya	49.5	26.1	13.3	6.5	4.6	100.0	3,411	0.10
Galle	16.4	20.7	22.3	23.2	17.3	100.0	5,560	0.07
Matara	12.8	17.9	21.7	23.5	24.2	100.0	4,348	0.06
Hambantota	17.2	23.7	20.8	22.4	15.8	100.0	3,214	0.07
Jaffna	48.1	24.1	12.7	9.5	5.6	100.0	3,026	0.11
Mannar	60.6	21.5	8.5	7.0	2.4	100.0	508	0.04
Vavuniya	52.9	18.6	12.9	9.6	6.1	100.0	820	0.12
Mullaitivu	69.6	15.7	8.4	5.2	1.1	100.0	446	0.12
Kilinochchi	77.8	16.9	3.2	1.9	0.2	100.0	553	0.10
Batticaloa	36.0	22.6	18.2	14.7	8.6	100.0	2,822	0.10
Ampara	26.1	24.4	19.6	19.2	10.7	100.0	3,803	0.06
Trincomalee	41.3	21.0	15.1	14.7	7.8	100.0	2,017	0.10
Kurunegala	14.4	22.3	26.7	22.1	14.4	100.0	8,713	0.04
Puttalam	19.7	27.3	22.8	16.4	13.8	100.0	3,674	0.09
Anuradhapura	15.8	21.4	24.9	24.9	12.9	100.0	4,831	0.05
Polonnaruwa	17.1	23.6	26.0	22.9	10.3	100.0	2,149	0.03
Badulla	32.9	24.2	15.9	15.0	12.1	100.0	4,147	0.09
Moneragala	24.9	24.3	25.3	17.2	8.3	100.0	2,548	0.07
Ratnapura	25.0	28.0	23.1	14.4	9.5	100.0	5,994	0.07
Kegalle	19.5	22.9	24.0	18.8	14.8	100.0	4,402	0.05
Total	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	100.0	104,569	0.06

2.3 HOUSEHOLD POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

Household

A person or group of related or unrelated person who live together in the same dwelling unit(s), who acknowledge one adult male or female as the head of the household, who share the same housekeeping arrangements, and who are considered a single unit.

De facto population

All persons who stayed in the selected households the night before the interview (whether usual residents or visitors).

De jure population

All persons who are usual residents of the selected households. whether or not they stayed in the household the night before the interview.

Table 2.6 shows that the household population by the important demographic variables of age and sex. The total population in the sample is 103,283 and the female population (54,667) is slightly larger than male population (48,626); and males constitute 47 percent and females 53 percent of the population. This translates to an unbalanced sex ratio of 89 men per 100 women. The percentages of all males who are in the age groups up to age 20 are higher than those of females

The table also shows the child and adult dependency age groups. The population 0-14 is 25 percent of the total population and those ages 65 and above population constitute 10 percent. The working age population of 15-64 is 65 percent. The overall dependency ratio is 54.9 percent, indicating the presence of 1.8 working persons per 1 dependent person (<15 or >65). This is an optimal condition for the further development of a country which has been called the “demographic dividend”. Child and adult population percentages show that those aged 0-17 are 30 percent of the population and those above age 18 are 70 percent.

Table 2.6 Household population by age, sex, and residence

Percent distribution of the de facto household population by five-year age groups, according to sex and residence, Sri Lanka 2016

Age	Urban			Rural			Estate			Male	Fe- male	Total
	Male	Fe- male	Total	Male	Fe- male	Total	Male	Fe- male	Total			
Age												
<5	8.7	6.7	7.7	8.8	7.4	8.1	8.8	7.9	8.3	8.8	7.3	8.0
5-9	8.7	7.2	7.9	9.4	8.4	8.9	11.3	9.3	10.2	9.4	8.2	8.8
10-14	8.8	7.8	8.3	9.0	8.1	8.5	10.3	9.9	10.1	9.1	8.1	8.5
15-19	7.6	7.1	7.3	8.1	7.4	7.7	7.5	7.4	7.5	8.0	7.3	7.6
20-24	7.2	7.3	7.2	6.3	6.5	6.4	6.6	6.2	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.5
25-29	6.6	7.0	6.8	5.8	6.3	6.1	6.4	6.6	6.5	6.0	6.5	6.2
30-34	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.6	7.4	7.1	7.3	7.2
35-39	7.2	7.0	7.1	7.1	7.8	7.5	6.7	6.3	6.5	7.1	7.6	7.4
40-44	5.9	5.9	5.9	6.4	6.5	6.4	5.6	5.1	5.3	6.2	6.3	6.3
45-49	6.0	6.6	6.3	6.1	6.2	6.2	5.6	4.9	5.2	6.1	6.2	6.2
50-54	6.1	6.7	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.3	7.1	7.5	7.3	6.3	6.5	6.4
55-59	5.6	6.6	6.1	5.5	5.8	5.6	5.2	6.1	5.7	5.5	6.0	5.7
60-64	5.0	5.7	5.4	4.8	5.1	5.0	4.3	5.0	4.6	4.8	5.2	5.0
65-69	4.1	4.3	4.2	3.9	4.3	4.1	3.8	4.6	4.2	3.9	4.3	4.1
70-74	2.7	3.3	3.0	2.5	2.9	2.7	1.9	3.2	2.6	2.5	3.0	2.8
75-79	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.6	0.9	1.3	1.1	1.5	1.7	1.6
80 +	1.3	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.9	1.6	0.7	1.0	0.9	1.3	1.9	1.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Dependency age groups												
0-14	26.2	21.7	23.8	27.3	23.9	25.5	30.4	27.1	28.7	27.2	23.6	25.3
15-64	64.3	67.0	65.7	63.5	65.2	64.4	62.3	62.8	62.5	63.6	65.4	64.5
65+	9.6	11.3	10.5	9.2	10.9	10.1	7.3	10.1	8.8	9.2	10.9	10.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Child and adult populations												
0-17	30.6	26.1	28.2	32.3	28.4	30.2	35.8	31.9	33.7	32.2	28.2	30.1
18+	69.4	73.9	71.8	67.7	71.6	69.8	64.2	68.1	66.3	67.8	71.8	69.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of persons	8,028	9,038	17,066	38,482	43,295	81,777	2,116	2,324	4,440	48,626	54,657	103,283

The population pyramid (Figure 2.3) shows the higher presence of females in age groups 20 and over. The pyramid reflects the declining fertility and low mortality in Sri Lanka and increasing older age population.



Figure 2.3: Population Pyramid

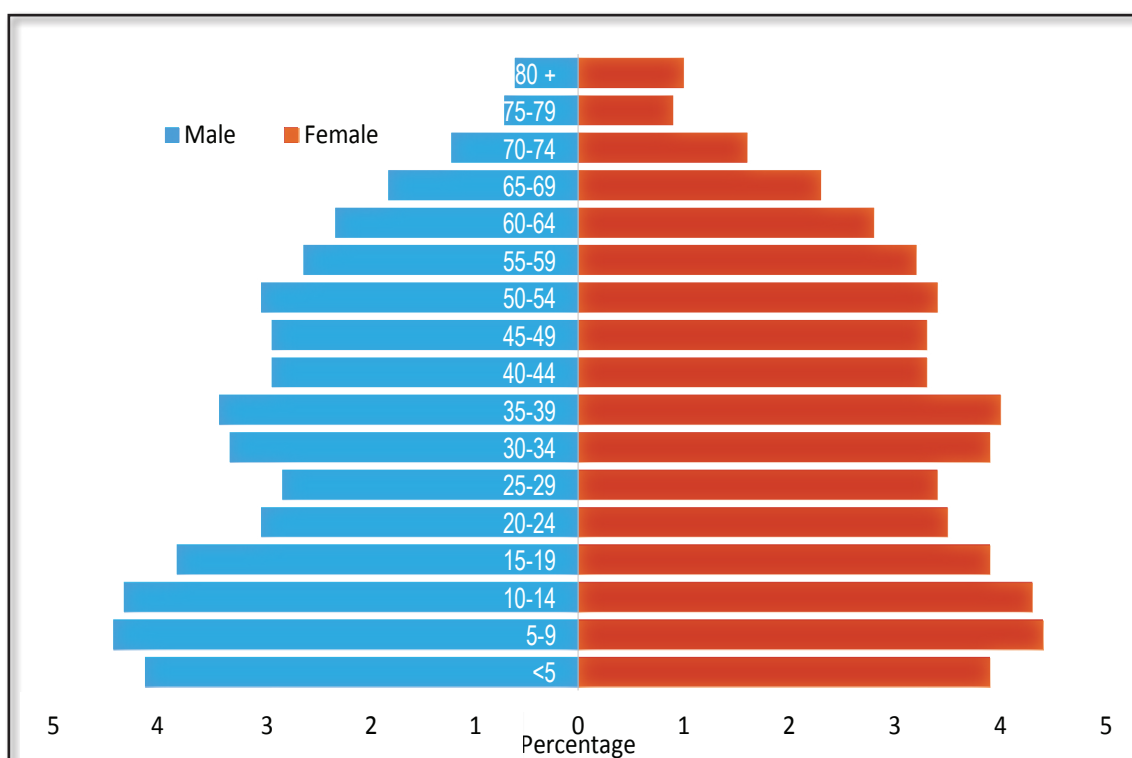


Table 2.A shows that the percentage of children under five years observed in the 2016 SLDHS declined slightly compared to the percentage from the 2012 Population Census. Since 1981, the proportion of children under 15 years of age has declined, and the proportions of the working age and elderly populations have generally risen. The proportion of women in the reproductive age group shows a decline since 2000, from 54 to 48 percent in 2016. The overall dependency ratio (proportion under 15 and 65 and older divided by the proportion age 15-64) is 54.9, compared to 65.4 in 1981. The child dependency ratio has declined from 58 to 39 and the old-age dependency ratio has gone up from 7 to 16. The demographic dynamics of Sri Lanka indicate that the dependency ratio (number of working age population per dependent population) will continue to decline in the future, bringing additional challenges since the number of dependents will continue to increase due to the ageing process of the Sri Lankan population.

Age group	Census 1981	DHS ¹ 1993	DHS ¹ 2000	DHS ¹ 2006-07	Census 2012	DHS 2016
Children under 5 years	12.5	9.0	7.9	8.8	8.6	8.0
Children under 15 years	35.2	30.3	25.8	25.9	25.2	25.3
Women of reproductive age (15-49 years)	52.2	53.0	54.6	51.8	51.0	47.8
Working age population (15-64 years)	60.5	63.5	67.1	66.5	66.9	64.5
Elderly population (65 years and over)	4.3	6.1	7.2	7.5	7.9	10.1
Ratio of persons under 15 to those age 15-64 (%)	58.2	47.8	38.3	39.0	37.7	39.2
Ratio of persons 65 and over to those age 15-64 (%)	7.2	9.6	10.7	11.3	11.8	15.7

¹ Exclude Northern and Eastern provinces

2.4 HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

Information on key aspects of the composition of households, including the sex of the head of the household and the size of the household is presented in Table 2.7. These characteristics are important because they are associated with the welfare of the household. Economic resources are often more limited in larger households. Table 2.7 shows 3.8 as the mean size of a household in 2016. One fourth of households (i.e. one in four) are headed by a woman in Sri Lanka. The proportion of female headed households does not differ much by sector. It is highest in the estate sector (26 percent) and lowest in the rural sector (24 percent). There are no marked differences by sector in distribution of household members. A trend towards decreasing household size has continued in Sri Lanka since 1981 in all but the estate sector, where the household size has fluctuated up and then down (Table 2.B).

Table 2.7 Household composition

Percent distribution of households by sex of head of household and by household size; mean size of household, and percentage of households with orphans and foster children under 18 years of age, according to residence, Sri Lanka 2016

Characteristic	Residence			Total
	Urban	Rural	Estate	
Household headship				
Male	75.3	76.4	73.8	76.1
Female	24.7	23.6	26.2	23.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of usual members				
0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
1	5.6	6.5	6.7	6.4
2	14.1	15.1	15.0	15.0
3	21.2	20.9	18.4	20.8
4	24.9	26.3	22.5	25.9
5	17.0	17.9	18.7	17.8
6	9.1	8.7	10.4	8.8
7	4.9	2.9	5.5	3.3
8	1.6	1.0	1.6	1.1
9+	1.6	0.6	1.1	0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mean size of households	4.0	3.8	4.0	3.8
Percentage of households with orphans and foster children under 18 years of age				
Double orphans	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
Single orphans ¹	2.0	2.4	2.3	2.3
Foster children ²	2.6	2.9	7.0	3.0
Foster and/or orphan children	4.2	4.8	8.3	4.8
Number of households	4,309	21,778	1,122	27,210

Note: Table is based on de jure household members, i.e., usual residents.

¹ Includes children with one dead parent and an unknown survival status of the other parent.

² Foster children are those under age 18 living in households with neither their mother nor their father present, and the mother and/or the father are alive.



Table: 2.B Trends in mean household size

Mean household size from censuses and surveys, according to residence, Sri Lanka 1981-2016

Source	Urban	Rural	Estate	Total
Census 1981	5.4	4.9	4.3	4.9
1993 DHS ¹	5.0	4.7	4.4	4.7
2000 DHS ¹	4.8	4.5	4.6	4.5
2006-07 DHS ¹	4.2	4.0	4.3	4.0
Census 2012	3.9	3.7	4.0	3.8
2016 DHS	4.0	3.8	4.0	3.8

¹ Exclude Northern and Eastern province

2.5 CHILDREN'S LIVING ARRANGEMENTS, ORPHANHOOD, AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The 2016 SLDHS collected information on living arrangements of children and orphanhood. Living arrangements should be monitored together with the proportion of foster and orphan children because of their significant effects on the comprehensive development of children.

Table 2.8 shows the percent distribution of children under age 18 by their living arrangements and survivorship of parents. Among children under age 18 reported in the 2016 SLDHS, 78 percent live with both parents, 14 percent live with their mother only, although their father is alive, 2 percent live with their father only, although their mother is alive, and 3 percent live with neither of their natural or biological parents, although both parents are alive.

Table 2.8 also provides information on the extent of orphanhood, that is, the proportion of children who have lost one or both parents. Less than 1 percent of children under age 18 have both parents' dead and 3 percent have one or both parents' dead. The percentage of children living with both biological parents decreases with the age of the child. This may be due to children moving out of house to pursue further education or seek work. In the urban sector 79 percent of children live with both parents. Children in urban and rural areas are more likely than those in estate areas to live with both parents (79 and 78 percent versus 67 percent).

By wealth status, the proportion of children under age 18 living with both parents increases with wealth quintile. The highest proportions are among children in the highest wealth quintiles (82 percent) and the lowest proportion is in the lowest wealth quintile (73 percent).

Table 2.8 Children's living arrangements and orphanhood

Percent distribution of de jure children under age 18 by living arrangements and survival status of parents, the percentage of children not living with a biological parent, and the percentage of children with one or both parents dead, according to background characteristics, Sri Lanka 2016

Background characteristic	Living with mother but not with father			Living with father but not with mother		Not living with either parent					Total	Percentage not living with a biological parent	Percentage with one or both parents dead ¹	Number of children
	Living with both parents	Father alive	Father dead	Mother alive	Mother dead	Both alive	Only father alive	Only mother alive	Both dead	Missing information on father/mother				
Age														
0-4	80.6	17.0	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	100.0	1.0	0.5	8,182
<2	81.7	17.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	100.0	0.5	0.3	3,029
2-4	80.0	16.9	0.4	0.8	0.1	1.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	100.0	1.3	0.6	5,153
5-9	78.9	14.4	1.1	2.1	0.3	2.3	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.5	100.0	2.8	1.8	9,085
10-14	76.9	12.1	2.7	3.0	0.6	3.2	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.7	100.0	4.1	4.1	8,875
15-17	74.1	10.1	5.0	3.1	0.9	4.6	0.3	0.9	0.2	0.8	100.0	6.0	7.3	4,918
Sex														
Male	78.2	13.8	1.8	2.2	0.3	2.4	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.6	100.0	3.0	2.7	15,663
Female	77.8	13.7	2.1	2.0	0.5	2.7	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.6	100.0	3.4	3.2	15,396
Residence														
Urban	79.4	13.6	1.8	1.6	0.3	2.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.5	100.0	2.8	2.6	4,795
Rural	78.4	13.7	2.0	1.9	0.4	2.4	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.6	100.0	3.1	3.0	24,754
Estate	66.7	15.3	1.5	7.6	0.7	5.6	0.3	0.8	0.0	1.6	100.0	6.7	3.3	1,510
District														
Colombo	83.4	10.2	1.9	1.5	0.2	2.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.6	100.0	2.4	2.4	2,689
Gampaha	84.5	9.7	1.7	1.6	0.3	1.9	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.3	100.0	2.0	2.2	2,896
Kalutara	80.9	10.9	2.1	2.0	0.6	2.3	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.5	100.0	3.1	3.4	1,858
Kandy	77.2	15.6	1.4	2.2	0.5	2.5	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.3	100.0	2.8	2.3	2,093
Matale	68.5	22.4	2.3	1.5	0.4	3.2	0.3	0.5	0.0	1.1	100.0	4.0	3.4	824
Nuwara-Eliya	70.9	19.5	0.7	4.0	0.7	3.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.6	100.0	3.5	1.8	1,115
Galle	73.7	17.4	2.6	1.8	0.2	2.7	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.8	100.0	3.5	3.6	1,676
Matara	80.2	14.7	0.9	1.2	0.5	1.8	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.3	100.0	2.2	1.9	1,316
Hambantota	79.9	12.4	1.9	0.8	0.2	2.5	0.2	0.4	0.0	1.7	100.0	3.1	2.6	1,026
Jaffna	78.8	11.2	4.6	0.2	0.2	2.6	0.5	0.5	0.2	1.2	100.0	3.8	6.0	887
Mannar	85.7	6.7	3.1	1.4	0.6	1.7	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.1	100.0	2.4	4.4	166
Vavuniya	77.9	8.9	4.4	3.4	0.4	3.3	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.4	100.0	4.6	6.1	275
Mullaitivu	75.2	11.1	7.6	0.7	2.0	1.6	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.9	100.0	2.5	10.7	157
Kilinochchi	75.2	14.5	5.3	0.7	0.7	1.8	0.0	0.1	1.0	0.7	100.0	2.8	7.1	197
Batticaloa	72.9	18.0	1.8	2.0	0.3	3.5	0.3	0.4	0.0	1.0	100.0	4.2	2.7	995
Ampara	76.7	15.2	3.1	1.0	0.4	2.7	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.0	100.0	3.6	4.4	1,323
Trincomalee	78.4	11.8	0.8	2.7	0.5	4.0	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.8	100.0	5.1	2.4	737
Kurunegala	73.2	18.6	1.5	2.9	0.3	2.5	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.3	100.0	3.2	2.5	2,573
Puttalam	75.7	13.8	1.0	3.4	0.6	3.5	0.4	0.5	0.1	1.0	100.0	4.5	2.7	1,120
Anuradhapura	80.6	10.9	1.5	2.5	0.4	3.2	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.1	100.0	4.0	2.7	1,490
Polonnaruwa	76.8	12.0	1.5	4.6	0.1	2.9	0.7	0.8	0.0	0.4	100.0	4.5	3.2	652
Badulla	69.6	20.5	1.5	2.8	1.0	3.7	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.5	100.0	4.1	2.8	1,276
Moneragala	80.5	11.6	2.3	1.1	0.6	2.9	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4	100.0	3.3	3.3	812
Ratnapura	80.5	10.6	2.5	2.4	0.5	2.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.1	100.0	2.4	3.3	1,683
Kegalle	80.9	9.7	2.3	2.7	0.3	2.1	0.1	0.4	0.2	1.3	100.0	2.7	3.2	1,224
Wealth quintile														
Lowest	73.3	13.2	3.0	3.8	0.6	3.7	0.4	0.8	0.1	1.1	100.0	5.0	4.8	6,695
Second	78.7	12.3	2.3	2.2	0.5	2.9	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.6	100.0	3.5	3.3	6,331
Middle	77.6	14.8	1.7	2.0	0.3	2.6	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.6	100.0	3.0	2.5	6,213
Fourth	79.2	15.2	1.3	1.2	0.3	1.9	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	100.0	2.4	2.1	6,122
Highest	82.0	13.4	1.3	1.0	0.4	1.5	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	100.0	1.8	1.9	5,698
Total <15	78.7	14.4	1.4	1.9	0.3	2.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.6	100.0	2.7	2.2	26,142
Total <18	78.0	13.8	1.9	2.1	0.4	2.6	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.6	100.0	3.2	3.0	31,060

Note: Table is based on de jure members, i.e., usual residents.

¹ Includes children with father dead, mother dead, both dead and one parent dead but missing information on survival status of the other parent.



2.6 EDUCATION OF THE HOUSEHOLD POPULATION

Studies have shown that education is one of the major socioeconomic factors to influence a person's behavior and attitudes. In general, the higher the level of education of a person, the more knowledgeable he/she is about the use of health facilities, family planning methods, and the health of their children, among many other things. Results from the 2016 SLDHS can be used to look at educational attainment among household members and school attendance and dropout rates among children and youth.

For the purpose of the analysis presented below, the official age for entry into the primary education level is five. The official primary level of schooling consists of grades 1 through grade 5 and finishing grade 11 marks completion of secondary school. The school ages are 5-9 for primary education and 10-15 for secondary education.

2.6.1 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Median educational attainment

Half the population has complete less than median number of years of schooling and the half the population has completed more than the median number of years of schooling.

Sample: De facto household population age 6 and older.

Tables 2.9.1 and 2.9.2 show the education status for male and female household members separately. They indicate remarkable gender equity in educational attendance and attainment in Sri Lanka. The distribution of median years completed by age is quite similar for both sexes; in fact, it is slightly higher for females (9.4 years), compared to males (9.2 years).

The data shows differences by sector of residence. The estate sector lags behind urban and rural sectors on median years completed. Furthermore, females in the estate sector are more likely to have no education (15 percent) than males in the same sector (7 percent). Although there is not much gender difference by residence for the highest education category. The population with completed secondary level is much lower in the estate sector (nearly 13 percent) compared with about one-third of rural residents, and nearly 45 percent of urban residents.

Only a very small proportion of the population six years or older has never gone to school. The percentage of males who never attended school is 2 percent, and the corresponding proportion for females is 4 percent. This difference is due to a wider gap between males and females age 65 years and above, which suggests that in the past, girls were somewhat less likely to go to school than boys.

Table 2.9.1 Educational attainment of the female household population

Percent distribution of the de facto female household population age six and over by highest level of schooling attended or completed and median years completed, according to background characteristics, Sri Lanka 2016

Background characteristic	No education	Some primary	Completed primary ¹	Some secondary	Completed secondary ²	More than secondary	Don't know/missing	Total	Number	Median years completed
Age										
6-9	4.5	94.6	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	3,639	1.6
10-14	0.4	11.4	19.6	67.9	0.6	0.0	0.1	100.0	4,422	6.0
15-19	0.4	0.4	0.2	15.9	31.2	51.8	0.1	100.0	3,998	10.1
20-24	0.6	1.0	0.7	5.0	24.6	67.9	0.1	100.0	3,598	11.4
25-29	0.9	1.3	1.3	7.2	27.8	61.5	0.1	100.0	3,537	10.8
30-34	1.1	1.7	1.7	11.3	29.2	55.1	0.0	100.0	3,989	10.4
35-39	1.5	3.3	2.1	13.0	32.7	47.2	0.2	100.0	4,149	9.9
40-44	2.4	6.1	4.6	13.7	29.8	43.1	0.2	100.0	3,452	9.8
45-49	4.4	9.5	5.4	16.8	25.1	38.4	0.4	100.0	3,405	9.6
50-54	6.0	14.5	7.8	17.6	18.7	34.6	0.8	100.0	3,531	9.4
55-59	6.4	16.2	8.2	20.4	18.4	29.7	0.7	100.0	3,254	9.1
60-64	6.3	17.4	10.2	22.0	16.8	26.1	1.3	100.0	2,850	8.0
65+	14.9	22.2	10.7	19.9	11.3	19.4	1.5	100.0	5,974	6.8
Residence										
Urban	2.6	12.1	5.2	18.6	16.0	45.2	0.5	100.0	8,303	9.8
Rural	4.0	15.5	5.8	18.2	21.3	34.8	0.4	100.0	39,397	9.4
Estate	14.5	24.3	11.9	22.9	12.2	13.6	0.6	100.0	2,098	6.2
District										
Colombo	2.1	11.3	4.1	18.0	16.1	48.0	0.6	100.0	5,065	9.9
Gampaha	1.6	11.3	5.0	18.1	19.5	44.2	0.3	100.0	5,100	9.7
Kalutara	2.6	13.6	5.5	16.9	21.8	39.0	0.6	100.0	3,043	9.6
Kandy	4.4	14.2	5.0	18.4	20.2	36.8	0.9	100.0	3,541	9.5
Matale	6.4	16.9	5.1	19.9	19.5	31.8	0.4	100.0	1,259	9.2
Nuwara-Eliya	10.4	21.4	9.7	20.5	17.2	20.4	0.4	100.0	1,601	7.5
Galle	3.8	14.0	6.5	19.2	22.1	34.2	0.2	100.0	2,725	9.4
Matara	4.0	15.4	4.6	16.2	21.0	38.1	0.7	100.0	2,108	9.5
Hambantota	4.4	15.1	6.7	15.6	20.2	37.4	0.5	100.0	1,494	9.5
Jaffna	0.9	13.8	8.3	19.9	18.0	38.4	0.7	100.0	1,496	9.4
Mannar	1.6	16.4	12.1	23.5	18.2	27.8	0.3	100.0	234	8.5
Vavuniya	3.1	13.5	9.1	20.7	13.1	39.7	0.8	100.0	385	9.3
Mullaitivu	2.8	20.2	9.2	25.2	16.9	25.6	0.1	100.0	212	8.0
Kilinochchi	3.3	17.9	7.1	26.1	25.9	19.7	0.0	100.0	254	8.6
Batticaloa	7.0	19.1	8.1	20.5	15.0	30.3	0.1	100.0	1,353	8.7
Ampara	5.6	24.1	7.5	19.9	15.5	26.8	0.6	100.0	1,732	8.2
Trincomalee	5.9	17.0	8.9	23.5	13.6	30.8	0.3	100.0	898	8.4
Kurunegala	3.8	15.9	4.9	17.2	24.4	33.4	0.5	100.0	4,240	9.4
Puttalam	3.4	18.7	6.3	23.0	21.8	26.3	0.5	100.0	1,733	9.0
Anuradhapura	2.8	16.1	6.3	18.7	17.9	37.8	0.4	100.0	2,241	9.4
Polonnaruwa	5.9	17.6	4.9	18.7	27.9	25.0	0.1	100.0	980	9.2
Badulla	9.3	16.2	7.3	17.7	20.4	28.6	0.4	100.0	2,023	9.2
Moneragala	4.9	18.4	5.9	18.4	21.3	30.8	0.4	100.0	1,161	9.2
Ratnapura	7.0	16.6	5.7	16.9	24.4	29.1	0.4	100.0	2,810	9.3
Kegalle	4.2	15.6	5.9	17.8	19.7	36.4	0.2	100.0	2,109	9.4
Wealth quintile										
Lowest	9.8	22.6	9.4	24.0	18.9	14.6	0.7	100.0	9,815	7.2
Second	4.7	17.5	6.8	21.1	24.1	25.2	0.5	100.0	9,906	9.1
Middle	2.9	16.0	5.5	18.1	24.1	33.0	0.4	100.0	9,946	9.4
Fourth	2.1	11.9	4.8	16.7	20.8	43.3	0.3	100.0	9,899	9.7
Highest	1.6	8.9	3.2	12.8	12.3	60.9	0.4	100.0	10,233	10.8
Total	4.2	15.3	5.9	18.5	20.0	35.6	0.5	100.0	49,798	9.4

¹ Completed 5 grade at the primary level

² Completed 10 grade at the secondary level



Table 2.9.2 Educational attainment of the male household population

Percent distribution of the de facto male household population age six and over by highest level of schooling attended or completed and median years completed, according to background characteristics, Sri Lanka 2016

Background characteristic	No education	Some primary	Completed primary ¹	Some secondary	Completed secondary ²	More than secondary	Don't know/missing	Total	Number	Median years completed
Age										
6-9	5.0	93.8	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	3,747	1.5
10-14	0.6	11.4	19.7	67.6	0.6	0.0	0.1	100.0	4,401	6.0
15-19	0.8	0.6	0.2	18.4	38.2	41.7	0.1	100.0	3,895	9.8
20-24	0.9	1.5	0.9	9.2	29.3	57.9	0.2	100.0	3,145	10.6
25-29	0.9	1.5	1.4	10.4	32.8	52.8	0.2	100.0	2,894	10.2
30-34	0.7	3.0	2.6	16.1	31.3	46.0	0.2	100.0	3,435	9.9
35-39	1.1	4.6	3.0	16.5	33.5	41.0	0.2	100.0	3,470	9.8
40-44	1.5	7.9	4.5	17.8	30.0	38.0	0.3	100.0	3,034	9.6
45-49	2.3	9.6	6.8	21.5	22.6	36.7	0.5	100.0	2,959	9.5
50-54	3.6	14.2	8.1	20.7	20.0	32.9	0.5	100.0	3,079	9.2
55-59	3.9	14.2	8.2	24.1	17.2	31.7	0.7	100.0	2,665	9.1
60-64	3.3	17.8	9.0	25.0	14.3	29.8	0.8	100.0	2,329	7.9
65+	5.0	20.1	9.8	24.3	12.0	27.5	1.1	100.0	4,474	7.5
Residence										
Urban	1.7	12.5	5.5	19.1	16.7	44.1	0.4	100.0	7,201	9.7
Rural	2.2	16.5	5.9	22.1	22.3	30.7	0.3	100.0	34,439	9.2
Estate	6.6	25.1	11.9	29.8	13.5	12.6	0.5	100.0	1,887	6.3
District										
Colombo	1.3	11.2	5.1	18.3	17.8	45.9	0.4	100.0	4,529	9.8
Gampaha	1.4	10.5	4.2	20.0	22.0	41.5	0.5	100.0	4,686	9.6
Kalutara	1.3	15.4	5.9	21.8	21.6	33.5	0.4	100.0	2,680	9.3
Kandy	2.4	18.2	5.2	19.4	22.0	32.2	0.7	100.0	2,882	9.3
Matale	3.5	18.6	5.5	23.9	20.7	27.8	0.1	100.0	1,097	9.0
Nuwara-Eliya	4.0	19.8	10.5	27.5	16.2	21.5	0.6	100.0	1,434	7.6
Galle	2.1	15.7	6.0	22.2	25.1	28.6	0.2	100.0	2,258	9.2
Matara	2.1	17.9	5.6	19.3	23.0	31.6	0.5	100.0	1,761	9.3
Hambantota	2.4	18.8	7.5	20.6	19.4	30.9	0.3	100.0	1,361	9.1
Jaffna	0.4	12.3	7.0	22.3	18.8	38.3	0.9	100.0	1,240	9.4
Mannar	2.1	14.5	10.3	27.5	22.5	23.0	0.1	100.0	223	8.5
Vavuniya	1.6	15.3	8.1	22.7	13.5	38.2	0.6	100.0	348	9.2
Mullaitivu	2.0	19.0	10.6	22.9	22.2	23.4	0.0	100.0	182	8.2
Kilinochchi	2.0	18.2	8.3	27.7	27.8	15.9	0.0	100.0	223	8.3
Batticaloa	4.6	22.8	7.3	23.1	13.2	28.7	0.3	100.0	1,110	8.1
Ampara	3.0	24.9	6.9	24.2	13.5	27.4	0.1	100.0	1,506	7.8
Trincomalee	4.1	17.3	6.1	24.3	15.4	32.4	0.4	100.0	839	8.9
Kurunegala	1.7	16.6	5.4	22.5	25.8	27.4	0.5	100.0	3,621	9.2
Puttalam	2.1	17.0	6.9	26.9	23.9	22.9	0.2	100.0	1,557	8.7
Anuradhapura	2.7	14.9	5.3	23.2	18.4	35.4	0.1	100.0	2,001	9.3
Polonnaruwa	2.2	18.5	6.5	25.3	27.4	19.4	0.7	100.0	868	8.7
Badulla	4.5	18.0	6.7	24.0	20.5	26.2	0.0	100.0	1,738	8.7
Moneragala	3.4	20.3	6.6	21.5	21.7	26.4	0.1	100.0	1,054	9.0
Ratnapura	3.0	19.1	7.4	22.7	25.1	22.4	0.3	100.0	2,501	8.8
Kegalle	2.3	15.7	6.0	20.4	20.1	35.5	0.1	100.0	1,831	9.3
Wealth quintile										
Lowest	5.1	24.1	9.7	29.2	19.2	12.1	0.5	100.0	8,660	7.0
Second	2.4	18.5	7.1	26.0	24.1	21.5	0.3	100.0	8,753	8.4
Middle	1.6	15.5	5.8	22.6	25.4	28.7	0.4	100.0	8,758	9.2
Fourth	1.3	13.4	4.6	19.0	23.1	38.3	0.3	100.0	8,597	9.5
Highest	0.9	9.6	3.1	12.8	13.3	60.1	0.2	100.0	8,760	10.7
Total	2.3	16.2	6.1	21.9	21.0	32.2	0.4	100.0	43,528	9.2

¹ Completed 5 grade at the primary level² Completed 10 grade at the secondary level

2.7 SCHOOL ATTENDANCE RATIOS

Net Attendance Ratio

Percentage of the school – age population that attends primary or secondary school.

Sample : Children age 5 – 9 for primary school NAR and children age 10 – 15 for secondary school NAR.

The 2016 SLDHS collected information on school attendance for the population age 3-24 that allows the calculation of net attendance ratios (NARs) and gross attendance ratios (GARs). The NAR for primary school is the percentage of the primary-school-age (5-9 years) children that are attending primary school (right level for age). The NAR for secondary school measures school attendance of the secondary-school-age (10-15 years) children (right level for age). By definition, the NAR cannot exceed 100 percent. The Gross Attendance Ratio (GAR), measures participation at each level of schooling among persons age 6-25 (level for any age). The GAR is mostly higher than the NAR for the same level because the GAR includes participation by those who may be older, because they may have started school late, may have repeated in one or more grades in school, or may have dropped out of school and returned later, or may be younger than the official age range for that level.

Table 2.10 presents data on the NAR and GAR for the de facto household population by level of schooling and sex, according to place of residence, district, and wealth quintile. Ninety eight percent of children age 5-9 are attending primary school (right level for their age). The GAR at the primary school level is 101 percent. The distribution shows that both the NAR and the GAR are little lower at the secondary school level: 83 percent of students' age 10-15 who should be attending secondary schools are in secondary school (NAR). The GAR for secondary school is very close to the NAR at 85 percent.

The results show no differences in the primary or secondary school NARs between males and females, indicating no notable gender gap in school attendance for the school-age population who should be attending school at a given level.

When considering the NAR at the primary level, the differences in urban, rural and estate sectors, district levels and among wealth quintiles are minimal. The NAR at the secondary school level also does not have a large gap among urban, rural and estate sectors. District and wealth quintile show some differences in secondary school NAR. The secondary school NAR is lowest in the Puttalam district (76 percent) and highest in the Colombo district (87 percent). The secondary school NAR is lowest (80 percent) in the lowest wealth quintile and highest (85 percent) in highest wealth quintile. The GAR at the primary school level does not show large differences by sector, district and wealth quintile. However, there is almost no urban-rural-estate difference in the GAR at the secondary school level. The GAR at the secondary school level is highest in Hambantota district (88 percent) and lowest in Puttalam district (79 percent). By wealth quintile GAR at secondary school level does not show major differences, except that it is slightly lower in the highest quintile than the other quintiles.

This data shows that there is really not much difference in NAR and GAR at any levels of the country, showing the high efficiency of the educational system in Sri Lanka. It reflects probably that education is free in Sri Lanka. However, the NAR for secondary schools can be improved.

Table 2.10 also shows the Gender Parity Index (GPI), which represents the ratio of the NAR and GAR for females to the NAR and GAR for males. It is a more precise indicator of gender differences in the schooling system. A GPI of less than 1 indicates that a smaller proportion of females than males attend school. In Sri Lanka, the GPI is 1.01 for primary school attendance and 1.00 for secondary school attendance, indicating no gender gaps. There are no notable differences in GPI for NAR considering background characteristics of primary and secondary school levels.



Table 2.10 School attendance ratios

Net attendance ratios (NAR) and gross attendance ratios (GAR) for the de facto household population by sex and level of schooling; and the Gender Parity Index (GPI), according to background characteristics, Sri Lanka 2016

Background characteristic	Net attendance ratio ¹				Gross attendance ratio ²			
	Male	Female	Total	Gender Parity Index ³	Male	Female	Total	Gender Parity Index ³
PRIMARY SCHOOL								
Residence								
Urban	97.2	98.2	97.7	1.01	100.8	101.2	101.0	1.00
Rural	98.1	98.1	98.1	1.00	100.3	100.8	100.6	1.00
Estate	95.8	96.4	96.1	1.01	102.9	104.3	103.5	1.01
District								
Colombo	97.2	99.6	98.3	1.02	99.7	101.5	100.6	1.02
Gampaha	97.9	98.5	98.2	1.01	99.6	102.4	101.0	1.03
Kalutara	99.0	98.5	98.7	1.00	100.7	100.4	100.6	1.00
Kandy	99.0	96.1	97.6	0.97	101.6	98.3	100.0	0.97
Matale	99.7	99.7	99.7	1.00	105.5	100.9	103.1	0.96
Nuwara-Eliya	93.6	99.3	96.6	1.06	98.7	103.2	101.1	1.05
Galle	98.5	98.5	98.5	1.00	99.8	100.0	99.9	1.00
Matara	98.4	98.9	98.7	1.01	99.7	102.8	101.2	1.03
Hambantota	95.6	99.5	97.5	1.04	96.8	100.1	98.4	1.03
Jaffna	93.1	95.0	94.1	1.02	98.9	99.8	99.4	1.01
Mannar	96.1	96.9	96.5	1.01	104.4	102.1	103.2	0.98
Vavuniya	98.0	96.8	97.4	0.99	101.7	104.9	103.1	1.03
Mullaitivu	94.4	87.3	90.6	0.92	105.8	91.8	98.4	0.87
Kilinochchi	98.9	99.1	99.0	1.00	100.9	100.2	100.5	0.99
Batticaloa	99.3	98.9	99.1	1.00	103.8	100.8	102.4	0.97
Ampara	98.2	98.2	98.2	1.00	101.5	104.0	102.6	1.02
Trincomalee	98.0	98.6	98.3	1.01	99.9	103.9	101.6	1.04
Kurunegala	98.5	98.5	98.5	1.00	101.8	101.9	101.9	1.00
Puttalam	97.3	99.0	98.2	1.02	101.6	103.1	102.4	1.01
Anuradhapura	97.7	95.4	96.5	0.98	100.7	98.4	99.5	0.98
Polonnaruwa	98.0	96.8	97.4	0.99	99.5	97.6	98.5	0.98
Badulla	97.1	98.0	97.6	1.01	99.5	100.8	100.2	1.01
Moneragala	97.9	98.7	98.3	1.01	99.2	100.9	100.0	1.02
Ratnapura	98.6	96.8	97.7	0.98	100.6	99.1	99.9	0.99
Kegalle	98.1	98.0	98.0	1.00	100.2	102.5	101.4	1.02
Wealth quintile								
Lowest	97.5	96.6	97.0	0.99	102.7	100.9	101.8	0.98
Second	96.6	97.9	97.3	1.01	99.1	100.7	99.9	1.02
Middle	98.1	98.8	98.5	1.01	100.2	101.2	100.7	1.01
Fourth	98.9	99.0	98.9	1.00	100.5	101.4	100.9	1.01
Highest	98.1	98.1	98.1	1.00	100.0	101.0	100.5	1.01
Total	97.8	98.1	97.9	1.00	100.5	101.0	100.8	1.01

Contd... Table 2.10 School Attendance ratios

Table 2.10 School attendance ratios								
Net attendance ratios (NAR) and gross attendance ratios (GAR) for the de facto household population by sex and level of schooling; and the Gender Parity Index (GPI), according to background characteristics, Sri Lanka 2016								
Background characteristic	Male	Female	Total	Gender Parity Index ³	Male	Female	Total	Gender Parity Index ³
SECONDARY SCHOOL								
Residence								
Urban	84.0	83.6	83.8	0.99	84.7	84.6	84.7	1.00
Rural	83.0	83.0	83.0	1.00	84.8	84.2	84.5	0.99
Estate	80.4	82.9	81.6	1.03	83.7	85.8	84.8	1.02
District								
Colombo	86.6	85.7	86.1	0.99	87.2	86.4	86.8	0.99
Gampaha	83.7	81.3	82.5	0.97	85.6	81.5	83.6	0.95
Kalutara	85.2	82.9	84.1	0.97	85.7	83.8	84.8	0.98
Kandy	82.4	79.9	81.1	0.97	83.8	82.0	82.9	0.98
Matale	84.7	87.5	86.0	1.03	85.1	88.2	86.6	1.04
Nuwara-Eliya	83.6	79.4	81.4	0.95	87.7	81.8	84.7	0.93
Galle	82.3	86.4	84.4	1.05	83.2	87.3	85.3	1.05
Matara	81.7	83.7	82.9	1.02	83.7	83.7	83.7	1.00
Hambantota	88.4	82.6	85.5	0.93	92.0	84.7	88.3	0.92
Jaffna	83.2	86.5	84.9	1.04	85.6	88.8	87.3	1.04
Mannar	83.2	85.0	84.1	1.02	86.8	87.7	87.2	1.01
Vavuniya	80.9	77.3	78.9	0.95	84.9	80.9	82.7	0.95
Mullaitivu	79.5	87.7	84.0	1.10	83.3	89.5	86.7	1.08
Kilinochchi	83.2	87.5	85.4	1.05	85.6	87.5	86.6	1.02
Batticaloa	79.4	84.7	82.1	1.07	81.2	86.4	83.9	1.06
Ampara	87.3	75.6	81.2	0.87	88.6	78.6	83.4	0.89
Trincomalee	79.5	81.7	80.5	1.03	81.3	83.5	82.4	1.03
Kurunegala	82.5	82.2	82.4	1.00	84.3	82.6	83.5	0.98
Puttalam	75.5	80.0	77.7	1.06	77.7	81.1	79.3	1.04
Anuradhapura	83.3	88.2	85.7	1.06	86.4	91.3	88.8	1.06
Polonnaruwa	78.8	80.0	79.4	1.02	78.8	81.0	79.8	1.03
Badulla	81.4	82.5	81.9	1.01	83.8	82.7	83.3	0.99
Moneragala	77.5	88.4	83.3	1.14	77.5	89.4	83.8	1.15
Ratnapura	83.5	83.7	83.6	1.00	83.9	85.1	84.5	1.01
Kegalle	84.0	83.2	83.6	0.99	86.6	85.1	85.9	0.98
Wealth quintile								
Lowest	80.4	83.1	81.7	1.03	82.5	85.8	84.1	1.04
Second	83.1	82.1	82.6	0.99	85.5	83.5	84.5	0.98
Middle	83.7	84.7	84.2	1.01	85.2	85.7	85.4	1.01
Fourth	84.1	85.2	84.6	1.01	85.1	86.0	85.6	1.01
Highest	84.6	80.4	82.4	0.95	85.8	80.7	83.2	0.94
Total	83.1	83.1	83.1	1.00	84.7	84.3	84.5	1.00
<p>¹ The NAR for primary school is the percentage of the primary-school age (5-9 years) population that is attending primary school. The NAR for secondary school is the percentage of the secondary-school age (10-15 years) population that is attending secondary school. By definition the NAR cannot exceed 100 percent.</p> <p>² The GAR for primary school is the total number of primary school students, expressed as a percentage of the official primary-school-age population. The GAR for secondary school is the total number of secondary school students, expressed as a percentage of the official secondary-school-age population. If there are significant numbers of overage and underage students at a given level of schooling, the GAR can exceed 100 percent.</p> <p>³ The Gender Parity Index for primary school is the ratio of the primary school NAR(GAR) for females to the NAR(GAR) for males. The Gender Parity Index for secondary school is the ratio of the secondary school NAR(GAR) for females to the NAR(GAR) for males.</p>								



2.8 SCHOOL ATTENDANCE RATES

Figure 2.4 shows the percentage of males and females attending school by single years of age up to 23 years of age. Almost all girls and boys age 6-14 are attending school. The decline starts from age 15 for both sexes. However, an interesting pattern appears by gender. The decline in schooling is greater in boys than in girls, which means girls stay in school longer than boys. Attendance drops below 50 percent for boys at age 18, but for girls this reduction doesn't happen until age 19.

Figure 2.4 Age-Specific School Attendance Rates

