FERTILITY LEVELS, DIFERENTIALS AND TRENDS

Key Findings

- **Total Fertility Rate (TFR):** The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) for the three years preceding the survey is 2.2 births per woman.
- **TFR trends:** The TFR from the 2006/07 SLDHS, 2.3 and the TFR estimated from the 2012 Population Census is 2.4.
- The fertility of women age 25-34 has increased while, among women in the other age groups it has decreased over the past 20 years.
- **TFR differentials:** The TFR for the richest wealth quintile is 2.3 while the TFR for the poorest quintile is 2.2.
- **Number of children:** Women age 40-49 in kilinochchi, Batticaloa and Trincomalee have on average more than 3 children.
- **Birth intervals:** More than half of births (other than first birth) in the country occur within five years of the previous birth, with 33 percent of births occurring in the interval of 24-27 months.
- **Teenage pregnancy:** Thirty women out of thousands of age 15-19 have begun childbearing.

For the three principal components of population dynamics that determine the size and structure of the population of a country. The other two are mortality and migration. One of the main objectives of 2016 SLDHS was to identify current levels of fertility, as well as the recent trends and the differentials of fertility in the country. Population growth related policies are often formulated depending on the fertility trends.

The Sri Lanka Demographic and Health Survey (2016 SLDHS), collected data on fertility through a number of questions asked of all ever married women including a complete birth history and a set of questions that can also help to produce indirect estimates of fertility (number of live births they had given birth to during their lifetime, number of sons and daughters living with them, the number living elsewhere, and the number who had died) as well as serve as a basis for questions on child health.

This chapter presents current fertility levels, fertility differentials, fertility trends, children ever born and living, birth intervals, the age at which women initiate childbearing, and teenage pregnancy and motherhood. Current fertility and fertility differentials are used to study the trends in fertility by comparing with past fertility levels. Information on children ever born and living is an important measure used to monitor the population growth. Statistics on birth intervals often reveal an association with infant and child mortality. The age at first birth gives insight into the social and economic impacts of motherhood. The extent of teenage pregnancy and motherhood is an important indicator for planning for the health and wellbeing of both the mother and the child.

4.1 CURRENT FERTILITY LEVELS

Total fertility rate

The average number of children a woman would have by the end of her childbearing years if she bore children at the current age-specific fertility rates. Age-specific fertility rates are calculated for the 3 years before the survey, based on detailed birth histories provided by women.

sample : Women age 15-49



Current fertility is measured through age specific fertility rates (ASFR), the total fertility rate (TFR), the general fertility rate (GFR), and the crude birth rate (CBR). The ASFRs provide the age pattern of fertility. The total fertility rate indicates the number of children a woman would have if she experienced the current age-specific fertility rates at each age of her reproductive life (15-49 years). ASFRs are calculated by dividing the number of births to women in a specific age group by the number of woman-years lived during a given period.

Figure 4.1 shows the ASFR of the women of age 15-49. Age specific fertility rates reveals young age fertility is low in the country. The fertility rate is highest among the women of age 25-34.



Figure 4.1 Age Specific Fertility Rates

Figure 4.2 depicts the total fertility rates of countries in the region. Sri Lanka has the lowest TFR among the other countries in the region compared here. The latest rate available for the total fertility of the countries are used for comparison

levels

with

indicative



Figure 4.2 Total Fertility Rates in the region

A TFR of 2.1 children per woman is considered to be a replacement level fertility that is a fertility that in the long run and if kept constant will replace the existing generations. Below the replacement level, fertility will eventually produce, in the absence of considerable migration flows, a decreasing population.

The GFR for Sri Lanka is 72, which means that there were 72 births for every 1,000 women of reproductive age during the three-year period preceding the survey. The CBR for the period is 15.7 per 1,000 populations.

Table 4.1 Current fertility	
Age-specific and total fertility rates, the general fertility rate, and the crude three years preceding the survey, Sri Lanka 2016	birth rate for the
Age group	Total
15-19	21
20-24	86
25-29	143
30-34	115
35-39	55
40-44	10
45-49	1
TFR(15-49)	2.2
GFR	72
CBR	15.7
Notes: Age-specific fertility rates are per 1,000 women. Rates for age grous slightly biased due to truncation. Rates are for the period 1-36 months price	up 45-49 may be or to interview.
TFR: Total fertility rate expressed per woman	
GFR: General fertility rate expressed per 1,000 women age 15-44	
CBR: Crude birth rate, expressed per 1,000 population	

4.2 FERTILITY DIFFERENTIALS

Table 4.2 presents the TFR, the percentage of women currently pregnant and, the number of children ever born to women 40-49 (CEB) by background characteristics. The TFR represents hypothetical current fertility, while the CEB measures the cumulated fertility of women 40-49 during most of their reproductive period (15-39 and assuming low levels of fertility during the last ten years that is from age 40-49). There is not that much difference between the TFR (2.2) and the CEB (2.3), indicating perhaps a relatively constant fertility in Sri Lanka during the last 25 years. This is also supported by the low percentage of current pregnancies (3 percent) among women 15-49

Women with no education would have 1.6 children by the end of her childbearing period while the women who passed grade 1-5 would have 2.5 children in their reproductive live span. The Mean number of children ever-born among women 40-49 for these educational groups is 2.5 and 2.6 respectively. The high level of use of female sterilization among women with no education (44 percent) may in part explain this difference.

Table 4.2 Fertility by backgroun	d characteristics
----------------------------------	-------------------

Total fertility rate for the three years preceding the survey, percentage of women age 15-49 currently pregnant, and mean number of children ever born to women age 40-49 years, by background characteristics, Sri Lanka 2016

Background characteristic	Total fertility rate	Percentage of women age 15-49 current- ly pregnant	Mean number of children ever born to women age 40-49
District			
Colombo	1.8	1.5	2.0
Gampaha	1.8	3.8	2.0
Kalutara	2.2	1.8	2.1
Kandy	2.6	3.3	2.1
Matale	1.9	2.4	2.4
Nuwara Eliya	2.2	2.8	2.4
Galle	2.1	3.3	2.3
Matara	2.3	3.9	2.2
Hambantota	1.9	2.0	2.5
Jaffna	2.1	2.4	2.8
Mannar	2.0	3.9	2.8
Vavuniya	2.0	2.5	2.8
Mullaitivu	2.0	1.4	2.9
Kilinochchi	2.1	2.7	3.4
Batticaloa	2.4	3.9	3.0
Ampara	2.4	4.1	2.8
Trincomalee	2.3	3.6	3.1
Kurunegala	2.2	3.7	2.2
Puttalam	2.1	3.5	2.5
Anuradnapura	2.4	3.7	2.2
Polonnaruwa	2.5	4.0	2.3
Badulla	2.3	3.1	2.4
Detecnure	2.4	3.8	2.7
Kagalla	1.8	2.2	2.2
Regalle	2.6	1 1	2.0
Education	2.0	4.1	2.0
No education	1.6	0.8	2.5
Passed Grade 1-5	2.3	1.3	2.8
Passed Grade 6-10	2.4	3.1	2.4
Passed G.C.E.(O/L) or equivalent	2.1	3.3	2.1
Passed G.C.E.(A/L) or equivalent Degree and above	2.1	3.7	1.9
	2.0	6.1	1.8
Wealth guintile			
Lowest	2.2	2.8	2.7
Second	2.1	2.9	2.4
Middle	2.0	3.1	2.2
Fourth	1.9	2.6	2.2
Highest	2.3	3.6	2.1
Total	2.2	3.3	2.3
Note: Total fertility rates are for the period	1-36 months pri	ior to interview.	

The TFR for the lowest wealth quintile is 2.2 and for the highest it is 2.3. The mean number of children ever born at age 40-49 is 2.7 in the lowest and 2.1 in the highest quintile, testifying in this way to the high levels of fertility in the past among women of the poorest households, a situation that seems to have changed in the younger cohorts of women in the poorest households.





Figure 4.4 shows the TFR by districts, the TFR for Colombo, Gampaha and Ratnapura is 1.8 and it is the lowest compared to the TFR 2.6 for Kandy and Kegalle, followed by Polonnaruwa 2.5. The highest mean number of children ever born for the age group 40-49 (CEB) was observed in the Kilinochchi district (3.4), while the lowest values are observed among the women 40-49 of Colombo, Gampaha and Kegalle districts (2.0) (see table 4.2 and Figure 4.4).





4.3 FERTILITY TRENDS

Sri Lanka has experienced a continued fertility decline since the 1960's. This decline can be observed as happening in four phases. The first phase from 1963 to 1975 was a period of decline that was sharp and dramatic when the total fertility rate dropped from 5.0 children per woman in 1963 to 3.4 in 1975 – that is a decline of 1.6 children per woman in 12 years. During the second phase, between 1975 and 1987, the TFR appears to slightly increase in 1982 but then declined to 2.8 in 1987. During the third phase, 1987- 2000, the TFR decreased further by 0.54 to a TFR in 2000 of 1.9 children per woman (a below replacement level). The fourth phase was a period of relative stability during the 2000s when the total fertility rate has fluctuated between 2.3 and 2.2.



Figure 4.5 Total Fertility Rates during the period 1963-2016

Figure 4.6 included below, shows the observed age specific fertility rates (ASFRs) obtained from different sources during the period 1975-2016. These fertility patterns show that the young adult age groups (15-19, 22-24, and 25-29) are the ones with the greater fertility declines during the last 35 years. It can be observed that in 2016 there is a slight increase in the ASFRs of these same age groups but caution should be taken when interpreting these trends since the values can be affected by sampling errors. It is also important to mention that for all the surveys except the 1975 WFS the highest levels of fertility is observed for the 25-29 age groups.



Figure 4.6 Trends in the Age Specific Fertility Rates (ASFR) during the period 1975-2016.



Fertility trends can also be calculated using past fertility data obtained from a birth history from a single survey. Table 4.3 shows the age specific fertility rates (ASFRs) obtained from the birth history collected in the 2016 SLDHS by five year periods before the survey. The analysis reveals that teenage fertility rates have declined over the years (from 30 during the 15-19-year period before the survey to just 22 during the most recent period (0-4 years before the survey). A similar pattern is observed among women 20-24 years of age. Fertility among women in the 25-34 age group has been rising due in part to late age entry into childbearing and increasing birth intervals producing lower levels of the total fertility rate as documented before.

Number of years preceding survey										
Mother's age at birth	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19						
15-19	22	29	30	32						
20-24	91	97	99	10						
25-29	143	142	139	12						
30-34	115	117	114	10						
35-39	55	59	66							
40-44	11	19	*							
45-49	1	*	*							

4.4 CHILDREN EVER BORN AND LIVING

The number of children ever born (CEB) to a woman is also called the cumulative fertility of a woman. Table 4.4 presents the cumulative fertility for all women and currently married women by age groups. For all women age 15-19, only 2 percent of them have had children, but 32 percent is the figure among the current-married women. Around 70 percent of married women of the age 20-24 have children, 55 percent of them have 1 child and 20 percent of them have more than one child. The mean number of children ever born for all the women is 2.3 compared to 2.5 for currently married women.

Ten percent of currently married 15-49 women are childless; while this number for all women is 36 percent nearly 10 percent of all women and 5 percent of currently married women of the age group 45-49 don't have children. The currently married women of the age group 45-49 can likely be identified as infertile. The percentage of infertility is 5 percent, compared to 3 percent observed in the 2006-07 SLDHS

The difference between CEB and children surviving indicates also the prevalence of low levels of infant and child mortality with small differences at all age groups, particularly among currently married women (see last two columns of Table 4.4).

Table 4.4 Child	ren ever l	born a	nd livir	ng											
Percent distributi born and mean n	on of all wo	omen a iving ch	nd curre ildren, a	ently ma accordin	irried wo	omen ag e group	ge 15-4 , Sri La	9 by nu nka 201	imber o 16	fchildre	en ever	born, me	an number	of children	ever
					Numbe	r of chil	dren ev	ver born	1						
Age	0	1	2	3	4	5	6+	7	8	9	10+	Total	Num- ber of women	Mean num- ber of children ever born	Mean number of living children
ALL WOMEN															
Age															
15-19	98.0	1.9	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	3,744	0.02	0.02
20-24	72.7	21.8	4.9	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	3,563	0.33	0.33
25-29	38.6	32.1	23.6	4.9	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	3,510	0.97	0.96
30-34	15.4	26.7	38.3	16.3	2.6	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	3,946	1.66	1.64
35-39	8.3	16.0	41.7	26.0	5.9	1.6	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	100.0	4,103	2.12	2.09
40-44	8.8	12.1	39.0	28.8	7.7	2.7	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	100.0	3,420	2.27	2.22
45-49	10.1	13.6	34.2	27.5	9.2	3.5	1.9	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	100.0	3,371	2.31	2.24
Total	35.9	17.7	26.2	14.9	3.7	1.2	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	25,656	1.38	1.36
CURRENTLY M	IARRIED	WOME	:N												
Age															
15-19	68.3	29.8	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	225	0.34	0.32
20-24	31.5	54.6	12.6	1.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	1,373	0.84	0.83
25-29	17.9	42.5	31.9	6.6	1.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	2,559	1.31	1.29
30-34	7.3	28.3	42.7	18.1	2.8	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	3,481	1.83	1.81
35-39	4.1	15.6	44.1	27.9	6.2	1.7	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	100.0	3,735	2.24	2.20
40-44	4.2	11.2	41.7	31.2	8.0	2.7	0.9	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	3,033	2.40	2.35
45-49	5.6	13.1	36.6	29.7	9.3	3.6	2.1	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	100.0	2,851	2.45	2.37
Total	10.1	24.2	37.3	21.1	5.0	1.6	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	17,257	1.94	1.91

4.5 BIRTH INTERVALS

Median birth interval

Number of months since the preceding birth by which half of children are born.

sample : Non-first births in the 5 years before the survey

Birth intervals are very much related with the health and wellbeing of mother and child and they affect fertility too. Children born within 3 years from a previous birth tend to have greater risks of creating difficulties for maternal health and facing undernutrition issues. More than half of the births in Sri Lanka occur within a period of five years from the previous birth. On average, women of Sri Lanka have a 53 months birth interval between births. Lower birth intervals are observed among women from the estate sector (43 months) and those with education of degree and above (42 months). The median birth intervals decrease with the level of education of women from 61 months among those without education to 42 months among with degree and above.

Figure 4.7 shows that the intervals between births (number of months) of educated women and the estate women are more or less same. This implies that the fertility behavior of the estate women has changed substantially in the recent past. Fertility behavior of women in terms of birth interval by wealth quintile reveals that differences between the poorest and richest quintiles are also quite narrow. (see Table 4.5).



		NON	onths since preceding birth						
Background characteristic	7-17	18-23	24-35	36-47	48-59	60+	Total	Number of non-first births	Median num ber of month since preced ing birt
Age									
15-19	*	*	*	*	*	*	100.0	4	
20-29	5.3	7.3	18.1	23.3	18.3	27.7	100.0	1,217	46.
30-39	2.9	5.1	13.7	17.6	16.0	44.7	100.0	3,251	55.
40-49	1.7	3.3	9.5	14.9	12.7	57.8	100.0	506	67.
Sex of preceding birth									
Male	3.1	5.9	14.0	18.4	16.8	41.8	100.0	2,512	53.
Female	3.6	5.1	14.8	18.9	15.7	41.9	100.0	2,467	54.
Survival of preceding birth									
Living	3.1	5.2	14.2	18.7	16.5	42.4	100.0	4,897	54.
Dead	17.2	24.7	25.3	18.5	2.7	11.7	100.0	81	26.
Birth order									
2-3	3.4	5.3	13.9	18.7	16.6	42.0	100.0	4,532	53.
4-6	2.5	7.4	18.4	17.5	12.4	41.7	100.0	438	52.
7+	*	*	*	*	*	*	100.0	9	
Residence	4 7	7.0	10.0	00.0	10.0	00.4	100.0		10
Urban	4./	1.2	16.6	20.2	12.9	38.4	100.0	/44	49.
Rural	3.0	5.0	13.4	18.3	16.8	43.4	100.0	4,000	55.
	5.0	7.8	24.3	19.6	16.8	26.5	100.0	235	43.
District	07	0.4	10.4	47.0	10 5	10.0	100.0	005	54
Colombo	3.7	6.1	16.4	17.3	13.5	42.8	100.0	385	51.
Gampaha	5.0	6.8	13.9	17.3	12.3	44.7	100.0	459	55.
Kalutara	2.2	7.8	14.1	21.9	17.0	37.1	100.0	303	50.
Kandy	2.6	5.7	15.9	23.1	18.7	34.0	100.0	377	50.
	4.9	8.0	10.2	21.3	12.7	43.0	100.0	128	53
	3.0	0.1 E 4	22.4	24.9	10.0	20.3	100.0	164	44.
Galle	3.3	5.4 0.4	0.4	10.0	20.9	40.5	100.0	240	52.
Malara	4.0	2.1	9.4	24.4	10.4	42.9	100.0	204	54.
	2.4	4.0	20.1	10.0	17.4	43.Z	100.0	102	J4. 47
Mannar	4.5	73	14.0	26.3	12.6	28.6	100.0	28	47.
Vavuniva	4.5	80	14.9	20.5	16.4	20.0	100.0	20	40.
Mullaitiyu	4.5	2.1	10.0	22.0	15.7	37.1	100.0	42	52
Kilinochchi	2.5	7.0	11 /	22.5	26.8	20.7	100.0	30	50
Batticaloa	4.6	4.4	10.2	12.0	19.4	49.3	100.0	154	59
Ampara	3.9	5.3	17.1	18.5	18.1	37.1	100.0	229	51
Trincomalee	4.0	6.5	15.2	19.9	13.5	40.8	100.0	133	52
Kurunegala	24	3.7	14.4	18.1	17.4	44 0	100.0	388	55
Puttalam	2.3	6.8	13.1	16.9	15.8	45.2	100.0	173	56
Anuradhapura	3.3	4.0	11.3	14.0	17.3	50.1	100.0	265	60
Polonnaruwa	0.5	4 1	9.6	13.7	15.7	56.4	100.0	125	64
Badulla	3.7	4.9	17.8	15.9	18.5	39.2	100.0	201	51.
Moneragala	2.0	4.0	14.9	16.4	21.6	41.0	100.0	151	55.
Ratnapura	2.8	4.6	13.9	15.9	12.3	50.5	100.0	275	60
Kegalle	4.1	3.7	13.2	22.3	12.5	44.3	100.0	196	54
Education									
No education	3.4	4.6	9.4	17.1	14.9	50.6	100.0	44	61
Passed Grade 1-5	1.6	4.9	14.8	15.1	11.1	52.5	100.0	232	61
Passed Grade 6-10	2.8	4.4	13.2	16.8	15.5	47.3	100.0	2,370	58
Passed G.C.E.(O/L) or equivalent	3.5	4.7	13.6	20.1	18.2	39.9	100.0	1,081	53
Passed G.C.E.(A/L) or equivalent	4.2	8.2	16.4	21.0	17.6	32.6	100.0	1,039	48
Degree and above	6.7	8.7	22.0	25.2	14.0	23.3	100.0	212	41
Vealth quintile									
Lowest	2.8	6.1	15.7	16.9	16.4	42.0	100.0	1,091	54
Second	3.4	4.9	13.0	17.2	14.4	47.2	100.0	1,032	58
Middle	2.2	4.9	10.2	19.3	19.9	43.4	100.0	976	55
Fourth	3.6	5.1	16.5	19.1	15.3	40.4	100.0	1,037	52
Highest	5.1	6.6	16.6	21.5	15.1	35.1	100.0	843	48
Total	3.4	5.5	14.4	18.7	16.2	41.9	100.0	4,979	53

Table 4.5 Birth intervals



Figure 4.7 Birth intervals by level of education

4.6 AGE AT FIRST BIRTH

Median age at first birth Age by which half of women have had their first child. **sample :** Women age 20-49 and 25-49

The age at which childbearing starts has important consequences for the overall level of fertility as well as the health and welfare of the mother and the child. Early age at initiation of childbearing lengthens the reproductive period. Table 4.6 shows the percentage of women age 15-49 who gave birth by exact ages, the percentage who have never given birth, and the median age at first birth, according to current age. Medians for women age 15-24 are not presented because less than 50 percent had given birth before age 15.

ercentage of wo	omen age 15-4	19 who gave b	irth by exact ag	ges, percentage	e who have	e never given birth, a	nd median age	at first birth,
ccording to curre	ent age, Sri La	inka 2016					-	
	P	'ercentage wh	o gave birth by	exact age				
urrent age	15	18	20	22	25	Percentage who have never given birth	Number of women	Median age at first birth
ge								
15-19	0.0	na	na	na	na	98.0	3,744	ā
20-24	0.2	3.4	12.5	na	na	72.7	3,563	;
25-29	0.3	4.5	14.3	27.3	45.7	38.6	3,510	;
30-34	0.2	5.4	14.2	26.4	46.3	15.4	3,946	25.
35-39	0.3	5.3	13.9	26.7	47.1	8.3	4,103	25.
40-44	0.3	5.9	14.8	26.7	44.9	8.8	3,420	25.
45-49	0.2	5.1	15.0	28.1	45.2	10.1	3,371	25.4
20-49	0.2	5.0	14.1	na	na	25.3	21,912	
25-49	0.3	5.3	14.4	27.0	45.9	16.0	18,349	

Background characteristic	Women age	Women age
	25-49	30-49
Residence		
Urban	а	26.5
Rural	а	25.5
Estate	24.9	24.6
District		
Colombo	а	27.0
Gampaha	а	26.8
Kalutara	а	26.3
Kandy	а	27.0
Matale	24.9	24.9
Nuwara Eliya	24.9	25.0
Galle	а	26.8
Matara	а	26.6
Hambantota	а	26.3
Jaffna	а	26.4
Mannar	24.9	24.
Vavuniya	24.7	24.9
Mullaiti∨u	23.1	23.6
Kilinochchi	23.9	24.
Batticaloa	23.6	23.
Ampara	24.2	24.
Trincomalee	23.4	23.2
Kurunegala	а	25.
Puttalam	24.0	23.0
Anuradhapura	23.9	23.8
Polonnaruwa	23.9	23.9
Badulla	24.5	24.0
Moneragala	24.1	24.2
Ratnapura	а	25.4
Kegalle	а	26.3
Education		
No education	22.9	22.1
Passed Grade 1-5	22.0	22.1
Passed Grade 6-10	23.6	23.8
Passed G.C.E.(O/L) or equivalent	а	25.0
Passed G.C.E.(A/L) or equivalent	а	28.2
Wealth quintile		
Lowest	23.4	23.6
Second	24.7	24.7
Middle	а	25.2
Fourth	а	26.2
Highest	а	27.5
Tetel		

Table 4.6 shows that 46 percent of ever-married women age 25-49 in Sri Lanka have initiated childbearing by the time they reach their 25th birthday. The median age at first birth in the country is 26 a slight increase compared to the 2006-07 SLDHS which showed 25 years. Note also that only 0.3 percent of ever-married women have given birth by age 15 compared to 5 percent by age 18.

Table 4.6 also reveals that 27 percent of the women of age 25-49 gave their first birth before their 22nd birthday. The percentage of women of age 25-29 who have never given birth is 39 percent, compared to the previous age group (20-24) which has 73 percent who have never given birth. This fact confirms the prevalence of a late fertility behavior among ever-married women in Sri Lanka.

The median age at first birth by background characteristics is presented in Table 4.7. Among ever-married women age 30-49, we can observe some variation in the median age at first birth by place of residence, education and household wealth. Thus, the median value for the urban sector is two years higher (27 years) than the one observed in the estate sector Similar differences are observed by education (28 for the highest levels of education compared to just 22 for those without education or some primary education) and wealth (24 among the poorest compared to 28 years for the richest quintile).

Teenage childbearing

Percentage of women age 15-19 who have given birth or are pregnant with their first child.

sample : Women age 15-19

Percentage of women age 15-19 who: Background characteristic Have had a live birth with first child Percentage who have begun childbearing Number word childbearing Age 15 0.0 0.2 0.2 0.2 16 0.3 0.5 0.7 11 11 18 2.8 0.9 3.7 19 6.5 2.5 9.1	child, and percentage who ha 2016	ve begun childb	earing, by backg	round characteristic	s, Sri Lanka
Background characteristic Have had a live birth with first child Percentage who have begun childbearing Number work of the set of the s		Percenta	age of women ag	e 15-19 who:	
Age 15 0.0 0.2 0.2 16 0.3 0.5 0.7 17 0.4 0.8 1.1 18 2.8 0.9 3.7 19 6.5 2.5 9.1 Residence - - - Urban - 3.12 3.6 2.7 Estate - - - - Colombo - - 2.7 Gampaha - - 2.7 Galle - - - - - - - - 2.7 Galle - <t< th=""><th>Background characteristic</th><th>Have had a live birth</th><th>Are pregnant with first child</th><th>Percentage who have begun childbearing</th><th>Number of women</th></t<>	Background characteristic	Have had a live birth	Are pregnant with first child	Percentage who have begun childbearing	Number of women
15 0.0 0.2 0.2 16 0.3 0.5 0.7 17 0.4 0.8 1.1 18 2.8 0.9 3.7 19 6.5 2.5 9.1 Residence Urban * * * Rural 2.3 1.2 3.6 2, Estate * * * * * Colombo * * * * * * Katutara * <	Age				
16 0.3 0.5 0.7 17 0.4 0.8 1.1 18 2.8 0.9 3.7 19 6.5 2.5 9.1 Residence Urban * * * Rural 2.3 1.2 3.6 2, Estate * * * 2, Gampaha * * * 2, Kalutara * * * 2, Galle * * * * Mutara * * * * Matra * * * * Maltafina * * * * Multalitivu * * * * Vavuniya * * * * Multalitivu *	15	0.0	0.2	0.2	721
17 0.4 0.8 1.1 18 2.8 0.9 3.7 19 6.5 2.5 9.1 Residence Urban - - - Rural 2.3 1.2 3.6 2.7 Estate - - - - Colombo - - 2.7 Gampaha - - - Kandy - <t< td=""><td>16</td><td>0.3</td><td>0.5</td><td>0.7</td><td>724</td></t<>	16	0.3	0.5	0.7	724
18 2.8 0.9 3.7 19 6.5 2.5 9.1 Residence Urban * * * Rural 2.3 1.2 3.6 2.7 Estate * * * * 2.7 Colombo * * * * 2.7 Gampaha * * * * 2.7 Gampaha * * * * * 2.7 Gampaha *	17	0.4	0.8	1.1	809
19 6.5 2.5 9.1 Residence Urban .	18	2.8	0.9	3.7	726
Residence .	19	6.5	2.5	9.1	764
Urban * * * * Rural 2.3 1.2 3.6 2, Estate * * * * * Oistrict * * * * * * Colombo * * * * * * 2, Gampaha *	Residence				
Rural 2.3 1.2 3.6 2. Estate * * * * District * * * * Colombo * * * * Kalutara * * * * Kalutara * * * * Kalutara * * * * Matale * * * * Mutale * * * * Matara * * * * Mulaitivu * * * * Mulaitivu * * * * Mulaitivu * * * * Puttalam * * * * Polonnaruwa	Urban	*	*	*	450
List List <thlist< th=""> List List <thl< td=""><td>Rural</td><td>2.3</td><td>1.2</td><td>3.6</td><td>2.538</td></thl<></thlist<>	Rural	2.3	1.2	3.6	2.538
District Colombo * * 2, Gampaha * * * 2, Gampaha * * * * Kalutara * * * * Matale * * * * Mutara * * * * Matara * * * * Hambantota * * * * Jaffna * * * * Multaitivu * * * * Pattalam * * * * Ampara * * *	Estate	*	*	*	266
Colombo • • 2, Gampaha • • • Kalutara • • • Kandy • • • Matale • • • Matale • • • Mutale • • • Matara • • • Hambantota • • • Jaffna • • • Mannar • • • Vavuniya • • • Mullaitivu • • • Mullaitivu • • • Mullaitivu • • • Mullaitivu • • • Mullalam • • • Ampara • • • Anuradhapura • • • Polonaruwa • • • Badulla • • • Passed Grade 6-10 3.0	District				
Gampaha • • Kalutara • • Kalutara • • Matale • • Matale • • Nuwara Eliya • • Galle • • Matara • • Hambantota • • Jaffna • • Hambantota • • Jaffna • • Mullaitivu • • Batticaloa • • Ampara • • Trincomalee • • Kurunegala • • Puttalam • • Anuradhapura • • Ratnapura • • Ratnapura • •	Colombo	*	*	*	2 272
Kalutara • • Kalutara • • Matale • • Nuwara Eliya • • Matara • • Matara • • Matara • • Matara • • Hambantota • • Jaffna • • Mulaitivu • • Vavuniya • • Kilinochchi • • Batticaloa • • Ampara • • Trincomalee • • Kurunegala • • Puttalam • • Polonnaruwa • • Badulla • • Moneragala • • Kegalle • • Passed Grade 1-5 * * Passed Grade 5-10 3.0 1.3 4.3 Passed Grade 5-10 3.0 1.3 1.4 equivalent </td <td>Gampaha</td> <td>*</td> <td>*</td> <td>*</td> <td>182</td>	Gampaha	*	*	*	182
Kandy * * * Matale * * * Matale * * * Matale * * * Galle * * * Matara * * * Hambantota * * * Jaffna * * * Matara * * * Hambantota * * * Jaffna * * * Mannar * * * Mullaitivu * * * Mullaitivu * * * Mullaitivu * * * Mullaitivu * * * Kurunegala * * * Puttalam * * * Anuradhapura * * * Moneragala * * * Passed Grade 1-5 * * * Passed G.C.E.(O/L) or <t< td=""><td>Kalutara</td><td>*</td><td>*</td><td>*</td><td>464</td></t<>	Kalutara	*	*	*	464
Matale * * * Matale * * * Matara * * * Matara * * * Hambantota * * * Jaffna * * * Mannar * * * Vavuniya * * * Mullaitivu * * * Kilinochchi * * * Batticaloa * * * Ampara * * * Trincomalee * * * Kurunegala * * * Puttalam * * * Anuradhapura * * * Badulla * * * Moneragala * * * Ratnapura * * * Resed Grade 1-5 * * * Passed Grade 6-10 3.0 1.3 4.3 1,	Kandy	*	*	*	-0- 03
Nuwara Eliya * * Galle * * * Matara * * * Hambantota * * * Jaffna * * * Mannar * * * Vavuniya * * * Mullaitivu * * * Mullaitivu * * * Mullaitivu * * * Mullaitivu * * * Ampara * * * Ampara * * * Puttalam * * * Anuradhapura * * * Ratnapura * * * Ratn	Matale	*	*	*	616
Galle * * * Matara * * * Hambantota * * * Jaffna * * * Mannar * * * Mannar * * * Mullaitivu * * * Mullaitivu * * * Kilinochchi * * * Batticaloa * * * Ampara * * * Trincomalee * * * Kurunegala * * * Puttalam * * * Anuradhapura * * * Polonnaruwa * * * Badulla * * * Passed Grade 1-5 * * * Ratnapura * * * Regalle * * * Education * * * Passed Grade 1-5	Numara Eliva	*	*	*	47
Matara * * * Hambantota * * * Jaffna * * * Mannar * * * Mannar * * * Mullaitivu * * * Mullaitivu * * * Mullaitivu * * * Kliinochchi * * * Batticaloa * * * Ampara * * * Anuradhapura * * * Polonnaruwa * * * Badulla * * * Moneragala * * * Ratnapura * * * Passed Grade 1-5 * * * Passed G.C.E.(O/L) or	Gallo	*	*	*	47
Hambantota * * * Hambantota * * * Mannar * * * Mannar * * * Mannar * * * Mannar * * * Vavuniya * * * Mullaitivu * * * Mullaitivu * * * Mullaitivu * * * Mullaitivu * * * Ampara * * * Ampara * * * Trincomalee * * * Auradhapura * * * Puttalam * * * Anuradhapura * * * Badulla * * * Badulla * * * Passed Grade 1-5 * * * Passed Grade 1-5 * * * Passed Grade 1-10	Matara	*	*	*	90
Jaffna * * * Mannar * * * Vavuniya * * * Mullaitivu * * * Mullaitivu * * * Mullaitivu * * * Mullaitivu * * * Mannar * * * Mullaitivu * * * Mannar * * * Ampara * * * Ampara * * * Trincomalee * * * Futalam * * * Puttalam * * * Anuradhapura * * * Badulla * * * Moneragala * * * Ratnapura * * * Resed Grade 1-5 * * * Passed Grade 6-10 3.0 1.3 4.3 1,	Malara	*	*	*	120
Mannar * * * Mannar * * * Mullaitivu * * * Mullaitivu * * * Mullaitivu * * * Batticaloa * * * Ampara * * * Ampara * * * Trincomalee * * * Kurunegala * * * Puttalam * * * Anuradhapura * * * Polonnaruwa * * * Badulla * * * Moneragala * * * Ratnapura * * * Kegalle * * * Education * * * Passed Grade 1-5 * * * Passed G.C.E.(O/L) or 0.9 0.9 1.8 1, equivalent * * * <td< td=""><td>Hambantota</td><td>*</td><td>*</td><td>*</td><td>531</td></td<>	Hambantota	*	*	*	531
Mannar * * Vavuniya * * Mullaitivu * * Batticaloa * * Ampara * * Trincomalee * * Kurunegala * * Puttalam * * Anuradhapura * * Polonnaruwa * * Badulla * * Moneragala * * Moneragala * * Kegalle * * Education * * Passed Grade 1-5 * * Passed Grade 6-10 3.0 1.3 4.3 1, Passed G.C.E.(O/L) or 0.9 0.9 1.8 1, equivalent * * * * Veatth quintile 1.3 1.0 2.3 1, Middle 1.3 1.0 2.3 1, Hidhest * * * *	Jamna		*		209
Vavuniya - - - Mullaitivu * * * Kilinochchi * * * Batticaloa * * * Ampara * * * Ampara * * * Ampara * * * Ampara * * * Folonnaruwa * * * Polonnaruwa * * * Badulla * * * Moneragala * * * Moneragala * * * Ratnapura * * * Ratnapura * * * Passed Grade 1-5 * * * Passed Grade 6-10 3.0 1.3 4.3 1, equivalent * * * * Passed G.C.E.(O/L) or 0.9 0.9 1.8 1, equivalent * * * * *	Mannar	*			4
Multiality * * Kilinochchi * * Batticaloa * * Ampara * * Trincomalee * * Kurunegala * * Yuttalam * * Anuradhapura * * Polonnaruwa * * Badulla * * Moneragala * * Kegalle * * Education * * Passed Grade 1-5 * * Passed Grade 6-10 3.0 1.3 4.3 1, Passed G.C.E.(O/L) or 0.9 0.9 1.8 1, equivalent * * * * Passed G.C.E.(A/L) or * * * * Vealth quintile 1.3 1.0 2.3 1, Lowest 1.9 1.5 3.5 5 Second 2.8 0.5 3.2 1, Middle 1.3 1.0	Vavuniya		*		54
Killnochchi - - - Batticaloa * * * Ampara * * * Trincomalee * * * Kurunegala * * * Puttalam * * * Anuradhapura * * * Polonnaruwa * * * Badulla * * * Badulla * * * Moneragala * * * Ratnapura * * * Ratnapura * * * Passed Grade 1-5 * * * Passed Grade 6-10 3.0 1.3 4.3 1, Passed G.C.E.(O/L) or 0.9 0.9 1.8 1, equivalent * * * * Passed G.C.E.(A/L) or * * * * Kegall 1.9 1.5 3.5 \$ Second 2.8 0.5 3.2<	Mullativu				9
Battricaloa - - - Ampara + + + Trincomalee + + + Kurunegala + + + Puttalam + + + Anuradhapura + + + Polonnaruwa + + + Badulla + + + Moneragala + + + Moneragala + + + Moneragala + + + Moneragala + + + Ratnapura + + + Ratnapura + + + Passed Grade 1-5 + + + Passed Grade 6-10 3.0 1.3 4.3 1, Passed G.C.E.(O/L) or 0.9 0.9 1.8 1, equivalent + + + + Passed G.C.E.(A/L) or + + + + Lowest 1.9 1.5 3.5 <	Kilinochchi	<u>^</u>			41
Ampara - - - Trincomalee * * * Kurunegala * * * Puttalam * * * Anuradhapura * * * Polonnaruwa * * * Badulla * * * Moneragala * * * Ratnapura * * * Ratnapura * * * Passed Grade 1-5 * * * Passed Grade 6-10 3.0 1.3 4.3 1, Passed G.C.E.(O/L) or 0.9 0.9 1.8 1, equivalent * * * * Passed G.C.E.(A/L) or * * * * Vealth quintile 1.3 1.0 2.3 1, Middle 1.3 1.0 2.3 1, Fourth (0.4) (0.2) (0.5) 2,	Batticaloa	*			89
Irincomalee - - - Kurunegala * * * Puttalam * * * Anuradhapura * * * Polonnaruwa * * * Badulla * * * Moneragala * * * Ratnapura * * * Ratnapura * * * Passed Grade 1-5 * * * Passed Grade 6-10 3.0 1.3 4.3 1, Passed G.C.E.(O/L) or 0.9 0.9 1.8 1, equivalent * * * * Passed G.C.E.(A/L) or * * * * Vealth quintile Lowest 1.9 1.5 3.5 1, Middle 1.3 1.0 2.3 1, Middle 1.3 1.0 2.3 1, Fourth (0.4) (0.2) (0.5) 2,	Ampara	<u>^</u>			231
Kurunegala * * * Puttalam * * * Anuradhapura * * * Polonnaruwa * * * Badulla * * * Moneragala * * * Moneragala * * * Ratnapura * * * Ratnapura * * * Ratnapura * * * Passed Grade 1-5 * * * Passed Grade 6-10 3.0 1.3 4.3 1, Passed G.C.E.(O/L) or 0.9 0.9 1.8 1, equivalent * * * * Passed G.C.E.(A/L) or * * * * Vealth quintile * * * * Lowest 1.9 1.5 3.5 \$ Second 2.8 0.5 3.2 1, Middle 1.3 1.0 2.3 1, <t< td=""><td>Irincomalee</td><td>* .</td><td>*</td><td>* .</td><td>192</td></t<>	Irincomalee	* .	*	* .	192
Puttalam * * * Anuradhapura * * * Polonnaruwa * * * Badulla * * * Moneragala * * * Ratnapura * * * Ratnapura * * * Ratnapura * * * Regalle * * * Education * * * Passed Grade 1-5 * * * Passed Grade 6-10 3.0 1.3 4.3 1, Passed G.C.E.(O/L) or 0.9 0.9 1.8 1, equivalent * * * * Passed G.C.E.(A/L) or * * * * Vealth quintile Lowest 1.9 1.5 3.5 Second 2.8 0.5 3.2 1, Middle 1.3 1.0 2.3 1, Fourth (0.4) (0.2) (0.5) 2,	Kurunegala	*	*	*	318
Anuradhapura * * * Polonnaruwa * * * Badulla * * * Moneragala * * * Ratnapura * * * Regalle * * * Passed Grade 1-5 * * * Passed Grade 6-10 3.0 1.3 4.3 1, Passed G.C.E.(O/L) or 0.9 0.9 1.8 1, equivalent * * * * Vealth quintile 1.3 1.0 2.3 1, Middle 1.3 1.0 2.3 1, <td>Puttalam</td> <td>*</td> <td>*</td> <td>*</td> <td>88</td>	Puttalam	*	*	*	88
Polonnaruwa * * * Badulla * * * Moneragala * * * Ratnapura * * * Ratnapura * * * Kegalle * * * Passed Grade 1-5 * * * Passed Grade 6-10 3.0 1.3 4.3 1, Passed Grade 6-10 3.0 1.3 4.3 1, Passed G.C.E.(O/L) or 0.9 0.9 1.8 1, equivalent * * * * Passed G.C.E.(A/L) or * * * * Vealth quintile * * * * * Lowest 1.9 1.5 3.5 3.2 1, Middle 1.3 1.0 2.3 1, Fourth (0.4) (0.2) (0.5) 2,	Anuradhapura	*	*	*	365
Badulla * * * Moneragala * * * Ratnapura * * * Ratnapura * * * Kegalle * * * Education * * * Passed Grade 6-10 3.0 1.3 4.3 1, Passed Grade 6-10 3.0 1.3 4.3 1, Passed Grade 6-10 3.0 1.3 4.3 1, equivalent * * * * Passed G.C.E.(O/L) or 0.9 0.9 1.8 1, equivalent * * * * Passed G.C.E.(A/L) or * * * * Vealth quintile 1.9 1.5 3.5 Second 2.8 0.5 3.2 1, Middle 1.3 1.0 2.3 1, Fourth (0.4) (0.2) (0.5) 2,	Polonnaruwa	*	*	*	81
Moneragala * * * * Ratnapura * * * * Ratnapura * * * * Kegalle * * * * Education * * * * Passed Grade 1-5 * * * * Passed Grade 6-10 3.0 1.3 4.3 1, Passed Grade 6-10 3.0 1.3 4.3 1, equivalent Passed G.C.E.(O/L) or 0.9 0.9 1.8 1, equivalent * * * * * Vealth quintile * * * * Lowest 1.9 1.5 3.5 \$ Second 2.8 0.5 3.2 1, Middle 1.3 1.0 2.3 1, Fourth (0.4) (0.2) (0.5) 2,	Badulla	*	*	*	106
Ratnapura * * * * Kegalle * * * * Education * * * * Passed Grade 1-5 * * * * Passed Grade 6-10 3.0 1.3 4.3 1, equivalent * * * * Passed Gr.C.E.(A/L) or * * * * Wealth quintile Elevest 1.9 1.5 3.5 Second 2.8 0.5 3.2 1, Middle 1.3 1.0 2.3 1, Fourth (0.4) (0.2) (0.5) 2, Highest * * * * * * *	Moneragala	*	*	*	110
Education Passed Grade 1-5 * * * * Passed Grade 6-10 3.0 1.3 4.3 1, Passed G.C.E.(O/L) or 0.9 0.9 1.8 1, equivalent Passed G.C.E.(A/L) or * * * equivalent Wealth quintile Lowest 1.9 1.5 3.5 Second 2.8 0.5 3.2 1, Middle 1.3 1.0 2.3 1, Fourth (0.4) (0.2) (0.5) 2, Highest * * *	Ratnapura Kegalle	*	*	*	399 91
Education *	- <u>-</u> -				51
Passed Grade 1-5 - * * Passed Grade 6-10 3.0 1.3 4.3 1, Passed G.C.E.(O/L) or 0.9 0.9 1.8 1, equivalent Passed G.C.E.(A/L) or * * * Passed G.C.E.(A/L) or * * * * Wealth quintile Vealth quintile Vealth quintile Vealth quintile Vealth quintile Lowest 1.9 1.5 3.5 Second 2.8 0.5 3.2 1, Middle 1.3 1.0 2.3 1, Fourth (0.4) (0.2) (0.5) 2, Hidnest * * * * * * *	aucation	*	r		~-
Passed Grade 6-10 3.0 1.3 4.3 1, Passed G.C.E.(O/L) or 0.9 0.9 1.8 1, equivalent Passed G.C.E.(A/L) or * * * Passed G.C.E.(A/L) or * * * * equivalent * * * * Wealth quintile	Passed Grade 1-5	*	*	*	25
Passed G.C.E.(O/L) or 0.9 0.9 1.8 1, equivalent Passed G.C.E.(A/L) or * * * * Passed G.C.E.(A/L) or * * * * * Wealth quintile	Passed Grade 6-10	3.0	1.3	4.3	1,919
equivalent Passed G.C.E.(A/L) or * * * * * equivalent Nealth quintile Lowest 1.9 1.5 3.5 Second 2.8 0.5 3.2 1, Middle 1.3 1.0 2.3 1, Fourth (0.4) (0.2) (0.5) 2, Hidhest * * *	Passed G.C.E.(O/L) or	0.9	0.9	1.8	1,441
Nealth quintile 1.9 1.5 3.5 Lowest 1.9 1.5 3.5 Second 2.8 0.5 3.2 1, Middle 1.3 1.0 2.3 1, Fourth (0.4) (0.2) (0.5) 2, Hidbest * * * *	equivalent Passed G.C.E.(A/L) or equivalent	*	*	*	188
Lowest 1.9 1.5 3.5 Second 2.8 0.5 3.2 1, Middle 1.3 1.0 2.3 1, Fourth (0.4) (0.2) (0.5) 2, Highest * * * *	Vealth quintile				
Second 2.8 0.5 3.2 1, Middle 1.3 1.0 2.3 1, Fourth (0.4) (0.2) (0.5) 2, Hidbest * * * *	Lowest	19	1.5	3.5	992
Middle 1.3 1.0 2.3 1, Fourth (0.4) (0.2) (0.5) 2, Hidbest * * * *	Second	2.9	0.5	3.0	1 1 2 1
Fourth (0.4) (0.2) (0.5) 2, Highest *	Middle	2.0 1 3	1.0	23	1 013
Highest (0.1) (0.2) (0.0) 2,	Fourth	(0.4)	(0.2)	(0.5)	2 532
J	Highest	(0.4)	(0.2)	(0.0)	2,002
	-				

Teenage pregnancy and motherhood has remained a major health and social concern because it is associated with social and health issues of the mother and the child. The compulsory and free education in the country aims to develop the education standards of each citizen of the country. The women who become mothers in their teenage years are more likely to curtail their education. Teenage mothers are also more likely to suffer from severe complications during pregnancy and childbirth, which can be detrimental to the health and survival of both mother and child.

Table 4.8 depicts that most of the child bearing in teen ages occurs in the rural sector and in the poorest groups of the wealth quintile. In Sri Lanka, only 30 out of 1000 ever-married women begun child bearing in their teen ages.

