PRESS RELEASE

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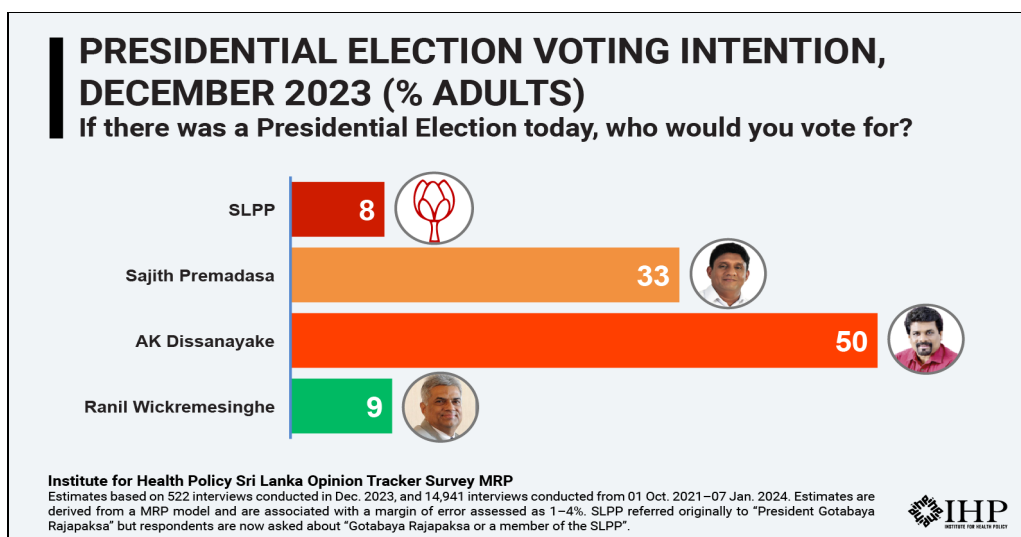
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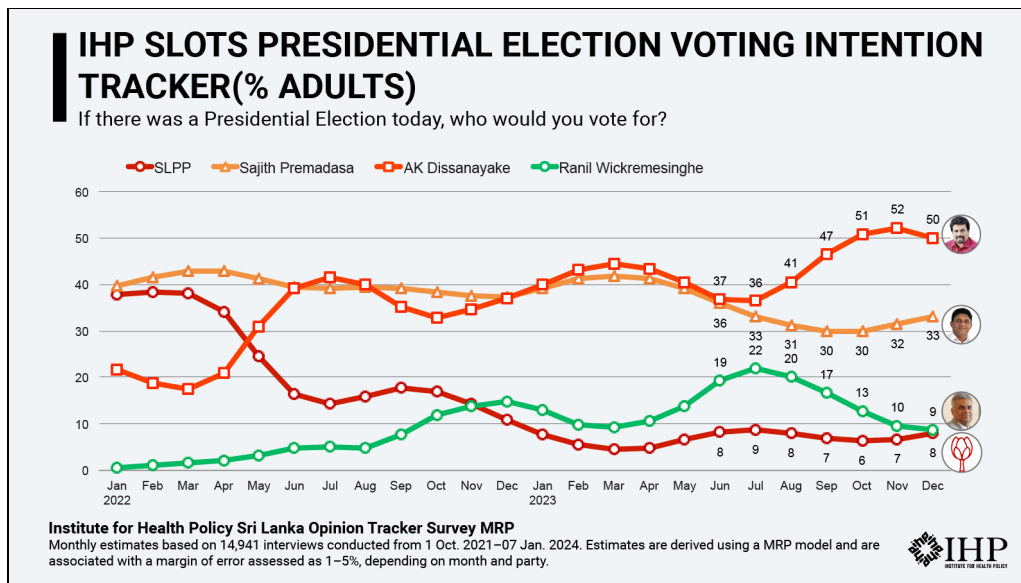Email: ravi 'at' ihp.lk Twitter: @ravirannaneliya

AK Dissanayake leads in Presidential Election voting preferences on 50%, with Sajith Premadasa on 33% of all adults in December

IHP MRP Presidential Election Voting Intentions Update December 2023

IHP's Sri Lanka Opinion Tracker Survey (SLOTS) MRP estimates of Presidential Election voting intent in December 2023 show NPP/JVP leader AK Dissanayake on 50% of all adults, ahead of Sajith Premadasa, the SJB leader, with 33%, Pres. Ranil Wickremesinghe on 9% and a generic SLPP candidate on 8%.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION VOTING INTENTION, DECEMBER 2023 (% ADULTS)
If there was a Presidential Election today, who would you vote for?

Candidate	%
SLPP	8
Sajith Premadasa	33
AK Dissanayake	50
Ranil Wickremesinghe	9

Institute for Health Policy Sri Lanka Opinion Tracker Survey MRP
Estimates based on 522 interviews conducted in Dec. 2023, and 14,941 interviews conducted from 01 Oct. 2021–07 Jan. 2024. Estimates are derived from a MRP model and are associated with a margin of error assessed as 1–4%. SLPP referred originally to "President Gotabaya Rajapaksa" but respondents are now asked about "Gotabaya Rajapaksa or a member of the SLPP".

Support for the NPP/JVP leader has increased 14 points since mid-2023, with the December estimates suggesting a possible drop in that month. Support for SJB leader Sajith Premadasa has increased 3 points since Sep. 2023 with a rising trend in that time. Support for Pres. Ranil Wickremesinghe has declined in the same six months.

This update is for all adults and is based on a revised MRP model using data from 14,941 interviews conducted from Oct. 2021 to 7 January 2024, with 522 interviews during Dec. 2023. IHP will resume reporting voting intent amongst likely voters at a later date. 100 model iterations were run to capture model uncertainty. Margins of error are assessed 1–4% for December.

Related Reports

Institute for Health Policy, March 2023, "IHP MRP Voting Intentions Update February 2023: Voters consolidate around the NPP/JVP, SJB and ITAK, with NPP/JVP taking a clear lead", SLOTS Report #2023-06
Available at: *https://www.ihp.lk/publications/docs/SLOTSReport202306.pdf*

Institute for Health Policy, May 2023, "Support for AK Dissanayake slips to 45%, but still leads Sajith Premadasa (37%). IHP Presidential Election Voting Intentions Update April 2023".
Available at: https://ihp.lk/news/pres_doc/IHPPressRelease20230526.pdf

Institute for Health Policy, June 2023, "Pres. Ranil Wickremesinghe & SLPP continue to gain support in May. IHP Presidential Election Voting Intentions Update May 2023".
Available at: https://ihp.lk/news/pres_doc/IHPPressRelease202306302.pdf

Institute for Health Policy, July 2023, "Little change in Presidential voting intention in June 2023: AKD 40%, Sajith 35%, Ranil 15%. IHP/SLOTS MRP Presidential Election Voting Intention Update June 2023".
Available at: https://ihp.lk/news/pres_doc/IHPPressRelease20230728.pdf

Institute for Health Policy, August 2023, "Pres. Ranil Wickremesinghe continues to gain support in a potential Presidential poll. IHP/SLOTS MRP Presidential Election Voting Intention Update July 2023".
Available at: https://ihp.lk/news/pres_doc/IHPPressRelease20230822.pdf

Institute for Health Policy, September 2023, "AK Dissanayake (38) and Sajith Premadasa (35) continue to lead in Presidential Election voting preferences. IHP/SLOTS MRP Presidential Election Voting Intention Update August 2023".
Available at: https://ihp.lk/news/pres_doc/IHPPressRelease20230926.pdf

Institute for Health Policy, November 2023, "AK Dissanayake consolidates lead in Presidential Election voting intent. IHP/SLOTS MRP Presidential Election Voting Intention Update October 2023".
Available at: https://ihp.lk/news/pres_doc/IHPPressRelease20231124.pdf

About IHP

IHP is an independent, non-partisan research centre based in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The SLOTS lead investigator is Dr Ravi Rannan-Eliya of IHP, who has trained in public opinion polling at Harvard University and has conducted numerous surveys over three decades.

Methodology

SLOTS combines interviews from a national sample of adults (ages 18 and over) reached by random digit dialling of mobile numbers, and others coming from a national panel of respondents who were previously recruited through random selection. IHP estimates voting intent using an adaptation of Multilevel Regression and Post-Stratification (MRP), with multiple imputation to account for uncertainties in its modelling, exploiting data from all SLOTS interviews to estimate voting in a particular month.

The December 2023 MRP estimates are based on 522 interviews conducted in December 2023, and 14,941 interviews conducted overall from 1 October 2021–7 January 2024, with a margin of error assessed as 3–4% for AK Dissanayake, Sajith Premadasa and 1–2% for Ranil Wickremesinghe and the other potential candidate. All estimates are adjusted to ensure the sample matches the national population with respect to age, sex, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, education, geographical location, and voting in the 2019 Presidential and 2020 General Elections.

Funding