

Sri Lanka

General

	MALES	FEMALES	YEAR
Total population under 15	2,760,821	2,652,747	2017
Total population over 15	8,105,752	8,715,680	2017

** ALL DATA FROM CIA, 2017*

Health

Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live birth	30	2015	CIA, 2017 est.
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	8.6	2016	CIA, 2017 est.
Under-five mortality rate for males per 1,000 live births	10.7	2012	UN Statistics, 2015
Under-five mortality rate for females per 1,000 live births	8.8	2012	UN Statistics, 2015
Births attended by a skilled health professional	99	2014	WHO, 2016
Prevalence of HIV among adults aged 15–49	< 0.1	2015	WHO, 2017
Life expectancy for men	73.3	2016	CIA, 2017 est.
Life expectancy for women	80.4	2016	CIA, 2017 est.

Education

	MALES	FEMALES	YEAR
Youth literacy rate, ages 15-24	98.37%	99.17%	2015
Adult literacy rate, ages 15+	93.62%	91.71%	2015
Gross enrolment rate in primary education	102.73%	100.61%	2015
Gross enrolment ratio in secondary education	97.5%	101.97%	2013
Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education	15.56%	23.96%	2015

** ALL DATA FROM UNESCO INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS, 2017*

- Female graduates from tertiary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 55.6%
- Female students enrolled in engineering, construction and manufacturing tertiary education programs (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 74.8%
- Female teachers in primary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 86.3%
- Female teachers in secondary education: Insufficient data
- Female teachers in tertiary education (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 42.6%

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Economic Activity

- Males over 15 who are active in the labour force (2016) (World Bank, 2017): 76.0%
- Females over 15 who are active in the labour force (2016) (World Bank, 2017): 30.1%
- Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution, or with a money mobile service provider (2011) (UN Statistics, 2017): 85.39%

Decision-Making

- Proportion of seats held by women in National Parliament (2016) (World Bank, 2017): 6

Human Rights

- Girls married before 15 (UNICEF, 2016): 2%
- Females married between 15 and 19 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 12%
- Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime (UN Women, 2016): Insufficient data
- Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner or a non-partner during the last 12 months (UN Women, 2016): Insufficient data

Gender and Development Trends in Sri Lanka

Health

In 2014, approximately 35% of deaths in Sri Lanka occurred as a result of diseases attributable to household air pollution. Women and children remain at a particularly high risk for diseases caused by indoor pollution, including strokes, lung cancer, and chronic pulmonary diseases (WHO, 2016b).

According to a government health bulletin (Ministry of Health, 2014), there is a recognised and inverse relationship between a mother's educational attainment and the probability of death of a child, in Sri Lanka. The mother's age, birth order and birth interval are also some of the key factors affecting child mortality in the country (Ministry of Health, 2014: 8).

Education

Female literacy in Sri Lanka increased from 42% in 1946 (compared to 70% male literacy in the same year) to 92% in 2013 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2014; Gunewardena, 2015)

Girls outnumber boys in primary, secondary, and tertiary education enrolments in Sri Lanka (Department of Census and Statistics, 2014).

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Economy

Sri Lanka's female labour force participation rate remains between 35-40% over the last decade, compared to a male participation rate of 75% (Gunewardena, 2015).

In 2013, the unemployment rate for females was twice as high as that for males; 6% for females and 3% for males (Department of Census and Statistics 2014). Sri Lanka also holds the 17th largest gender gap in labour force participation globally (World Bank, 2017).

Governance

Though women constitute 51% of the Sri Lankan population, they make up only 6% of the national legislature, 6% of seats in provincial councils, and 2% of seats in local government (UNDP, 2015b).

Human Rights

The Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act permits girls to marry at age 12, in contrast to the civil law, which sets the minimum marital age at 18 and the minimum age of sexual consent at 16 (U.S. Department of State, 2016).

According to the Gender Based Violence Forum, at least 60% of all women in Sri Lanka have experienced domestic violence (Gender Based Violence Forum Sri Lanka, n.d).

Sri Lanka SDG Progress Profile

- Sri Lanka is currently ranked 97th for overall performance under the SDGs, with a median rank of 116th.
- Sri Lanka has ranked 73rd in the UN's 2015 Gender Inequality Index (GII) (UNDP, 2015a).

SDG 4: Achieve universal access to affordable and quality education at all levels. (Data retrieved from SDG indicator profiles, 2016)

- Expected years of schooling (years): 13.7 (SDG threshold met)
- Literacy rate of 15-24 years old (%): 98.2 (SDG threshold met)
- Net primary school enrolment rate (%): 94.1 (significant challenges remain)

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality, protect and empower women, the youth and persons in vulnerable situations.

(Data retrieved from SDG indicator profiles, 2016)

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- Women in national parliaments (%): 4.9 (major challenges must be overcome)
- Female years of schooling (% male): 98.5 (SDG threshold met)
- Female labor force participation (% male): 46.7 (major challenges must be overcome)
- Unmet demand for contraceptives (%): 29.1 (significant challenges remain)

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