



PRESS RELEASE

THE LAUNCHING OF SURVEY REPORT “NATIONAL SURVEY ON SELF-REPORTED HEALTH IN SRI LANKA 2014” DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

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The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) officially launched the survey report “National Survey on Self-reported Health in Sri Lanka 2014” at a ceremony held on 5th July 2016 in Colombo. At the launching ceremony, Dr. A.J. Satharasinghe, Director General of the Department of Census and Statistics said that, to meet the much needed health statistics on chronic illnesses, acute illnesses and some other important areas at household level, DCS conducted a year-long household survey on health in 2014. This probably is the first countrywide survey of self-reported (without medical tests or clinical examination) health status in Sri Lanka.

According to the survey 18 percent of the population or nearly one in six persons has reported some chronic illness. The overall disease prevalence shows variations by sex, age, geographic location, and occupation, industry and employment groups.

Chronic illnesses are those that persist for long time periods. Chronic illnesses considered in this study include Diabetes, High Blood Pressure, Heart Diseases, Stroke, Cancer, Asthma, Mental illness, Arthritis, Epilepsy etc. Chronic illness prevalence, as can be expected, increases with age. More than half (55%) of the elderly over 60 years of age have reported some chronic illness. Prevalence of Diabetes and High Blood Pressure of population 15 years and above are 7 percent and 9 percent respectively. There are differences in the prevalence of chronic diseases among employment and industry categories. For example, the highest prevalence of Diabetes (13%) and high blood pressure (8%) are reported for the category of “Senior Officials and Managers”. The highest prevalence of Diabetes (7%) is reported for those in the “Service” sector compared to the two sectors of ‘Industries’ (4%) and ‘Agriculture’ (4%). Geographically, the prevalence of Diabetes (11%) in the population over 15 years is highest in the Colombo district.

The report shows that 15 percent of the total population has received treatment for any acute illness considered in the study during four weeks prior to the survey. An acute illness is an illness that onsets very rapidly and is of short duration. Acute illnesses are more common among children under 15 years. Nearly one in five children (24 %) has experienced an acute illness in the month prior to the survey.

The survey inquired about accidents for which treatments were received during three months prior to the survey. Home is the place where 43 percent of the accidents have occurred. For children less than 15 years this proportion is even more (57%). Accident related illnesses have been quite high among certain occupation categories. Among the employed persons who met with an accident, about 34 percent is “Skilled Agricultural and Fishery Workers” and nearly 25 percent is “Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers”.

The Report carrying all the findings of the survey is now available in the DCS website: www.statistics.gov.lk.

Mr. M. I. M. Rafeek, the Secretary to the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs, Dr. P. G. Mahipala, Director General of the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, Dr. A. J. Satharasinghe, Director General of Department of Census and Statistics, Prof. Saroj Jayasinghe, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, lectures from universities, Mr. Alain Sibenaler, country representative of UNFPA, higher officials from Ministry of National Planning and Economic Affairs & Department of Census and Statistics attended the occasion.

Dr. A.J. Satharasinghe
Director General
Department of Census and Statistics