

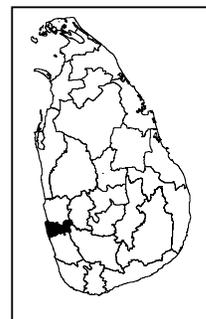
Demographic and Health Survey 2006/07
Colombo District Bulletin (Provisional data)
 Department of Census and Statistics



About the DHS Survey

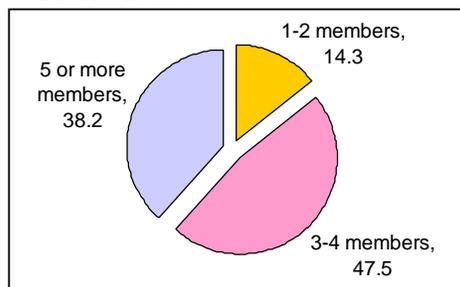
Demographic & Health Survey (2006/07) conducted by the Department of Census & Statistics provides important information on Fertility, Family Planning, Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition and awareness of HIV/AIDS. The survey is designed to provide National as well as district and sector wise estimates. The survey covered all parts of the country excluding Northern Province. Information was collected from 23000 housing units. Main target group of the survey was ever married women in the 15-49 age group and their children below 5 years of age at the time of the survey.

- No. of households interviewed: 2509.
- No. of eligible women (age 15-49) interviewed: 1869.
- Estimated housing units: 550,084.
- Estimated population: 2,344,209.
- Household response rate: 93.5%.



Household Size -

Figure 1: Households by household size in Colombo District 2006/7



- Average household size is 4.3 persons per household.
- About 62 percent of households are with less than 5 persons.

About the household population -

Table 1: Proportion of the population in selected age groups & sex in Colombo District 2006/7

Age Group	Total	Male	Female
Below 5 yrs.	8.7	9.5	8.0
Below 15 yrs.	23.4	25.2	21.7
Below 18 yrs.	27.7	29.9	25.7
15-49 yrs.	53.3	53.7	52.8
15-64 yrs.	69.1	68.4	69.6
65 years or more	7.5	6.4	8.7

- About 53 percent of females are in the reproductive age group.

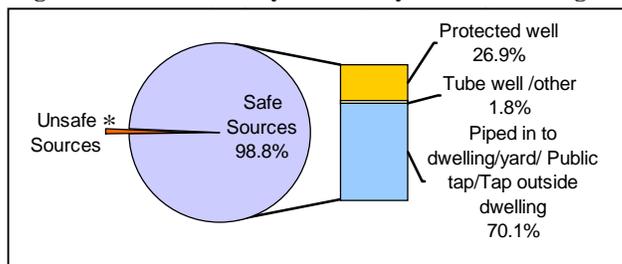
Table 2: Age dependency ratio in Colombo District 2006/7

Age Dependency Ratio	Total
Below 15 yrs.	33.8
65 years or more	10.9

- Young age dependency ratio (33.8) is nearly 3 times greater than that of old age dependency ratio (10.9).

Access to safe drinking water -

Figure 2: Households by availability of safe drinking

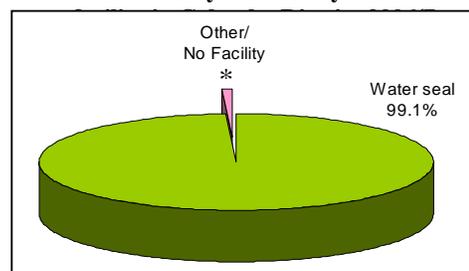


* Reliable estimates cannot be provided due to small cell size.

- About 99 percent of households have access to source of safe drinking water. 56.4 percent households have water piped in to the home or yard and 13.7 percent use public tap or tap outside dwelling. About 27 percent have access to water from protected well.

Sanitation Facility -

Figure 3: Households by availability of sanitation



* Reliable estimates cannot be provided due to small cell size.

- About 99 percent of households use water sealed toilets.

Electricity

95.5 percent households in Colombo District have electricity.

Ownership of household consumer goods -

Table 3: Percentage of household by ownership of household equipment in Colombo District 2006/7

Equipment	Percentage of Households
Television	91
Radio	86
Refrigerator	67
Mobile phones	63
Land phones	53

Main source of cooking fuel –

- About 54 percent of households in Colombo District use LP gas for cooking while about 32.5 percent use firewood as main source of fuel for cooking.

Use of Mosquito nets -

- About 57.6 percent of the households in Colombo District currently use mosquito nets and 33.9 percent of households use mosquito coils.

About Children in Colombo District -

- Out of the children in 5 – 15 year age group 99.5 percent have ever attended a school.
- It is reported that 4.7 percent of currently school attending children in 5-17 year age group do not have enough school books.
- Fathers of 3.7 percent of the children in 0-17 year age groups were not alive at the time of the survey.

Child Health -

Immunization Coverage

- It was observed that 95 percent of children between 12-23 months in Colombo District have received specified vaccines BCG, Polio, DPT and Measles by 12 months of age.

Birth Weight

- 89.5 percent of children (with health development report) of 0-59 months in Colombo District have birth weight as equal or above 2.5kg.
- 10.5 percent of children have low birth weights (Less than 2.5kg).

Mother's Health Care in Colombo District 2006/7-

- The Government health facilities have served 85 percent of deliveries which occurred during the 5 year period preceding the survey.
- The survey further reported that almost every mother has received assistance of skilled health person at their last delivery.

Exclusive breast feeding

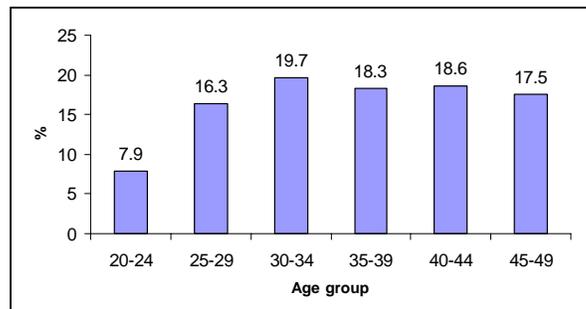
- The proportions of mothers who have exclusively breast fed during the first 4 months at their last birth in Colombo District is 73.1.

Background characteristics of ever married females of 15-49 years

Age distribution of eligible women* -

- Figure 4 shows that highest proportion (19.7 percent) of eligible women belong to 30-34 age category.

Figure 4: Distribution of eligible women in Colombo District by age group 2006/7



Note: Percentage of 15-19 age group is negligible

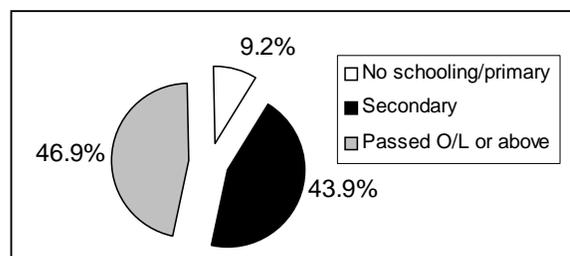
Marital status of eligible women -

- About 94 percent of eligible women were married at the time of the survey while only 6 percent of them were not in union (widowed or separated).

Level of education of eligible women -

- Majority (46.9%) of them have attended up to O/L or above level of education.
- Percentage of eligible women who have never attended school or studied up to primary level is only 9.2.

Figure 5: Eligible women by level of education in Colombo District 2006/7



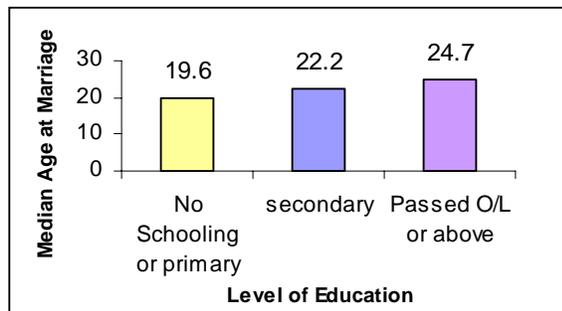
Awareness about HIV AIDS -

About 97 percent of women in Colombo District have heard about HIV AIDS. Out of this about 69 percent of women know that the AIDS can be prevented by using condoms, while about 90 percent of them have knowledge about limiting sex to one uninfected partner and 85.9 percent stated that abstaining from sex help to reduce HIV AIDS.

Median age at marriage -

- Median age at marriage of women in Colombo District is 23.2.
- Median age at marriage increases with the level of education.

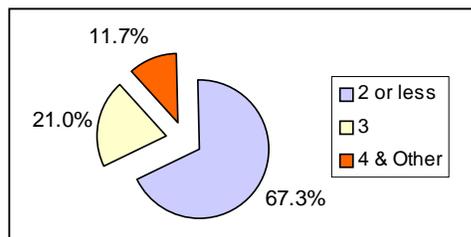
Figure 6: Median age of women at marriage by level of education in Colombo District 2006/7



Desired family size -

Currently married women in Colombo District prefer small families. 67.3 percent of women would like to have 2 or less than 2 children. Further, 88.3 percent of women liked to have 3 or less than 3 children.

Figure 7: Ever married women by desired family size in Colombo District 2006/07



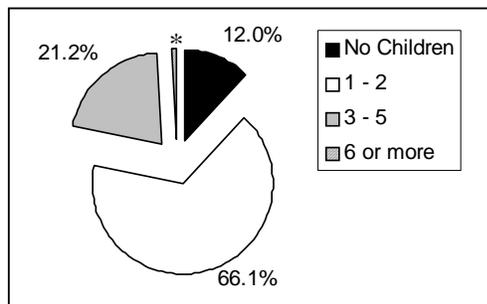
Mean no. of children -

On an average ever married women in Colombo district have 1.8 children.

Children ever born -

12 percent of ever married eligible women never have children while 66.1 percent of women have only 1 or 2 children.

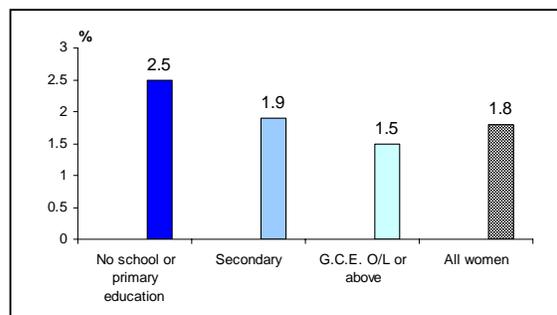
Figure 8: Ever married Women by number of children ever born in Colombo District 2006/7.



* Reliable estimates cannot be provided due to small cell size.

Mean number of children ever born by level of education-

Figure 9: Mean number of children ever born by level of education of eligible women in Colombo District 2006/7

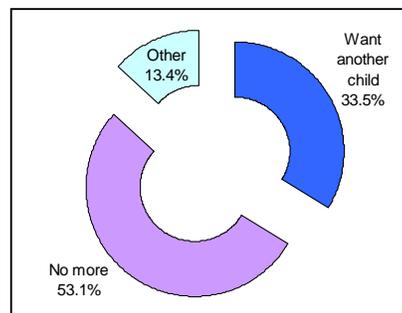


- Mean number of children ever born decreases with increasing the level of education of eligible women.

Fertility preferences -

53 percent of eligible women (Excluding sterilized women) have answered that they do not want to have another child. Proportion of women like to have another child is 33.5 %.

Figure 10: Ever married Women by fertility preferences in Colombo District 2006/7 (Excluding sterilized women)



Awareness of contraceptive methods -

Table 4: Ever married women by awareness of contraceptive methods in Colombo District 2006/7

Method	Percentage of know method
Female sterilization	89.2
Male sterilization	74.0
Pills	97.9
IUD	93.4
Injection	96.6
Norplant	66.9
Male Condom	88.5
Female Condom	16.1
LAM	42.9
Safe period	68.8
Withdrawal	67.4
Emergency contraception	41.2

- Pill and Injection are the widely known methods (97.9 percent and 96.6 percent respectively), followed by the IUD and Female sterilization (93.4 percent and 89.2 percent).
- Percentage who know about male condom is also high (88.5).
- Percentage of women knowing LAM, Norplant, Emergency contraception and Female Condom is relatively low.

Current use of contraception -

- Total number of estimated currently married women in Colombo District is 403,915.
- 64.9 percent of women are currently using contraception.

Table 5: Currently married women by use of contraceptive method in Colombo District 2006/7

Method	No.	%
Total	403915	100.0
Not using *	141620	35.1
Any method	262296	64.9
Any modern method	185627	45.9
Modern Permanent Sterilization	43515	10.7
Modern Temporary		
Pills	34152	8.5
IUD	19509	4.8
Injection	48342	12.0
Condom	37238	9.2
Norplant	**	**
Any traditional method	76668	19.0
Safe period	49690	12.3
Withdrawal	26978	6.7

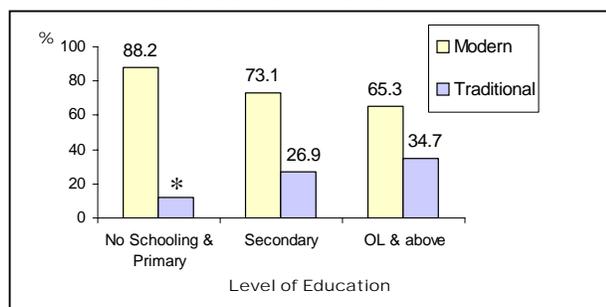
* Including pregnant women.

** Reliable estimates cannot be provided due to small cell size.

- Survey reveals that about 45.9 percent of currently married women currently using modern contraceptive methods while another 19 percent use traditional methods.
- 35.1 percent of currently married women are not currently using any contraceptive method. (Including pregnant women) Data shows that the most commonly used modern temporary method is injection (12.0 percent) followed by Condom (9.2 percent).
- Further, 10.7 percent of eligible women use sterilization (Mostly Female sterilization).
- Higher proportion of women (12.3) used safe period as traditional family planning method.

Level of education and use of contraception -

Figure 11: Currently married and non pregnant women who use family planning by level of education in Colombo District 2006/07



* Reliable estimates cannot be provided due to small cell size.

- Figure 11 indicate that females in all education levels inclined towards to modern methods.
- Percentage using traditional methods is higher among those who have qualified O/L and above.

Contraceptive use by age -

Table 6: Current use of family planning by age groups in Colombo District 2006/7

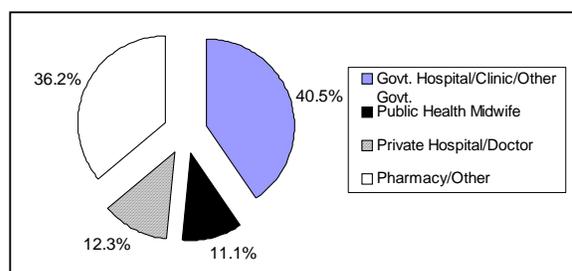
Methods	15 - 19	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	Total
Any method	*	59.4	71.7	62.0	65.0
Modern method	*	45.8	52.3	38.6	46.0
Traditional method	*	13.6	19.4	23.4	19.0
Not using	*	40.6	28.3	38.0	35.0
Total	*	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Reliable estimates cannot be provided due to small cell size

- While modern methods popular among all the age groups, the tendency to use traditional methods increase moderately with increase in age.

Source of supply -

Figure 12: Current users of contraceptive by most recent source of supply in Colombo District 2006/7



- Government facilities (Including public health midwife) have catered to the needs of more than 51 percent of current users of modern temporary contraceptive methods.
- 36 percent of them have bought their needs from pharmacies and other sources.

Definitions used:

Safe sources of drinking water:

Protected well, tube well, main water line, bottled water and Spring protected.

Unsafe sources of drinking water:

Unprotected well, bowser, river/tank/stream and other sources such as rain water and unprotected spring water.

Eligible women: Women who were ever married and who were in the age group of 15-49 at the time of the survey.

Level of Education:

No schooling - Never attended school

Primary level - Passed grade 1,2,3,4, or up to grade 5

Secondary level - Passed grade 6,7,8,9 or up to grade 10

O/L and above - Passed GCE O/L or above