

The 2023 Sri Lanka Economic Crisis mobile phone survey, conducted by the Ministry of Health, was a nationally representative mobile phone survey of men and women aged 18 years and older designed to produce comparable data on impacts of the economic crisis on non-communicable diseases and access to care and medicine.

The survey employed a two-phase sample design to produce key indicators for the country stratified by male/female and age. In phase one a sample of mobile phone numbers from an implicit frame of all possible mobile phone numbers was generated via random digit dialing. In phase two, phase one respondents were stratified to the general population distribution. A total of 91,888 mobile phone numbers were dialed, of which 7,368 mobile phone users were screened, and yielded 2,696 interviews. The overall response rate was 6.1%.

	Overall		Men		Women		Item Non-response*
Demographic (sample)	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Age							
18-44	1534	56.9%	769	56.6%	765	57.2%	NA
45+	1162	43.1%	589	43.4%	573	42.8%	
	2696		1358	50.4%	1338	49.6%	
Diabetes	n	% or mean (95% CI)	n	% or mean (95% CI)	n	% or mean (95% CI)	
Diagnosed by doctor or health care professional with raised blood glucose/diabetes	2463	20.6 (19.1, 22.2)	1232	22.1 (19.9, 24.4)	1231	19.3 (17.2, 21.6)	8.6%
<i>Of those with a diagnosis of raised blood glucose/ diabetes</i>							
Currently taking medication for raised blood glucose/ diabetes	501	69.8 (65.6, 73.7)	270	72.2 (66.5, 77.2)	231	67.4 (61.1, 73.1)	2.3%
Ever had to stop using raised blood glucose/ diabetes medications because of the economic crisis	478		257		221		
- Yes	210	43.8 (39.4, 48.3)	117	45.5 (39.5, 51.7)	93	42.1 (35.8, 48.8)	
- No	94	19.7 (16.4, 23.6)	49	19.2 (14.8, 24.6)	45	20.2 (15.4, 26.1)	4.6%
- Do not use	174	36.4 (32.2, 40.9)	91	35.3 (29.6, 41.3)	83	37.6 (31.5, 44.2)	
<i>Of those taking medication for raised blood glucose/ diabetes</i>							
Received medication for raised blood glucose/ diabetes from a government clinic	346	38.0 (33.0, 43.3)	194	31.3 (25.1, 38.2)	152	45.3 (37.6, 53.4)	1.4%
Main reason for <b>not</b> receiving raised blood glucose/ diabetes medications from a government clinic	211		131		80		2.3%
- Already taking medicines from the private sector	122	57.8 (51.0, 64.3)	75	57.1 (48.4, 65.4)	47	58.8 (47.6, 69.2)	
- Medicine was not available in a government clinic	33	15.5 (11.2, 21.1)	23	17.7 (12.0, 25.3)	10	12.5 (6.8, 21.8)	
- The government clinic pharmacy was overcrowded	35	16.6 (12.1, 22.3)	21	16.1 (10.7, 23.5)	14	17.4 (10.5, 27.5)	
- Some other reason	21	10.1 (6.6, 15.0)	12	9.2 (5.3, 15.6)	9	11.3 (5.9, 20.5)	
For those who <b>did</b> receive medication from a government clinic, amount of raised blood glucose/ diabetes medication obtained from a government clinic	124		57		67		4.6%
- One month	108	86.9 (79.6, 91.9)	51	89.6 (78.3, 95.3)	57	85.0 (74.1, 91.8)	
- Two to three weeks	6	4.8 (2.1, 10.4)	3	5.2 (1.6, 15.3)	3	4.5 (1.4, 13.3)	
- One week	10	8.3 (4.5, 14.8)	3	5.2 (1.6, 15.3)	7	10.5 (5.0, 20.6)	
For those who had to <b>stop using raised blood glucose/diabetes medications because of the economic crisis</b> , what was the main reason	206		113		93		1.9%
- Medicine was out of stock	43	21.1 (16.0, 27.3)	22	19.5 (13.2, 28.0)	21	22.7 (15.2, 32.5)	
- Medicine was too expensive	120	57.9 (51.0, 64.5)	70	61.9 (52.6, 70.5)	50	53.6 (43.4, 63.6)	
- Some other reason	43	21.0 (15.9, 27.2)	21	18.5 (12.3, 26.9)	22	23.7 (16.0, 33.5)	
Hypertension	n	% or mean (95% CI)	n	% or mean (95% CI)	n	% or mean (95% CI)	
Diagnosed by doctor or health care professional with raised blood pressure/ hypertension	2449	23.7 (22.1, 25.3)	1208	24.1 (21.8, 26.6)	1241	23.3 (21.0, 25.7)	9.2%
<i>Of those with a diagnosis of raised blood pressure/ hypertension</i>							
Currently taking medication for raised blood pressure/ hypertension	563	62.9 (58.8, 66.8)	287	63.9 (58.2, 69.3)	276	61.9 (56.0, 67.4)	3.4%
Ever had to stop using raised blood pressure/ hypertension medications because of the economic crisis	528		267		261		
- Yes	197	37.1 (33.1, 41.4)	106	39.6 (33.9, 45.6)	91	35.0 (29.4, 41.0)	
- No	114	21.7 (18.4, 25.4)	55	20.8 (16.3, 26.1)	59	22.5 (17.8, 28.0)	4.9%
- Do not use	217	41.2 (37.0, 45.5)	106	39.6 (33.9, 45.7)	111	42.5 (36.7, 48.7)	
<i>Of those taking medication for raised blood pressure/ hypertension</i>							
Received medication for raised blood pressure/ hypertension from a government clinic	343	33.8 (29.0, 39.1)	180	29.4 (23.2, 36.5)	163	38.0 (30.9, 45.8)	3.4%
Main reason for <b>not</b> receiving raised blood pressure/ hypertension medications from a government clinic	224		124		100		1.8%
- Already taking medicines from the private sector	128	57.0 (50.4, 63.4)	72	57.8 (48.8, 66.3)	56	56.2 (46.2, 65.7)	
- Medicine was not available in a government clinic	33	14.5 (10.5, 19.8)	20	16.1 (10.6, 23.7)	13	12.9 (7.6, 21.1)	
- The government clinic pharmacy was overcrowded	30	13.4 (9.5, 18.6)	18	14.8 (9.5, 22.4)	12	11.9 (6.9, 20.0)	
- Some other reason	33	15.0 (10.9, 20.4)	14	11.3 (6.8, 18.3)	19	19.0 (12.4, 28.0)	

For those who <b>did</b> receive medication from a government clinic, amount of raised blood pressure/ hypertension medication obtained from a government clinic	112			50			62			2.6%
- One month	85	76.0	(67.1 , 83.1)	36	71.5	(57.1 , 82.6)	49	79.1	(67.0 , 87.6)	
- Two to three weeks	13	11.5	(6.7 , 19.0)	7	14.2	(6.8 , 27.3)	6	9.7	(4.3 , 20.2)	
- One week	14	12.5	(7.5 , 20.1)	7	14.3	(6.9 , 27.5)	7	11.2	(5.3 , 21.9)	
For those who had to <b>stop using raised blood pressure/hypertension medication because of the economic crisis</b> , what was the main reason	181			96			85			8.1%
- Medicine was out of stock	30	16.5	(11.7 , 22.7)	17	17.7	(11.2 , 26.8)	13	15.3	(9.0 , 24.8)	
- medicine was too expensive	112	61.5	(54.1 , 68.4)	64	66.7	(56.6 , 75.5)	48	56.4	(45.5 , 66.6)	
- Some other reason	39	22.0	(16.5 , 28.8)	15	15.6	(9.5 , 24.4)	24	28.3	(19.6 , 38.9)	
<b>Mental Health</b>										
Days in the last month during which mental health was not good	2007	8.7	(8.3 , 9.1)	1031	9.0	(8.4 , 9.6)	976	8.4	(7.8 , 9.0)	25.6%
Diagnosed by doctor or health care professional with any emotional, concentration, behavior or mental health disorder	2106	9.0	(7.8 , 10.3)	1078	7.2	(5.8 , 8.9)	1028	10.7	(8.9 , 12.7)	21.9%
<i>Of those with a diagnosis of any emotional, concentration, behavior or mental health disorder</i>										
Currently taking medication for any emotional, concentration, behavior or mental health disorder	181	34.3	(27.7 , 41.6)	77	32.5	(22.9 , 43.9)	104	35.6	(26.9 , 45.3)	3.2%
Ever had to stop using any emotional, concentration, behavior or mental health disorder medications because of the economic crisis	169			72			97			
- Yes	52	30.3	(23.8 , 37.7)	27	37.3	(26.8 , 49.2)	25	25.6	(17.9 , 35.4)	
- No	56	33.5	(26.7 , 41.0)	19	26.3	(17.3 , 37.8)	37	38.3	(29.1 , 48.5)	5.6%
- Do not use	61	36.2	(29.2 , 43.8)	26	36.4	(26.0 , 48.3)	35	36.0	(27.0 , 46.2)	
<i>Of those taking medication for any emotional, concentration, behavior or mental health disorder</i>										
Received medication for any emotional, concentration, behavior or mental health disorder from a government clinic	59	35.6	(24.2 , 48.8)	24	33.3	(16.9 , 55.1)	35	37.0	(22.3 , 54.4)	4.8%
Main reason for <b>not</b> receiving any emotional, concentration, behavior or mental health disorder medications from a government clinic	37			†			†			2.6%
- Already taking medicines from the private sector	13	35.2	(21.3 , 52.3)	†	†	†	†	†	†	
- Medicine was not available in a government clinic	11	29.4	(16.7 , 46.4)	†	†	†	†	†	†	
- The government clinic pharmacy was overcrowded	5	13.6	(5.6 , 29.5)	†	†	†	†	†	†	
- Some other reason	8	21.8	(11.0 , 38.6)	†	†	†	†	†	†	
For those who <b>did</b> receive medication from a government clinic, amount of any emotional, concentration, behavior or mental health disorder medication obtained from a government clinic	†			†			†			9.5%
- One month	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	
- Two to three weeks	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	
- One week	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	
For those who had to <b>stop using any emotional, concentration, behavior or mental health disorder medication because of the economic crisis</b> , what was the main reason	51			26			25			1.9%
- Medicine was out of stock	12	23.6	(13.7 , 37.5)	7	27.5	(13.2 , 48.6)	5	19.9	(8.1 , 41.1)	
- medicine was too expensive	28	54.6	(40.6 , 67.9)	15	57.2	(37.1 , 75.2)	13	52.1	(32.2 , 71.4)	
- Some other reason	11	21.8	(12.3 , 35.7)	4	15.3	(5.5 , 35.7)	7	28.0	(13.4 , 49.4)	
<b>Economic Crisis and Medical Care</b>										
Did not see a doctor when needing medical care in the past year because they could not afford it	2662	52.3	(50.4 , 54.2)	1338	49.5	(46.8 , 52.2)	1324	54.9	(52.2 , 57.6)	1.3%
Had difficulty accessing medicines during the past year because of the economic crisis	2654	57.6	(55.7 , 59.5)	1326	57.2	(54.5 , 59.8)	1328	58.1	(55.4 , 60.7)	0.9%
Main difficulty in accessing medicines in the past 12 months among those who <b>had</b> difficulty	1497			740			757			2.1%
- medicine was too expensive	1110	74.2	(71.9 , 76.4)	530	71.4	(68.0 , 74.6)	580	76.6	(73.5 , 79.5)	
- Medicine was out of stock	195	13.0	(11.4 , 14.8)	104	14.2	(11.8 , 16.9)	91	12.0	(9.9 , 14.5)	
- A lack of fuel or long queues for fuel	56	3.7	(2.9 , 4.8)	35	4.8	(3.4 , 6.6)	21	2.8	(1.8 , 4.2)	
- Protests or curfews	12	0.8	(0.5 , 1.4)	6	0.8	(0.4 , 1.8)	6	0.8	(0.4 , 1.8)	
- Some other reason	124	8.3	(7.0 , 9.8)	65	8.8	(7.0 , 11.1)	59	7.8	(6.1 , 10.0)	
Had difficulty receiving routine medical care in the past 12 months because of the economic crisis	2569	52.5	(50.5 , 54.4)	1282	51.5	(48.8 , 54.2)	1287	53.3	(50.6 , 56.1)	2.6%
Main difficulty in receiving routine medical care in the past 12 months among those who <b>had</b> difficulty	1296			630			666			3.9%
- Medical care was too expensive	1037	80.1	(77.8 , 82.2)	489	77.5	(74.0 , 80.6)	548	82.3	(79.2 , 85.0)	
- It was too difficult to see the provider	58	4.5	(3.5 , 5.8)	30	4.8	(3.4 , 6.8)	28	4.2	(2.9 , 6.0)	

- A lack of fuel or long queues for fuel	79	6.0	(4.9 , 7.5)	46	7.4	(5.6 , 9.7)	33	4.9	(3.5 , 6.9)	
- Protests or curfews	17	1.3	(0.8 , 2.1)	8	1.3	(0.7 , 2.6)	9	1.3	(0.7 , 2.6)	
- Some other reason	105	8.1	(6.7 , 9.7)	57	9.0	(7.0 , 11.6)	48	7.2	(5.5 , 9.5)	
Needed mental health services for issues such as stress, depression, and problems with emotions in the past 12 months because of the economic crisis	2428	28.1	(26.3 , 29.9)	1202	27.4	(25.0 , 30.0)	1226	28.6	(26.2 , 31.2)	5.1%
Used mental health services in the past 12 months because of the economic crisis among those who <b>needed</b> mental health services	659	22.2	(19.2 , 25.6)	318	20.7	(16.6 , 25.6)	341	23.5	(19.3 , 28.3)	3.2%

\*Item nonresponse is calculated as:  $1 - \frac{I_x}{I - V_x}$ , where  $I_x$  equals the number of valid responses for question  $x$ ,  $I$  equals the total number of respondents in the survey, and  $V_x$  equals the respondents with a valid skip for question  $x$  (i.e. an answer to a previous question prevented them from being asked question  $x$ ).

† Indicates an estimate based on an unweighted sample size of less than 25 and has been suppressed.