

HEALTH EXPENDITURES IN SRI LANKA

H.M.N.S. Kumari^{1*} and S.D. Dharmaratne^{2,3}

¹*Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka*

²*Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka*

³*Department of Health Metrics Sciences, School of Medicine, University of Washington, USA*

**nadeeshabandara20@gmail.com*

Health expenditures play a key role in the economy of a country. It is important to understand how health expenditure distributes among different health sector components in order to make effective decisions. Therefore, the objective of this study was to identify the variations in health expenditure data in Sri Lanka. In this research, the health expenditure data of Sri Lanka and bar charts, stacked bar charts, and line graphs were used to visualize these data. The current health expenditure and capital formation were considered as a percentage of gross domestic product. The current health expenditure percentage fluctuates while the capital formation percentage shows a significant increase. It was noted that the current health expenditure percentage of Sri Lanka is low when compared to countries in the African, American, European and the Western Pacific regions. However, the highest current health expenditure and total health expenditure per capita growth rates are recorded in the years 2004 and 2015, respectively. It is conspicuous that the maximum current health expenditure percentage was incurred by the hospitals while the highest current health expenditure of the central Ministry of Health and Provincial Department of Health percentage are distributed among teaching and special hospitals. Of the current health expenditure by functions, a significant percentage is spent on inpatient care. It is clearly visible that the maximum current health expenditure percentage is spent on non-communicable diseases while the minimum percentage is spent on nutritional deficiencies. It is concluded that more attention is needed for health expenditure when making necessary health policies in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Capital formation, Current health expenditure, Health expenditure