

# Healthy Ageing



Ministry of Social Services & Social Welfare  
Youth, Elderly, Disability & Displaced Directorate,  
Ministry of Health



## Epidemiological Transition due to growing elderly population

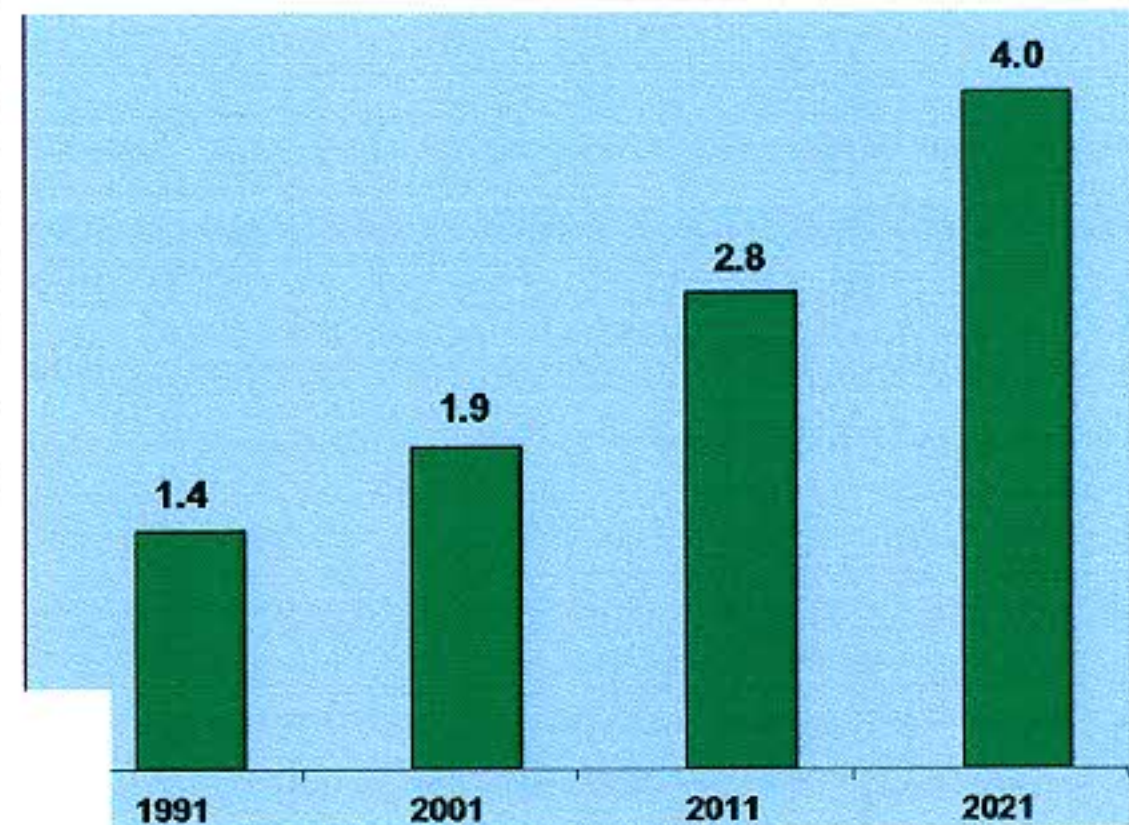
The world is ageing. With people living longer and fewer children being born, the absolute number older people is increasing.

Increased longevity is a triumph for public and the result of social and economic development.

In Sri Lanka, as in other developing countries, the rapidity of population ageing continues to outpace social and economic development.

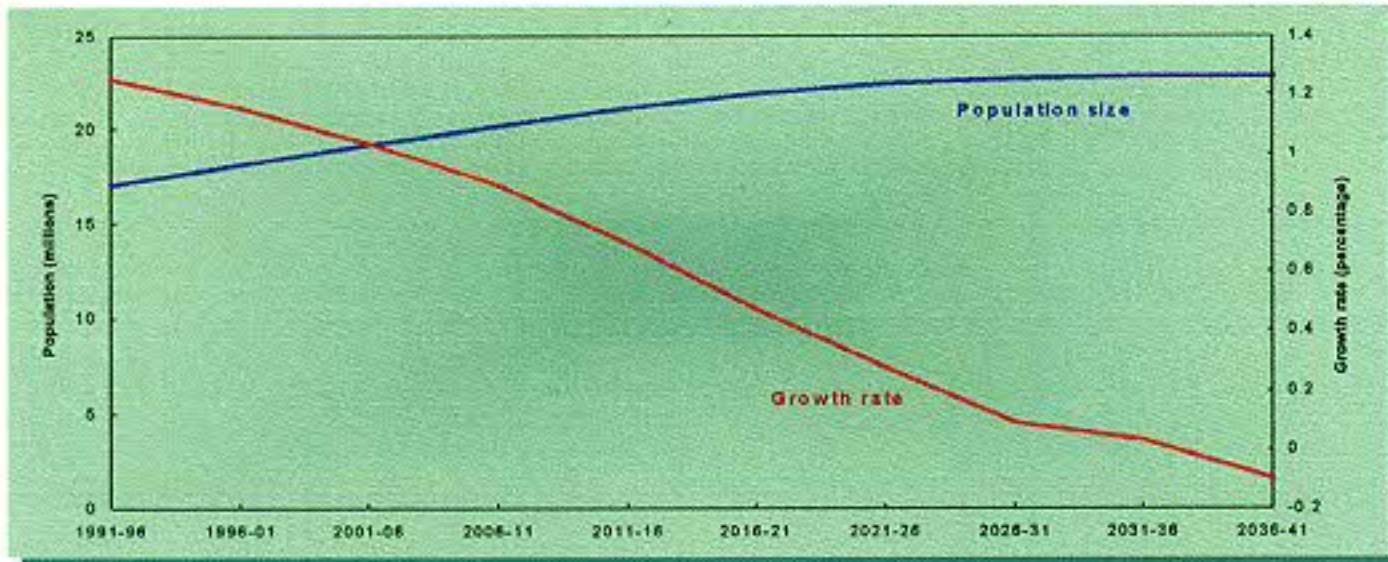
With ageing comes an increased risk of developing chronic diseases and disability. In order to

prepare for unprecedented population ageing now, it is of utmost importance that health systems in Sri Lanka are prepared to address the consequences of these demographic changes

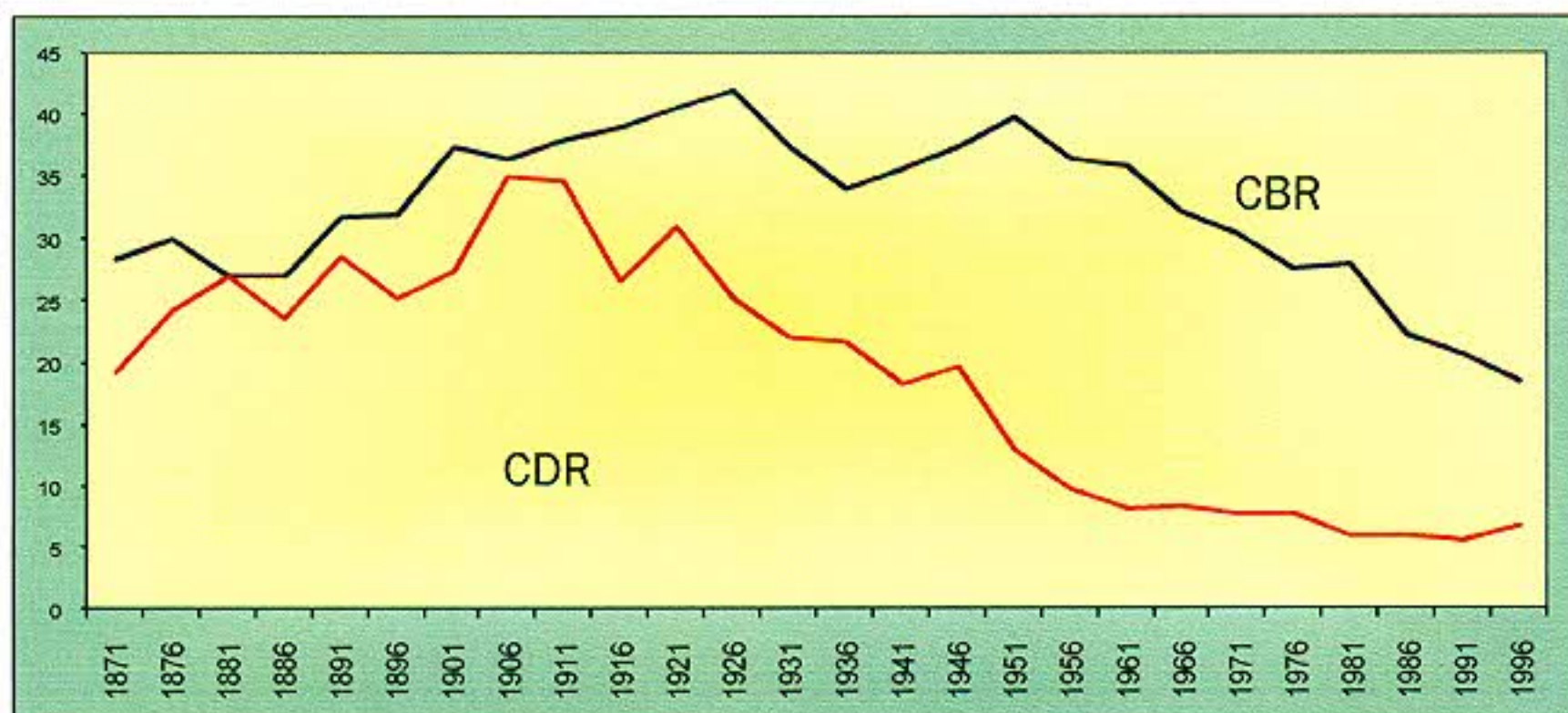
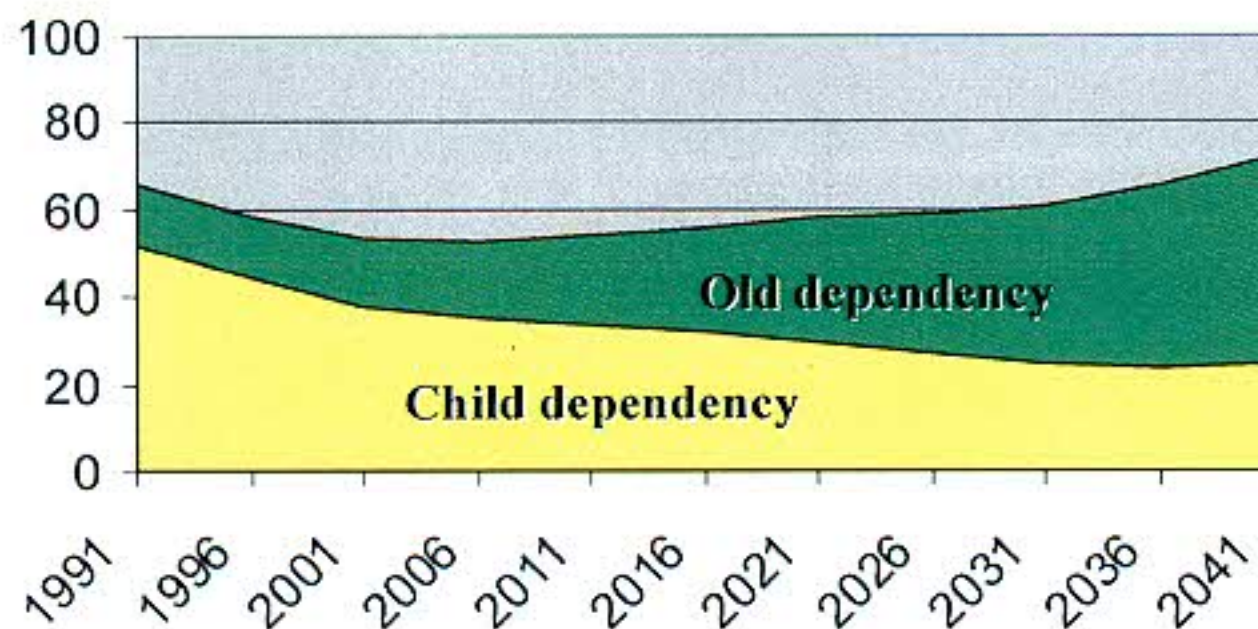


Population Age 60 and Over (in millions), Sri Lanka, 1991-2021

### Population Growth and Size 1991-96 to 2036-41



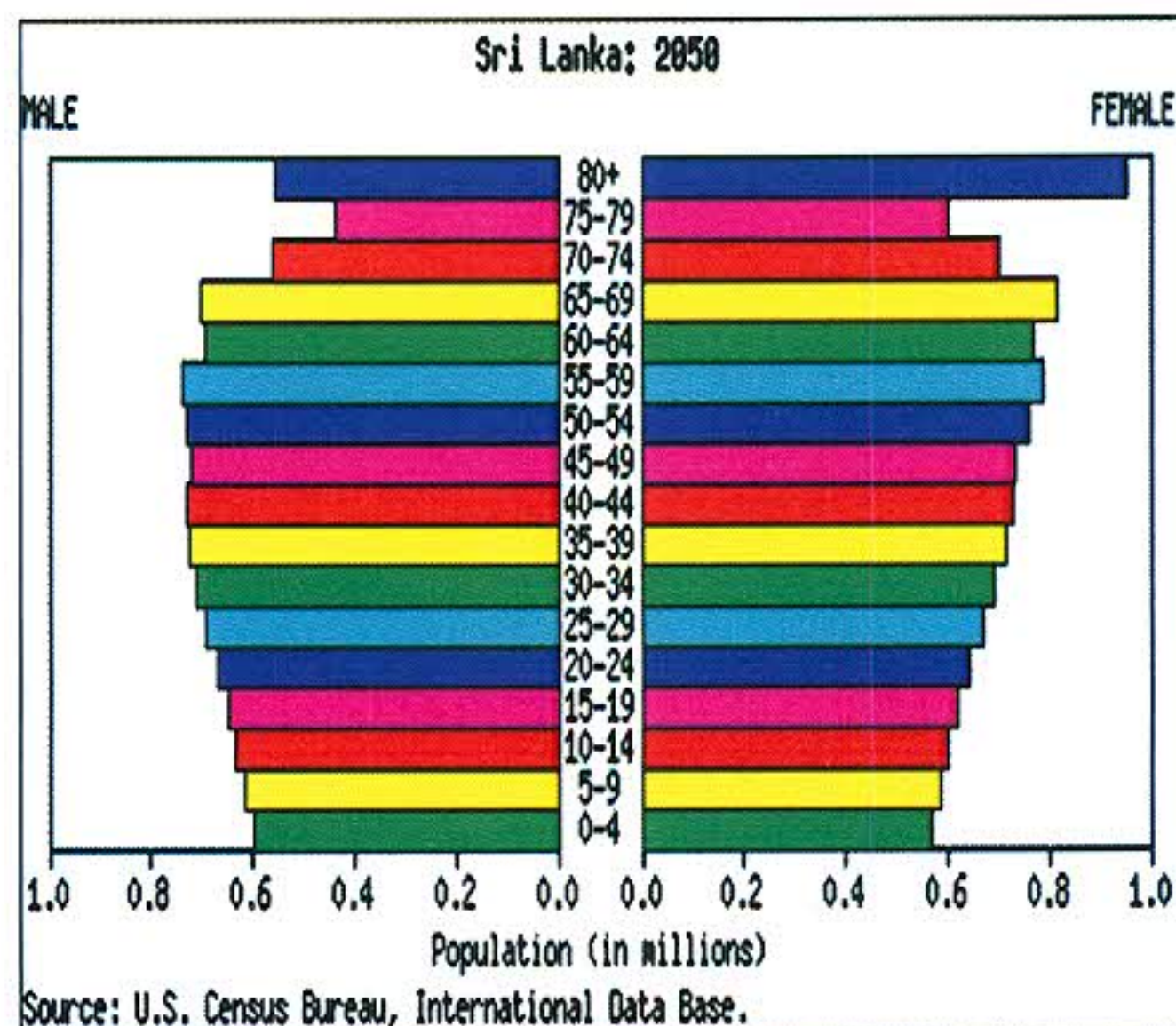
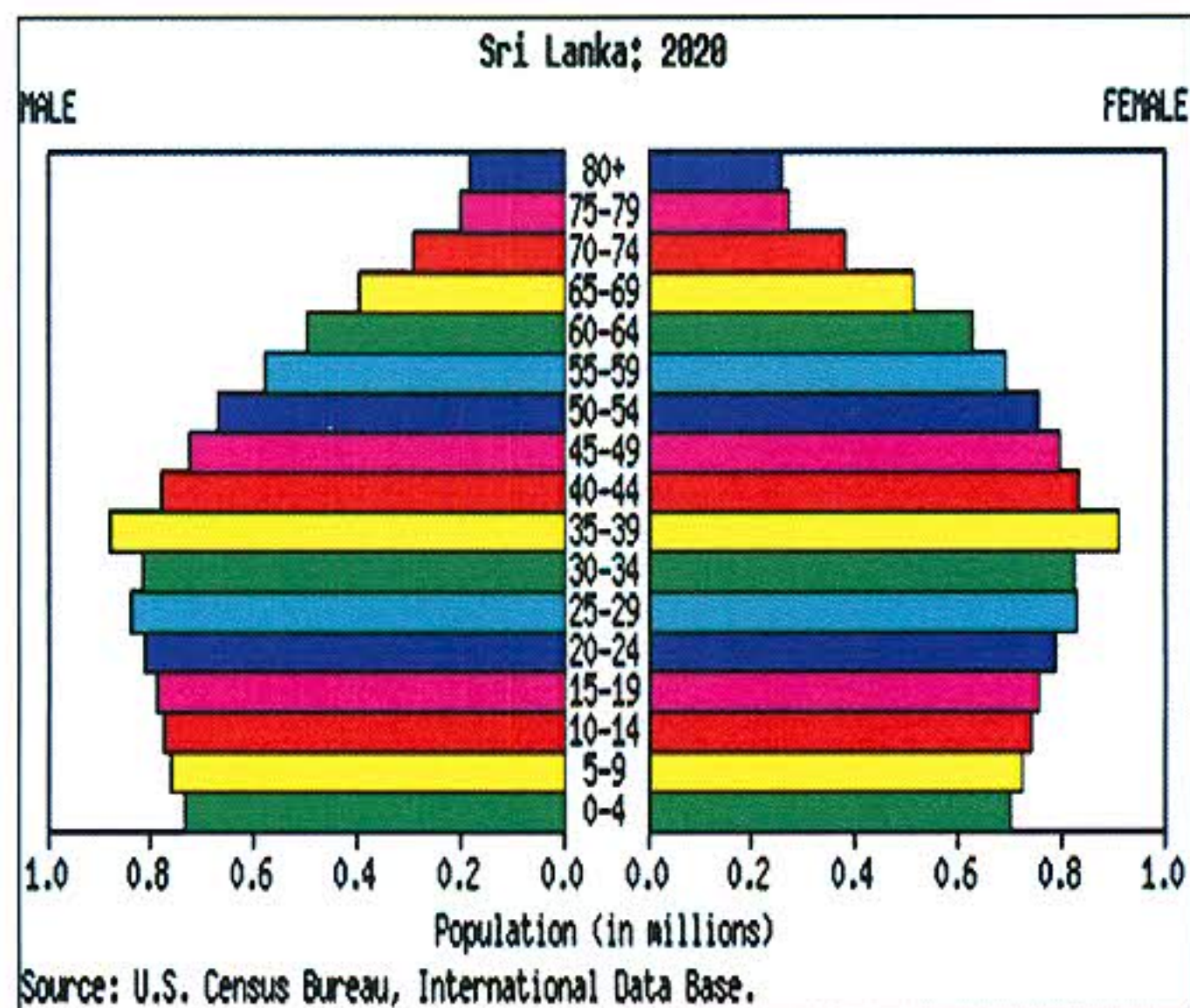
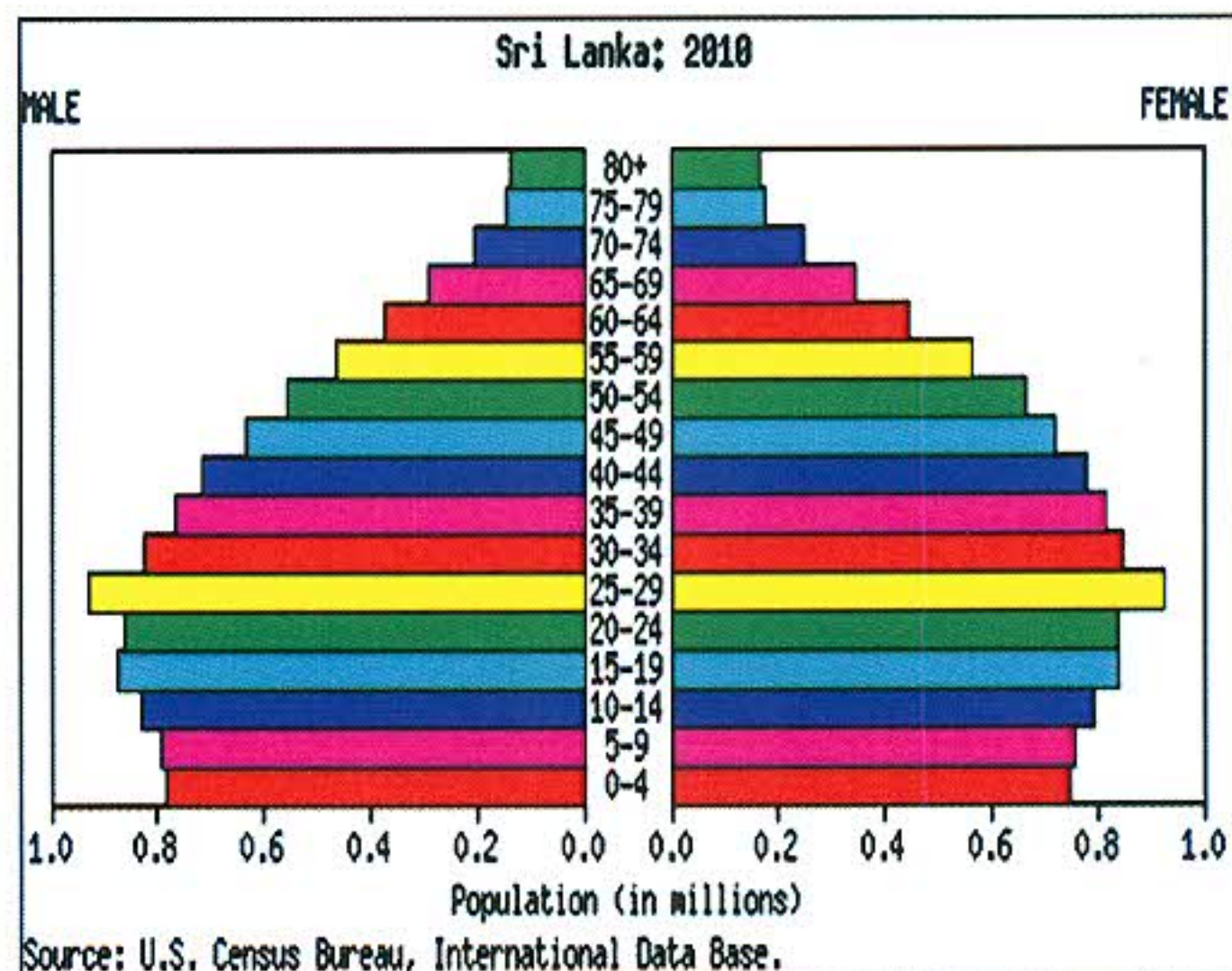
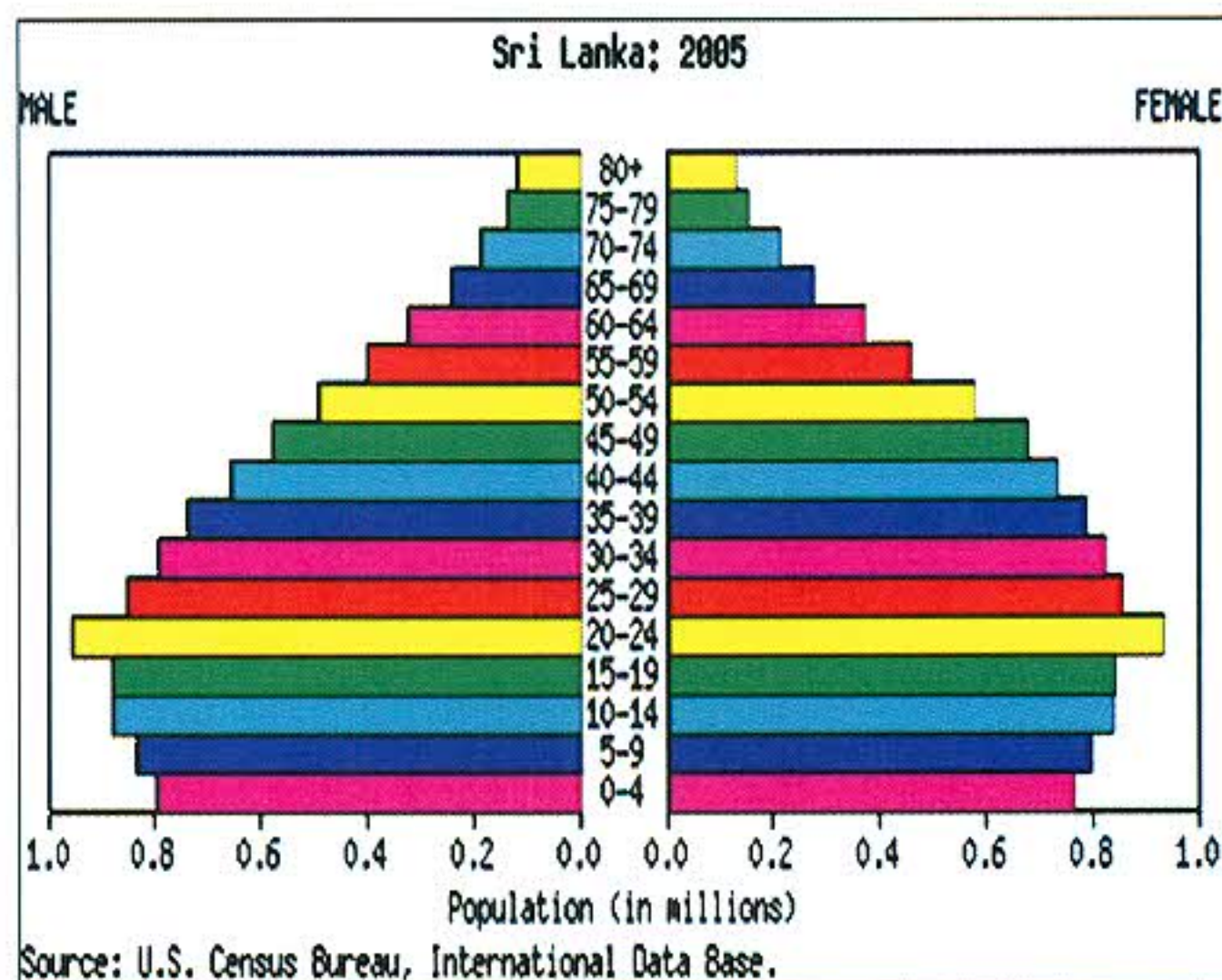
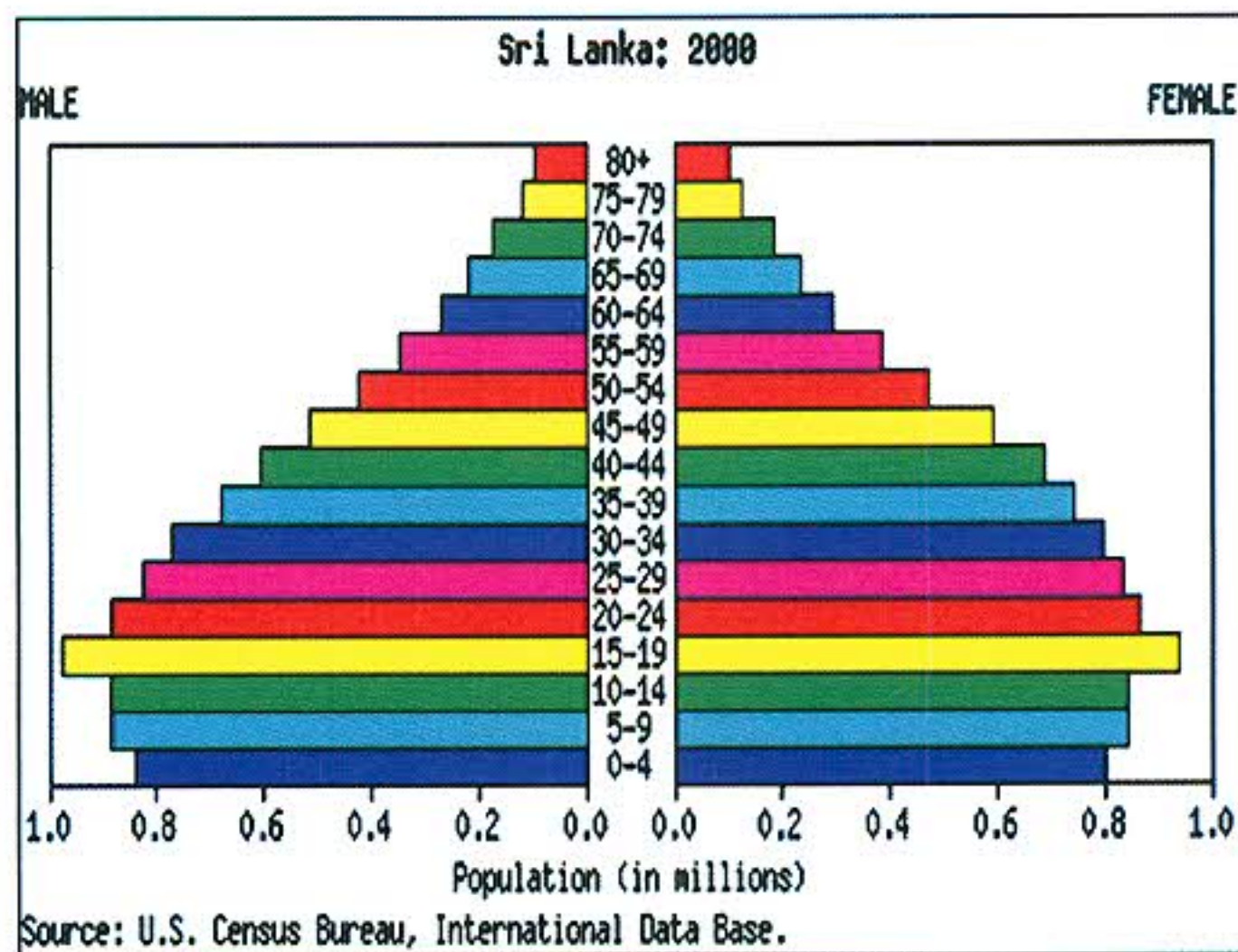
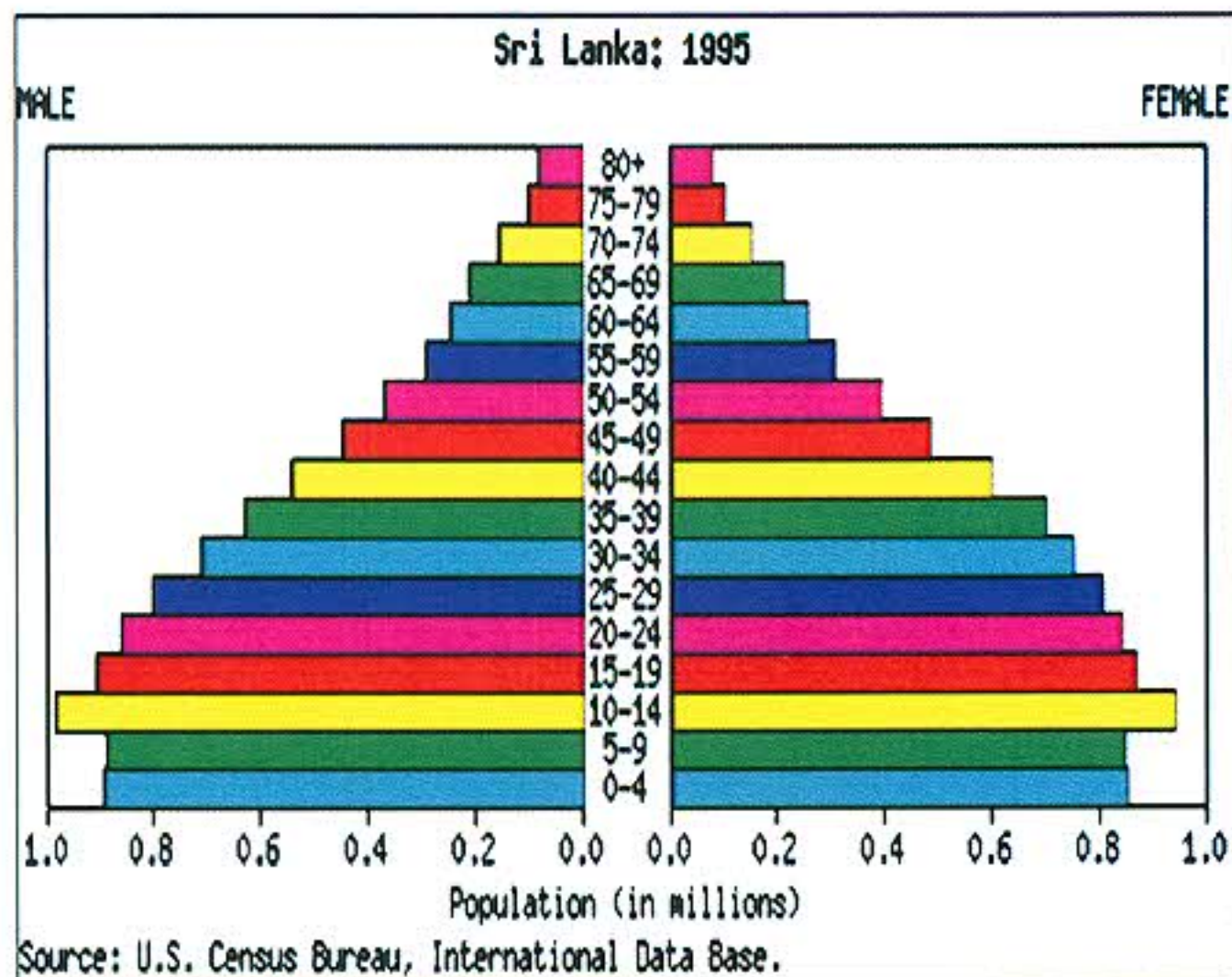
Projected Changes in Young and Old-Age Dependency Ratio, 1991 to 2041 (Standard Projection)



### Inside this issue:

Epidemiological Transition due to growing elderly population	1
Projected contrast in the age structure	2
Legislations & Policies in Sri Lanka	3
National Council for elders	3
National Secretariat for elders	3
National Policy on Elders	4
Draft National Action Plan for elders	5
National Survey on Elders 2003–2004	5
Programmes & activities conducted by the Ministry of Social Services	6
Helpage Sri Lanka	10
NGO Forum on Ageing (NFOA)	11
Regional Consultation on a strategic framework for active healthy ageing	11
Age Friendly Primary Health Care	12
Age Friendly City	13

Projected Contrast in the Age structure of the population from 1995 to 2050 (Standard Projection)



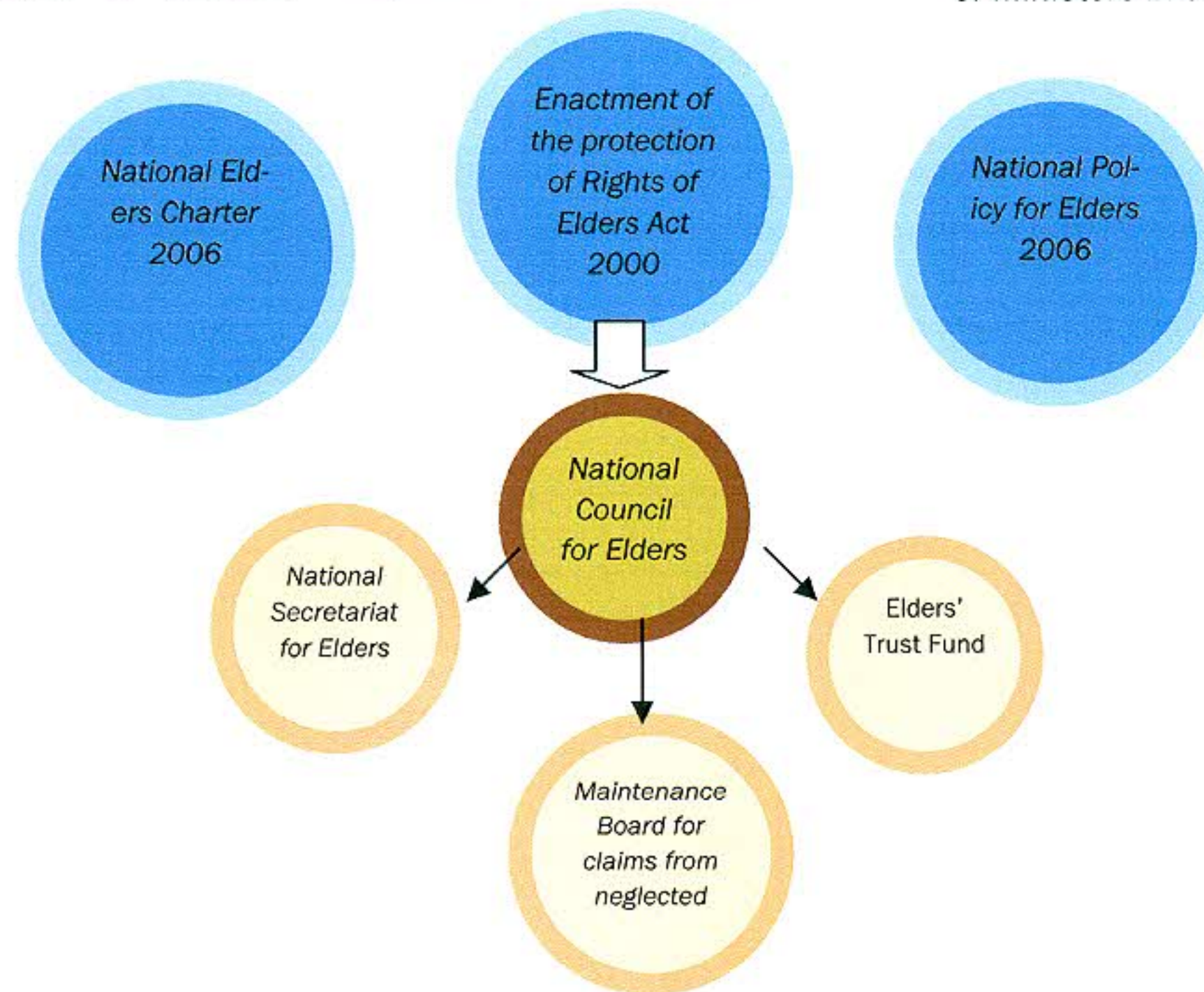
## Legislations & Policies in Sri Lanka

The current proportion of the elderly in the population (persons aged 60 years or above) is above 9 percent and is increasing. Knowing this trend the government has taken steps to ensure the adequacy, timeliness and efficacy of policies,

programs and services that affect the elderly. Establishment of a National secretariat for Elders in the Department of Social Services and enactment by the parliament of Act No 9 of 2000 for the protection of the rights of Elders are significant landmarks. By this

Act, the National council for elders was established for the promotion and protection of the welfare and the rights of Elders.

In addition the The National Charter and National Policy for Elders has been adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers in the year 2006.



### National Council for Elders

Provision of services for the elders is not limited to one institution. Public sector agencies such as Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Plan Implementation, Non

Governmental Organizations, Private Sector, Organizations of elders are key partners in this regard. The composition of the National Council for elders is a good example for inter-sector collaborations

where all the mentioned parties as well as elderly persons are represented. In addition World Health Organisation (WHO) & UN-FPA are also observers at the National Council.

### National Secretariat for Elders

#### Mission

*To encourage participation of older persons on social development and to ensure their independence, care, participation, self fulfillment, dignity and to protect the rights of elders through awareness programmes.*

