

# China

## Human Capital Index 2020

This brief provides an update to the Human Capital Index (HCI). First launched in 2018, the HCI measures the amount of human capital that a child born today can expect to attain by age 18. It conveys the productivity of the next generation of workers compared to a benchmark of complete education and full health. Worldwide a child born in 2020 can expect, on average, to be 56 percent as productive as she could be when she grows up. All data represent the status of countries pre-COVID-19.

### THE HUMAN CAPITAL INDEX

**Human Capital Index.** A child born in China today will be **65 percent** as productive when she grows up as she could be if she enjoyed complete education and full health. This is higher than the average for East Asia & Pacific region and Upper middle income countries.

- **Probability of Survival to Age 5.** 99 out of 100 children born in China survive to age 5.
- **Expected Years of School.** In China, a child who starts school at age 4 can expect to complete **13.1 years** of school by her 18th birthday.
- **Harmonized Test Scores.** Students in China score **441** on a scale where 625 represents advanced attainment and 300 represents minimum attainment.
- **Learning-adjusted Years of School.** Factoring in what children actually learn, expected years of school is only **9.3 years**.
- **Adult Survival Rate.** Across China, **92 percent** of 15-year olds will survive until age 60. This statistic is a proxy for the range of health risks that a child born today would experience as an adult under current conditions.
- **Healthy Growth (Not Stunted Rate).** 92 out of 100 children are **not** stunted. 8 out of 100 children are stunted, and so are at risk of cognitive and physical limitations that can last a lifetime.

### DIFFERENCES IN HCI ACROSS GENDER AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS

In China, the HCI for girls is higher than for boys. Table 1 shows gender disaggregation for each of the HCI components.

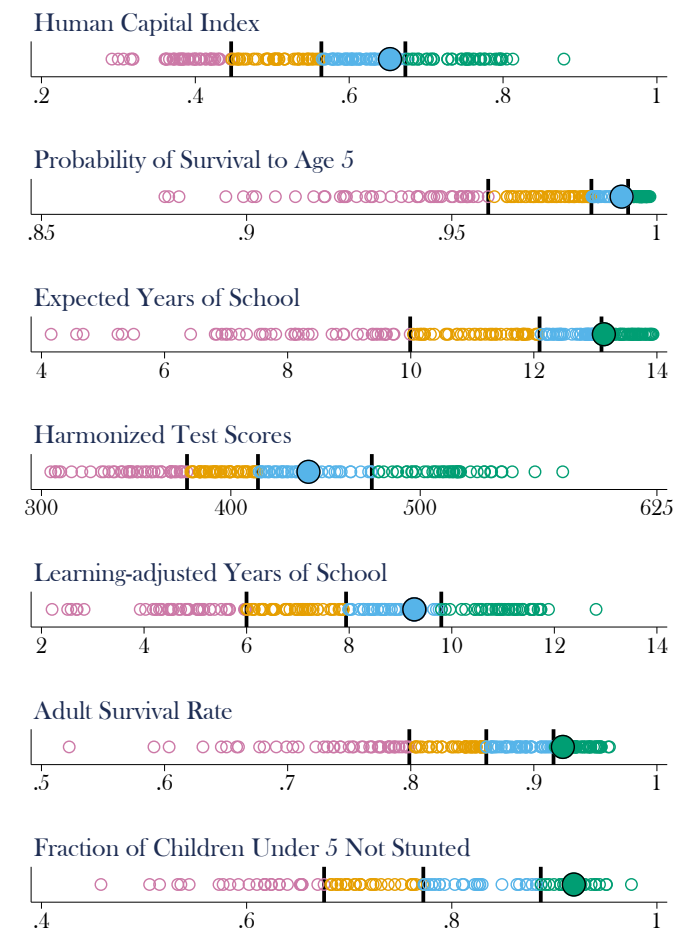
In China, there are not sufficient data to disaggregate HCI by socio-economic groups.

**Table 1. HCI by Gender and Socio-economic Group**

Component	Boys	Girls	Overall
HCI	0.65	0.66	0.65
Survival to Age 5	0.99	0.99	0.99
Expected Years of School	13.1	13.2	13.1
Harmonized Test Scores	441	441	441
Learning-adjusted Years of School	9.2	9.3	9.3
Adult Survival Rate	0.91	0.94	0.92
Not Stunted Rate	0.92	0.92	0.92
HCI Ratio (richest / poorest 20 percent)			-

For more on socioeconomic disaggregated HCI, please visit <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/human-capital/brief/insights-from-disaggregating-the-human-capital-index>

**Figure 1. HCI and Components**



Note:

- Large circle represents China
- Small circles represent other countries
- Lines and color of circles indicate quartiles of the distribution