

United States

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 the United States today will be **70 percent** as productive when she grows up as she could be if she enjoyed complete education and full health. This is lower than the average for North America region but slightly lower than the average for High income countries. Between 2010 and 2020, the HCI value for the United States increased from 0.69 to 0.70. Figure 1 shows how the HCI and each of the components evolved over time.

- **Probability of Survival to Age 5.** 99 out of 100 children born in the United States survive to age 5.
- **Expected Years of School.** In the United States, a child who starts school at age 4 can expect to complete **12.9 years** of school by her 18th birthday.
- **Harmonized Test Scores.** Students in the United States score **512** 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 **10.6 years**.
- **Adult Survival Rate.** Across the United States, **89 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).** Data on stunting are not available for the United States.

DIFFERENCES IN HCI ACROSS GENDER AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS

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

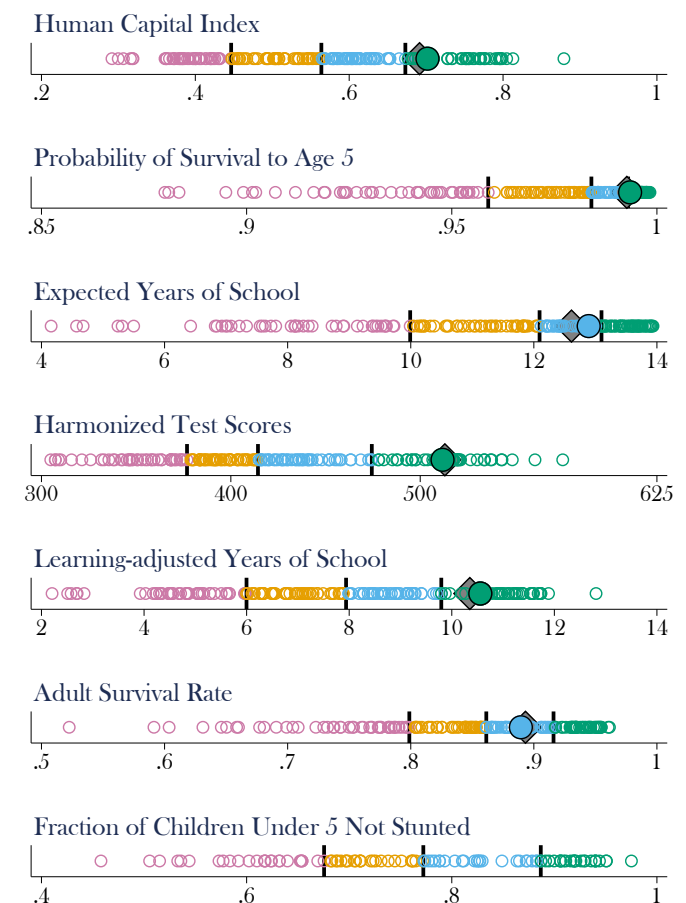
In the United States, there are not sufficient data to disaggregate HCI by socio-economic groups.

Table 1. HCI by Gender and Socio-economic Group

Component	Boys	Girls	Overall
HCI	0.68	0.72	0.70
Survival to Age 5	0.99	0.99	0.99
Expected Years of School	12.8	12.9	12.9
Harmonized Test Scores	510	514	512
Learning-adjusted Years of School	10.5	10.6	10.6
Adult Survival Rate	0.86	0.92	0.89
Not Stunted Rate	-	-	-
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 United States in 2020
- Diamond represents United States in 2010
- Small circles represent other countries
- Lines and color of circles indicate quartiles of the distribution