VIETNAM

Region: East Asia and Pacific
Income Category: Lower Middle Income

Human capital – knowledge, skills, and good health – empowers people to achieve their potential and drives economic growth. This brief tracks progress by Vietnam in building and using human capital. This page presents the Human Capital Index (HCI), its components parts, and relevant benchmarks. The HCI quantifies how underinvestment in education and health for today's children reduces future incomes. Data are the most recently available as of 2020. The back page presents a set of Human Capital Complementary Indicators (HCCI) that shows progress at each stage of the lifecycle.

THE HUMAN CAPITAL INDEX

A child born in Vietnam will be **69%** 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 the East Asia & Pacific region (59%) and Lower Middle Income countries (48%).

THE HUMAN CAPITAL INDEX COMPONENTS

- **Probability of Survival to Age 5.** Of every 100 children born in Vietnam, **98** survive to age 5.

- **Expected Years of School.** In Vietnam, a child who starts school at age 4 can expect to complete **12.9** years of school by her 18th birthday.

- **Learning-Adjusted Years of School.** Factoring in what children actually learn, expected years of school is **10.7** years.

- **Average Harmonized Test Scores.** Students in Vietnam score **519** on a scale where 625 represents advanced attainment and 300 represents minimum attainment.

- **Adult Survival Rate.** Across Vietnam, **87%** of 15-year-olds survive until age 60.

- **Fraction of Children Under 5 Not Stunted.** Approximately **76** out of 100 children are not stunted. This means that **24** out of 100 children are at risk of cognitive and physical limitations that can last a lifetime.
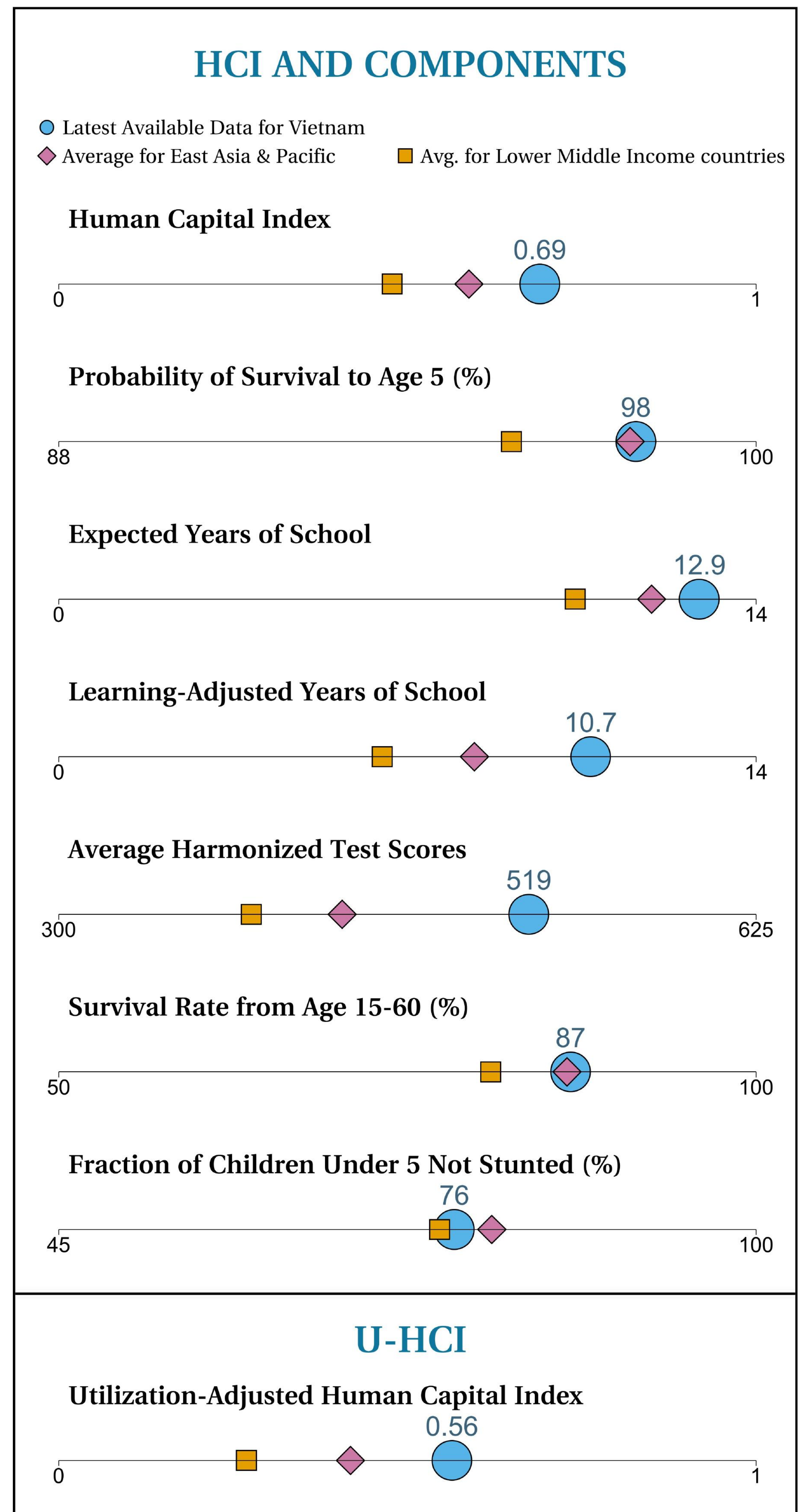
UTILIZATION-ADJUSTED HUMAN CAPITAL INDEX

The Utilization-adjusted Human Capital Index (U-HCI) scales down the HCI by taking into account how many adults are not employed. The U-HCI for Vietnam is **0.56**. Thus, children born today will be 56% as productive in adulthood as they could have been if they had access to full health and education, and they became fully employed adults. The U-HCI for boys is even lower at 0.56.

Gender differences in Human Capital and Utilization

	Boys	Girls	Overall
Human Capital Index	0.65	0.73	0.69
Utilization-Adjusted HCI	0.56	0.57	0.56

Note: - represents no internationally comparable data available.

HCI AND COMPONENTS

- Latest Available Data for Vietnam
- Average for East Asia & Pacific
- Avg. for Lower Middle Income countries

Human Capital Index

0.69 (scale 0 to 1)

Probability of Survival to Age 5 (%)

98 (scale 88 to 100)

Expected Years of School

12.9 (scale 0 to 14)

Learning-Adjusted Years of School

10.7 (scale 0 to 14)

Average Harmonized Test Scores

519 (scale 300 to 625)

Survival Rate from Age 15-60 (%)

87 (scale 50 to 100)

Fraction of Children Under 5 Not Stunted (%)

76 (scale 45 to 100)

U-HCI

Utilization-Adjusted Human Capital Index

0.56 (scale 0 to 1)

Note: Missing symbols indicate internationally comparable data are not available to generate the corresponding statistic.

The Human Capital Complementary Indicators (HCCIs) offer a snapshot of human capital investments at four stages of the lifecycle. The figures show the latest available data, benchmarked against regional averages. The figures also report progress over the previous 5 years.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- **Neonatal mortality rate.** The neonatal mortality rate is **11** per 1,000 live births (2021). This remains unchanged since 2016. The indicator is higher than the regional average.

- **Children who are developmentally on track.** In 2021, **78%** of children (ages 24-59 months) were developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being. The indicator is below the regional average.

- **DTP vaccination rate, third dose.** In 2022, **91%** of infants received the third dose of the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine, compared to 94% in 2017. The indicator is higher than the regional average.
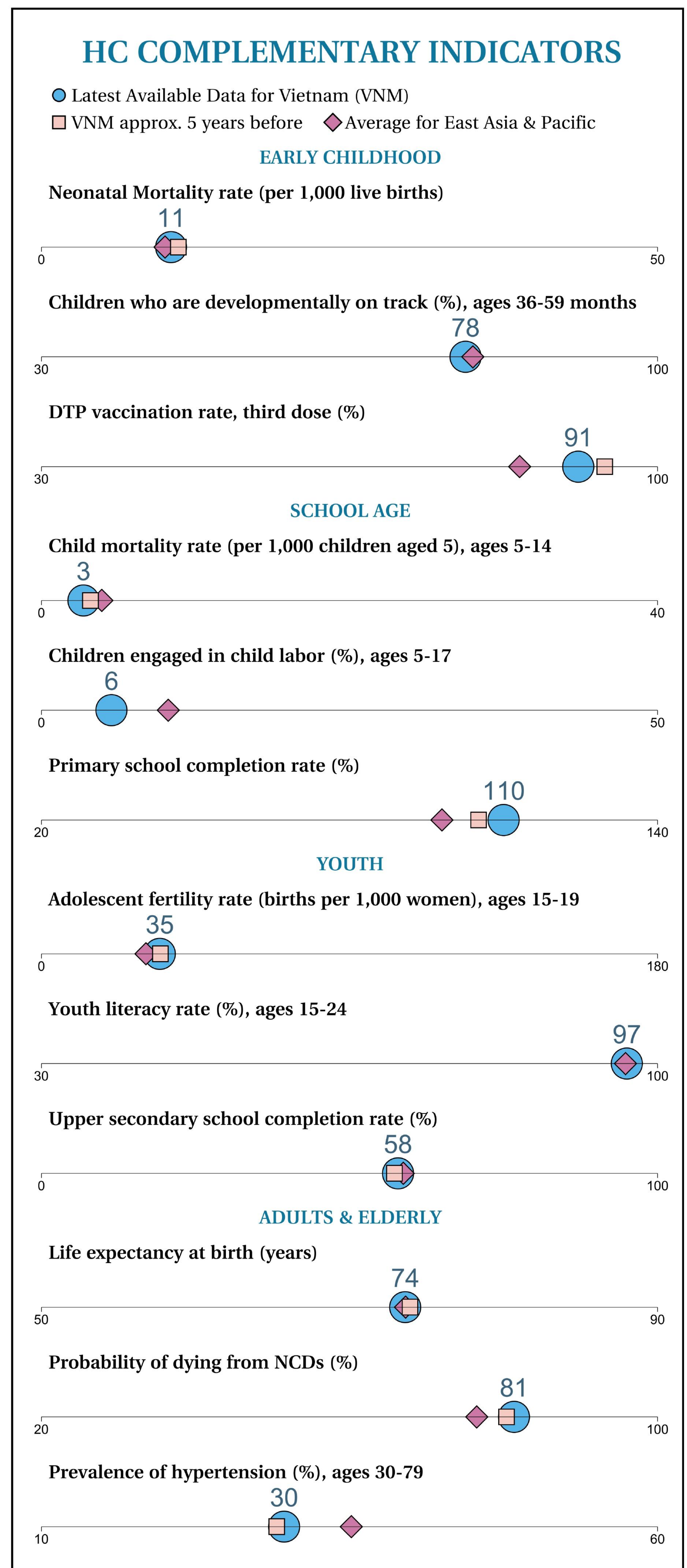
SCHOOL AGE

- **Child mortality rate.** The mortality rate for children ages 5-14 is **3** per 1,000 children aged 5 (2021). This remains unchanged since 2016. The indicator is lower than the regional average.

- **Children engaged in child labor.** The share of children (ages 5-17) who are engaged in economic activities is **6%** (2021). The indicator is below the regional average.

- **Primary school completion rate.** The primary school completion rate at the official entrance age of the last grade of that level is **110%** (2018), compared to 105% in 2015. The indicator is higher than the regional average.

YOUTH

- **Adolescent fertility rate.** The number of births for every 1,000 women ages 15-19 is **35** (2021). This remains unchanged since 2016. The indicator is higher than the regional average.

- **Youth literacy rate.** The share of youth (ages 15-24) who are literate is **97%** (2020). The indicator is above the regional average.

- **Upper secondary school completion rate.** The upper-secondary completion rate at ages 3-5 years above the intended age for the last grade of that level is **58%** (2021), compared to 57% in 2016. The indicator is lower than the regional average.

ADULTS & ELDERLY

- **Life expectancy at birth.** Life expectancy at birth is **74** years (2021). This remains unchanged since 2016. The indicator is similar to the regional average.

- **Probability of dying from NCDs.** The probability of dying from non-communicable diseases between the ages of 30 to 70 is **81%** (2019), compared to 80% in 2015. The indicator is above the regional average.

- **Prevalence of hypertension.** The prevalence of hypertension among people ages 30-79 is **30%** (2019), compared to 29% in 2015. The indicator is lower than the regional average.

HC COMPLEMENTARY INDICATORS

- ● Latest Available Data for Vietnam (VNM)
- □ VNM approx. 5 years before ◆ Average for East Asia & Pacific

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Neonatal Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)
11
0 — 50

Children who are developmentally on track (%), ages 36-59 months
78
30 — 100

DTP vaccination rate, third dose (%)
91
30 — 100

SCHOOL AGE

Child mortality rate (per 1,000 children aged 5), ages 5-14
3
0 — 40

Children engaged in child labor (%), ages 5-17
6
0 — 50

Primary school completion rate (%)
110
20 — 140

YOUTH

Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women), ages 15-19
35
0 — 180

Youth literacy rate (%), ages 15-24
97
30 — 100

Upper secondary school completion rate (%)
58
0 — 100

ADULTS & ELDERLY

Life expectancy at birth (years)
74
50 — 90

Probability of dying from NCDs (%)
81
20 — 100

Prevalence of hypertension (%), ages 30-79
30
10 — 60

Note: Missing symbols indicate internationally comparable data are not available to generate the corresponding statistic.