West Bengal has a lot of ground to cover on health and education. While on average, West Bengal’s rates of infant mortality, malnutrition and open defecation are lower than in other Indian states, the state’s low income households record a high incidence of malnutrition and open defecation. On education, only one in four of the state’s adults have completed secondary school - among the lowest rates of secondary school completion in the country. On the positive side, the younger generation is staying longer in school, learning outcomes have improved, and today, these outcomes rank above the national average. A large majority of West Bengal’s children attend public schools.

Infant mortality is declining in West Bengal

Infant mortality is lower than in many other states

Low Income States are highlighted in orange, AI is All India.
Malnutrition in West Bengal is below the national average

*Stunting in children <5 years, 2014 (%)*

Low Income States are highlighted in orange, AI is All India.

More malnutrition among the low income groups in West Bengal

*Stunting in children <5 years, 2006 (%)*

Latest stunting data by wealth class available for 2006.
Open defecation in West Bengal is lower than in many other states

*Households practicing open defecation, 2012 (%)*

Low Income States are highlighted in orange, AI is All India.

More open defecation among the low income groups in West Bengal

*Households practicing open defecation, 2012(%)*
Secondary school completion among adults in West Bengal is among the lowest in the country

Secondary education attainment, 2012 (% adults)

Low Income States are highlighted in orange, AI is All India.

There are gains in schooling for the young in West Bengal

Education attainment, (% age 18-30)  Enrollment by age cohort, (%)

Iliterate  Literate or primary school completed  Middle completed  Secondary and above

Age

2005  2012

June 20, 2017
Enrollment in public schools is high in West Bengal in comparison to other Indian states

Enrollment in public educational institutes, 2012 (%)

Low income States are highlighted in orange, AI is All India.

Enrollment in public schools is high across income levels in West Bengal

Enrollment in public educational institutes, 2012 (%)

2005 2012
Learning outcomes of children in West Bengal is higher than the national average

*Children in Std V who can read Std II level text*, 2014 (%)

Low Income States are highlighted in orange, AI is All India.

Learning outcomes have increased, albeit marginally, in West Bengal after 2012

*Children in Std V who can read Std II level text*, (%)

*Data on learning outcomes available for rural areas only.*