Tamil Nadu has recorded mixed progress on health and education. Infant mortality is among the lowest in the country and is declining. Malnutrition is low for most households compared to the national average. Open defecation, on the other hand, is high, especially among low income households. On education, Tamil Nadu has made significant progress. Today, children in the state are staying longer in school, and learning outcomes have improved since 2013. In addition, the share of adults with secondary schooling is above the national average. Regarding school enrollment, the percentage of children in public schools is close to the national average, while private schools are typically attended by children from rich families.

Infant mortality is declining in Tamil Nadu

Infant mortality is lower than in most other states in India
Malnutrition in Tamil Nadu is among the lowest in the country

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

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

Malnutrition is below the national average across all income groups in Tamil Nadu

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

Latest stunting data by wealth class available for 2006.
Open defecation in Tamil Nadu is close to the national average

*Households practicing open defecation, 2012 (%)*

Low Income States are highlighted in orange, All India.

Open defecation is higher among the less well-off than the rich in Tamil Nadu

*Households practicing open defecation, 2012 (%)*
The share of adults with secondary school education in Tamil Nadu is higher than the national average

Secondary education attainment, 2012 (% adults)

Significant improvement in secondary school attainment in Tamil Nadu after 2005

Education attainment, (% age 18-30)

Enrollment by age cohort, (%)
Public school enrollment in Tamil Nadu is just below the national average

Children from low income families typically attend public school in Tamil Nadu
Learning outcomes of children in Tamil Nadu are similar to 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.

Since 2013, learning outcomes have improved in Tamil Nadu

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

*Data on learning outcomes available for rural areas only.