HEALTH STATUS OF OLDER PERSONS
The Population and Housing Census 2019

VERY HIGH PREVALENCE OF FUNCTIONAL DIFFICULTY

Although decreasing over time, the proportion of older persons who had difficulty in performing at least one function was MUCH HIGHER than that of other younger age groups.

COMMON DIFFICULTIES
The proportions of older persons having difficulty in seeing, hearing, and walking increased at more advanced ages.

15% of older persons had difficulty in self-care and would require long-term care.

DISABILITIES
The proportions of older persons finding it "very difficult to perform" or "cannot perform" at least one function:

1 IN 2 older person in oldest-old group (80+) had disabilities in at least one function.
In 2009–2019 period, the differences between groups in the same category tended to decrease. However, there were significant differences in terms of gender, ethnicity and residential area, in which men, Kinh persons and urban persons had lower prevalences of difficulty than their respective counterparts. Rural older persons had higher prevalence of difficulty than their urban counterparts in all functions. The proportions of having disability in at least one function is much higher among female older persons:

1 in 5 female older persons had difficulty in walking while that ratio is only 1 in 7 among their male counterparts.

### POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The prevalences of disabilities and difficulties in functional performance, remembering or concentrating and self-care provided various implications for designing and implementing policies in providing care services to older persons. Among them, those who have severe difficulties in performing their basic functions should be prioritized in care.