

WUENIC Talking Points: Bulgaria 🇧🇬

Revision Year: 2025

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Bulgaria in the 'Europe' region



Overview

- A total of 13 childhood vaccines are tracked for Bulgaria; of these, 5 reached the 90% coverage target or higher in 2025.
- Coverage of the first dose of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis-containing vaccine (DTP1) increased from 96% in 2024 to 97% in 2025, coverage of the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine (DTP3) declined from 94% in 2024 to 92% in 2025, and coverage of the first dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) declined from 94% in 2024 to 88% in 2025.
- In 2025, the number of zero-dose children for DTP in Bulgaria (2,000) was approximately 1% higher than the annual number proposed to achieve the IA2030 target of halving zero-dose children for DTP by 2030 (2,000), based on a linear trajectory of decline.

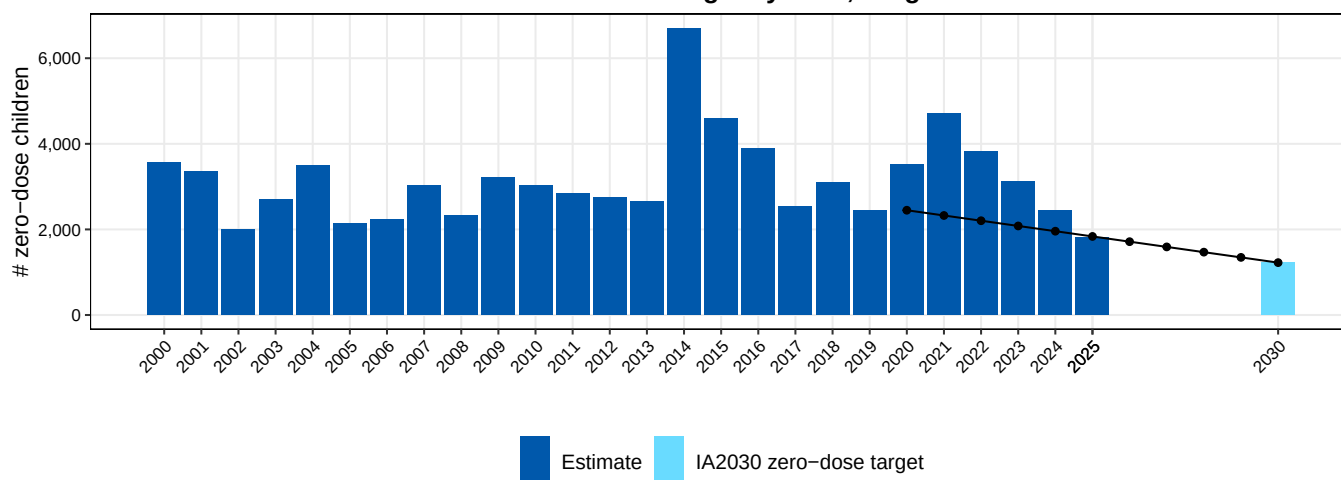
Vaccine coverage (%), Bulgaria, 2000–2025

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
BCG	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	97	97	97	96	96	96	96	96	97	97	96	97	97	86
HepBB	98	99	96	98	98	99	99	98	98	98	98	99	98	98	98	97	96	97	96	98	98	97	97	97	98	87
DTP1	95	95	97	96	95	97	97	96	97	96	96	96	96	96	90	93	94	96	95	96	94	92	94	95	96	97
DTP3	93	94	93	96	95	96	95	95	95	94	94	95	95	95	88	91	92	92	92	93	91	89	91	92	94	92
Hib3											91	95	95	95	83	87	92	92	92	92	91	89	91	92	94	90
HepB3	94	93	88	96	94	96	96	95	96	96	95	96	95	95	95	92	91	92	85	93	91	89	91	92	94	89
PCVC											69	94	94	94	92	90	90	91	89	88	85	86	87	87	91	86
RotaC																			31	39	45	46	48	49	50	61
IPV1																93	94	96	95	96	94	92	94	95	96	97
IPVC																					89	91	92	94	92	
MCV1	89	90	92	96	95	96	96	96	96	96	97	95	94	95	93	92	92	94	93	95	88	89	91	92	94	88
RCV1	89	90	92	96	95	96	96	96	96	96	97	95	94	95	93	92	92	94	93	95	88	89	91	92	94	88
MCV2	83	85	79	89	91	92	93	94	94	93	96	94	94	94	89	87	88	92	87	95	84	86	87	87	91	82
HPVc															21	14	4	3	3	5	4	2	2	3	4	9



Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

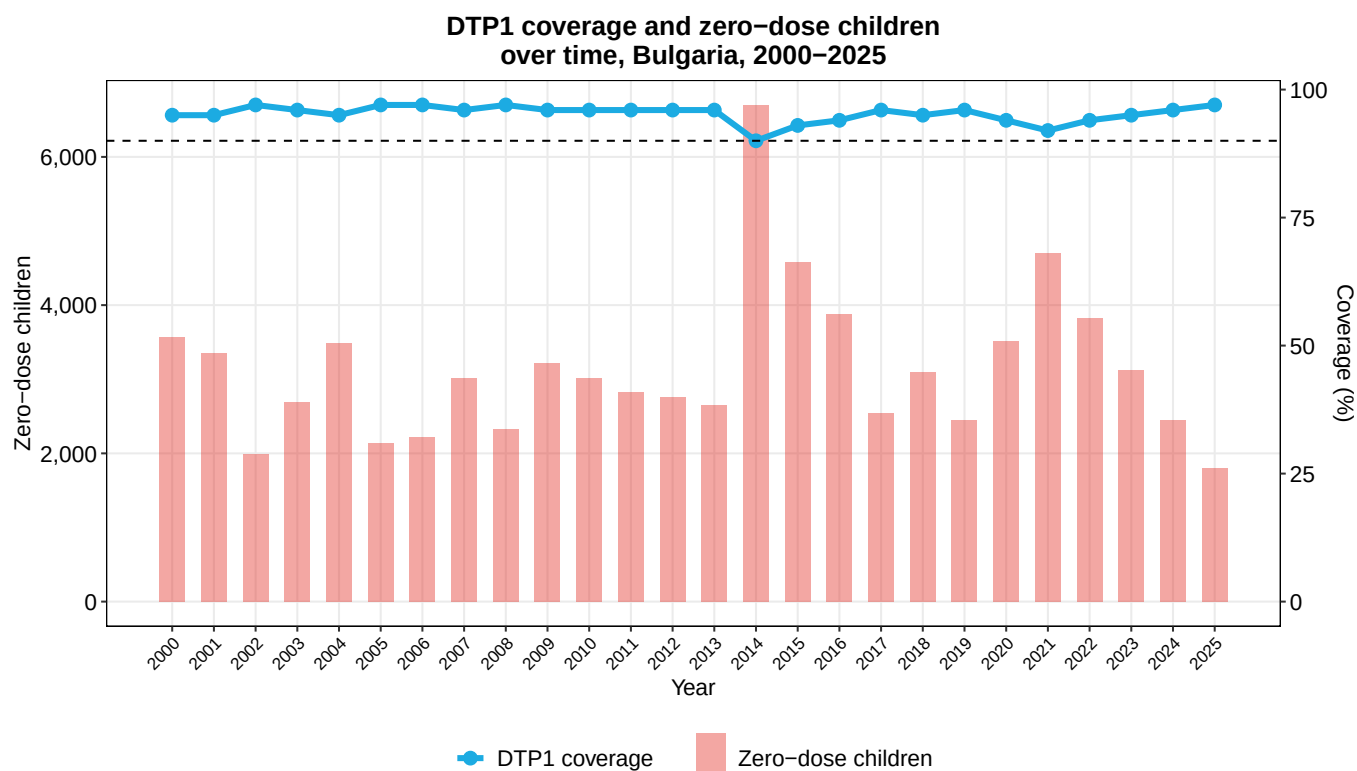
Estimated number of zero-dose children, 2000–2025 and target by 2030, Bulgaria



Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.
 Note: The Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) calls on all countries to reduce the number of zero-dose children in 2019 in half by 2030.
 Dark blue bars are the estimated number of zero-dose children in 2000–2025, light blue bar is the target number of zero-dose children by 2030.
 The line and points show the yearly progress and trajectory to meet the target by 2030, based on a linear decline.

DTP1: Reaching zero-dose children

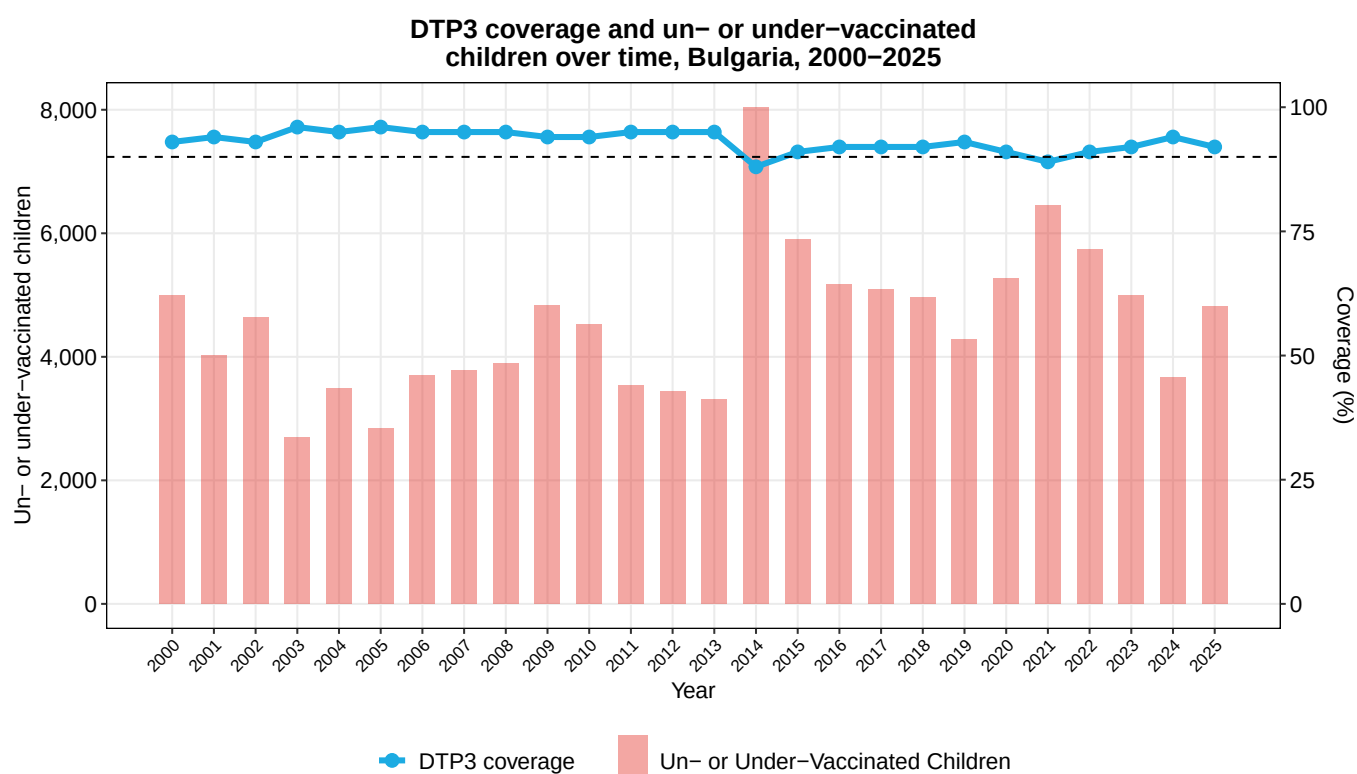
- Coverage of DTP1 stood at 97% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (96%) and higher than in 2024 (96%).
- The percentage of zero-dose children was 1 percentage points higher than the IA2030 target in 2025. There were approximately 2,000 zero-dose children in 2025, fewer than the 2,000 in 2019 and fewer than the 2,000 in 2024.
- Coverage of DTP1 in Bulgaria (97%) was higher than the Eastern Europe and Central Asia regional average of 90% in 2025.
- DTP1-to-DTP3 dropout in 2025 was 5%, 2 percentage points higher than in 2019 (3%). Medium DTP dropout rates imply moderate ability to provide a complete vaccine series early in life.



Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

DTP3: A marker of routine immunization service delivery to children

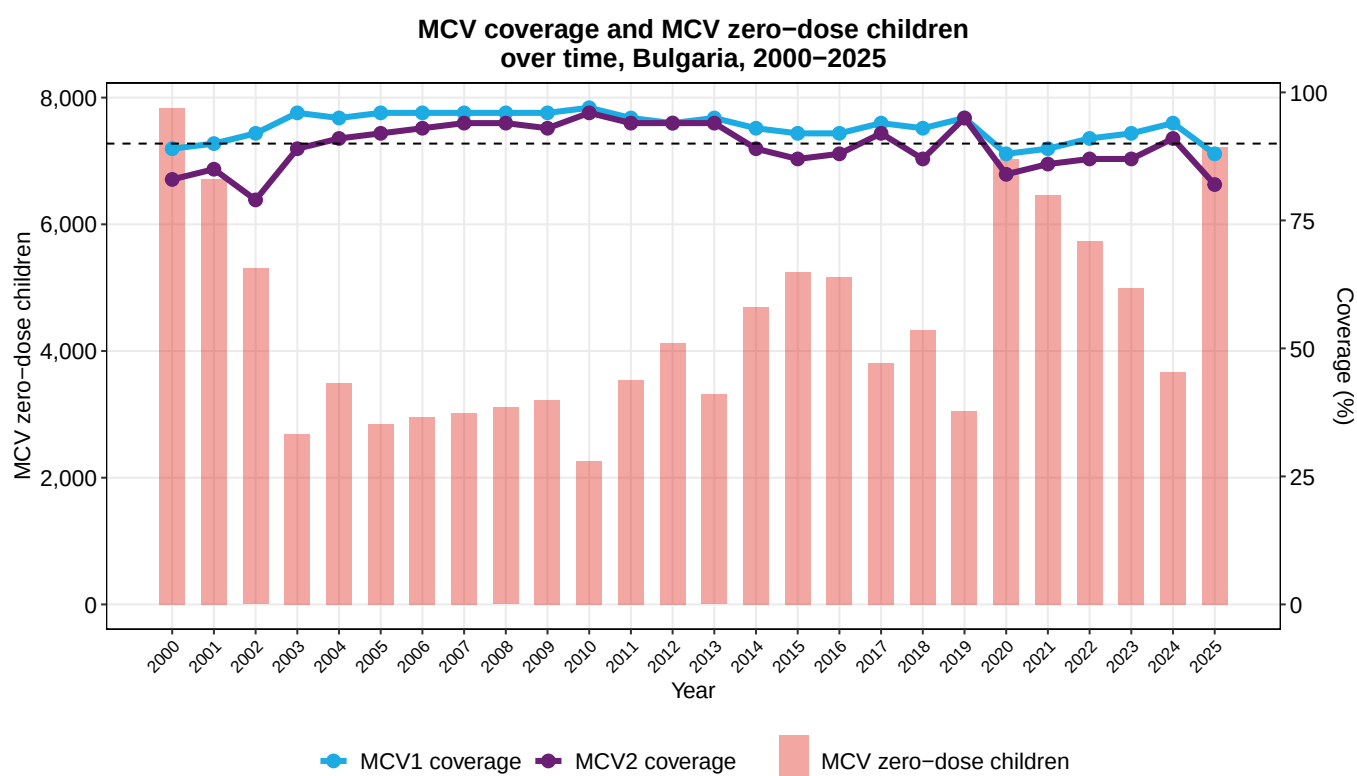
- Coverage of DTP3 stood at 92% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (93%) and lower than in 2024 (94%).
- The number of children vaccinated with DTP3 decreased from 57,000 in 2019 to 55,000 in 2025.
- In 2025, there were 5,000 children un- or under-vaccinated in Bulgaria.
- In 2025, 5% of children who received DTP1 did not receive DTP3. This 5% dropout rate was 2 percentage points higher than in 2019 (3%) and 3 percentage points higher than the 2024 dropout rate (2%).
- Coverage of DTP3 in Bulgaria (92%) was higher than the Eastern Europe and Central Asia regional average of 87% in 2025.



Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

MCV: Canary in the coal mine

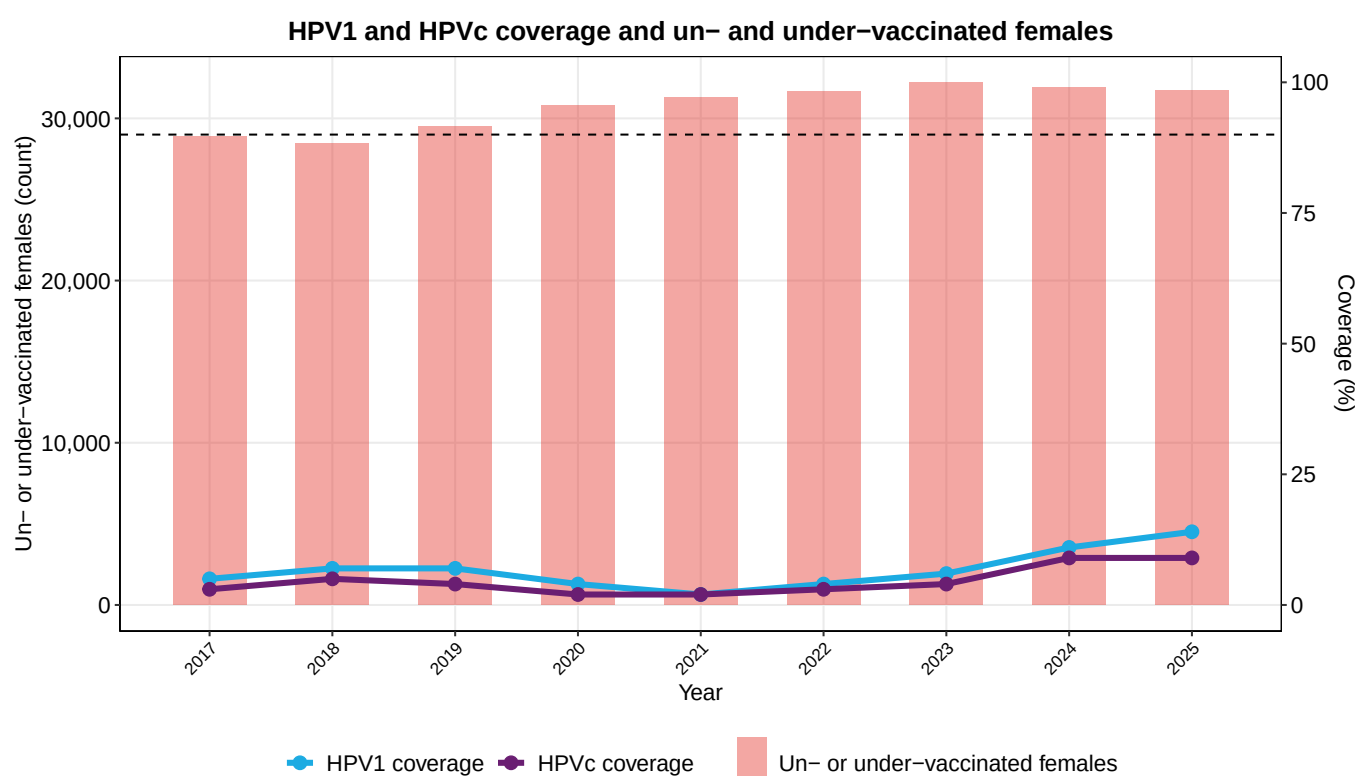
- Coverage of MCV1 stood at 88% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (95%) and lower than in 2024 (94%).
- Coverage of the second dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV2) decreased from 95% in 2019 to 82% in 2025. This leaves 7,000 children without any protection against measles and another 5,000 with only partial protection.
- In 2025, 9% of children who received DTP1 did not receive MCV1. This 9% dropout rate was 8 percentage points higher than in 2019 (1%) and 7 percentage points higher than the 2024 dropout rate (2%).
- Bulgaria has achieved MCV1 coverage above 80% over all of the last 3 years.
- Coverage of MCV1 in Bulgaria (88%) was the same as the Eastern Europe and Central Asia regional average of 88% in 2025.



Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
 Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

HPV

- Programme coverage of HPV1 among females increased from 11% to 14% between 2024 and 2025, while coverage of the last dose (HPVc) remained constant at 9%.
- HPVc coverage remains well below the IA2030 target of 90%.
- In 2025, approximately 30,000 females in Bulgaria did not receive any HPV vaccination (unvaccinated).
- Among Eastern Europe and Central Asia region peers, Bulgaria ranked 15 out of 18 countries in HPVc coverage in 2025.



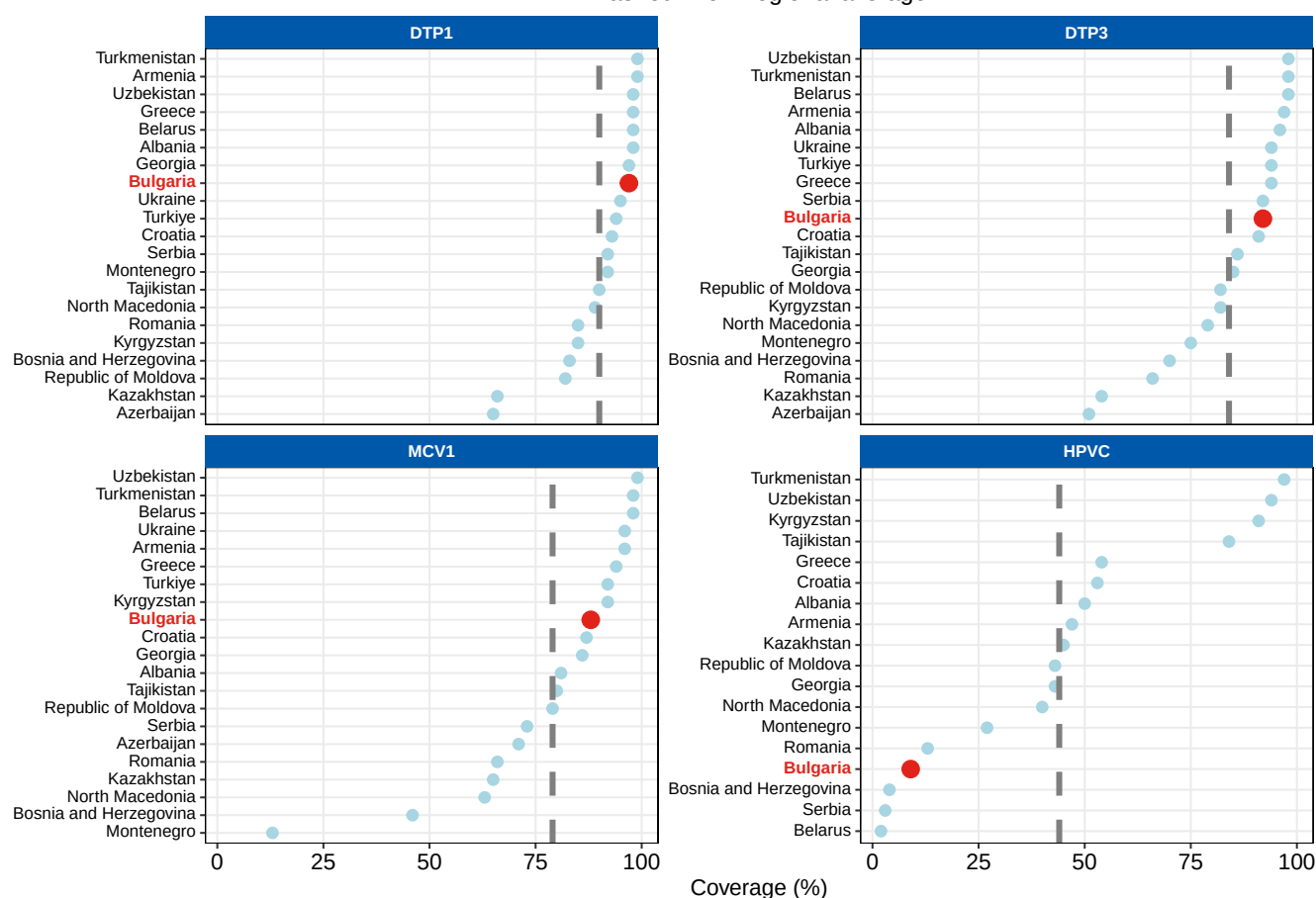
Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
 Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

Regional Comparison

The chart below shows how Bulgaria compares to other countries in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region on DTP1, DTP3, MCV1, and HPVc coverage in 2025. The dashed line represents the regional average for each vaccine.

Coverage comparison: Bulgaria vs. ECAR peers, 2025

Dashed line = regional average



Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

Additional Vaccines

- Coverage of BCG stood at 86% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (96%) and lower than in 2024 (97%).
- Coverage of HepB3 stood at 89% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (93%) and lower than in 2024 (94%).
- Coverage of Hib3 stood at 90% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (92%) and lower than in 2024 (94%).
- Coverage of IPV1 stood at 97% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (96%) and higher than in 2024 (96%).
- Coverage of PCVC stood at 86% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (88%) and lower than in 2024 (91%).
- Coverage of RotaC stood at 61% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (39%) and higher than in 2024 (50%).

Additional vaccine coverage (%), Bulgaria, 2000–2025

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
BCG	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	97	97	97	96	96	96	96	96	97	97	96	97	97	86
HepB3	94	93	88	96	94	96	96	95	96	96	95	96	95	95	95	92	91	92	85	93	91	89	91	92	94	89
Hib3											91	95	95	95	83	87	92	92	92	92	91	89	91	92	94	90
IPV1																93	94	96	95	96	94	92	94	95	96	97
PCVC											69	94	94	94	92	90	90	91	89	88	85	86	87	87	91	86
RotaC																			31	39	45	46	48	49	50	61



Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

Appendix

WHO/UNICEF Estimates of National Immunization Coverage (WUENIC)

Each year, WHO and UNICEF review national immunization data from Member States, including administrative and official coverage, survey estimates and contextual information, and use rules-based data triangulation approach to assess coverage. Estimates are produced independently, without borrowing data from other countries, and are not based on ad hoc adjustments. In some cases, they rely on a single source, typically nationally reported coverage. When data for a specific country-vaccine-year are unavailable, values from adjacent years are interpolated or extrapolated, and conflicting sources are assessed to determine the most reliable estimate, considering potential biases and expert opinion.

Methods:

- [Burton et al. 2009. WHO and UNICEF estimates of national infant immunization coverage: methods and processes](#)
- [Burton et al. 2012. A formal representation of the WHO and UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage: a computational logic approach](#)
- [Brown et al. 2013. An introduction to the grade of confidence used to characterize uncertainty around the WHO and UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage](#)

These talking points present the latest WUENIC estimates (published 15 July 2026).

Definitions of immunization terms:

- Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG): vaccine against tuberculosis
- Hepatitis B birth dose, given within 24 hours after birth (HepBB)
- Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis vaccine, first dose (DTP1) and third dose (DTP3)
- Hepatitis B vaccine, third dose (HepB3)
- Haemophilus influenzae type B vaccine, third dose (Hib3)
- Inactivated polio vaccine, first dose (IPV1) and last dose (IPVC)
- Measles containing vaccine, first dose (MCV1) and second dose (MCV2)
- Rotavirus vaccine, last dose (RotaC)
- Pneumococcal vaccine, last dose (PCV)
- Yellow Fever vaccine (YFV)
- Meningococcal A vaccine (MengA)
- Human Papillomavirus vaccine, first dose (HPV1) and last dose (HPVc)

Additional resources: <https://data.unicef.org/resources/immunization/>