

WUENIC Talking Points: DRC

Revision Year: 2025

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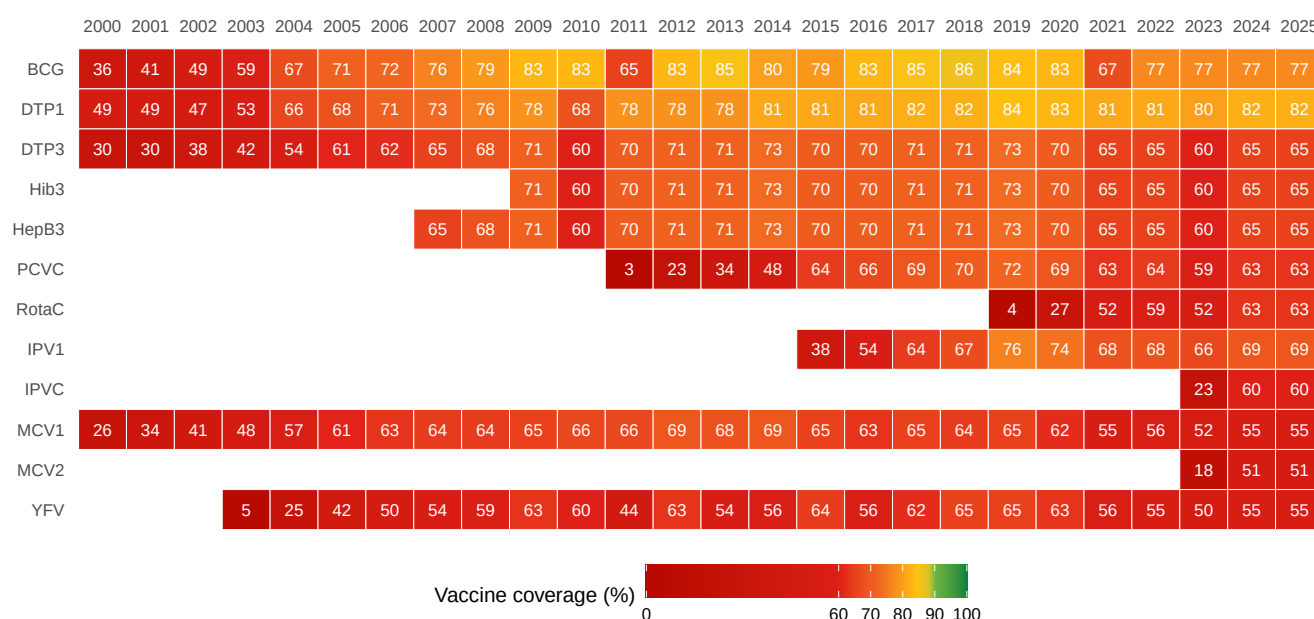
DRC in the 'Africa' region



Overview

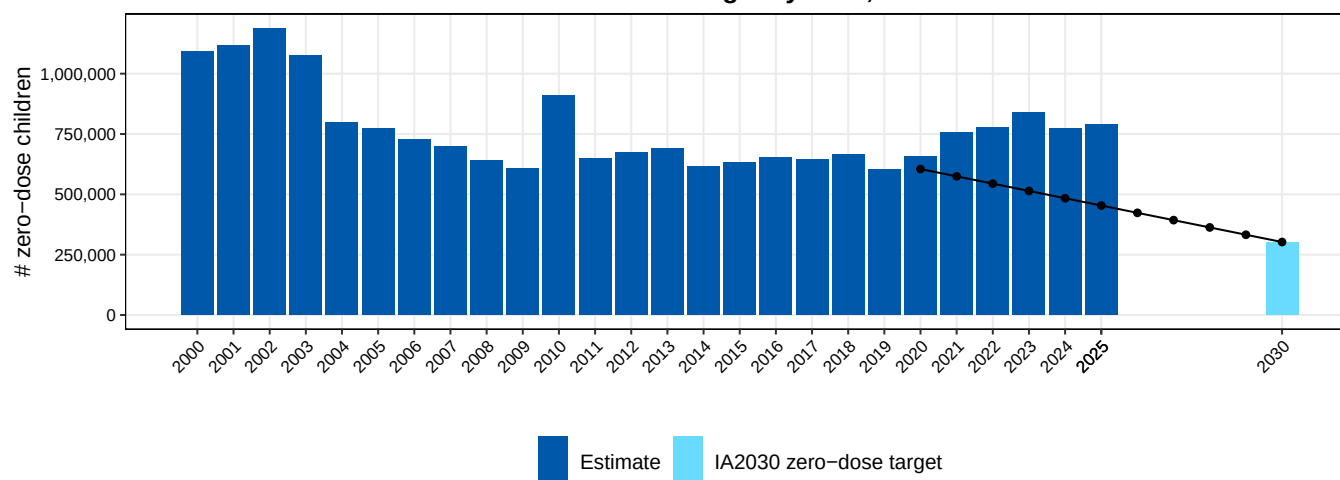
- None of the 12 childhood vaccines tracked for the DRC achieved coverage of 90% or higher in 2025.
- Coverage of the first dose of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis-containing vaccine (DTP1) was the same in 2025 as it was in 2024 (82%), coverage of the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine (DTP3) was the same in 2025 as it was in 2024 (65%), and coverage of the first dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) was the same in 2025 as it was in 2024 (55%) in 2025.
- In 2025, the number of zero-dose children for DTP in the DRC (788,000) was approximately 79% higher than the annual number proposed to achieve the IA2030 target of halving zero-dose children for DTP by 2030 (440,000), based on a linear trajectory of decline.

Vaccine coverage (%), DRC, 2000–2025



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

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

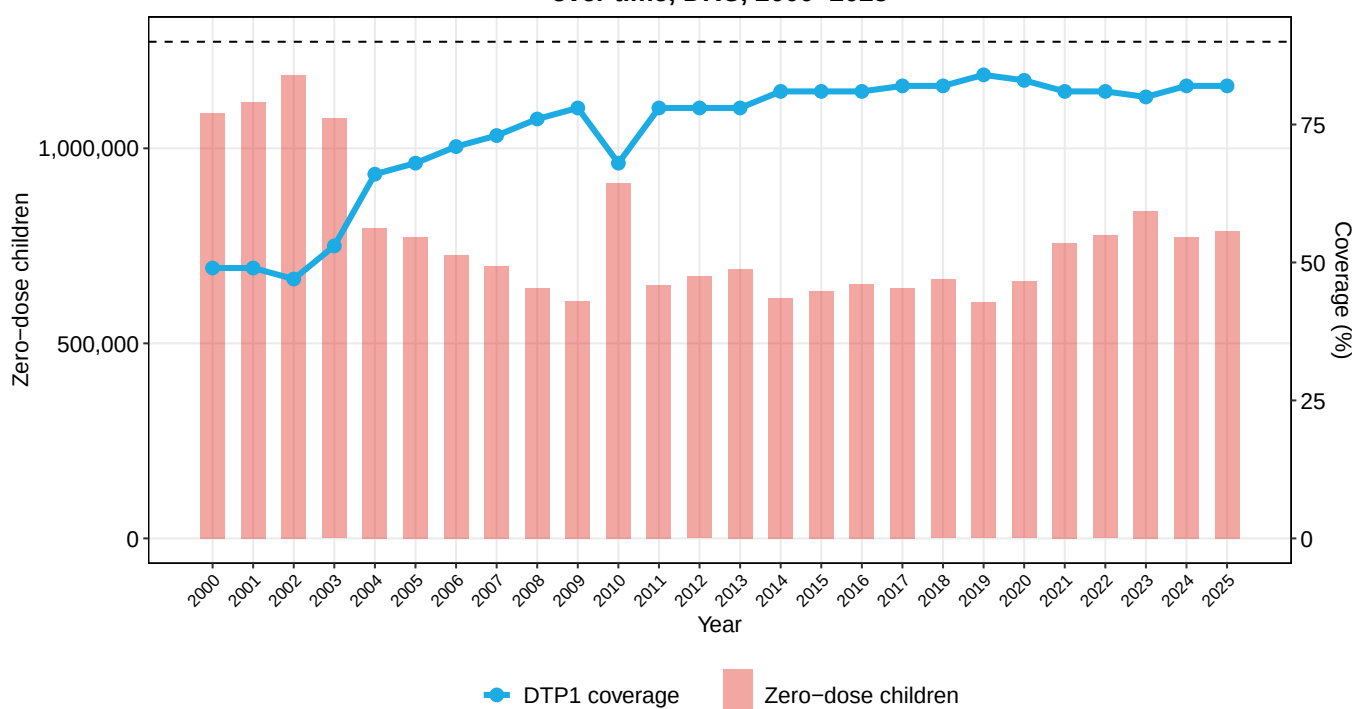


Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.
 Note: The Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) calls on all countries to reduce the number of zero-dose children in 2019 in half by 2030.
 Dark blue bars are the estimated number of zero-dose children in 2000–2025, light blue 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 82% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (84%) and the same as in 2024 (82%).
- The percentage of zero-dose children was 79 percentage points higher than the IA2030 target in 2025. There were approximately 788,000 zero-dose children in 2025, more than the 605,000 in 2019 and more than the 772,000 in 2024.
- Coverage of DTP1 in the DRC (82%) was higher than the West and Central Africa regional average of 81% in 2025.
- DTP1-to-DTP3 dropout in 2025 was 21%, 8 percentage points higher than in 2019 (13%). High DTP dropout rates imply poor ability to provide a complete vaccine series early in life.

DTP1 coverage and zero-dose children over time, DRC, 2000–2025

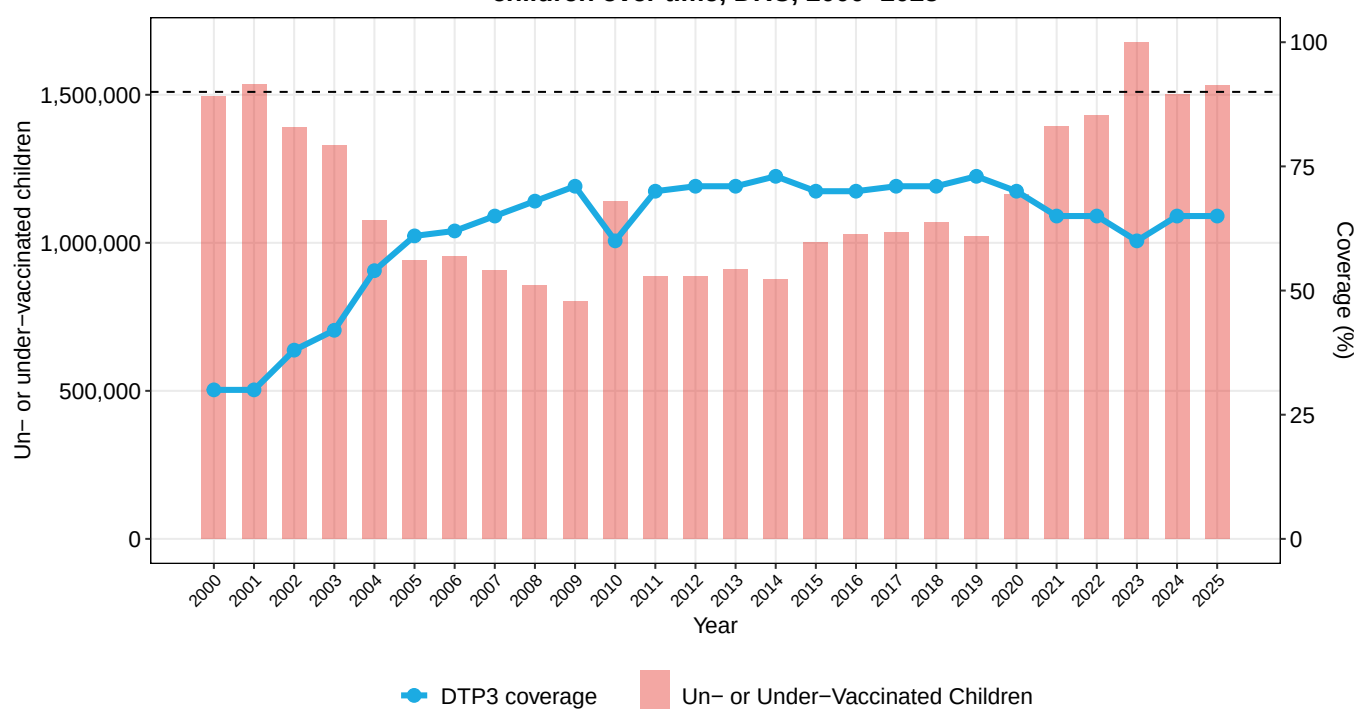


Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

DTP3: A marker of routine immunization service delivery to children

- Coverage of DTP3 stood at 65% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (73%) and the same as in 2024 (65%).
- The number of children vaccinated with DTP3 increased from 2.8 million in 2019 to 2.8 million in 2025.
- In 2025, there were 1.5 million children un- or under-vaccinated in the DRC.
- In 2025, 21% of children who received DTP1 did not receive DTP3. This 21% dropout rate was 8 percentage points higher than in 2019 (13%) and the same as the 2024 dropout rate (21%).
- Coverage of DTP3 in the DRC (65%) was lower than the West and Central Africa regional average of 71% in 2025.

DTP3 coverage and un- or under-vaccinated children over time, DRC, 2000–2025

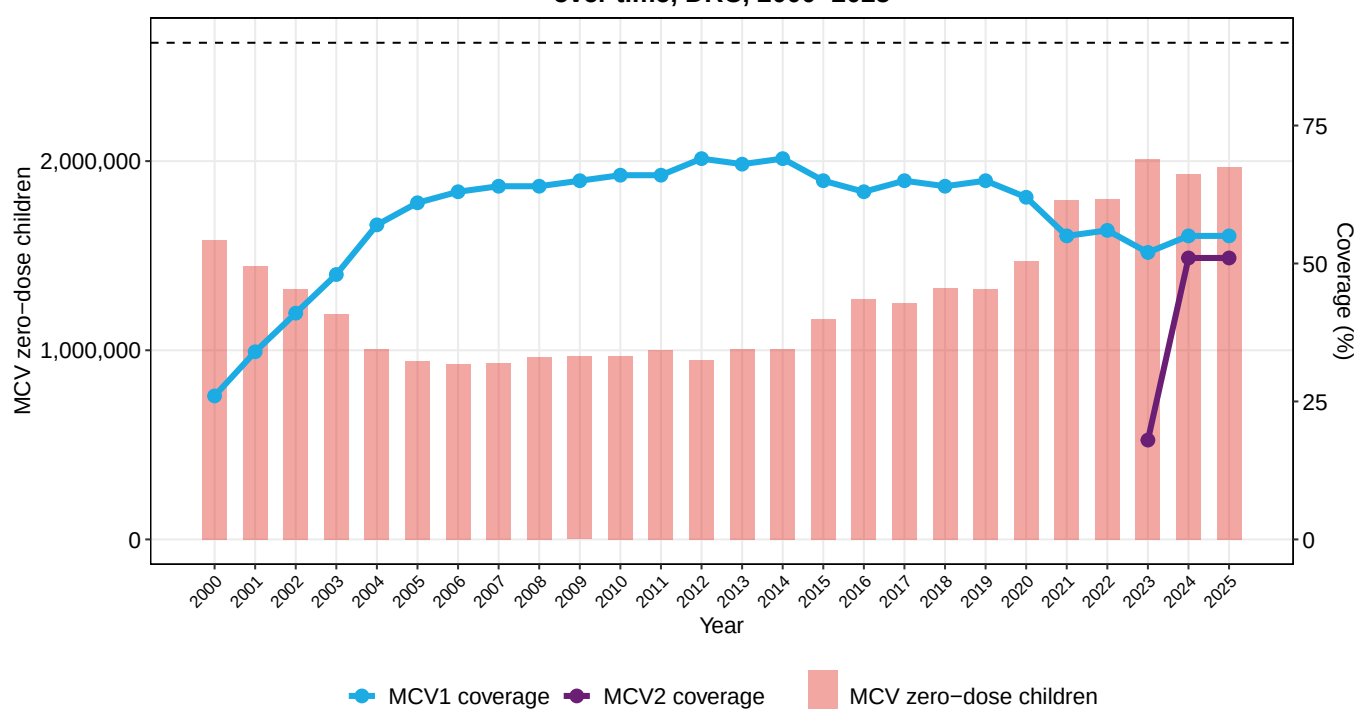


Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

MCV: Canary in the coal mine

- Coverage of MCV1 stood at 55% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (65%) and the same as in 2024 (55%).
- Coverage of the second dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV2) NA. This leaves 2 million children without any protection against measles and another 17,000 with only partial protection.
- In 2025, 33% of children who received DTP1 did not receive MCV1. This 33% dropout rate was 10 percentage points higher than in 2019 (23%) and the same as the 2024 dropout rate (33%).
- The DRC has had MCV1 coverage below 80% for all of the last 3 years.
- Coverage of MCV1 in the DRC (55%) was lower than the West and Central Africa regional average of 64% in 2025.

MCV coverage and MCV zero-dose children over time, DRC, 2000–2025



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

HPV

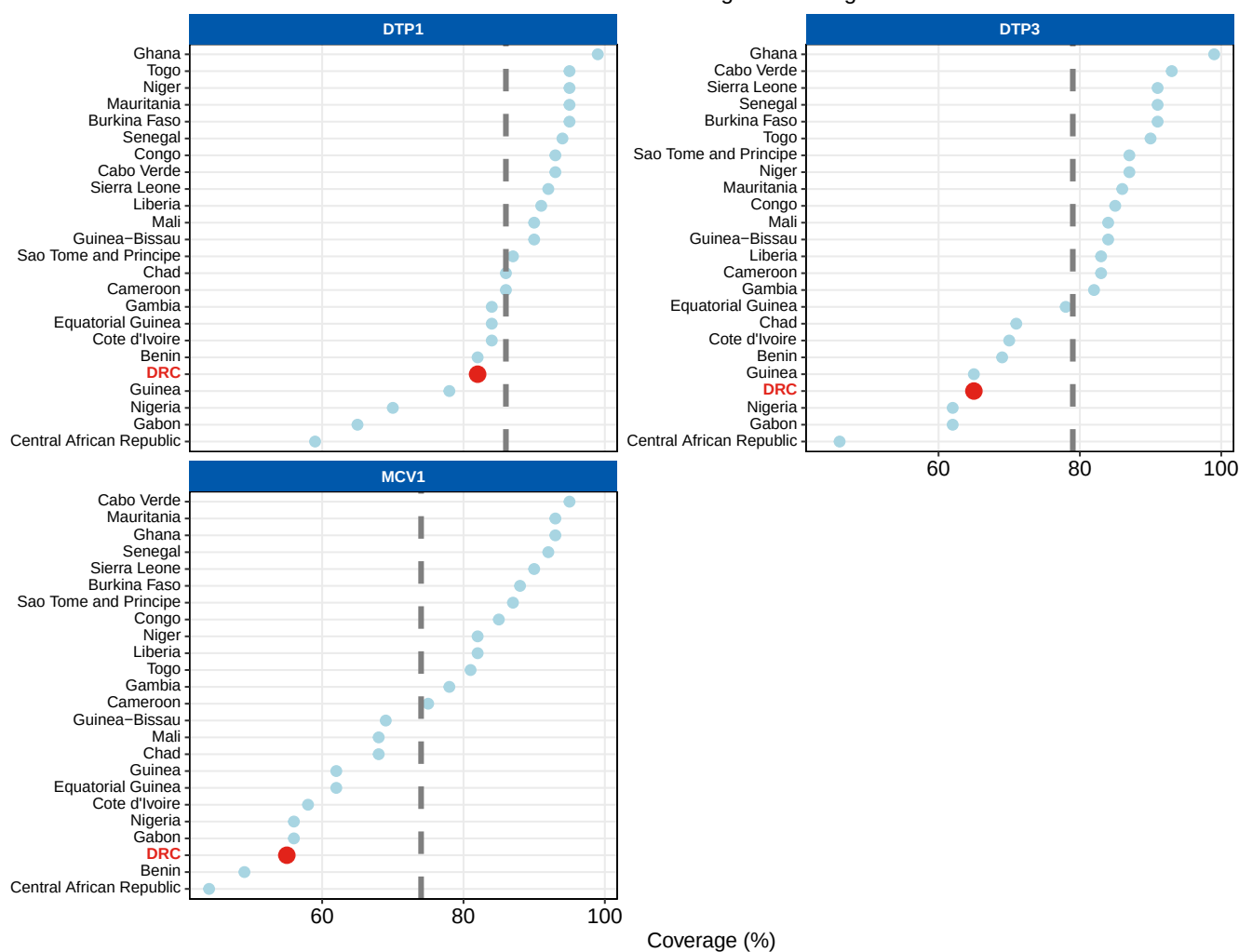
- DRC had not introduced human papillomavirus vaccination (HPV) as of 2025.

Regional Comparison

The chart below shows how the DRC compares to other countries in the West and Central Africa region on DTP1, DTP3, MCV1 coverage in 2025. The dashed line represents the regional average for each vaccine.

Coverage comparison: DRC vs. WCAR peers, 2025

Dashed line = regional average



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

Additional Vaccines

- Coverage of BCG stood at 77% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (84%) and the same as in 2024 (77%).
- Coverage of HepB3 stood at 65% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (73%) and the same as in 2024 (65%).
- Coverage of Hib3 stood at 65% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (73%) and the same as in 2024 (65%).
- Coverage of IPV1 stood at 69% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (76%) and the same as in 2024 (69%).
- Coverage of PCVC stood at 63% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (72%) and the same as in 2024 (63%).
- Coverage of RotaC stood at 63% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (4%) and the same as in 2024 (63%).

Additional vaccine coverage (%), DRC, 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	36	41	49	59	67	71	72	76	79	83	83	65	83	85	80	79	83	85	86	84	83	67	77	77	77	77
HepB3								65	68	71	60	70	71	71	73	70	70	71	71	73	70	65	65	60	65	65
Hib3										71	60	70	71	71	73	70	70	71	71	73	70	65	65	60	65	65
IPV1																38	54	64	67	76	74	68	68	66	69	69
PCVC												3	23	34	48	64	66	69	70	72	69	63	64	59	63	63
RotaC																				4	27	52	59	52	63	63



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/>