

WUENIC Talking Points: Costa Rica

Revision Year: 2025

Contents

Overview	2
DTP1: Reaching zero-dose children	3
DTP3: A marker of routine immunization service delivery to children	4
MCV: Canary in the coal mine	5
HPV	6
Regional Comparison	7
Additional Vaccines	8
Appendix	9

Costa Rica in the 'Americas' region



Overview

- A total of 13 childhood vaccines are tracked for Costa Rica; of these, 12 reached the 90% coverage target or higher in 2025.
- Coverage of the first dose of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis-containing vaccine (DTP1) declined from 99% in 2024 to 97% in 2025, coverage of the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine (DTP3) declined from 99% in 2024 to 96% in 2025, and coverage of the first dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) increased from 96% in 2024 to 98% in 2025 in 2025.
- In 2025, the number of zero-dose children for DTP in Costa Rica (2,000) was approximately 17% lower 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.

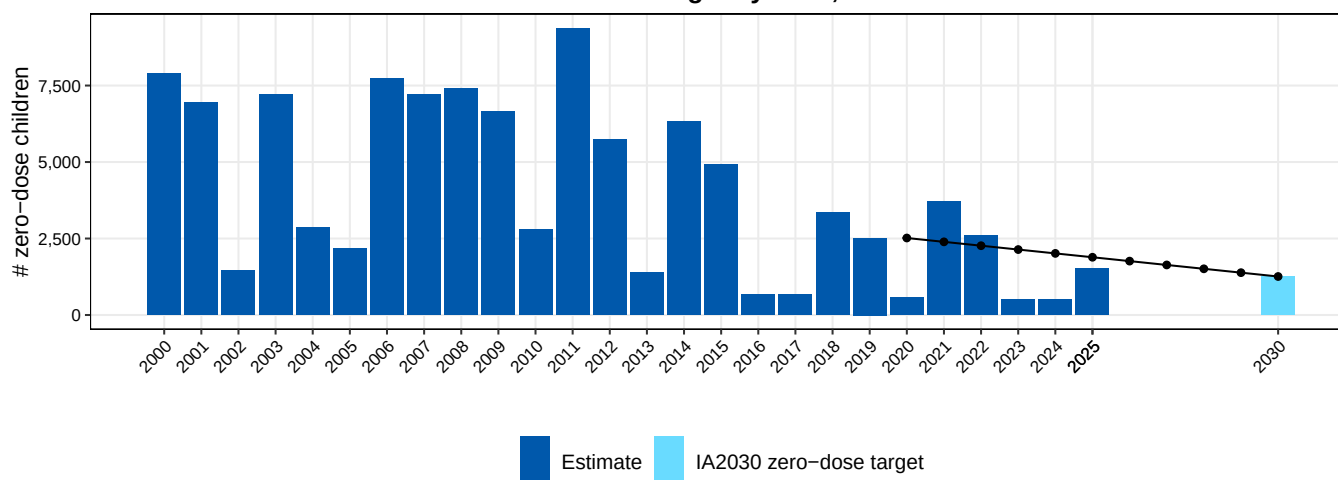
Vaccine coverage (%), Costa Rica, 2000–2025

	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	95	91	96	93	97	96	95	99	99	91	88	90	91	93	95	99	99	99	99	99	99	88	95	99	99	99
HepBB		87	87	86	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	90	90	90	89	90	91	87	90	87	89	71	71	71	71	71
DTP1	90	91	98	90	96	97	89	90	90	91	96	87	92	98	91	93	99	99	95	96	99	93	95	99	99	97
DTP3	88	91	94	88	90	91	89	89	90	86	88	85	91	95	91	92	97	96	94	95	97	93	95	99	99	96
Hib3	92	89	93	88	90	89	88	88	87	87	90	81	90	95	91	92	97	96	94	96	97	92	95	99	99	96
HepB3	89	80	94	86	89	90	88	89	89	87	89	84	91	94	91	92	97	97	98	94	91	87	94	98	99	96
PCVC										48	94	68	89	93	83	94	94	96	96	95	94	87	92	99	99	98
RotaC																				59	97	85	89	94	96	95
IPV1																93	96	99	95	96	99	93	95	99	99	97
IPVC																						92	95	99	99	96
MCV1	82	82	94	89	88	89	90	90	89	81	83	83	90	91	95	93	93	96	94	95	95	89	90	93	96	98
RCV1	82	82	94	89	88	89	90	90	89	81	83	83	90	91	95	93	93	96	94	95	95	89	90	93	96	98
MCV2									89	84	79	80	95	92	90	90	87	93	93	93	81	69	75	83	87	92
HPVc																				96	74	43	72	56	84	83



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

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

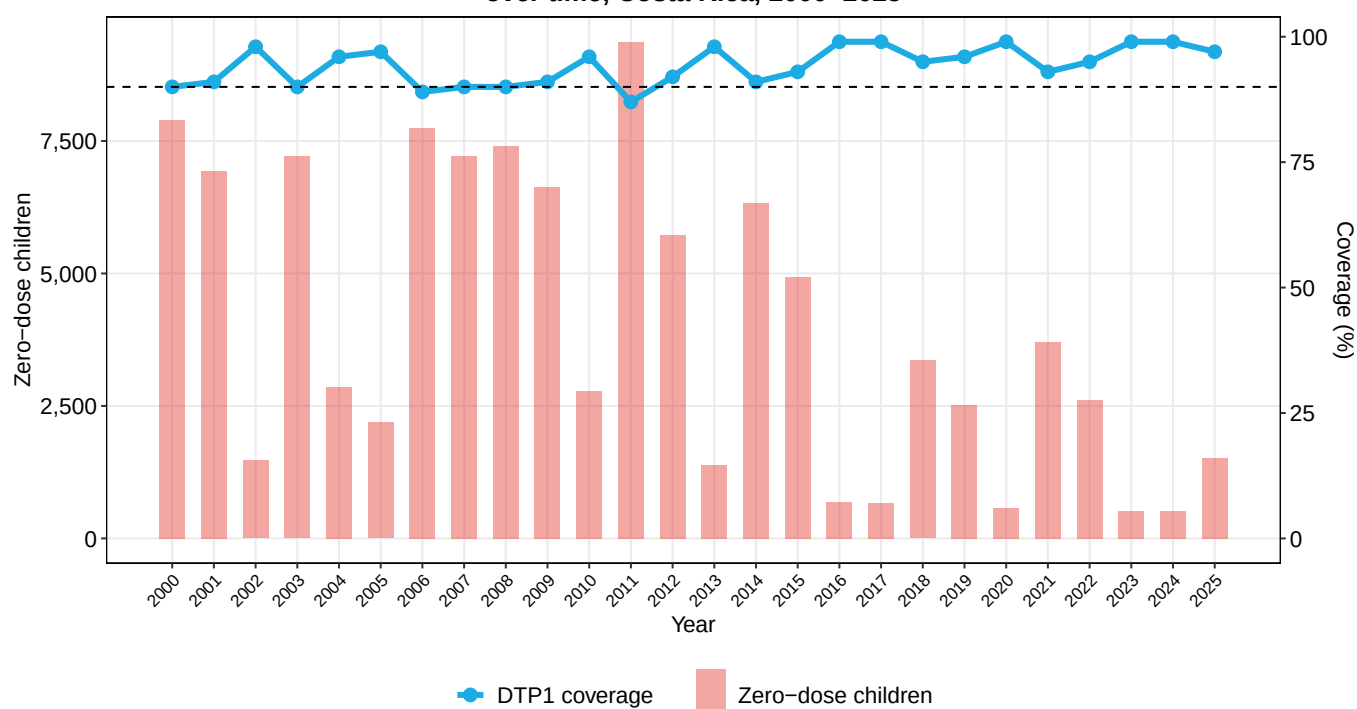


Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.
 Note: The Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) calls on all countries to reduce the number of zero-dose children in 2019 in half by 2030.
 Dark blue bars are the estimated number of zero-dose children in 2000–2025, light blue 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 lower than in 2024 (99%).
- The percentage of zero-dose children was 17 percentage points lower than the IA2030 target in 2025. There were approximately 2,000 zero-dose children in 2025, fewer than the 3,000 in 2019 but more than the <1,000 in 2024.
- Coverage of DTP1 in Costa Rica (97%) was higher than the Latin America and the Caribbean regional average of 89% in 2025.
- DTP1-to-DTP3 dropout in 2025 was 1%, the same as in 2019. Low DTP dropout rates imply good ability to provide a complete vaccine series early in life.

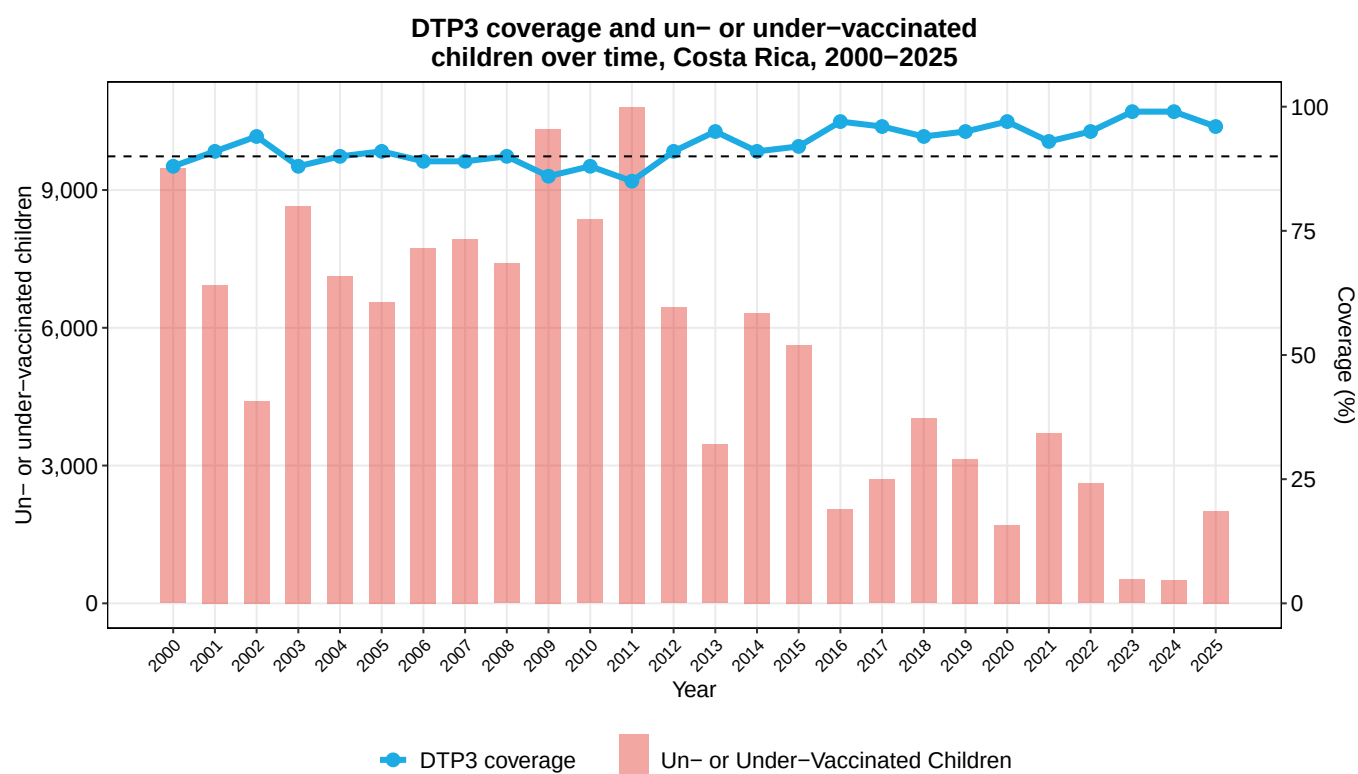
DTP1 coverage and zero-dose children over time, Costa Rica, 2000–2025



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

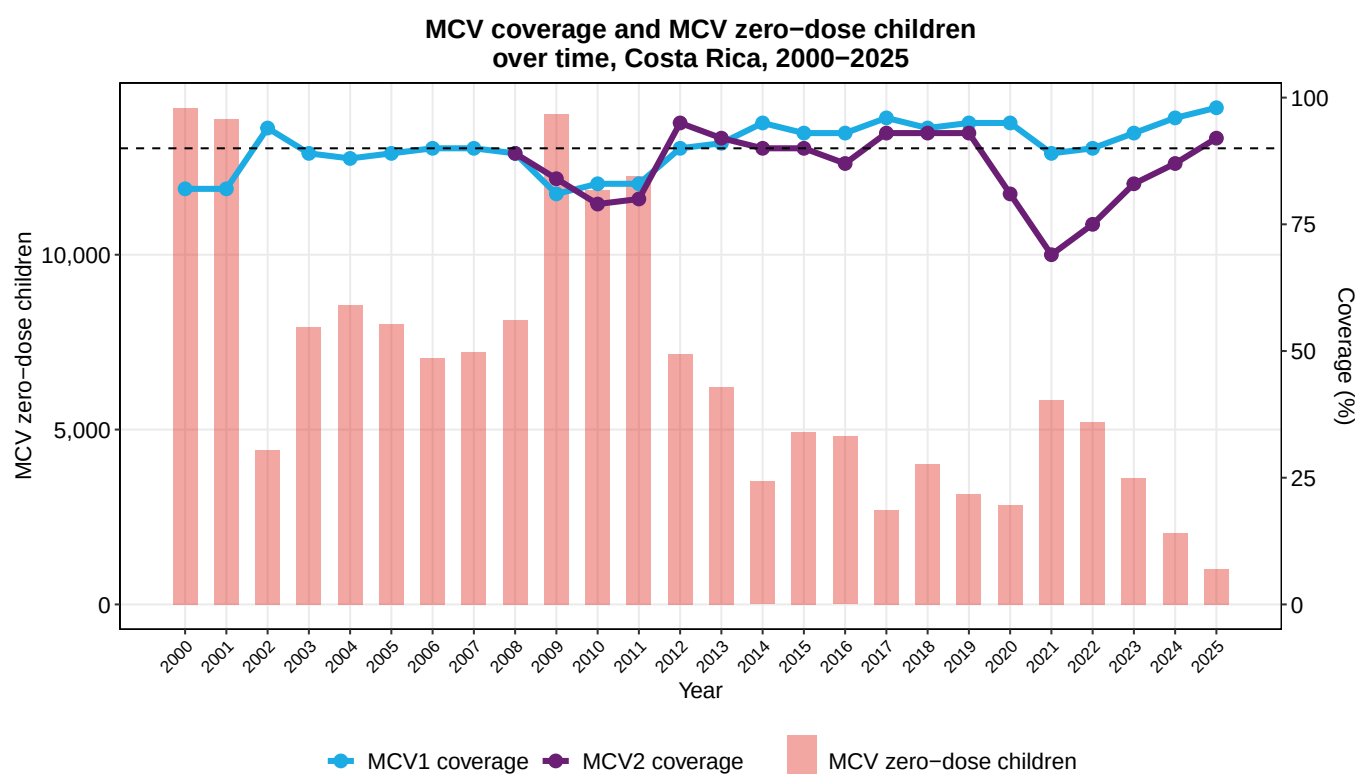
- Coverage of DTP3 stood at 96% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (95%) and lower than in 2024 (99%).
- The number of children vaccinated with DTP3 decreased from 60,000 in 2019 to 48,000 in 2025.
- In 2025, there were 2,000 children un- or under-vaccinated in Costa Rica.
- In 2025, 1% of children who received DTP1 did not receive DTP3. This 1% dropout rate was the same as in 2019 (1%) but 1 percentage points higher than the 2024 dropout rate (0%).
- Coverage of DTP3 in Costa Rica (96%) was higher than the Latin America and the Caribbean regional average of 83% 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

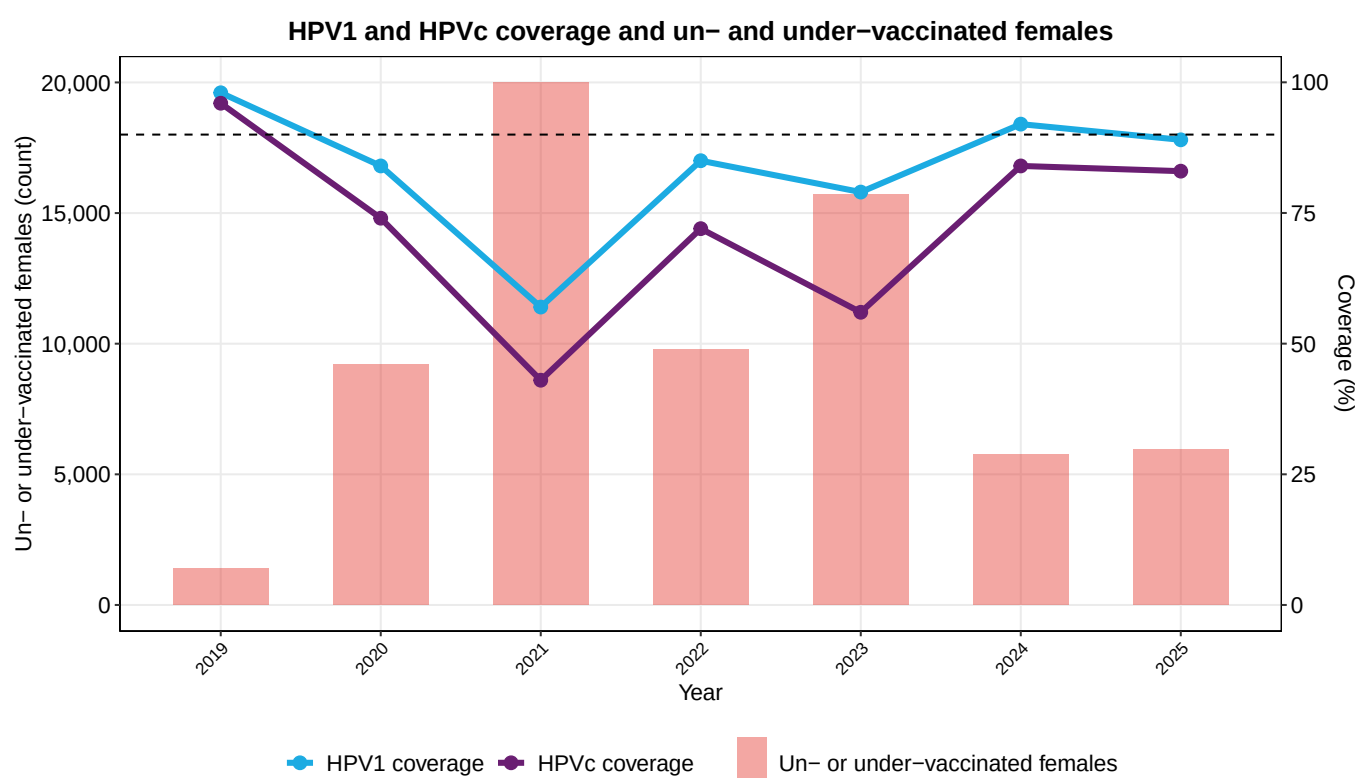
- Coverage of MCV1 stood at 98% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (95%) and higher than in 2024 (96%).
- Coverage of the second dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV2) remained relatively stable, within 1 percentage point of the 2019 level. This still leaves 1,000 children without any protection against measles and another 3,000 with only partial protection.
- In 2025, -1% of children who received DTP1 did not receive MCV1. This -1% dropout rate was 2 percentage points lower than in 2019 (1%) and 4 percentage points lower than the 2024 dropout rate (3%).
- Costa Rica has achieved MCV1 coverage above 80% over all of the last 3 years.
- Coverage of MCV1 in Costa Rica (98%) was higher than the Latin America and the Caribbean regional average of 86% 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 decreased from 92% to 89% between 2024 and 2025, and coverage of the last dose (HPVc) also decreased from 84% to 83%.
- HPVc coverage is approaching but has not yet reached the IA2030 target of 90%.
- In 2025, approximately 4,000 females in Costa Rica did not receive any HPV vaccination (unvaccinated).
- Among Latin America and the Caribbean region peers, Costa Rica ranked 5 out of 31 countries in HPVc coverage in 2025.



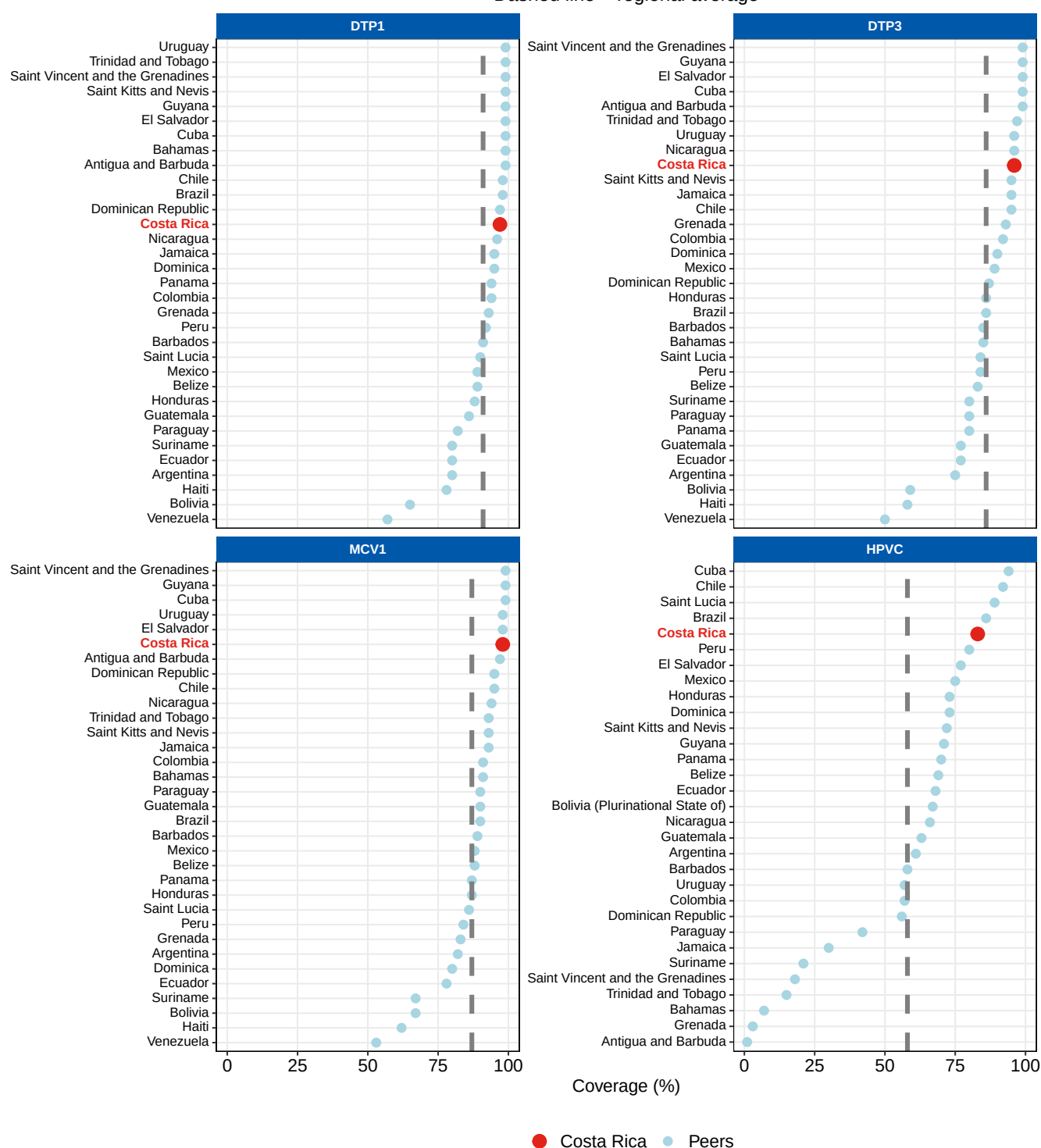
Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
 Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

Regional Comparison

The chart below shows how Costa Rica compares to other countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean region on DTP1, DTP3, MCV1, and HPVc coverage in 2025. The dashed line represents the regional average for each vaccine.

Coverage comparison: Costa Rica vs. LACR peers, 2025

Dashed line = regional average



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

Additional Vaccines

- Coverage of BCG stood at 99% in 2025. This is the same as in 2019 (99%) and the same as in 2024 (99%).
- Coverage of HepB3 stood at 96% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (94%) but lower than in 2024 (99%).
- Coverage of Hib3 stood at 96% in 2025. This is the same as in 2019 (96%) but lower than in 2024 (99%).
- Coverage of IPV1 stood at 97% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (96%) but lower than in 2024 (99%).
- Coverage of PCVC stood at 98% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (95%) but lower than in 2024 (99%).
- Coverage of RotaC stood at 95% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (59%) but lower than in 2024 (96%).

Additional vaccine coverage (%), Costa Rica, 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	95	91	96	93	97	96	95	99	99	91	88	90	91	93	95	99	99	99	99	99	99	88	95	99	99	99
HepB3	89	80	94	86	89	90	88	89	89	87	89	84	91	94	91	92	97	97	98	94	91	87	94	98	99	96
Hib3	92	89	93	88	90	89	88	88	87	87	90	81	90	95	91	92	97	96	94	96	97	92	95	99	99	96
IPV1																93	96	99	95	96	99	93	95	99	99	97
PCVC										48	94	68	89	93	83	94	94	96	96	95	94	87	92	99	99	98
RotaC																				59	97	85	89	94	96	95



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/>