

WUENIC Talking Points: Republic of Korea 🇰🇷

Revision Year: 2025

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Republic of Korea in the 'Asia' region



Overview

- A total of 13 childhood vaccines are tracked for the Republic of Korea; of these, 13 reached the 90% coverage target 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 (98%), coverage of the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine (DTP3) was the same in 2025 as it was in 2024 (97%), and coverage of the first dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) was the same in 2025 as it was in 2024 (97%) in 2025.
- In 2025, the number of zero-dose children for DTP in the Republic of Korea (5,000) was approximately 15% higher than the annual number proposed to achieve the IA2030 target of halving zero-dose children for DTP by 2030 (4,000), based on a linear trajectory of decline.

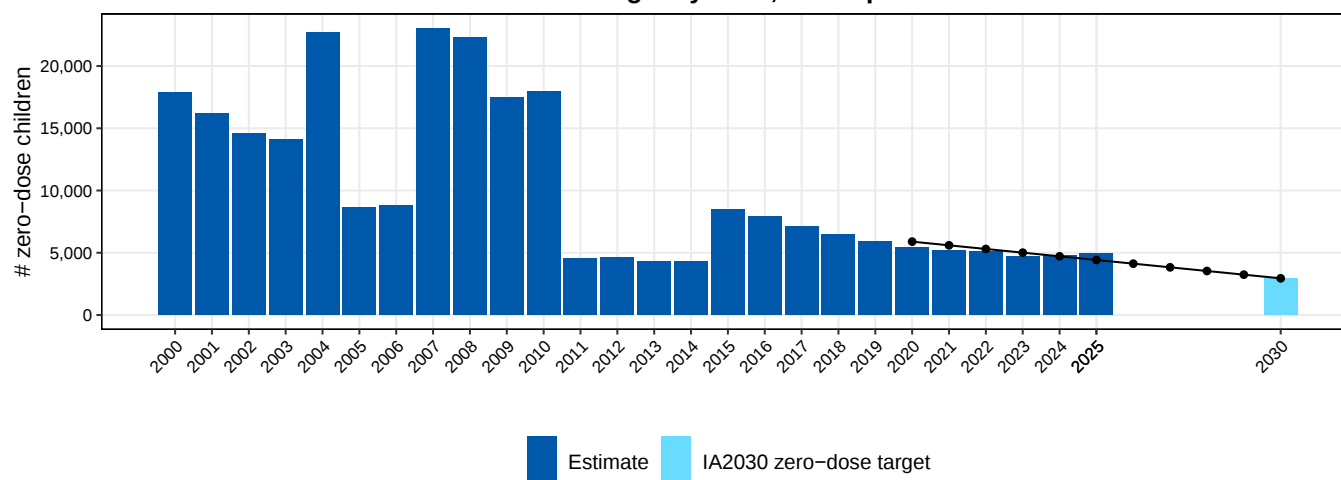
Vaccine coverage (%), Republic of Korea, 2000–2025

	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	73	81	89	87	93	97	98	96	96	96	96	99	99	99	99	97	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	97	97
HepBB															92	98	92	93	91	92	93	92	92	92	93	92
DTP1	97	97	97	97	95	98	98	95	95	96	96	99	99	99	99	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98
DTP3	97	97	97	97	88	96	98	91	94	94	94	99	99	99	99	98	98	97	98	98	98	98	98	98	97	97
Hib3															97	98	97	97	98	98	96	98	96	96	97	97
HepB3	93	89	92	91	92	99	99	91	94	94	94	99	99	99	99	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	97	97	97	97
PCVC																97	98	97	97	98	97	97	97	97	97	97
RotaC																									94	94
IPV1																98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98
IPVC																						98	97	97	97	97
MCV1	95	96	97	96	99	99	99	92	92	93	98	99	99	99	99	98	98	97	98	98	98	98	98	97	97	97
RCV1	95	96	97	96	99	99	99	92	92	93	98	99	99	99	99	98	98	97	98	98	98	98	98	97	97	97
MCV2	39	67	95	95	99	99	99	99	99	99	98	98	97	95	96	97	97	97	97	96	95	95	95	96	96	95
HPVc																					50	72	66	74	66	65



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

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

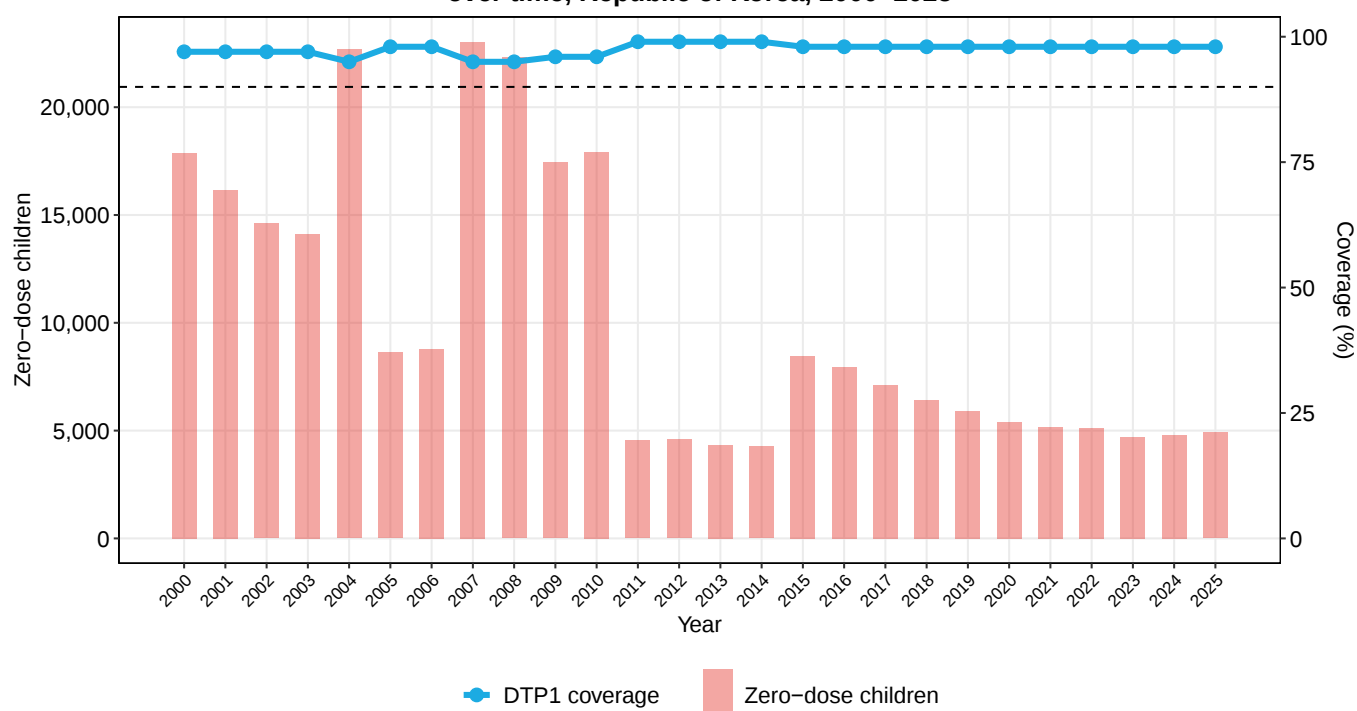


Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.
 Note: The Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) calls on all countries to reduce the number of zero-dose children in 2019 in half by 2030.
 Dark blue bars are the estimated number of zero-dose children in 2000–2025.
 Light blue 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 98% in 2025. This is the same as in 2019 (98%) and the same as in 2024 (98%).
- The percentage of zero-dose children was 15 percentage points higher than the IA2030 target in 2025. There were approximately 5,000 zero-dose children in 2025, fewer than the 6,000 in 2019 but more than the 5,000 in 2024.
- Coverage of DTP1 in the Republic of Korea (98%) was higher than the Non-programme regional average of 96% in 2025.
- DTP1-to-DTP3 dropout in 2025 was 1%, 1 percentage point higher than in 2019 (0%). Low DTP dropout rates imply good ability to provide a complete vaccine series early in life.

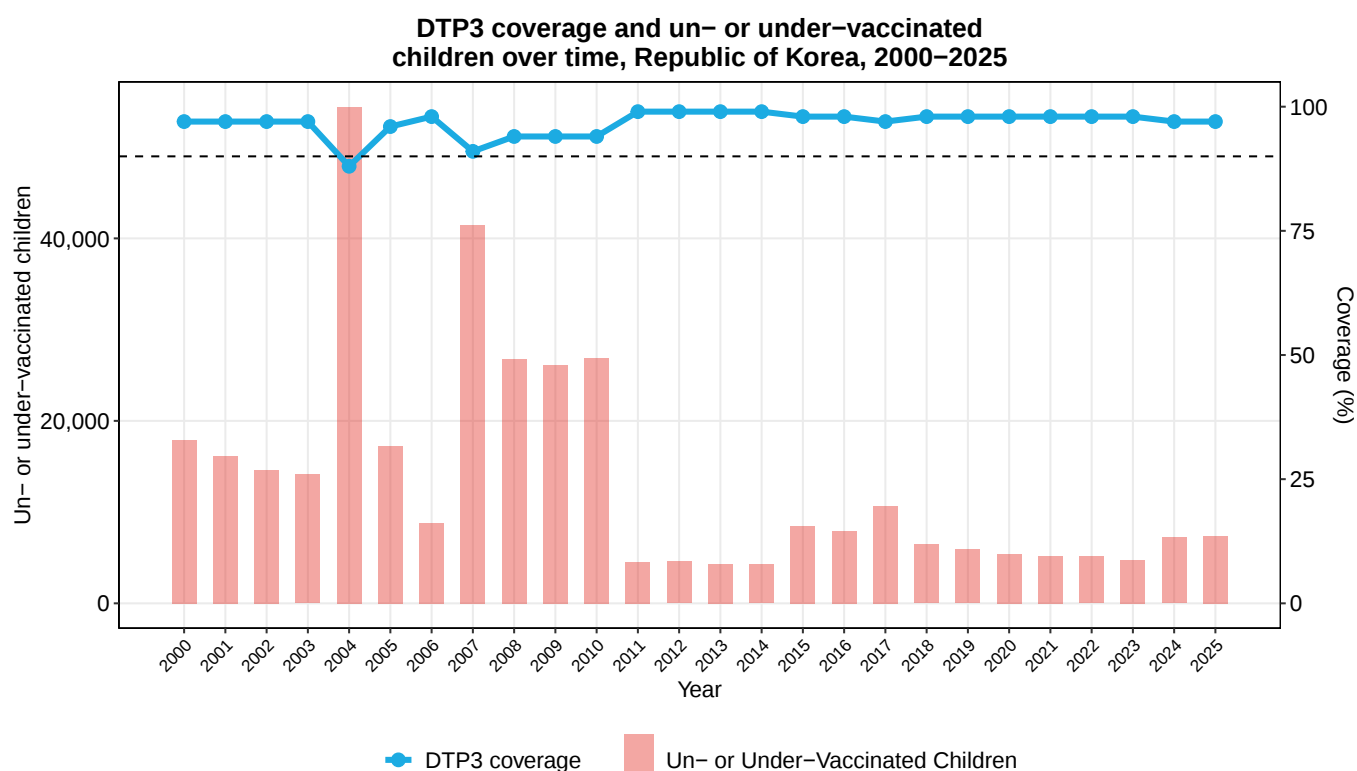
DTP1 coverage and zero-dose children over time, Republic of Korea, 2000–2025



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

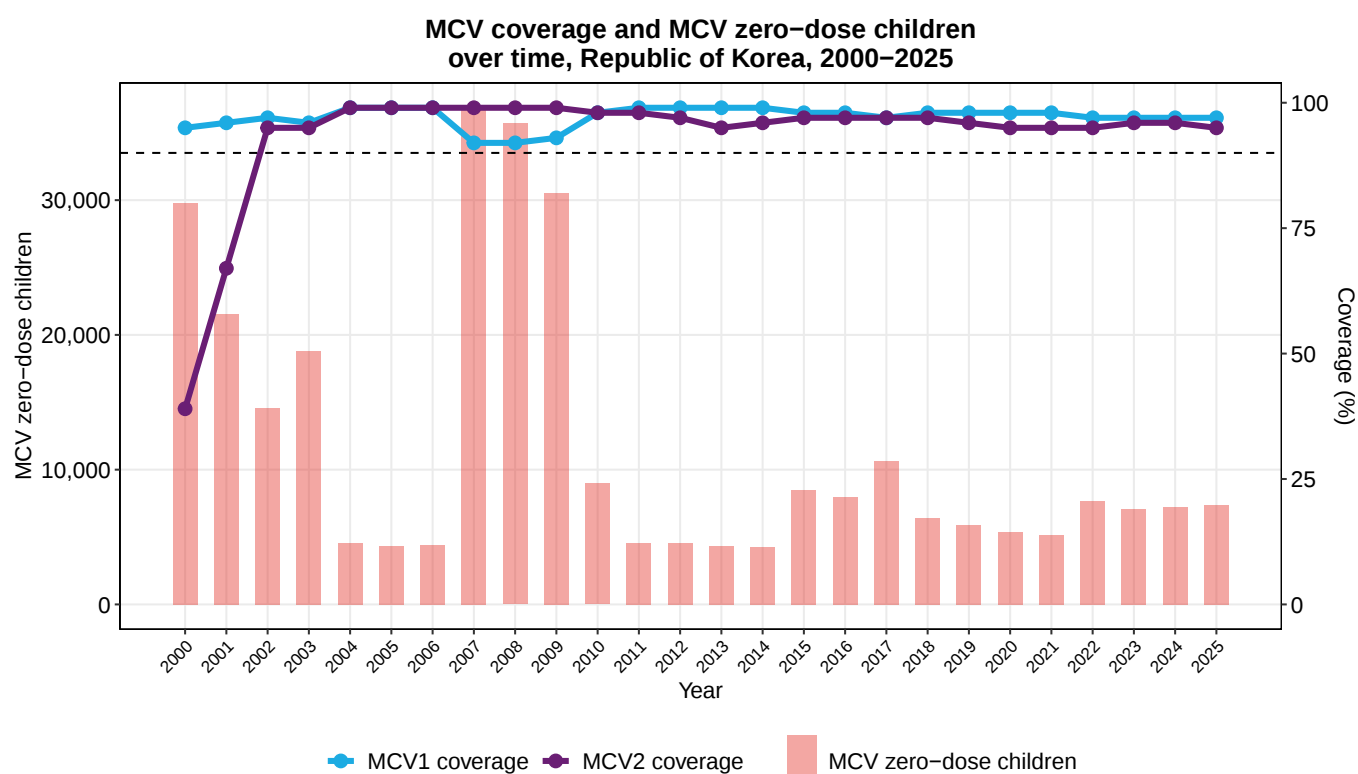
- Coverage of DTP3 stood at 97% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (98%) and the same as in 2024 (97%).
- The number of children vaccinated with DTP3 decreased from 289,000 in 2019 to 238,000 in 2025.
- In 2025, there were 7,000 children un- or under-vaccinated in the Republic of Korea.
- In 2025, 1% of children who received DTP1 did not receive DTP3. This 1% dropout rate was 1 percentage points higher than in 2019 (0%) and the same as the 2024 dropout rate (1%).
- Coverage of DTP3 in the Republic of Korea (97%) was higher than the Non-programme regional average of 94% 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

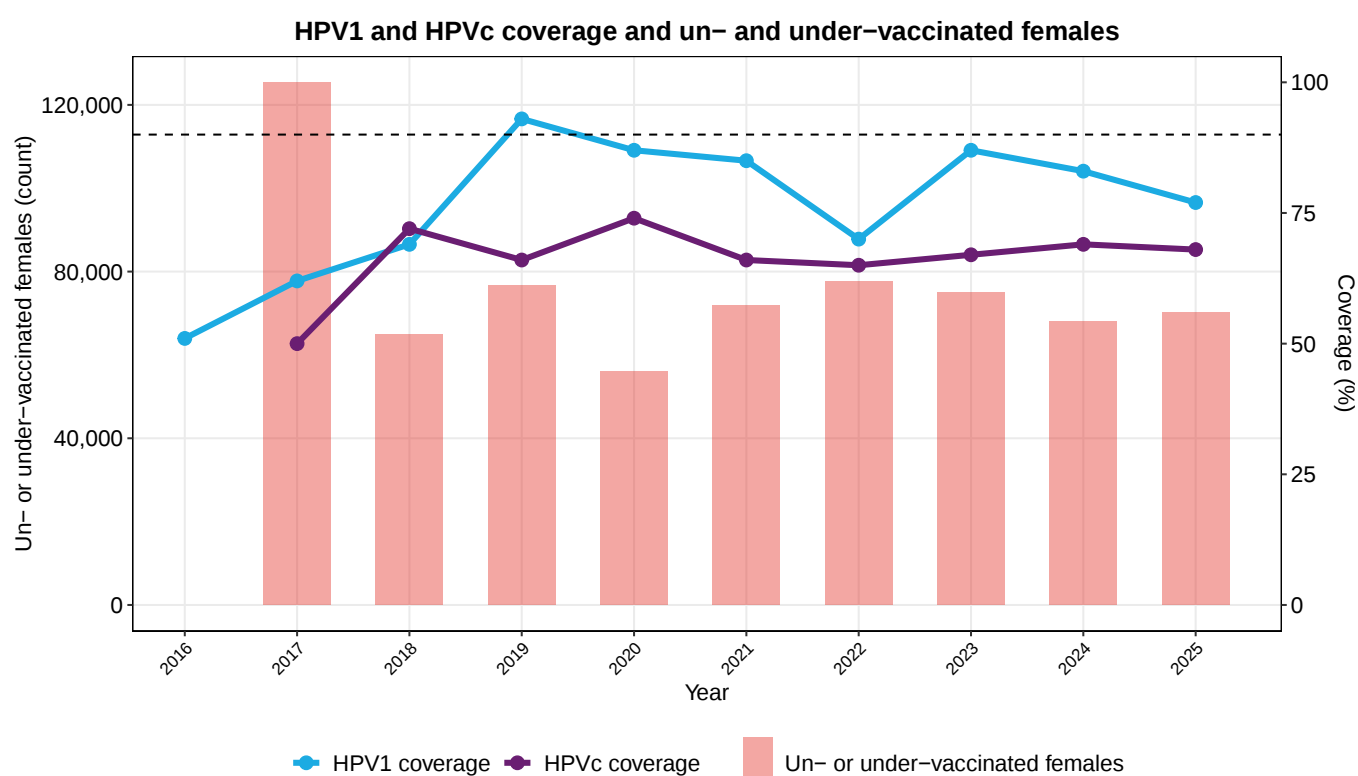
- Coverage of MCV1 stood at 97% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (98%) and the same as in 2024 (97%).
- Coverage of the second dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV2) remained relatively stable, within 1 percentage point of the 2019 level. This leaves 7,000 children without any protection against measles and another 6,000 with only partial protection.
- In 2025, 1% of children who received DTP1 did not receive MCV1. This 1% dropout rate was 1 percentage points higher than in 2019 (0%) and the same as the 2024 dropout rate (1%).
- The Republic of Korea has achieved MCV1 coverage above 80% over all of the last 3 years.
- Coverage of MCV1 in the Republic of Korea (97%) was higher than the Non-programme regional average of 93% 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 83% to 77% between 2024 and 2025, and coverage of the last dose (HPVc) also decreased from 69% to 68%.
- HPVc coverage remains well below the IA2030 target of 90%.
- In 2025, approximately 50,000 females in the Republic of Korea did not receive any HPV vaccination (unvaccinated).
- Among Non-programme region peers, the Republic of Korea ranked 21 out of 40 countries in HPVc coverage in 2025.



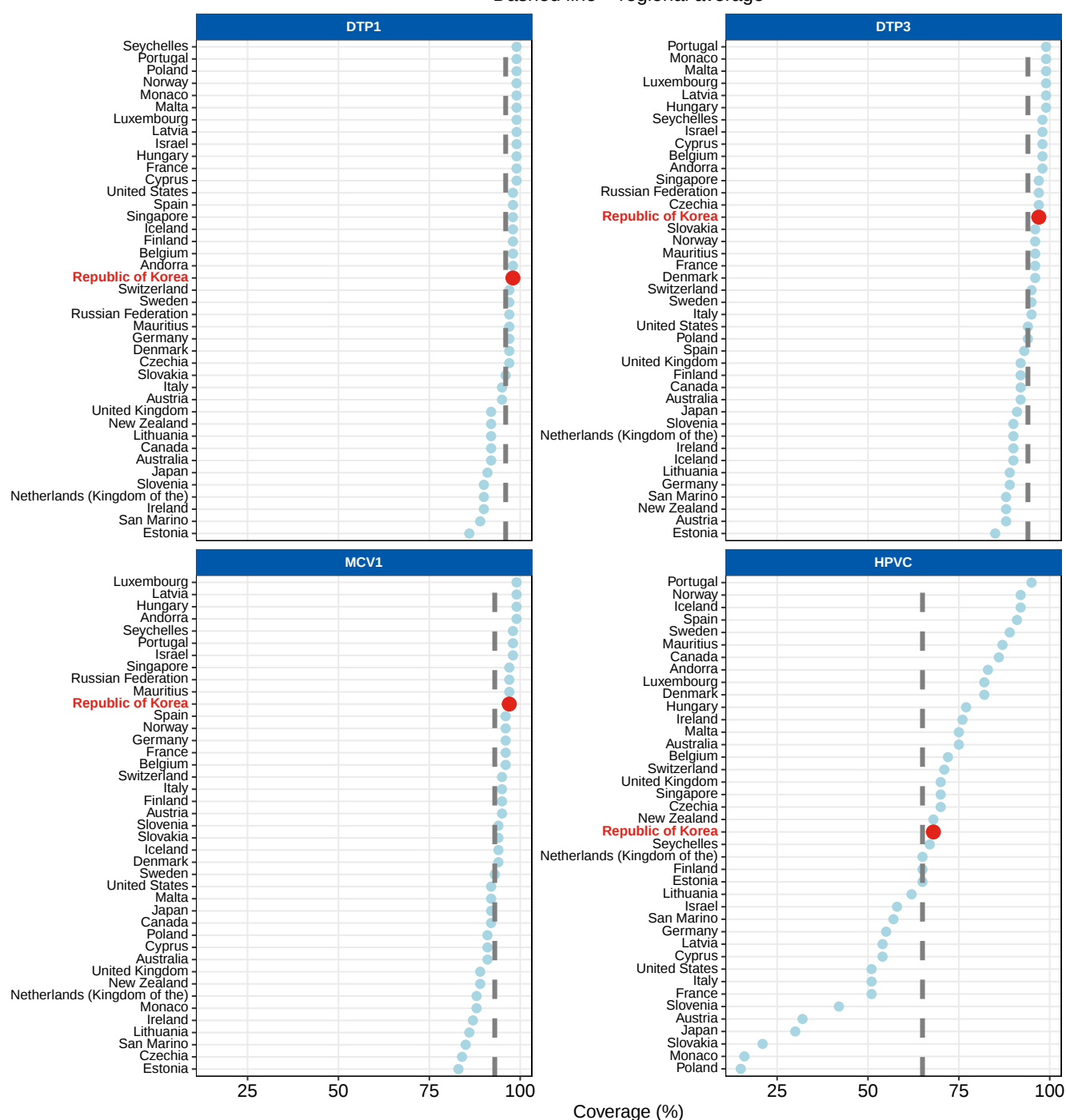
Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
 Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

Regional Comparison

The chart below shows how the Republic of Korea compares to other countries in the Non-programme region on DTP1, DTP3, MCV1, and HPVc coverage in 2025. The dashed line represents the regional average for each vaccine.

Coverage comparison: Republic of Korea vs. Non-programme peers, 2025

Dashed line = regional average



● Republic of Korea ● Peers

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

Additional Vaccines

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

Additional vaccine coverage (%), Republic of Korea, 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	73	81	89	87	93	97	98	96	96	96	96	99	99	99	99	97	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	97	97
HepB3	93	89	92	91	92	99	99	91	94	94	94	99	99	99	99	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	97	97	97	97
Hib3															97	98	97	97	98	98	96	98	96	96	97	97
IPV1																98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98
PCVC																97	98	97	97	98	97	97	97	97	97	97
RotaC																									94	94



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/>