

WUENIC Talking Points: North Macedonia

Revision Year: 2025

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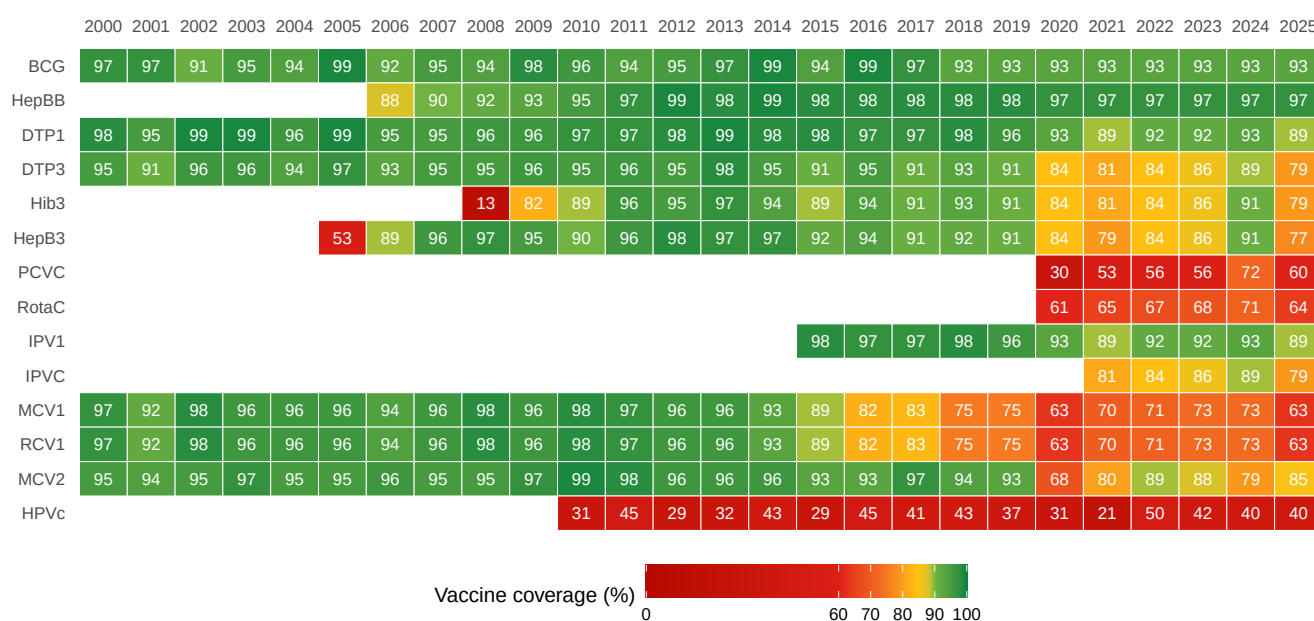
North Macedonia in the 'Europe' region



Overview

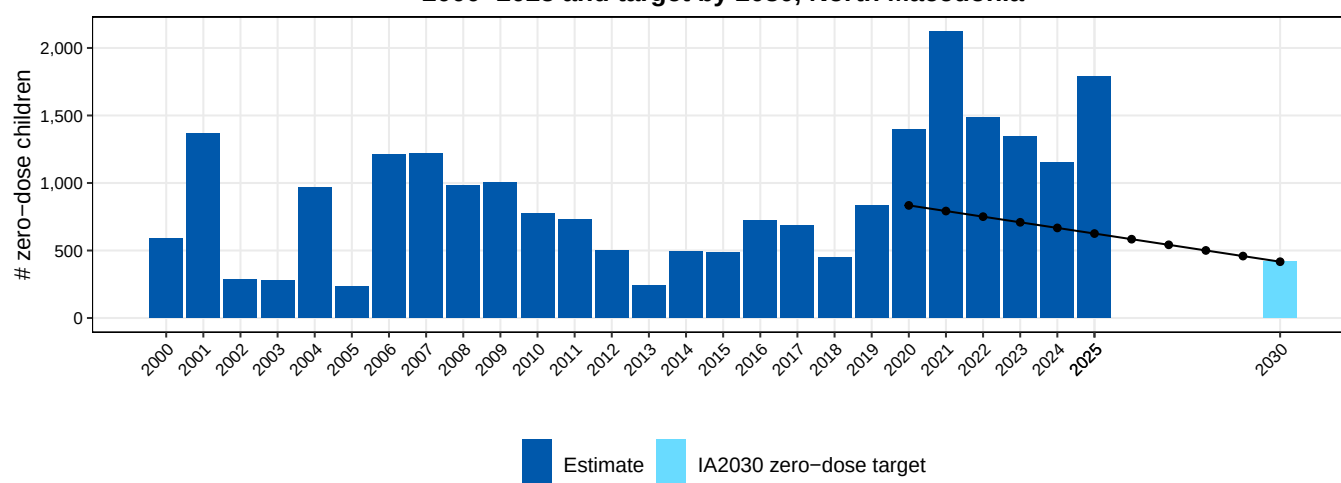
- A total of 13 childhood vaccines are tracked for North Macedonia; of these, 2 reached the 90% coverage target or higher in 2025.
- Coverage of the first dose of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis-containing vaccine (DTP1) declined from 93% in 2024 to 89% in 2025, coverage of the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine (DTP3) declined from 89% in 2024 to 79% in 2025, and coverage of the first dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) declined from 73% in 2024 to 63% in 2025.
- In 2025, the number of zero-dose children for DTP in North Macedonia (2,000) was approximately 194% higher than the annual number proposed to achieve the IA2030 target of halving zero-dose children for DTP by 2030 (<1,000), based on a linear trajectory of decline.

Vaccine coverage (%), North Macedonia, 2000–2025



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

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

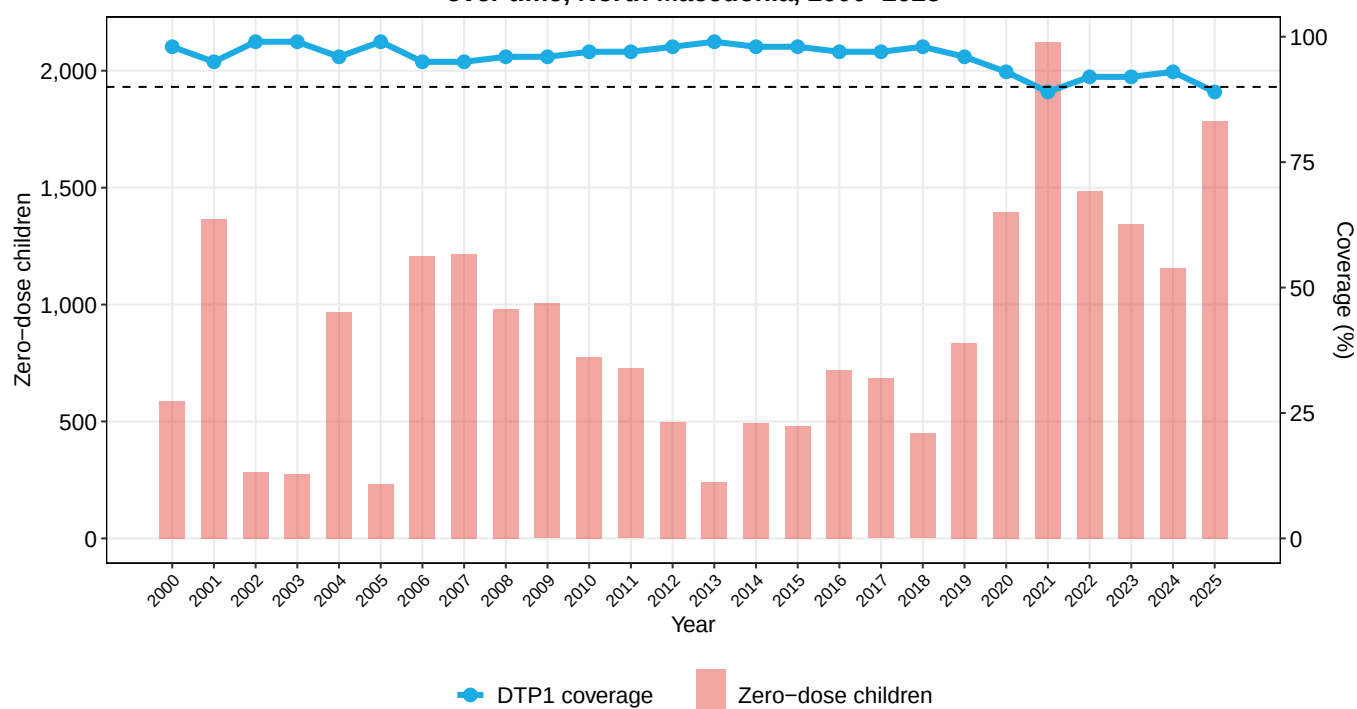


Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.
 Note: The Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) calls on all countries to reduce the number of zero-dose children in 2019 in half by 2030.
 Dark blue bars are the estimated number of zero-dose children in 2000–2025, light blue 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 89% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (96%) and lower than in 2024 (93%).
- The percentage of zero-dose children was 194 percentage points higher than the IA2030 target in 2025. There were approximately 2,000 zero-dose children in 2025, more than the <1,000 in 2019 and more than the 1,000 in 2024.
- Coverage of DTP1 in North Macedonia (89%) was lower than the Eastern Europe and Central Asia regional average of 90% in 2025.
- DTP1-to-DTP3 dropout in 2025 was 11%, 6 percentage points higher than in 2019 (5%). High DTP dropout rates imply poor ability to provide a complete vaccine series early in life.

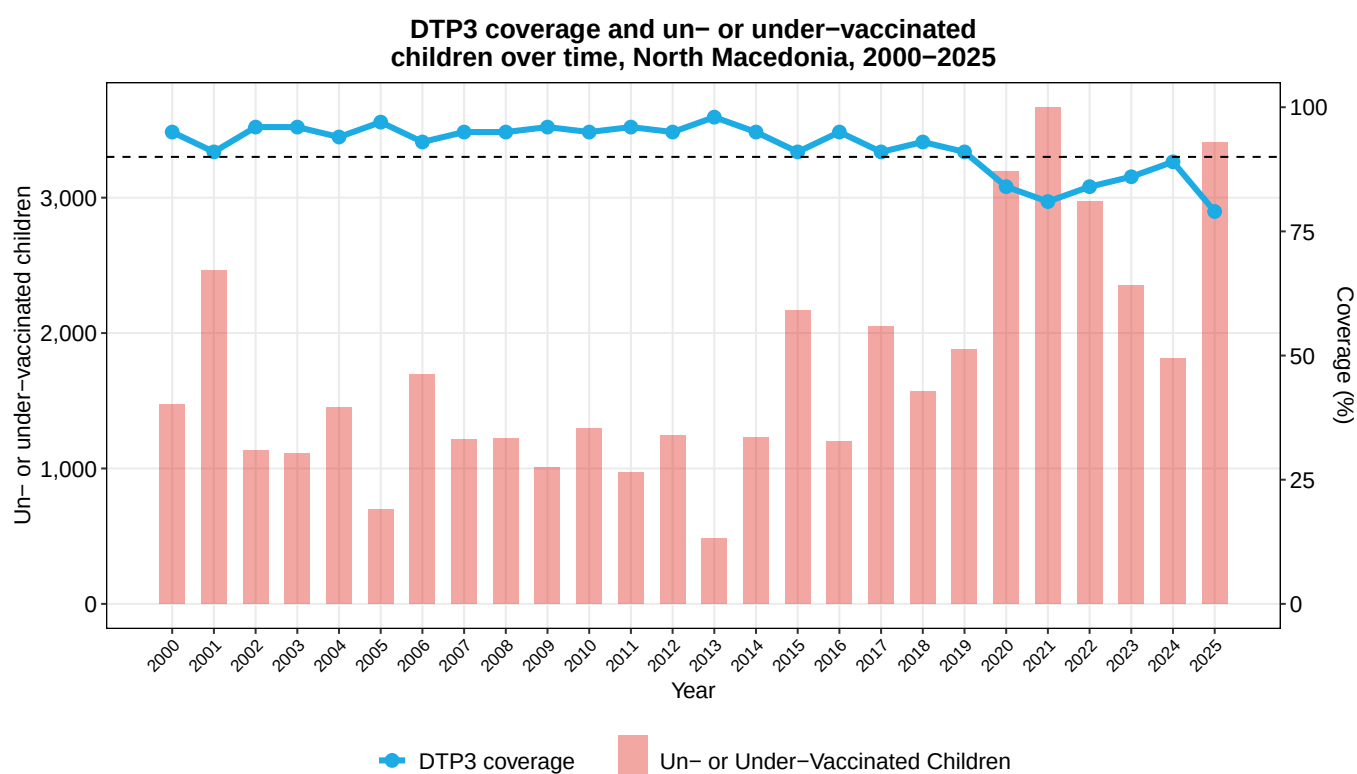
DTP1 coverage and zero-dose children over time, North Macedonia, 2000–2025



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

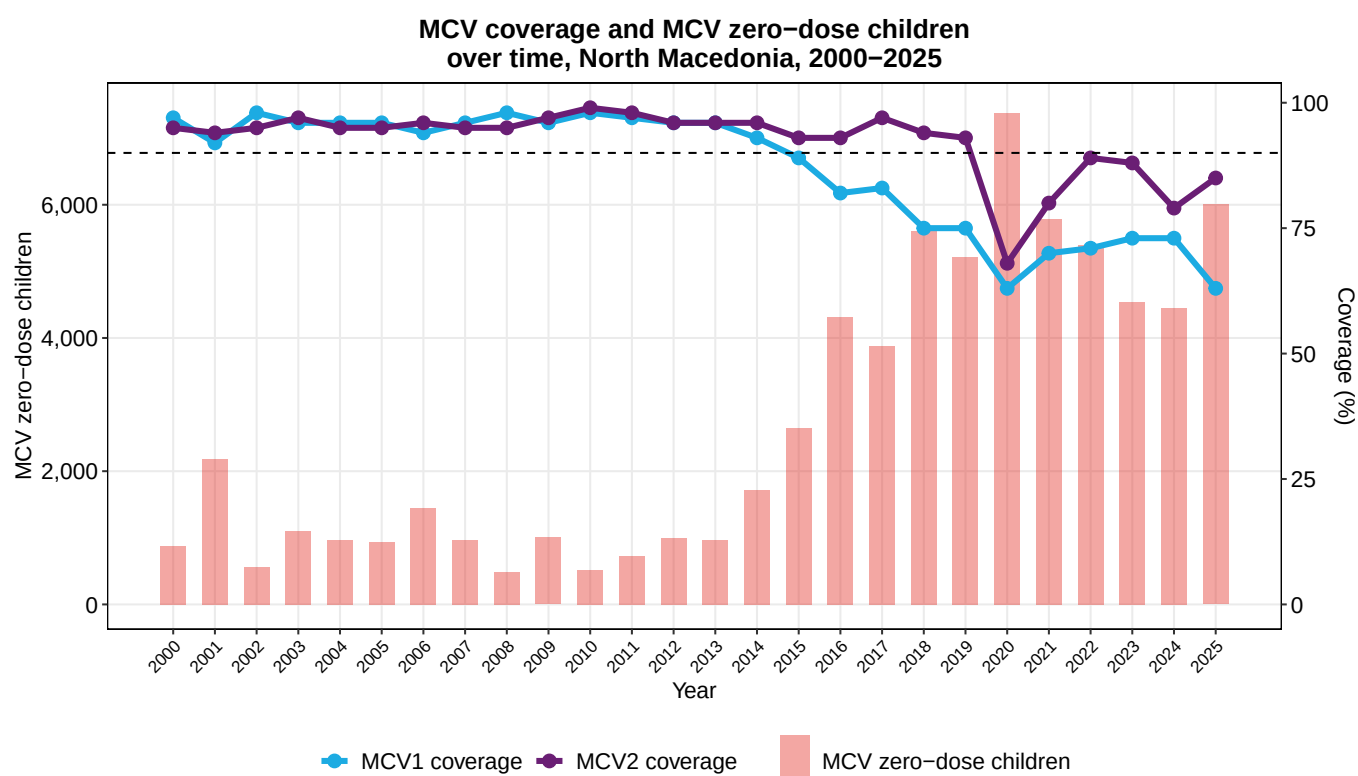
- Coverage of DTP3 stood at 79% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (91%) and lower than in 2024 (89%).
- The number of children vaccinated with DTP3 decreased from 19,000 in 2019 to 13,000 in 2025.
- In 2025, there were 3,000 children un- or under-vaccinated in North Macedonia.
- In 2025, 11% of children who received DTP1 did not receive DTP3. This 11% dropout rate was 6 percentage points higher than in 2019 (5%) and 7 percentage points higher than the 2024 dropout rate (4%).
- Coverage of DTP3 in North Macedonia (79%) was lower 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

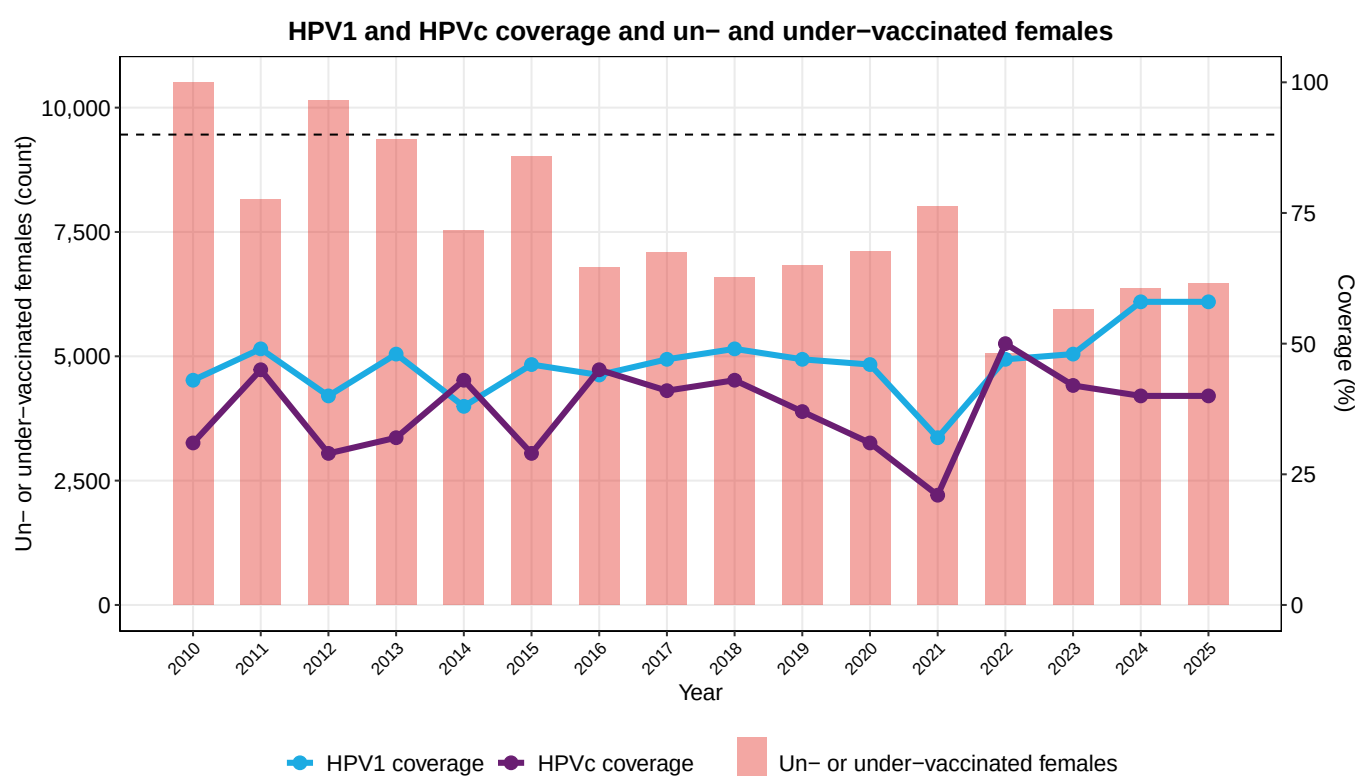
- Coverage of MCV1 stood at 63% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (75%) and lower than in 2024 (73%).
- Coverage of the second dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV2) decreased from 93% in 2019 to 85% in 2025. This leaves 6,000 children without any protection against measles and another -3,000 with only partial protection.
- In 2025, 29% of children who received DTP1 did not receive MCV1. This 29% dropout rate was 7 percentage points higher than in 2019 (22%) and 7 percentage points higher than the 2024 dropout rate (22%).
- North Macedonia has had MCV1 coverage below 80% for all of the last 3 years.
- Coverage of MCV1 in North Macedonia (63%) was lower than 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 remained constant at 58% between 2024 and 2025, and coverage of the last dose (HPVc) also remained constant at 40%.
- HPVc coverage remains well below the IA2030 target of 90%.
- In 2025, approximately 5,000 females in North Macedonia did not receive any HPV vaccination (unvaccinated).
- Among Eastern Europe and Central Asia region peers, North Macedonia ranked 12 out of 18 countries in HPVc coverage in 2025.



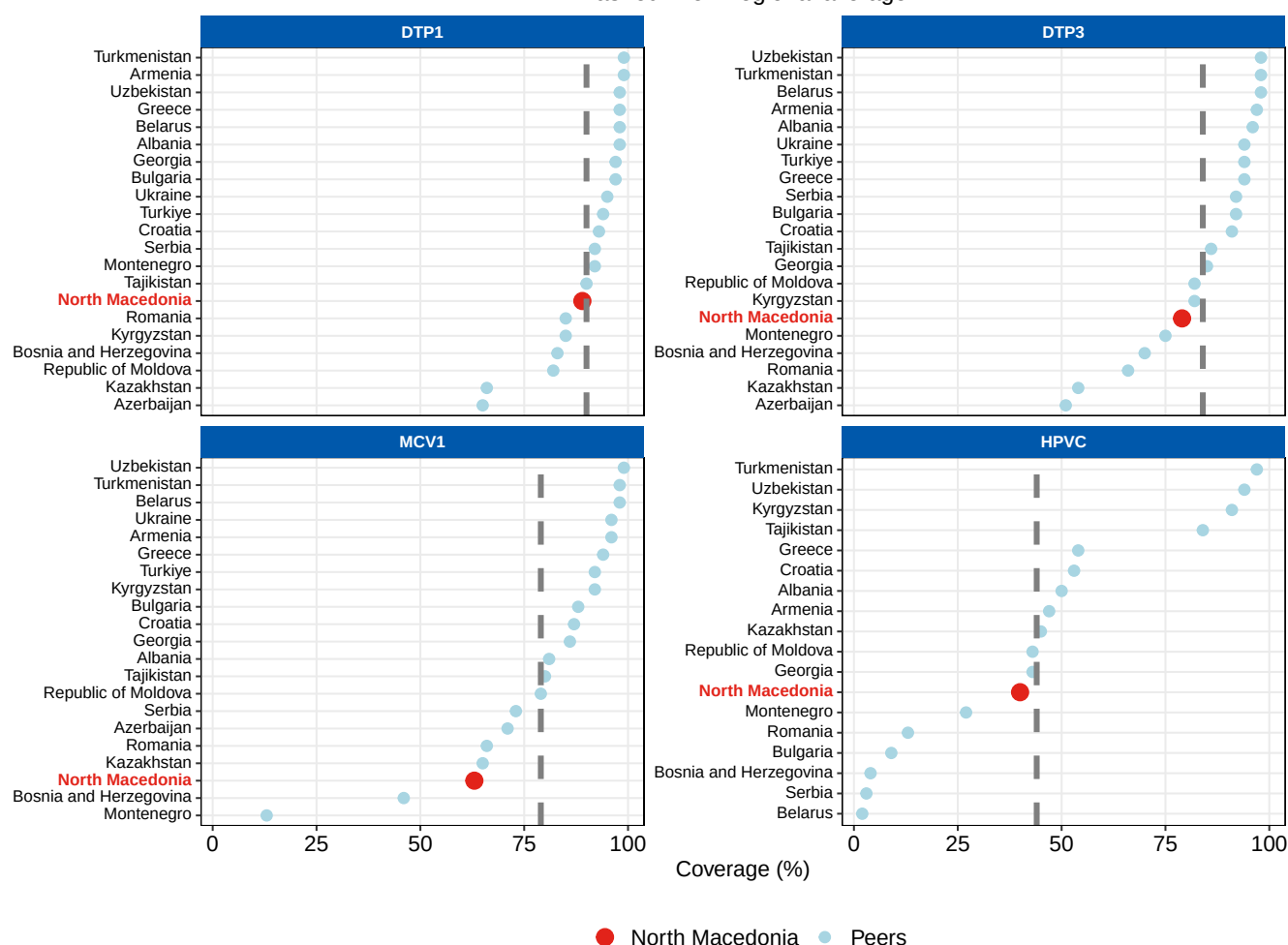
Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
 Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

Regional Comparison

The chart below shows how North Macedonia 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: North Macedonia 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 93% in 2025. This is the same as in 2019 (93%) and the same as in 2024 (93%).
- Coverage of HepB3 stood at 77% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (91%) and lower than in 2024 (91%).
- Coverage of Hib3 stood at 79% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (91%) and lower than in 2024 (91%).
- Coverage of IPV1 stood at 89% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (96%) and lower than in 2024 (93%).
- Coverage of PCVC stood at 60% in 2025. This is lower than in 2024 (72%).
- Coverage of RotaC stood at 64% in 2025. This is lower than in 2024 (71%).

Additional vaccine coverage (%), North Macedonia, 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	97	97	91	95	94	99	92	95	94	98	96	94	95	97	99	94	99	97	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93
HepB3						53	89	96	97	95	90	96	98	97	97	92	94	91	92	91	84	79	84	86	91	77
Hib3									13	82	89	96	95	97	94	89	94	91	93	91	84	81	84	86	91	79
IPV1																98	97	97	98	96	93	89	92	92	93	89
PCVC																					30	53	56	56	72	60
RotaC																					61	65	67	68	71	64



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/>