

WUENIC Talking Points: Nicaragua

Revision Year: 2025

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Nicaragua in the 'Americas' region



Overview

- A total of 12 childhood vaccines are tracked for Nicaragua; of these, 12 reached the 90% coverage target or higher in 2025.
- Coverage of the first dose of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis-containing vaccine (DTP1) increased from 95% in 2024 to 96% in 2025, coverage of the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine (DTP3) increased from 95% in 2024 to 96% in 2025, and coverage of the first dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) declined from 95% in 2024 to 94% in 2025 in 2025.
- In 2025, the number of zero-dose children for DTP in Nicaragua (5,000) was approximately 439% 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.

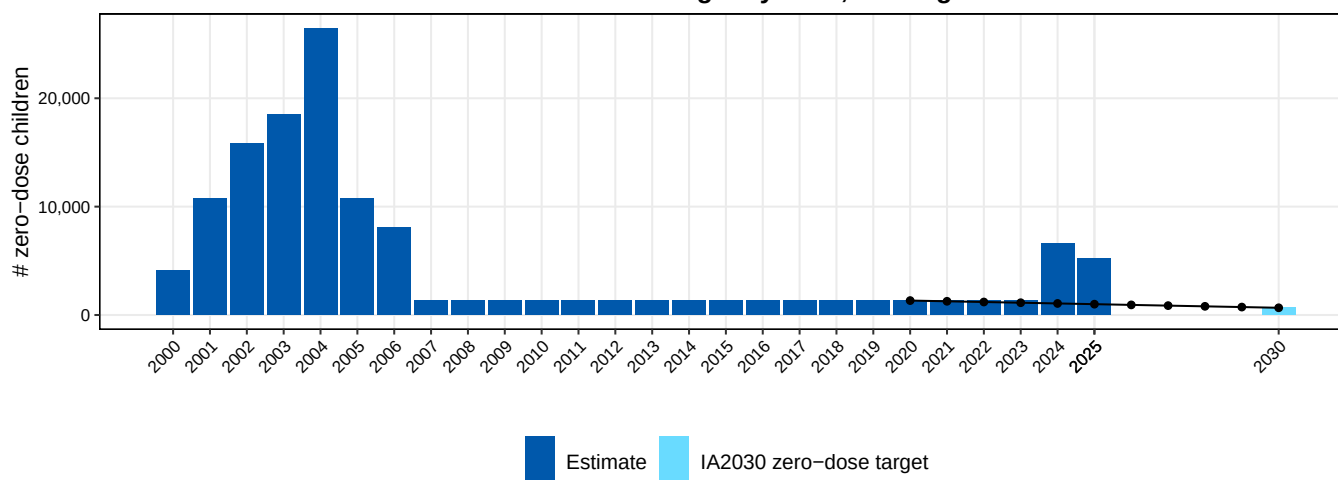
Vaccine coverage (%), Nicaragua, 2000–2025

	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	96	97	93	94	88	95	98	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	96	99	88	81	99
DTP1	97	92	88	86	80	92	94	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	95	96
DTP3	83	87	85	86	79	86	88	99	97	98	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	95	96
Hib3	83	87	85	86	79	86	88	99	97	98	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	95	95
HepB3	83	87	85	86	79	86	88	99	97	98	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	95	96
PCVC												61	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	95	96
RotaC								66	89	94	98	98	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	94	96
IPV1																9	99	99	99	99	99	96	99	99	94	96
IPVC																							99	99	94	96
MCV1	86	99	98	93	84	96	98	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	95	94
RCV1	86	99	98	93	84	96	98	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	95	94
MCV2																					84	95	99	99	86	95
HPVc																									78	66



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

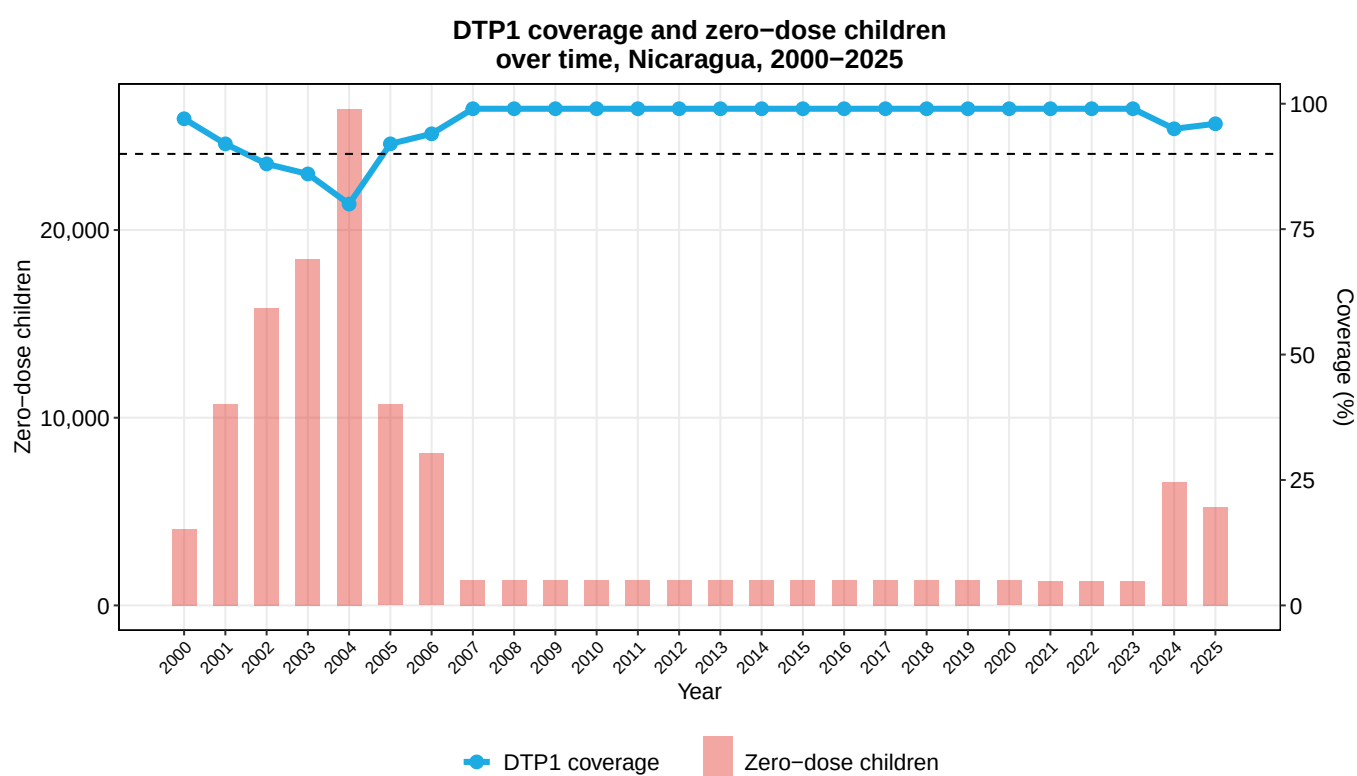
Estimated number of zero-dose children, 2000–2025 and target by 2030, Nicaragua



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

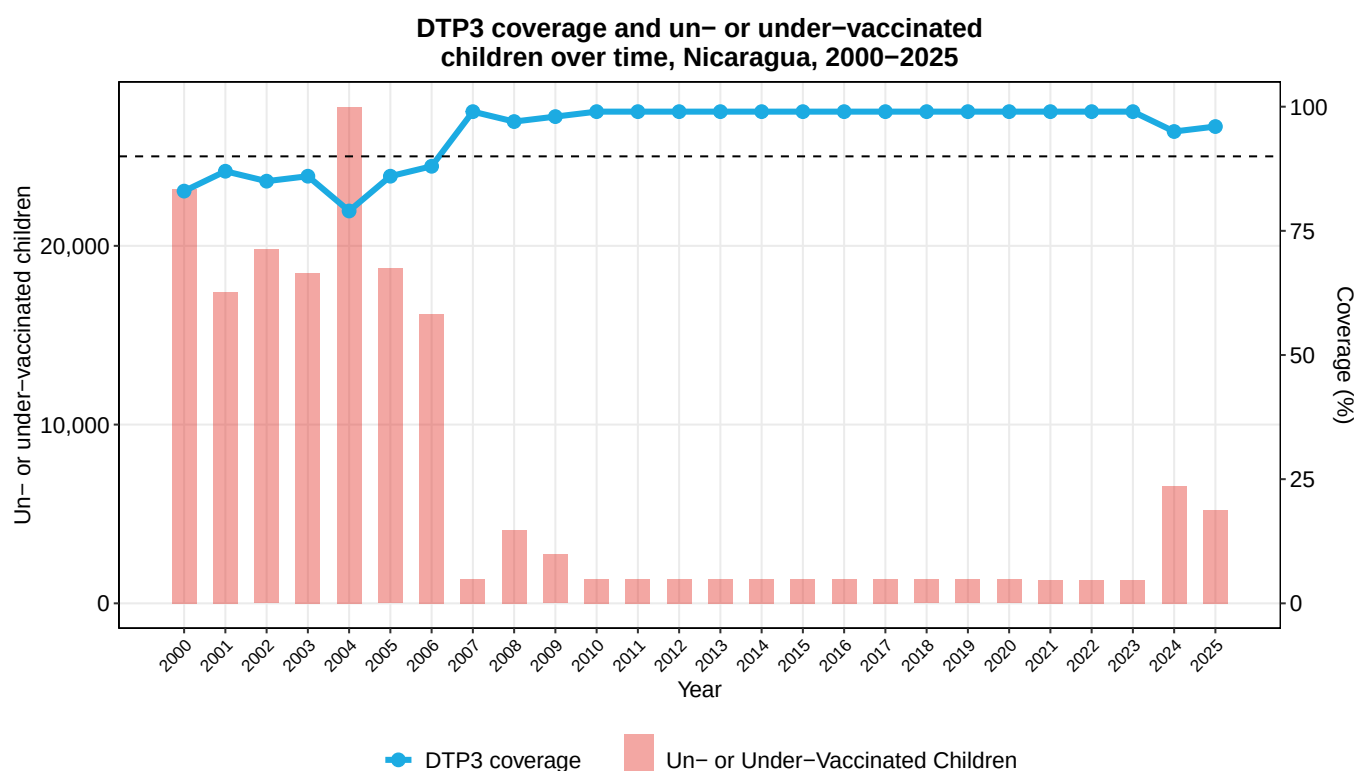
- Coverage of DTP1 stood at 96% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (99%) and higher than in 2024 (95%).
- The percentage of zero-dose children was 439 percentage points higher than the IA2030 target in 2025. There were approximately 5,000 zero-dose children in 2025, more than the 1,000 in 2019 but fewer than the 7,000 in 2024.
- Coverage of DTP1 in Nicaragua (96%) was higher than the Latin America and the Caribbean regional average of 89% in 2025.
- DTP1-to-DTP3 dropout in 2025 was 0%, the same as in 2019. Low DTP dropout rates imply good 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

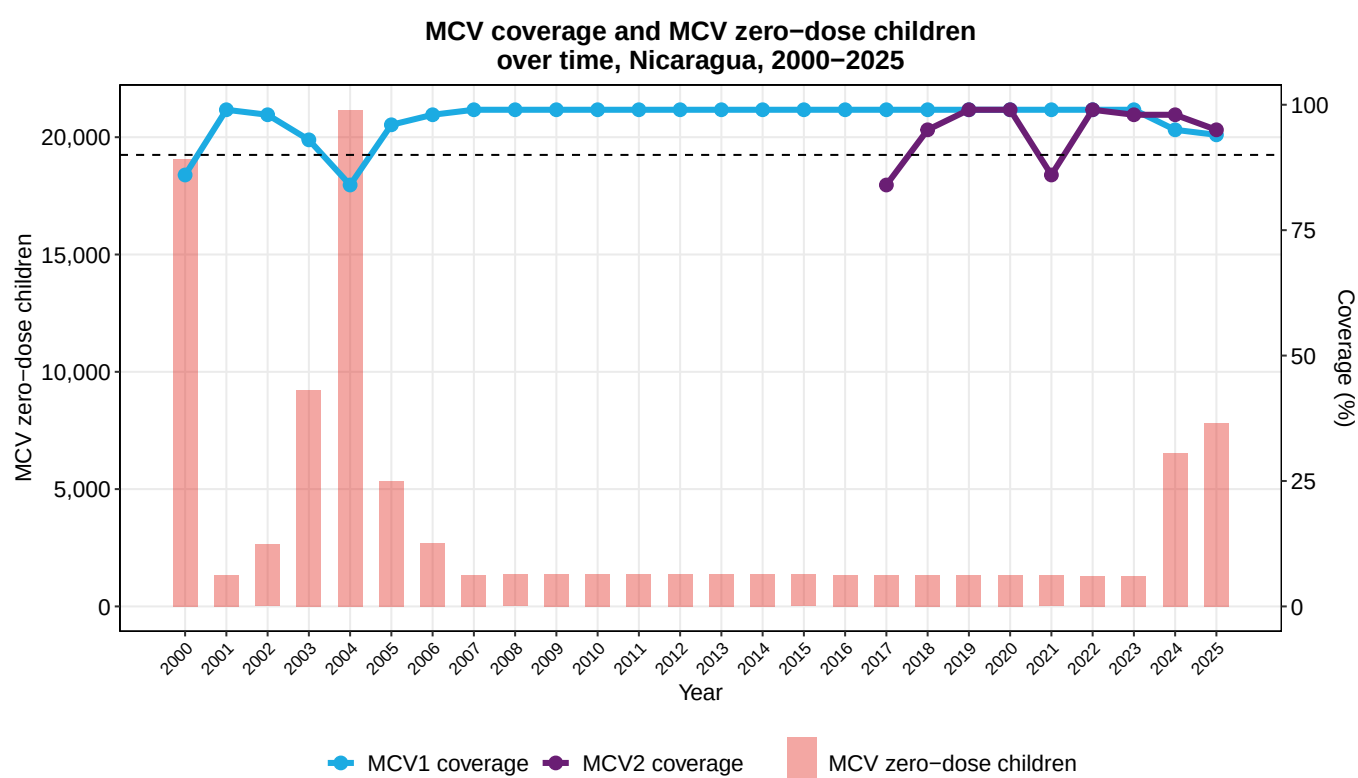
- Coverage of DTP3 stood at 96% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (99%) and higher than in 2024 (95%).
- The number of children vaccinated with DTP3 decreased from 132,000 in 2019 to 125,000 in 2025.
- In 2025, there were 5,000 children un- or under-vaccinated in Nicaragua.
- In 2025, 0% of children who received DTP1 did not receive DTP3. This 0% dropout rate was the same as in 2019 (0%) and the same as the 2024 dropout rate (0%).
- Coverage of DTP3 in Nicaragua (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

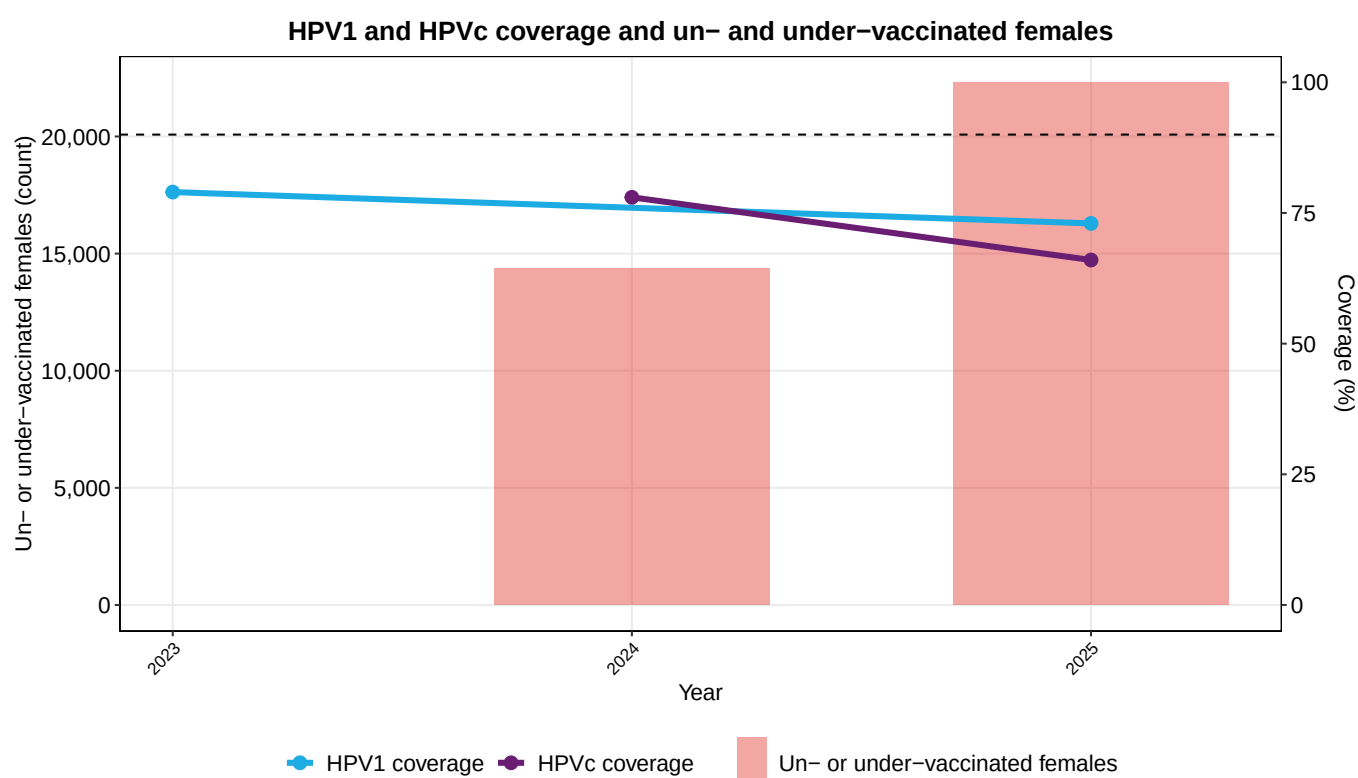
- Coverage of MCV1 stood at 94% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (99%) and lower than in 2024 (95%).
- Coverage of the second dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV2) decreased from 99% in 2019 to 95% in 2025. This leaves 8,000 children without any protection against measles and another -1,000 with only partial protection.
- In 2025, 2% of children who received DTP1 did not receive MCV1. This 2% dropout rate was 2 percentage points higher than in 2019 (0%) and 2 percentage points higher than the 2024 dropout rate (0%).
- Nicaragua has achieved MCV1 coverage above 80% over all of the last 3 years.
- Coverage of MCV1 in Nicaragua (94%) 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

- In 2025, programme coverage among females was 73% for the first dose (HPV1) and 66% for the final dose (HPVc).
- HPVc coverage remains well below the IA2030 target of 90%.
- In 2025, approximately 18,000 females in Nicaragua did not receive any HPV vaccination (unvaccinated).
- Among Latin America and the Caribbean region peers, Nicaragua ranked 17 out of 31 countries in HPVc coverage in 2025.



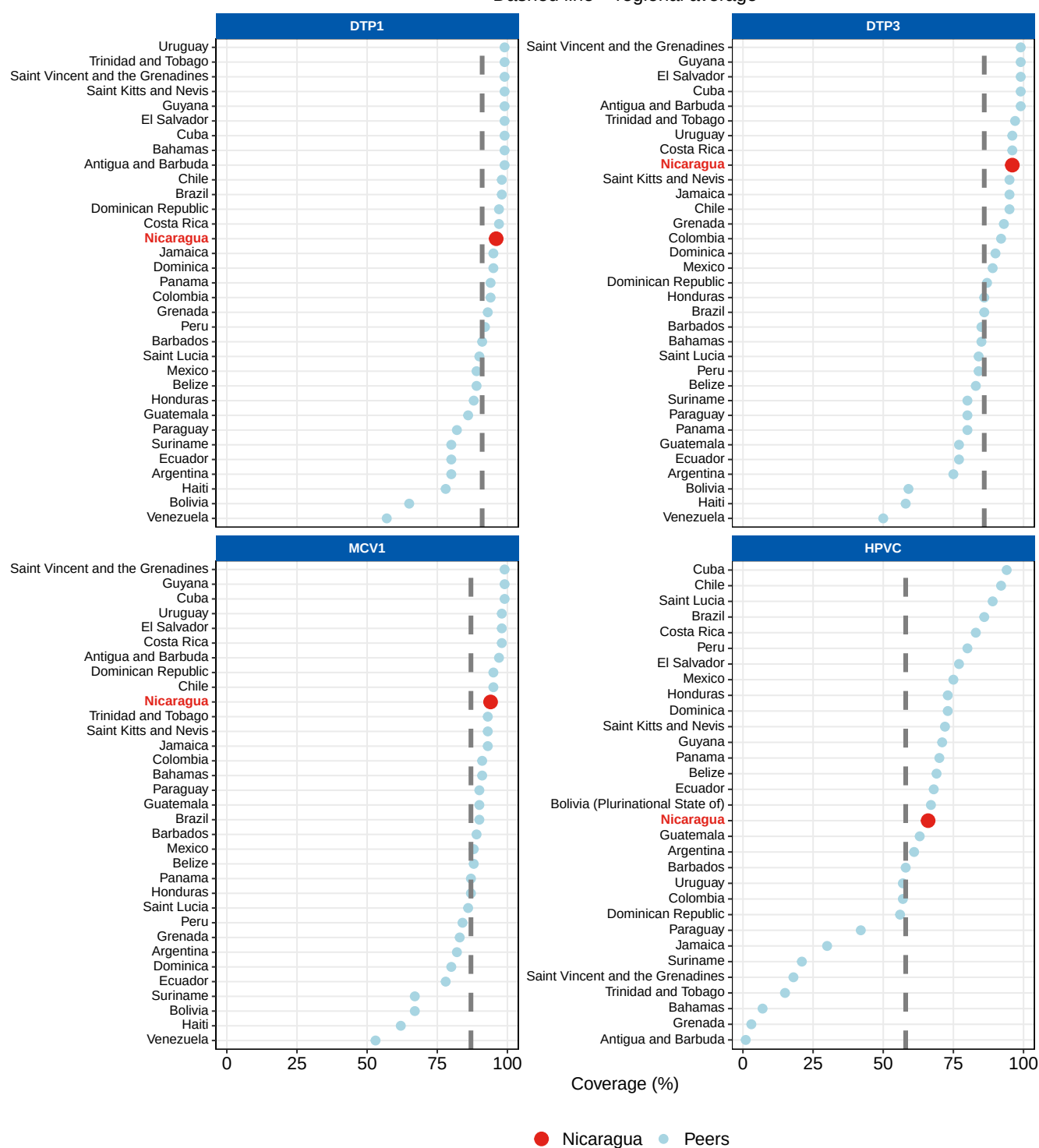
Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
 Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

Regional Comparison

The chart below shows how Nicaragua 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: Nicaragua vs. LACR peers, 2025

Dashed line = regional average

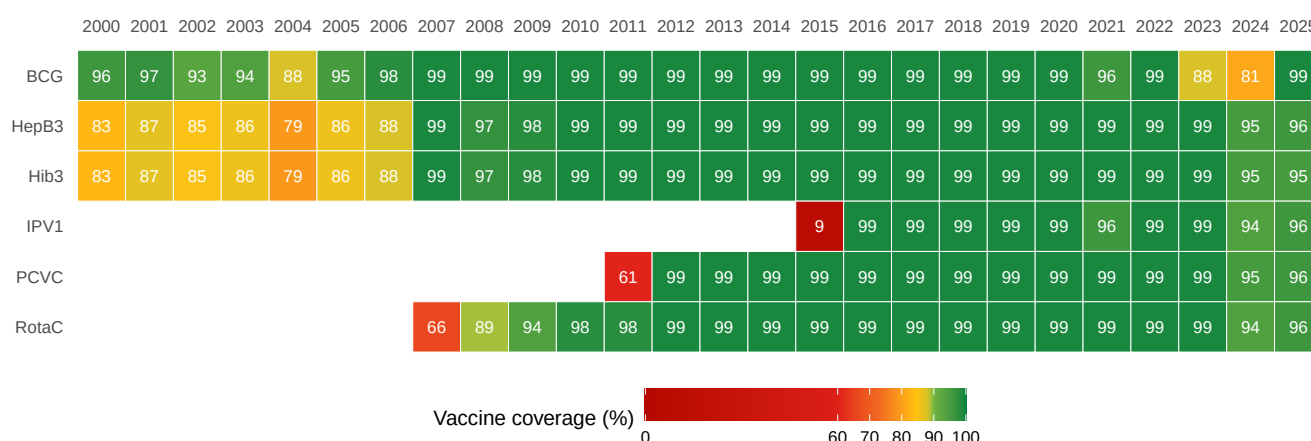


Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

Additional Vaccines

- Coverage of BCG stood at 99% in 2025. This is the same as in 2019 (99%) but higher than in 2024 (81%).
- Coverage of HepB3 stood at 96% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (99%) but higher than in 2024 (95%).
- Coverage of Hib3 stood at 95% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (99%) and the same as in 2024 (95%).
- Coverage of IPV1 stood at 96% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (99%) but higher than in 2024 (94%).
- Coverage of PCVC stood at 96% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (99%) but higher than in 2024 (95%).
- Coverage of RotaC stood at 96% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (99%) but higher than in 2024 (94%).

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



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/>