

WUENIC Talking Points: Panama 🇵🇦

Revision Year: 2025

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Panama in the 'Americas' region



Overview

- A total of 14 childhood vaccines are tracked for Panama; of these, 4 reached the 90% coverage target or higher in 2025.
- Coverage of the first dose of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis-containing vaccine (DTP1) increased from 93% in 2024 to 94% in 2025, coverage of the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine (DTP3) increased from 72% in 2024 to 80% in 2025, and coverage of the first dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) declined from 96% in 2024 to 87% in 2025 in 2025.
- In 2025, the number of zero-dose children for DTP in Panama (4,000) was approximately 166% higher 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.

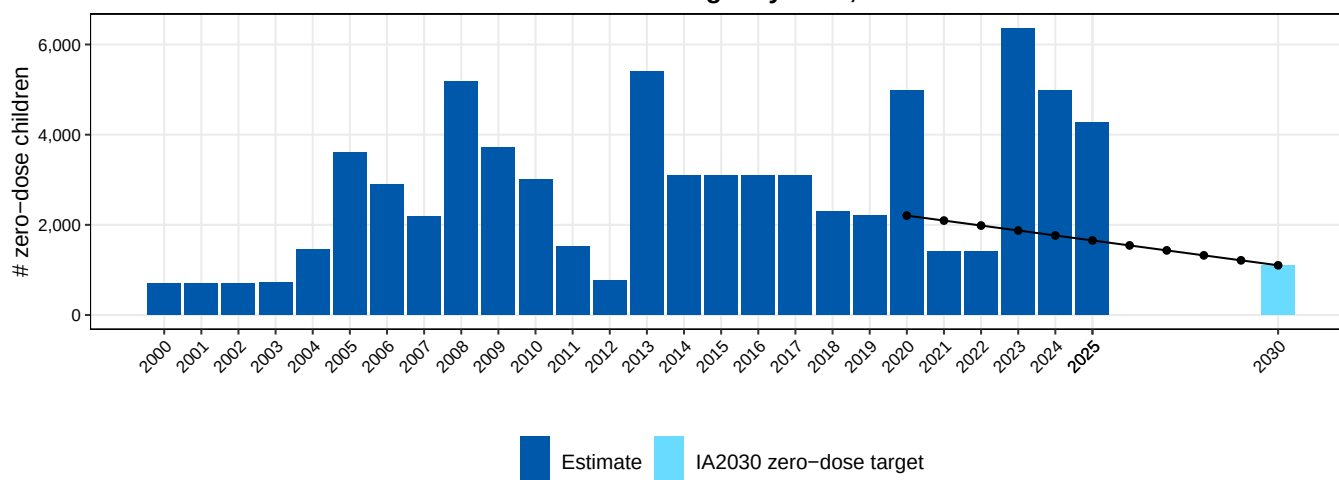
Vaccine coverage (%), Panama, 2000–2025

	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	99	99	99	99	99	99	98	97	98	99	99	99	98	95	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	
HepBB		2	30	57	85	75	79	83	80	78	89	93	87	79	84	85	84	87	85	85	86	87	97	91	89	92	
DTP1	99	99	99	99	98	95	96	97	93	95	96	98	99	93	96	96	96	96	97	97	93	98	98	91	93	94	
DTP3	98	99	99	98	95	92	88	85	86	85	94	87	85	80	80	73	86	81	88	88	74	87	82	71	72	80	
Hib3		99	99	98	95	92	88	85	86	85	94	87	85	80	80	73	86	81	88	88	74	87	82	71	72	80	
HepB3		98	98	98	95	92	88	85	86	85	94	87	85	80	80	73	86	81	88	88	74	87	82	71	72	80	
PCVC											48	63	76	88	91	92	94	97	97	96	74	87	84	77	85	77	
RotaC							82	66	74	78	89	95	92	87	87	87	92	94	95	94	86	84	86	85	91	87	
IPV1																80	96	96	97	97	93	98	98	91	93	94	
IPVC																						87	82	71	72	80	
MCV1	97	95	95	95	97	99	95	95	96	96	97	97	98	92	90	93	95	98	98	97	80	92	87	88	96	87	
RCV1	97	95	95	95	97	99	95	95	96	96	97	97	98	92	90	93	95	98	98	97	80	92	87	88	96	87	
MCV2	88	88	88	89	89	89	86	83	79	76	73	81	72	68	90	92	93	93	99	97	74	75	75	77	85	85	
YFV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	5	5	6	6	6	7	5	5	6	4	6	5	
HPVc												65	79	79	75	80	58	77	72	69	74	45	47	66	71	64	70



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

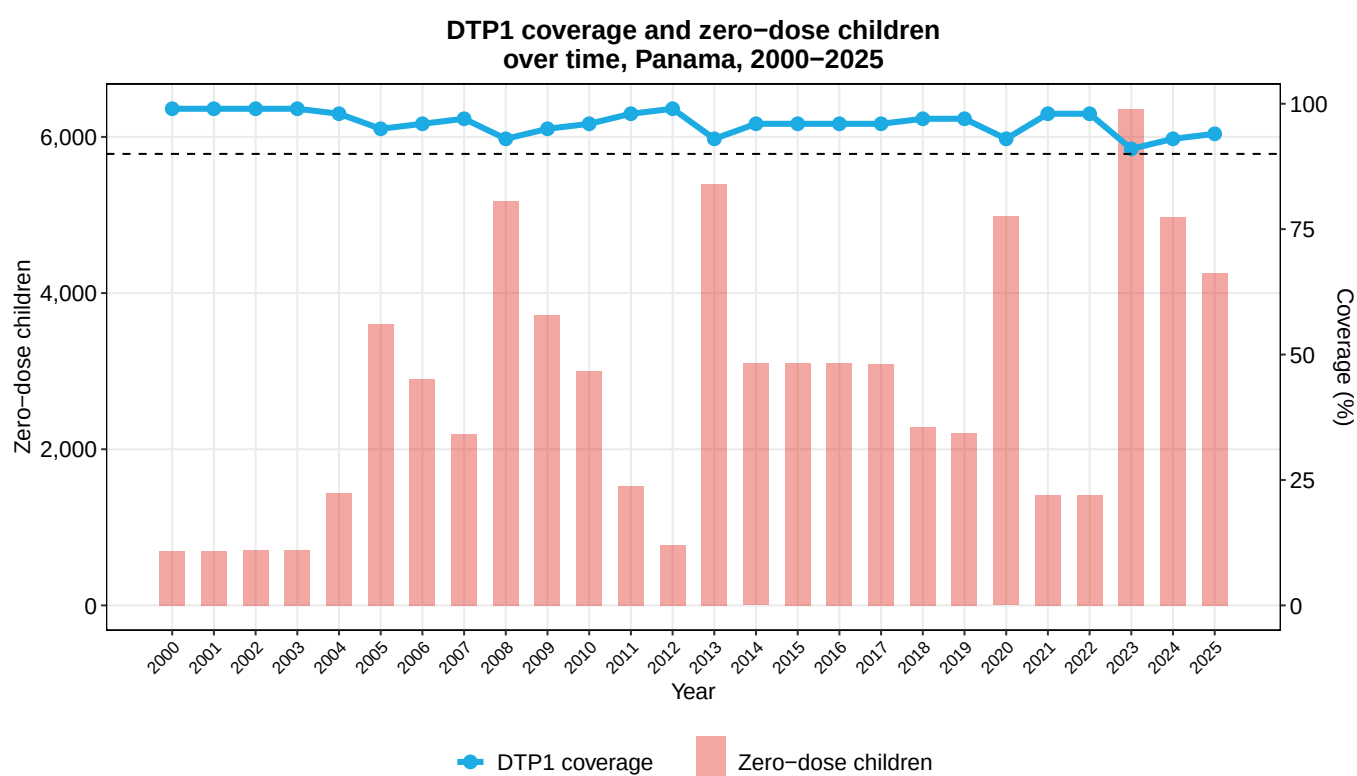
Estimated number of zero-dose children, 2000–2025 and target by 2030, Panama



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 94% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (97%) and higher than in 2024 (93%).
- The percentage of zero-dose children was 166 percentage points higher than the IA2030 target in 2025. There were approximately 4,000 zero-dose children in 2025, more than the 2,000 in 2019 but fewer than the 5,000 in 2024.
- Coverage of DTP1 in Panama (94%) was higher than the Latin America and the Caribbean regional average of 89% in 2025.
- DTP1-to-DTP3 dropout in 2025 was 15%, 6 percentage points higher than in 2019 (9%). High DTP dropout rates imply poor ability to provide a complete vaccine series early in life.

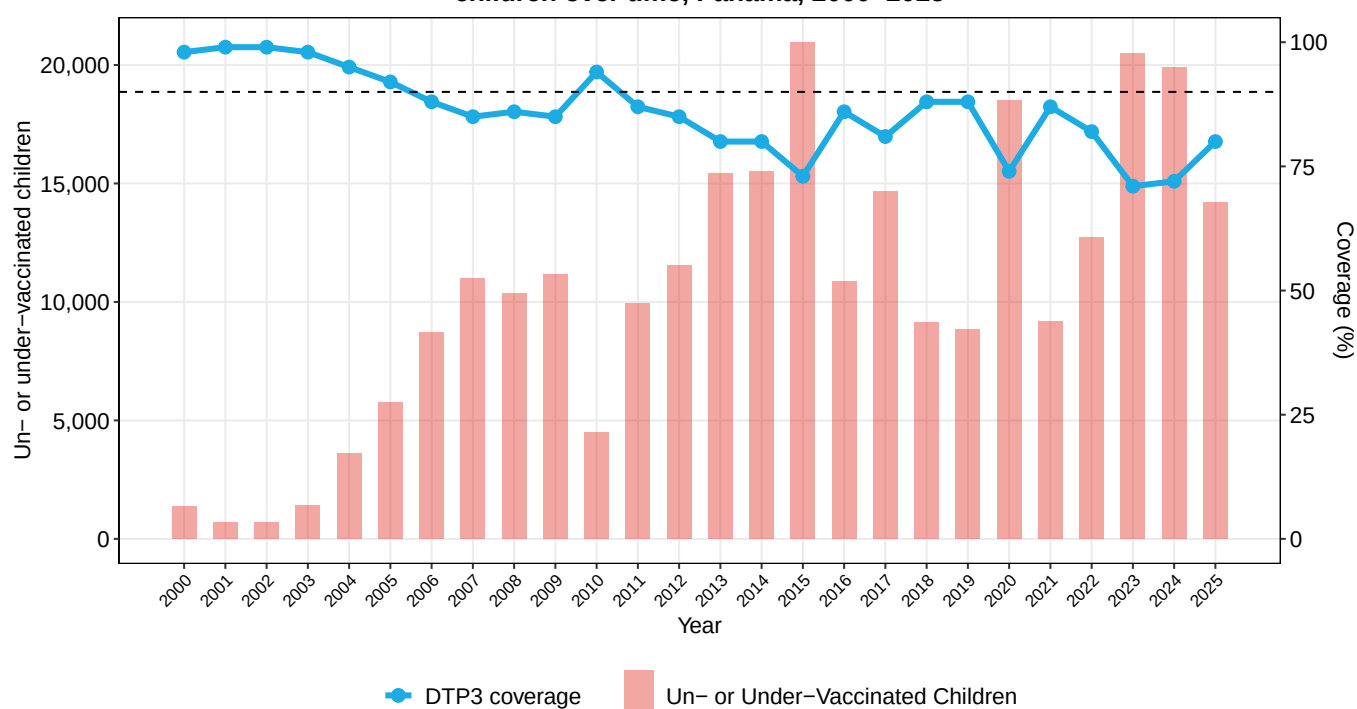


Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

DTP3: A marker of routine immunization service delivery to children

- Coverage of DTP3 stood at 80% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (88%) and higher than in 2024 (72%).
- The number of children vaccinated with DTP3 decreased from 65,000 in 2019 to 57,000 in 2025.
- In 2025, there were 14,000 children un- or under-vaccinated in Panama.
- In 2025, 15% of children who received DTP1 did not receive DTP3. This 15% dropout rate was 6 percentage points higher than in 2019 (9%) but 8 percentage points lower than the 2024 dropout rate (23%).
- Coverage of DTP3 in Panama (80%) was lower than the Latin America and the Caribbean regional average of 83% in 2025.

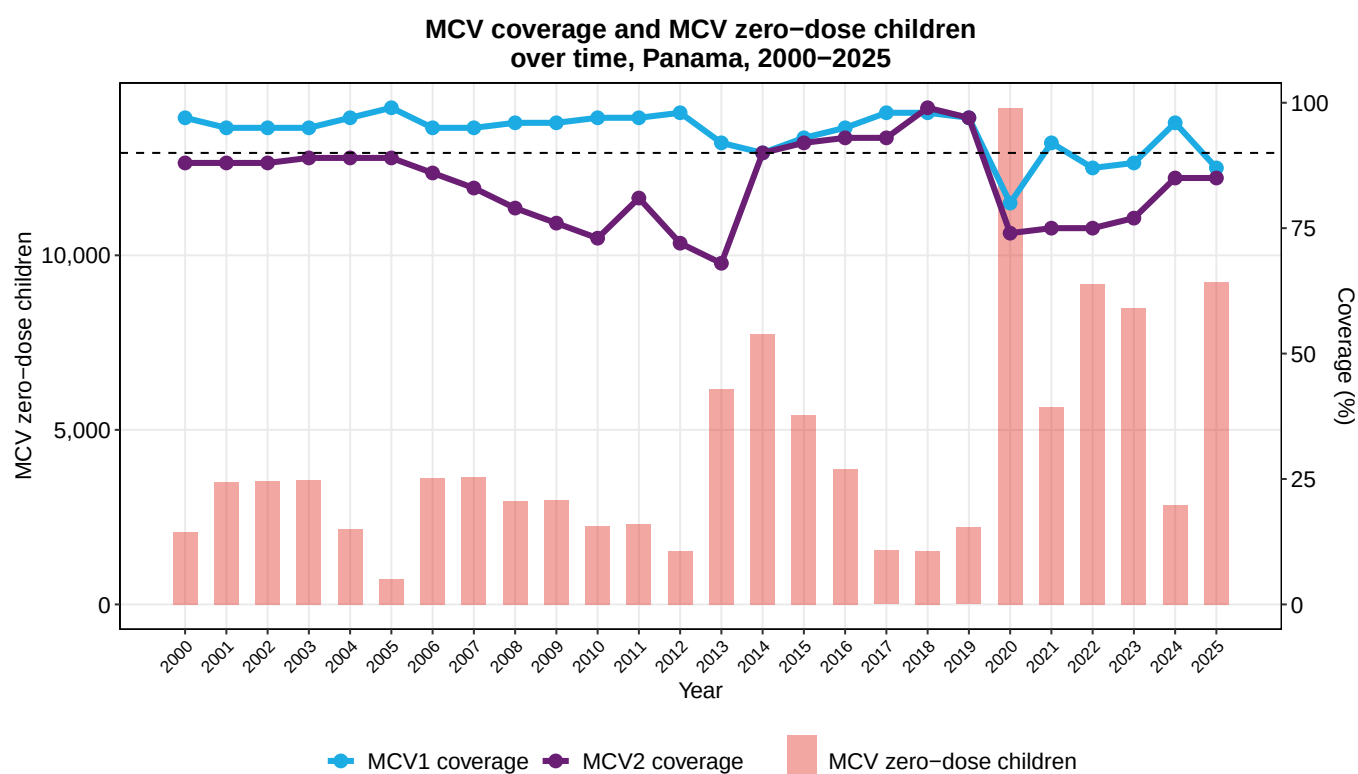
DTP3 coverage and un- or under-vaccinated children over time, Panama, 2000–2025



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

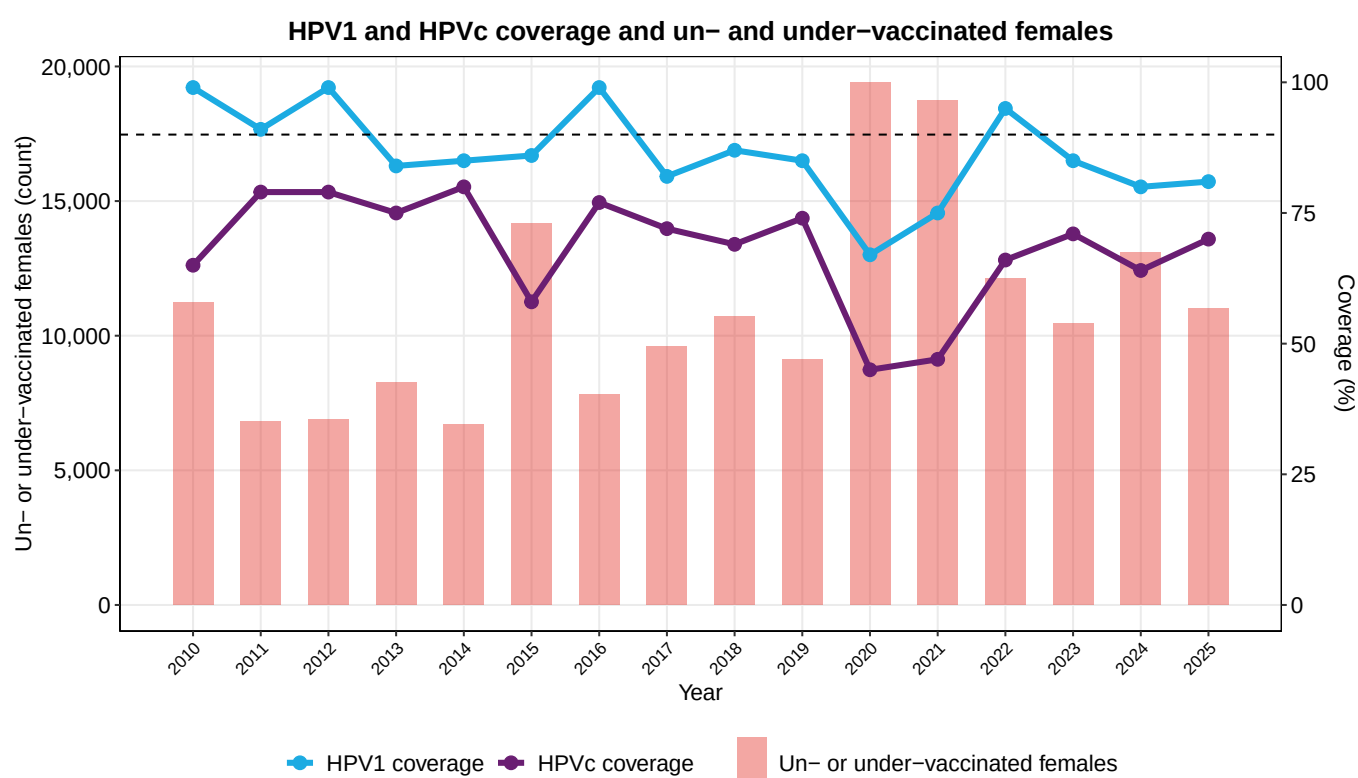
- Coverage of MCV1 stood at 87% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (97%) and lower than in 2024 (96%).
- Coverage of the second dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV2) decreased from 97% in 2019 to 85% in 2025. This leaves 9,000 children without any protection against measles and another 1,000 with only partial protection.
- In 2025, 7% of children who received DTP1 did not receive MCV1. This 7% dropout rate was 7 percentage points higher than in 2019 (0%) and 10 percentage points higher than the 2024 dropout rate (-3%).
- Panama has achieved MCV1 coverage above 80% over all of the last 3 years.
- Coverage of MCV1 in Panama (87%) 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 increased from 80% to 81% between 2024 and 2025, and coverage of the last dose (HPVc) also increased from 64% to 70%.
- HPVc coverage remains well below the IA2030 target of 90%, though it is trending upward.
- In 2025, approximately 7,000 females in Panama did not receive any HPV vaccination (un-vaccinated).
- Among Latin America and the Caribbean region peers, Panama ranked 13 out of 31 countries in HPVc coverage in 2025.



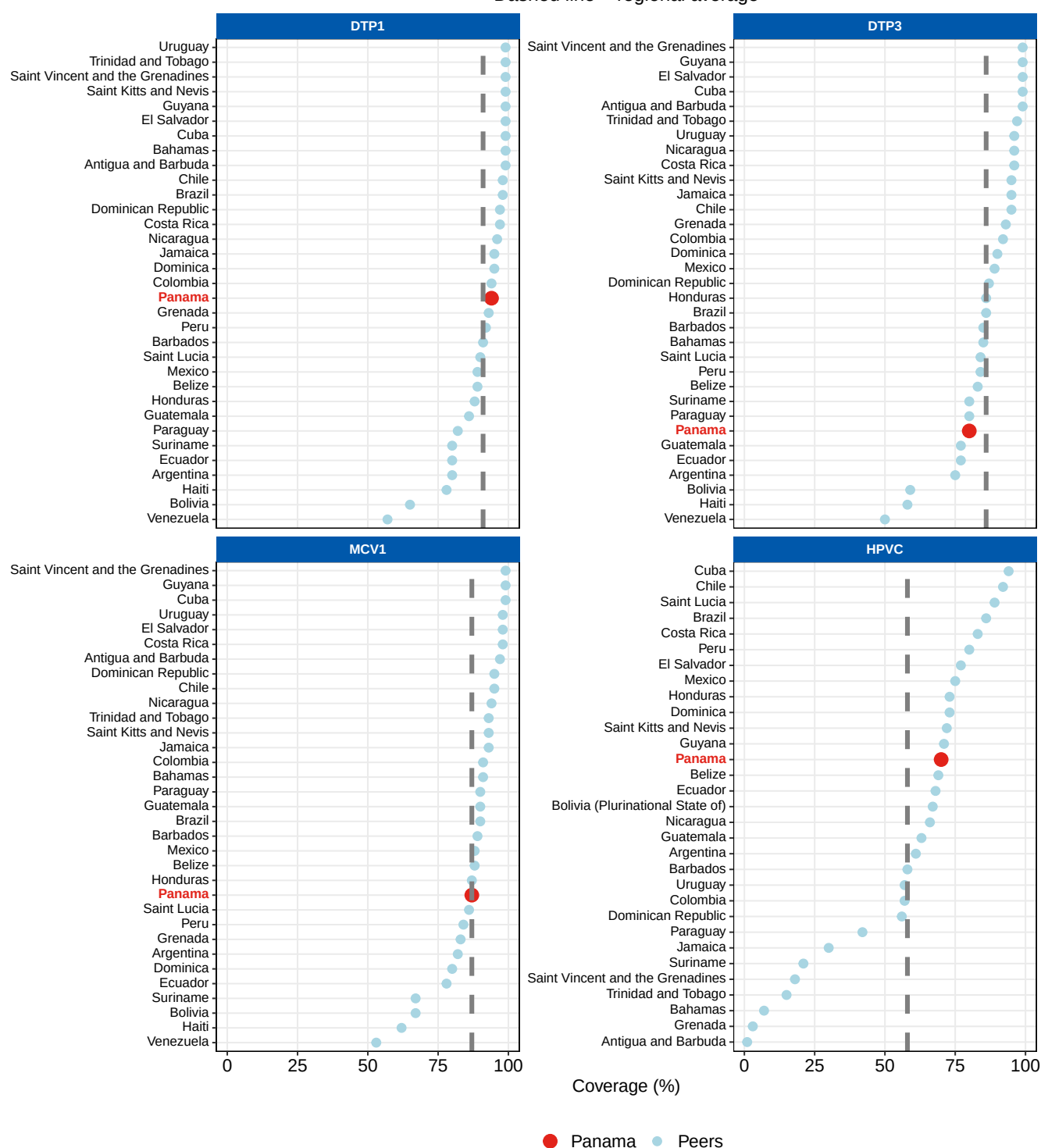
Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
 Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

Regional Comparison

The chart below shows how Panama 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: Panama 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 80% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (88%) but higher than in 2024 (72%).
- Coverage of Hib3 stood at 80% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (88%) but higher than in 2024 (72%).
- Coverage of IPV1 stood at 94% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (97%) but higher than in 2024 (93%).
- Coverage of PCVC stood at 77% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (96%) and lower than in 2024 (85%).
- Coverage of RotaC stood at 87% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (94%) and lower than in 2024 (91%).

Additional vaccine coverage (%), Panama, 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	99	99	99	99	99	99	98	97	98	99	99	99	98	95	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99
HepB3		98	98	98	95	92	88	85	86	85	94	87	85	80	80	73	86	81	88	88	74	87	82	71	72	80
Hib3		99	99	98	95	92	88	85	86	85	94	87	85	80	80	73	86	81	88	88	74	87	82	71	72	80
IPV1																80	96	96	97	97	93	98	98	91	93	94
PCVC											48	63	76	88	91	92	94	97	97	96	74	87	84	77	85	77
RotaC						82	66	74	78	89	95	92	87	87	87	92	94	95	94	86	84	86	85	91	87	



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/>