

WUENIC Talking Points: Saudi Arabia



Revision Year: 2025

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Saudi Arabia in the 'Asia' region



Overview

- A total of 13 childhood vaccines are tracked for Saudi Arabia; of these, 13 reached the 90% coverage target or higher in 2025.
- Coverage of the first dose of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis-containing vaccine (DTP1) increased from 97% in 2024 to 98% in 2025, coverage of the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine (DTP3) increased from 97% in 2024 to 98% in 2025, and coverage of the first dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) increased from 96% in 2024 to 99% in 2025 in 2025.
- In 2025, the number of zero-dose children for DTP in Saudi Arabia (11,000) was approximately 6% lower than the annual number proposed to achieve the IA2030 target of halving zero-dose children for DTP by 2030 (12,000), based on a linear trajectory of decline.

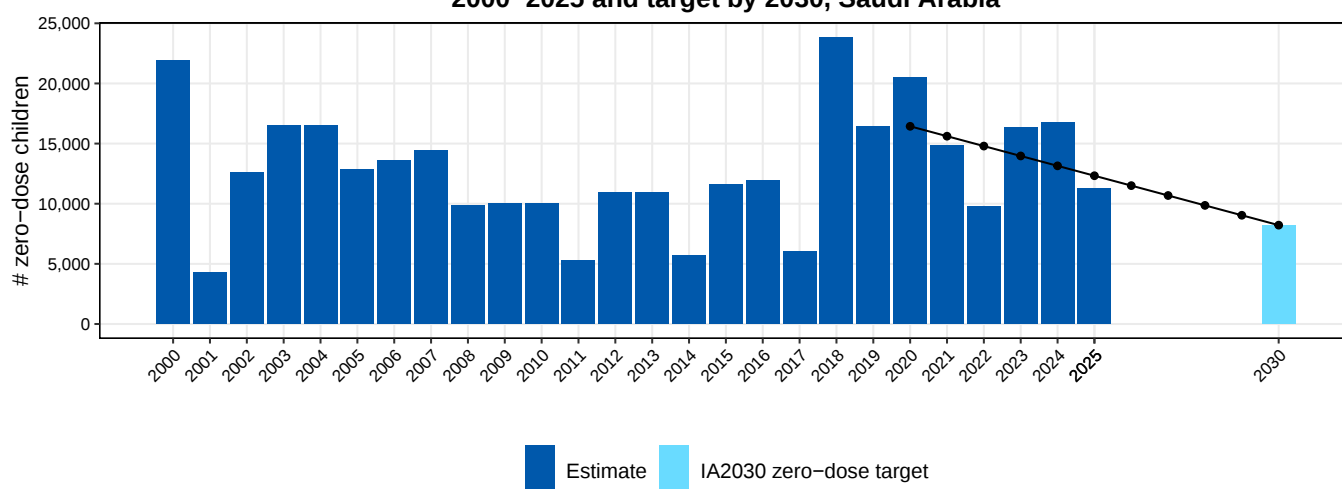
Vaccine coverage (%), Saudi Arabia, 2000–2025

	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	94	94	98	94	95	96	95	96	98	98	98	98	99	99	99	98	98	97	98	52	95	94	98	96	97	97
HepBB		94	98	94	95	96	95	96	98	98	98	98	99	99	99	98	98	96	98	96	96	98	98	97	97	99
DTP1	95	99	97	96	96	97	97	97	98	98	98	99	98	98	99	98	98	99	96	97	96	97	98	97	97	98
DTP3	95	97	95	95	96	96	96	96	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	96	96	95	97	98	97	97	98
Hib3			95	95	96	96	96	96	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	96	96	95	97	98	97	97	98
HepB3	93	95	97	95	96	97	96	96	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	97	96	95	97	98	97	97	98
PCVC										98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	96	95	97	98	97	96	98
RotaC														84	94	95	95	97	97	95	96	97	97	97	97	98
IPV1																98	98	99	96	97	95	97	98	97	97	98
IPVC																						97	98	96	97	98
MCV1	94	94	97	96	97	97	95	96	97	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	96	98	95	96	98	98	97	96	99
RCV1	94	94	97	96	97	97	95	96	97	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	96	98	95	96	98	98	97	96	99
MCV2		96	96	97	97	97	97	98	98	98	98	97	98	99	98	96	96	96	97	96	96	97	98	96	96	99
HPVc																										47



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

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

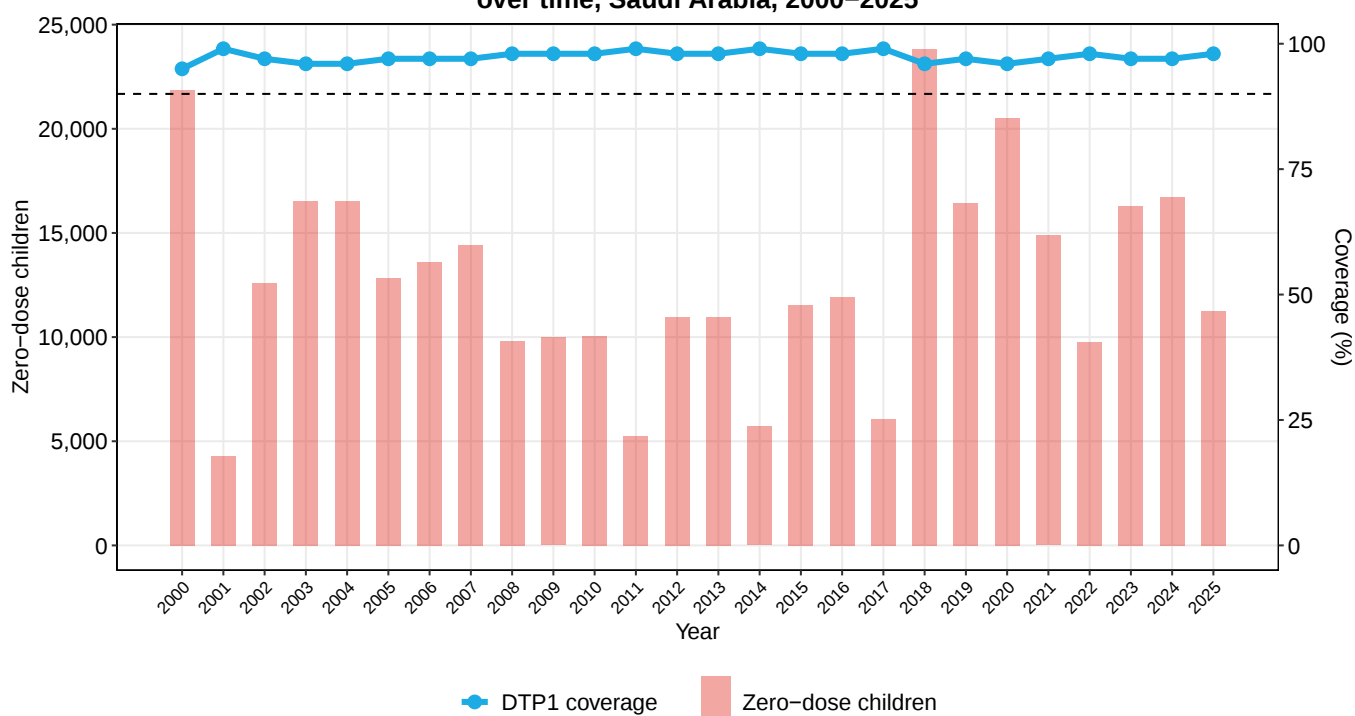


Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.
 Note: The Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) calls on all countries to reduce the number of zero-dose children in half by 2030.
 Dark blue bars are the estimated number of zero-dose children in 2000–2025, light blue bar is 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 higher than in 2019 (97%) and higher than in 2024 (97%).
- The percentage of zero-dose children was 6 percentage points lower than the IA2030 target in 2025. There were approximately 11,000 zero-dose children in 2025, fewer than the 16,000 in 2019 and fewer than the 17,000 in 2024.
- Coverage of DTP1 in Saudi Arabia (98%) was higher than the Middle East and North Africa regional average of 89% in 2025.
- DTP1-to-DTP3 dropout in 2025 was 0%, 1 percentage point lower than in 2019 (1%). Low DTP dropout rates imply good ability to provide a complete vaccine series early in life.

DTP1 coverage and zero-dose children over time, Saudi Arabia, 2000–2025

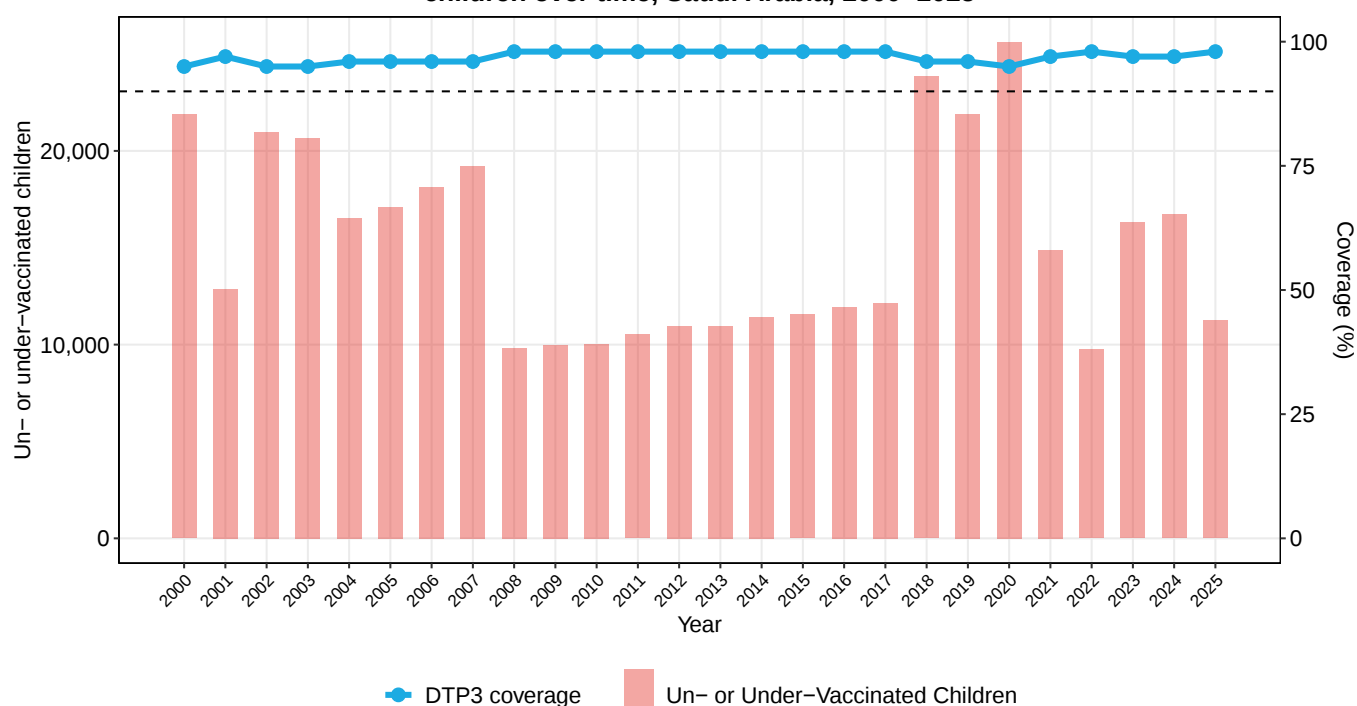


Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

DTP3: A marker of routine immunization service delivery to children

- Coverage of DTP3 stood at 98% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (96%) and higher than in 2024 (97%).
- The number of children vaccinated with DTP3 increased from 526,000 in 2019 to 551,000 in 2025.
- In 2025, there were 11,000 children un- or under-vaccinated in Saudi Arabia.
- In 2025, 0% of children who received DTP1 did not receive DTP3. This 0% dropout rate was 1 percentage points lower than in 2019 (1%) and the same as the 2024 dropout rate (0%).
- Coverage of DTP3 in Saudi Arabia (98%) was higher than the Middle East and North Africa regional average of 83% in 2025.

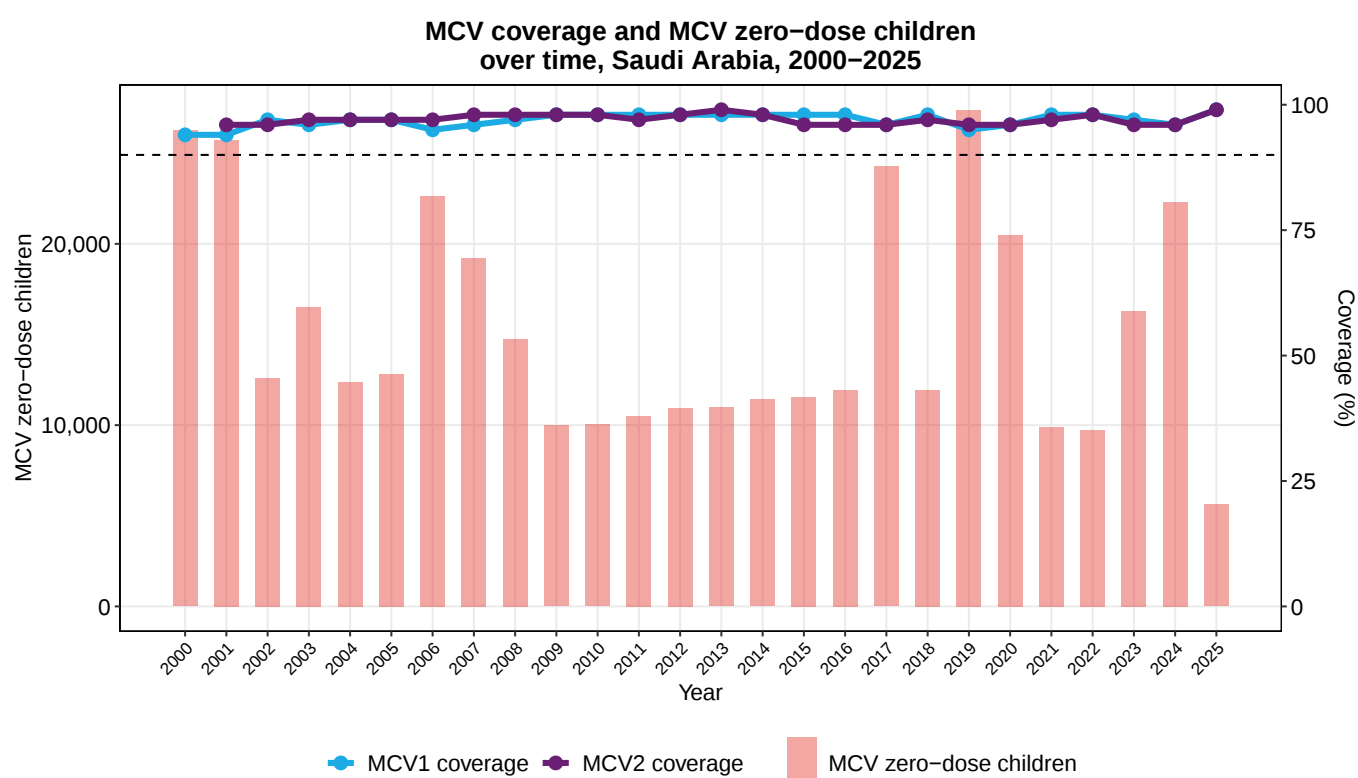
DTP3 coverage and un- or under-vaccinated children over time, Saudi Arabia, 2000–2025



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

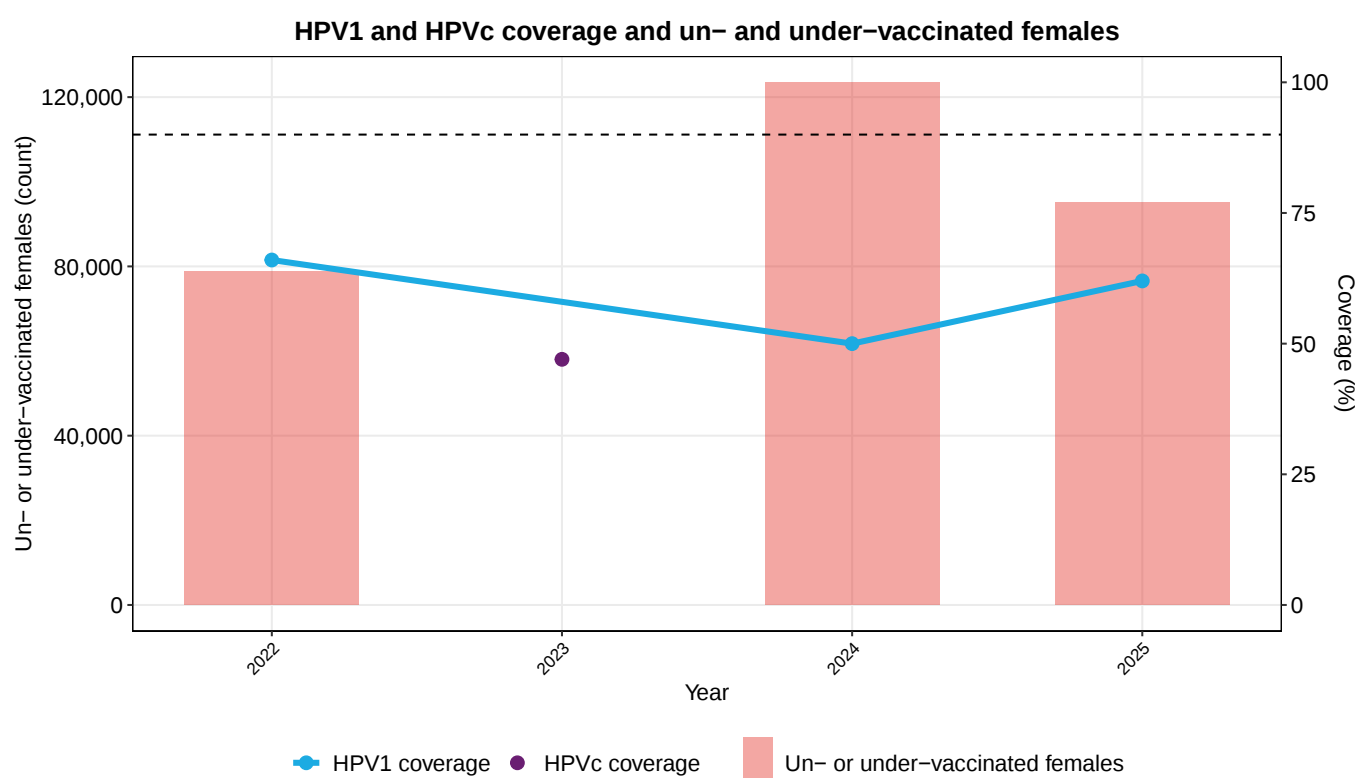
- Coverage of MCV1 stood at 99% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (95%) and higher than in 2024 (96%).
- Coverage of the second dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV2) increased from 96% in 2019 to 99% in 2025. This still leaves 6,000 children without any protection against measles and another <500 with only partial protection.
- In 2025, -1% of children who received DTP1 did not receive MCV1. This -1% dropout rate was 3 percentage points lower than in 2019 (2%) and 2 percentage points lower than the 2024 dropout rate (1%).
- Saudi Arabia has achieved MCV1 coverage above 80% over all of the last 3 years.
- Coverage of MCV1 in Saudi Arabia (99%) was higher than the Middle East and North Africa regional average of 84% 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 62% for the first dose (HPV1) and NA% for the final dose (HPVc).
- HPVc coverage remains well below the IA2030 target of 90%, though it is trending upward.
- In 2025, approximately 95,000 females in Saudi Arabia did not receive any HPV vaccination (unvaccinated).
- Among Middle East and North Africa region peers, Saudi Arabia ranked 2 out of 9 countries in HPV1 coverage in 2025.



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

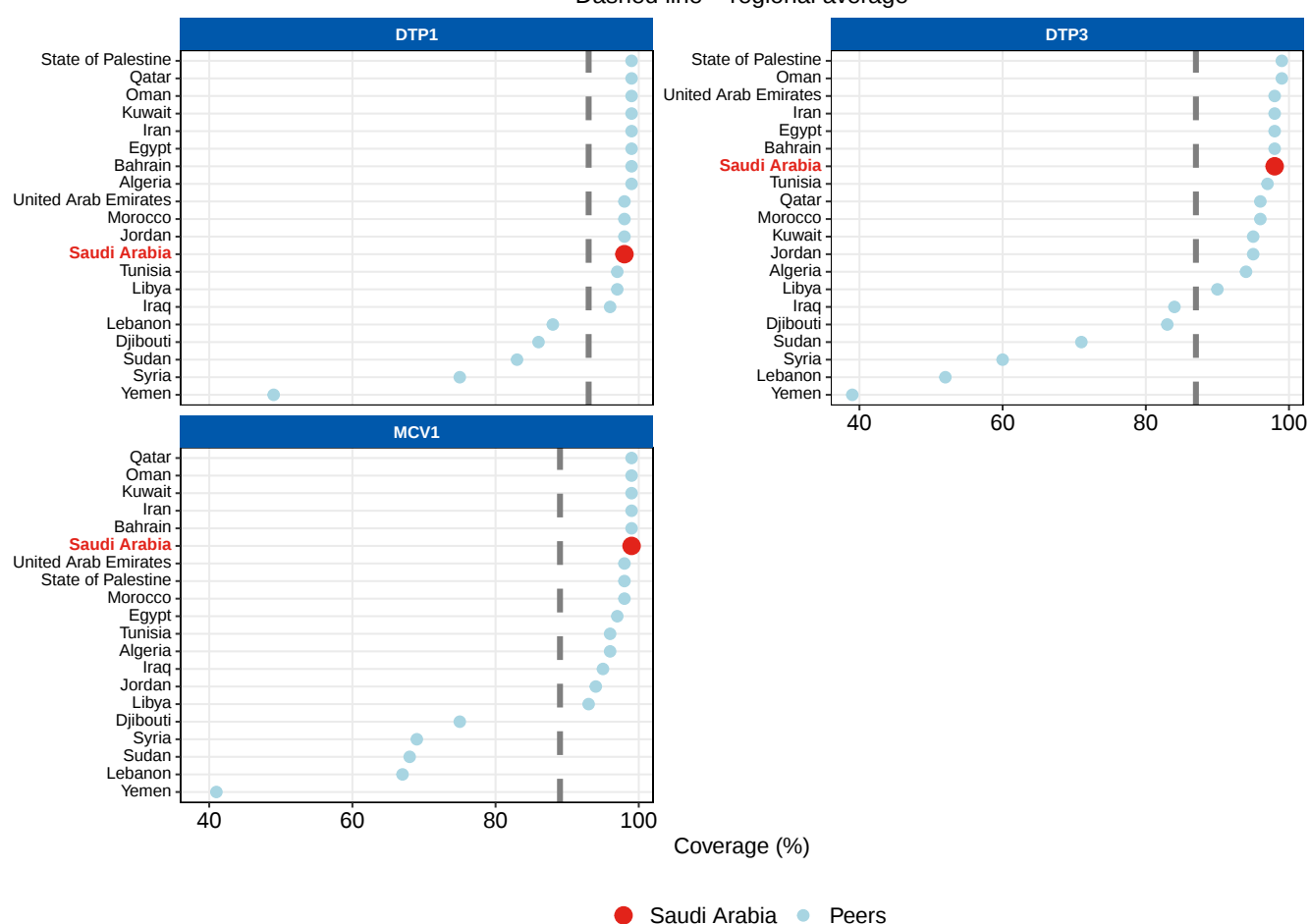
Regional Comparison

The chart below shows how Saudi Arabia compares to other countries in the Middle East and North Africa region on DTP1, DTP3, MCV1, and HPVc coverage in 2025. The dashed line represents the regional average for each vaccine.

HPVc (last dose) data is available for Saudi Arabia in WUENIC but not for 2025, so HPVc coverage is not included in the regional comparison.

Coverage comparison: Saudi Arabia vs. MENA peers, 2025

Dashed line = regional average



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

Additional Vaccines

- Coverage of BCG stood at 97% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (52%) and the same as in 2024 (97%).
- Coverage of HepB3 stood at 98% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (96%) and higher than in 2024 (97%).
- Coverage of Hib3 stood at 98% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (96%) and higher than in 2024 (97%).
- Coverage of IPV1 stood at 98% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (97%) and higher than in 2024 (97%).
- Coverage of PCVC stood at 98% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (96%) and higher than in 2024 (96%).
- Coverage of RotaC stood at 98% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (95%) and higher than in 2024 (97%).

Additional vaccine coverage (%), Saudi Arabia, 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	94	94	98	94	95	96	95	96	98	98	98	98	99	99	99	98	98	97	98	52	95	94	98	96	97	97
HepB3	93	95	97	95	96	97	96	96	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	97	96	95	97	98	97	97	98
Hib3			95	95	96	96	96	96	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	96	96	95	97	98	97	97	98
IPV1																98	98	99	96	97	95	97	98	97	97	98
PCVC										98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	96	95	97	98	97	96	98
RotaC													84	94	95	95	97	97	95	96	97	97	97	97	97	98



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/>