

WUENIC Talking Points: El Salvador

Revision Year: 2025

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El Salvador in the 'Americas' region



Overview

- A total of 13 childhood vaccines are tracked for El Salvador; 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 98% in 2024 to 99% in 2025, coverage of the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine (DTP3) increased from 95% in 2024 to 99% in 2025, and coverage of the first dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) increased from 96% in 2024 to 98% in 2025 in 2025.
- In 2025, the number of zero-dose children for DTP in El Salvador (<1,000) was approximately 67% lower than the annual number proposed to achieve the IA2030 target of halving zero-dose children for DTP by 2030 (3,000), based on a linear trajectory of decline.

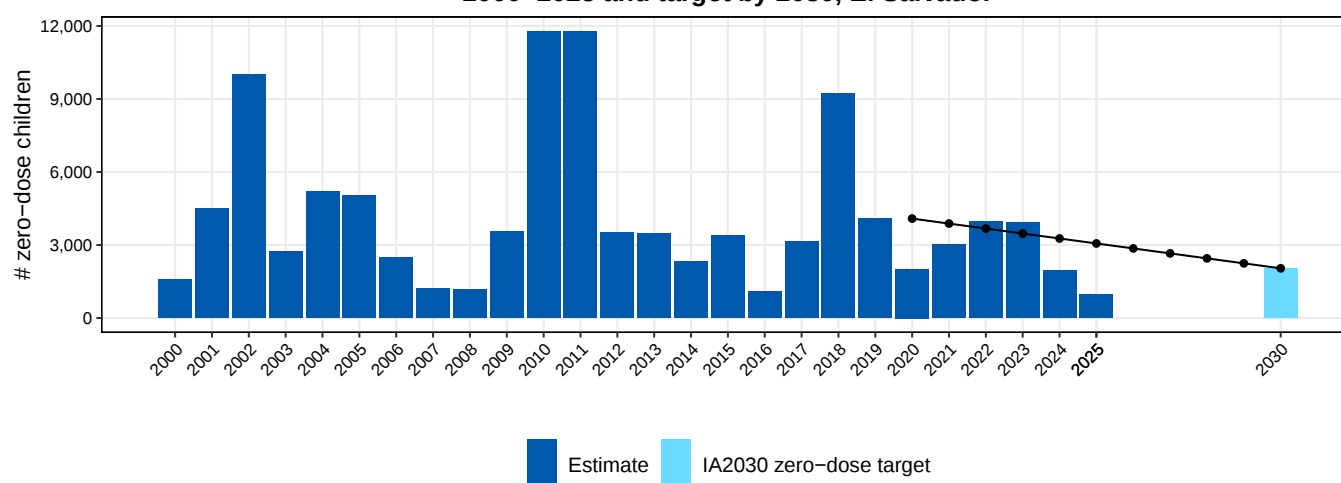
Vaccine coverage (%), El Salvador, 2000–2025

	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	92	92	91	94	84	93	99	99	99	96	95	90	90	87	99	91	89	89	93	97	96	94	95	99	97
HepBB																86	92	91	88	90	92	89	90	87	92	90
DTP1	99	97	93	98	96	96	98	99	99	97	90	90	97	97	98	97	99	97	91	96	98	97	96	96	98	99
DTP3	99	92	81	94	90	89	96	99	98	91	89	89	93	92	94	94	98	92	89	96	89	97	95	96	95	99
Hib3			81	94	90	89	96	99	98	91	89	89	92	92	94	94	98	92	89	96	89	97	95	96	95	99
HepB3	99	75	81	94	90	89	96	99	98	91	89	89	92	92	94	94	98	92	89	96	89	97	95	96	95	99
PCVC											66	95	94	92	88	99	97	96	87	96	93	92	90	99	96	98
RotaC						25	78	83	62	90	90	93	92	97	96	96	97	90	89	97	92	96	96	98	97	99
IPV1																	99	91	90	96	94	96	95	96	98	99
IPVC																						96	93	96	95	99
MCV1	97	95	93	90	93	99	98	99	95	91	92	89	93	94	96	97	98	89	87	96	84	97	80	99	96	98
RCV1	97	95	93	90	93	99	98	99	95	91	92	89	93	94	96	97	98	89	87	96	84	97	80	99	96	98
MCV2			77	80	85	89	86	79	82	78	81	95	85	85	88	87	86	85	76	66	80	72	71	71	71	71
HPVc																						24	34	36	81	77



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

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

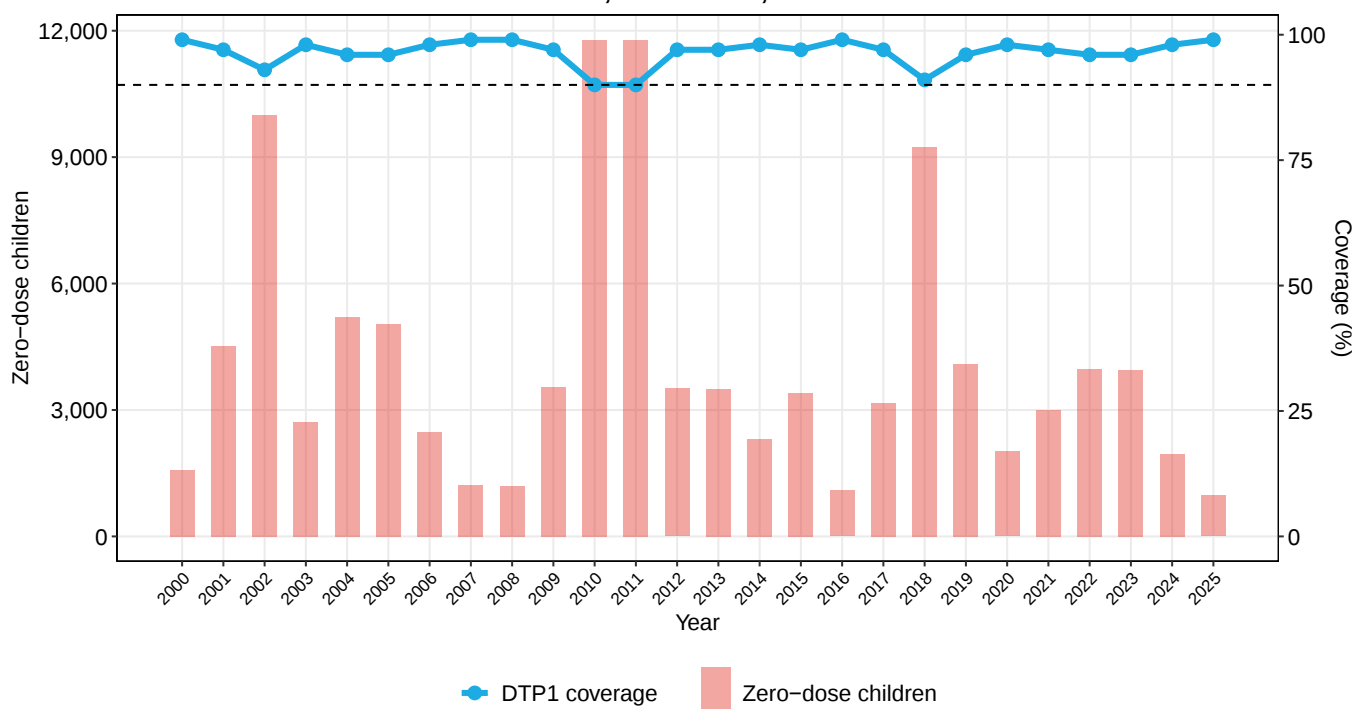


Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.
 Note: The Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) calls on all countries to reduce the number of zero-dose children in 2019 in half by 2030.
 Dark blue bars are the estimated number of zero-dose children in 2000–2025, light blue 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 99% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (96%) and higher than in 2024 (98%).
- The percentage of zero-dose children was 67 percentage points lower than the IA2030 target in 2025. There were approximately <1,000 zero-dose children in 2025, fewer than the 4,000 in 2019 and fewer than the 2,000 in 2024.
- Coverage of DTP1 in El Salvador (99%) 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.

DTP1 coverage and zero-dose children over time, El Salvador, 2000–2025

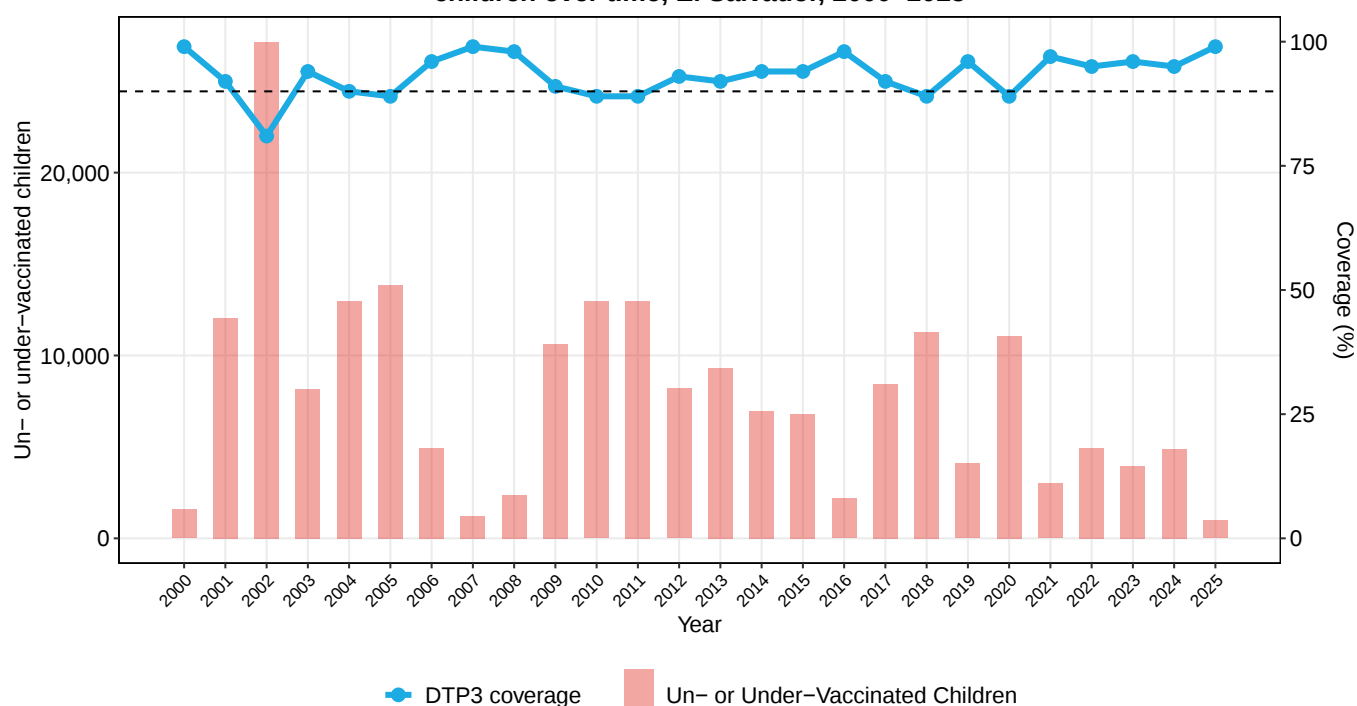


Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

DTP3: A marker of routine immunization service delivery to children

- Coverage of DTP3 stood at 99% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (96%) and higher than in 2024 (95%).
- The number of children vaccinated with DTP3 decreased from 98,000 in 2019 to 96,000 in 2025.
- In 2025, there were <1,000 children un- or under-vaccinated in El Salvador.
- In 2025, 0% of children who received DTP1 did not receive DTP3. This 0% dropout rate was the same as in 2019 (0%) but 3 percentage points lower than the 2024 dropout rate (3%).
- Coverage of DTP3 in El Salvador (99%) was higher than the Latin America and the Caribbean regional average of 83% in 2025.

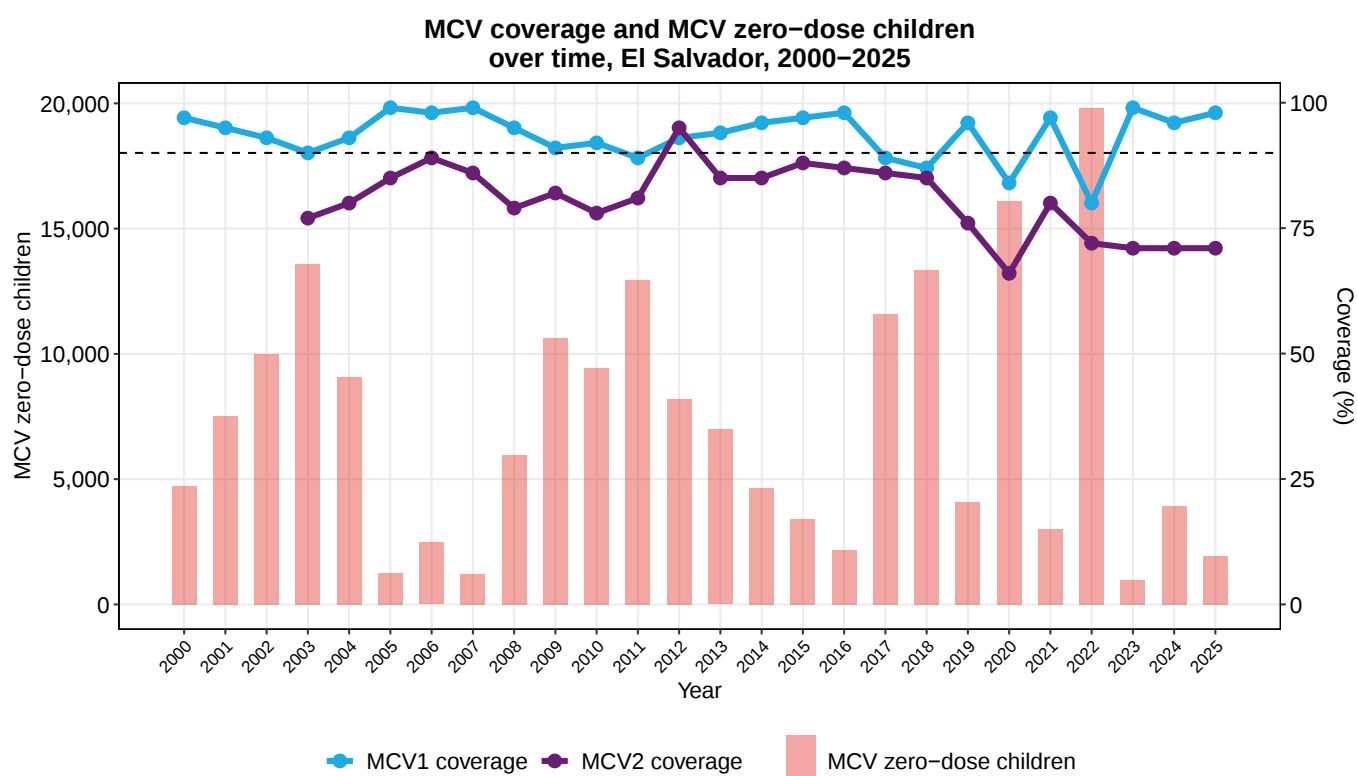
DTP3 coverage and un- or under-vaccinated children over time, El Salvador, 2000–2025



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

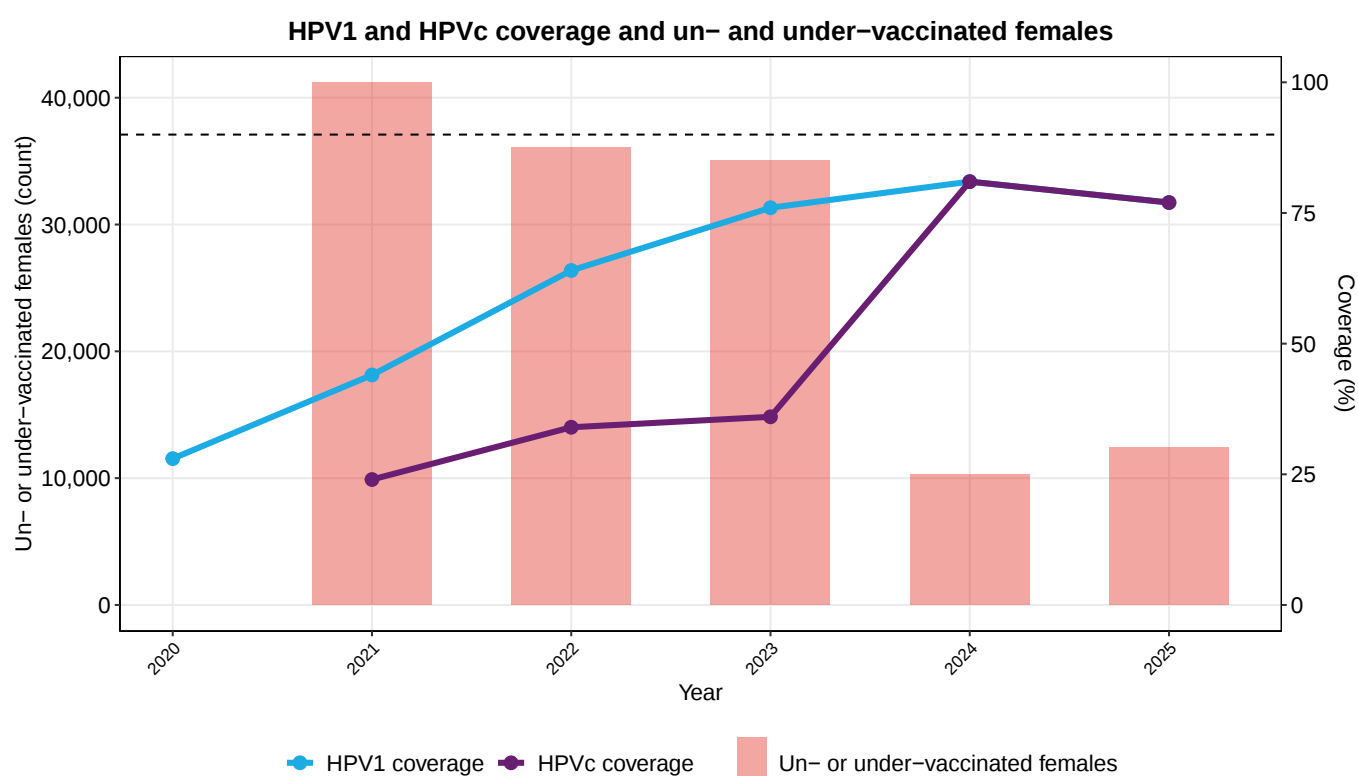
- Coverage of MCV1 stood at 98% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (96%) and higher than in 2024 (96%).
- Coverage of the second dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV2) decreased from 76% in 2019 to 71% in 2025. This still leaves 2,000 children without any protection against measles and another 26,000 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%) but 1 percentage points lower than the 2024 dropout rate (2%).
- El Salvador has achieved MCV1 coverage above 80% over all of the last 3 years.
- Coverage of MCV1 in El Salvador (98%) 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 decreased from 81% to 77% between 2024 and 2025, and coverage of the last dose (HPVc) also decreased from 81% to 77%.
- HPVc coverage remains well below the IA2030 target of 90%.
- In 2025, approximately 12,000 females in El Salvador did not receive any HPV vaccination (unvaccinated).
- Among Latin America and the Caribbean region peers, El Salvador ranked 7 out of 31 countries in HPVc coverage in 2025.



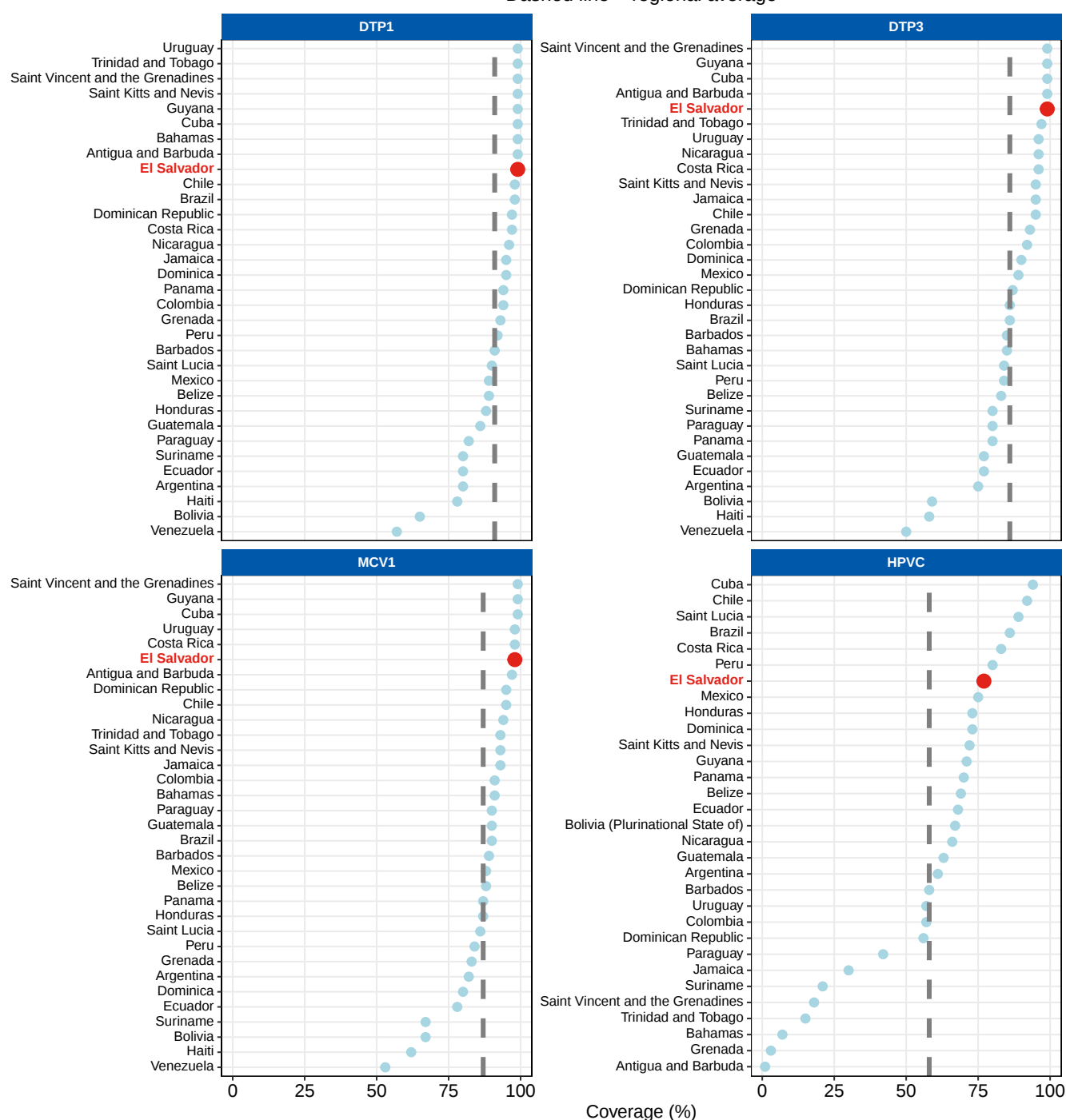
Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
 Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

Regional Comparison

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

Dashed line = regional average



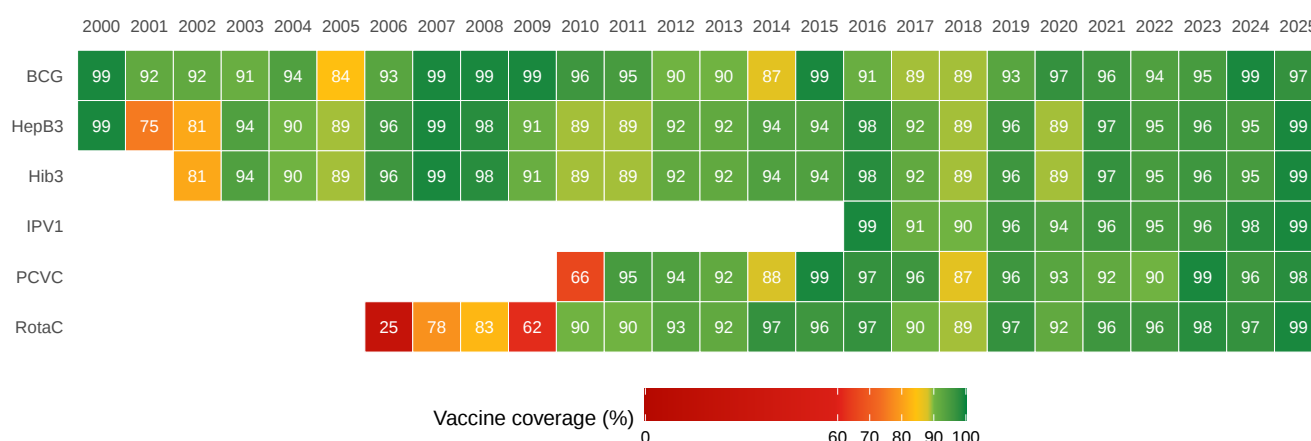
● El Salvador ● Peers

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 (93%) but lower than in 2024 (99%).
- Coverage of HepB3 stood at 99% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (96%) and higher than in 2024 (95%).
- Coverage of Hib3 stood at 99% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (96%) and higher than in 2024 (95%).
- Coverage of IPV1 stood at 99% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (96%) and higher than in 2024 (98%).
- 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 99% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (97%) and higher than in 2024 (97%).

Additional vaccine coverage (%), El Salvador, 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/>