

WUENIC Talking Points: Serbia 🇷🇸

Revision Year: 2025

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Serbia in the 'Europe' region



Overview

- A total of 12 childhood vaccines are tracked for Serbia; of these, 10 reached the 90% coverage target or higher in 2025.
- Coverage of the first dose of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis-containing vaccine (DTP1) declined from 95% in 2024 to 92% in 2025, coverage of the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine (DTP3) declined from 95% in 2024 to 92% in 2025, and coverage of the first dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) declined from 84% in 2024 to 73% in 2025.
- In 2025, the number of zero-dose children for DTP in Serbia (5,000) was approximately 228% 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.

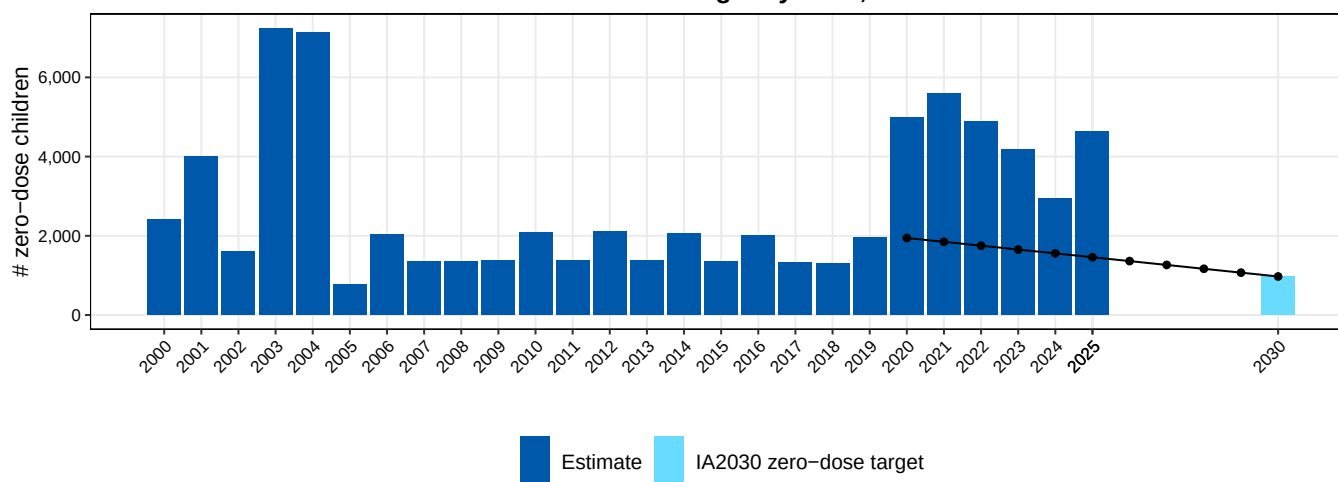
Vaccine coverage (%), Serbia, 2000–2025

	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	85	88	91	94	97	98	99	98	99	98	99	99	98	97	98	98	98	97	98	98	98	98	96	98	98	98
HepBB					98	98	98	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	98	98	97	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98
DTP1	97	95	98	91	91	99	97	98	98	98	97	98	97	98	97	98	97	98	98	97	92	91	92	93	95	92
DTP3	95	93	95	89	88	98	92	94	95	95	91	94	91	95	93	95	93	95	97	97	92	91	92	93	95	92
Hib3							42	89	98	94	91	93	90	92	94	95	92	95	97	97	92	91	92	93	95	92
HepB3					89	65	93	99	93	93	89	94	97	91	92	94	91	93	91	94	87	89	92	93	93	90
PCVC																			67	92	88	89	90	82	85	91
IPV1																98	97	98	98	99	92	91	92	93	95	92
IPVC																						91	92	93	95	92
MCV1	89	90	92	87	89	96	88	95	92	95	95	93	87	92	86	87	82	86	93	87	78	75	81	84	84	73
RCV1	89	90	92	87	89	96	88	95	92	95	95	93	87	92	86	87	82	86	93	87	78	75	81	84	84	73
MCV2	78	74	75	96	96	98	90	96	97	87	91	90	82	91	87	90	91	90	91	91	84	86	89	91	91	91
HPVc																							0	2	3	3



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

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

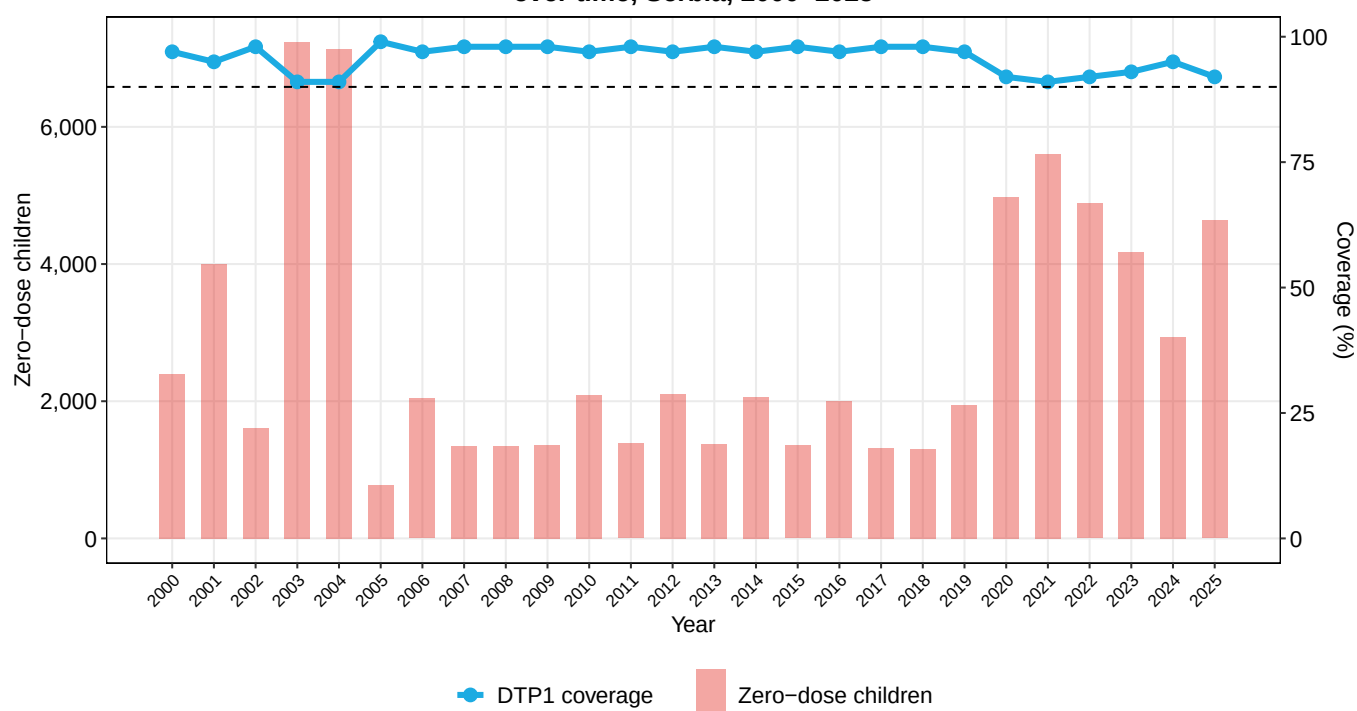


Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.
 Note: The Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) calls on all countries to reduce the number of zero-dose children in 2019 in half by 2030.
 Dark blue bars are the estimated number of zero-dose children in 2000–2025, light blue 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 92% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (97%) and lower than in 2024 (95%).
- The percentage of zero-dose children was 228 percentage points higher than the IA2030 target in 2025. There were approximately 5,000 zero-dose children in 2025, more than the 2,000 in 2019 and more than the 3,000 in 2024.
- Coverage of DTP1 in Serbia (92%) was higher than the Eastern Europe and Central Asia regional average of 90% 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, Serbia, 2000–2025

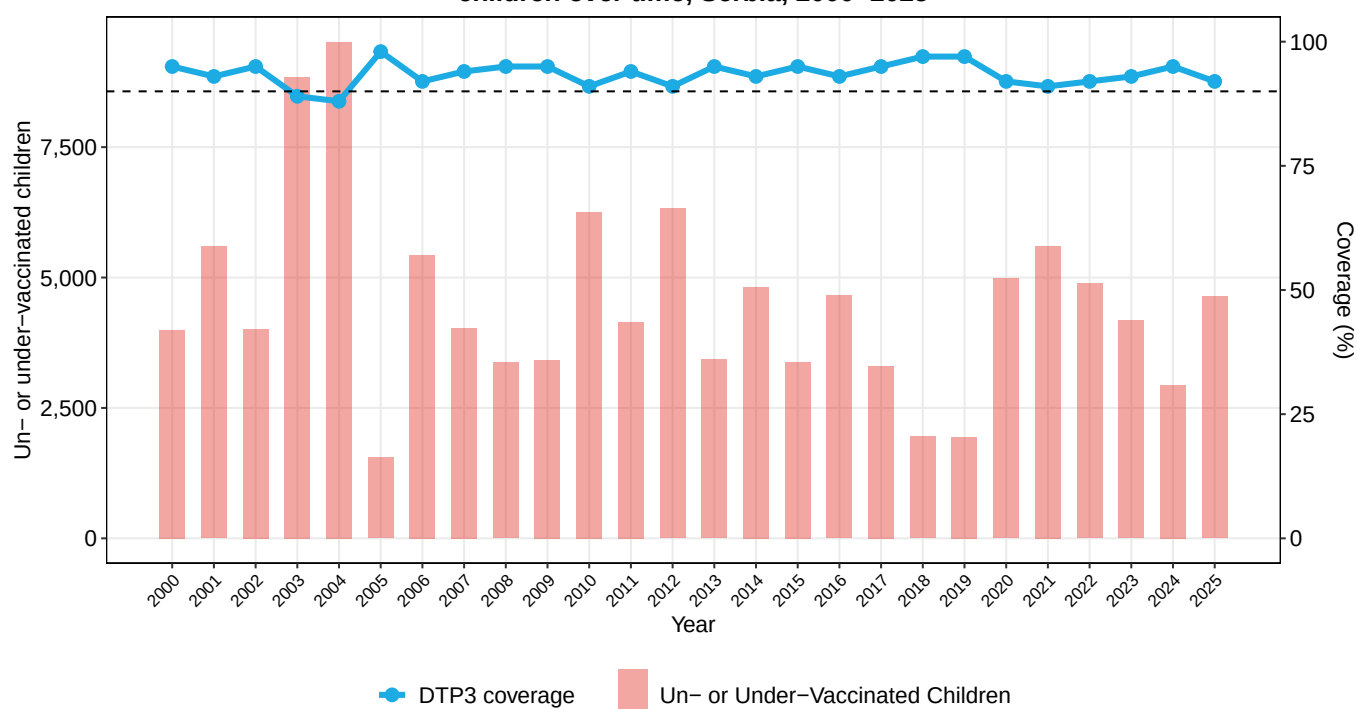


Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

DTP3: A marker of routine immunization service delivery to children

- Coverage of DTP3 stood at 92% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (97%) and lower than in 2024 (95%).
- The number of children vaccinated with DTP3 decreased from 63,000 in 2019 to 53,000 in 2025.
- In 2025, there were 5,000 children un- or under-vaccinated in Serbia.
- 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 Serbia (92%) was higher than the Eastern Europe and Central Asia regional average of 87% in 2025.

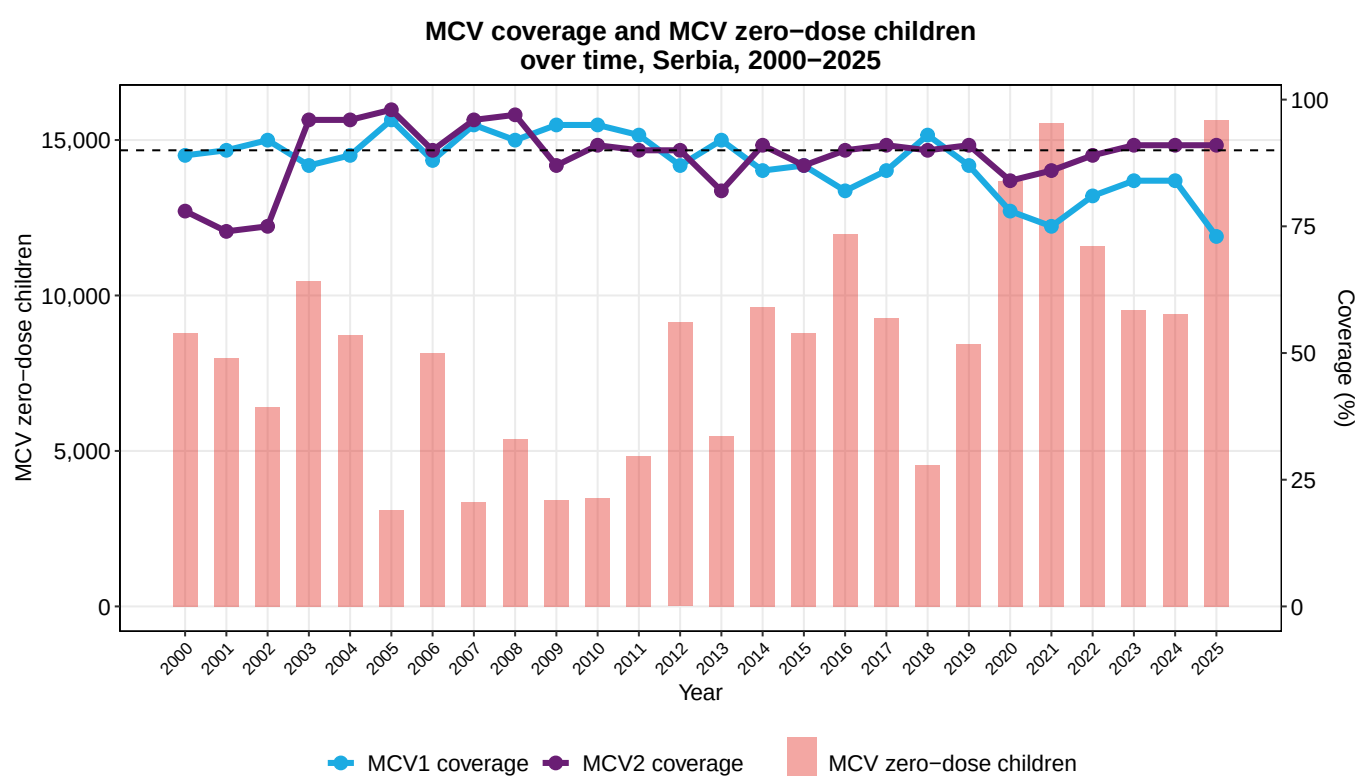
DTP3 coverage and un- or under-vaccinated children over time, Serbia, 2000–2025



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

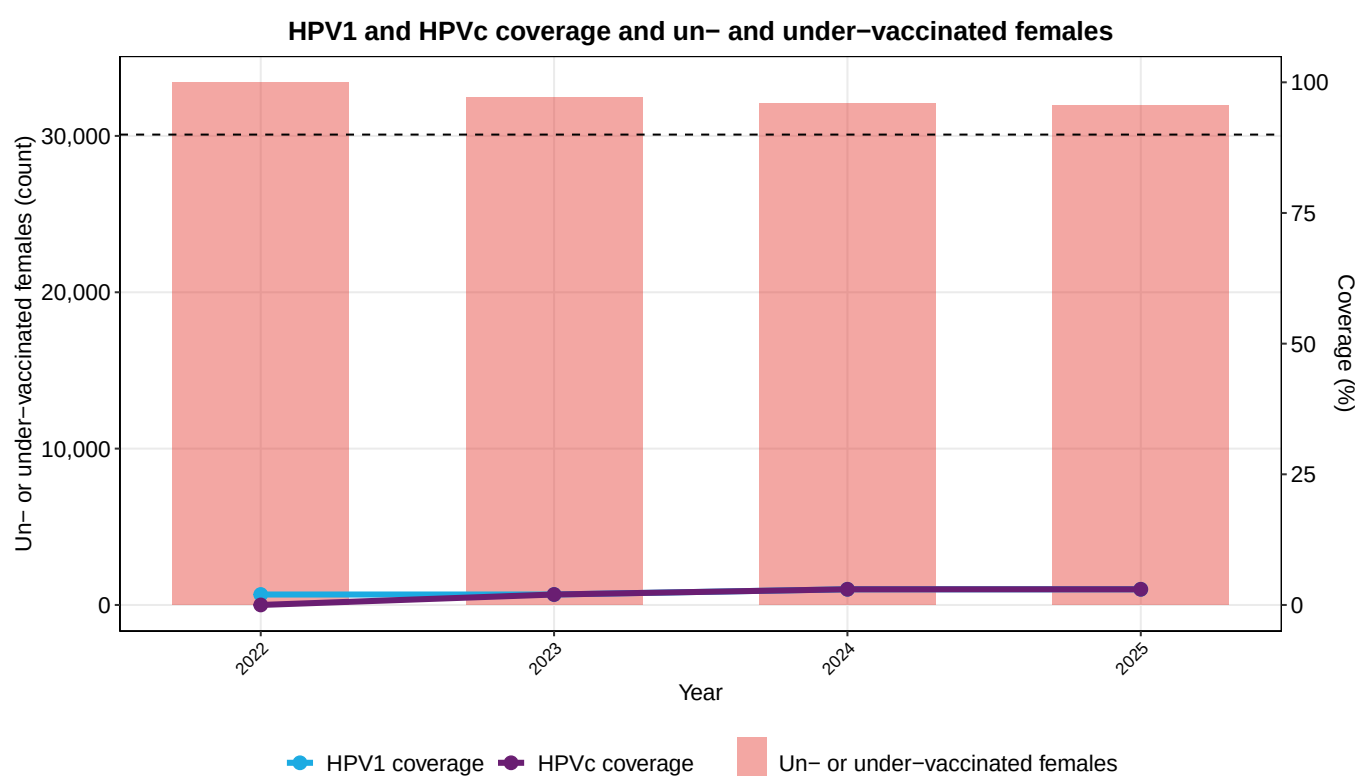
- Coverage of MCV1 stood at 73% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (87%) and lower than in 2024 (84%).
- Coverage of the second dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV2) remained relatively stable, within 1 percentage point of the 2019 level. This leaves 16,000 children without any protection against measles and another -10,000 with only partial protection.
- In 2025, 21% of children who received DTP1 did not receive MCV1. This 21% dropout rate was 11 percentage points higher than in 2019 (10%) and 9 percentage points higher than the 2024 dropout rate (12%).
- Serbia has achieved MCV1 coverage above 80% over all of the last 3 years.
- Coverage of MCV1 in Serbia (73%) 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 3% between 2024 and 2025, and coverage of the last dose (HPVc) also remained constant at 3%.
- HPVc coverage remains well below the IA2030 target of 90%.
- In 2025, approximately 32,000 females in Serbia did not receive any HPV vaccination (un-vaccinated).
- Among Eastern Europe and Central Asia region peers, Serbia ranked 17 out of 18 countries in HPVc coverage in 2025.



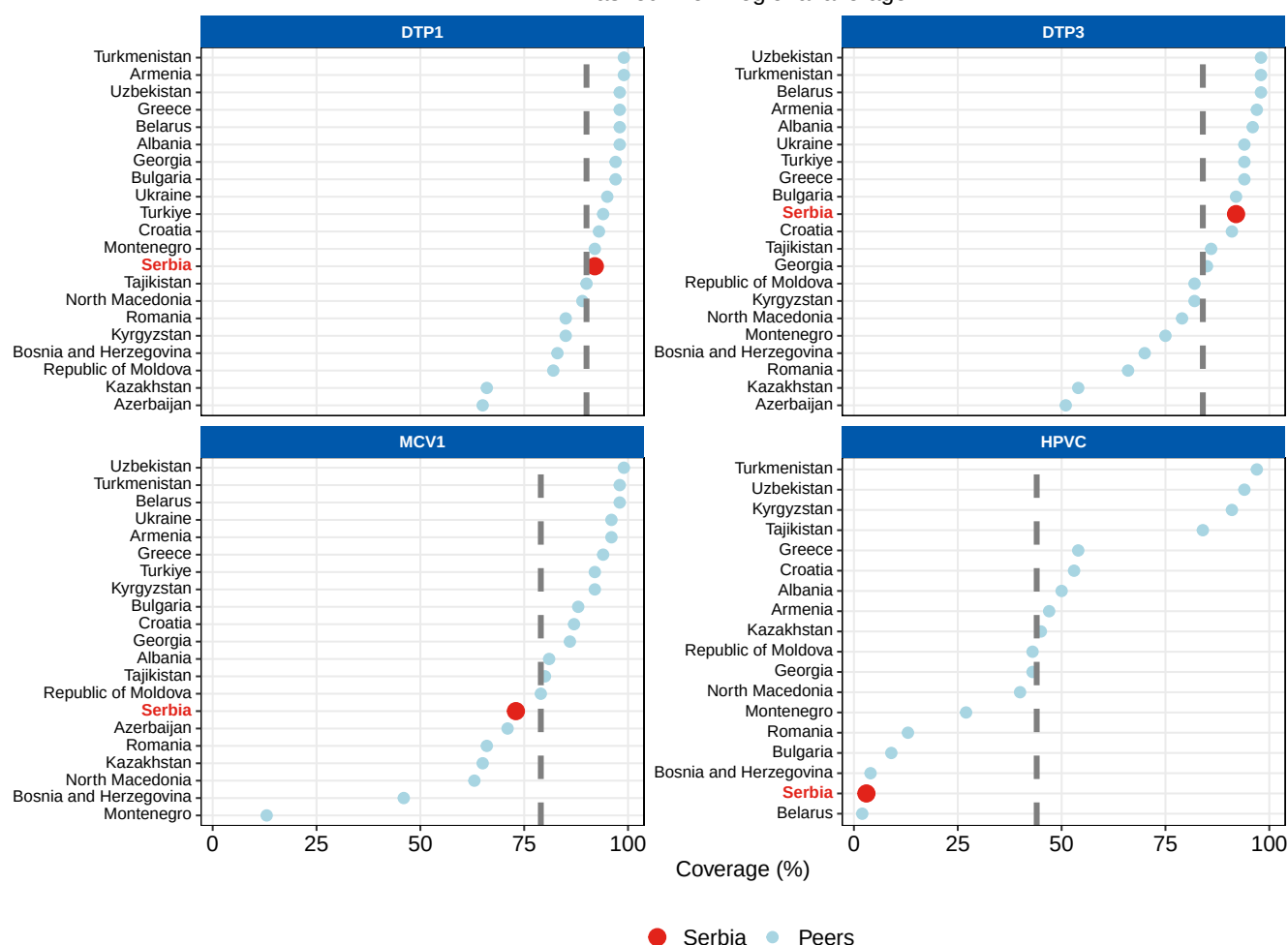
Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
 Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

Regional Comparison

The chart below shows how Serbia 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: Serbia 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 98% in 2025. This is the same as in 2019 (98%) and the same as in 2024 (98%).
- Coverage of HepB3 stood at 90% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (94%) and lower than in 2024 (93%).
- Coverage of Hib3 stood at 92% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (97%) and lower than in 2024 (95%).
- Coverage of IPV1 stood at 92% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (99%) and lower than in 2024 (95%).
- Coverage of PCVC stood at 91% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (92%) but higher than in 2024 (85%).

Additional vaccine coverage (%), Serbia, 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	85	88	91	94	97	98	99	98	99	98	99	99	98	97	98	98	98	97	98	98	98	98	96	98	98	98	
HepB3					89	65	93	99	93	93	89	94	97	91	92	94	91	93	91	94	87	89	92	93	93	90	
Hib3							42	89	98	94	91	93	90	92	94	95	92	95	97	97	92	91	92	93	95	92	
IPV1																98	97	98	98	99	92	91	92	93	95	92	
PCVC																				67	92	88	89	90	82	85	91



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/>