



India Cuts Zero-dose Children by 43%

Source: [DD](#)

India has reduced the number of [zero-dose children](#) from 1.6 million in 2023 to 0.9 million in 2024, playing a key role in **South Asia's highest-ever immunization coverage**, as reported by [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) and [United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund \(UNICEF\)](#).

- Zero-dose children are those **who haven't received even the first dose of the [DTP \(diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis\) vaccine](#)**, meaning they are never reached by routine immunization services.
- In 2024, 92% of **South Asian infants** received the **third DTP dose highest ever**, up 2% from 2023. Still, over 2.9 million children remain un- or under-vaccinated.
- **India's Immunization Drive:** India received the [Measles and Rubella Champion Award](#) in 2024 for its immunization leadership.
 - The **Zero Dose Implementation Plan 2024** aims to vaccinate unvaccinated children. The share of zero-dose children in India dropped from 0.11% in 2023 to 0.06% in 2024.
 - [Mission Indradhanush](#) (Since 2014) has vaccinated 5.46 crore children and 1.32 crore pregnant women previously unreached or under-vaccinated.
 - Through **National Vaccination Day** (16th March), India has maintained polio-free status since 2014.

Read more: [World Immunisation Day 2024](#)

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