



Health Service Executive
Ireland



Taking action to
improve health for all



BOTP-IPA* Catch-Up Vaccination Programme

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* **BOTP:** Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (from Ukraine)
IPA: International Protection Applicants

#EHMA2025

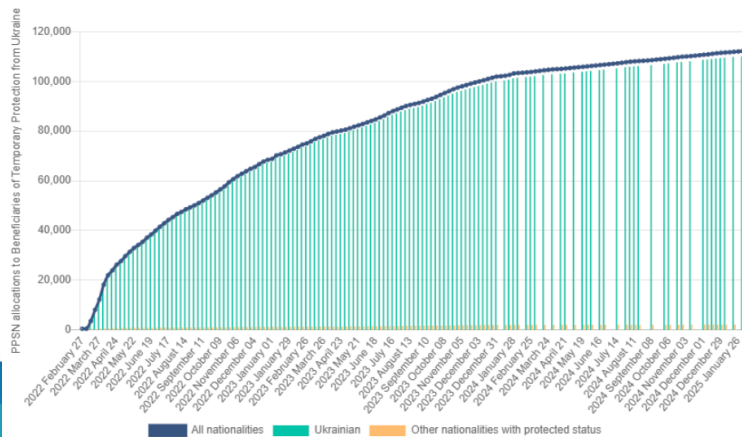
Background

Migration into Ireland

- Since 2022, there has been a large increase in people seeking Temporary Protection (from the war in Ukraine) and International Protection (refugee status) in Ireland.
- This has placed significant additional pressure on the Irish healthcare system.

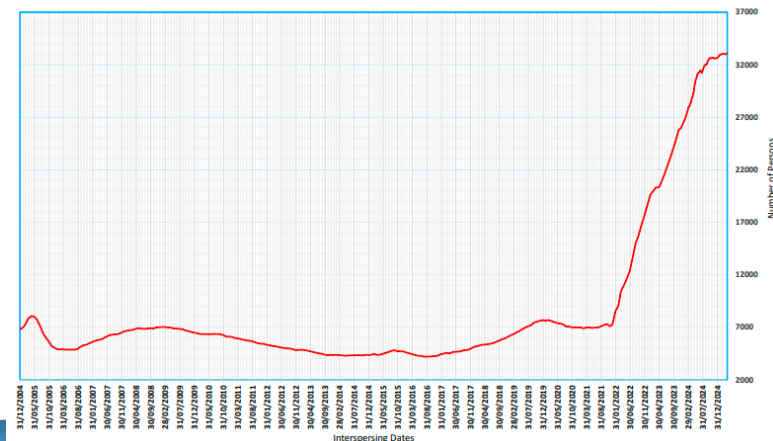
People seeking protection from Ukraine

Figure 1: PPSN allocations to Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection from Ukraine



International Protection Applicants

IPAS Accommodation Occupancy 2004 to 13/04/2025



Introduction

Immunisation Gaps & Infectious Disease Risks

- Both BOTPs and IPAs are at increased risk of vaccine-preventable diseases due, in part, to gaps in their vaccination history related to war, displacement and fragmented health systems in their countries of origin
- They are also at increased risk of exposure to and spread of disease if they are living in congregate settings
- Due to differing international vaccination schedules, migrants also often require additional vaccines to be considered up-to-date with the Irish Vaccination Schedule
- Vaccination is an effective public health measure for preventing infectious disease outbreaks

Shortage of General Practitioners (Primary Care)

- In Ireland, General Practitioners (GPs) are primarily responsible for administering the first five sets of vaccinations for young children
- However, migrants face difficulties getting a GP due to full patient lists and frequent relocation

BOTP-IPA Catch-Up Vaccination Programme

In December 2022, the National Operational Planning Group for the BOTP-IPA catch-up vaccination programme was established as part of the Health Service Executive Health Response for Refugees & Applicants Seeking Protection Service Delivery Model.

Community Mobile Vaccination Teams were tasked with providing a range of vaccinations (primary and catch-up) to BOTPs and IPAs:

- On-site in accommodation centres
- In temporary clinics in high-density localities close to multiple accommodation centres

Change Management



- **Engage and Communicate**
- **Model Shared Values**
- **Practice Collective Leadership**
- **Network & Partner**
- **Support Behaviour Change**
- **Invest in People and Teams**
- **Understand Personal Experiences**
- **Be Accountable for Performance**
- **Use Evidence and Technology**

Vaccination Clinics – Process Overview

1



Vaccination teams are informed when a new accommodation centre is opened or when a location receives new arrivals

2

Preparatory Visit: In-reach teams go to accommodation centres to meet with residents and identify individuals who require vaccinations. Relevant written information is available in multiple languages



3

Vaccines are ordered. Parents are notified at least one week and again one day prior to the vaccination clinic

4

On the day of vaccination, clinics are staffed by multidisciplinary teams, including vaccinators, interpreters, peer support workers, and administrators

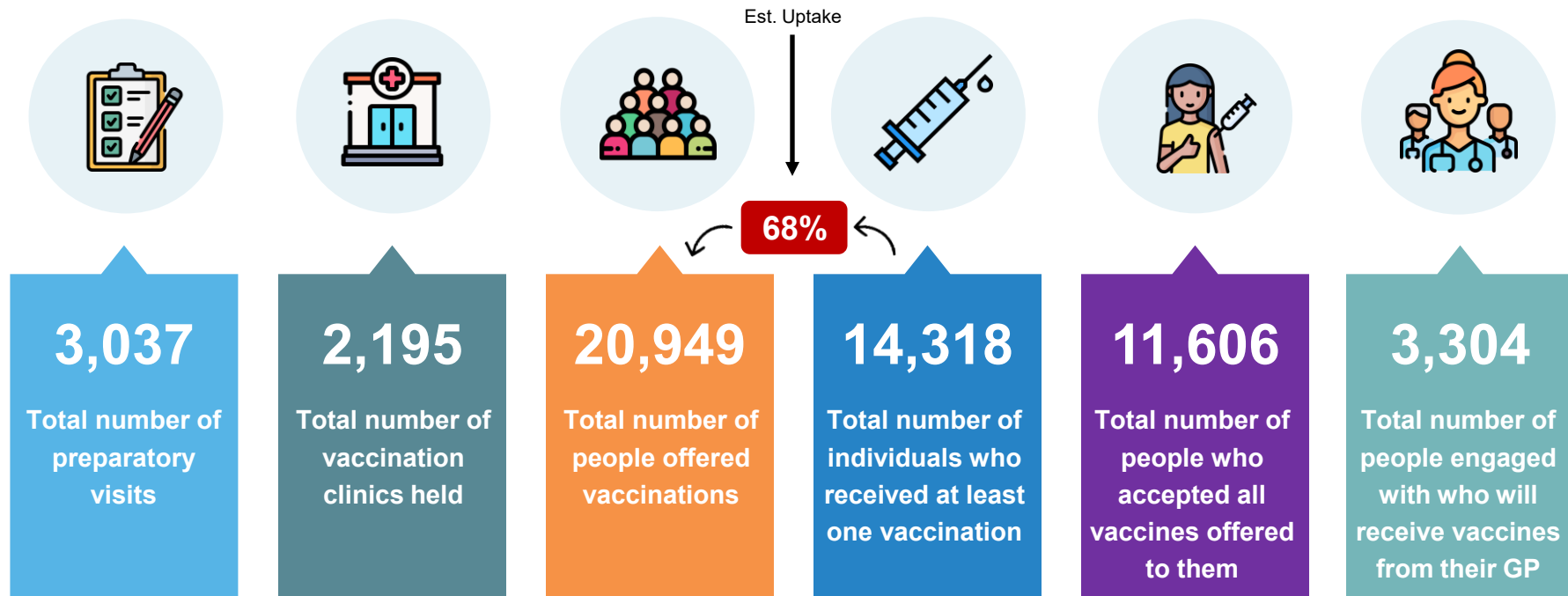


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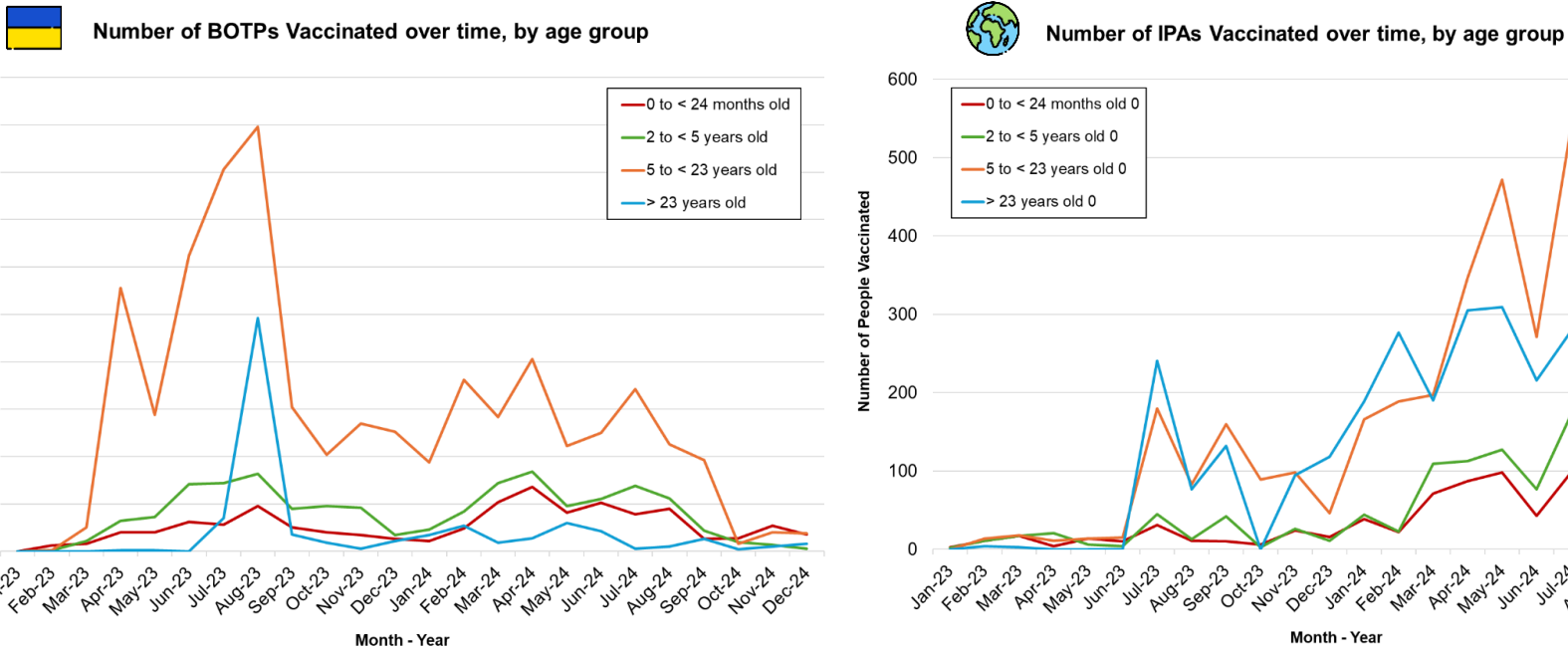
Individuals requiring additional vaccinations are given a follow-up appointment for the next vaccination



Summary of Activity (2023–2024)



Age Groups Vaccinated



0-24 months
1,505 ÷ 2,271
66%

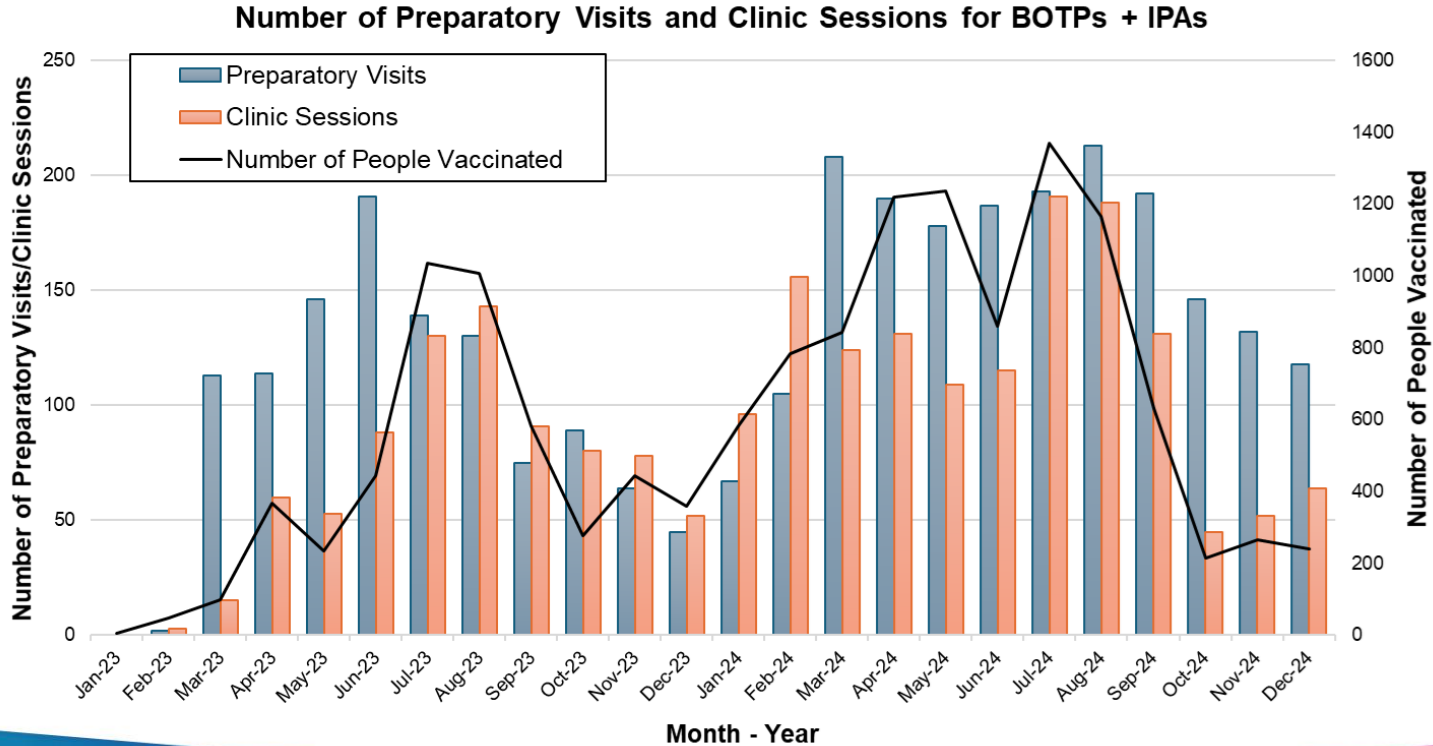
2 to <5 years
2,064 ÷ 3,318
62%

5 to <23 years
7,197 ÷ 10,883
66%

>23 years
3,552 ÷ 4,477
79%

Total
14,318 ÷ 20,949
68%

Preparatory Visits and Clinics



Staff Feedback

Preparatory Visits

- Key to improving vaccine acceptance, building trust and relationships

Peer Supporters and Interpreters

- Language and cultural support provided by a real person is better than relying on mobile phone translations.

In-Person Training for Complex Vaccination Histories

- Staff valued in-person training opportunities to ask questions based on complex vaccination scenarios they have encountered.

Consistent Staffing

- The programme is also impacted by the same mobile vaccination teams being required for the seasonal vaccination programmes (COVID-19, Influenza).



THANK YOU

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- Dr Michael Hanrahan
- Ann Martin
- Liz Kelso
- Cara O'Neill
- Siobhan Young
- Sinead McConnell
- Deirdre Gorman
- TJ Dunford
- Individuals who received vaccines
- Peer supporters
- Community leaders
- Accommodation managers
- Interpreters
- Vaccination teams
- Survey respondents

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