


Island Health Performance Measures

Infant Mortality



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|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Year to Date Performance | 3.84 (2023/24) | Performance Assessment |  Yellow |
| Island Health Target | Less than or equal to 3.32 | Performance is outside acceptable range; monitor and take action as appropriate. | |

What do we measure and why?

The Infant Mortality Rate is the number of infant deaths (children younger than 1 year of age) that occur for every 1,000 live births in Island Health. Because annual numbers are small, the rate is reported as a 5-year aggregate.

Infant mortality is recognized globally as a key indicator of child and maternal health and, more generally, of societal wellbeing. It is influenced by many factors including not only the health care system but also the economic, social, and physical conditions of women, their infants, the communities in which they live.

What is the target?

Island Health's target is 3.32 or fewer deaths per 1,000 live births.

This target reflects a decline towards the provincial goal of 2.6 per 1,000 by 2023, set by the Ministry of Health in [BC's Guiding Framework for Public Health](#).

Lower rates are better.

How are we doing?

Island Health did not meet its target in 2023/24.

What actions are we taking?

Island Health's Infant Mortality Review Committee analyzes data about infant deaths and monitors activities to reduce infant mortality in Island Health. The focus is on deaths that had a preventable component or a modifiable risk factor.

Island Health provides services to mothers facing inequities, which support healthy pregnancies and infancy through education and targeted resources. Safe sleep initiatives are a key focus, ensuring parents are educated on reducing risks to infants.