


Island Health Performance Measures

Life Expectancy Disparity Ratio



Year to Date Performance	1.108 (2023/24)	Performance Assessment	 Red
Island Health Target	Less than or equal to 1.000	Performance is significantly outside acceptable range; take action and monitor progress.	

What do we measure and why?

The Life Expectancy Disparity Ratio is a measure of the gap in life expectancy across Island Health's 14 Local Health Areas (LHAs). These are geographic areas defined by the Ministry of Health.

The ratio is calculated by dividing the highest life expectancy from birth, by the lowest life expectancy from birth.

Life expectancy (the average number of years that a person is expected to live) is a measure of the overall health of a population. The Life Expectancy Disparity Ratio reflects how health status is distributed across LHAs. This metric is impacted by structural determinants of health (which includes the social, economic, and political mechanisms which generate social class inequalities in society). Addressing this variation requires both support for wellness as well as provision of health care services.

What is the target?

Island Health's target is 1.000 or less. A value of 1.000 would mean life expectancy is the same across all of Island Health's LHAs and is consistent with the provincial goal set out in [BC's Guiding Framework for Public Health](#).

Lower values are better.

How are we doing?

Island Health did not meet the target for the 2023/24 fiscal year.

Deaths due to the toxic drug supply have contributed to lowering life expectancy in Island Health as well as across the province. The drug toxicity crisis disproportionately affects already vulnerable populations, which has caused a worsening of this indicator.

What actions are we taking?

This indicator is an overarching performance measure in [BC's Guiding Framework for Public Health](#), which broadly reflects population health and wellbeing. It is impacted by factors including social determinants of health.

Island Health works to improve social determinants of health through its expanding Healthy Communities program. This includes the support and participation on the 8 Community Health Networks, supporting communities through the Community Wellness Grant process, and partnerships with local governments.