


Island Health Performance Measures

Infant Mortality



Year to Date Performance	3.84	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.

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. Based on five-year aggregate data (from 2018-2022), the 2023/24 rate increased (worsened) by 1% from the rate for 2022/23, placing it in the yellow.

What actions are we taking?

Island Health's Infant Mortality Review Committee regularly analyzes data about infant deaths, develops recommendations, and monitors activities to reduce infant mortality in Island Health. Recommendations from the committee have focused on those deaths that had a preventable component or a modifiable risk factor, including continuing to provide consistent education for new parents about safe sleep practices for infants. The Infant Mortality Review Committee is also taking a closer look at modifiable maternal risk factors associated with infant deaths related to extreme prematurity.