


Island Health Performance Measures

Infant Mortality



Year to Date Performance	3.93	Performance Assessment	 Yellow
Island Health Target	Less than or equal to 3.44	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?

The 2019/20 target for infant mortality was 3.44 deaths per 1,000 live births or fewer.

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](#).

How are we doing?

For the 2019/20 fiscal year, the Infant Mortality Rate was 3.93 per 1,000 live births for Island Health. While this result is an improvement from the previous year, it did not meet the target.

What actions are we taking?

Island Health's Infant Mortality Review Committee has been reviewing infant deaths since 2007. 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. Island Health recently expanded its Baby Bed program to all new families in central and north Vancouver Island to promote safe sleep for babies and strong connections between families and caregivers.