


Island Health Performance Measures

Infant Mortality



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|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|------------|
| Year to Date Performance | 3.99 | Performance Assessment |  | Red |
| Island Health Target | Less than or equal to 3.57 | Performance is significantly outside acceptable range; take action and monitor progress. | | |

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 2018/19 target for infant mortality was 3.57 deaths per 1,000 live births or fewer, which reflects a decline towards the goal of 2.6 per 1,000 by 2023. This is the Provincial goal set by the Ministry of Health in [BC's Guiding Framework for Public Health](#).

How are we doing?

For the 2018/19 fiscal year, the Infant Mortality Rate was 3.99 per 1,000 live births for Island Health. This was slightly higher than the previous value and did not meet the target.

What actions are we taking?

Island Health's Infant Mortality Review Committee has been reviewing infant deaths since 2007 when findings revealed higher rates of infant mortality in Island Health than the rest of the province. The role of the committee is to analyze data and try to determine the reasons for these high infant death rates, and to develop recommendations and monitor activities to reduce infant mortality in Island Health. The recommendations have been focused on those deaths that have a preventable component or a modifiable risk factor. Recommendations include continuing to provide consistent education for new parents about safe sleep practices for infants.