


# Island Health Performance Measures

## Life Expectancy Disparity Ratio



Year to Date Performance	<b>1.079</b>	Performance Assessment	 <b>Red</b>
Island Health Target	Less than or equal to <b>1.067</b>	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](#) (LHA). 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. There are geographical variations in life expectancy across Island Health. 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 1.067 or less.

These targets reflect a continued decline towards a theoretical value of 1.0 (meaning life expectancy would be the same across all of Island Health).

The target for the Life Expectancy Disparity Ratio is based on the provincial goal set out in [BC's Guiding Framework for Public Health](#).

### How are we doing?

Island Health did not meet its target for the Life Expectancy Disparity Ratio.

The gap in life expectancy increased between 2017/18 and 2018/19, while the overall life expectancy across Island Health decreased slightly. The decrease in life expectancy is primarily due to the increase in opioid overdose deaths.

### What actions are we taking?

Population Health indicators, such as life expectancy, broadly reflect population health and wellbeing, and are impacted by factors including social determinants of health (for example, access to adequate income, affordable housing, education, and healthy foods). 'Social determinants of health' are economic and social conditions that affect health.

Public health programs aimed at disease prevention and health promotion are one way to improve the health and wellbeing of a population. Other initiatives, such as [BC Healthy Communities](#), support collaborative approaches to address the broader social determinants of health in our communities.