


Year to Date Performance	95	Performance Assessment	 Red
Island Health Target	Less than or equal to 92	Performance is significantly outside acceptable range; take action and monitor progress.	

What do we measure and why?

Hospital Standardized Mortality Ratio (HSMR) is used to assess the number of deaths that occur in acute care hospitals.

The ratio compares the actual number of deaths with the expected number of deaths [(observed deaths/expected deaths) x 100]. The expected number of deaths is based on deaths that occur in hospitals across Canada.

The HSMR adjusts for factors that affect in-hospital mortality rates, such as patient age, sex, health condition, number of health conditions, length of time spent in hospital, and severity of illness at hospital admission.

Palliative care patients and medical assistance in dying (MAID) cases are both excluded from HSMR calculations.

What is the target?

The 2022/23 Island Health target for HSMR is 92 or lower (which was the BC provincial average in 2020/21 and 2021/22). Island Health's 2022/23 target is aligned with Ministry of Health reporting.

Lower values are better.

How are we doing?

As of March 2023, Island Health's overall HSMR was not meeting target, but remains better than the Canadian average of 100. Health authorities throughout BC appear to be experiencing similar increases in their HSMR rates.

What actions are we taking?

Island Health hospitals with an HSMR above the target review charts to understand contributing factors.

The Canadian Institute for Health Information sets national standards, including how HSMR values are calculated. A significant update to the HSMR methodology recently occurred which has affected values.