


# Life Expectancy Disparity Ratio

Year to Date Performance	<b>1.116</b>	Performance Assessment	 <b>Red</b>
Island Health Target	Less than or equal to <b>1.000</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 (LHAs). 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. This metric is impacted by structural determinants of health (which includes the social, economic, and political mechanisms which generate social class inequalities in society). 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 1.000 or less. A value of 1.000 would mean life expectancy is the same across all of Island Health's LHAs and is consistent with the provincial goal set out in [BC's Guiding Framework for Public Health](#).

Lower values are better.

## How are we doing?

Island Health did not meet the target for the 2024/25 fiscal year. While life expectancy had been rising, it has recently declined in many areas, largely due to toxic drug deaths, especially among vulnerable populations.

## What actions are we taking?

This indicator is an overarching performance measure in [BC's Guiding Framework for Public Health](#). It reflects overall differences in health and wellbeing across the region and is influenced by factors like social conditions, public health programs, and access to care.

Island Health works to improve determinants of health through many public health programs, including expanding Healthy Communities program, as well as through support and participation on the eight Community Health Networks, supporting communities through the Community Wellness Grant process, and partnerships with local governments.