

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE AMONG FIRST NATIONS

DEFINITION: The number of perinatal deaths per 1,000 total births among First Nations. A perinatal death is a fetal death (stillbirth) or an early neonatal death (under 7 days of age).

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT: AHS' focus is to reduce the health gap between First Nations and non-First Nations. This indicator provides important information on the health status of First Nations pregnant women, new mothers, and newborns. Monitoring this rate helps AHS develop and adapt population health initiatives and services to better meet the health needs of First Nations and Inuit people. The lower the number the better. This measure does not include Métis residents.

The perinatal mortality rate gap between First Nations and non-First Nations groups widened between 2018 and 2019 and has shown deterioration over time. While both groups experienced a similar decline in birth rate, the First Nations group had a small increase in the number of deaths while the non-First Nations group experienced a small decrease over the same period. While the changes are likely due to normal variation, the effect is magnified by the relatively small number of First Nations births compared to non-First Nations (approximately 16x fewer births). A three year average has also been provided (second table and graph below). This calculation allows for a larger sample size which gives a more accurate representation of change over time. We will continue to work with our Indigenous communities and partners to better support and improve outcomes.

Perinatal Mortality Rate Gap, 2019

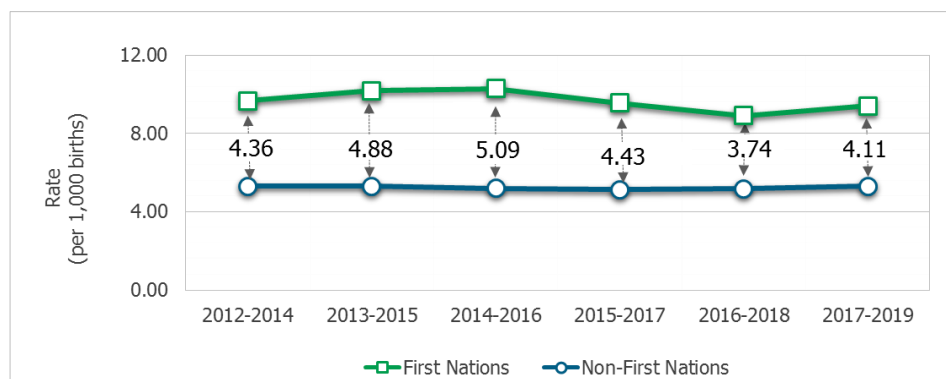


Perinatal Mortality Rate by Population (single year)

Population	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2018-19 Target
First Nations	10.49	10.66	9.75	8.37	8.62	11.26	AHS' focus is to reduce the gap between First Nations and non-First Nations
Non-First Nations	5.67	5.28	4.67	5.47	5.39	5.02	
Rate Gap	4.82	5.38	5.08	2.90	3.23	6.24	

Perinatal Mortality Rate by Population (three year average)

Population	2012-2014	2013-2015	2014-2016	2015-2017	2016-2018	2017-2019	2019-20 Target
First Nations	9.65	10.18	10.28	9.56	8.91	9.41	AHS' focus is to reduce the gap between First Nations and non-First Nations
Non-First Nations	5.29	5.30	5.19	5.13	5.17	5.30	
Rate Gap	4.36	4.88	5.09	4.43	3.74	4.11	



Source: Alberta Health as of April 3, 2020.

Note: Perinatal mortality is reported on an annual basis pending the availability of the most recent census data (2017). It is a performance indicator rather than a performance measure and therefore no target is identified.

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