

Existing targets relating to child mortality

There have been a range of targets set in Indigenous child health including:

Council of Australian Governments

COAG has committed to 6 targets for closing the gap in Indigenous disadvantage, including the following target for child mortality:

- **“Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade.”**

This target is monitored by a range of underlying performance indicators in the National Indigenous Reform Agreement:

- “Child under 5 mortality rate (and excess deaths)
- Mortality rates (and excess deaths) by leading causes
- Child under 5 hospitalisation rates by principal diagnosis
- Proportion of babies born of low birth weight
- Tobacco smoking during pregnancy
- Antenatal care”

National Indigenous Health Equality Targets

The National Indigenous Health Equality Summit^{xvii} proposed the following child health targets:

- “All Indigenous women and children have access to appropriate mother and baby programs
- 50% reduction in difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian’s rates of premature birth and low birth weight
- 75% of all pregnant women present for first antenatal assessment within the first trimester
- Reduction in smoking rates to parity with non-Indigenous Australians:
 - 2% annual reduction population
 - 4% annual reduction pregnant women
- National coverage of culturally appropriate maternal and child health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- All Indigenous women to have access to culturally appropriate maternal and infant mental health services.
- All Indigenous women have access to mental health screening perinatally.”