Utah Department of Health
Data Suppression Guidelines Summary

The Utah Department of Health (UDOH) is committed to providing useful data to the public to inform policy and guide interventions while also protecting the privacy of individuals and presenting reliable results.   To this end the following are data suppression guidelines developed to inform data release. There are two sets of criteria, strict and minimum, depending on type of use or context for the data. These are considered a minimum standard, and programs that have a higher federal standard or other requirements should use those. The data stewards for each set of data are the decision makers to determine which criteria to apply.

Minimum Criteria

Minimum criteria are used to inform program decisions that involve small number of people, to measure gross changes in a measure over time or across groups, or to inform the allocation of a small amount of money or other resources.

Reporting Survey Data and Population Event Data use Relative Standard Error (RSE):
  Only report when RSE $\leq$ 50%
  If 30% < RSE $\leq$ 50% an asterisk should be included with a footnote that says: *Use caution in interpreting, the estimate has a relative standard error greater than 30% and does not meet UDOH standards for reliability.

Strict Criteria

Strict criteria are used to inform a policy decision that impacts a large number of people, to measure small changes in a measure over time or across groups, to inform the allocation of a large amount of money or other resources, or when there is a mandate for suppression.   It is also applied if misuse of data could cause undo public alarm and unwarranted response result in actual public harm, or impede agency intervention activities.

Reporting Survey Data:
  Only report when $\geq$ 10 cases in the numerator
  AND a RSE $\leq$ 30%

For Reporting Population Event Data:
  $\geq$ 20 cases in the numerator and $\geq$100 persons in the population
  AND a RSE $\leq$ 30%

Calculating Relative Standard Error

Survey data:
If the estimated percentage is $\leq$50% then RSE=100X(SE(R))/R
If the estimated percentage is $\geq$50% RSE=100X(SE(R))/(1-R)

Count data:
RSE =SQRT(100,000/P*R)
For counts <20 where the Poisson distribution is used to calculate CI
100 x [(UCL-LCL)/(2 x 1.96 x rate)]

When age-adjusting RSE should be calculated based on crude rate and then applied to age adjusted rates.

For more information see: Guidelines for Data Result Suppression by the Data Suppression Rules Work Group October 6, 2009
https://ibis.health.utah.gov/pdf/resource/DataSuppression.pdf