

Data suppression standard

Example 7: Disability (Rule of 10 or aggregation)

The Nationally Consistent Collection of school students with Disability (NCCD) is sensitive personally identifiable information as information about disability is considered health information. While the NCCD has statutory limitations on its use, the department collects equivalent data under its usual processes, which is used in most data requests.

Both Rule of 10 and aggregation are appropriate forms of suppression for this type of data, however in this specific example we can see that Rule of 10 suppresses most of the data, making it largely unusable. Aggregation may be a more helpful presentation as the broad patterns are visible while still maintaining confidentiality. Including the data requester in the determining the appropriate suppression method will help ensure that the data is fit for purpose.

Information about the expulsion of students receiving an adjustment due to disability is sensitive. The department may choose not to release this information to the public if it is deemed to not be in the public interest. This decision is about the appropriateness of release, not whether adequate suppression has been applied.

Base data

Expulsions of students identified as receiving an adjustment due to disability - by calendar year

Calendar Year	# students without disability expelled	% student without disability expelled	# students with disability expelled	% student with disability expelled
2020	11	1	6	2.1
2021	13	1.5	6	2.2
2022	9	0.9	1	0.1
2023	12	1.1	11	4.8
2024	12	1.2	6	2.8
Total	57	1.1	30	2.4

Option 1: Rule of 10

Calendar Year	# students without disability expelled	% student without disability expelled	# students with disability expelled	% student with disability expelled
2020	11	1	np	np
2021	13	1.5	np	np
2022	np	np	np	np
2023	12	1.1	11	4.8
2024	12	1.2	np	np
Total	57	1.1	30	2.4

Note:

- Students without disability columns do not need to be suppressed as these numbers are independent of the data for students with disability.
- Percentages have been suppressed as their numerators are less than 10.
- If we had totals for each calendar year in this table, then data for students without disability would also need to be suppressed as a person could use this information to work out the student with disability numbers. Where totals are available through other published data, care should be taken that this additional information cannot be combined with the requested data to produce identifiable data.

Option 2: Aggregation

Calendar Year	# students without disability expelled	% student without disability expelled	# students with disability expelled	% student with disability expelled
2020-2022	33	3.4	13	1.4
2023-2024	24	2.3	17	3.8
Total	57	1.1	30	2.4

Aggregation allows a complete table to be presented. As the year ranges do not match, it may be worth considering providing an annual average (i.e., dividing 2020-2022 counts by 3 and 2023-2024 counts by 2).

A rolling average (such as overlapping two-year ranges of 20-21, 21-22, 22-23, 23-24) could be used as another form of aggregation, but would require some suppression as the 2021-2022 would be below 10.