# National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network

Data Re-release Plan
Version 3.2
July 2023

Environmental Health Tracking Section

Division of Environmental Health Science and Practice

National Center for Environmental Health

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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### Introduction

This document describes the plan for re-release of data submitted to the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program (referred to as the Tracking Program). These data are re-released through the National Data Explorer on the National Environmental Public Health Network (referred to as the Tracking Network). The Tracking Program receives data from state and local health departments funded through a cooperative agreement to enhance the Tracking Network and to provide core data and measures for the National Tracking Network. Data are also received from unfunded state and local health departments, federal agencies, and other data stewards with whom, in some cases, data sharing agreements have been established.

The purpose of this plan is to describe the principles and procedures for the re-release of data on the through the Tracking Network and to ensure that data are re-released in accordance with applicable federal and state laws. The plan is consistent with the CDC/ATSDR Policy on Public Health Research and Nonresearch Data Management and Access and is based on accepted standard operating procedures and data release practices for the agency.

The CDC/ATSDR Policy on Public Health Research and Nonresearch Data Management and Access was developed "to ensure that CDC/ATSDR, in line with their mission and in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, directives, and guidelines, manage public health data and provide access to such data for public-use". The data are shared as soon as it is feasible to do so, taking into consideration privacy concerns, federal and state confidentiality concerns, proprietary interests, national security interests, or law enforcement activities. Data provided to CDC by state health departments are covered by this policy. The policy recognizes the importance of evaluating data quality and preparing appropriate documentation related to the data (e.g., method of collection, completeness and accuracy, potential limitations on use), including instructions for non-CDC users on the appropriate use of the data before re-releasing or sharing the data.

This document will be reviewed periodically to determine the need for any revisions. If any proposed revisions create a conflict with existing agreements between the Tracking Program and Tracking recipients or data stewards, Tracking recipients and data stewards will be notified of the proposed revisions and provided an opportunity to comment before those revisions are finalized.

## **Background**

In January 2001, the Pew Environmental Health Commission called for the creation of a coordinated public health system to prevent disease in the United States. Specifically, the commission saw the need for a system to track and combat environmental health threats. In Fiscal Year 2002, in response to the commission, the U.S. Congress appropriated funding to the CDC to initiate development of the Tracking Program.

The purpose of the Tracking Program is to establish and maintain a nationwide tracking network of integrated health and environmental data that can be used to drive actions to improve the health of communities. The Tracking Network is a Web-based, secure network of standardized electronic health and environmental data. The major functions of the Tracking Network are to

- enable compilation of a core set of nationally consistent health and environmental data and measures;
- discover, describe, exchange, analyze, and manage data;
- make tools available for managing and analyzing the data; and
- provide environmental public health information to the public.

Key benefits of the Tracking Network include the capability to

- provide timely and consistent information for stakeholders;
- provide access to and ability to integrate local, state, and national databases of environmental hazards, environmental exposures, and health effects;
- enable broad analysis across geographic and political boundaries over time;
- promote systems that are interoperable across jurisdictions through compliance with standards;
- increase environmental public health capacity at the state and local levels;
- provide the ability to enhance and improve data; and
- provide a secure, reliable, and expandable ability to link environmental and health data.

Data and resources available through the Tracking Network will advance efforts to

- identify populations at risk;
- detect trends in the occurrence of environmental hazards, exposures, and diseases;
- generate hypotheses about the relationship between environmental hazards and disease;
- guide intervention and prevention strategies;
- improve the public health basis for policymaking;
- enable the public's right to know about health and the environment; and
- track progress towards achieving a healthier nation and environment.

# **Nationally Consistent Data and Measures**

The Tracking Network includes a core set of nationally consistent data and measures (NCDM) concerning health, exposures, and environmental hazards. Through collaboration with state and local partners and data stewards, these NCDMs have been developed or adopted for the Tracking Network. Health data in the Tracking Network focus on noninfectious health conditions, such as poisoning by carbon monoxide or lead,

asthma and other respiratory diseases, cancers, and birth defects. Exposure or biomonitoring data include observations of the presence of an environmental agent or its metabolite in persons, such as lead or cotinine in blood and arsenic in urine. Hazard data may include chemical agents (e.g., arsenic), physical agents (e.g., dust particles), and biologic toxins (e.g., harmful algal blooms) that may be found in air, water, soil, food, or other environmental media. Hazard data may be obtained by direct measurement or estimated using mathematical models.

To determine data needs for the Tracking Network, a group of experts, including data stewards, evaluated the data available at the state and national levels to determine their utility for environmental public health tracking (CDC 2008b). Critical elements from these data were used to develop recommendations for nationally consistent data for the Tracking Network.

Through aggregation of records and restriction in the number of available variables, these nationally consistent data balance as much as possible utility and protection of confidentiality. Many of the recommended nationally consistent data are intended as restricted-access datasets (RADS). They are minimally aggregated and, because of small numbers, may contain potentially identifiable information. Such data are not, however, at the individual level and do not contain personal identifiers such as name, address, date of birth, or social security number.

The nationally consistent data within the Tracking Network are

- aggregated into standardized stratification schema (e.g., counts of events by event code, by location, by time period, by demographic strata), summarized (e.g., average for location by time period), and used to calculate derived measures (e.g., age-adjusted rates for location by time period);
- re-released to the public through the Tracking Network as nationally consistent public use data and measures (details are provided in related sections of this document);
- linked to other health outcomes data, exposure and biomonitoring data, environmental hazards and environmental monitoring data, and other population and census data by association through spatial proximity, temporal proximity, or membership in a population subgroup for the purpose of statistical analysis; and
- analyzed for the purposes of identifying populations at risk, detecting and tracking temporal or spatial trends, generating hypotheses about the relationship between environmental hazards, exposures, and disease, and guiding intervention and prevention strategies and policy development.

## Data Transport, Management, and Storage

#### **Data Transport**

Data from the data steward or Tracking recipient are transported to the CDC Tracking Program in accordance with acceptable practices ensuring the protection, confidentiality, and integrity of the data contents. The Tracking Program utilizes the Secure Data eXchange (SDX) via CDC Secure Access Management System (SAMS) as the transport mechanism for receiving data. SAMS provides a simple, secure way for the transporting of data to the Tracking Network. It is a Web application that does not require any software installation but does require pre-authentication. If a data steward is unable to transport data via SAMS, other arrangements can be made for secure data transportation.

#### **Data Format**

The Tracking Program has data dictionaries that provide valid data fields for all NCDM datasets. The Tracking Program's preferred format for data received is XML validated against an XML schema developed for the dataset and made available to the data steward or Tracking recipient (CDC, 2023).

#### **Data Repository**

Data provided to the Tracking Program by data stewards or by Tracking recipients are archived, stored, protected, or disposed of in accordance with relevant federal records requirements and applicable information systems management requirements. However, it is the intent of the Tracking Program to store and make data continuously available as described in this plan. Data are stored in the National Data Repository on CDC servers for secure and sensitive data, with access limited to authorized CDC employees and contractors. Data sharing agreements with data stewards or cooperative agreements with Tracking recipients may require renewal as specified by the terms of each agreement. Should an agreement be terminated, the Tracking Program will remove all copies of the original data, derived data, and standardized or aggregated data within the Tracking Network, if requested, and dispose of the records in accordance to approved records control schedules as required by the Federal Records Act. The Tracking Program follows appropriate records retention policies.

# Release of Data via the National Data Explorer

The National Data Explorer serves as the Tracking Network's main interface to the public and enables stakeholders to access nationally consistent public use data and measures as well as other services and tools offered by the Tracking Network. A nationally consistent measure is a specific combination, calculation, or derivation of health or environmental data that yields a composite number, such as a count or rate for a specific geographic unit and time period of analysis. For purposes of the Tracking Program, public use datasets (PUDS), for health and biomonitoring data, are defined as datasets comprised of aggregated data with all individually identifiable data or

information removed, and with remaining fields modified or suppressed. This effort is conducted to help reduce disclosure risk as much as reasonably possible and to prevent the creation of any table that violates the numerator or denominator cell size rules. PUDS for environmental data are defined as datasets comprised of aggregated or summarized data that have been processed to allow for interpretation of the original data and presentation of nationally consistent environmental measures.

The National Data Explorer provides users with the capability to

- Access PUDS and measures compiled as nationally consistent data and measures.
  - View prepared reports.
  - View preconfigured tables, charts, and maps containing count data, measures, and smoothed measures (as required).
  - Execute flexible, user-defined queries where health and biomonitoring data are restricted to smoothed or age-adjusted measures.
  - Access the PUDS repository via an open Application Programming Interface (API). API data are in JSON format. The Tracking Program provides extensive documentation on API usage on its website. API users are encouraged to obtain an API key.
  - o Export CSV files of the data.
- View and compare PUDS by placing datasets side by side.
- Allow users to create a Data Visualization Embed (DVE) that can place data from the Tracking Network in the form of an interactive table, map, or chart directly onto any webpage.
- Search and view metadata.
- Search and view data indicator templates.
- Browse and view other relevant Tracking Network data sources, which may include U.S. Environmental Protection Agency data, U.S. Census Bureau data, and other CDC data.
- Browse and traverse relevant categorized links to other information sources, including
  - State and local Tracking Programs;
  - O State environmental and health agencies;
  - o U.S. EPA: and
  - o Other CDC Websites.
- Access public health messages as well as descriptive content designed to assist the public in interpreting the NCDMs and other data and measures.\
- The Tracking Network also provides access to coordinated collections of relevant PUDs data through the use of dashboards. The dashboards provide content and visuals to allow for a better understanding of the data. The Tracking Network currently houses dashboards for melanoma, heat and health, and environmental justice.

Before new data are released on the National Data Explorer, recipients and other data providers may have the opportunity to use a secure, non-public section of the Tracking Data Explorer to validate their respective data prior to public release.

#### **Confidentiality Protection and Statistical Stability**

PUDS and nationally consistent measures for health and biomonitoring data require the protection of confidentiality and notice of statistical stability. PUDS and nationally consistent measures for environmental data do not have the same requirements regarding confidentiality, but efforts are still taken to protect sensitive data related to national security and explain data limitations and uses.

PUDS and nationally consistent measures for health and biomonitoring data do not contain information that is identifiable or potentially identifiable according to currently accepted procedures for reducing disclosure risk. To address issues of confidentiality protection and statistical stability, a combination of disclosure control procedures including additional aggregation, suppression, and smoothing are employed to generate and display PUDS or nationally consistent measures. These procedures are used to prevent disclosure of sensitive data according to the suppression rules for each dataset. Rates and other measures will be flagged as unstable when aggregation or smoothing or both fail to produce estimates with a relative standard error (RSE) less than 30%.

#### **Creating PUDS and Measures: Aggregation and Variable Restriction**

RADS are used to generate PUDS or measures for re-release through the National Data Explorer. This includes the aggregation of data into standardized stratification schema and the calculation of summary or derived measures such as age-adjusted rates for public release. In generating PUDS or measures, several procedures are used to block breaches of confidentiality and prevent disclosure of confidential information. These procedures include predefined aggregation and variable restriction and vary by dataset depending on the rarity of the condition. Aggregation may be performed spatially, temporally, or a combination of both in order to produce PUDS or measures with minimal suppression. To reduce the number of small counts, the number of demographic variables provided depends on the level of aggregation. Data highly aggregated spatially or temporally may contain more demographic variables than data minimally aggregated. The generation of PUDS and measures may also involve the collapsing of variables, (e.g., the collapsing of five year age groups into one group for children and one group for adults). The variable or variables chosen for aggregation, restriction, or collapsing depends on the intended purpose of the PUDS or measure.

#### **Spatial Aggregation for Sub-County Data**

The Tracking Program has three geographies used to generate sub-county PUDS or measures when data at the census tract level requires more than three years of temporal aggregation. The three sub-county geographies are based on aggregations of census tracts—one with a minimum of 5,000 persons in each unit, one with a minimum of 20,000 persons in each unit, and one with a minimum of 50,000 persons in each unit. These population thresholds were selected to ensure minimal suppression and instability and to maximize the number of geographic units. These geographic units were created by aggregating neighboring census tracts within a county until the population threshold was

reached. Census tracts were chosen as the foundational sub-county geography because most data can be reasonably geocoded to the census tract and census tracts are more stable geographic units than ZIP codes. The 5,000, 20,000, and 50,000 geographies are based on the 2010 census tract boundaries and population from the 2010 decennial census. The appropriate sub-county geography for a PUDS or measure is determined based on the median census tract-level case count, with the 5,000 geography typically used for more common outcomes, the 20,000 geography for rarer outcomes, and the 50,000 geography for the rarest outcomes (in the context of Tracking Program data). Generally, the level of temporal aggregation required for each geography is a function of how rare or common the outcome is. Rarer outcomes require more temporal aggregation and may not be displayed at the finest resolution (i.e., census tract).

After 2020 Decennial Census data are released, the Tracking Program will generate new 5,000, 20,000, and 50,000 geographies for 2020 – 2029 data. The Tracking Program recognizes that these geographies do not define communities and may overlap multiple communities. At this time, it is not feasible to adequately define communities across the country. Such efforts are best done at the state or local level with input from the communities themselves. The 5,000, 20,000, and 50,000 geographies, along with temporal aggregation as necessary, will ensure dissemination of stable measures, with minimum suppression, while protecting confidentiality (Table 1).

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Table 1: Spatial and temporal resolution of sub-county PUDS and measures.

Indicator	Spatial Resolution for Census Tract	Spatial Resolution for 5,000 Person Minimum Geography	Spatial Resolution for 20,000 Person Minimum Geography	Spatial Resolution for 50,000 Person Minimum Geography
Asthma Emergency	5-year	3-year	Annual	N/A
Department				
AMI Hospitalization	5-year	3-year	Annual	N/A
Lung Cancer	N/A	5-year	5-year	3-year
Lung Cancer – Stratified	N/A	5-year	5-year	3-year
by Sex				
Breast Cancer (Females	10-year	5-year	3-year	Annual
Only)	_ <del>_</del>			
Prostate Cancer (Males	10-year	5-year	3-year	Annual
Only)				
Colorectal Cancer	N/A	5-year	5-year	3-year
Colorectal Cancer –	N/A	N/A	5-year	3-year
Stratified by Sex				
Melanoma	N/A	5-year	3-year	Annual
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma	N/A	N/A	5-year	3-year
Liver and Intrahepatic	N/A	N/A	N/A	TBD
Bile Duct Cancer				
Kidney Cancer	N/A	N/A	5-year	3-year
Pancreatic Cancer	N/A	N/A	7-year	5-year
Thyroid Cancer	N/A	N/A	7-year	5-year
Bladder Cancer	N/A	N/A	5-year	3-year
Leukemia	N/A	_N/A	_5-year	3-year
Oral and Pharynx Cancer	N/A	N/A	5-year	3-year

N/A: Not applicable TBD: To be determined

#### Display of PUDS and Measures: Primary and Complementary Suppression

Even after aggregation and variable restriction, when displayed as tables, charts, or maps, PUDS and measures may still contain small case counts, thereby requiring additional steps to protect confidentiality and ensure statistical stability. The Tracking Program applies a primary suppression rule to each dataset containing sensitive data. A primary suppression rule suppresses sensitive counts or rates based on counts where the number of cases and, in some instances, the population are below a threshold. The Tracking Program uses the primary suppression rule as required by the data steward or the default primary suppression rule of non-zero counts less than 6 for geographic units with total populations under 100,000 (see Table 2).

Table 2: Tracking Network Suppression Rules

Dataset	Data based on the following are suppressed
Birth Defects	Non-zero counts less than 6 for counties.
Cancer	Counts less than 16 for states or counties.
	Sub-county spatial resolutions: Counts less than 16.
Childhood Lead	Non-zero counts less than 6 for counties with populations
Poisoning	less than 100,000 (number of children tested is not
	suppressed).
Hospital and Emergency	County or higher spatial resolution: Non-zero counts less
Department	than 6 for counties with populations less than 100,000.
	Sub-county spatial resolutions: Counts less than 10 or 100
	or fewer persons in the denominator.
Mortality	Counts less than 10 for states and counties (including zero)
	and all corresponding rates.
Natality	For data released before 2008, non-zero counts less than 6
	for counties with populations less than 100,000. For data
	released 2008 or later, counts less than 10 for states and
	counties (including zero) and all corresponding rates.

After the appropriate suppression rules are applied, all PUDS or measures available as preconfigured data products are evaluated for necessary complementary suppression to prevent back-calculation of initially censored counts. When complementary suppression is necessary, the following hierarchy is followed:

- 1. First, attempt to find a candidate cell representing a small geographic unit;
- 2. Next, seek a candidate cell among a large geographic unit; and
- 3. Lastly, suppress the relevant marginal total.

The goal underlying this approach is to preserve marginal totals (e.g., statewide totals) whenever possible—they are of the greatest general interest and likely to be available via other Web sites or publications.

Although data products may be individually secured through primary and complementary suppression, it may be possible to reconstruct censored data by combining information from multiple data products. In a flexible query system allowing multiple dynamic queries, implementing effective suppression rules for sets of dependent data products is often difficult. To ensure protection of suppressed counts, sets of preconfigured, dependent data products are evaluated collectively to determine whether additional confidentiality protection procedures are needed. If a marginal total is suppressed for complementary purposes in one data product, that marginal total is suppressed in the other dependent data products. When sets of dependent data products are too large or difficult to ensure protection of suppressed counts, health and biomonitoring data will be presented as smoothed crude measures, smoothed age-specific measures, or age-adjusted measures.

Once the suppression process has been completed, some rates may remain that are statistically unstable. Instability can arise from small numerators (case counts) or small denominators (populations or subpopulations). Any rate or measure with a RSE  $\geq$  30% will be flagged as unstable but not suppressed.

#### **Smoothing**

When appropriate, smoothing is used to protect confidentiality, increase statistical stability, and provide information in areas where counts or unsmoothed measures may otherwise be suppressed or flagged. Smoothing combines data from multiple geographic units and can yield greater stability in local rate estimates. Smoothing and flagging unstable measures can be combined to address situations in which even the smoothed estimates are not considered sufficiently stable. Appropriate public health messages and interpretation guidance accompany any presentation of smoothed measures. Such messages clarify that smoothed measures are intended to present general trends rather than accurate local measures. The Tracking Program uses a simple empirical Bayes (EB) smoothing procedure (Waller and Gotway 2004). Such an approach combines geographic data in a manner that is sensitive to rate variations across geographic units by giving greater weight to immediately local estimates as the relative variability in the surrounding rates increases.

#### **Disclosure Statement**

The National Data Explorer prominently displays a public release disclosure statement informing users of their responsibility to maintain confidentiality and inform CDC immediately if, during use of data obtained from the National Data Explorer, the identity of an individual person is inadvertently disclosed. In addition, it states that users will not imply that interpretations based on the data are those of the original data source or CDC but will acknowledge both in all reports based on these data.

#### Metadata and Instructions to Users

Data released through the National Data Explorer are accompanied by the necessary documentation in the form of metadata about collection procedures, completeness, and limitations. Metadata describes the content, quality, and context of the data and provides links to additional information such as quality assurance documents and data dictionaries. Each dataset has a corresponding metadata record created by or with the assistance of the data provider. Metadata are maintained in a central repository and revised as data are updated.

The creation and maintenance of metadata is a vital component of the Tracking Network. They are used to generate instructions on the proper use and interpretation of data available on the Tracking Network. Metadata also support additional Network functionality by providing users the ability to

- locate and access data based on key fields within the metadata such as title, purpose, abstract, keywords, geographic boundaries, year, and content, and
- discover data and evaluate its quality, limitations, restrictions, and appropriateness for the intended use.

#### **Public Health Messages**

Data released on the National Data Explorer are accompanied by several types of messages. The Data Explorer includes contextual information that explains how the content area and its data and measures are related to environmental public health tracking. This includes a discussion of current understanding about the association between health and the environment. Information about data limitations and appropriate uses of the data and measures are provided along with guidance on interpretation. Applicable national level measures and relevant national objectives are provided, such as those in Healthy People. Where appropriate, the Data Explorer also contains public health messages related to prevention and environmental health stewardship. Public health messages are developed in collaboration with subject matter experts from multiple state, federal, and nongovernmental partners. Public health messages developed for the National Data Explorer are consistent with CDC's existing public health messages.

### **Asset Protection**

CDC understands that many of the recommended, nationally consistent data are intended as restricted-access datasets in that they are minimally aggregated and may contain potentially identifiable information. CDC also understands that it may receive other information from data sources that may be deemed proprietary and/or commercial, or data that may be subject to protections from disclosure provided by specific privileges.

Consistent with applicable federal laws, regulations, and policies, CDC intends to use its best efforts and the procedures set out in this Data Re-Release Plan to

- protect the privacy and confidentiality of any potentially identifiable information;
- protect any proprietary or commercial information provided to it by a Tracking recipient, national source or data source other than state or local Tracking Programs; and
- protect any other data exempted from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. Sec. 552) or other applicable federal laws or privileges.

If requested or required to disclose information outside of the procedures provided for in this Data Re-Release Plan, CDC will provide the respective data source or sources with prompt written notice of any such request or requirement, thus allowing the data source or sources to assert any applicable privilege or position related to the disclosure of the information.

# Glossary

Term	Definition
Application Programming Interface (API)	A method of accessing publicly available data on the Tracking Network via Web-based requests which return requested data in a standardized data feed that is suitable for use by developers of custom applications.
Authentication	The process by which the identity of a person requesting access to restricted data or services is verified.
Authorization	The process by which a person's right to access restricted data or services is verified.
Confidentiality	The treatment of information entrusted to CDC with the expectation that it will not be divulged to others in ways that are inconsistent with the conditions agreed to when the information was originally disclosed.
Confidentiality breach	An unauthorized release of identifiable or confidential data or information, which may result from a security failure, intentional inappropriate behavior, human error, or natural disaster. A breach of confidentiality may or may not result in harm to one or more individuals.
Data re-release	Re-release of data provided to CDC.
Data sharing agreement (DSA)	A mechanism by which a data requestor and CDC can define the terms of data access that can be granted to requestors.
Data Steward	The person(s) responsible for the management, processing, documentation, integrity, and security of information in a data system.
Disclosure	Unauthorized public disclosure of information about a person, about which data have been collected.
Disclosure control	Procedures used to limit the risk that information about an individual or potentially identifiable information will be disclosed. These procedures include restricting access, aggregation, variable restriction, suppression, and smoothing.
Individually identifiable data	Data or information which can be used to establish individual identity, either directly, using items such as name, address, or unique identifying number, or indirectly by linking data about a case-individual with other information that uniquely identifies them.
Metadata	Data about data that describes the content, quality, and context of the data and provides links to additional information like quality assurance documents and data dictionaries.

Term	Definition
Nationally Consistent Data	Specific data collected, organized, and in some cases, pre- processed, on the basis of standards adopted by CDC for the Tracking Network.
Nationally Consistent Measure	A specific combination/calculation/derivation of health and/or environmental data to yield a composite number such as a rate for a specific geographical unit and time period of analysis. Standard measures have been developed/adopted for the Tracking Network through collaboration with state and local partners and data stewards.
National Data Repository	A repository of Tracking Network data used to store, process, and make available data and measures.
Tracking Network	A Web-based, secure, distributed network of standardized electronic health and environmental data.
National Data Explorer	A portal (Website with special features) accessible to the public to access data and other resources on the Tracking Network.
Penalties	Penalties for a breach of confidentiality can range from imposing fines or a prison sentence to disciplinary action, barring an individual from receiving data in the future, or termination of employment or contract. Penalties can be established to differentiate willful from inadvertent disclosure and they can be tailored to the type of party responsible for the breach of confidentialityan employee, contractor, or external data requestor.
CDC Secure Access Management System (SAMS)	A CDC electronic authentication service that provides application access for external partners and the secure exchange of electronic files between CDC and partner organizations.
Public-use datasets (for environmental data) (PUDS)	Data comprised of aggregated and/or summarized data which have been processed for the purposes of interpretation and presentation of nationally consistent environmental measures.
Public-use datasets (for health and biomonitoring data)	Data that are comprised of aggregated data with all individually identifiable data or information removed, and with the remaining fields modified or suppressed so as to reduce disclosure risk as much as reasonably possible and such that it is not possible to create any tables that violate the numerator or denominator cell size rules.
Restricted-access datasets (RADS)	Data that (1) are minimally aggregated for increased utility, (2) do not contain personal identifiers, (3) contain potentially individually identifiable data as a result of small numbers, and (4) are shared only with authorized users.
Smoothing (spatial)	A statistical approach in which a local measure (e.g., a rate) is adjusted by referring to measures from surrounding geographic units. A key objective is to produce stable estimates.

Term	Definition
Suppression	One of the most commonly used ways of protecting sensitive cells in tabular data. It is obvious that in a row with a suppressed sensitive cell at least one additional cell must be suppressed or the value in the sensitive cell could be calculated exactly by subtraction from the marginal total. The same is true for the column which contains a suppressed cell. For this reason, certain other cells must also be suppressed. The suppression of a sensitive cell is termed a primary cell suppression. Suppression of other cells to prevent one from calculating the value in the sensitive cell is termed complementary (or secondary) cell suppression.
XML	A standard coding language that allows information and services to be encoded with meaningful structure and semantics that computers and humans can understand. XML supports information exchange and can be extended to include user-specified and industry-specified tags.
XML schema	The structure for constraining the contents of XML documents.

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