

## **NYS Department of Health Statement to WaterFront June 30, 2023**

Peter, the CDC outlines [here](#) that the purpose of suppressing incidence rates, death rates, and counts when the case or death counts are below 16 is designed to discourage misinterpretation or misuse of rates or counts that are unstable. As also noted by the CDC, the cell suppression threshold value of 16 for reliability has also been determined to be sufficient to protect patient confidentiality. In addition, a central cancer registry may further suppress its data for various reasons. When following the CDC's guidance using 16 as the suppression threshold, we can only present lung cancer data in less than 40% of all census tracts in New York State. For cancers with lower incidence such as bladder cancer, nearly all the data will be suppressed.

### Additional Information:

- The Department had previously published cancer statistics at the census tract level. However, due to the limitations outlined in our previous response, these data can't be used directly to explain why cancer may be higher in certain areas.
- For further details on the CDC suppression guidance, please reach out to the CDC directly.