These policies refer to data from the Community Health Survey (CHS), Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), Child Community Health Survey (CCHS), and the 2004 NYC Health and Nutritional Examination Survey (NYCHANES 2004).

EFFECTIVE January 2, 2013

For data requests, agency publications, press releases, and social media releases the following rules apply:

- **Asterisk** with a note about reliability:
  - Any estimate with a relative standard error (RSE) between 30 and 50 (30≤RSE<50)
  - Any estimate with a denominator less than 50 (n < 50)
  - Any estimate with a RSE greater than or equal to 50 (RSE ≥50), if the Confidence Interval (CI) band width is less than 6 (Upper 95%CI – Lower 95%CI <6)
  - Any estimate with a 95%CI half width greater than 10 ((Upper 95%CI – Lower 95%CI) / 2)>10))

- **Suppress** estimates with a note about suppression:
  - Any prevalence estimate with an RSE greater than or equal to 50 **AND** a CI band width greater than or equal to 6 (this allows smaller numerators with good-sized denominators to not be suppressed) (RSE ≥50 and Upper 95%CI – Lower 95%CI ≥6)
    - *For mean values, only the RSE ≥50 criterion applies*
  - Any estimate with a sample denominator less than 50 (n <50), if the estimate is 0% or 100%

- **Add** note about confidence intervals for estimates when 95%CI was not calculated:
  - Any estimate of 0% or 100% with denominator ≥50

For binary outcome variables (e.g., yes/no): both levels of the variables must be checked. If one level requires an asterisk, then asterisk the other level as well. If one level requires suppression, then suppress the other level as well.

For Peer Review Papers:

- **Asterisk** with a note about reliability:
  - Any estimate with an RSE greater than or equal to 30 (RSE ≥30)
  - Any estimate with a sample denominator less than 50 (n <50)
  - Any estimate with a 95%CI half-width greater than 10

For data requests for internal agency use only:

- Do not suppress any estimates, but discuss all data and explain why certain numbers are more reliable than others.
- Highlight numbers that would be suppressed and request that these data not be shared outside the agency due to reliability concerns.

Steps for Checking Data Reliability

For binary outcome variables, both levels must be checked. For outcome variables with more than 2 levels, check the level of interest.

1) Check prevalence estimate and unweighted denominators

Prevalence estimate is not equal to 0% or 100% :

Unweighted denominator <50 → add reliability note, then go to number 2

Unweighted denominator ≥50 → go to number 2

Prevalence estimate is 0% or 100%:

Unweighted denominator is ≥50 → add confidence interval note

Unweighted denominator is <50 → suppress estimate and add suppression note

2) Check Relative Standard Error (RSE)

RSE ≥50% → go to number 3

30%≤RSE<50% →add reliability note

RSE <30% → go to number 4

3) Check the 95%CI band (if RSE ≥50% from above)

Upper 95%CI – Lower 95%CI <6 → add reliability note

Upper 95%CI – Lower 95%CI ≥6 → suppress estimate and add suppression note

4) Check the 95%CI half-width

((Upper95%CI – Lower 95%CI) /2) >10 → add reliability note

((Upper 95%CI – Lower 95%CI)/2) ≤ 10 → no additional note is needed

Reliability note:

*Estimate should be interpreted with caution. Estimate's Relative Standard Error (a measure of estimate precision) is greater than 30%, or the 95% Confidence Interval half-width is greater than 10 or the sample size is too small, making the estimate potentially unreliable.

Abridged reliability note for agency publications:

*Estimate should be interpreted with caution due to small sample size.

Suppression note:

^ Data are suppressed due to imprecise and unreliable estimates.

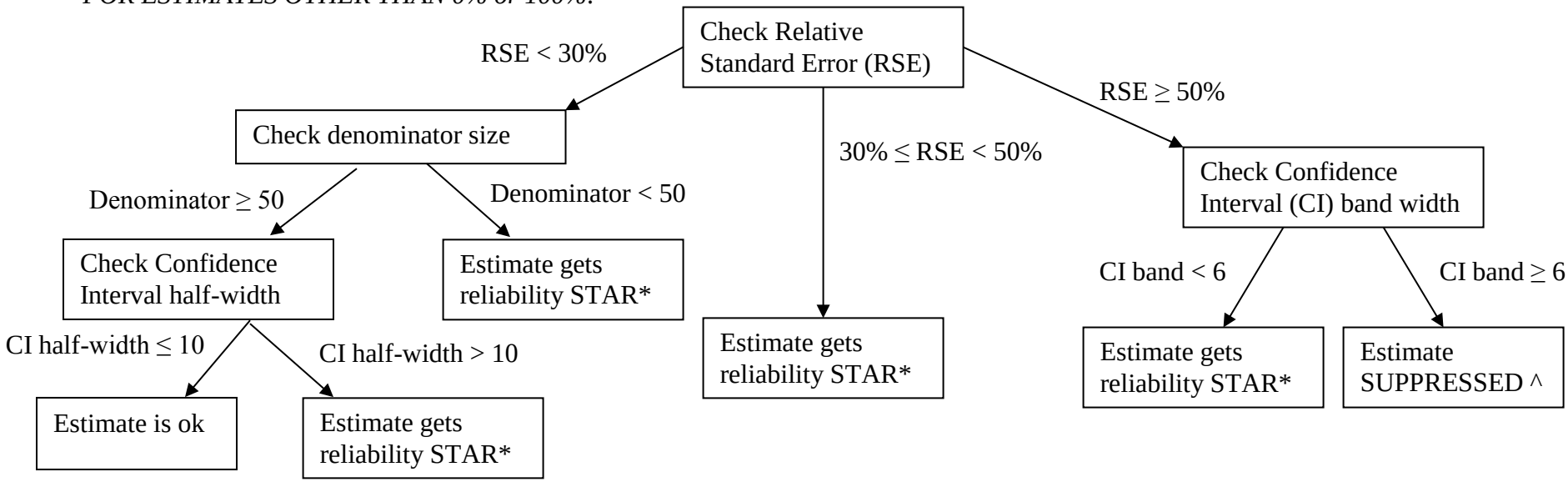
Confidence interval note:

¶ Estimate should be interpreted with caution. 95% Confidence Interval and Relative Standard Error are not calculated.

All data requests will include a note about estimate precision: Confidence Intervals (CIs) are a measure of estimate precision: the wider the CI, the more imprecise the estimate.

BES Data Reliability Flowchart

FOR ESTIMATES OTHER THAN 0% or 100%:



* Estimate should be interpreted with caution. Estimate's Relative Standard Error (a measure of estimate precision) is greater than 30%, or the 95% Confidence Interval half-width is greater than 10 or the sample size is too small, making the estimate potentially unreliable.

^ Data are suppressed due to imprecise and unreliable estimates.

FOR ESTIMATES EQUAL TO 0% or 100%:

- If denominator is greater than or equal to 50 (n>=50), estimate gets note:
  ¶ Estimate should be interpreted with caution. 95% CI and Relative Standard Error are not calculated.
- If denominator is less than 50 (n<50), estimate is SUPPRESSED ^.

NOTE: For binary variables, both levels should be checked, regardless of which level will ultimately be presented. Any reliability or suppression issues for one level should be applied to the other. For variables with 3 or more levels, only those levels being presented need to be assessed for reliability concerns.

When CIs are displayed, this note should accompany them:
Confidence Intervals (CIs) are a measure of estimate precision: the wider the CI, the more imprecise the estimate.

Updated January 2, 2013