

# How to determine if a number is statistically meaningful

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I've posted another thread about this situation, but I have a separate question concerning the same dataset.

I have statistical info about state clients for the 64 counties in the state. I have the total number of clients over a year, and the number of clients who'd had a specific occurrence during that time. The statewide average for this occurrence is about 4%. Of course, I have some small, rural counties with only a few clients (and a few with none, which doesn't matter). If 1 of 4 clients experiences the occurrence, it's statistically misleading to report on the spreadsheet that the county had a 25% occurrence rate. I'd like to suppress those numbers when they would be misleading.

How do I determine the threshold at which the numbers become statistically relevant? Or the inverse, irrelevant?

Any help here would be greatly appreciated. I'm not a statistician, but have an engineering degree and still remember a little statistics, but not much! But at least I can figure out the math, and use the functions in Excel to make all this happen.