

How Many People on a Team?

I use the following rules of thumb about team sizes:

Levy's Rule of 5: *To make decisions quickly and complete the definition of a design or other project, no more than five people should be involved.*

Levy's Rule of 8: *To review information or technologies or to coordinate a development project across teams, no more than eight people should be involved in the day-to-day coordination.*

Levy's Rule of 20: *To explain project or technology or process decisions and to receive useful feedback from the audience, no more than twenty people should be involved at one time.*

If you have too many people in the room, the team will be much less effective.

From Chapter 3 of
Get Out of the Way!
How to Manage Development
of Timely, Innovative, and Relevant Products
by John V. Levy, Ph.D.