

Statistical Excellence Award Winners

2017



RSS Statistical Excellence Award in Official Statistics

With support from the UK Statistics Authority

Winner

Scottish Government

Alastair McAlpine, Maike Waldmann, Paul Tyrer

for

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016 (SIMD16)

Commendation

For excellent processes to develop understanding of user needs, communication of findings to decision makers, clever use of case studies and user engagement to build public trust, and clear advice on what the SIMD can and cannot be used for.

Shortlisted

(1) Health and Safety Executive

for

Health and Safety Statistics for Great Britain 2015/16

Commendation

For an excellent example of user-focused dissemination and communication, making robust statistics accessible for a wide range of decision makers.

(2) Department for Work and Pensions

for

Work, Health and Disability Green Paper Data Pack

Commendation

For communicating clearly and informatively, presenting statistics and analysis alongside a policy consultation document, in a way that creates new insights for decision makers.

(3) Department for Work and Pensions

for

Releasing statistics in multiple formats to meet the range of users' needs

Commendation

For strategically bringing together the Department's statistical outputs to improve public accessibility and user engagement.

(4) Department for Communities and Local Government

for

Live Performance Dashboard

Commendation

For developing an innovative product that provides an easy to use system to access the latest statistics and change over time across a range of devices, available internally within the Department but hopefully with potential for wider access.

RSS Statistical Excellence Award for Journalism

Kindly sponsored by the Economic & Social Research Council

Explaining the Facts — Winner

BBC News Reality Check Team

Anthony Reuben, Tamara Kovacevic, Alexis Condon, Peter Barnes

for

Reality Check: Is migration at record levels?

Commendation

An excellent summary of an extremely complex issue. This article explained how migration data is captured and analysed before tackling the question as to whether or not it is at record levels. The Reality Check team also tackled topics such as uncertainty and statistical significance in an impressively accessible way.

Explaining the Facts — Highly Commended

Tom Chivers — BuzzFeed

for

Are NHS Weekend Rotas Really Killing People?

Commendation

Are people who have strokes really 20% more likely to die if they get admitted to hospital on a weekend? This controversial claim is explored in an in-depth and thorough way in this illuminating article, dissecting the claim, considering complications, and presenting evidence in a thought provoking and interesting way.

Investigative Journalism — Winner

Martin Beckford — The Mail on Sunday

for

‘Evening all: don't bother to call 999.’ Low number of police on night shifts revealed

Commendation

An informative piece of journalism that examines an issue which is of huge relevance at the moment. Using Freedom of Information requests, Martin was able to access police staffing levels at night and, comparing these to ONS population figures, was able to present the huge number of people per officer at the time when most crimes take place.

Investigative Journalism — Highly Commended

Johnston Press Investigations Unit

Aasma Day, Chris Burn, Ruby Kitchen, Philip Bradfield, Cahal Milmo, Ben Fishwick

For

Drive for Justice

Commendation

This entry, comprised of a collection of articles, considers the “Drive for Justice” campaign which highlighted sentencing figures for those convicted of death by dangerous driving. Statistical analyses of sentencing figures were clearly presented alongside emotive case studies.

Data Visualisation - Winner

Alex Selby Boothroyd — The Economist

for

Household income inequality

Commendation

This entry communicated a lot of information in a very efficient way. This impressive example of data visualisation allowed information regarding income inequality to be easily and clearly communicated. Interactivity also allowed users to highlight the information most relevant to them.

Data Visualisation — Highly Commended

Evan Hensleigh & James Fransham— The Economist

for

US political majority builder

Commendation

This was an entertaining infographic that portrayed complex political information in a useful and informative way. Users were able to access information on the standpoint of US presidential nominees and assess how their own views fit in with the rest of the United States.

Regional Journalism - Winner

David Rhodes — BBC Yorkshire

for

Social Care — A postcode lottery

Commendation

This entry provided great overview of a UK wide issue alongside regional information which was presented in an interactive and insightful way. This analysis of social care data revealed the inequalities in provision and cost across the UK and highlighted the existence of a postcode lottery.

Regional Journalism — Highly Commended

Nikki Fox & Georgie Bevan - BBC East

for

The true extent of cancelled operations

Commendation

This was an illuminating piece of work that highlighted how “official” figures can sometimes fail to highlight the true extent of a problem. By looking at operations cancelled not only “on the day”, but also in the three days before, the BBC East Health Team were able to highlight tens of thousands of cancelled operations not being officially counted.

Statistical Excellence Award for the Pharmaceutical Industry

Awarded by PSI Statisticians in the Pharmaceutical Industry
and the Royal Statistical Society

Winner

Dr Michael O'Kelly

QuintilesIMS

for

Promoting analytical solutions and best practices for handling missing data in pharmaceutical industry

Commendation

For a significant contribution to the field of handling missing data within the pharmaceutical industry. The research is an area which is critical to pharmaceutical companies meeting the increasing regulatory demands for proper handling of incomplete data, ultimately increasing the chances of bringing new medicines to patients in need.

Statistical Excellence Award for Early Career Writing

Awarded by Significance magazine and the Young Statisticians Section of the Royal Statistical Society

Winner

Kevin Lin

Carnegie Mellon University

for

“We, the millennials: The statistical significance of political significance”,

Commendation

For a timely and topical article. In addressing the subject of political engagement, Kevin touches on an issue that is very much top of mind, not only in the US, but in the UK and other parts of the democratic world. His article makes interesting use of Reddit data, while taking the time to acknowledge the assumptions he has made, and the limitations of the information he has available. The story is clearly told and written in a journalistic style that makes it an ideal fit for Significance and a worthy winner of this year’s contest.



To find out more about our Statistical Excellence Awards, please contact our Press and Policy Officer, Magdalen Wiley (m.wiley@rss.org.uk).

The Royal Statistical Society
12 Errol Street
London EC1Y 8LX
www.rss.org.uk
rss@rss.org.uk
Twitter @RoyalStatSoc

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