

RSS Statistical Excellence Award Winners

2014

RSS Statistical Excellence Award in Official Statistics

With support from the UK Statistics Authority

Joint Winners

Justice Data Lab Team
Ministry of Justice
for
The Justice Data Lab

Commendation

For the use of statistical techniques to assess success (or failure) in a critical area, and for the exceptionally close way MoJ statisticians have worked with their users, mainly non-statisticians, to provide the most useful possible service, and for the way feedback was both encouraged and acted upon.

National Energy Efficiency Data (NEED) Team
Department for Energy and Climate Change
for
The National Energy Efficiency Data-framework

Commendation

For the statistical innovation used to create the database from a variety of sources and for the way in which it helps householders to assess their energy use as well as providing more information about energy saving potential generally.

Winner of the most improved Statistical Release

Children and Families Statistics Team
Scottish Government
for
Children's Social Work Statistics 2011-12

Commendation

For excellent use of context, positive user feedback and high impact.

RSS Statistical Excellence Awards in Journalism

Print - Joint Winners

James Ball
The Guardian

"The Thatcher Effect: What Changed and What Stayed the Same"

Commendation

For the fair, unbiased manner in which it sought to examine the lasting impact of Margaret Thatcher using an analysis of contemporary and historical statistical data for social benefit and understanding. It was well written and accessible to the lay reader.

Jan Piotrowski
The Economist

"How Science Goes wrong"

Commendation

For its good use of graphics to aid explanation and the way in which it defined key statistical concepts in easy to understand terms.

Broadcast - Winner

Adam Blenford

Producers: David Botti (animation), Adam Blenford (editorial),
Fiona Crack (executive producer)

BBC News

"100 Women: What Chance Does a Young Girl Have?"

Commendation

For the use of animation to effectively explore a very important issue and to convey the key points. It was high impact, with good graphics that conveyed a clear message.

Broadcast - Highly Commended

The Infinite Monkey Cage Team
(with Rami Tzabar, Maria Simons, Robin Ince, Professor Brian Cox, Deborah Cohen)
BBC Radio Science Unit, BBC Radio Factual
"The Infinite Monkey Cage: 'Risk' "

Commendation

For their programme on Risk which sought to explore the science of risk in an engaging, fun way, highlighting the key fact that how one views risk has less to do with the size of the actual risk and much more to do with one's own perceptions and prejudice. The judges were impressed by the range of examples that clearly explained the issues in a useful, simple fashion.

James Fletcher
(with Richard Vadon, Tim Harford, Hannah Barnes, Ruth Alexander)
BBC Radio 4: More or Less
"An Army of Drunken Children?"

Commendation

For its broadcast 'An army of drunken children' which explored the claim that over 300 young children had presented at Accident and Emergency Units in the previous year through drunkenness . The judges praised the way in which the programme had set out its message both clearly and simply, alerting the public to problems that arise when not considering the number in context, the source of the data and how they were collected and the true size of the problem when considered relative to the total number of children aged 11 and under.

Online – Winner

Chris Cook, Martin Stabe and Cleve Jones
The Financial Times
"The Problem with Education Statistics"

Commendation

For a two-year project that explored social mobility in education achievement. It really exploited the potential of the internet to deliver a message using a range of different methods, including print, animation, links to other articles and links to the data on which the analysis was based. In particular, Chris Cook developed his own more nuanced index for assessing school achievement, explaining clearly, through the use of animation, how flawed the current metric was and how his new metric was calculated.

Statistical Excellence Award for the Pharmaceutical Industry

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

Craig Mallinckrodt

Eli Lilly & Company, Indianapolis, Indiana

for

“A conceptual, technical and practical framework for missing data
in longitudinal clinical studies”

Commendation

For significant contributions to the prevention and analysis of missing data. His work has influenced regulators, academics and multiple pharmaceutical companies in how they approach the problems of missing data in clinical trials.