

From: Ian McNicholl
Date: 8 Mar 2017
Subject: MISREPRESENTATION OF ONS STATISTICS
(DOMESTIC ABUSE: "Two Women per week are killed")
To: UK Statistics Authority

I have previously shared my concerns with John Flatley regarding the misrepresentation of ONS Statistics and the above statistic in particular which continues to appear frequently within the media with the quote "Two Women Per Week" entrenched within the article headline of "Domestic Abuse."

Furthermore, high profile organisations retaining significant influence within the Domestic Abuse profession continue to share this statistic via a range of high profile and therefore hugely influential media platforms.

Whilst it is of course completely unacceptable for any person to be killed in any environment, this crime and related statistical reference remain of a significant retained influence in terms of "Education and Awareness. It is understandably a deep and genuine concern is subject to repeat exposure whilst remaining factually incorrect.

The statistic has been extracted from the ONS Data Source Tables. However, it is evident that the statistic actually relates to 2008/2009. Whilst this remains an important omission and remains excluded from the article it does not allow the reader to assess both the relevance and influence of a statistic that is now almost a decade old.

Where the reader accepts the statistic as fact and consequently forms an opinion, the reader is undoubtedly misinformed as a direct result. Consequently the conscious decision taken to misinform/misdirect negatively influences the understanding within society of the prevalence of this particular stream of Domestic Abuse. It is therefore misleading the public who continue to support the Police in their individual neighbourhoods and communities.

My understanding is that this statistic is likely to be incorporated within the forthcoming "Comic Relief" reference on Domestic abuse,

due to be aired, I believe live on BBC on 24th March. This would be hugely damaging and show the seeds of exclusion to the victims who do not fit into the stereotypical profile of Domestic Abuse.

Crucially, and of further paramount concern, is the conscious decision to omit the comparable (and in the interest of balance) statistic confirming the number of Males killed in and this statistic sits in very close proximity to the Female statistic.

I look forward to receiving your thoughts and observations. Please do hesitate to contact me should you require further clarification on this matter.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/mar/07/the-guardian-view-on-domestic-abuse-cuts-cost-lives>

<http://www.birminghammail.co.uk/special-features/birmingham-solihull-womens-aid-how-12663786?service=responsive>

<http://www.rednoseday.com/the-difference-you-make/domestic-violence>

Kind Regards

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