

# Interpreting Official Statistics

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in this report the public administration select committee pasc concludes that despite the positive steps implemented by the statistics and registration service act 2007 the act there remain issues and concerns about the way government statistics are produced and disseminated which remain a genuine risk to public confidence in the statistical system and must be addressed the act was intended to ensure that statistics are produced to the highest professional standards and that effective governance structures are in place to protect transparency and accountability and the committee found the act had helped to improve the operation of the statistical system however the act needs to have greater clarity and transparency in the way it operates and in the functioning of the uk statistics authority the statistics authority those who regulate the quality of national statistics are in the same organisation as those officials who produce data the two groups should have a clear separation in practice but this is hard to demonstrate when they work in the same building and share support services it is also not appropriate that ministers should have lengthy prior access to certain statistics but other interested parties do not the statistics authority does not seem to have sufficient control over the quality and integrity of the different data sets and statistical products produced by departments and their agencies planning and improving data access both within government and for users outside government should be given greater attention by the statistics authority as well as by government departments

this is the fourth national statistics annual report which highlights the variety of work carried out by statisticians and other analysts in the government statistical service gss during the year 2003 04 it considers the progress made in implementing the statistical plans set out in the national statistics work programme for 2003 04 to 2005 06 across three main areas of work major developments in cross cutting departmental or theme boundaries work carried out under the aegis of the 12 national statistics theme groups and quality improvements carried out in the context of the national statistics quality review programme

this book introduces students and researchers to the key ideas and issues that inform research practice authors matt henn mark weinstein and nick foard provide a clear and easy to understand roadmap to help the reader plan their research project from beginning to end this book is perfect for use on introductory methods courses and is also an invaluable guide for the first time researcher embarking on their own small scale research project it is the intention of this book to prepare students and new researchers for their research project brilliantly written throughout this is your essential guide to the theory of research the practice of research and the best ways to plan and manage your research

consolidates the most requested information on juvenile offenders victims presents

statistical information in a user friendly format bridges the gap between existing information the juvenile justice community designed as a series of briefing papers on specific topics short sections designed to be read in isolation from other parts of the report makes use of easy to understand graphics tables

this book explores official statistics and their social function in modern societies digitisation and globalisation are creating completely new opportunities and risks a context in which facts can play an enormously important part if they are produced with a quality that makes them credible and purpose specific in order for this to actually happen official statistics must continue to actively pursue the modernisation of their working methods this book is not about the technical and methodological challenges associated with digitisation and globalisation rather it focuses on statistical sociology which scientifically deals with the peculiarities and pitfalls of governing by numbers and assigns statistics a suitable position in the future informational ecosystem further the book provides a comprehensive overview of modern issues in official statistics embodied in a historical and conceptual framework that endows it with different and innovative perspectives central to this work is the quality of statistical information provided by official statistics the implementation of the un sustainable development goals in the form of indicators is another driving force in the search for answers and is addressed here this book will be of interest to a broad readership the topics of sociology epistemology statistical history and the management of production processes which are important for official statistics and their role in social decision making processes are generally not dealt with in statistics books the book is primary intended for official statisticians but researchers and advanced students in statistics economics sociology and the political sciences will find the book equally stimulating last but not least it offers a valuable source of reflection for policymakers and stakeholders

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