

RADICAL STATISTICS NEWSLETTER 34

Statisticians scorn Fowler's NHS activity figures

by Lynn Alleway

A group of statisticians has poured scorn on the latest batch of NHS activity figures produced by the Department of Health.

The publication of the latest statistical bulletin by Health Secretary Norman Fowler has been timed to coincide with the Conservative Party Conference in Blackpool this week.

Fowler figures were inaccurate—Owen

By David Hencke,
Social Services Correspondent

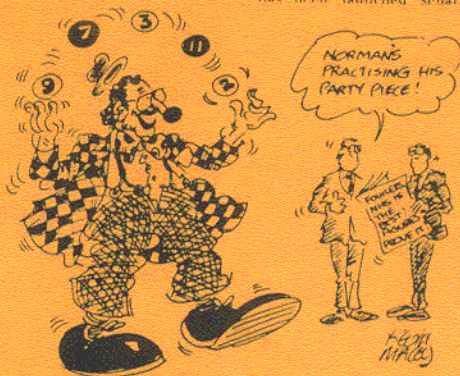
An attack on claims by Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, that he was providing record levels of care in the National Health Service has been launched separately

Fowler's NHS 'is the best'

By David Hencke, Social
Services Correspondent

Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, released statistics last night to show that the national health service was better run and provided more services under his control than under any other minister since 1948.

The figures, released before next week's Conservative party conference, use patient attendance and out patient appointments to show that record numbers of people are being treated.



OCTOBER '85

The Radical Statistics Group is a network of individuals based on the distribution of this Newsletter. The small amount of central administrative work is done by a three person committee elected annually at the A.G.M. and known as 'The Troika' - names below. The editorship of the Newsletter rotates - next Editor see below. Apart from producing a Newsletter, the work of the Group is done by its subgroups, whose membership is open to all, simply contact the person below. Use the Newsletter to advertise if you wish to start a new subgroup.

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Editors: send the typed newsletter to John Bibby, one month before they want the newsletter to reach readers. Copy typed on A4 paper.

Contributors: send articles to the Editor by the copy-date on A4 paper, typed single spaced with 1 inch margins all round. All members of RSG are invited to contribute to the newsletter - articles may vary in length and reviews or letters are also welcome.

Addresses: The Editor's address usually appears in the previous newsletter, but articles can also be sent to The Editor, RSG, c/o BSSRS, 25 Horsell Rd., London N5 1XL.

NEXT EDITOR Russell Ecob, 108 Lyndhurst Grove, London S.E. 15

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WOMEN IN STATISTICS

The group concerned with issues within this area urgently needs resurrecting. I would be grateful if anyone is interested in women in statistics to get in contact with me so that we can arrange a meeting. Would you give me a ring on 061-833-9244 (work) or 061-792-7413 (home).

Jean Ullman

Membership drive

At the AGM in February it was decided to mount a membership drive at the beginning of the new academic year, with especial focus on "young blood".

A recruitment leaflet has been prepared, and several copies are enclosed with this mailing. Extra copies have been sent to those of you who are at a college or university address - please will you circulate these among your students, pointing out the advantages of membership of this magnificent organisation.

The leaflet has been prepared so that you can make extra photocopies at your own institution. Alternatively, please write to the Troika for extra copies (address inside front cover).

RadStats network needs nodes

Last month's Newsletter contained, in true statistical fashion, a form to be completed in order that we can respond to requests for statistical help from other groups or individuals. The response rate was disappointingly low! This is a great pity, since the group could be much more active and involved in issues involving the use of statistics if it were capable of offering practical assistance through a network of Radstats members. The list of people willing to offer help would be held by a member of the Troika, or a regional contact, and names of volunteers would be confidential if so requested. It is unlikely that requests for help would put an excessive load on any individual, and it would be up to the member approached whether he/she took on the request or not. Please send completed forms to

"The RadStats Network"
 c/o BSSRS
 25 Horsell Rd.,
 London N5 1XL

RADSTATS NETWORK

Name.....	Sex	M/F
Address.....	Age	Under 25 25-29 30-34 35-39 Over 40
.....		
Telephone No :.....		
I do not mind my name being circulated	Yes/No	
I only want my name to appear on a list held by my regional contact and Troika ,	Yes/No	
I could provide statistical advice in the following areas :		
Medicine / Health	Nuclear	Survey design
Economics	Multivariate analysis	Survey analysis....
Housing	Teaching of statistics....	Other(please specify)
Education	Computing
I am prepared to help on a workshop for Trade Unionists (see article on AGM in RSN 33)	Yes/No	
My present job situation is :	University	Student
	Local Authority	Unemployed
	Central government	F/t child care....
	Private sector	Other.....
	
My employment status is :	Full-time paid work	
	Part-time paid work	
	No paid employment	