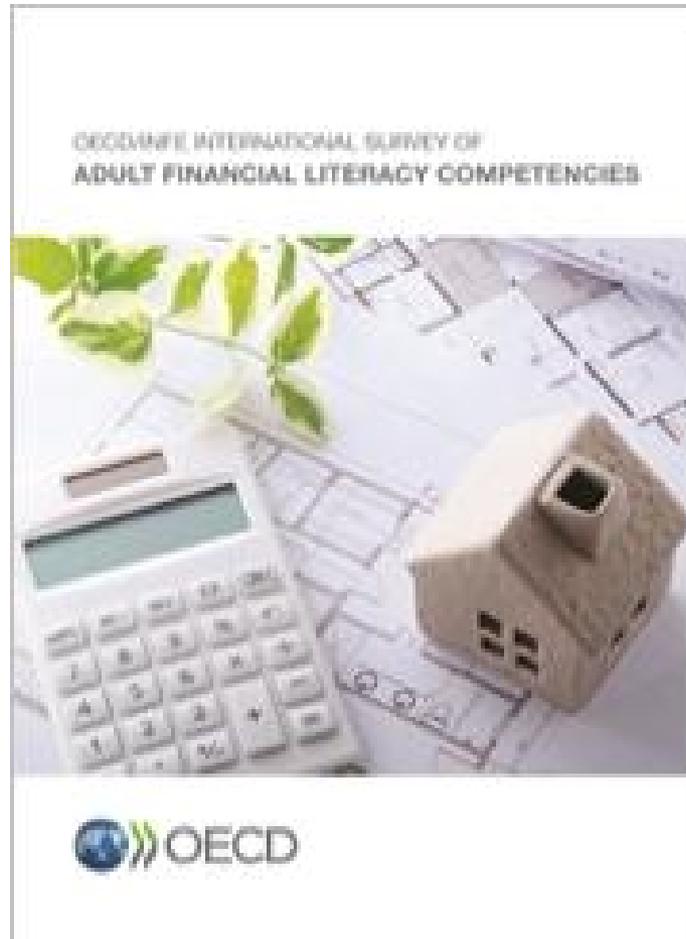


Is numeracy left-wing?

David Walker, Contributing Editor
Guardian Public, former director,
getstats

‘low levels of financial knowledge’



'You lied'

Dear Minister,

UNIVERSAL CREDIT

I wrote to you on 27 June asking to meet to discuss my report on Universal Credit and your comments, but I have not yet been able to see you. Following your second set of statements in the House about the report I am now reluctantly writing an open letter to you to clarify the facts.

Our report was fully agreed with senior officials in your Department. It is based on the most accurate and up-to-date information from your Department. Your Department confirmed this to me in writing on Wednesday 6 June and we then reached final agreement on the report on Friday 8 June. It is odd that by Friday 15 June you felt able to say that the NAO "did not take into account the impact of our recent changes". You reiterated these statements on 2 July but we have seen no evidence of such impacts nor fresh information.

I'm afraid your statement on 2 July that the NAO was concerned Universal Credit is currently "rolling out too slowly" and needs to "continue at a faster rate" is also not correct. While we recognise regrettable early delays to Universal Credit, my recommendation made clearly on page 11 of the report is that the Department must now ensure it is ready before it starts to transfer people over from previous benefits. This will avoid the Department's performance declining further as it faces higher claimant volumes. I also recommended the Department learns from experiences of claimants and third parties, as well as the insights it has gained from

Statistical reporting – All MPs



I generally feel confident when dealing with numbers



Politicians use official statistics and figures accurately when talking about their policies



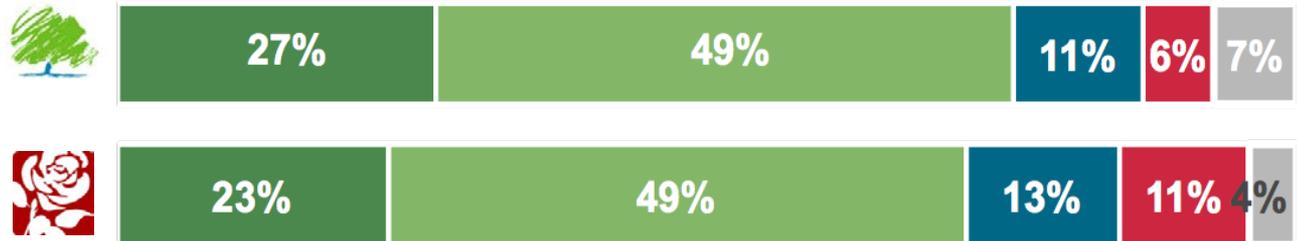
Newspapers and television channels report statistics accurately



Statistical reporting – Conservatives vs Labour



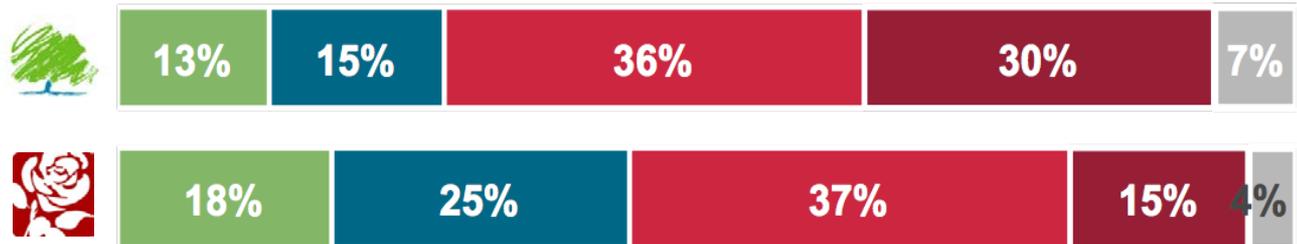
I generally feel confident when dealing with numbers



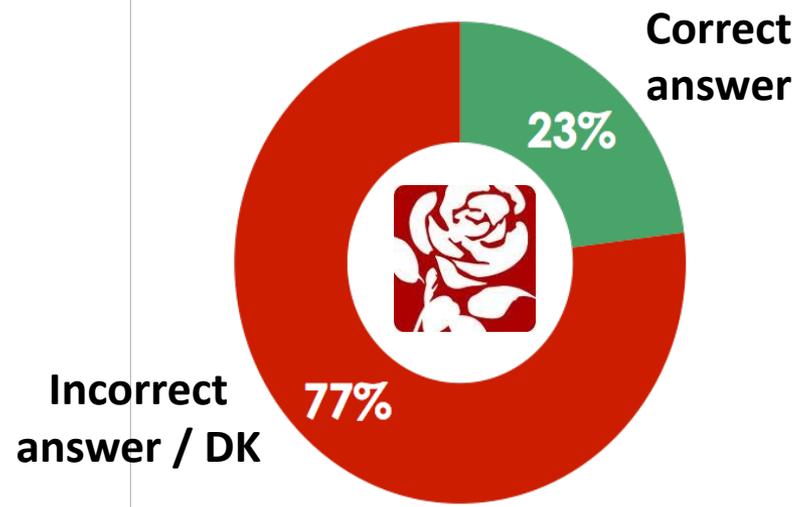
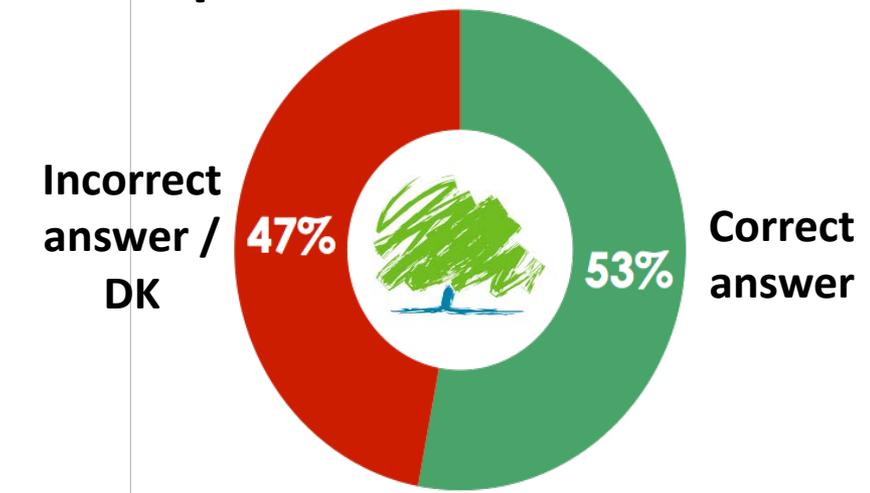
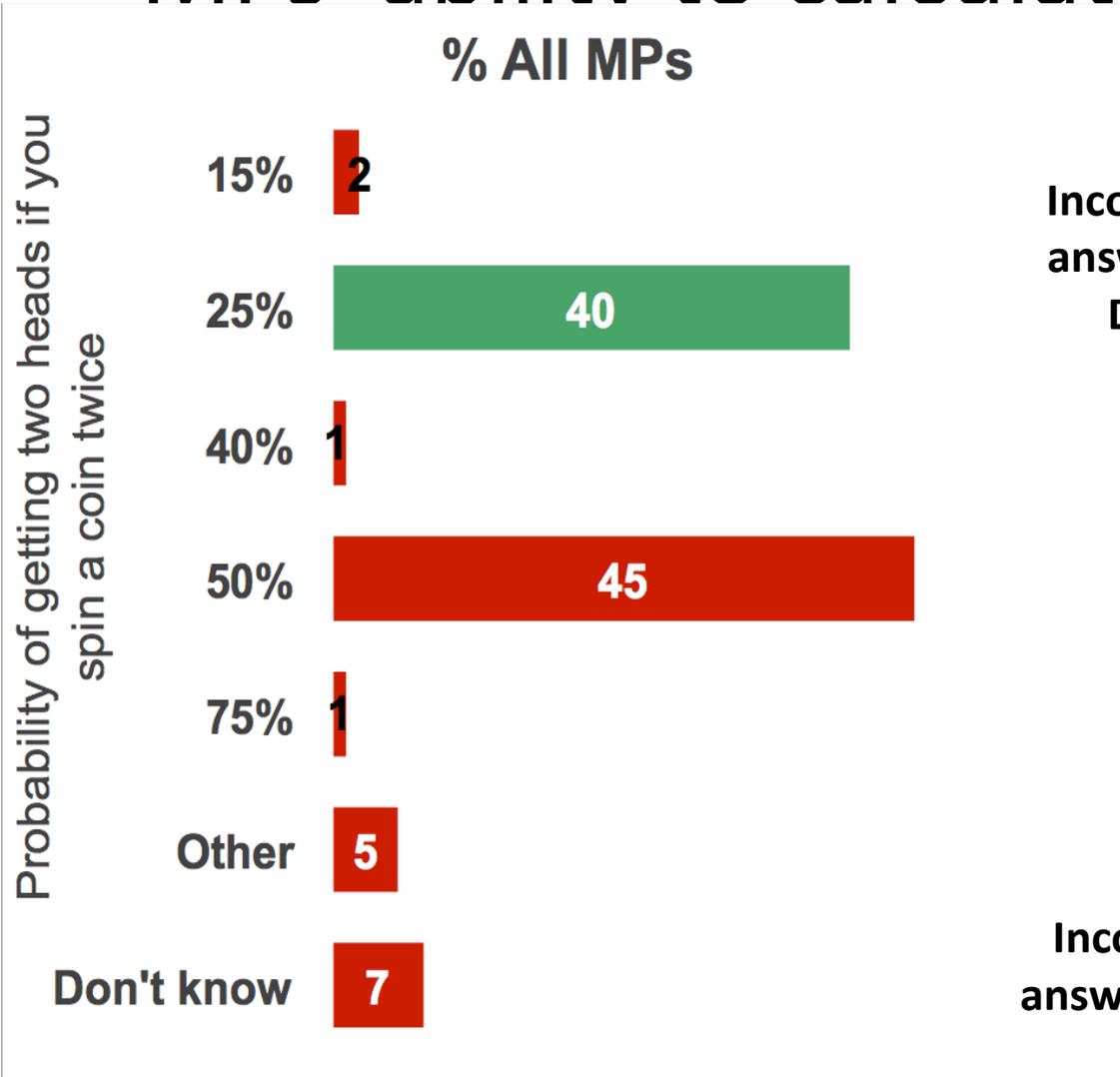
Politicians use official statistics and figures accurately when talking about their policies



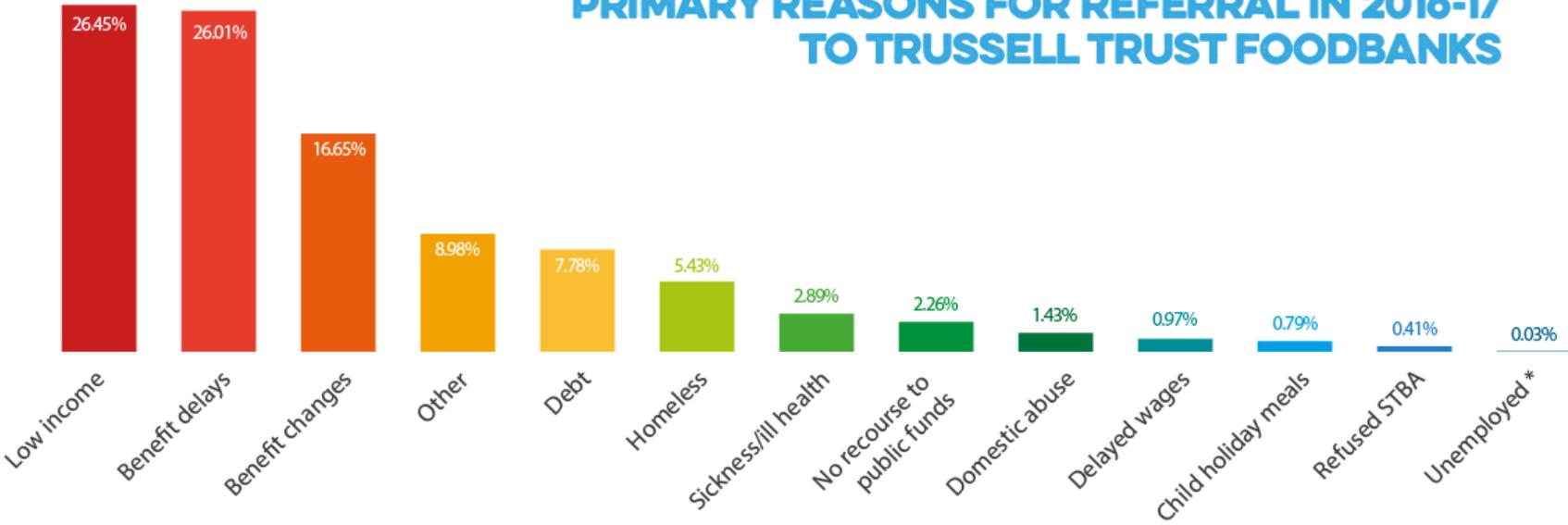
Newspapers and television channels report statistics accurately



MPs' ability to calculate probabilities



PRIMARY REASONS FOR REFERRAL IN 2016-17 TO TRUSSELL TRUST FOODBANKS



* This shows data from 1 April to 5 May 2016 when it stopped being recorded as a main crisis cause

Statistical literacy

- Statistical literacy brings a range of thinking and practical skills that include: knowledge; comprehension; application; analysis; synthesis; and evaluation. It enables a feel for data, including being able to support an argument with evidence, but also being aware of the variety of interpretations that are possible from those data. A statistically literate person will apply common sense to problems and appreciate that information that is gleaned from data will have uncertainty attached to it. [SEP] Becoming statistically literate ...takes time for the ideas and concepts to mature, experience with applications to develop and will depend upon the individual's aptitude to appreciate that variability is all around us and impacts on everyone.

Cockcroft, 1982 'Mathematics Counts'

Dis-census?



Brexit and numeracy

