

# Stories, Statistics, and Authenticity in Health Communications | Items

By Heidi Tworek

May 25, 2021

As the pandemic worsened in the United Kingdom during spring 2020, political disputes turned in a strange direction. The UK government started to claim that the UK's Covid-19 statistics could not be compared with any other country. Politicians [based this claim on a flawed interpretation](#) of a *Guardian* article by statistician David Spiegelhalter, who had pointed out the complexity around international statistics. A few months later, in August, then US President Donald Trump would wave a sheet of paper in front of bemused [Axios journalist Jonathan Swan](#), purportedly showing a statistical comparison that the United States was outperforming other countries in its response to Covid-19. Rather than mourning those who had died, politicians in some countries turned to fights over how to represent the toll of the pandemic authentically.

[...]

Source: [Stories, Statistics, and Authenticity in Health Communications | Items](#)