

Disability, Crime and Hate Crime in the News

Part 2 - About the Crimes



December 2022

Inclusion London

Authored by: Disability Hate Crime Team – Lara
Conner and Louise Holden

Inclusion
London



Important things we thought about



There are more ways to find things out now.

The internet has a lot of information on it.

But sometimes it is hard to find out what is true.

It is also hard to find all the facts.

Even **journalists** find it hard to find out everything.



Journalists are people who find information and write stories for the news.



Sometimes, journalists find it hard to get information from the police.

Sometimes, the police will not talk to journalists about certain crimes.

Sometimes they will only give them a bit of information.



Sometimes, information will be **biased**.

The police can be biased.

Or the journalist or their boss could be biased.

This will change how the news story is written.

Biased here means you only get some information, so you will think what someone wants you to think.

Here is an example:

Daniel and Rishaan got into a fight. Both were angry and said rude things to each other that caused the fight.

Sean saw the fight.

Sean is friends with Daniel. He tells people all the rude things Rishaan said to Daniel. He **does not** tell people the rude things Daniel said.

This is **biased information** because it only tells us the things that will make us believe that Daniel did nothing wrong.



Sometimes, journalists must write many stories quickly.

Their bosses might tell them to write in a certain way. Or to only use some information.

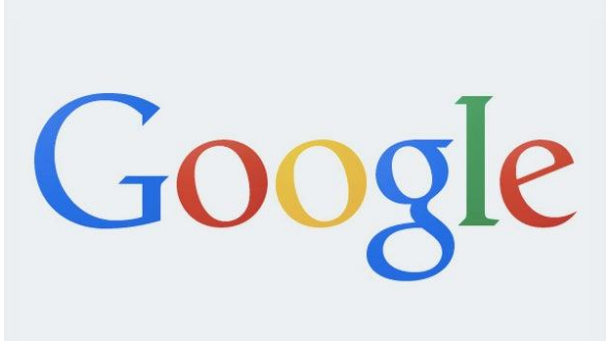
This puts them under a lot of pressure.



When this happens, journalists can make mistakes.

Or they can miss important information.

This might not happen if they had more time.



Another problem we found sometimes was Google.

Lots of people use Google to search the internet.

Other people have talked about problems with Google.

Sometimes, it is hard to find useful information on Google.

The rules Google uses to decide what is important or not can be different from what we think.

Sometimes, Google keeps showing you things you do not want.





This means we could not find all the information we needed.

This is okay, because our work was still useful.

But it is important to know.

About the cases

Where they happened

The 300 crimes happened across the UK.

There were some places with more than 5 crimes.



33 crimes were in London.

11 crimes were in Manchester.

6 crimes were in Liverpool

5 crimes were in Cardiff, Fife, and Leeds.

When they happened



Crimes against Disabled people have happened for a long time. We also wanted to look at hate crimes.

We looked at news stories after Disability hate crime came into the law.

This happened in 2003, so we looked at crimes reported in 2005 or later.



48 out of 300 crimes happened between 2005 and 2012.

252 out of 300 crimes happened between 2013 and 2022.



There is a lot more news online now.

Lots of people get their news from the TV.

Lots of people also get their news from the Internet.

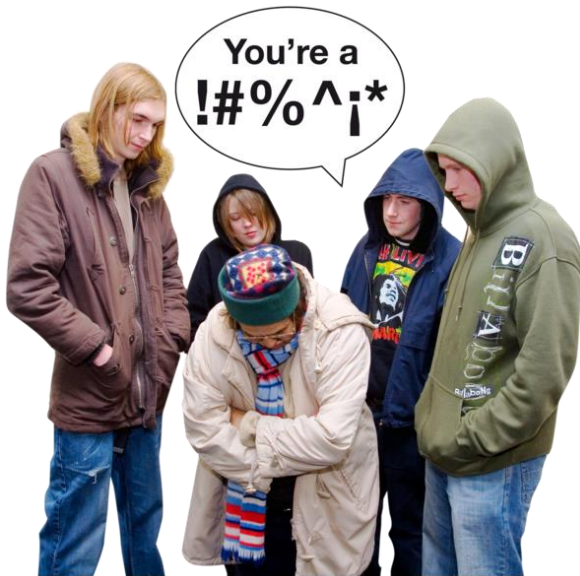
Young people use the internet for news more than the TV.



Sometimes, there is so much news that we missed news stories.

Even important ones or serious ones.

What sorts of crimes were reported



Many different crimes against Disabled people were reported in the news.

We put crimes into groups and gave them a label.

We did not use the same words a lawyer would use. That would make our work very hard.



The most common crime groups were:

Murder– When someone kills someone.

Assault – When someone hits, kicks, or harms someone.



Harassment – When someone keeps bothering someone with criminal behaviour that is not violent.

Abuse and Neglect – When someone is treated cruelly or violently. It happens more than once.



Sexual assault and rape– When someone touches someone sexually without **consent** or forces them into sex without **consent**.

Consent here is when you say it is okay for someone to do something to or with you.

If someone touches someone on their breasts **with consent**, this is okay. The person said it was okay.

If someone touches someone's breasts **without consent**, this is sexual assault. The person did not say it was okay. This is a crime.

This is not just on breasts. It can be other body parts, too. It could be between someone's legs or on their bottom.

Sex **without consent** is called rape. This is a crime.



Sometimes, more than one crime happened at once.

Some people were **assaulted** and **robbed**.



There were many violent crimes in the news reports we looked at.

263 out of 300 had physical violence happen.

37 out of 300 did not have any physical violence.



Crimes which are not violent can still hurt people a lot.

But sometimes people do not realise how many violent crimes happen to Disabled people.

So, it is important to think about it.



This doesn't mean that almost all crimes that happen to Disabled people are violent.

Violent crimes are more likely to get lots of reports written about them.



People who worked for newspapers used to say, "if it bleeds, it leads".

This is a strange saying.

It means when news stories are about violence, people are more likely to read them.



This is okay for our report.

We are not trying to find patterns of crime.

We can look in other places for crime patterns if we want.

In our report, we are looking at how crimes are reported.

Other details about the crimes



184 news reports were about crimes where one person did the crime.

116 were about crimes where more than one person carried out the crime.

193 news reports were about crimes that happened once.

107 news reports were about crimes happening more than once.





Sometimes, we do not know all the information.

We talked about this before.

Some of these crimes might not have happened once. They might have happened more times, but no-one knew.