Improving numerical literacy through the 
FIAT-Health

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What is the problem?

“Cost of mental ill health soars to £105bn per year”

“One in three young Chinese men will die from smoking, study says”

Half of women have needless operations for early breast cancer
Who can use the FIAT-Health?

- Knowledge institutes
- Policy makers & policy advisors
- Communicators of science
- Scientists
- Patients and the general public
FIAT-Health

Figure Interpretation Assessment Tool-Health

- Origin
- Credibility
- Geographical area
- Expression
- Subject
- Population
- Methods of counting and measuring
- Time period
“There are three kind of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics”

(Benjamin Disraeli)
Discussion

• What is needed to improve interpretation of figures by policy makers, patients, and the public?

• Do you agree with these characteristics?

• How can we use the FIAT-Health to improve communication of figures to policy makers and the public?