

Statistics beyond physics – misused in public?

Summary

Data collections and statistical investigation require a careful consideration of factual, local and temporal criteria of identification as well as an estimation for the scattering region of single data. When statistics are related to a geographic region, every single event is "proportionally" assigned to the whole region. Only if sufficiently many events exist, which are evenly distributed, the local criterion is fulfilled. Extreme events with temporal and local singularities violate the principle of "self-averaging" of statistics. Hence their evaluation depends on the choice of an arbitrary reference parameter. Results are discussed using the example of murder and victims of amok in the German police crime statistics.