CHERRY PICKING

The practice of selecting results that fit your claim, and excluding those that don’t. The worst and most harmful example of being dishonest with data.

When making a case, data adds weight – whether a study, experiment or something you’ve read. However, people often only highlight data that backs their case, rather than the entire body of results. It’s prevalent in public debate and politics where two sides can both present data that backs their position. Cherry Picking can be deliberate or accidental. Commonly, when you’re receiving data second hand, there’s an opportunity for someone choosing what data to share to distort the truth to whatever opinion they’re peddling. When on the receiving end of data, it’s important to ask yourself: ‘What am I not being told?’.