



Courage, Compassion, Coercion, and Covid

Professor Sara Ashencaen Crabtree
and Professor Jonathan Parker
Bournemouth University, UK

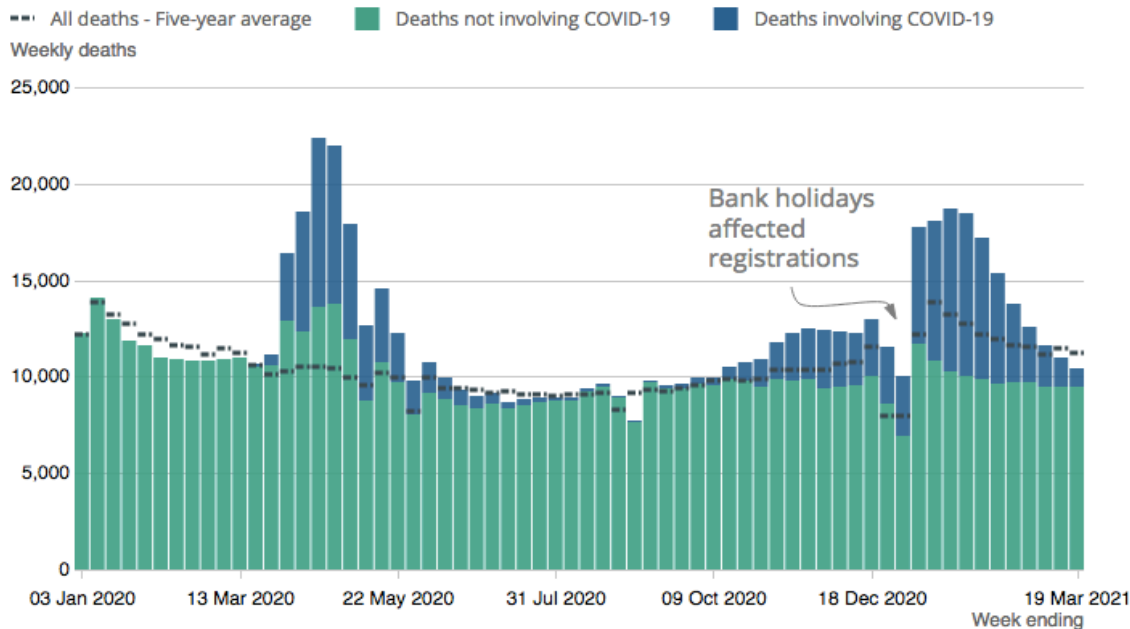
Clapping for carers!



Health workers were highly visible;
Other key workers were not

Death rates through COVID

Number of deaths registered by week, England and Wales, 28 December 2019 to 19 March 2021



Source: Office for National Statistics – Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales

ONS figures for March to December 2020 (reported on 25 Jan 2021)

- 7,961 deaths of people in working age population (understood as 20-64yrs)
- 5,128 were men

COVID deaths among social care workers

August 2020 ONS figures

Cause of death	Social care workers							
	Men				Women			
	Deaths	Rate	Lower CI	Upper CI	Deaths	Rate	Lower CI	Upper CI
Involving COVID-19	109	56.8	45.9	67.7	203	22.6	19.5	25.8
All causes of death	396	205.5	184.8	226.2	1166	131.8	124.1	139.4

Jan 2021 ONS figures (Mar-Dec 2020)
(working age deaths 20-64)

469 social care deaths

347 (74%) in care workers and home care workers

109.9 per 100,000 deaths male death rate

47.1 per 100,000 deaths female death rate

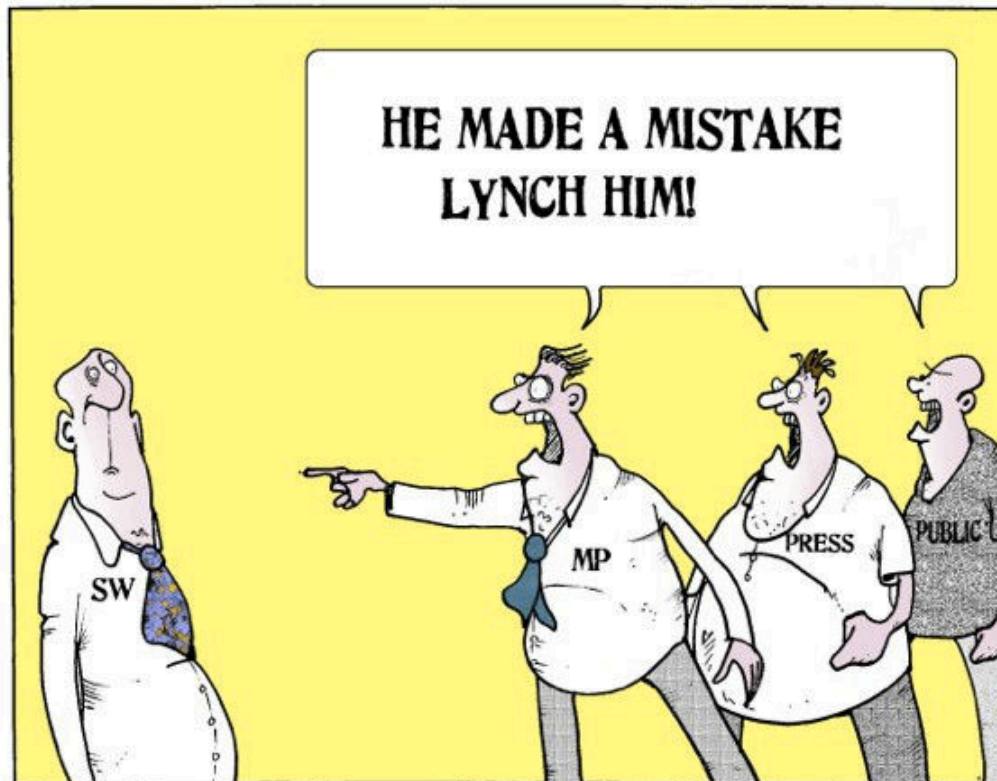
36 social work deaths 25 female; 11 male

Female death rate for social workers 32.4 per 100,000 (average population death rate 16.8)

A further 27 deaths of social workers aged 65+ (not known if these have retired or still working)

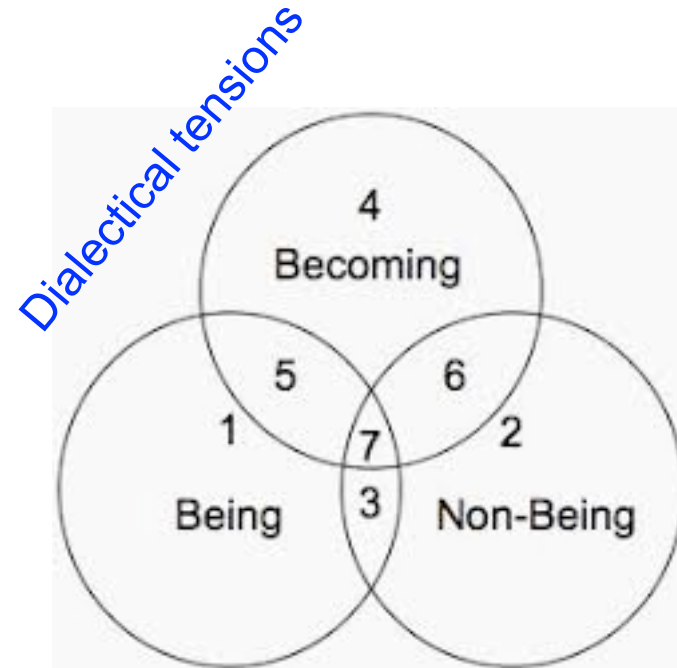
Courage, compassion, coercion

Courage	Compassion	Coercion
Changing practices – online visits, learning – trust and commitment	The need for relational contacts	Legislation (on social workers; on those citizens who use work services)
COVID-safety to-face visits		ve expectations y
Calling for pos change; a hun and social just approach		ed surveillance online platforms



Change and coercion

- Social workers are increasingly regulated and under surveillance (1)
 - Regulation characterizes the role (3)
 - Social workers submit to surveillance and become employees not professionals (5)
- Social workers continue to regulate others (2)
 - Regulation characterizes the role (3)
 - Social workers become agents of social care/control (6)
- Social workers adapt practices (4)
 - Social workers submit to surveillance and become employees not professionals (5)
 - Social workers become agents of social care/control (6)
- **New ways of working developed post-COVID (7)**



Reciprocity – in social justice and human rights

Requires employer
and societal support

Protecting
the self



Protecting &
safeguarding
others

Whither or wither the courageous social worker?

