

Funding the Future

Article URL

Published: January 12, 2026, 5:39 pm

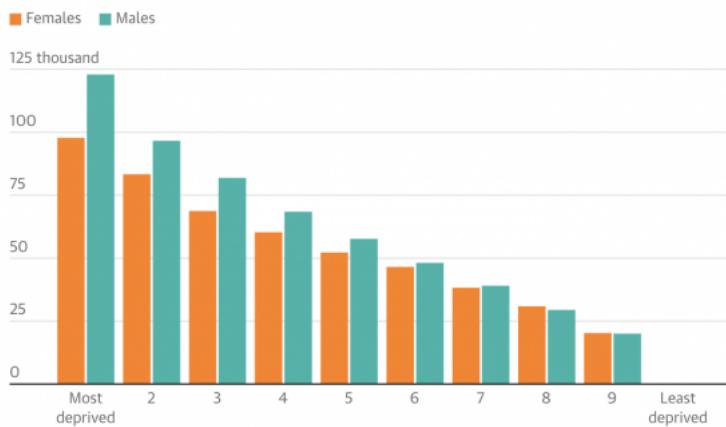
As the [Guardian notes](#) this morning:

Danny Kruger, a leading backbencher and founder of the increasingly influential New Conservatives group, said the Conservatives risked being ejected from power this year having left the country “sadder, less united and less conservative” than they found it.

Kruger is, of course, as wrong on this as he is on everything else I have ever heard him talk about. Another Guardian report on work on the impact of inequality in the distribution of excess deaths in the UK over much of their period in office is clear evidence of that. As his work found, excess deaths were distributed by income decile as follows:

Excess deaths in England, 2011 to 2019

Number of people who died earlier than they would have done if they had lived in areas with the same age and sex-specific death rates as the least deprived area decile



Guardian graphic. Source: Institute of Health Equity. Note: based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019

Tory policies worked, without a doubt. We did have a Conservative country. Disadvantaged people died as a result, which is a trend that the Party seems determined to continue going forward.

We did not get a less conservative country under the Tories. We got a more conservative one. It's just that, as ever, Kruger looked in the wrong place to find his evidence. Looking at his privileged mates was an insufficient sample base from which

to draw conclusions, but that's all Tories do now, as [Sir Howard Davies also proved last week](#).