

MOVCAC – Grant County Excess Death Analysis

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MOVCAC Contributor: Sean P. Keefe

Based on population numbers provided by [West Virginia Demographics](#), Grant County ranks forty-third in the state with 10,921 total residents. MOVCAC has performed numerous detailed analyses on Wood County excess death. Via that analysis, we confirmed that 2021 saw the highest levels of death experienced in recent history. Based on that analysis and the publication of the 2021 vital statistics by the WV DHHR, we are finally able to provide an analysis of this excess death phenomenon for each county in West Virginia.

Grant County is very small and thus the death numbers can be very volatile. However, even in this very small county, the 2020 death total set the record for deaths, when compared to the previous 10 years, with 173 deaths. Then in 2021, that record was again broken with 182 Grant County deaths:

Year	Total WV Death	Percent Change
2011	21,870	
2012	21,651	-1.00%
2013	21,846	0.90%
2014	22,164	1.46%
2015	22,643	2.16%
2016	22,721	0.34%
2017	23,290	2.50%
2018	23,462	0.74%
2019	23,291	-0.73%
2020	26,108	12.09%
2021	29,402	26.24%

Year	Total Grant	
	County Death	Percent Change
2011	141	
2012	126	-10.64%
2013	131	3.97%
2014	135	3.05%
2015	136	0.74%
2016	133	-2.21%
2017	120	-9.77%
2018	146	21.67%
2019	167	14.38%
2020	173	3.59%
2021	182	8.98%

Data source - https://dhhr.wv.gov/HSC/SS/Vital_Statistics/Pages/Vital_Statistics.aspx

Note – While each of the other years in the tables above are compared to the prior year, 2021 is compared to the pre-pandemic year of 2019. It makes no sense to compare 2021 to an already pandemic-effected elevated death total in 2020.

The age-ranged table that follows was created by compiling each year’s age-ranged data provided on the “Age at Death by County of Residence” table in the appendix section of each year’s [Vital Statistics Report published by DHHR from 2011 to 2020](#). The 2021 report no longer contains these detailed schedules. We contacted the DHHR for the 2021 details and were provided a spreadsheet containing the county level detail.

Age Ranges of Concern

The following age-ranged table shows the most alarming growth for Grant County.

(*)Note – For the table below, the two highest years in regards to total death are identified by the bold boxes. The percent change column is comparing totals for each year to the prior year for years 2011 through 2020. For the 2021 percent change calculation, the next highest death total is identified and used as the comparison year.

Age Range 65-74

Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	30	
2012	20	-33.33%
2013	27	35.00%
2014	32	18.52%
2015	21	-34.38%
2016	33	57.14%
2017	31	-6.06%
2018	31	0.00%
2019	35	12.90%
2020	38	8.57%
2021 *	52	36.84%

It is very difficult to come to any conclusions with a population so small. The detailed age-range data provided by DHHR omits any death counts in an age range if the total is less than five deaths. For this reason, many of the age ranges could not be properly analyzed. However, the 65-74 age range shown above set the record for death in Grant County in 2020 and then saw it rise drastically in 2021.

If you are concerned about this alarming rise in West Virginia death (as documented by your state), please consider sharing this information with state leaders responsible for representing your population.

Delegates –

JOHN PAUL HOTT (R) – GRANT - johnpaul.hott@wvhouse.gov

Senators –

JAY TAYLOR (R) – TAYLOR - jay.taylor@wvsenate.gov

RANDY E. SMITH (R) – TUCKER - randy.smith@wvsenate.gov

Please note – After the election, your delegate or senator may change. After November 5, 2024, please refer to the new rosters as published on the legislature’s website –

House Roster - <https://www.wvlegislature.gov/house/roster.cfm>

Senate Roster - <https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Senate1/roster.cfm>

