

MOVCAC – Hancock County Excess Death Analysis

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Based on population numbers provided by [West Virginia Demographics](#), Hancock County ranks nineteenth in the state with 28,145 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.

As you can see from the two tables below, Hancock County’s total death in 2020 and 2021, like the state as a whole, were easily the two highest death total years in the 11-year span under analysis:

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 Hancock County Death	Percent Change
2011	387	
2012	415	7.24%
2013	382	-7.95%
2014	425	11.26%
2015	394	-7.29%
2016	403	2.28%
2017	466	15.63%
2018	443	-4.94%
2019	425	-4.06%
2020	540	27.06%
2021	538	26.59%

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 significant thing to note from the Hancock table is that total death reached a high of 466 in 2017 and then declined for two straight years. Then, both 2020 and 2021 record increases over 2019 greater than 25% each. How is that not significant enough to warrant investigation?

The age-ranged tables that follow were 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 are the tables for age ranges with the most alarming trends culminating in 2021. Please note, many of these deaths are occurring in our working age citizens. Shouldn’t this be investigated by our elected officials?

(*)Note – For each of the age ranges 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 55-64			Age Range 65-74			Age Range 75-84		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change	Year	Total Death	Percent Change	Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	55		2011	52		2011	110	
2012	63	14.55%	2012	65	25.00%	2012	117	6.36%
2013	48	-23.81%	2013	72	10.77%	2013	109	-6.84%
2014	53	10.42%	2014	64	-11.11%	2014	112	2.75%
2015	51	-3.77%	2015	67	4.69%	2015	103	-8.04%
2016	59	15.69%	2016	74	10.45%	2016	106	2.91%
2017	60	1.69%	2017	95	28.38%	2017	113	6.60%
2018	73	21.67%	2018	87	-8.42%	2018	99	-12.39%
2019	54	-26.03%	2019	81	-6.90%	2019	108	9.09%
2020	67	24.07%	2020	112	38.27%	2020	134	24.07%
2021 *	82	12.33%	2021 *	114	1.79%	2021 *	122	-8.96%

For the 55-64 age range, 2020 was not terribly out of line with historical trends. However, just like we have seen in most counties in West Virginia, 2021 saw this age range set a record with 82 deaths. This total represents a 12.33% increase over the previous high set in 2018.

The pandemic of 2020 appears to have had a devastating impact on death in the 65-74 age range. After declining for two straight years, death in 2020 increased by 38.27%. The record set in 2020 at 112 deaths was then surpassed in 2021 to settle at 114 deaths.

The 75-84 age range saw its record set with a 24.07% increase in 2020 to arrive at 134 deaths in Hancock County. Although death decreased in 2021, the 122 deaths recorded were the second highest in the 11-year analysis.

Why are we seeing so many death records set in 2021?

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

Delegates –

- MARK ZATEZALO (R) – HANCOCK - mark.zatezalo@wvhouse.gov
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Senators –

- RYAN W. WELD (R) – BROOKE - ryan.weld@wvsenate.gov
- LAURA WAKIM CHAPMAN (R) – OHIO - laura.chapman@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>