

## MOVCAC – Kanawha County Excess Death Analysis

Date: August 9, 2024

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Based on population numbers provided by [West Virginia Demographics](#), Kanawha County ranks first in the state with 174,805 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, Kanawha County mirrors the statewide excess death experience in both 2020 and 2021. Please note that 2020 and 2021 shattered the record for total death set at 2,678 in 2018 by just over 10% and 17% respectively:

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%
<b>2020</b>	<b>26,108</b>	<b>12.09%</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>29,402</b>	<b>26.24%</b>

Year	Kanawha County Death	Percent Change
2011	2,388	
2012	2,398	0.42%
2013	2,489	3.79%
2014	2,433	-2.25%
2015	2,523	3.70%
2016	2,520	-0.12%
2017	2,598	3.10%
2018	2,678	3.08%
2019	2,513	-6.16%
<b>2020</b>	<b>2,948</b>	<b>17.31%</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>3,124</b>	<b>24.31%</b>

Data source - [https://dhhr.wv.gov/HSC/SS/Vital Statistics/Pages/Vital Statistics.aspx](https://dhhr.wv.gov/HSC/SS/Vital%20Statistics/Pages/Vital%20Statistics.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.**

It appears that Kanawha County was ravaged by Covid in 2020. Doesn't anyone find it strange that 2020 and 2021 both are record-setting with double-digit percentage increases? Why are we normalizing all of this excess death? Why is this not being investigated?

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.**

Like Wood and Wetzel Counties, Kanawha County spread its excess death around. There are seven age ranges under our analysis (from 25 through 85+). Kanawha County set or tied the record for total death in six of the seven age ranges. In the one that wasn't set (75-84), the record was set in 2020.

Age Range 25-34		
Year	Total Death	Percent
2011	53	
2012	53	0.00%
2013	59	11.32%
2014	48	-18.64%
2015	59	22.92%
2016	60	1.69%
2017	63	5.00%
2018	71	12.70%
2019	71	0.00%
2020	76	7.04%
<b>2021 *</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>9.21%</b>

Age Range 35-44		
Year	Total Death	Percent
2011	68	
2012	62	-8.82%
2013	58	-6.45%
2014	83	43.10%
2015	84	1.20%
2016	91	8.33%
2017	98	7.69%
2018	94	-4.08%
2019	92	-2.13%
2020	131	42.39%
<b>2021 *</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>11.45%</b>

For the 25-34 age range, the record for total death was set in 2020 and broken in 2021. Covid was a disease of the elderly and infirmed. Why are we setting death records in this age range?

Have there been any investigations to understand why 42.39% more 35-44-year-olds died in 2020 than died in 2019? Is that not a catastrophic loss of Kanawha County working age humans? That total increased another 11.45% in 2021. Both years set astounding records in death. Is anyone at all concerned?

Age Range 45-54		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	208	
2012	188	-9.62%
2013	183	-2.66%
2014	175	-4.37%
2015	180	2.86%
2016	167	-7.22%
2017	163	-2.40%
2018	174	6.75%
2019	157	-9.77%
2020	181	15.29%
<b>2021 *</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

Age Range 55-64		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	303	
2012	323	6.60%
2013	356	10.22%
2014	365	2.53%
2015	383	4.93%
2016	389	1.57%
2017	393	1.03%
2018	357	-9.16%
2019	393	10.08%
2020	402	2.29%
<b>2021 *</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>19.40%</b>

Age Range 65-74		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	386	
2012	427	10.62%
2013	469	9.84%
2014	464	-1.07%
2015	465	0.22%
2016	476	2.37%
2017	495	3.99%
2018	558	12.73%
2019	512	-8.24%
2020	683	33.40%
<b>2021 *</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>9.08%</b>

In the 45-54 age range, the record for total death was tied in 2021. Why are we reaching total death levels in this age category that we hadn't seen since 2011?

For the 55-64 age range, the pandemic year of 2020 barely set the record for total death. Is anyone looking into the astonishing rise of 19.4% in 2021? Again, these are working age Kanawha County citizens. What happened in 2021 and why are we not concerned?

The 65-74 age range again set the record in 2020. When a third more people die than died in the previous year, shouldn't we know the details about this catastrophe? That record was broken in 2021 by another 9%. Who in our capital city is investigating this devastation to our population?

Age Range 75-84			Age Range 85+		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change	Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	666		2011	671	
2012	614	-7.81%	2012	684	1.94%
2013	619	0.81%	2013	708	3.51%
2014	584	-5.65%	2014	672	-5.08%
2015	579	-0.86%	2015	730	8.63%
2016	598	3.28%	2016	695	-4.79%
2017	594	-0.67%	2017	739	6.33%
2018	655	10.27%	2018	723	-2.17%
2019	575	-12.21%	2019	669	-7.47%
<b>2020</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>8.11%</b>	2020	713	6.58%
2021 *	662	-8.06%	<b>2021 *</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>2.57%</b>

The two categories above are included to show that six out of the seven age ranges under analysis set or tied records in 2021. The one that didn't (75-84), set the record in 2020.

Where is the detailed analysis by our media, medical, or political classes? Shouldn't we have a detailed understanding of how all of this death is occurring?

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

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**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>