

MOVCAC – Marion County Excess Death Analysis

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Based on population numbers provided by [West Virginia Demographics](#), Marion County ranks eleventh in the state with 55,807 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, the pandemic year of 2020 did not have a great impact on Marion County. 2020 recorded four less deaths than the highest pre-pandemic year. Unfortunately, Marion County saw that 2018 record surpassed by 140 deaths in 2021:

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 Marion County Death	Percent Change
2011	642	
2012	653	1.71%
2013	628	-3.83%
2014	648	3.18%
2015	714	10.19%
2016	708	-0.84%
2017	705	-0.42%
2018	743	5.39%
2019	711	-4.31%
2020	739	3.94%
2021	883	24.19%

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.

Marion County definitely fared better than most in West Virginia when looking at total death in 2020. What happened in 2021 where total death rose by a whopping 24.19%? Are these record keeping errors recording 2020 Covid deaths in 2021, or did something happen in 2021 to create this new record? Are we at all concerned?

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 35-44			Age Range 55-64		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change	Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	13		2011	77	
2012	22	69.23%	2012	68	-11.69%
2013	14	-36.36%	2013	76	11.76%
2014	15	7.14%	2014	83	9.21%
2015	15	0.00%	2015	77	-7.23%
2016	23	53.33%	2016	92	19.48%
2017	21	-8.70%	2017	84	-8.70%
2018	11	-47.62%	2018	90	7.14%
2019	27	145.45%	2019	92	2.22%
2020	23	-14.81%	2020	100	8.70%
2021 *	35	29.63%	2021 *	131	31.00%

Much like Kanawha County, Marion County saw a catastrophic rise in 35-44-year-old deaths in 2021. In Marion County, 29.63% more 35-44-year-olds died when compared to the outlying record of 27 in 2019.

2020 had a negligible impact on total death in Marion County for the 55-64 age range. Unfortunately, 2021 broke the record set in 2020 by an alarming 31%. Why are we setting such large records of death in this working-age category in 2021?

Age Range 65-74			Age Range 75-84		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change	Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	103		2011	176	
2012	119	15.53%	2012	158	-10.23%
2013	122	2.52%	2013	148	-6.33%
2014	105	-13.93%	2014	178	20.27%
2015	151	43.81%	2015	166	-6.74%
2016	153	1.32%	2016	170	2.41%
2017	141	-7.84%	2017	161	-5.29%
2018	149	5.67%	2018	187	16.15%
2019	129	-13.42%	2019	186	-0.53%
2020	148	14.73%	2020	182	-2.15%
2021 *	210	37.25%	2021 *	218	16.58%

For both the 65-74 and 75-84 age ranges, the pandemic year of 2020 did not set death records in Marion County. What happened in 2021 to cause both age groups to set new death records? In the case of 65-74-year-olds, that record death was 37.25% higher than the previous record set in 2016.

Is anyone in Marion County curious about what happened in 2021 to create such alarming increases in death? Are these citizen’s lives not worthy of investigation?

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

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

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