

## MOVAC – Mineral County Excess Death Analysis

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MOVAC Contributor: Sean P. Keefe

Based on population numbers provided by [West Virginia Demographics](#), Mineral County ranks twenty-second in the state with 26,867 total residents. MOVAC 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, Mineral County saw total death surpass 400 in 2020 for the first time in the 11-year span under analysis. Adding insult to injury, that total was then surpassed when total death increased by 31.61% over the pre-pandemic year of 2019:

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	Total Mineral County Death	Percent Change
2011	319	
2012	293	-8.15%
2013	338	15.36%
2014	279	-17.46%
2015	344	23.30%
2016	339	-1.45%
2017	332	-2.06%
2018	340	2.41%
2019	329	-3.24%
<b>2020</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>22.80%</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>31.61%</b>

Data source - [https://dhhr.wv.gov/HSC/SS/Vital\\_Statistics/Pages/Vital\\_Statistics.aspx](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.**

I know that we experienced a pandemic in 2020 and that excess death was to be expected. Are we now so callous toward the death of our neighbors that a 31.61% rise in death in 2021 over the pre-pandemic total in 2019 is cause for a yawn rather than an in depth investigation? Shouldn't we understand in detail why our neighbors in Mineral County are dying at a higher rate than ever before?

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	30		2011	72		2011	92	
2012	44	46.67%	2012	53	-26.39%	2012	85	-7.61%
2013	40	-9.09%	2013	66	24.53%	2013	90	5.88%
2014	34	-15.00%	2014	73	10.61%	2014	71	-21.11%
2015	51	50.00%	2015	70	-4.11%	2015	80	12.68%
2016	40	-21.57%	2016	63	-10.00%	2016	97	21.25%
2017	55	37.50%	2017	59	-6.35%	2017	89	-8.25%
2018	42	-23.64%	2018	85	44.07%	2018	90	1.12%
2019	28	-33.33%	2019	67	-21.18%	2019	97	7.78%
2020	40	42.86%	2020	87	29.85%	2020	117	20.62%
2021 *	76	38.18%	2021 *	104	19.54%	2021 *	124	5.98%

The 55-64-year-olds in Mineral County survived the pandemic year virtually unscathed. The 40 deaths recorded in 2020 fall neatly in line with pre-pandemic historical trends. What happened in 2021 to set the new record by an increase of 38.18%?

The 65-74-year-olds did set a record for death in 2020. However, the 87 deaths recorded in 2020 look like a normal increase when looking at the pre-pandemic trends. Why did we set a new record with a 19.54% increase in 2021?

The 75-84-year-olds suffered a 20.62% increase in death during the pandemic year of 2020. Having never recorded 100 deaths prior to the pandemic, that total of 117 recorded in 2020 again increased by an additional 5.98% to set a new record in 2021. Having already experienced a wave of excess death in 2020, shouldn't we have seen a decline in death in 2021 to return to normal pre-pandemic trends?

Why are we setting records for total death in 2021?

Is anyone in Mineral 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 rise in Mineral County death (as documented by your state), please consider sharing this information with state leaders responsible for representing your population.

**Delegates –**

GARY G. HOWELL (R) – MINERAL - [gary.howell@wvhouse.gov](mailto:gary.howell@wvhouse.gov)

**Senators –**

JAY TAYLOR (R) – TAYLOR - [jay.taylor@wvsenate.gov](mailto:jay.taylor@wvsenate.gov)

RANDY E. SMITH (R) – TUCKER - [randy.smith@wvsenate.gov](mailto: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>