

## MOVAC – Monroe County Excess Death Analysis

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Based on population numbers provided by [West Virginia Demographics](#), Monroe County ranks fortieth in the state with 12,382 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.

Monroe 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 217 deaths. Then in 2021, that record was again broken with 222 Monroe 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%
<b>2020</b>	<b>26,108</b>	<b>12.09%</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>29,402</b>	<b>26.24%</b>

Year	Total Monroe County Death	Percent Change
2011	174	
2012	165	-5.17%
2013	182	10.30%
2014	183	0.55%
2015	177	-3.28%
2016	160	-9.60%
2017	169	5.63%
2018	194	14.79%
2019	185	-4.64%
<b>2020</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>17.30%</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>20.00%</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.**

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 age-ranged tables show the most alarming growth for Monroe County.

**(\*)Note – For the tables 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			Age Range 75-84		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change	Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	35		2011	52	
2012	35	0.00%	2012	35	-32.69%
2013	37	5.71%	2013	48	37.14%
2014	41	10.81%	2014	46	-4.17%
2015	34	-17.07%	2015	53	15.22%
2016	30	-11.76%	2016	38	-28.30%
2017	28	-6.67%	2017	43	13.16%
2018	27	-3.57%	2018	52	20.93%
2019	38	40.74%	2019	55	5.77%
<b>2020</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>21.05%</b>	2020	52	-5.45%
<b>2021 *</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>-6.52%</b>	<b>2021 *</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>19.23%</b>

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.

The 65-74 age range shown above set the record for death in Monroe County in 2020, and although death declined for this age range in 2021, it was still the second highest death total in the 11-year span analyzed.

For the 75-84 age range, death actually declined in 2020. What happened in 2021 to so drastically increase total death for these elderly Monroe County residents?

If you are concerned about this alarming rise in Monroe 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>