

MOVCAC – Putnam County Excess Death Analysis

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Based on population numbers provided by [West Virginia Demographics](#), Putnam County ranks fifteenth in the state with 34,099 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.

Putnam County definitely performed better than most counties in West Virginia in 2020 and 2021. Although both years set new records for total death, the growth in death was half what it was in the state as a whole:

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 Putnam County Death	Percent Change
2011	510	
2012	583	14.31%
2013	548	-6.00%
2014	578	5.47%
2015	568	-1.73%
2016	625	10.04%
2017	631	0.96%
2018	603	-4.44%
2019	656	8.79%
2020	695	5.95%
2021	745	13.57%

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.

Like forty-one out of fifty-five West Virginia counties, Putnam County set records for total death in both 2020 and 2021.

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 Putnam 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 45-54

Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	36	
2012	36	0.00%
2013	43	19.44%
2014	34	-20.93%
2015	36	5.88%
2016	38	5.56%
2017	40	5.26%
2018	38	-5.00%
2019	31	-18.42%
2020	30	-3.23%
2021 *	46	6.98%

Age Range 55-64

Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	51	
2012	81	58.82%
2013	69	-14.81%
2014	83	20.29%
2015	69	-16.87%
2016	81	17.39%
2017	71	-12.35%
2018	82	15.49%
2019	90	9.76%
2020	76	-15.56%
2021 *	100	11.11%

Age Range 65-74

Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	102	
2012	132	29.41%
2013	100	-24.24%
2014	118	18.00%
2015	115	-2.54%
2016	129	12.17%
2017	133	3.10%
2018	133	0.00%
2019	137	3.01%
2020	135	-1.46%
2021 *	156	13.87%

Age Range 75-84

Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	131	
2012	149	13.74%
2013	143	-4.03%
2014	145	1.40%
2015	156	7.59%
2016	168	7.69%
2017	162	-3.57%
2018	150	-7.41%
2019	181	20.67%
2020	193	6.63%
2021 *	207	7.25%

In each of the age ranges detailed above, 2021 was a record setting year. Why are we seeing records set for death in the year after the pandemic began?

If you are concerned about this alarming rise in total death in both Putnam County and West Virginia as a whole (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>