

MOVAC – Randolph County Excess Death Analysis

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Based on population numbers provided by [West Virginia Demographics](#), Randolph County ranks twenty-first in the state with 27,350 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.

Randolph County definitely performed better than most West Virginia counties in 2020 when death only increased by 2.09%. However, 2021 saw death grow by 26.89% over the pre-pandemic year of 2019 mirroring statewide growth:

| 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 Randolph County Death | Percent Change |
|-------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 2011 | 362 | |
| 2012 | 355 | -1.93% |
| 2013 | 389 | 9.58% |
| 2014 | 345 | -11.31% |
| 2015 | 374 | 8.41% |
| 2016 | 366 | -2.14% |
| 2017 | 355 | -3.01% |
| 2018 | 353 | -0.56% |
| 2019 | 383 | 8.50% |
| 2020 | 391 | 2.09% |
| 2021 | 486 | 26.89% |

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, Randolph County set records for total death in both 2020 and 2021. And like forty-seven of the fifty-five counties, Randolph County set their record for death in 2021. Why are we experiencing such dramatic growth in death the year after the pandemic began?

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 Randolph 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 35-44

| Year | Total Death | Percent Change |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| 2011 | 12 | |
| 2012 | 14 | 16.67% |
| 2013 | 12 | -14.29% |
| 2014 | 8 | -33.33% |
| 2015 | 7 | -12.50% |
| 2016 | 10 | 42.86% |
| 2017 | 5 | -50.00% |
| 2018 | 13 | 160.00% |
| 2019 | 7 | -46.15% |
| 2020 | 5 | -28.57% |
| 2021 * | 18 | 28.57% |

Age Range 55-64

| Year | Total Death | Percent Change |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| 2011 | 35 | |
| 2012 | 33 | -5.71% |
| 2013 | 48 | 45.45% |
| 2014 | 34 | -29.17% |
| 2015 | 53 | 55.88% |
| 2016 | 42 | -20.75% |
| 2017 | 52 | 23.81% |
| 2018 | 41 | -21.15% |
| 2019 | 58 | 41.46% |
| 2020 | 50 | -13.79% |
| 2021 * | 67 | 15.52% |

Both the 35-44 and 55-64 age ranges set record highs in death in 2021. Why are we setting death records in these working-age categories in the year after the pandemic began?

Age Range 65-74

| Year | Total Death | Percent Change |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| 2011 | 76 | |
| 2012 | 69 | -9.21% |
| 2013 | 77 | 11.59% |
| 2014 | 72 | -6.49% |
| 2015 | 71 | -1.39% |
| 2016 | 87 | 22.54% |
| 2017 | 74 | -14.94% |
| 2018 | 72 | -2.70% |
| 2019 | 84 | 16.67% |
| 2020 | 88 | 4.76% |
| 2021 * | 101 | 14.77% |

Age Range 75-84

| Year | Total Death | Percent Change |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| 2011 | 96 | |
| 2012 | 88 | -8.33% |
| 2013 | 93 | 5.68% |
| 2014 | 101 | 8.60% |
| 2015 | 95 | -5.94% |
| 2016 | 95 | 0.00% |
| 2017 | 84 | -11.58% |
| 2018 | 91 | 8.33% |
| 2019 | 111 | 21.98% |
| 2020 | 132 | 18.92% |
| 2021 * | 140 | 6.06% |

In both the 65-74 and 75-84 age ranges, record high death levels were reached in 2020. Yet both age categories went on to increase death by 14.77% and 6.06%, respectively, to set new records?

Why is Randolph County setting such high death records in the year after the pandemic began?

If you are concerned about this alarming rise in total death in both Randolph 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.

Delegates –

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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>