

MOVCAC – Roane County Excess Death Analysis

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Based on population numbers provided by [West Virginia Demographics](#), Roane County ranks thirty-ninth in the state with 13,743 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.

Roane County is only one of two counties in West Virginia (Tyler County is the other) where the record for total death was NOT set in either 2020 or 2021. Roane County set its total death record in 2018. Roane County no doubt fared better than the vast majority of counties in our state:

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%

Total Roane County		
Year	Death	Percent Change
2011	176	
2012	191	8.52%
2013	199	4.19%
2014	196	-1.51%
2015	191	-2.55%
2016	216	13.09%
2017	208	-3.70%
2018	236	13.46%
2019	193	-18.22%
2020	206	6.74%
2021	229	18.65%

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.

There are no age-ranged tables to show. Roane County appears to have navigated the pandemic successfully and avoided anomalous excess death.

The age-ranged table that follows was 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 table shows the most alarming growth for Roane County.

(*)Note – For the table 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.

The age-range explanation is left above even though Roane County has no anomalous data to report. It is important for Roane County residents to understand how fortunate they are. The

rest of the state did not perform anywhere close. Perhaps Roane County should be studied to understand how their leadership created more favorable outcomes?

If you are concerned about this alarming rise in total death in West Virginia (as documented by your state), or if you wish to let your leadership know how appreciative you are of their success in Roane County – 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>