

MOVCAC – Boone County Excess Death Analysis

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Based on population numbers provided by [West Virginia Demographics](#), Boone County is the twenty-ninth largest county in the state with 20,576 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.

As you can see from the two tables below, Boone County’s experience with excess death in 2020 was minimal when compared to the rest of the state. However, death in 2020 was higher than any other year prior and then 2021 easily set the record for the 11-year span under analysis:

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 Boone County Death	Percent Change
2011	333	
2012	280	-15.92%
2013	311	11.07%
2014	352	13.18%
2015	342	-2.84%
2016	299	-12.57%
2017	338	13.04%
2018	326	-3.55%
2019	327	0.31%
2020	353	7.95%
2021	392	19.88%

Data source - https://dhr.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 first thing one should notice from this table is that Boone County’s death total in 2020 was not out of line when compared to the previous nine years.

The 392 deaths experienced in 2021 are easily the highest death total in the 11-year span under analysis, and represent a 19.88% increase over the pre-pandemic year of 2019.

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 35-44				Age Range 65-74			
Year	Total Death	Percent Change		Year	Total Death	Percent Change	
2011	15			2011	69		
2012	15	0.00%		2012	64	-7.25%	
2013	13	-13.33%		2013	70	9.38%	
2014	12	-7.69%		2014	73	4.29%	
2015	14	16.67%		2015	76	4.11%	
2016	11	-21.43%		2016	60	-21.05%	
2017	11	0.00%		2017	90	50.00%	
2018	16	45.45%		2018	74	-17.78%	
2019	14	-12.50%		2019	96	29.73%	
2020	25	78.57%		2020	80	-16.67%	
2021 *	20	-20.00%		2021 *	105	9.38%	

For the 35-44 age range, 2020 appears to have been a devastating year in Boone County. Not only did death rise by 78.57% over the prior year, death in 2020 was 56% percent higher than any other year from 2011 through 2019. And although 2021 saw a decrease in death from the 2020 high, the 20 deaths in 2021 represent a 25% increase over the pre-pandemic high of 16 in 2018.

For the 65-74 age range, 2020 actually saw a significant decline in death. The concerning issue with this age range is – if the pandemic in 2020 had no impact, what happened in 2021 to so drastically increase total death to the highest level experienced in the 11-year span?

If you are concerned about this rise in Boone 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>