

MOVCAC – Brooke County Excess Death Analysis

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Based on population numbers provided by [West Virginia Demographics](#), Brooke County is the twenty-eighth largest county in the state with 21,373 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, Brooke County's experience with excess death in 2020 and 2021 mirrors the devastating excess death experienced statewide:

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 Brooke County Death	Percent Change
2011	355	
2012	315	-11.27%
2013	284	-9.84%
2014	342	20.42%
2015	342	0.00%
2016	391	14.33%
2017	291	-25.58%
2018	307	5.50%
2019	334	8.79%
2020	398	19.16%
2021	425	27.25%

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.

The first thing one should notice from this table is that Brooke County’s total death in 2020 set the record for the years under analysis and was only eclipsed by the 2021 total of 425.

Just like the majority of counties in the state, Brooke County experienced their highest levels of death in 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 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 55-64			Age Range 65-74		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change	Year	Total Death	Percent Change	Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	10		2011	33		2011	59	
2012	8	-20.00%	2012	36	9.09%	2012	51	-13.56%
2013	14	75.00%	2013	39	8.33%	2013	40	-21.57%
2014	6	-57.14%	2014	46	17.95%	2014	64	60.00%
2015	6	0.00%	2015	45	-2.17%	2015	62	-3.13%
2016	6	0.00%	2016	45	0.00%	2016	73	17.74%
2017	4	-33.33%	2017	35	-22.22%	2017	53	-27.40%
2018	6	50.00%	2018	41	17.14%	2018	56	5.66%
2019	5	-16.67%	2019	35	-14.63%	2019	74	32.14%
2020	5	0.00%	2020	50	42.86%	2020	81	9.46%
2021 *	16	14.29%	2021 *	56	12.00%	2021 *	97	19.75%

For the 35-44 age range, total death was meandering between 4 and 6 since 2014. 2021 exploded to 16 deaths which was still 2 deaths higher than the previous high set in 2013 at 14.

For the 55-64 age range, death never reached 50 until 2020, and that record was eclipsed in 2021 with 56 deaths.

For the 65-74 age range, 2020 set the record at 81 deaths, again only to be eclipsed easily with a 19.75% increase to 97 deaths in 2021.

If you are concerned about this catastrophic rise in Brooke 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>