

MOVCAC – Cabell County Excess Death Analysis

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Based on population numbers provided by [West Virginia Demographics](#), Cabell County is the fourth largest county in the state with 92,082 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, Cabell County’s experience with excess death in 2021 mirrors that of 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 Cabell	
	County Death	Percent Change
2011	1,167	
2012	1,056	-9.51%
2013	1,234	16.86%
2014	1,280	3.73%
2015	1,228	-4.06%
2016	1,267	3.18%
2017	1,359	7.26%
2018	1,338	-1.55%
2019	1,308	-2.24%
2020	1,381	5.58%
2021	1,596	22.02%

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 Cabell County was not terribly impacted by the pandemic in 2020. The increase in death for 2020 appears in line with historical trends. However, that year did experience the highest level of total death in Cabell County since 2011. It must be noted that there was an increase of 16.86% in 2013. However, this large increase was preceded by the by the lowest total death reported during this 11-year span (1,056 in 2012). By comparison, the increase in 2021 was preceded by the HIGHEST death total experienced in the 11-year span.

In other words, like many counties in WV, Cabell County experienced both of their highest death totals in 2020 and 2021. And like the state as a whole, the 2021 death totals are significantly higher than any other year.

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, 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 45-54		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change	Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	45		2011	94	
2012	33	-26.67%	2012	80	-14.89%
2013	38	15.15%	2013	89	11.25%
2014	42	10.53%	2014	100	12.36%
2015	57	35.71%	2015	94	-6.00%
2016	59	3.51%	2016	105	11.70%
2017	76	28.81%	2017	123	17.14%
2018	71	-6.58%	2018	101	-17.89%
2019	53	-25.35%	2019	90	-10.89%
2020	71	33.96%	2020	105	16.67%
2021 *	90	18.42%	2021 *	128	4.07%

For the 35-44 age range, 2020 did not see any increase over historical trends. However, 2021 experienced a catastrophic rise in death (18.42%) when compared to 2017 which had the next highest total.

For the 45-54 age range, the second highest death total again occurred in 2017. This is true for the 55-64 age range as well. Something anomalous happened to Cabell County's working-age population in 2017 that may warrant additional investigation. As you can see, the 123 deaths experienced in 2017 differed greatly from historical and subsequent years. However, even when comparing 2021 to the anomalous 2017 total, we see a rise of 4.07%. And again, 2021 experienced more death than any other year between 2011 and 2021.

Age Range 55-64			Age Range 65-74		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change	Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	153		2011	189	
2012	176	15.03%	2012	174	-7.94%
2013	179	1.70%	2013	204	17.24%
2014	169	-5.59%	2014	241	18.14%
2015	191	13.02%	2015	212	-12.03%
2016	189	-1.05%	2016	220	3.77%
2017	209	10.58%	2017	239	8.64%
2018	206	-1.44%	2018	237	-0.84%
2019	172	-16.50%	2019	253	6.75%
2020	190	10.47%	2020	279	10.28%
2021 *	242	15.79%	2021 *	359	28.67%

Both the 55-64 and 65-74 age ranges saw double digit increases (by percentage) in total death when comparing to the next highest year in the 11-year span.

Is it just a coincidence that each of these working-age categories experienced their highest levels of death in 2021?

If you are concerned about this catastrophic rise in Cabell County death (as documented by your state), please consider sharing this information with state leaders responsible for representing your population.

Delegates –

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- Amy Grady (R - Mason) – amy.grady@wvsenate.gov
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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 –

MOVCAC.com

House Roster - <https://www.wvlegislature.gov/house/roster.cfm>

Senate Roster - <https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Senate1/roster.cfm>