

MOVCAC – Calhoun County Excess Death Analysis

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Based on population numbers provided by [West Virginia Demographics](#), Calhoun County is the fifty-fourth largest county in the state with 5,959 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.

Calhoun County is very small and thus the death numbers can be very volatile. However, even in this very small county, the 2021 death total set the record for deaths in the 11-year span of this 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 Calhoun County Death	Percent Change
2011	95	
2012	103	8.42%
2013	93	-9.71%
2014	85	-8.60%
2015	95	11.76%
2016	79	-16.84%
2017	98	24.05%
2018	109	11.22%
2019	95	-12.84%
2020	106	11.58%
2021	118	24.21%

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 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 Calhoun 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.

Age Range 65-74

Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	16	
2012	24	50.00%
2013	12	-50.00%
2014	22	83.33%
2015	21	-4.55%
2016	13	-38.10%
2017	22	69.23%
2018	21	-4.55%
2019	17	-19.05%
2020	28	64.71%
2021 *	31	10.71%

It is very difficult to come to any conclusions with a population so small. However, the 65-74 age range shown above set the record for death in Calhoun County in 2020 and then saw it rise again in 2021.

Calhoun County appears to have been spared the excess death phenomenon experienced elsewhere throughout our state. If you wish to communicate your concern for other counties that were not so lucky, please contact your state representatives and ask for investigations.

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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>