

## MOVCAC – Fayette County Excess Death Analysis

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Based on population numbers provided by [West Virginia Demographics](#), Fayette County ranks thirteenth in the state with 39,072 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, Fayette County’s experience with excess death in 2020 appears in line with historical trends. However, the record set in 2020 (694 deaths) was shattered in 2021 when total death in Fayette County reached 810:

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%
<b>2020</b>	<b>26,108</b>	<b>12.09%</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>29,402</b>	<b>26.24%</b>

Year	Total Fayette County Death	Percent Change
2011	608	
2012	638	4.93%
2013	648	1.57%
2014	672	3.70%
2015	649	-3.42%
2016	660	1.69%
2017	650	-1.52%
2018	626	-3.69%
2019	656	4.79%
<b>2020</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>5.79%</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>23.48%</b>

Data source - [https://dhhr.wv.gov/HSC/SS/Vital\\_Statistics/Pages/Vital\\_Statistics.aspx](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 Fayette County did not appear to be overly impacted by the pandemic as the 2020 total death increase, although higher than any of the previous years, was not the drastic increase experienced by the state as a whole.

The second thing to notice is that something drastic happened in 2021. Fayette County never saw 700 deaths in the previous ten years. In 2021, total death soared to 810.

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 25-34			Age Range 55-64			Age Range 65-74		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change	Year	Total Death	Percent Change	Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	13		2011	97		2011	107	
2012	13	0.00%	2012	85	-12.37%	2012	111	3.74%
2013	8	-38.46%	2013	109	28.24%	2013	134	20.72%
2014	7	-12.50%	2014	106	-2.75%	2014	145	8.21%
2015	9	28.57%	2015	100	-5.66%	2015	126	-13.10%
2016	15	66.67%	2016	113	13.00%	2016	143	13.49%
2017	13	-13.33%	2017	99	-12.39%	2017	139	-2.80%
2018	11	-15.38%	2018	99	0.00%	2018	139	0.00%
2019	9	-18.18%	2019	102	3.03%	2019	164	17.99%
2020	13	44.44%	2020	103	0.98%	2020	169	3.05%
<b>2021 *</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>33.33%</b>	<b>2021 *</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>23.01%</b>	<b>2021 *</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>33.14%</b>

It must be noted that each of the age ranges above set their record for total death in 2021.

For each of the age ranges above, 2020 saw no increase in death above historical trends. The concerning issue with these age ranges is – if the pandemic in 2020 had no impact, what happened in 2021 to so drastically increase total death. In the 25-34 and 65-74 age ranges, the record total death in 2021 was more than 30% higher than the next highest death total in the previous 10 years.

If you are concerned about this catastrophic rise in Fayette 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>

