

MOVAC – Gilmer County Excess Death Analysis

Date: August 8, 2024

MOVAC Contributor: Sean P. Keefe

Based on population numbers provided by [West Virginia Demographics](#), Gilmer County ranks fifty-first in the state with 7,254 total residents. MOVAC 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, in 2020 Gilmer County set the record (for the 11-year period of our analysis) for total death in the county with 98 deaths. This returned to the historical high of 92 in 2021. Much like the rest of the state, 2020 and 2021 exceeded or equaled the high for total death. Having such a small population makes it difficult to glean anything meaningful from the detailed age-ranged data provided by DHHR.

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 Gilmer County Death	Percent Change
2011	73	
2012	83	13.70%
2013	82	-1.20%
2014	67	-18.29%
2015	84	25.37%
2016	90	7.14%
2017	81	-10.00%
2018	92	13.58%
2019	89	-3.26%
2020	98	10.11%
2021	92	3.37%

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.

If you have concerns regarding the excess death experienced elsewhere throughout the state, please contact your state representatives and ask for investigations.

Delegates –

ROGER HANSHAW (R) – CLAY - roger.hanshaw@wvhouse.gov

Senator –

PATRICK S. MARTIN (R) – LEWIS - patrick.martin@wvsenate.gov

BEN QUEEN (R) – HARRISON - ben.queen@wvsenate.gov

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>

