

MOVAC – Greenbrier County Excess Death Analysis

Date: August 8, 2024

MOVAC Contributor: Sean P. Keefe

Based on population numbers provided by [West Virginia Demographics](#), Greenbrier County ranks sixteenth in the state with 32,149 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, Greenbrier County’s experience with excess death in 2020 actually declined when compared to 2019. However, 2021 experienced 646 deaths easily setting the record for the 11-year period under 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 Greenbrier County Death	Percent Change
2011	530	
2012	466	-12.08%
2013	443	-4.94%
2014	457	3.16%
2015	496	8.53%
2016	478	-3.63%
2017	500	4.60%
2018	503	0.60%
2019	557	10.74%
2020	555	-0.36%
2021	646	15.98%

Data source - [https://dhhr.wv.gov/HSC/SS/Vital Statistics/Pages/Vital Statistics.aspx](https://dhhr.wv.gov/HSC/SS/Vital%20Statistics/Pages/Vital%20Statistics.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 Greenbrier County’s total death was not impacted by the pandemic in 2020.

The 646 deaths experienced in 2021 represent a 15.98% increase over the pre-pandemic year of 2019. What happened in 2021 to so drastically increase total death in Greenbrier County?

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 45-54			Age Range 55-64		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change	Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	27		2011	57	
2012	28	3.70%	2012	62	8.77%
2013	25	-10.71%	2013	54	-12.90%
2014	26	4.00%	2014	61	12.96%
2015	19	-26.92%	2015	68	11.48%
2016	35	84.21%	2016	53	-22.06%
2017	31	-11.43%	2017	74	39.62%
2018	23	-25.81%	2018	67	-9.46%
2019	30	30.43%	2019	74	10.45%
2020	43	43.33%	2020	66	-10.81%
2021 *	49	13.95%	2021 *	92	24.32%

For the 45-54 age range, 2020 appears to have been a devastating year in Greenbrier County. Not only did death rise by 43.33% over the prior year, death in 2020 was 23% percent higher than any other year from 2011 through 2019. After setting the record for death in the 45-54 age range in 2020, we see that death rise another 13.95% in 2021.

For the 55-64 age range, 2020 actually experienced a significant decrease in death. What could possibly explain 2021 then setting the record for death in the 55-64 age range with a 24.32% increase over the previous high equaled in 2019. In the entire 11-year span, this age range only recorded deaths in the 70s twice (2017 & 2019). All of a sudden, 2021 explodes to 92 deaths.

Age Range 65-74			Age Range 75-84		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change	Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	91		2011	153	
2012	95	4.40%	2012	123	-19.61%
2013	106	11.58%	2013	115	-6.50%
2014	91	-14.15%	2014	116	0.87%
2015	105	15.38%	2015	127	9.48%
2016	112	6.67%	2016	124	-2.36%
2017	108	-3.57%	2017	117	-5.65%
2018	96	-11.11%	2018	143	22.22%
2019	110	14.58%	2019	155	8.39%
2020	97	-11.82%	2020	155	0.00%
2021 *	159	41.96%	2021 *	172	10.97%

Again, the pandemic of 2020 had absolutely no impact on death in the 65-74 age range. In fact, Greenbrier County experienced a significant decline in death for this category. That being the case, what could possibly explain an increase in 2021 of 41.96% over the previous high set in 2016?

The same situation occurred in the 75-84 age range. How, with 2020 having no increase at all, does Greenbrier County then set the record with death in this age range with 172 deaths?

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

Delegates –

TODD LONGANACRE (R) – GREENBRIER - todd.longanacre@wvhouse.gov
 JEFF CAMPBELL (R) – GREENBRIER - jeff.campbell@wvhouse.gov

Senators –

VINCE DEEDS (R) – GREENBRIER - vince.deeds@wvsenate.gov
 JACK DAVID WOODRUM (R) – SUMMERS - jack.woodrum@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>

