

## MOVACAC – Harrison County Excess Death Analysis

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Based on population numbers provided by [West Virginia Demographics](#), Harrison County ranks seventh in the state with 64,639 total residents. MOVACAC 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, Harrison County actually experienced a decrease in death in 2020 of almost 6%. Then in 2021, the county set the record for death in the 11-year span under analysis with an increase of 19.76% over the pre-pandemic year of 2019:

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	Harrison County Death	Percent Change
2011	928	
2012	830	-10.56%
2013	859	3.49%
2014	843	-1.86%
2015	848	0.59%
2016	851	0.35%
2017	881	3.53%
2018	868	-1.48%
2019	921	6.11%
<b>2020</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>-5.97%</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>1,103</b>	<b>19.76%</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 significant thing to note from the Harrison table is that total death never reached 930 in the 10-year span of 2011 through 2020. In fact, death decreased in the year of the pandemic (2020). What happened in 2021 that caused death to reach a record high of 1,103? How is this 20% increase in death not significant enough to warrant investigation?

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			Age Range 65-74		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change	Year	Total Death	Percent Change	Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	51		2011	131		2011	173	
2012	56	9.80%	2012	103	-21.37%	2012	140	-19.08%
2013	58	3.57%	2013	98	-4.85%	2013	153	9.29%
2014	52	-10.34%	2014	109	11.22%	2014	179	16.99%
2015	47	-9.62%	2015	116	6.42%	2015	189	5.59%
2016	53	12.77%	2016	106	-8.62%	2016	159	-15.87%
2017	57	7.55%	2017	124	16.98%	2017	186	16.98%
2018	57	0.00%	2018	128	3.23%	2018	178	-4.30%
2019	62	8.77%	2019	149	16.41%	2019	180	1.12%
2020	53	-14.52%	2020	113	-24.16%	2020	193	7.22%
2021 *	77	24.19%	2021 *	163	9.40%	2021 *	246	27.46%

The 45-54 age range, like the county as a whole, saw death decline in the pandemic year. What happened in 2021 to these working age Harrison County citizens to cause death to rise to an unprecedented 77? Why are we setting records for death in the year after the pandemic?

For the 55-64 age range, the pandemic year of 2020 again saw a decrease in death. Shouldn't we be concerned that much like the county as a whole, 2021 set the record for death in this age range at 163?

Even more stark than the previous two age ranges, the 65-74-year-olds set the record for death in 2020 and then saw that record shattered in 2021. Never before in this 11-year span did this age range reach 200 deaths. What happened in Harrison County to cause this age range to experience such a catastrophic rise to 246 deaths in 2021?

Why are we seeing so many death records set in 2021?

If you are concerned about this catastrophic rise in Harrison 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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**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>