

## MOVCAC – Jefferson County Excess Death Analysis

Date: August 9, 2024

MOVCAC Contributor: Sean P. Keefe

Based on population numbers provided by [West Virginia Demographics](#), Jefferson County ranks eighth in the state with 59,787 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, Jefferson County set the record for total death during the 11-year span under analysis in 2020. Even though death decreased by 13 in 2021, that year was still only the second to record over 600 deaths:

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	Jefferson County Death	Percent Change
2011	416	
2012	447	7.45%
2013	395	-11.63%
2014	477	20.76%
2015	444	-6.92%
2016	488	9.91%
2017	540	10.66%
2018	500	-7.41%
2019	496	-0.80%
<b>2020</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>23.79%</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>21.17%</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.**

It appears that Jefferson County was ravaged by Covid in 2020. Doesn't anyone find it strange that 2020 and 2021 both are record-setting with over 600 deaths? Why are we normalizing all of this excess death? Why is this not being investigated?

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 55-64			Age Range 65-74			Age Range 75-84		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change	Year	Total Death	Percent Change	Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	60		2011	83		2011	103	
2012	68	13.33%	2012	91	9.64%	2012	115	11.65%
2013	58	-14.71%	2013	90	-1.10%	2013	85	-26.09%
2014	81	39.66%	2014	103	14.44%	2014	117	37.65%
2015	84	3.70%	2015	89	-13.59%	2015	101	-13.68%
2016	72	-14.29%	2016	122	37.08%	2016	108	6.93%
2017	84	16.67%	2017	140	14.75%	2017	130	20.37%
2018	73	-13.10%	2018	109	-22.14%	2018	125	-3.85%
2019	81	10.96%	2019	111	1.83%	2019	118	-5.60%
2020	100	23.46%	2020	141	27.03%	2020	144	22.03%
2021 *	86	2.38%	2021 *	139	-1.42%	2021 *	153	6.25%

The 55-64 age range saw death skyrocket by 23.46% in the pandemic year. Death declined in 2021 but still is the second highest death total in this working age category.

For the 65-74 age range, the pandemic year of 2020 set the record for this age category. And 2021 is just one less than the anomalous 2017 total of 140. After 2017, death declined two years in a row, and then 2020 and 2021 returned to that anomalous level.

The 75-84 age range is the most concerning in Jefferson County. Death rose by 22.03% in 2020 to set the record for the 11-year span. Then in 2021, death increased again to the new record of 153.

Where is the detailed analysis by our media, medical, or political classes? Shouldn't we have a detailed understanding of how all of this death is occurring?

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

**Delegates –**

- WAYNE CLARK (R) – JEFFERSON - [wayne.clark@wvhouse.gov](mailto:wayne.clark@wvhouse.gov)
- PAUL ESPINOSA (R) – JEFFERSON - [paul.espinosa@wvhouse.gov](mailto:paul.espinosa@wvhouse.gov)
- BILL RIDENOUR (R) – JEFFERSON - [bill.ridenour@wvhouse.gov](mailto:bill.ridenour@wvhouse.gov)

**Senators –**

- PATRICIA PUERTAS RUCKER (R) – JEFFERSON - [patricia.rucker@wvsenate.gov](mailto:patricia.rucker@wvsenate.gov)
- JASON BARRETT (R) – BERKELEY - [jason.barrett@wvsenate.gov](mailto:jason.barrett@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 –

## MOVCAC.com

House Roster - <https://www.wvlegislature.gov/house/roster.cfm>

Senate Roster - <https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Senate1/roster.cfm>