

MOVAC – Lincoln County Excess Death Analysis

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Based on population numbers provided by [West Virginia Demographics](#), Lincoln County ranks thirty-first in the state with 19,701 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, Lincoln County’s total death in 2020 was in line with historical trends even though the 323 deaths recorded that year set a record for the eleven years under analysis. However much like the rest of the state, 2021 not only exceeded that record, but total death increased by an unprecedented 20.12%:

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 Lincoln County Death	Percent Change
2011	286	
2012	243	-15.03%
2013	258	6.17%
2014	260	0.78%
2015	259	-0.38%
2016	276	6.56%
2017	277	0.36%
2018	311	12.27%
2019	319	2.57%
2020	323	1.25%
2021	388	21.63%

Data source - https://dhr.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.

How is a 21.63% increase over pre-pandemic death even possible in such a small county? 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 45-54

Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	24	
2012	17	-29.17%
2013	15	-11.76%
2014	29	93.33%
2015	22	-24.14%
2016	32	45.45%
2017	26	-18.75%
2018	27	3.85%
2019	25	-7.41%
2020	27	8.00%
2021 *	39	21.88%

Age Range 55-64

Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	52	
2012	42	-19.23%
2013	42	0.00%
2014	44	4.76%
2015	37	-15.91%
2016	35	-5.41%
2017	49	40.00%
2018	56	14.29%
2019	54	-3.57%
2020	51	-5.56%
2021 *	63	12.50%

As you can clearly see, the pandemic year of 2020 saw no significant rise in either the 45-54 or 55-64 age ranges in Lincoln County. However, in both categories, 2021 saw double-digit growth in total death. These are working-age Lincoln County citizens and something happened in 2021 to decimate that population. Where is the investigation by our elected leaders? Have you heard this on the news?

Age Range 65-74

Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	60	
2012	49	-18.33%
2013	63	28.57%
2014	50	-20.63%
2015	68	36.00%
2016	57	-16.18%
2017	60	5.26%
2018	64	6.67%
2019	70	9.38%
2020	80	14.29%
2021 *	88	10.00%

Age Range 75-84

Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	71	
2012	59	-16.90%
2013	78	32.20%
2014	71	-8.97%
2015	69	-2.82%
2016	71	2.90%
2017	64	-9.86%
2018	69	7.81%
2019	82	18.84%
2020	81	-1.22%
2021 *	104	26.83%

For the 65-74 age range, Lincoln County saw record total death in 2020. In fact, death grew by 14.79% over the previous record set in 2019. Then, 2021 saw that total death rise again by 10% to a new record. What happened in 2021, and why are we not concerned?

For the 75-84 age range, death declined in 2020 from the record set the previous year. However, 2021 saw that death rise an unprecedented 26.83%. We used to care about people dying unexpectedly. Why are we so unconcerned with unprecedented death levels?

If you are concerned about this alarming rise in Lincoln 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>