

MOVCAC – Marshall County Excess Death Analysis

Date: August 9, 2024

MOVCAC Contributor: Sean P. Keefe

Based on population numbers provided by [West Virginia Demographics](#), Marshall County ranks eighteenth in the state with 29,405 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, Marshall County mirrored statewide excess death trends almost perfectly in 2020 and 2021. Like the state overall, records were set in both years, and the increase in death for both years far outstrips the increases experienced pre-pandemic:

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 Marshall County Death	Percent Change
2011	407	
2012	432	6.14%
2013	414	-4.17%
2014	411	-0.72%
2015	403	-1.95%
2016	432	7.20%
2017	411	-4.86%
2018	398	-3.16%
2019	412	3.52%
2020	462	12.14%
2021	527	27.91%

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.

Marshall County experienced death in 2020 and 2021 like no other time in the county’s history. Are residents aware that the county fared worse in 2021 than 2020? Are we just assuming the responsibility lies with Covid? Why are we setting records in 2021? Is anyone looking into this alarmingly elevated death?

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 35-44			Age Range 65-74			Age Range 75-84		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change	Year	Total Death	Percent Change	Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	6		2011	72		2011	113	
2012	12	100.00%	2012	88	22.22%	2012	118	4.42%
2013	11	-8.33%	2013	85	-3.41%	2013	100	-15.25%
2014	8	-27.27%	2014	72	-15.29%	2014	116	16.00%
2015	5	-37.50%	2015	84	16.67%	2015	91	-21.55%
2016	10	100.00%	2016	81	-3.57%	2016	108	18.68%
2017	7	-30.00%	2017	83	2.47%	2017	110	1.85%
2018	12	71.43%	2018	71	-14.46%	2018	113	2.73%
2019	10	-16.67%	2019	88	23.94%	2019	106	-6.19%
2020	12	20.00%	2020	104	18.18%	2020	132	24.53%
2021 *	17	41.67%	2021 *	127	22.12%	2021 *	149	12.88%



The 35-44 age range is included only because the seventeen deaths in 2021 are so out of line with the historical trend. It is difficult to draw any inference from such a small number, but a 41.67% increase, when we know other age ranges are also setting records, should be investigated.

The 65-74 and 75-84 age ranges both set records for total death in Marshall County in 2020. Not unexpected when dealing with a once a century pandemic. Shouldn't we be curious when the following year total death again grows by double digits?

If one looks at the three age ranges detailed above, each experienced a two-year (2020+2021) increase of 40% or greater over the pre-pandemic year of 2019.

Is anyone in Marshall County curious about what happened in 2021 to create such alarming increases in death? Are these citizen's lives not worthy of investigation?

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

Delegates –

CHARLES R. SHEEDY SR. (R) – MARSHALL - charles.sheedy@wvhouse.gov
 JEFFREY STEPHENS (R) – MARSHALL - jeffrey.stephens@wvhouse.gov

Senators –

LAURA WAKIM CHAPMAN (R) – OHIO - laura.chapman@wvsenate.gov
 RYAN W. WELD (R) – BROOKE - ryan.weld@wvsenate.gov
 MICHAEL J. MARONEY (R) – MARSHALL - mike.maroney@wvsenate.gov
 CHARLES H. CLEMENTS (R) – WETZEL - charles.clements@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>