

## MOVCAC – Mingo County Excess Death Analysis

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Based on population numbers provided by [West Virginia Demographics](#), Mingo County ranks twenty-seventh in the state with 22,023 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, Mingo County saw total death surpass 400 in 2020 for only the second time in the 11-year span under analysis. However, the 8.16% increase in 2020 was not wildly out of line with historical trends. Having navigated the pandemic year with minimal excess death, what happened in 2021 that caused death to skyrocket by 30.26%:

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	Total Mingo County Death	Percent Change
2011	371	
2012	348	-6.20%
2013	368	5.75%
2014	402	9.24%
2015	333	-17.16%
2016	340	2.10%
2017	371	9.12%
2018	346	-6.74%
2019	380	9.83%
<b>2020</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>8.16%</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>30.26%</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 30.26% increase in total death for Mingo County in 2021 is more than three times larger than any increase in the prior ten years. Shouldn't we investigate why Mingo County was so decimated the year after the pandemic?

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	49	
2012	27	-44.90%
2013	35	29.63%
2014	41	17.14%
2015	42	2.44%
2016	33	-21.43%
2017	35	6.06%
2018	45	28.57%
2019	34	-24.44%
2020	32	-5.88%
<b>2021 *</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>42.86%</b>

Age Range 55-64		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	74	
2012	62	-16.22%
2013	65	4.84%
2014	67	3.08%
2015	61	-8.96%
2016	72	18.03%
2017	78	8.33%
2018	54	-30.77%
2019	60	11.11%
2020	80	33.33%
<b>2021 *</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>16.25%</b>

Age Range 65-74		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	70	
2012	70	0.00%
2013	76	8.57%
2014	100	31.58%
2015	63	-37.00%
2016	77	22.22%
2017	82	6.49%
2018	80	-2.44%
2019	105	31.25%
2020	108	2.86%
<b>2021 *</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>27.78%</b>

The 45-54-year-olds in Mingo County survived the pandemic year virtually unscathed. The 32 deaths recorded in 2020 fall neatly in line with pre-pandemic historical trends and is a 35% reduction from the previous high set in 2011. The previous record being set in 2011 tells us one of two things – either the population of the county has steadily declined since 2011 or something unexpected happened causing that anomalous total death of 49. Why are we not turning over every stone in Mingo County to understand how an astonishing rise of 42.86% in 2021 shattered that previous record set in 2011? Just to be clear, that 42.86% increase is comparing 2021 to the record set in 2011. The increase from 2020 to 2021 is 118.75%. How is this catastrophic rise in working-age death not front-page news in Mingo County?

The 55-64-year-olds did set a record for death in 2020. However, the 80 deaths recorded in 2020 look like a normal increase when looking at the pre-pandemic trends. Why did we set a new record with a 16.25% increase in 2021 for this working-age category?

The 65-74-year-olds also set a record for death in 2020. However, the 108 deaths recorded in 2020 look like a normal increase when looking at the pre-pandemic trends. What happened in 2021 to cause an astounding increase of 27.78% in total death for this age range?

Why are we setting anomalous records for total death in 2021?

Is anyone in Mingo 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 Mingo 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>