

MOVAC – Raleigh County Excess Death Analysis

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Based on population numbers provided by [West Virginia Demographics](#), Raleigh County ranks sixth in the state with 72,356 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.

Raleigh County definitely performed better than most West Virginia counties in 2020 when death only increased by 6.92%. However, 2021 saw death grow by 23.31% 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%
2020	26,108	12.09%
2021	29,402	26.24%

Year	Total Raleigh County Death	Percent Change
2011	986	
2012	1,071	8.62%
2013	964	-9.99%
2014	968	0.41%
2015	1,088	12.40%
2016	1,049	-3.58%
2017	1,029	-1.91%
2018	1,099	6.80%
2019	1,141	3.82%
2020	1,220	6.92%
2021	1,407	23.31%

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.

Like forty-one out of fifty-five West Virginia counties, Raleigh County set records for total death in both 2020 and 2021. And like forty-seven of the fifty-five counties, Raleigh County set their record for death in 2021. Why are we experiencing such dramatic growth in death the year after the pandemic began?

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 age-ranged tables show the most alarming growth for Raleigh County.

(*)Note – For the tables 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	93	
2012	87	-6.45%
2013	70	-19.54%
2014	66	-5.71%
2015	78	18.18%
2016	78	0.00%
2017	70	-10.26%
2018	78	11.43%
2019	84	7.69%
2020	88	4.76%
2021 *	101	8.60%

Age Range 55-64

Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	139	
2012	157	12.95%
2013	148	-5.73%
2014	136	-8.11%
2015	161	18.38%
2016	167	3.73%
2017	182	8.98%
2018	135	-25.82%
2019	149	10.37%
2020	166	11.41%
2021 *	213	17.03%

Both the 45-54 and 55-64 age ranges set record highs in death in 2021. Why are we setting death records in these working-age categories in the year after the pandemic began?

Age Range 65-74

Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	173	
2012	161	-6.94%
2013	204	26.71%
2014	204	0.00%
2015	230	12.75%
2016	222	-3.48%
2017	201	-9.46%
2018	258	28.36%
2019	246	-4.65%
2020	280	13.82%
2021 *	337	20.36%

Age Range 75-84

Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	249	
2012	271	8.84%
2013	239	-11.81%
2014	239	0.00%
2015	234	-2.09%
2016	243	3.85%
2017	237	-2.47%
2018	256	8.02%
2019	261	1.95%
2020	284	8.81%
2021 *	334	17.61%

In both the 65-74 and 75-84 age ranges, record high death levels were reached in 2020. Yet both age categories went on to increase death by 20.36% and 17.61%, respectively, to set new records above the never before reached peak of 300?

Why is Raleigh County setting such high death records in the year after the pandemic began?

If you are concerned about this alarming rise in total death in both Raleigh County and West Virginia as a whole (as documented by your state), please consider sharing this information with state leaders responsible for representing your population.

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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>