

MOVCAC – Taylor County Excess Death Analysis

Date: August 12, 2024

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Based on population numbers provided by [West Virginia Demographics](#), Taylor County ranks thirty-fifth in the state with 16,388 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.

Taylor County was ravaged in both 2020 and 2021 with increases in total death over the pre-pandemic year (2019) of 33.16% and 42.11% respectively. Even when compared to the record set in 2015, 2020 and 2021 experienced total death increases of 18% and 26% respectively.

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%

Total Taylor		
Year	County Death	Percent Change
2011	203	
2012	179	-11.82%
2013	196	9.50%
2014	174	-11.22%
2015	214	22.99%
2016	203	-5.14%
2017	191	-5.91%
2018	208	8.90%
2019	190	-8.65%
2020	253	33.16%
2021	270	42.11%

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.

Like forty-one out of fifty-five West Virginia counties, Taylor County set the record for total death in both 2020 and 2021. What is the after-action plan for Taylor County leadership? Shouldn't there be a detailed understanding of the processes and policies that resulted in this catastrophic 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 age-ranged tables show the most alarming growth for Taylor 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			Age Range 55-64		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change	Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	9		2011	25	
2012	10	11.11%	2012	30	20.00%
2013	11	10.00%	2013	26	-13.33%
2014	11	0.00%	2014	24	-7.69%
2015	13	18.18%	2015	26	8.33%
2016	11	-15.38%	2016	30	15.38%
2017	12	9.09%	2017	29	-3.33%
2018	11	-8.33%	2018	32	10.34%
2019	9	-18.18%	2019	23	-28.13%
2020	13	44.44%	2020	35	52.17%
2021 *	17	30.77%	2021 *	42	20.00%

For the 45-54 age range, Taylor County tied the record for total death in 2020. That total death rose another 30.77% in 2021 to set a new record. Why are we setting death records in 2021 for this working age category?

The record for total death in the 55-64 age range was set in 2020 with a 52.17% increase over the pre-pandemic year. One could argue that is an unfair comparison since 2019 had the least death in the 11-year span under analysis. Regardless, 2020 set the record and 2021 experienced an increase of 20% to set the new record above the previously unreachable 40 death threshold.

Why is Taylor County setting death records in working-age categories in 2021? Shouldn't someone in Taylor County be concerned with this?

Age Range 65-74			Age Range 75-84		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change	Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	36		2011	59	
2012	30	-16.67%	2012	48	-18.64%
2013	47	56.67%	2013	57	18.75%
2014	26	-44.68%	2014	42	-26.32%
2015	44	69.23%	2015	58	38.10%
2016	50	13.64%	2016	38	-34.48%
2017	42	-16.00%	2017	49	28.95%
2018	46	9.52%	2018	45	-8.16%
2019	42	-8.70%	2019	55	22.22%
2020	45	7.14%	2020	67	21.82%
2021 *	68	36.00%	2021 *	62	-7.46%

2021 saw the 65-74 age range shatter the previous record for total death set in 2016 by 36%. Shouldn't we be concerned with all these death records being surpassed in 2021?

In the 75-84 age range, the record for death prior to the pandemic was set in 2011. That hints at a dwindling population for those ages. With that being the case, why are we not concerned with the two highest death totals for this age range occurring in 2020 and 2021?

If you are concerned about this alarming rise in total death in both Taylor 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>