

## MOVCAC – Wayne County Excess Death Analysis

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Based on population numbers provided by [West Virginia Demographics](#), Wayne County ranks fourteenth in the state with 37,686 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 will see in the age-range details below, Wayne County was not only devastated with excess death in the pandemic year of 2020, but 2021 soared to set new highs. The increase in death in 2020 was more than twice as high as any other increase pre-pandemic. More devastating, 2021 saw death increase more than four times any other increase 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%
<b>2020</b>	<b>26,108</b>	<b>12.09%</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>29,402</b>	<b>26.24%</b>

Year	Total Wayne County Death	Percent Change
2011	458	
2012	464	1.31%
2013	482	3.88%
2014	521	8.09%
2015	524	0.58%
2016	506	-3.44%
2017	554	9.49%
2018	534	-3.61%
2019	523	-2.06%
<b>2020</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>21.61%</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>38.05%</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.**

Although the pandemic year saw a catastrophic rise in death in Wayne County, the real wave occurred in 2021. As happened with forty-seven of the fifty-five counties in West Virginia, Wayne County easily set the record for death in 2021. 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 35-44		
Year	Total Death	Percent
2011	17	
2012	17	0.00%
2013	21	23.53%
2014	12	-42.86%
2015	19	58.33%
2016	22	15.79%
2017	30	36.36%
2018	23	-23.33%
2019	20	-13.04%
2020	30	50.00%
<b>2021 *</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>40.00%</b>

The 35-44 age range saw death equal the pre-pandemic high of 30 in 2020. However, the real tragedy for this age range occurred in 2021 when death soared by 40%.

Age Range 45-54		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	32	
2012	26	-18.75%
2013	30	15.38%
2014	38	26.67%
2015	39	2.63%
2016	38	-2.56%
2017	46	21.05%
2018	38	-17.39%
2019	36	-5.26%
2020	50	38.89%
<b>2021 *</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>38.00%</b>

Age Range 55-64		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	58	
2012	58	0.00%
2013	78	34.48%
2014	79	1.28%
2015	77	-2.53%
2016	66	-14.29%
2017	71	7.58%
2018	73	2.82%
2019	83	13.70%
2020	86	3.61%
<b>2021 *</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>25.58%</b>

The 45-54 age range saw the record set for total death in 2020 when death rose by 38.89%. The following year, that record was demolished by another 38% rise in death. How are we not

intensely investigating this catastrophic rise in death in Wayne County’s working-age population?

Again, the 55-64 working age category, saw the record for total death set in 2020. That record was then shattered with a 25.58% rise in 2021.

The three age ranges detailed above make up the backbone of Wayne County’s working age population. How is this catastrophic death not front-page news?

Age Range 65-74			Age Range 75-84		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change	Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	104		2011	118	
2012	105	0.96%	2012	126	6.78%
2013	104	-0.95%	2013	126	0.00%
2014	107	2.88%	2014	136	7.94%
2015	107	0.00%	2015	141	3.68%
2016	98	-8.41%	2016	124	-12.06%
2017	129	31.63%	2017	122	-1.61%
2018	119	-7.75%	2018	138	13.11%
2019	102	-14.29%	2019	142	2.90%
2020	126	23.53%	2020	163	14.79%
<b>2021 *</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>13.95%</b>	<b>2021 *</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>13.50%</b>

Both the 65-74 and 75-84 age ranges set records in 2021. For the 75-84 age range, this record was preceded by record death in 2020.

Why is Wayne County seeing so many death records set in 2021?

If you are concerned about this catastrophic rise in Wayne County death (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>