

## MOVAC – Wood County Excess Death Analysis

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Based on population numbers provided by [West Virginia Demographics](#), Wood County ranks fifth in the state with 83,052 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.

[MOVAC – Assassinations & Democide](#) – July 2024

[Democide Ignored](#) – January 2024

[Excess Deaths in 2021 & 2022 – Who Cares?](#) – March 2023

[Excess Deaths Continue in Wood County WV](#) – October 2023

[MOVAC – November 2023 Excess Death Analysis – Wood County WV](#) – February 2024

[MOVAC – Why Are We Ignoring Excess Death?](#) – April 2024

[MOVAC – Ohio Excess Death Mirrors West Virginia](#) – July 2024

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, Wood County was only surpassed by Wetzel County in the way that we have experienced excess death. The increase in death in 2020 was a little over half of what the state as a whole experienced. However just like forty-seven of the fifty-five West Virginia counties, Wood County set its record for total death in 2021. What is unique about Wood County and 2021 is that all but one of the age-ranges under analysis set or tied the record for total death and the one that didn't set the record was second only to the newly set record in 2020:

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 Wood County Death	Percent Change
2011	1,039	
2012	976	-6.06%
2013	1,045	7.07%
2014	1,097	4.98%
2015	1,068	-2.64%
2016	1,108	3.75%
2017	1,094	-1.26%
2018	1,138	4.02%
2019	1,112	-2.28%
<b>2020</b>	<b>1,205</b>	<b>8.36%</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>1,355</b>	<b>21.85%</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.**

At first glance, the Wood County increases in death for 2020 and 2021 look a little more favorable than the state as a whole. In the age-range details below, you will clearly see that 2021 was a record-setting year for death in Wood County.

The pandemic was new in 2020 and there were no vaccines available until 2021. Wouldn't common sense tell you that our 2020 experience should be worse than 2021? Why are we setting all these new records in 2021?

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.**

For our analyses, we omitted all age groups under twenty-five. The values are being reported differently in 2021 and the occurrence of death in these age ranges are much more infrequent and difficult to compare.

The most concerning thing to note about Wood County is that six of the seven age ranges under analysis either tied (35-44) or set the record for death in Wood County in 2021. The range that did not set the record in 2021 (75-84) was second only to the 2020 total.

Age Range 25-34		
Year	Total Death	Percent
2011	16	
2012	13	-18.75%
2013	19	46.15%
2014	12	-36.84%
2015	18	50.00%
2016	28	55.56%
2017	25	-10.71%
2018	27	8.00%
2019	12	-55.56%
2020	29	141.67%
<b>2021 *</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>6.90%</b>

Age Range 35-44		
Year	Total Death	Percent
2011	25	
2012	21	-16.00%
2013	27	28.57%
2014	27	0.00%
2015	30	11.11%
2016	41	36.67%
2017	33	-19.51%
2018	20	-39.39%
2019	43	115.00%
2020	33	-23.26%
<b>2021 *</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

The 25-34 age range set a new record at 31 deaths in 2021. Death in the 35-44 range tied the record set in 2019. Again, 2021 is setting or tying records for death in the year after the pandemic.

Age Range 45-54		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	67	
2012	78	16.42%
2013	75	-3.85%
2014	82	9.33%
2015	64	-21.95%
2016	76	18.75%
2017	66	-13.16%
2018	65	-1.52%
2019	75	15.38%
2020	73	-2.67%
<b>2021 *</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>14.63%</b>

Age Range 55-64		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	131	
2012	126	-3.82%
2013	134	6.35%
2014	157	17.16%
2015	145	-7.64%
2016	143	-1.38%
2017	141	-1.40%
2018	155	9.93%
2019	162	4.52%
2020	160	-1.23%
<b>2021 *</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>20.37%</b>

The 45-54 and 55-64 age ranges saw their death records smashed by 14.63% and 20.37% in 2021. Both saw their death totals decrease in the pandemic year. All of a sudden, 2021 sets the record.

All of the above age ranges make up the working-age population of Wood County. Are we investigating any of this excess death?

Age Range 65-74			Age Range 75-84			Age Range 85+		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change	Year	Total Death	Percent Change	Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	190		2011	278		2011	316	
2012	176	-7.37%	2012	280	0.72%	2012	265	-16.14%
2013	200	13.64%	2013	255	-8.93%	2013	315	18.87%
2014	203	1.50%	2014	277	8.63%	2014	308	-2.22%
2015	219	7.88%	2015	284	2.53%	2015	295	-4.22%
2016	220	0.46%	2016	270	-4.93%	2016	312	5.76%
2017	224	1.82%	2017	280	3.70%	2017	308	-1.28%
2018	244	8.93%	2018	310	10.71%	2018	297	-3.57%
2019	211	-13.52%	2019	314	1.29%	2019	280	-5.72%
2020	253	19.91%	2020	339	7.96%	2020	302	7.86%
2021 *	301	18.97%	2021 *	332	-2.06%	2021 *	338	6.96%

In the 65-74 age range, the record for total death was set in 2020. The following year, death again grew by 18.97% to set a new record.

The 75-84 age range is the only one in this analysis not to set or tie the record for total death in 2021. It is included in this analysis to show that the record had been set in the pandemic year of 2020 and 2021 was the second highest death total in our 11-year analysis.

One would have thought that the record for death in the 85+ age range would have occurred in 2020 since we know Covid affected the elderly and infirmed most severely. Isn't it just a little curious that 2021 broke the previous record set in 2011?

The state as a whole is showing astounding increases in death for 2021. Wood County not only experienced a similar rise in death totals in 2021, Wood County spread that death among more age groups than any other county in the state.

Below is the raw data extracted from DHHR reporting since 2011 for Wood County:

Wood County Excess Death Analysis 2011 - 2021														Calculated
Year	Age-Range Detail													Total
	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	
2011	9	1	0	1	2	3	16	25	67	131	190	278	316	1039
2012	6	4	0	0	2	5	13	21	78	126	176	280	265	976
2013	9	1	0	3	1	6	19	27	75	134	200	255	315	1045
2014	10	2	1	2	6	10	12	27	82	157	203	277	308	1097
2015	6	1	0	0	1	5	18	30	64	145	219	284	295	1068
2016	8	2	0	1	3	4	28	41	76	143	220	270	312	1108
2017	4	1	1	2	0	9	25	33	66	141	224	280	308	1094
2018	6	1	1	1	3	8	27	20	65	155	244	310	297	1138
2019	6	0	0	1	0	8	12	43	75	162	211	314	280	1112
2020	4	4	1	0	1	6	29	33	73	160	253	339	302	1205
2021	0	5	-	-	7	6	31	43	94	195	301	332	338	1352

DHHR purposely suppressed all values between 1-4 in the detail provided in 2021. For that reason, the calculated total in 2021 of 1,352 does not tie to the West Virginia Death By County table on page one where 1,355 Wood County deaths are recorded. Many changes were made

to the DHHR reporting in 2021. In addition to the suppression of death values of 1 through 4, the report no longer provides County-Level detail, or ICD-10 (cause of death code) detail.

As you can see, there are no deaths reported in the 2021 DHHR detail for the following age ranges:

<1

5-9

10-14

If you are concerned about this catastrophic rise in Wood 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>