

## MOVCAC – Wyoming County Excess Death Analysis

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Based on population numbers provided by [West Virginia Demographics](#), Wyoming County ranks Thirtieth in the state with 20,277 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, Wyoming County’s experience with excess death in 2020 and 2021 far outpaced the state as a whole. The record prior to the pandemic was set in 2012 with 352 deaths. Wyoming County saw that record broken in both 2020 and 2021:

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 Wyoming County Death	Percent Change
2011	345	
2012	352	2.03%
2013	310	-11.93%
2014	321	3.55%
2015	343	6.85%
2016	313	-8.75%
2017	344	9.90%
2018	317	-7.85%
2019	291	-8.20%
<b>2020</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>30.24%</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>42.27%</b>

Data source - [https://dhr.wv.gov/HSC/SS/Vital\\_Statistics/Pages/Vital\\_Statistics.aspx](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.**

Wyoming County’s population has been declining for quite some time. In 2012, when the previous record for total death was set, the county’s population stood at 23,213. By 2021, that had declined by 9.6% to 20,991 ([USAFacts.org](https://www.usafacts.org)). Why are we setting records for total death in 2020 and 2021 when the population has been declining?

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 55-64**

Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	51	
2012	53	3.92%
2013	48	-9.43%
2014	57	18.75%
2015	52	-8.77%
2016	54	3.85%
2017	60	11.11%
2018	62	3.33%
2019	47	-24.19%
2020	58	23.40%
<b>2021 *</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>12.90%</b>

**Age Range 65-74**

Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	72	
2012	69	-4.17%
2013	53	-23.19%
2014	63	18.87%
2015	87	38.10%
2016	79	-9.20%
2017	84	6.33%
2018	85	1.19%
2019	79	-7.06%
2020	95	20.25%
<b>2021 *</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>22.11%</b>

In a county where the population has declined by 9.6%, should we be setting death records with double-digit growth? How did the 55-64-year-olds navigate the pandemic year without setting any records, only to see total death rise by 12.9% over the record set in 2018. The 65-74-year-olds did set a record for total death during the pandemic year. 2021 saw that death rise again by 22.11%.

**Age Range 75-84**

Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	79	
2012	93	17.72%
2013	86	-7.53%
2014	70	-18.60%
2015	78	11.43%
2016	76	-2.56%
2017	86	13.16%
2018	81	-5.81%
2019	66	-18.52%
2020	89	34.85%
<b>2021 *</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>1.08%</b>

**Age Range 85+**

Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	54	
2012	64	18.52%
2013	55	-14.06%
2014	65	18.18%
2015	60	-7.69%
2016	57	-5.00%
2017	62	8.77%
2018	47	-24.19%
2019	55	17.02%
<b>2020</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>40.00%</b>
<b>2021 *</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>-9.09%</b>

The 75-84 age range did not see total death reach record levels during the pandemic year. Although the rise over the previous record set in 2012 is not dramatic, the record was still set in 2021.

The 85+ age range did set a record in 2020, but 2021 is still the second highest death total in the 11-year span under analysis.

Why did we get worse at treating the pandemic in 2021? Why are we setting all these records for death in a county where the population has been steadily declining?

If you are concerned about this alarming rise in Wyoming 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>