

RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis

Rural Data Brief

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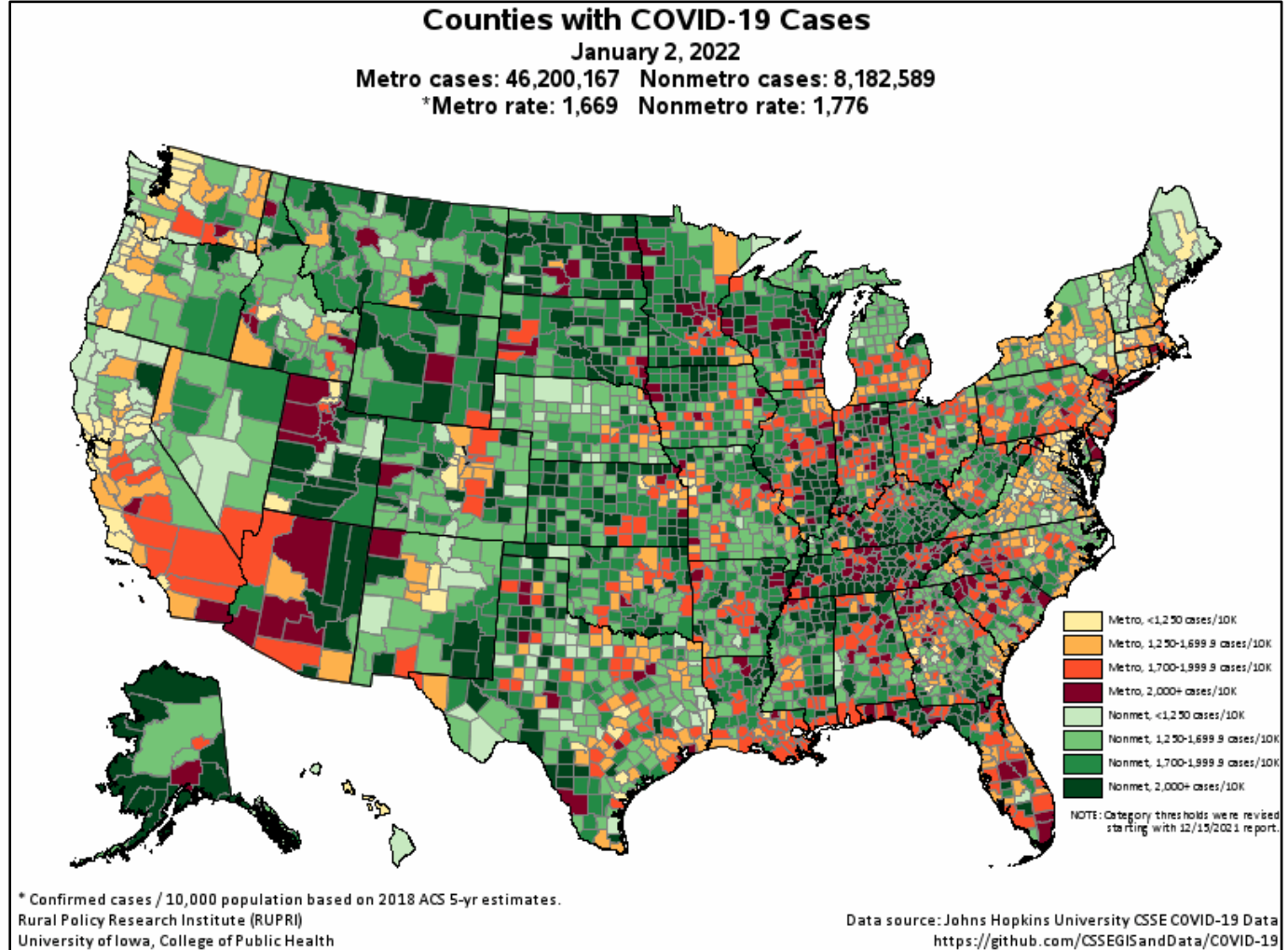
Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties

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Report

Early COVID-19 focus was on major metropolitan areas, but rural areas of the United States have also been hit hard by the pandemic. As of January 2, 2022, there were a total of 54,382,756 cases and 787,849 deaths identified in counties, with 8,182,589 cases and 143,606 deaths (about 15.1 percent of cases and 18.2 percent of deaths) reported in non-metropolitan counties (data obtained from the Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 Data Repository*).

Map 1. Counties with confirmed COVID-19 Cases



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But as many experts have pointed out, the rate of growth in cases is very different depending on location. Further, the stress on the health care delivery system is proportionate – a small number of cases creates stress for low-capacity systems just as a large volume of cases creates stress for larger capacity systems.

Note that this document reports on confirmed COVID-19 cases and those numbers will be affected by the availability and utilization of testing resources. Recent and **updated maps**, and the “progression” of cases throughout the country, can be seen on the animated map on the RUPRI Health web site:

http://ruprihealth.org/publications/policybriefs/2020/COVID_History/

Map 1 (above) displays the rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties. Table 1 shows metropolitan and nonmetropolitan county confirmed case and death counts. It also depicts the rate of cases and deaths per 10,000 population (based on the 2018 American Community Survey 5-year estimates). Finally, it shows the number and proportion of metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties exceeding various case and death rate levels. Map 2 displays the rates of COVID-19 deaths in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties.

Table 1. Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties. Confirmed cases, deaths, and rates

	Metropolitan	Nonmetropolitan
Counties (total)	1,166	1,976
Population (2010 census)	276,820,000	46,082,565
Counties w/ confirmed cases	1,165 (99.9%)	1,972 (99.8%)
Counties w/ deaths	1,165 (99.9%)	1,950 (98.7%)
Confirmed cases	46,200,167 (16.7%)	8,182,589 (17.8%)
Deaths	644,243 (0.2%)	143,606 (0.3%)
Cases/10K population	1,669	1,776
Deaths/10K population	23.27	31.16
Counties w/ 1000+ cases/10K	1,117 (95.8%)	1,910 (96.7%)
Counties w/ 1500+ cases/10K	877 (75.2%)	1,529 (77.4%)
Counties w/ 2000+ cases/10K	208 (17.8%)	517 (26.2%)
Counties w/ 5+ deaths/10K	1,163 (99.7%)	1,923 (97.3%)
Counties w/ 10+ deaths/10K	1,097 (94.1%)	1,854 (93.8%)
Counties w/ 25+ deaths/10K	581 (49.8%)	1,382 (69.9%)
Counties w/ 50+ deaths/10K	30 (2.6%)	212 (10.7%)

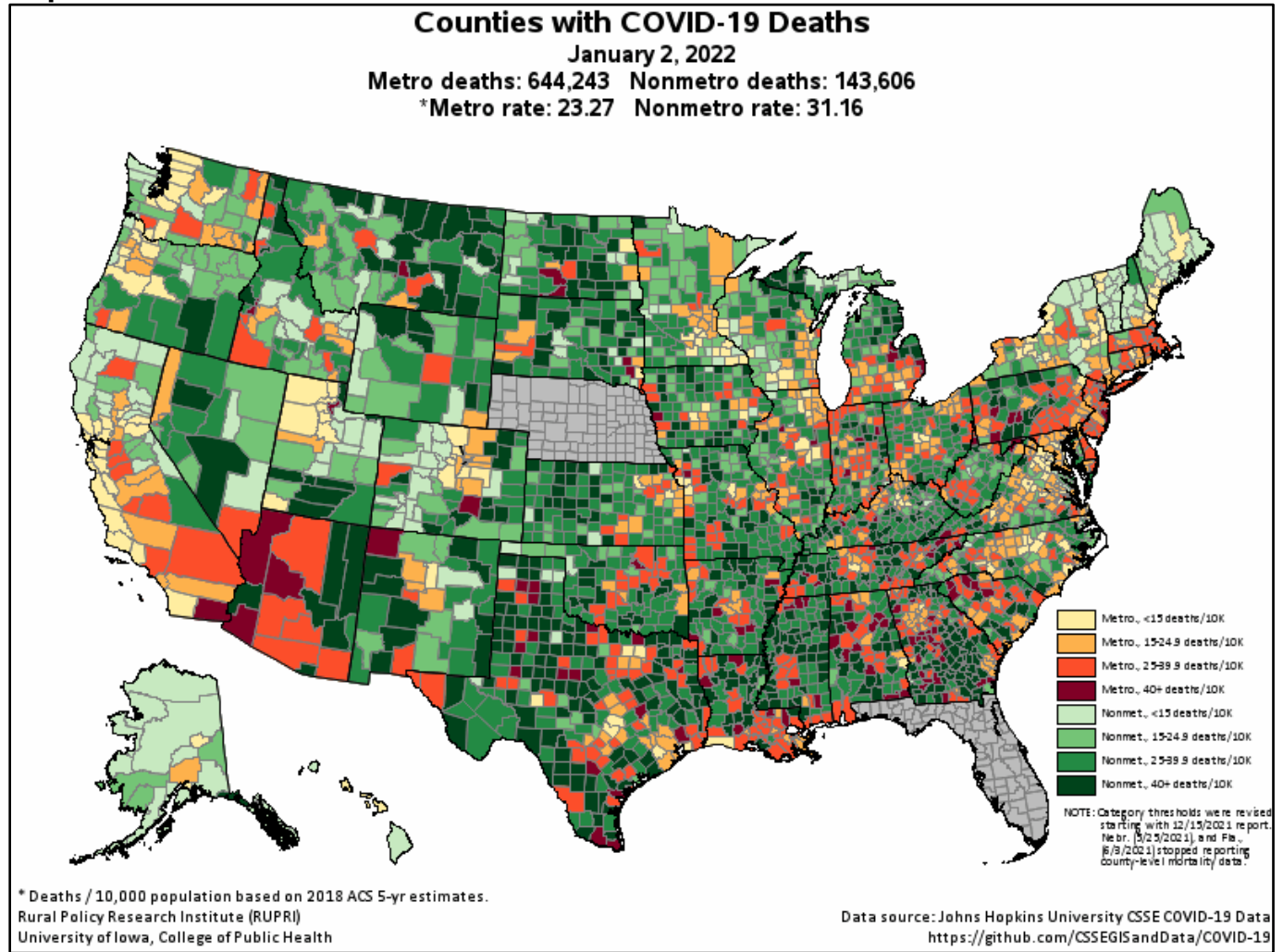
Data sources: COVID-19 case and death data from the [COVID-19 Data Repository by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering \(CSSE\) at Johns Hopkins University](#). Population data from the 2018 American Community Survey 5-yr estimates.

*COVID-19 case and death data for this ongoing report were previously obtained from [USA Facts.org](#). Reports after 8/15/2020 use data from the [COVID-19 Data Repository by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering \(CSSE\) at Johns Hopkins University](#). Similarly, previous reports had used population data from the U.S. 2010 decennial Census. Current reports utilize data from the Census Bureau’s 2018 American Community Survey 5-year population estimates.

Additional changes were made to the report starting 4/26/2021 to better account for the Utah practice of providing aggregated incidence and mortality data for less populous counties.

All data in this brief are based on county-level counts to facilitate metropolitan/nonmetropolitan reporting. Cases and deaths that could not be attributed to a county are excluded, meaning that national figures are undercounts. Nebraska (5/25/2021), and Florida (6/3/2021) stopped reporting county-level mortality. This means that total metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counts are undercounts.

Map 2. Counties with COVID-19 Deaths



Map 3. State Metropolitan/Nonmetropolitan COVID-19 One-week Case Rates

Metropolitan/Nonmetropolitan COVID-19 Cases

New cases for week ending: January 1, 2022

