

RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis

Rural Data Brief

Brief No. 2020-2

JULY 2020

<http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/rupri/>

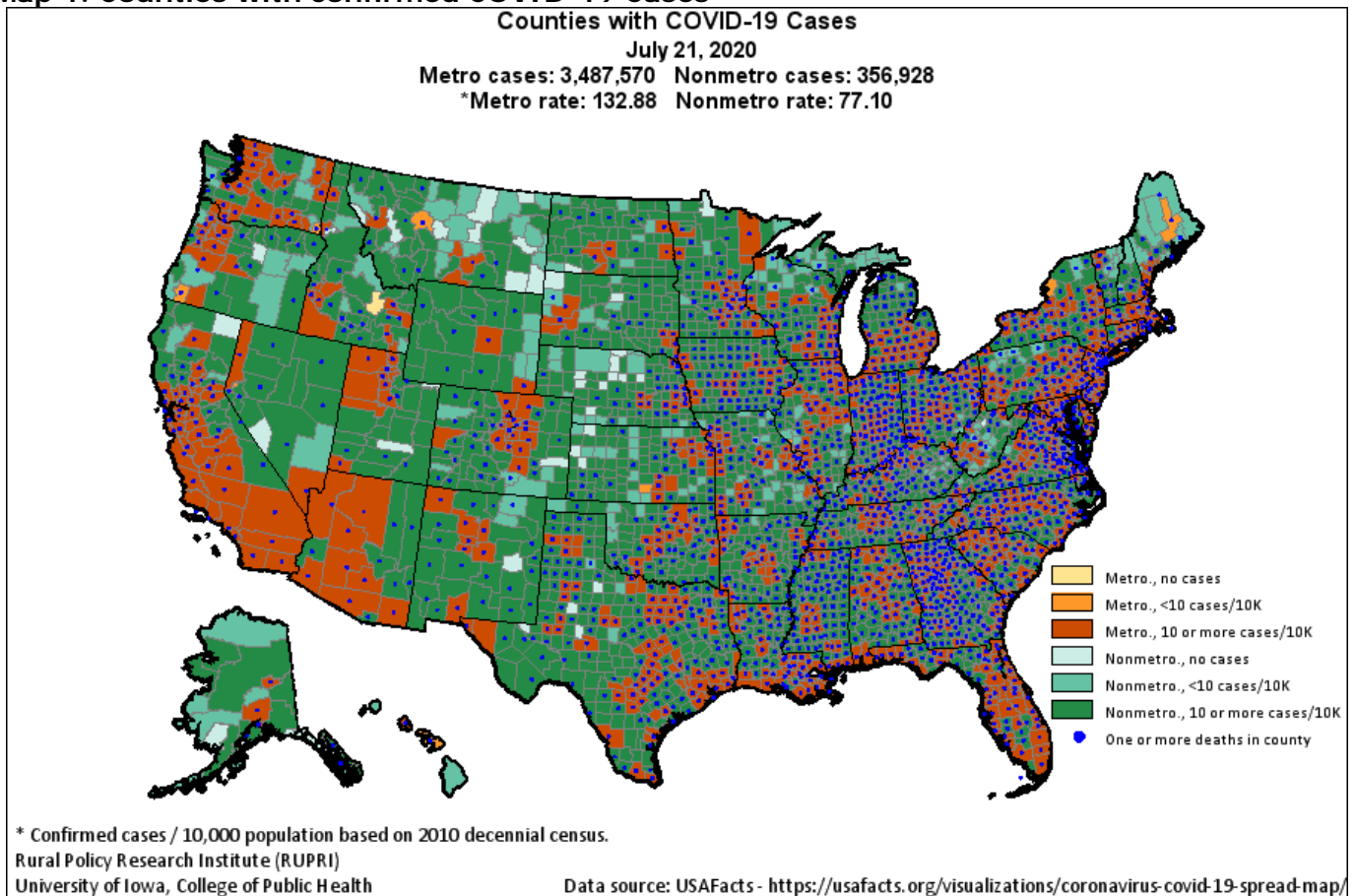
Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties

Fred Ullrich, BA; and Keith Mueller, PhD

Report

While much of the COVID-19 focus has been on major metropolitan areas, rural areas of the United States are not free of exposure. As of July 21, 2020, there were a total of 3,844,498 cases and 140,596 deaths identified in counties (data provided by [USA Facts.org](https://datafairs.org/)), with 356,928 cases and 8,610 deaths (about 9.3 percent of cases and 6.1 percent of deaths) reported in non-metropolitan counties. 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.

Map 1. Counties with confirmed COVID-19 Cases



#1U1GRH07633 and #U1C RH20419. The information, conclusions and opinions expressed in this policy brief are those of the authors and no endorsement by FORHP, HRSA, HHS is intended or should be inferred.

This project was supported by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under cooperative agreement/grant 52242-2007, (319) 384-3830



RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis, University of Iowa College of Public Health, Department of Health Management and Policy, 145 Riverside Dr., Iowa City, IA 52242-2007, (319) 384-3830
<http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/rupri>
E-mail: cph-rupri-inquiries@uiowa.edu

Note that this document reports on confirmed COVID-19 cases and those number 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/

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 2010 decennial census). Finally, it shows the number of metropolitan and metropolitan counties with a rate of cases exceeding 10 per 10,000 population and a rate of death exceeding 1 per 10,000 population. Map 2 shows those counties with elevated rates of cases and/or deaths.

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

	Metropolitan	Nonmetropol.
Counties (total)	1,166	1,979
Population (2010 census)	262,450,000	46,279,820
Counties w/ confirmed cases	1,164 (99.8%)	1,933 (97.8%)
Counties w/ deaths	1,016 (87.1%)	1,099 (55.6%)
Confirmed cases	3,487,570 (1.3%)	356,928 (0.8%)
Deaths	131,986 (0.1%)	8,610 (0.0%)
Cases/10K population	132.9	77.10
Deaths/10K population	5.03	1.86
Counties w/ 10+ cases/10K	1,155 (99.1%)	1,737 (87.9%)
Counties w/ 1+ deaths/10K	678 (58.1%)	660 (33.4%)

Map 2. Counties with 10 or more confirmed COVID-19 Cases per 10,000 Population

