

# RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis

## Rural Data Brief

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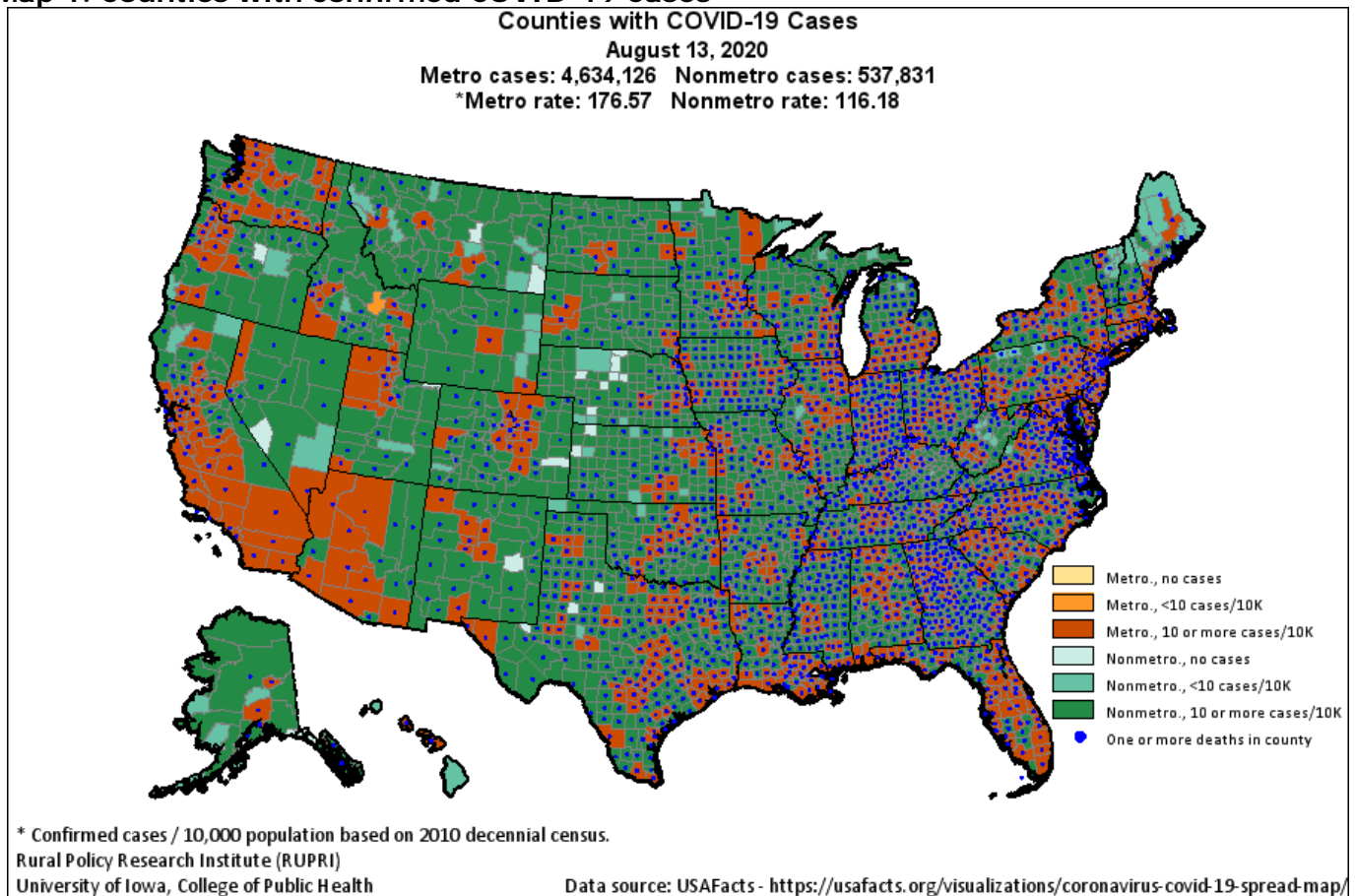
### Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties

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#### Report

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 August 13, 2020, there were a total of 5,171,957 cases and 165,093 deaths identified in counties (data provided by [USAFacts.org](https://datafairs.org/)), with 537,831 cases and 12,182 deaths (about 10.4 percent of cases and 7.4 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



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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/](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 | 1,165 (99.9%)    | 1,954 (98.9%)  |
| Counties w/ deaths          | 1,076 (92.3%)    | 1,286 (65.1%)  |
| Confirmed cases             | 4,634,126 (1.8%) | 537,831 (1.2%) |
| Deaths                      | 152,911 (0.1%)   | 12,182 (0.0%)  |
| Cases/10K population        | 176.6            | 116.2          |
| Deaths/10K population       | 5.83             | 2.63           |
| Counties w/ 10+ cases/10K   | 1,164 (99.8%)    | 1,884 (95.3%)  |
| Counties w/ 1+ deaths/10K   | 844 (72.4%)      | 912 (46.2%)    |

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

