

# RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis

## Rural Data Update

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### County-Level 14-Day COVID-19 Case Trajectories

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#### Background

This document updates maps and tables for the Rural Data Brief “County-Level 14-Day COVID-19 Case Trajectories” ([https://ruprihealth.org/publications/policybriefs/2020/County\\_COVID\\_Trajectories.pdf](https://ruprihealth.org/publications/policybriefs/2020/County_COVID_Trajectories.pdf)). This data brief looks at the new case counts in every US county between January 10, 2021, and January 23, 2021, to quantitatively evaluate 14-day trends in metropolitan, nonmetropolitan, and noncore counties. Previous versions of this document can be found at: [https://ruprihealth.org/publications/policybriefs/2020/COVID\\_Projects.html](https://ruprihealth.org/publications/policybriefs/2020/COVID_Projects.html)

Data on confirmed COVID-19 cases were obtained from the Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 Data Repository<sup>1</sup>. The number of cases in each county was aggregated for each week in the two-week period, and the totals for each week were compared. To minimize the impact of counties with very minor real variation in weekly counts, those with a change in case count of two or fewer (either increase or decrease) were coded as “Same number, both weeks.” Counties that saw more than a 25 percent increase or decrease in number of cases between the weeks were labelled “notable” (including counties that went from 3 or more to none [notable decrease] and counties that went from none to 3 or more [notable increase]). Counties in the 50 states and the District of Columbia were classified as metropolitan, nonmetropolitan, or noncore based on Urban Influence Codes<sup>2</sup>.

**Table 1. 14-day trends<sup>a</sup> in newly confirmed COVID-19 cases, by county geography: 1/10/2021 – 1/23/2021**

	Metropolitan (n = 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n = 641)	Noncore (n = 1,335)
No cases reported	8 (0.7%)	4 (0.6%)	32 (2.4%)
Decreasing, notable <sup>b</sup>	397 (34.0%)	275 (42.9%)	529 (39.6%)
Decreasing, not notable	537 (46.1%)	196 (30.6%)	232 (17.4%)
Same number, both weeks <sup>c</sup>	40 (3.4%)	35 (5.5%)	218 (16.3%)
Increasing, not notable	111 (9.5%)	68 (10.6%)	95 (7.1%)
Increasing, notable	73 (6.3%)	63 (9.8%)	229 (17.2%)

<sup>a</sup>Comparison of number of new cases in first week of 14-day period with new cases in second week.

<sup>b</sup>“Notable” trends indicate weekly changes in new cases exceeding (either increasing or decreasing) 25 percent.

<sup>c</sup>Includes counties with an absolute change in count of two or fewer.



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**Table 2. 14-day trends<sup>a</sup> in newly confirmed COVID-19 cases, in counties with any cases, by county geography: 1/10/2021 – 1/23/2021**

	<b>Metropolitan</b> (n = 1,158 of 1,166)	<b>Nonmetropolitan</b> (n = 637 of 641)	<b>Noncore</b> (n = 1,303 of 1,335)
<i>Any decrease</i>	934 (80.7%)	471 (73.9%)	761 (58.4%)
Notable decrease <sup>b</sup>	397 (34.3%)	275 (43.2%)	529 (40.6%)
Same number, both weeks <sup>c</sup>	40 (3.5%)	35 (5.5%)	218 (16.7%)
<i>Any increase</i>	184 (15.9%)	131 (20.6%)	324 (24.9%)
Notable increase <sup>b</sup>	73 (6.3%)	63 (9.9%)	229 (17.6%)
Increase of 100% or more	17 (1.5%)	14 (2.2%)	88 (6.8%)

<sup>a</sup>Comparison of number of new cases in first week of 14-day period with new cases in second week.

<sup>b</sup>“Notable” trends indicate weekly changes in new cases exceeding (either increasing or decreasing) 25 percent.

<sup>c</sup>Includes counties with an absolute change in count of two or fewer.

**Figure 1.**

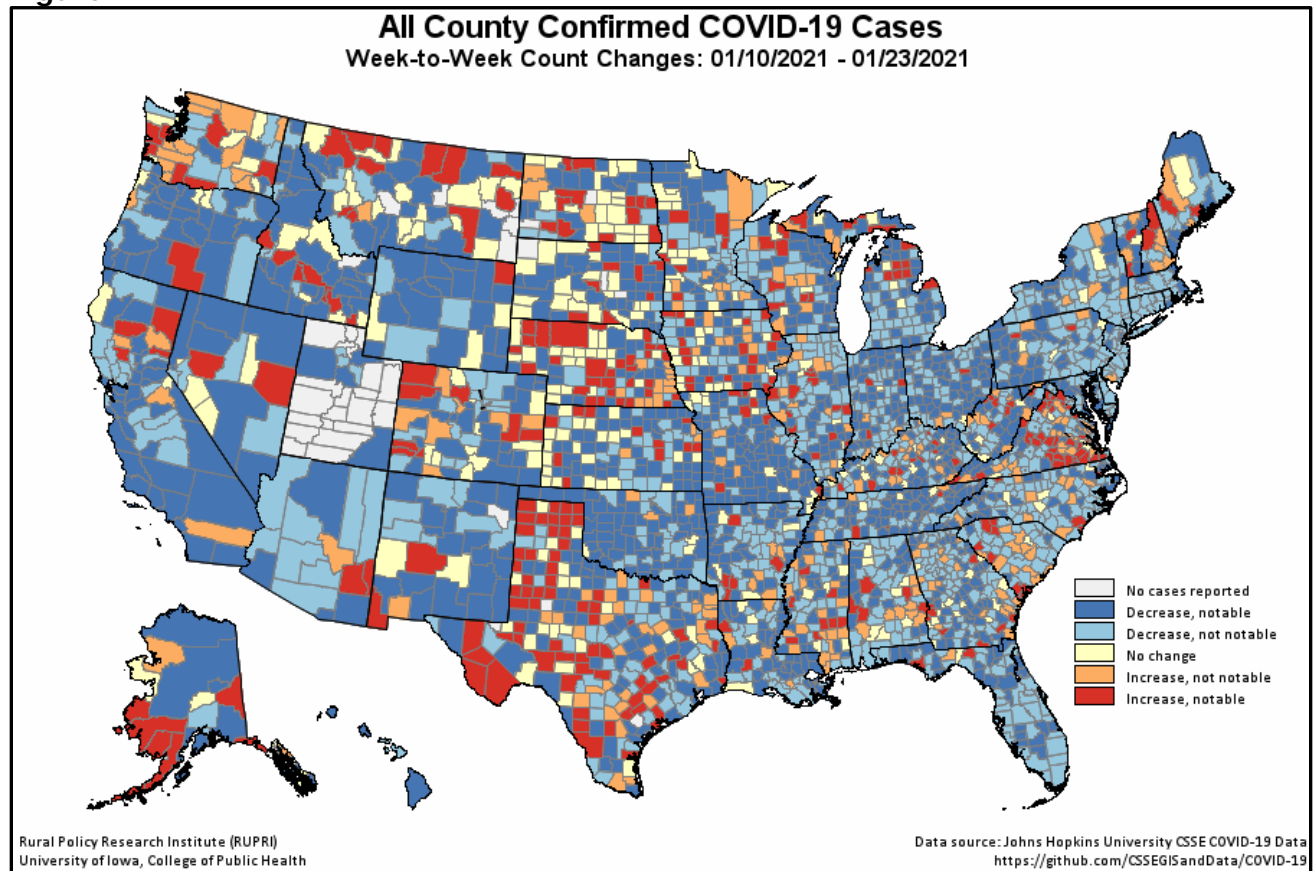


Figure 2.

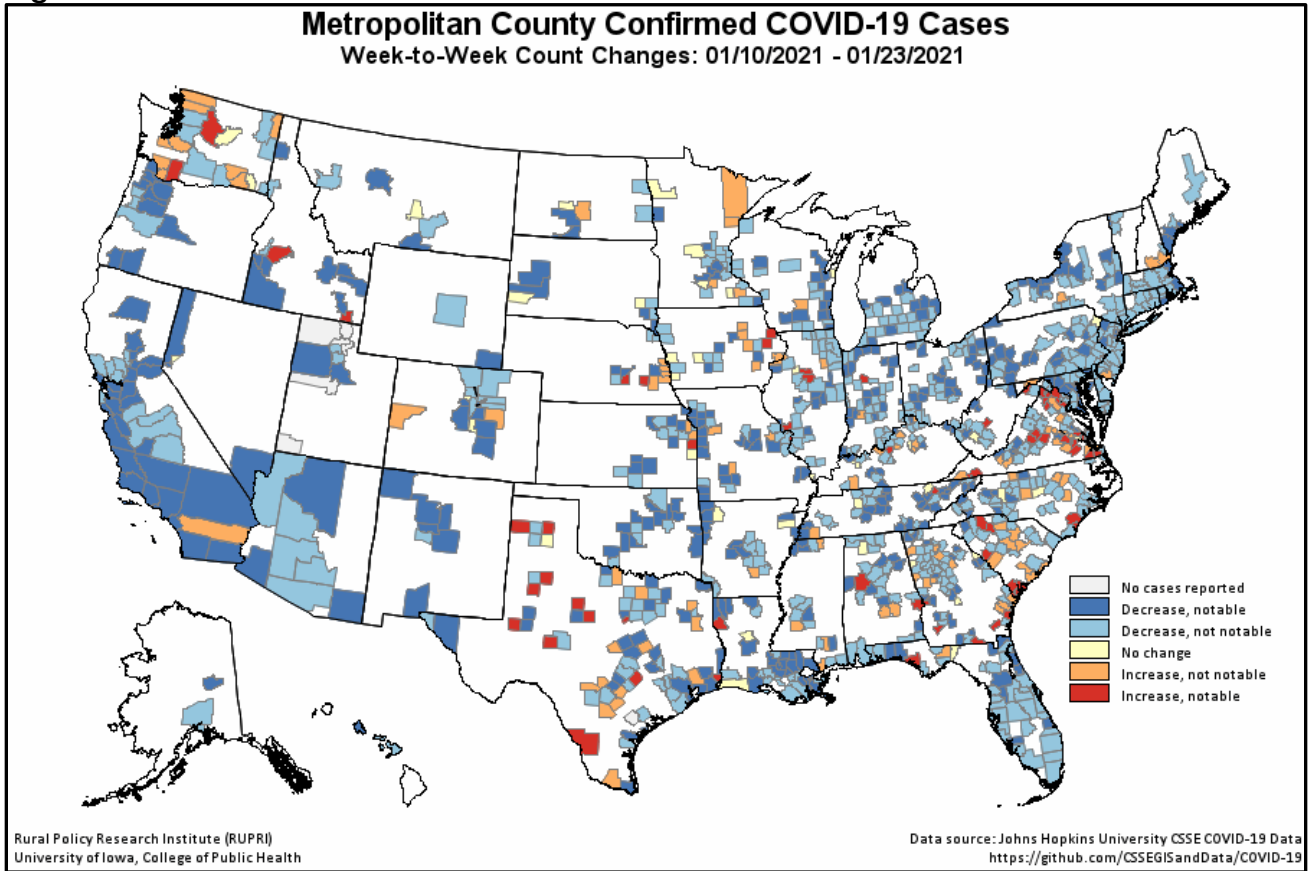


Figure 3.

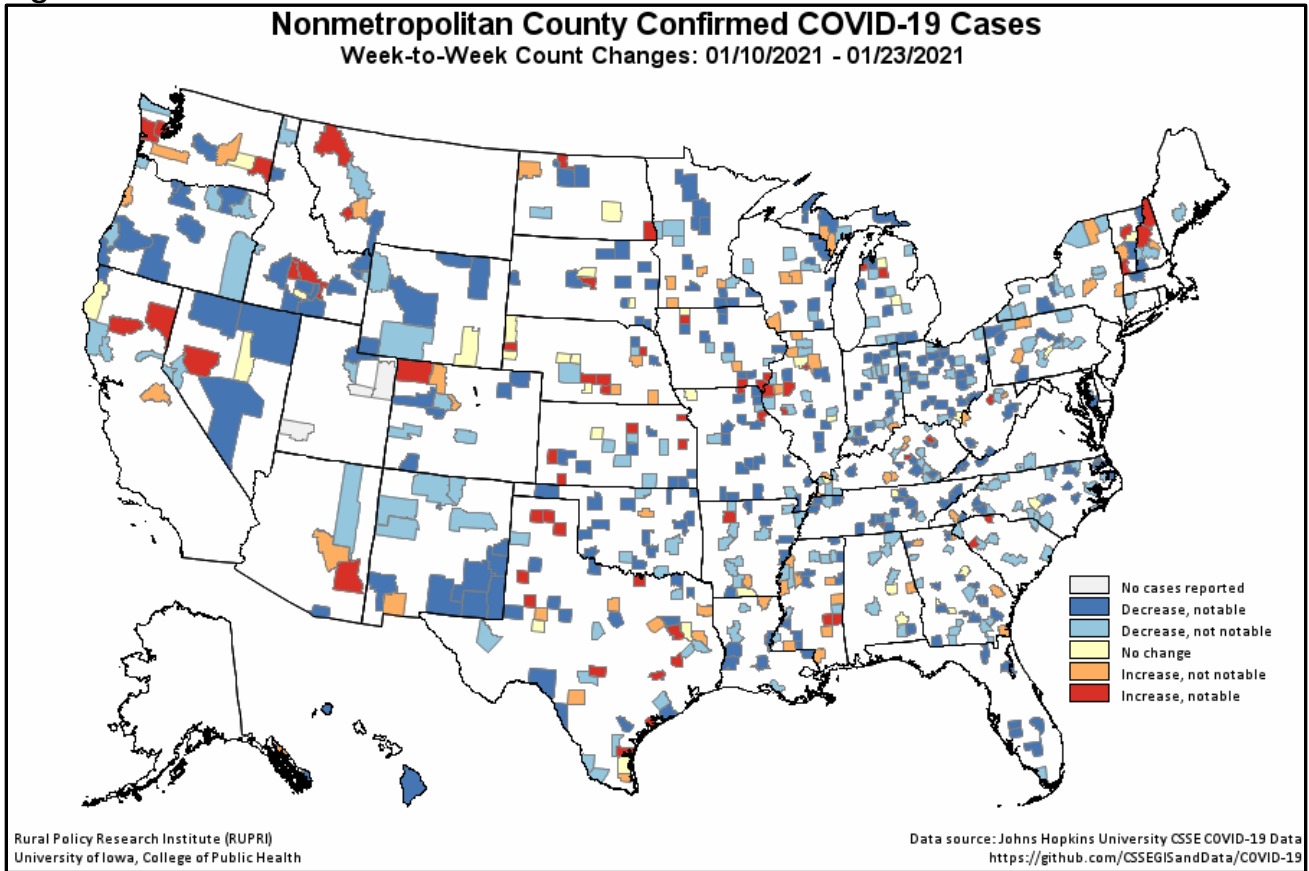
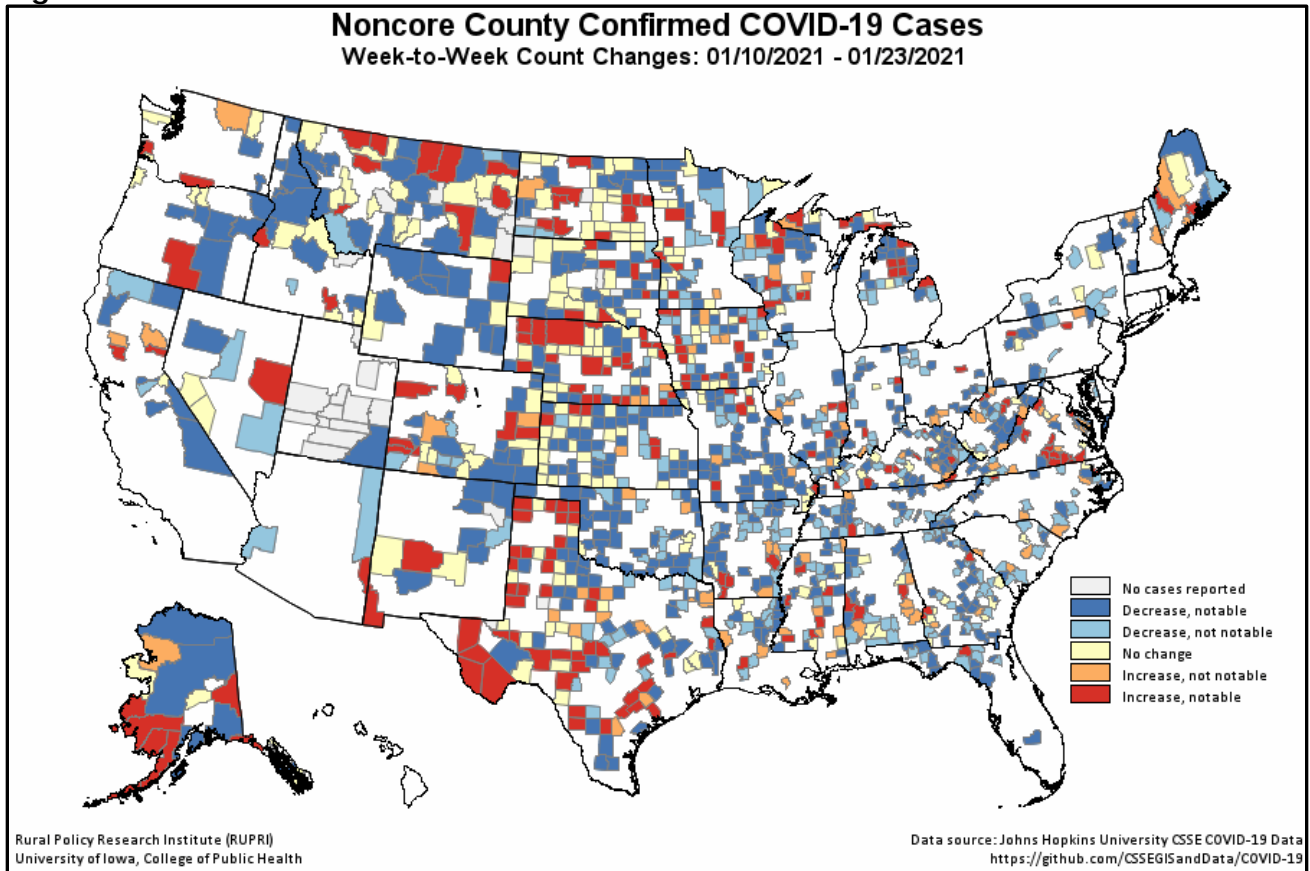


Figure 4.



<sup>1</sup> COVID-19 case and death data for this ongoing report were previously obtained from [USAFacts.org](https://usafacts.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](https://github.com/CSSEGISandData/COVID-19). While both sources employ similar approaches and resources to produce their data, the Johns Hopkins data is released in a more timely fashion making it more suitable for use in these reports.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service (2019). "Urban Influence Codes." Retrieved May 20, 2020 from <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/urban-influence-codes/>.