

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). This data brief looks at the new case counts in every US county between May 2, 2022, and May 15, 2022, 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

Data on confirmed COVID-19 cases were obtained from the Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 Data Repository¹. 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 Codes².

Table 1. 14-day trends^a in newly confirmed COVID-19 cases, by county geography: 5/2/2022 – 5/15/2022

	Metropolitan (n = 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n = 641)	Noncore (n = 1,335)
No cases reported	39 (3.3%)	31 (4.8%)	158 (11.8%)
Decreasing, notable ^b	128 (11.0%)	91 (14.2%)	216 (16.2%)
Decreasing, not notable	74 (6.3%)	36 (5.6%)	23 (1.7%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	113 (9.7%)	114 (17.8%)	484 (36.3%)
Increasing, not notable	151 (13.0%)	38 (5.9%)	26 (1.9%)
Increasing, notable	661 (56.7%)	331 (51.6%)	428 (32.1%)

^aComparison of number of new cases in first week of 14-day period with new cases in second week.

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

^cIncludes counties with an absolute change in count of two or fewer.



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Table 2. 14-day trends^a in newly confirmed COVID-19 cases, in counties with any cases, by county geography: 5/2/2022 – 5/15/2022

	Metropolitan (n = 1,127 of 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n = 610 of 641)	Noncore (n = 1,177 of 1,335)
<i>Any decrease</i>	202 (17.9%)	127 (20.8%)	239 (20.3%)
Notable decrease ^b	128 (11.4%)	91 (14.9%)	216 (18.4%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	113 (10.0%)	114 (18.7%)	484 (41.1%)
<i>Any increase</i>	812 (72.0%)	369 (60.5%)	454 (38.6%)
Notable increase ^b	661 (58.7%)	331 (54.3%)	428 (36.4%)
Increase of 100% or more	205 (18.2%)	162 (26.6%)	292 (24.8%)

^aComparison of number of new cases in first week of 14-day period with new cases in second week.

^b"Notable" trends indicate weekly changes in new cases exceeding (either increasing or decreasing) 25 percent.

^cIncludes counties with an absolute change in count of two or fewer.

Figure 1.

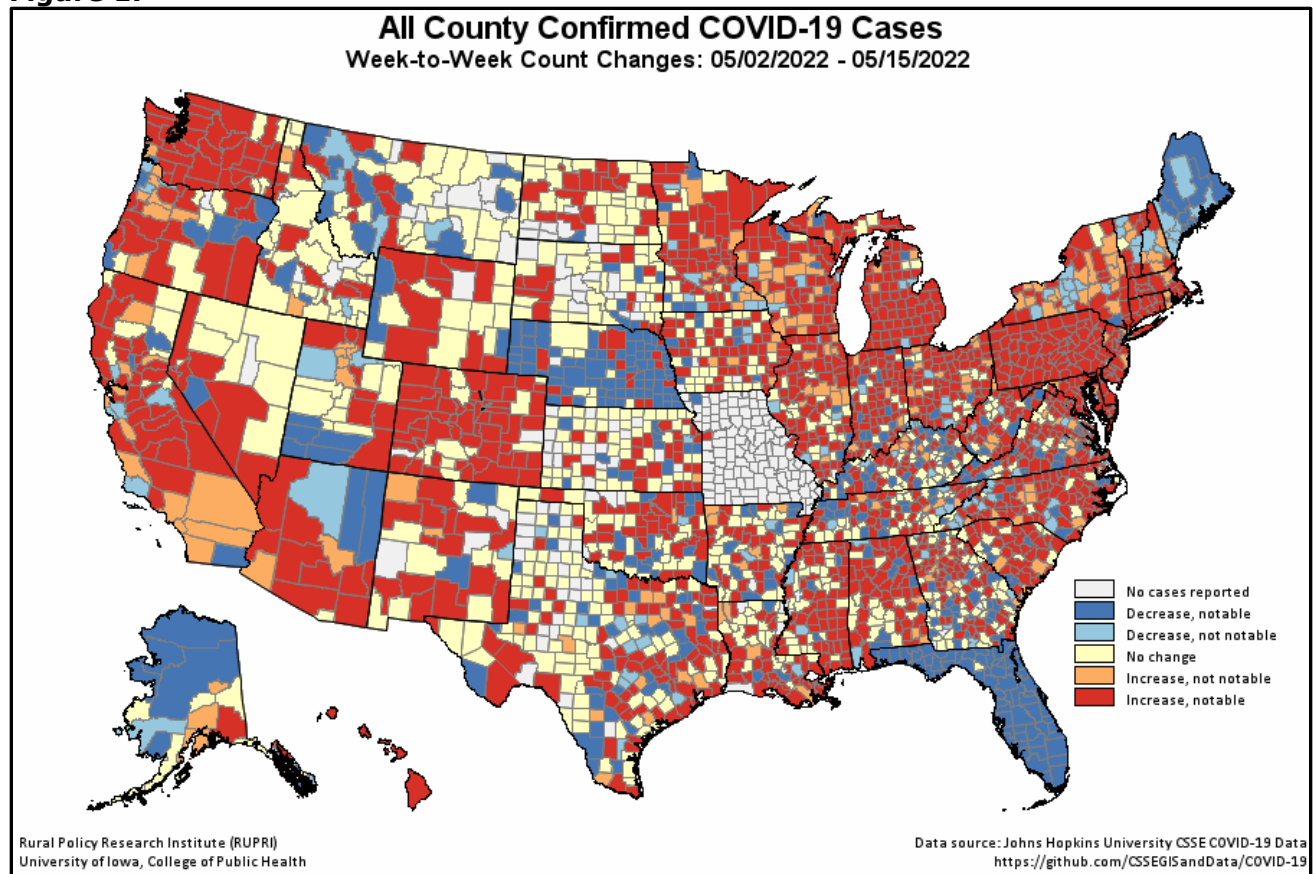


Figure 2.

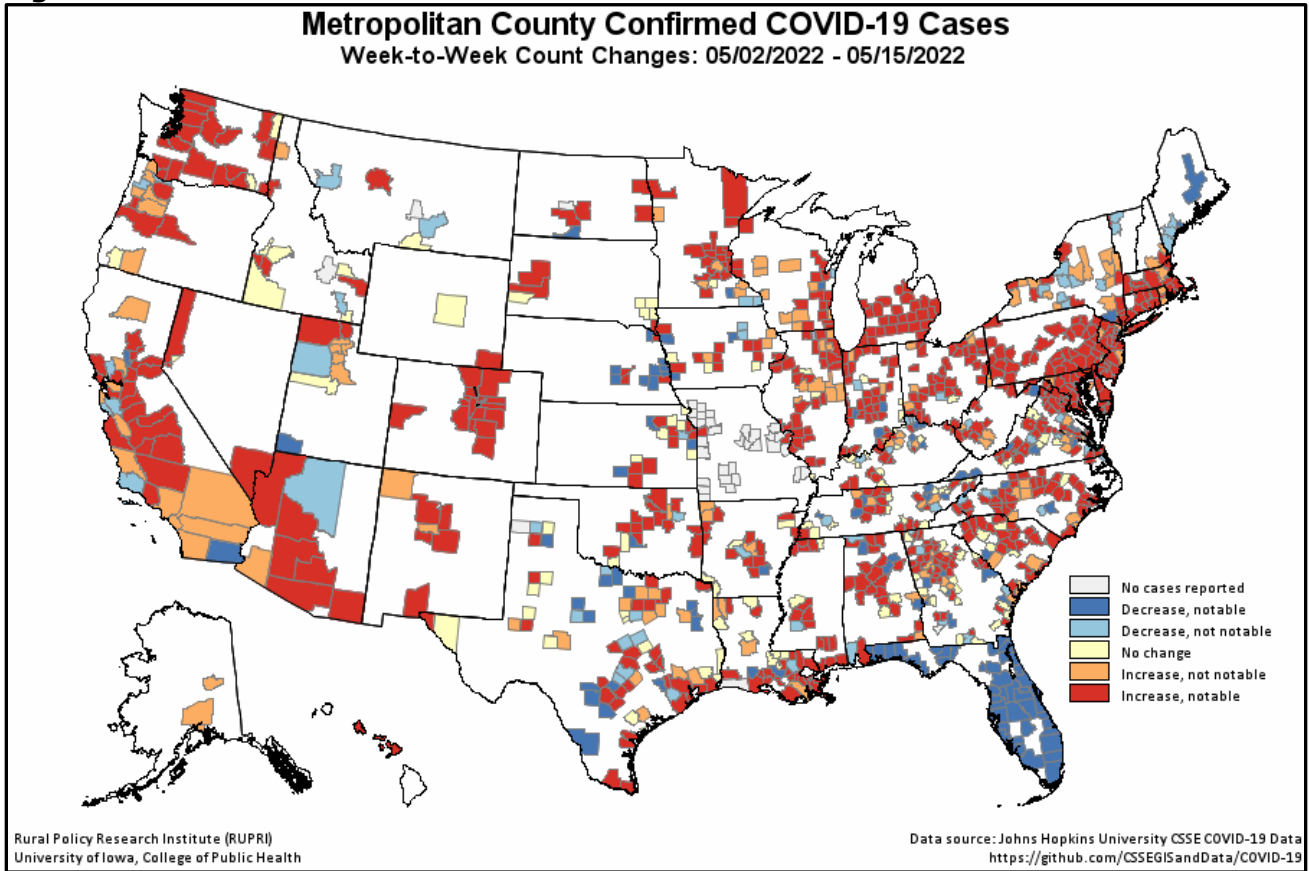


Figure 3.

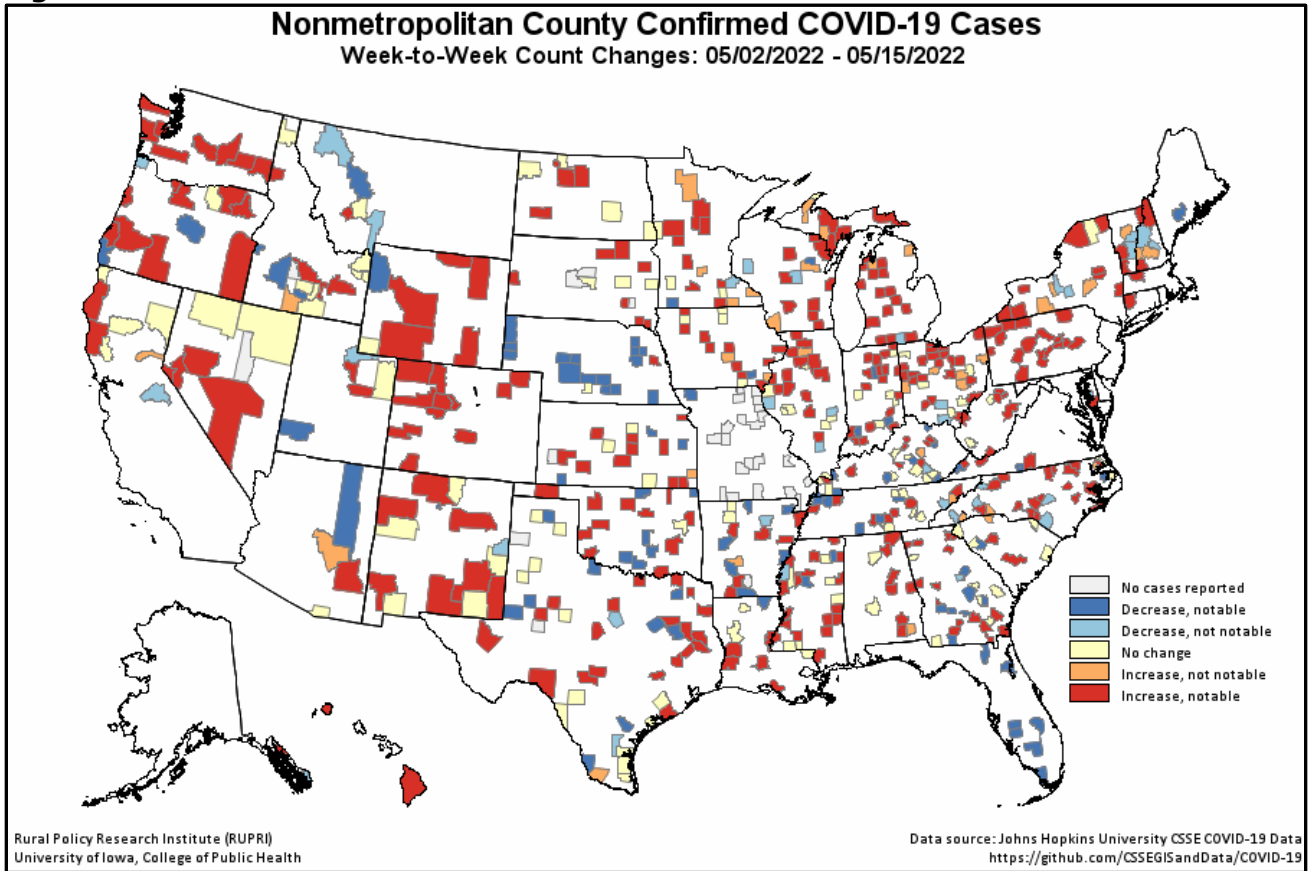
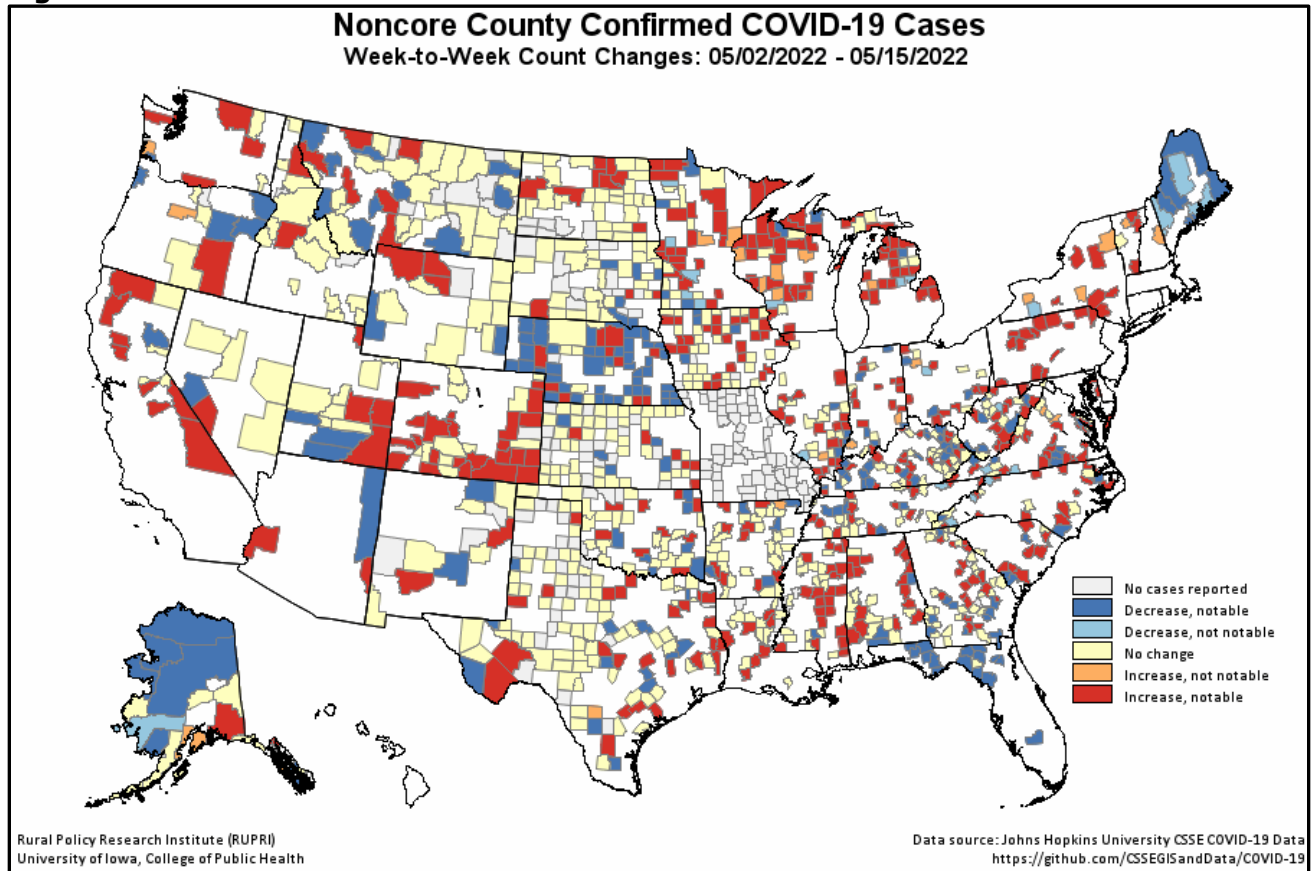


Figure 4.



¹ 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.

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.

² 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/>.