

RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis

Rural Data Update

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

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 24, 2020, and June 6, 2020, 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 USAFacts.org¹. 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

	Metropolitan (n = 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n = 641)	Noncore (n = 1,335)
No cases reported	47 (4.0%)	64 (10.0%)	448 (33.6%)
Decreasing, notable ^b	271 (23.2%)	126 (19.7%)	154 (11.5%)
Decreasing, not notable	121 (10.4%)	23 (3.6%)	13 (1.0%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	298 (25.6%)	231 (36.0%)	515 (38.6%)
Increasing, not notable	72 (6.2%)	15 (2.3%)	6 (0.4%)
Increasing, notable	357 (30.6%)	182 (28.4%)	199 (14.9%)

Table 2. 14-day trends^a in newly confirmed COVID-19 cases, in counties with any cases, by county geography

	Metropolitan (n = 1,119 of 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n = 577 of 641)	Noncore (n = 887 of 1,335)
Any decrease	392 (35.0%)	149 (25.8%)	167 (18.8%)
Notable decrease ^b	271 (24.2%)	126 (21.8%)	154 (17.4%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	298 (26.6%)	231 (40.0%)	515 (58.1%)
Any increase	429 (38.3%)	197 (34.1%)	205 (23.1%)
Notable increase ^b	357 (31.9%)	182 (31.5%)	199 (22.4%)
Increase of 100% or more	200 (17.9%)	124 (21.5%)	173 (19.5%)

^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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Figure 1.

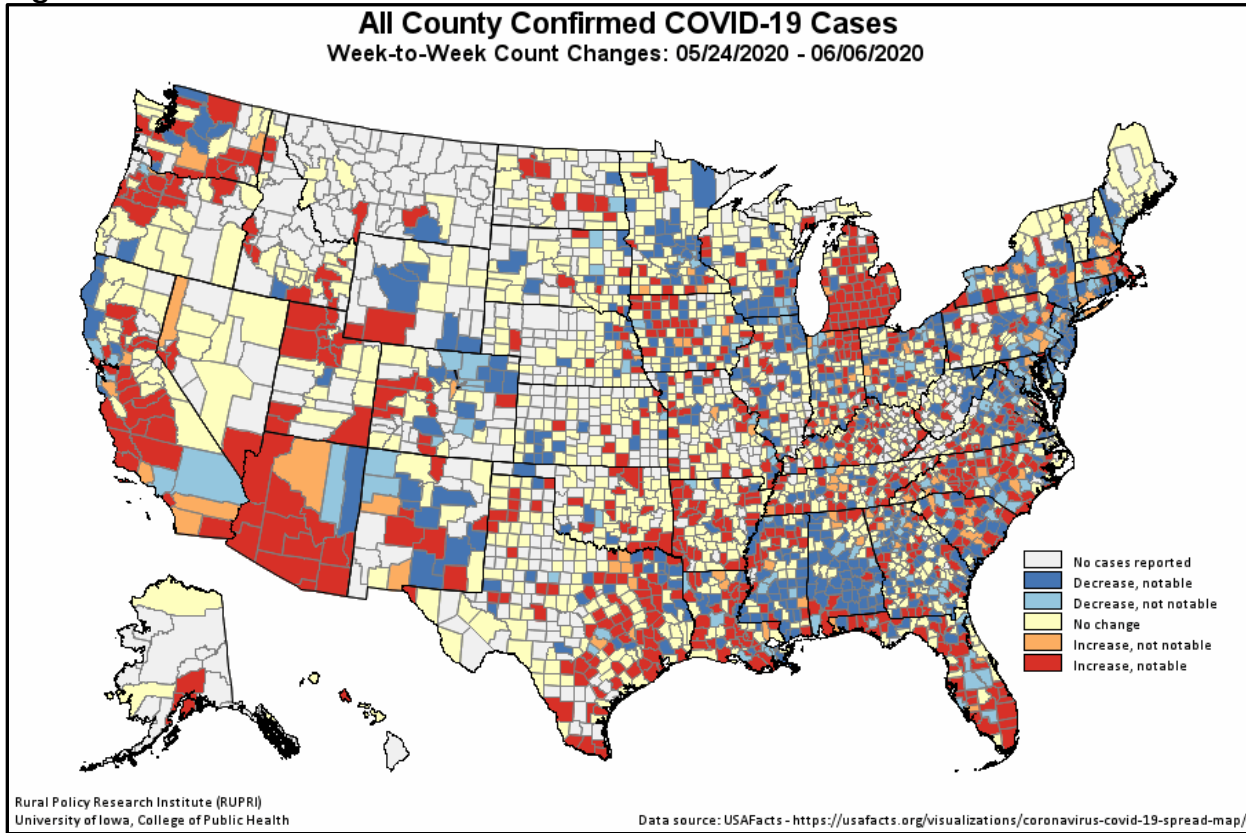


Figure 2.

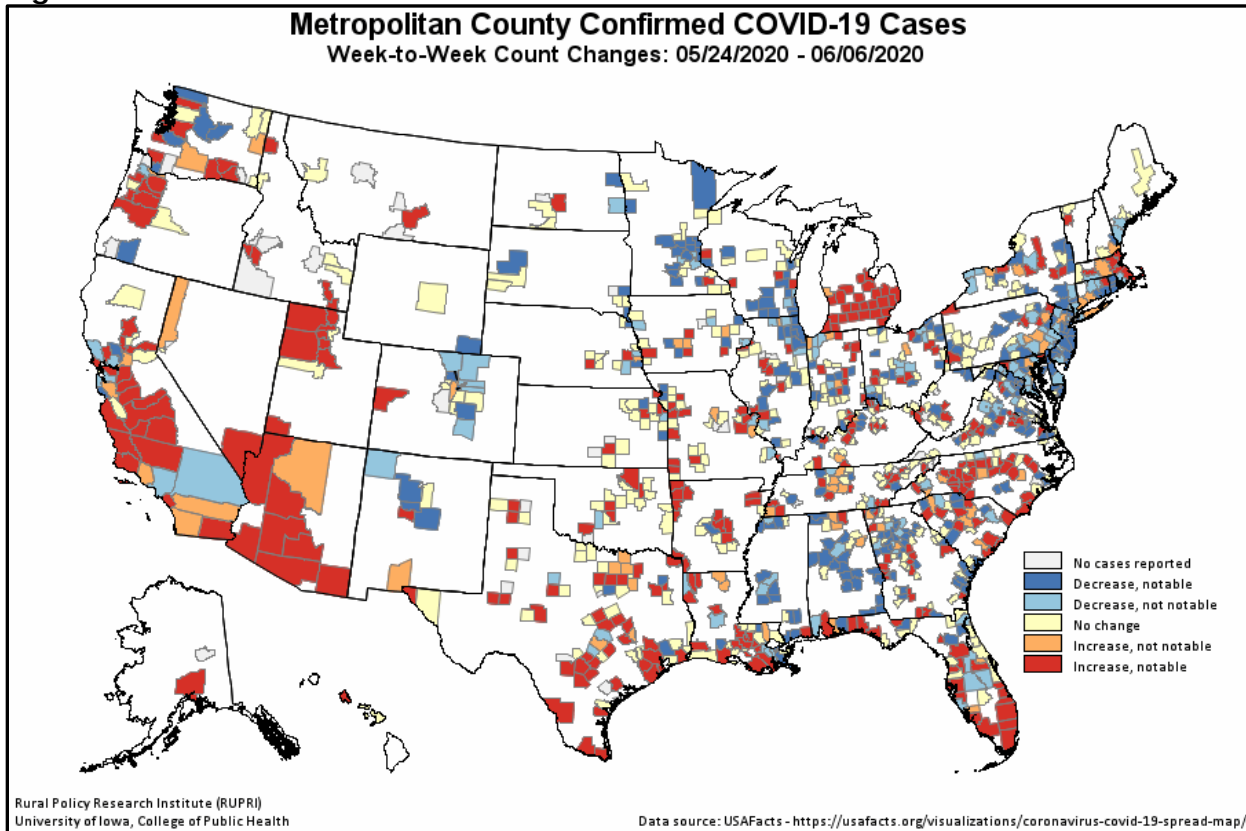


Figure 3.

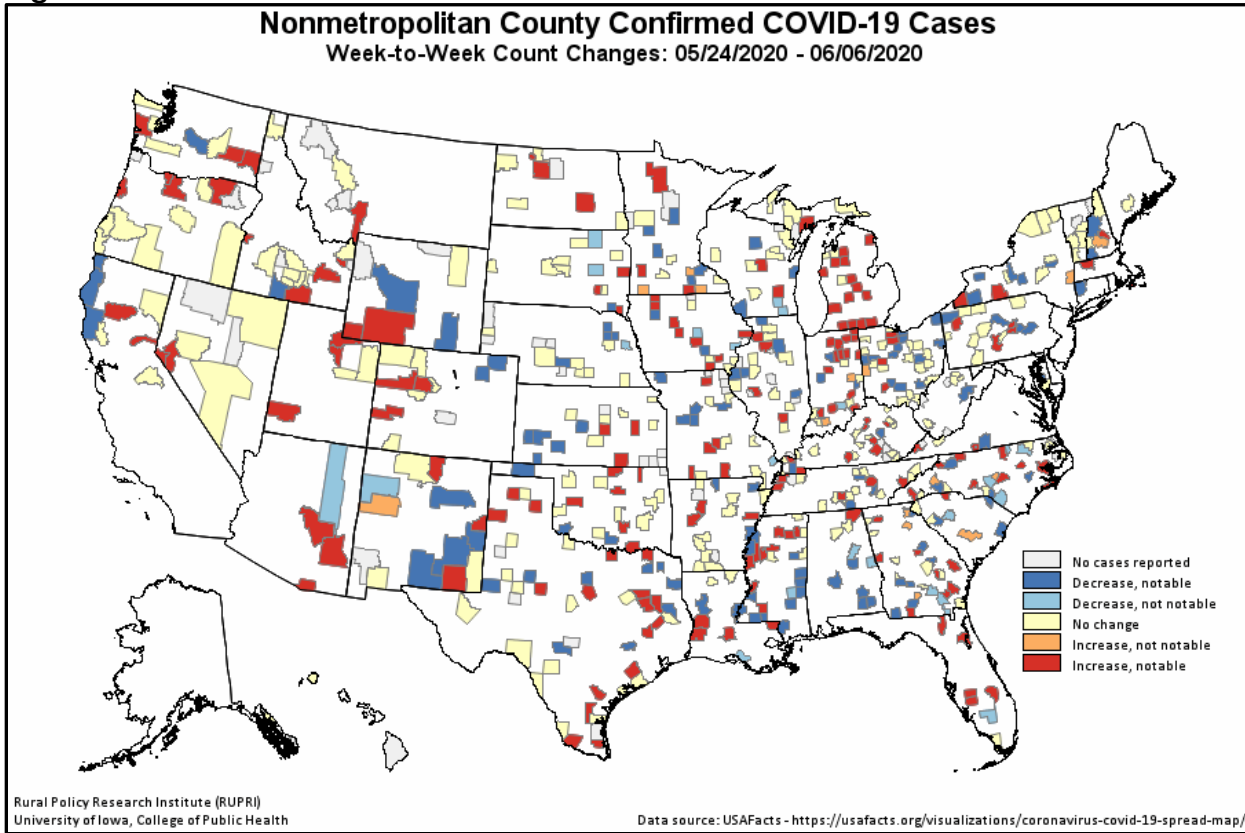
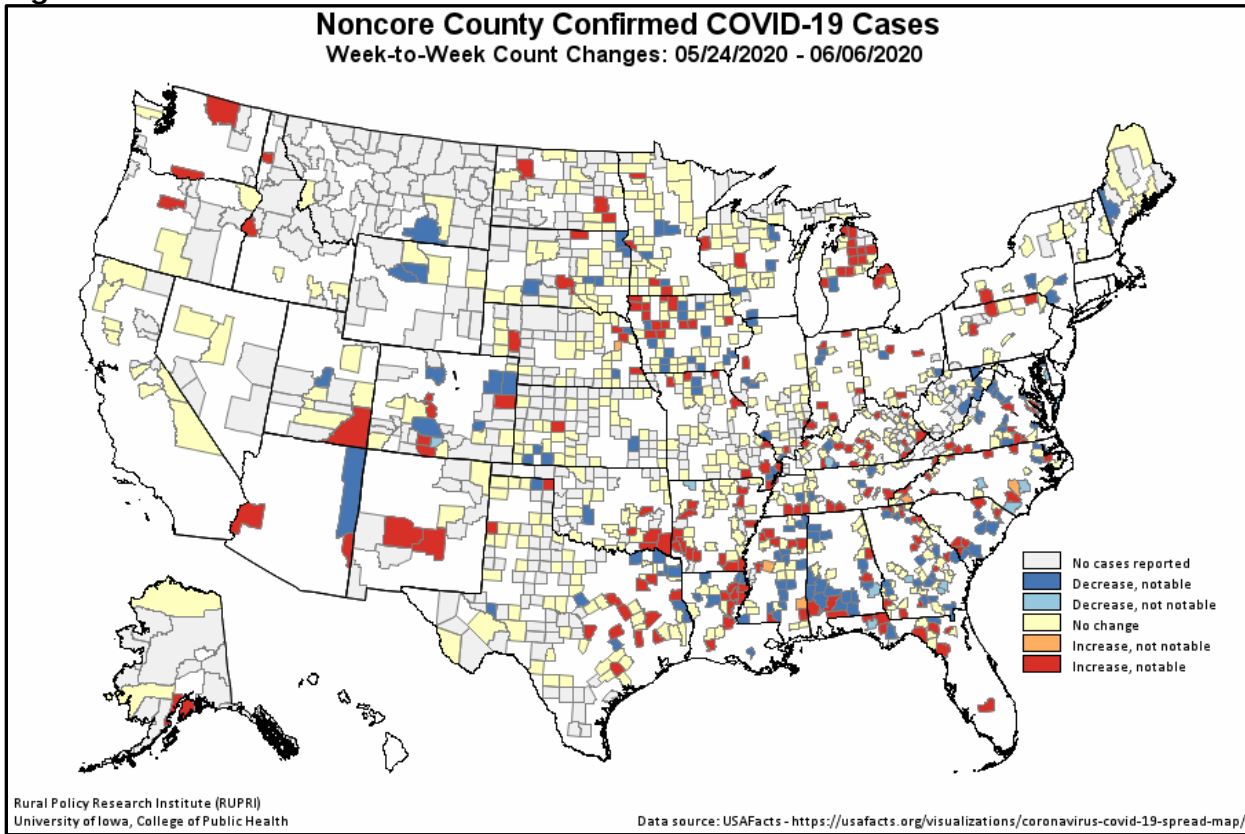


Figure 4.



¹ USAFacts.org (2020). "Coronavirus Locations: COVID-19 Map by County and State." Data retrieved from <https://usafacts.org/visualizations/coronavirus-covid-19-spread-map/>.

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/>.