

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 July 5, 2020, and July 18, 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: 7/5/2020 – 7/18/2020

	Metropolitan (n = 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n = 641)	Noncore (n = 1,335)
No cases reported	14 (1.2%)	15 (2.3%)	137 (10.3%)
Decreasing, notable ^b	131 (11.2%)	113 (17.6%)	185 (13.9%)
Decreasing, not notable	179 (15.4%)	55 (8.6%)	35 (2.6%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	156 (13.4%)	137 (21.4%)	500 (37.5%)
Increasing, not notable	199 (17.1%)	60 (9.4%)	40 (3.0%)
Increasing, notable	487 (41.8%)	261 (40.7%)	438 (32.8%)

Table 2. 14-day trends^a in newly confirmed COVID-19 cases, in counties with any cases, by county geography: 7/5/2020 – 7/18/2020

	Metropolitan (n = 1,152 of 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n = 626 of 641)	Noncore (n = 1,198 of 1,335)
Any decrease	310 (26.9%)	168 (26.8%)	220 (18.4%)
Notable decrease ^b	131 (11.4%)	113 (18.1%)	185 (15.4%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	156 (13.5%)	137 (21.9%)	500 (41.7%)
Any increase	686 (59.5%)	321 (51.3%)	478 (39.9%)
Notable increase ^b	487 (42.3%)	261 (41.7%)	438 (36.6%)
Increase of 100% or more	158 (13.7%)	130 (20.8%)	283 (23.6%)

^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.

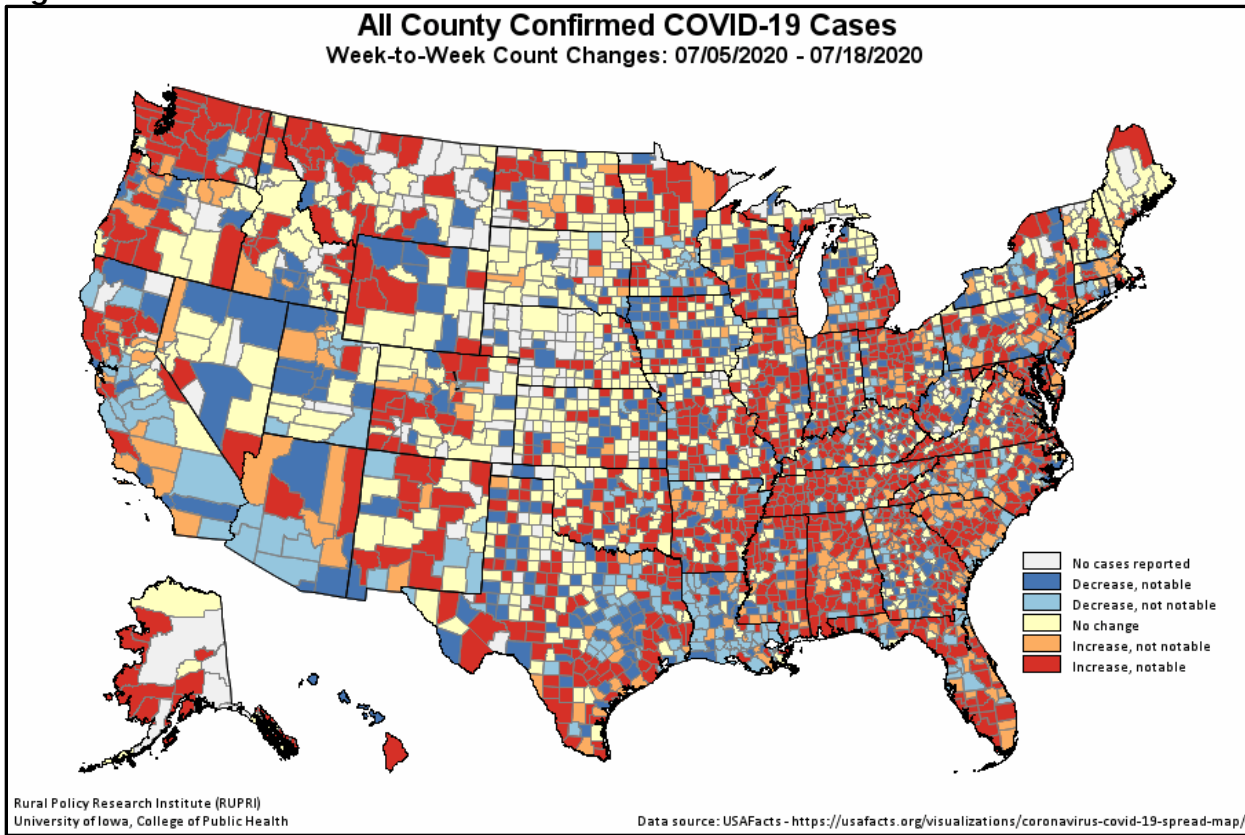


Figure 2.

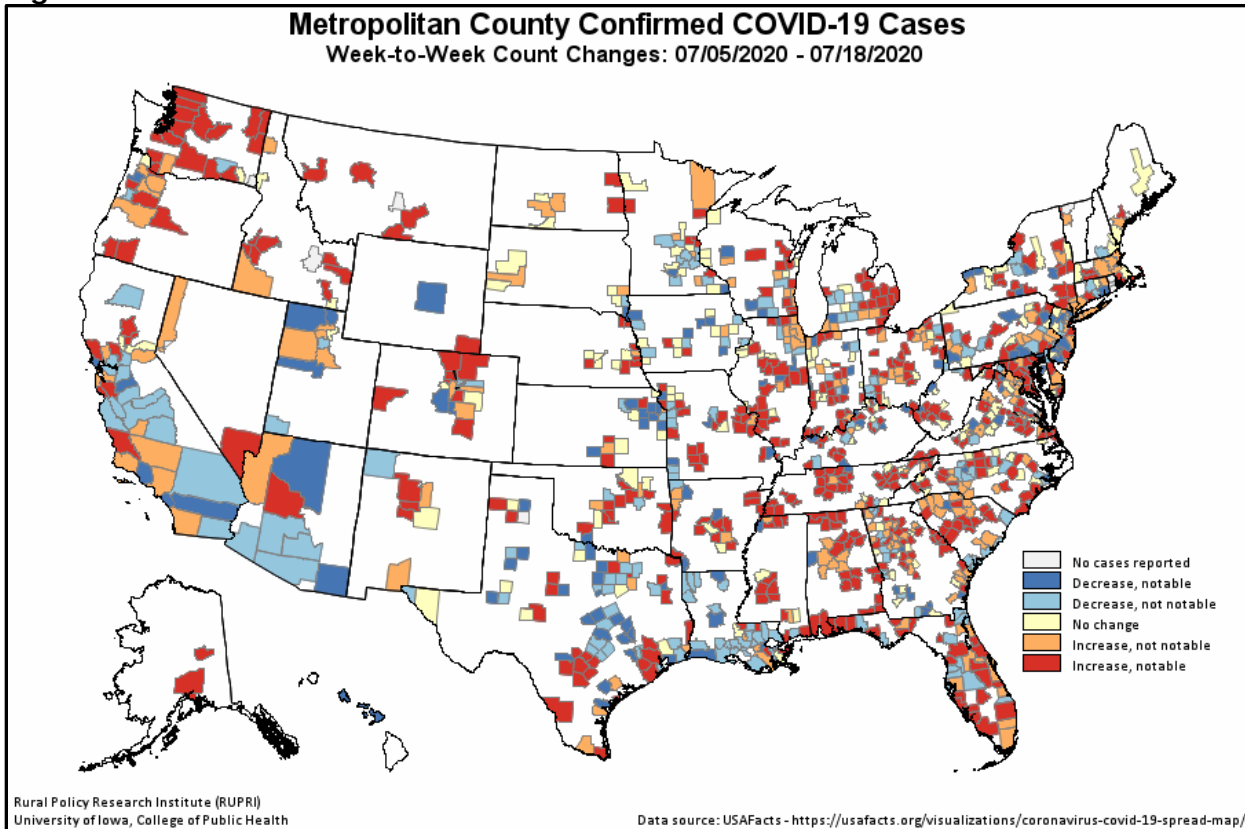


Figure 3.

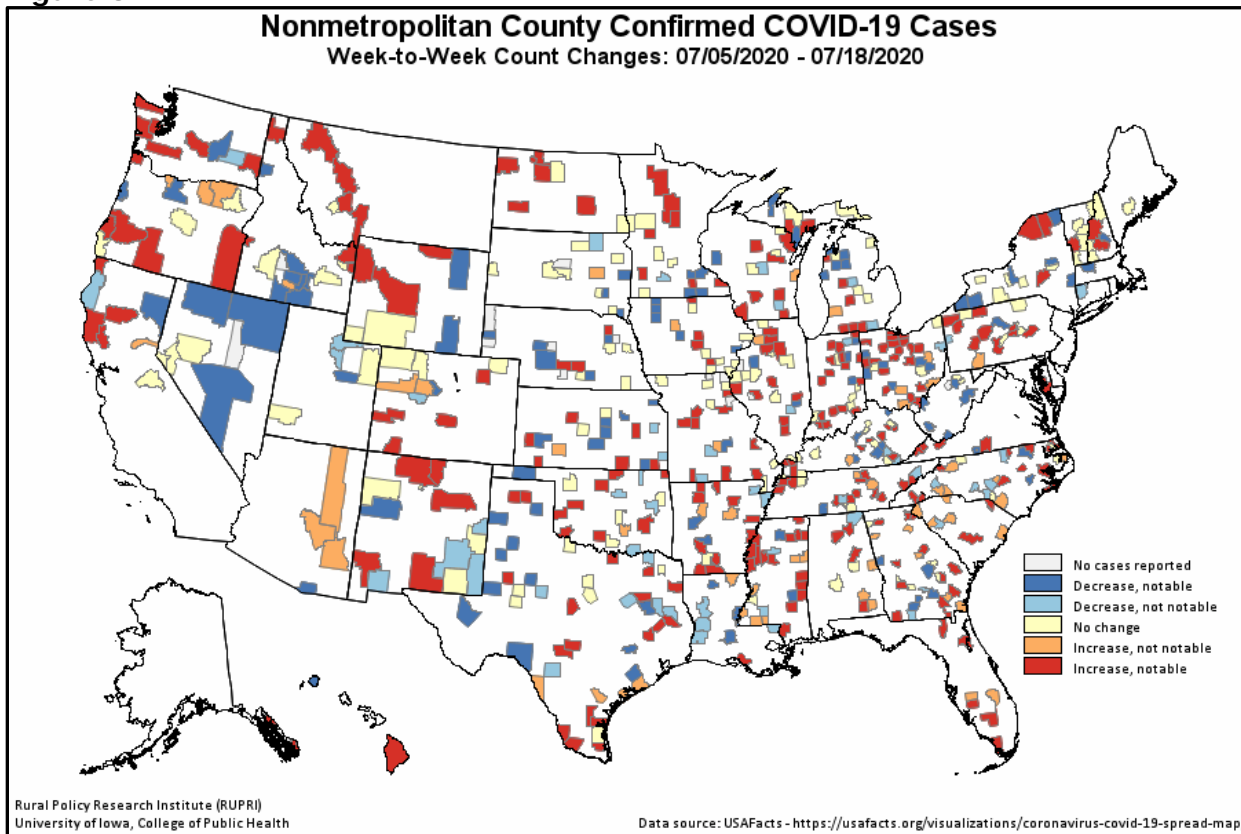
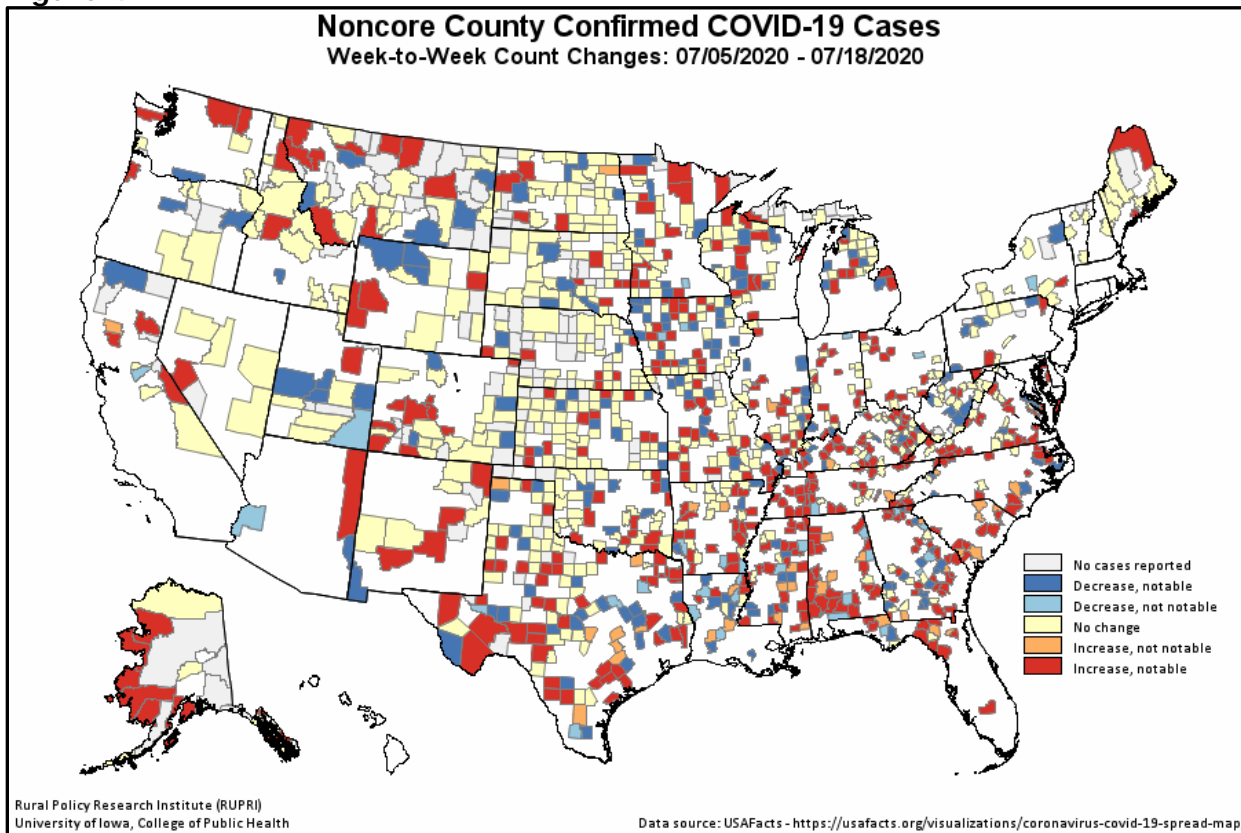


Figure 4.



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/>.