

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

Fred Ullrich, BA; and Keith Mueller, PhD

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 26, 2020, and August 8, 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: 7/26/2020 – 8/8/2020

	Metropolitan (n = 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n = 641)	Noncore (n = 1,335)
No cases reported	6 (0.5%)	7 (1.1%)	119 (8.9%)
Decreasing, notable ^b	338 (29.0%)	207 (32.3%)	331 (24.8%)
Decreasing, not notable	294 (25.2%)	97 (15.1%)	62 (4.6%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	143 (12.3%)	121 (18.9%)	472 (35.4%)
Increasing, not notable	164 (14.1%)	53 (8.3%)	40 (3.0%)
Increasing, notable	221 (19.0%)	156 (24.3%)	311 (23.3%)

Table 2. 14-day trends^a in newly confirmed COVID-19 cases, in counties with any cases, by county geography: 7/26/2020 – 8/8/2020

	Metropolitan (n = 1,160 of 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n = 634 of 641)	Noncore (n = 1,216 of 1,335)
Any decrease	632 (54.5%)	304 (47.9%)	393 (32.3%)
Notable decrease ^b	338 (29.1%)	207 (32.6%)	331 (27.2%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	143 (12.3%)	121 (19.1%)	472 (38.8%)
Any increase	385 (33.2%)	209 (33.0%)	351 (28.9%)
Notable increase ^b	221 (19.1%)	156 (24.6%)	311 (25.6%)
Increase of 100% or more	74 (6.4%)	65 (10.3%)	195 (16.0%)

^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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RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis, University of Iowa College of Public Health, Department of Health Management and Policy, 145

Riverside Dr., Iowa City, IA 52242-2007, (319) 384-3830

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

E-mail: cph-rupri-inquiries@uiowa.edu

Figure 1.

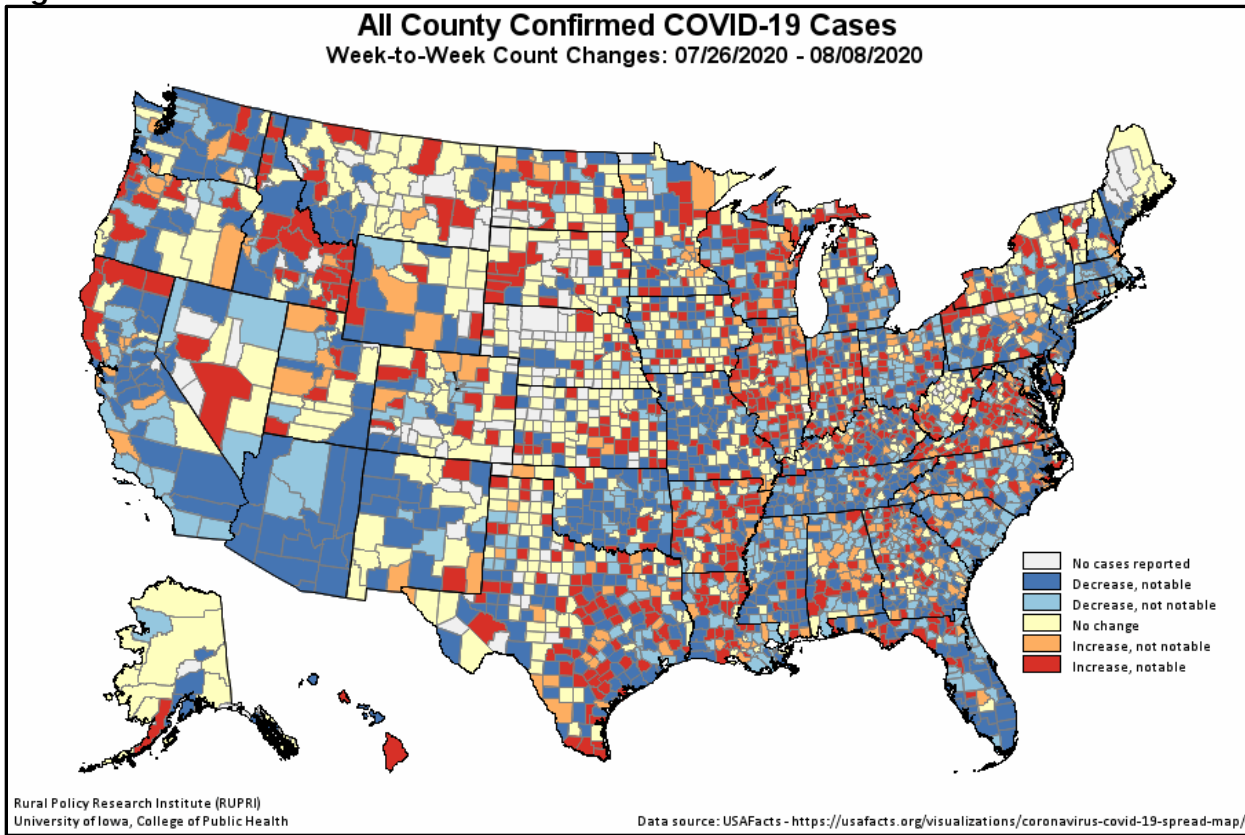


Figure 2.

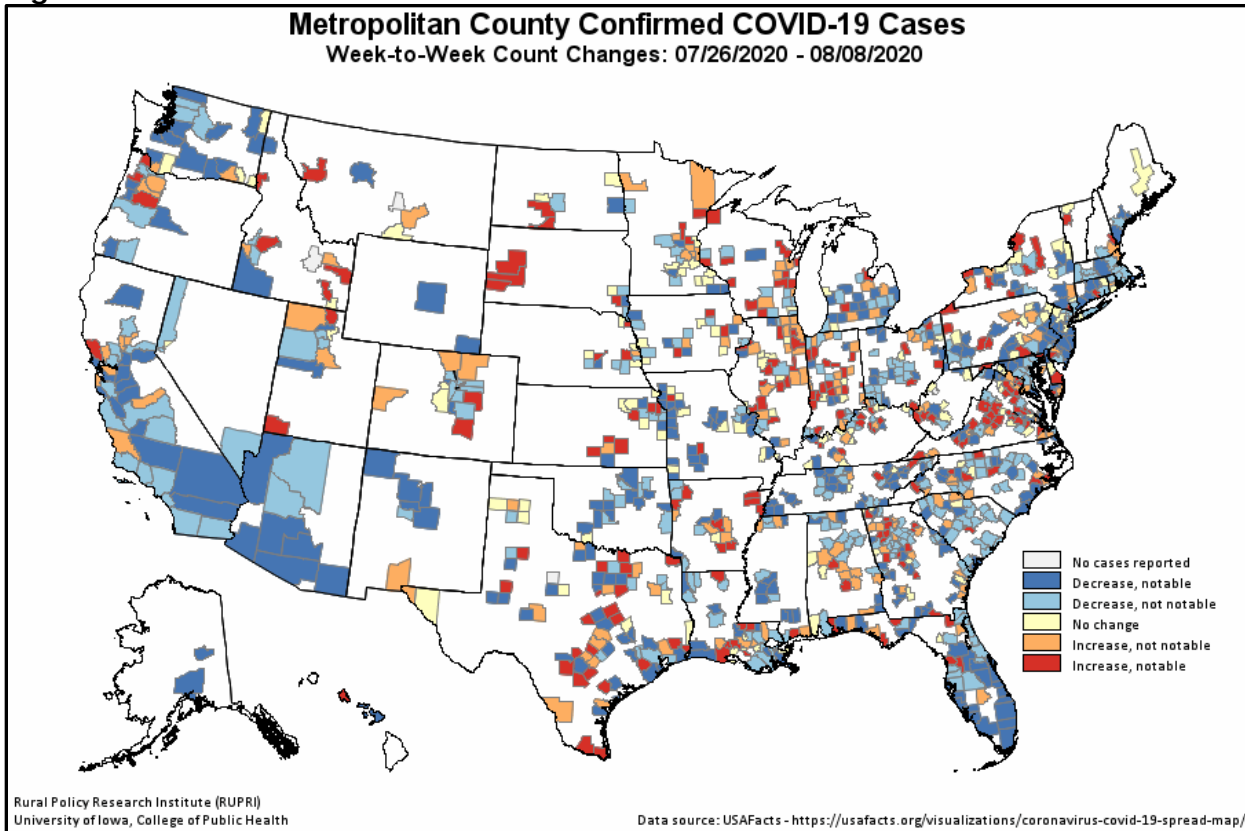


Figure 3.

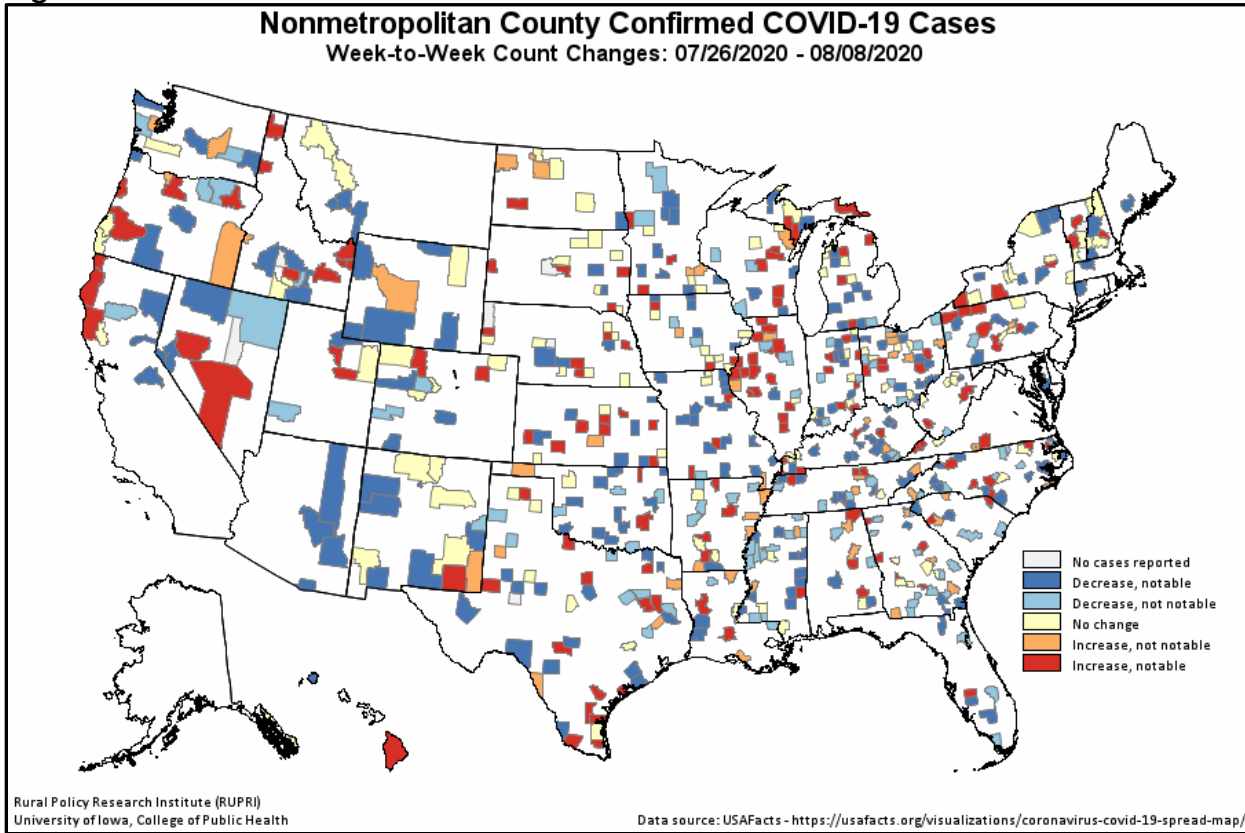
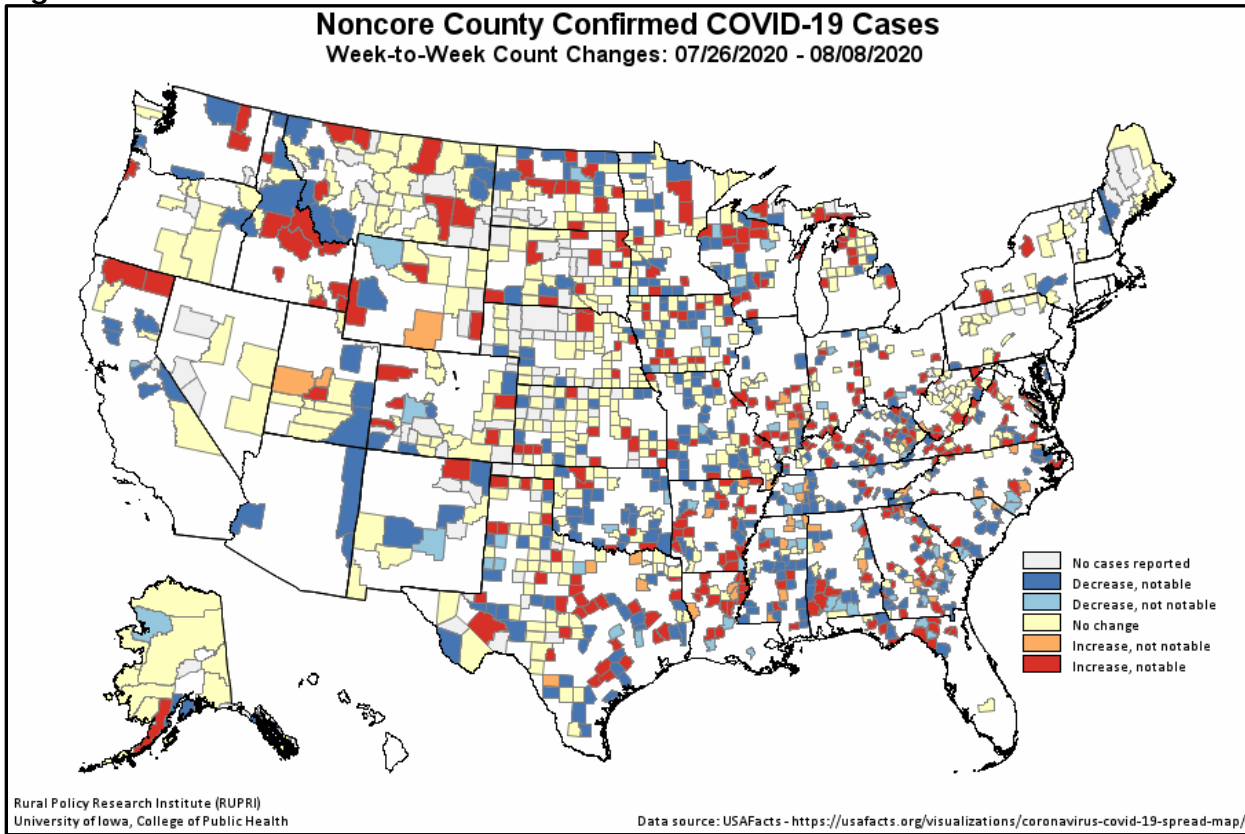


Figure 4.



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/>.