

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 August 2, 2022, and August 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: 8/2/2022 – 8/15/2022

	Metropolitan (n = 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n = 641)	Noncore (n = 1,335)
No cases reported	1 (0.1%)	1 (0.2%)	13 (1.0%)
Decreasing, notable ^b	253 (21.7%)	189 (29.5%)	444 (33.3%)
Decreasing, not notable	460 (39.5%)	179 (27.9%)	180 (13.5%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	71 (6.1%)	71 (11.1%)	293 (21.9%)
Increasing, not notable	223 (19.1%)	107 (16.7%)	110 (8.2%)
Increasing, notable	158 (13.6%)	94 (14.7%)	295 (22.1%)

^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: 8/2/2022 – 8/15/2022

	Metropolitan (n=1,165 of 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n=640 of 641)	Noncore (n=1,322 of 1,335)
<i>Any decrease</i>	713 (61.2%)	368 (57.5%)	624 (47.2%)
Notable decrease ^b	253 (21.7%)	189 (29.5%)	444 (33.6%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	71 (6.1%)	71 (11.1%)	293 (22.2%)
<i>Any increase</i>	381 (32.7%)	201 (31.4%)	405 (30.6%)
Notable increase ^b	158 (13.6%)	94 (14.7%)	295 (22.3%)
Increase of 100% or more	28 (2.4%)	16 (2.5%)	100 (7.6%)

^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.

Figure 1.

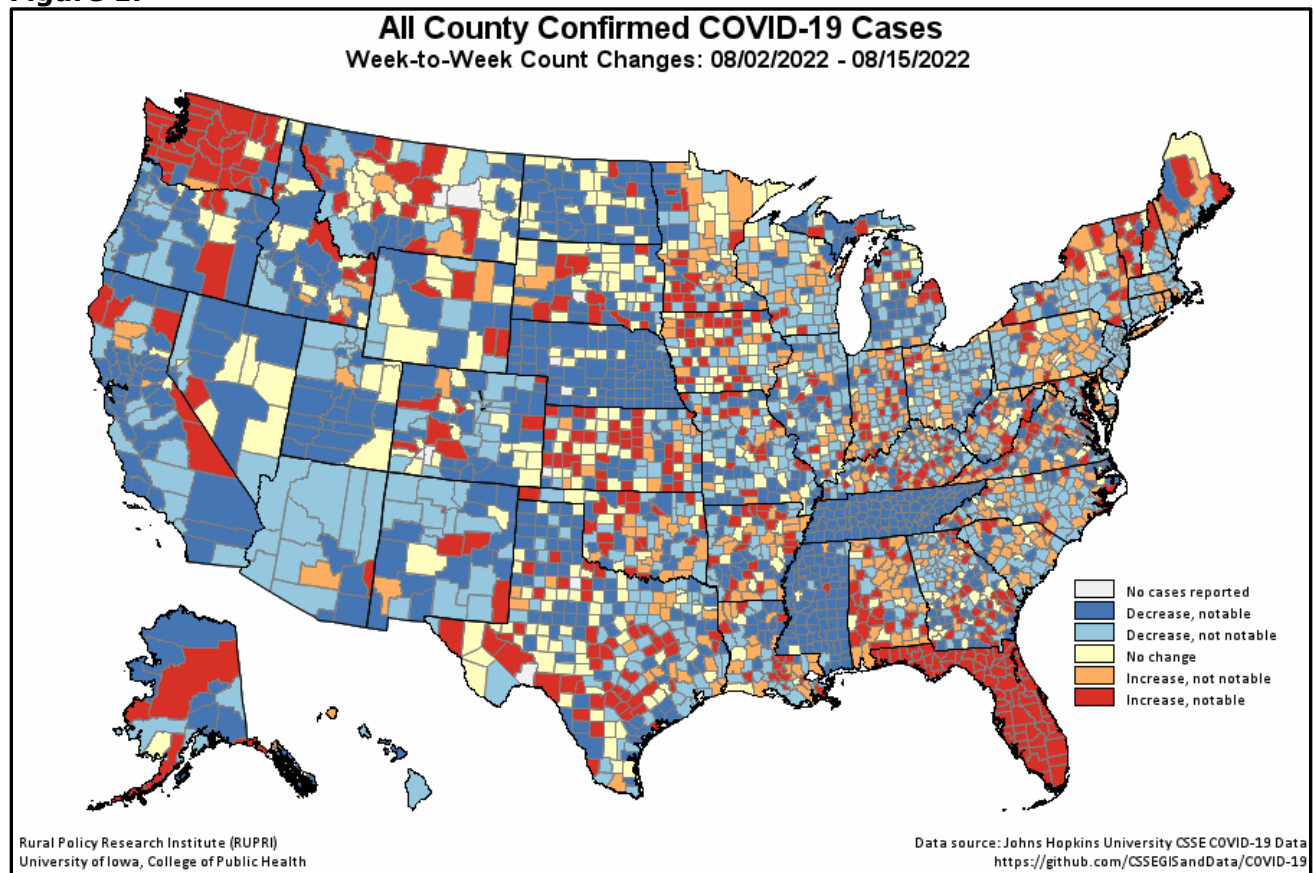


Figure 2.

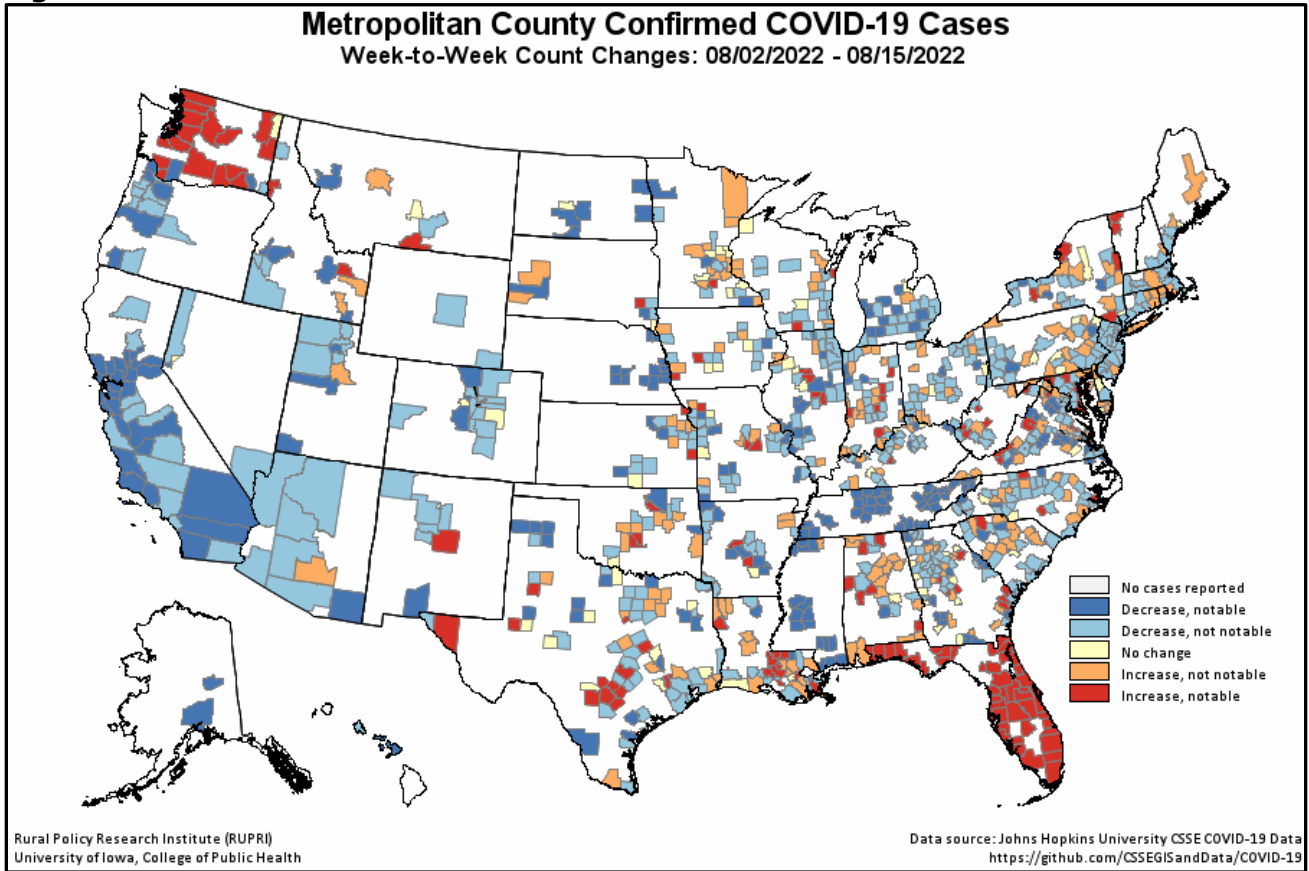


Figure 3.

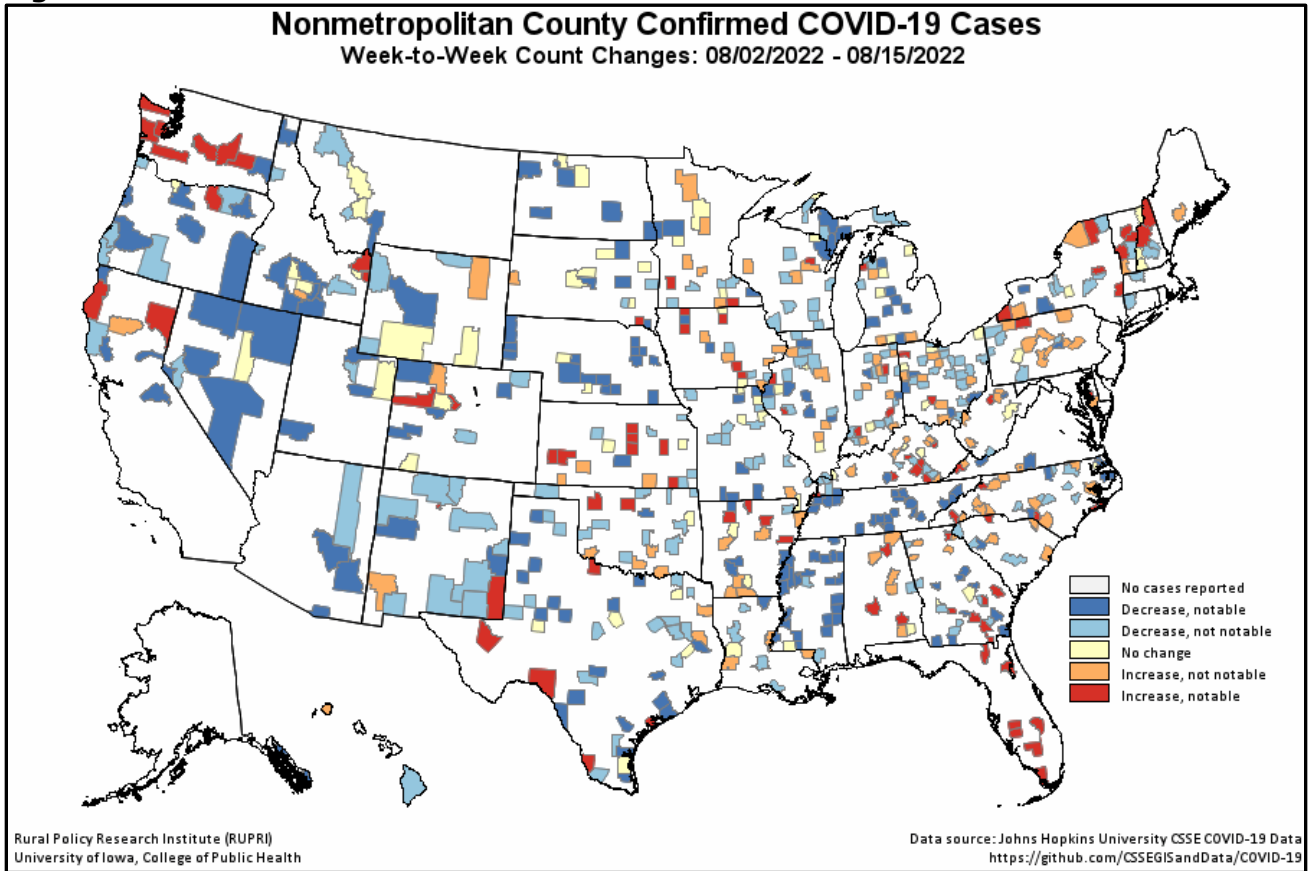
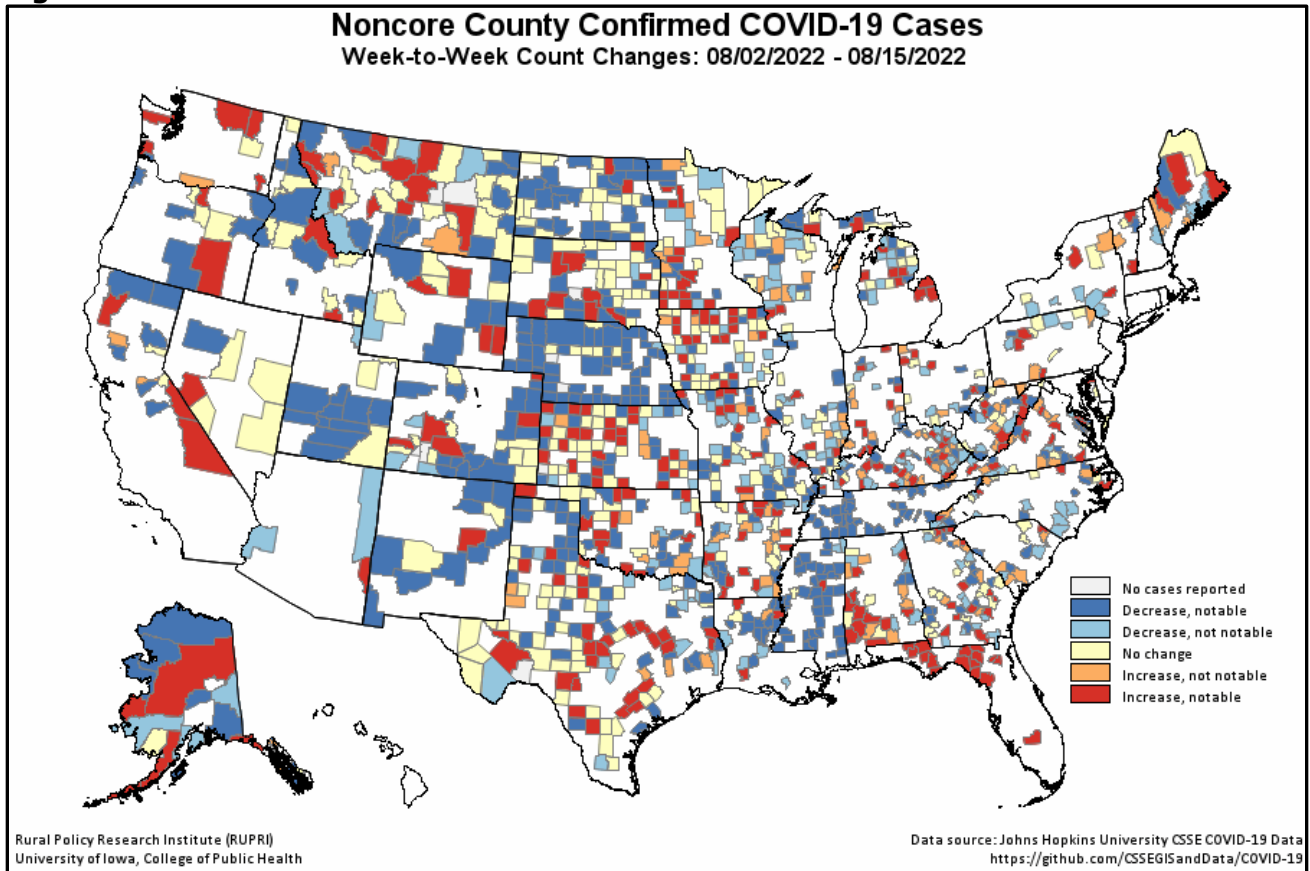


Figure 4.



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/>.