

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 August 16, 2020, and August 29, 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 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: 8/16/2020 – 8/29/2020

	Metropolitan (n = 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n = 641)	Noncore (n = 1,335)
No cases reported	23 (2.0%)	8 (1.2%)	109 (8.2%)
Decreasing, notable ^b	265 (22.7%)	160 (25.0%)	347 (26.0%)
Decreasing, not notable	240 (20.6%)	85 (13.3%)	57 (4.3%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	164 (14.1%)	136 (21.2%)	441 (33.0%)
Increasing, not notable	190 (16.3%)	54 (8.4%)	41 (3.1%)
Increasing, notable	284 (24.4%)	198 (30.9%)	340 (25.5%)

^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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Table 2. 14-day trends^a in newly confirmed COVID-19 cases, in counties with any cases, by county geography: 8/16/2020 – 8/29/2020

	Metropolitan (n = 1,143 of 1,166)		Nonmetropolitan (n = 633 of 641)		Noncore (n = 1,226 of 1,335)	
Any decrease	505	(44.2%)	245	(38.7%)	404	(33.0%)
Notable decrease ^b	265	(23.2%)	160	(25.3%)	347	(28.3%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	164	(14.3%)	136	(21.5%)	441	(36.0%)
Any increase	474	(41.5%)	252	(39.8%)	381	(31.1%)
Notable increase ^b	284	(24.8%)	198	(31.3%)	340	(27.7%)
Increase of 100% or more	89	(7.8%)	89	(14.1%)	214	(17.5%)

^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.

Figure 1.

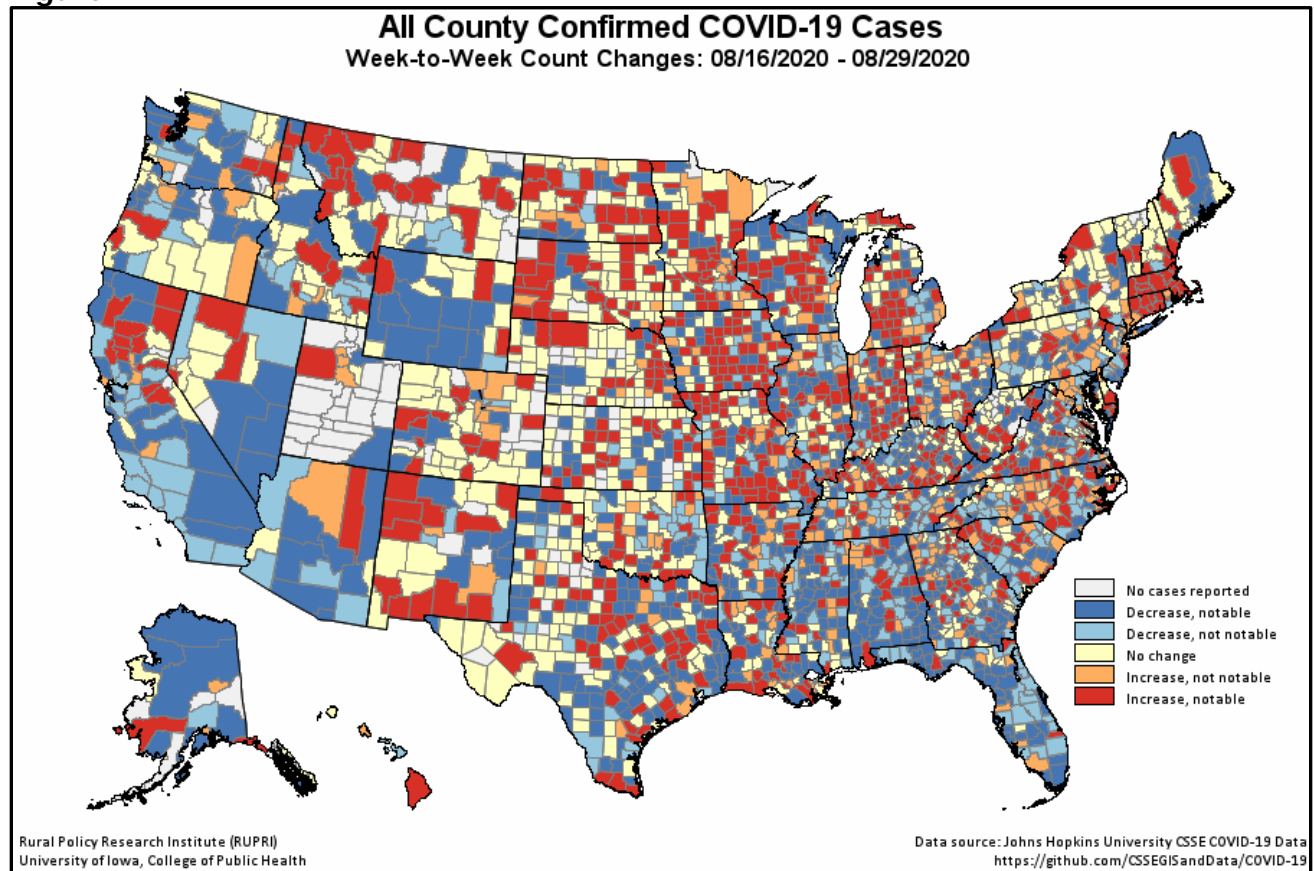


Figure 2.

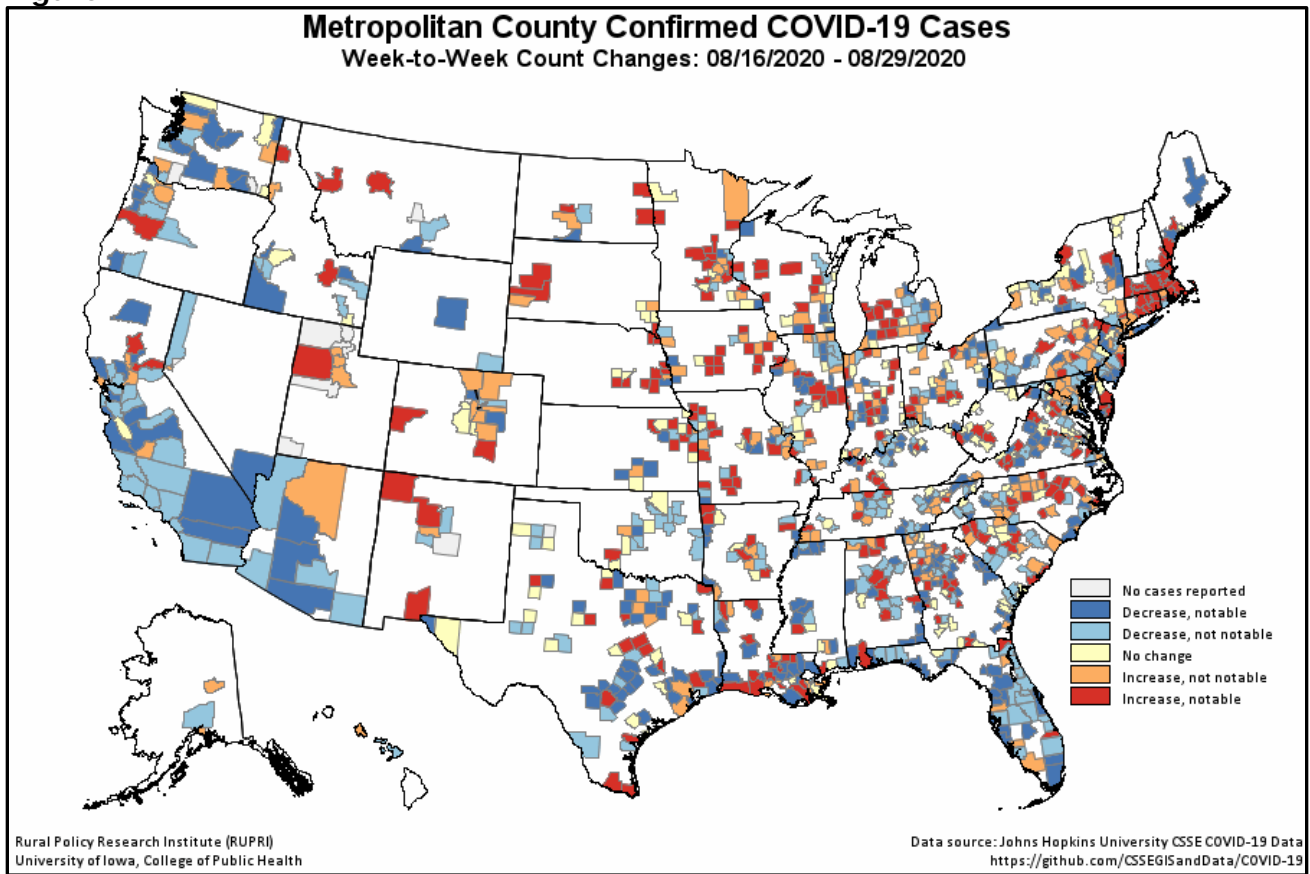


Figure 3.

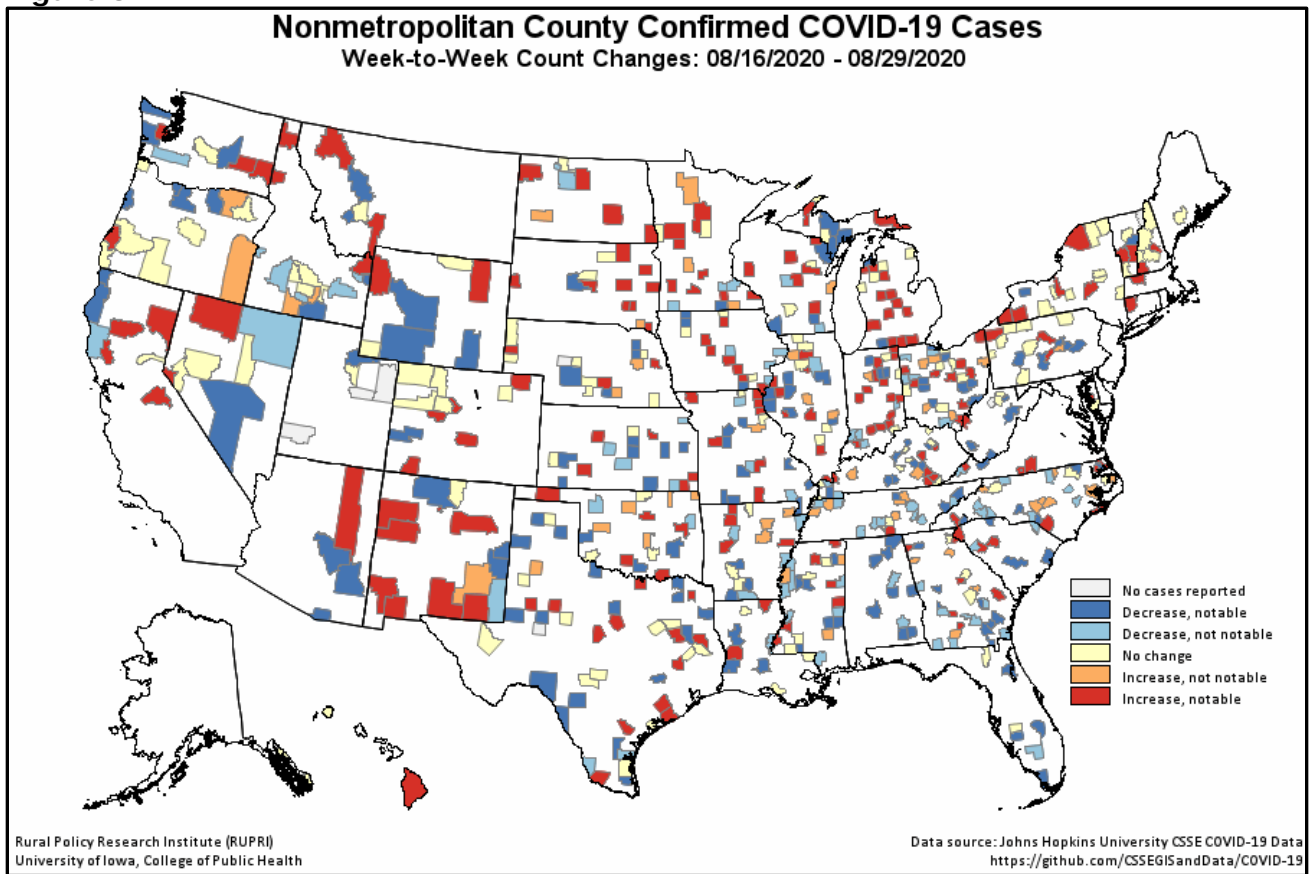
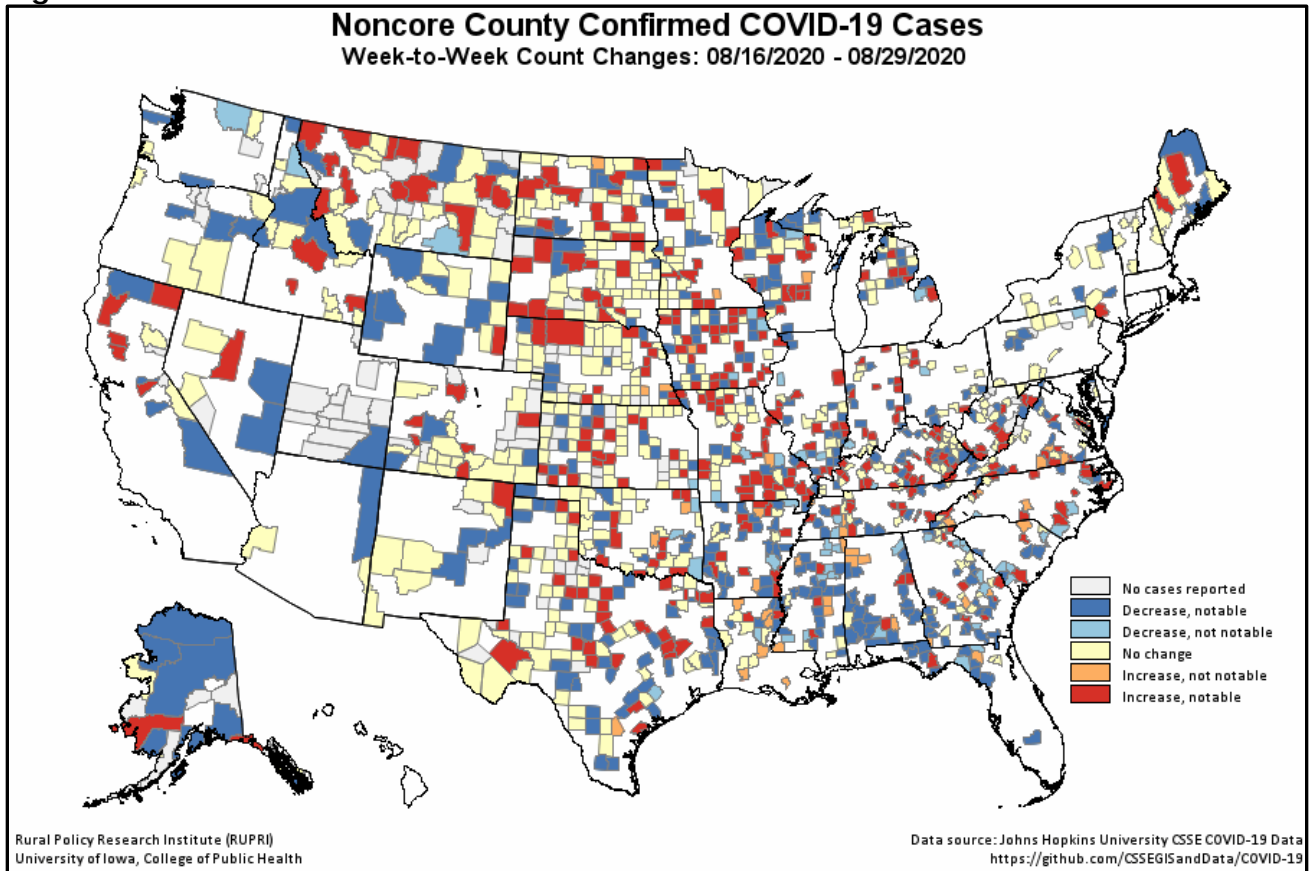


Figure 4.



¹ COVID-19 case and death data for this ongoing report were previously obtained from [USAFacts.org](https://data.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.

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/>.