

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 September 13, 2020, and September 26, 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: 9/13/2020 – 9/26/2020

	Metropolitan (n = 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n = 641)	Noncore (n = 1,335)
No cases reported	12 (1.0%)	11 (1.7%)	82 (6.1%)
Decreasing, notable ^b	275 (23.6%)	132 (20.6%)	307 (23.0%)
Decreasing, not notable	221 (19.0%)	82 (12.8%)	68 (5.1%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	160 (13.7%)	121 (18.9%)	382 (28.6%)
Increasing, not notable	206 (17.7%)	69 (10.8%)	50 (3.7%)
Increasing, notable	292 (25.0%)	226 (35.3%)	446 (33.4%)

^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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opinions expressed in this policy brief are those of the authors and no endorsement by FORHP, HRSA, HHS is intended or should be inferred.

Table 2. 14-day trends^a in newly confirmed COVID-19 cases, in counties with any cases, by county geography: 9/13/2020 – 9/26/2020

	Metropolitan (n = 1,154 of 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n = 630 of 641)	Noncore (n = 1,253 of 1,335)
Any decrease	496 (43.0%)	214 (34.0%)	375 (29.9%)
Notable decrease ^b	275 (23.8%)	132 (21.0%)	307 (24.5%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	160 (13.9%)	121 (19.2%)	382 (30.5%)
Any increase	498 (43.2%)	295 (46.8%)	496 (39.6%)
Notable increase ^b	292 (25.3%)	226 (35.9%)	446 (35.6%)
Increase of 100% or more	80 (6.9%)	95 (15.1%)	260 (20.8%)

^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.

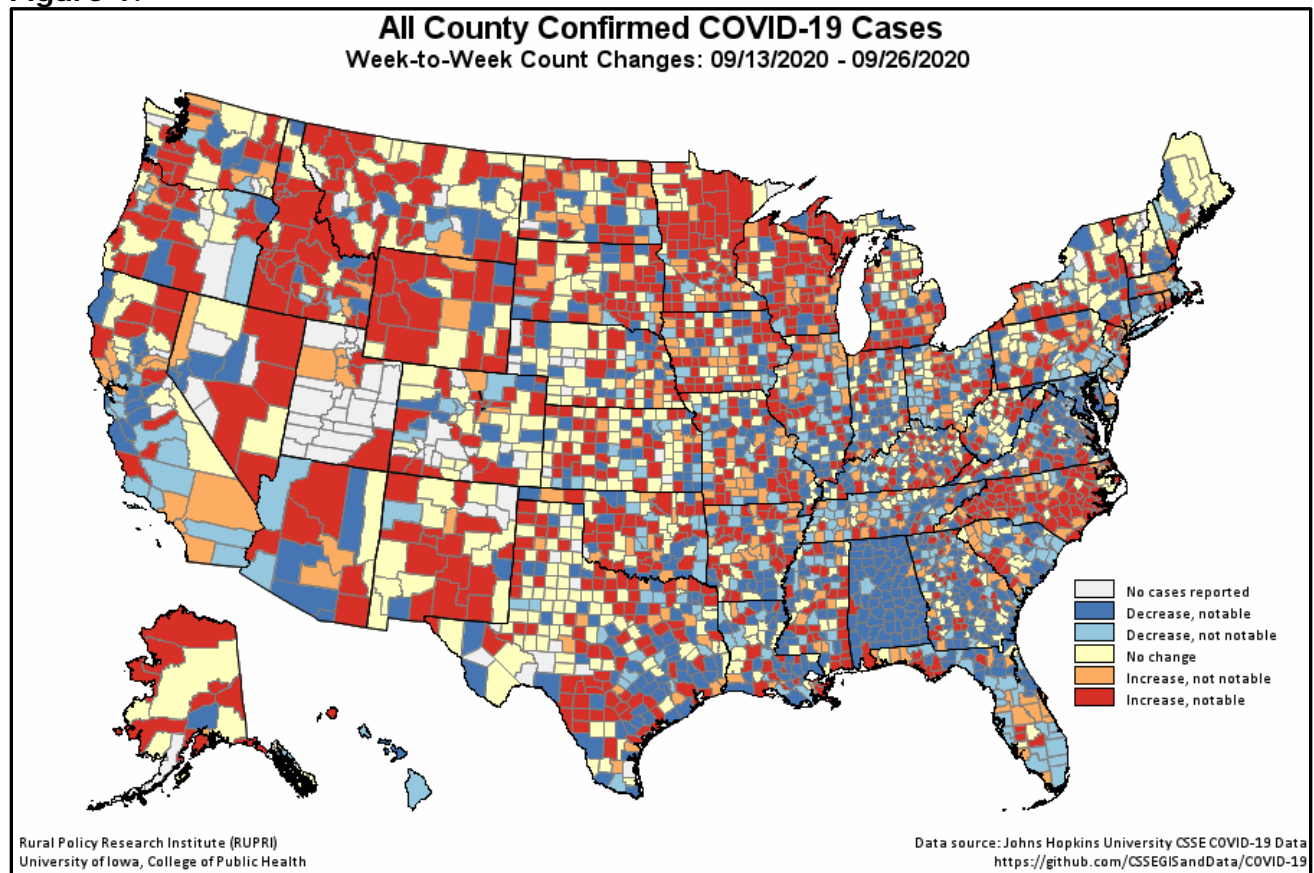


Figure 2.

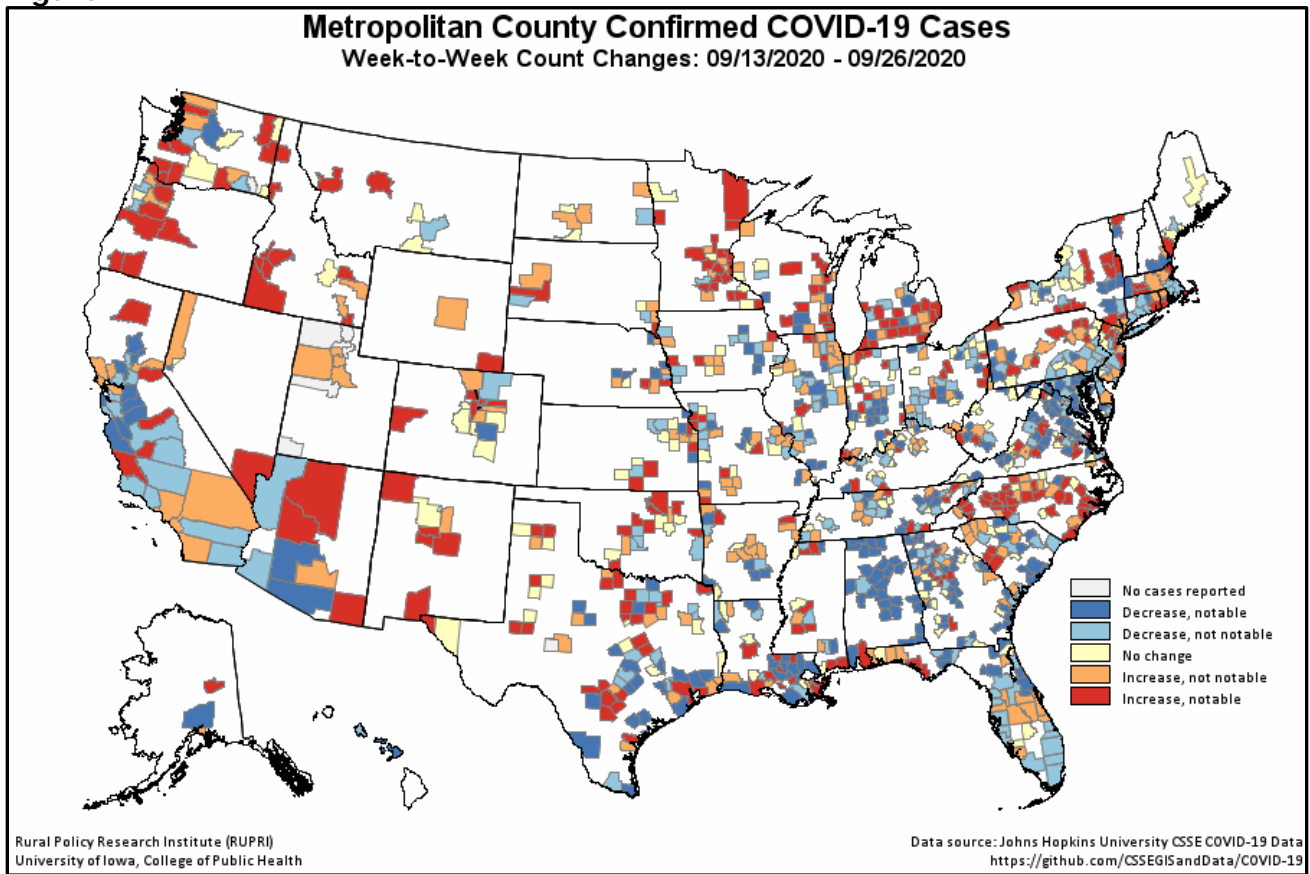


Figure 3.

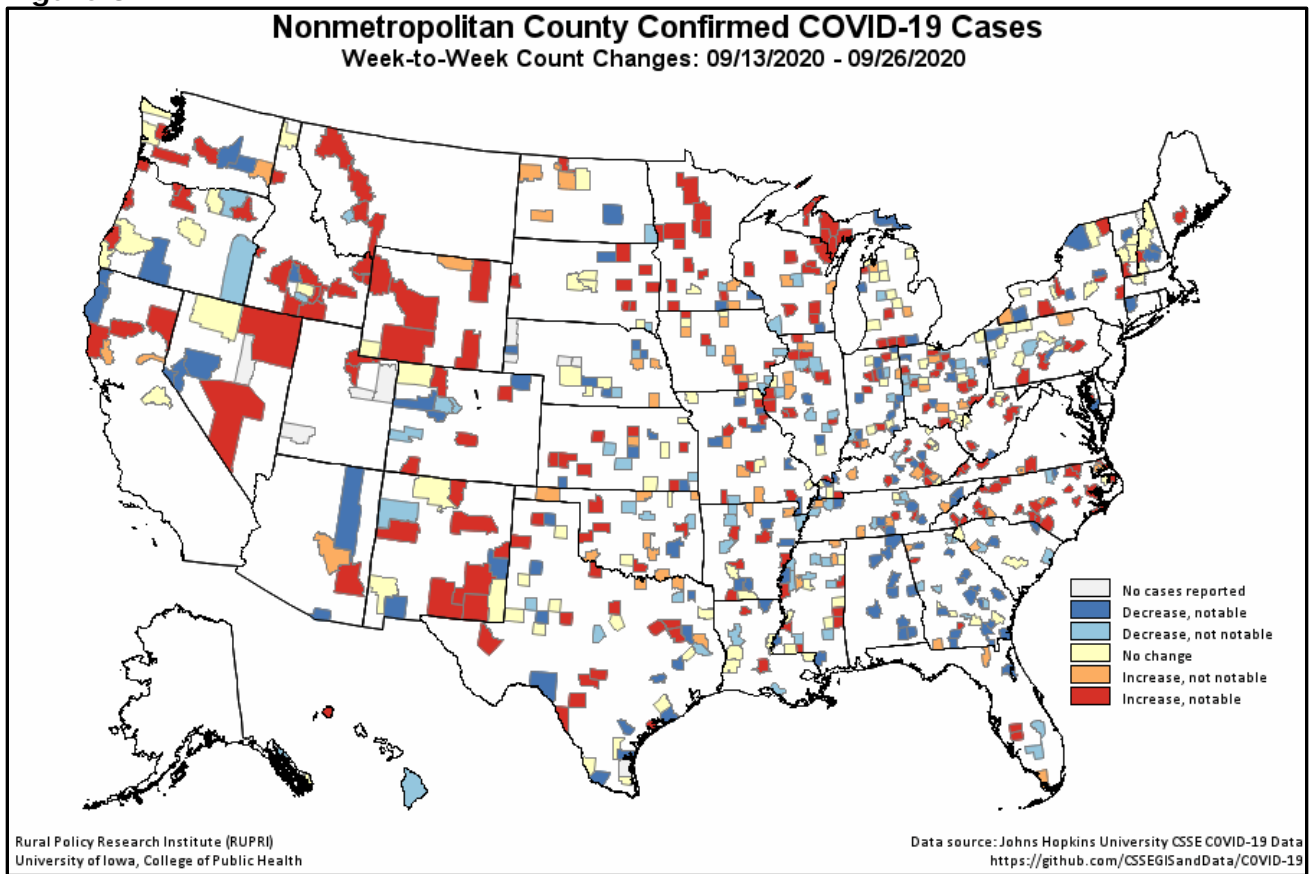
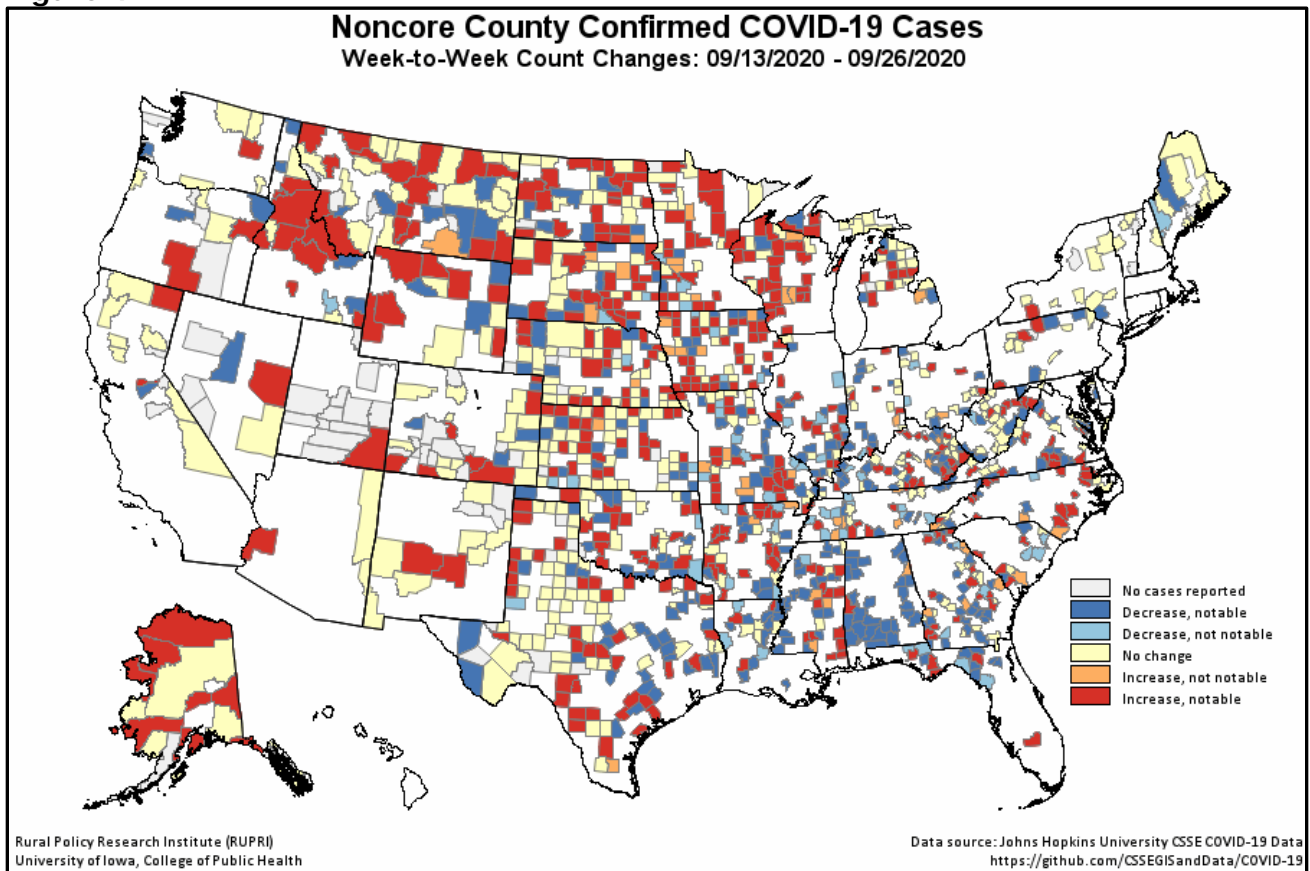


Figure 4.



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/>.