

# RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis

## Rural Data Update

Brief No. 2020-6

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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](https://ruprihealth.org/publications/policybriefs/2020/County_COVID_Trajectories.pdf)). This data brief looks at the new case counts in every US county between October 3, 2021, and October 16, 2021, 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](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 Repository<sup>1</sup>. 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 Codes<sup>2</sup>.

**Table 1. 14-day trends<sup>a</sup> in newly confirmed COVID-19 cases, by county geography: 10/3/2021 – 10/16/2021**

	<b>Metropolitan (n = 1,166)</b>	<b>Nonmetropolitan (n = 641)</b>	<b>Noncore (n = 1,335)</b>
No cases reported	2 (0.2%)	2 (0.3%)	10 (0.7%)
Decreasing, notable <sup>b</sup>	300 (25.7%)	182 (28.4%)	437 (32.7%)
Decreasing, not notable	507 (43.5%)	207 (32.3%)	213 (16.0%)
Same number, both weeks <sup>c</sup>	76 (6.5%)	55 (8.6%)	245 (18.4%)
Increasing, not notable	158 (13.6%)	92 (14.4%)	119 (8.9%)
Increasing, notable	123 (10.5%)	103 (16.1%)	311 (23.3%)

<sup>a</sup>Comparison of number of new cases in first week of 14-day period with new cases in second week.

<sup>b</sup>“Notable” trends indicate weekly changes in new cases exceeding (either increasing or decreasing) 25 percent.

<sup>c</sup>Includes counties with an absolute change in count of two or fewer.



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**Table 2. 14-day trends<sup>a</sup> in newly confirmed COVID-19 cases, in counties with any cases, by county geography: 10/3/2021 – 10/16/2021**

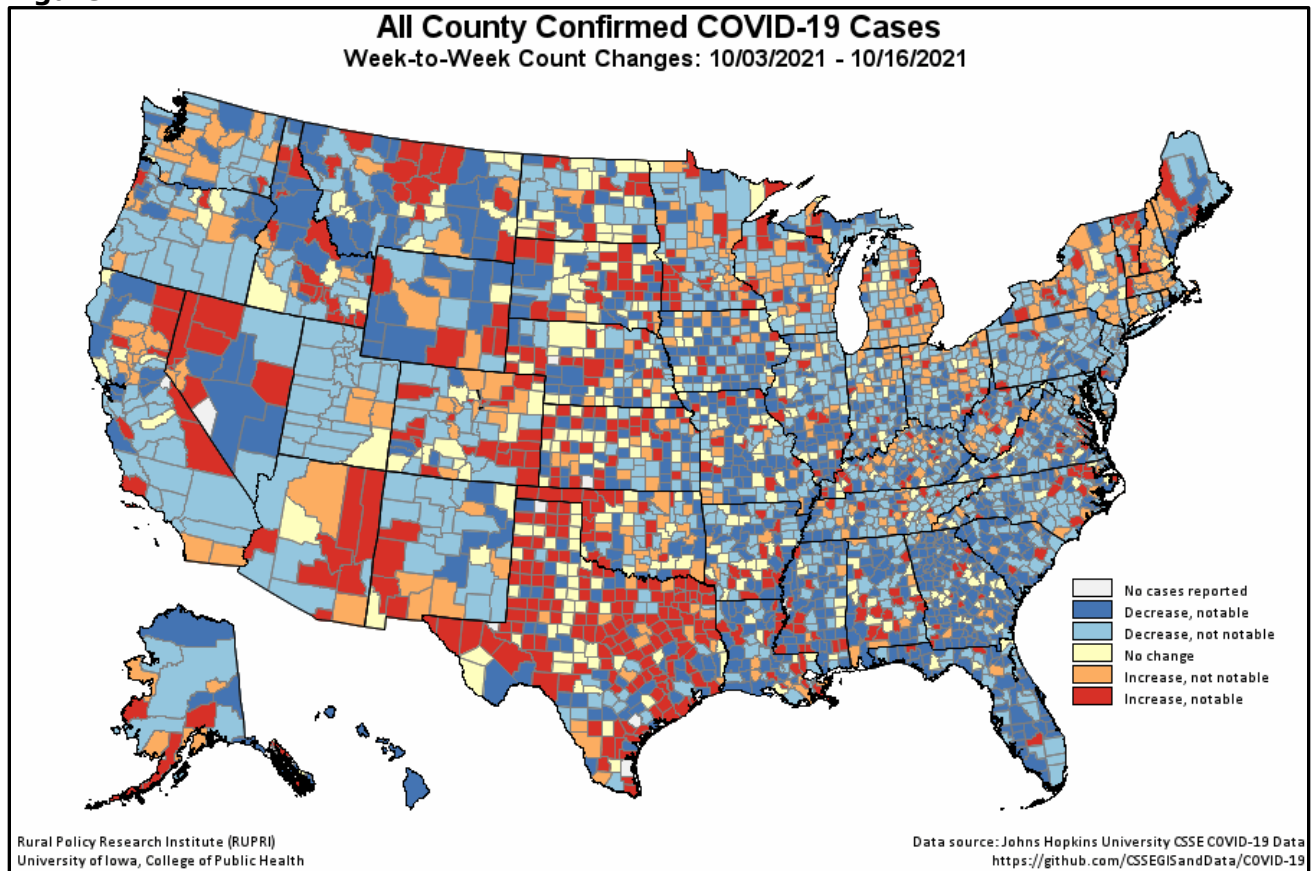
	<b>Metropolitan (n = 1,164 of 1,166)</b>	<b>Nonmetropolitan (n = 639 of 641)</b>	<b>Noncore (n = 1,325 of 1,335)</b>
Any decrease	807 (69.3%)	389 (60.9%)	650 (49.1%)
Notable decrease <sup>b</sup>	300 (25.8%)	182 (28.5%)	437 (33.0%)
Same number, both weeks <sup>c</sup>	76 (6.5%)	55 (8.6%)	245 (18.5%)
Any increase	281 (24.1%)	195 (30.5%)	430 (32.5%)
Notable increase <sup>b</sup>	123 (10.6%)	103 (16.1%)	311 (23.5%)
Increase of 100% or more	27 (2.3%)	29 (4.5%)	124 (9.4%)

<sup>a</sup>Comparison of number of new cases in first week of 14-day period with new cases in second week.

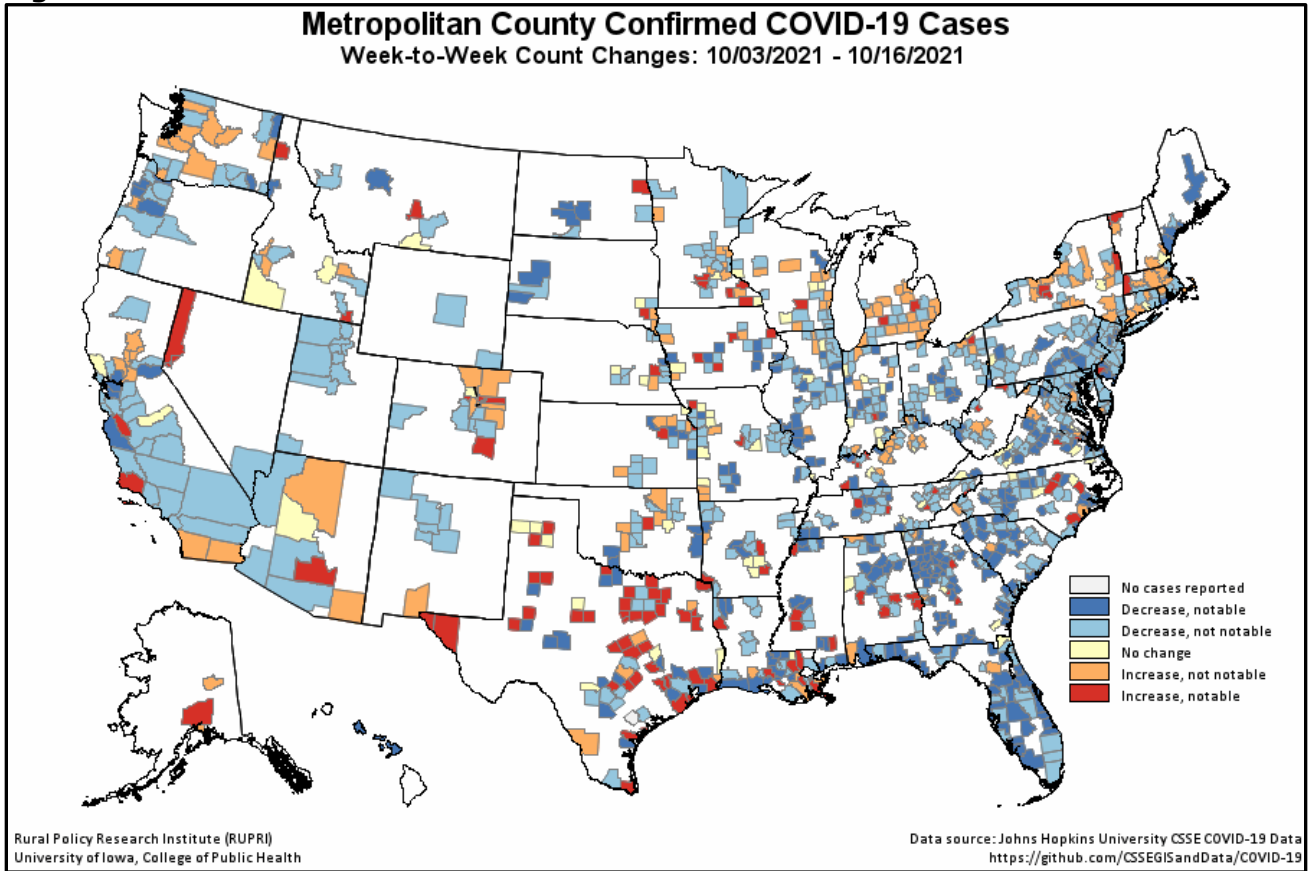
<sup>b</sup>“Notable” trends indicate weekly changes in new cases exceeding (either increasing or decreasing) 25 percent.

<sup>c</sup>Includes counties with an absolute change in count of two or fewer.

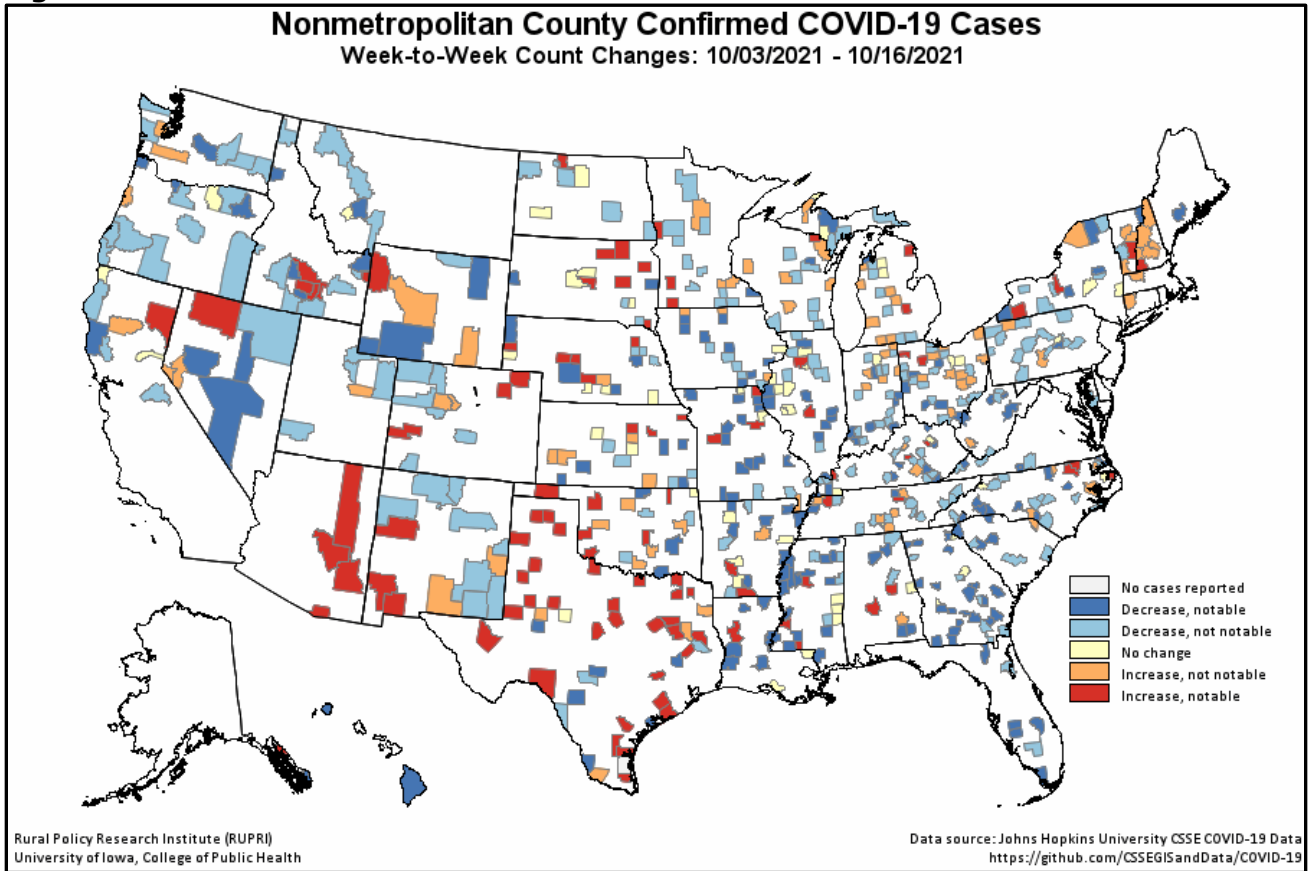
**Figure 1.**



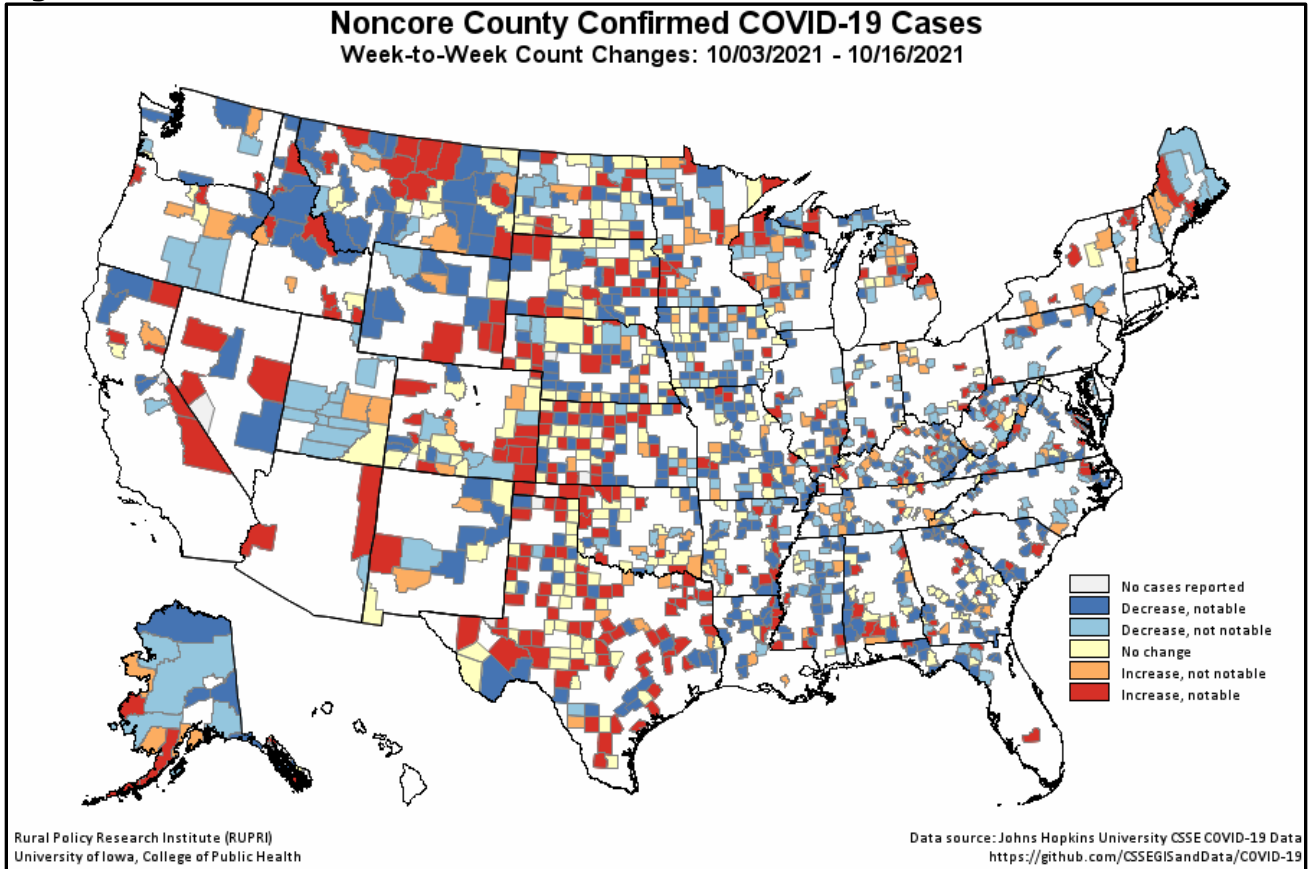
**Figure 2.**



**Figure 3.**



**Figure 4.**



<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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/>.