

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 October 10, 2021, and October 23, 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

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: 10/10/2021 – 10/23/2021

	Metropolitan (n = 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n = 641)	Noncore (n = 1,335)
No cases reported	2 (0.2%)	3 (0.5%)	9 (0.7%)
Decreasing, notable ^b	425 (36.4%)	246 (38.4%)	516 (38.7%)
Decreasing, not notable	438 (37.6%)	175 (27.3%)	201 (15.1%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	78 (6.7%)	58 (9.0%)	254 (19.0%)
Increasing, not notable	149 (12.8%)	80 (12.5%)	103 (7.7%)
Increasing, notable	74 (6.3%)	79 (12.3%)	252 (18.9%)

^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: 10/10/2021 – 10/23/2021

	Metropolitan (n = 1,164 of 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n = 638 of 641)	Noncore (n = 1,326 of 1,335)
Any decrease	863 (74.1%)	421 (66.0%)	717 (54.1%)
Notable decrease ^b	425 (36.5%)	246 (38.6%)	516 (38.9%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	78 (6.7%)	58 (9.1%)	254 (19.2%)
Any increase	223 (19.2%)	159 (24.9%)	355 (26.8%)
Notable increase ^b	74 (6.4%)	79 (12.4%)	252 (19.0%)
Increase of 100% or more	12 (1.0%)	14 (2.2%)	98 (7.4%)

^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.

Figure 1.

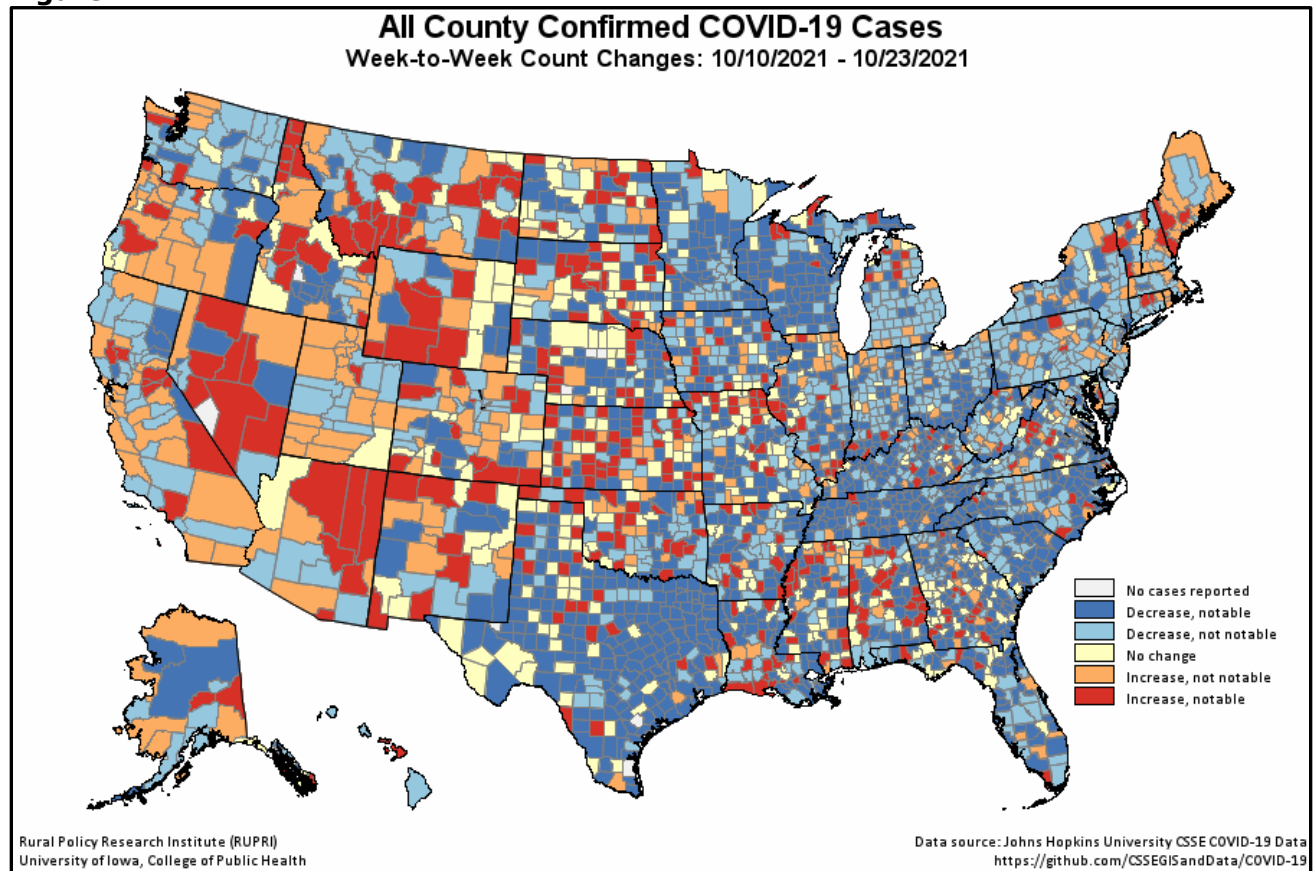


Figure 2.

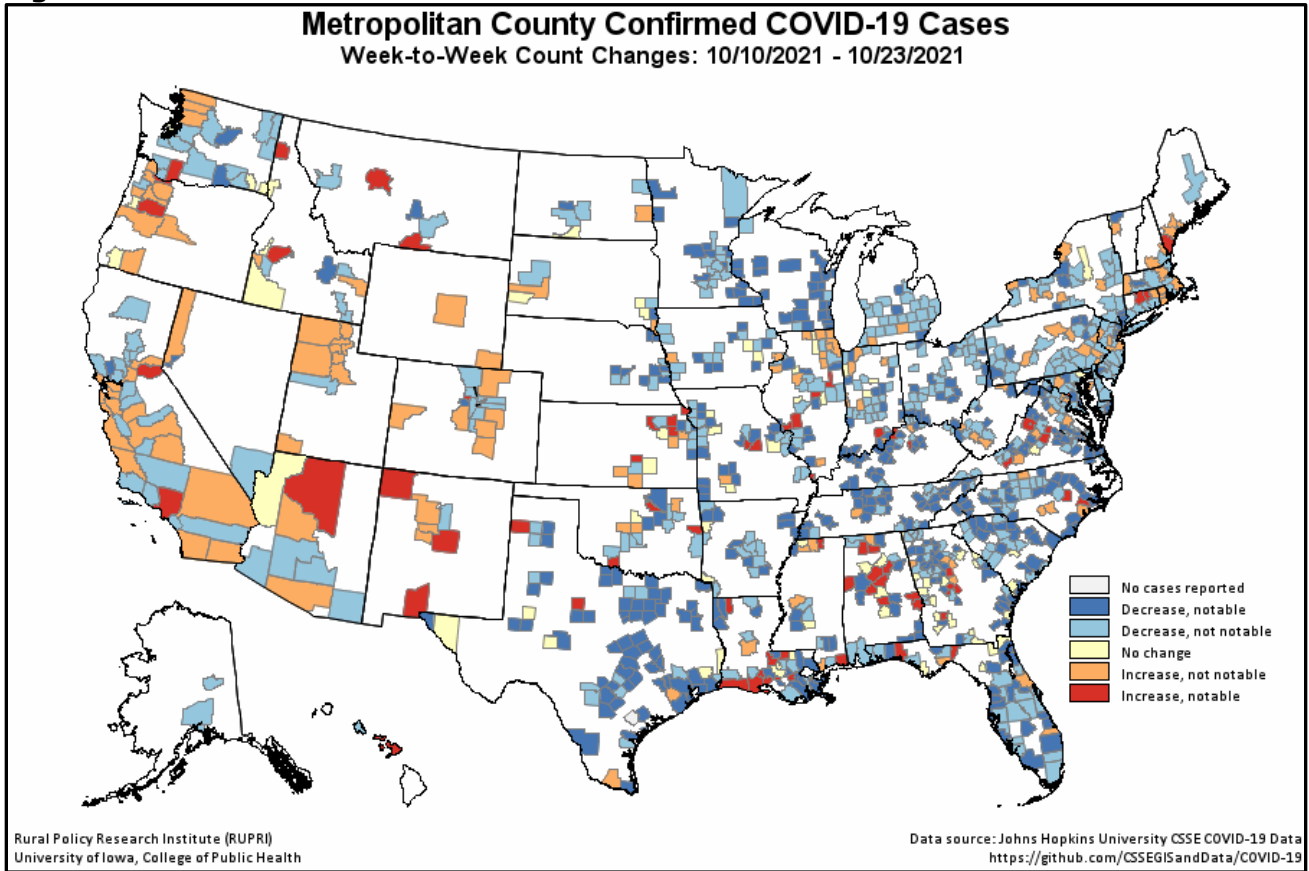


Figure 3.

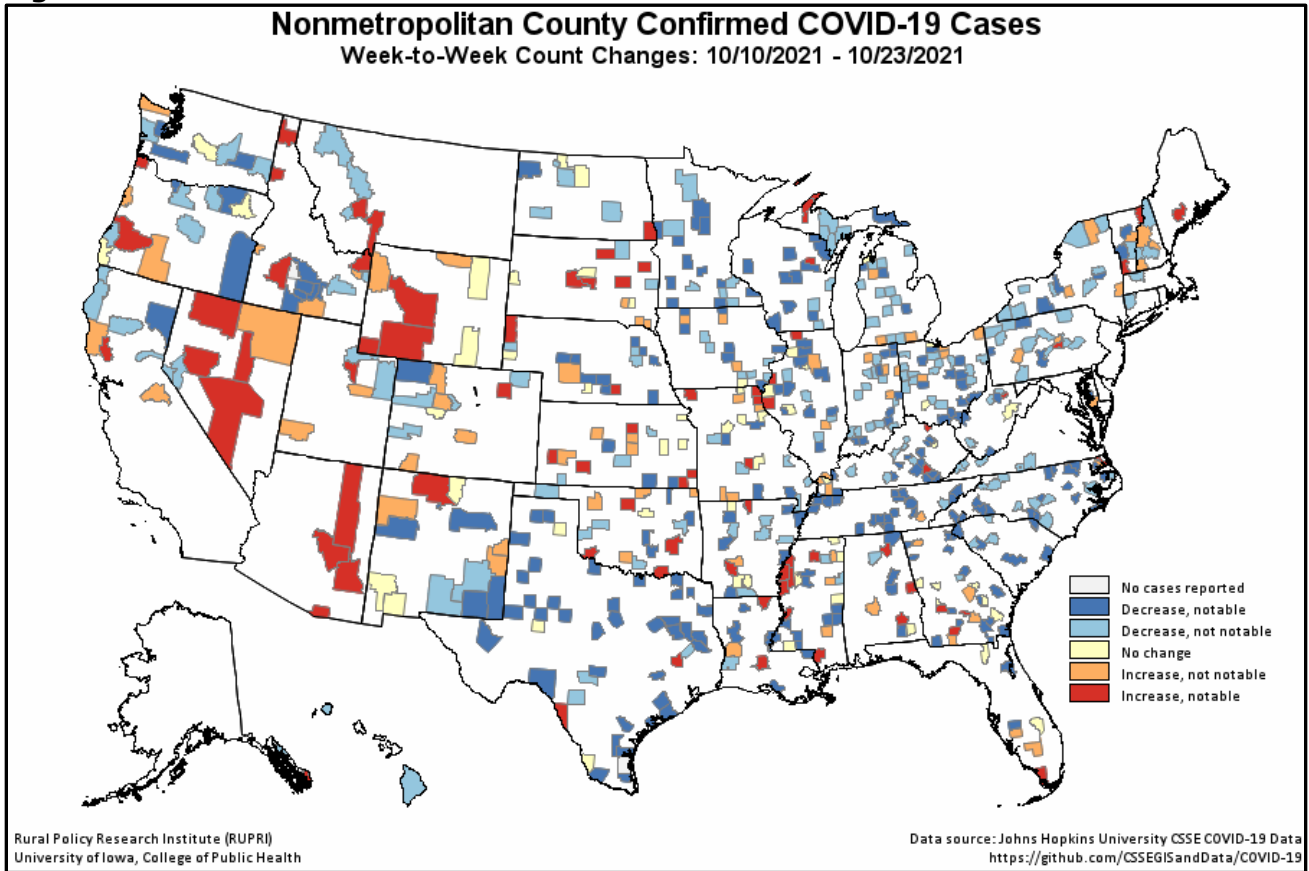
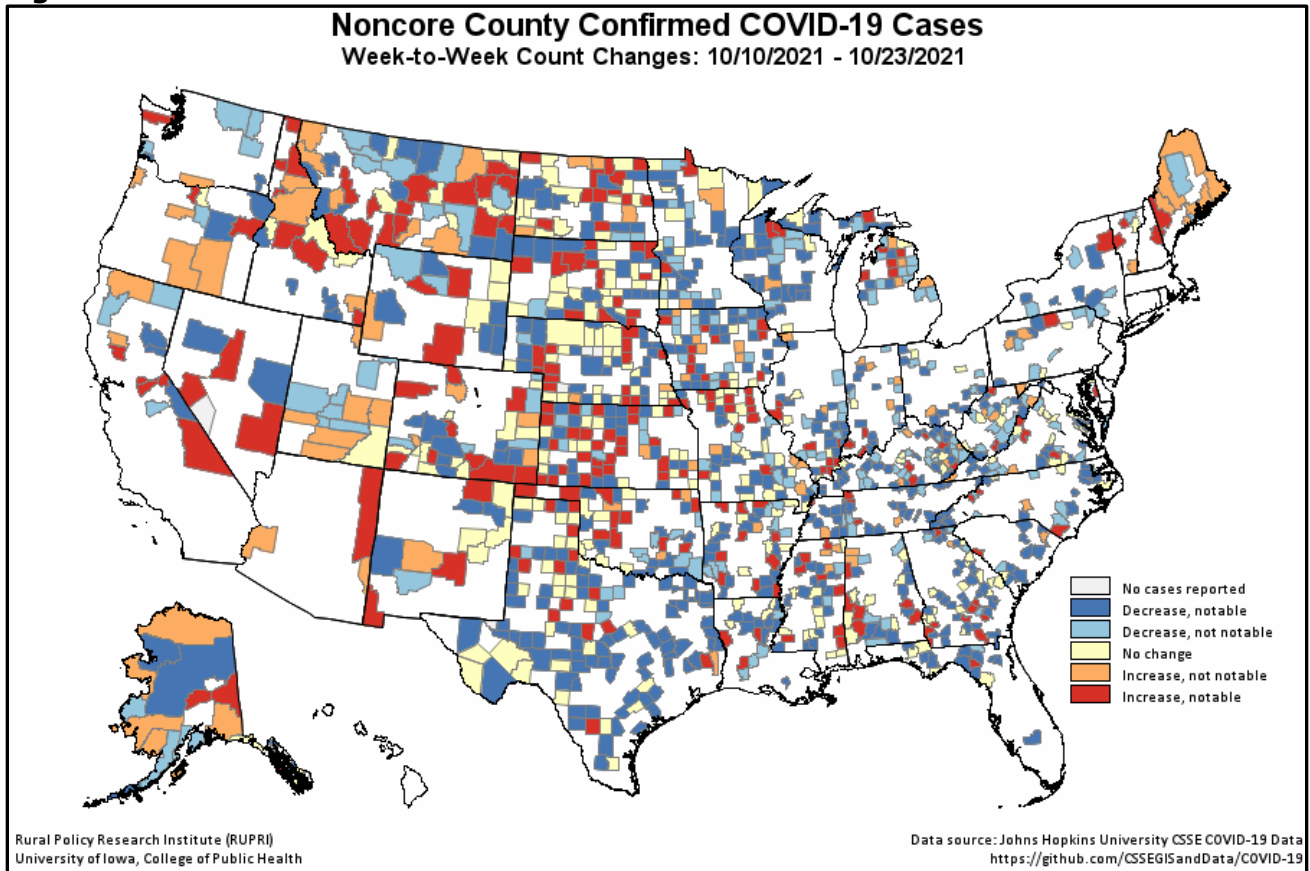


Figure 4.



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/>.