

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 October 25, 2020, and November 7, 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: 10/25/2020 – 11/7/2020

	Metropolitan (n = 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n = 641)	Noncore (n = 1,335)
No cases reported	7 (0.6%)	6 (0.9%)	29 (2.2%)
Decreasing, notable ^b	88 (7.5%)	62 (9.7%)	237 (17.8%)
Decreasing, not notable	131 (11.2%)	75 (11.7%)	92 (6.9%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	83 (7.1%)	57 (8.9%)	229 (17.2%)
Increasing, not notable	279 (23.9%)	108 (16.8%)	129 (9.7%)
Increasing, notable	578 (49.6%)	333 (52.0%)	619 (46.4%)

^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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Table 2. 14-day trends^a in newly confirmed COVID-19 cases, in counties with any cases, by county geography: 10/25/2020 – 11/7/2020

	Metropolitan (n = 1,159 of 1,166)		Nonmetropolitan (n = 635 of 641)		Noncore (n = 1,306 of 1,335)	
Any decrease	219	(18.9%)	137	(21.6%)	329	(25.2%)
Notable decrease ^b	88	(7.6%)	62	(9.8%)	237	(18.1%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	83	(7.2%)	57	(9.0%)	229	(17.5%)
Any increase	857	(73.9%)	441	(69.4%)	748	(57.3%)
Notable increase ^b	578	(49.9%)	333	(52.4%)	619	(47.4%)
Increase of 100% or more	112	(9.7%)	91	(14.3%)	240	(18.4%)

^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.

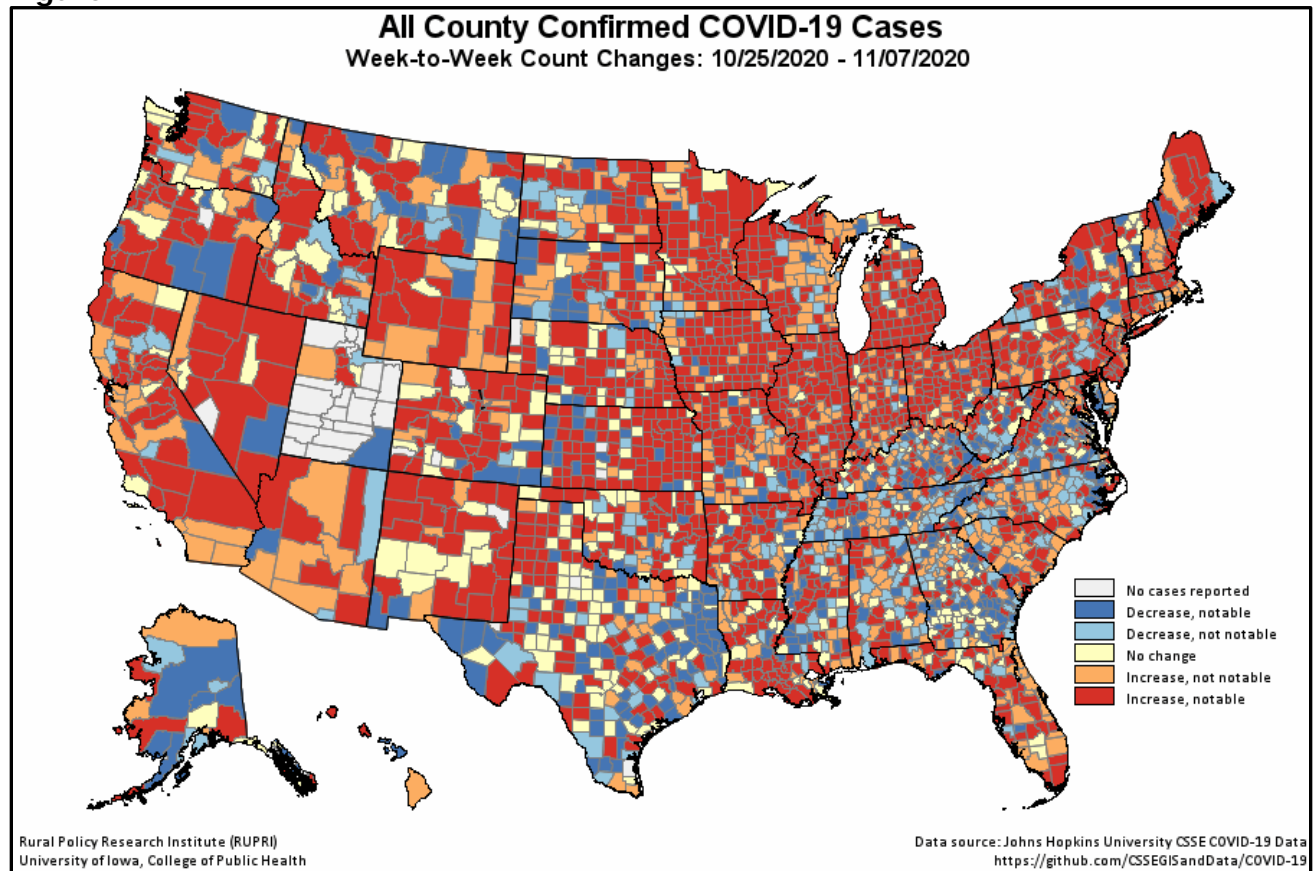


Figure 2.

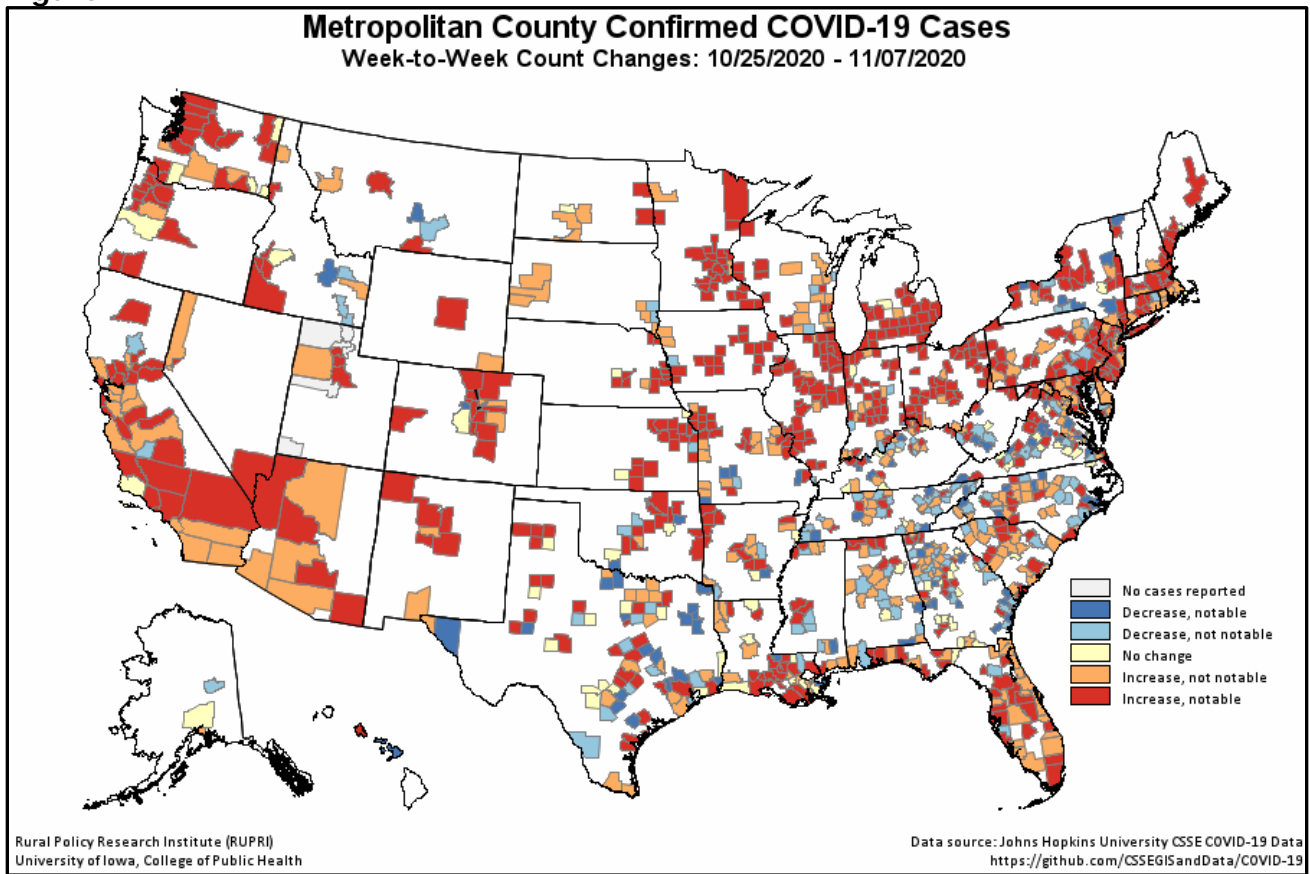


Figure 3.

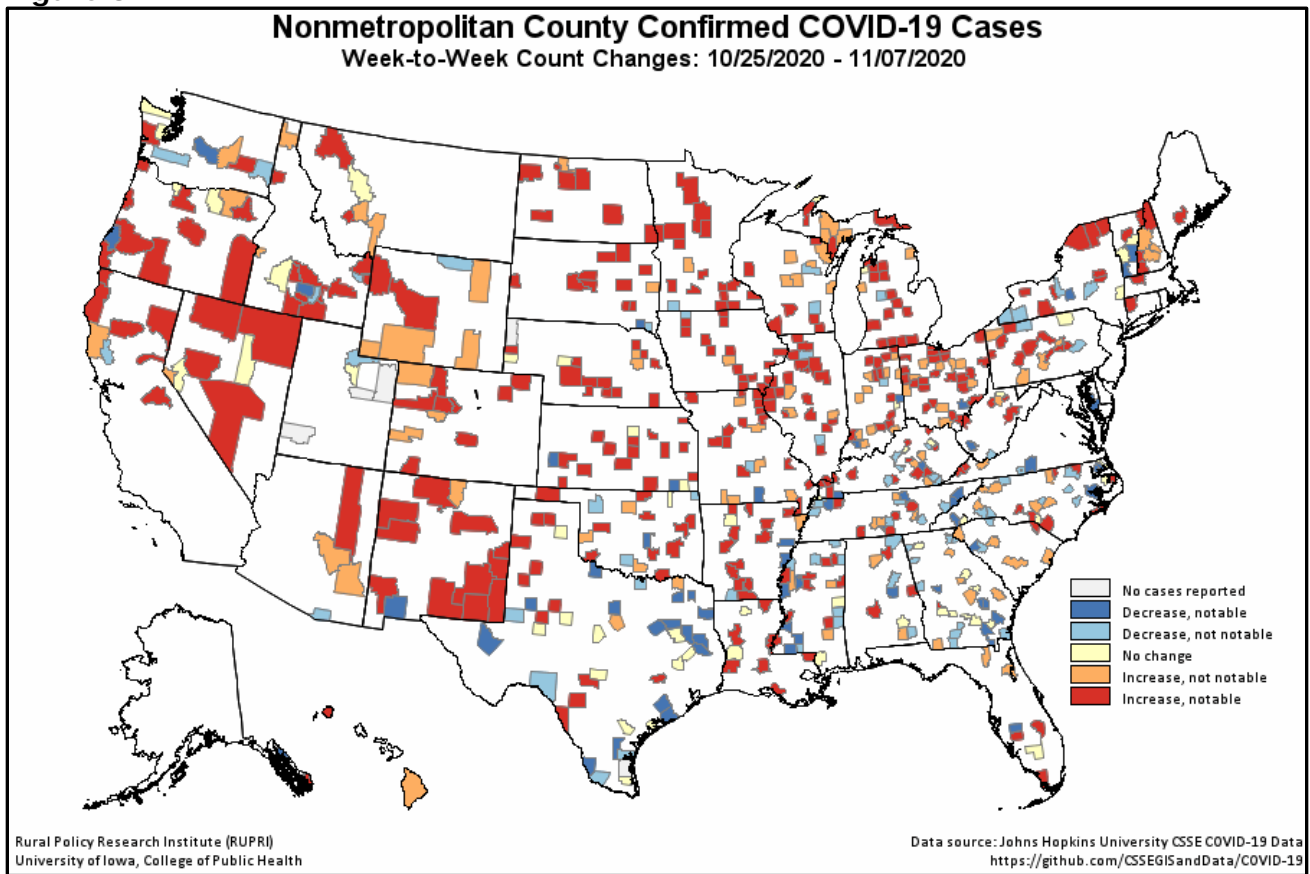
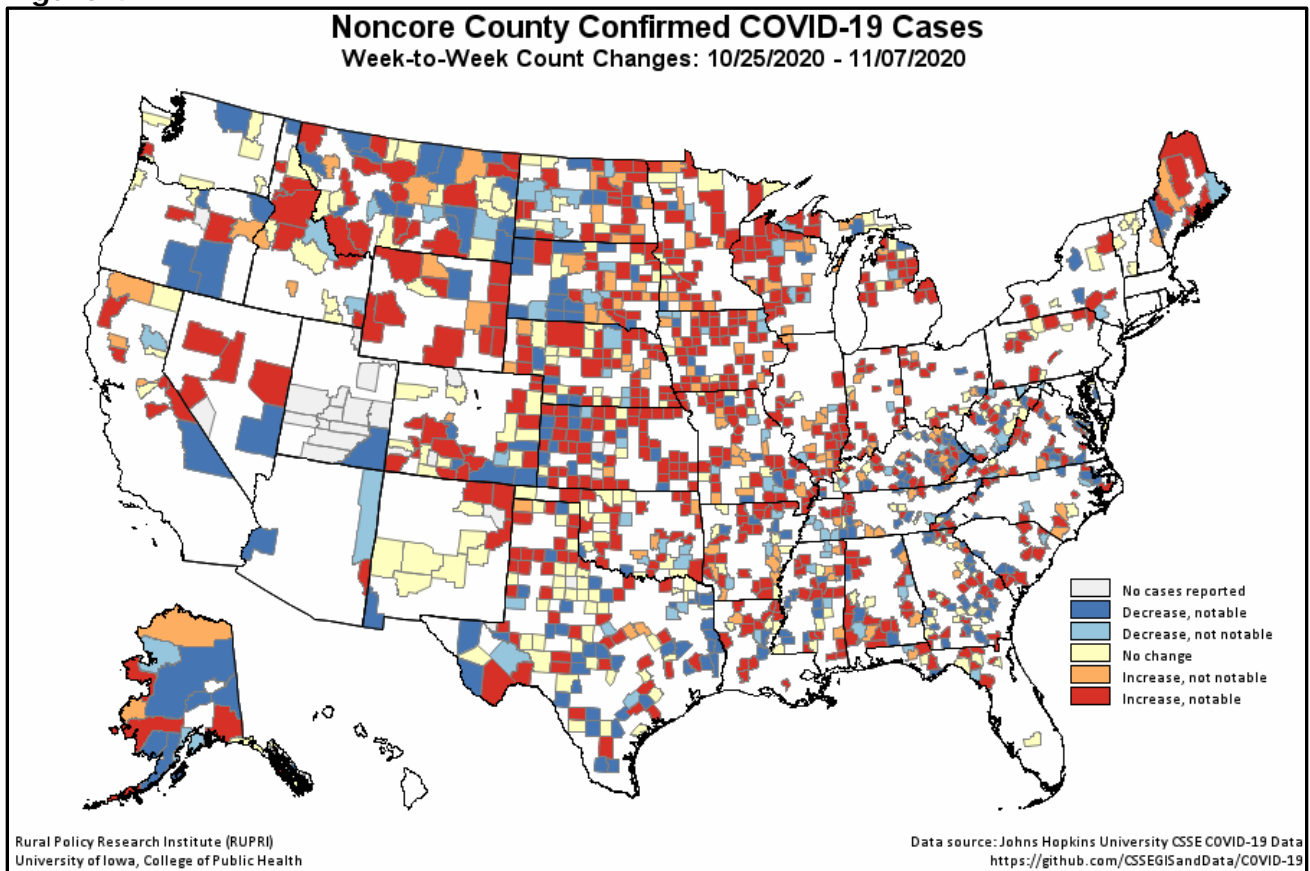


Figure 4.



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