

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 December 6, 2020, and December 19, 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: 12/6/2020 – 12/19/2020

	Metropolitan (n = 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n = 641)	Noncore (n = 1,335)
No cases reported	7 (0.6%)	5 (0.8%)	21 (1.6%)
Decreasing, notable ^b	210 (18.0%)	175 (27.3%)	405 (30.3%)
Decreasing, not notable	390 (33.4%)	189 (29.5%)	207 (15.5%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	38 (3.3%)	38 (5.9%)	193 (14.5%)
Increasing, not notable	296 (25.4%)	112 (17.5%)	196 (14.7%)
Increasing, notable	225 (19.3%)	122 (19.0%)	313 (23.4%)

^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: 12/6/2020 – 12/19/2020

	Metropolitan (n = 1,159 of 1,166)		Nonmetropolitan (n = 636 of 641)		Noncore (n = 1,314 of 1,335)	
Any decrease	600	(51.8%)	364	(57.2%)	612	(46.6%)
Notable decrease ^b	210	(18.1%)	175	(27.5%)	405	(30.8%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	38	(3.3%)	38	(6.0%)	193	(14.7%)
Any increase	521	(45.0%)	234	(36.8%)	509	(38.7%)
Notable increase ^b	225	(19.4%)	122	(19.2%)	313	(23.8%)
Increase of 100% or more	28	(2.4%)	21	(3.3%)	91	(6.9%)

^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.

Figure 1.

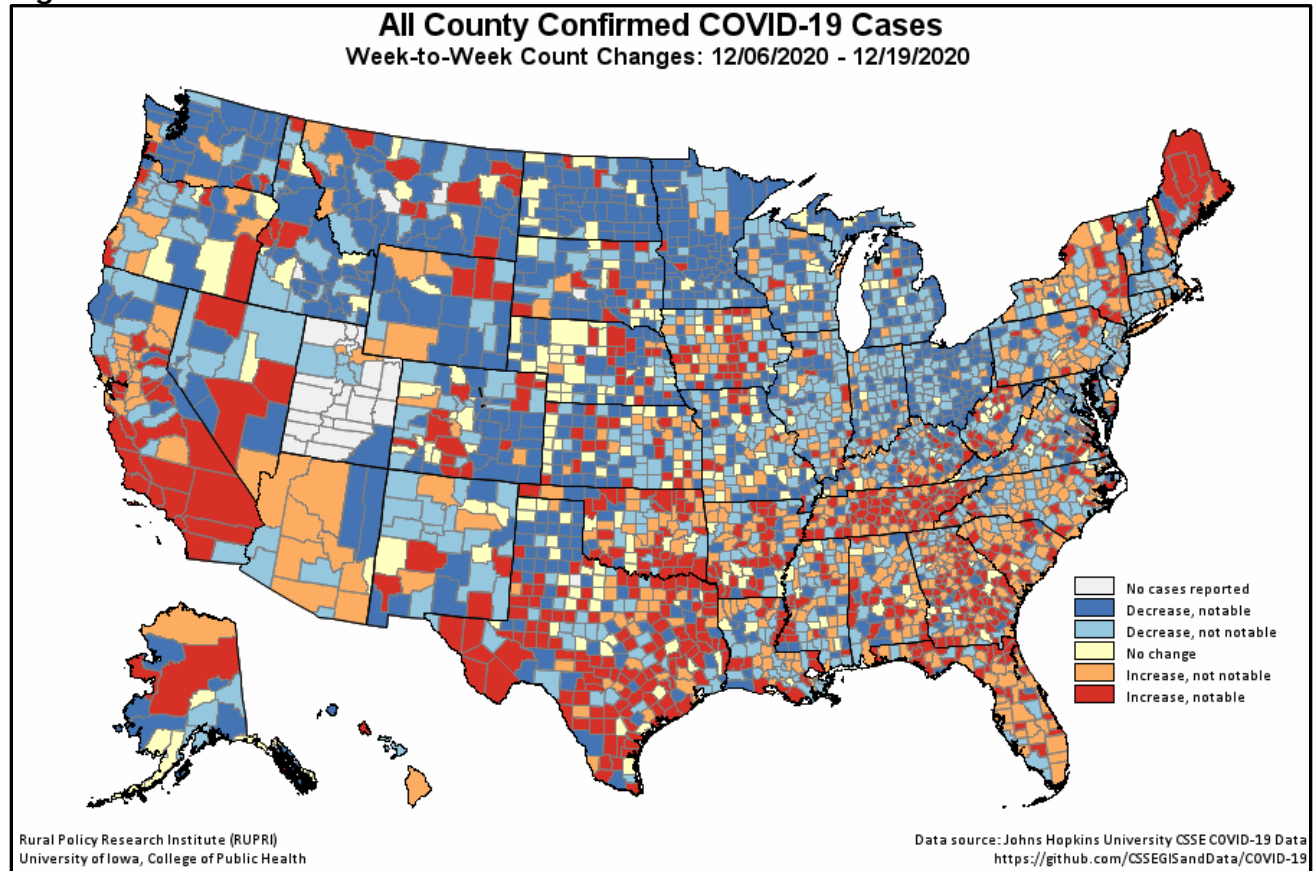


Figure 2.

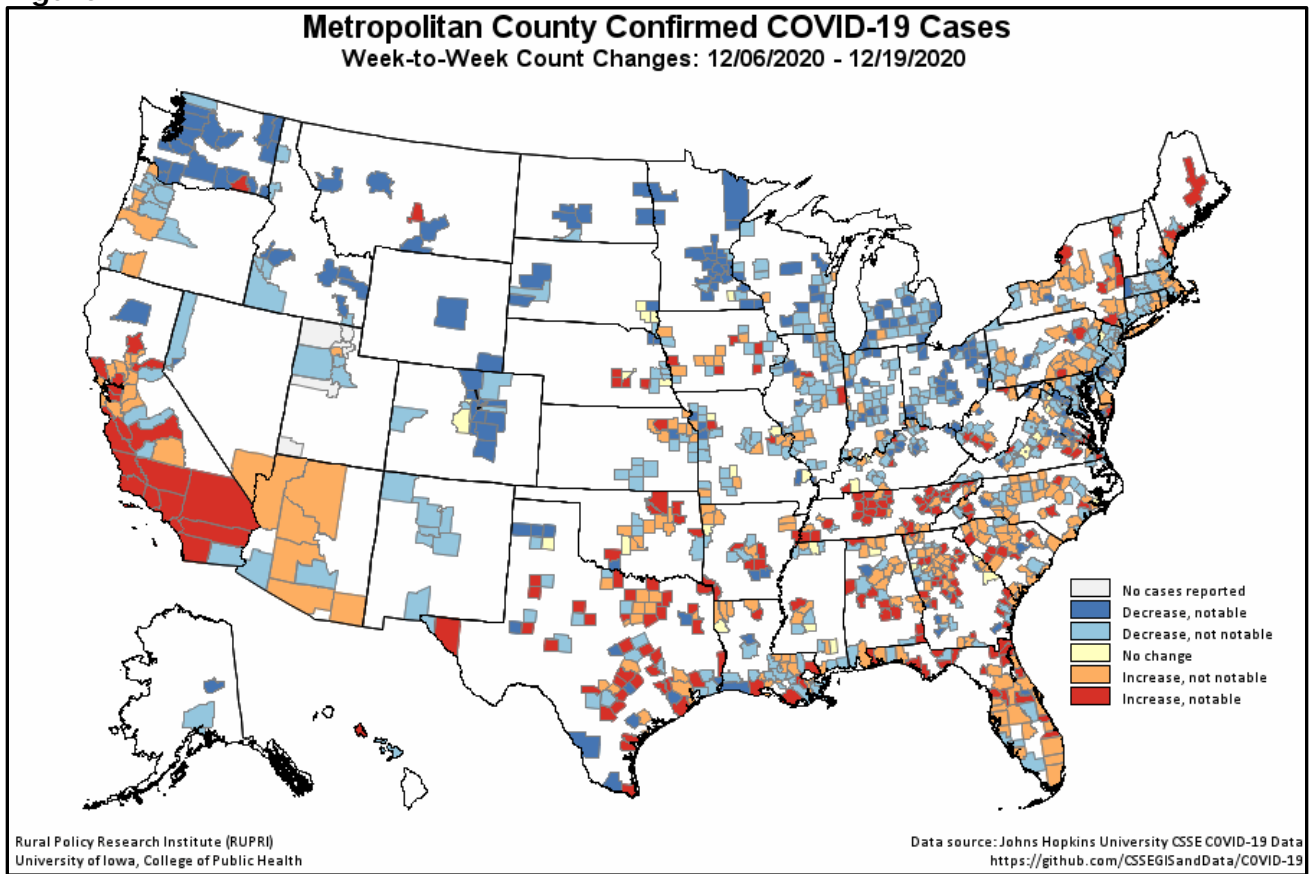


Figure 3.

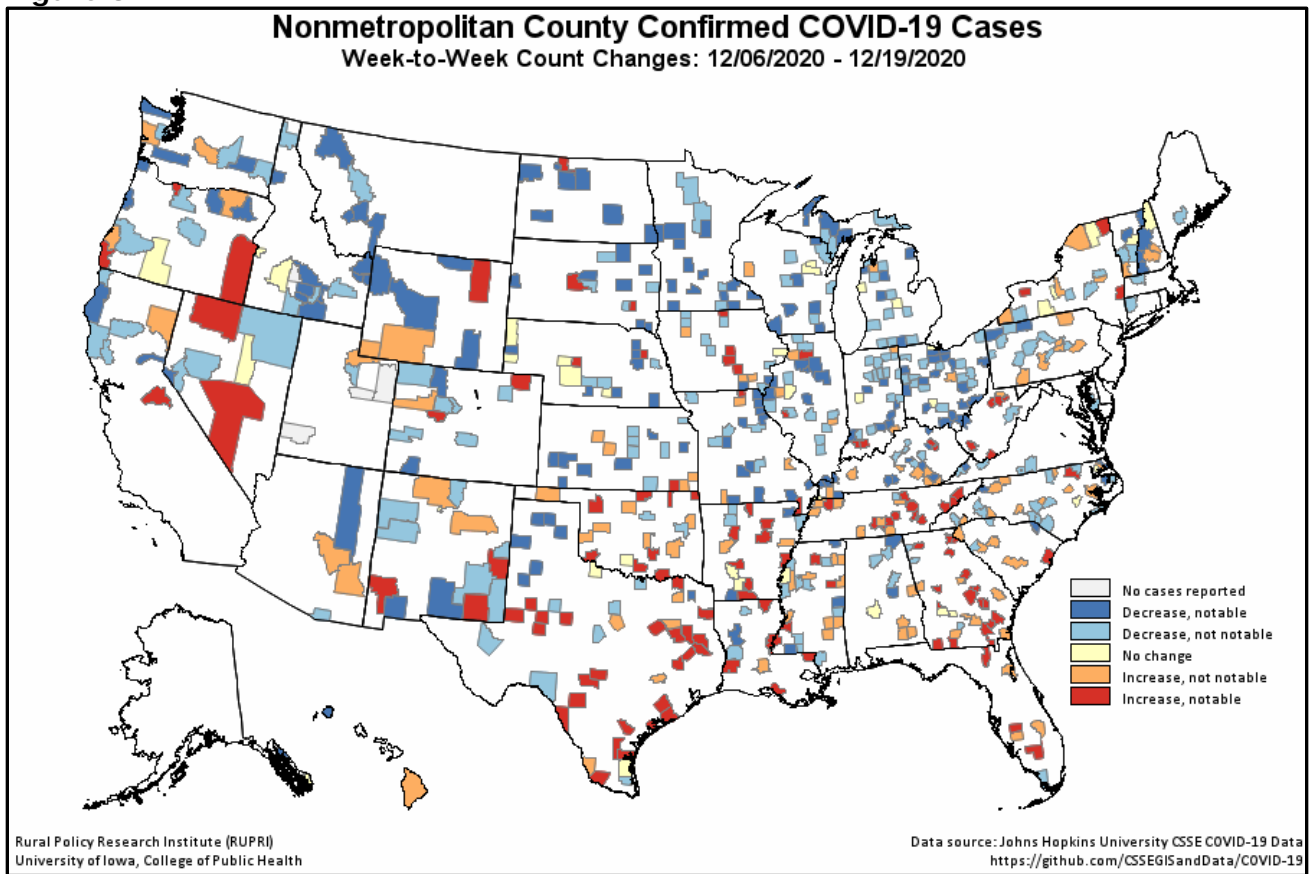
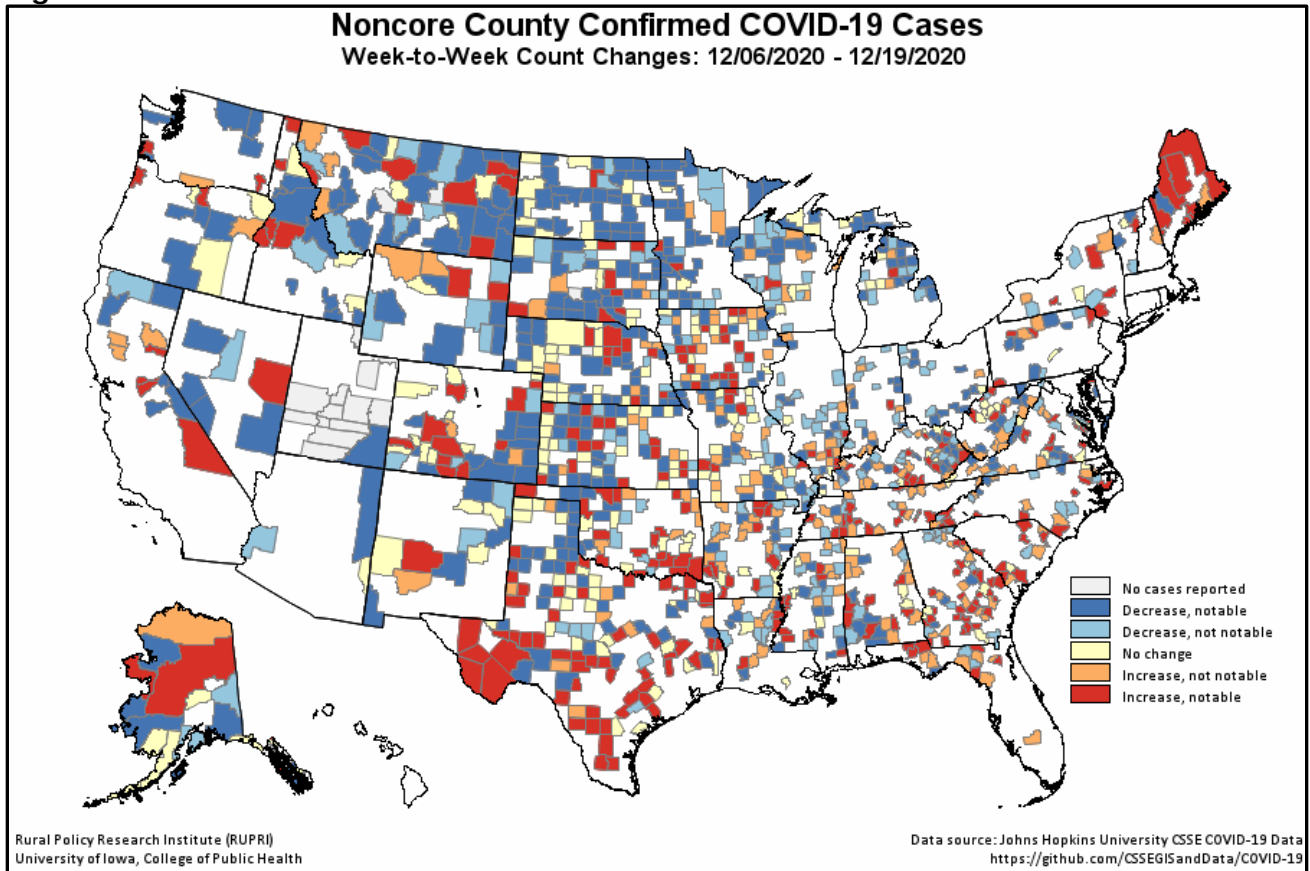


Figure 4.



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.

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/>.