## RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis Rural Data Brief

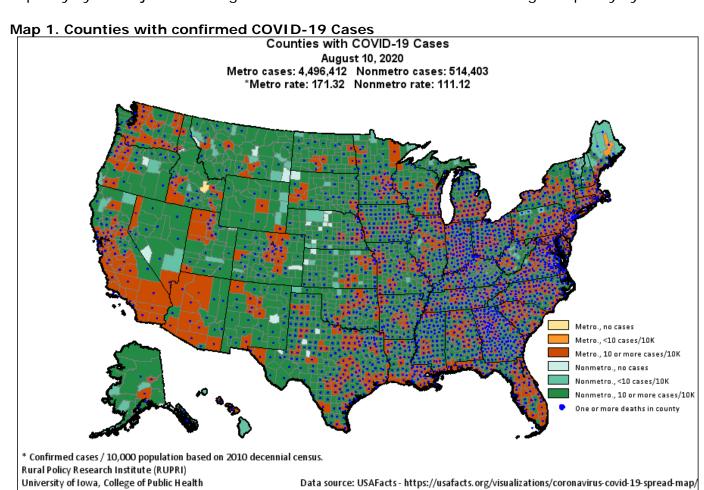
Brief No. 2020-2 AUGUST 2020 <a href="http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/rupri/">http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/rupri/</a>

## Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties

Fred Ullrich, BA: and Keith Mueller, PhD

## Report

While much of the COVID-19 focus has been on major metropolitan areas, rural areas of the United States are not free of exposure. As of August 10, 2020, there were a total of 5,010,815 cases and 161,065 deaths identified in counties (data provided by <u>USAFacts.org</u>), with 514,403 cases and 11,544 deaths (about 10.3 percent of cases and 7.2 percent of deaths) reported in non-metropolitan counties. But as many experts have pointed out, the rate of growth in cases is very different depending on location. Further, the stress on the health care delivery system is proportionate – a small number of cases creates stress for low capacity systems just as a large volume of cases creates stress for larger capacity systems.





This project was supported by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under cooperative agreement/grant

#1U1GRH07633 and #U1C RH20419. The information, conclusions and opinions expressed in this policy brief are those of the authors and no endorsement by FORHP, HRSA, HHS is intended or should be inferred.



RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis, University of Iowa College of Public Health, Department of Health

Management and Policy, 145 Riverside Dr., Iowa City, IA 52242-2007, (319) 384-3830

http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/rupri E-mail: cph-rupri-inquiries@uiowa.edu Note that this document reports on <u>confirmed</u> COVID-19 cases and those number will be affected by the availability and utilization of testing resources. Recent and *updated maps*, and the "progression" of cases throughout the country, can be seen on the animated map on the RUPRI Health web site:

http://ruprihealth.org/publications/policybriefs/2020/COVID History/

Table 1 shows metropolitan and nonmetropolitan county confirmed case and death counts. It also depicts the rate of cases and deaths per 10,000 population (based on the 2010 decennial census). Finally, it shows the number of metropolitan and metropolitan counties with a rate of cases exceeding 10 per 10,000 population and a rate of death exceeding 1 per 10,000 population. Map 2 shows those counties with elevated rates of cases and/or deaths.

Table 1. Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties. Confirmed cases, deaths, and rates

	Metropolitan	Nonmetropol.
Counties (total)	1,166	1,979
Population (2010 census)	262,450,000	46,279,820
Counties w/ confirmed cases	1,164 (99.8%)	1,950 (98.7%)
Counties w/ deaths	1,070 (91.8%)	1,264 (64.0%)
Confirmed cases	4,496,412 (1.7%)	514,403 (1.1%)
Deaths	149,521 (0.1%)	11,544 (0.0%)
Cases/10K population	171.3	111.1
Deaths/10K population	5.70	2.49
Counties w/ 10+ cases/10K	1,163 (99.7%)	1,876 (94.9%)
Counties w/ 1+ deaths/10K	821 (70.4%)	877 (44.4%)

