

RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis

Rural Data Brief

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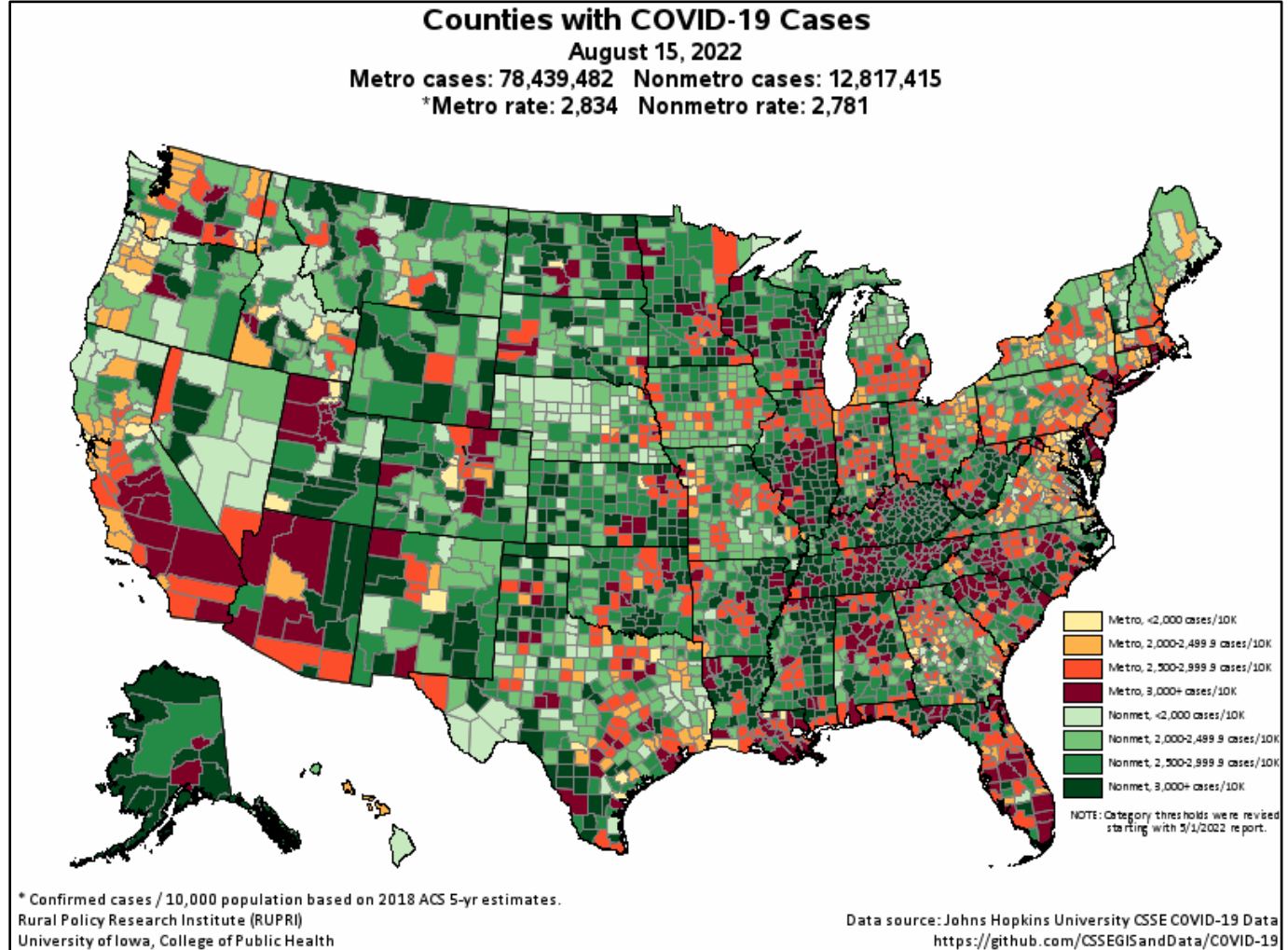
Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties

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Report

Early COVID-19 focus was on major metropolitan areas, but rural areas of the United States have also been hit hard by the pandemic. As of August 15, 2022, there were a total of 91,256,897 cases and 1,019,200 deaths identified in counties, with 12,817,415 cases and 184,655 deaths (about 14.0 percent of cases and 18.1 percent of deaths) reported in non-metropolitan counties (data obtained from the Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 Data Repository*).

Map 1. Counties with confirmed COVID-19 Cases



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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.

Note that this document reports on confirmed COVID-19 cases and those numbers 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/

Map 1 (above) displays the rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties. 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 2018 American Community Survey 5-year estimates). Finally, it shows the number and proportion of metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties exceeding various case and death rate levels. Map 2 displays the rates of COVID-19 deaths in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties.

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

	Metropolitan	Nonmetropolitan
Counties (total)	1,166	1,976
Population (2010 census)	276,820,000	46,082,565
Counties w/ confirmed cases	1,165 (99.9%)	1,972 (99.8%)
Counties w/ deaths	1,165 (99.9%)	1,960 (99.2%)
Confirmed cases	78,439,482 (28.3%)	12,817,415 (27.8%)
Deaths	834,545 (0.3%)	184,655 (0.4%)
Cases/10K population	2,834	2,781
Deaths/10K population	30.15	40.07
Counties w/ 1000+ cases/10K	1,162 (99.7%)	1,967 (99.5%)
Counties w/ 1500+ cases/10K	1,154 (99.0%)	1,933 (97.8%)
Counties w/ 2000+ cases/10K	844 (72.4%)	1,228 (62.1%)
Counties w/ 5+ deaths/10K	1,165 (99.9%)	1,949 (98.6%)
Counties w/ 10+ deaths/10K	1,152 (98.8%)	1,912 (96.8%)
Counties w/ 25+ deaths/10K	846 (72.6%)	1,655 (83.8%)
Counties w/ 50+ deaths/10K	116 (9.9%)	591 (29.9%)

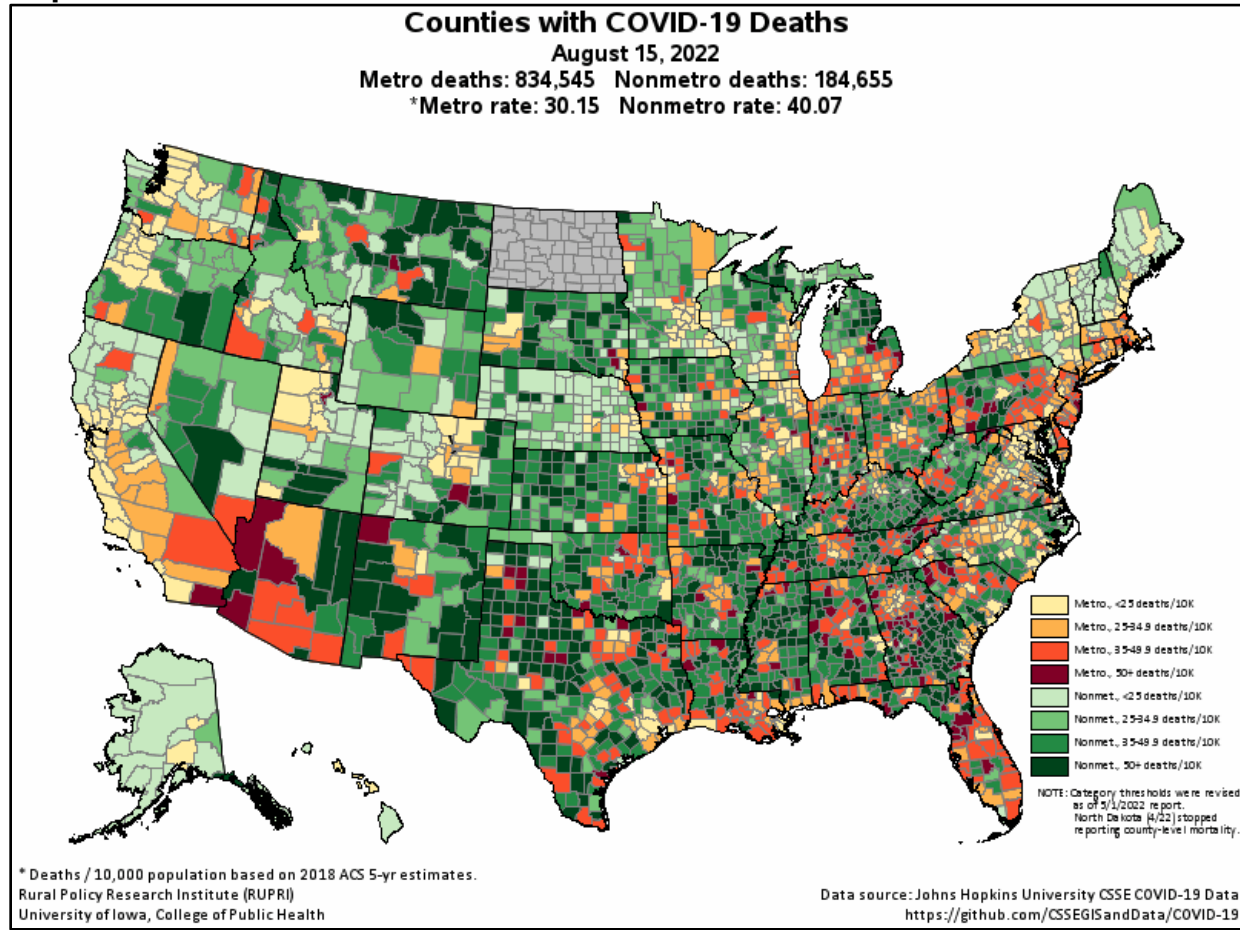
Data sources: COVID-19 case and death data from the [COVID-19 Data Repository by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering \(CSSE\) at Johns Hopkins University](#). Population data from the 2018 American Community Survey 5-yr estimates.

*COVID-19 case and death data for this ongoing report were previously obtained from [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](#). Similarly, previous reports had used population data from the U.S. 2010 decennial Census. Current reports utilize data from the Census Bureau’s 2018 American Community Survey 5-year population estimates.

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.

All data in this brief are based on county-level counts to facilitate metropolitan/nonmetropolitan reporting. Cases and deaths that could not be attributed to a county are excluded. North Dakota (April 2022) stopped reporting county-level mortality data. This means that national figures are undercounts.

Map 2. Counties with COVID-19 Deaths



Map 3. State Metropolitan/Nonmetropolitan COVID-19 One-week Case Rates

