

# RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis

## Rural Data Brief

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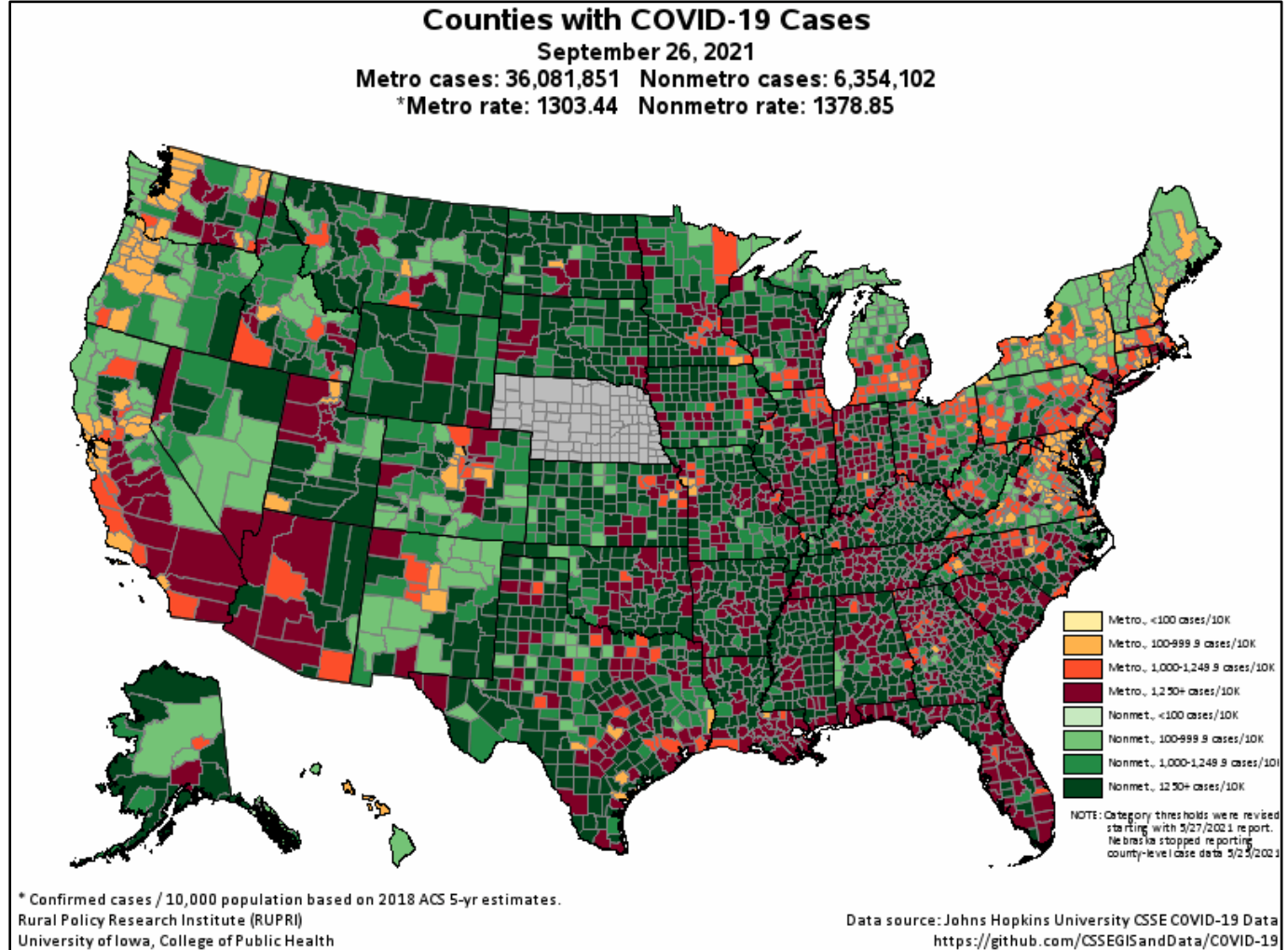
### Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties

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#### Report

Much of the COVID-19 focus has been on major metropolitan areas, but rural areas of the United States are not free of exposure. As of September 26, 2021, there were a total of 42,435,953 cases and 662,328 deaths identified in counties, with 6,354,102 cases and 110,513 deaths (about 15.0 percent of cases and 16.7 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/](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 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 displays the rates of COVID-19 deaths in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties.

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

	<b>Metropolitan</b>	<b>Nonmetropol.</b>
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%)	1,943 (98.3%)
Confirmed cases	36,081,851 (13.0%)	6,354,102 (13.8%)
Deaths	551,815 (0.2%)	110,513 (0.2%)
Cases/10K population	1,303	1,379
Deaths/10K population	19.93	23.98
Counties w/ 10+ cases/10K	1,165 (99.9%)	1,972 (99.8%)
Counties w/ 100+ cases/10K	1,165 (99.9%)	1,972 (99.8%)
Counties w/ 500+ cases/10K	1,159 (99.4%)	1,946 (98.5%)
Counties w/ 750+ cases/10K	1,108 (95.0%)	1,867 (94.5%)
Counties w/ 1+ deaths/10K	1,165 (99.9%)	1,943 (98.3%)
Counties w/ 10+ deaths/10K	1,023 (87.7%)	1,757 (88.9%)
Counties w/ 15+ deaths/10K	823 (70.6%)	1,525 (77.2%)

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.

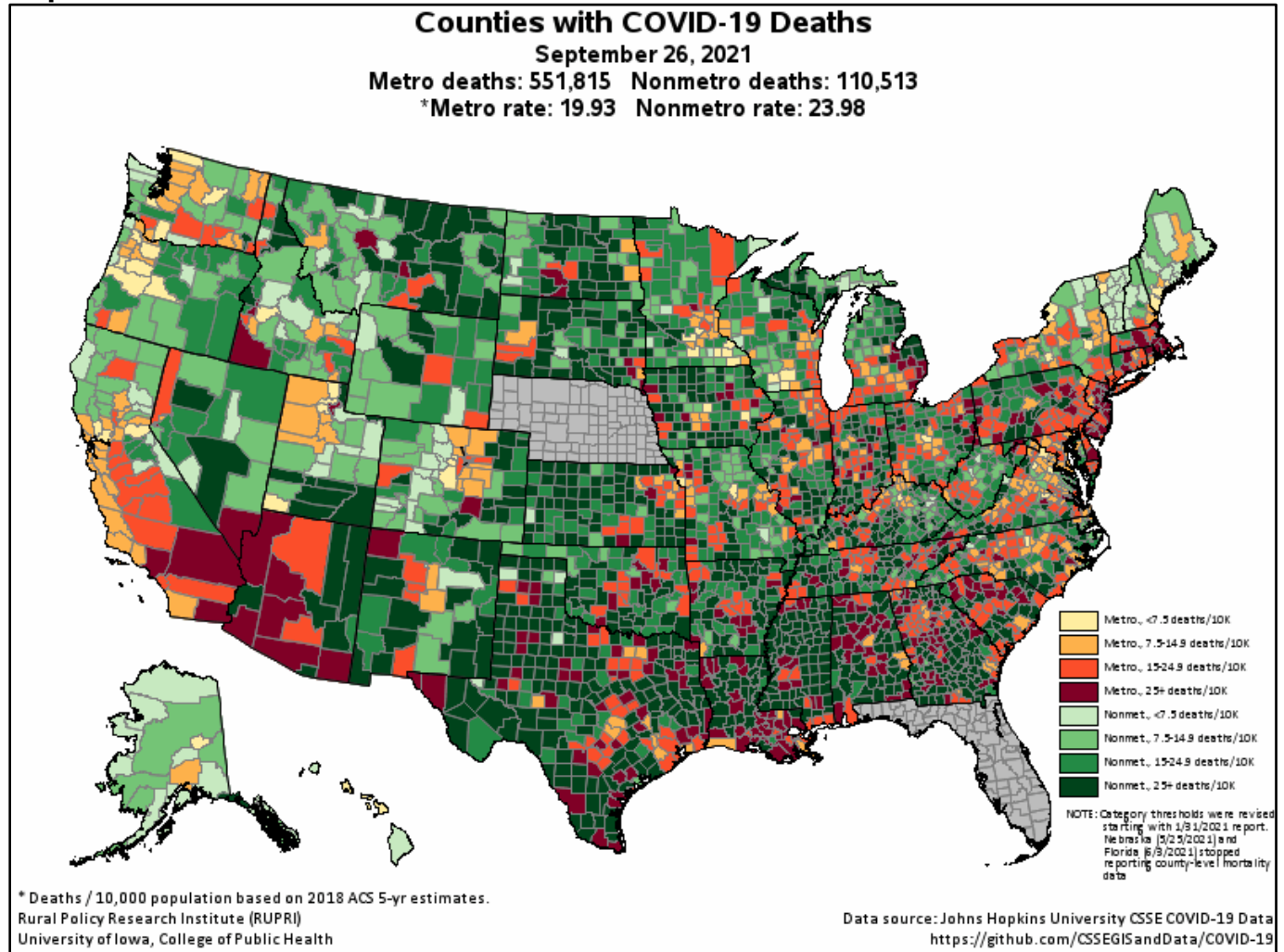
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\*COVID-19 case and death data for this ongoing report were previously obtained from [USAfacts.org](#). Reports after 8/15/2020 use data from the [COVID-19 Data Repository by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering \(CSSE\) at Johns Hopkins University](#). 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. 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.

Nebraska stopped reporting county-level case and mortality data on 5/25/2021. Florida stopped reporting county-level mortality data on 6/3/2021. This means that total metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counts are undercounts.

## Map 2. Counties with COVID-19 Deaths



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

