

RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis

Rural Data Update

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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 January 19, 2023 and February 1, 2023 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: 1/19/2023 – 2/1/2023^d

	Metropolitan (n = 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n = 641)	Noncore (n = 1,335)
No cases reported	17 (1.5%)	21 (3.3%)	109 (8.2%)
Decreasing, notable ^b	316 (27.1%)	178 (27.8%)	312 (23.4%)
Decreasing, not notable	270 (23.2%)	74 (11.5%)	39 (2.9%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	141 (12.1%)	103 (16.1%)	468 (35.1%)
Increasing, not notable	155 (13.3%)	52 (8.1%)	42 (3.1%)
Increasing, notable	267 (22.9%)	213 (33.2%)	365 (27.3%)

^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.

^d Case reporting has become less reliable as surveillance has gotten less comprehensive and states have reduced the frequency of their reports. Counts are therefore under reported.



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Table 2. 14-day trends^a in newly confirmed COVID-19 cases, in counties with any cases, by county geography: 1/19/2023 – 2/1/2023^d

	Metropolitan (n=1,149 of 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n=620 of 641)	Noncore (n=1,226 of 1,335)
<i>Any decrease</i>	586 (51.0%)	252 (40.6%)	351 (28.6%)
Notable decrease ^b	316 (27.5%)	178 (28.7%)	312 (25.4%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	141 (12.3%)	103 (16.6%)	468 (38.2%)
<i>Any increase</i>	422 (36.7%)	265 (42.7%)	407 (33.2%)
Notable increase ^b	267 (23.2%)	213 (34.4%)	365 (29.8%)
Increase of 100% or more	66 (5.7%)	59 (9.5%)	167 (13.6%)

^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.

^dCase reporting has become less reliable as surveillance has gotten less comprehensive and states have reduced the frequency of their reports. Counts are therefore under reported.

Figure 1.

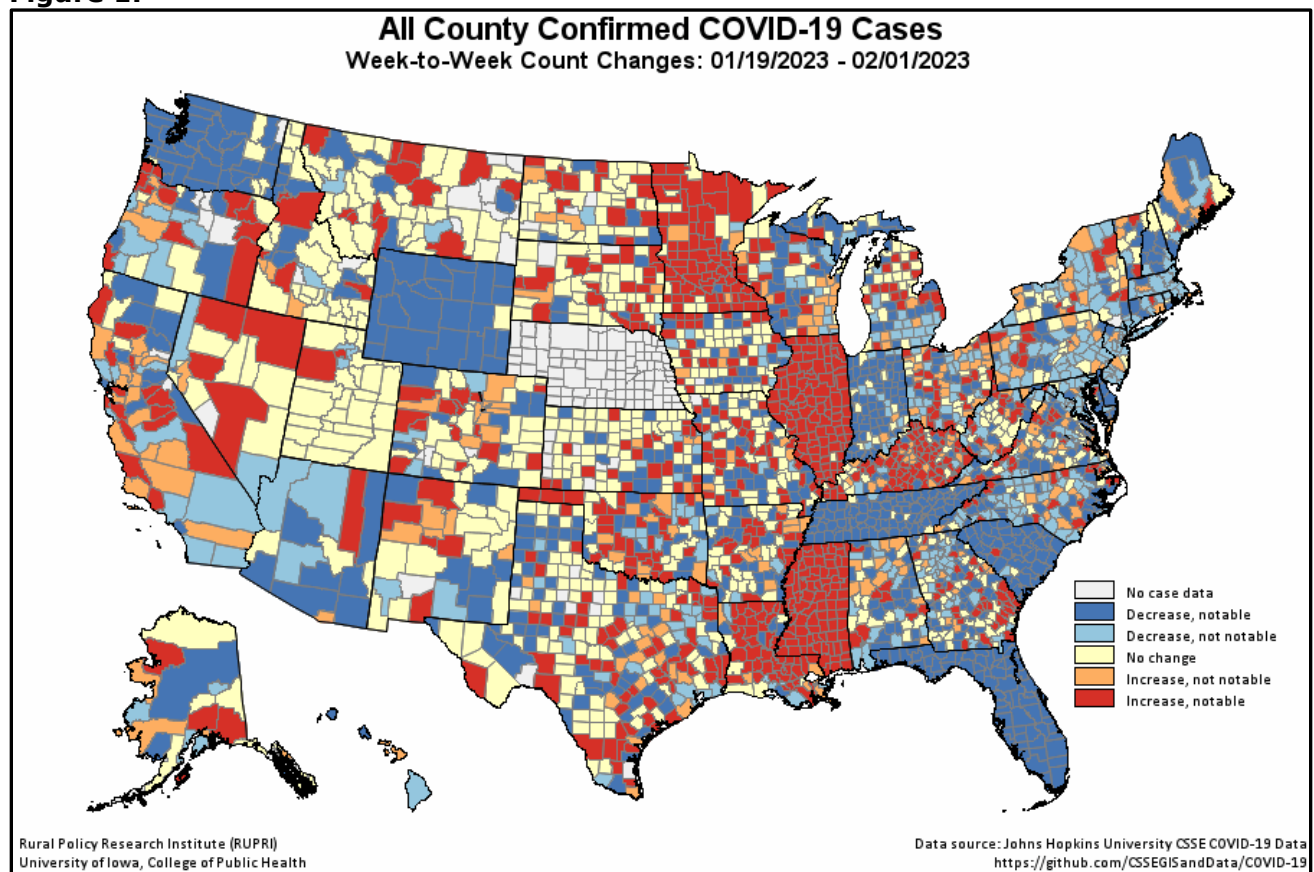


Figure 2.

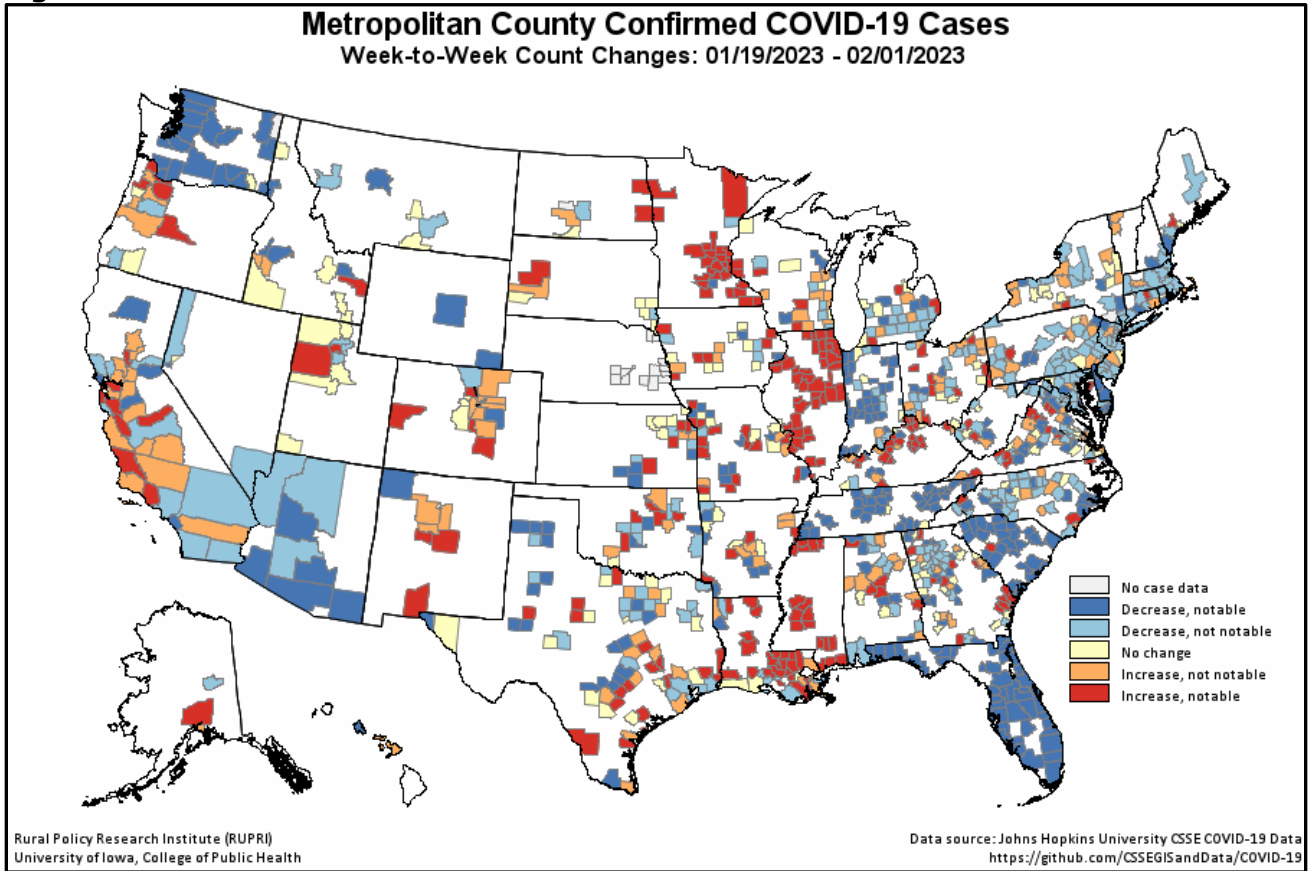


Figure 3.

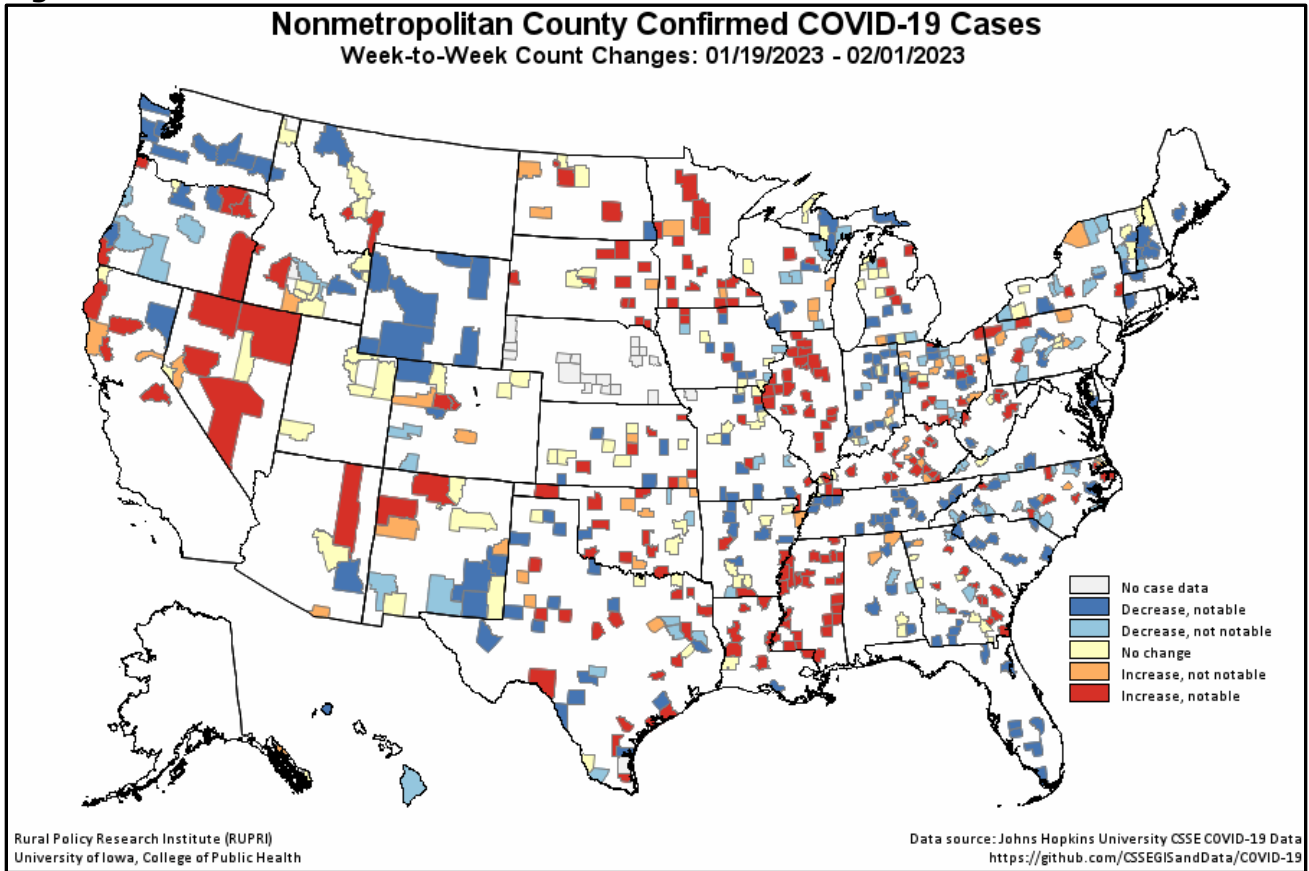
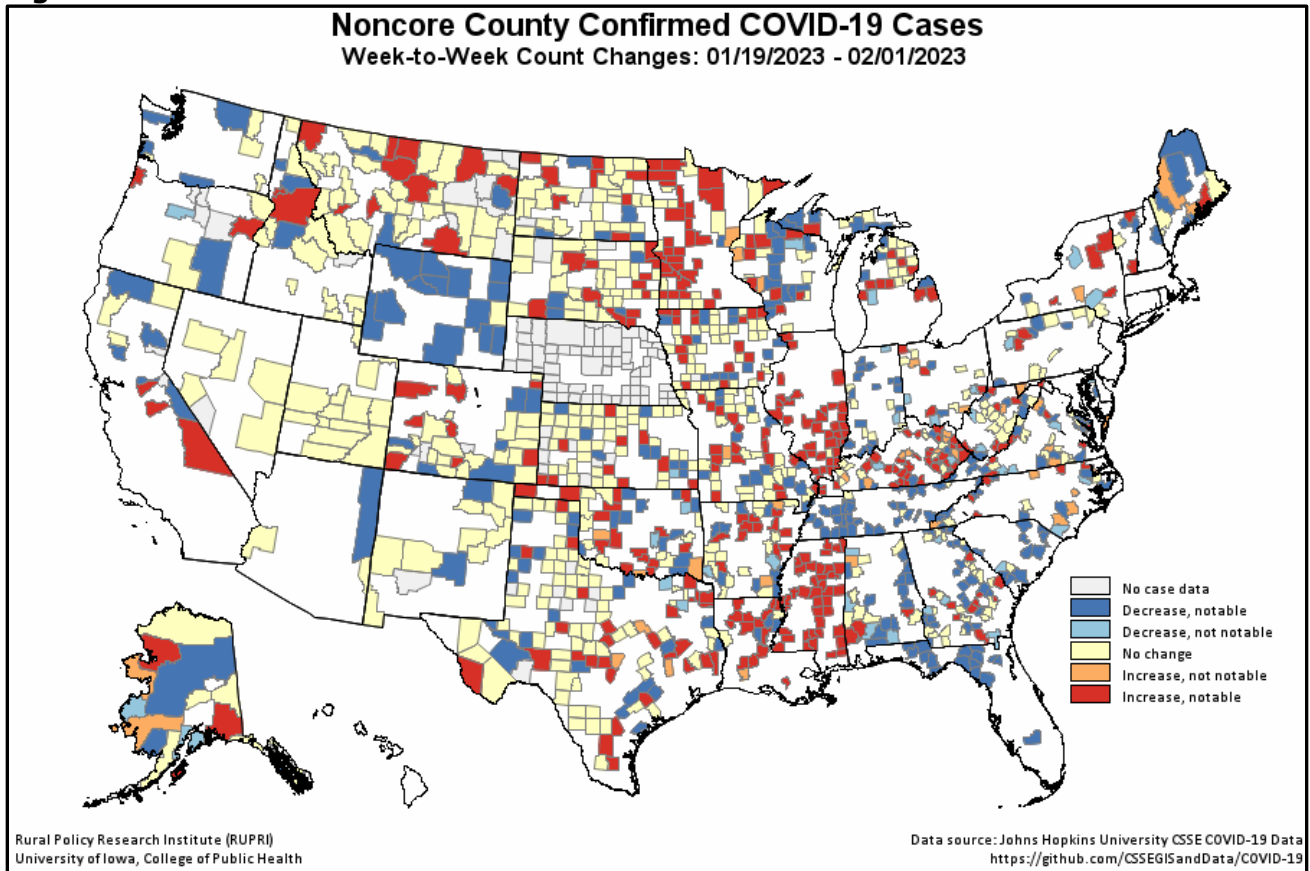


Figure 4.



¹ COVID-19 case and death data for this ongoing report were previously obtained from USAFacts.org. 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.

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.

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/>.