

# 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](https://ruprihealth.org/publications/policybriefs/2020/County_COVID_Trajectories.pdf)). This data brief looks at the new case counts in every US county between February 7, 2021, and February 20, 2021, 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](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 Repository<sup>1</sup>. 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 Codes<sup>2</sup>.

**Table 1. 14-day trends<sup>a</sup> in newly confirmed COVID-19 cases, by county geography: 2/7/2021 – 2/20/2021**

	<b>Metropolitan (n = 1,166)</b>	<b>Nonmetropolitan (n = 641)</b>	<b>Noncore (n = 1,335)</b>
No cases reported	8 (0.7%)	6 (0.9%)	47 (3.5%)
Decreasing, notable <sup>b</sup>	595 (51.0%)	324 (50.5%)	589 (44.1%)
Decreasing, not notable	325 (27.9%)	122 (19.0%)	100 (7.5%)
Same number, both weeks <sup>c</sup>	62 (5.3%)	69 (10.8%)	330 (24.7%)
Increasing, not notable	84 (7.2%)	47 (7.3%)	37 (2.8%)
Increasing, notable	92 (7.9%)	73 (11.4%)	232 (17.4%)

<sup>a</sup>Comparison of number of new cases in first week of 14-day period with new cases in second week.

<sup>b</sup>“Notable” trends indicate weekly changes in new cases exceeding (either increasing or decreasing) 25 percent.

<sup>c</sup>Includes counties with an absolute change in count of two or fewer.



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**Table 2. 14-day trends<sup>a</sup> in newly confirmed COVID-19 cases, in counties with any cases, by county geography: 2/7/2021 – 2/20/2021**

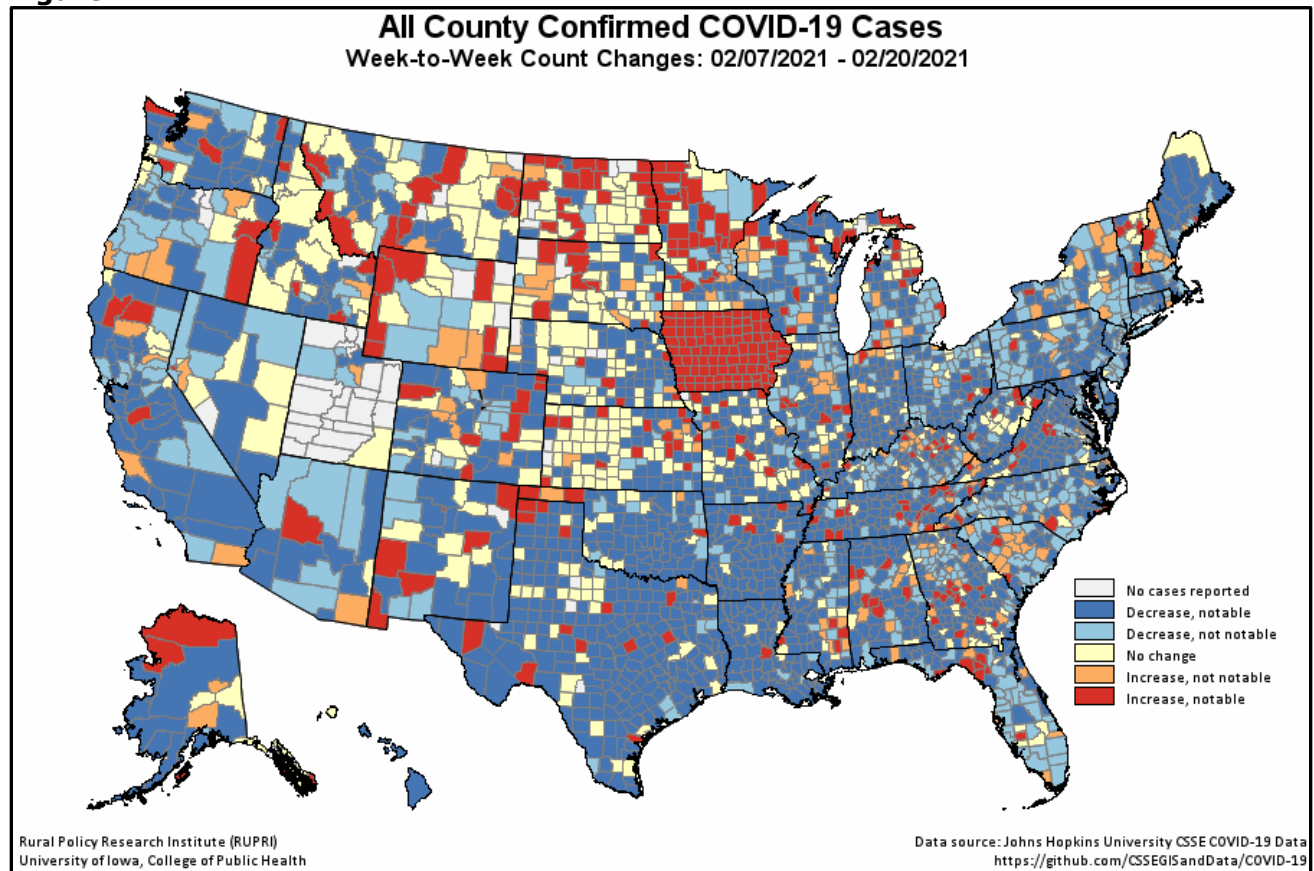
	<b>Metropolitan</b> (n = 1,158 of 1,166)	<b>Nonmetropolitan</b> (n = 635 of 641)	<b>Noncore</b> (n = 1,288 of 1,335)
Any decrease	920 (79.4%)	446 (70.2%)	689 (53.5%)
Notable decrease <sup>b</sup>	595 (51.4%)	324 (51.0%)	589 (45.7%)
Same number, both weeks <sup>c</sup>	62 (5.4%)	69 (10.9%)	330 (25.6%)
Any increase	176 (15.2%)	120 (18.9%)	269 (20.9%)
Notable increase <sup>b</sup>	92 (7.9%)	73 (11.5%)	232 (18.0%)
Increase of 100% or more	41 (3.5%)	35 (5.5%)	140 (10.9%)

<sup>a</sup>Comparison of number of new cases in first week of 14-day period with new cases in second week.

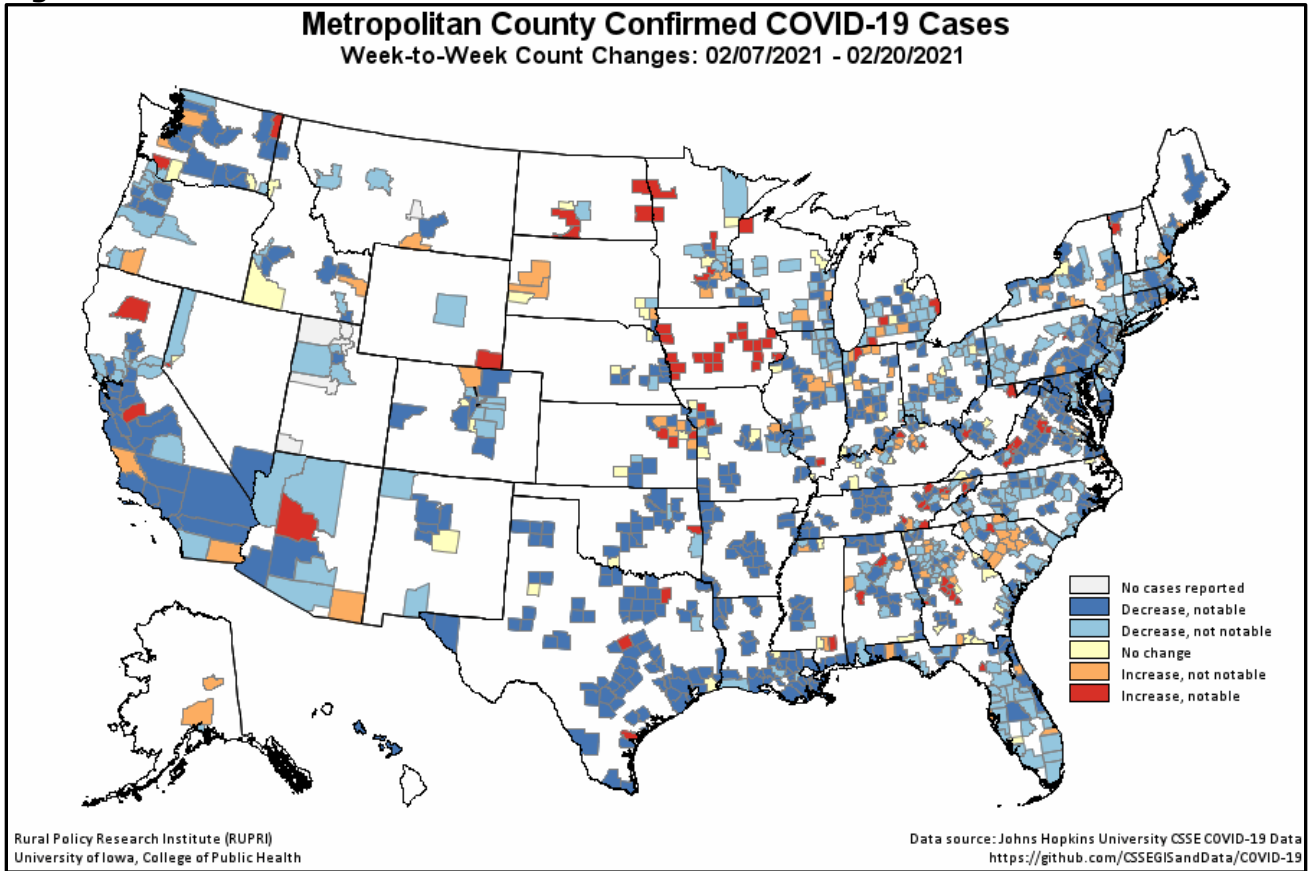
<sup>b</sup>“Notable” trends indicate weekly changes in new cases exceeding (either increasing or decreasing) 25 percent.

<sup>c</sup>Includes counties with an absolute change in count of two or fewer.

**Figure 1.**



**Figure 2.**



**Figure 3.**

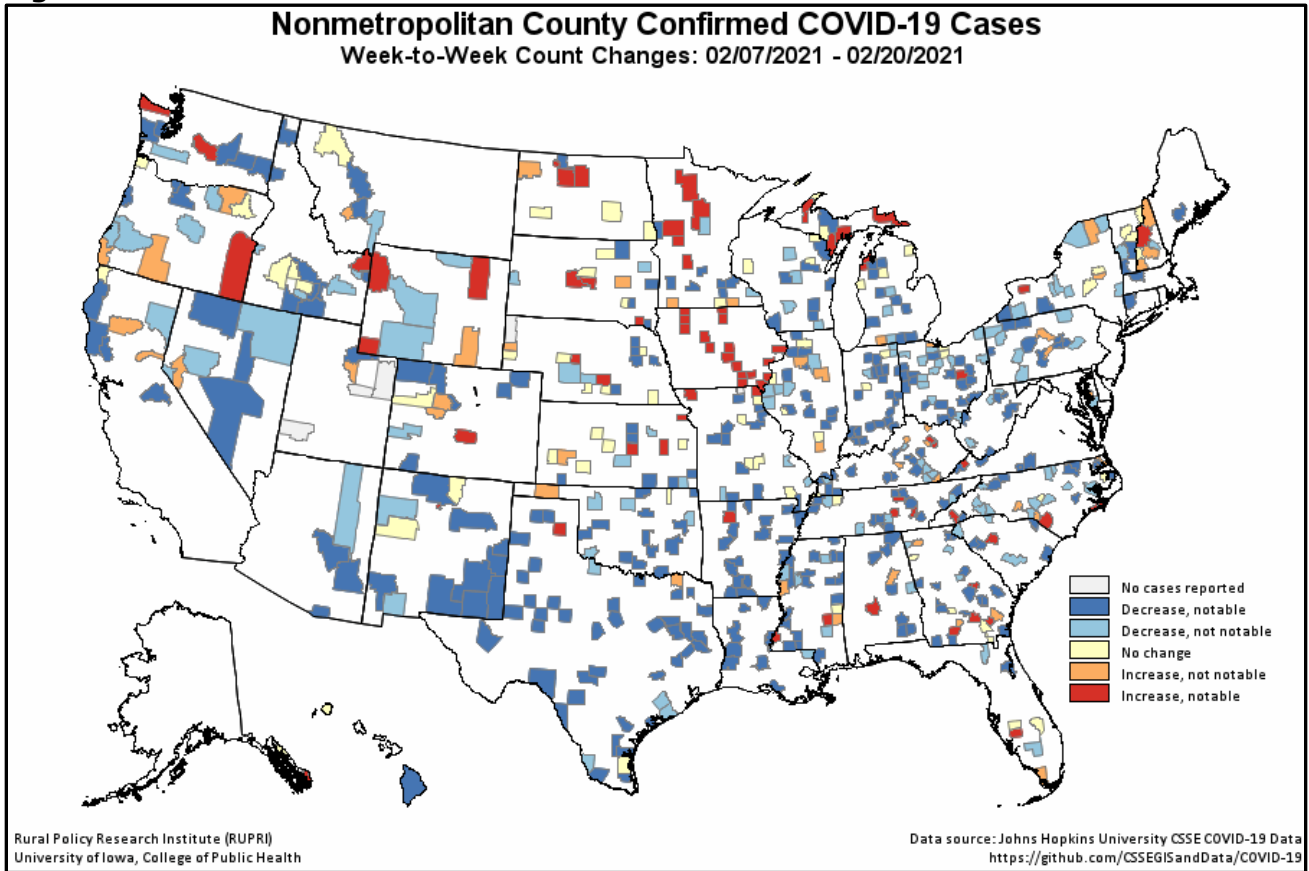
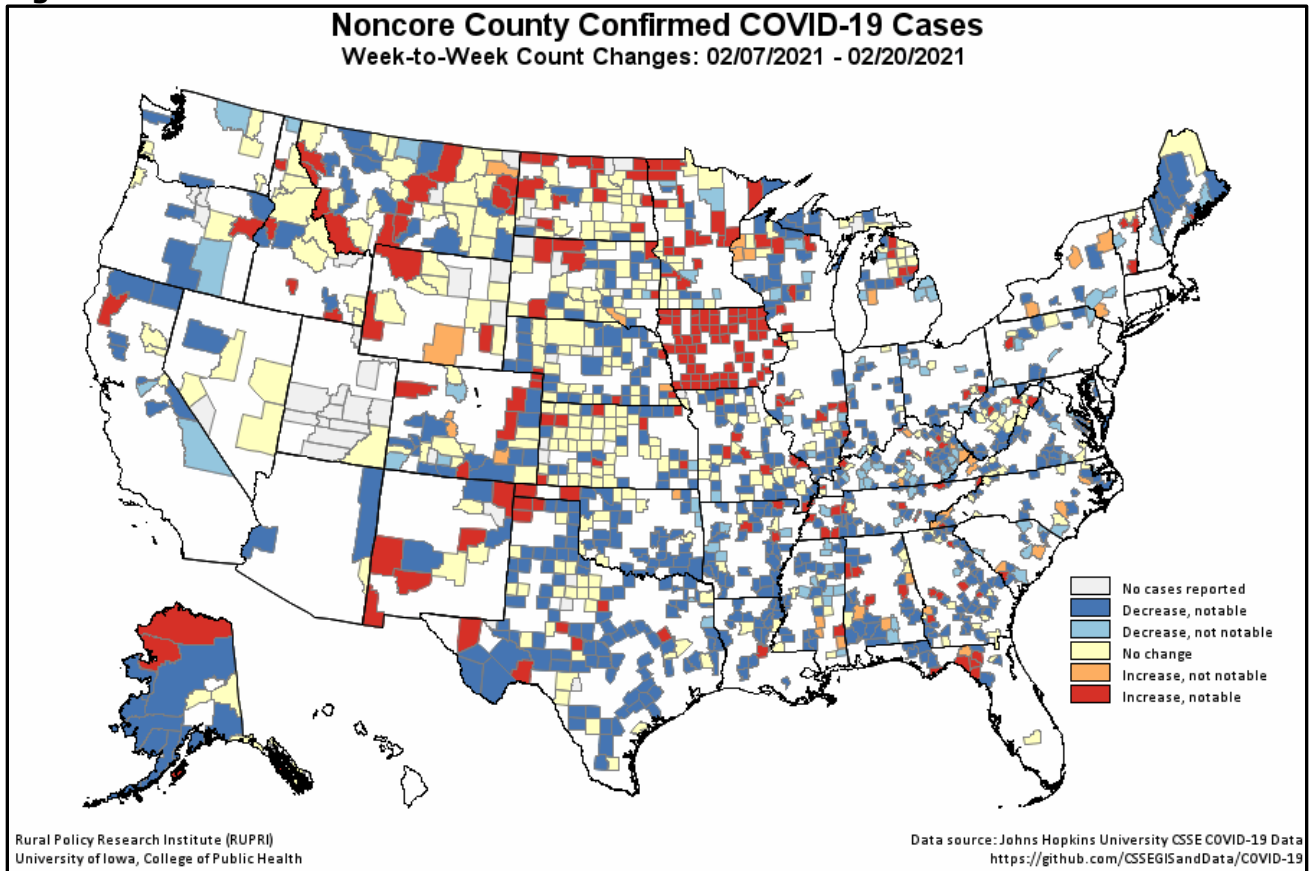


Figure 4.



<sup>1</sup> COVID-19 case and death data for this ongoing report were previously obtained from [USA Facts.org](https://datafairs.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.

<sup>2</sup> 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/>.