

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). This data brief looks at the new case counts in every US county between July 19, 2020, and August 1, 2020, 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 USAFacts.org¹. 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: 7/19/2020 – 8/1/2020

| | Metropolitan (n = 1,166) | Nonmetropolitan (n = 641) | Noncore (n = 1,335) |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| No cases reported | 6 (0.5%) | 8 (1.2%) | 114 (8.5%) |
| Decreasing, notable ^b | 254 (21.8%) | 169 (26.4%) | 297 (22.2%) |
| Decreasing, not notable | 283 (24.3%) | 74 (11.5%) | 68 (5.1%) |
| Same number, both weeks ^c | 134 (11.5%) | 116 (18.1%) | 463 (34.7%) |
| Increasing, not notable | 183 (15.7%) | 60 (9.4%) | 45 (3.4%) |
| Increasing, notable | 306 (26.2%) | 214 (33.4%) | 348 (26.1%) |

Table 2. 14-day trends^a in newly confirmed COVID-19 cases, in counties with any cases, by county geography: 7/19/2020 – 8/1/2020

| | Metropolitan (n = 1,160 of 1,166) | Nonmetropolitan (n = 633 of 641) | Noncore (n = 1,221 of 1,335) |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Any decrease | 537 (46.3%) | 243 (38.4%) | 365 (29.9%) |
| Notable decrease ^b | 254 (21.9%) | 169 (26.7%) | 297 (24.3%) |
| Same number, both weeks ^c | 134 (11.6%) | 116 (18.3%) | 463 (37.9%) |
| Any increase | 489 (42.2%) | 274 (43.3%) | 393 (32.2%) |
| Notable increase ^b | 306 (26.4%) | 214 (33.8%) | 348 (28.5%) |
| Increase of 100% or more | 85 (7.3%) | 85 (13.4%) | 209 (17.1%) |

^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.



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Figure 1.

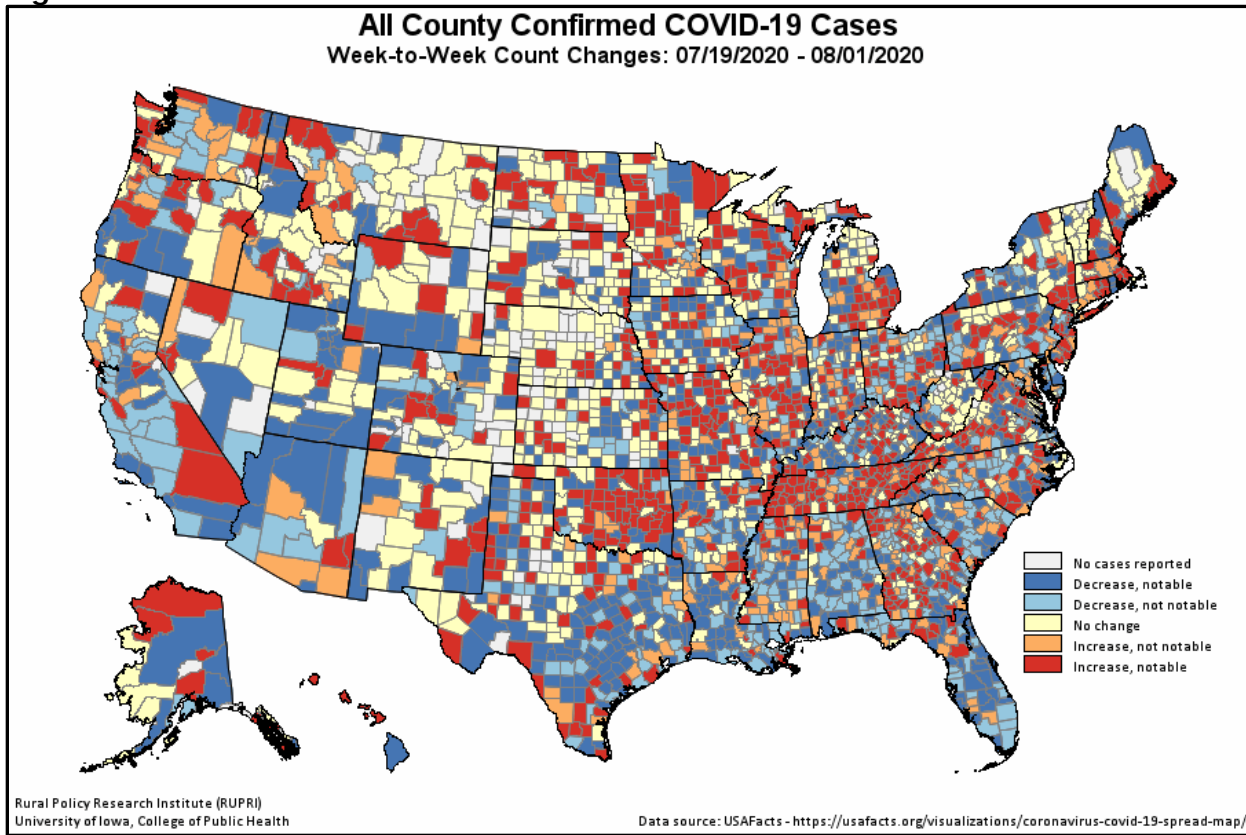


Figure 2.

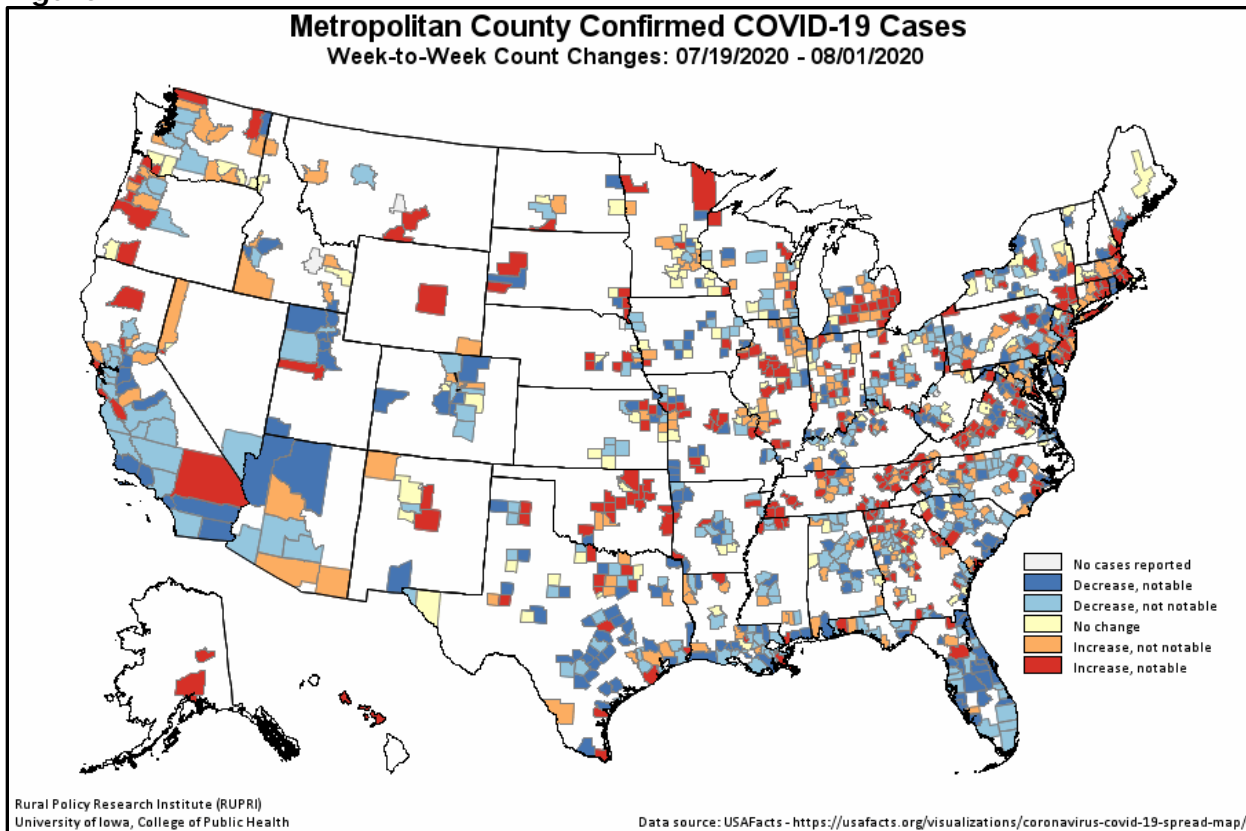


Figure 3.

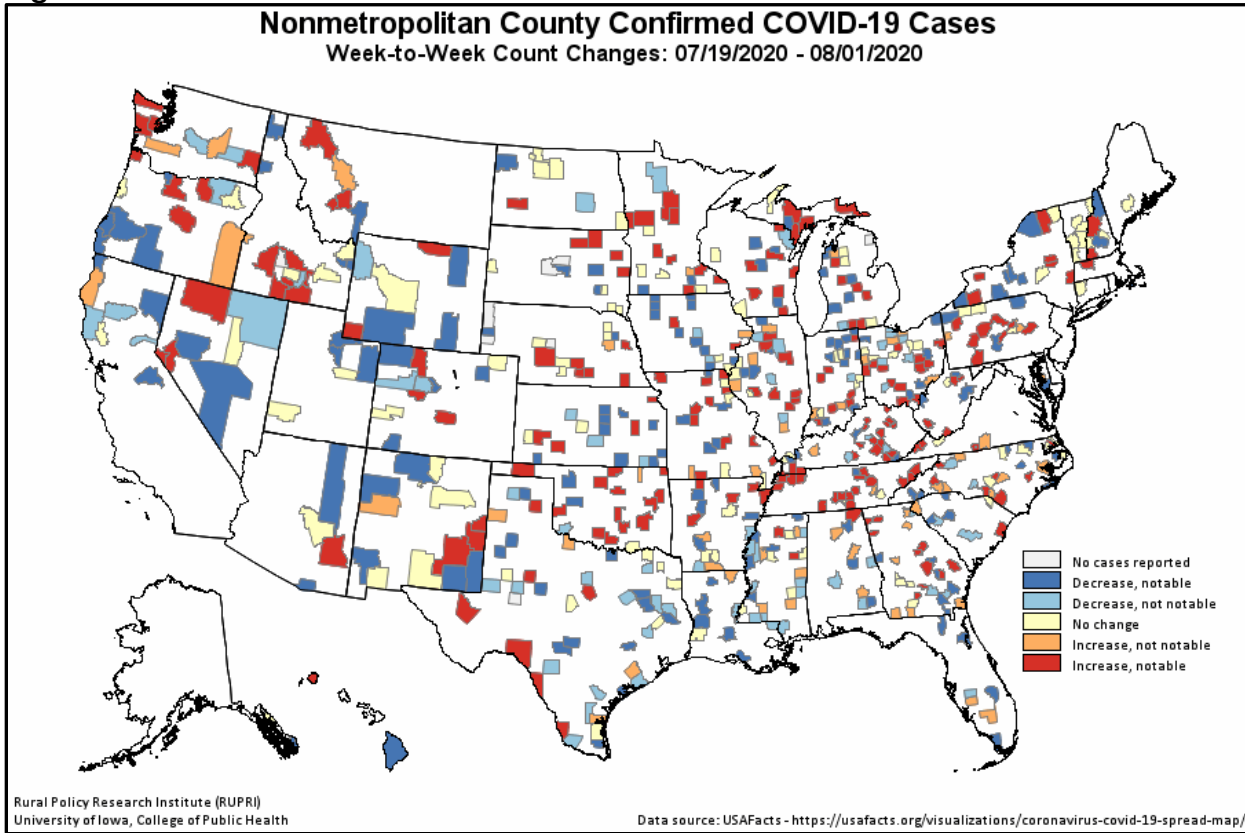
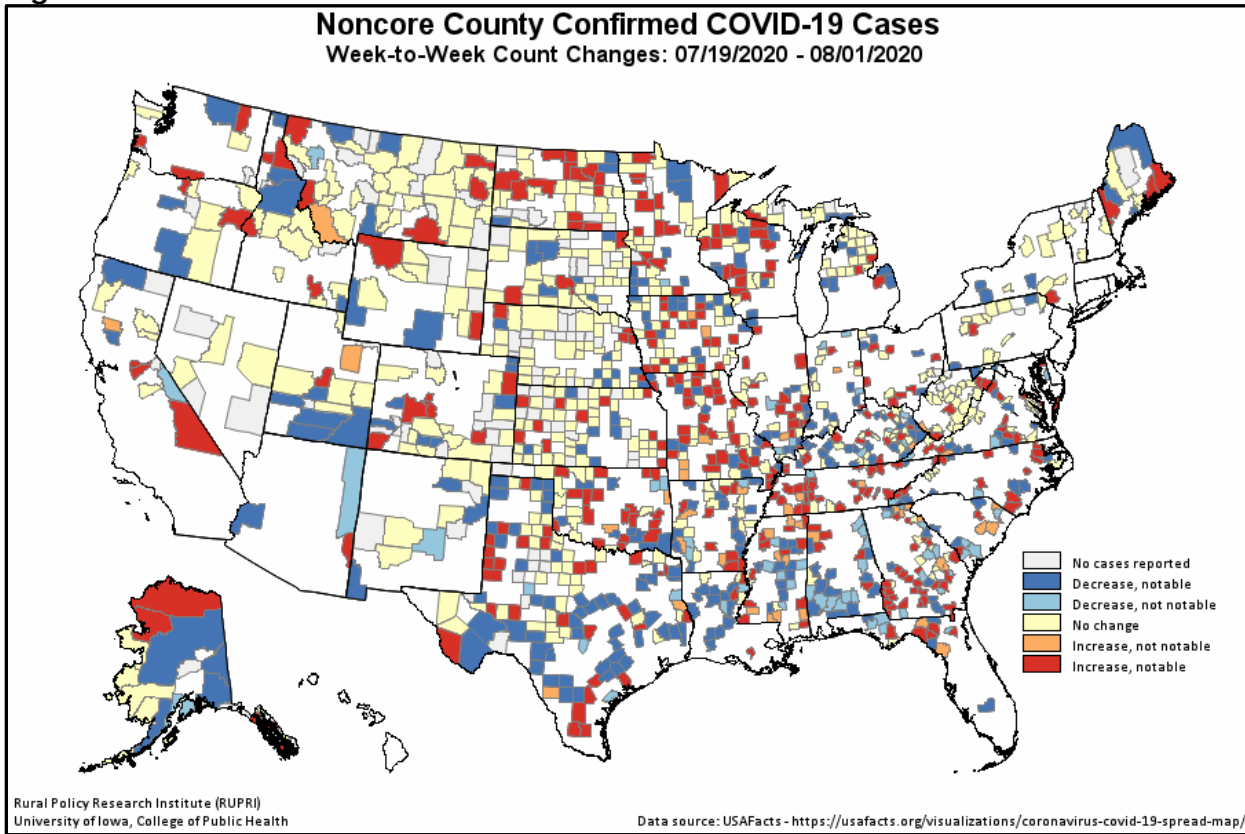


Figure 4.



¹ USAFacts.org (2020). "Coronavirus Locations: COVID-19 Map by County and State." Data retrieved from <https://usafacts.org/visualizations/coronavirus-covid-19-spread-map/>.

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/>.