

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 August 19, 2022, and September 1, 2022, 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: 8/19/2022 – 9/1/2022

	Metropolitan (n = 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n = 641)	Noncore (n = 1,335)
No cases reported	1 (0.1%)	5 (0.8%)	21 (1.6%)
Decreasing, notable ^b	257 (22.0%)	162 (25.3%)	392 (29.4%)
Decreasing, not notable	356 (30.5%)	153 (23.9%)	141 (10.6%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	78 (6.7%)	72 (11.2%)	311 (23.3%)
Increasing, not notable	243 (20.8%)	119 (18.6%)	113 (8.5%)
Increasing, notable	231 (19.8%)	130 (20.3%)	357 (26.7%)

^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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Table 2. 14-day trends^a in newly confirmed COVID-19 cases, in counties with any cases, by county geography: 8/19/2022 – 9/1/2022

	Metropolitan (n=1,165 of 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n=636 of 641)	Noncore (n=1,314 of 1,335)
<i>Any decrease</i>	613 (52.6%)	315 (49.5%)	533 (40.6%)
Notable decrease ^b	257 (22.1%)	162 (25.5%)	392 (29.8%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	78 (6.7%)	72 (11.3%)	311 (23.7%)
<i>Any increase</i>	474 (40.7%)	249 (39.2%)	470 (35.8%)
Notable increase ^b	231 (19.8%)	130 (20.4%)	357 (27.2%)
Increase of 100% or more	25 (2.1%)	22 (3.5%)	105 (8.0%)

^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.

Figure 1.

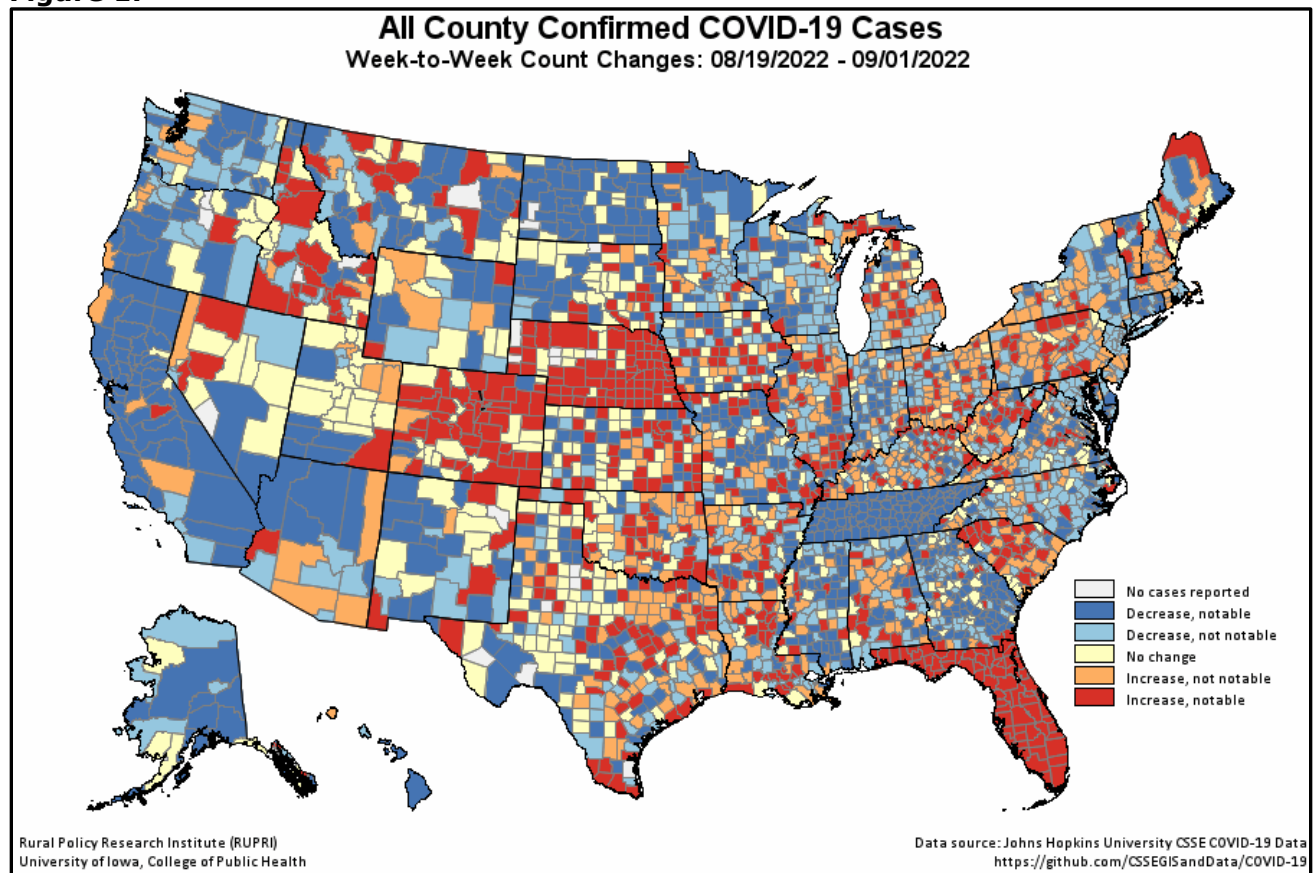


Figure 2.

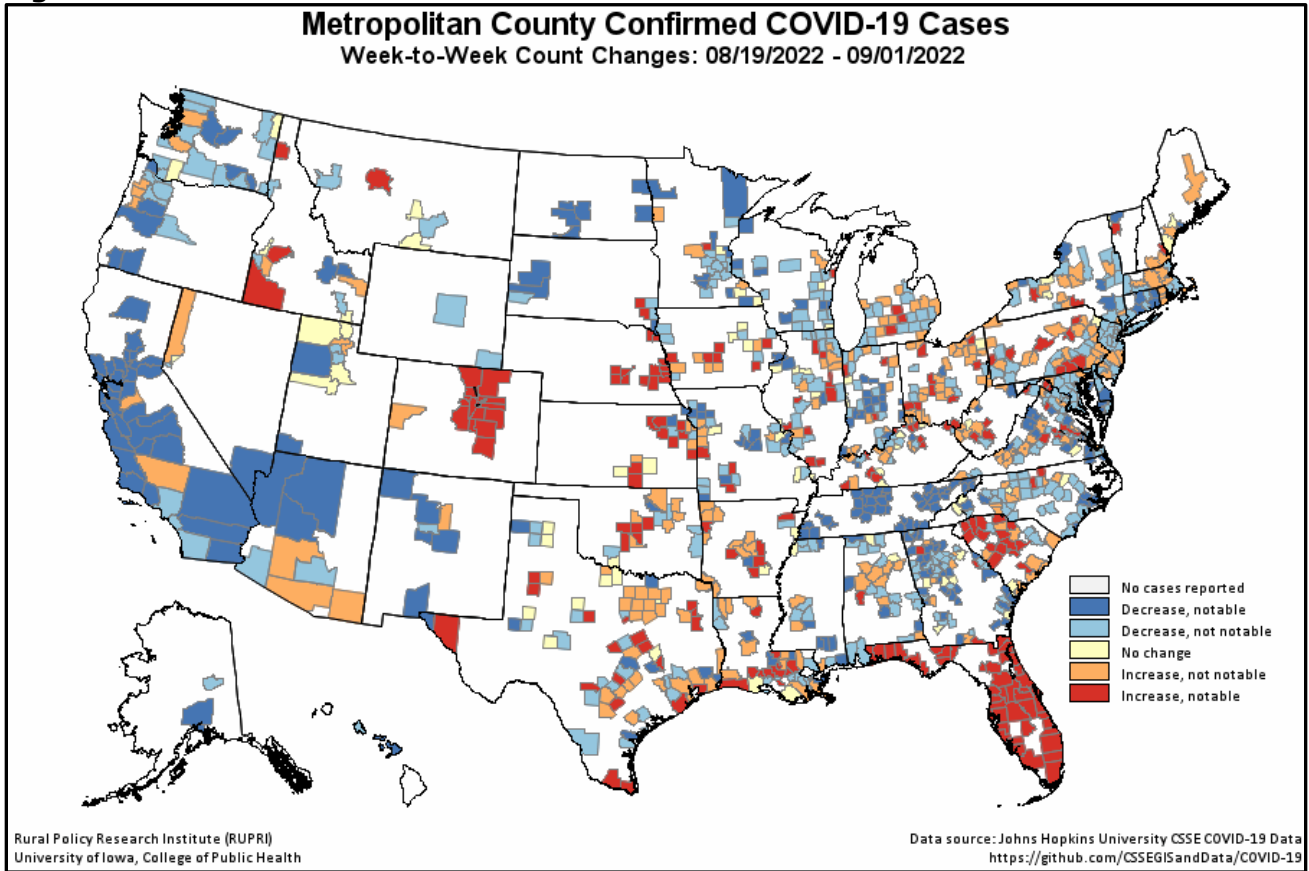


Figure 3.

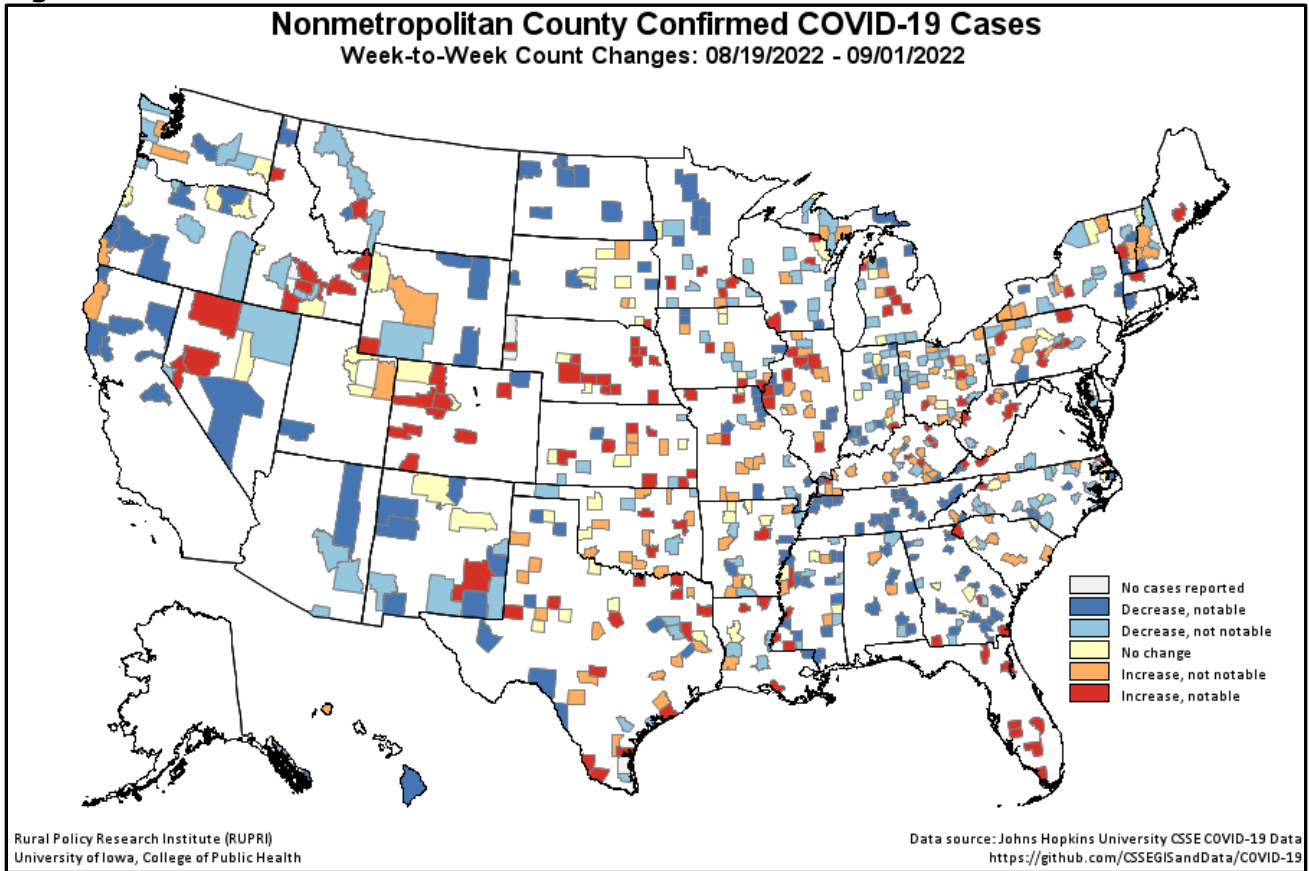
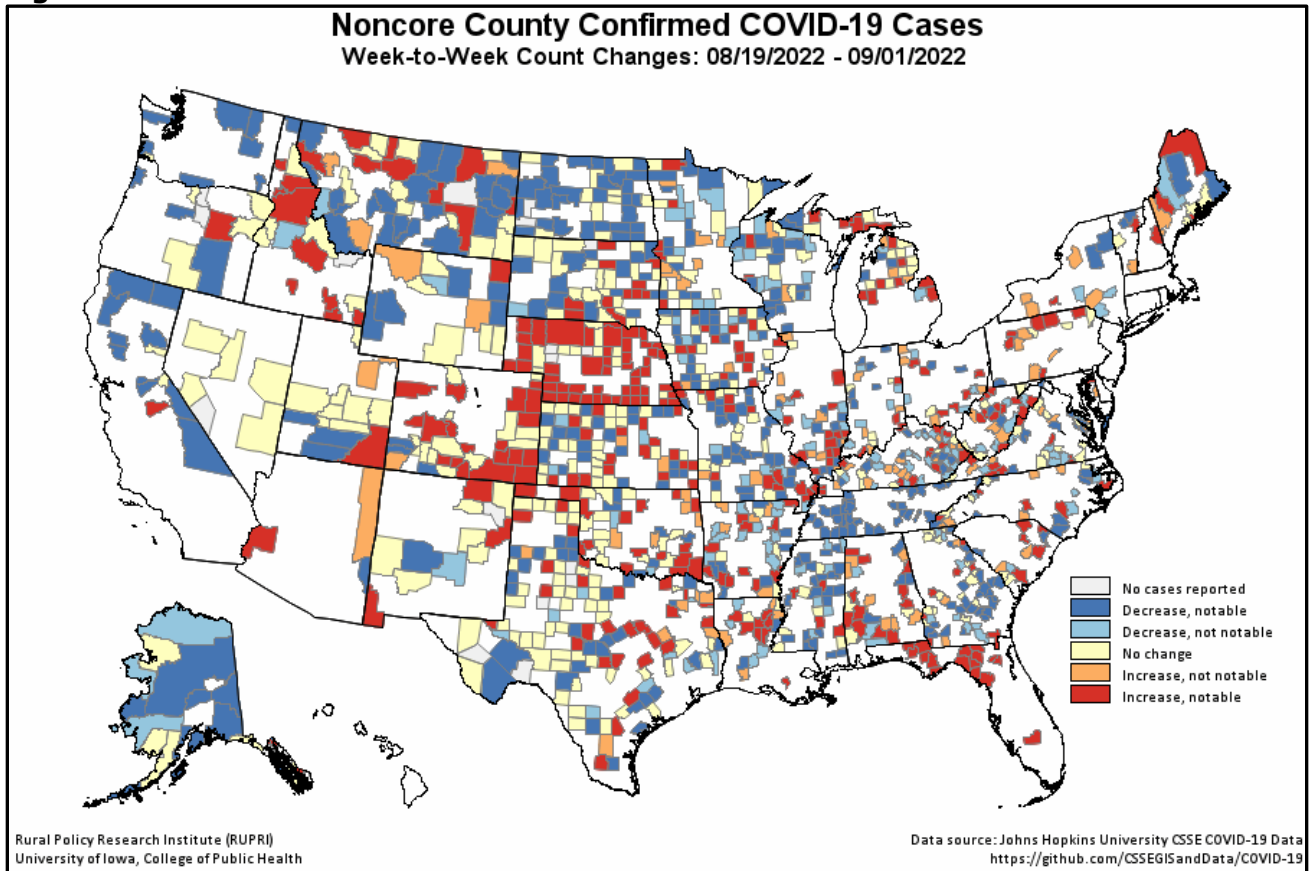


Figure 4.



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/>.