

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 September 18, 2022, and October 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: 9/18/2022 – 10/1/2022^d

	Metropolitan (n = 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n = 641)	Noncore (n = 1,335)
No cases reported	17 (1.5%)	21 (3.3%)	97 (7.3%)
Decreasing, notable ^b	484 (41.5%)	278 (43.4%)	500 (37.5%)
Decreasing, not notable	352 (30.2%)	134 (20.9%)	78 (5.8%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	105 (9.0%)	80 (12.5%)	430 (32.2%)
Increasing, not notable	120 (10.3%)	38 (5.9%)	33 (2.5%)
Increasing, notable	88 (7.5%)	90 (14.0%)	197 (14.8%)

^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.

^dNebraska provided no county-level case data during this period. 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: 9/18/2022 – 10/1/2022^d

	Metropolitan (n=1,149 of 1,166)		Nonmetropolitan (n=620 of 641)		Noncore (n=1,238 of 1,335)	
<i>Any decrease</i>	836	(72.8%)	412	(66.5%)	578	(46.7%)
Notable decrease ^b	484	(42.1%)	278	(44.8%)	500	(40.4%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	105	(9.1%)	80	(12.9%)	430	(34.7%)
<i>Any increase</i>	208	(18.1%)	128	(20.6%)	230	(18.6%)
Notable increase ^b	88	(7.7%)	90	(14.5%)	197	(15.9%)
Increase of 100% or more	21	(1.8%)	24	(3.9%)	96	(7.8%)

^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.

^dNebraska provided no county-level case data during this period. Counts are therefore under reported.

Figure 1.

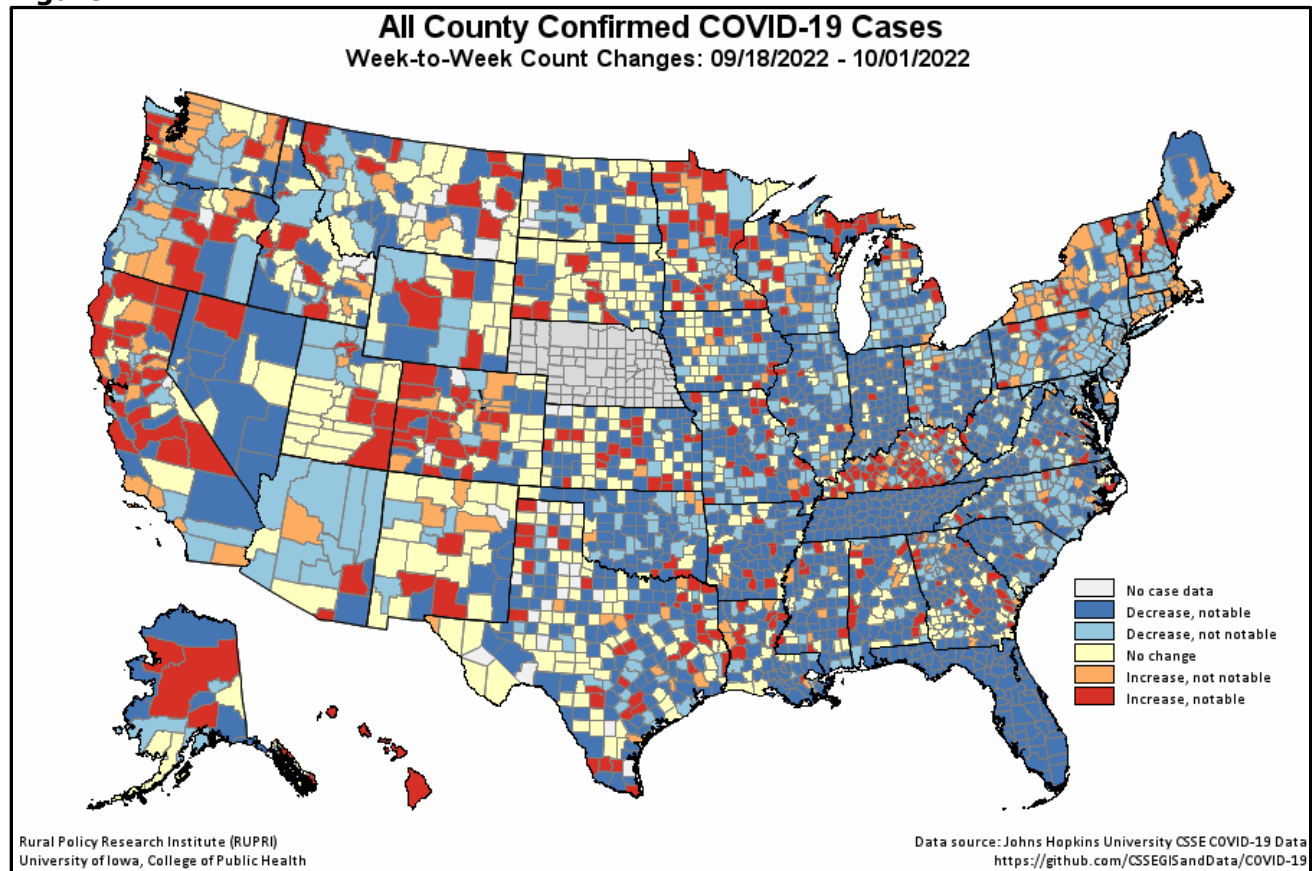


Figure 2.

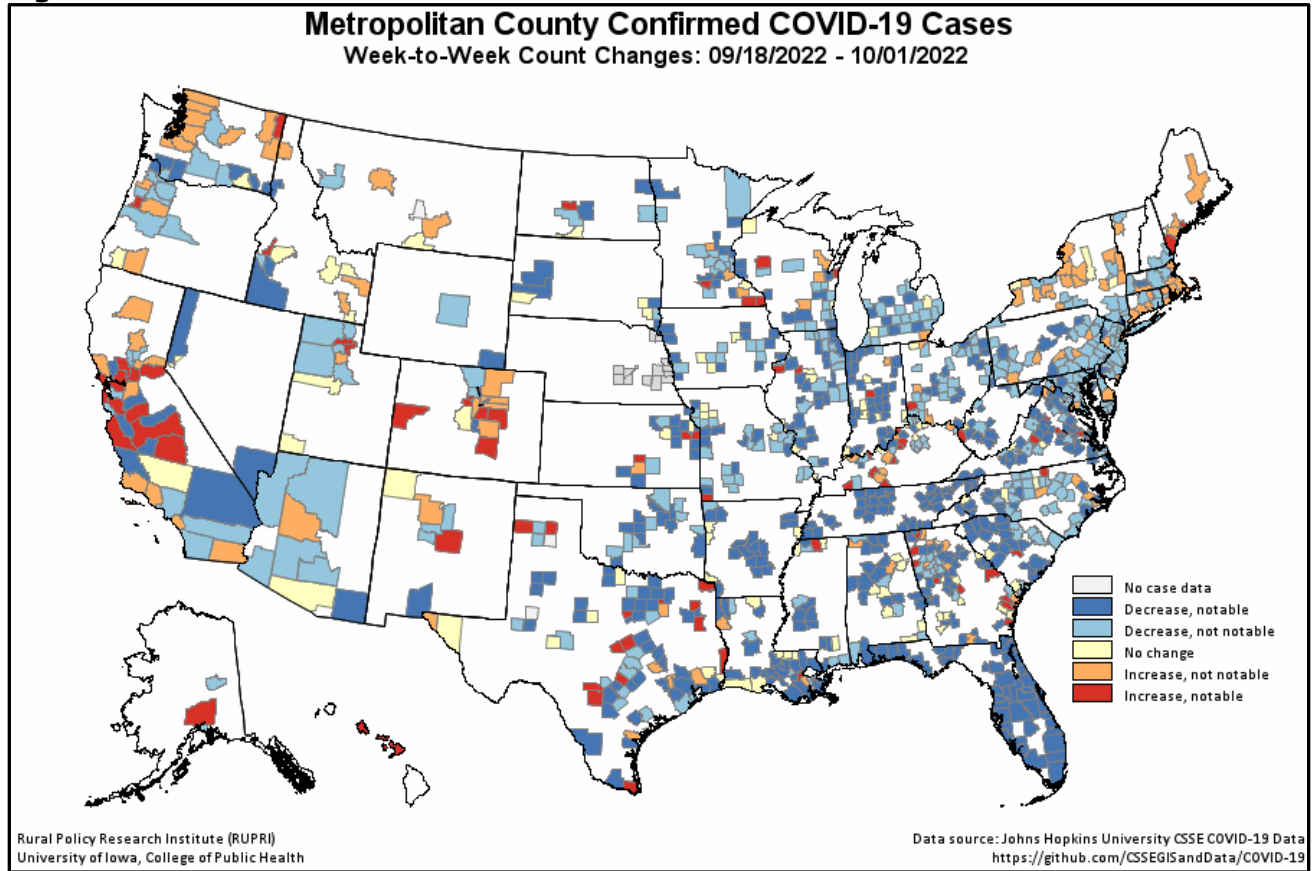


Figure 3.

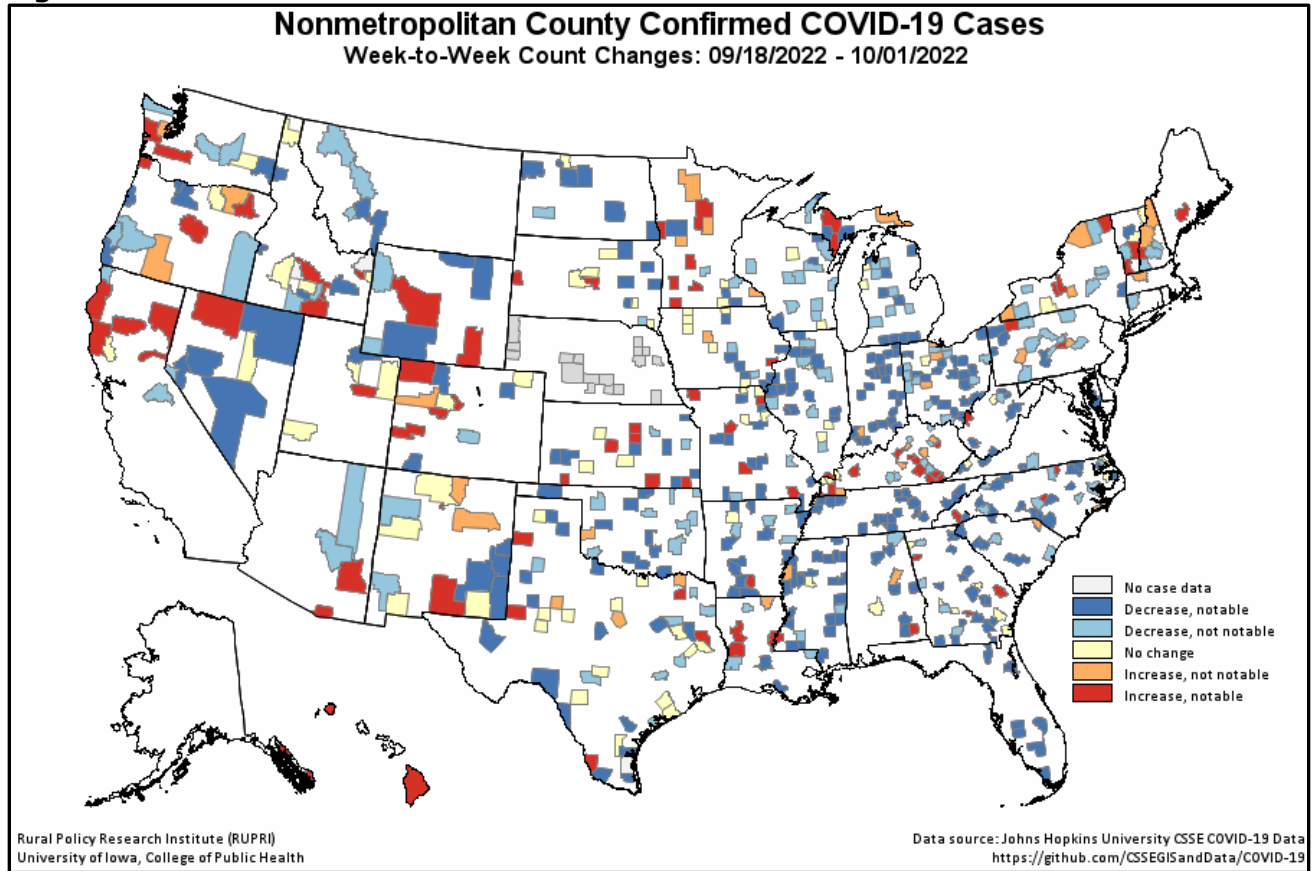
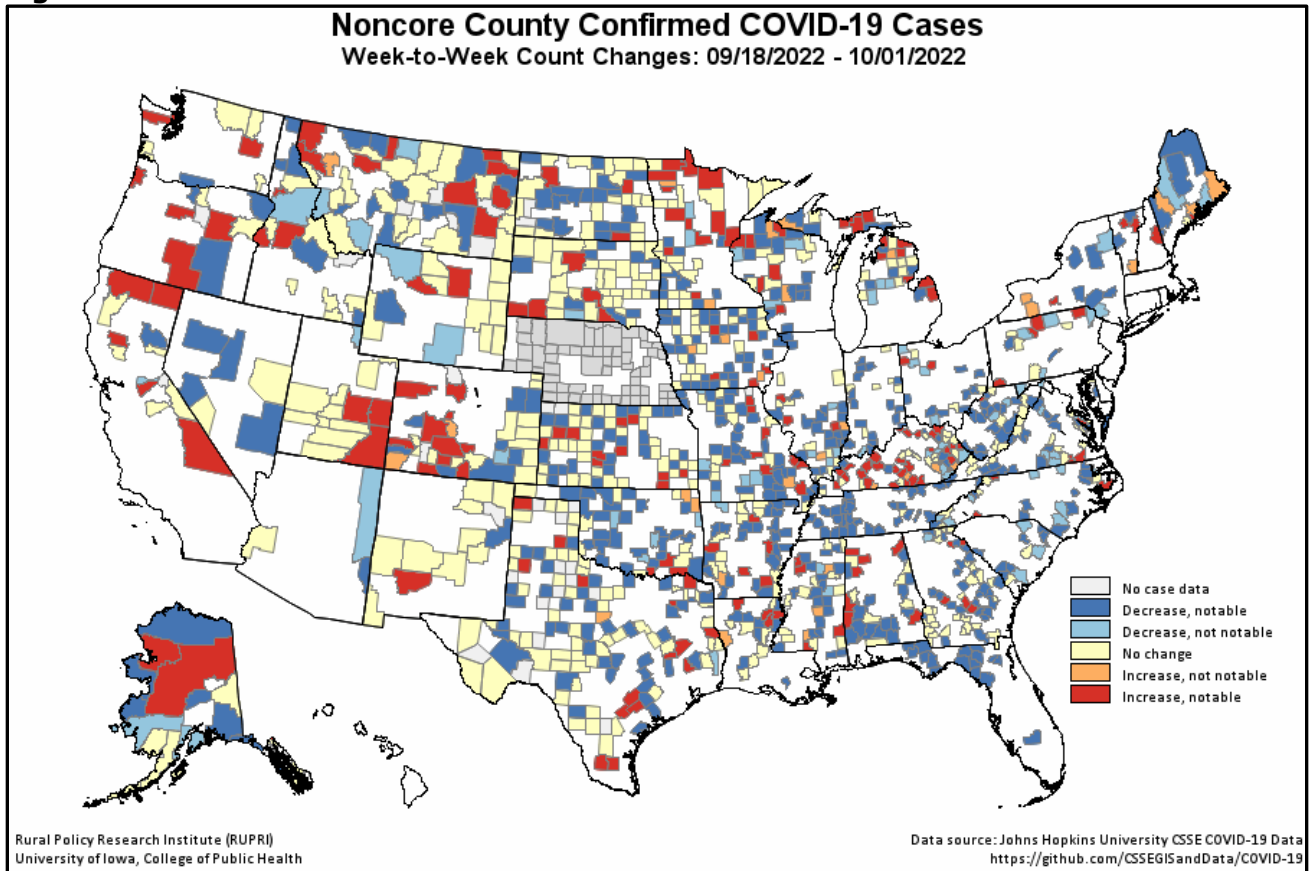


Figure 4.



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/>.