

# 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 November 22, 2020, and December 5, 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](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: 11/22/2020 – 12/5/2020**

	Metropolitan (n = 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n = 641)	Noncore (n = 1,335)
No cases reported	8 (0.7%)	4 (0.6%)	20 (1.5%)
Decreasing, notable <sup>b</sup>	80 (6.9%)	79 (12.3%)	245 (18.4%)
Decreasing, not notable	242 (20.8%)	133 (20.7%)	188 (14.1%)
Same number, both weeks <sup>c</sup>	45 (3.9%)	40 (6.2%)	186 (13.9%)
Increasing, not notable	297 (25.5%)	150 (23.4%)	164 (12.3%)
Increasing, notable	494 (42.4%)	235 (36.7%)	532 (39.9%)

<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.



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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: 11/22/2020 – 12/5/2020**

	Metropolitan (n = 1,158 of 1,166)		Nonmetropolitan (n = 637 of 641)		Noncore (n = 1,315 of 1,335)	
Any decrease	322	(27.8%)	212	(33.3%)	433	(32.9%)
Notable decrease <sup>b</sup>	80	(6.9%)	79	(12.4%)	245	(18.6%)
Same number, both weeks <sup>c</sup>	45	(3.9%)	40	(6.3%)	186	(14.1%)
Any increase	791	(68.3%)	385	(60.4%)	696	(52.9%)
Notable increase <sup>b</sup>	494	(42.7%)	235	(36.9%)	532	(40.5%)
Increase of 100% or more	77	(6.6%)	57	(8.9%)	209	(15.9%)

<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.**

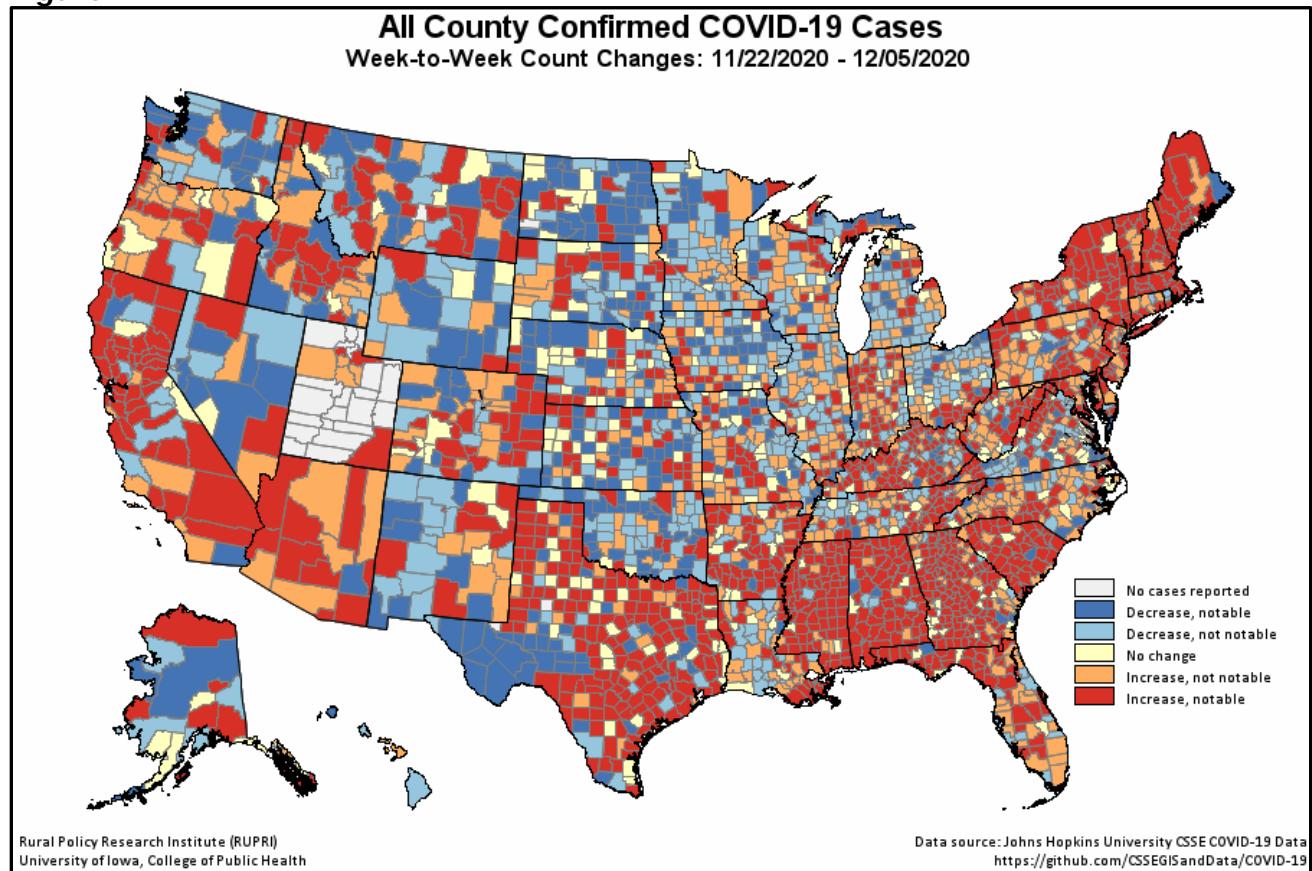


Figure 2.

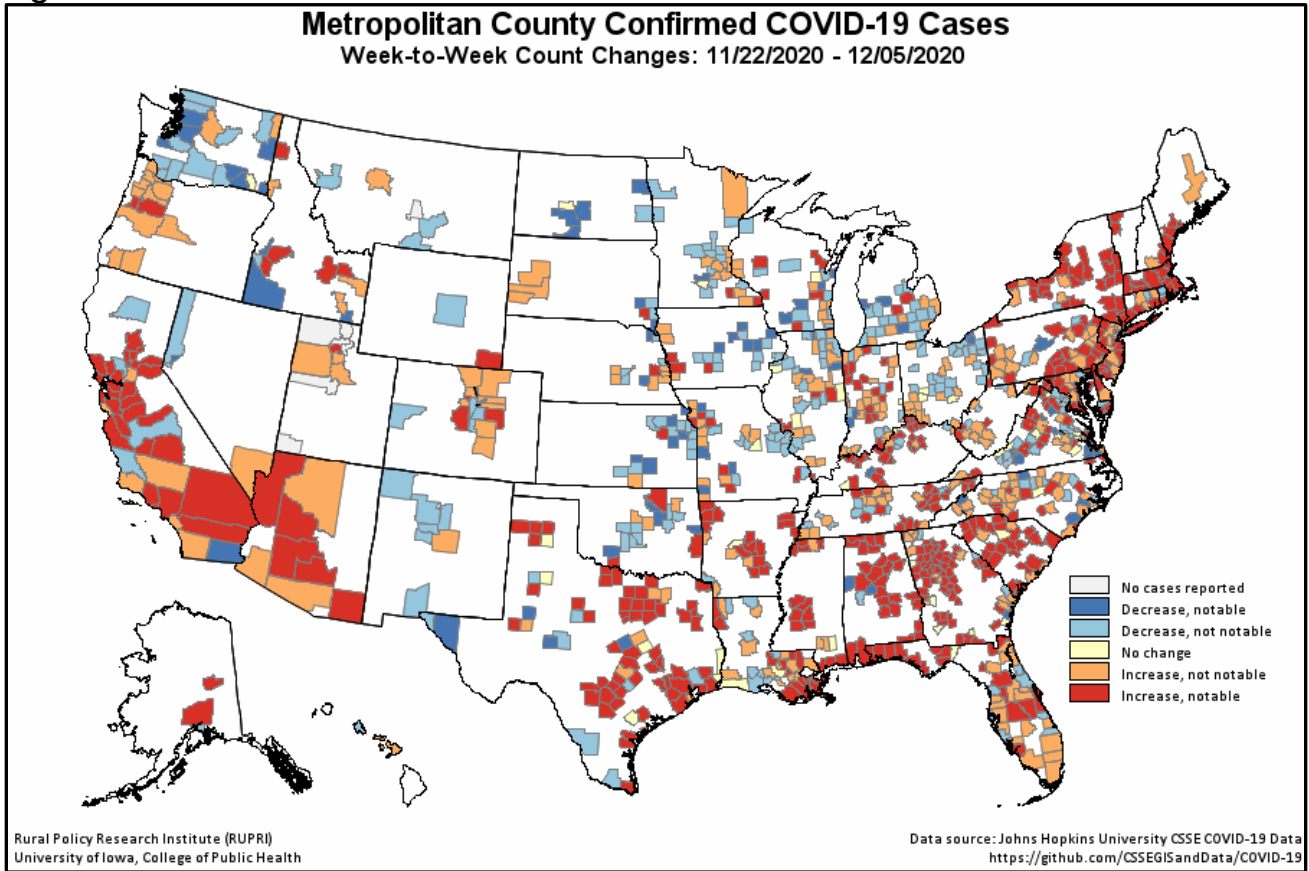


Figure 3.

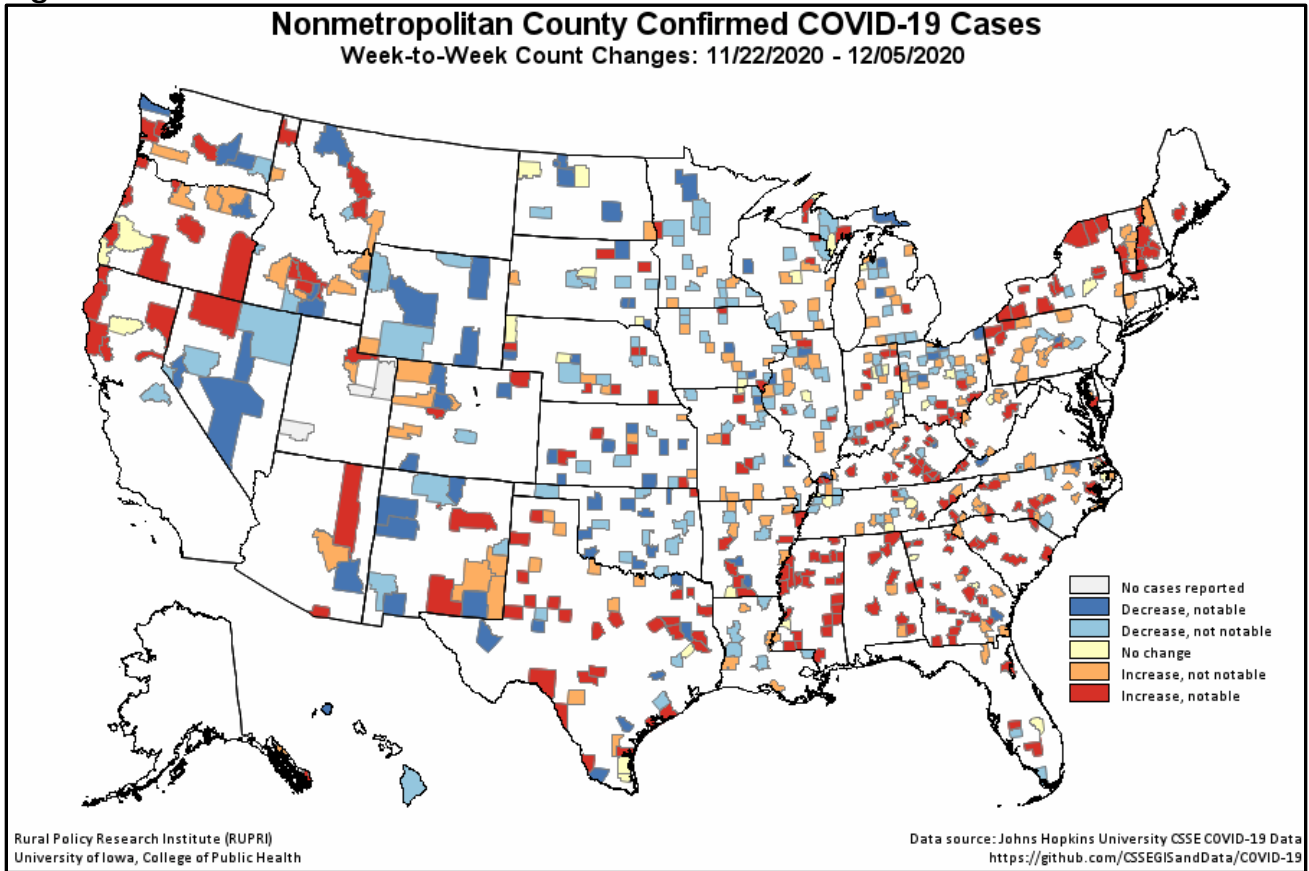
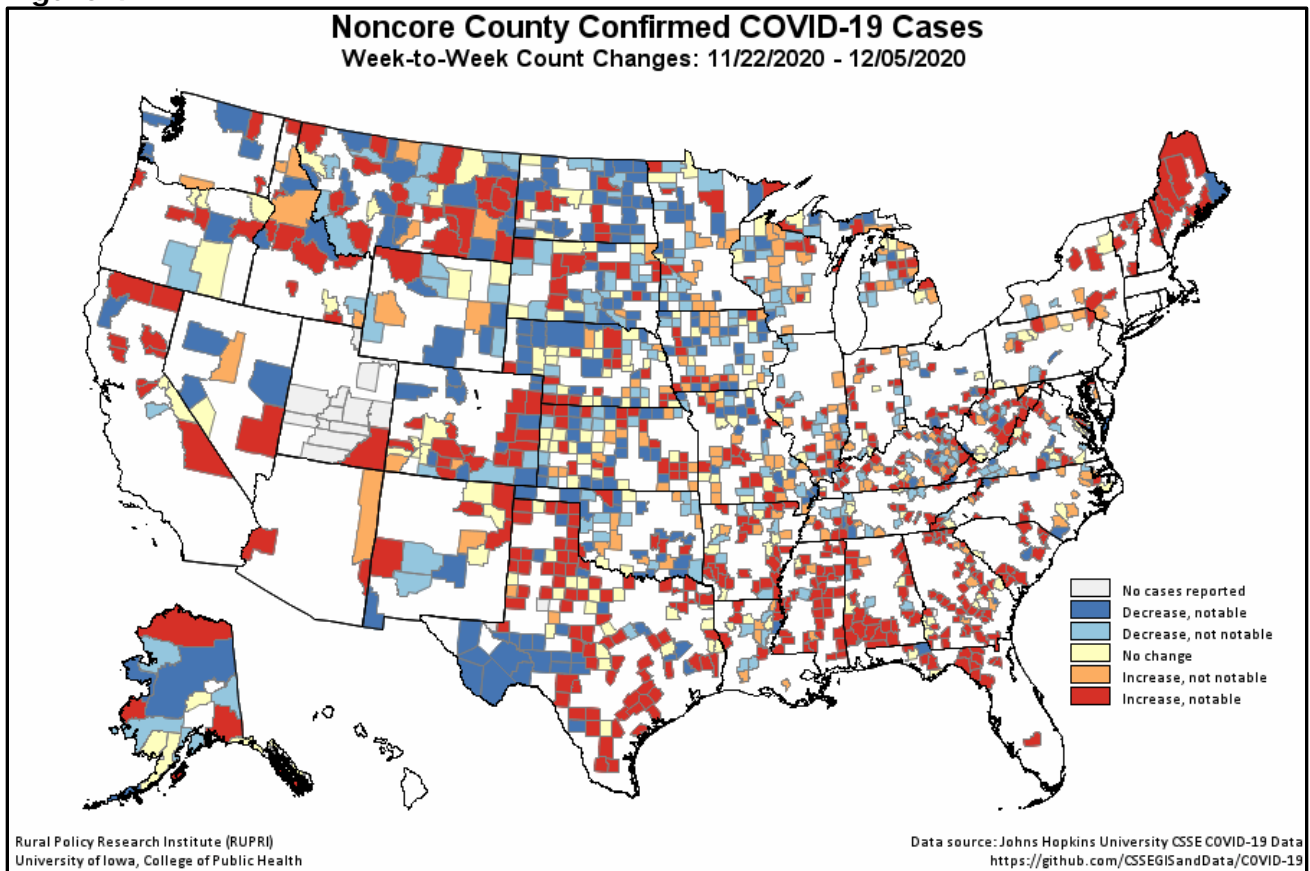


Figure 4.



<sup>1</sup> COVID-19 case and death data for this ongoing report were previously obtained from [USAFacts.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/>.