

# RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis

## Rural Data Brief

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<http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/rupri/>

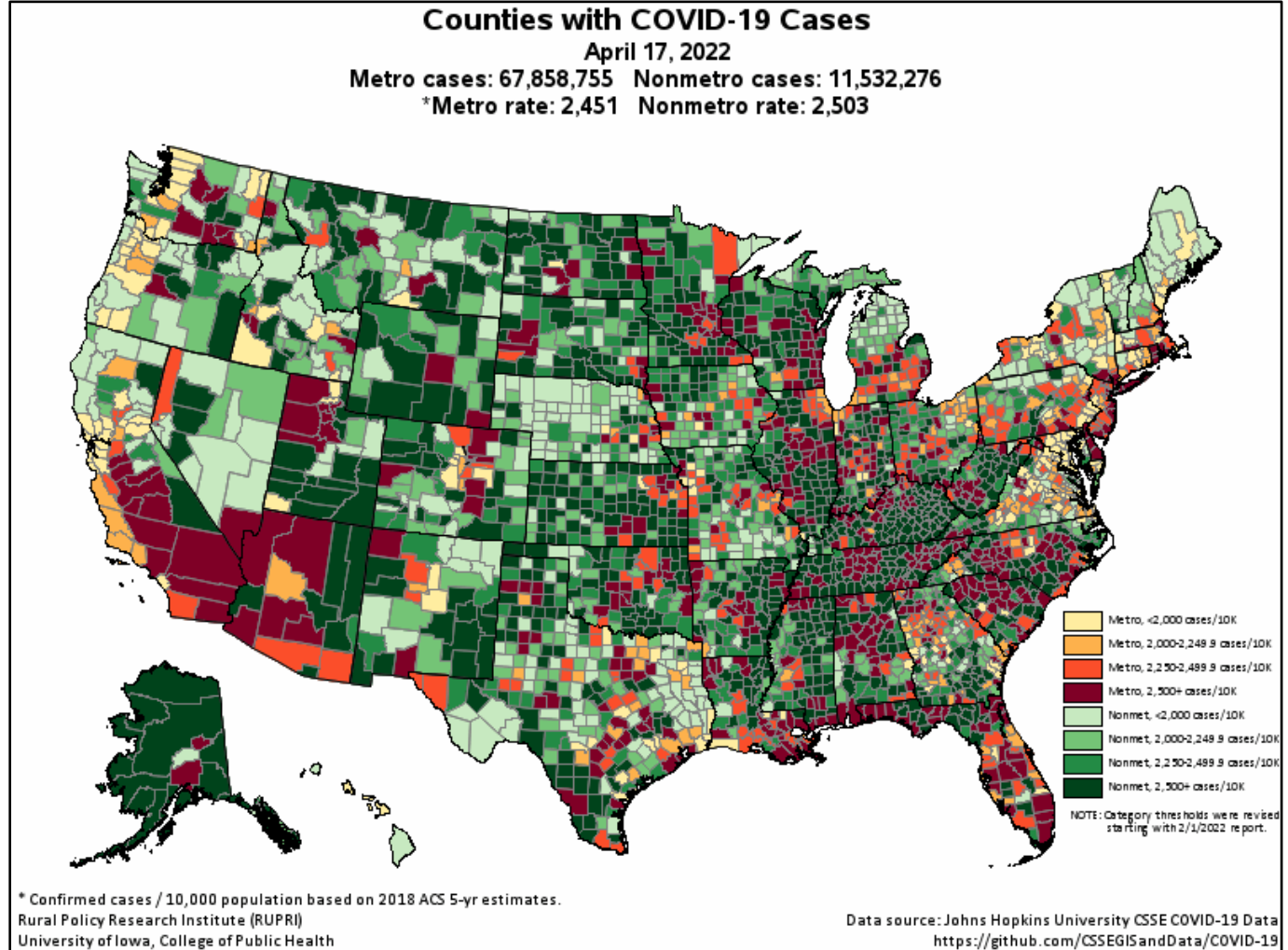
### Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties

Fred Ullrich, BA; and Keith Mueller, PhD

#### Report

Early COVID-19 focus was on major metropolitan areas, but rural areas of the United States have also been hit hard by the pandemic. As of April 17, 2022, there were a total of 79,391,031 cases and 974,114 deaths identified in counties, with 11,532,276 cases and 176,420 deaths (about 14.5 percent of cases and 18.1 percent of deaths) reported in non-metropolitan counties (data obtained from the Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 Data Repository\*).

#### Map 1. Counties with confirmed COVID-19 Cases



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<http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/rupri>  
E-mail: [cph-rupri-inquiries@uiowa.edu](mailto:cph-rupri-inquiries@uiowa.edu)



RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis, University of Iowa College of Public Health, Department of Health Management and Policy, 145 Riverside Dr., Iowa City, IA 52242-2007, (319) 384-3830  
<http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/rupri>  
E-mail: [cph-rupri-inquiries@uiowa.edu](mailto:cph-rupri-inquiries@uiowa.edu)

But as many experts have pointed out, the rate of growth in cases is very different depending on location. Further, the stress on the health care delivery system is proportionate – a small number of cases creates stress for low-capacity systems just as a large volume of cases creates stress for larger capacity systems.

Note that this document reports on confirmed COVID-19 cases and those numbers will be affected by the availability and utilization of testing resources. Recent and **updated maps**, and the “progression” of cases throughout the country, can be seen on the animated map on the RUPRI Health web site:

[http://ruprihealth.org/publications/policybriefs/2020/COVID\\_History/](http://ruprihealth.org/publications/policybriefs/2020/COVID_History/)

Map 1 (above) displays the rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties. Table 1 shows metropolitan and nonmetropolitan county confirmed case and death counts. It also depicts the rate of cases and deaths per 10,000 population (based on the 2018 American Community Survey 5-year estimates). Finally, it shows the number and proportion of metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties exceeding various case and death rate levels. Map 2 displays the rates of COVID-19 deaths in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties.

**Table 1. Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties. Confirmed cases, deaths, and rates**

	<b>Metropolitan</b>	<b>Nonmetropolitan</b>
Counties (total)	1,166	1,976
Population (2010 census)	276,820,000	46,082,565
Counties w/ confirmed cases	1,165 (99.9%)	1,972 (99.8%)
Counties w/ deaths	1,165 (99.9%)	1,960 (99.2%)
Confirmed cases	67,858,755 (24.5%)	11,532,276 (25.0%)
Deaths	797,694 (0.3%)	176,420 (0.4%)
Cases/10K population	2,451	2,503
Deaths/10K population	28.82	38.28
Counties w/ 1000+ cases/10K	1,161 (99.6%)	1,963 (99.3%)
Counties w/ 1500+ cases/10K	1,138 (97.6%)	1,906 (96.5%)
Counties w/ 2000+ cases/10K	973 (83.4%)	1,575 (79.7%)
Counties w/ 5+ deaths/10K	1,165 (99.9%)	1,947 (98.5%)
Counties w/ 10+ deaths/10K	1,143 (98.0%)	1,902 (96.3%)
Counties w/ 25+ deaths/10K	807 (69.2%)	1,605 (81.2%)
Counties w/ 50+ deaths/10K	92 (7.9%)	504 (25.5%)

Data sources: COVID-19 case and death data from the [COVID-19 Data Repository by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering \(CSSE\) at Johns Hopkins University](#). Population data from the 2018 American Community Survey 5-yr estimates.

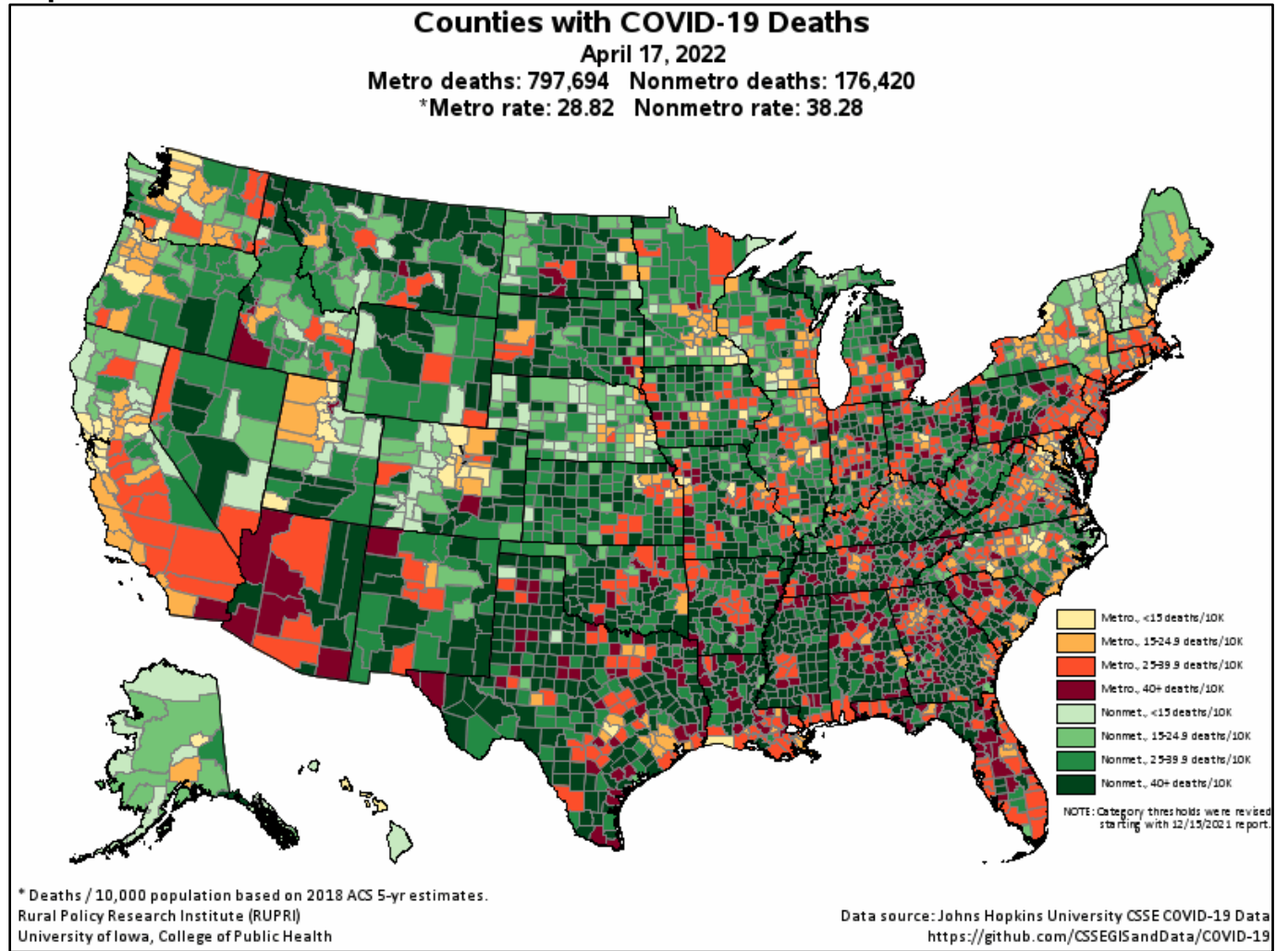
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\*COVID-19 case and death data for this ongoing report were previously obtained from [USA Facts.org](#). Reports after 8/15/2020 use data from the [COVID-19 Data Repository by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering \(CSSE\) at Johns Hopkins University](#). Similarly, previous reports had used population data from the U.S. 2010 decennial Census. Current reports utilize data from the Census Bureau’s 2018 American Community Survey 5-year population estimates.

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.

All data in this brief are based on county-level counts to facilitate metropolitan/nonmetropolitan reporting. Cases and deaths that could not be attributed to a county are excluded, meaning that national figures are undercounts.

## Map 2. Counties with COVID-19 Deaths



**Map 3. State Metropolitan/Nonmetropolitan COVID-19 One-week Case Rates**

## Metropolitan/Nonmetropolitan COVID-19 Cases

New cases for week ending: April 17, 2022

