

# RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis

## Rural Data Brief

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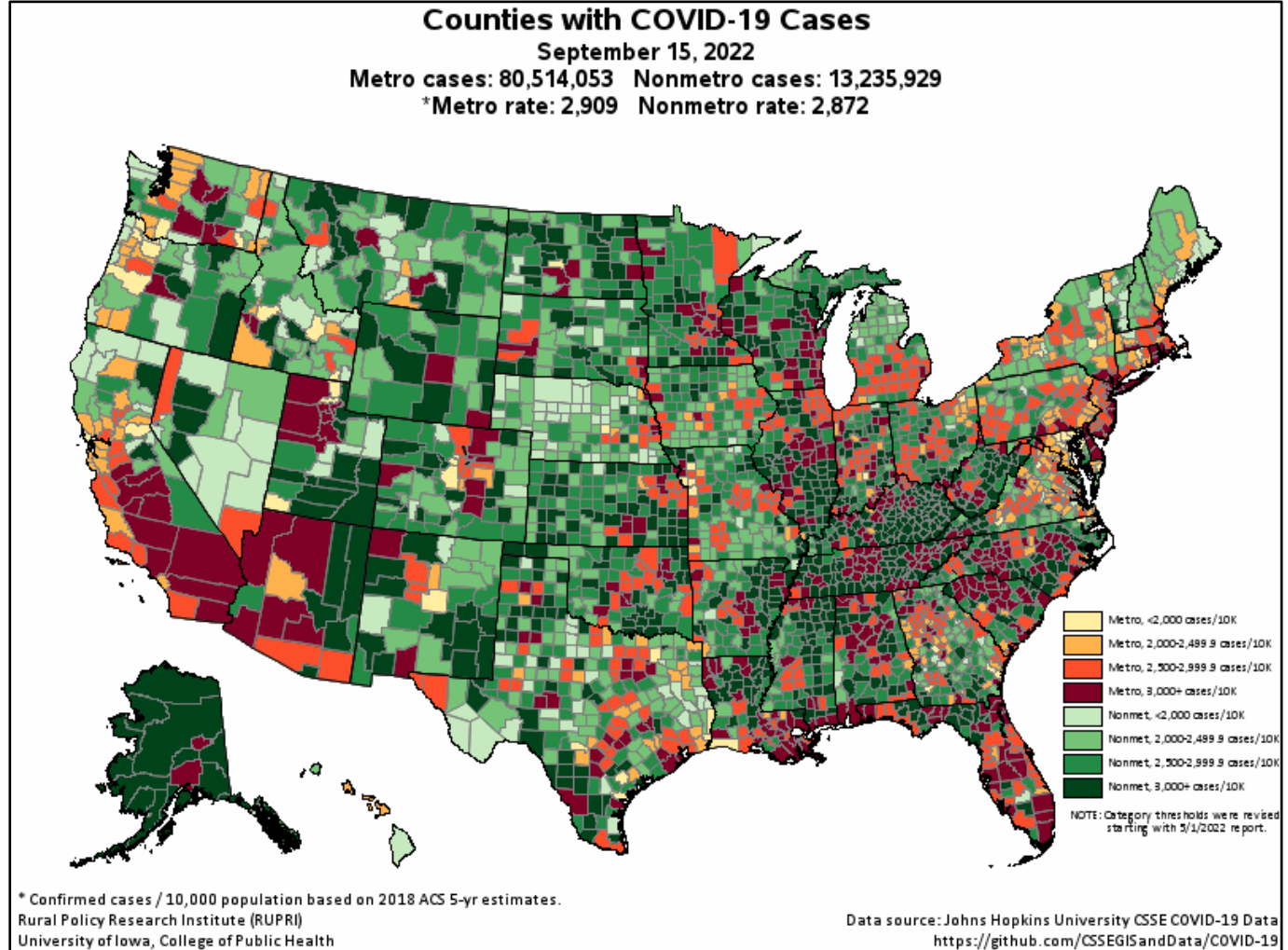
### Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties

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 September 15, 2022, there were a total of 93,749,982 cases and 1,033,925 deaths identified in counties, with 13,235,929 cases and 187,391 deaths (about 14.1 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**

	Metropolitan	Nonmetropolitan
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	80,514,053 (29.1%)	13,235,929 (28.7%)
Deaths	846,534 (0.3%)	187,391 (0.4%)
Cases/10K population	2,909	2,872
Deaths/10K population	30.58	40.66
Counties w/ 1000+ cases/10K	1,162 (99.7%)	1,967 (99.5%)
Counties w/ 1500+ cases/10K	1,156 (99.1%)	1,935 (97.9%)
Counties w/ 2000+ cases/10K	896 (76.8%)	1,333 (67.5%)
Counties w/ 5+ deaths/10K	1,165 (99.9%)	1,950 (98.7%)
Counties w/ 10+ deaths/10K	1,155 (99.1%)	1,915 (96.9%)
Counties w/ 25+ deaths/10K	852 (73.1%)	1,664 (84.2%)
Counties w/ 50+ deaths/10K	127 (10.9%)	619 (31.3%)

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.

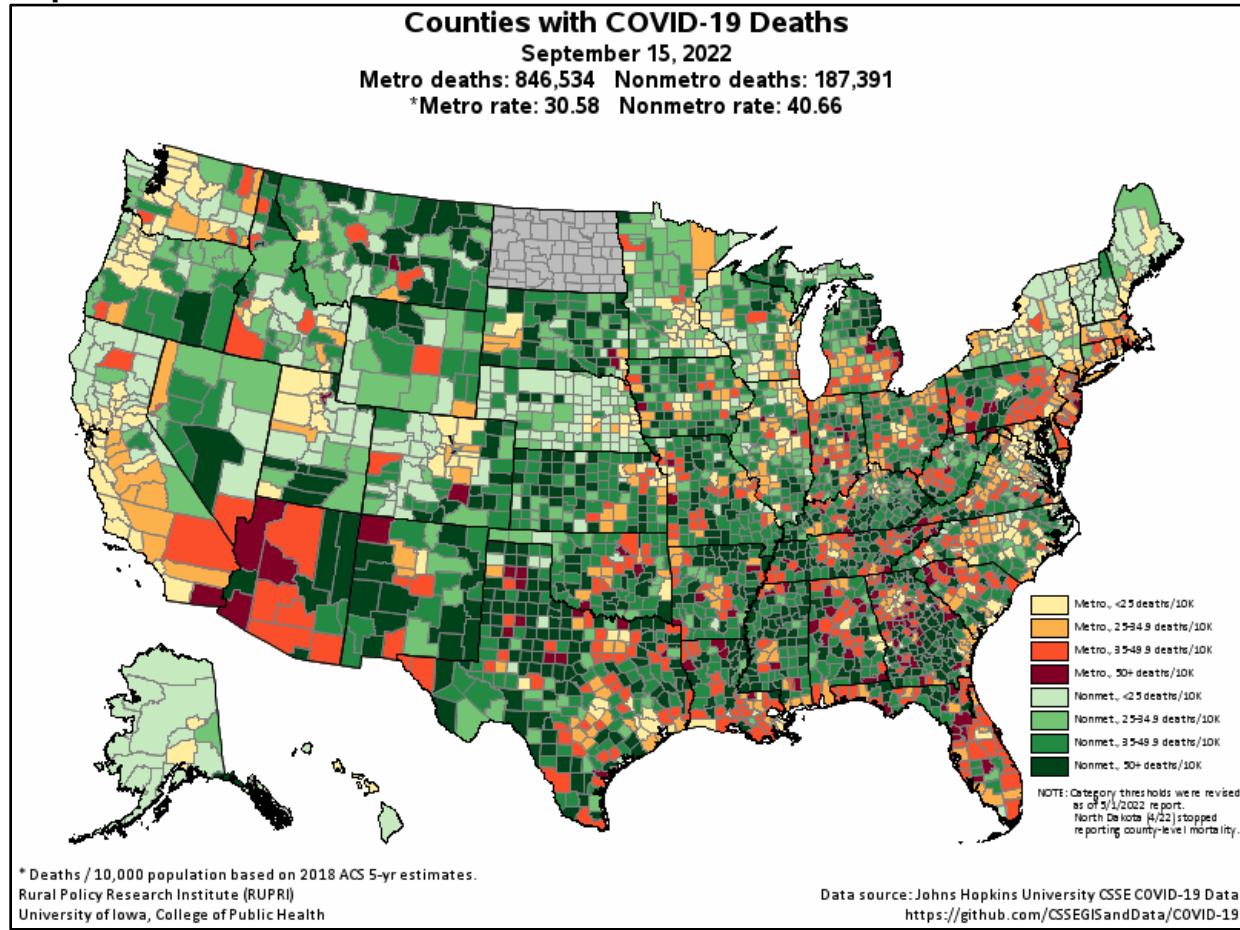
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\*COVID-19 case and death data for this ongoing report were previously obtained from [USAFACTS.org](#). Reports after 8/15/2020 use data from the [COVID-19 Data Repository by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering \(CSSE\) at Johns Hopkins University](#). 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. North Dakota (April 2022) stopped reporting county-level mortality data. This means that national figures are undercounts.

**Map 2. Counties with COVID-19 Deaths**



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

