

# 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](https://ruprihealth.org/publications/policybriefs/2020/County_COVID_Trajectories.pdf)). This data brief looks at the new case counts in every US county between February 14, 2021, and February 27, 2021, 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: 2/14/2021 – 2/27/2021**

	<b>Metropolitan (n = 1,166)</b>	<b>Nonmetropolitan (n = 641)</b>	<b>Noncore (n = 1,335)</b>
No cases reported	9 (0.8%)	9 (1.4%)	62 (4.6%)
Decreasing, notable <sup>b</sup>	266 (22.8%)	173 (27.0%)	399 (29.9%)
Decreasing, not notable	351 (30.1%)	114 (17.8%)	79 (5.9%)
Same number, both weeks <sup>c</sup>	106 (9.1%)	99 (15.4%)	382 (28.6%)
Increasing, not notable	186 (16.0%)	79 (12.3%)	46 (3.4%)
Increasing, notable	248 (21.3%)	167 (26.1%)	367 (27.5%)

<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: 2/14/2021 – 2/27/2021**

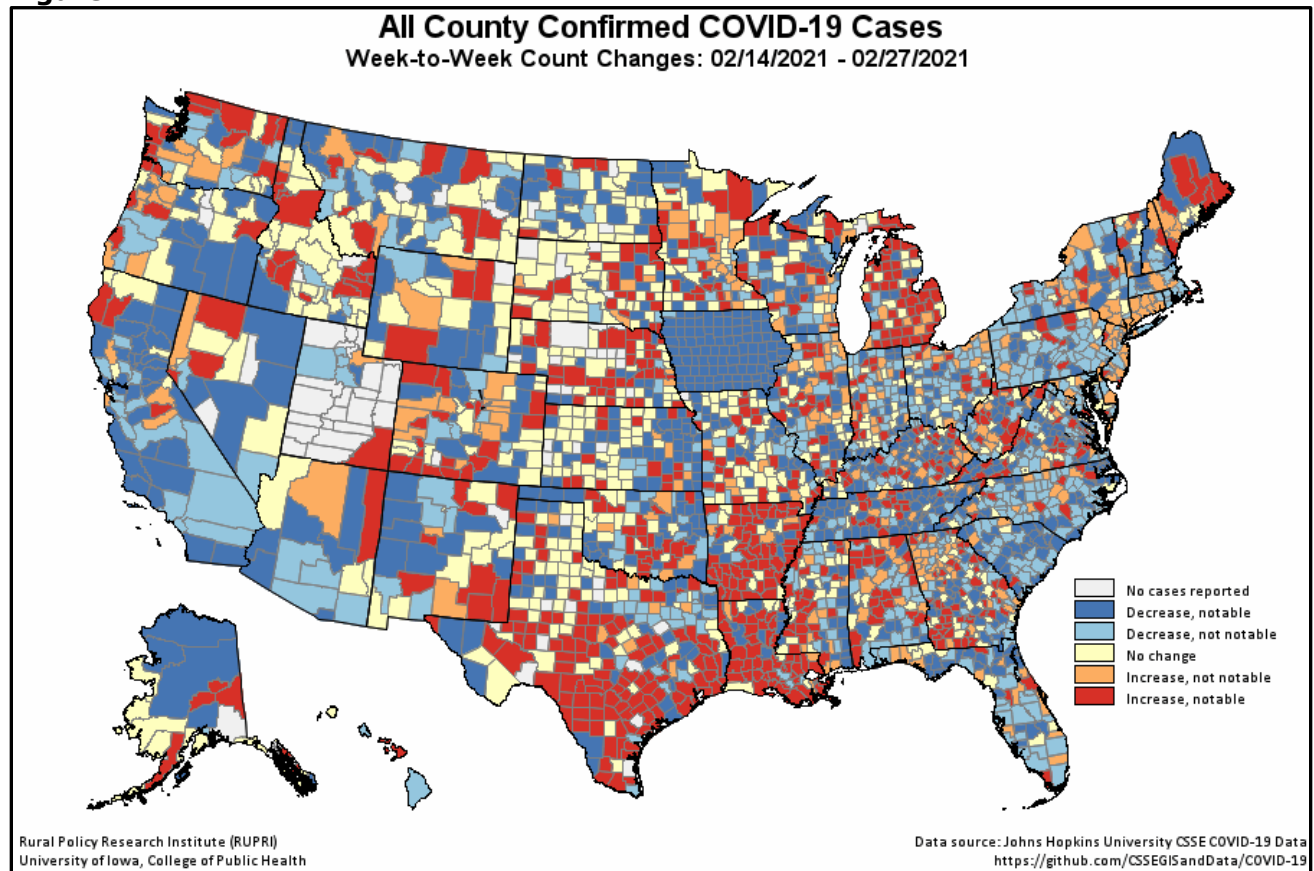
	<b>Metropolitan (n = 1,157 of 1,166)</b>		<b>Nonmetropolitan (n = 632 of 641)</b>		<b>Noncore (n = 1,273 of 1,335)</b>	
Any decrease	617	(53.3%)	287	(45.4%)	478	(37.5%)
Notable decrease <sup>b</sup>	266	(23.0%)	173	(27.4%)	399	(31.3%)
Same number, both weeks <sup>c</sup>	106	(9.2%)	99	(15.7%)	382	(30.0%)
Any increase	434	(37.5%)	246	(38.9%)	413	(32.4%)
Notable increase <sup>b</sup>	248	(21.4%)	167	(26.4%)	367	(28.8%)
Increase of 100% or more	65	(5.6%)	64	(10.1%)	209	(16.4%)

<sup>a</sup>Comparison of number of new cases in first week of 14-day period with new cases in second week.

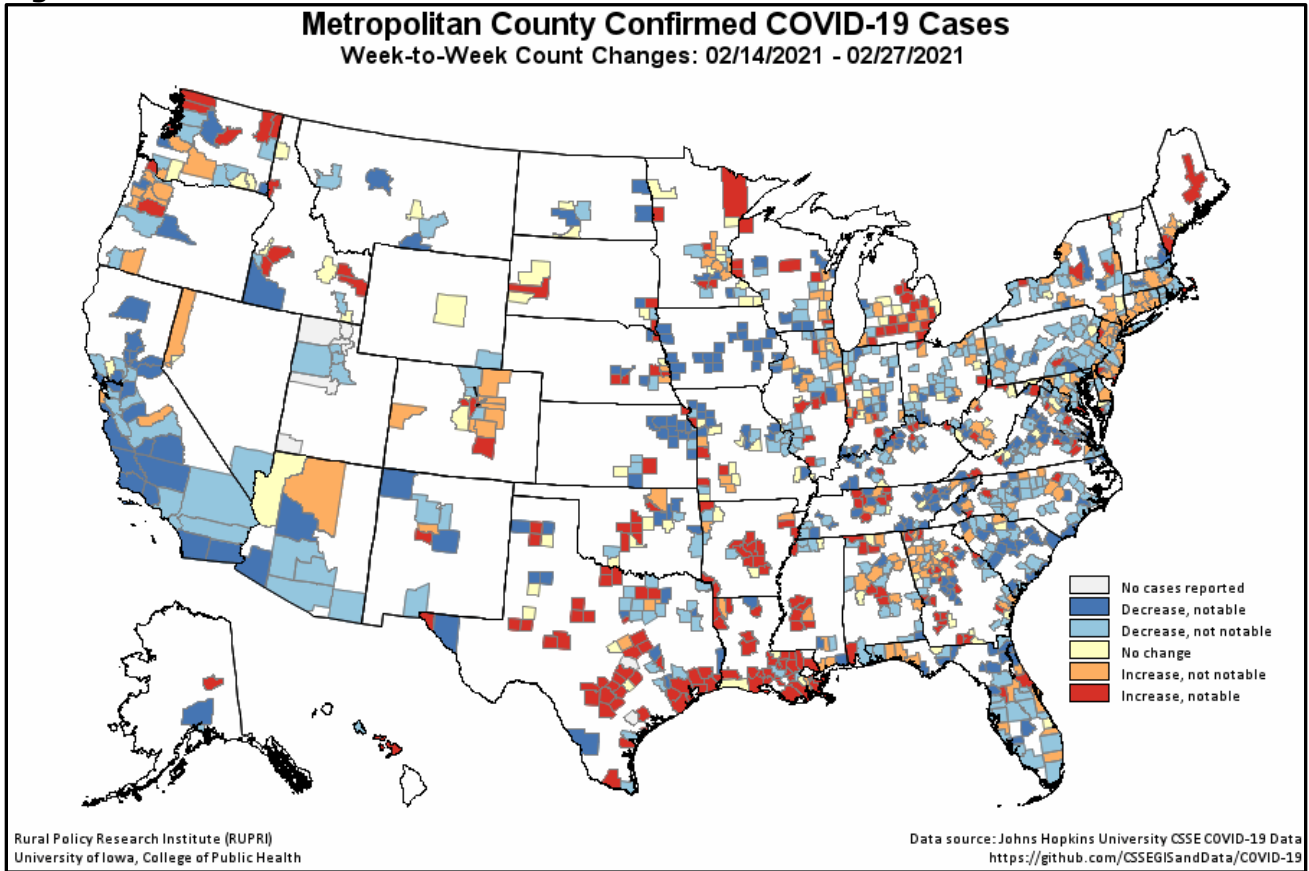
<sup>b</sup>“Notable” trends indicate weekly changes in new cases exceeding (either increasing or decreasing) 25 percent.

<sup>c</sup>Includes counties with an absolute change in count of two or fewer.

**Figure 1.**



**Figure 2.**



**Figure 3.**

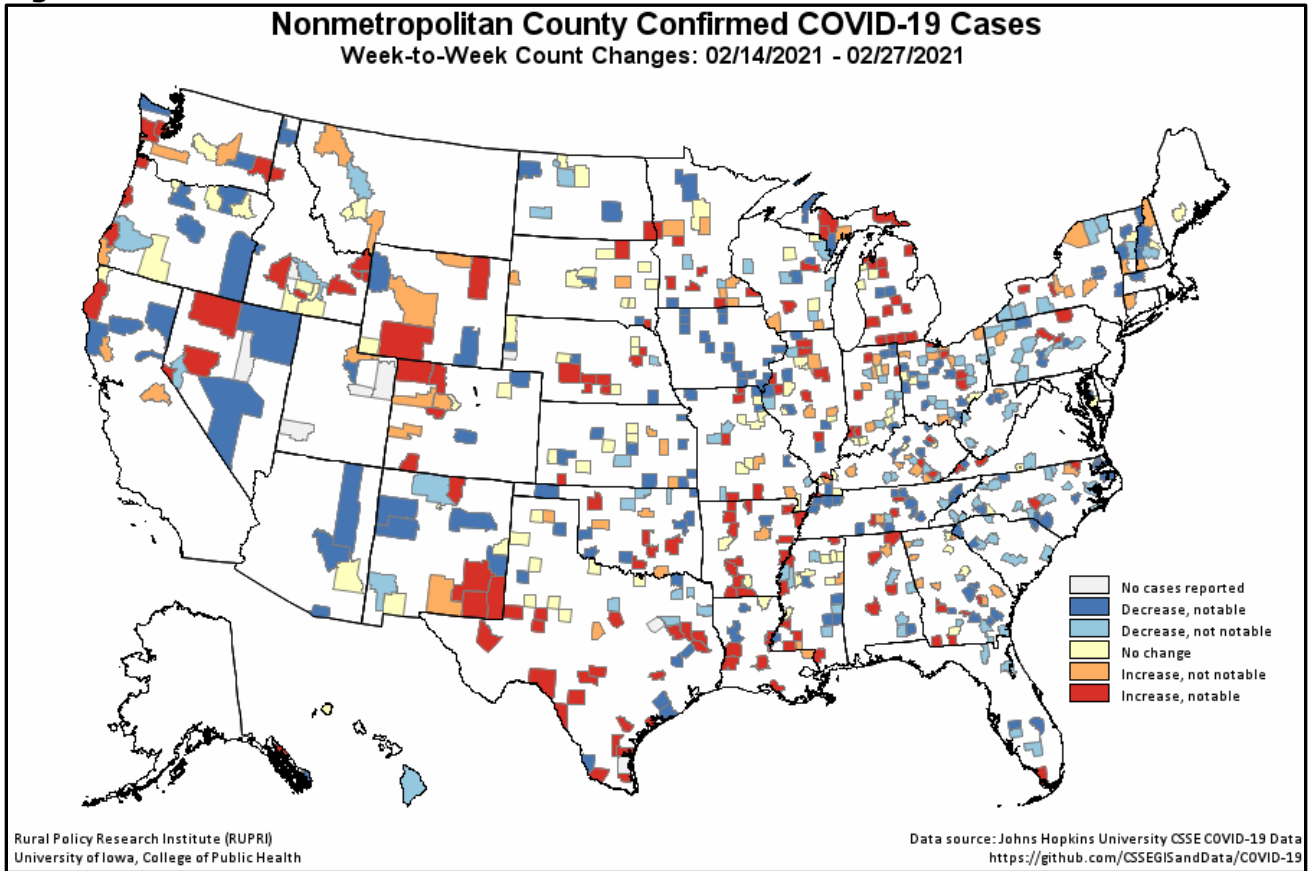
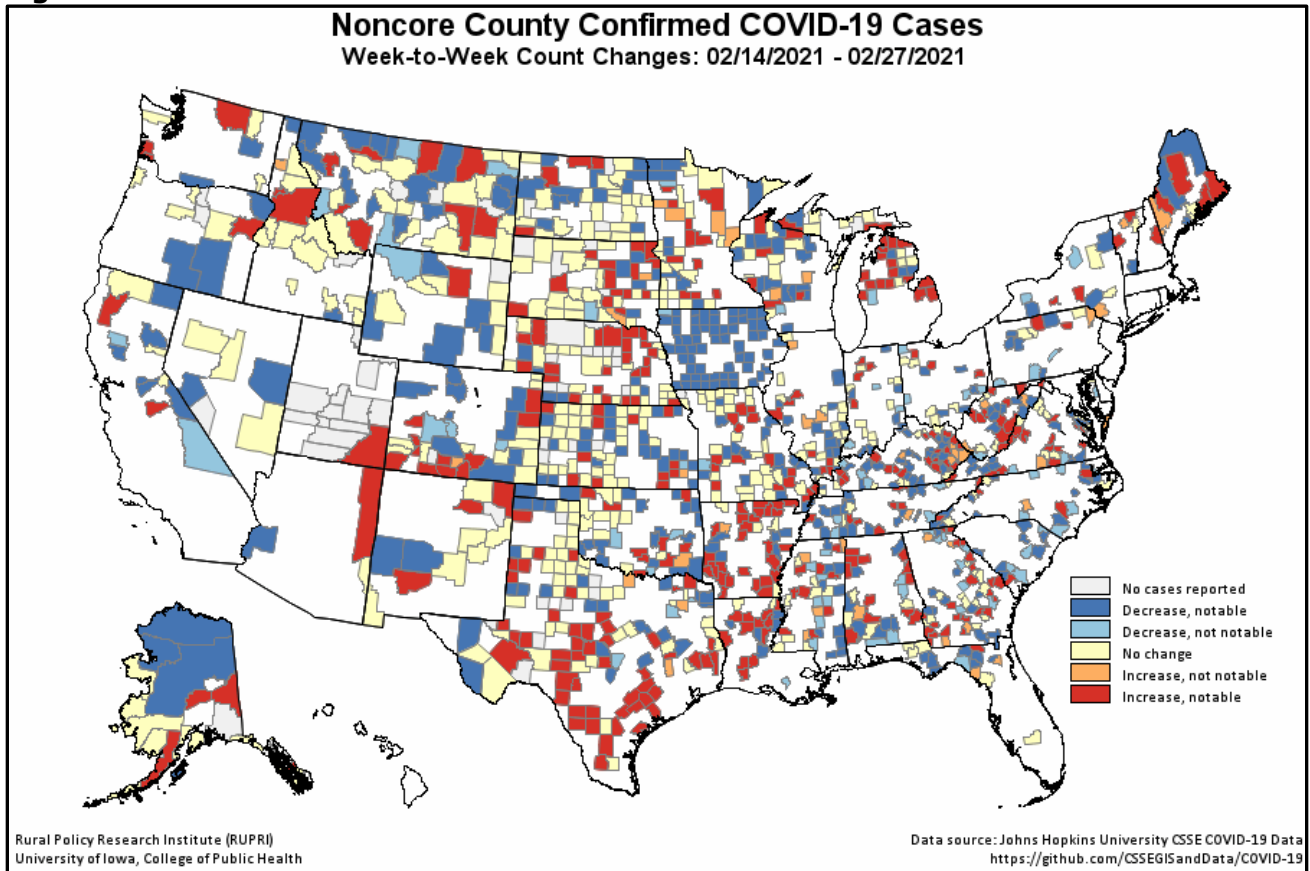


Figure 4.



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