

RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis

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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). This data brief looks at the new case counts in every US county between February 28, 2021, and March 13, 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

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: 2/28/2021 – 3/13/2021

	Metropolitan (n = 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n = 641)	Noncore (n = 1,335)
No cases reported	9 (0.8%)	9 (1.4%)	58 (4.3%)
Decreasing, notable ^b	351 (30.1%)	220 (34.3%)	463 (34.7%)
Decreasing, not notable	311 (26.7%)	108 (16.8%)	54 (4.0%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	105 (9.0%)	93 (14.5%)	407 (30.5%)
Increasing, not notable	174 (14.9%)	50 (7.8%)	24 (1.8%)
Increasing, notable	216 (18.5%)	161 (25.1%)	329 (24.6%)

^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.



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Table 2. 14-day trends^a in newly confirmed COVID-19 cases, in counties with any cases, by county geography: 2/28/2021 – 3/13/2021

	Metropolitan (n = 1,157 of 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n = 632 of 641)	Noncore (n = 1,277 of 1,335)
Any decrease	662 (57.2%)	328 (51.9%)	517 (40.5%)
Notable decrease ^b	351 (30.3%)	220 (34.8%)	463 (36.3%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	105 (9.1%)	93 (14.7%)	407 (31.9%)
Any increase	390 (33.7%)	211 (33.4%)	353 (27.6%)
Notable increase ^b	216 (18.7%)	161 (25.5%)	329 (25.8%)
Increase of 100% or more	75 (6.5%)	66 (10.4%)	194 (15.2%)

^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.

Figure 1.

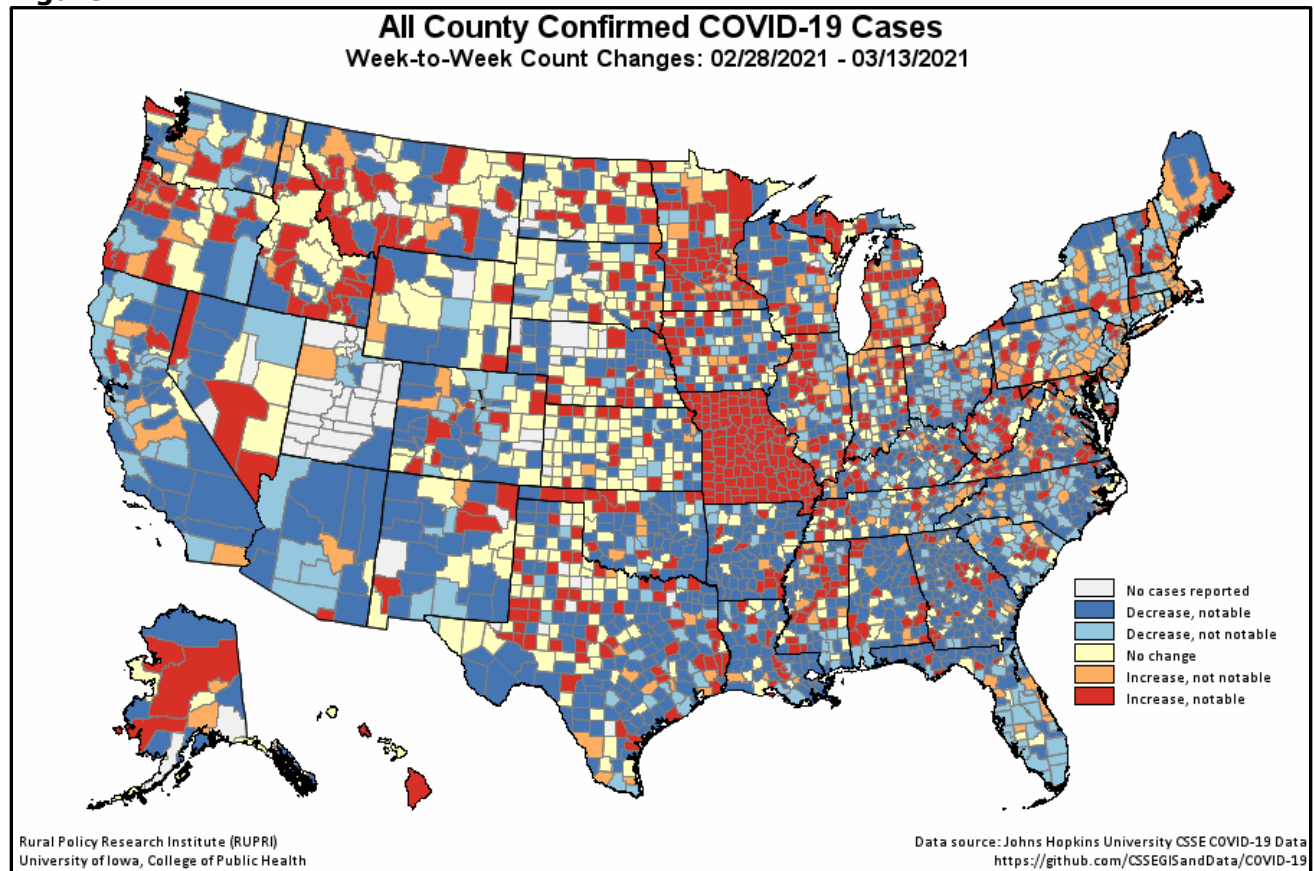


Figure 2.

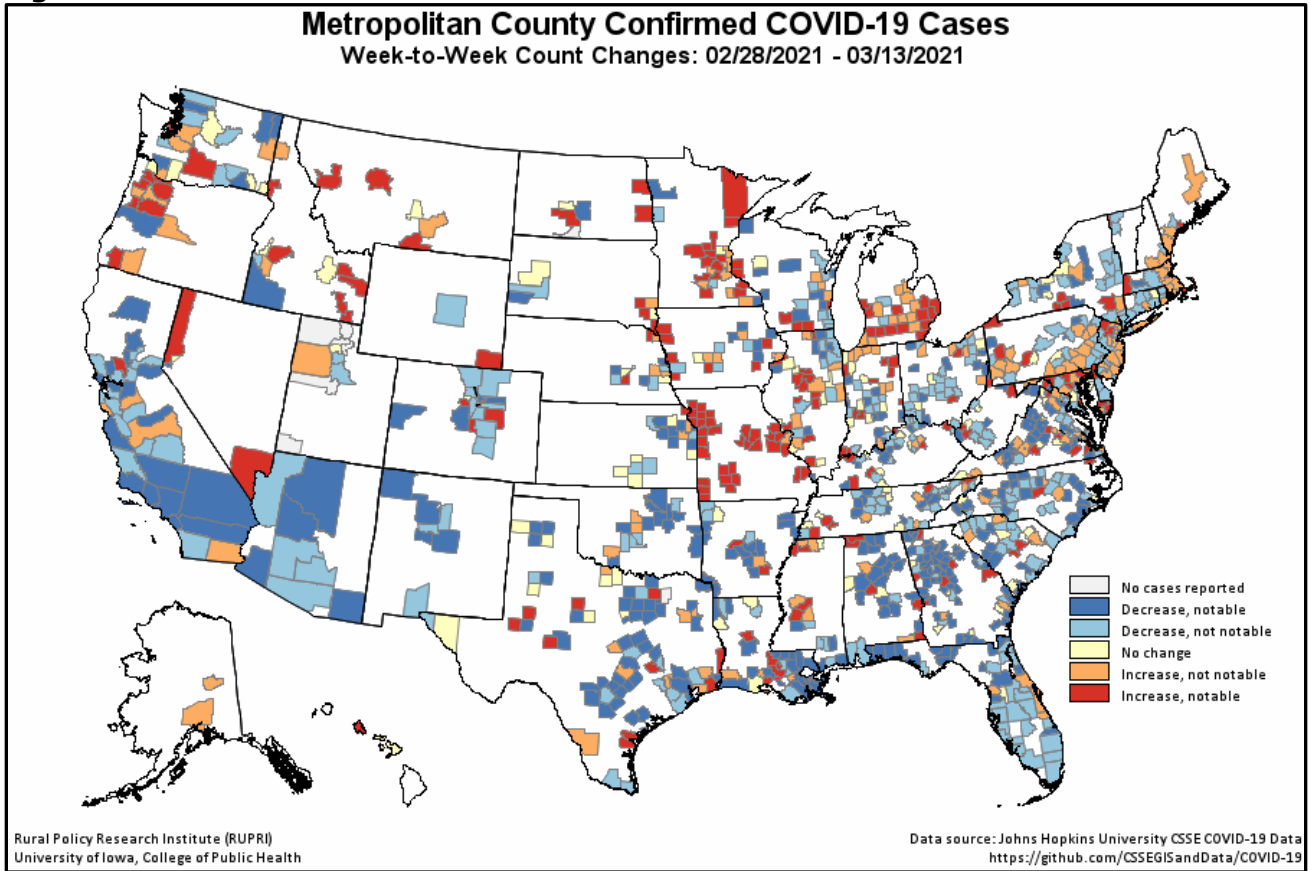


Figure 3.

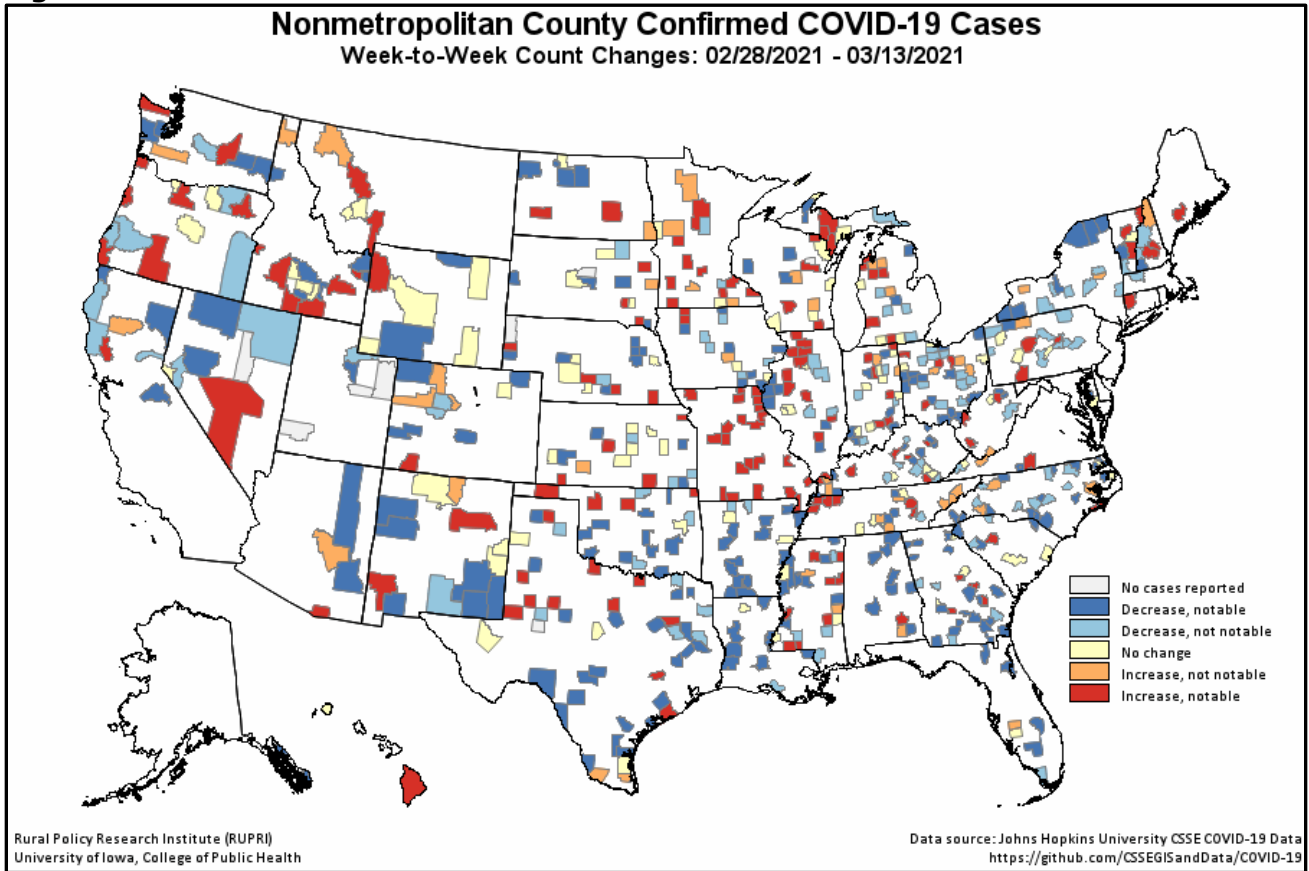
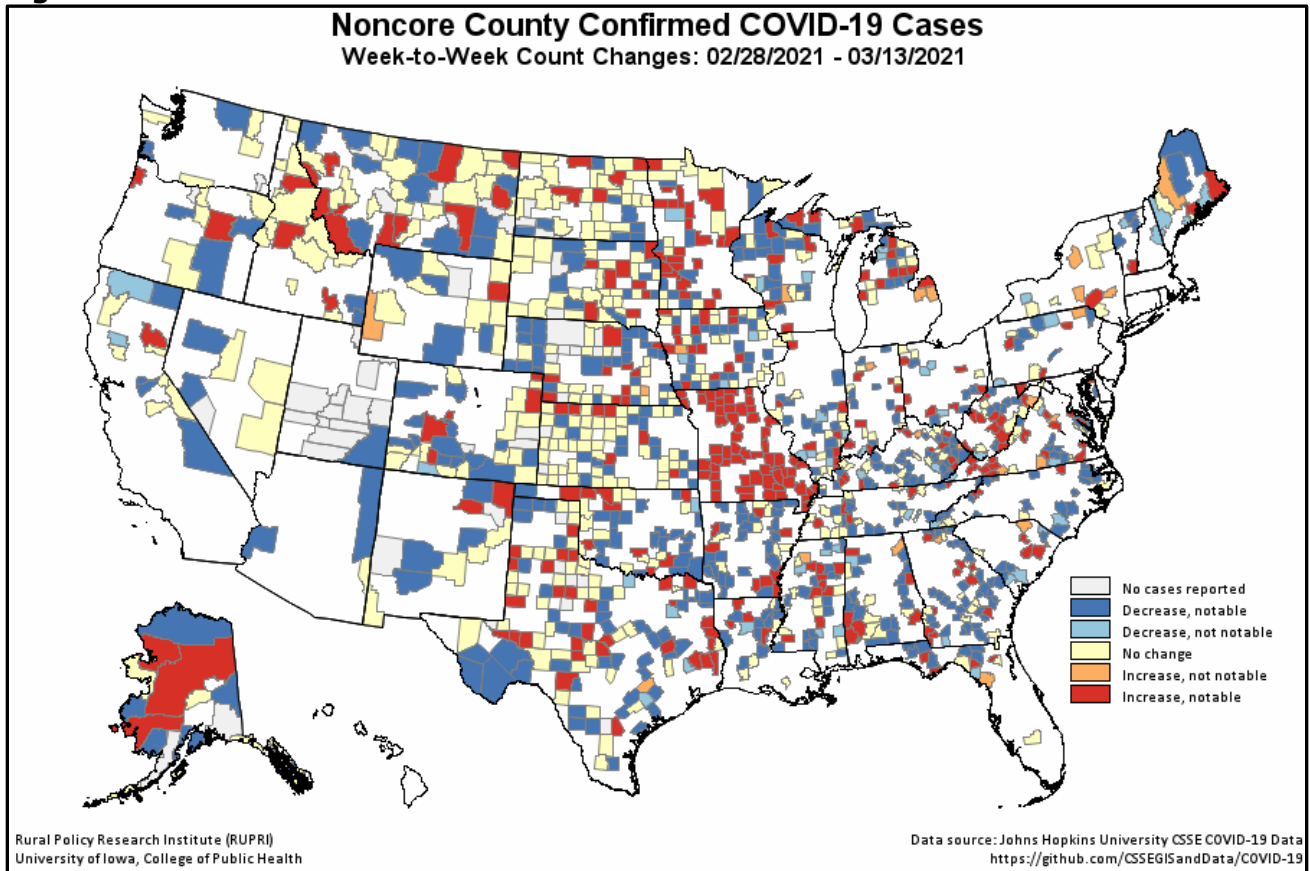


Figure 4.



¹ 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.

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/>.