

RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis

Rural Data Update

Brief No. 2020-6

APRIL 2021

<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). This data brief looks at the new case counts in every US county between April 4, 2021, and April 17, 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: 4/4/2021 – 4/17/2021

	Metropolitan (n = 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n = 641)	Noncore (n = 1,335)
No cases reported	11 (0.9%)	10 (1.6%)	99 (7.4%)
Decreasing, notable ^b	191 (16.4%)	151 (23.6%)	313 (23.4%)
Decreasing, not notable	259 (22.2%)	78 (12.2%)	61 (4.6%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	135 (11.6%)	128 (20.0%)	462 (34.6%)
Increasing, not notable	283 (24.3%)	73 (11.4%)	39 (2.9%)
Increasing, notable	287 (24.6%)	201 (31.4%)	361 (27.0%)

^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.



Funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy
www.ruralhealthresearch.org

#1U1GRH07633 and #U1C RH20419. The information, conclusions and opinions expressed in this policy brief are those of the authors and no endorsement by FORHP, HRSA, HHS is intended or should be inferred.



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Table 2. 14-day trends^a in newly confirmed COVID-19 cases, in counties with any cases, by county geography: 4/4/2021 – 4/17/2021

	Metropolitan (n = 1,155 of 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n = 631 of 641)	Noncore (n = 1,236 of 1,335)
Any decrease	450 (39.0%)	229 (36.3%)	374 (30.3%)
Notable decrease ^b	191 (16.5%)	151 (23.9%)	313 (25.3%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	135 (11.7%)	128 (20.3%)	462 (37.4%)
Any increase	570 (49.4%)	274 (43.4%)	400 (32.4%)
Notable increase ^b	287 (24.8%)	201 (31.9%)	361 (29.2%)
Increase of 100% or more	61 (5.3%)	62 (9.8%)	196 (15.9%)

^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.

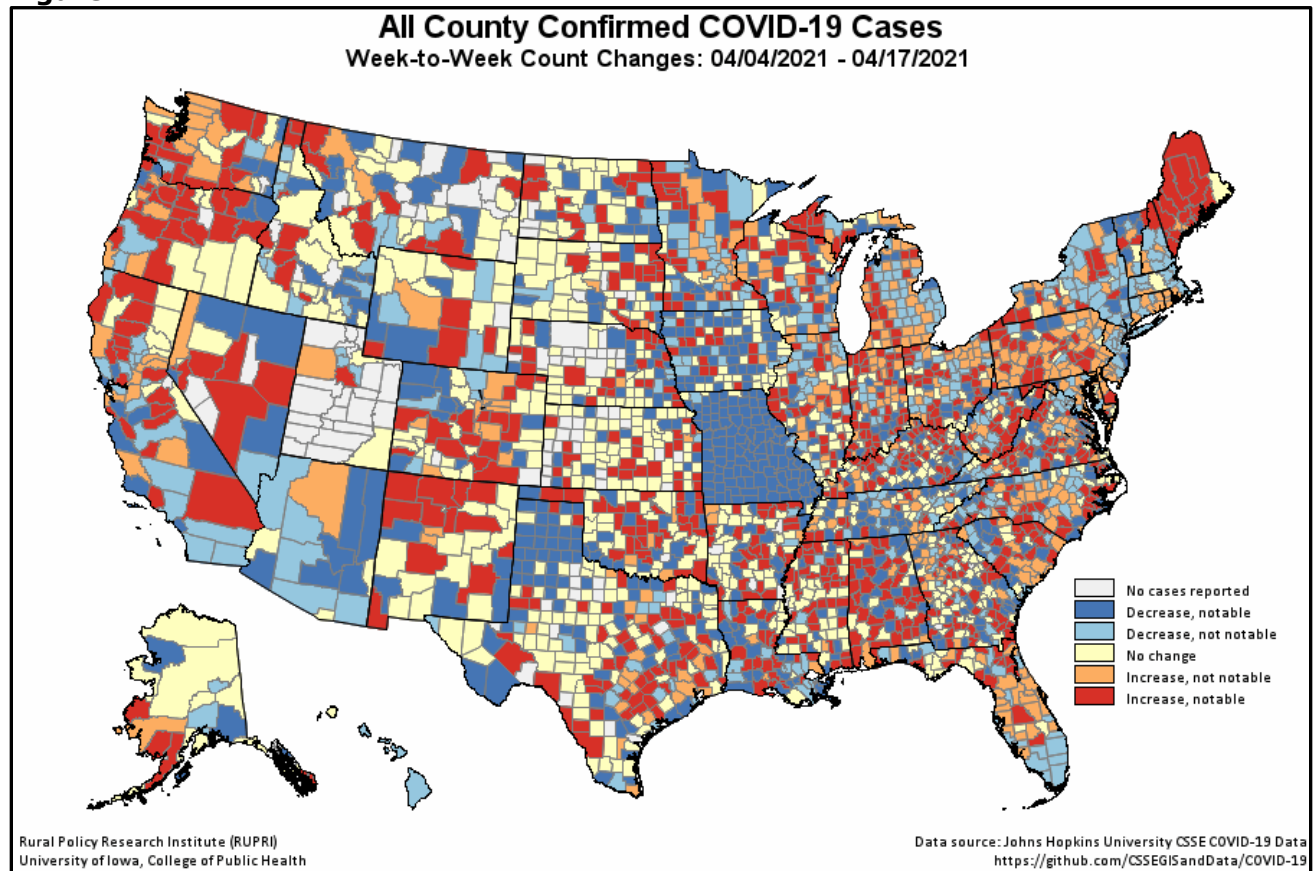


Figure 2.

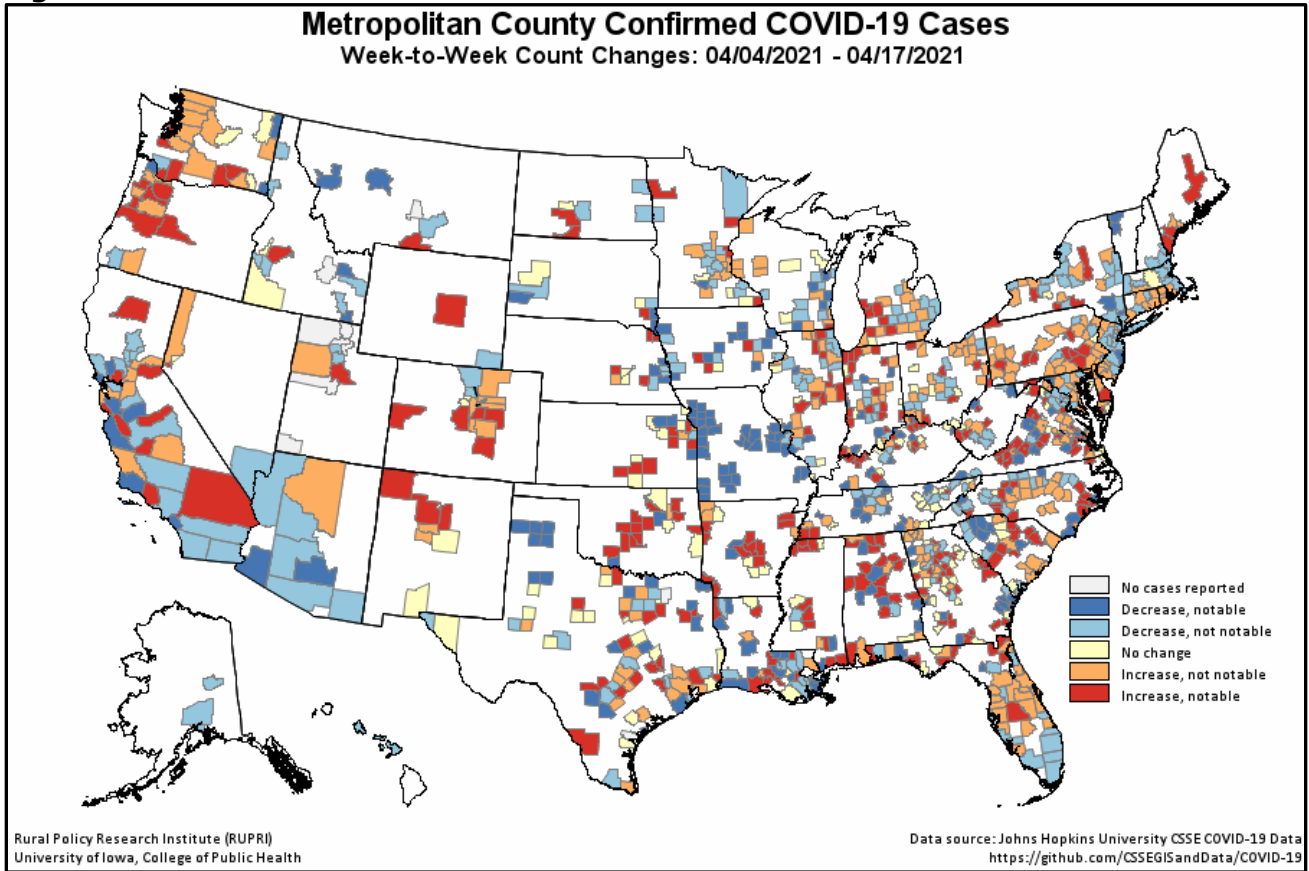


Figure 3.

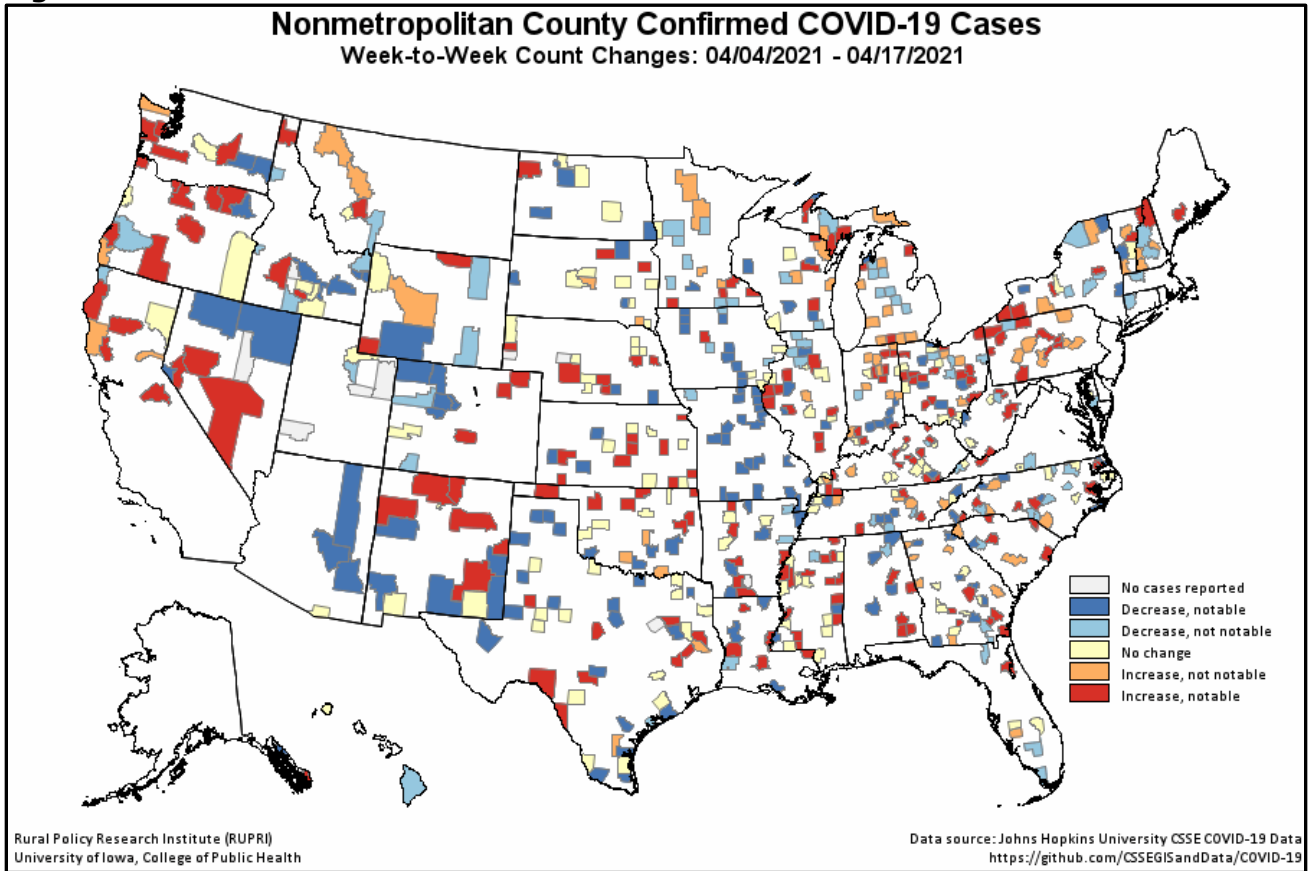
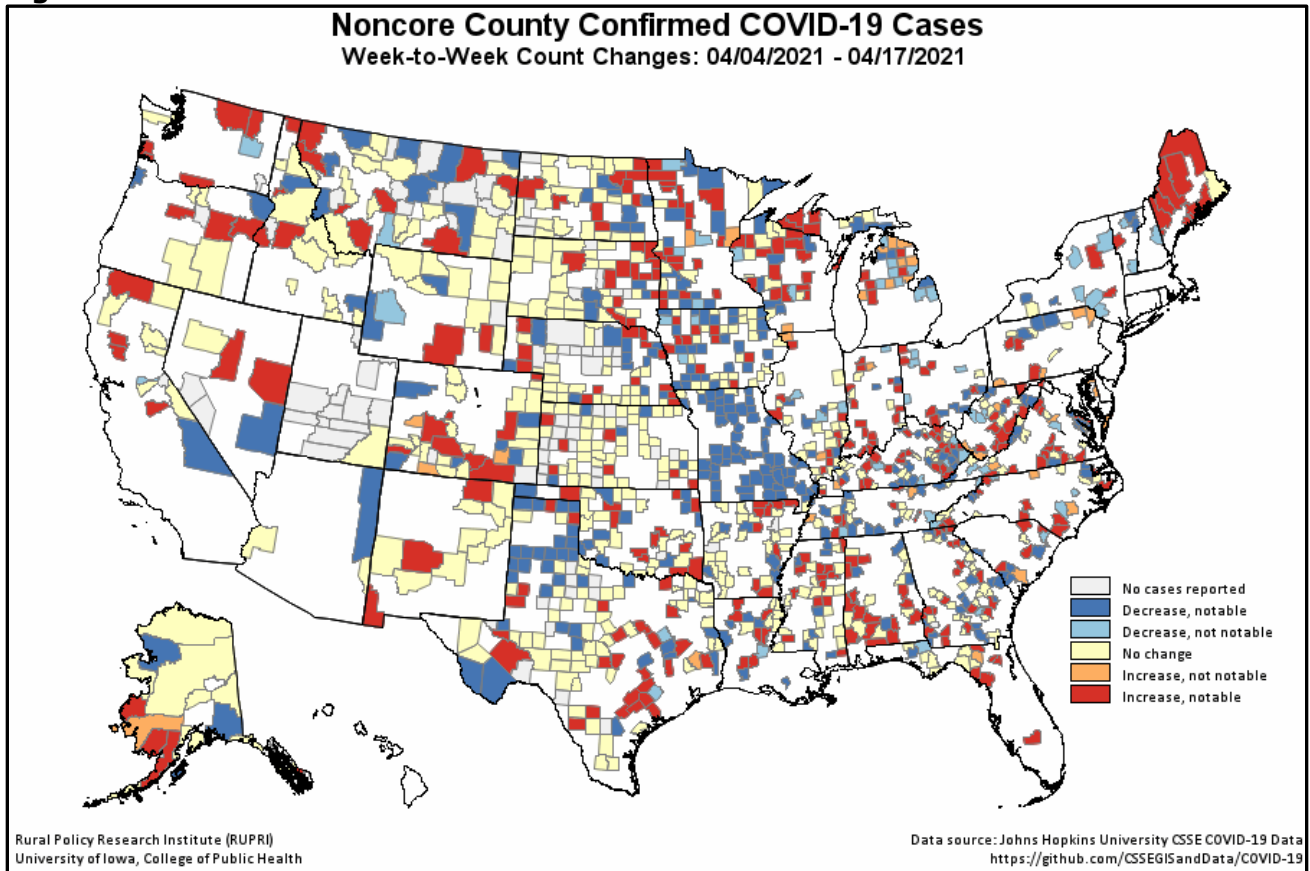


Figure 4.



¹ COVID-19 case and death data for this ongoing report were previously obtained from [USA Facts.org](https://data.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](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/>.