

RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis

Rural Data Update

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<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 May 17, 2020, and May 30, 2020, 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 USAFacts.org¹. 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

| | Metropolitan (n = 1,166) | Nonmetropolitan (n = 641) | Noncore (n = 1,335) |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| No cases reported | 53 (4.5%) | 72 (11.2%) | 451 (33.8%) |
| Decreasing, notable ^b | 305 (26.2%) | 136 (21.2%) | 157 (11.8%) |
| Decreasing, not notable | 128 (11.0%) | 17 (2.7%) | 6 (0.4%) |
| Same number, both weeks ^c | 298 (25.6%) | 232 (36.2%) | 540 (40.4%) |
| Increasing, not notable | 90 (7.7%) | 18 (2.8%) | 10 (0.7%) |
| Increasing, notable | 292 (25.0%) | 166 (25.9%) | 171 (12.8%) |

Table 2. 14-day trends^a in newly confirmed COVID-19 cases, in counties with any cases, by county geography

| | Metropolitan (n = 1,113 of 1,166) | Nonmetropolitan (n = 569 of 641) | Noncore (n = 884 of 1,335) |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Any decrease | 433 (38.9%) | 153 (26.9%) | 163 (18.4%) |
| Notable decrease ^b | 305 (27.4%) | 136 (23.9%) | 157 (17.8%) |
| Same number, both weeks ^c | 298 (26.8%) | 232 (40.8%) | 540 (61.1%) |
| Any increase | 382 (34.3%) | 184 (32.3%) | 181 (20.5%) |
| Notable increase ^b | 292 (26.2%) | 166 (29.2%) | 171 (19.3%) |
| Increase of 100% or more | 145 (13.0%) | 115 (20.2%) | 132 (14.9%) |

^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.



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Figure 1.

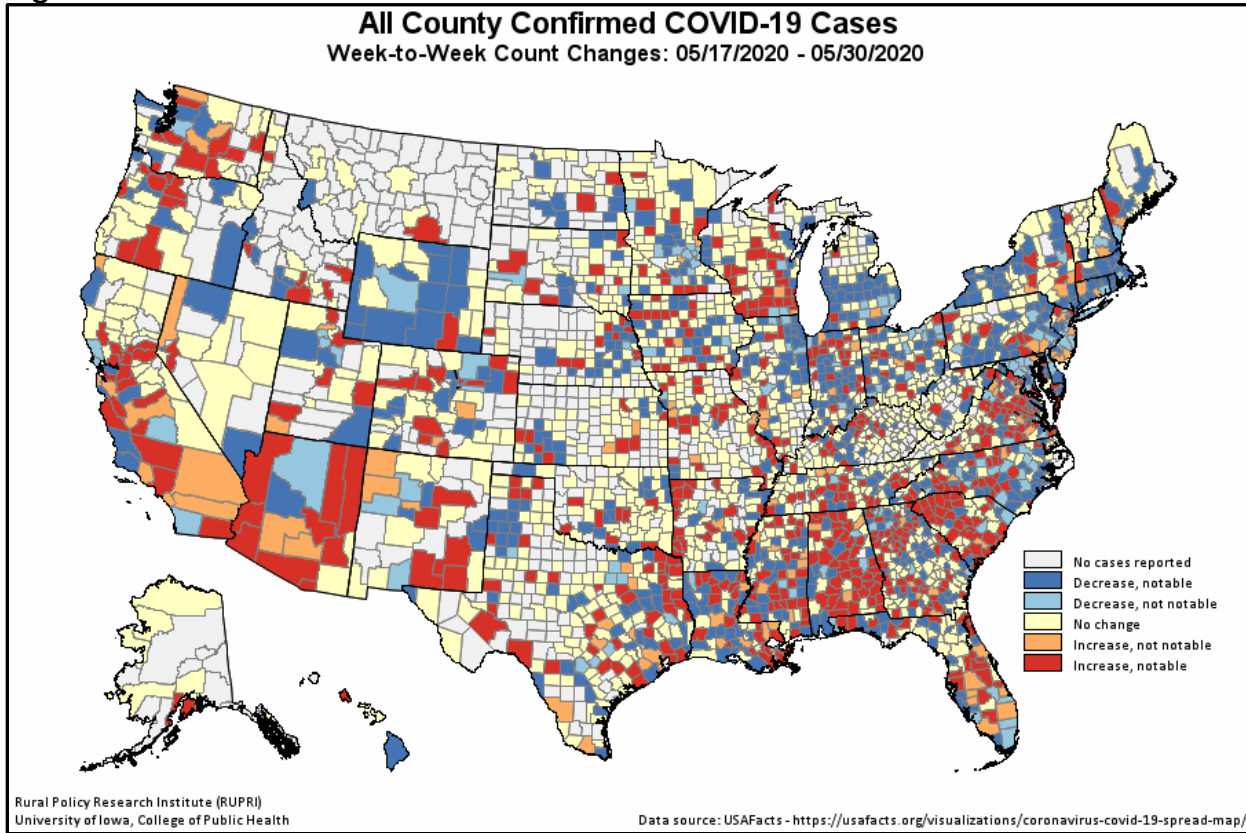


Figure 2.

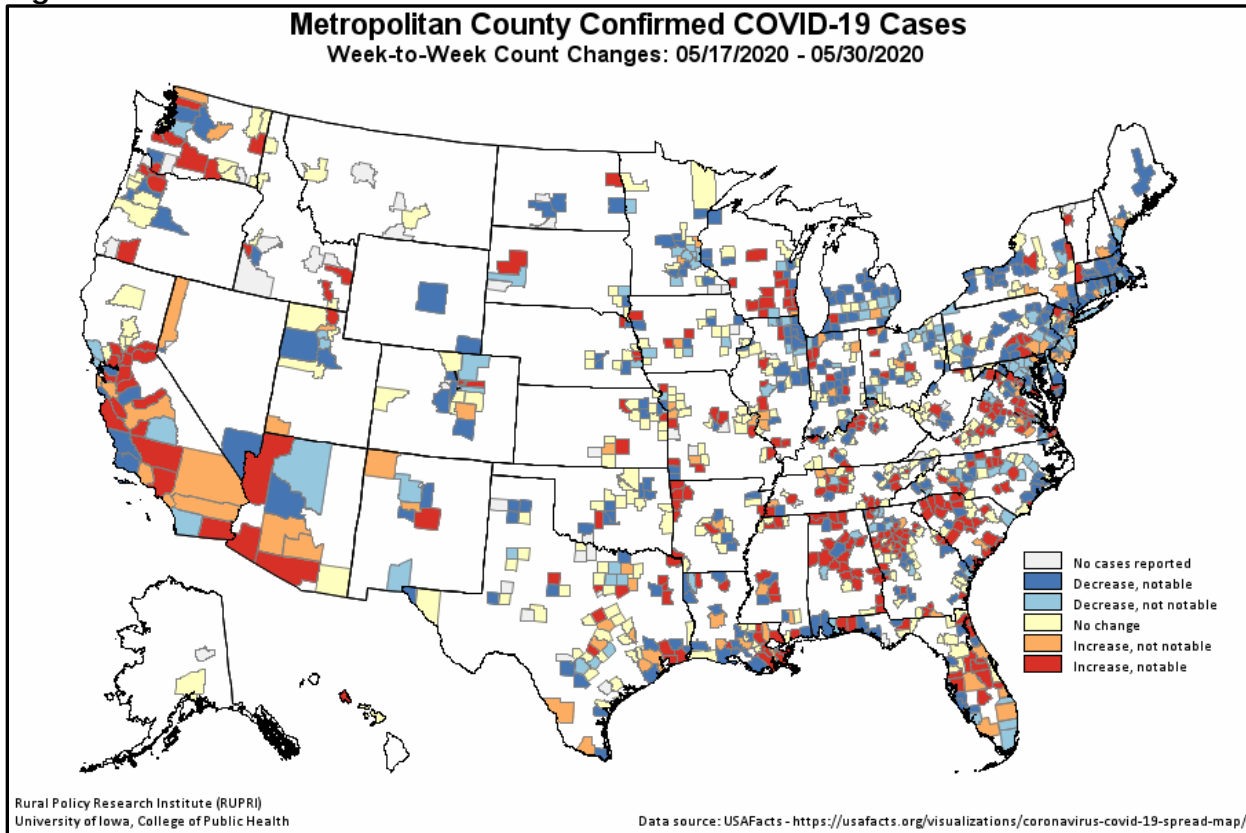


Figure 3.

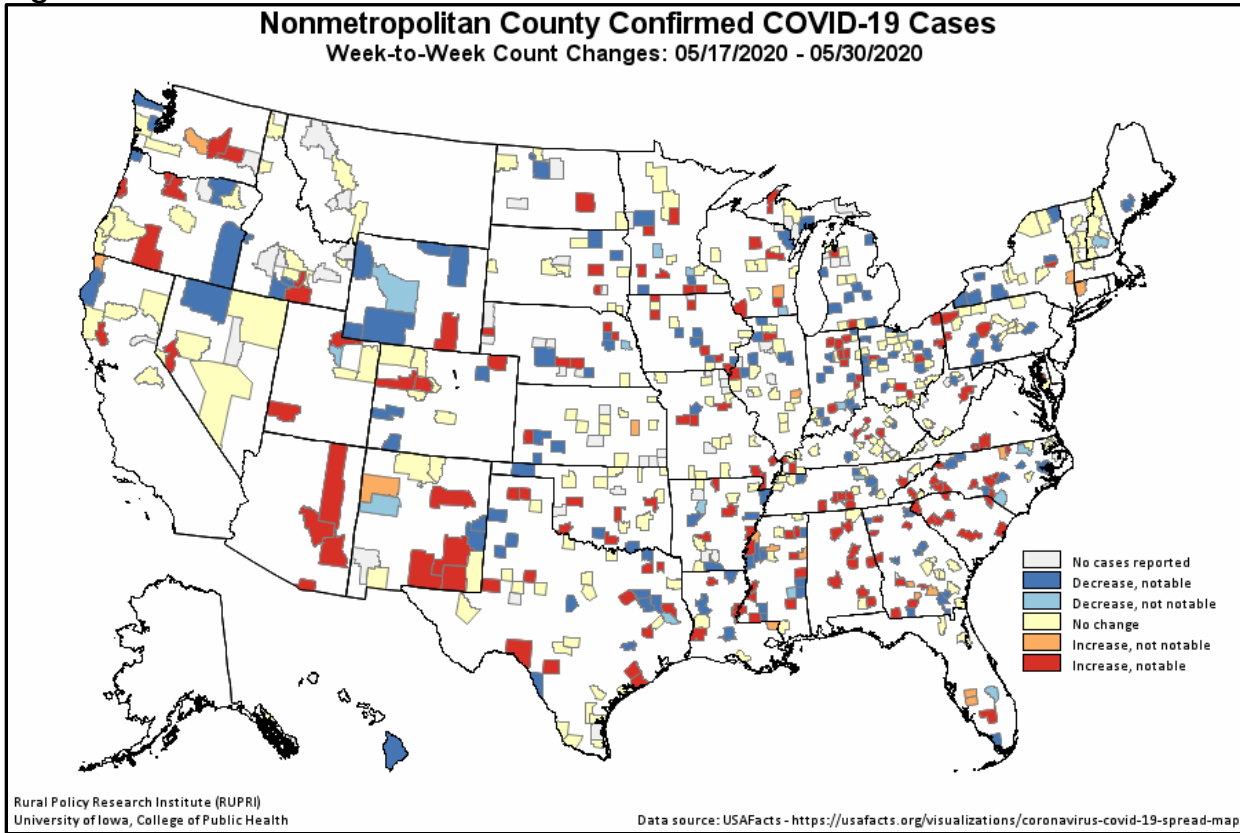
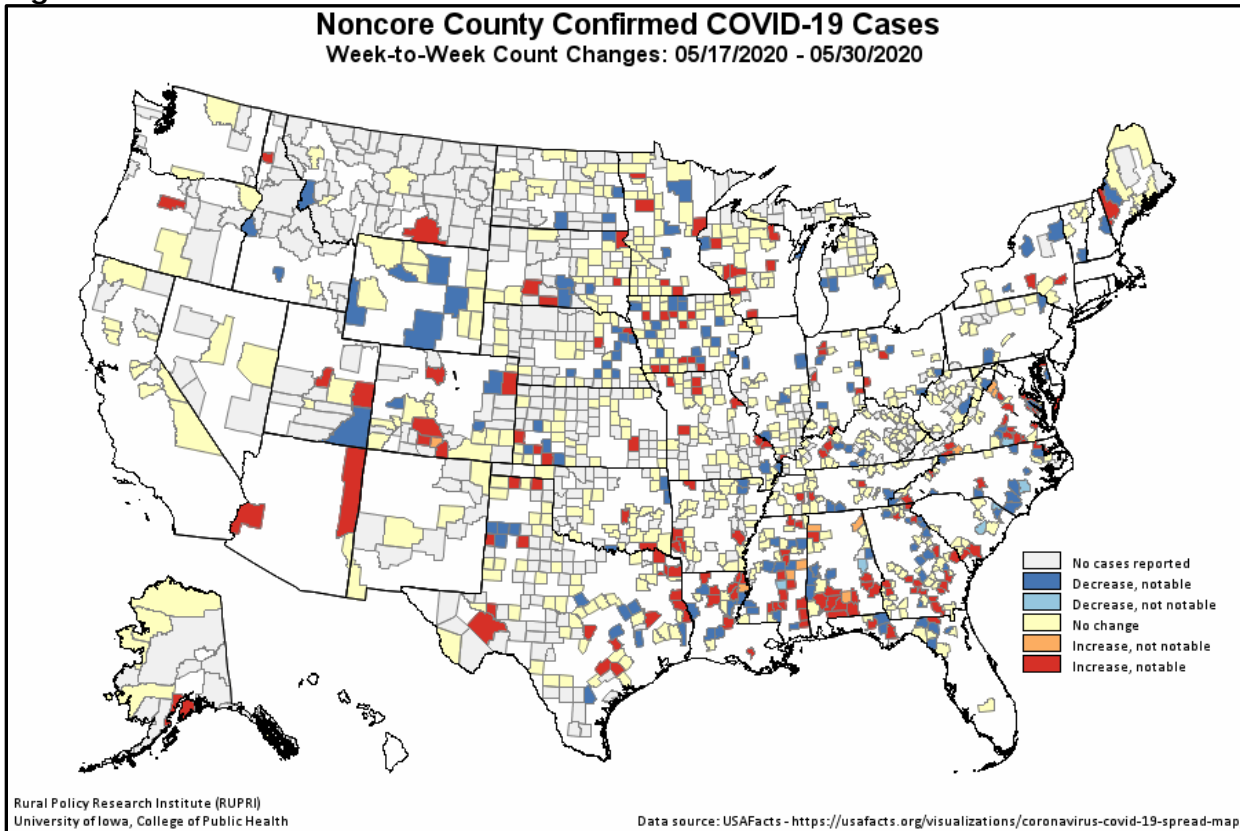


Figure 4.



¹ USAFacts.org (2020). "Coronavirus Locations: COVID-19 Map by County and State." Data retrieved from <https://usafacts.org/visualizations/coronavirus-covid-19-spread-map/>.

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/>.