County-Level 14-Day COVID-19 Case Trajectories
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Background

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 trends³ in newly confirmed COVID-19 cases, by county geography: 8/8/2021 – 8/21/2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Metropolitan (n = 1,166)</th>
<th>Nonmetropolitan (n = 641)</th>
<th>Noncore (n = 1,335)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No cases reported</td>
<td>14 (1.2%)</td>
<td>20 (3.1%)</td>
<td>80 (6.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreasing, notable⁴</td>
<td>48 (4.1%)</td>
<td>30 (4.7%)</td>
<td>153 (11.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreasing, not notable</td>
<td>191 (16.4%)</td>
<td>81 (12.6%)</td>
<td>121 (9.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Same number, both weeks⁵</td>
<td>64 (5.5%)</td>
<td>54 (8.4%)</td>
<td>263 (19.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing, not notable</td>
<td>404 (34.6%)</td>
<td>164 (25.6%)</td>
<td>164 (12.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing, notable</td>
<td>445 (38.2%)</td>
<td>292 (45.6%)</td>
<td>554 (41.5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹Comparison of number of new cases in first week of 14-day period with new cases in second week.
²"Notable" trends indicate weekly changes in new cases exceeding (either increasing or decreasing) 25 percent.
³Includes counties with an absolute change in count of two or fewer.
Table 2. 14-day trends\(^a\) in newly confirmed COVID-19 cases, in counties with any cases, by county geography: 8/8/2021 – 8/21/2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Metropolitan (n = 1,152 of 1,166)</th>
<th>Nonmetropolitan (n = 621 of 641)</th>
<th>Noncore (n = 1,255 of 1,335)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any decrease</td>
<td>239 (20.7%)</td>
<td>111 (17.9%)</td>
<td>274 (21.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notable decrease(^b)</td>
<td>48 (4.2%)</td>
<td>30 (4.8%)</td>
<td>153 (12.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Same number, both weeks(^c)</td>
<td>64 (5.6%)</td>
<td>54 (8.7%)</td>
<td>263 (21.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any increase</td>
<td>849 (73.7%)</td>
<td>456 (73.4%)</td>
<td>718 (57.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notable increase(^b)</td>
<td>445 (38.6%)</td>
<td>292 (47.0%)</td>
<td>554 (44.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase of 100% or more</td>
<td>60 (5.2%)</td>
<td>64 (10.3%)</td>
<td>195 (15.5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^a\)Comparison 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.  
\(^c\)Includes counties with an absolute change in count of two or fewer.

Figure 1.

![All County Confirmed COVID-19 Cases](image_url)
Figure 2.

Metropolitan County Confirmed COVID-19 Cases
Week-to-Week Count Changes: 08/08/2021 - 08/21/2021

Figure 3.

Nonmetropolitan County Confirmed COVID-19 Cases
Week-to-Week Count Changes: 08/08/2021 - 08/21/2021
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. 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.

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.

Nebraska stopped reporting county-level case and mortality data on 5/25/2021. Therefore, total cases/deaths for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties are undercounts.

1 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. 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.

Nebraska stopped providing county breakdowns of cases 5/25/2021.