

# 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](https://ruprihealth.org/publications/policybriefs/2020/County_COVID_Trajectories.pdf)). This data brief looks at the new case counts in every US county between August 15, 2021, and August 28, 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: 8/15/2021 – 8/28/2021**

	<b>Metropolitan (n = 1,166)</b>	<b>Nonmetropolitan (n = 641)</b>	<b>Noncore (n = 1,335)</b>
No cases reported	14 (1.2%)	18 (2.8%)	76 (5.7%)
Decreasing, notable <sup>b</sup>	65 (5.6%)	62 (9.7%)	172 (12.9%)
Decreasing, not notable	235 (20.2%)	119 (18.6%)	165 (12.4%)
Same number, both weeks <sup>c</sup>	54 (4.6%)	44 (6.9%)	213 (16.0%)
Increasing, not notable	392 (33.6%)	138 (21.5%)	170 (12.7%)
Increasing, notable	406 (34.8%)	260 (40.6%)	539 (40.4%)

<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.



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#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<sup>a</sup> in newly confirmed COVID-19 cases, in counties with any cases, by county geography: 8/15/2021 – 8/28/2021**

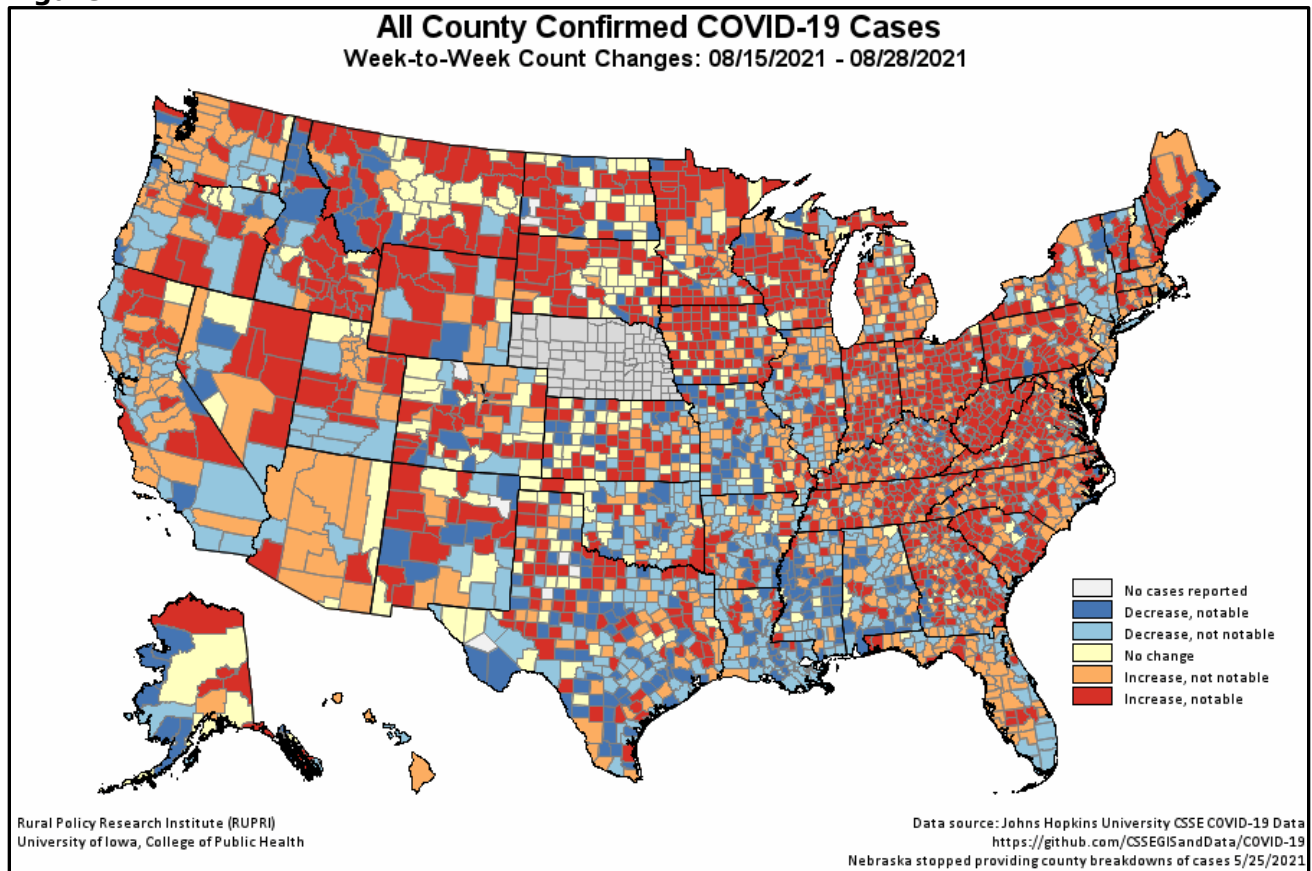
	<b>Metropolitan (n = 1,152 of 1,166)</b>		<b>Nonmetropolitan (n = 623 of 641)</b>		<b>Noncore (n = 1,259 of 1,335)</b>	
Any decrease	300	(26.0%)	181	(29.1%)	337	(26.8%)
Notable decrease <sup>b</sup>	65	(5.6%)	62	(10.0%)	172	(13.7%)
Same number, both weeks <sup>c</sup>	54	(4.7%)	44	(7.1%)	213	(16.9%)
Any increase	798	(69.3%)	398	(63.9%)	709	(56.3%)
Notable increase <sup>b</sup>	406	(35.2%)	260	(41.7%)	539	(42.8%)
Increase of 100% or more	29	(2.5%)	36	(5.8%)	176	(14.0%)

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

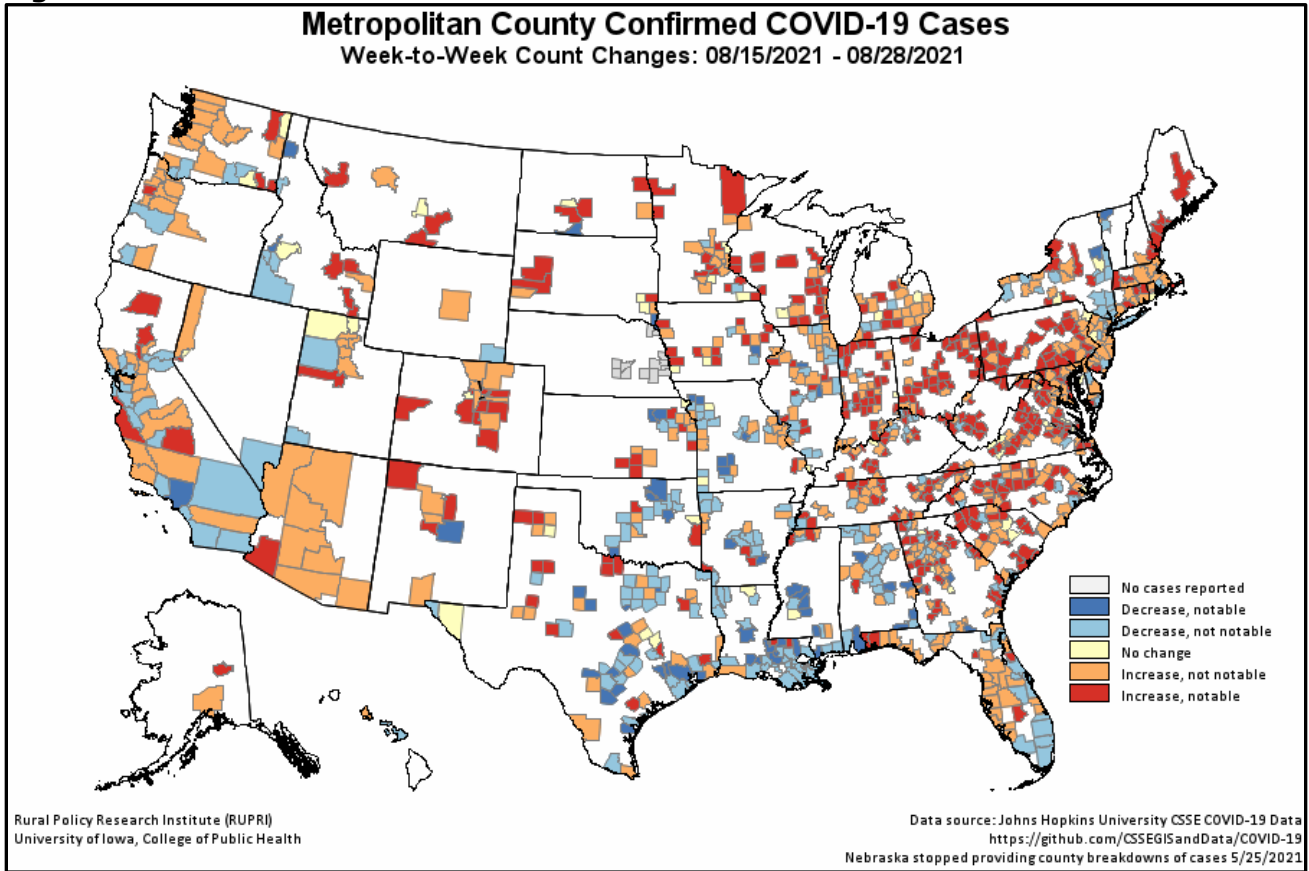
<sup>b</sup>"Notable" trends indicate weekly changes in new cases exceeding (either increasing or decreasing) 25 percent.

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

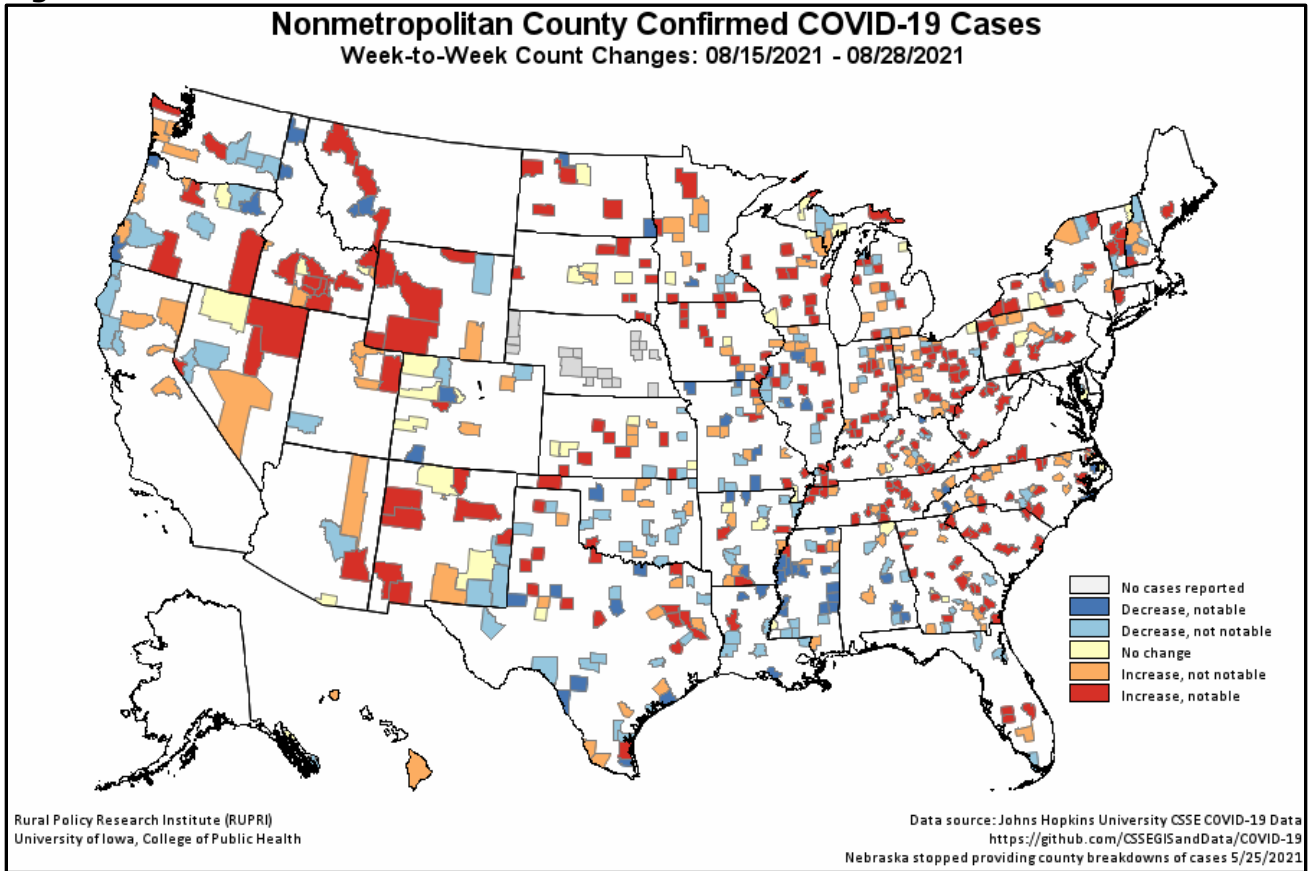
**Figure 1.**



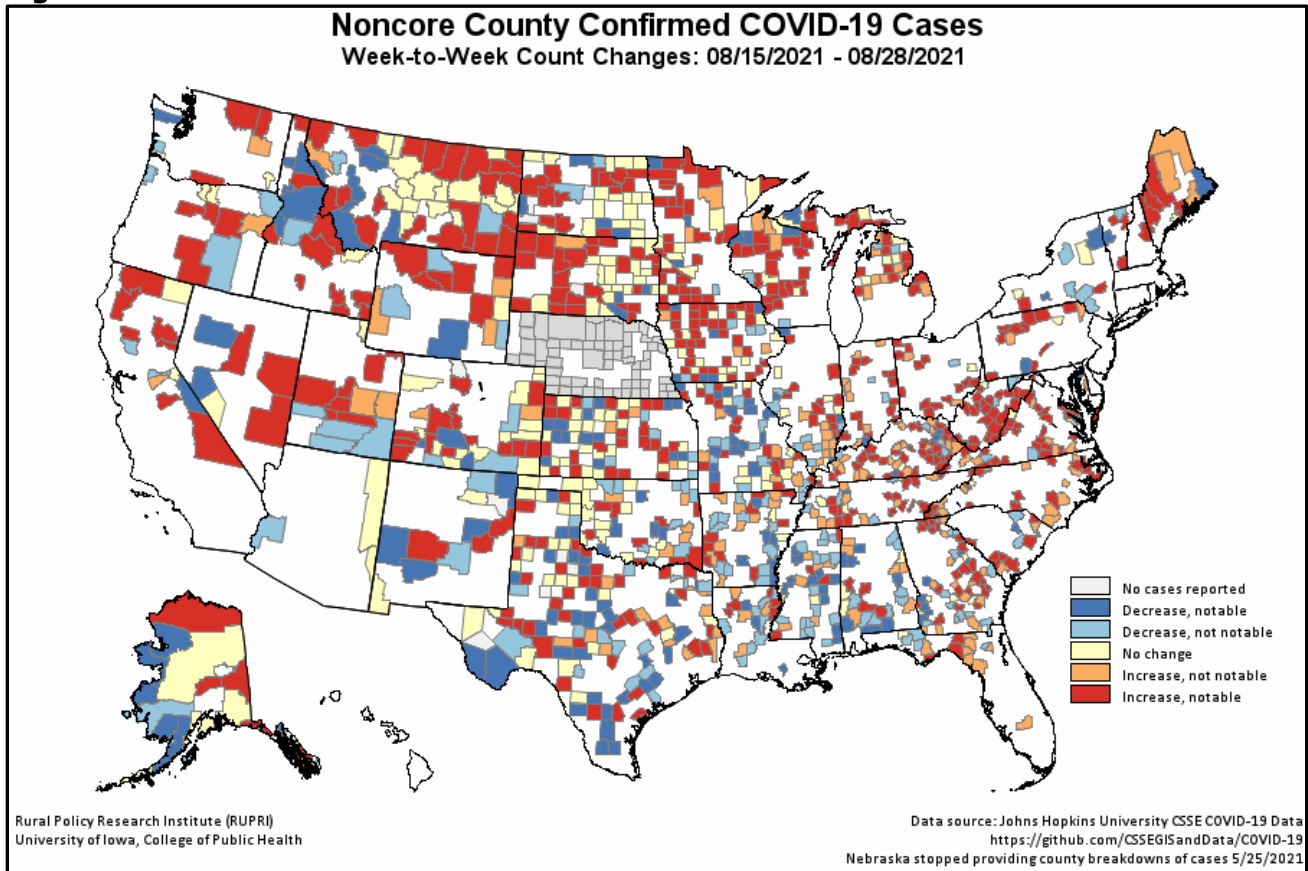
**Figure 2.**



**Figure 3.**



**Figure 4.**



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

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 counts are undercounts.

<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/>.