

# 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 November 1, 2020, and November 14, 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](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: 11/1/2020 – 11/14/2020**

	<b>Metropolitan (n = 1,166)</b>	<b>Nonmetropolitan (n = 641)</b>	<b>Noncore (n = 1,335)</b>
No cases reported	6 (0.5%)	5 (0.8%)	23 (1.7%)
Decreasing, notable <sup>b</sup>	119 (10.2%)	64 (10.0%)	202 (15.1%)
Decreasing, not notable	95 (8.1%)	59 (9.2%)	106 (7.9%)
Same number, both weeks <sup>c</sup>	42 (3.6%)	27 (4.2%)	186 (13.9%)
Increasing, not notable	206 (17.7%)	94 (14.7%)	132 (9.9%)
Increasing, notable	698 (59.9%)	392 (61.2%)	686 (51.4%)

<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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**Table 2. 14-day trends<sup>a</sup> in newly confirmed COVID-19 cases, in counties with any cases, by county geography: 11/1/2020 – 11/14/2020**

	<b>Metropolitan</b> (n = 1,160 of 1,166)	<b>Nonmetropolitan</b> (n = 636 of 641)	<b>Noncore</b> (n = 1,312 of 1,335)
<i>Any decrease</i>	214 (18.4%)	123 (19.3%)	308 (23.5%)
Notable decrease <sup>b</sup>	119 (10.3%)	64 (10.1%)	202 (15.4%)
Same number, both weeks <sup>c</sup>	42 (3.6%)	27 (4.2%)	186 (14.2%)
<i>Any increase</i>	904 (77.9%)	486 (76.4%)	818 (62.3%)
Notable increase <sup>b</sup>	698 (60.2%)	392 (61.6%)	686 (52.3%)
Increase of 100% or more	133 (11.5%)	107 (16.8%)	271 (20.7%)

<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.**

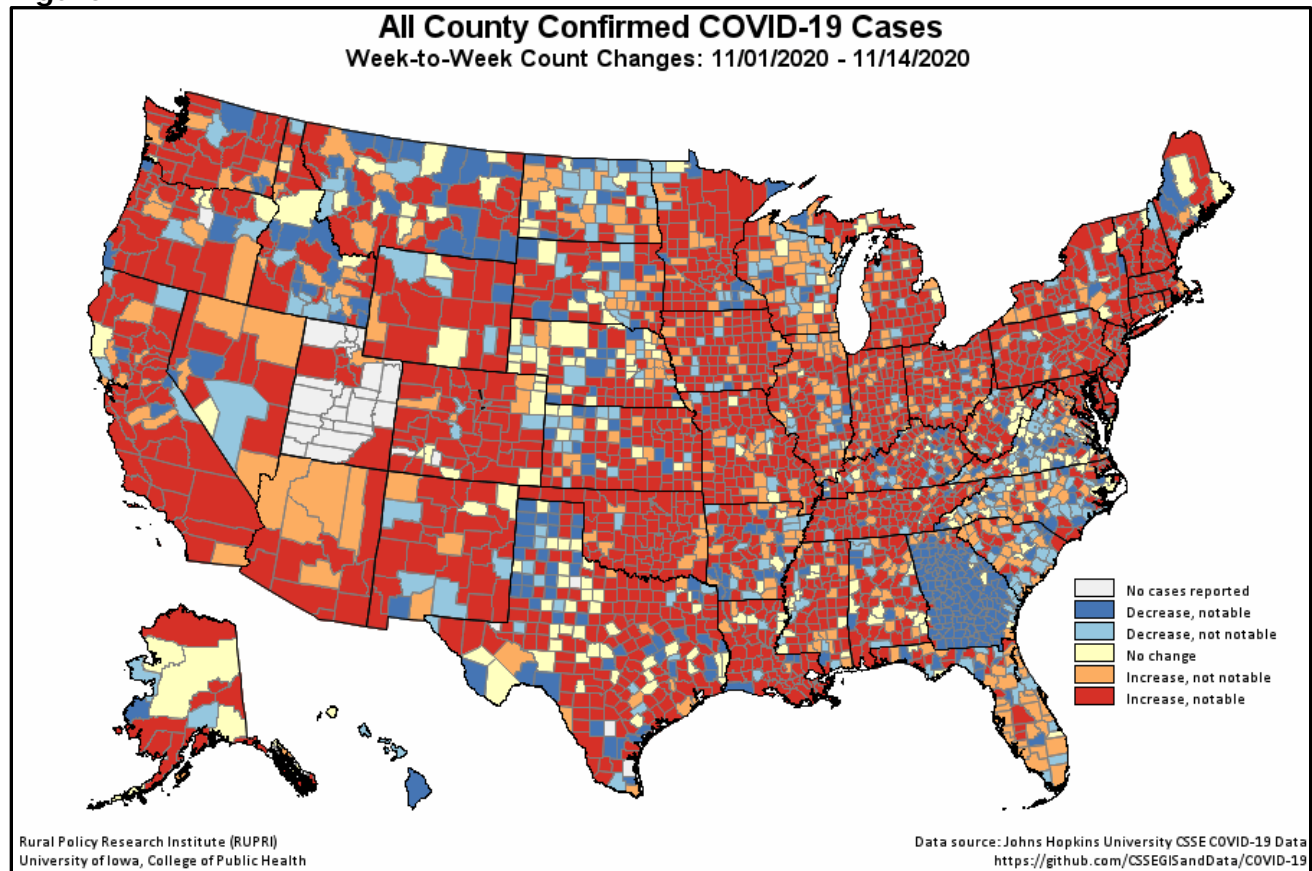


Figure 2.

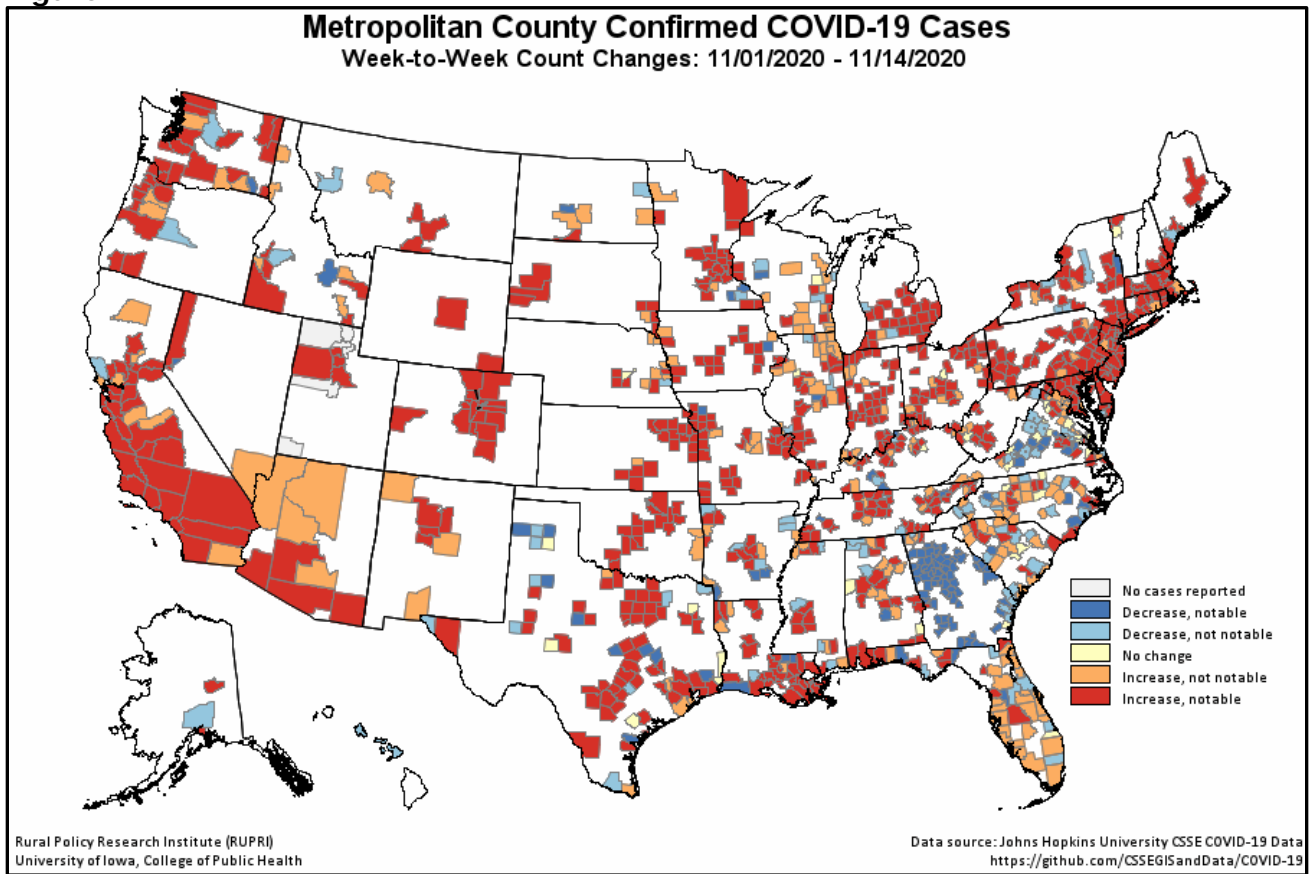


Figure 3.

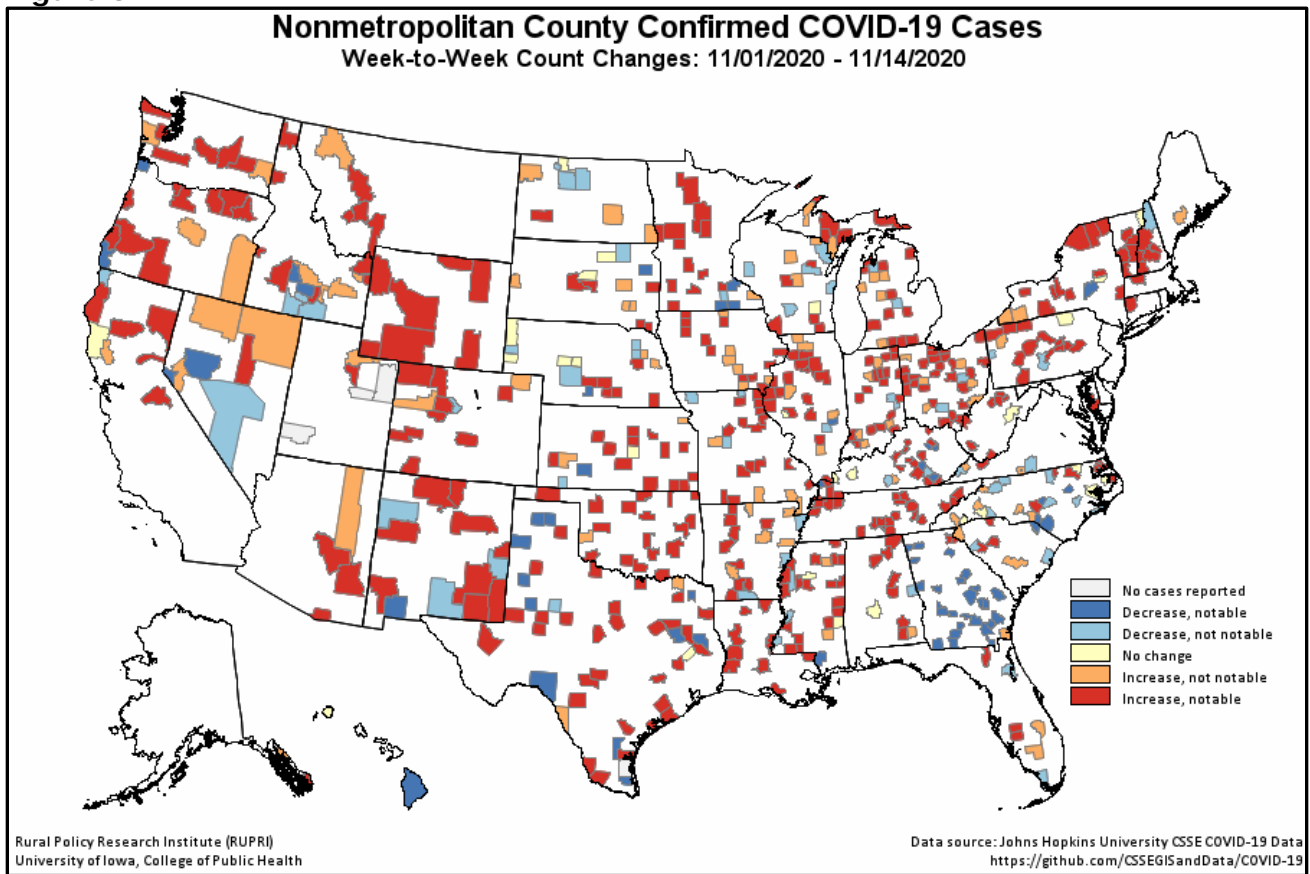
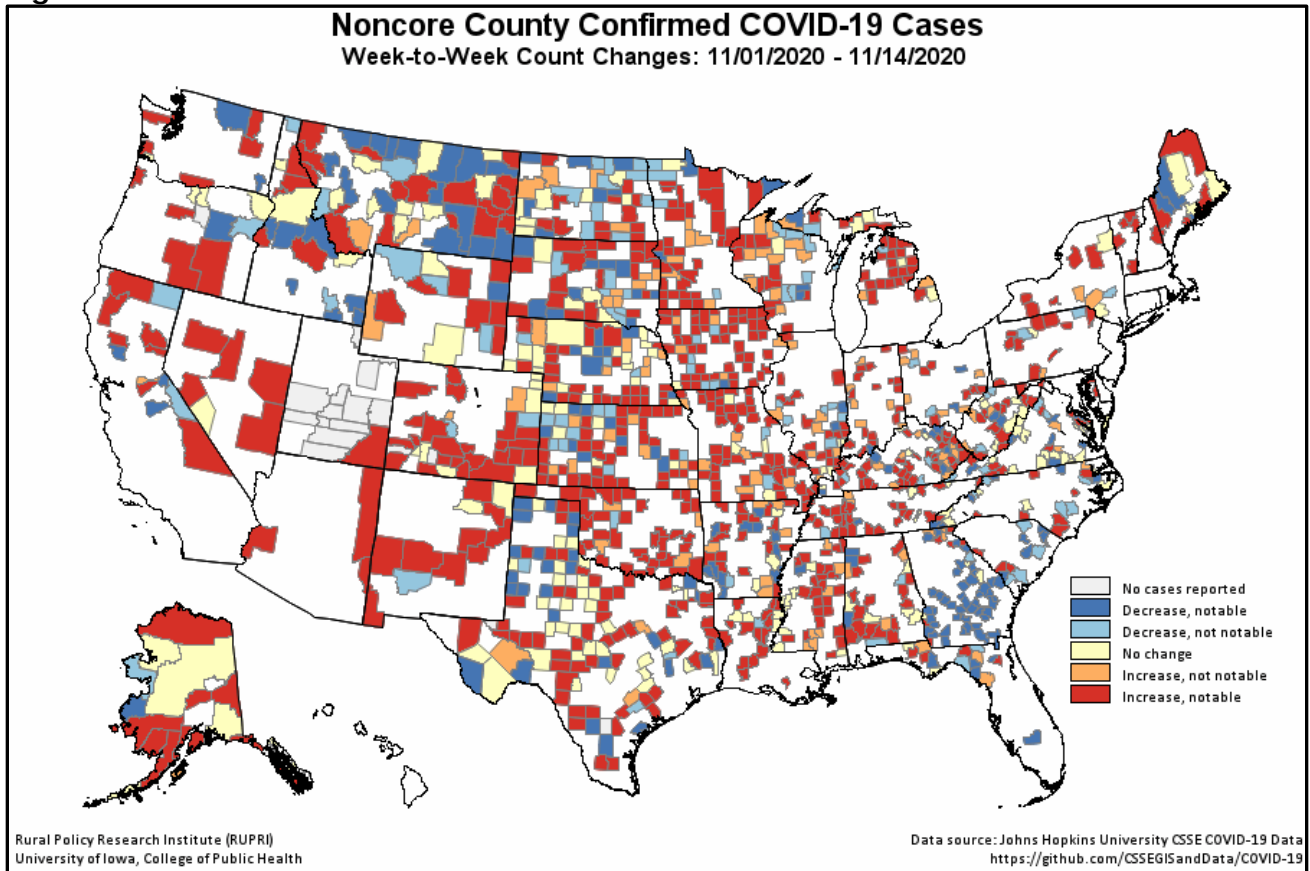


Figure 4.



<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.

<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/>.