

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 November 8, 2020, and November 21, 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 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: 11/8/2020 – 11/21/2020

	Metropolitan (n = 1,166)	Nonmetropolitan (n = 641)	Noncore (n = 1,335)
No cases reported	6 (0.5%)	5 (0.8%)	19 (1.4%)
Decreasing, notable ^b	84 (7.2%)	64 (10.0%)	233 (17.5%)
Decreasing, not notable	162 (13.9%)	147 (22.9%)	181 (13.6%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	51 (4.4%)	27 (4.2%)	200 (15.0%)
Increasing, not notable	342 (29.3%)	124 (19.3%)	161 (12.1%)
Increasing, notable	521 (44.7%)	274 (42.7%)	541 (40.5%)

^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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Table 2. 14-day trends^a in newly confirmed COVID-19 cases, in counties with any cases, by county geography: 11/8/2020 – 11/21/2020

	Metropolitan (n = 1,160 of 1,166)		Nonmetropolitan (n = 636 of 641)		Noncore (n = 1,316 of 1,335)	
Any decrease	246	(21.2%)	211	(33.2%)	414	(31.5%)
Notable decrease ^b	84	(7.2%)	64	(10.1%)	233	(17.7%)
Same number, both weeks ^c	51	(4.4%)	27	(4.2%)	200	(15.2%)
Any increase	863	(74.4%)	398	(62.6%)	702	(53.3%)
Notable increase ^b	521	(44.9%)	274	(43.1%)	541	(41.1%)
Increase of 100% or more	99	(8.5%)	71	(11.2%)	190	(14.4%)

^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.

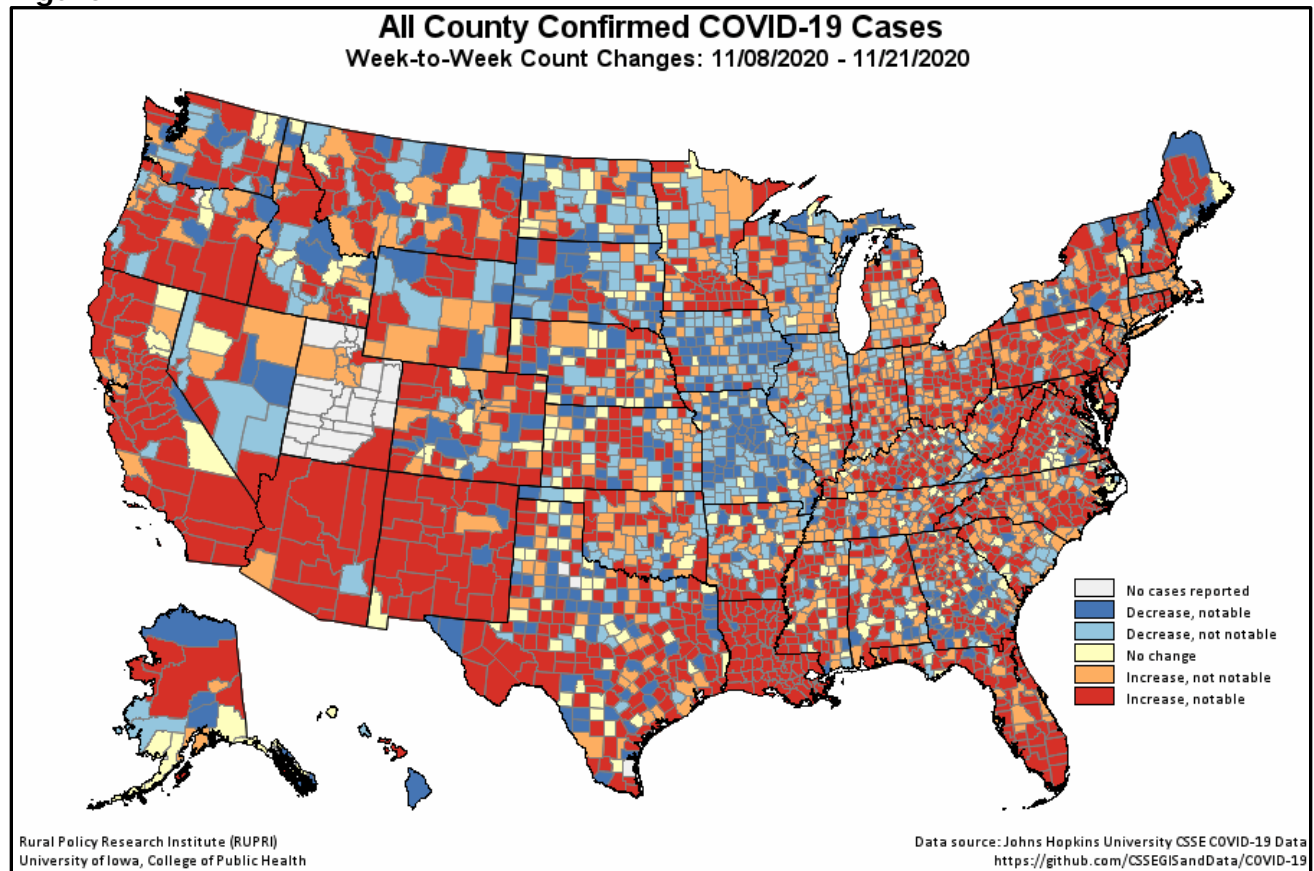


Figure 2.

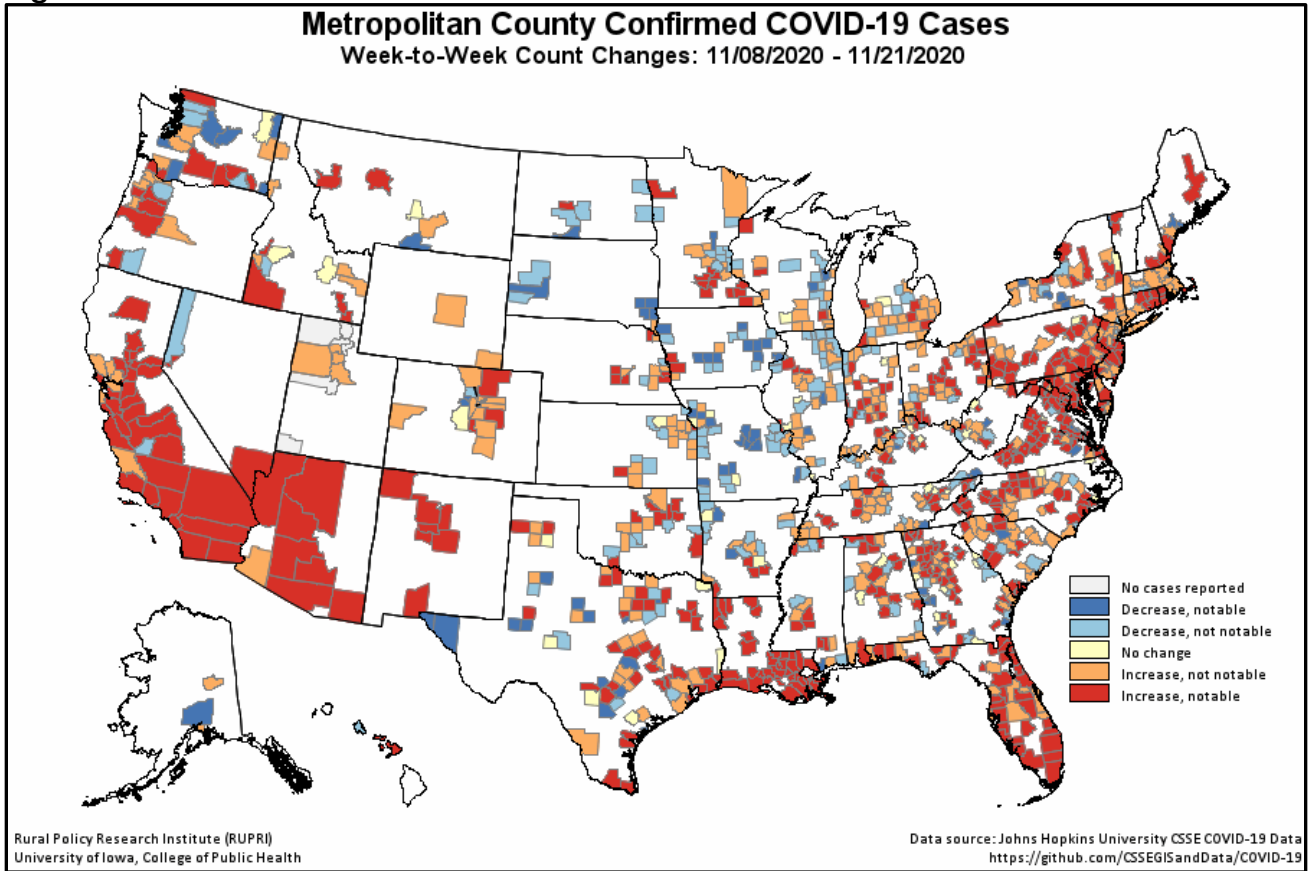


Figure 3.

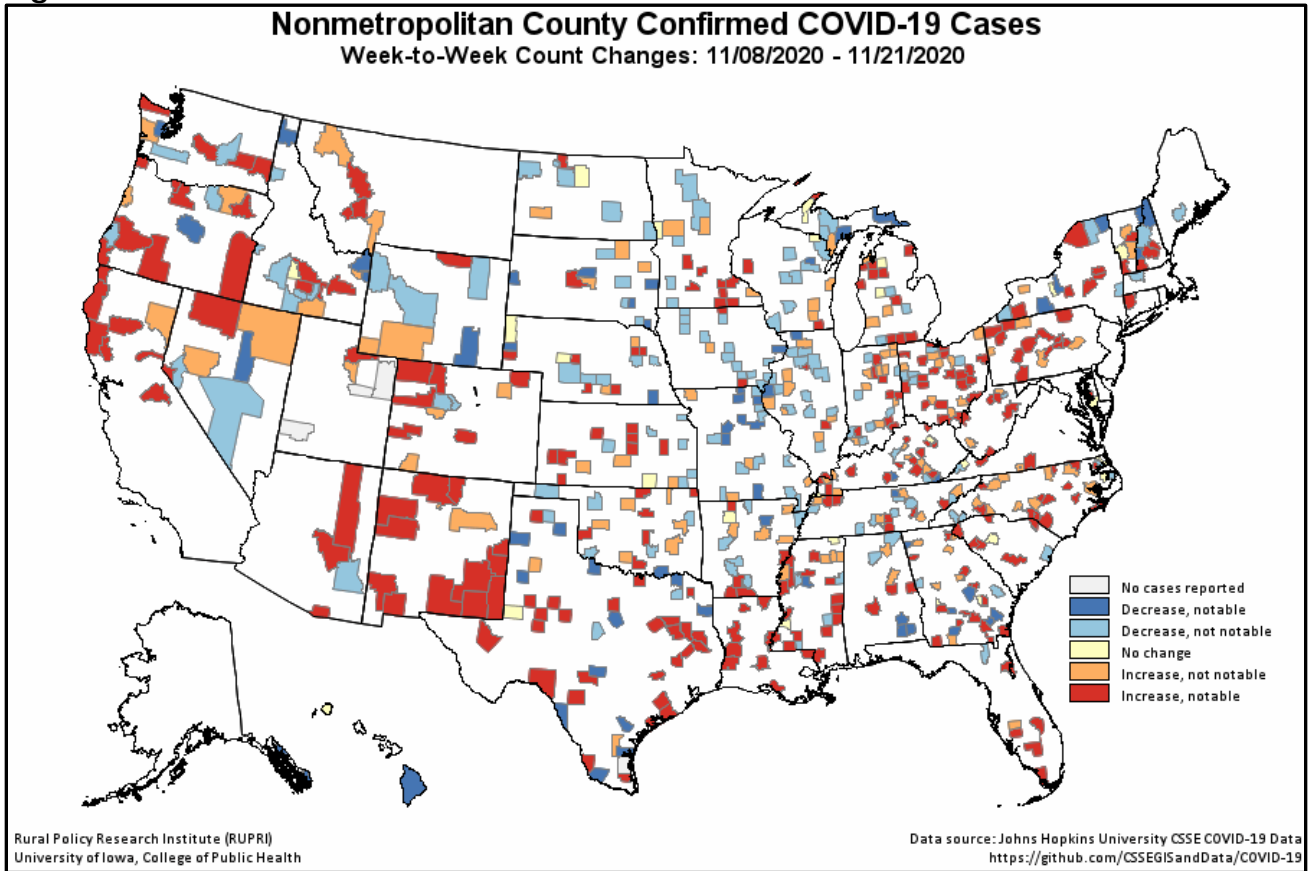
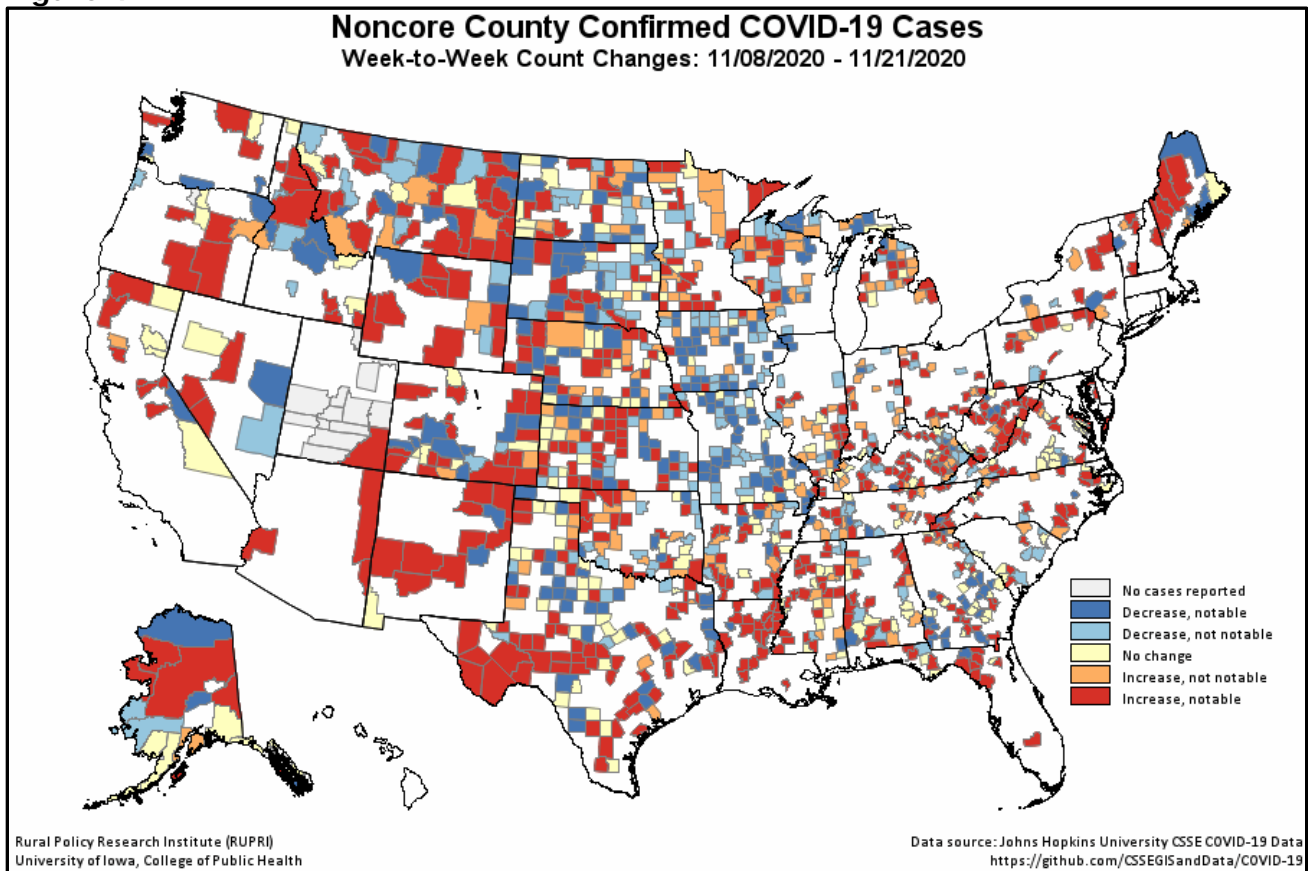


Figure 4.



¹ COVID-19 case and death data for this ongoing report were previously obtained from [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.

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/>.