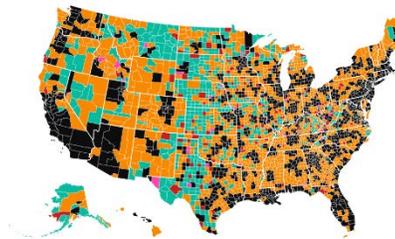


The coronavirus, or COVID-19, pandemic is a global health concern, and in March 2020, Colorado Gov. Polis signed an executive order asking non-essential businesses to limit operations to flatten the curve, affecting a large share of the Colorado economy.

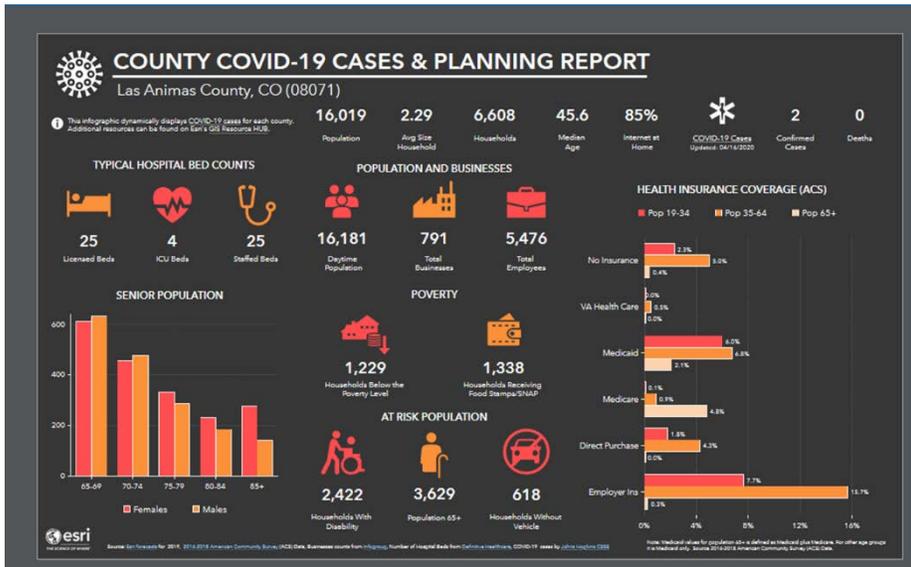
Data on rural areas is harder to find or is less publicized, but there are resources to learn about potential health impacts, demographics and relevant economic indicators. REDI has compiled a number of reports that span key economic and community development issues, such as:

- Community services: Population declines in rural Colorado shrink the tax and consumer base, jeopardizing the availability of schools, health care, and other essential services
- Credit: the share of deposits held in locally-owned banks has fallen steadily in the US and in Colorado since the 1990s, perhaps challenging local enterprises that will need financial partners to recover

REDI will keep an updated link to rural Colorado trends, including workforce, sales dynamics, policy updates and other key data metrics. For example, maps illustrating the spread of COVID are frequently updated at: <https://redi.colostate.edu/covid-19-resources/>



REDI compiles updated online databases and platforms, such as the ESRI dashboard featured below, to help communities easily locate data.



<https://business.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/dc74772707d94db9a7d24d30ffdcf36c>

REDI focuses on engaged research-driven analyses, informing industry, policy and community development perspectives in service to Colorado, with a focus on shared challenges and opportunities to connect rural and urban places. We engage with public, private, and non-profit partners seeking to promote sustainable regional economic development, providing apolitical, scholarly and actionable research and policy.



Find REDI at:

<https://redi.colostate.edu/>

COVID RESOURCES for Colorado's Rural Communities

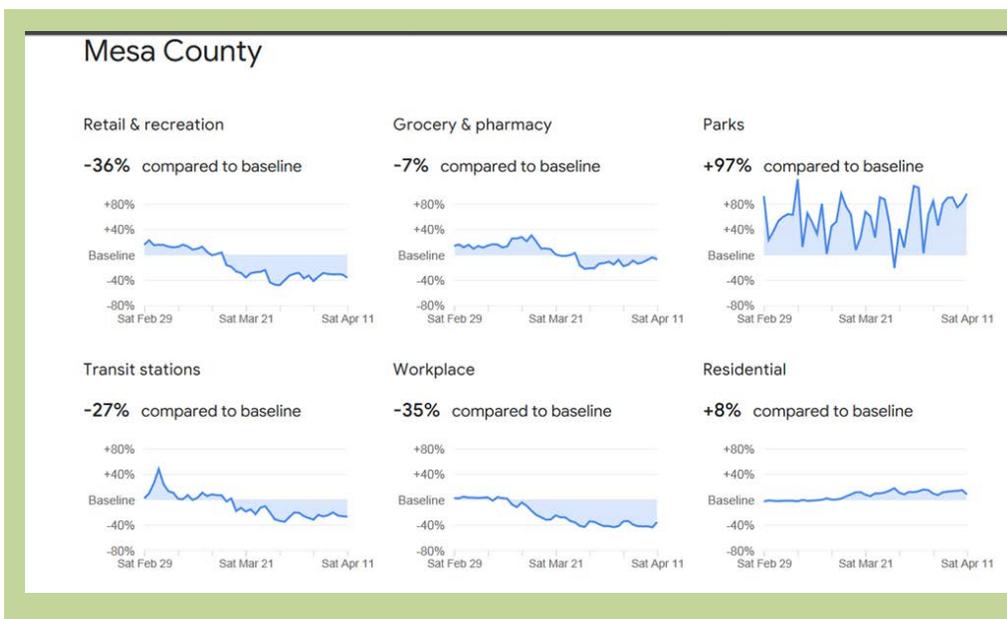
[USDA Rural Development COVID-19 Resources](#)

USDA Rural Development has taken a number of immediate actions to help rural residents, businesses, and communities affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Rural Development will keep our customers, partners, and stakeholders continuously updated as more actions are taken to better serve rural America. Please bookmark this page and check back regularly as circumstances are changing daily and the width and depth of our responses to your questions and concerns will certainly increase. A PDF is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#),

[Colorado Community Mobility](#)

Community Mobility Reports aim to provide insights into what has changed in response to policies aimed at combating COVID-19. The reports chart movement trends over time by geography, across different categories of places such as retail and recreation, groceries and pharmacies, parks, transit stations, workplaces, and residential. Colorado's report (including all counties) is linked directly, but you can explore other regions as well.

<https://www.google.com/covid19/mobility>



[Colorado Rural Community Initiative](#)

The Rural Community Initiative provides financial assistance, technical support and strategic advice as communities plan for or face challenges in changing economies statewide. Multiple Agencies including CEO, OEDIT, DNR, CDLE, CSU in collaboration with other State agencies work in tandem to bring high level expertise: by streamlining the process of working with several State agencies at one time, communities are able to obtain services and technical assistance to recover more quickly. Bringing together resources such as Rural Jumpstart, Rural Economic Development Initiative grants, Opportunity Zones, Rural Economic Assistance to Colorado Towns (REACT) etc, this collaboration continues to provide creative and strategic approaches as communities stabilize and thrive into the future.

[Colorado Resiliency Initiative](#)

The Department of Local Affairs Colorado Resiliency Office (CRO) is leading an update to the Colorado Resiliency Framework in 2020. The 2015 Colorado Resiliency Framework placed Colorado at the forefront of national resiliency efforts and the 2020 update showcases new tools and engagement techniques and establish a process and timeline for ongoing Framework updates. The [Community Inclusion map](#) is one example of how our state is better engaging our diverse communities to reflect a more unified voice in planning and action.

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Coloradans, governments, and businesses have shown remarkable leadership and spirit. These times demonstrate the importance of adaptive and innovative solutions in the face of evolving challenges and uncertainty.