

# The West Nile Weekly

## What does this week look like historically?

Typically, less than 1% of a year's human cases will occur during this week, and 4% of a year's total cases will have occurred before the end of this week. Risk is doubling every week, but risk is still low.

However, individuals will be infected with WNV during July 4th outdoor activities during this week. It may take up to two weeks for individuals to show symptoms and be diagnosed, but the average individual will probably receive more exposure to vector and virus this week than usual.

## What to expect?

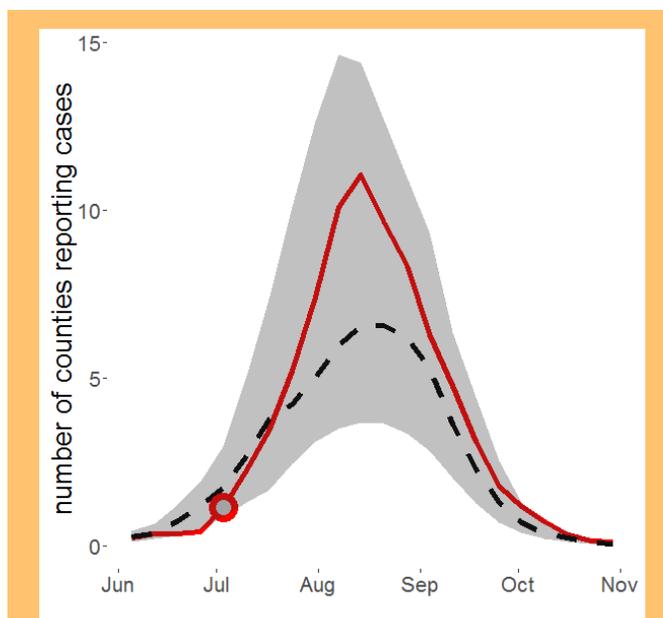
We expect again one county, very likely Brown County, to report at least one human case (Fig 1). Brown County, in particular, is estimated to have a 14.2% (1 in 7) chance of reporting a case. A series of cool, dry days has pushed estimates for this week down slightly below average for this week of the year (Fig 2).

We have nine reports of positive mosquito pools out of 540 tested. This is somewhat higher than average for this point in the year, but is not yet troubling. Next week we expect to have a better idea of how prevalent the virus is in our mosquitoes as more data arrive.

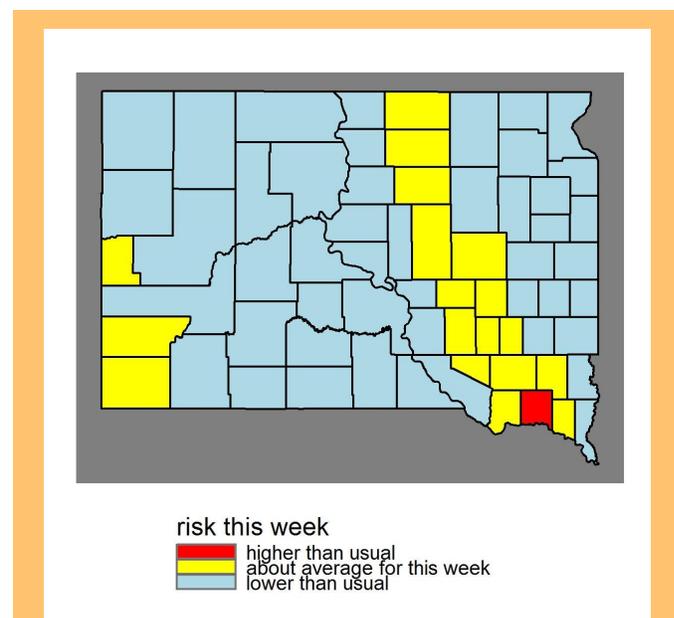
## Current recommendations?

Outdoor events during the weekend and on the 4th will present major opportunities for exposure to infected mosquitoes. This is especially true of evening events, such as firework displays, since *Culex tarsalis* mosquitoes usually begin seeking meals just after sunset.

The public should be cautioned of the risk, reminded of the reality of West Nile virus in SD and the possibility of serious disease. This looks like an above-average year for human cases and of repellents should be directly encouraged. Pre-treatment of areas where people will congregate for holiday events is also recommended. We see no reason to recommend cancellation of any events, however. We are still early in the season and reasonable precautions should suffice.



**Figure 1:** Estimated risk for 2017 (red), with average risk in other years (dashed) and 50% confidence interval for historical risk (grey).



**Figure 2:** Risk for the week beginning June 26th, compared to risk in this county, this week, in the average WNV year.