

The West Nile Weekly

What does this week look like historically?

We are now definitely in the WNV season. Around 1.3% of cases typically occur during this week, and around 7% of total cases for the year usually occur before the end of the week.

What to expect?

We expect two to three counties to report at least one human case during this week (Fig 1). Brown County, in particular, is estimated to have a 34.2% (1 in 3) chance of reporting at least one case.

We have 10 reports of positive mosquito pools out of 596 tested (1.7% positive) and we are almost exactly at average for this point in the year as a state for mosquito infections. However, relatively few mosquito pools have been tested, and it may be one more week before a clear picture emerges.

Temperatures have risen again, cancelling out the short cool spell the state experienced recently. Hence, risk in the state as a whole is near or below average (Fig 2).

Much of the state is experiencing [dry to extreme drought conditions](#). This hasn't been good news for mosquitoes - average *Cx. tarsalis* collections had fallen in the previous two weeks but have recently rebounded, and this pattern may mean heightened risk. WNV transmission can occur when mosquito numbers are low - in fact, some of the worst years on record have low *Cx. tarsalis* counts.

Current recommendations?

We are still in the point of the season when risk is doubling weekly. We have not reached the height of risk and the majority of cases are still to come, but nearly one 1 out of every 10 of cases diagnosed this year may occur by the end of this week. Therefore, we strongly recommend that individuals use mosquito repellents when they are outdoors, particularly during the evening and nighttime hours.

The virus is still multiplying in bird and mosquito populations and mosquito control efforts now are recommended to reduce the potential for virus transmission.

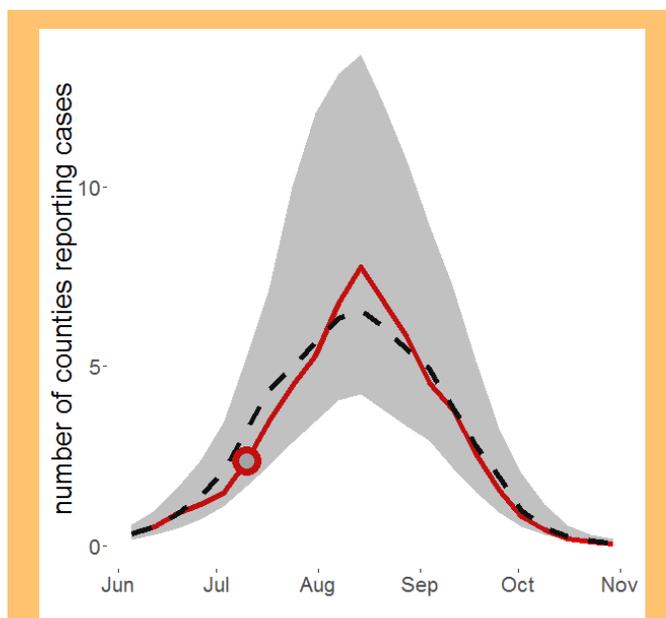


Figure 1: Estimated risk for 2017 (red), with average risk in other years (dashed) and 50% confidence interval for historical risk (grey).

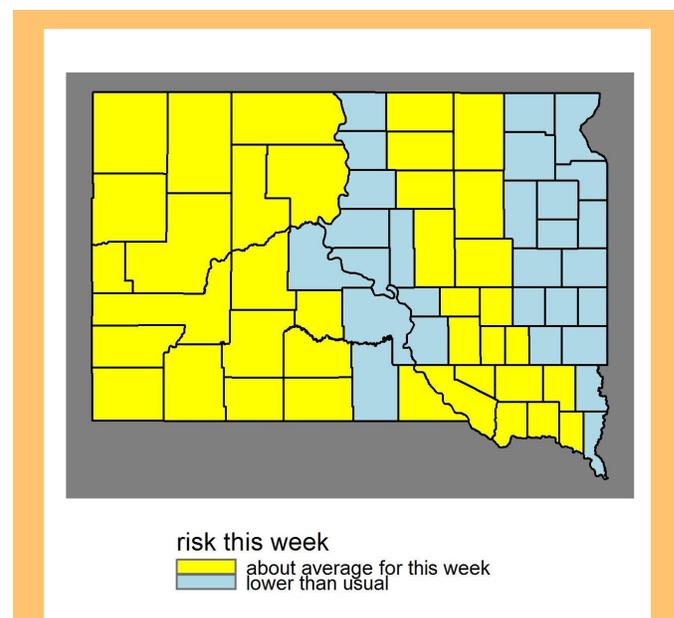


Figure 2: Risk for the week beginning July 10th, compared to risk in this county, this week, in the average WNV year.