

The West Nile Weekly

What does this week look like historically?

We are now definitely in the WNV season. Around 2% of cases typically occur during this week, and around 12% of total cases for the year, about 1 in 8, 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 20.1% (1 in 5) chance of reporting at least one case.

Brown County reports 3.9% of its pools positive since the beginning of the season and Lincoln reports 7.1%. These are high for this point in the year, but no other county has reported a positive pool after 557 pools tested. A large number of negative pools were reported recently, and this has driven much of the state below average estimated risk for this week of the year (Fig 2).

Additionally, this has been one of the drier years on record with most of the state under drought conditions,

and [conditions are expected to remain dry](#) for at least the next month.

This does not mean that the rest of 2017 will definitely remain below average - if environmental conditions become better for the mosquito, then we may see a sudden surge in risk. We take 2012 as an example, which had a delayed WNV season but far more human cases than usual.

It should be noted that while this year may be below average, an average year still implies a number of clinical cases, a much larger number of invisible infections, and even deaths.

Current recommendations?

Due to the heavy infection rate in some counties, we continue to recommend mosquito control - the season is still just ramping up, and control now means fewer human cases later. Even in cases where infected mosquitoes have not yet been found, it is unlikely that they are actually completely absent.

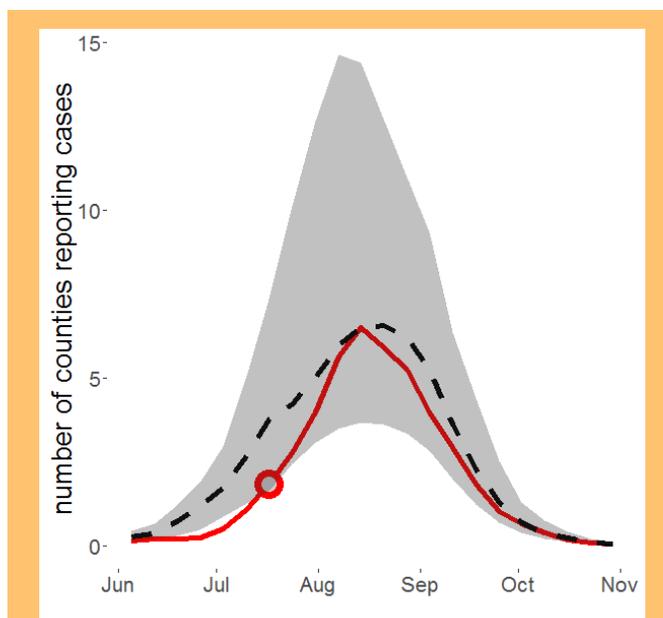


Figure 1: Estimated risk for 2017 (red), with average risk in other years (dashed) and 50% confidence interval for historical risk (grey).

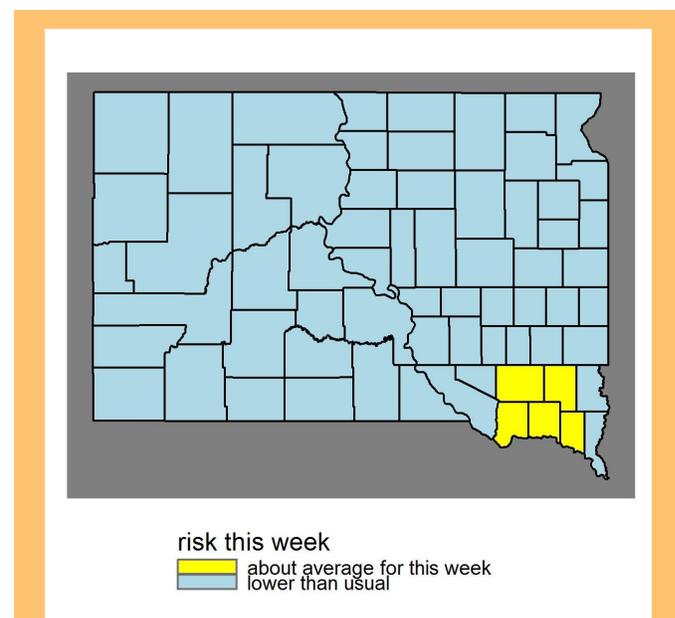


Figure 2: Risk for the week beginning July 10th, compared to risk in this county, this week, in the average WNV year.