

The West Nile Weekly

What does this week look like historically?

Historically, around 3.3% of cases begin are transmitted in the week of July 24th - 30th, and around 29% of total cases for the year, about 1 in 3, have been transmitted by the end of this week.

What to expect?

Our model estimates that statewide risk of infection July 24th - 30th is lower than average (Fig 1). There is, however, a cluster of counties in the southeast with average and higher-than-average estimated risk for this point in the year (Fig 2).

We expect that cases will occur in three to four counties. Brown remains the most likely, with an estimated 37.3% (2 in 5) chance.

The increase in risk from last week's estimates is due to primarily to an increase in positive mosquito pools. As of the 21st, 1245 pools have been tested with 22 (1.7%) positive, and positives have appeared in two counties where none had yet been reported in 2017.

Additionally, the state, which until recently has been far less humid than usual, has recently experienced humidity closer to historical averages. While there hasn't been much precipitation - [drought conditions persist](#) - the air itself has become more humid, which may encourage mosquitoes to begin seeking blood meals rather than hiding out and waiting until the environment is more suitable.

Current recommendations?

We continue to recommend mosquito control. Destruction of infected adult mosquitoes can prevent infectious bites.

We are seeing a late start to the WNV season this year and it is tempting to become comfortable, but it is still likely that we will see a substantial number of cases during the peak month of August.

Additionally, if there are more positive mosquito pools than expected, risk will be higher than currently estimated - continued testing and collection are essential.

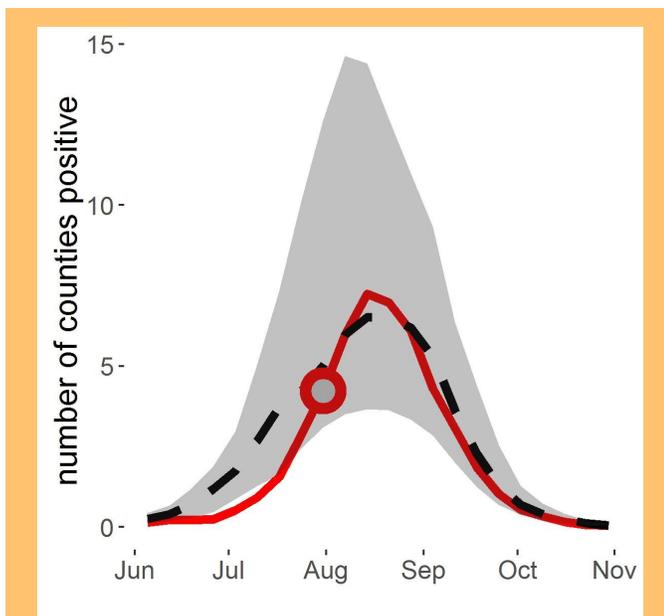


Figure 1: Estimated risk for 2017 (red), with average risk in other years (dashed) and 50% confidence interval for historical risk (grey).

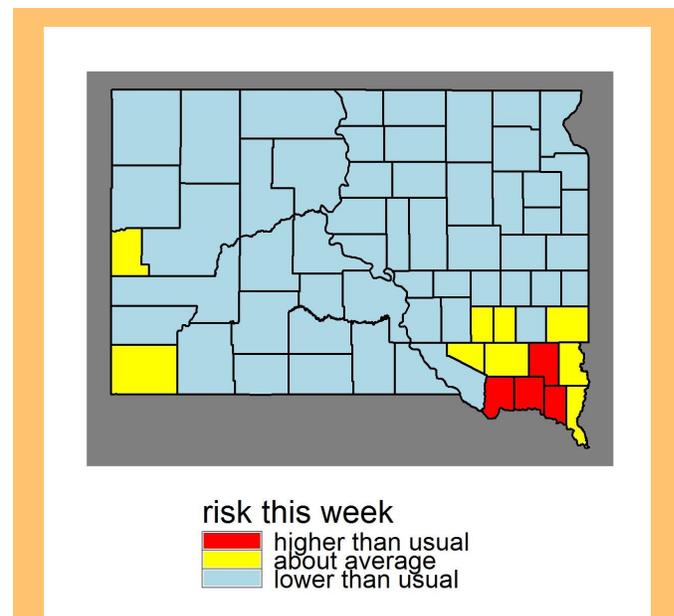


Figure 2: Risk for this week, compared to risk in this county, this week, in the average WNV year.