

# The West Nile Weekly

## What does this week look like historically?

Historically, around 5.1% of cases are transmitted in the week of August 7th - 13th, and around 60% of total cases for the year, about 3 in 5, have been transmitted by the end of this week.

## What to expect?

Our model estimates that statewide risk of infection has risen slightly above average (Fig 1). This is due mostly to the western half of the state, in which most counties are experiencing higher-than-average risk for this week (Fig 2).

We expect that cases will occur in seven counties. Brown remains the most likely to have cases, with an estimated 53.6% (1 in 2) chance of at least one case.

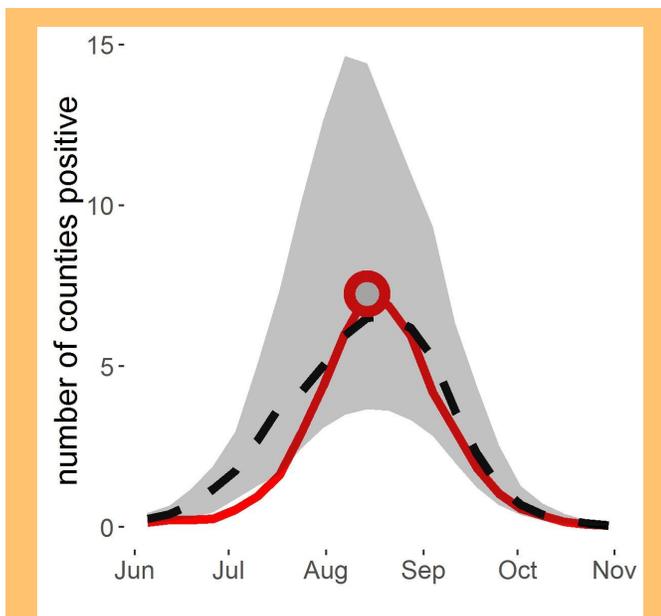
The increase in expected risk is due primarily to new reports of positive pools received in the last week. As of August 7th, the state has risen 2.5% of pools positive, up from 1.9% last week. Six counties have now reported positives.

The mosquito infection rate is around 50% higher than last week, which is unfortunate. We were hoping that the rate of positive pools would continue to level off and might even decline. Over the past month, we have been trying to predict whether 2017 will be an average year for WNV or if it would simply be a late year, with more cases than average. The sudden increase in mosquito infection rate may point to a late year with higher-than-average human cases.

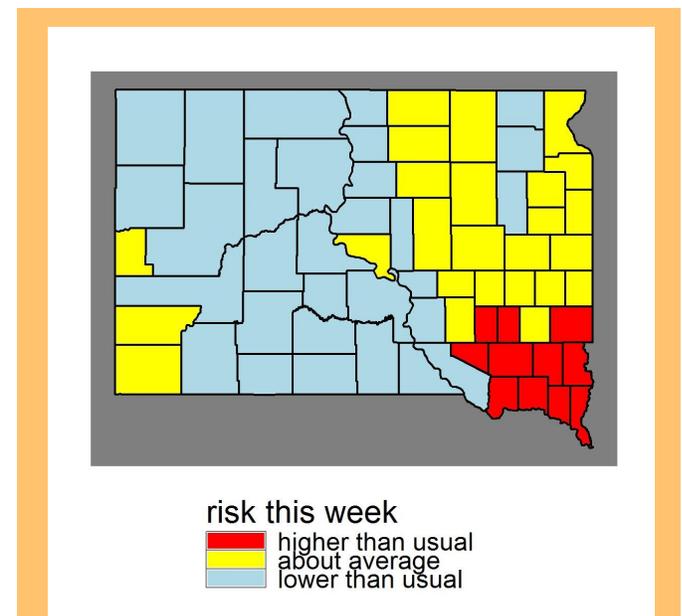
Additionally, humidity in the state has risen back to average. Recent storms have helped slightly with [drought](#). It is entirely possible that we will not reach the peak of risk in 2017 until a few weeks later than average.

## Current recommendations?

We continue to recommend mosquito control, particularly in the southeastern part of the state. Destruction of infected adult mosquitoes can prevent infectious bites, especially in these next few weeks, which represent the height of WNV season in typical years.



**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.