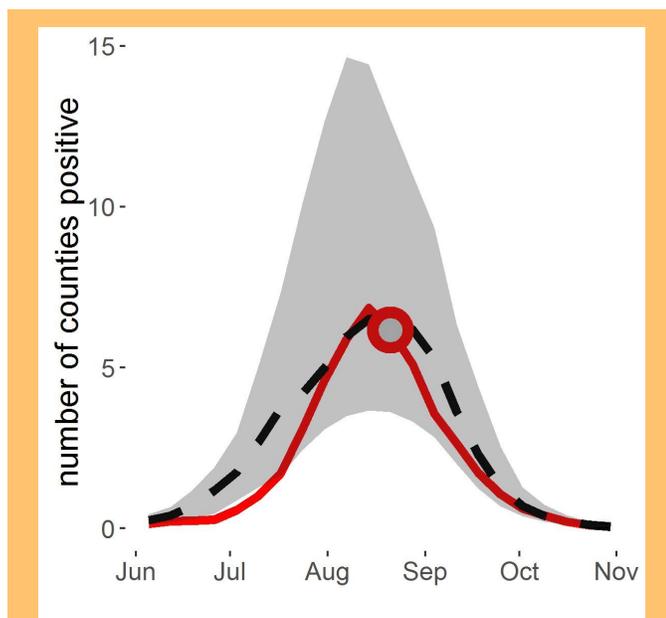


# The West Nile Seasonal

## How does 2017 look?

Predictions for statewide risk in 2017, made on August 14th, are displayed below in Figure 1. Currently, we estimate that 62 human cases are most likely for the year. This is down slightly from the previous week's estimate of 65 cases.



**Figure 1:** Estimated risk for 2017 (red), with average risk in other years (dashed) and 50% CI for historical risk (grey). Week of Aug 14 circled.

Recently we had one of the coolest and driest stretches of weather in the state, and most of the state is still under [drought](#) conditions, but we do not believe it's been cold or dry enough to put the WNV season to a sudden, premature end. There are still a number of cases to come and the risk is still very real.

We see something similar in mosquito infection rates: 2.9% of pools positive were positive this week, up slightly from 2.5% last week. This is not as dramatic as the 50% increase we saw in the previous week, and this is good news. While the virus is still circulating and the threat is still very real, it looks like the WNV system is beginning to lose momentum.

We do believe we've reached the peak of the WNV season for 2017. Unless something incredible happens with the weather, risk will begin to drop over the next few weeks. A sudden spike in temperatures and humidity might revitalize a sluggish WNV system, but [temperatures](#) will probably be average or below average for the next month.

While risk in 2017 still looks average, we caution again that "average" means a substantial number of cases and a great deal of disease burden. For every case diagnosed, there are at least four times as many who do not show symptoms and will never be diagnosed and reported. Conservatively, we are looking at hundreds of our citizens with WNV in 2017.

## What about outdoor events?

This is where we're most concerned - because weather has been cool and dry, people in SD will probably get outdoors to enjoy the last few days of summer, having been kept indoors by uncomfortably hot days. Special concern should be paid to outdoor events, since SD residents may drop their guard.

## What's going on elsewhere?

Mostly, there isn't much news. This is for two reasons, we believe. First, Zika has taken the focus off WNV, and mosquito control districts around the country have not put as much emphasis or funding into WNV this year.

Second, it really does seem like 2017 might be an average year for everyone. [California](#), for instance, has 22 cases so far in 2017, which is lower than its 5-year average of 36. There have been fewer sentinel chickens and dead birds there as well.

We continue to note that most news articles are calm this year. Infected mosquitoes are being found, the public is being warned, and there are reports of cases and deaths, but very few are using the "scary" language we heard at this point last year.