

The West Nile Weekly

What does this week look like historically?

Historically, around 5.9% of cases are transmitted in the week of August 14th - 20th, and around 72% of total cases for the year, about 3 in 4, have been transmitted by the end of this week.

What to expect?

Our estimates of the statewide risk of infection have fallen this week, compared both to last week's risk and average risk for this week of the year (Fig 1). The majority of the state is below average risk for this point in the year (Fig 2).

Fortunately, the humidity has fallen back below normal and it's been cooler than usual - overall, the weather in 2017 has not been good for mosquitoes.

We expect that cases will occur in six counties. Brown remains the most likely to have cases, with an estimated 49.8% (1 in 2) chance of at least one case.

How are the mosquitoes?

With 1909 mosquito pools tested, we now have 55 pools positive or 2.9% pools positive. This is slightly up from last week's rate of 2.5% positive, and up from two weeks ago at 1.9%. Seven counties have now reported at least one positive pool, and we believe that the virus is still circulating everywhere.

Current recommendations?

We continue to recommend mosquito control, particularly in the southeastern part of the state. Reducing the numbers of adult mosquitoes can prevent infectious bites.

Even though we may have reached the peak of risk in the season, cases will still occur and the public should absolutely not forget this risk. We are especially concerned by end-of-summer events, the start of the school season, and cooler weather that will bring people outdoors in the evenings and at night when the risk of bites is highest. Participants should be encouraged to wear long sleeves and use mosquito repellents.

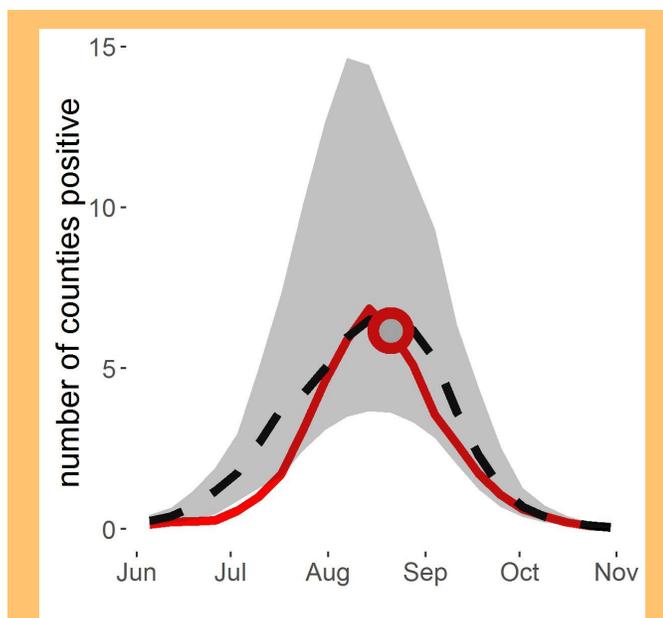


Figure 1: Estimated risk for 2017 (red), with average risk in other years (dashed) and 50% confidence interval for historical risk (grey).

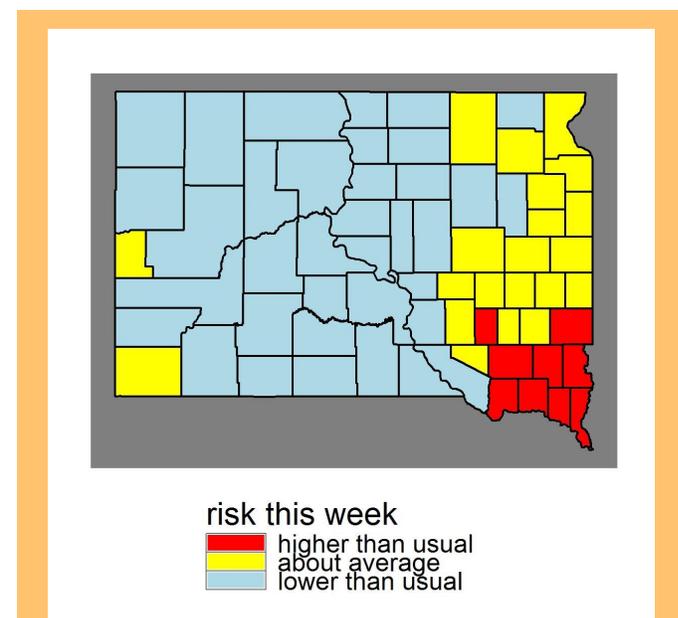


Figure 2: Risk for this week, compared to risk in this county, this week, in the average WNV year.