

The West Nile Weekly

What does this week look like historically?

Historically, around 6.8% of cases are transmitted in the week of August 21st - 27th, and around 83% of total cases for the year, about 4 in 5, 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).

Temperatures fell far below normal in the past few weeks, even setting some records for lows at this point in the year. This is good news, since these weeks typically represent the peak of risk, and if mosquito populations are suppressed by colder temperatures, there will likely be fewer cases. We expect that cases will occur in four counties. Brown remains the most likely to have cases, with an estimated 36.5% (1 in 3) chance of at least one case.

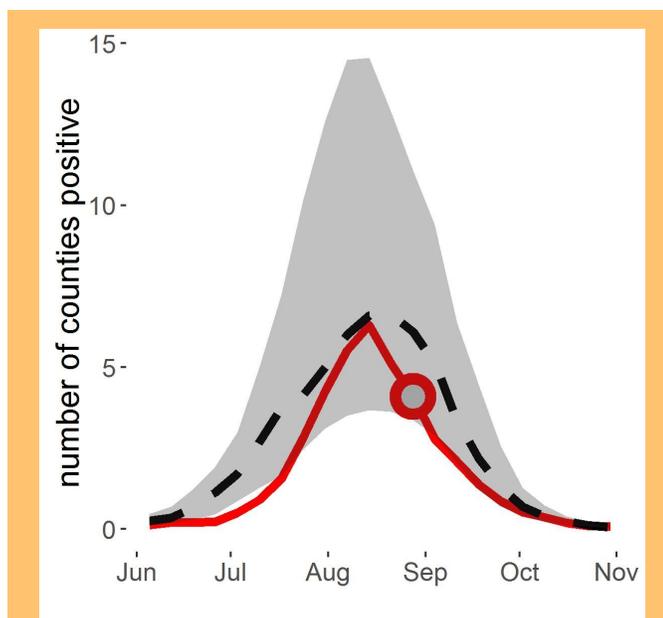


Figure 1: Estimated risk for 2017 (red), with average risk in other years (dashed) and 50% confidence interval for historical risk (grey).

How are the mosquitoes?

With 2014 mosquito pools tested, we now have 58 pools positive or 2.9% pools positive. This is unchanged from last week's rate of 2.9% positive. Eight counties have now reported at least one positive pool. Brown has the highest rate, with 4.7% of pools positive since the beginning of the year, adding around one positive every week in recent weeks. The virus is now less prevalent than it was in mid-July, but is still present.

Current recommendations?

We continue to recommend mosquito control, particularly in the southeastern part of the state. Reducing adult mosquitoes can prevent infectious bites. Although peak risk will have passed, around 1 in 5 cases have still to be transmitted at this point in the year historically. Cooler temperatures will bring our citizens outdoors. This is especially true of returning college students. Some early-semester outdoor activities (porch drinking, passing out in the grass, etc.) tend to occur later in the day and may coincide with periods of heavy mosquito feeding, putting students at increased risk.

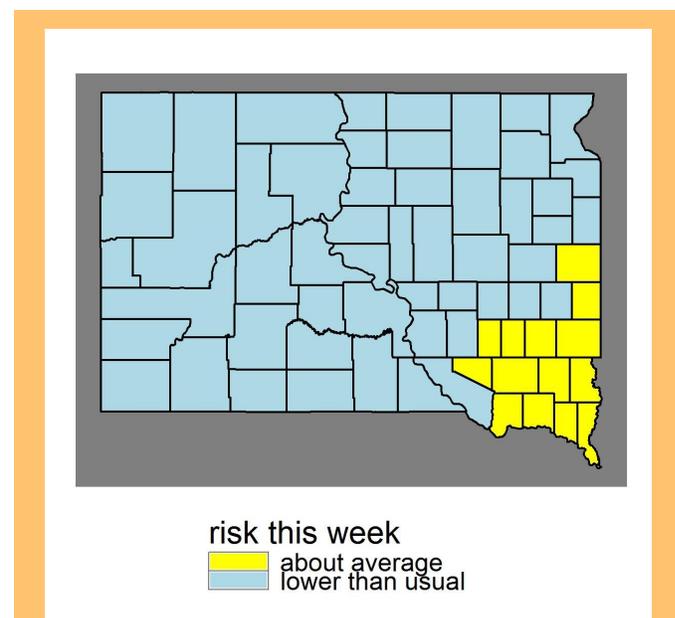


Figure 2: Risk for this week, compared to risk in this county, this week, in the average WNV year.