

The West Nile Weekly

What does this week look like historically?

Historically, around 7.4% of cases are transmitted in the week beginning August 28th, and around 89% of total cases for the year, about 9 in 10, 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 have remained below average, suppressing mosquito activity. While the state has become more humid after a long period of very dry weather, humidity is still only average. Brown remains the most likely to have cases, with an estimated 27.4% chance of at least one case. We expect cases to occur in two to three counties during this week.

How are the mosquitoes?

With 2346 mosquito pools tested, we now have 83 pools positive or 3.5% pools positive. This is an in-

crease from last week's rate of 2.9% positive. Eleven counties have now reported at least one positive pool - this was only eight last week.

The majority of recent positives come from Minnehaha, with eight positive pools at four different locations. This cluster of positive pools in Minnehaha probably does represent an actual local, late outbreak in the county, and risk may be temporarily elevated there.

However, the risk due to mosquito infections has actually begun to decline in general. Risk is still present, and individuals will contract infections while human, mosquito, and virus are in the same time and place.

Current recommendations?

Towards the end of the season, citizens should begin relying more on repellents and avoiding exposure, than spraying by mosquito control authorities. Risk will not be zero until the first freeze and cases will still be contracted, but spraying now has less of an impact than at the beginning of the season.

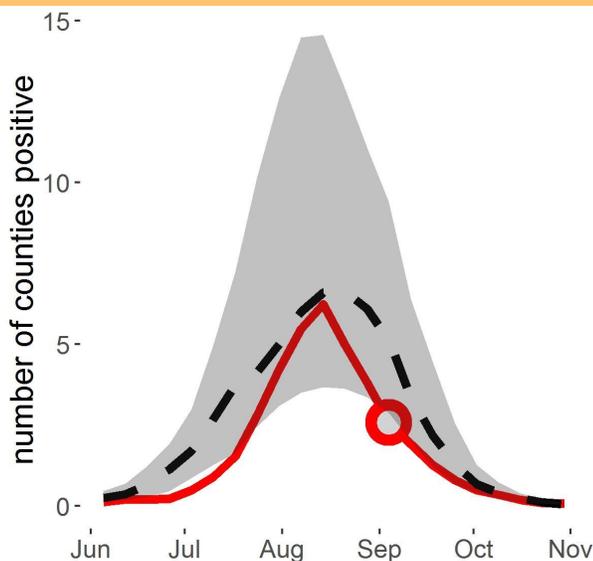
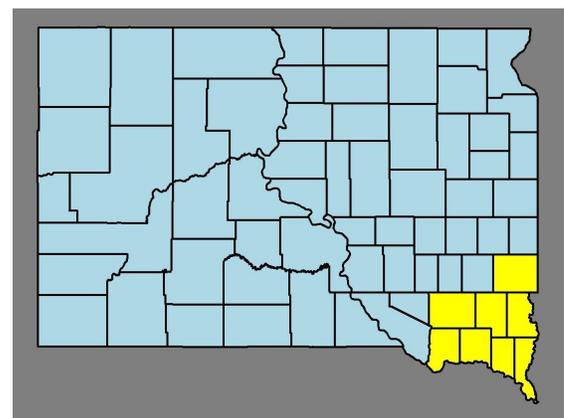


Figure 1: Estimated risk for 2017 (red), with average risk in other years (dashed) and 50% confidence interval for historical risk (grey).



risk this week
 about average
 lower than usual

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