

The West Nile Weekly

What does this week look like historically?

Historically, around 7.6% of cases are transmitted in the week beginning August 28th, and around 94% of total cases for the year, about 19 in 20, 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). Humidity is nearly normal and temperatures have risen back above normal, but human cases are still less likely than in the average year. Brown remains the most likely to have cases, with an estimated 21.4% chance of at least one case. We expect cases to occur in one to two counties.

How are the mosquitoes?

With 2491 pools tested, we now have 83 (3.3%) pools positive. This is down from last week's rate of 3.5%, and no additional positives in the 145 pools tested.

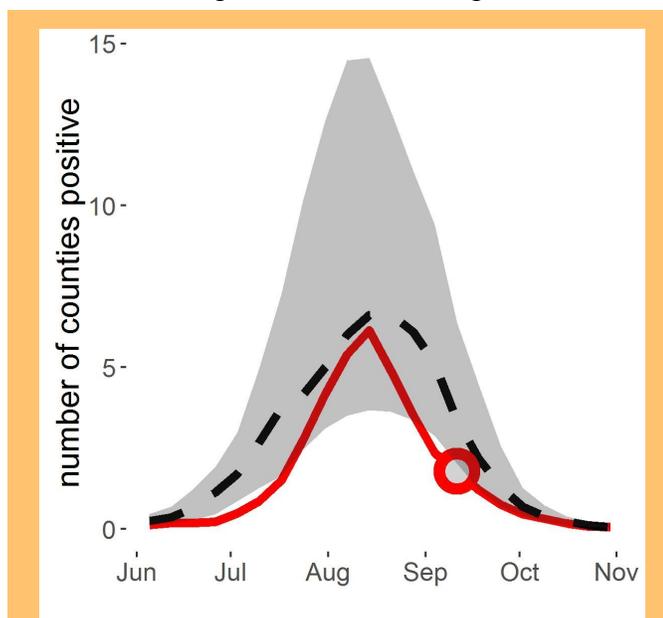


Figure 1: Estimated risk for 2017 (red), with average risk in other years (dashed) and 50% confidence interval for historical risk (grey).

This is good news for human cases - while the virus is still definitely circulating, this is one of the few recent weeks in which the mosquito infection rate has not increased. Combined with falling temperatures, we have begun to see the end of the WNV season.

It is always possible that there will be a late outbreak among birds and mosquitoes and that it might spill over to humans - 2012 is a good example - but we do not believe the environmental conditions support this, and the mosquito infection data do not indicate that transmission of the virus is speeding back up.

Current recommendations?

We still continue to recommend spraying before the large outdoor events that will happen as the weather cools down, but personal protection (limiting exposure, using personal repellent sprays, wearing appropriate clothing, etc.) will be more effective for individuals.

Citizens should not forget that risk of infection is still very real and that WNV can be fatal.

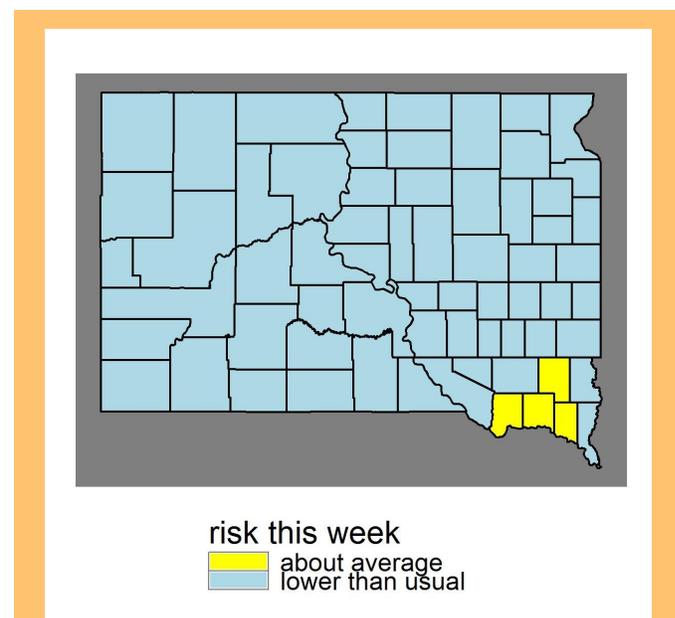


Figure 2: Risk for this week, compared to risk in this county, this week, in the average WNV year.