

The West Nile Weekly

What does this week look like historically?

Historically, around 4% of total cases are transmitted in the week beginning July 15th, and around 12% of total cases for the year, about 1 in 9, have been transmitted by the end of this week.

What to expect?

Current estimates still indicate that 2018 is an above-average year for WNV in SD and the model suggests that we are currently at the peak of the season (Fig. 1).

Seven counties are now at average risk for this point in the year (Fig. 2). Keep in mind that average risk in the height of the season still implies considerable transmission.

This will very likely be the worst week for WNV transmission in 2018, unless temperatures later in the season rise again above normal. While it's been hot, temperatures for this point in the year have actually been right around average - it's hot right now because it's the height of summer, not because it's a hot year.

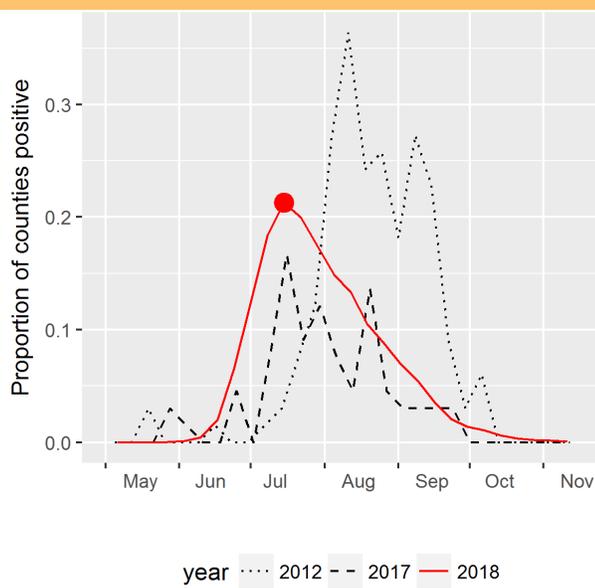


Figure 1: Estimated risk in 2018 with the week beginning 07-15 emphasized by a dot. This year is compared to observations in 2012 and 2017.

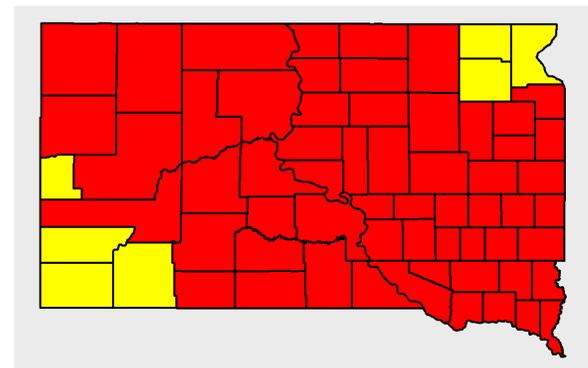
[Long-term weather forecasts by NOAA](#) put most of the state at average temperatures for the rest of the WNV season. However, it continues to be far more humid than normal for this point in the year, and this encourages more mosquito activity.

How are the mosquitoes?

With 737 pools tested, we have 17 (2.3%) of *Culex tarsalis* pools positive. On a statewide level this is still slightly above average, but there is now good news: in the far western and eastern counties, the mosquito infection rate has fallen back to just average for this point in the year. Mosquitoes in the middle of the state are still more infected than in the average year. In terms of mosquitoes, this year is still best compared to 2016, in which there were more than 150 human cases.

Current recommendations?

This seems to be the riskiest week in 2018. Any efforts taken now will likely have maximum impacts on human cases, especially with events that bring SD's population outdoors.



Risk for 2018-07-15 to 07-21
 Yellow: About average
 Red: Higher than usual

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