

# The West Nile Weekly

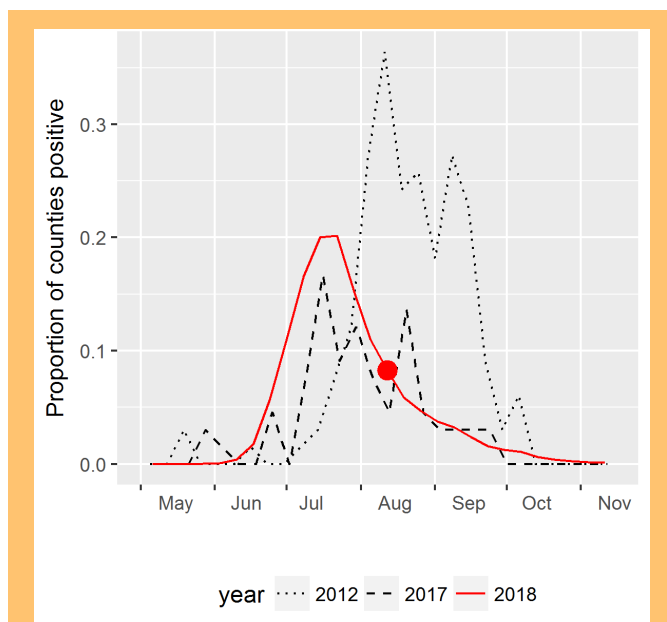
## What does this week look like historically?

Historically, around 62% of total cases for the year, 2 in 3, have been transmitted by the end of this week. Even in 2012, in which cases were far later than usual, the peak in risk has occurred by this point.

## What to expect?

The peak of transmission for 2018 occurred around a month ago, and risk is has decline to around half of peak risk (Fig. 1). Risk this week is average when compared to this week in other years, in all of the state's counties (Fig. 2). We expect around 6 counties to report at least one human case this week, down from 9 counties last week.

Temperatures have returned to normal for this point in the year, but we are at the point when temperatures should now begin to decline, dampening mosquito activity. At the same time, the state has dried out, and humidity is exactly where it is expected to be for this point in the year. Previously, it was more humid than normal, which enhanced mosquito activity.



**Figure 1:** Estimated risk in 2018 with the week beginning 08-05 emphasized by a dot. This year is compared to observations in 2012 and 2017.

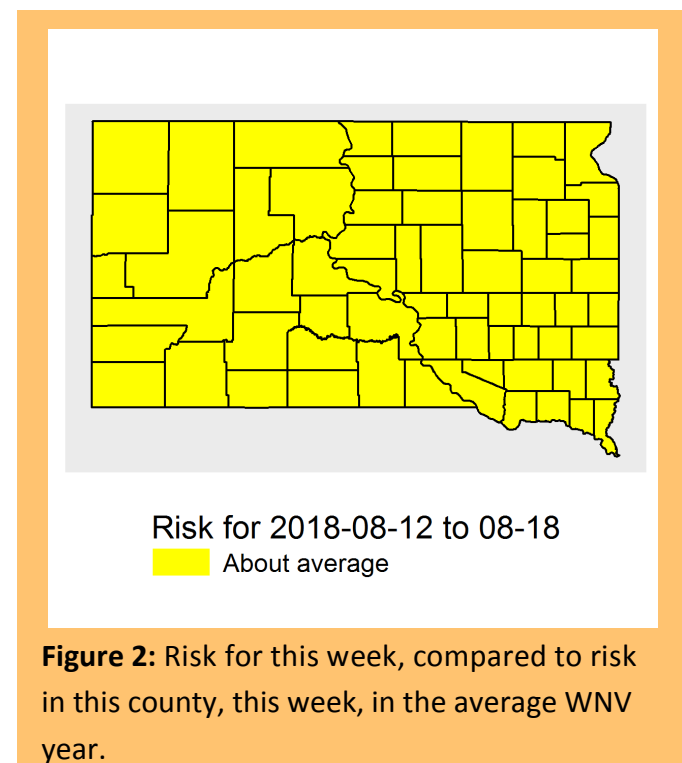
## How are the mosquitoes?

With 1668 *Culex tarsalis* pools tested, 54 pools (3.2%) have been positive in 2018. This is a slight decrease from 3.4% last week, and is now almost exactly what our model predicts for this point in the year.

There was some small concern last week that mosquito infections might continue to rise, and that we might have unexpected WNV cases later in the year, like we did in 2012, but this week's data did not yield any surprises. Although the year had a strong start, it has settled down to be solidly average.

## Current recommendations?

Spraying will continue to have less of an impact on risk as the season winds to a close, but targeted interventions before large events may still prevent cases. Providing and/or recommending personal protection before outdoor and evening events is likely a better use of time and resources. Weddings, especially outdoor weddings, are popular at this point in the year, and provide opportunities for infections.



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