

The West Nile Weekly

What does this week look like historically?

Historically, around 81% of total cases for the year, 4 in 5, have been transmitted by the end of this week. In most years, the temperature has begun to decline by this point. We expect chaotic weather in the next week, but temperatures should soon begin dropping steadily.

What to expect?

We expect 3 counties to report cases this week - risk is down around 25% from risk last week, and we are definitely nearing the end of the season (Fig. 1). Risk this week is average when compared to this week in other years, in all but three of the state's counties, and those are below normal risk for this week (Fig. 2). Colder weather is pushing risk down in all counties, but these counties are lower than normal due to lower-than-average mosquito infection rates.

How are the mosquitoes?

Our data show that 3.4% of all pools tested are positive, down substantially from 4.0% last week. Recent weather events are probably reducing risk at every lev-

el. Mosquitoes, in particular, are less likely to seek blood meals when it is cooler, when the wind speed is high, or when it is actively raining. Not only does this reduce the risk that individuals will be bitten by infectious mosquitoes, but it also dampens the spread of virus among birds and mosquitoes.

Current recommendations?

There is far less use for general spraying at this point in the season. The WNV system is already collapsing, and after a certain point it is probably better to let the weather do the job. More of an impact is had at the beginning of the season when the virus is more actively replicating and is vulnerable to being slowed down.

Still, 1 in 5 cases is yet to be transmitted, which means risk is still very real for individuals exposed to bites. The public should be reminded that the season isn't over, especially with Fall events beginning. Football season starts soon, for example, and individuals will begin taking advantage of the cooler weather to go outdoors more often.

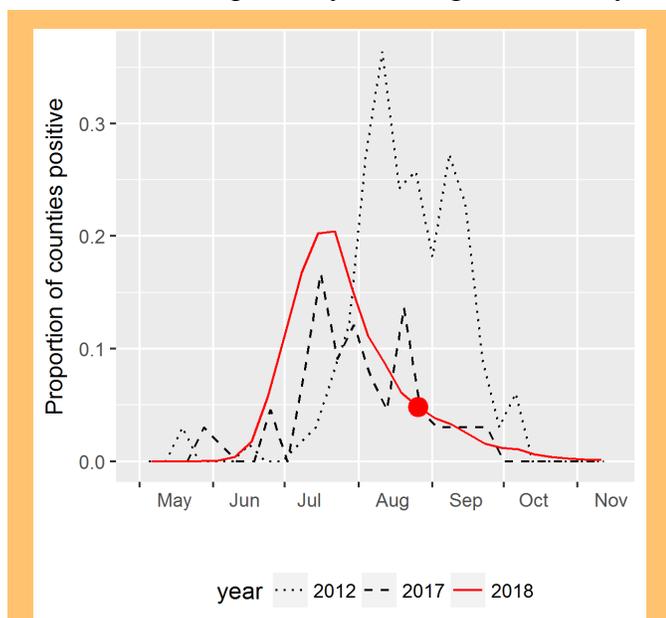


Figure 1: Estimated risk in 2018 with this week emphasized by a dot. This year is compared to cases observed in 2012 (dot) and 2017 (dash).

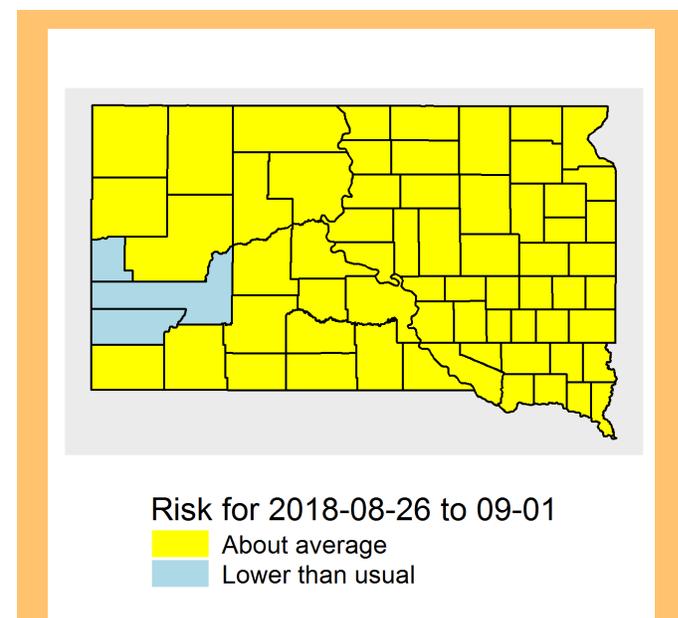


Figure 2: Risk for this week, compared to risk in this county, this week, in the average WNV year.