

# **Manitoba Weekly**

## **West Nile virus**

### **Surveillance Report**

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**Week 26 – (June 25 to July 1, 2017)**

Communicable Disease Control

Active Living, Population and Public Health Branch

Active Living, Indigenous Relations, Population & Public  
Health Division

**Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living**

Released: July 7, 2017

## **About the Surveillance Report**

The weekly 'West Nile Virus Surveillance Report' outlines the most current surveillance data and is posted weekly on the website ([www.gov.mb.ca/health/wnv](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/wnv)) during the summer season. Surveillance data are subject to change and will be updated accordingly as new information becomes available.

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living (MHSAL) conducts surveillance for West Nile virus (WNV) within human, mosquito & horse populations annually:

- **Mosquito:** Mosquito surveillance is conducted twice per week between mid-May and mid-September (weather dependent) in a number of southern Manitoba communities. In Manitoba WNV testing is conducted on *Culex tarsalis* mosquitoes, the principal vectors of WNV, and both mosquito numbers and infection rates (i.e. positive mosquito pools\*) are reported.
  - Communities chosen for mosquito trap placement were selected based on population density, local evidence of prior WNV activity and representative geographic distribution.
- **Human:** Human WNV surveillance is conducted throughout the year (January – December) by Cadham Provincial Laboratory and Canadian Blood Services, with all data reportable to MHSAL.
  - Human cases are included in the Weekly WNV Surveillance Report based on the date they are reported to MHSAL. Case classification information is not included in this report but can be found on the website ([www.gov.mb.ca/health/wnv/stats.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/wnv/stats.html)).
- **Horse:** Surveillance of WNV in horses is conducted by Manitoba Agriculture with cases reported to MHSAL as detected.

The risk of WNV transmission is expected to be present throughout southern Manitoba each year and mosquito trapping provides a localized estimate of WNV risk. The absence of traps in a community or region does not imply that there is no risk of WNV in those locations. Further, low *Culex tarsalis* numbers and/ or infection rates should not be interpreted as zero risk. Residents and visitors are strongly encouraged to protect themselves from mosquito bites throughout the season even in areas with no mosquito traps or low WNV activity.

The accumulation of Degree Days<sup>1</sup> are recorded throughout the season as there is a general correlation between increased and/ or rapid accumulation of Degree Days and WNV transmission risk. Warmer temperatures associated with increased Degree Days serve to decrease mosquito development times, shorten the WNV incubation period and increase biting activity. All of which can increase the risk of WNV transmission, should other conditions also be favourable. Seasonally the greatest accumulation of Degree Days typically occurs in the southwestern portion of the province and along the Red River valley.

For additional West Nile virus information, including precautionary measures and symptoms, please consult the MHSAL WNV website ([www.gov.mb.ca/health/wnv](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/wnv)) or contact Health Links at 204-788-8200 (in Winnipeg) or toll free at 1-888-315-9257.

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<sup>1</sup> For more detailed description of mosquito pools and degree days please consult **Appendix 2**.

## **WNV Provincial Surveillance Data**

- In Week 26 (June 25 – July 1) *Culex tarsalis* activity was recorded in all four southern Manitoba Health Regions. *Cx. tarsalis* activity decreased in Week 26 and specimens were only collected in 11 out of the 29 sentinel communities (Table 1 & 2; Figure 2).
  - *Cx. tarsalis* activity was highest in the Prairie Mountain Health Region.
- There has been no WNV activity (i.e. human, mosquito or horse) detected to date anywhere in Manitoba.

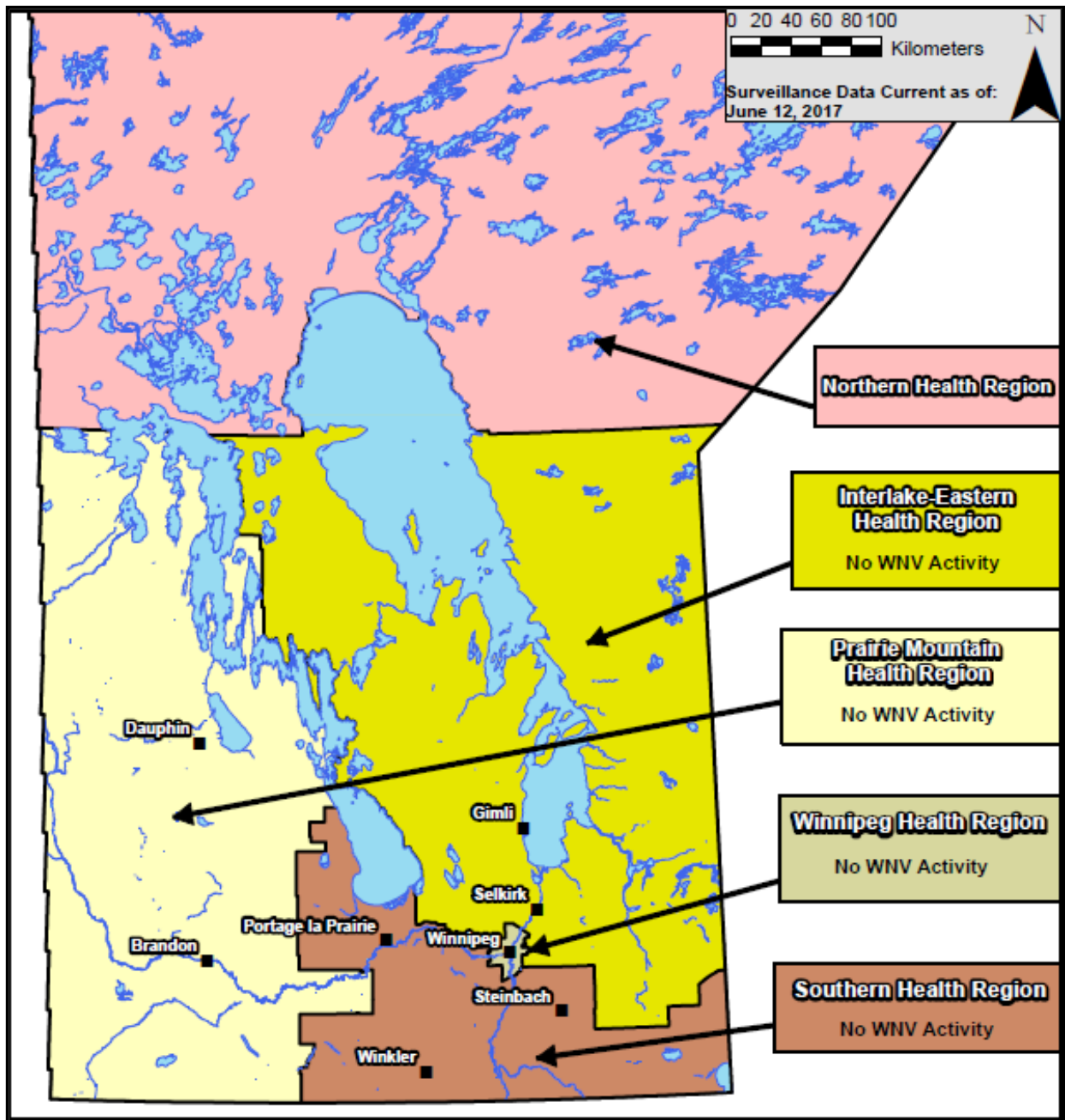
### **2016 Year-End WNV Surveillance Data\***

- A total of 24 WNV human cases were reported to Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living, making 2016 the most active year since 2012. Cases were reported from all four southern Manitoba Health Regions.
- Twelve of the WNV human cases were classified as the more severe West Nile neurological syndrome, while 11 were classified as the less severe West Nile non-neurological syndrome and one as asymptomatic.
  - Exposure for 15 of the cases fell between July 24 and August 20 which coincided with the peak in both *Cx. tarsalis* numbers and infection rates.
  - One WNV related death was reported. This was the ninth WNV related death reported since 2003.
- A total of 39 WNV positive mosquito pools were collected from 15 communities distributed across all four southern Manitoba Health Regions.
- More than half of the positive mosquito pools were reported from the Prairie Mountain Health Region.
- In 2016, 13 WNV horse cases were reported, with most from the Prairie Mountain Health Region. This is the most significant WNV since 2003, when 47 cases were reported.

\* For a listing of CDC surveillance weeks and corresponding dates for the 2017 please see Appendix 1.

**Table 1** – Average number of *Culex tarsalis* mosquitoes captured by Health Region (current to Week 26)

Health Region	CDC Week									
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<b>Interlake-Eastern</b>	No trapping	No trapping	0.00	1.37	0.18	0.05				
<b>Prairie Mountain</b>	0.00	0.00	1.66	0.67	1.70	0.26				
<b>Southern</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.41	1.02	0.19				
<b>Winnipeg</b>	0.00	0.00	0.24	2.71	0.72	0.24				
<b>Provincial Average</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.59</b>	<b>1.53</b>	<b>1.04</b>	<b>0.20</b>				
	Indicates that one or more positive mosquito pools were detected within the health region.									

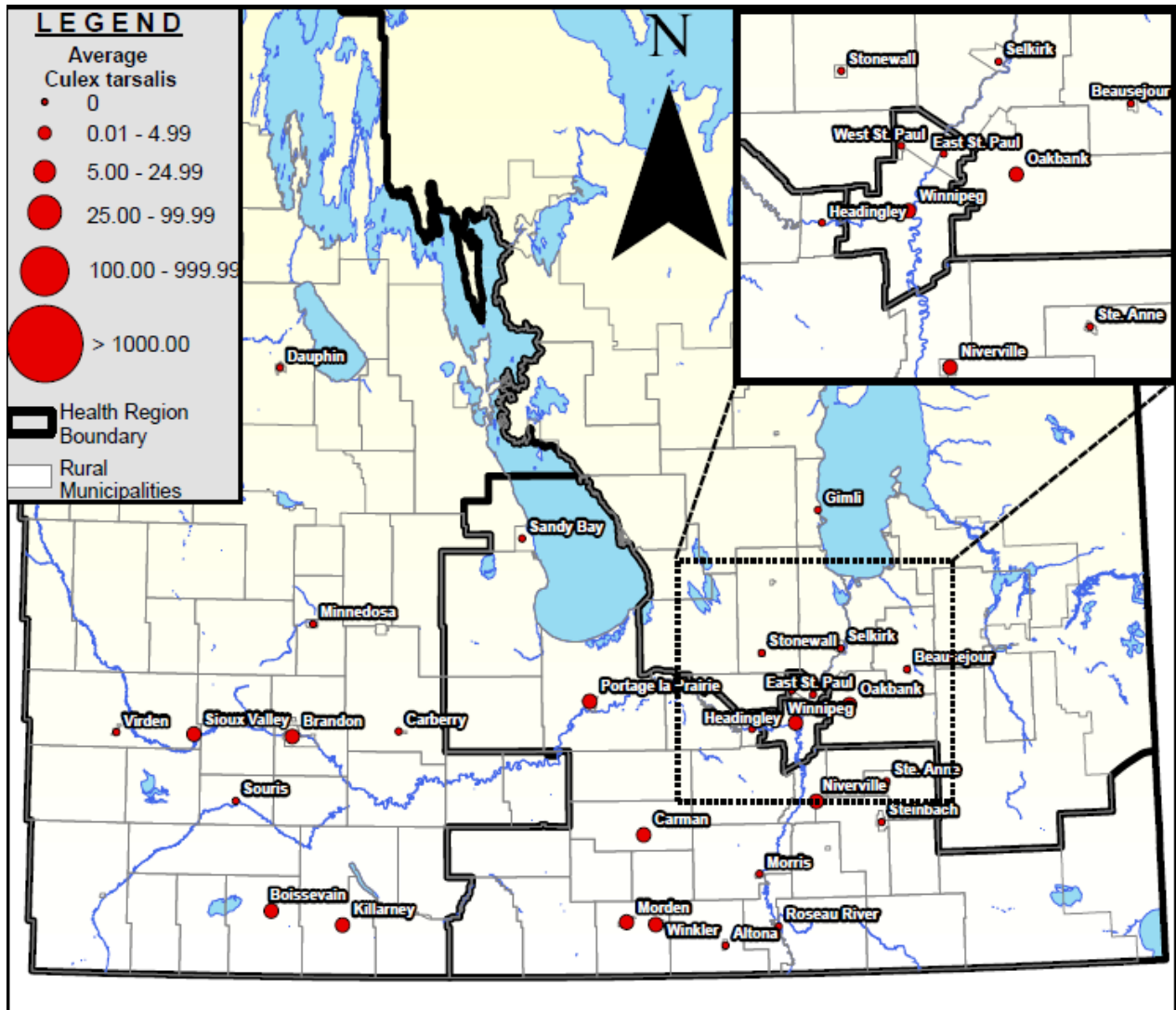


**Figure 1** – WNV activity by Health Region within Manitoba (current to Week 26).

**Table 2** – Average number of *Culex tarsalis* mosquitoes collected\* and percentage of *Cx. tarsalis* by surveillance community in southern Manitoba – two week trend (current to Week 26).

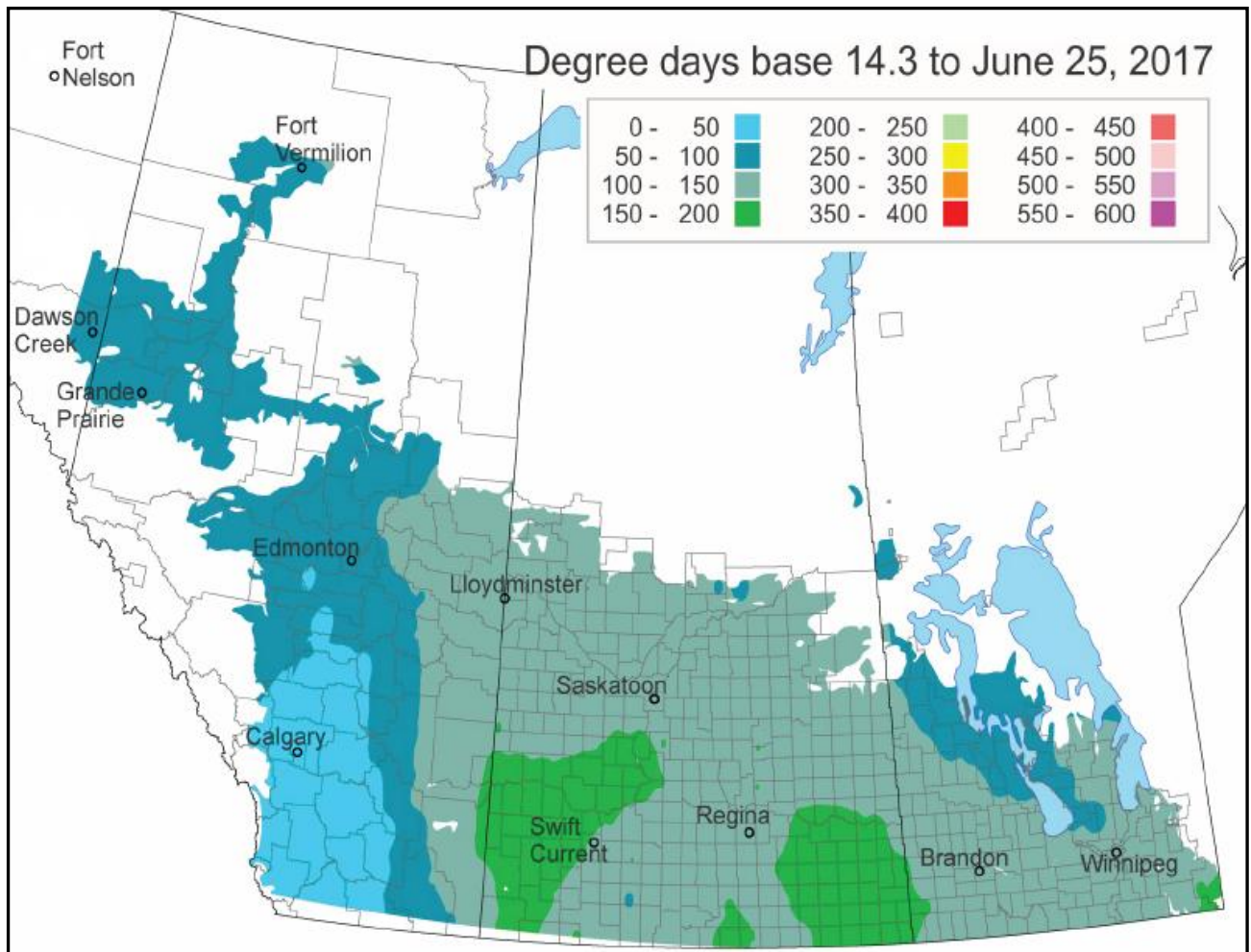
Health Region	Community	Week 26		Week 25	
		Avg # of <i>Cx. tarsalis</i>	Percentage of <i>Cx. tarsalis</i>	Avg # of <i>Cx. tarsalis</i>	Percentage of <i>Cx. tarsalis</i>
Interlake-Eastern	Beausejour	0.00	0.00	0.25	6.25
	Gimli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Oakbank	0.25	10.00	0.00	0.00
	Selkirk	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Stonewall	0.00	0.00	0.50	3.03
Prairie Mountain	<b>Boissevain</b>	<b>0.40</b>	2.44	<b>7.50</b>	21.13
	Brandon	0.70	1.32	0.75	2.47
	Carberry	0.00	0.00	0.25	2.08
	Dauphin	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Killarney	0.25	3.57	1.50	13.64
	Minnedosa	0.00	0.00	1.25	3.94
	Sioux Valley FN	0.25	0.35	2.50	4.07
	Souris	0.00	0.00	1.50	10.71
	Virden	0.00	0.00	1.00	4.55
Southern	Altona	0.00	0.00	1.50	60.00
	<b>Carman</b>	<b>0.50</b>	9.09	0.00	0.00
	Headingley	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Morden	0.25	4.76	0.00	0.00
	Morris	0.00	0.00	0.25	11.11
	Niverville	0.25	3.57	1.75	29.17
	<b>Portage la Prairie</b>	<b>0.75</b>	0.49	<b>4.25</b>	2.18
	Roseau River FN	0.00	0.00	0.25	5.56
	Ste. Anne	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Sandy Bay FN	0.00	0.00	<b>2.75</b>	1.13
	Steinbach	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Winkler	0.50	40.00	0.75	23.08
Winnipeg	East St Paul	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	West St Paul	0.00	0.00	0.50	2.94
	Winnipeg	0.28	2.10	0.79	5.50
	Indicates that one or more positive mosquito pools were detected within the community.				

\* Top three communities with the highest weekly average of *Culex tarsalis* are indicated in bold.

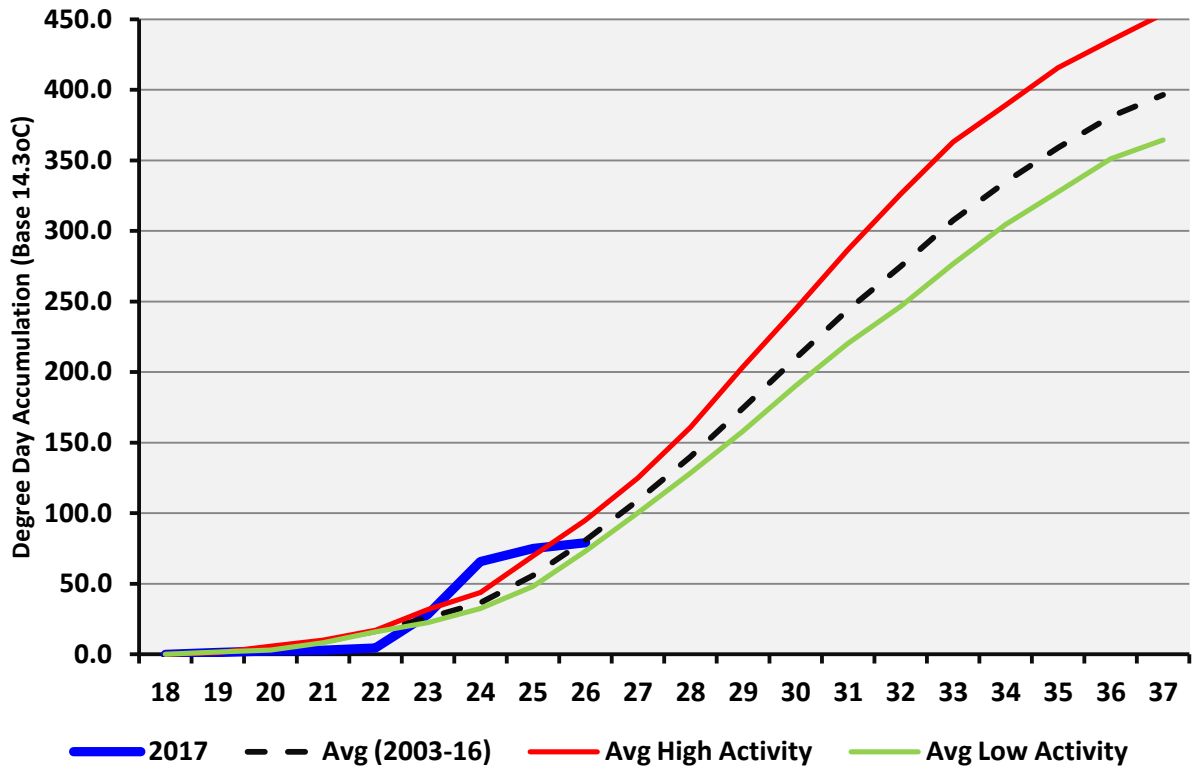


**Figure 2** – Average number of *Culex tarsalis* mosquitoes collected across southern Manitoba during Week 26.





**Figure 3** - Degree day accumulations, as of Week 26, across the Prairie Provinces (Map produced by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Prairie Pest Monitoring Network).



**Figure 4** – Comparison of degree day accumulation, at the provincial level\*, between 2017, the historical average, and high and low activity seasons (see Appendix 2 for further details).

\* Note that the accumulation patterns may vary at a regional level.

**Table 3** – Total number of human WNV cases\*, by Health Region of residence, reported to Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living by laboratories (current to Week 26).

Health Region	CDC Week										Totals
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
Interlake-Eastern	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
Prairie Mountain	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
Southern	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
Winnipeg	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>					<b>0</b>

\* Note that cases are presented by week reported to MHSAL, adjustments may be made as more details (such as exposure CDC week) become available through follow-up investigation.



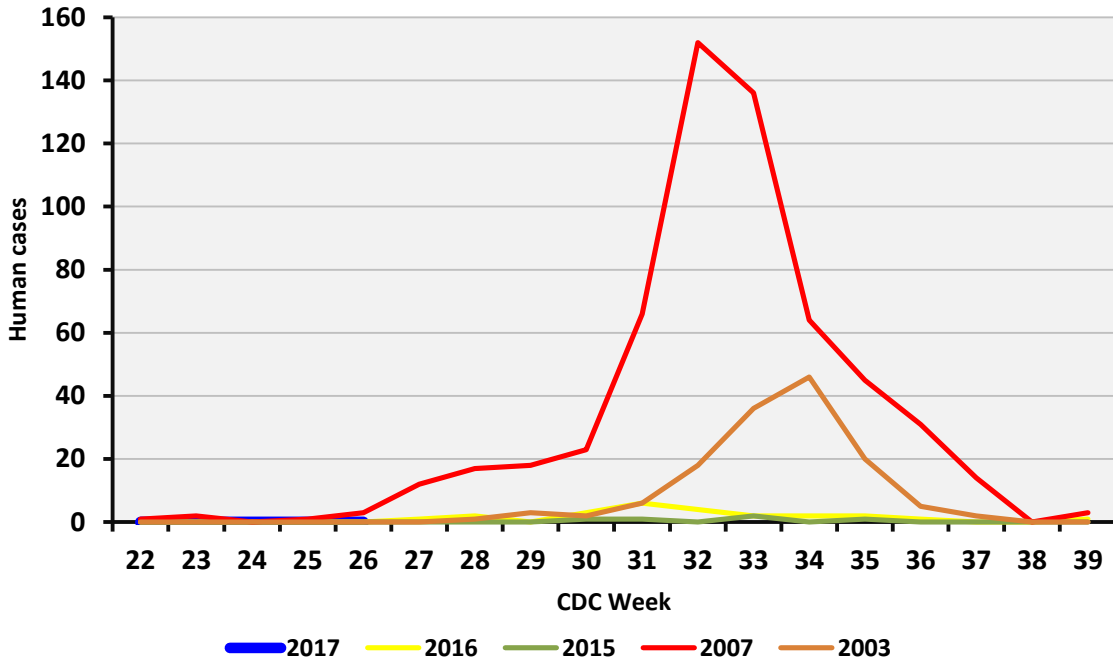
**Table 4 – Total number of *Culex tarsalis* mosquito pools tested during the 2016 season by health region (current to Week 26)**

RHA	CDC Week										Totals
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
Interlake -Eastern	0	0	0	4	3	1					8
Prairie Mountain	0	0	13	14	23	5					55
Southern	0	0	0	15	14	5					34
Winnipeg	0	0	2	12	8	5					27
<b>Weekly Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>16</b>					<b>124</b>

**Table 5\* – Total number and percentage of WNV positive *Culex tarsalis* mosquito pools by Health Region (current to Week 26)**

Health Region	CDC Week										Totals
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
Interlake -Eastern	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)					0 (0)
Prairie Mountain	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)					0 (0)
Southern	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)					0 (0)
Winnipeg	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)					0 (0)
<b>Weekly Totals</b>	<b>0 (0)</b>	<b>0 (0)</b>	<b>0 (0)</b>	<b>0 (0)</b>	<b>0 (0)</b>	<b>0 (0)</b>					<b>0 (0)</b>

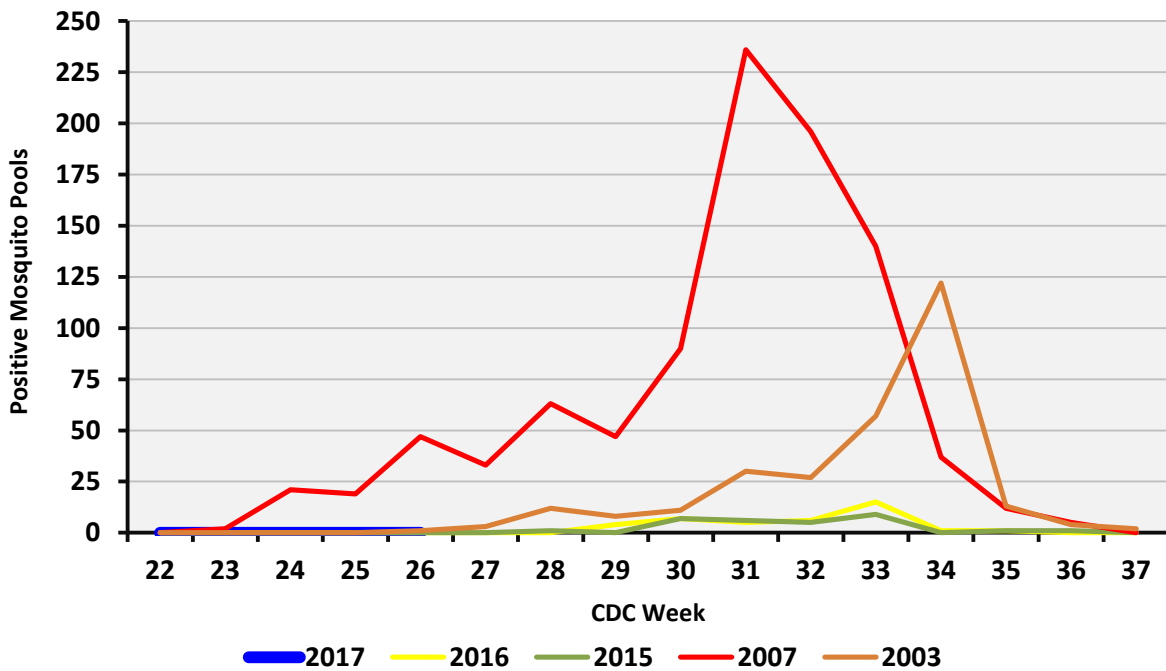
\* Note that numbers outside brackets represent positive pools, numbers within represent the percentage of total pools that tested positive for WNV.



**Figure 5 – West Nile virus human cases by week\* for selected years\*\* (2017 data current to Week 26).**

\* Week reflects the earliest likely date (i.e. exposure week, specimen date, report date).

\*\* Selection of 2015 & 2016 represents recent WNV trends, while data from 2003 & 2007 reflect the highest activity seasons recorded to date (> 100 human cases and > 200 positive mosquito pools).



**Figure 6 – WNV positive mosquito pools reported by week for selected years (2017 data current to Week 26).**

## **WNV Activity in Canada and the United States**

### **Canada:**

- As of Week 26 there has been no WNV activity reported in Canada.
- Additional Canadian WNV information can be obtained by consulting the Public Health Agency of Canada West Nile virus website at <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/west-nile-virus/surveillance-west-nile-virus.html>, or by consulting the respective provincial department websites.

### **United States:**

- As of July 5, 2017 WNV activity (i.e. human cases, positive mosquito pools, horse cases, etc) has been reported in a number of states, including, but not limited to: Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, **Minnesota**, Mississippi, New Mexico, Nevada, **North Dakota**, **South Dakota**, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin.
- Up to date U.S. WNV information can be obtained by visiting the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – West Nile virus Website' at <http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/statsmaps/preliminarymapsdata/histatedate.html>, or by consulting state specific Public Health websites.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Table 7 – 2017 CDC surveillance weeks**

CDC Week Number	Dates	CDC Week Number	Dates
21	May 21 - May 27	30	July 23 - July 29
22	May 28 - June 3	31	July 30 - August 5
23	June 4 - June 10	32	August 6 - August 12
24	June 11 - June 17	33	August 13 - August 19
25	June 18 - June 24	34	August 20 - August 26
26	June 25 - July 1	35	August 27 - September 2
27	July 2 - July 8	36	September 3 - September 9
28	July 9 - July 15	37	September 10 - September 16
29	July 16 - July 22	38	September 17 - September 23

## **Appendix 2**

**Average number of *Culex tarsalis*** – This weekly value provides an estimate of the *Culex tarsalis* numbers and activity. The potential risk of WNV transmission is greater when more *Culex tarsalis* are present – should the virus itself be present and other conditions prove favorable. It is calculated by dividing the total number of *Culex tarsalis* mosquitoes captured in the specified area by the total number of trap nights for the week (a trap night is recorded for each night that a trap was operational).

**EXAMPLE:** 120 *Culex tarsalis* collected; 2 traps operating on 2 nights (= 4 trap nights);  
Average number = 120 (*Culex tarsalis*)/ 4 trap nights = 30.0

**Degree Day** – Degree days are a measurement of heat accumulation. The threshold temperature below which West Nile virus development does not occur (when in mosquitoes) is 14.3°C. Degree days are calculated by taking the daily mean temperature and subtracting the cut-off threshold:

**EXAMPLE:** Mean Temperature = 19.3°C; Degree Day threshold = 14.3°C; 19.3 – 14.3 = 5.0 Degree Days.

During the season a running total of accumulated Degree Days is recorded. It is generally assumed that a total of 109 Degree Days are required for virus development to be completed and potential transmission to occur. The risk of transmission increases with increasing Degree Day accumulation. Moreover, consistently warmer temperatures will significantly shorten virus development time thereby increasing the potential risk of WNV transmission – should the virus itself be present and other conditions prove to be favorable.

**Mosquito Pool** – Mosquitoes of the same species, collected from the same trap on the same date are pooled together for the purposes of laboratory testing. *Culex tarsalis* mosquitoes collected from one trap on a given night are placed in pools of 1 – 50 mosquitoes for WNV testing. When more than 50 *Culex tarsalis* mosquitoes are collected from the same trap multiple pools are tested. Thus a positive pool refers to the detection of WNV in between 1 – 50 *Culex tarsalis* mosquitoes collected from a given trap.

**High Activity Season** – A high WNV activity season is defined, internally, as one where 30 or more human cases AND 100 or more WNV positive mosquito pools were detected. Seasons meeting the ‘high activity’ definition include: 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2012. For actual numbers please see: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/wnv/stats.html>.

**Low Activity Season** – A low WNV activity season is defined, internally, as one where less than 30 AND/OR less than 100 WNV positive mosquito pools were detected. Seasons meeting the ‘low activity’ definition include: 2004, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. For actual numbers please see: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/wnv/stats.html>.