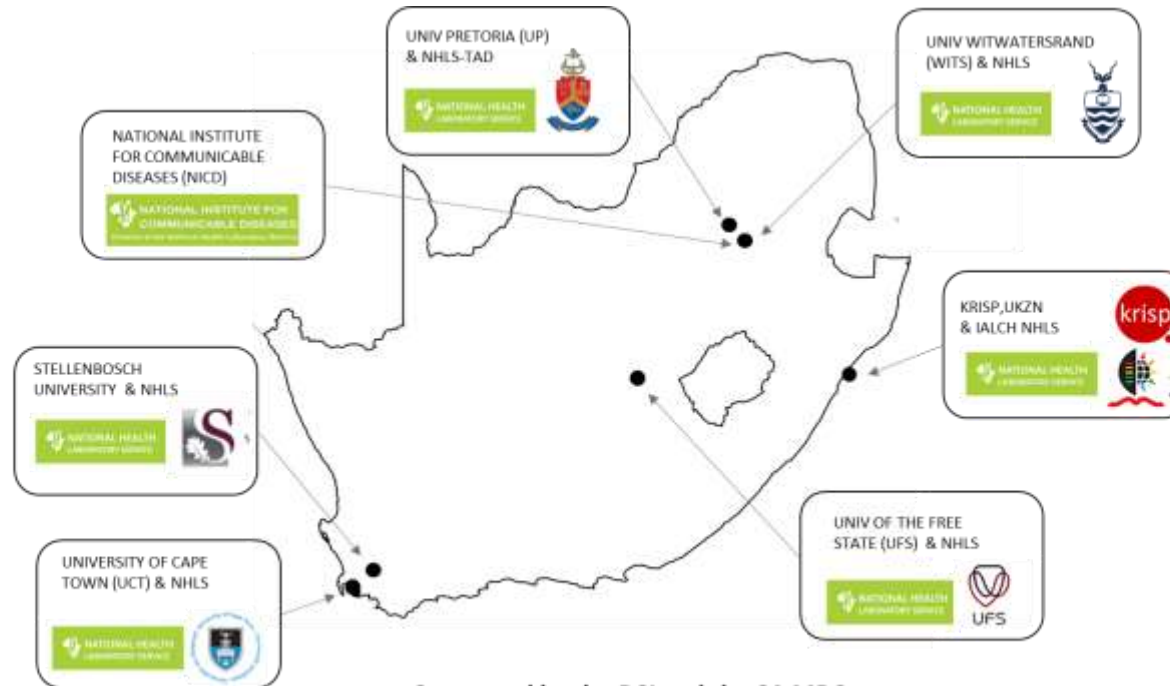


Network for Genomic Surveillance South Africa (NGS) SARS-COV-2 Sequencing update

Item Type	Technical Report
Authors	Scheepers, C
Citation	Network for Genomic Surveillance South Africa (NGS) SARS-COV-2 Sequencing update. National Institute for Communicable Disease, 10 December 2021.
Publisher	National Institute for Communicable Disease
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Download date	2025-04-28 18:14:45
Item License	http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/us/
Link to Item	https://www.nicd.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Update-of-SA-sequencing-data-from-GISAID-10-Dec-21-Final.pdf

SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing Update 10 December 2021



Supported by the DSI and the SA MRC
Msomi N. Mlisana K. et al. Lancet Microbe 2020

The genomic data presented here are based on South African SARS-CoV-2 sequence data downloaded from GISAID (www.gisaid.org) on 10 December at 07h45

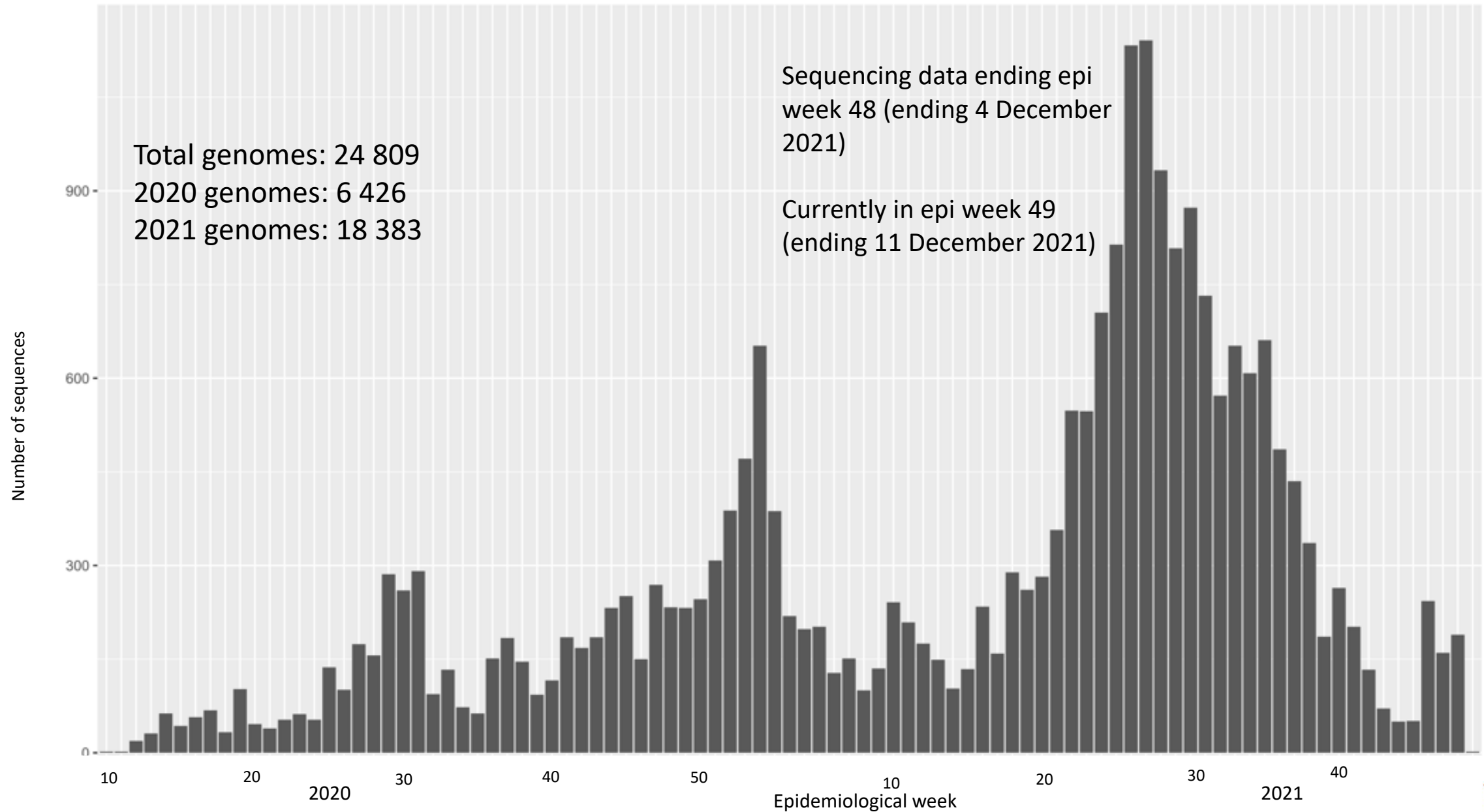


Data license: <https://www.gisaid.org/registration/terms-of-use/>

Elbe, S., and Buckland-Merrett, G. (2017) Data, disease and diplomacy: GISAID's innovative contribution to global health. *Global Challenges*, 1:33-46. DOI: 10.1002/gch2.1018 PMID: 31565258

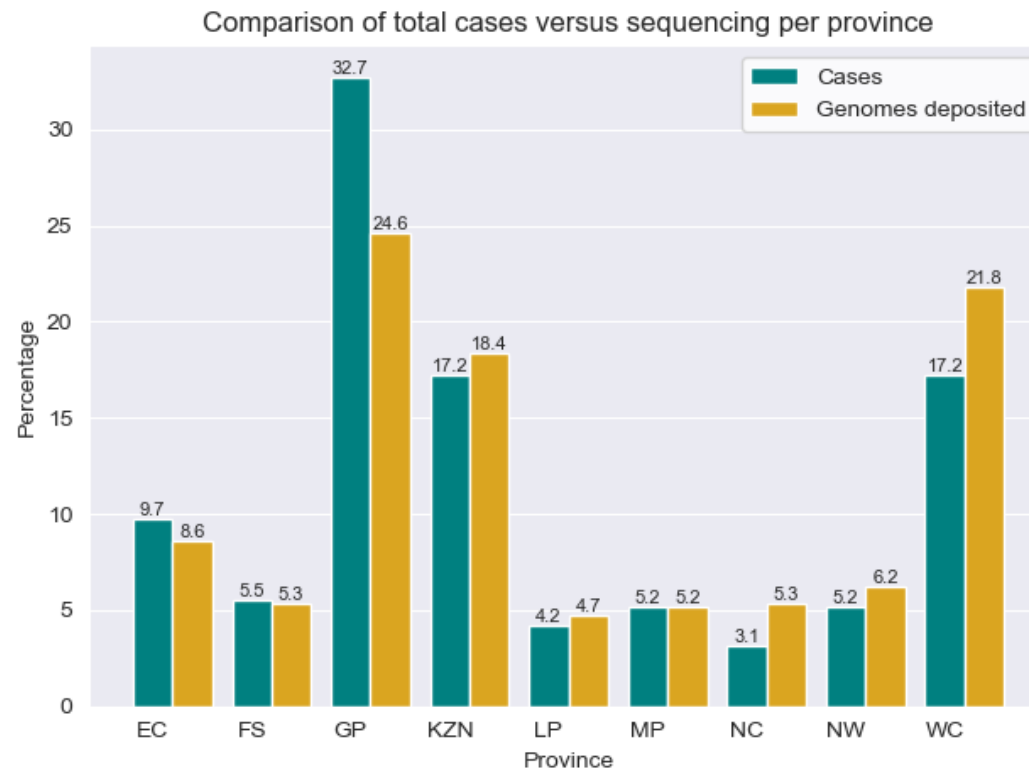
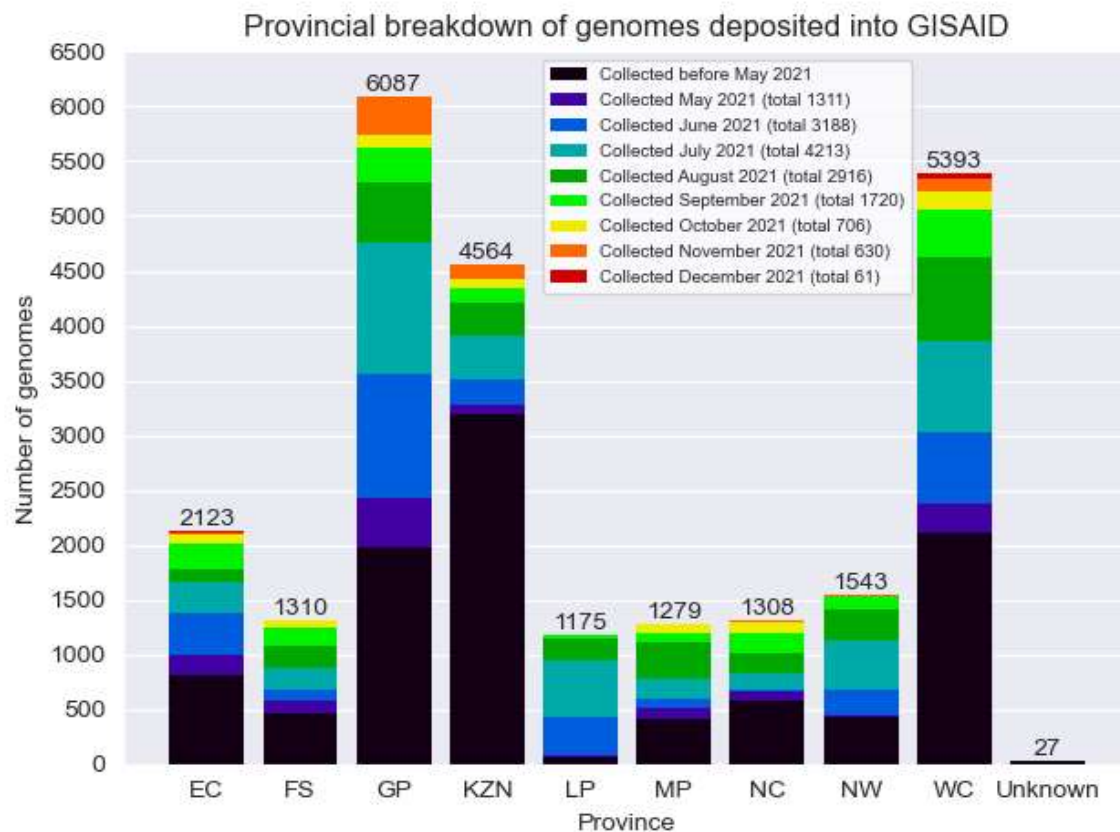
Shu, Y., McCauley, J. (2017) GISAID: Global initiative on sharing all influenza data – from vision to reality. *EuroSurveillance*, 22(13) DOI: 10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2017.22.13.30494 PMID: PMC5388101

Number of South African genomes deposited on GISAID, by specimen collection week, 2020 and 2021 (N=24 809*)



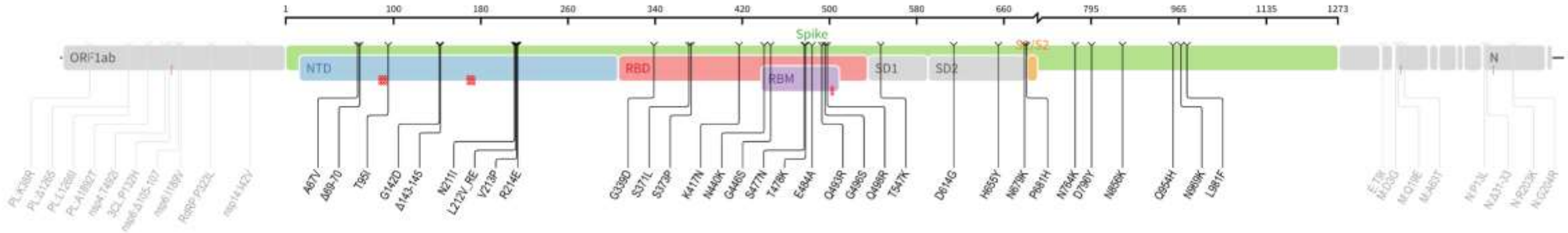
*This represents the cleaned, de-duplicated dataset of unique sequences. This dataset will be used for all further figures.

GISAID genomes vs total cases, 2020 and 2021 (N=24 809)



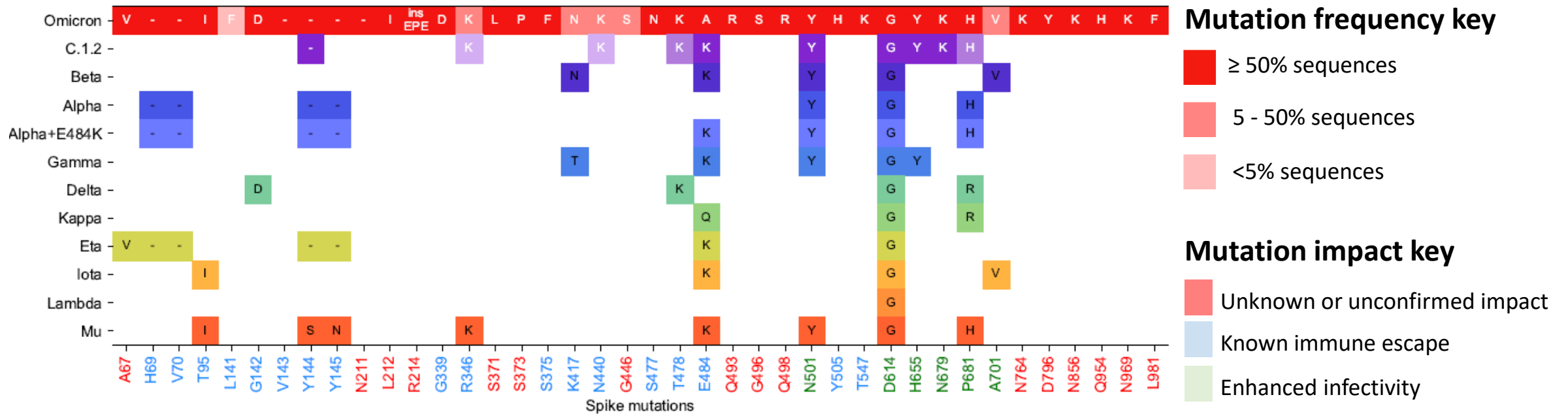
All provinces, apart from GP, KZN, NC and WC, have comparable percentage of overall cases and overall sequenced genomes. The majority of November sequencing data is from Gauteng.

Omicron lineage mutation profile



- 45-52 amino acid changes (including deletions) across the whole GENOME
 - 26-32 changes in SPIKE
- Does not possess the RdRp G671S change associated with a decrease in Ct value for Delta variants
- Does possess the $\Delta 69-70$, which causes the S-Gene Target Failure (SGTF) and was previously seen in the Alpha VOC

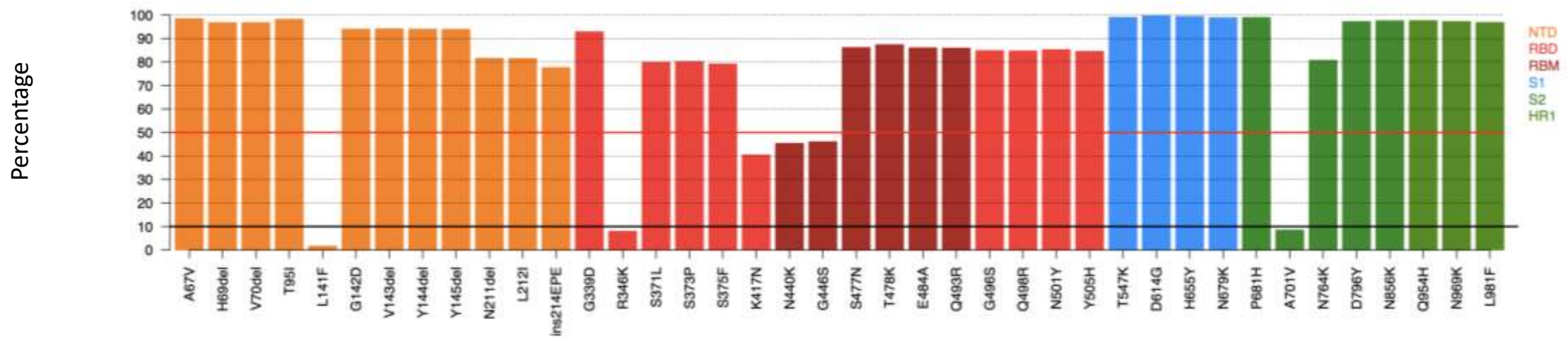
Omicron spike mutations compared to other VOC/VOIs



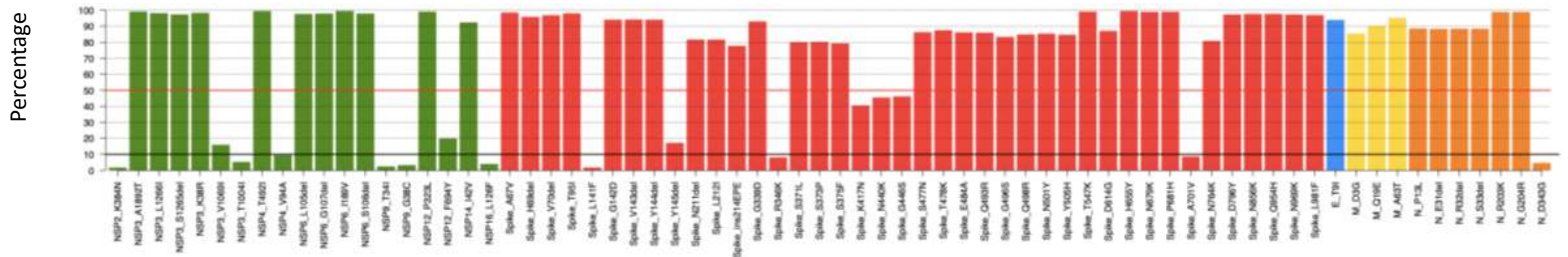
- Multiple changes within the two immunogenic regions in S1 (NTD and RBD)
 - including a three amino acid insertion
- Accumulation of mutations surrounding the furin cleavage site
 - Including combination of N679K and P681H
- Effect of most spike S2 subunit changes have not been defined, but may be linked to immune escape

Mutational profile of Omicron sequences

Frequency of Spike SNVs for Omicron (n = 1522)



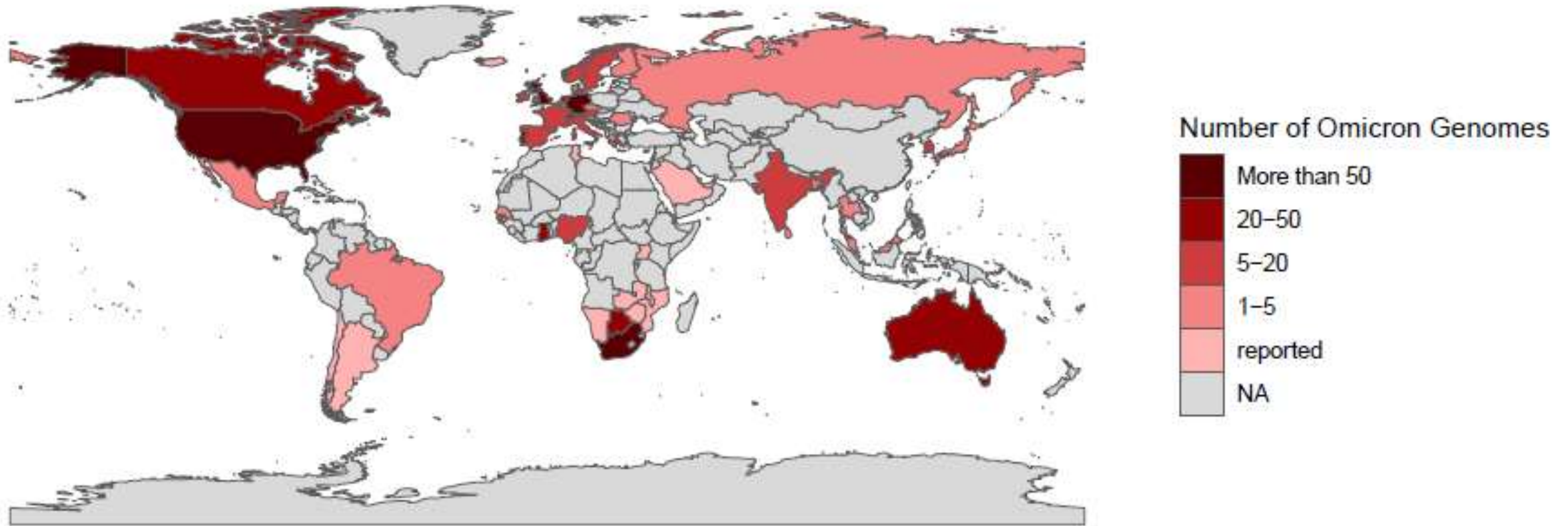
Frequency of whole genome SNVs for Omicron (n = 1522)



Mutational profile of Omicron is largely shared amongst all sequences. Low mutation frequencies for N417N, N440K, G446S and N764K are most likely a result of poor coverage due to primer drop off.

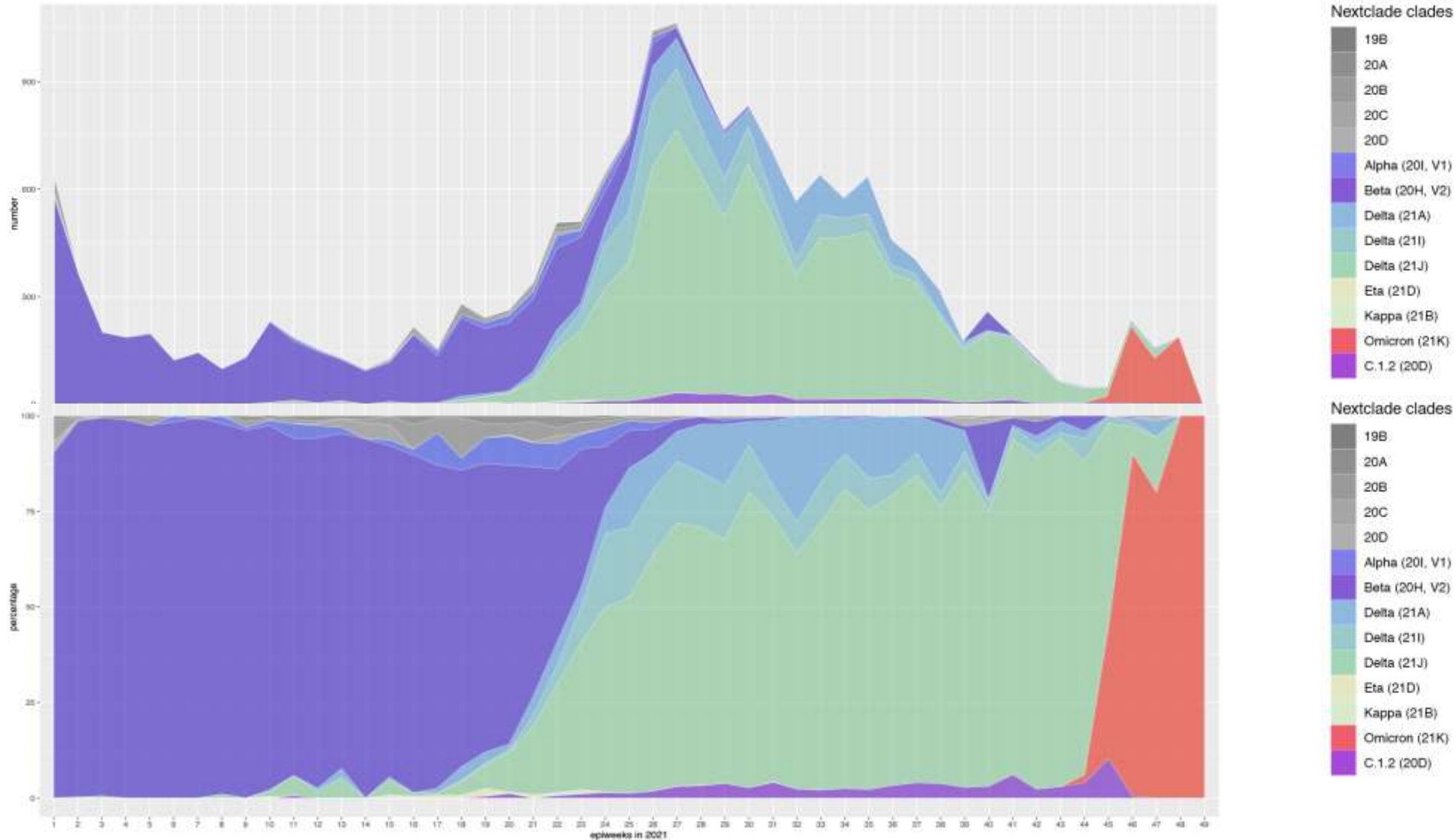
Omicron global prevalence

Detection of Omicron Globally (countries = 56; n = 1556)



Omicron has been detected in 56 countries across the globe (detections based on GISAID).

Proportion and number of clades by epiweek in South Africa, 2021 (N= 18 383)



Sequencing data
ending epi week 48
(ending 4
December 2021)

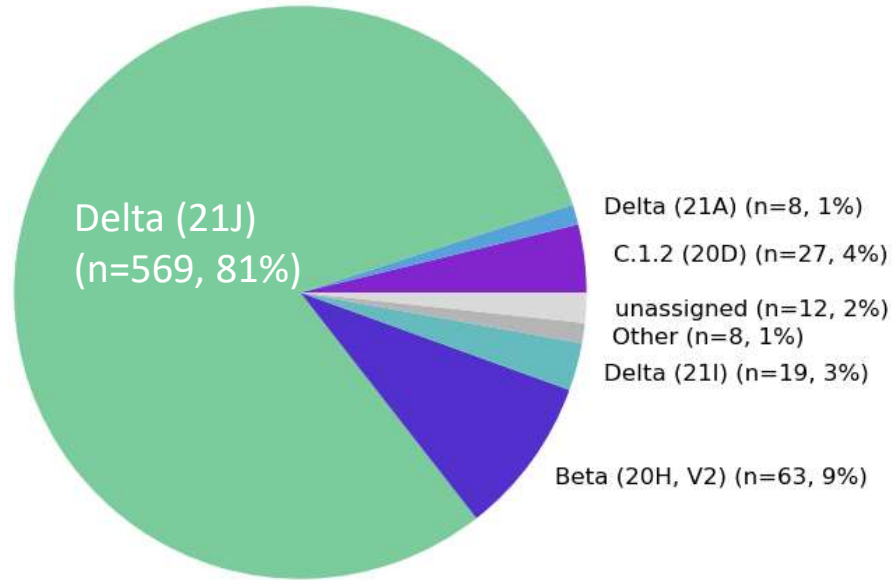
Currently in epi
week 49 (ending 11
December 2021)

Delta dominated South Africa's third wave with >80% frequency in October, with C.1.2 detection remaining <4%. Omicron appears to dominate November sequencing data but sequencing is ongoing to determine its prevalence.

Prevalence of Variants of Concern (VOC) and Variants of Interest (VOI) in

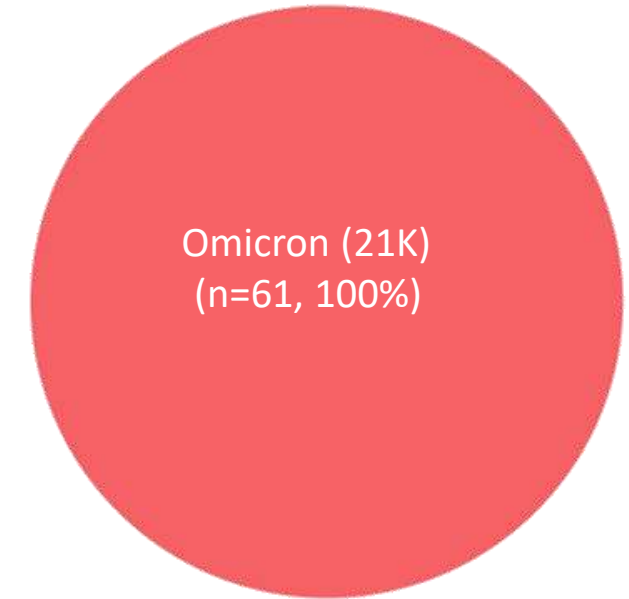
October – December 2021

October (N=706)



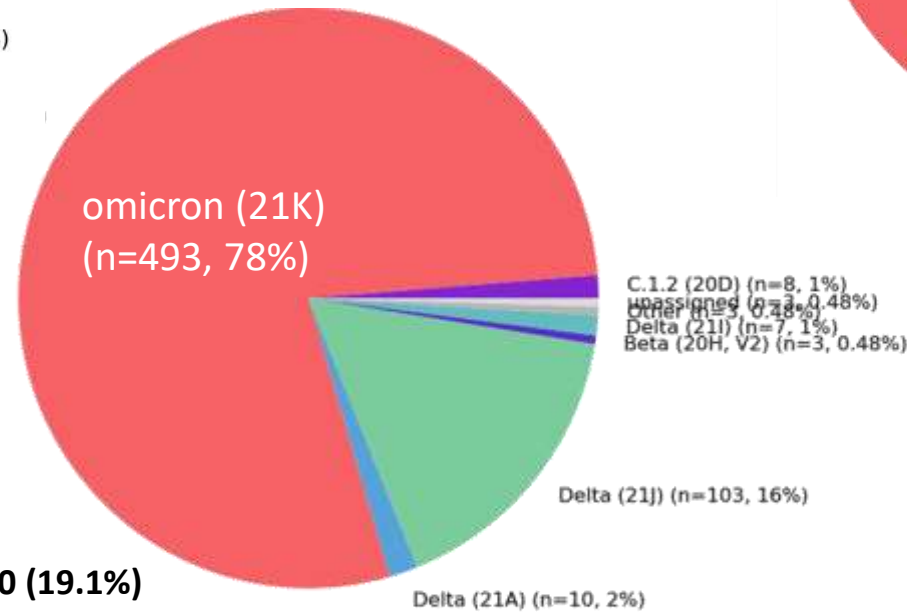
Total Delta in Oct: 596 (84.4%)

December (N=61)



Total omicron in Dec: 61 (100%)

November (N=630)



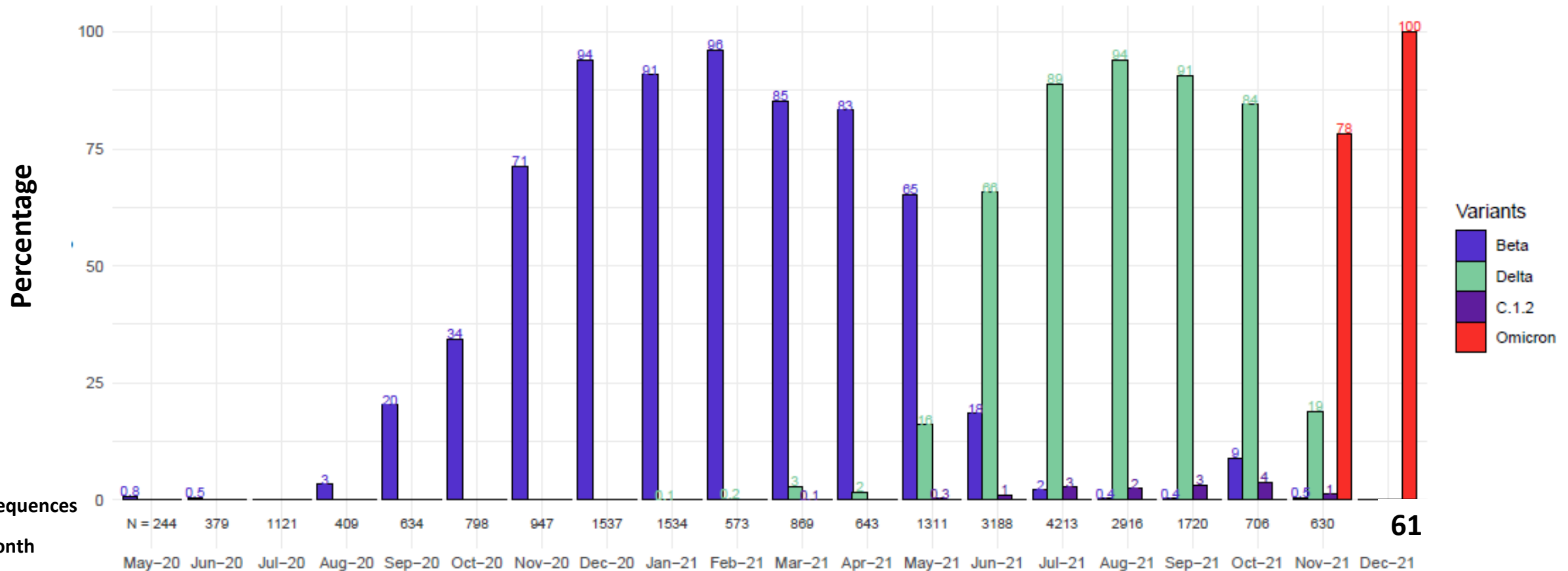
Total Delta in Nov: 120 (19.1%)

■ Omicron (21K)
 ■ C.1.1.2 (20D)
 ■ Beta (20H, V2)
 ■ Alpha (20I, V1)
 ■ Delta (21A)
 ■ Delta (21I)
 ■ Delta (21J)
 ■ Kappa (21B)
 ■ Eta (21D)
 ■ Other
 ■ unassigned

The Delta variant dominated in October in South Africa with >80% frequency. Omicron was first detected in South Africa in November comprising 78% (493/630) of sequences.

Detection Rates: Beta, Delta, C.1.2 and Omicron

Detection rates of variants being monitored in South Africa

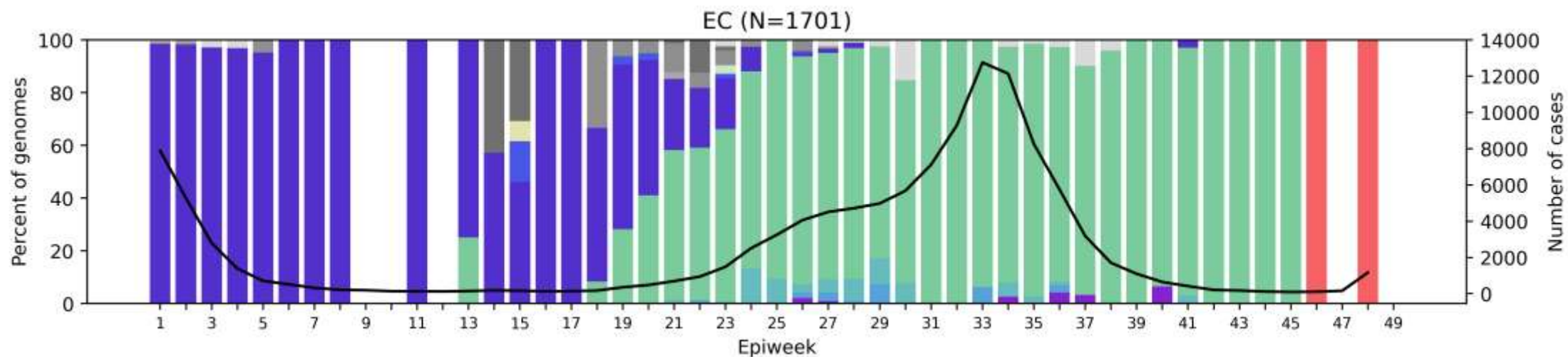
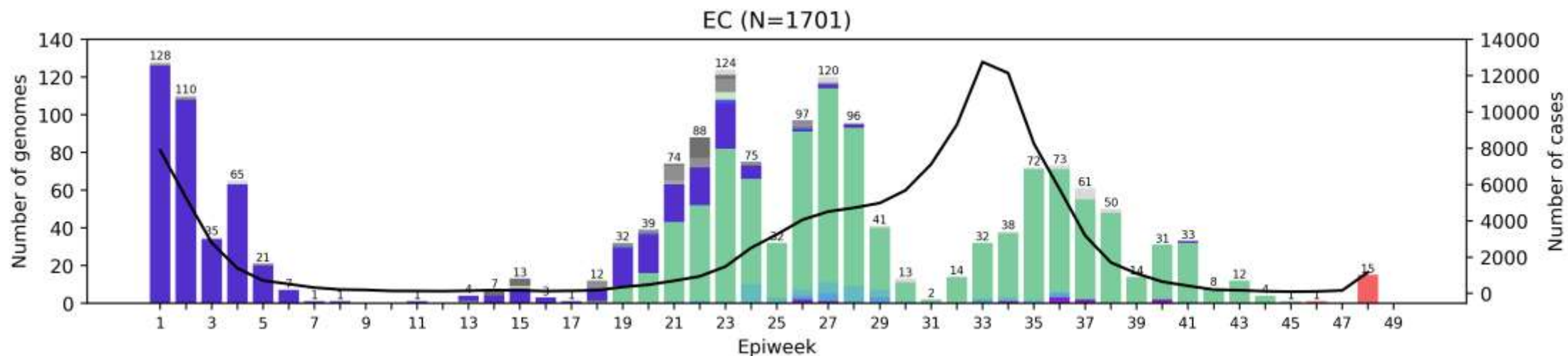


C.1.2 has been detected at $\leq 4\%$ of sequences monthly.

Beta prevalence increased slightly in October and has also been detected in November.

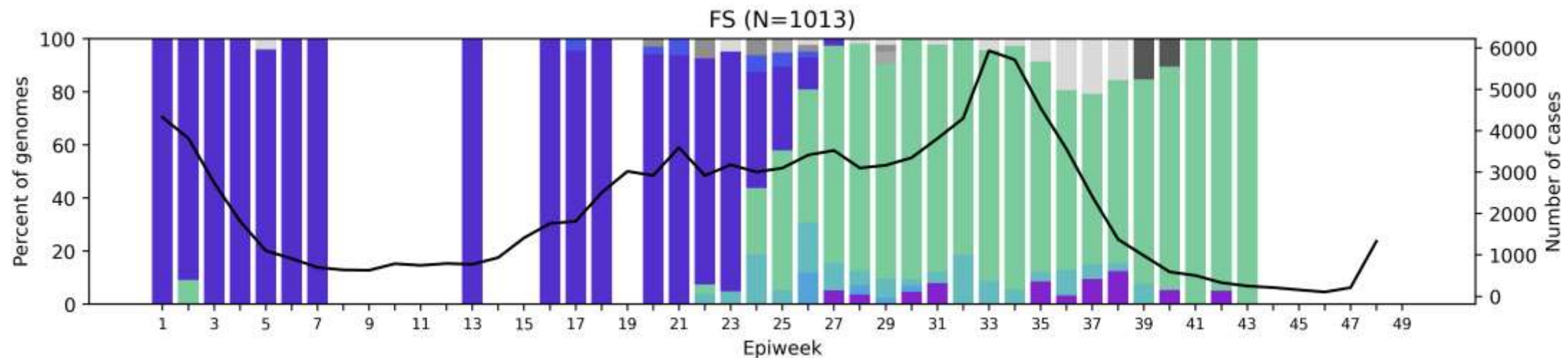
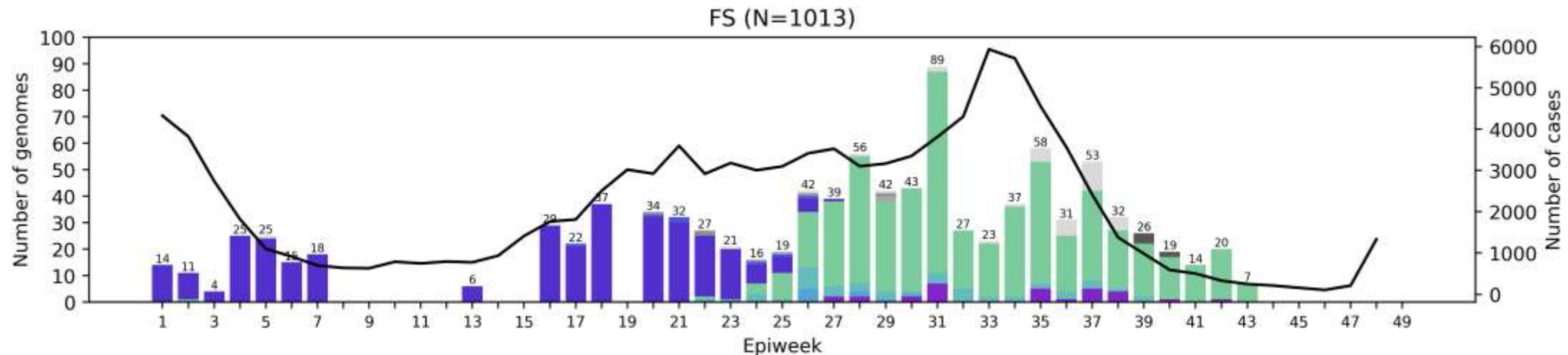
Omicron first detected in South Africa on November 8th, accounting for 78% (n=493/630) genomes.

Eastern Cape Province, 2021, n =1701



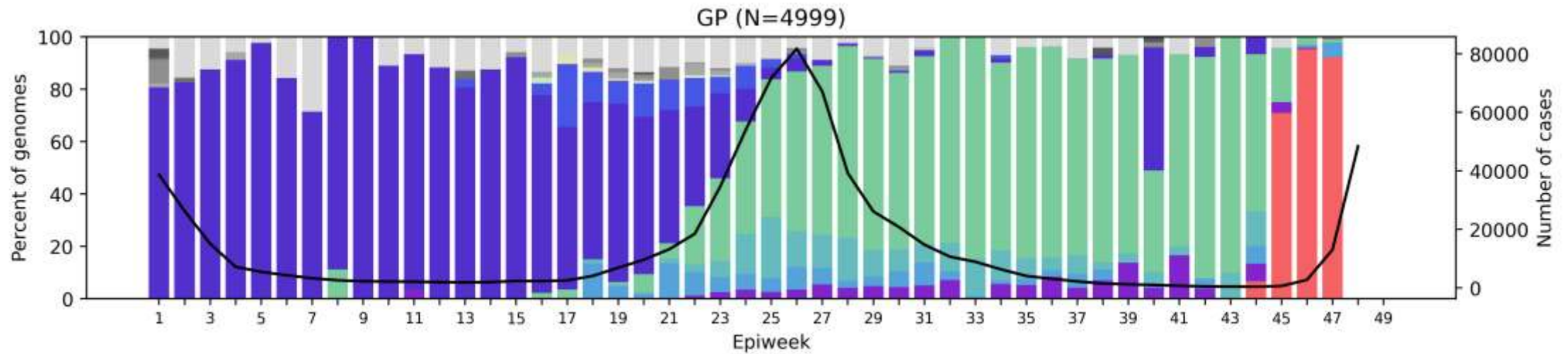
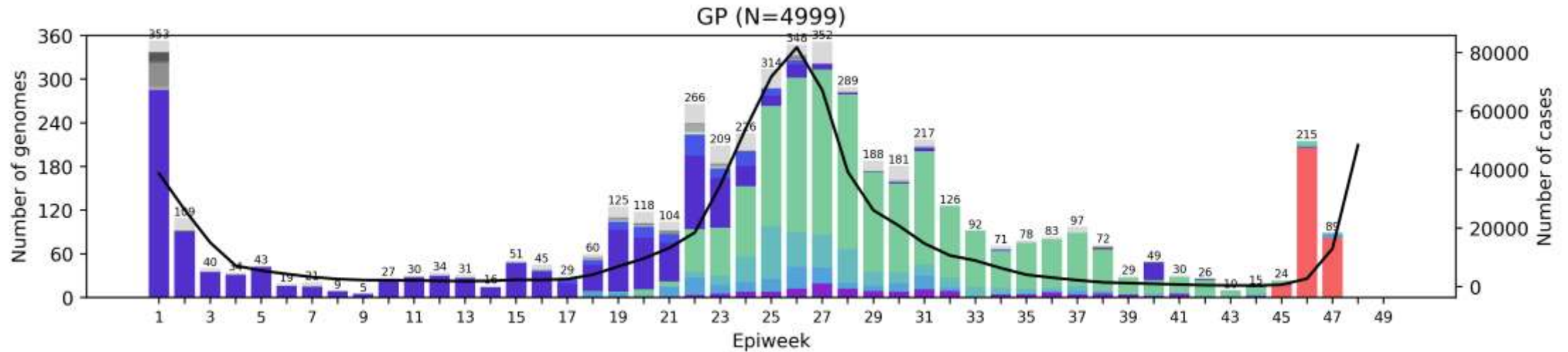
— cases ■ Omicron (21K) ■ C.1.2 (20D) ■ Delta (21A) ■ Delta (21I) ■ Delta (21J) ■ Beta (20H, V2) ■ Alpha (20I, V1) ■ Kappa (21B) ■ Eta (21D) ■ 20A ■ 20B ■ 20C ■ 20D ■ unassigned ■ 19B

Free State Province, 2021, n = 1013



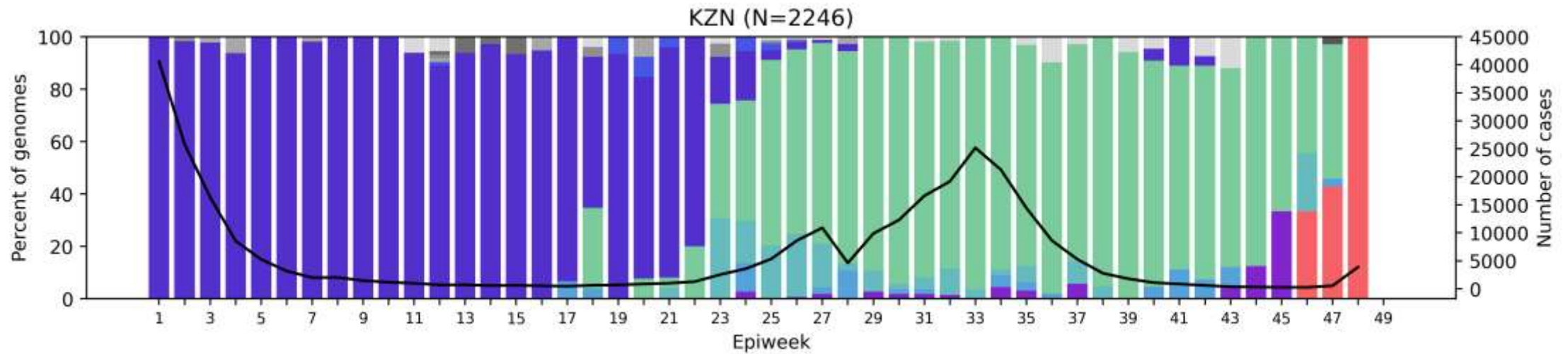
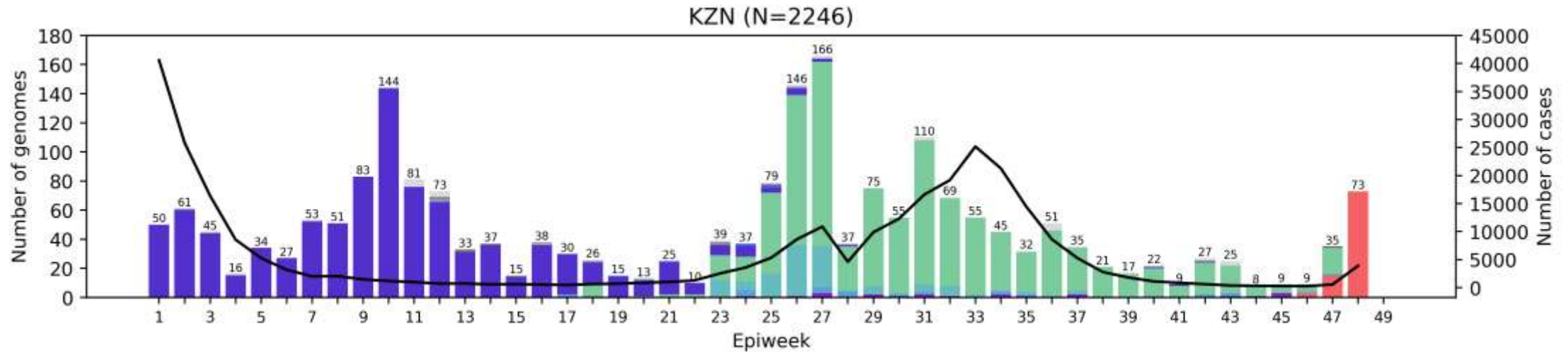
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Gauteng Province, 2021, n = 4999



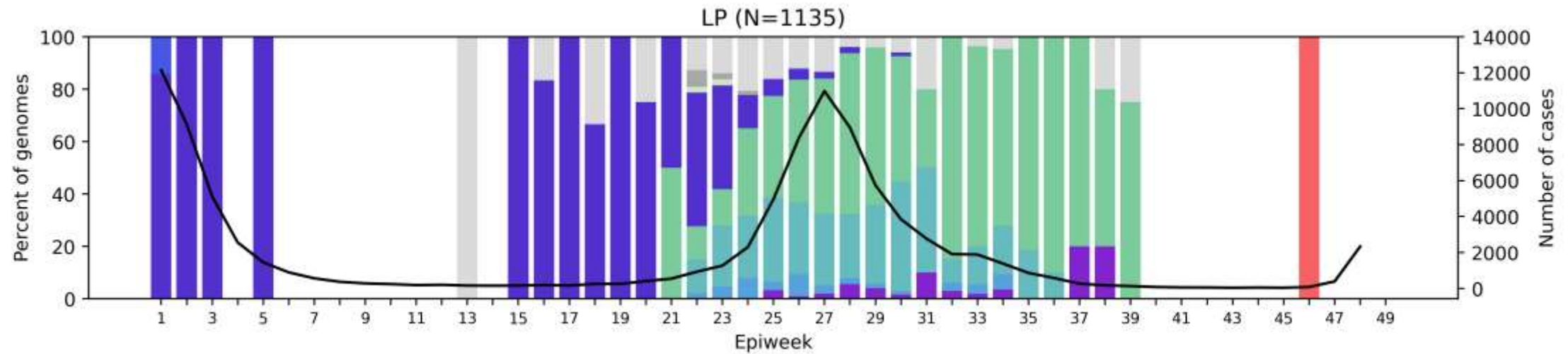
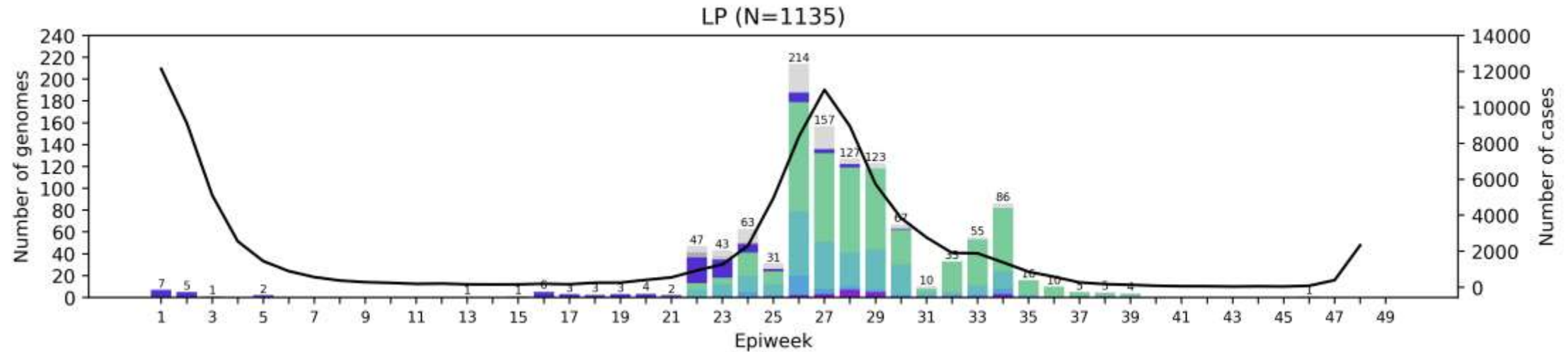
— cases Omicron (21K) C.1.2 (20D) Delta (21A) Delta (21I) Delta (21J) Beta (20H, V2) Alpha (20I, V1) Kappa (21B) Eta (21D) 20A 20B 20C 20D unassigned 19B

KwaZulu-Natal Province, 2021, n = 2246



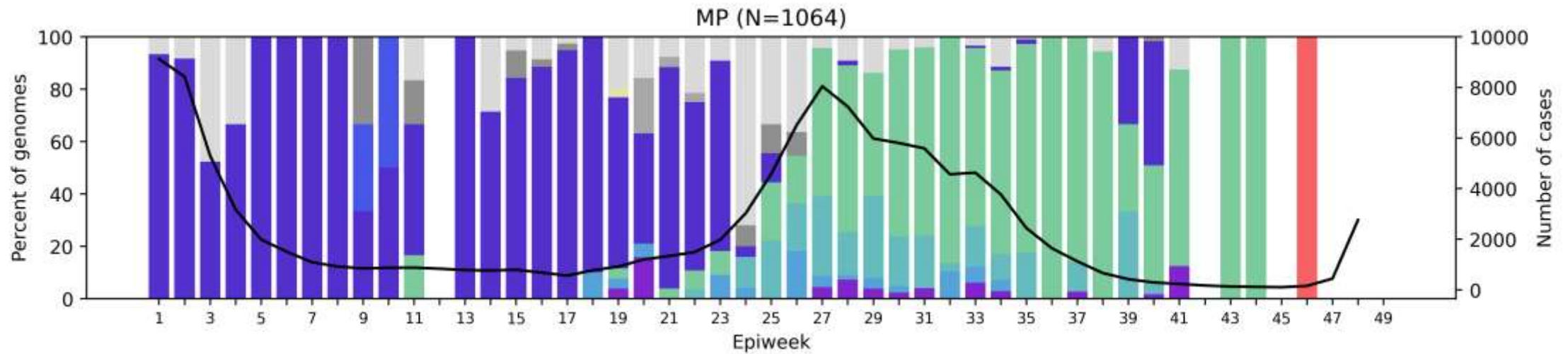
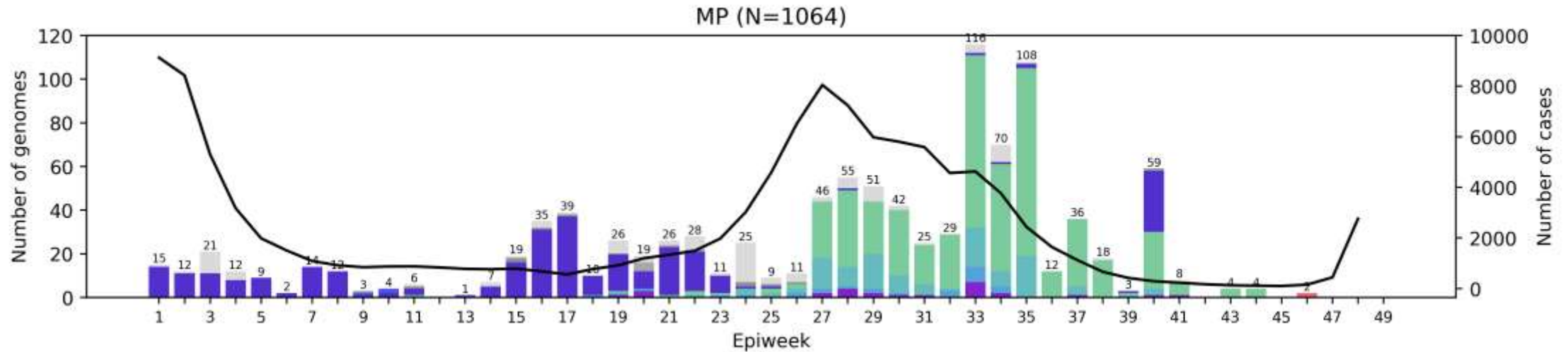
— cases Omicron (21K) C.1.2 (20D) Delta (21A) Delta (21I) Delta (21J) Beta (20H, V2) Alpha (20I, V1) Kappa (21B) Eta (21D) 20A 20B 20C 20D unassigned 19B

Limpopo Province, 2021, n = 1135



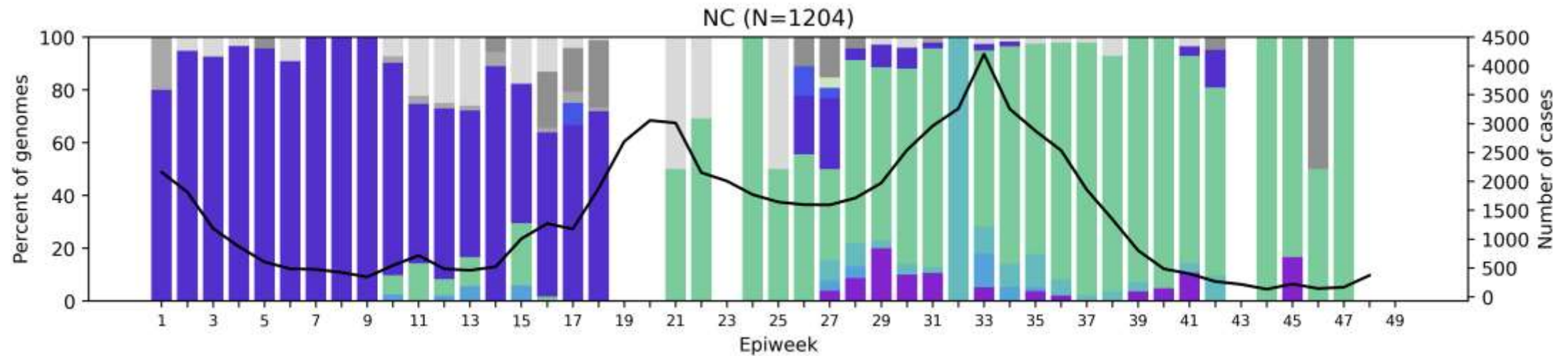
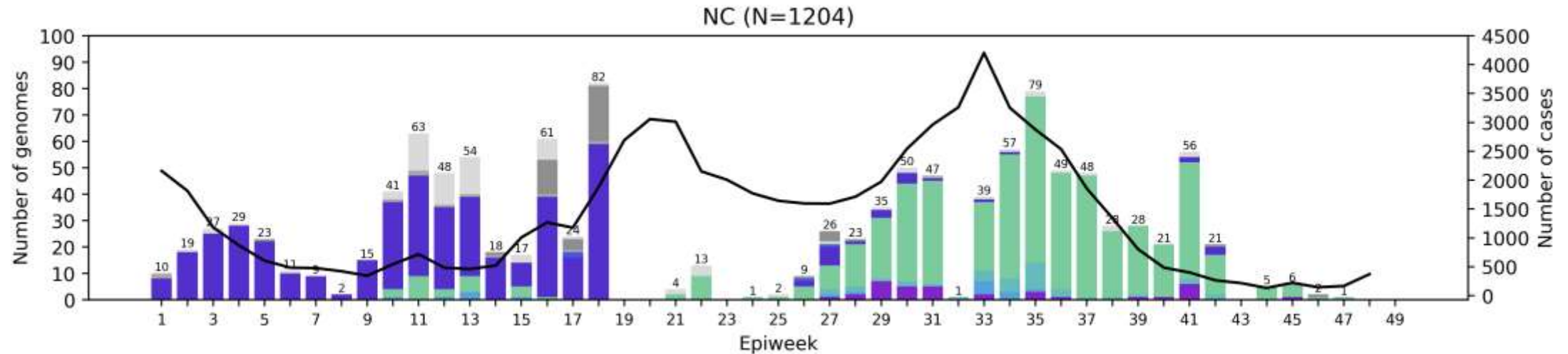
— cases █ Omicron (21K) █ C.1.2 (20D) █ Delta (21A) █ Delta (21I) █ Delta (21J) █ Beta (20H, V2) █ Alpha (20I, V1) █ Kappa (21B) █ Eta (21D) █ 20A █ 20B █ 20C █ 20D █ unassigned █ 19B

Mpumalanga Province, 2021, n = 1064



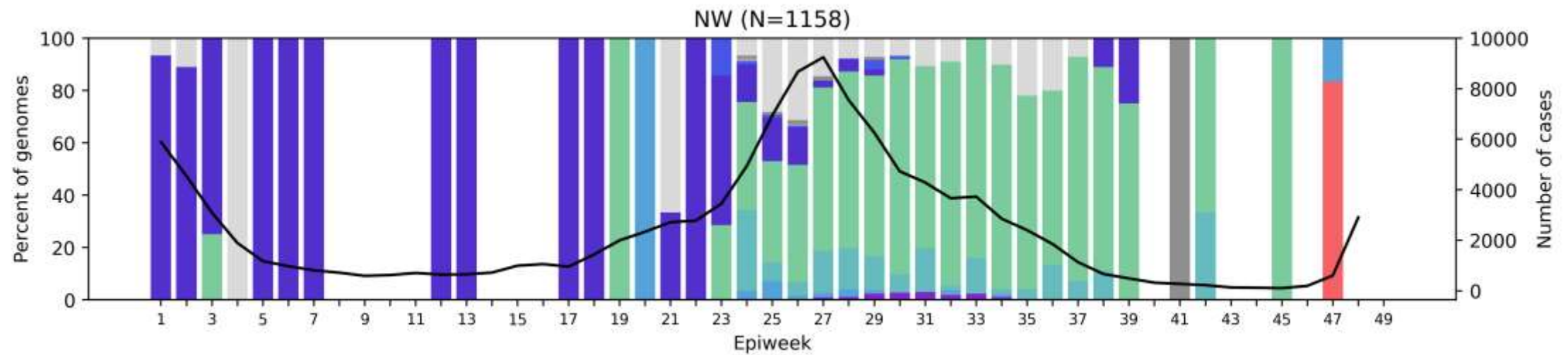
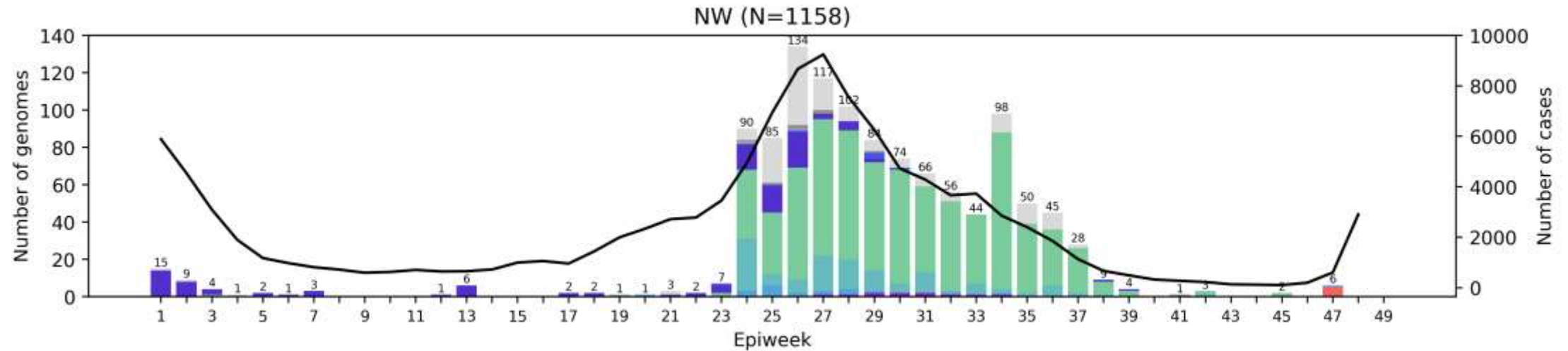
— cases ■ Omicron (21K) ■ C.1.2 (20D) ■ Delta (21A) ■ Delta (21I) ■ Delta (21J) ■ Beta (20H, V2) ■ Alpha (20I, V1) ■ Kappa (21B) ■ Eta (21D) ■ 20A ■ 20B ■ 20C ■ 20D ■ unassigned ■ 19B

Northern Cape Province, 2021, n = 1204



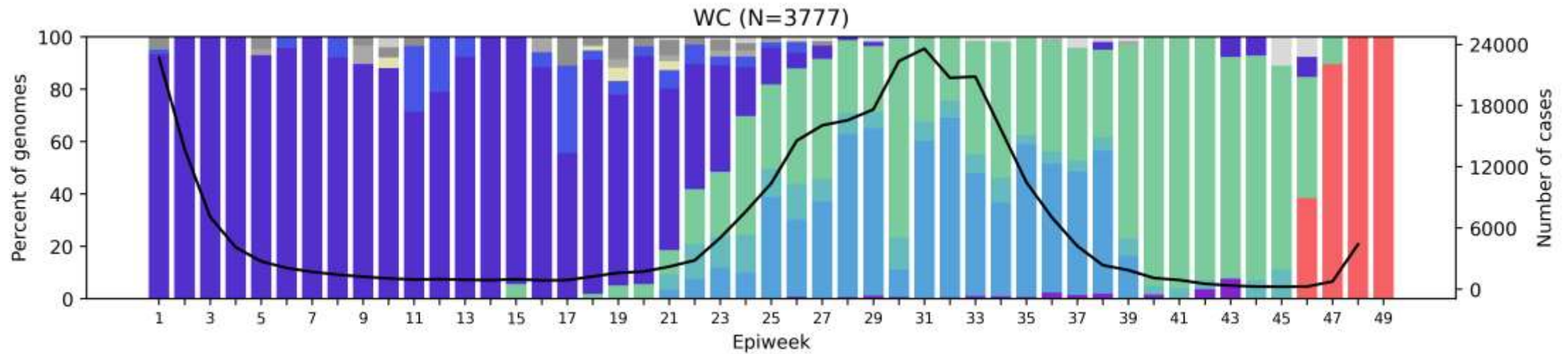
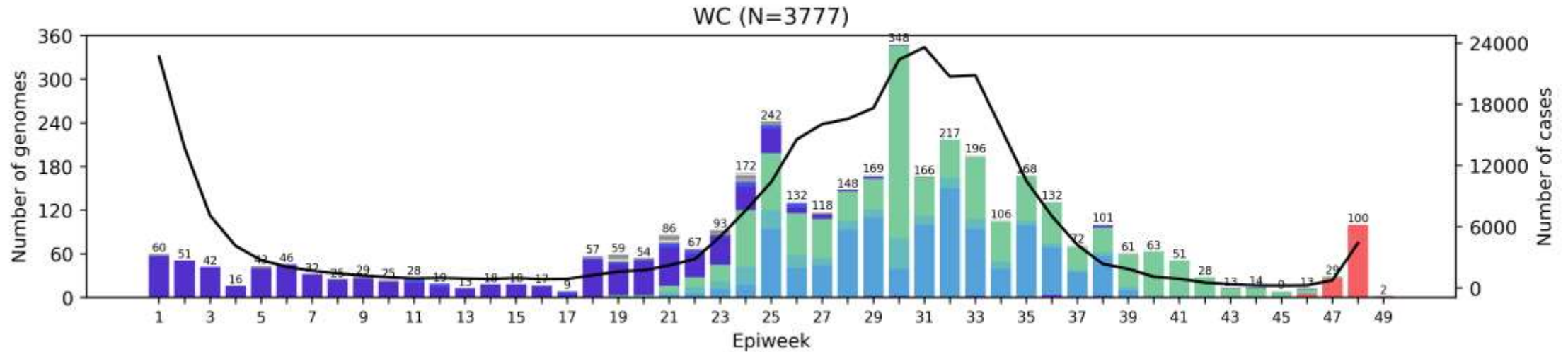
— cases ■ Omicron (21K) ■ C.1.2 (20D) ■ Delta (21A) ■ Delta (21I) ■ Delta (21J) ■ Beta (20H, V2) ■ Alpha (20I, V1) ■ Kappa (21B) ■ Eta (21D) ■ 20A ■ 20B ■ 20C ■ 20D ■ unassigned ■ 19B

North West Province, 2021, n = 1158



— cases ■ Omicron (21K) ■ C.1.2 (20D) ■ Delta (21A) ■ Delta (21I) ■ Delta (21J) ■ Beta (20H, V2) ■ Alpha (20I, V1) ■ Kappa (21B) ■ Eta (21D) ■ 20A ■ 20B ■ 20C ■ 20D ■ unassigned ■ 19B

Western Cape Province, 2021, n =3777



— cases
 ■ Omicron (21K)
 ■ C.1.2 (20D)
 ■ Delta (21A)
 ■ Delta (21I)
 ■ Delta (21J)
 ■ Beta (20H, V2)
 ■ Alpha (20I, V1)
 ■ Kappa (21B)
 ■ Eta (21D)
 ■ 20A
 ■ 20B
 ■ 20C
 ■ 20D
 ■ unassigned
 ■ 19B

Summary

- New B.1.1.529 (21K) lineage has been designated Variant of Concern Omicron
 - Current earliest detection in South Africa: 8 November, Gauteng
 - Omicron dominates November sequencing data at 78% of genomes (n=493/630). Sequencing is ongoing to determine prevalence of Omicron in other provinces.
 - Omicron has now been detected in 56 countries worldwide
- Delta variant dominated in all provinces until end October
 - The Delta sub-lineages varied by province
- C.1.2 lineage detected in all provinces of South Africa with prevalence of <4% of genomes per month



NGS-SA

Network for Genomic Surveillance in South Africa



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EDCTP

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University of Stellenbosch & NHLS Tygerberg Virology



Susan Engelbrecht
Wolfgang Preiser
Gert van Zyl
Tongai Maponga
Bronwyn Kleinhans
Shannon Wilson
Karabo Phadu
Tania Stander
Kamela Mahlakwane
Mathilda Claassen
Diagnostic laboratory staff

UKZN-Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital



Dr Khanyi Msomi
Dr Kerusha Govender
Dr Pravi Moodley
Dr Aabida Khan
Dr Lili Gounder
Dr Kerri Francois
Dr Cherise Naicker
Dr Joedene Chetty

Dr Neli Ngcaba
Dr Tshepiso Mosito
Mr Malcolm Ellapen
Mr Kubendran Reddy
The COVID-19 Bench team

University of KwaZulu-Natal & Africa Health Research Institute



KRISP at UKZN:
Tulio de Oliveira
Richard Lessels
Hourriyah Tegally
Eduan Wilkinson
Jennifer Giandhari
Sureshnee Pillay
Emmanuel James San



AHRI
Alex Sigal
Sandile Cele
Willem Hanekom

University of Cape Town, NHLS & Western Cape Government



NHLS-UCT
Carolyn Williamson
Nei-yuan Hsiao
Diana Hardie
Kruger Marais
Stephen Korsman
Ziyaad Valley-Omar

WCG-UCT
Mary-Anne Davies
Hannah Hussey
Andrew Boule
Masudah Paleker
Theuns Jacobs
Erna Morden

NHLS Greenpoint
Annabel Enoch

Zoonotic arbo and respiratory virus program Centre for Viral Zoonoses Department Medical Virology/ NHLS Tshwane Academic division University of Pretoria



ZARV research program/UP
Marietjie Venter (Head: ZARV)
Adriano Mendes (Postdoc)
Amy Strydom (Postdoc)
Michaela Davis (MSc, intern medical scientist)



NHLS Tshwane
Prof Simnikiwe Mayaphi (HOD)

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G7 Global Health fund, Robert Koch Institute, Dr Fabian Leendertz

National Institute for Communicable Diseases



Centre for Respiratory Diseases & Meningitis
Anne von Gottberg
Thabo Mohale
Daniel Amoako
Josie Everatt
Boitshoko Mahlangu
Noxolo Ntuli
Anele Mnguni
Amelia Buys
Cardia Fourie
Noluthando Duma
Linda de Gouveia
Jackie Kleynhans
Nicole Wolter
Sibongile Walaza
Mignon du Plessis
Stefano Tempia
Mvuyo Makhasi
Cheryl Cohen

Centre for HIV and STIs
Jinal Bhiman
Cathrine Scheepers
Constantinos Kurt Wibmer
Thandeka Moyo
Tandile Hermanus
Frances Ayres
Zanele Molaudzi
Bronwen Lambson
Tandile Hermanus
Mashudu Madzivhandila
Prudence Kgagudi
Brent Oosthuysen
Penny Moore
Lynn Morris

NICD Groups
NICD COVID-19 response team
NICD SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing Group

Sequencing Core Facility
Zamantungwa Khumalo
Annie Chan
Morne du Plessis
Stanford Kwenda
Phillip Senzo Mtshali
Mushal Allam
Florah Mnyameni
Arshad Ismail



University of the Free State



UFS
Dominique Goedhals
Armand Bester
Martin Myaga
Peter Mwangi
Emmanuel Ogunbayo
Milton Mogotsi
Makgotso Maotoana
Lutfiyya Mohamed



NHLS Division of Virology
Sabeehah Vawda
Felicity Burt
Thokozani Mkhize
Diagnostic laboratory staff





Additional support and collaborators



NHLS

Koeleka Mlisana
Zinhle Makatini
Eugene Elliot
Florette K. Treurnicht
Kathleen Subramoney
Oluwakemi Laguda-Akingba
Shareef Abrahams
Greta Hoyland
Gloria Selabe
Elias Bereda
Jeannette Wadula



Hyrax Biosciences

Simon Travers

Cape Town HVTN Laboratory

Erica Anderson-Nissen
Anneta Naidoo



Ndlovu Research

Hugo Tempelman
CJ Umunnakwe



Lancet

Allison J. Glass
Raquel Viana

Ampath

Terry Marshall
Cindy van Deventer
Eddie Silberbauer

Pathcare Vermaak

Andries Dreyer
Howard Newman
Riaan Writes
Marianne Wolfaardt
Warren Lowman

Bridge-the-Gap

Raymond Rott

Cytespace Africa Laboratories

Christa Viljoen

ARC-OVI

Lia Rotherham

CAPRISA

Salim Abdool Karim
Nigel Garret

UKZN - Big Data

Francesco Petruccione
Ilya Sinayskiy

University of Oxford

José Lourenço

FioCruz, Brazil

Vagner Fonseca
Marta Giovanetti
Luiz Carlos Junior Alcantara

Africa CDC

John Nkengasong
Sofonias Tessema

Netcare:

Richard Friedland
Craig Murphy
Caroline Maslo
Liza Sitharam

DSI

Glaudina Loots

SA MRC

Glenda Gray



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UCT, IDM and CIDRI-Africa

Deelan Doolabh
Arash Iranzadeh
Lynn Tyers
Innocent Mudau
Nokuzola Mbhele
Fezokuhle Khumalo
Thabang Serakge
Bruna Galvão
Arghavan Alisoltani
(U. California)

Robert Wilkinson
Darren Martin
Nicola Mulder
Wendy Burgers
Ntobeko Ntusi
Rageema Joseph
Sean Wasserman
Linda Boloko



EDCTP



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Arshad Ismail



Zoonotic arbo and respiratory virus program

Centre for Viral Zoonoses Department Medical Virology/ NHLS Tshwane Academic division University of Pretoria



ZARV research program/UP

Marietjie Venter (Head: ZARV)
Adriano Mendes (Postdoc)
Amy Strydom (Postdoc)
Michaela Davis (MSc, intern medical scientist)



NHLS Tshwane

Prof Simnikiwe Mayaphi (HOD)

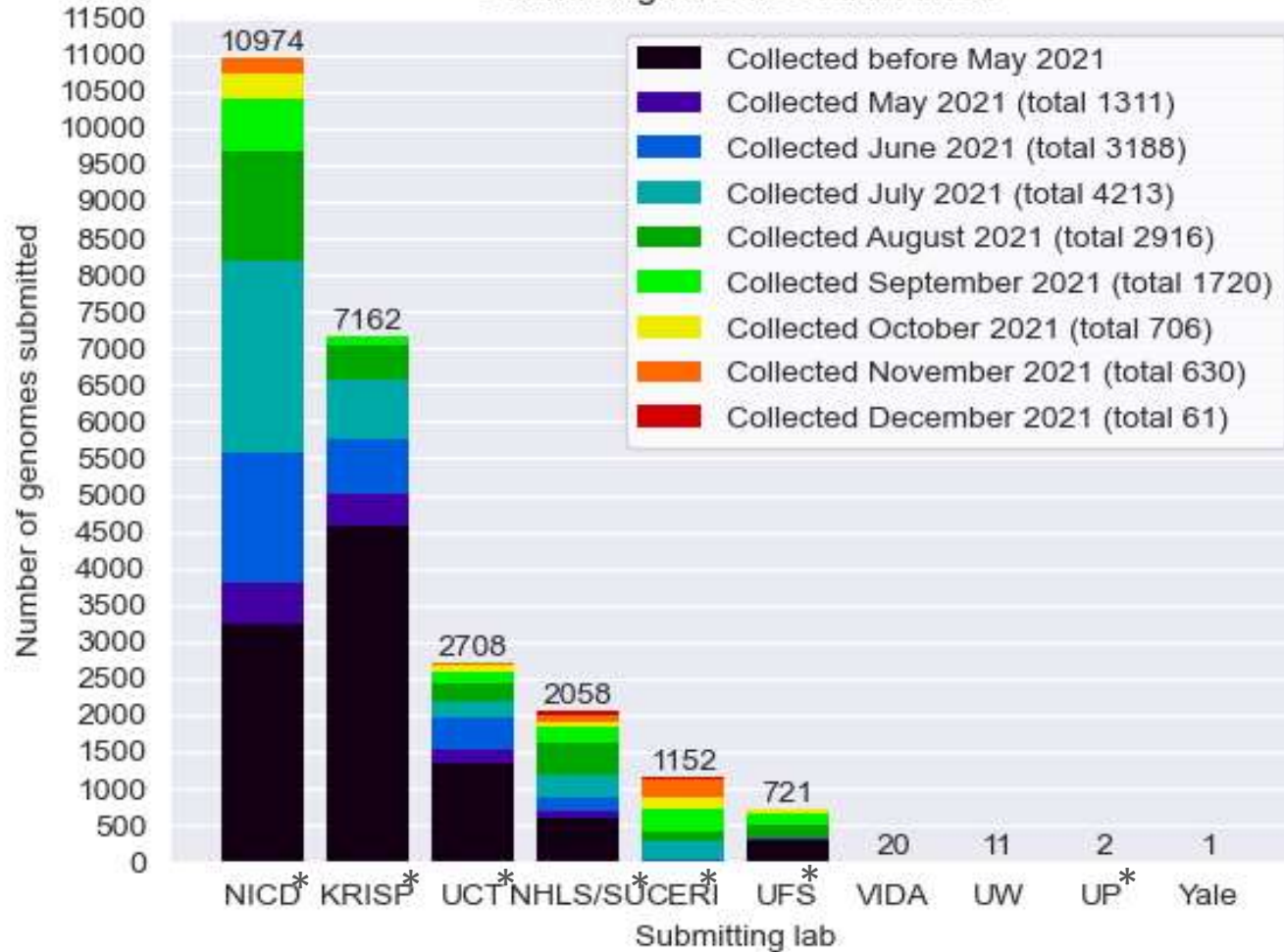
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South African genomes submitted per submitting lab, 2020 and 2021 (N=24 809)

Submitting labs in South Africa



NGS-SA Labs

- CERI:** Centre for Epidemic Response and Innovation
- KRISP:** KZN Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform
- NICD:** National Institute for Communicable Diseases
- NHLS:** National Health Laboratory Service
- SU:** Stellenbosch University
- UCT:** University of Cape Town
- UFS:** University of the Free State
- UP:** University of Pretoria

*NGS-SA laboratories

Multiple labs from NGS-SA and collaborating private laboratories are contributing to the sequencing effort.

Variants of Concern (VOC)

WHO label	Pango lineages ⁺	GISAID clade	Nextstrain clade	Additional amino acid changes monitored*	Earliest documented samples	Date of designation
Alpha	B.1.1.7 [#]	GRY	20I (V1)	+S:484K +S:452R	United Kingdom, Sep-2020	18-Dec-2020
Beta	B.1.351	GH/501Y.V2	20H (V2)	+S:L18F	South Africa, May-2020	18-Dec-2020
Gamma	P.1	GR/501Y.V3	20J (V3)	+S:681H	Brazil, Nov-2020	11-Jan-2021
Delta	B.1.617.2 [§]	G/478K.V1	21A	+S:417N	India, Oct-2020	VOI: 4-Apr-2021 VOC: 11-May-2021
Omicron*	B.1.1.529	GR/484A	21K	-	Multiple countries, Nov-2021	VUM: 24-Nov-2021 VOC: 26-Nov-2021

<https://www.who.int/en/activities/tracking-SARS-CoV-2-variants/> accessed 10 December 2021

*Notable spike (S) amino acid changes under monitoring, which are currently reported in a minority of sequenced samples

⁺Includes all descendant lineages.

[#]Includes all Q.* lineages in the PANGO nomenclature system.

[§]Includes all AY.* lineages in the PANGO nomenclature system.

Currently designated Variants of Interest (VOI)

WHO label	Pango* lineages	GISAID clade	Nextstrain clade	Earliest documented samples	Date of designation
Lambda	C.37	GR/452Q.V1	21G	Peru, Dec-2020	14-Jun-2021
Mu	B.1.631	GH	21H	Colombia, Jan-2021	30-Aug-2021

<https://www.who.int/en/activities/tracking-SARS-CoV-2-variants/> accessed 10 December 2021

* Includes all descendant lineages.

Submission of routine specimens for sequencing

- representative of multiple geographic regions (provinces/districts/health facilities) from individuals of
 - all ages
 - over as many time periods during the SARS-CoV-2 epidemic in South Africa
- requested that testing laboratories in both the private and public sectors, submit respiratory samples to their closest NGS-SA sequencing laboratory on a routine basis (ideally every week) as follows, depending on the capacity of the testing laboratory:
 - All positives samples should be sent every week (NGS-SA laboratory will perform random sampling as described below) **OR**
 - A weekly selection of approximately 10%-20% of randomly selected positive samples should be sent every week. Number of selected samples will depend on the size of laboratory and how many other laboratories are drained by the submitting laboratory.

Submission of special interest specimens for sequencing

In addition to routine samples mentioned above, please send specimens separately to above and clearly marked if:

- Suspected vaccine breakthrough (≥ 14 days after vaccine), especially if hospitalised and clinically severe
- Suspected re-infection (≥ 90 days after previous episode), especially if hospitalised and clinically severe
- Prolonged shedding with high SARS-CoV-2 viral loads (i.e. Ct values less than 30 for more than 1 month post-primary diagnosis) in immunocompromised individuals
- Possible animal-to-human transmission
- Suspected cases of importation from another country, especially countries known to harbour SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern or countries with little available information
- Clusters of “unusual” cases (e.g., in terms of disease presentation, patient groups affected, etc.)