

# Influenza monthly update

In **January 2021**, 13 countries reported data to FluNet and EMFLU, namely Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates.

The proportion of tested cases for influenza in the Region was 72.1% out of 3537 enrolled cases. 1.2% of cases tested positive and 98.8% negative.

## Influenza activity by sub-type

▪In the northern Africa influenza transmission zone, Morocco and Tunisia reported no activity.

▪In the western Asia influenza transmission zone, the influenza B virus (lineage not determined) was the only subtype detected in Oman and the predominant subtype detected in Saudi Arabia. Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Syria Arab Republic and United Arab Emirates reported no activity.

▪In the southern Asia transmission zone, the influenza B virus (lineage not determined) was the only subtype detected in Afghanistan and Islamic Republic of Iran.

### Source of transmission zones:

[http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/transmission\\_zones/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/transmission_zones/en/)

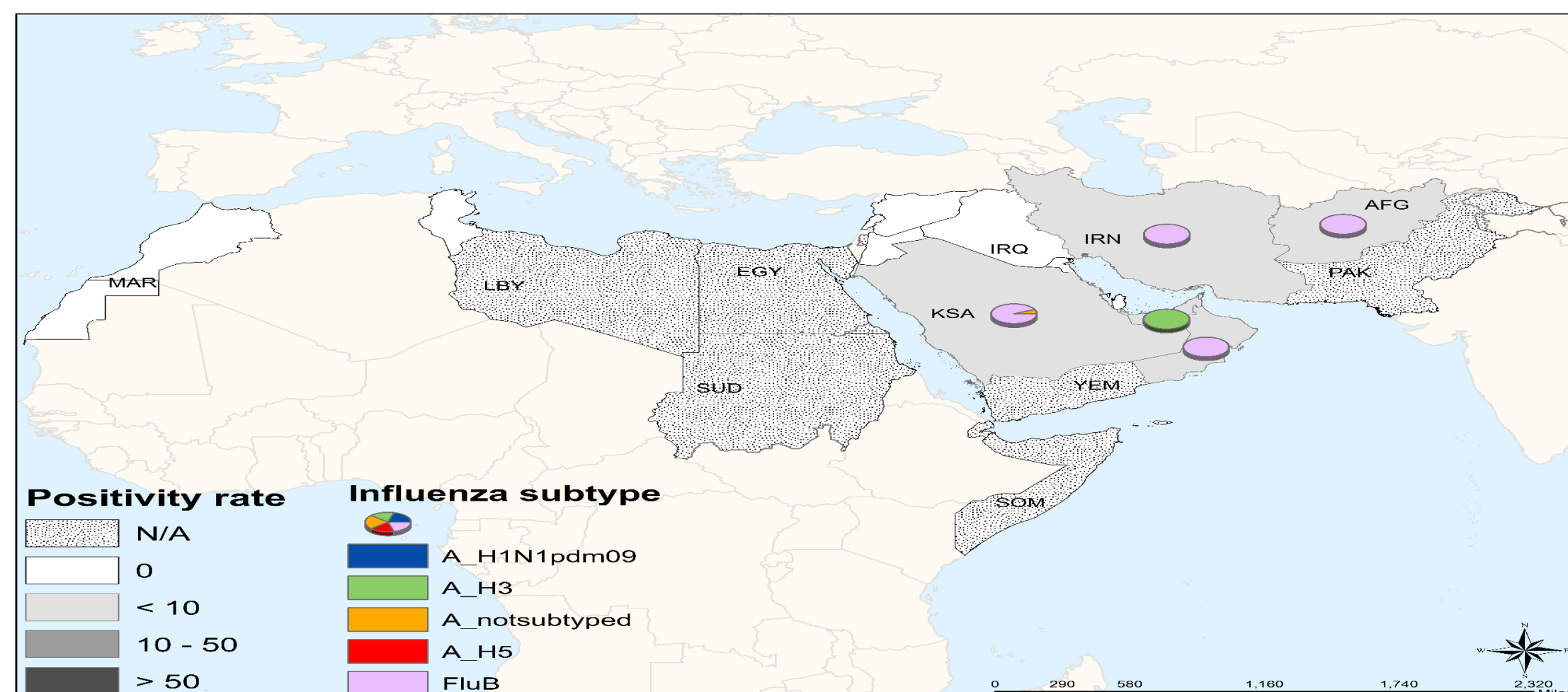
## Circulating influenza viruses by sub-type

▪During **January 2021**, national influenza centres and influenza laboratories in the Region tested a total of 2551 specimens for influenza viruses, of which 31 tested positive (1.2%).

▪The average percentage of positive rates was 1.2% with the highest positive rates recorded in Saudi Arabia.

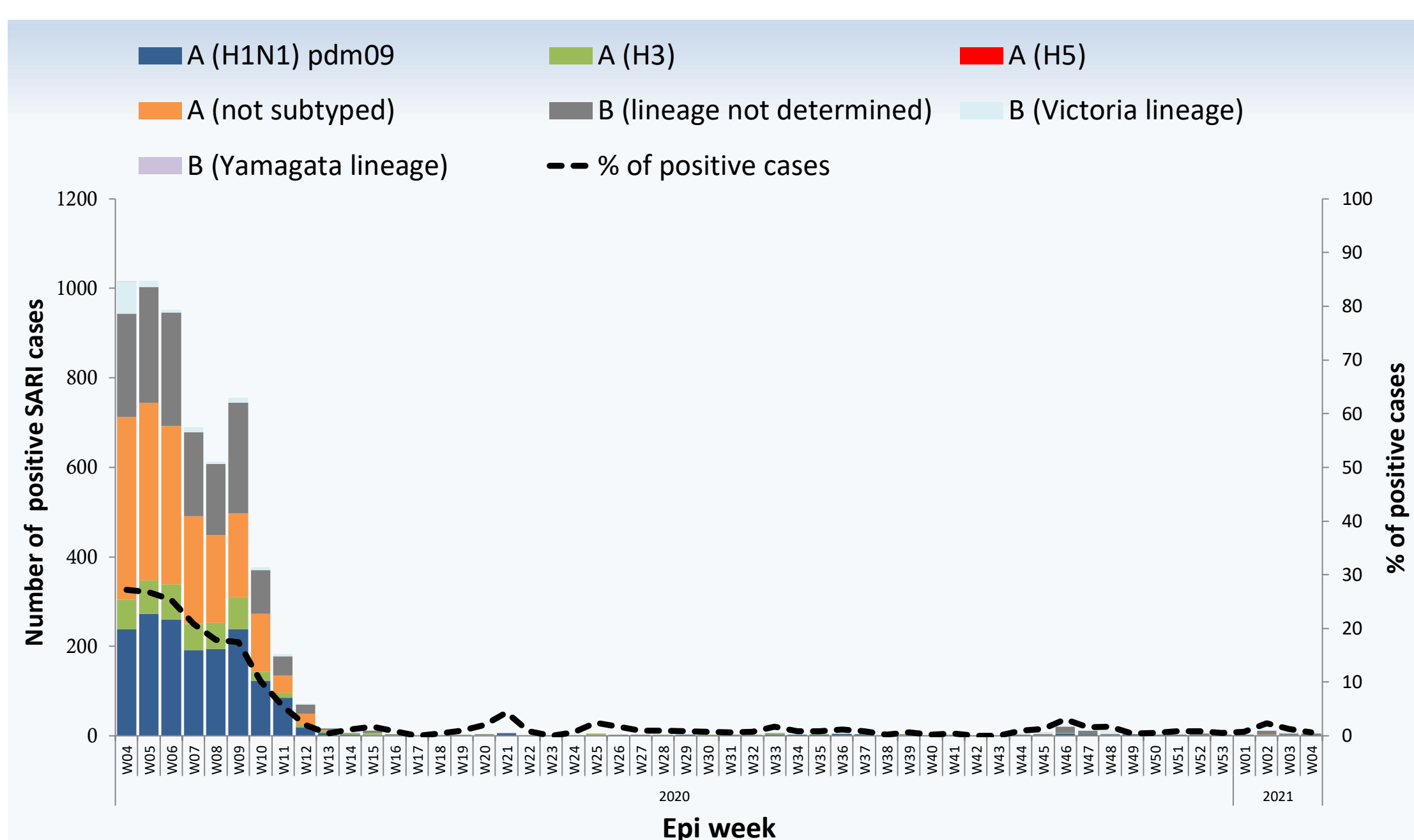
▪Of the viruses tested, 28 (91%) were influenza B viruses including 21 (68%) of lineage not determined and 7 (23%) of the Victoria lineage. On the other hand, 3 (9%) were influenza A viruses, including 2 (6%) of subtype A(H3) and one case (3%) was not subtyped.

Source of data: FluNet and EMFLU

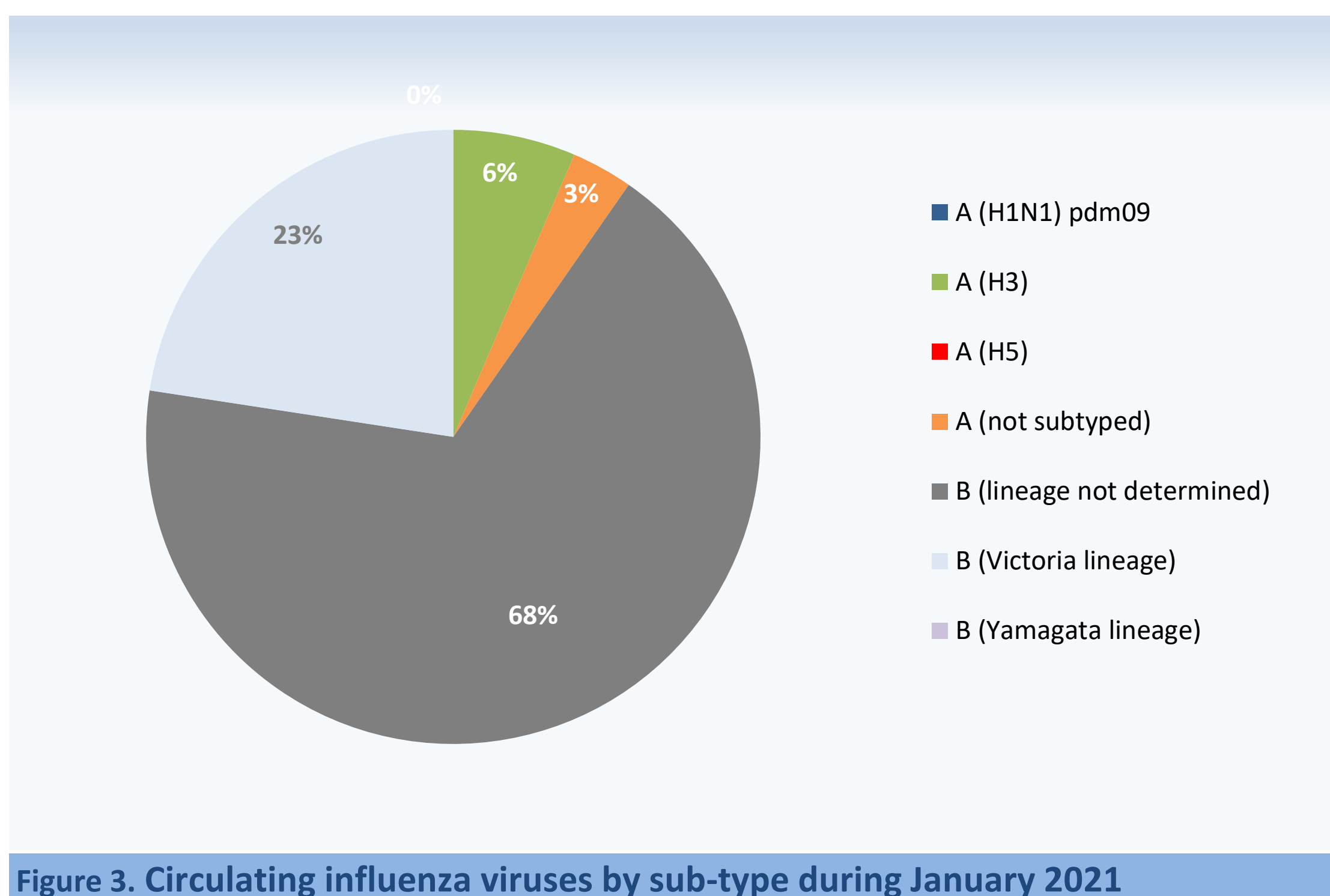


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**Figure 1. Influenza geographic spread during January 2021**



**Figure 2. Weekly positive cases of influenza by subtype, weeks 04/2020–2021**



**Figure 3. Circulating influenza viruses by sub-type during January 2021**