

Influenza monthly update

In February 2021, 14 countries reported data to FluNet and EMFLU, namely Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates.

The proportion of tested cases for influenza in the Region was 74.9% out of 3655 enrolled cases. 0.8% of cases tested positive and 99.2% negative.

Influenza activity by sub-type

- In the northern Africa influenza transmission zone, Morocco, Sudan 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, while the influenza A(H3) virus was the only subtype detected in United Arab Emirates. Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar and Syria Arab Republic reported no activity.
- In the southern Asia transmission zone, influenza B virus (lineage not determined) was the predominant subtype detected in Afghanistan, while Islamic Republic of Iran reported no activity.

Source of transmission zones:

http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/transmission_zones/en/

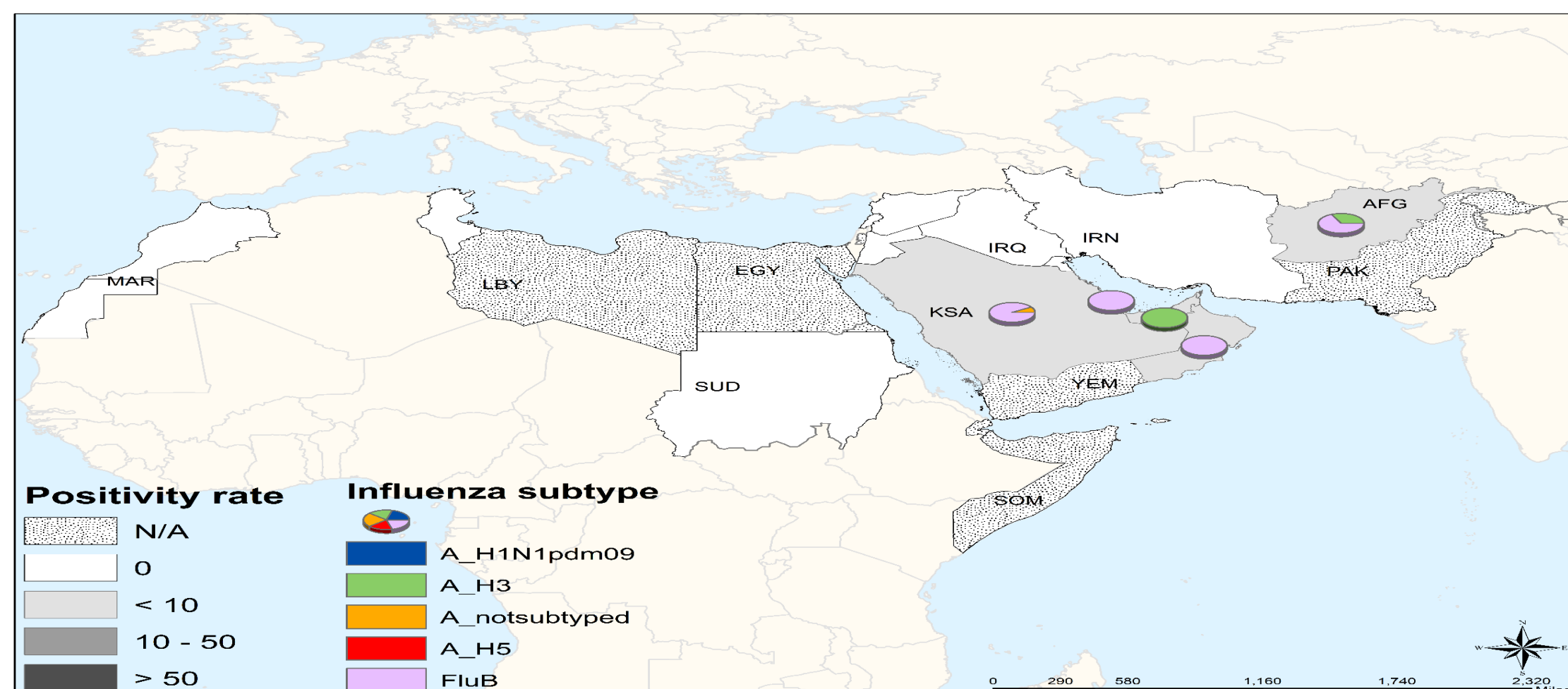
Circulating influenza viruses by sub-type

▪ During February 2021, national influenza centres and influenza laboratories in the Region tested a total of 2737 specimens for influenza viruses, of which 21 tested positive (0.8%).

▪ The average percentage of positive rates was 0.8% with the highest positive rates recorded in Saudi Arabia.

▪ Of the viruses tested, 17 (81%) were influenza B viruses including 15 (71%) of lineage not determined and 2 (10%) of the Victoria lineage. On the other hand, 4 (19%) were influenza A viruses, including 3 (14%) of subtype A(H3) and one case (5%) was not subtyped.

Source of data: FluNet and EMFLU



Disclaimer: The representation of material on the maps contained herein does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authority of frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represents approximate border lines for which there may not be full agreement.

Figure 1. Influenza geographic spread during February 2021

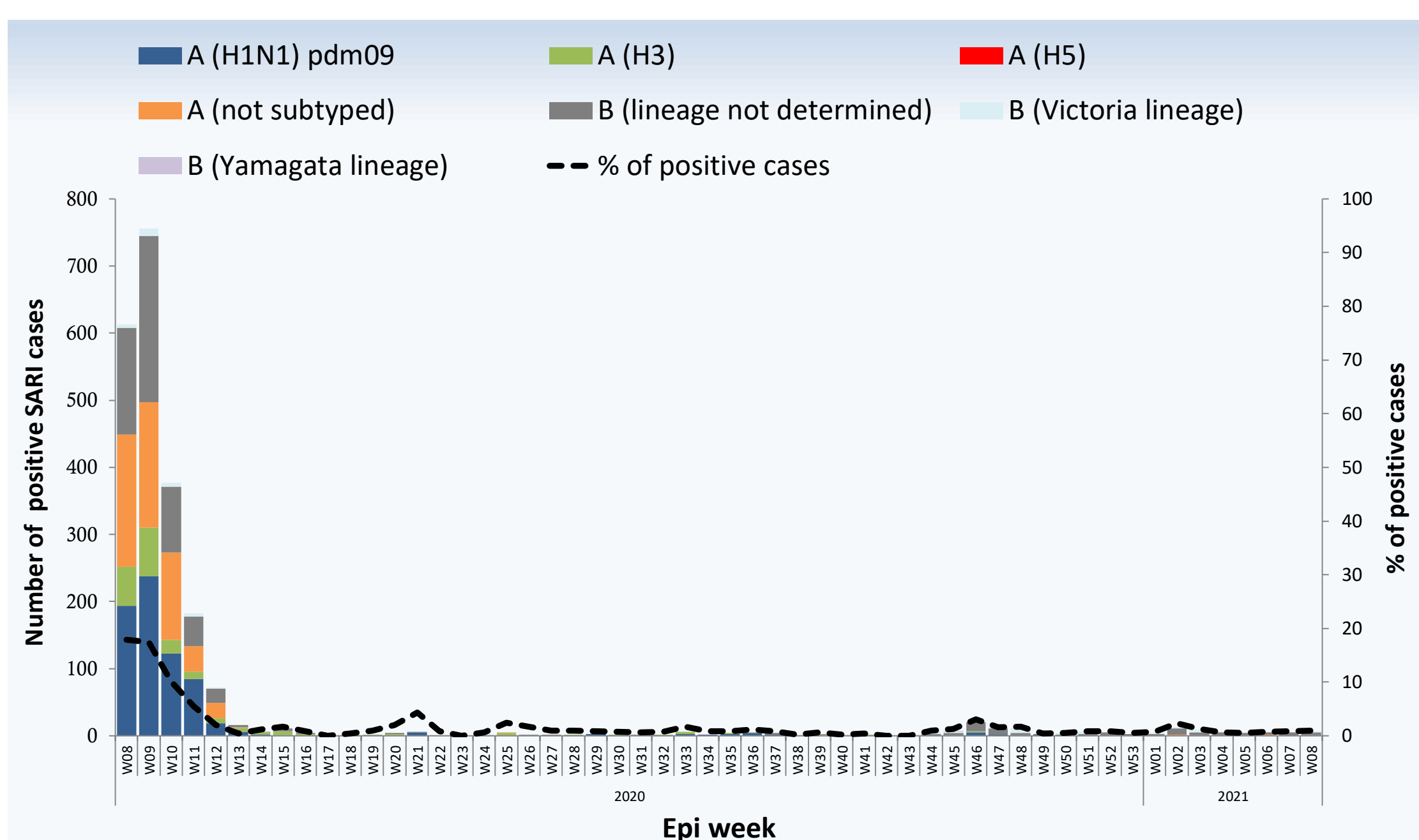


Figure 2. Weekly positive cases of influenza by subtype, weeks 08/2020–2021

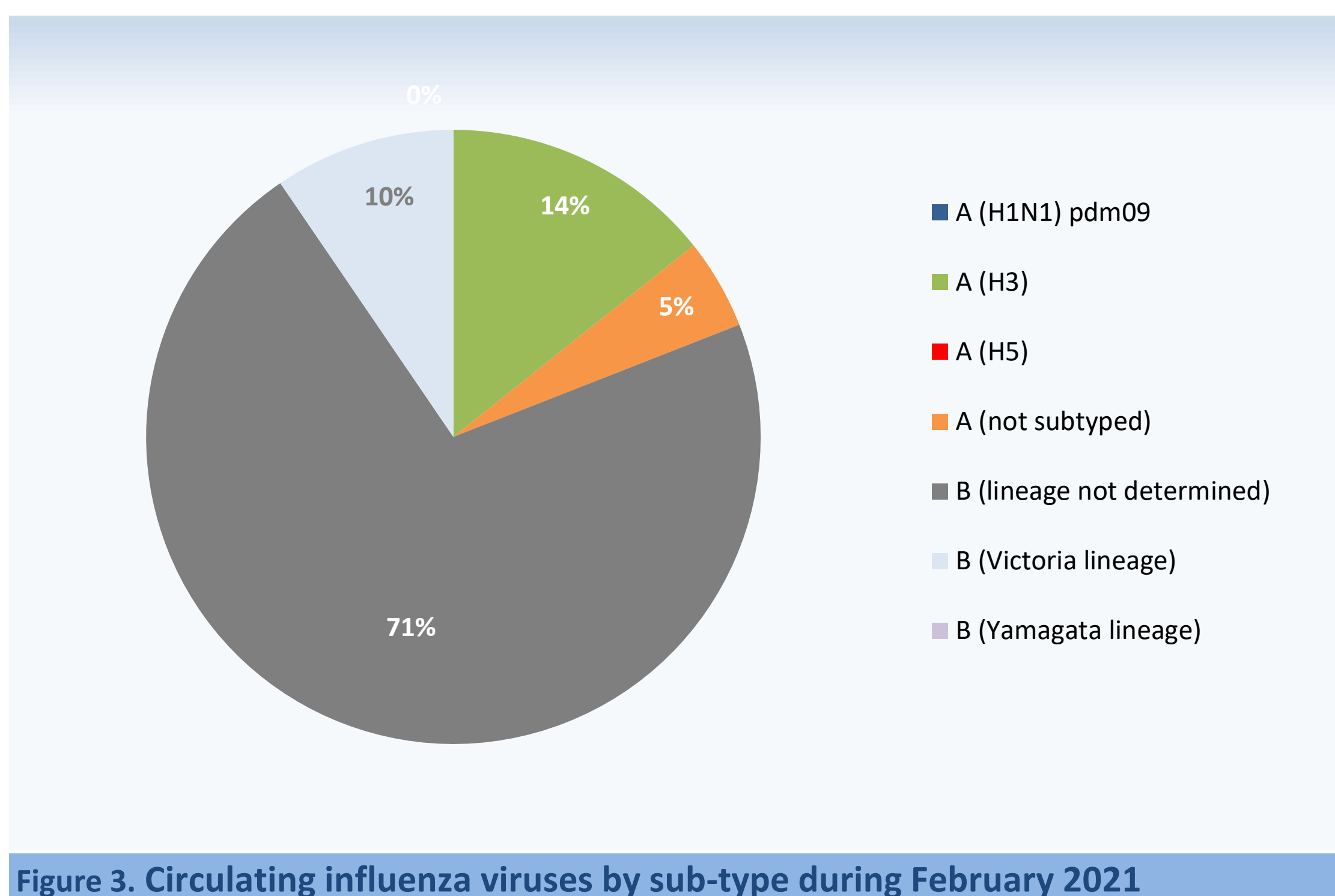


Figure 3. Circulating influenza viruses by sub-type during February 2021