

# Influenza monthly update

In July 2021 (weeks 26-30), 12 countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) reported data to FluNet and EMFLU, namely Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates.

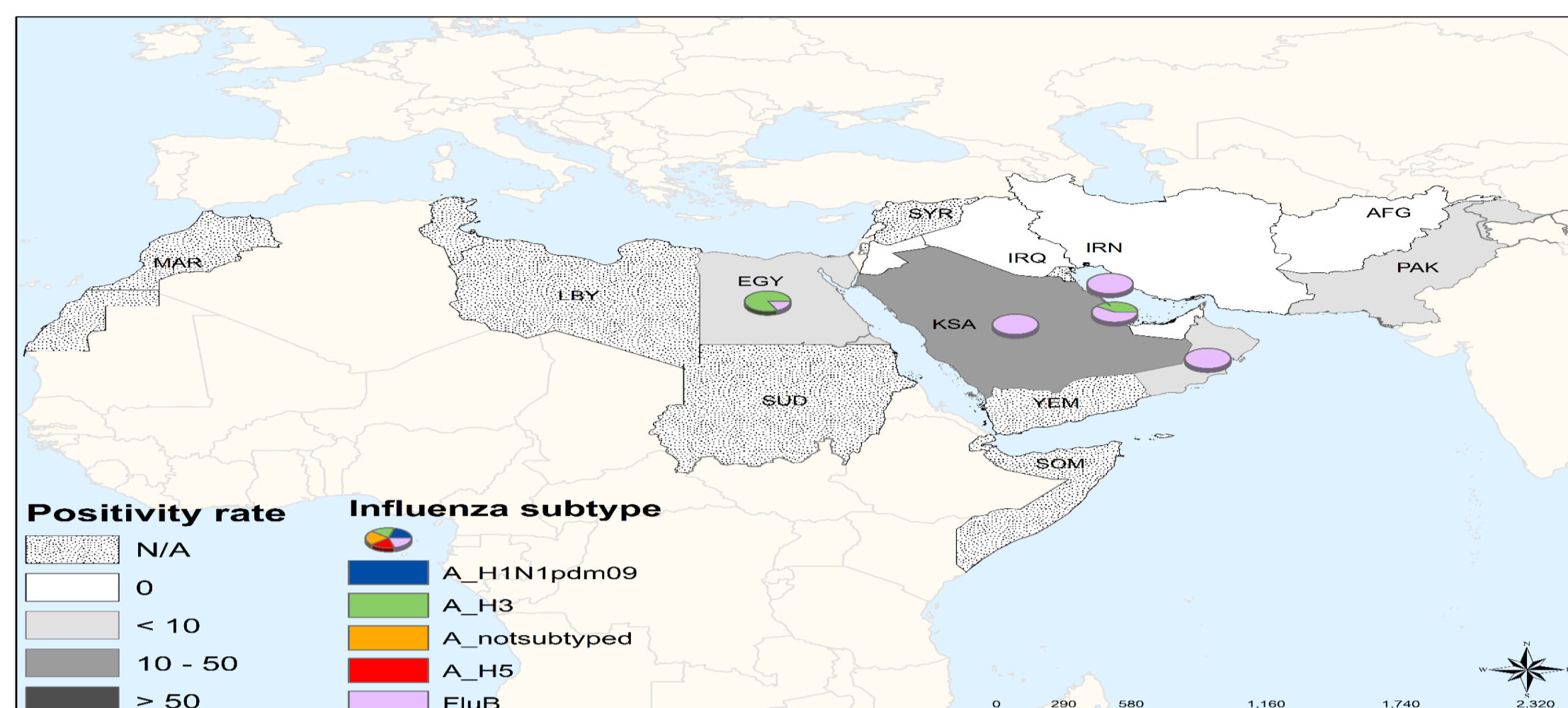
Out of the 2351 enrolled cases in the Region during July 2021, 1896 specimens were tested for influenza, of which only 85 specimens tested positive.

## Influenza activity by subtype

- In the northern Africa influenza transmission zone, influenza A(H3) virus was detected predominantly in Egypt.
- In the western Asia influenza transmission zone, influenza B virus (lineage not determined) was the only detected influenza virus in Oman and Saudi Arabia. In Qatar, both influenza A(H3) and influenza B (lineage not determined) circulated with predominant presence to influenza B (58%). Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and United Arab Emirates reported no influenza activity.
- In the southern Asia transmission zone, influenza B virus (lineage not determined) was detected predominantly in Pakistan (67%), while Afghanistan and Islamic Republic of Iran reported no influenza activity.

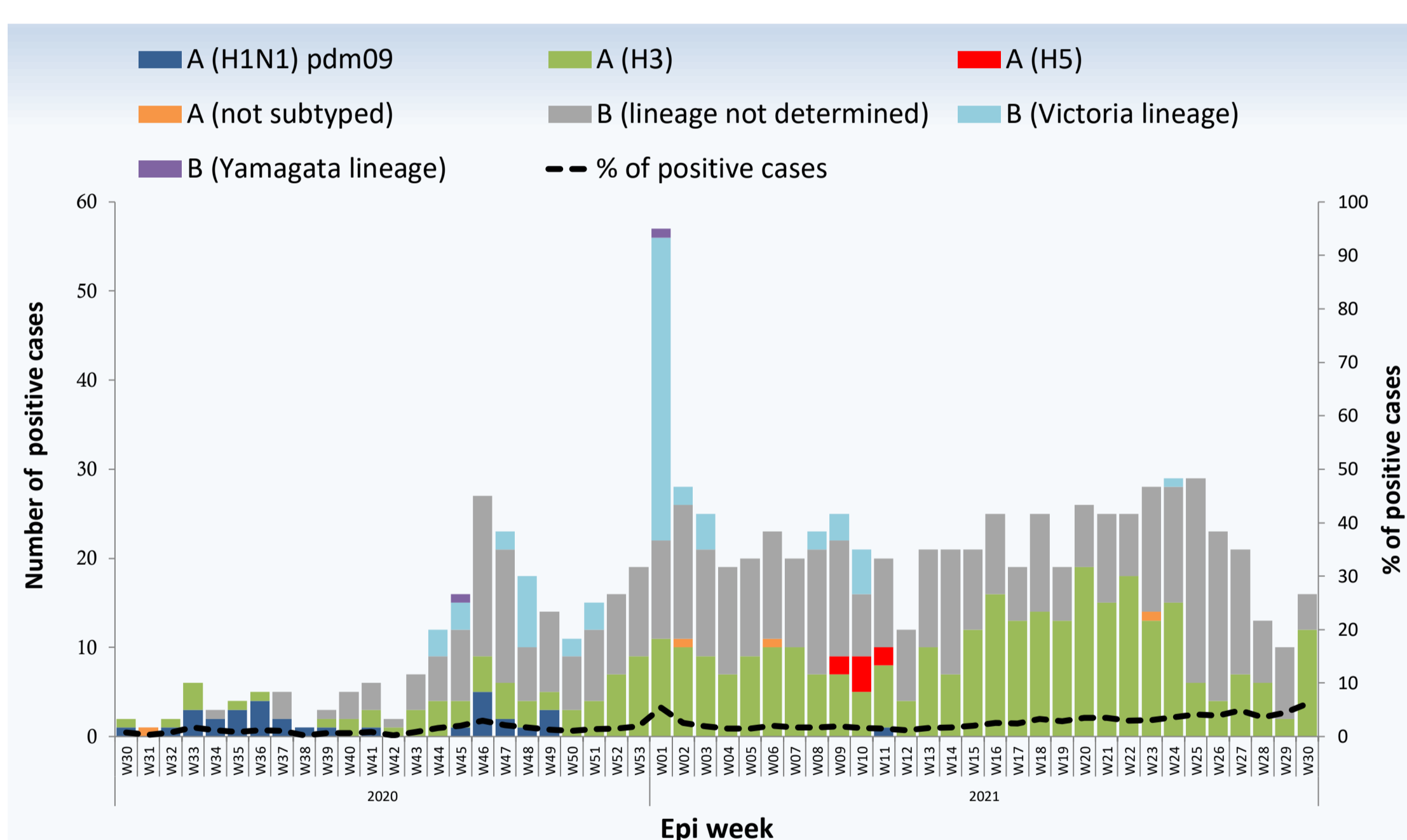
## Circulating influenza viruses by subtype

- During July 2021, national influenza centres and influenza laboratories in the Region tested 81% of the total enrolled cases. The Region's influenza positivity reached 4.5% with Saudi Arabia recording the highest influenza positivity in the Region (29%).
- Genetic and antigenic testing: Out of the 85 subtyped specimens, 54 specimens (63%) were influenza type B (lineage not determined) and 31 specimens (37%) were influenza type A (subtype A(H3)).

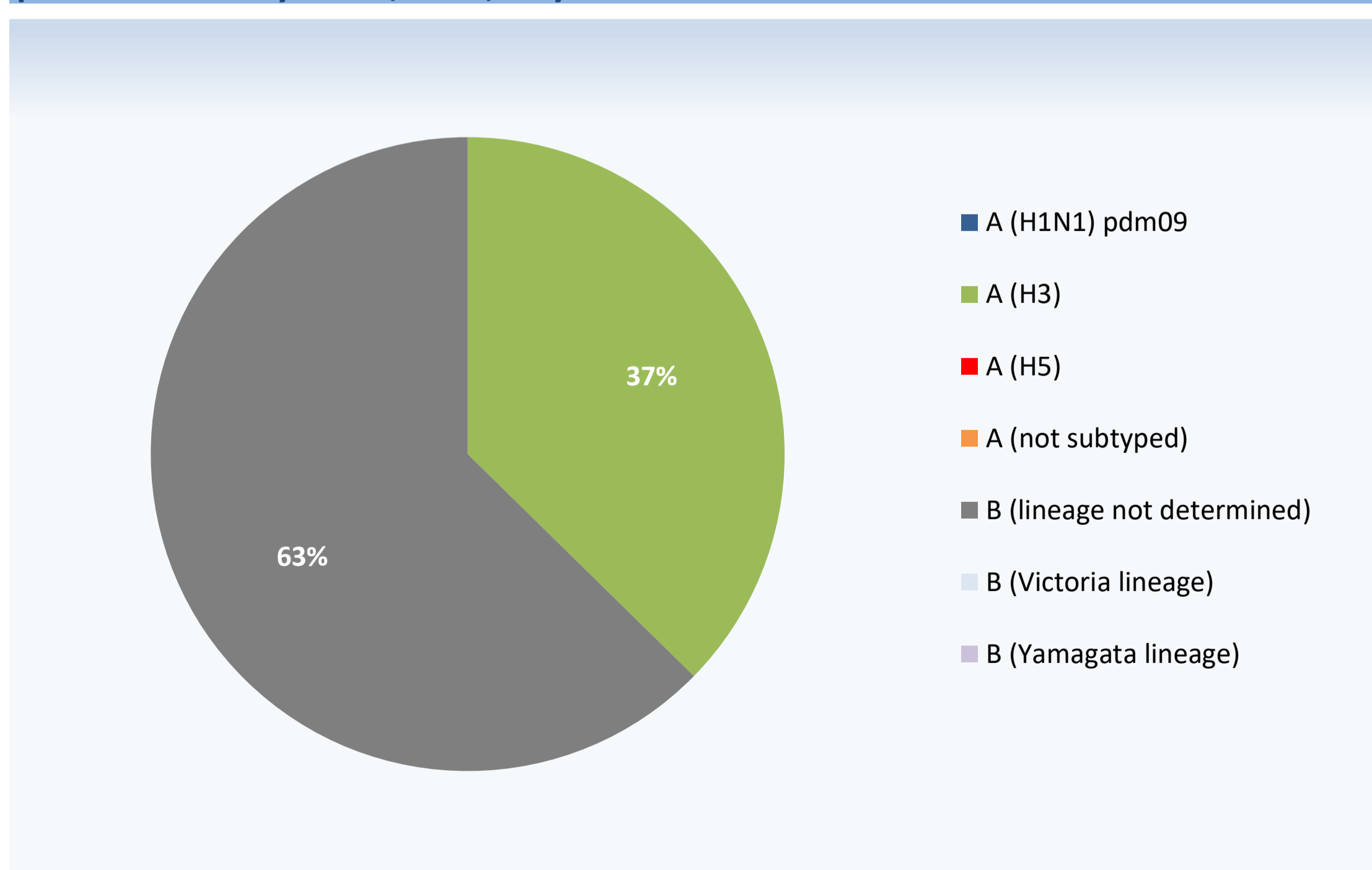


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**Figure 1. Influenza geographic distribution/circulation, EMR, July 2021**



**Figure 2. Number of positive influenza cases by subtyped viruses and percentage of positive cases by week, EMR, July 2021**



**Figure 3. Subtyped influenza viruses, EMR, July 2021**

Source of data: FluNet and EMFLU

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