

Influenza monthly update

In October 2021 (weeks 40–43), 14 countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) reported data to FluNet and EMFLU, namely Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates.

Out of the 5672 enrolled cases in the Region during this month, 5495 specimens were tested for influenza, of which only 222 specimens tested positive.

Influenza activity by subtype

- In the northern Africa influenza transmission zone, there has been no influenza activity detected in both Egypt and Tunisia.
- In the western Asia influenza transmission zone, influenza A(H3) was the only detected influenza virus in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. In Oman and Qatar, both influenza A and B types have been detected with predominant presence of the influenza A(H3) subtype. Saudi Arabia has detected only three un-subtyped influenza A viruses. For United Arab Emirates, only influenza A type has been detected, mainly A(H3) and A (H1N1) pdm09 subtypes. Bahrain and Iraq reported no influenza activity during October.
- In the southern Asia transmission zone, influenza A(H3) virus was the dominant detected subtype in Iran and the only detected subtype in Pakistan. In Afghanistan, however, there has been no influenza activity detected.

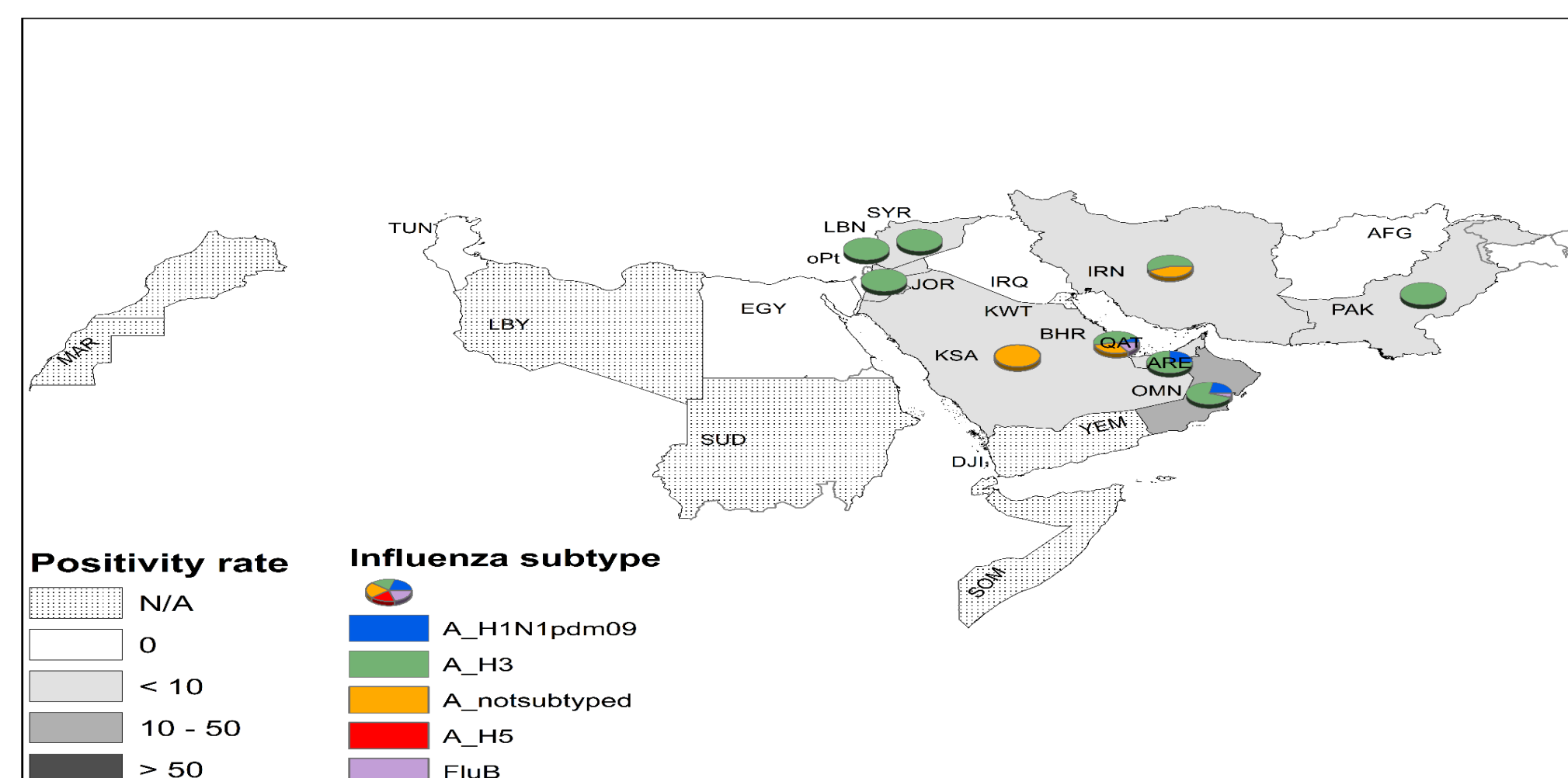
Circulating influenza viruses by subtype

- During October 2021, national influenza centres and influenza laboratories in the Region tested 96.6% of the total enrolled cases. The Region's influenza positivity reached 4% with Saudi Arabia recording the highest influenza positivity in the Region (7.9%).
- Genetic and antigenic testing: Out of the 222 subtyped specimens, 140 specimens (63%) were influenza A(H3), 45 specimens (20%) were influenza A (not subtyped), 15 specimens (7%) were influenza B (lineage not determined), and 20 specimens were influenza A (H1N1) pdm09.

Source of data: FluNet and EMFLU

© World Health Organization 2021.

Some rights reserved. This work is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-Share Alike 3.0 IGO license (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO); <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/igo>.



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 distribution/circulation, EMR, October 2021

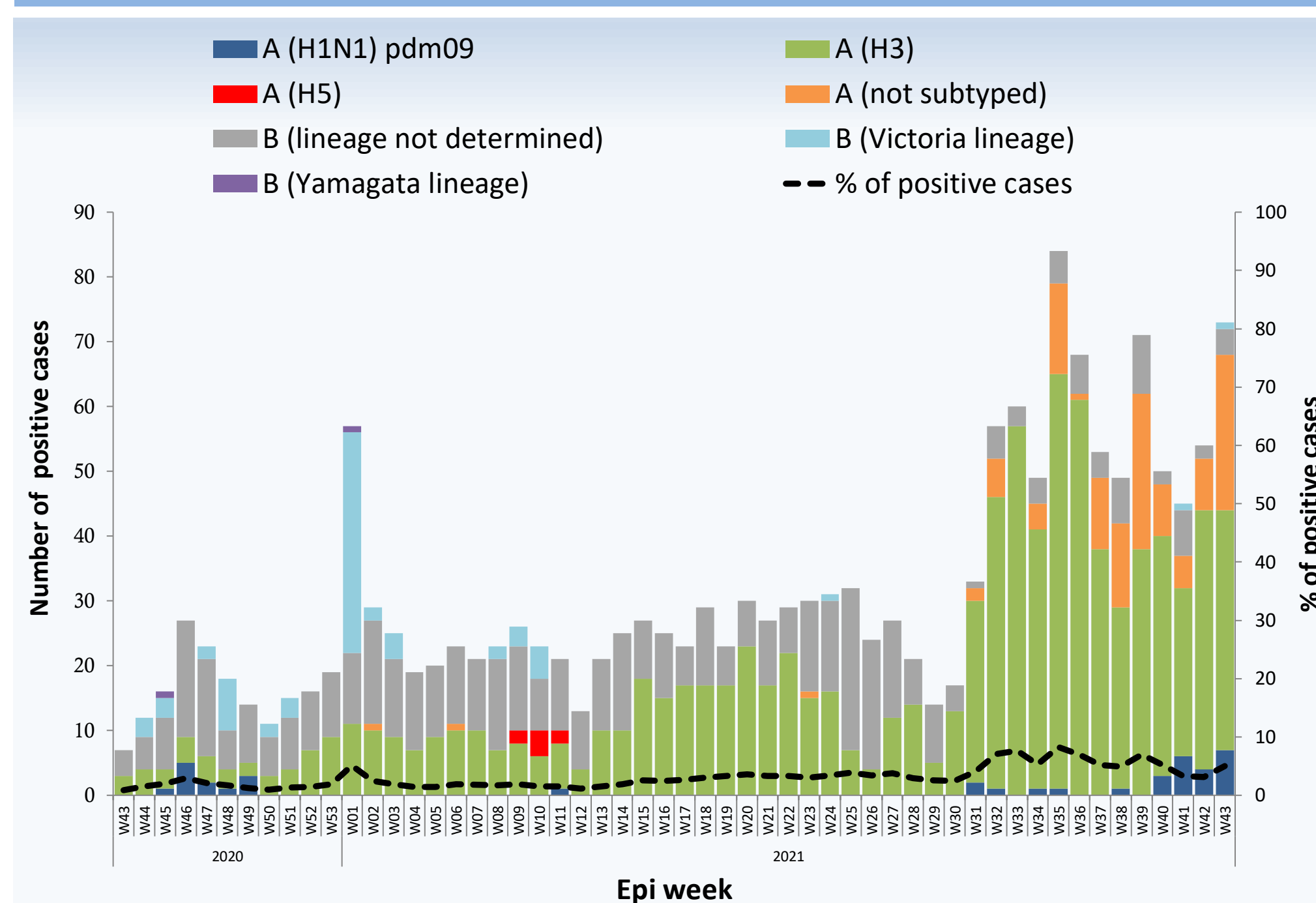


Figure 2. Number of positive influenza cases by subtyped viruses and percentage of positive cases by week, EMR, October 2021

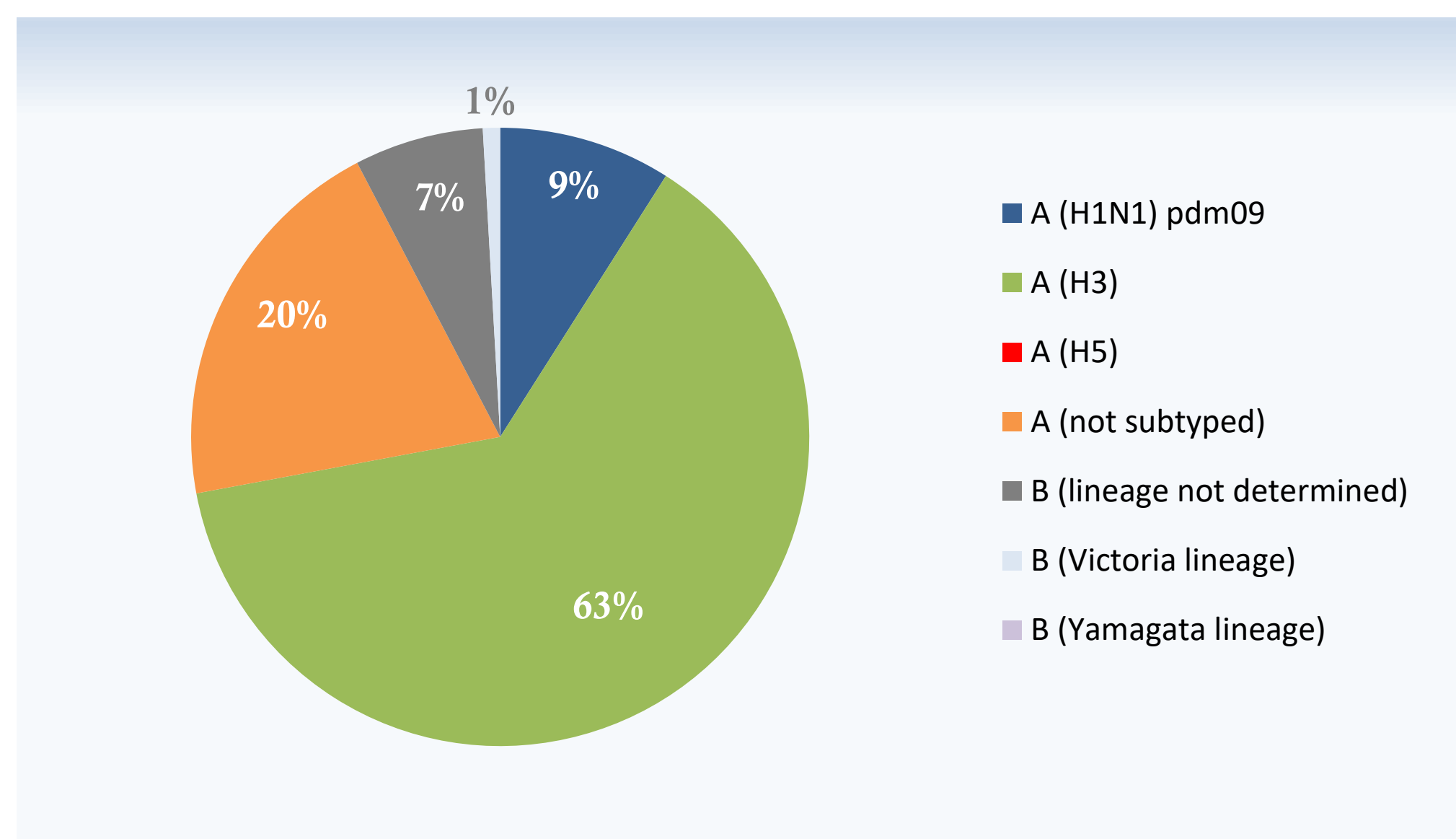


Figure 3. Subtyped influenza viruses, EMR, October 2021