

NGS-SA SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing Update

5 August 2021

Network for Genomic Surveillance South Africa (NGS-SA)



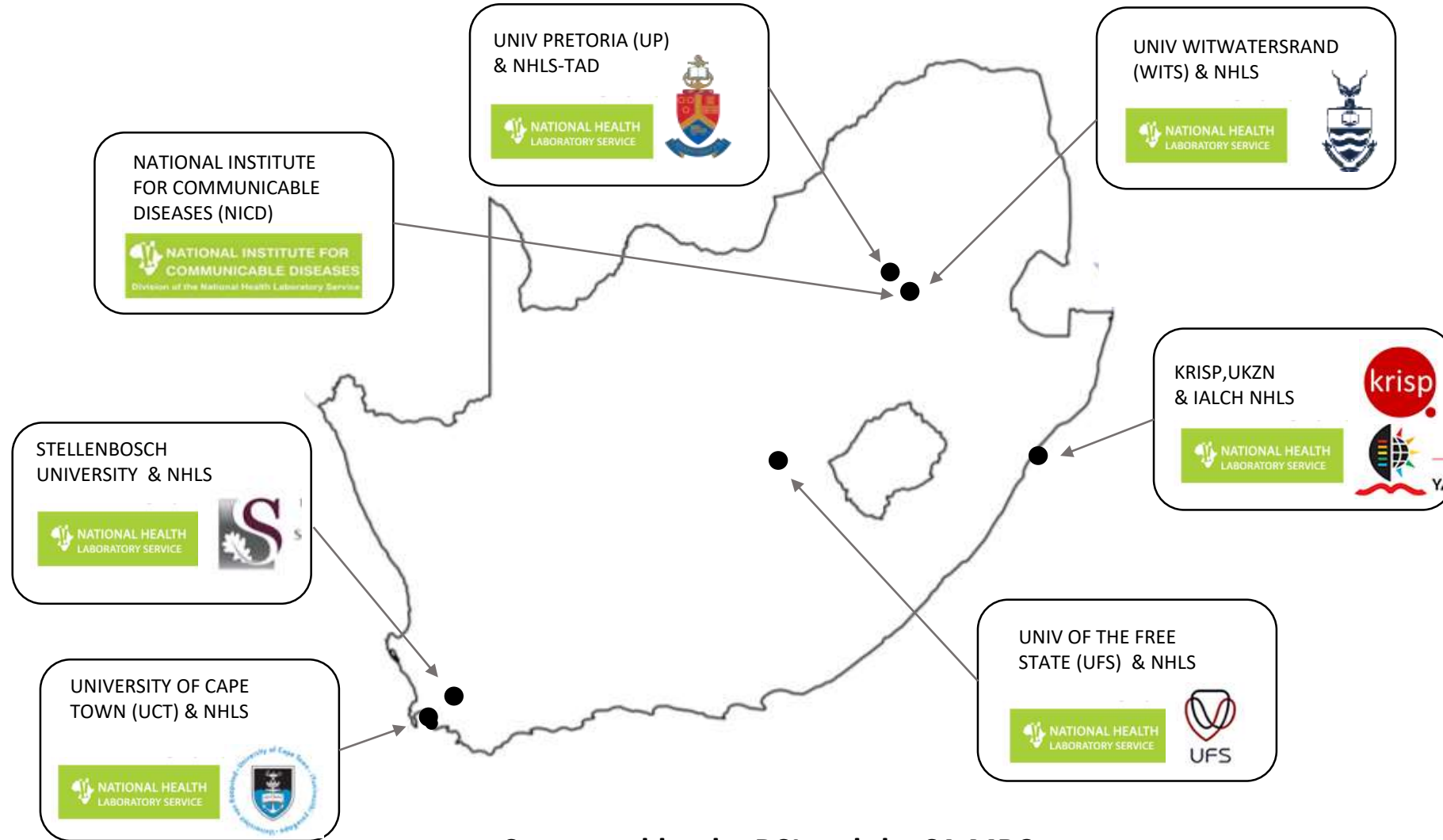
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Network for Genomic Surveillance in South Africa (NGS-SA)



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 5 August at 09h09



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

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 B.1.351.2 B.1.351.3	GH/501Y.V2	20H (V2)	+S:L18F	South Africa, May-2020	18-Dec-2020
Gamma	P.1 P.1.1 P.1.2	GR/501Y.V3	20J (V3)	+S:681H	Brazil, Nov-2020	11-Jan-2021
Delta	B.1.617.2 AY.1 AY.2	G/478K.V1	21A	+S:417N	India, Oct-2020	VOI: 4-Apr-2021 VOC: 11-May-2021

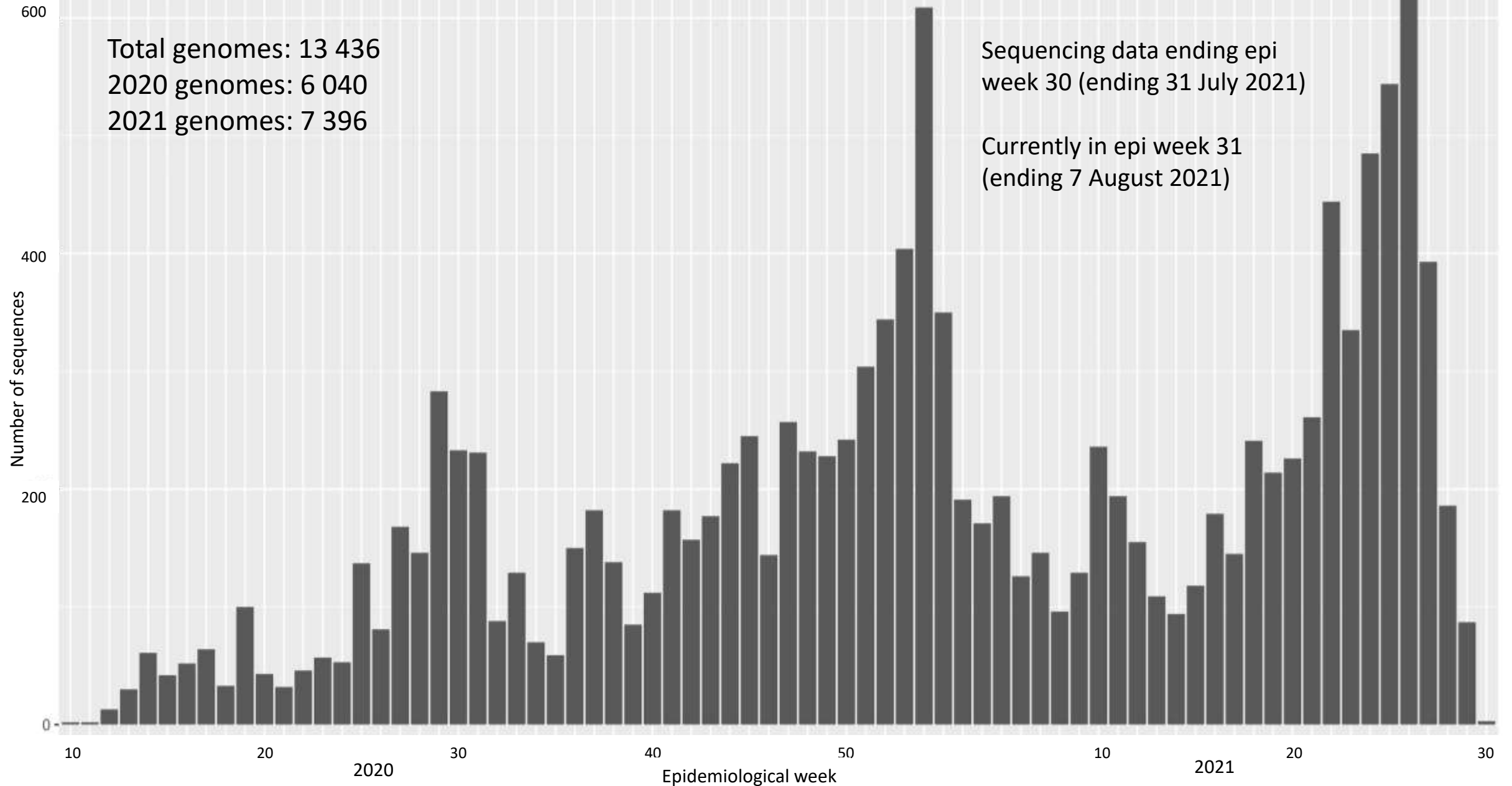
<https://www.who.int/en/activities/tracking-SARS-CoV-2-variants/> accessed 5 August 2021

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

Currently designated Variants of Interest (VOI)

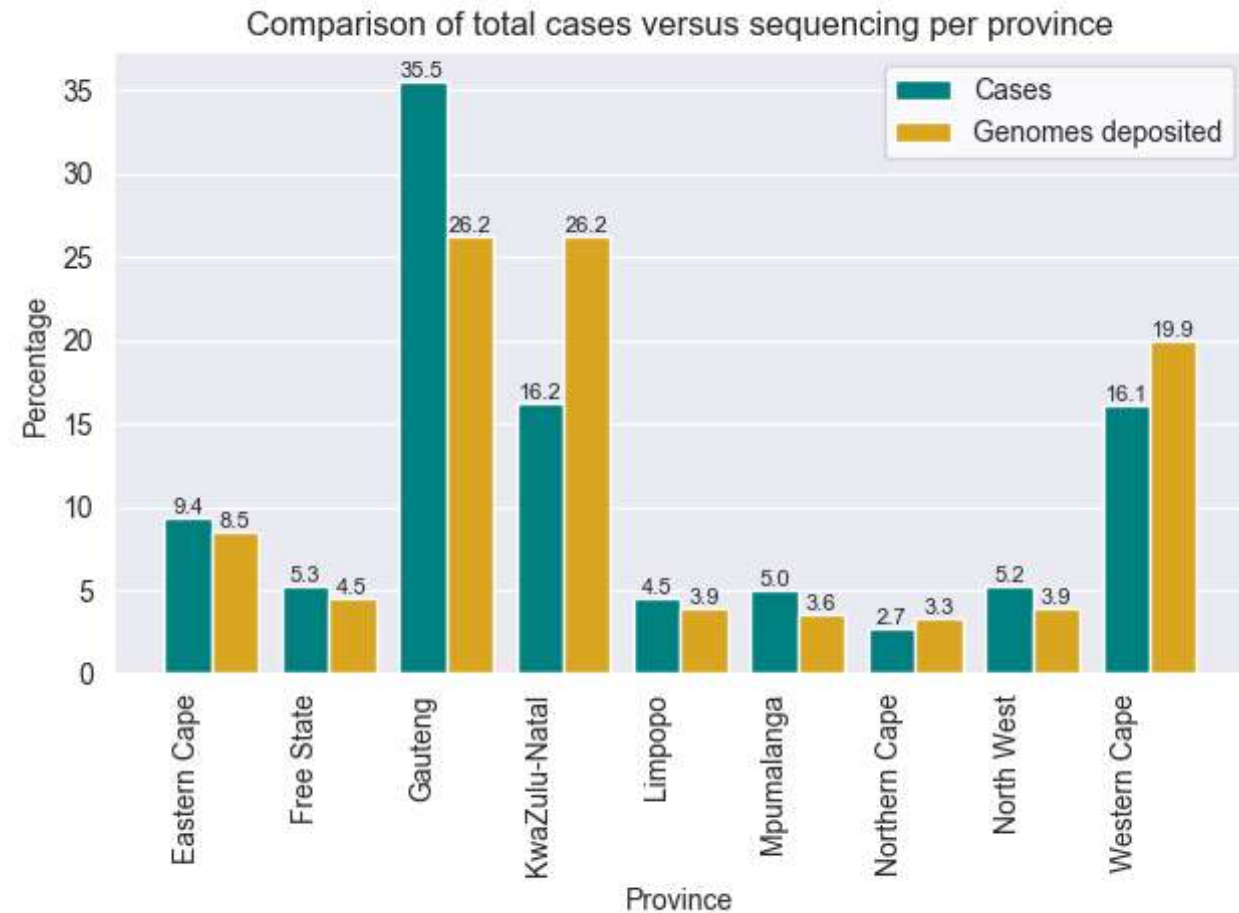
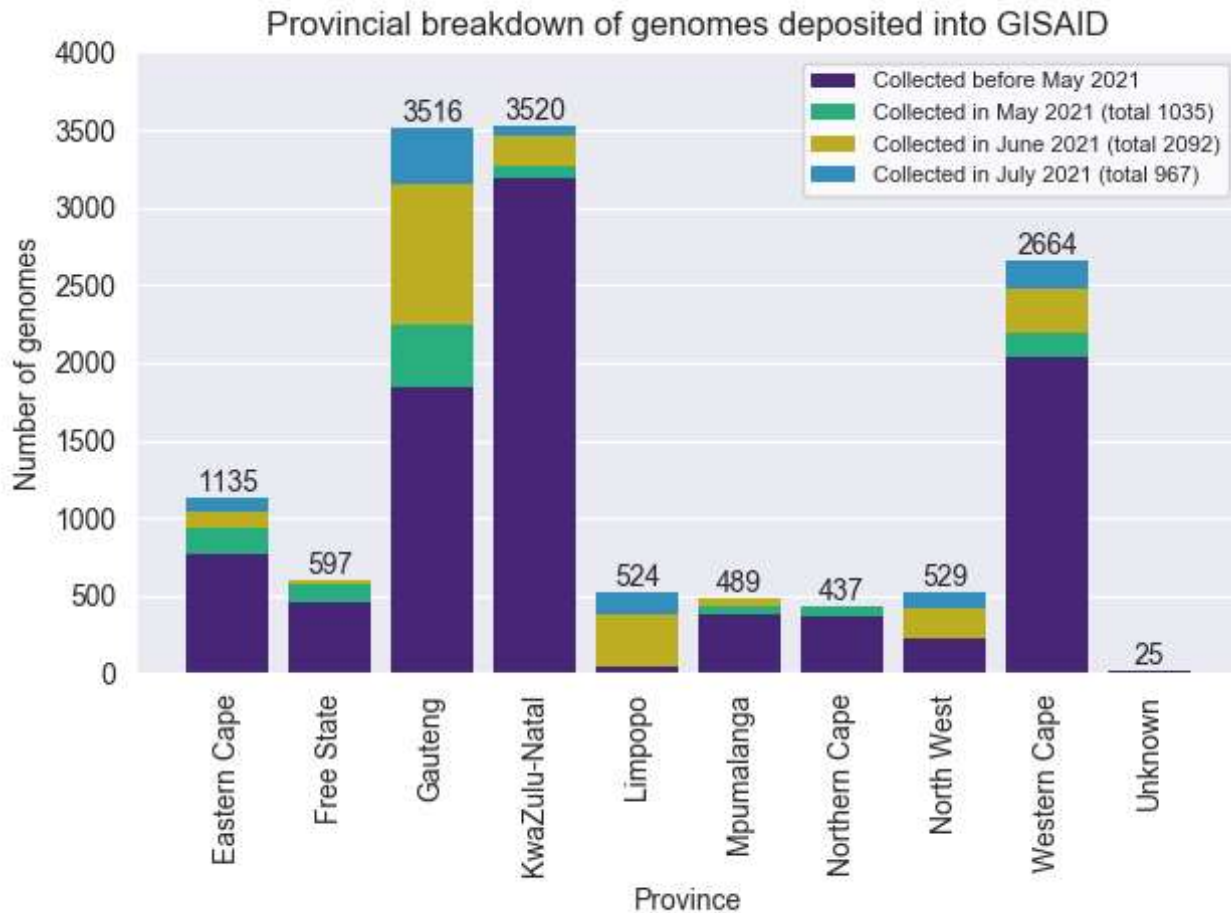
WHO label	Pango lineages	GISAID clade	Nextstrain clade	Earliest documented samples	Date of designation
Eta	B.1.525	G/484K.V3	21D	Multiple countries, Dec-2020	17-Mar-2021
Iota	B.1.526	GH/253G.V1	21F	United States of America, Nov-2020	24-Mar-2021
Kappa	B.1.617.1	G/452R.V3	21B	India, Oct-2020	4-Apr-2021
Lambda	C.37	GR/452Q.V1	21G	Peru, Dec-2020	14-Jun-2021

Number of South African genomes deposited on GISAID, by specimen collection week, 2020 and 2021 (N=13 436*, downloaded 5 August)



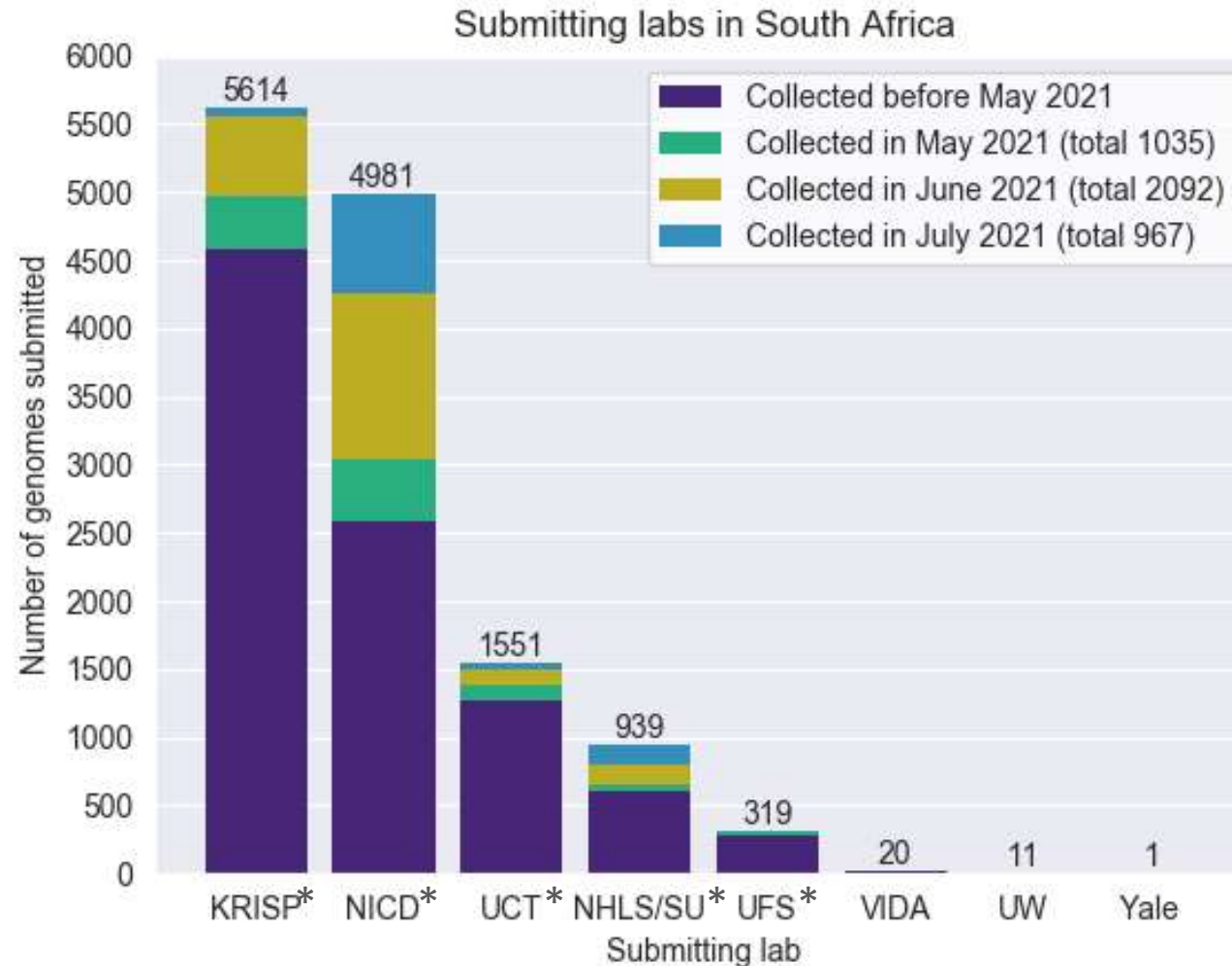
*This represents the cleaned, de-duplicated dataset of unique sequences. This dataset will be used for all further figures.

GISAID genomes vs total cases, 2020 and 2021 (N=13 436)



All provinces, apart from GP, WC and KZN, have a similar percentage of overall cases as overall sequenced genomes.

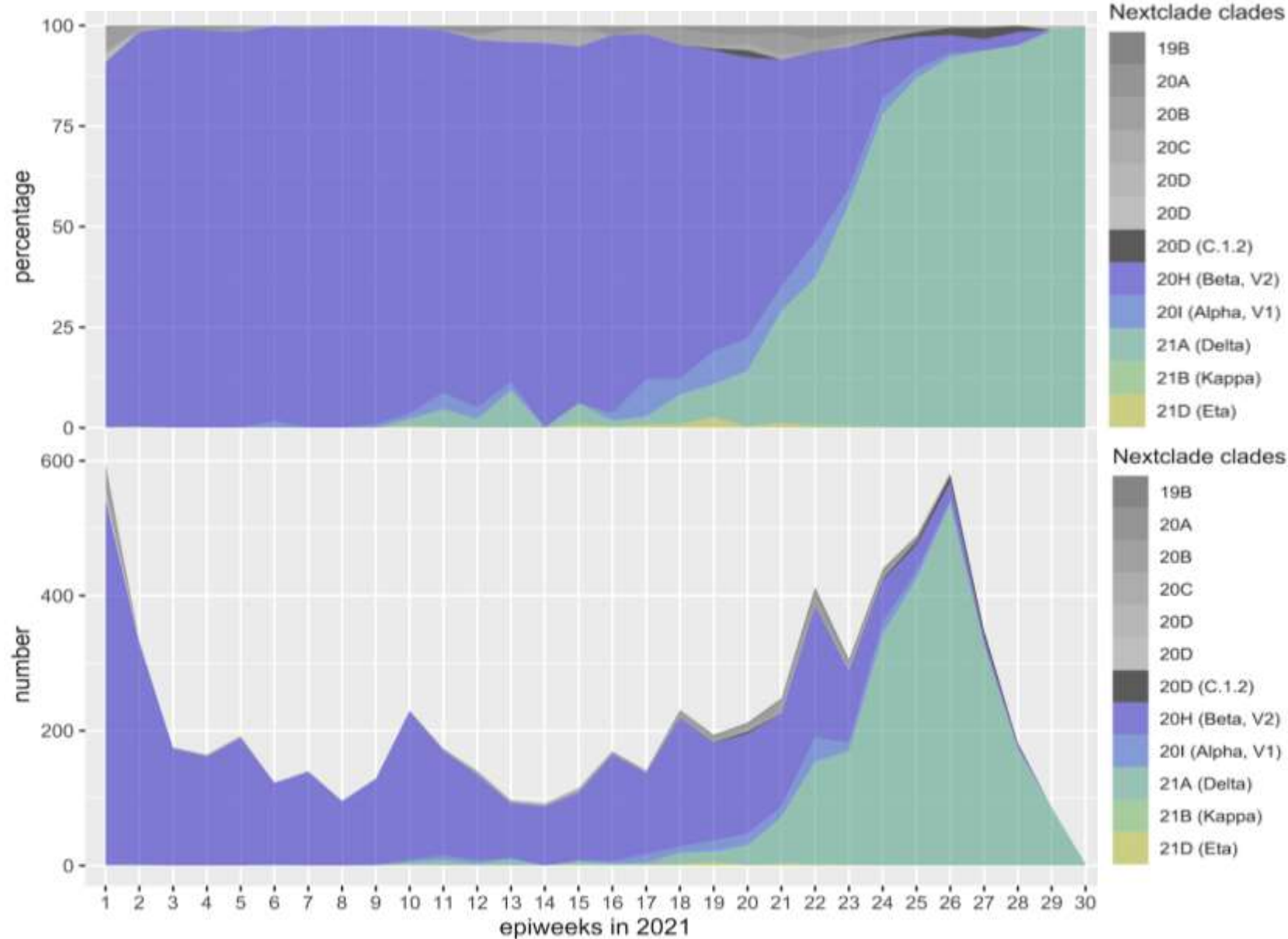
South African genomes submitted per sequencing lab, 2020 and 2021 (N=13 436)



*NGS-SA laboratories

Multiple labs from NGS-SA are contributing to the sequencing effort.
Sequencing efforts have increased with the third wave.

Distribution and number of clades in South Africa, 2021 (N=7 396)



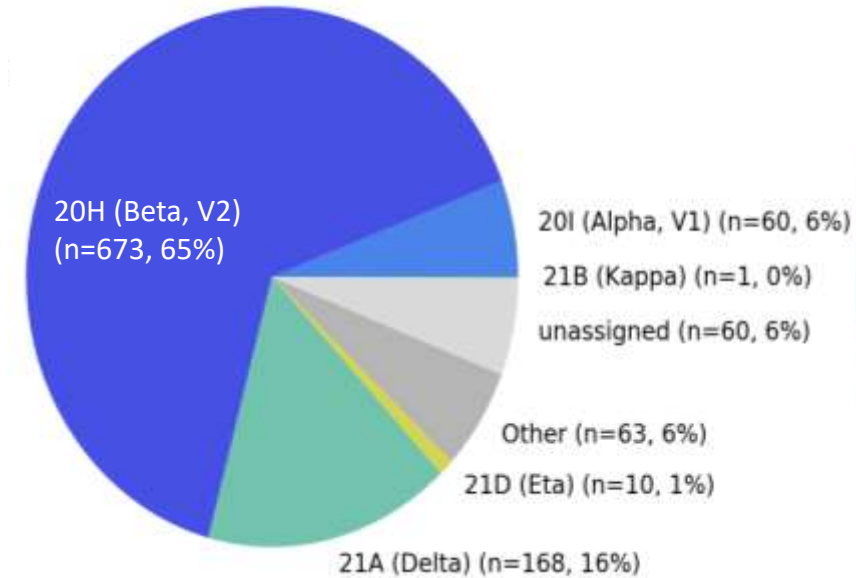
Sequencing data ending
epi week 30 (ending 31
July 2021)

Currently in epi week 31
(ending 7 August 2021)

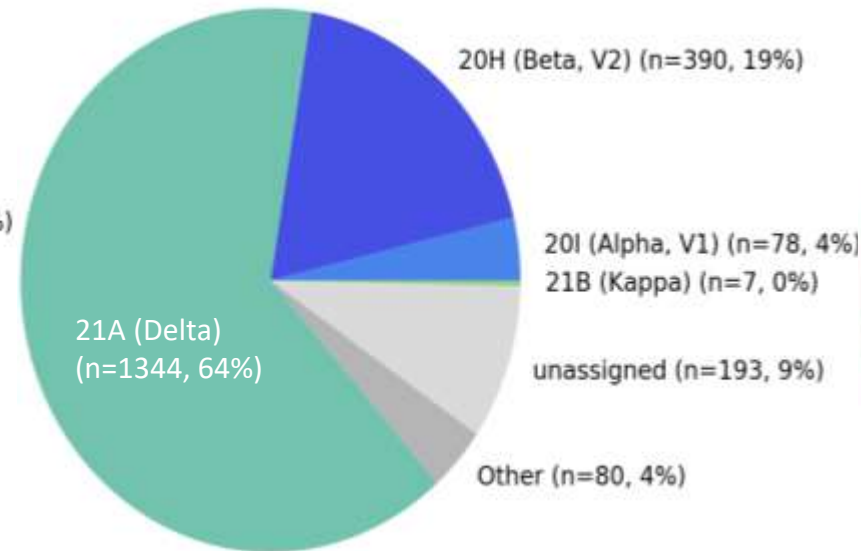
Alpha, Delta and Eta variant frequency increasing as of the beginning of May (epi-week 18, 2 May). Delta becoming dominant by end of June (341/438, 78% in week 24; 424/486, 87% in week 25; 532/578, 92% in week 26; 328/350, 94% in week 27; 173/182, 95% in week 28 – excludes unassigned sequences)

Prevalence of Variants of Concern (VOC) and Variants of Interest (VOI) in **May, June and July 2021** sequences, South Africa

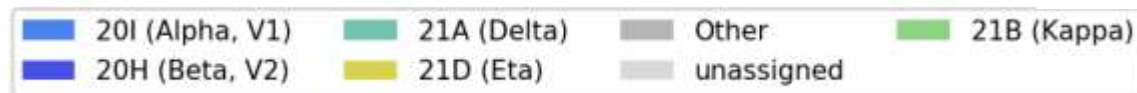
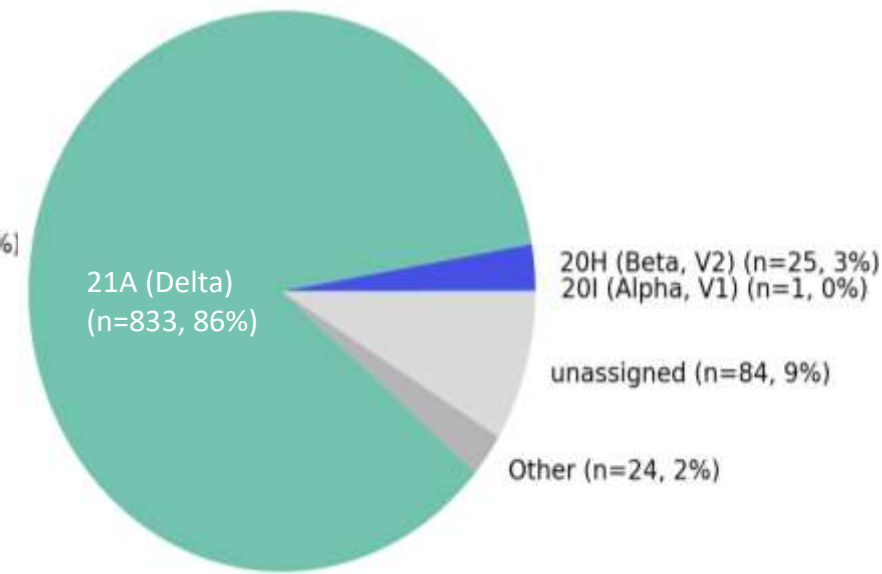
May (N = 1035)



June (N = 2092)

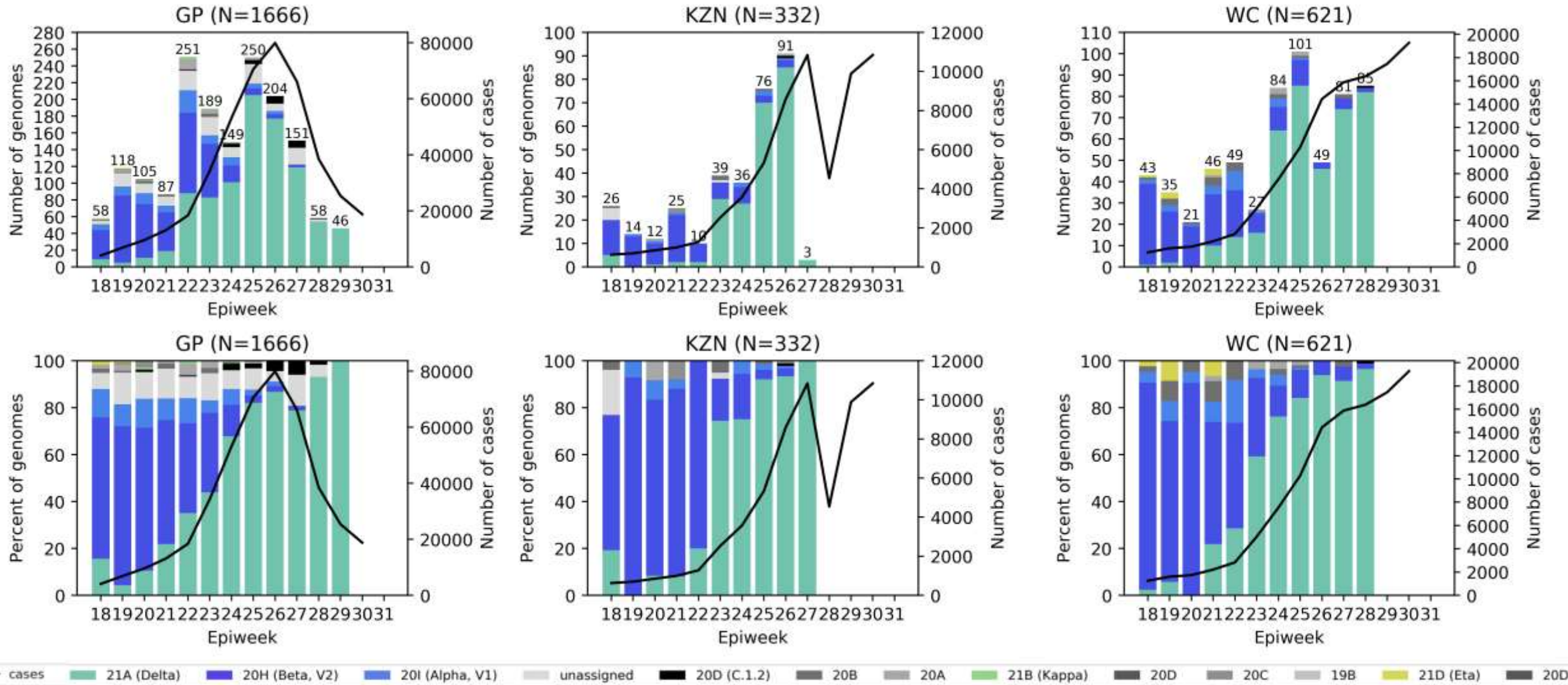


July (N = 967)



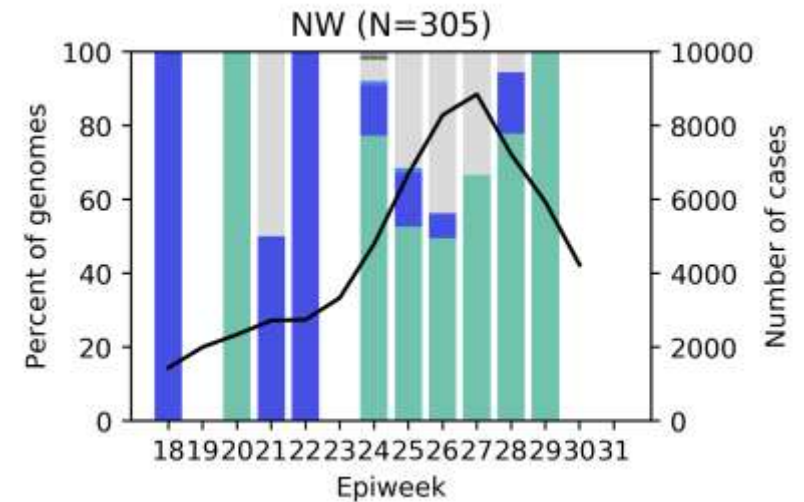
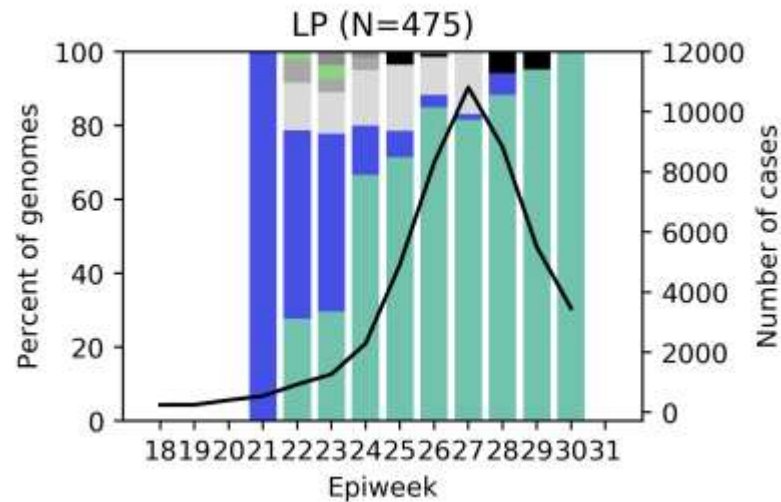
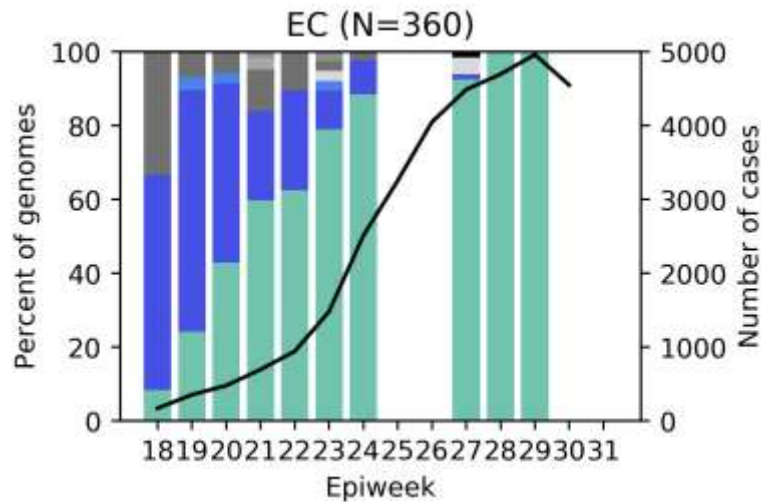
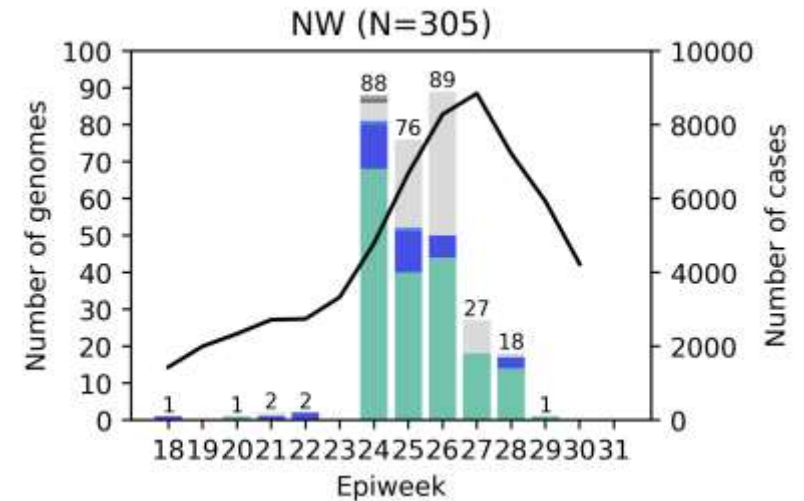
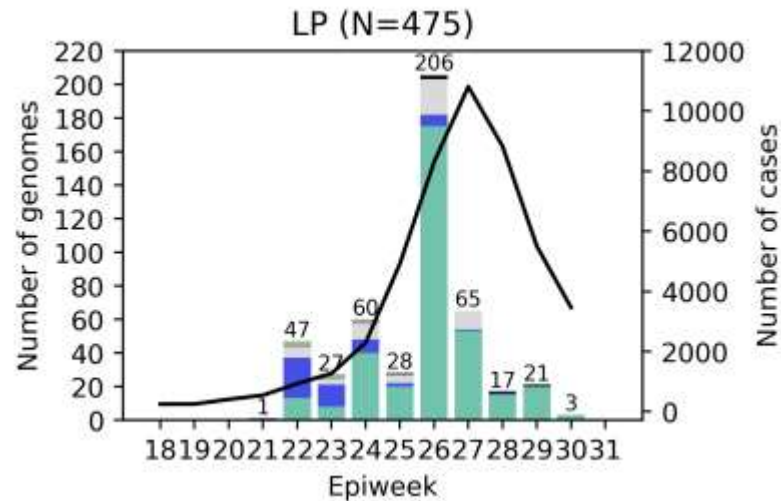
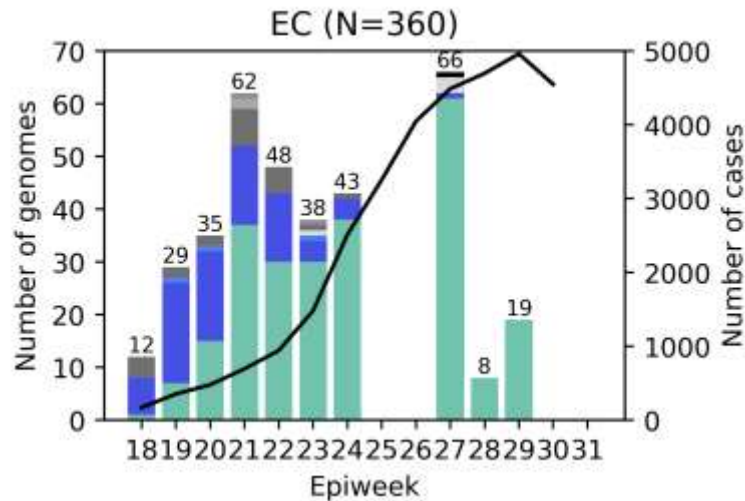
Beta variant dominated in May, while the Delta variant dominated in June and July in South Africa

Genomes sequenced from specimens collected in May – July 2021 (epiweeks 18 – 31) from KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, Western Cape Provinces



Beta dominates in all provinces in May, however following its detection in week 18, Delta rapidly begins to dominate in all three provinces by mid-June

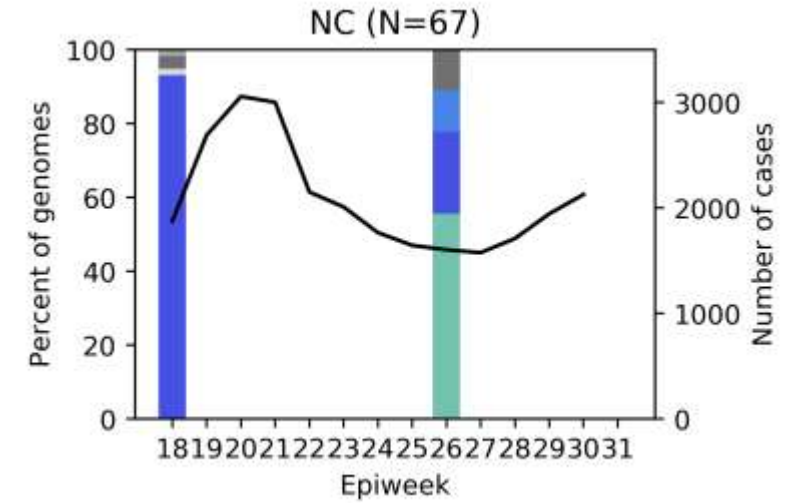
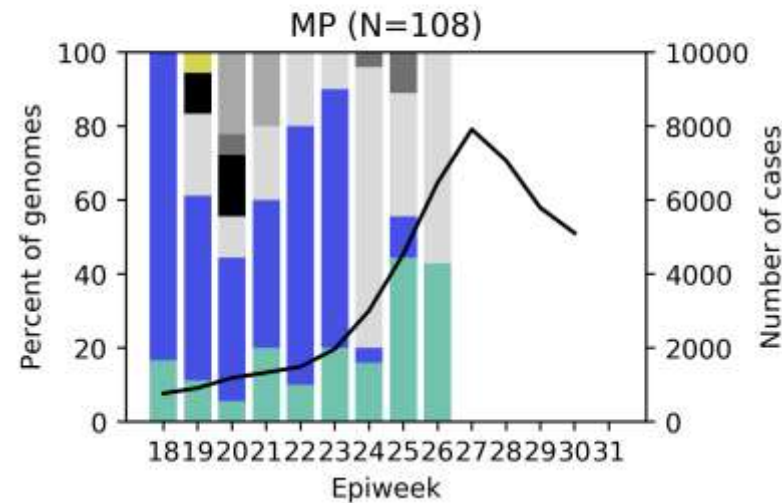
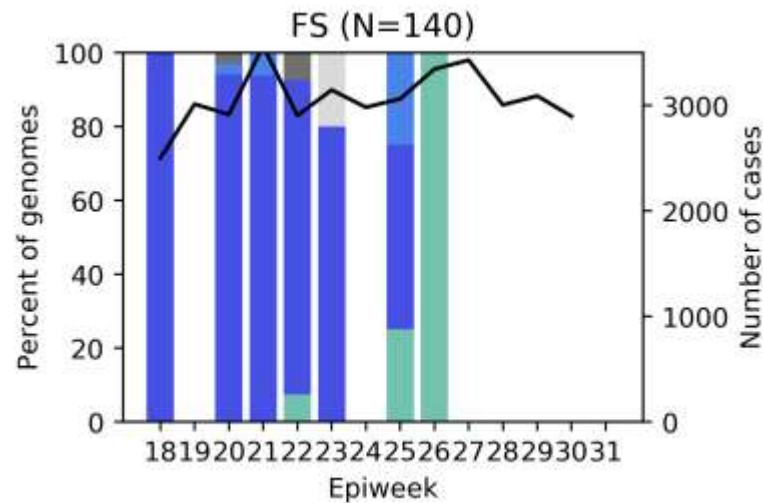
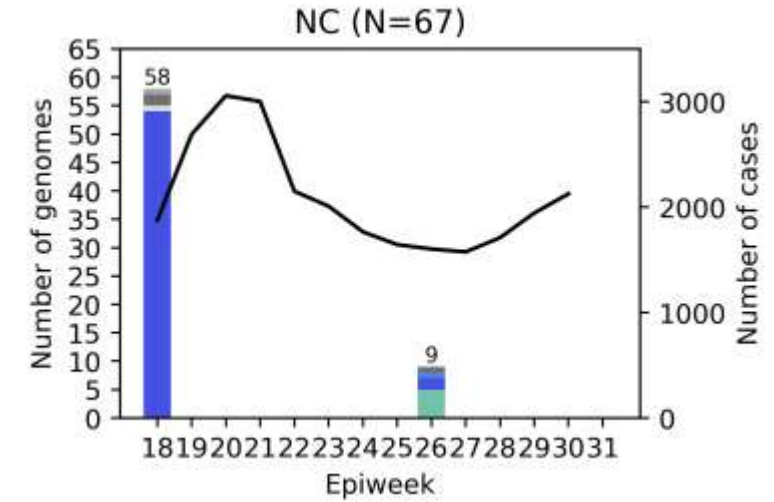
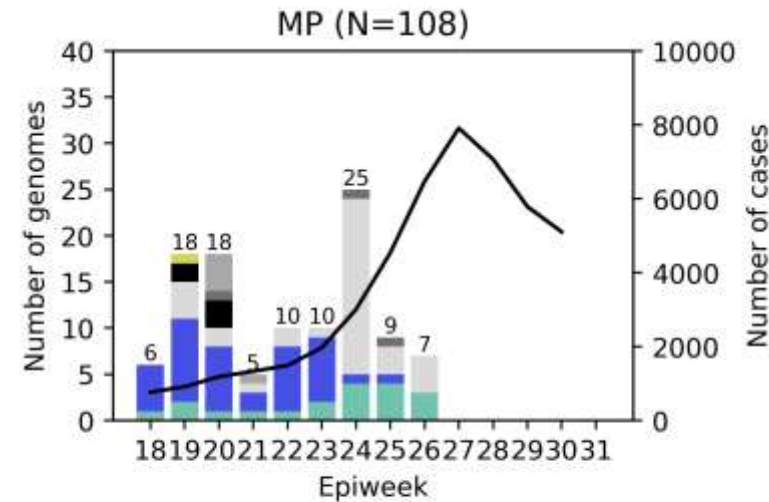
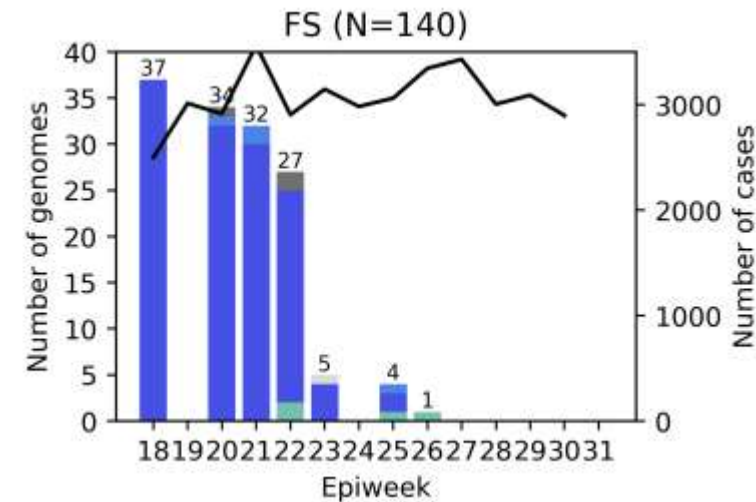
Genomes sequenced from specimens collected in May – July 2021 (epiweeks 18 – 31) from Eastern Cape, Limpopo and North-West Provinces



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

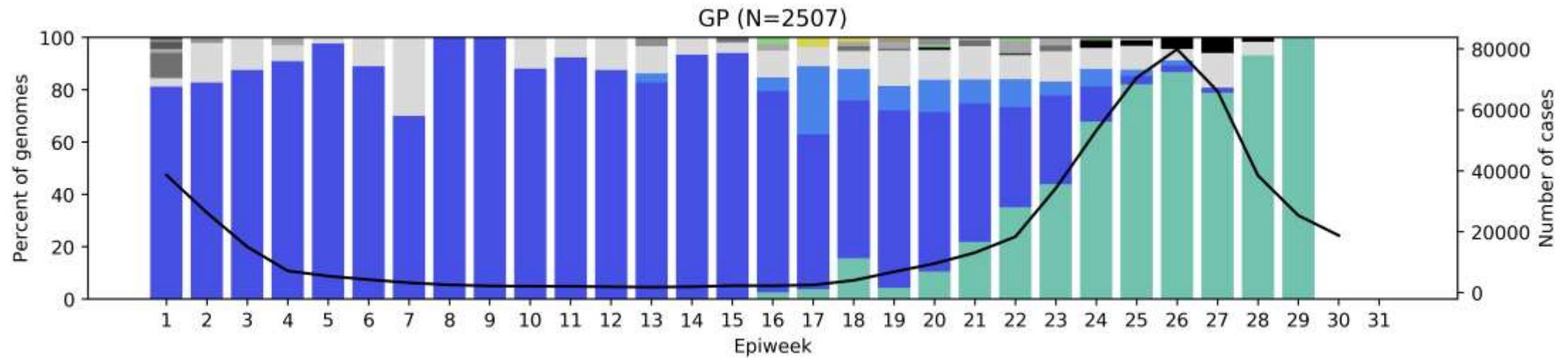
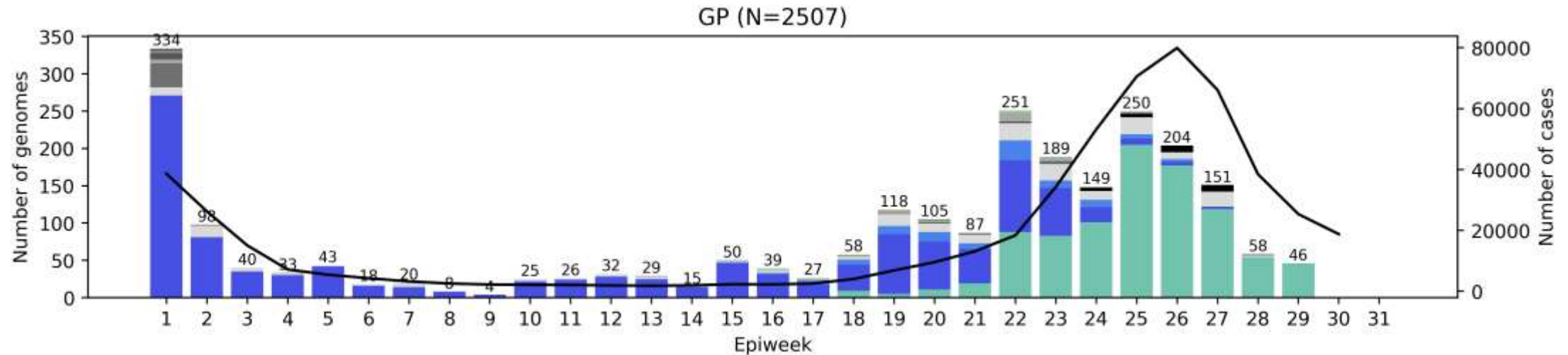
Delta variant dominating in Eastern Cape, Limpopo and North-West Provinces

Genomes sequenced from specimens collected in May – July 2021 (epiweeks 18 – 31) from Free State, Mpumalanga and Northern Cape Provinces



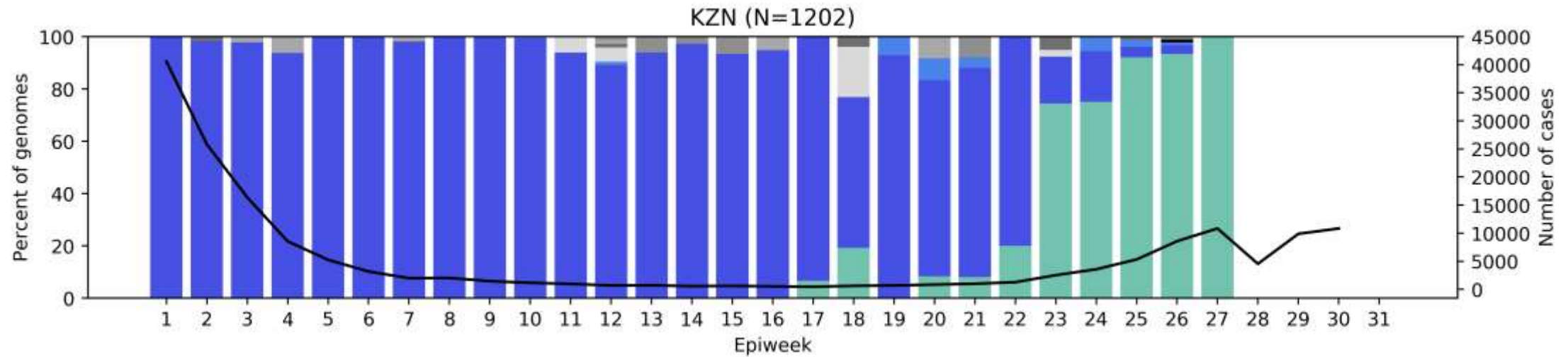
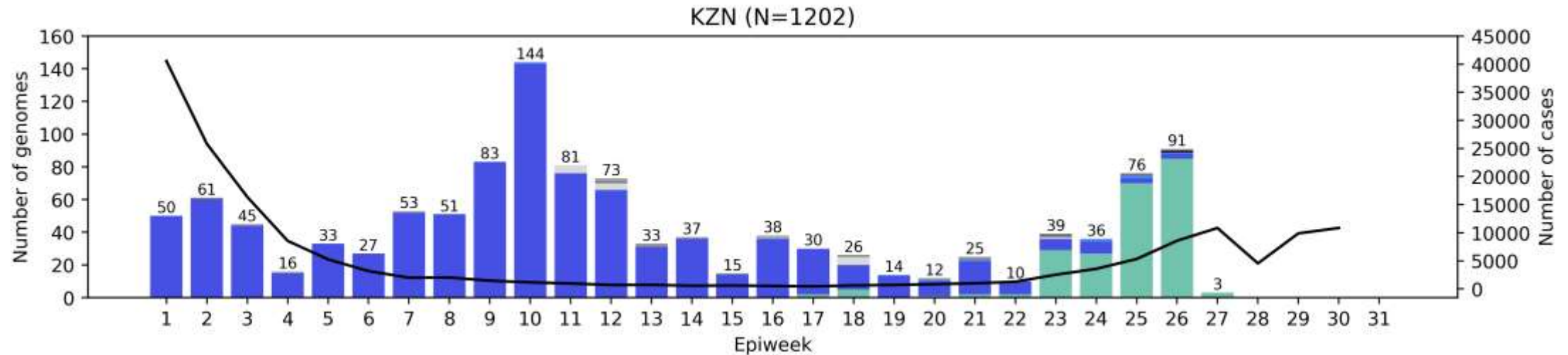
Recent data outstanding, specimens currently being sequenced to estimate the dominance of Delta

Gauteng Province, 2021, n = 2507



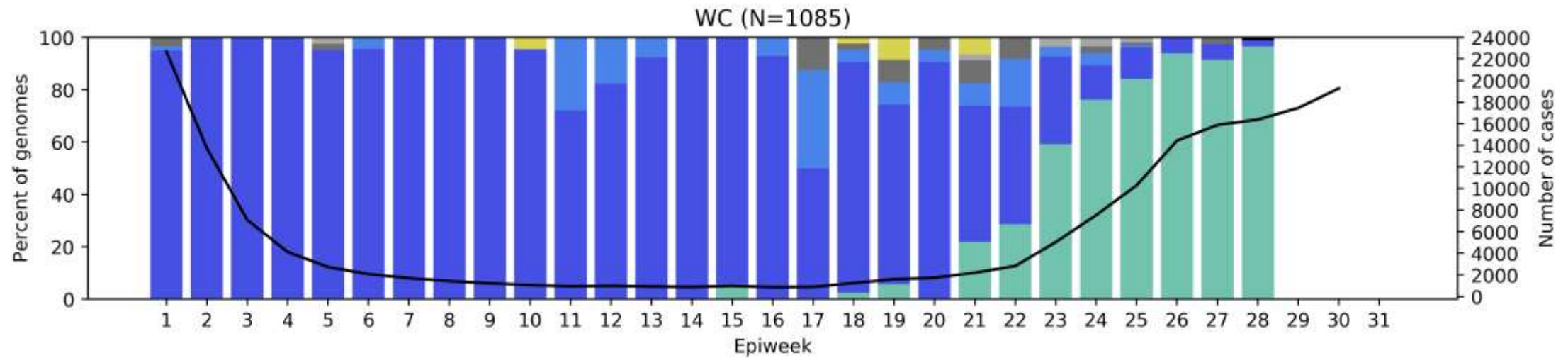
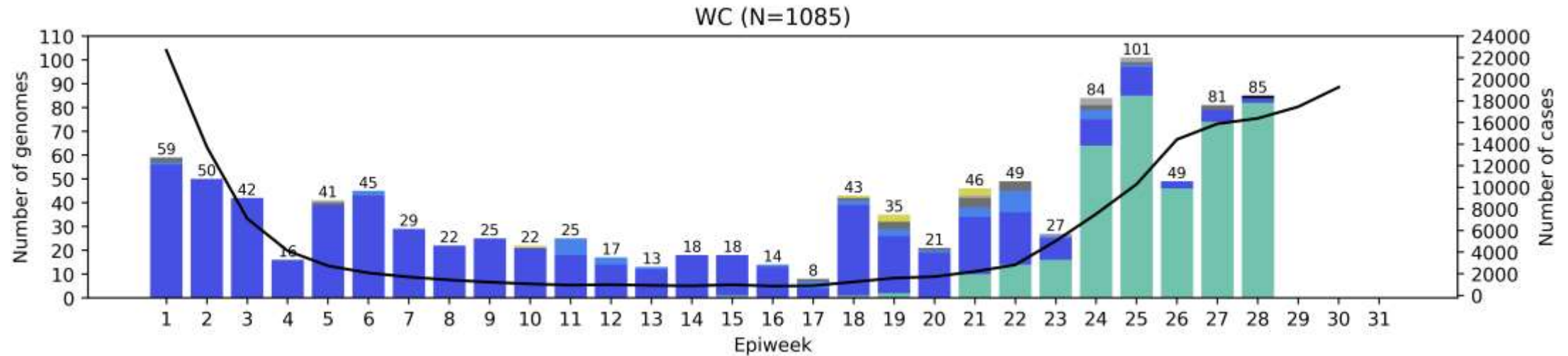
— cases 21A (Delta) 20H (Beta, V2) 20I (Alpha, V1) unassigned 20D (C.1.2) 20B 20A 21B (Kappa) 20D 20C 19B 21D (Eta) 20D

KwaZulu-Natal Province, 2021, n = 1202



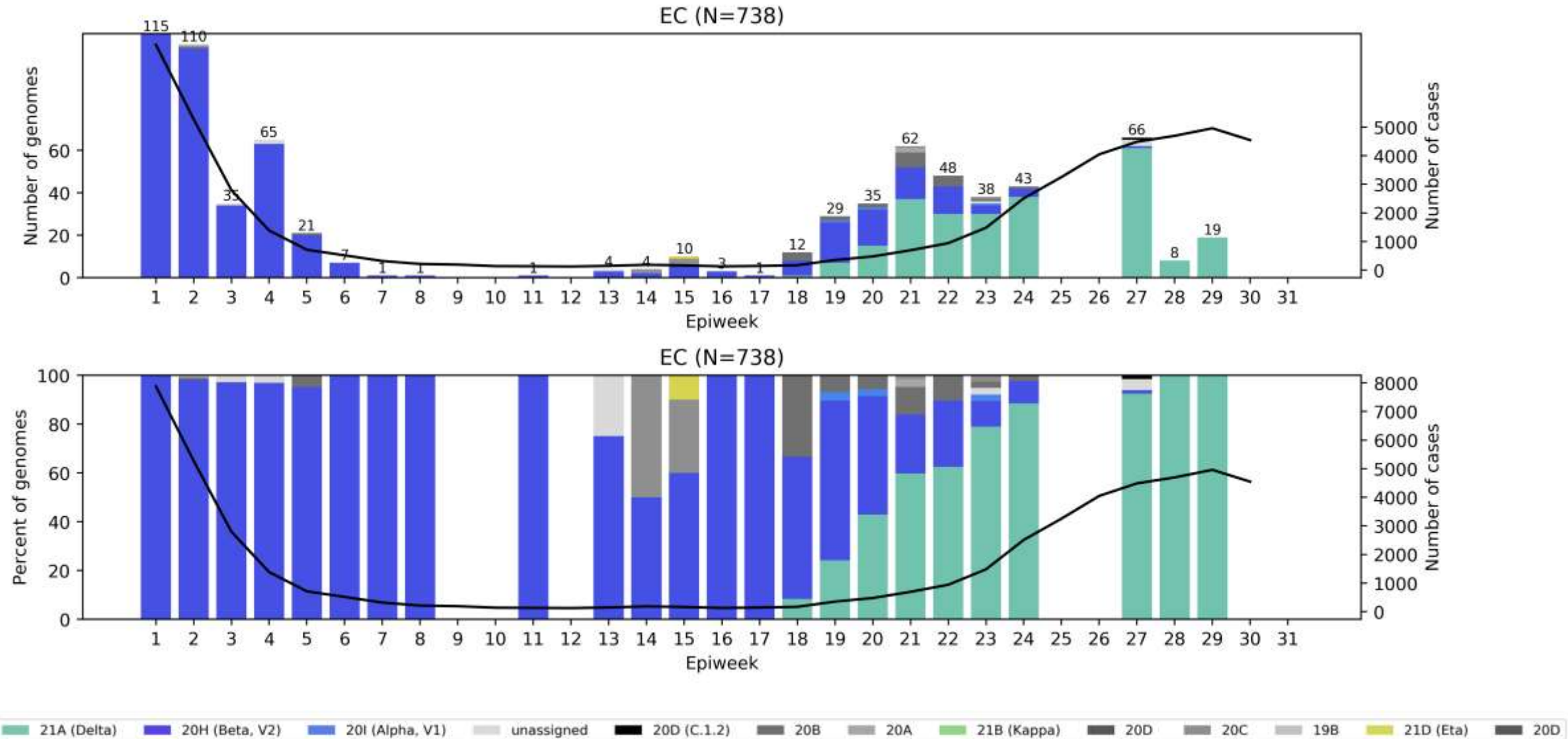
— cases 21A (Delta) 20H (Beta, V2) 20I (Alpha, V1) unassigned 20D (C.1.2) 20B 20A 21B (Kappa) 20D 20C 19B 21D (Eta) 20D

Western Cape Province, 2021, n = 1085

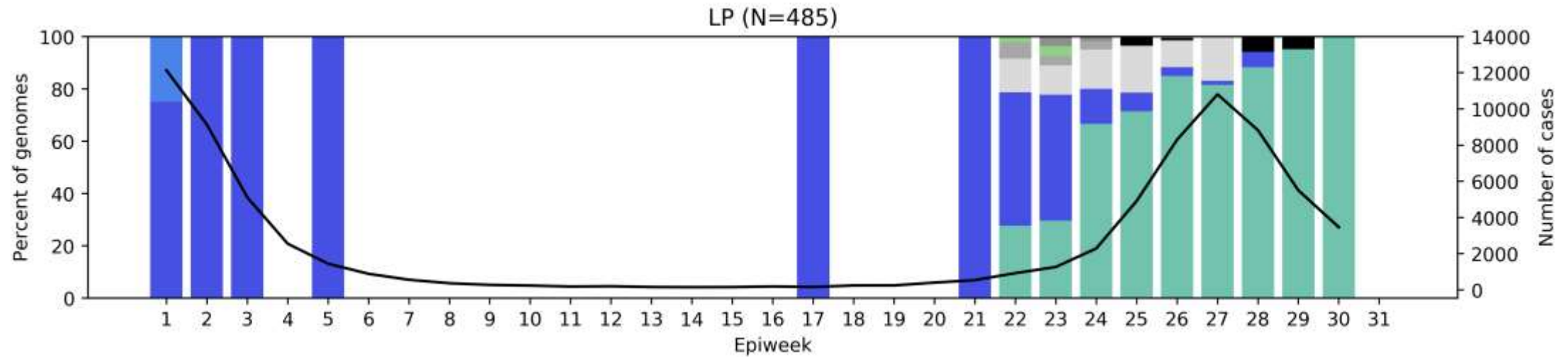
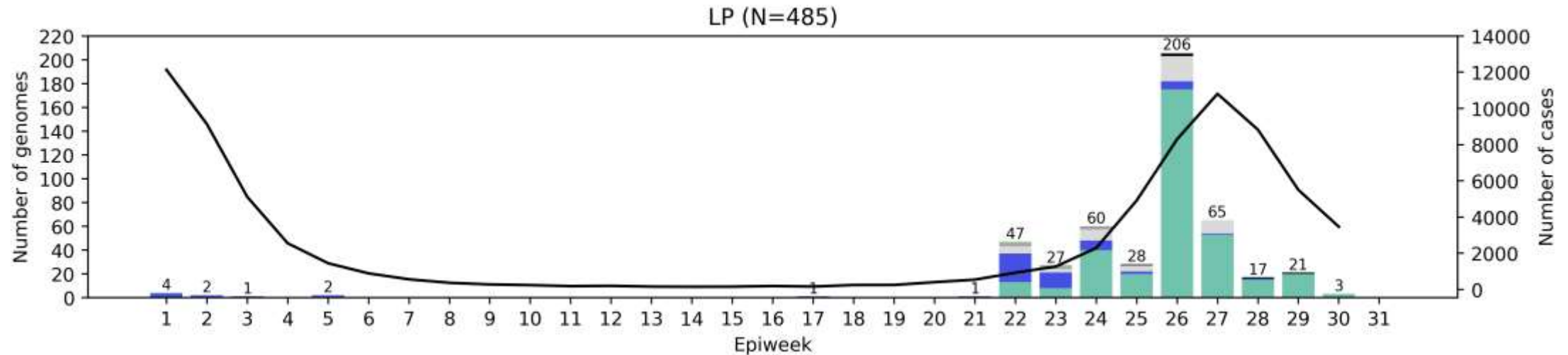


— cases 21A (Delta) 20H (Beta, V2) 20I (Alpha, V1) unassigned 20D (C.1.2) 20B 20A 21B (Kappa) 20D 20C 19B 21D (Eta) 20D

Eastern Cape Province, 2021, n = 738

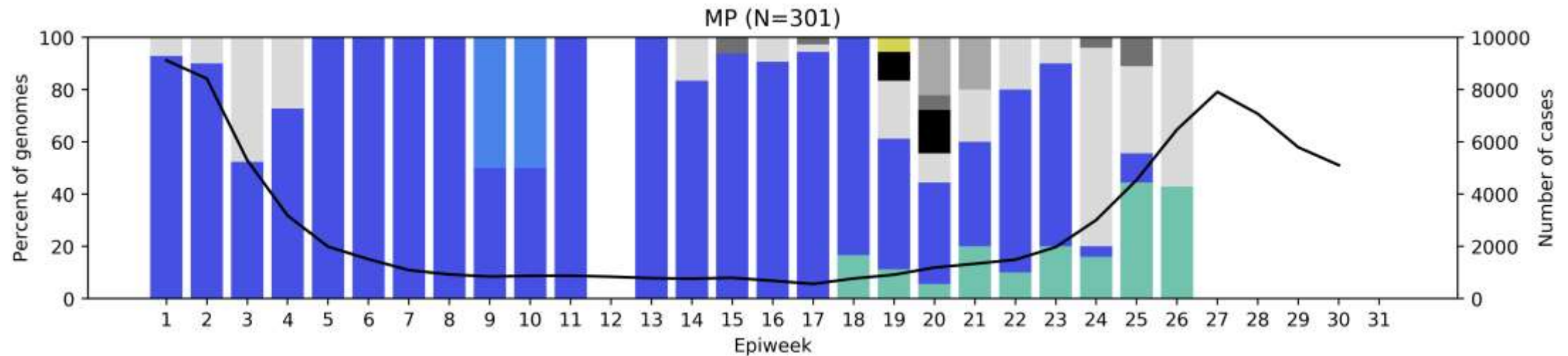
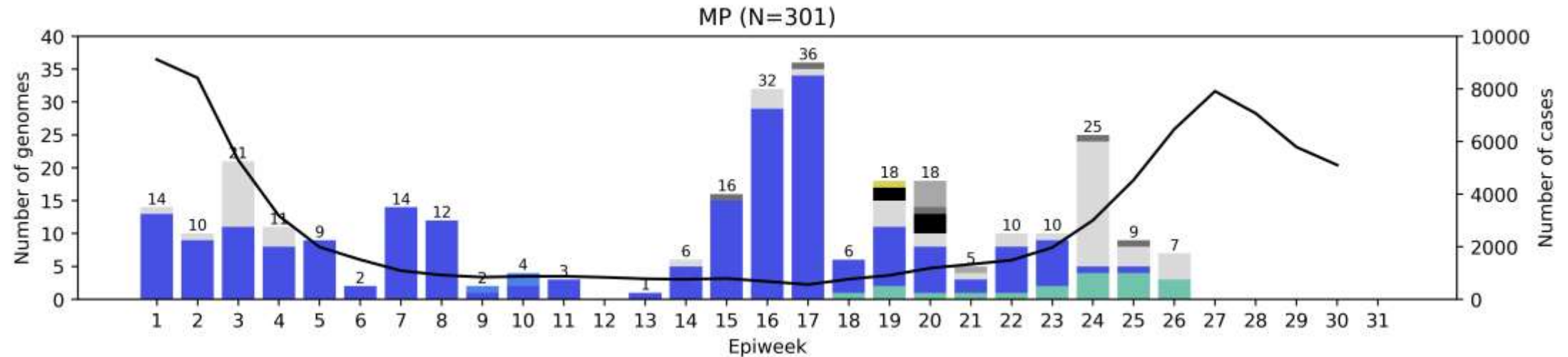


Limpopo Province, 2021, n = 485



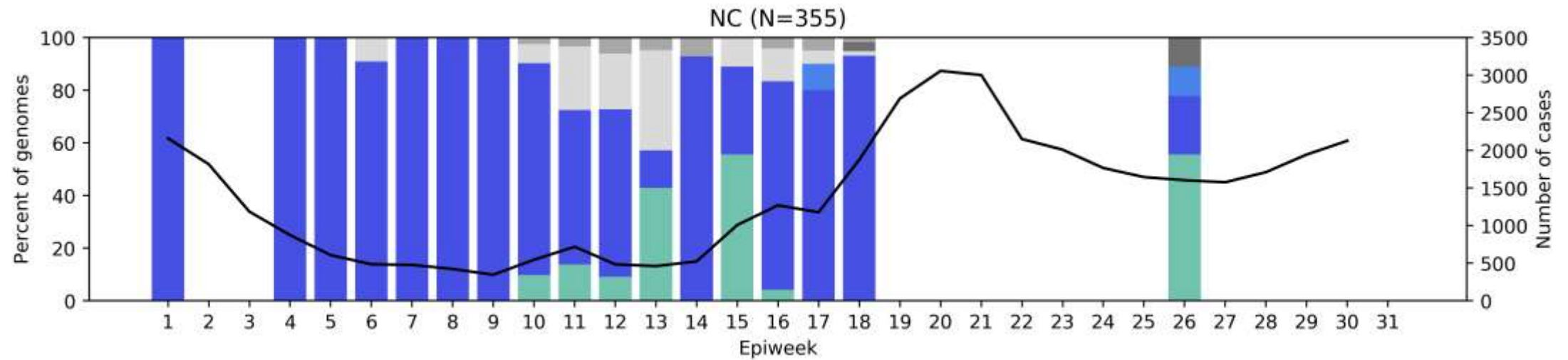
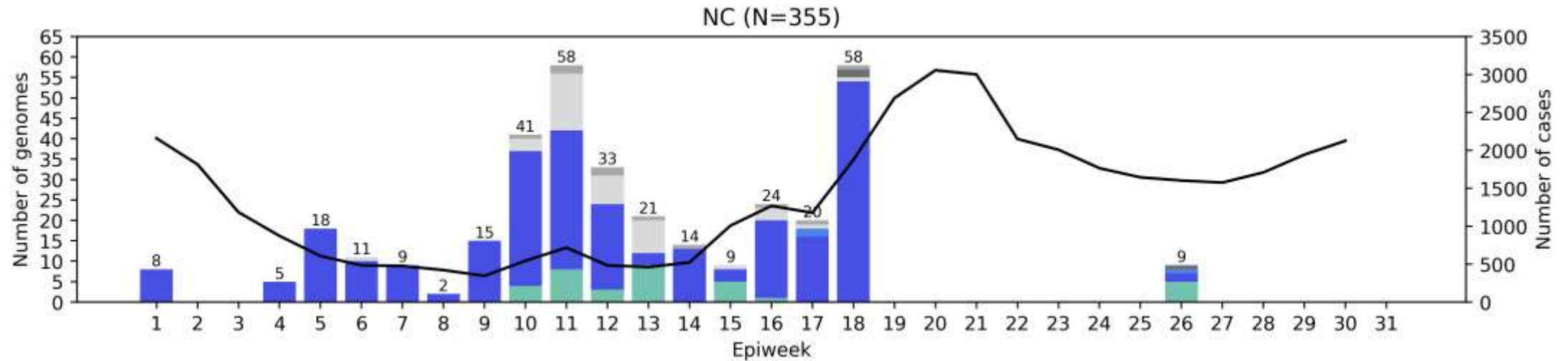
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Mpumalanga Province, 2021, n = 301



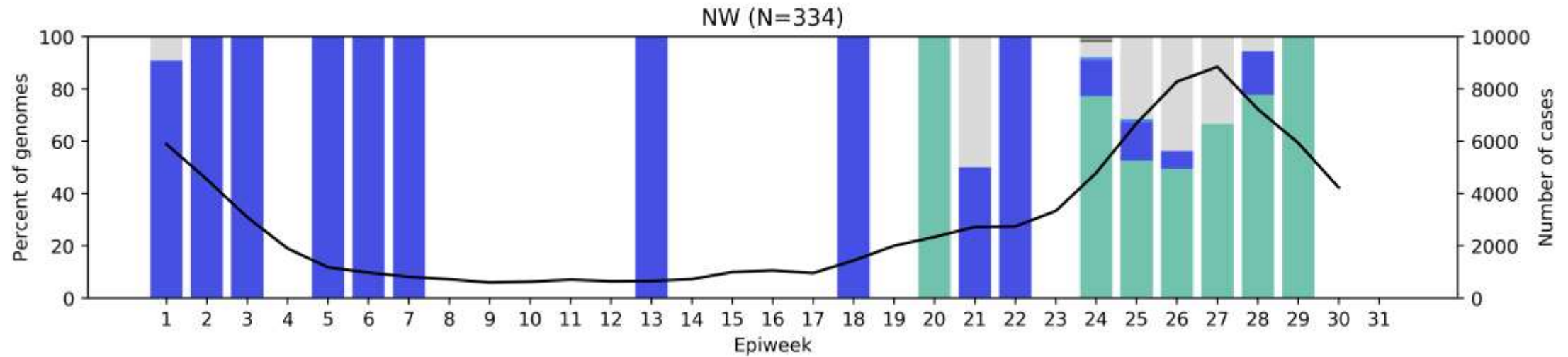
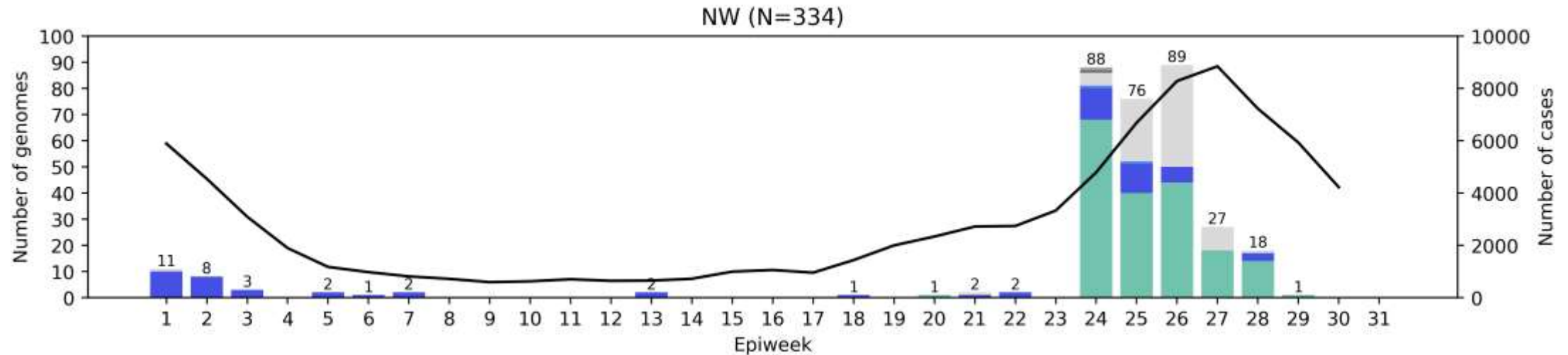
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Northern Cape Province, 2021, n = 355



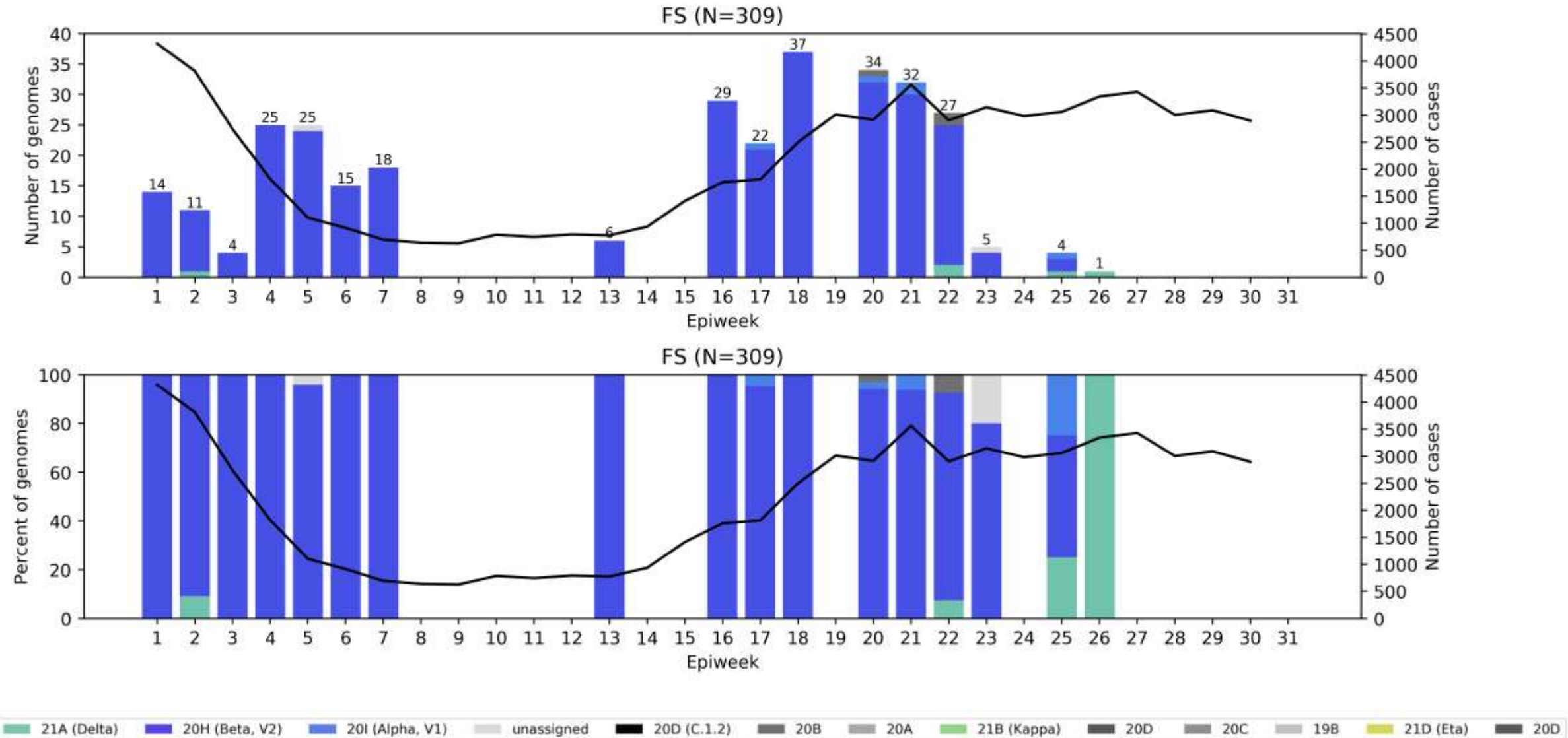
— cases 21A (Delta) 20H (Beta, V2) 20I (Alpha, V1) unassigned 20D (C.1.2) 20B 20A 21B (Kappa) 20D 20C 19B 21D (Eta) 20D

North West Province, 2021, n = 334



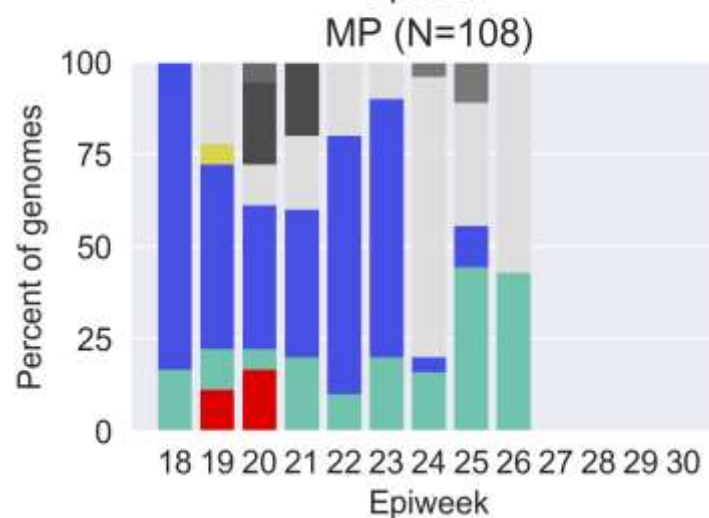
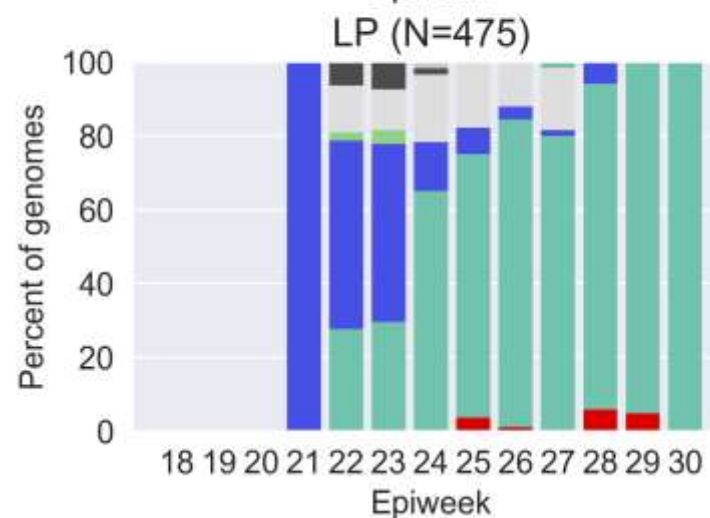
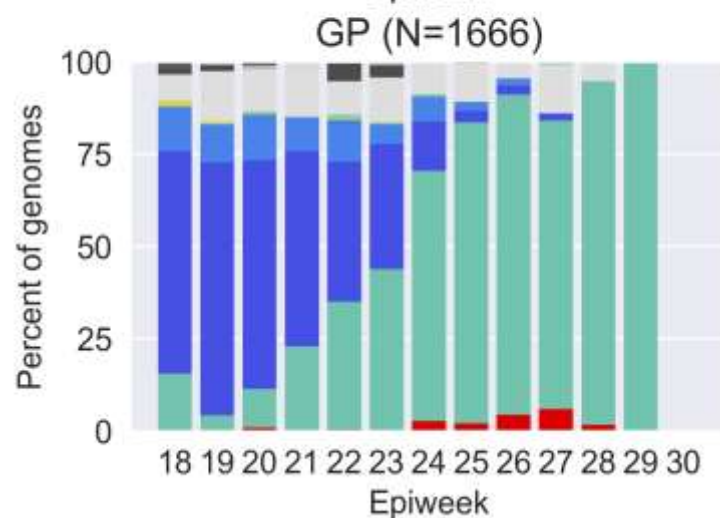
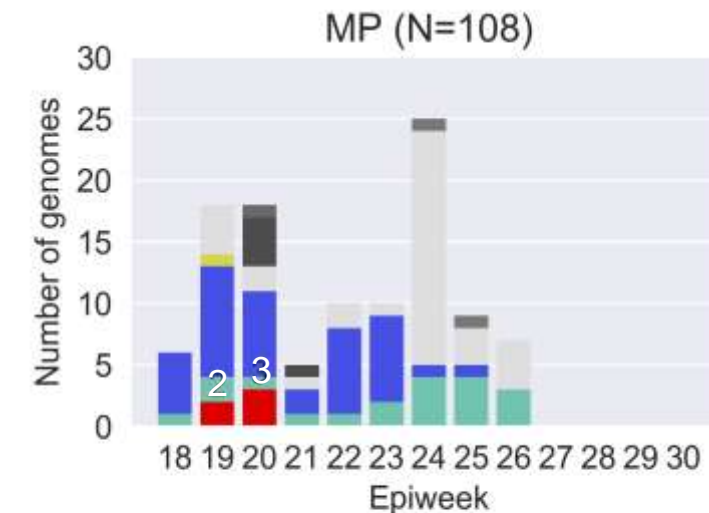
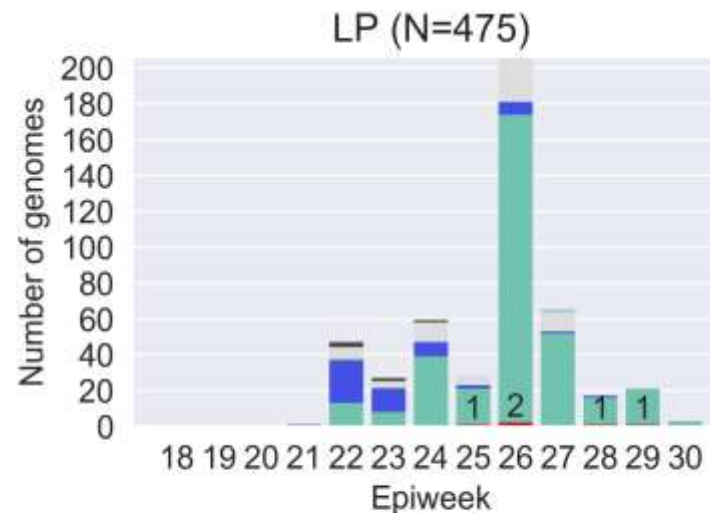
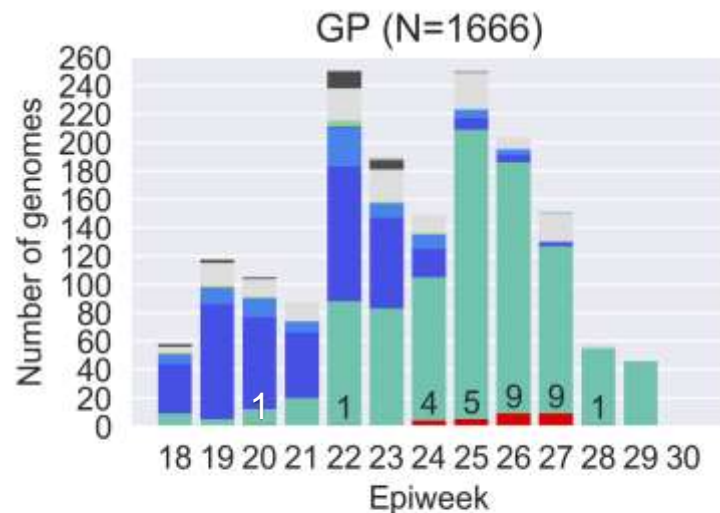
— cases 21A (Delta) 20H (Beta, V2) 20I (Alpha, V1) unassigned 20D (C.1.2) 20B 20A 21B (Kappa) 20D 20C 19B 21D (Eta) 20D

Free State Province, 2021, n = 309



C.1.2 (n=43 in SA) in May – July 2021 by epiweek

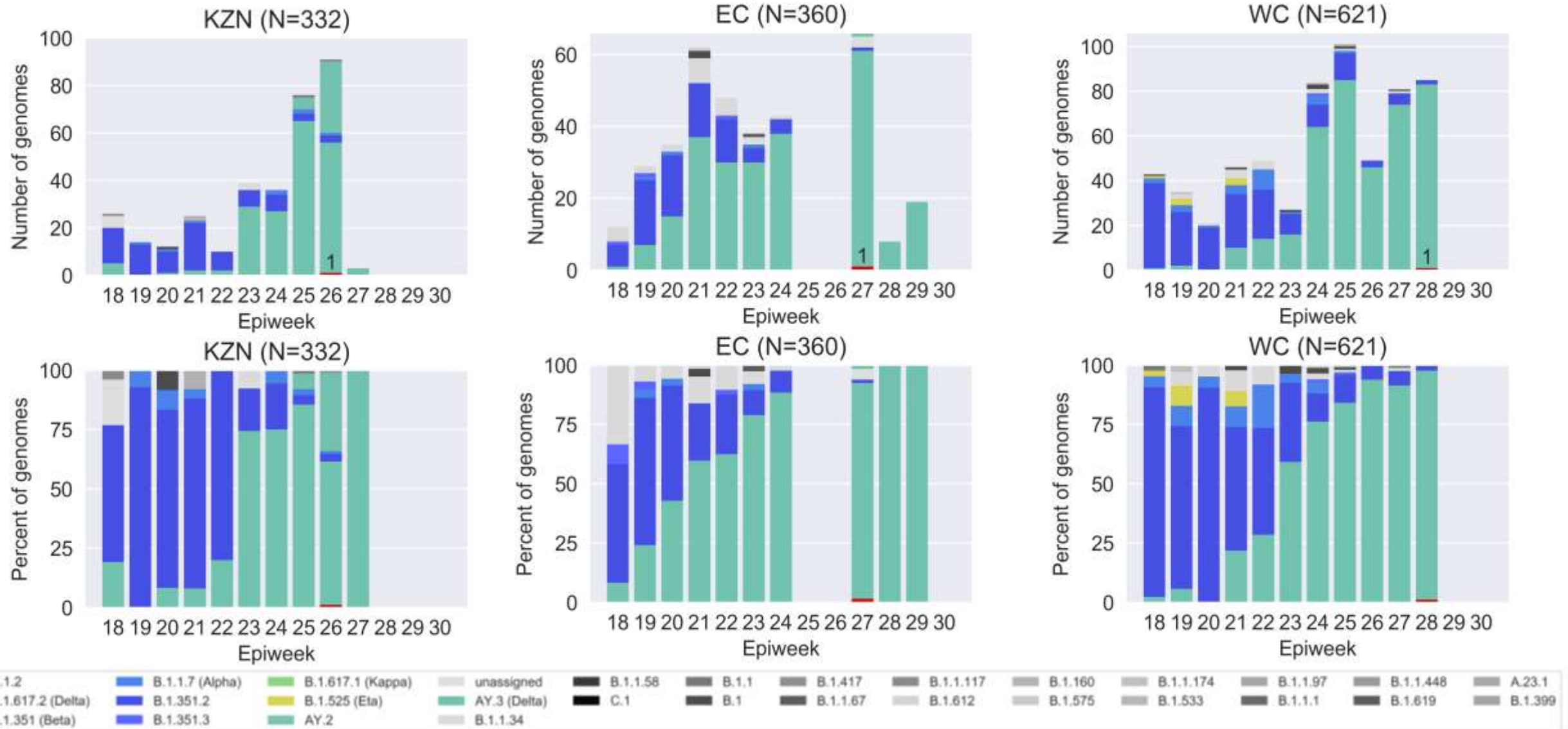
Number of C.1.2 samples indicated above bar



C.1.2 has now been detected in six provinces. The majority of samples have been detected in Gauteng (n=30), followed by Limpopo (n=5) and Mpumalanga (n=5).

C.1.2 (n=43 in SA) in May – July 2021 by epiweek

Number of C.1.2 samples indicated above bar



C.1.2 has now been detected in six provinces. KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape and the Western Cape have only had one sample each detected so far.

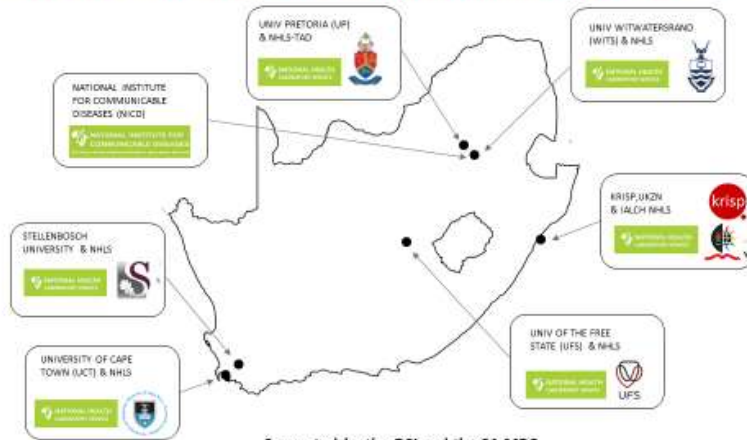
Summary

- In June, Delta increased and dominated in most provinces with recent data available.
- Delta remained dominant in July, but additional sequencing data are required to confirm these proportions in all provinces.
- With the dominance of Delta, overall diversity of SARS-CoV-2 decreased, as evidenced by fewer lineages detected.
- Mutated C.1 lineage has been given designation C.1.2 by Pangolin¹ and has now been detected in six provinces in South Africa: Eastern Cape, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape.

¹ <https://github.com/cov-lineages/pango-designation/issues/139>

Multi-institute, multi-disciplinary NGS team

Network for Genomic Surveillance in South Africa (NGS-SA)



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



Contributors of samples to NICD:

Adriano Mendes

Allison J. Glass

Amy Strydom

Andries Dreyer

Christa Viljoen

Eddie Silberbauer

Elias Bereda

Eugene Elliot

Florah Mnyameni

Florette K. Treurnicht

Gloria Selabe

Greta Hoyland

Howard Newman

Jeannette Wadula

Kathleen Subramoney

Lia Rotherham

Marianne Wolfaardt

Marietjie Venter

Michaela Davis

Oluwakemi Laguda-Akingba

Riaan Writes

Shareef Abrahams

Simnikiwe Mayaphi

Terry Marshall

Warren Lowman

Zinhle Makatini



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YAKWAZULU-NATALI





University of Cape Town, NHLS & WCG



NHLS-UCT

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



UCT, IDM and CIDRI-Africa

Deelan Doolabh	Robert Wilkinson
Arash Iranzadeh	Darren Martin
Lynn Tyers	Nicola Mulder
Innocent Mudau	Wendy Burgers
Nokuzola Mbhele	Ntobeko Ntusi
Fezokuhle Khumalo	Rageema Joseph
Thabang Serakge	Sean Wasserman
Bruna Galvão	Linda Boloko
Arghavan Alisoltani (U. California)	



WCG-UCT

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



Tulio de Oliveira (PI)

Richard Lessells
Wolfgang Prieser
Jennifer Giandhari
Eduan Wilkinson
Houriiyah Tegally
San James
Koleka Mlisana
Jinal Bhiman
Penny Moore
Anne von Gottberg
Dominique Goedhals
Susan Engelbrecht
Tongai Maponga
Nokukhanya Msomi
Glenda Gray
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NHLS Division of Virology:

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- Felicity Burt
- Thokozeni Mkhize
- Diagnostic laboratory staff



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- Linda de Gouveia
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- Nicole Wolter
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- Annie Chan
- Morne du Plessis
- Constantinos Kurt Wibmer

- Thandeka Moyo
- Tandile Hermanus
- Frances Ayres
- Zanele Molaudzi
- Bronwen Lambson
- Tandile Hermanus
- Sibongile Walaza
- Mignon du Plessis
- Stefano Tempia
- CRDM lab and epi staff
- Mvuyo Makhasi
- Brent Oosthuysen
- Susan Meiring
- Mashudu Madzivhandila
- Prudence Kgagudi
- Mushal Allam
- NICD SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing Group

- Stanford Kwenda
- Phillip Senzo Mtshali
- Ranmini Kularatne
- **Arshad Ismail**
- **Penny Moore**
- **Anne von Gottberg**
- **Cheryl Cohen**
- **Lynn Morris**
- **Jinal Bhiman**
- Erica Anderson-Nissen
- Anneta Naidoo
- Raymond Rott
- **Simon Travers (Hyrax Biosciences)**

NICD COVID-19 response team COVID Incident Management Team



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 NGS-SA sequencing laboratories 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 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.)