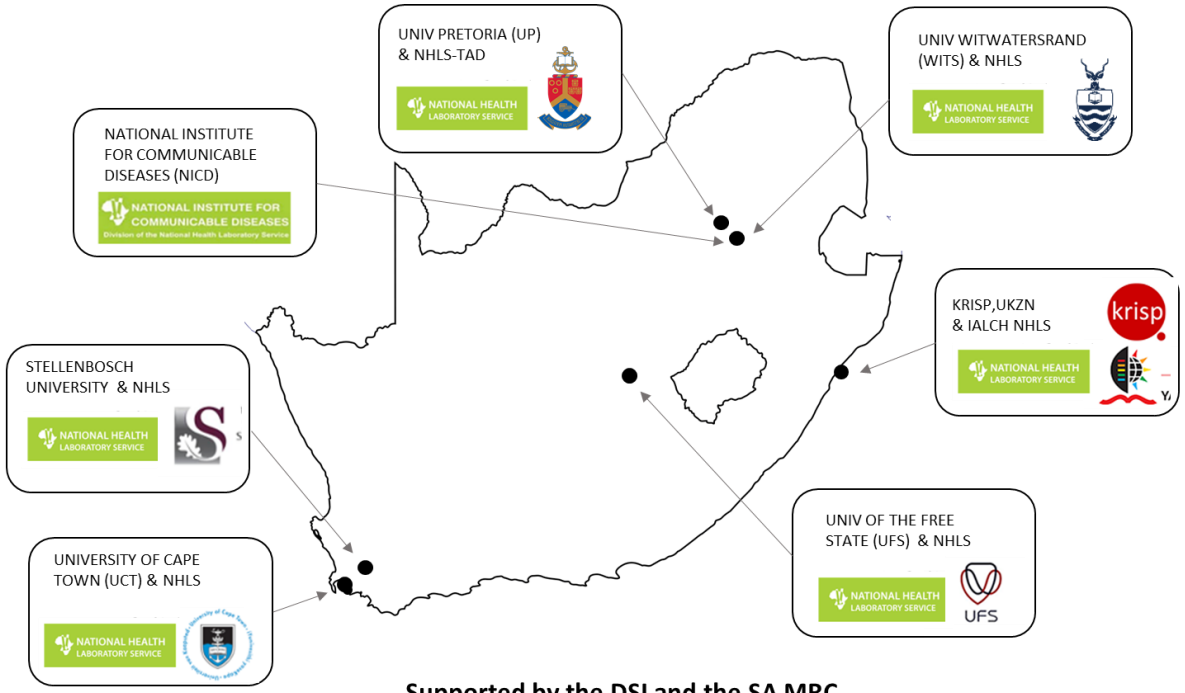
Network for Genomic Surveillance South Africa (NGS-SA)

SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing Update
27 September 2021



Supported by the DSI and the SA MRC

Msomi N, Mlisana K, et al. Lancet Microbe 2020

Prepared by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) of the National Health Laboratory (NHLS) on behalf of the Network for Genomics Surveillance in South Africa (NGS-SA)

The genomic data presented here are based on South African SARS-CoV-2 sequence data downloaded from GISAID (www.gisaid.org) on 27 September at 08h56

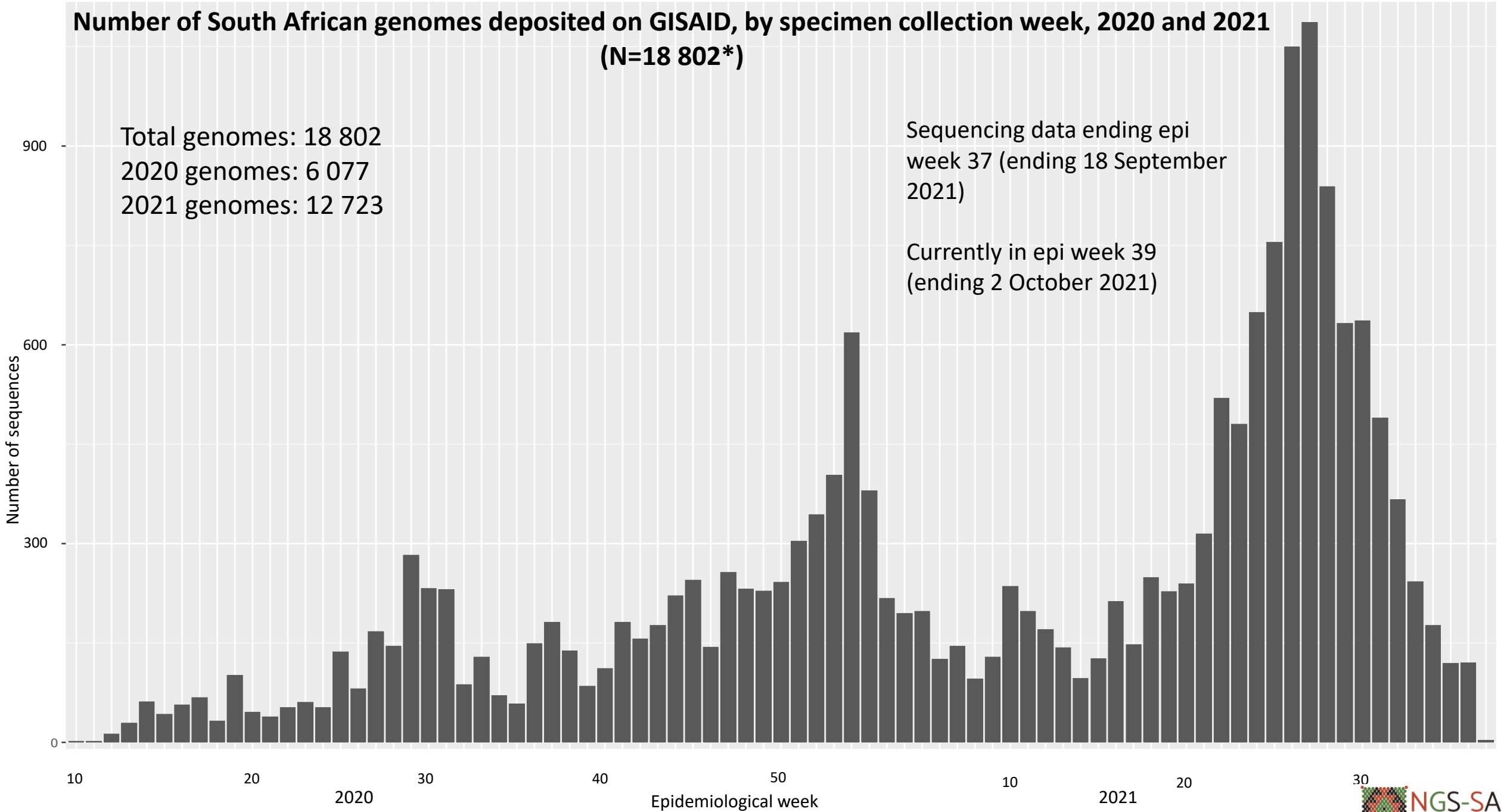
Data license: https://www.gisaid.org/registration/terms-of-use/

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 PMCID: 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 PMCID: PMC5388101

Case data is based on collection date. Case from https://www.nicd.ac.za/diseases-a-z-index/disease-index-covid-19/surveillance-reports/weekly-epidemiological-brief/

Number of South African genomes deposited on GISAID, by specimen collection week, 2020 and 2021 (N=18 802*)



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

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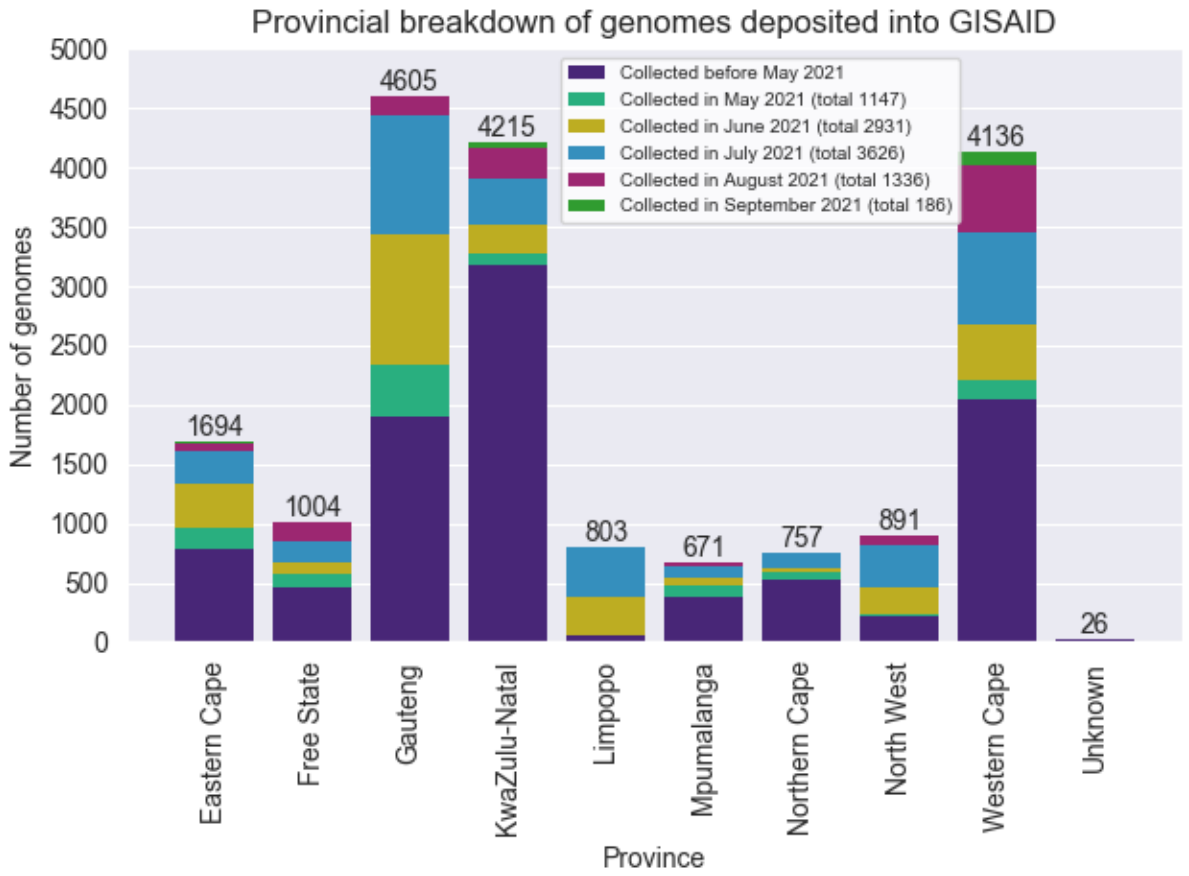
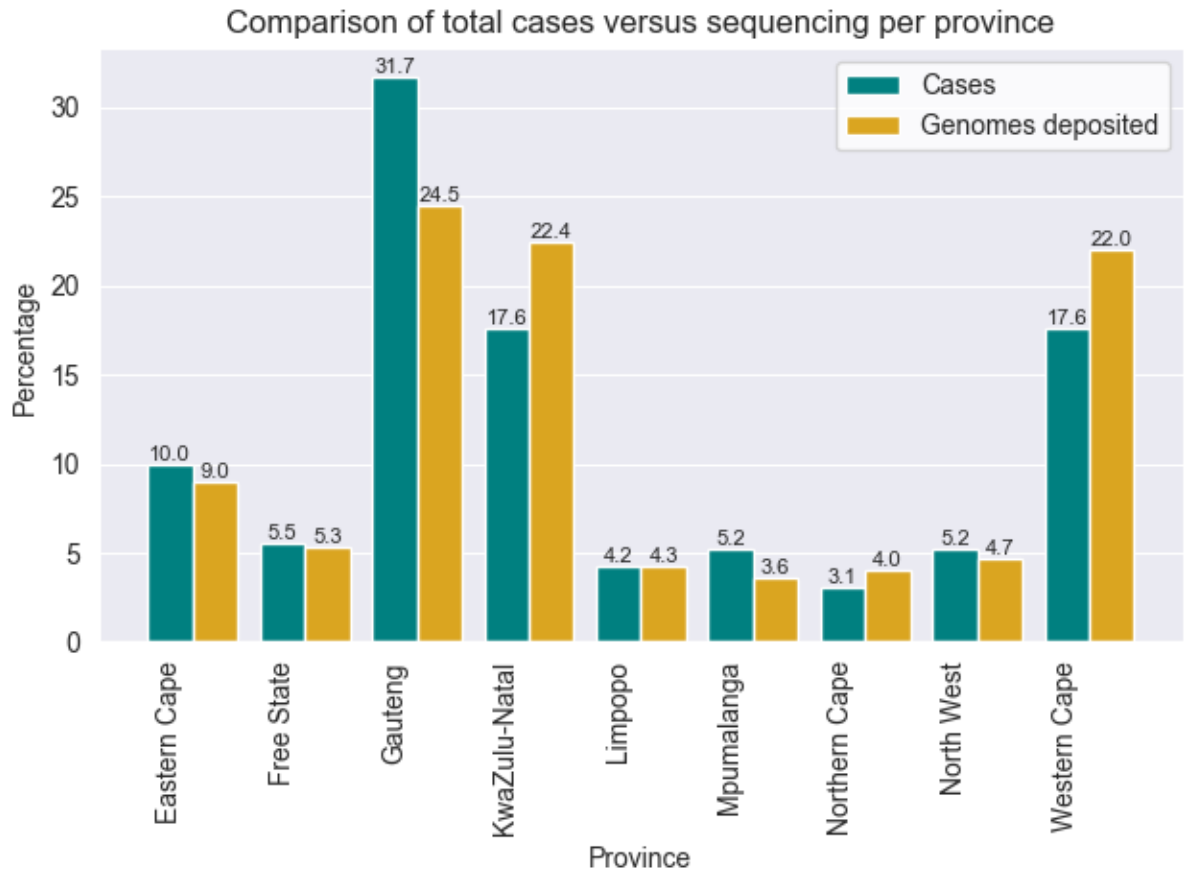
GISAID genomes vs total cases, 2020 and 2021 (N=18 802)





All provinces, apart from GP, KZN, and WC, have comparable percentage of overall cases and overall sequenced genomes

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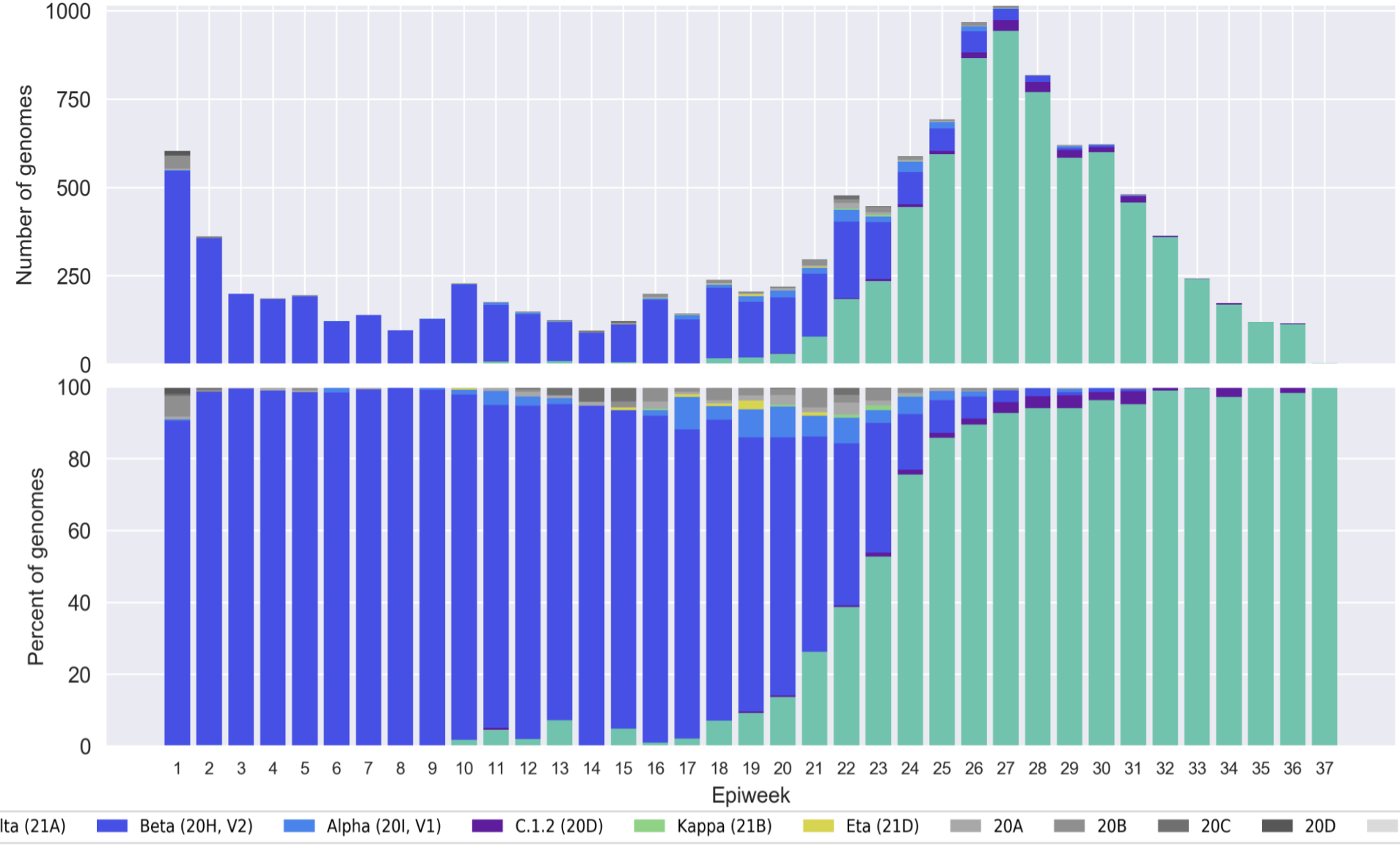
Distribution and number of clades in South Africa, 2021 (N= 12 723)



Sequencing data ending epi week 37 (ending 18 September 2021)

Currently in epi week 39 (ending 2 October 2021)

Delta came to dominate by end June at >65% , in July at >85% and in August and September at >90%
C.1.2 present at <3% frequency since March

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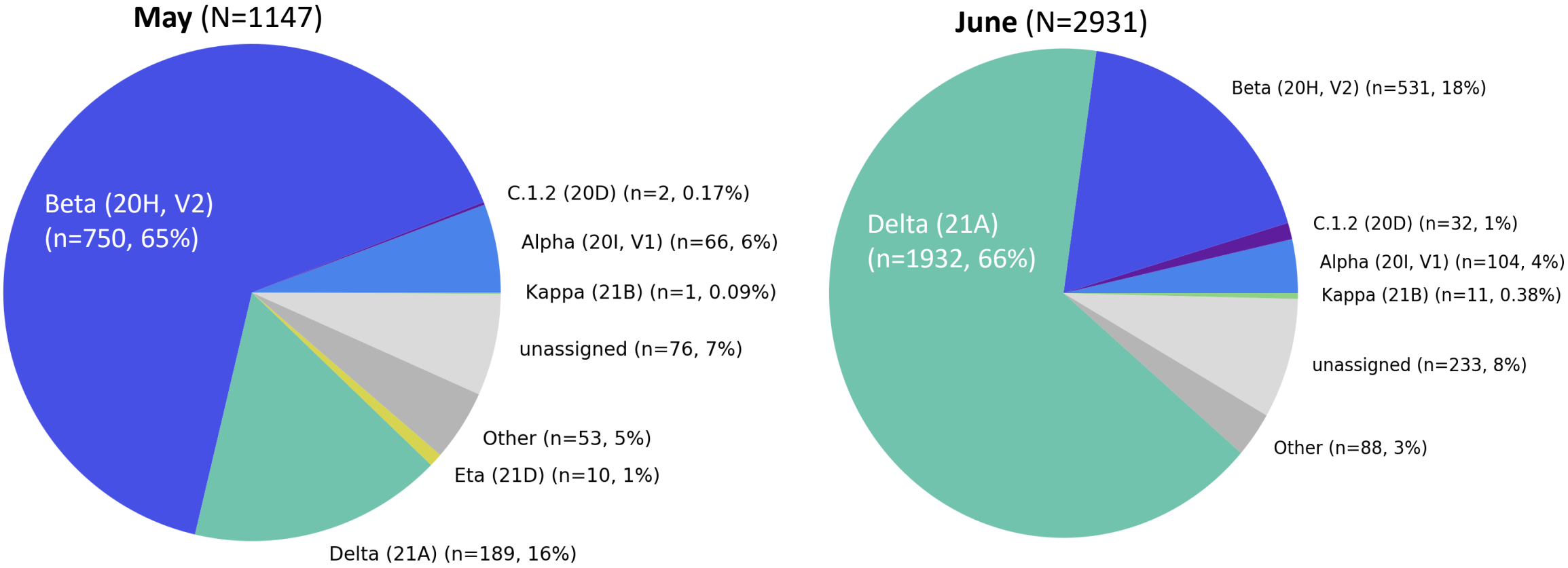
Prevalence of Variants of Concern (VOC) and Variants of Interest (VOI) in May and June 2021 sequences, South Africa



Beta variant dominated in May, but the Delta variant started to dominate in June

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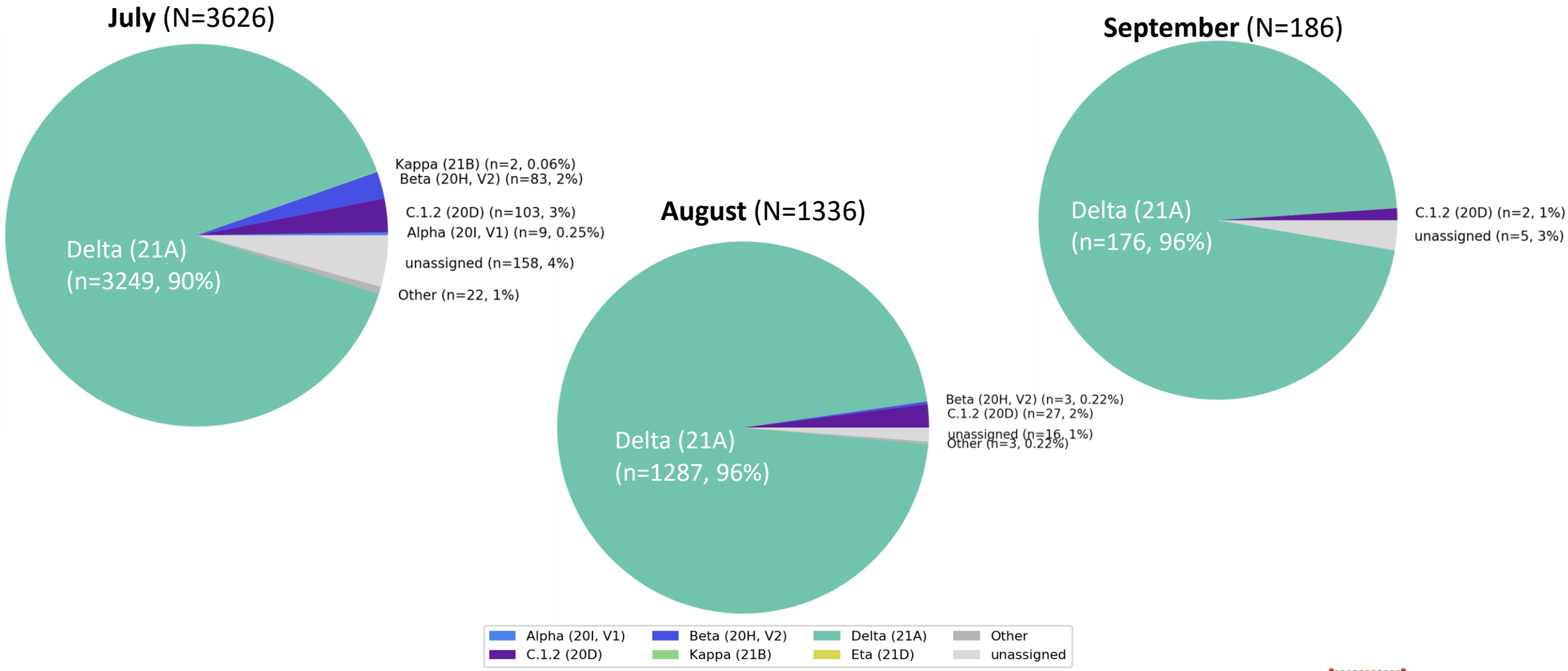
Prevalence of Variants of Concern (VOC) and Variants of Interest (VOI) in July – September 2021 sequences, South Africa



The Delta variant dominated in July and August in South Africa.

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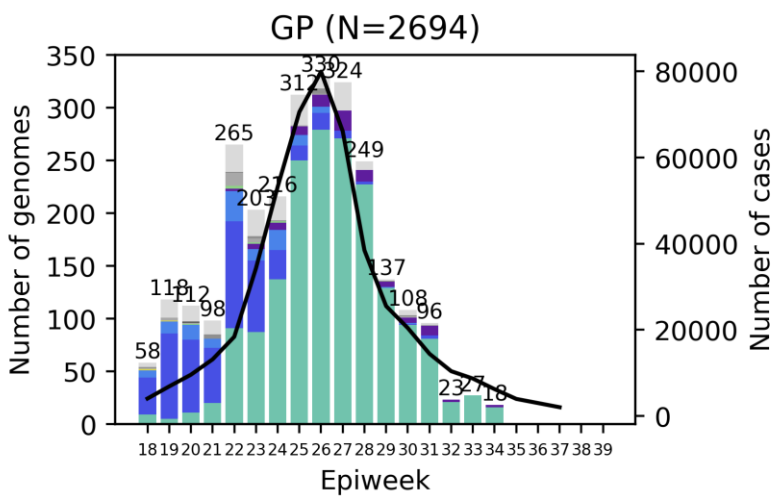
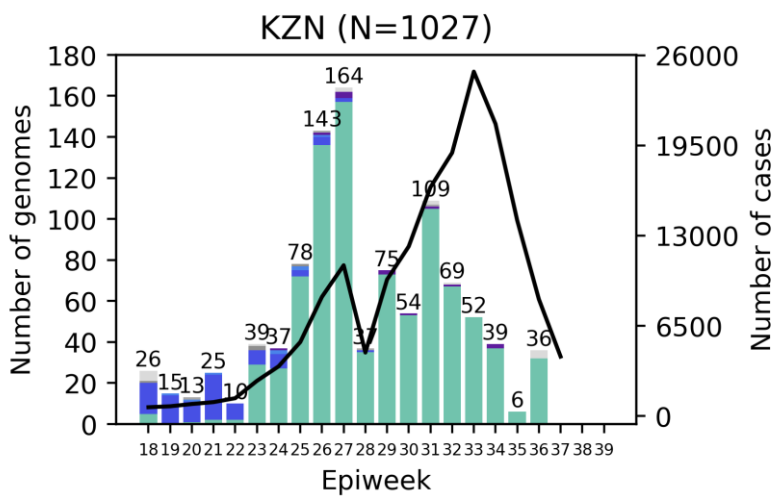
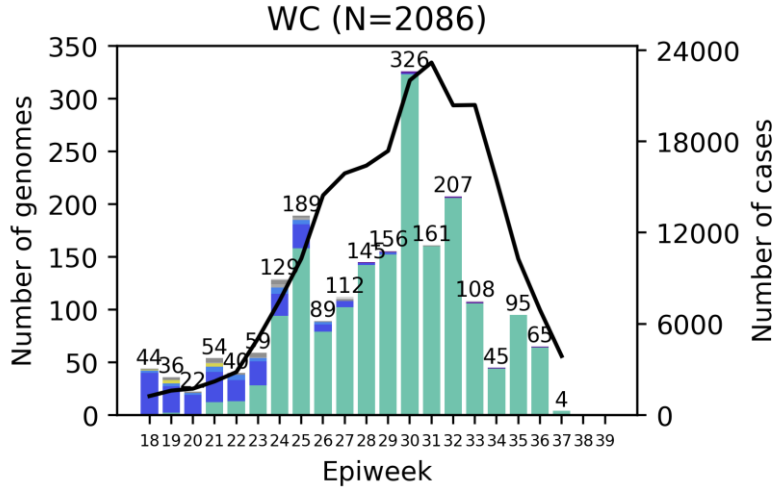
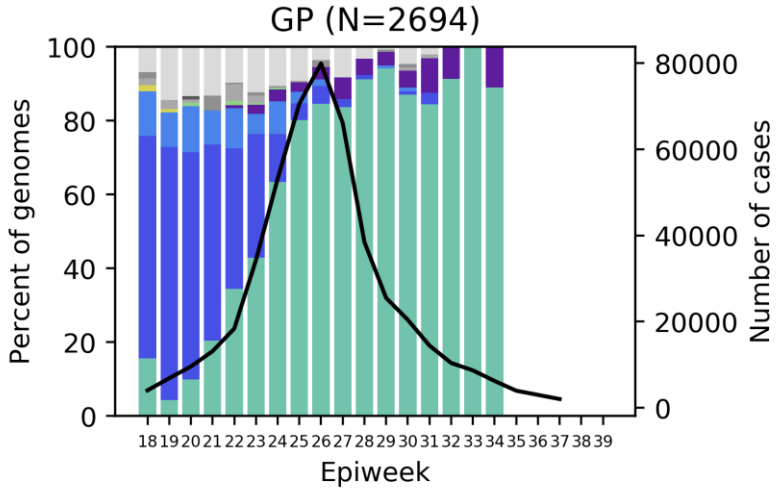
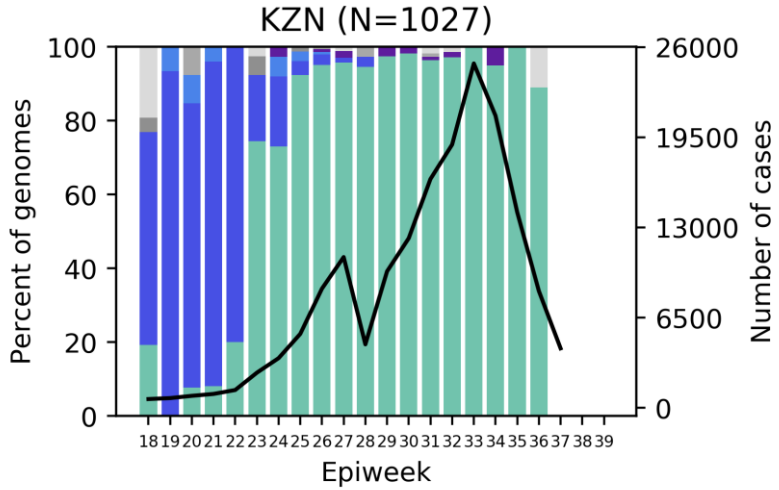
Genomes sequenced from specimens collected in May to mid-August 2021 (epiweeks 18 – 39) from KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, Western Cape Provinces

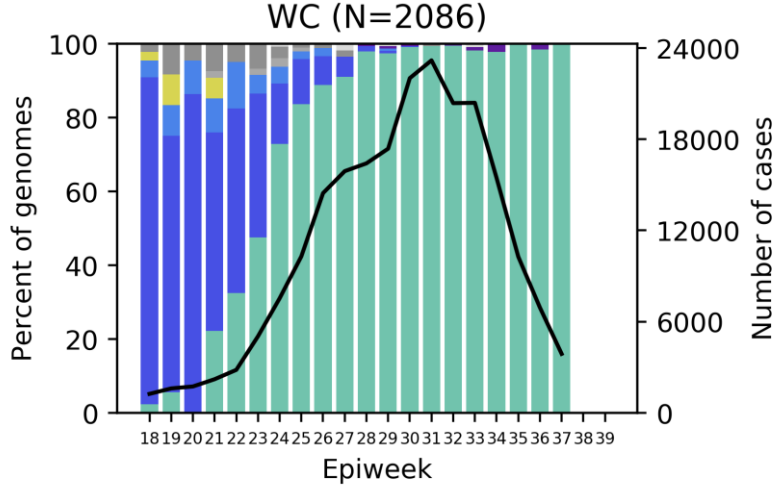












Following its detection in week 18, Delta rapidly replaces Beta and begins to dominate in all three provinces by mid-June. Delta continues to dominate in July to September

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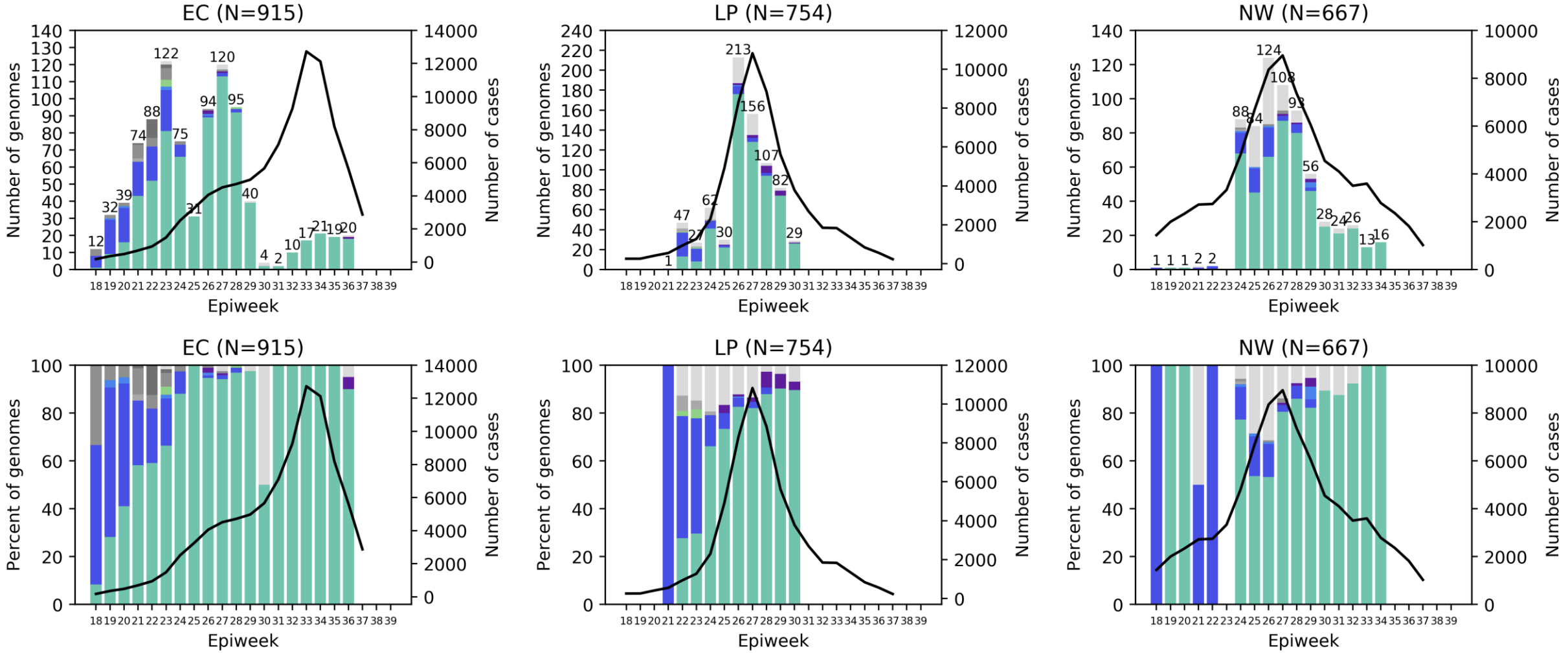
Genomes sequenced from specimens collected in May to mid-August 2021 (epiweeks 18 – 39) from Eastern Cape, Limpopo and North-West Provinces



Delta variant dominates the third wave in Eastern Cape, Limpopo and North-West Provinces

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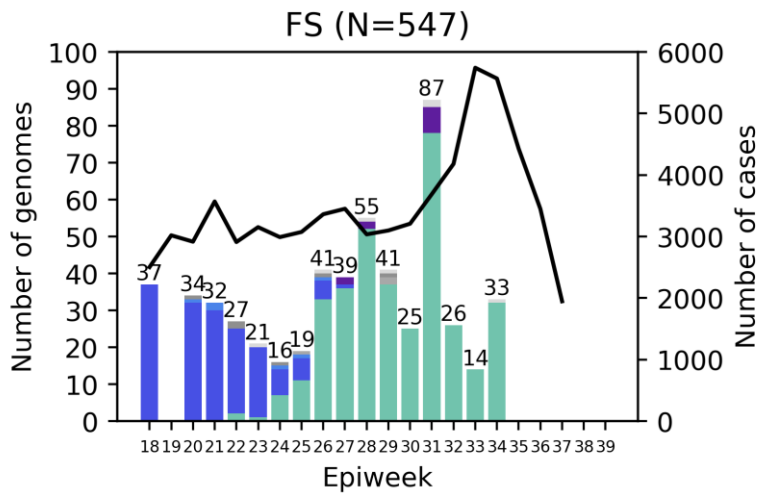
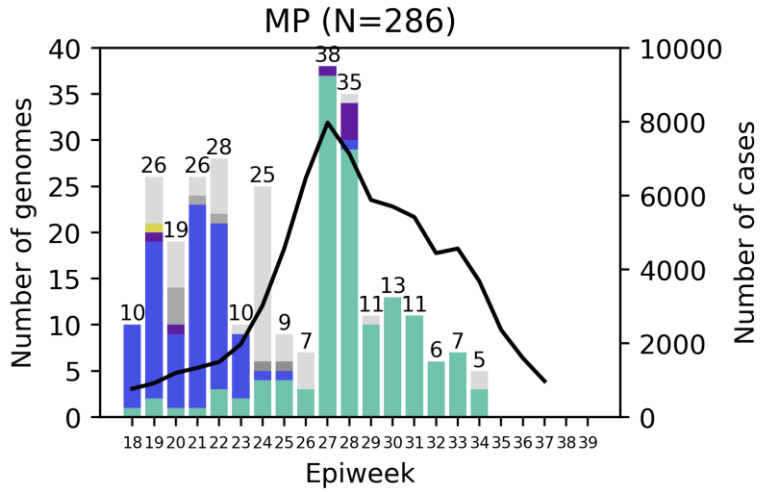
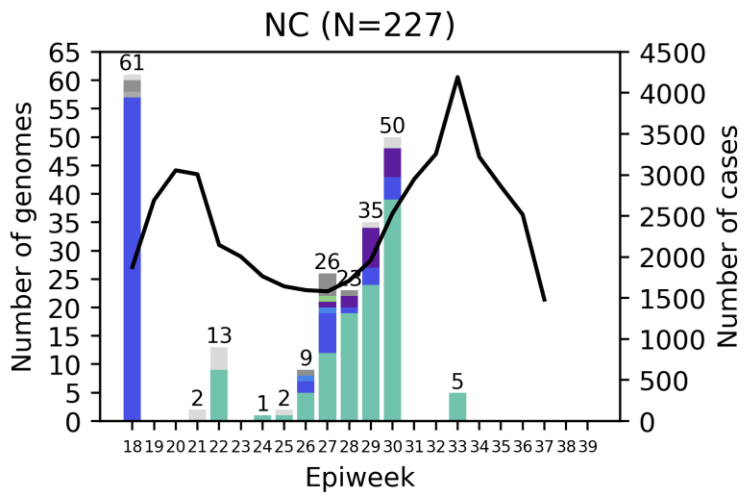
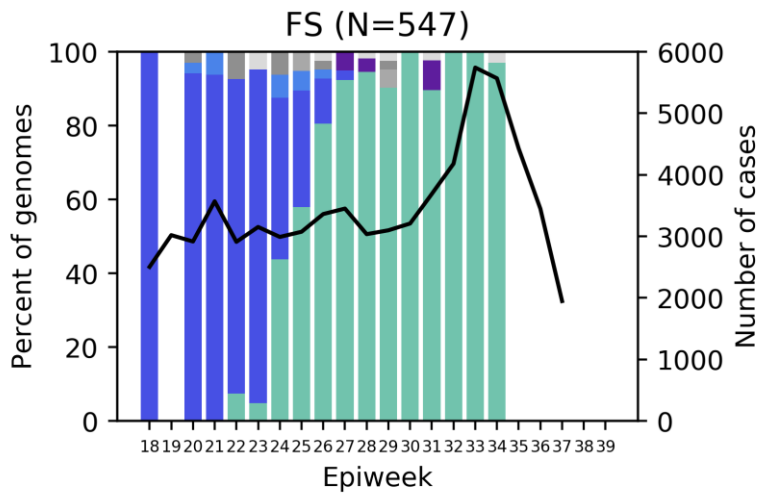
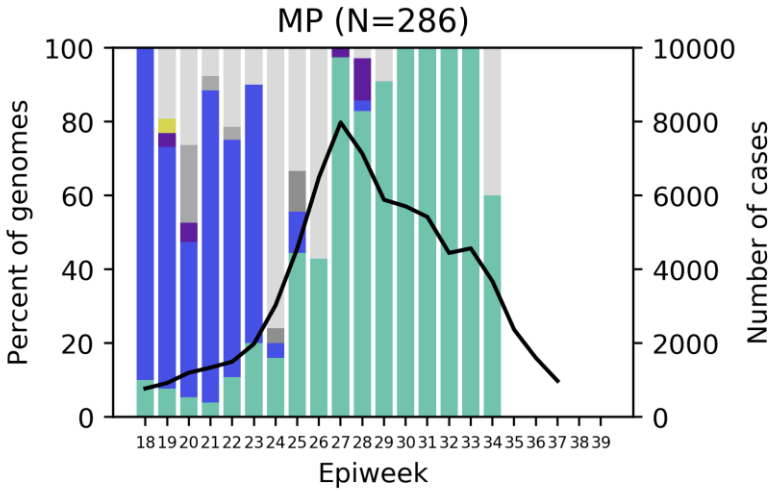
Genomes sequenced from specimens collected in May to mid-August 2021 (epiweeks 18 – 38) from Free State, Mpumalanga and Northern Cape Provinces

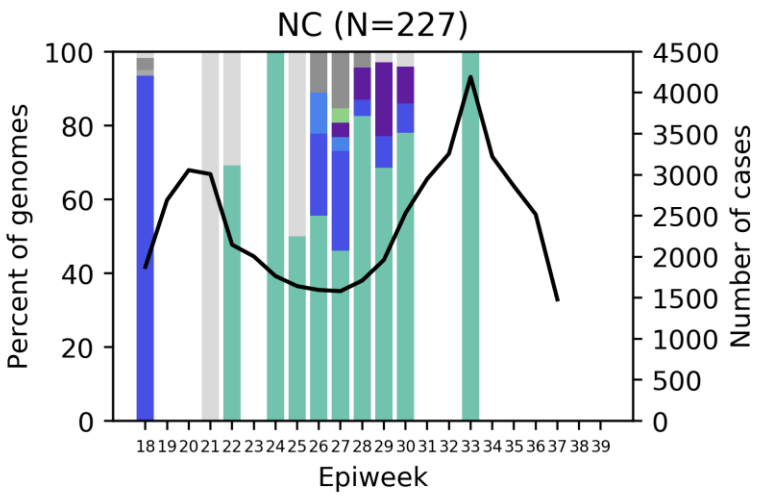


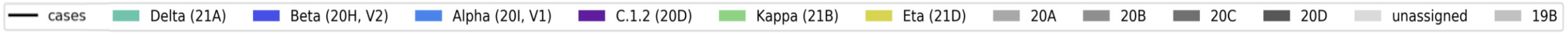












Delta dominates the third wave in Free State, Mpumalanga and Northern Cape provinces

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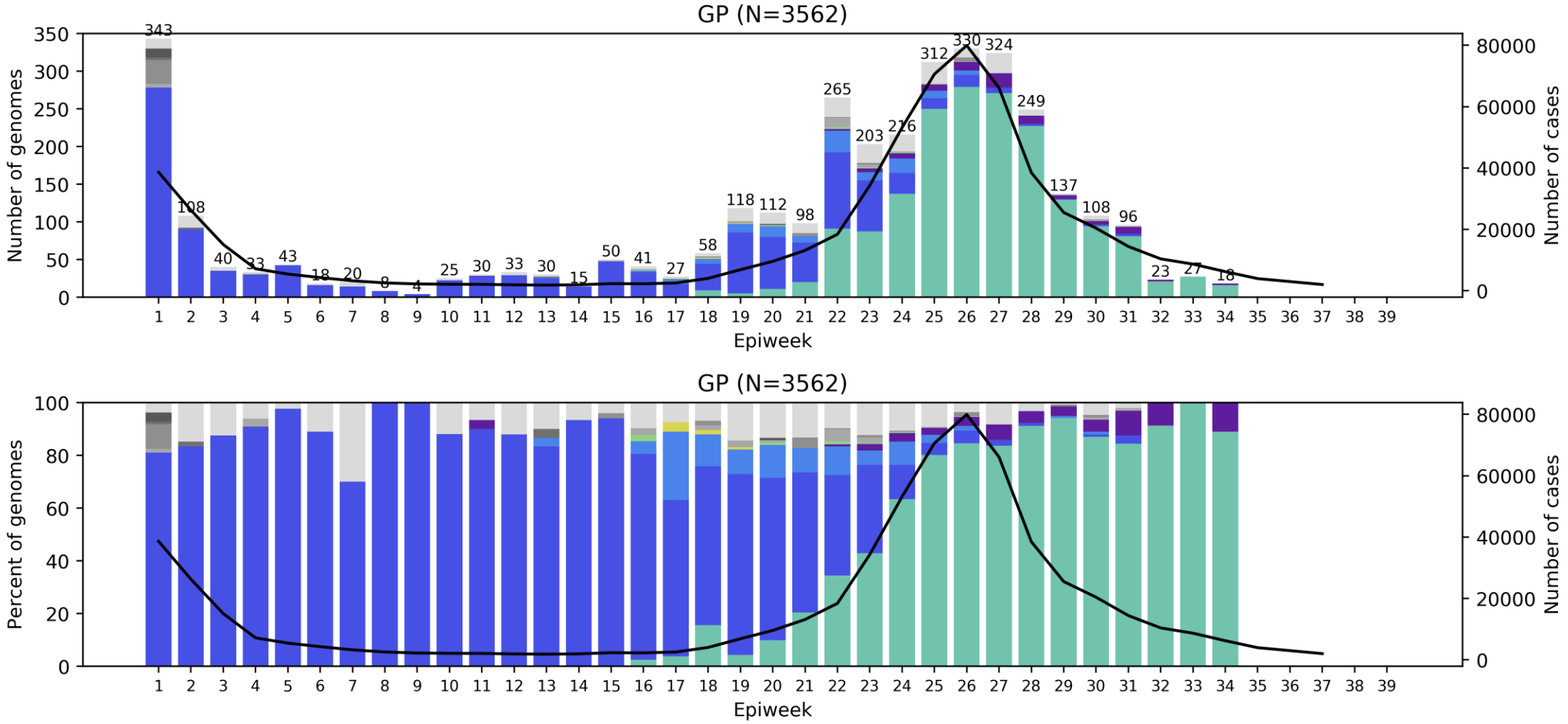
Gauteng Province, 2021, n = 3562



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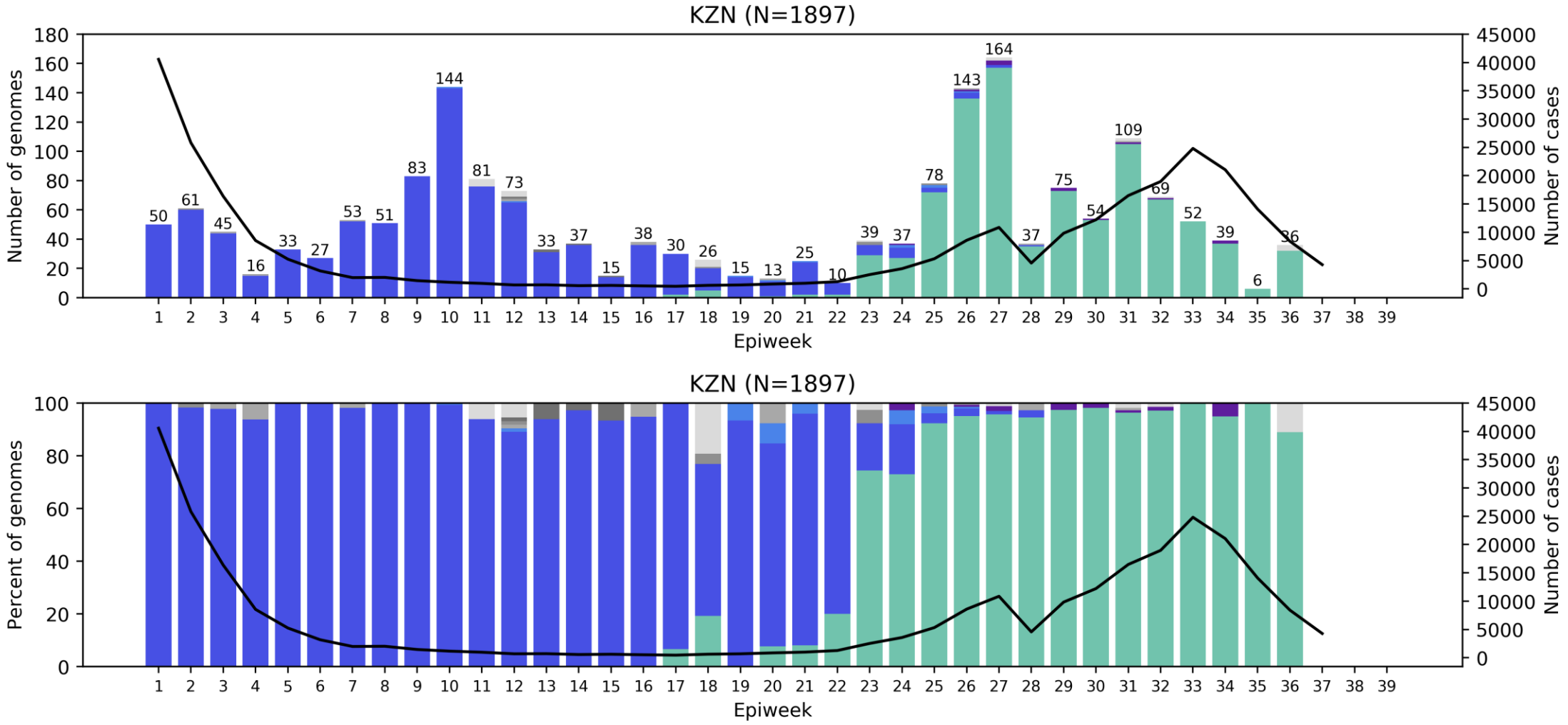
KwaZulu-Natal Province, 2021, n = 1897



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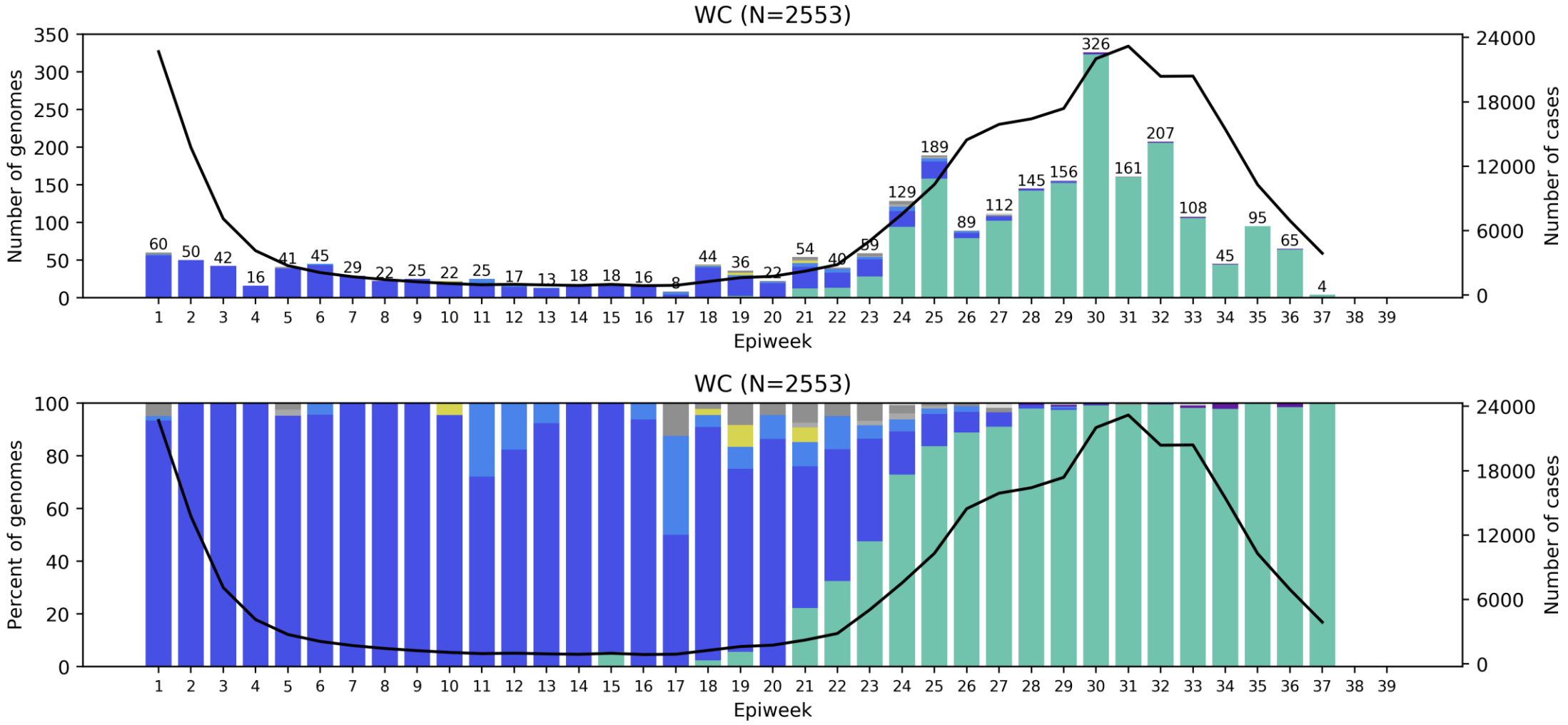
Western Cape Province, 2021, n = 2553



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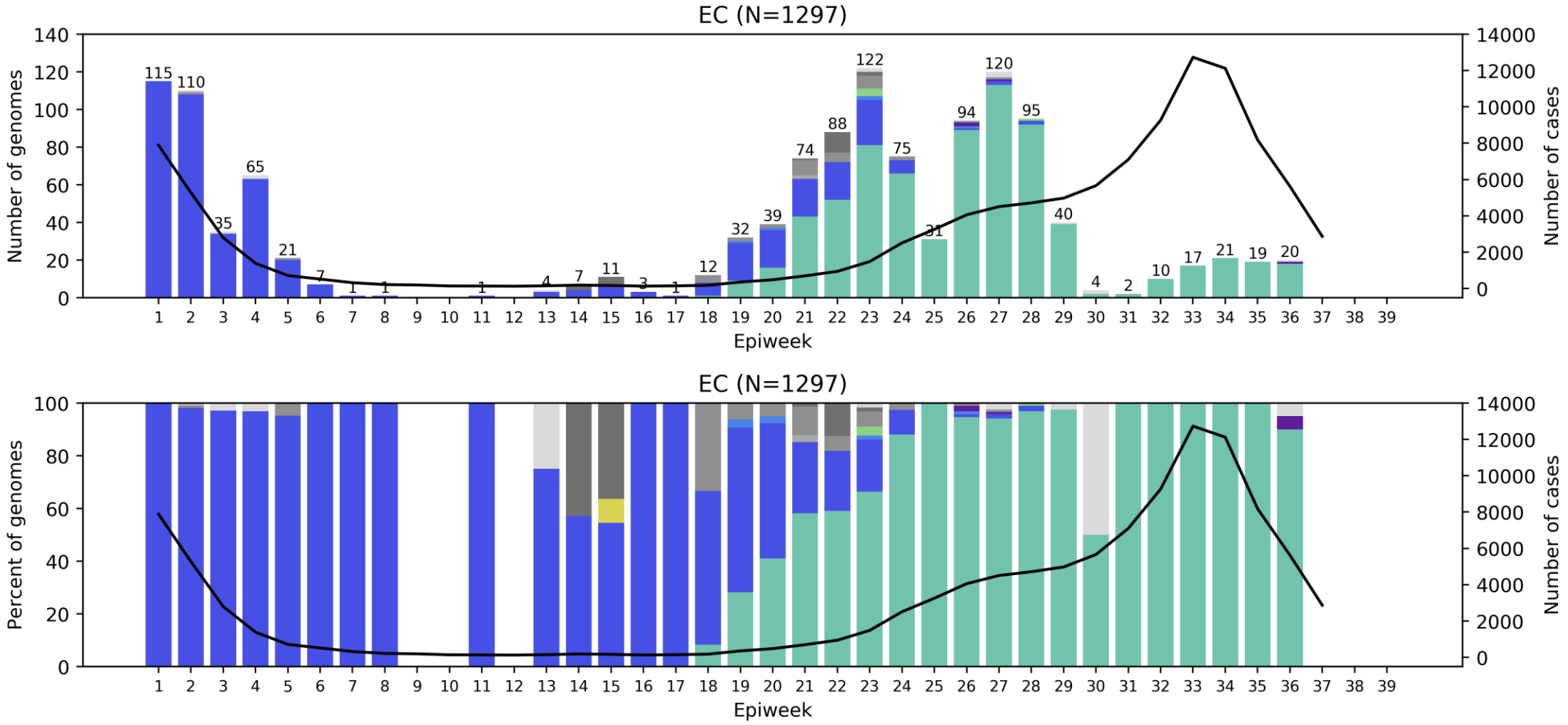
Eastern Cape Province, 2021, n = 1297



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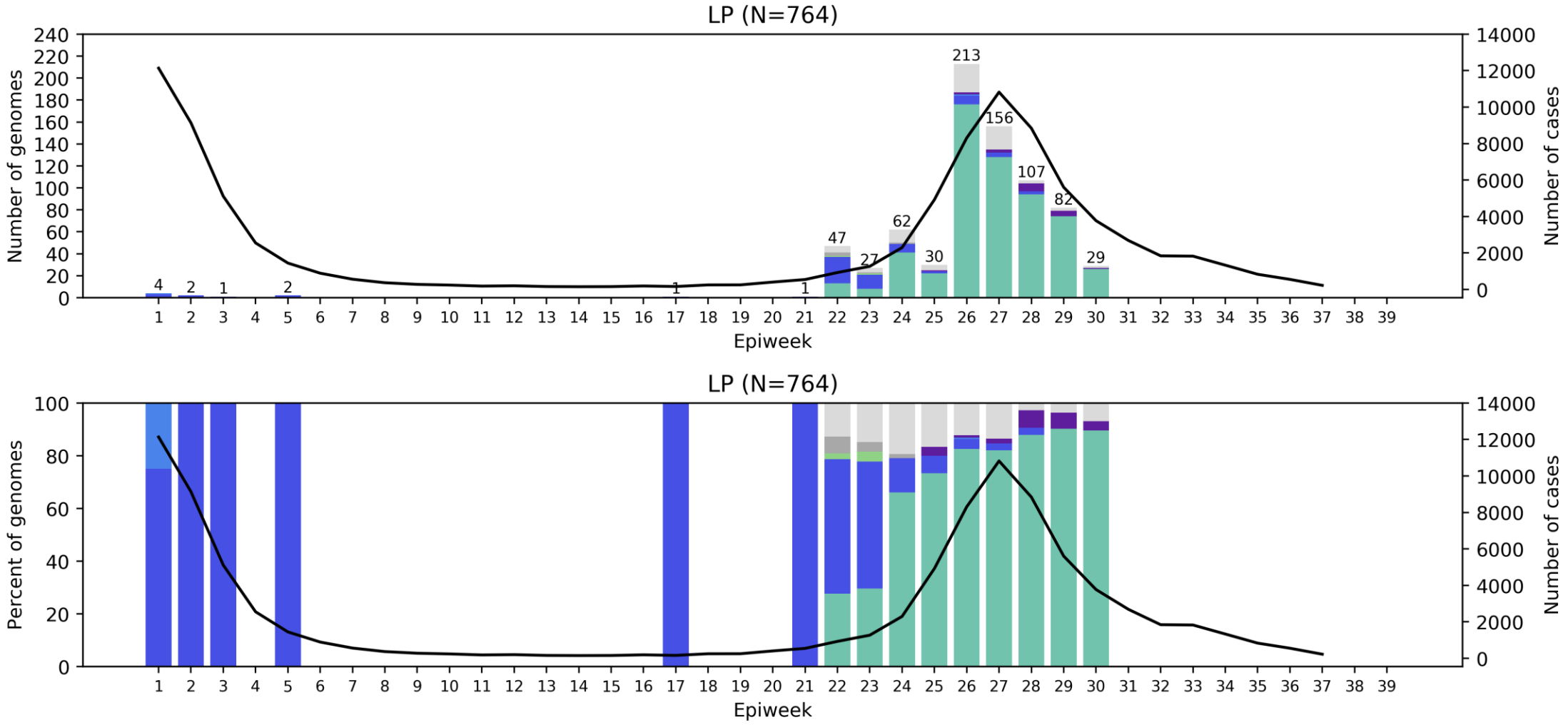
Limpopo Province, 2021, n = 764



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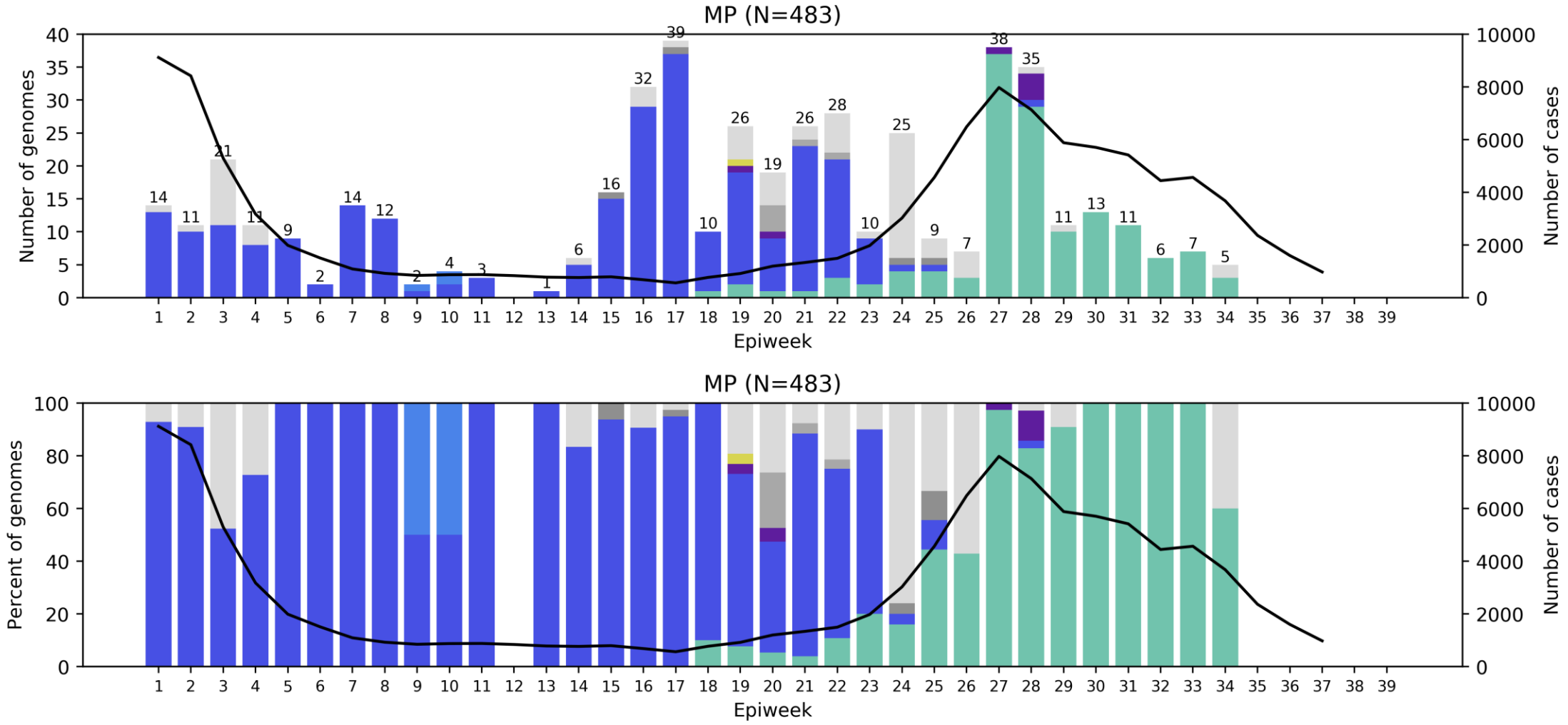
Mpumalanga Province, 2021, n = 483



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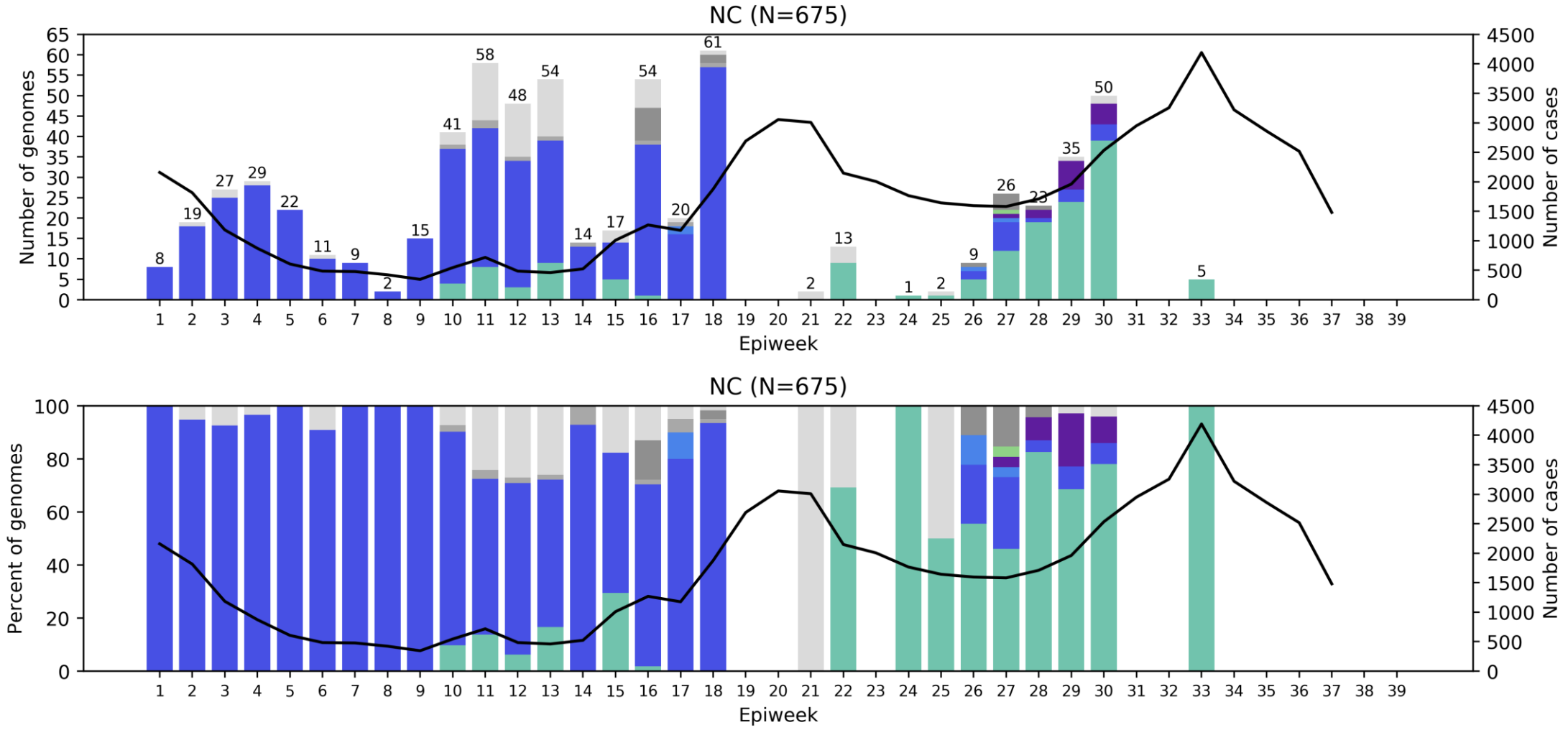
Northern Cape Province, 2021, n = 675



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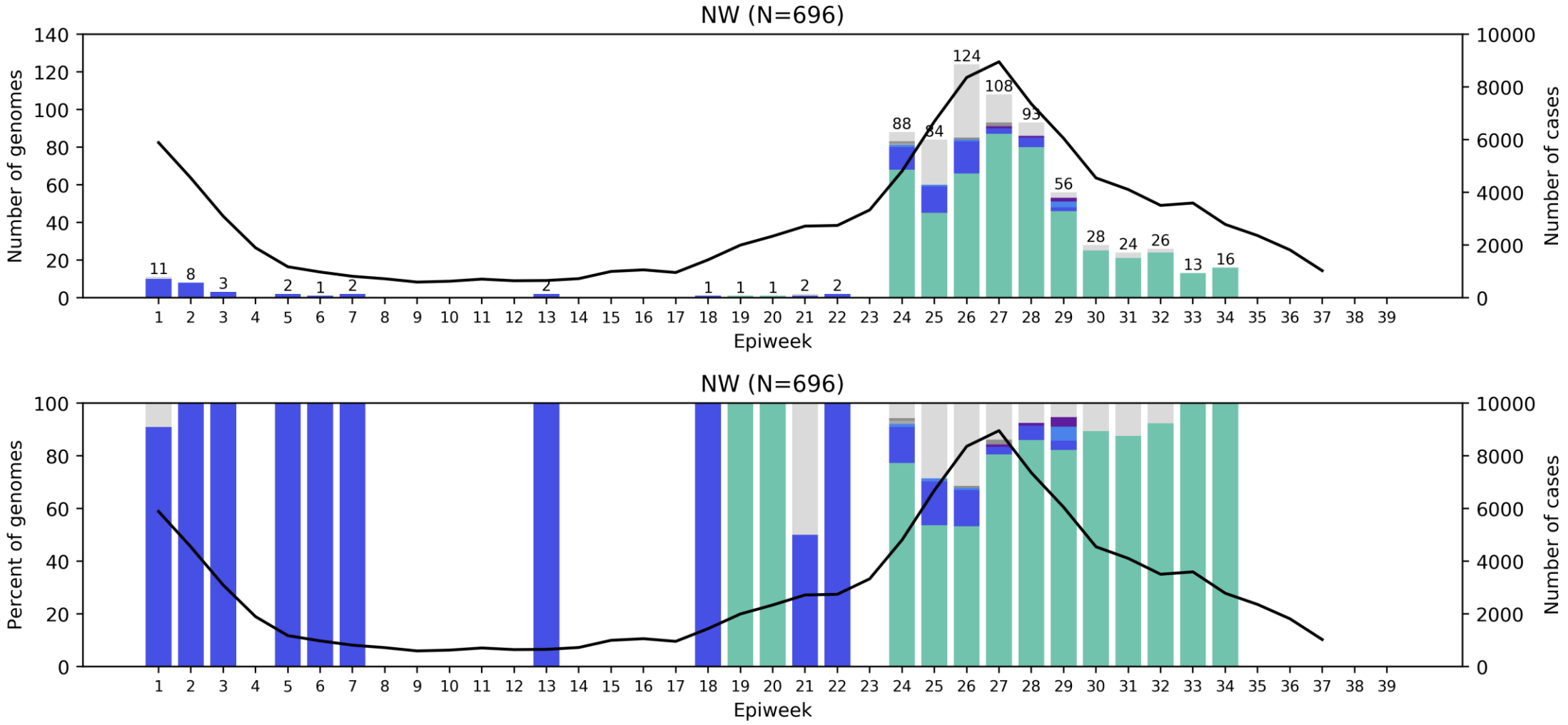
North West Province, 2021, n = 696



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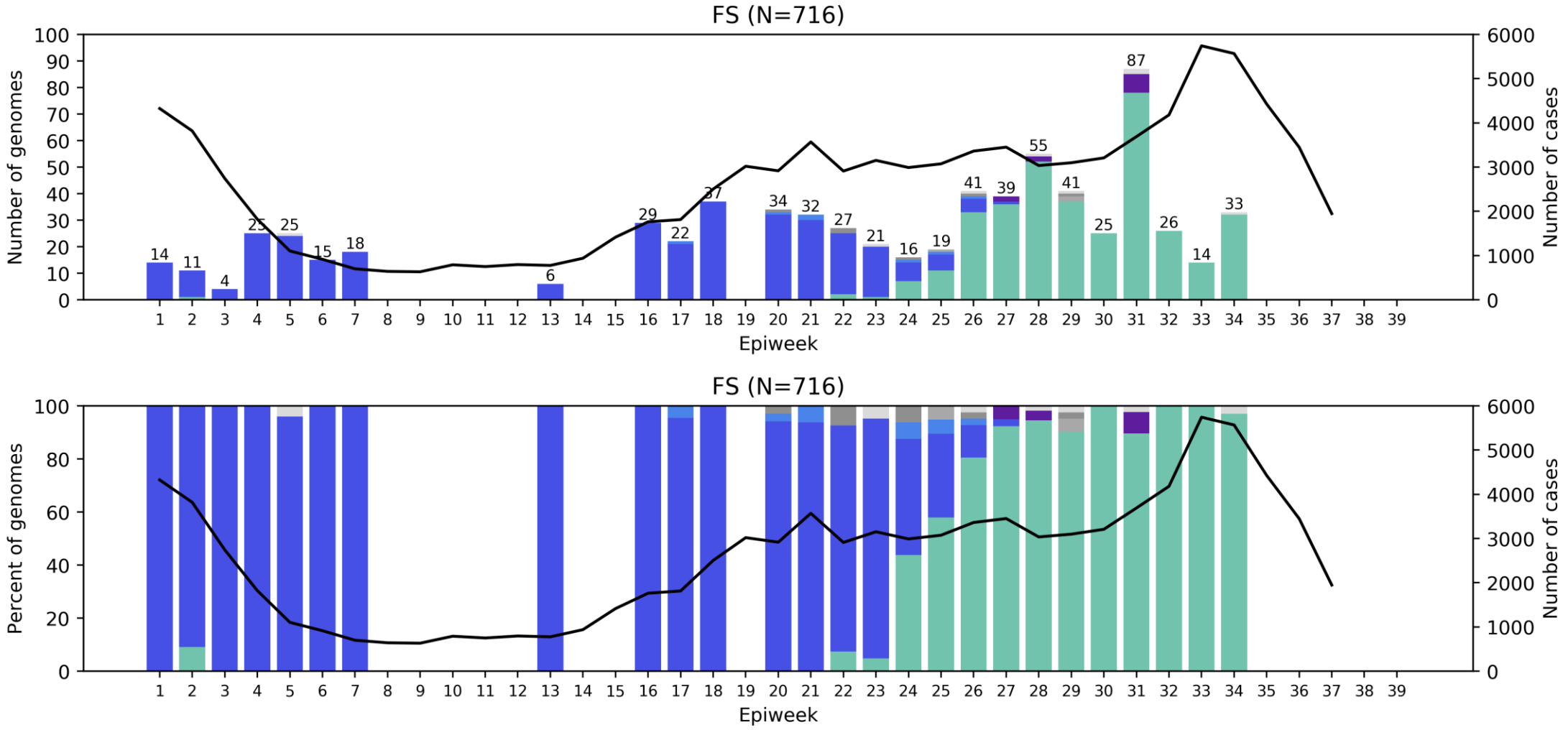
Free State Province, 2021, n = 716



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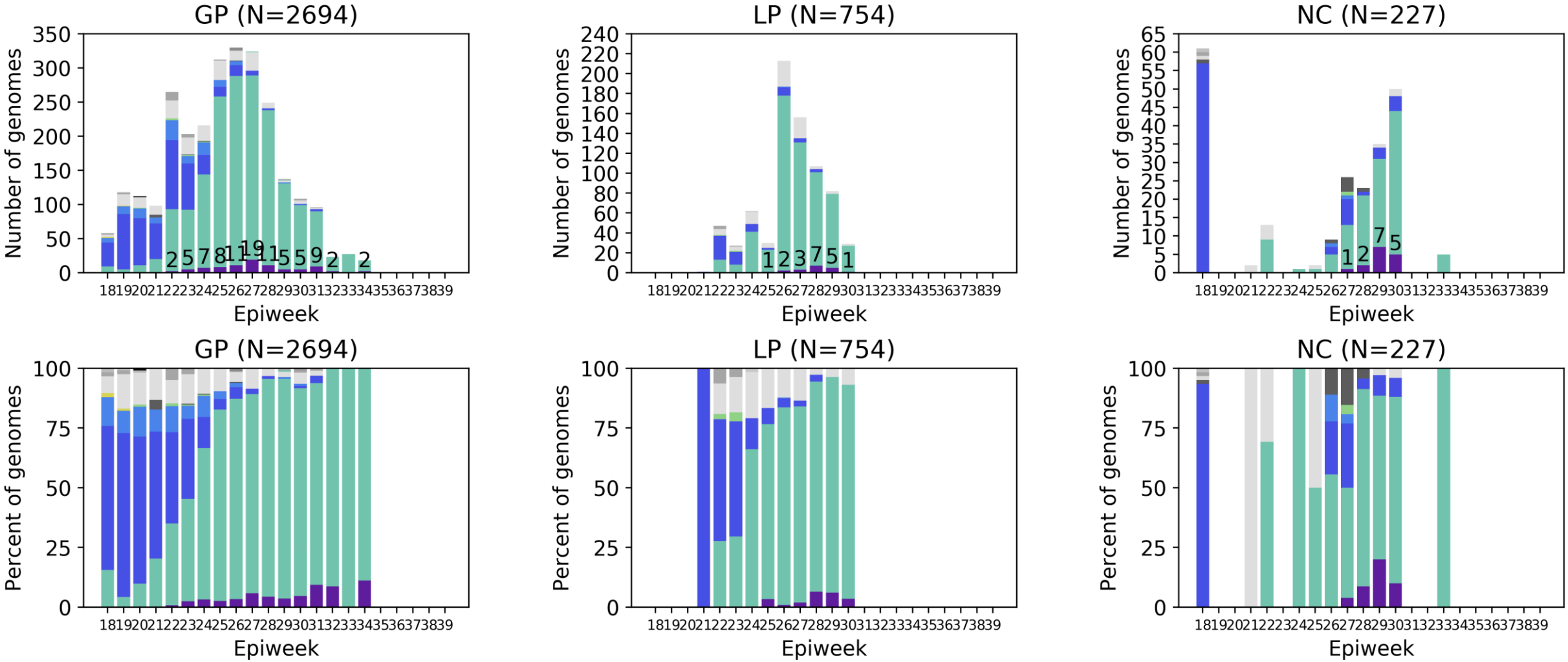
C.1.2 (n=166 in SA) in May – August 2021 by epiweek

Number of C.1.2 samples indicated above bar



The majority of C.1.2 sequences have been detected in Gauteng (n=86), followed by Limpopo (n=19) and the Northern Cape (n=15).

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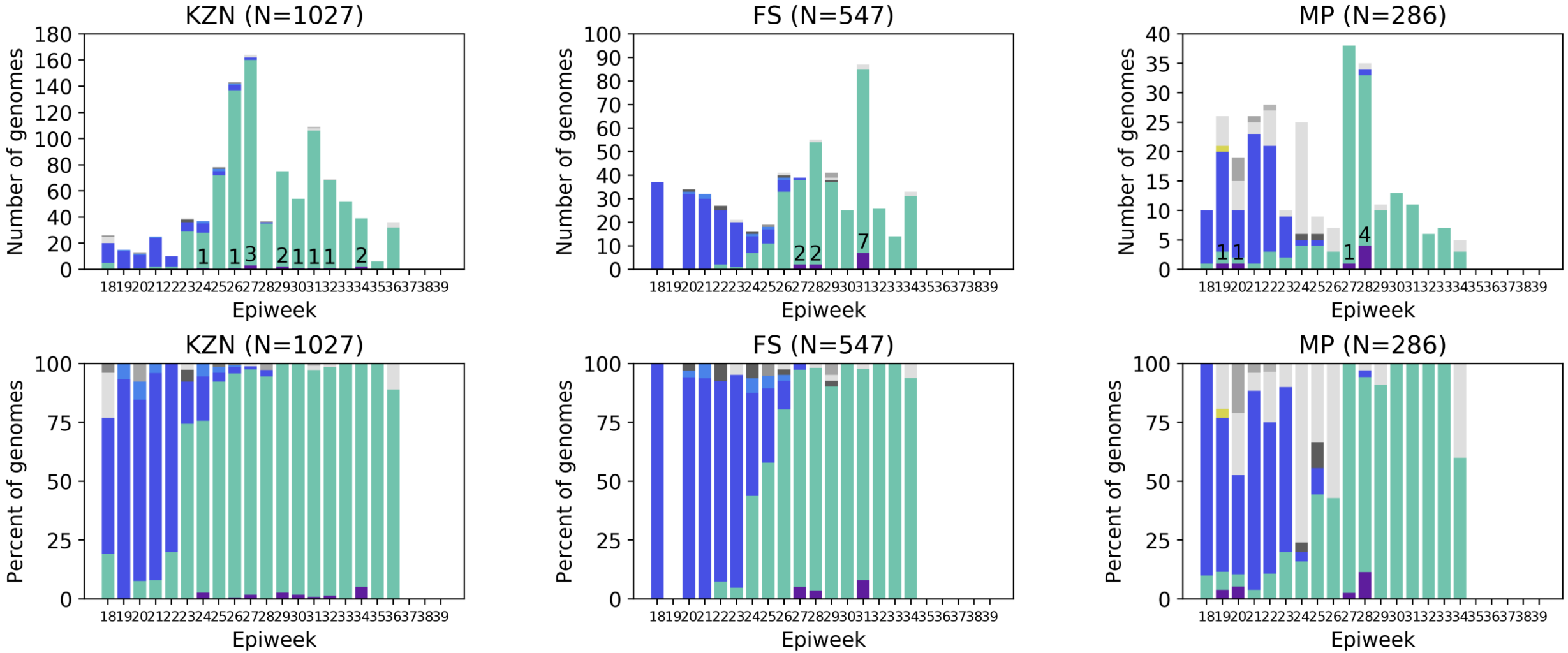
C.1.2 (n=166 in SA) in May – August 2021 by epiweek

Number of C.1.2 samples indicated above bar



12 C.1.2 sequences have been detected in KwaZulu-Natal, 11 in the Free State, and 7 in Mpumalanga.

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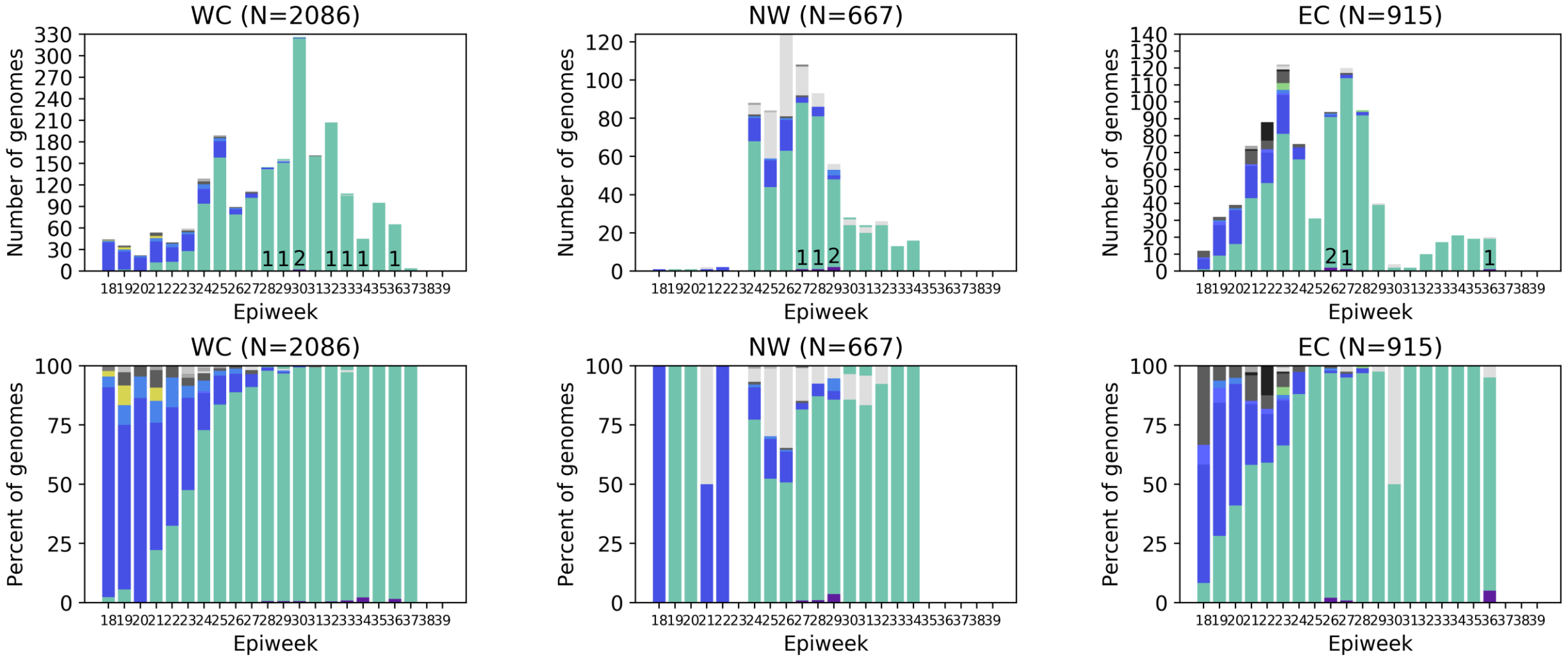
C.1.2 (n=166 in SA) in May – August 2021 by epiweek

Number of C.1.2 samples indicated above bar



The Western Cape has 8 sequences, the North West has 4, and the Eastern Cape has 4 detections of C.1.2.

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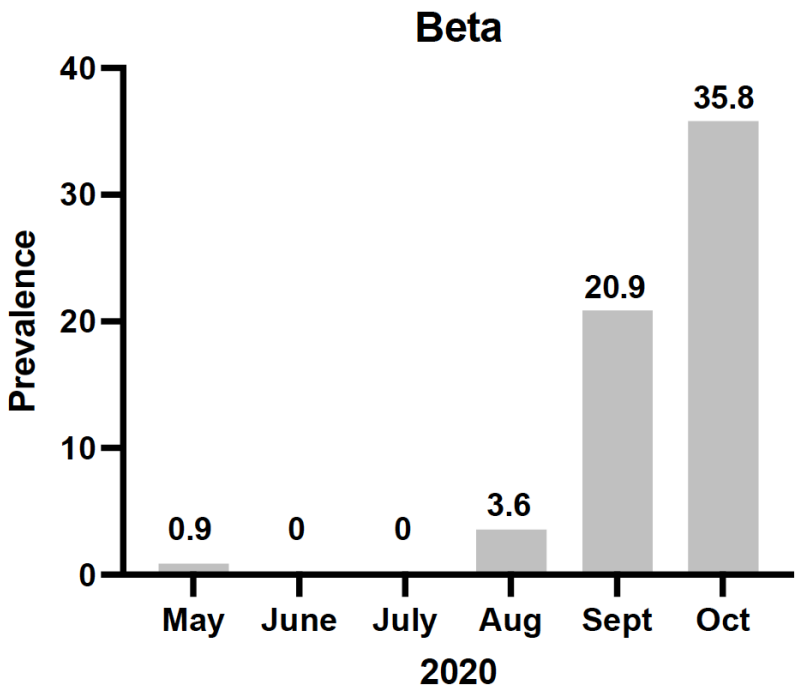
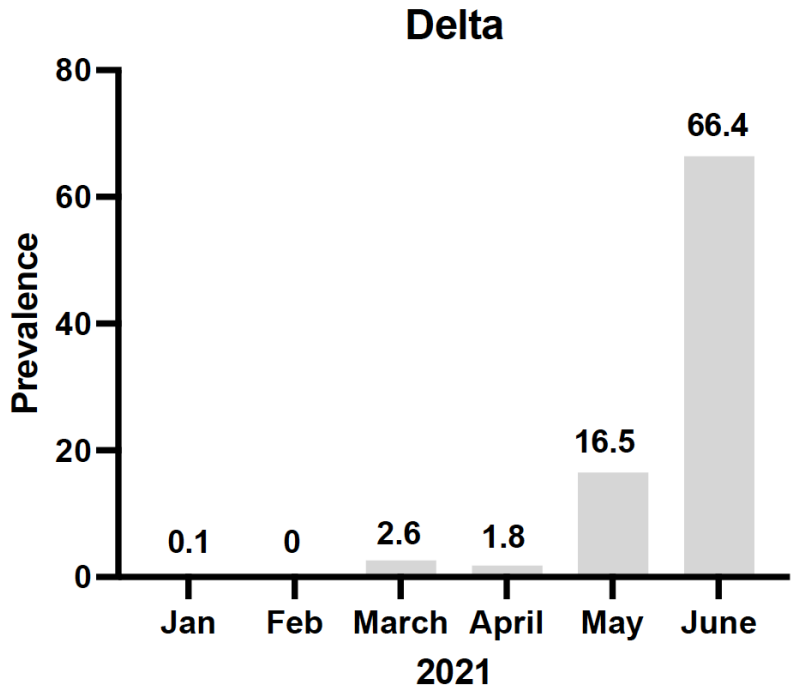
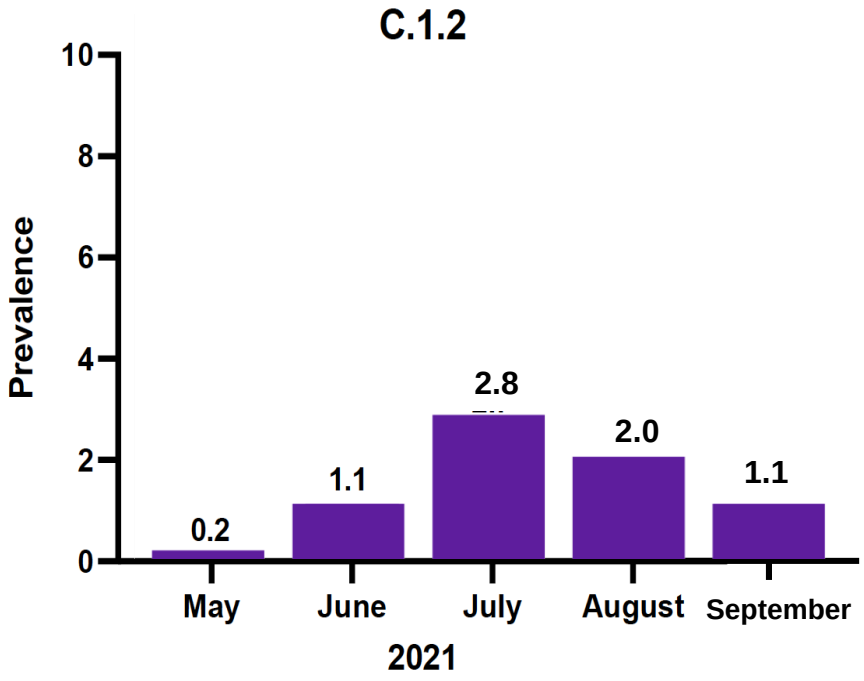
C.1.2 growth compared to Beta and Delta







C.1.2 is being continually monitored and is currently only detected at low levels

Summary

- Delta continues to dominate in all provinces from specimens collected in September
- Overall diversity of lineages decreased as Delta became dominant
- Mutated C.1.2 lineage has now been detected in all provinces of South Africa
  - The frequency of C.1.2 at less than 3% of genomes from May through September
- Lambda and Mu variants not detected in South Africa

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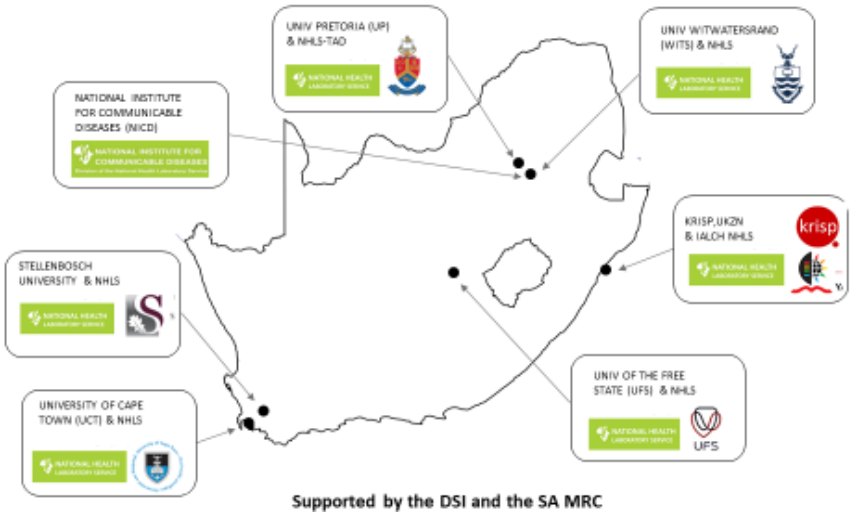

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Dr Kerusha Govender
Dr Pravi Moodley
Dr Aabida Khan
Dr Lili Gounder
Dr Kerri Francois
Dr Cherise Naicker
Dr Joedene Chetty
Dr Neli Ngcaba
Dr Tshepiso Mosito
Mr Malcolm Ellapen
Mr Kubendran Reddy
The COVID-19 Bench team

University of KwaZulu-Natal & Africa Health Research Institute

KRISP at UKZN:
Tulio de Oliveira
Richard Lessels
Houriiyah Tegally
Eduan Wilkinson
Jennifer Giandhari
Sureshnee Pillay
Emmanuel James San

AHRI
Alex Sigal
Sandile Cele
Willem Hanekom

University of Stellenbosch & NHLS Tygerberg Virology

Susan Engelbrecht
Wolfgang Preiser
Gert van Zyl
Tongai Maponga
Bronwyn Kleinhans
Shannon Wilson
Karabo Phadu
Tania Stander
Kamela Mahlakwane
Mathilda Claassen
Diagnostic laboratory staff

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University of Cape Town, NHLS & WCG

NHLS-UCT

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

WCG-UCT

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

UCT, IDM and CIDRI-Africa

Deelan Doolabh
Arash Iranzadeh
Lynn Tyers
Innocent Mudau
Nokuzola Mbhele
Fezokuhle Khumalo
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Bruna Galvão
Arghavan Alisoltani
(U. California)

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Wendy Burgers
Ntobeko Ntusi
Rageema Joseph
Sean Wasserman
Linda Boloko

University of the Free State

UFS

Dominique Goedhals
Armand Bester
Martin Myaga
Peter Mwangi
Emmanuel Ogunbayo
Milton Mogotsi
Makgotso Maotoana
Lutfiyya Mohamed

NHLS Division of Virology

Sabeehah Vawda
Felicity Burt
Thokozani Mkhize
Diagnostic laboratory staff

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Brent Oosthuysen
Penny Moore
Lynn Morris

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health
Department: Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

AFRICA CDC
Centres for Disease Control and Prevention
Safeguarding Africa's Health

wellcome

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Adriano Mendes (Postdoc)
Amy Strydom (Postdoc)
Michaela Davis (MSc, intern medical scientist)

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Funders:
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NGS-SA
Network for Genomic Surveillance in South Africa

Additional support and collaborators

NHLS
Koeleka Mlisana
Zinhle Makatini
Eugene Elliot
Florette K. Treurnicht
Kathleen Subramoney
Oluwakemi Laguda-Akingba
Shareef Abrahams
Greta Hoyland
Gloria Selabe
Elias Bereda
Jeannette Wadula

Hyrax Biosciences
Simon Travers

Cape Town HVTN Laboratory
Erica Anderson-Nissen
Anneta Naidoo

Ndlovu Research
Hugo Tempelman
CJ Umunnakwe

Lancet
Allison J. Glass

Ampath
Terry Marshall
Cindy van Deventer
Eddie Silberbauer

Pathcare Vermaak
Andries Dreyer
Howard Newman
Riaan Writes
Marianne Wolfaardt
Warren Lowman

Bridge-the-Gap
Raymond Rott

Cytespace Africa Laboratories
Christa Viljoen

ARC-OVI
Lia Rotherham

CAPRISA
Salim Abdool Karim
Nigel Garret

UKZN - Big Data
Francesco Pettruccione
Ilya Sinayskiy

University of Oxford
José Lourenço

FioCruz, Brazil
Vagner Fonseca
Marta Giovanetti
Luiz Carlos Junior Alcantara

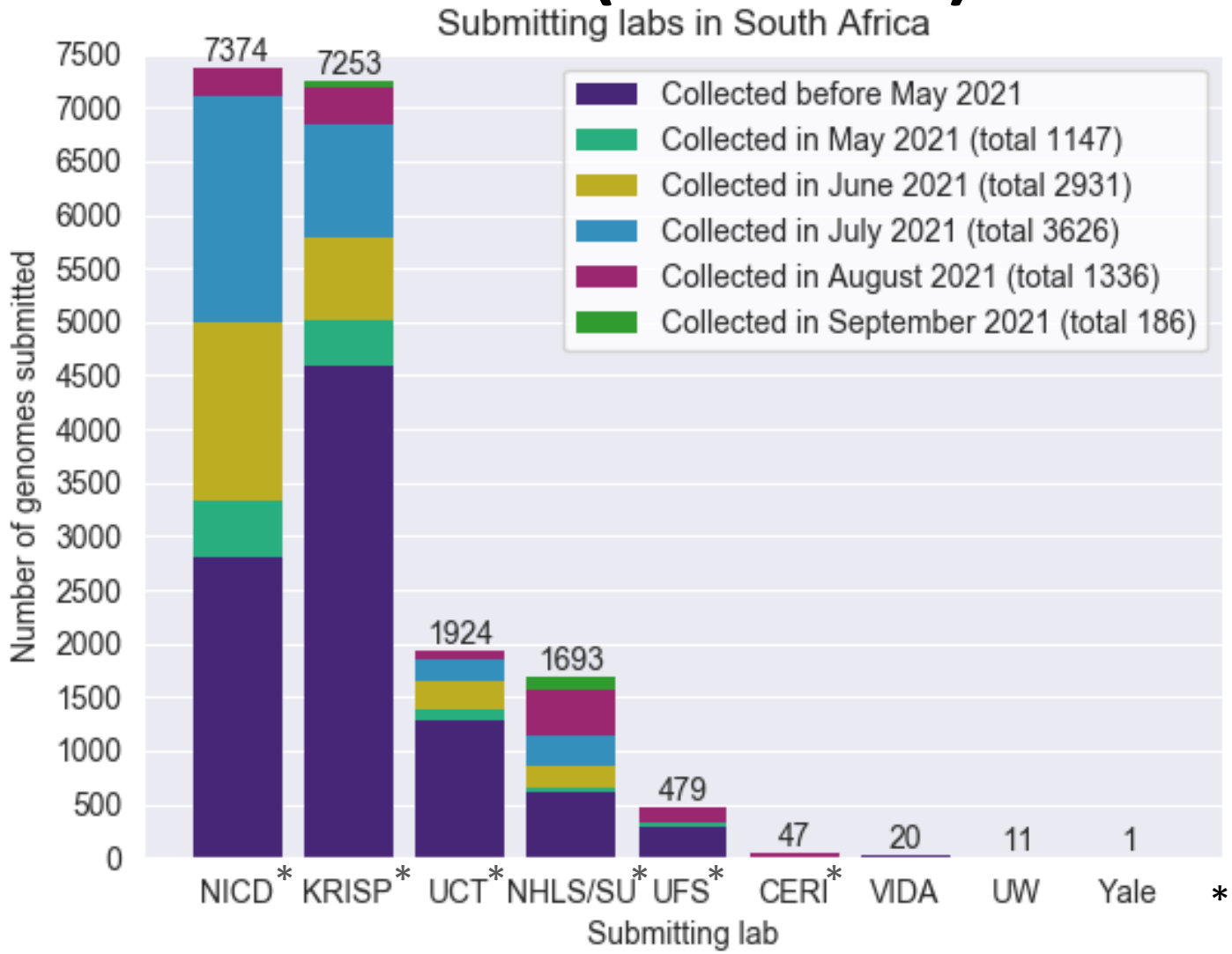
Africa CDC
John Nkengasong
Sofonias Tessema

Netcare:
Richard Friedland
Craig Murphy
Caroline Maslo
Liza Sitharam

DSI
Glaudina Loots

SA MRC
Glenda Gray

South African genomes submitted per sequencing lab, 2020 and 2021 (N=18 802)



*NGS-SA laboratories

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

NGS-SA
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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	GH/501Y.V2	20H (V2)	+S:L18F	South Africa, May-2020	18-Dec-2020
Gamma	P.1	GR/501Y.V3	20J (V3)	+S:681H	Brazil, Nov-2020	11-Jan-2021
Delta	B.1.617.2[§]	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 17 September 2021

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

[+]Includes all descendant lineages.

[#]Includes all Q.* lineages in the PANGO nomenclature system.

[§]Includes all AY.* lineages in the PANGO nomenclature system.

Currently designated Variants of Interest (VOI)

WHO label	Pango* lineages	GISAID clade	Nextstrain clade	Earliest documented samples	Date of designation
Lambda	C.37	GR/452Q.V1	21G	Peru, Dec-2020	14-Jun-2021
Mu	B.1.631	GH	21H	Colombia, Jan-2021	30-Aug-2021

https://www.who.int/en/activities/tracking-SARS-CoV-2-variants/ accessed 27 September 2021

*Includes all descendant lineages.

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 their closest NGS-SA sequencing laboratory 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 laboratory 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.)