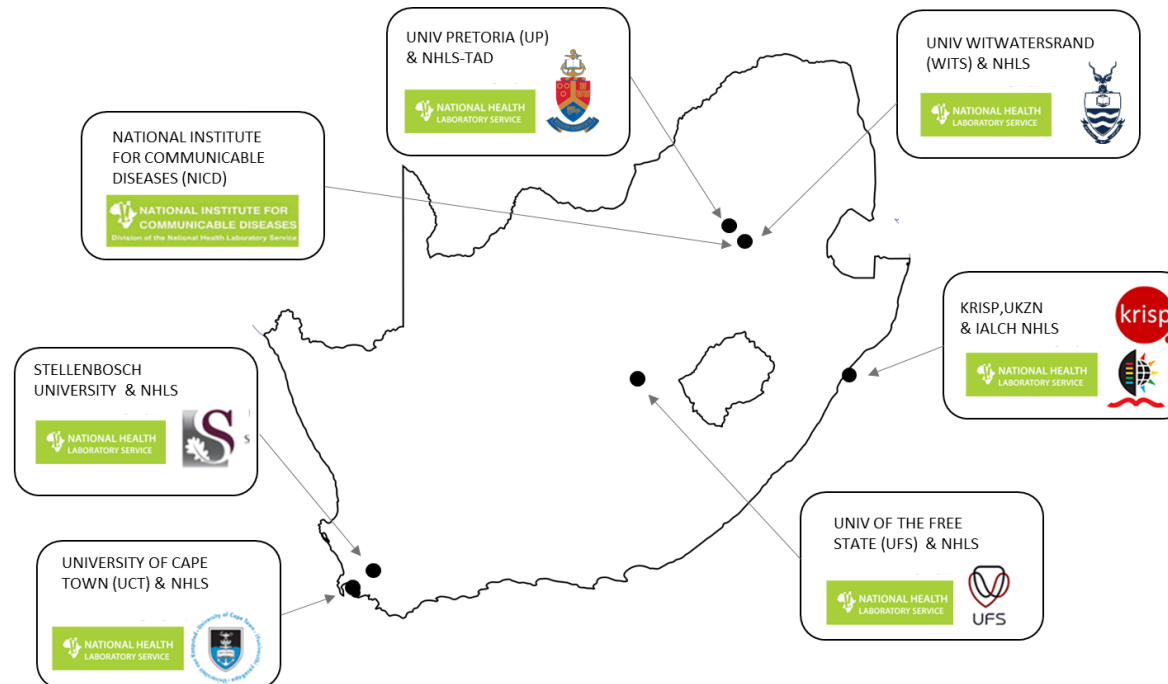


## SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing Update 13 May 2022



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](http://www.gisaid.org)) on 13 May 2022 at 08h25

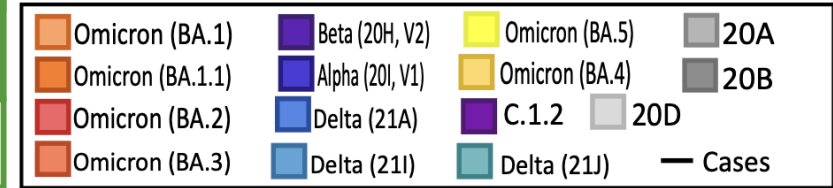
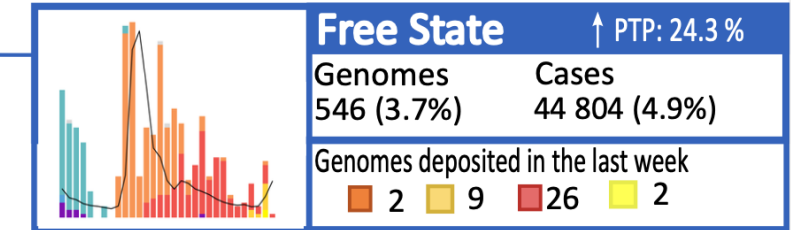
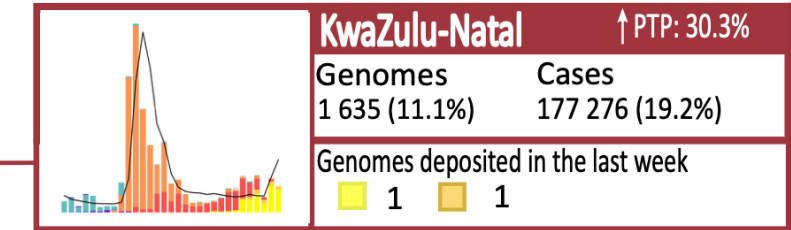
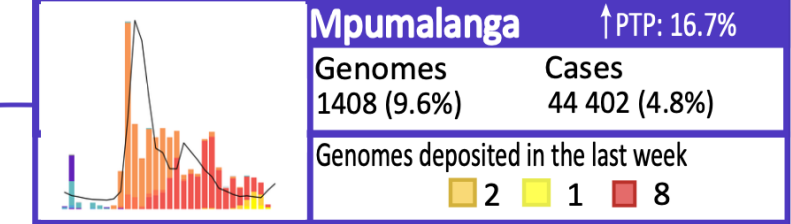
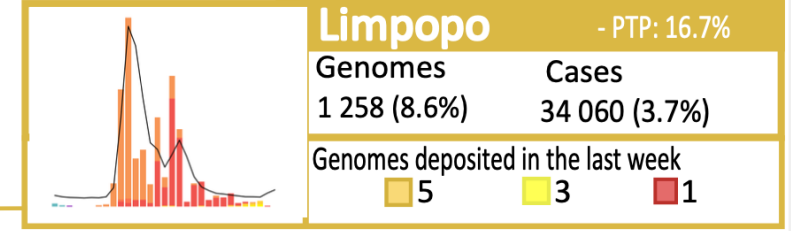
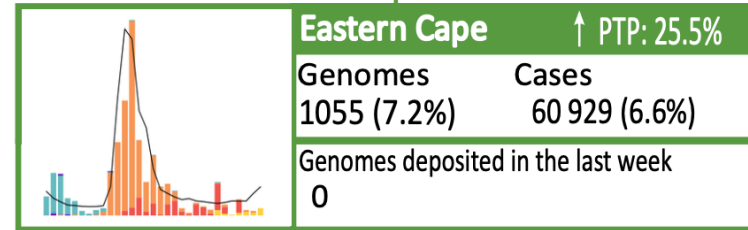
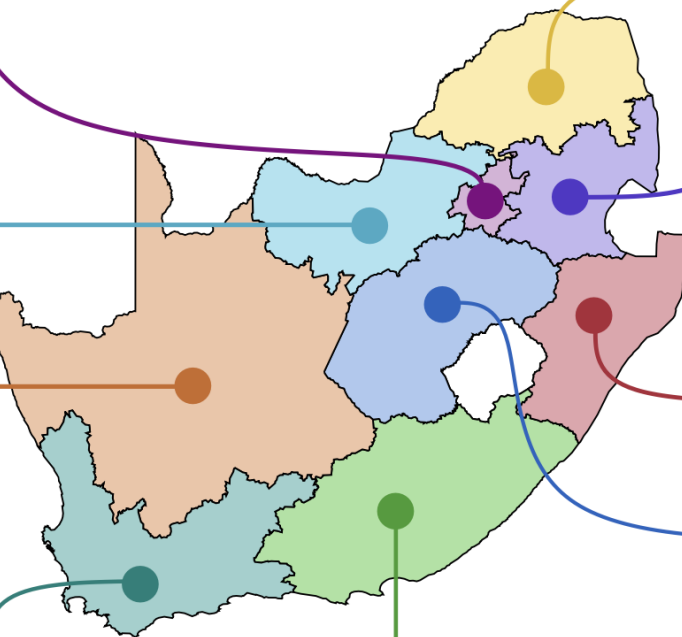
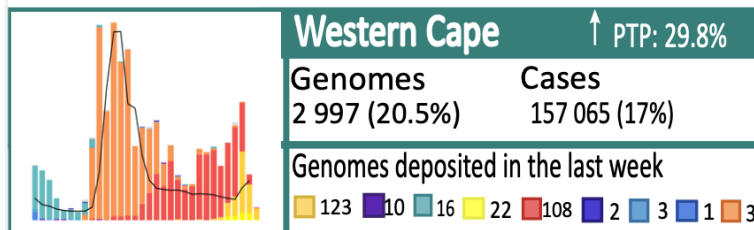
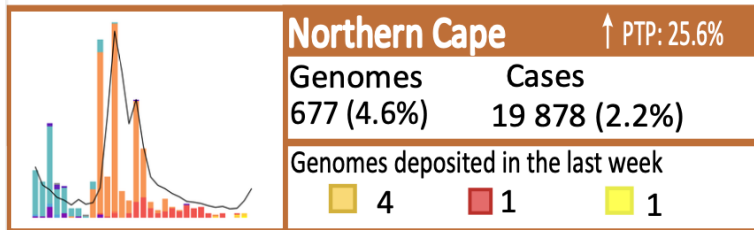
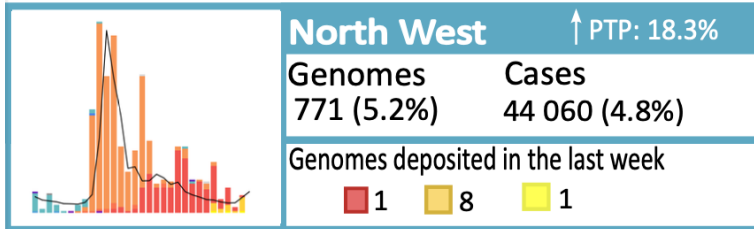
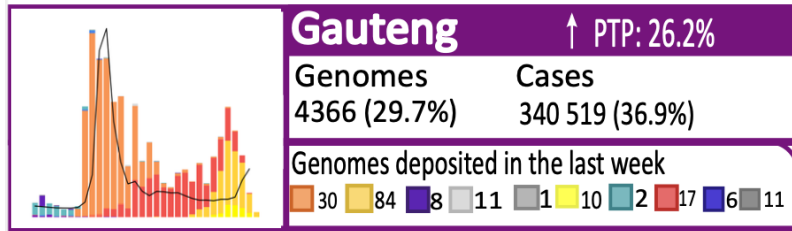


Data license: <https://www.gisaid.org/registration/terms-of-use/>

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

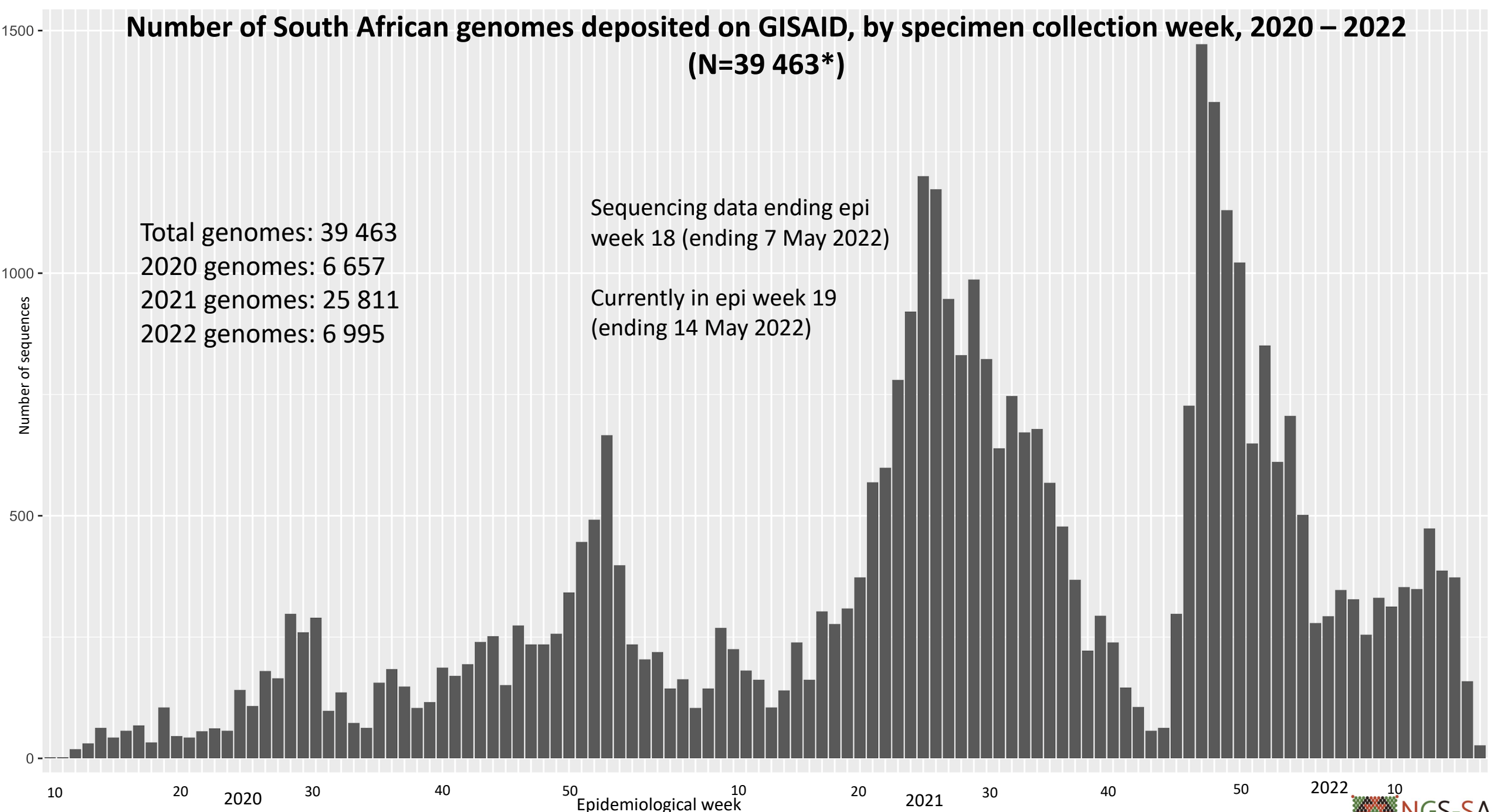
Shu, Y., McCauley, J. (2017) GISAID: Global initiative on sharing all influenza data – from vision to reality. *EuroSurveillance*, 22(13) DOI: 10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2017.22.13.30494 PMCID: PMC5388101

# SARS-CoV-2 GENOMIC SURVEILLANCE epiweeks 39 (2021) - 18 (2022)



**547 genomes added since the previous report**

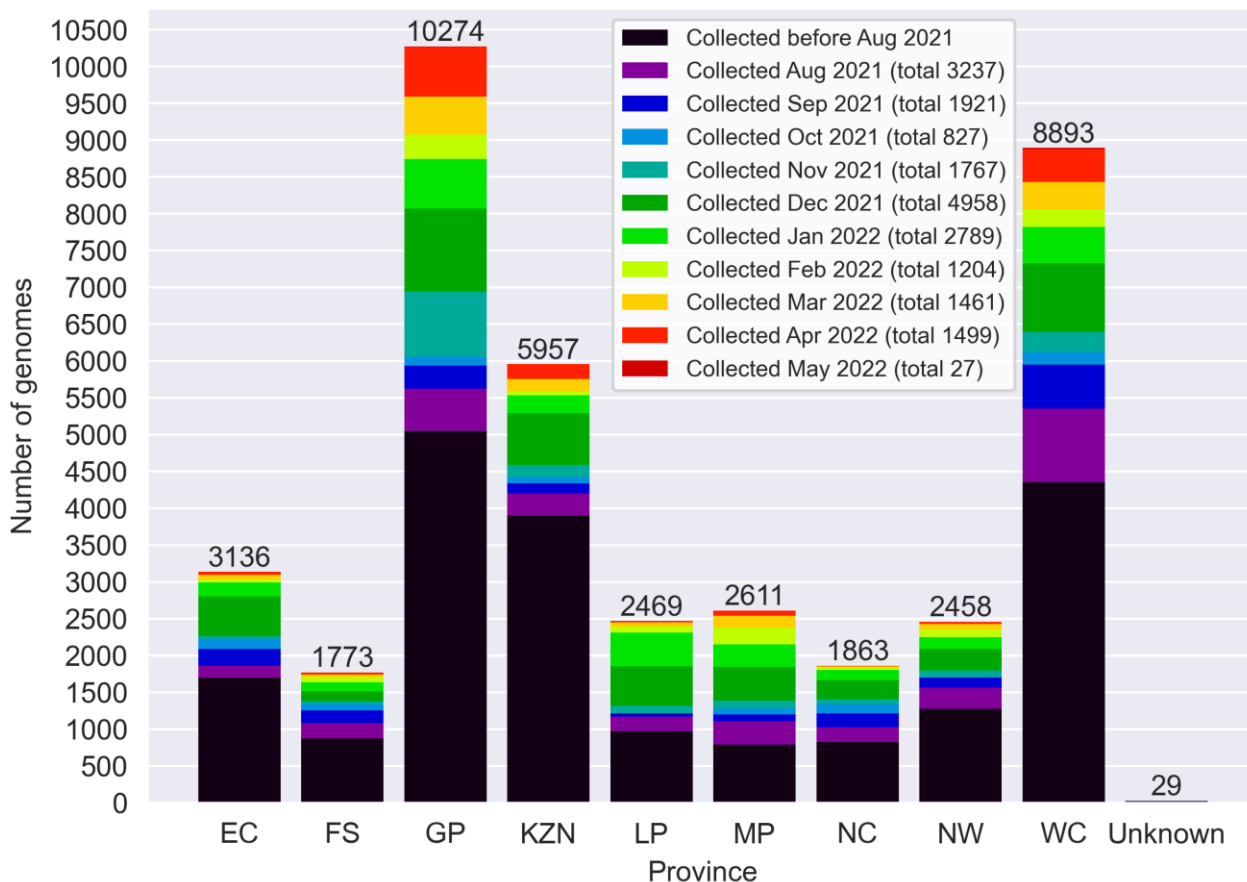
# Number of South African genomes deposited on GISAID, by specimen collection week, 2020 – 2022 (N=39 463\*)



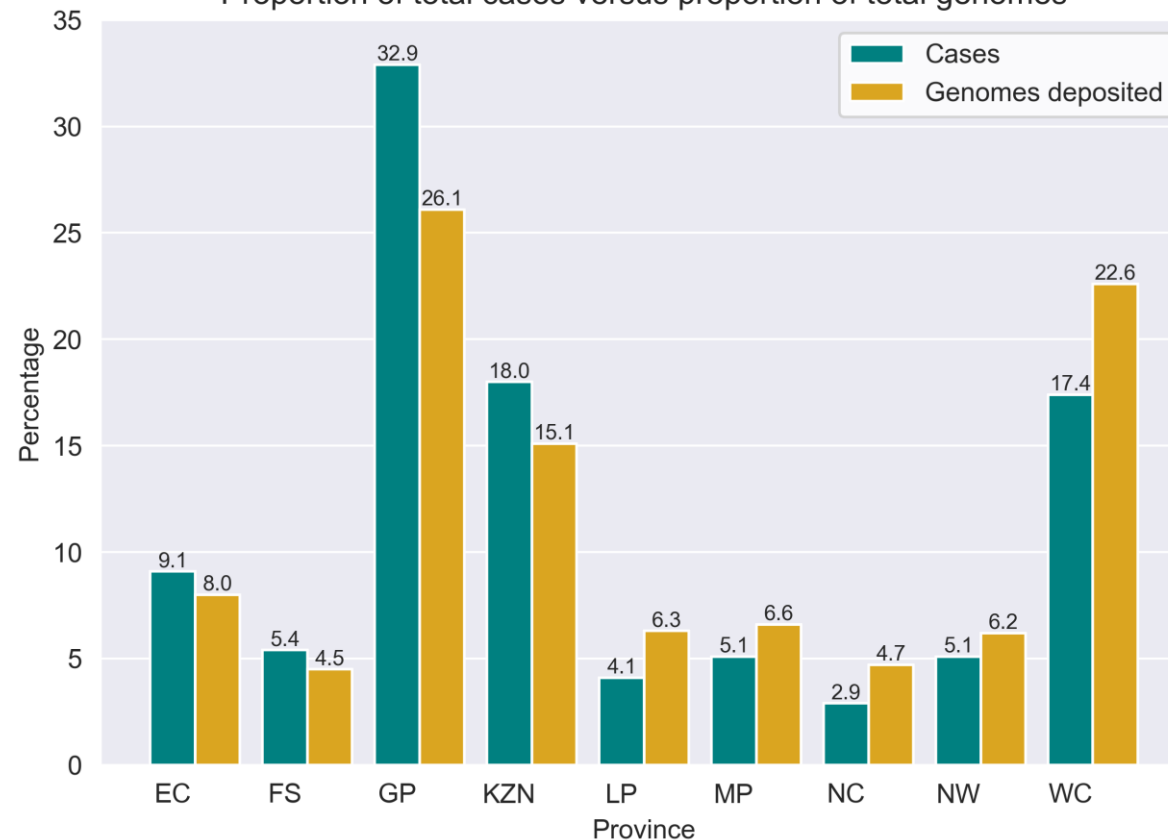
\*This represents the cleaned, de-duplicated dataset of unique **National and Pneumonia Surveillance** sequences. This dataset will be used for all further figures.

# GISAID genomes vs total cases, 2020 – 2022 (N= 39 463)

Provincial breakdown of genomes deposited into GISAID

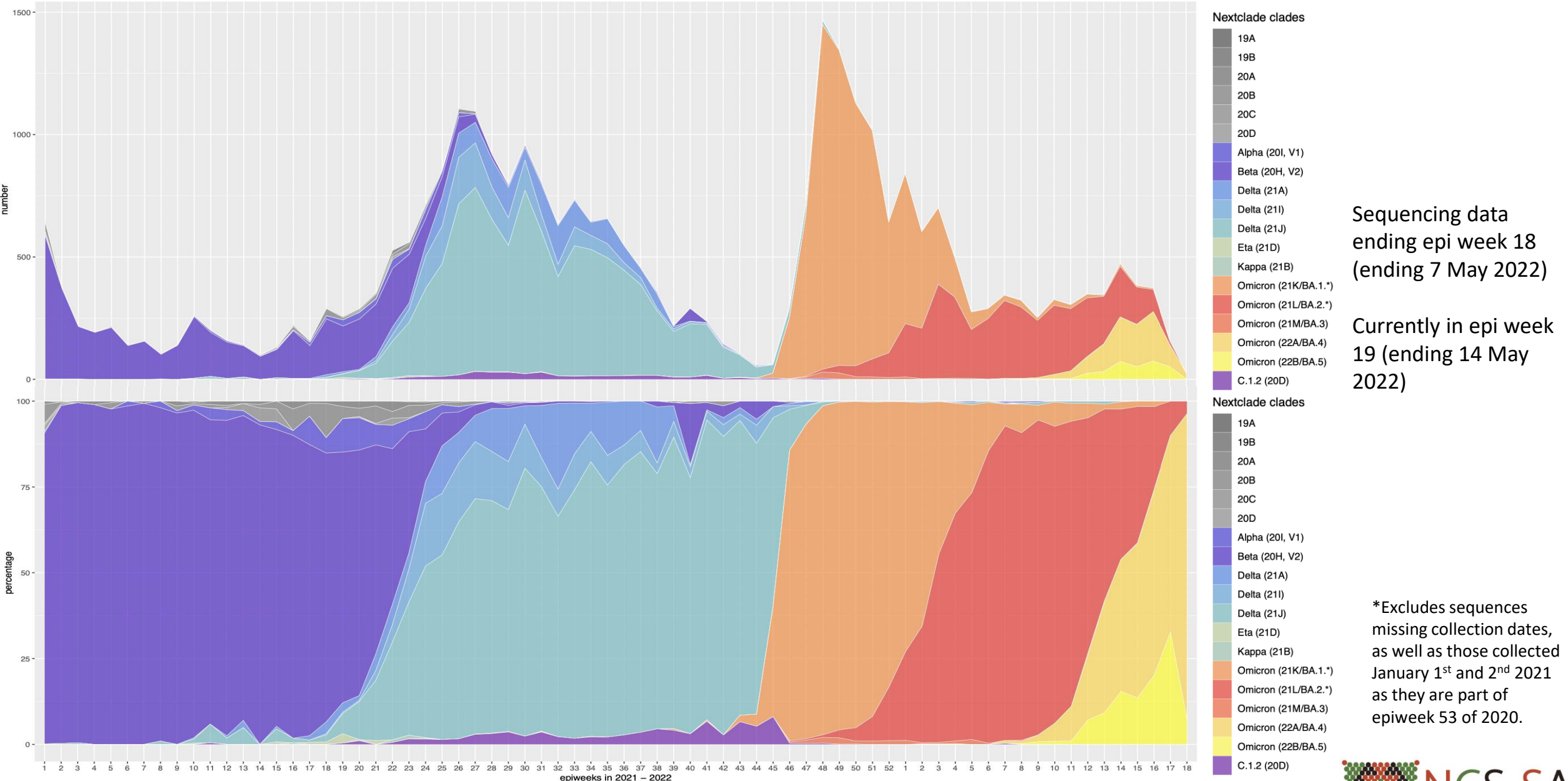


Proportion of total cases versus proportion of total genomes



All provinces, apart from GP, KZN, LP, MP, NC and WC, have comparable percentages of overall cases and overall sequenced genomes.

# Number and percentage of clades by epiweek in South Africa, 2021 – 2022 (32 719\*)



Sequencing data  
ending epi week 18  
(ending 7 May 2022)

Currently in epi week  
19 (ending 14 May  
2022)

\*Excludes sequences  
missing collection dates,  
as well as those collected  
January 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021  
as they are part of  
epiweek 53 of 2020.

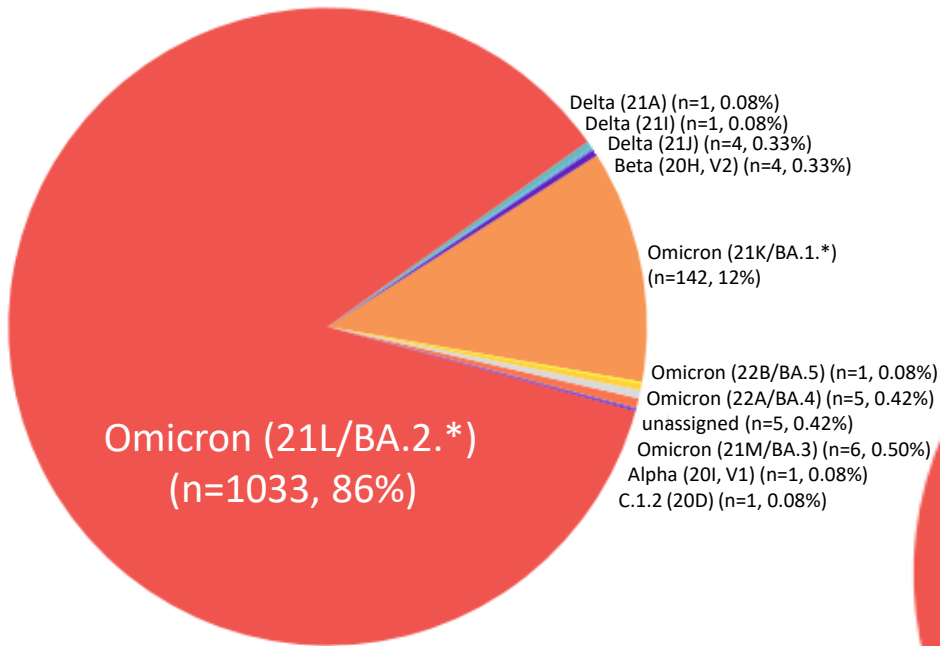
Delta dominated in South Africa until October at >80%. Omicron has dominated from November onwards.



# Prevalence of Variants of Concern (VOC) and Variants of Interest (VOI) in

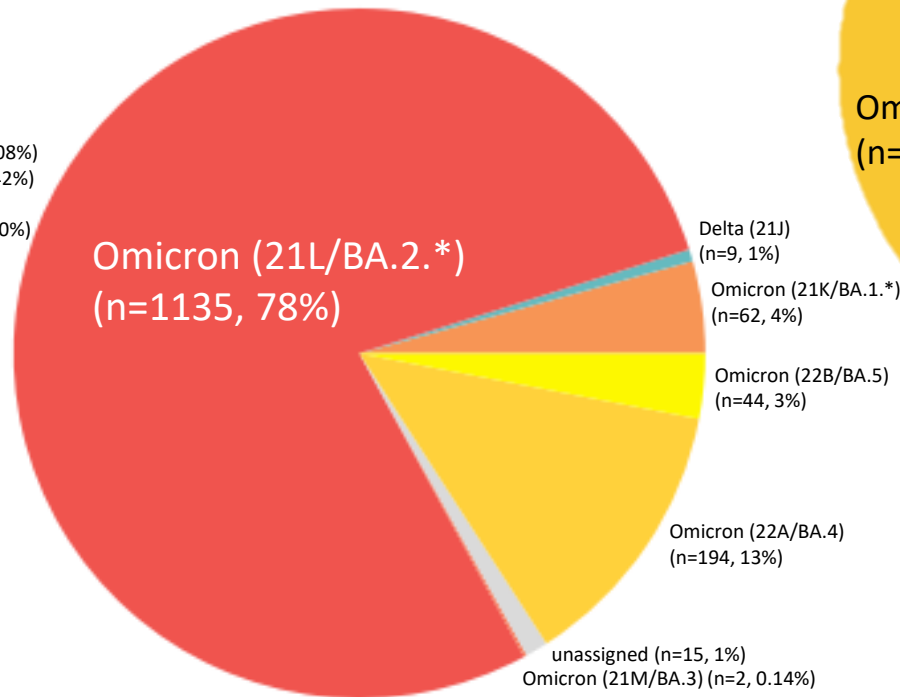
**Feb – Apr 2022**

**February (N=1204)**



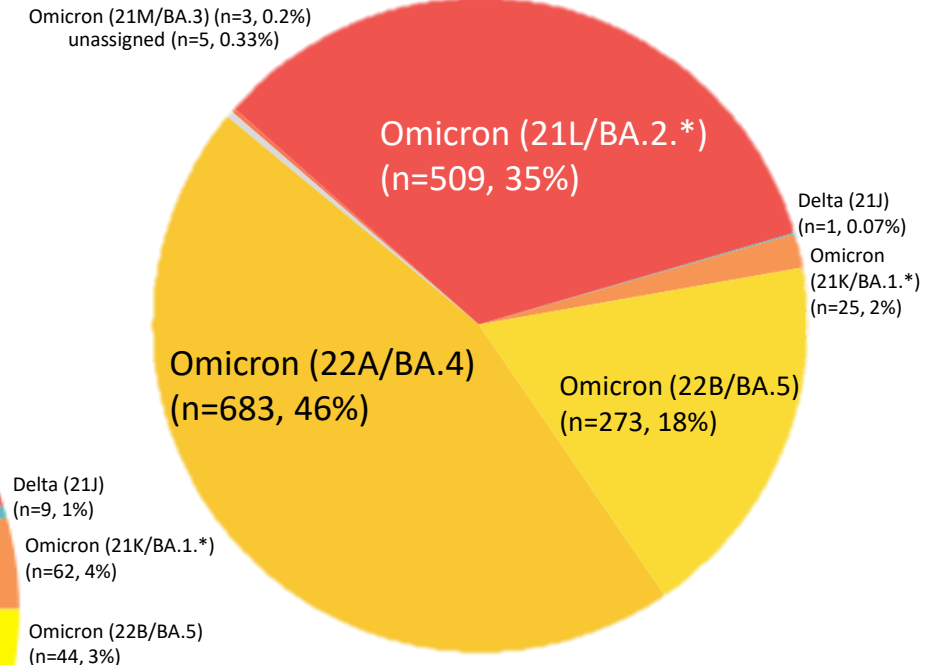
**Total Omicron in Feb: 1187 (98.6%)**

**March (N=1461)**



**Total Omicron in Mar: 1437 (98.4%)**

**April (N=1499)**



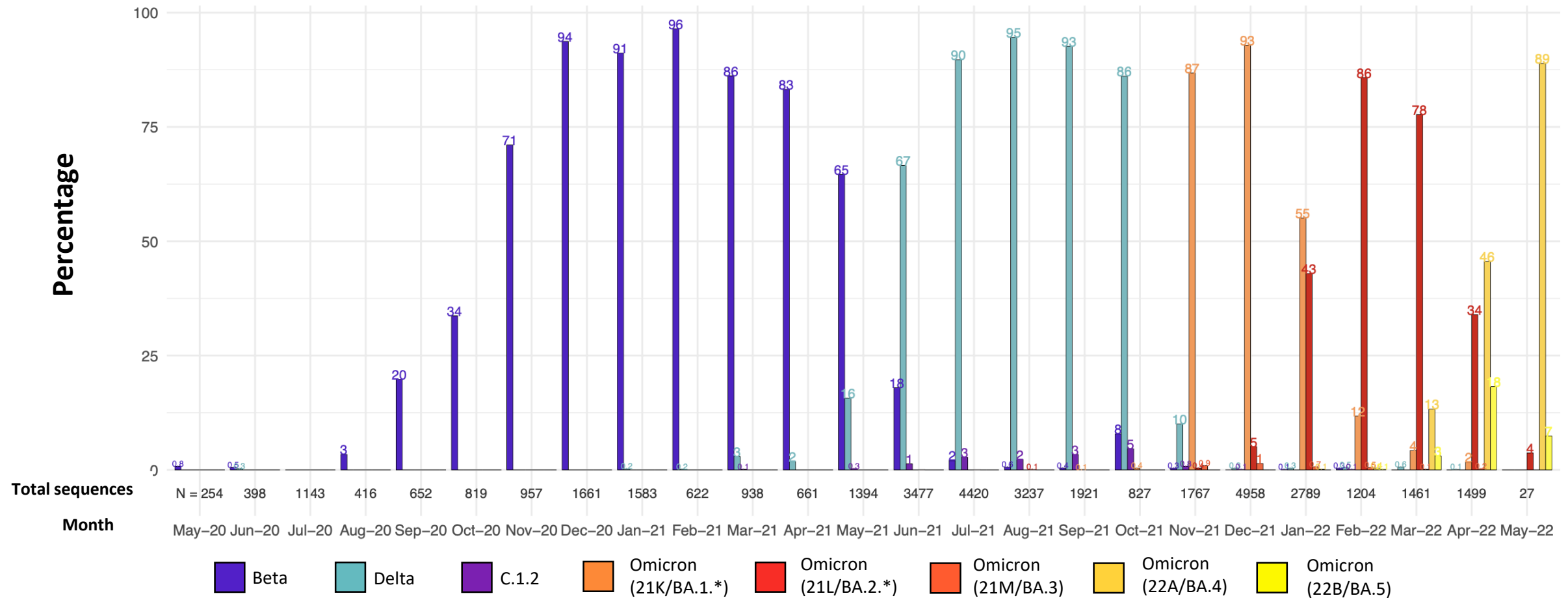
**Total Omicron in Apr: 1493 (99.6%)**



**Omicron dominated in February (98.6%, 1187/1204), March (98.4%, 1437/1461) and April (99.6%, 1493/1499). BA.2 was dominant in February and March. BA.4 and BA.5 together were dominant in April.**

# Detection Rates: Beta, Delta, C.1.2 and Omicron

Detection rates of variants being monitored in South Africa



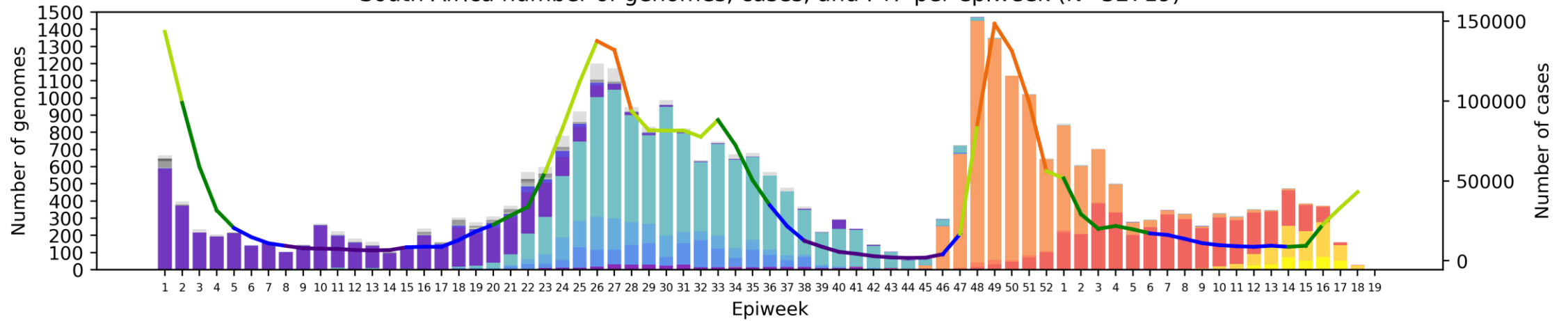
\*Bars represent percentage prevalence of variant for the month; total number sequences collected for the month are given below the bar

**Omicron has been dominant since November (>85% in November, >98% in December – May).**  
**BA.2 made up 43% of genomes in January, 86% in February, 78% in March and 34% in April. BA.4 and BA.5 together dominated in April, at 46% and 18% respectively, and appear to be dominant in May.**

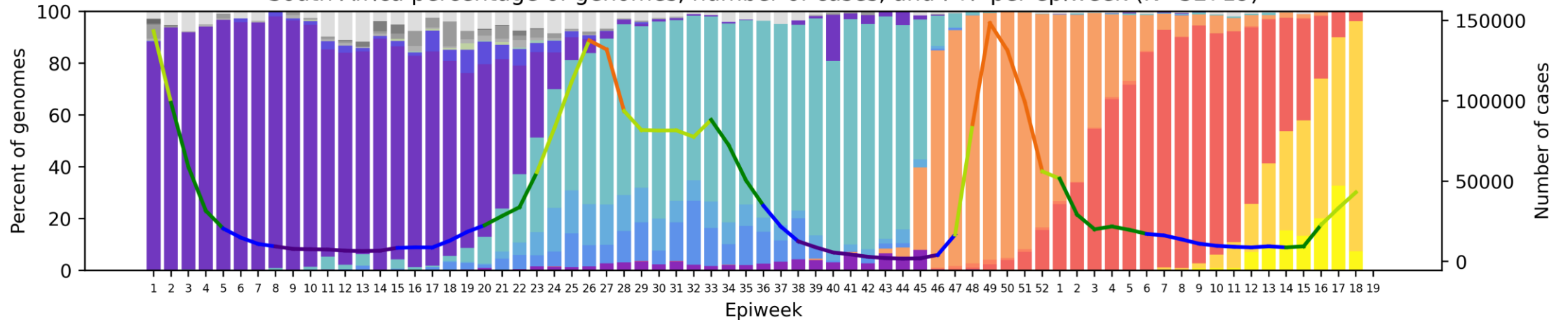


# South Africa, 2021-2022, n = 32719\*

South Africa number of genomes, cases, and PTP per epiweek (N=32719)



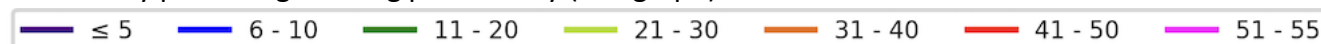
South Africa percentage of genomes, number of cases, and PTP per epiweek (N=32719)



Clade key (bar graph)

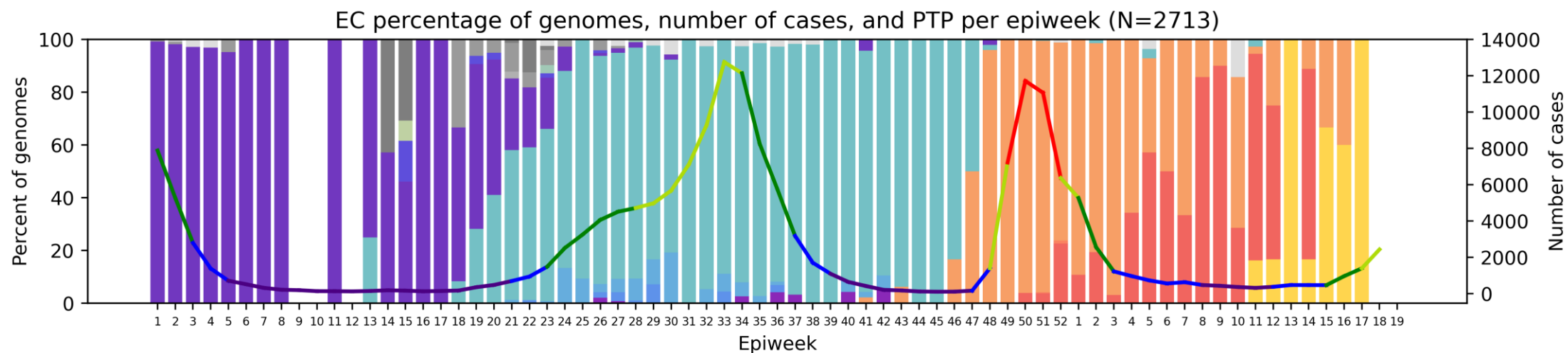
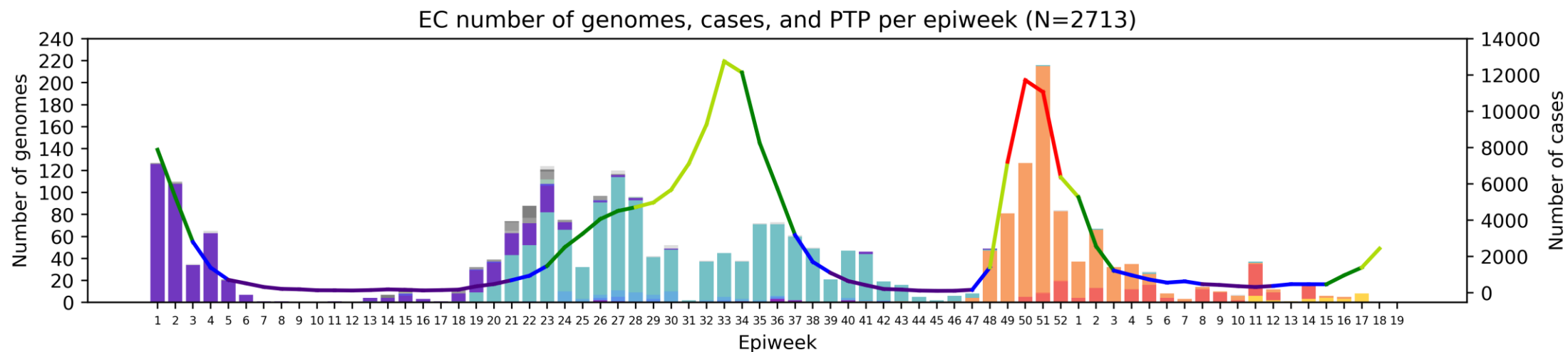


Weekly percentage testing positive key (line graph)



\*Excludes sequences missing collection dates, as well as those collected January 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021 as they are part of epiweek 53 of 2020.

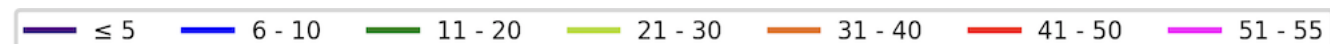
# Eastern Cape Province, 2021-2022, n = 2713



Clade key (bar graph)

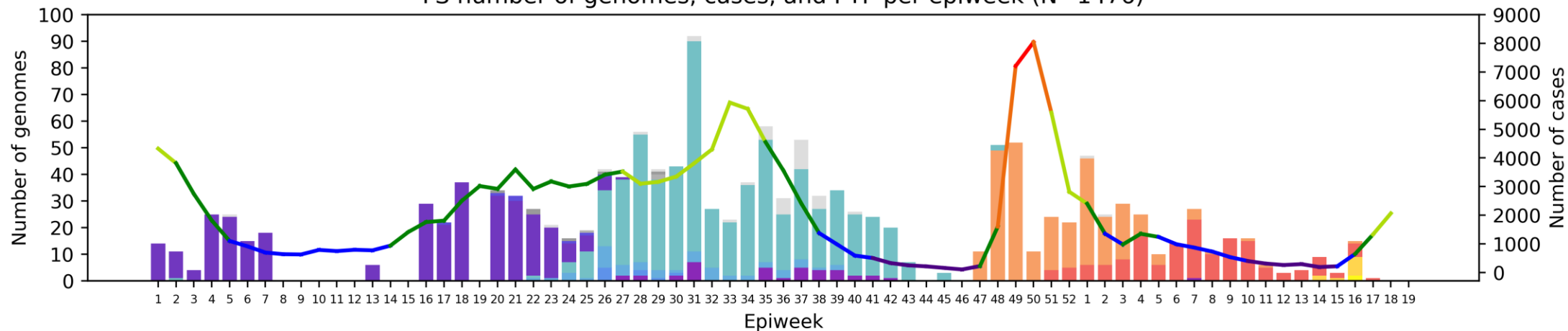


Weekly percentage testing positive key (line graph)

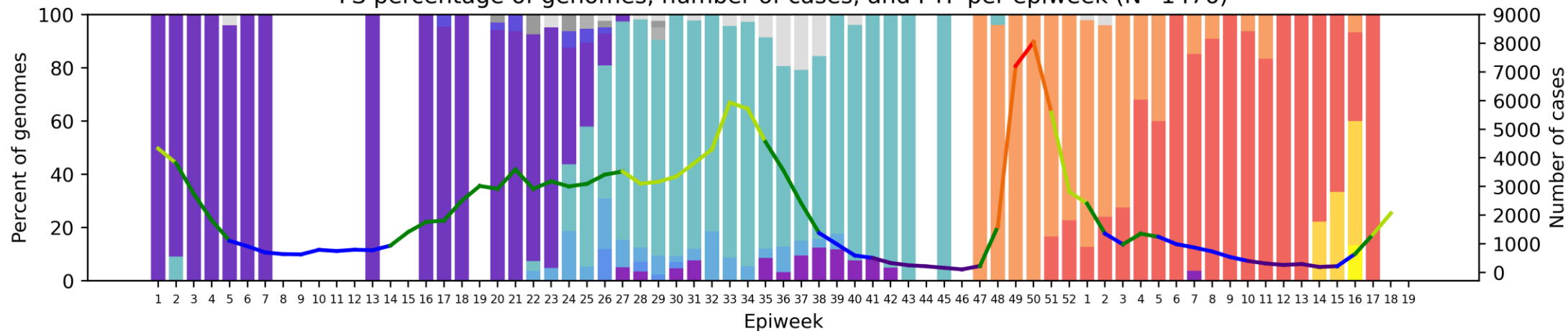


# Free State Province, 2021-2022, n = 1476

FS number of genomes, cases, and PTP per epiweek (N=1476)



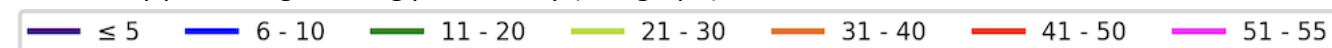
FS percentage of genomes, number of cases, and PTP per epiweek (N=1476)



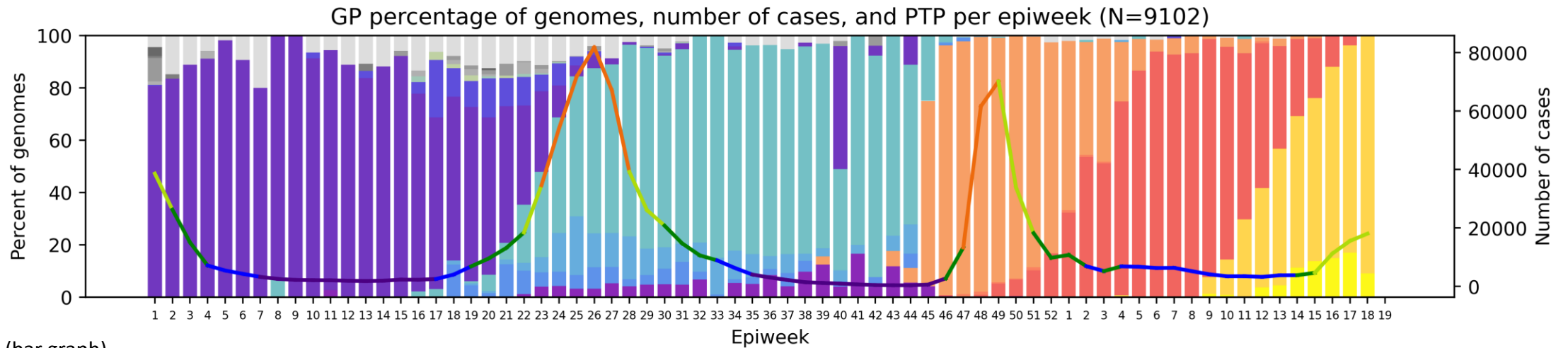
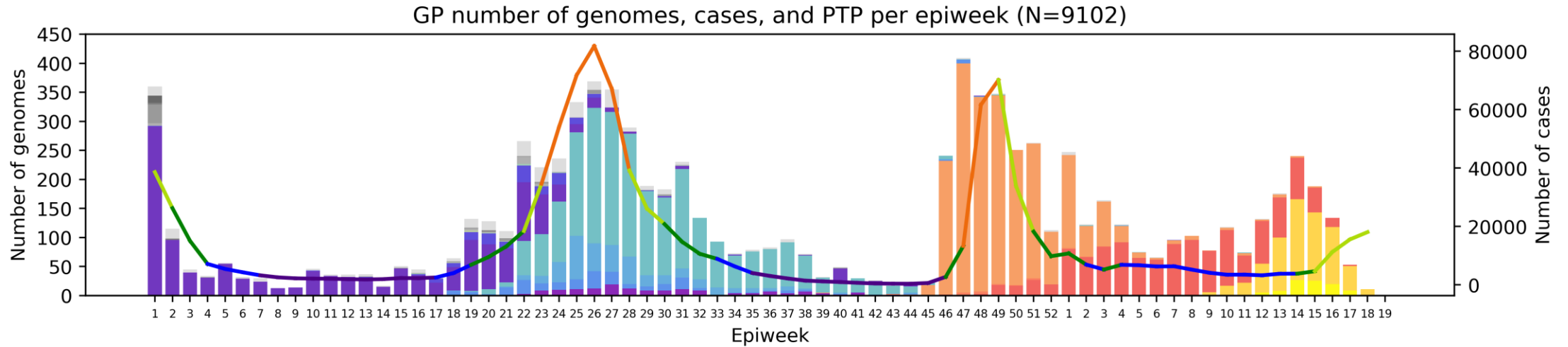
Clade key (bar graph)



Weekly percentage testing positive key (line graph)



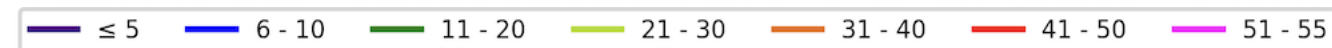
# Gauteng Province, 2021-2022, n = 9102



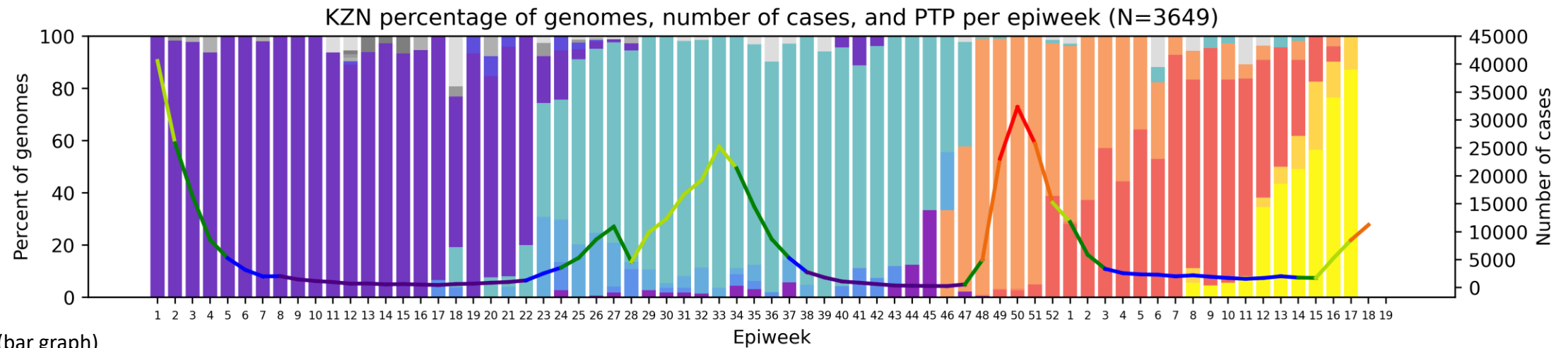
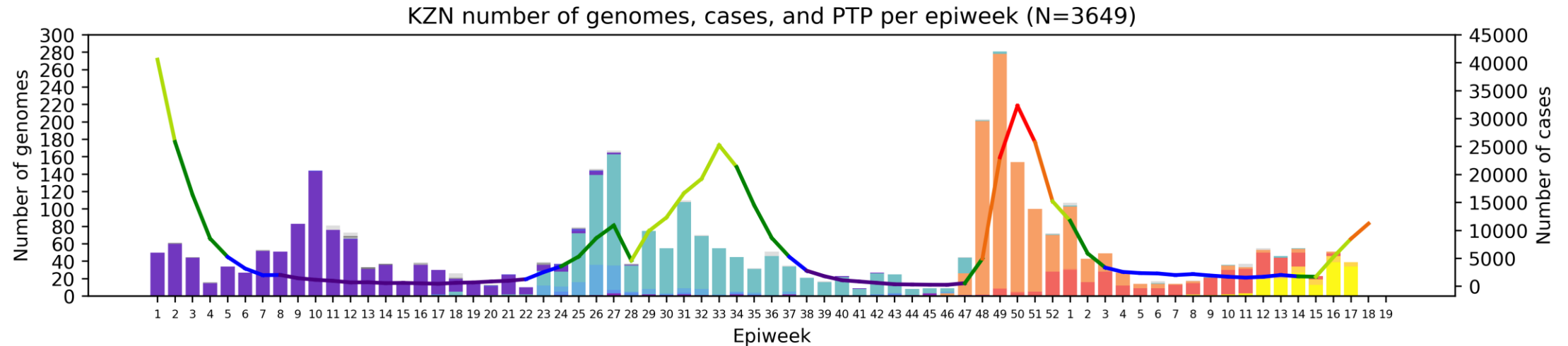
Clade key (bar graph)



Weekly percentage testing positive key (line graph)



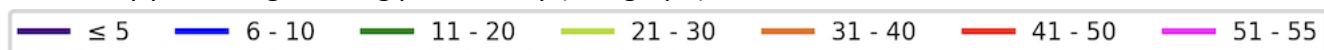
# KwaZulu-Natal Province, 2021-2022, n = 3649



Clade key (bar graph)

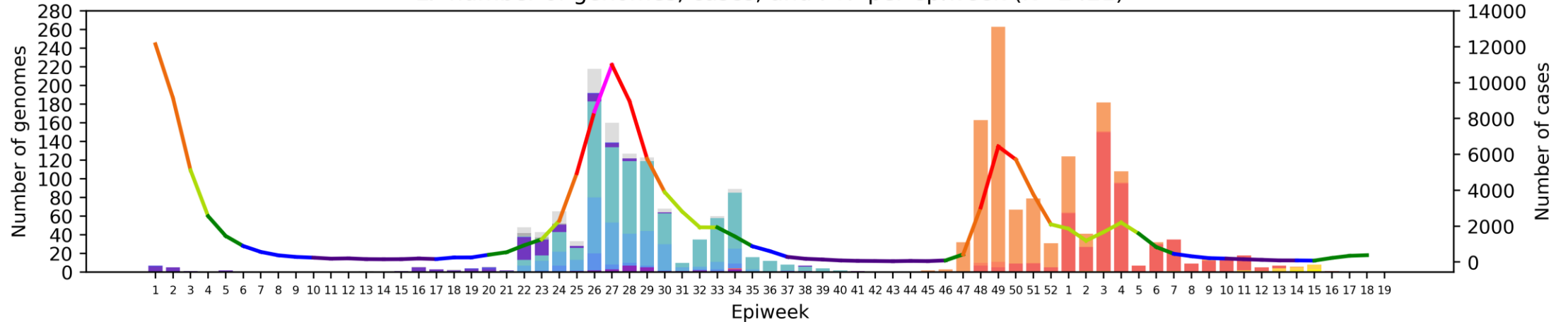


Weekly percentage testing positive key (line graph)

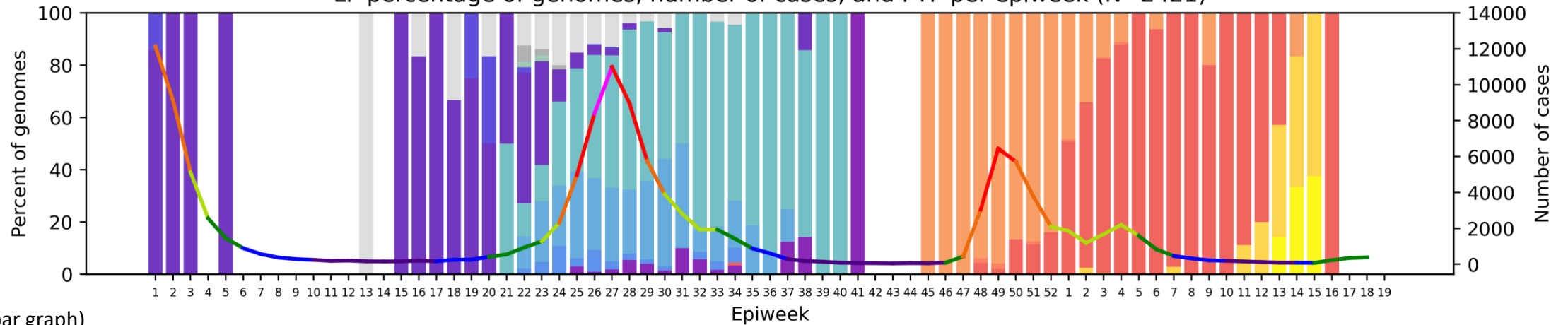


# Limpopo Province, 2021-2022, n = 2421

LP number of genomes, cases, and PTP per epiweek (N=2421)



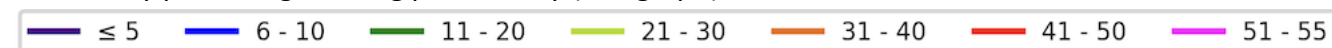
LP percentage of genomes, number of cases, and PTP per epiweek (N=2421)



Clade key (bar graph)



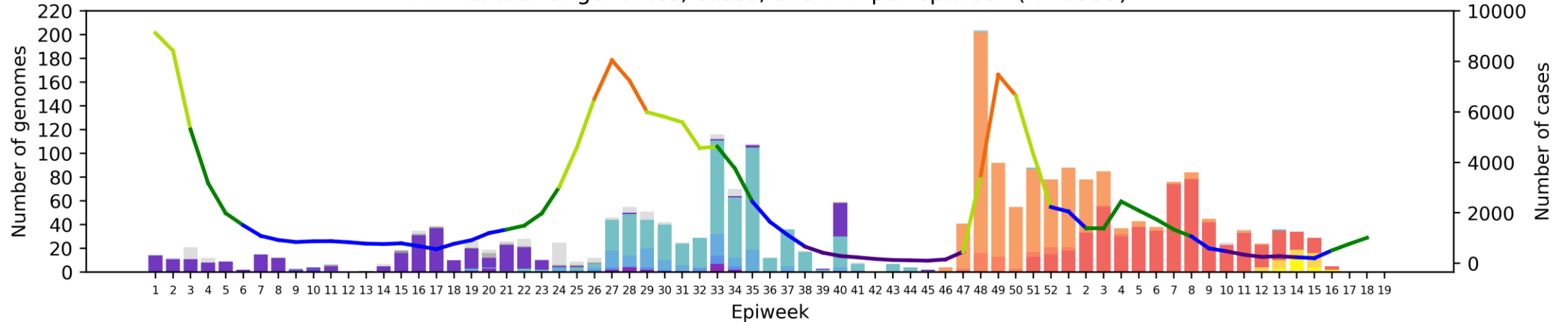
Weekly percentage testing positive key (line graph)



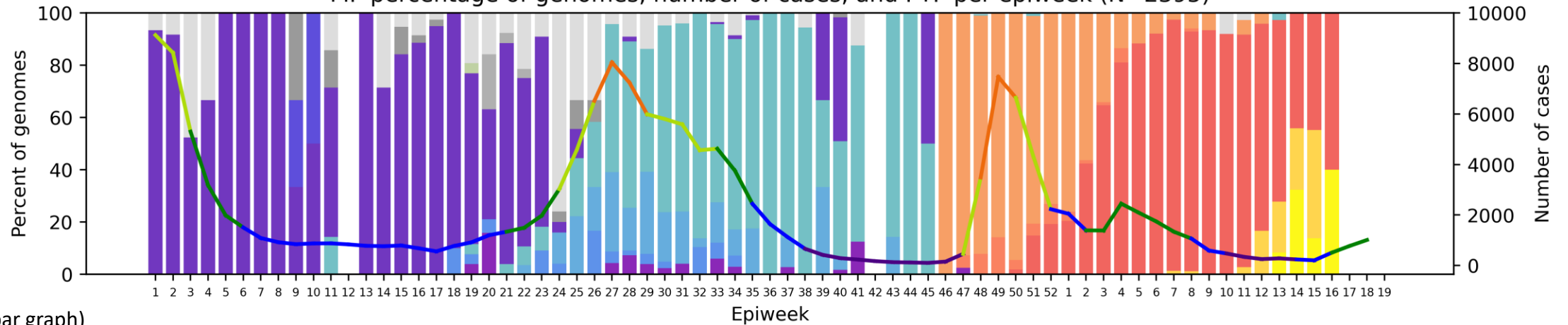


# Mpumalanga Province, 2021-2022, n = 2395

MP number of genomes, cases, and PTP per epiweek (N=2395)



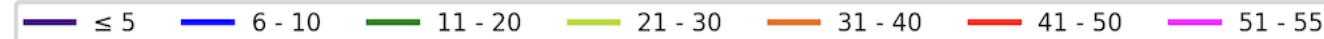
MP percentage of genomes, number of cases, and PTP per epiweek (N=2395)



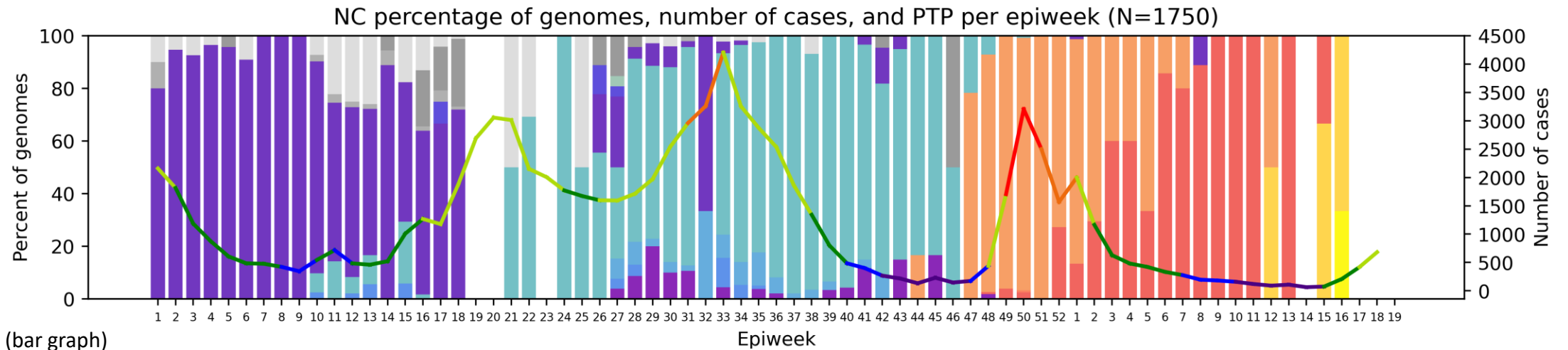
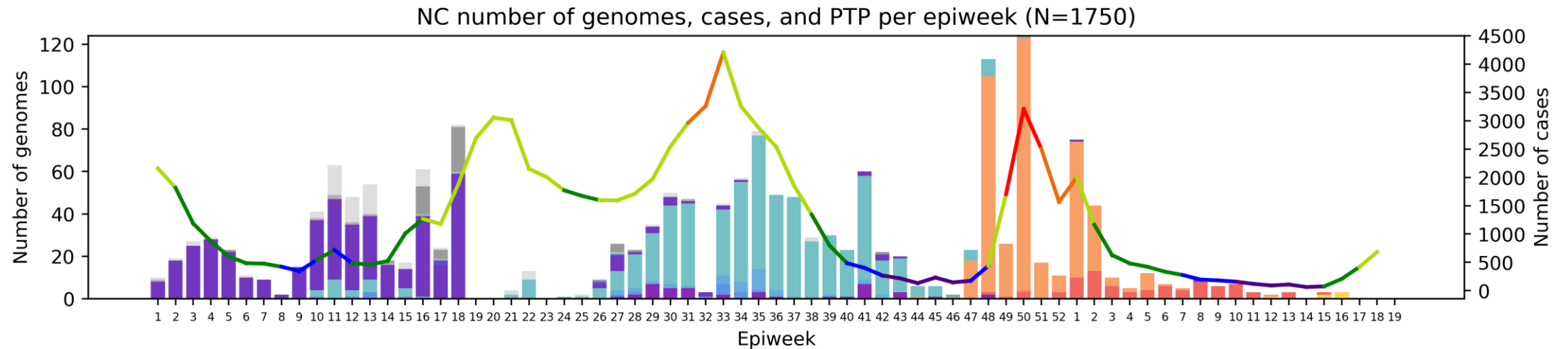
Clade key (bar graph)



Weekly percentage testing positive key (line graph)



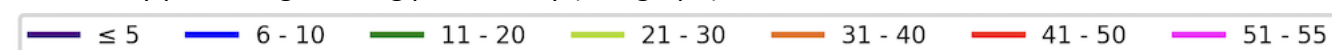
# Northern Cape Province, 2021-2022, n = 1750



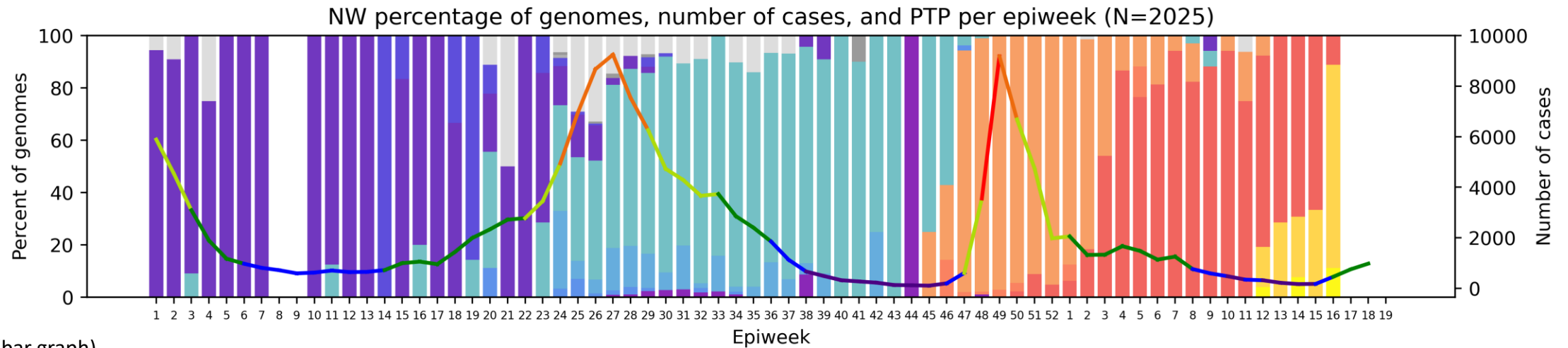
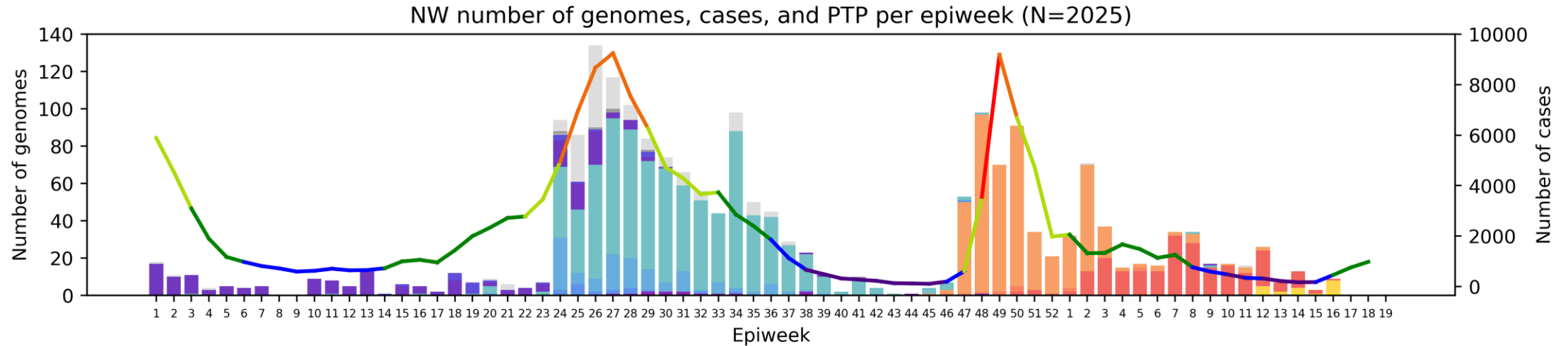
Clade key (bar graph)



Weekly percentage testing positive key (line graph)



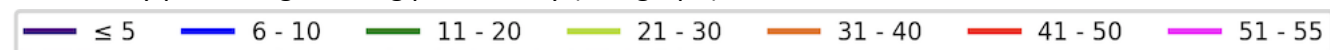
# North West Province, 2021-2022, n = 2025



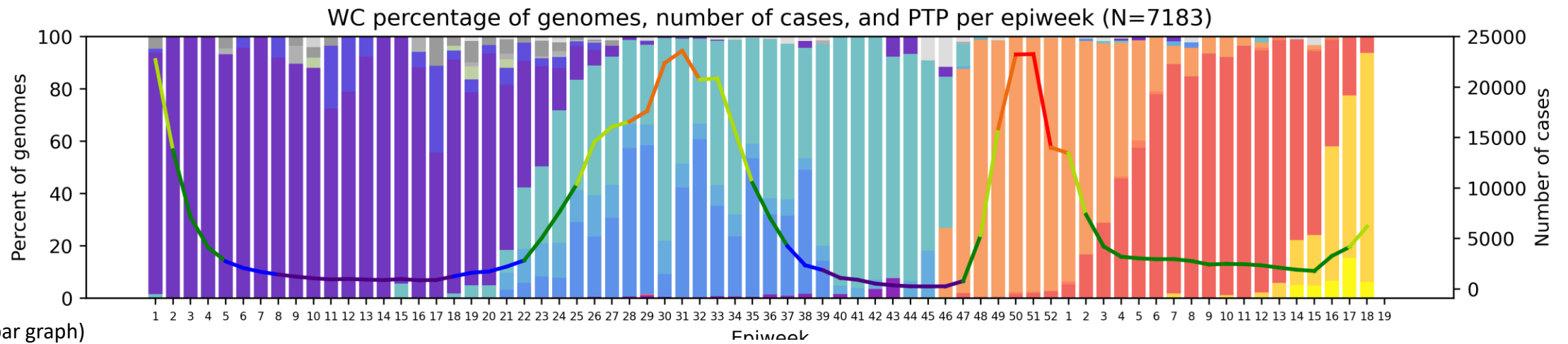
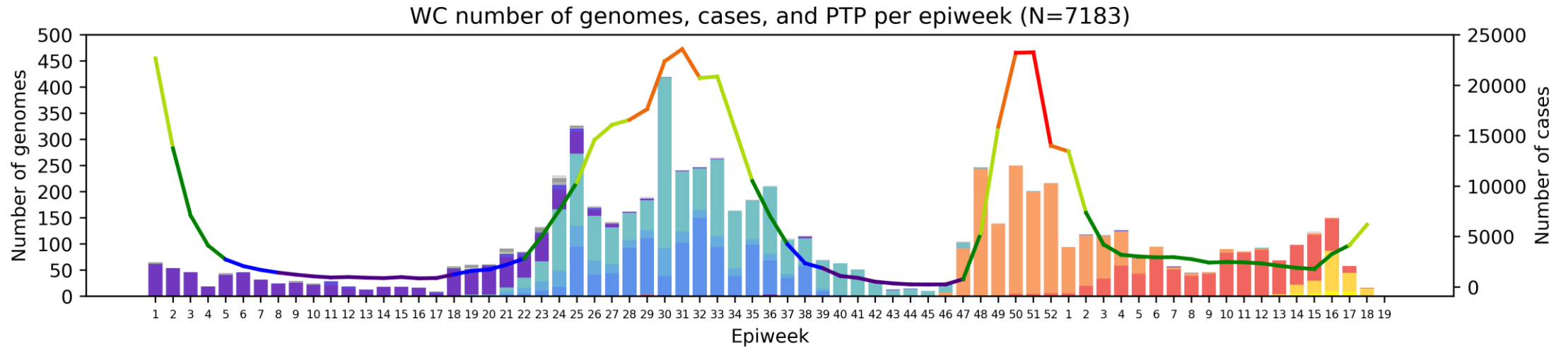
Clade key (bar graph)



Weekly percentage testing positive key (line graph)



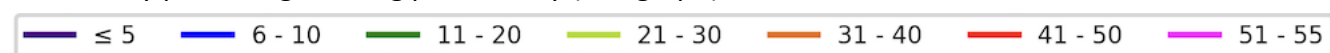
# Western Cape Province, 2021-2022, n = 7183



Clade key (bar graph)



Weekly percentage testing positive key (line graph)

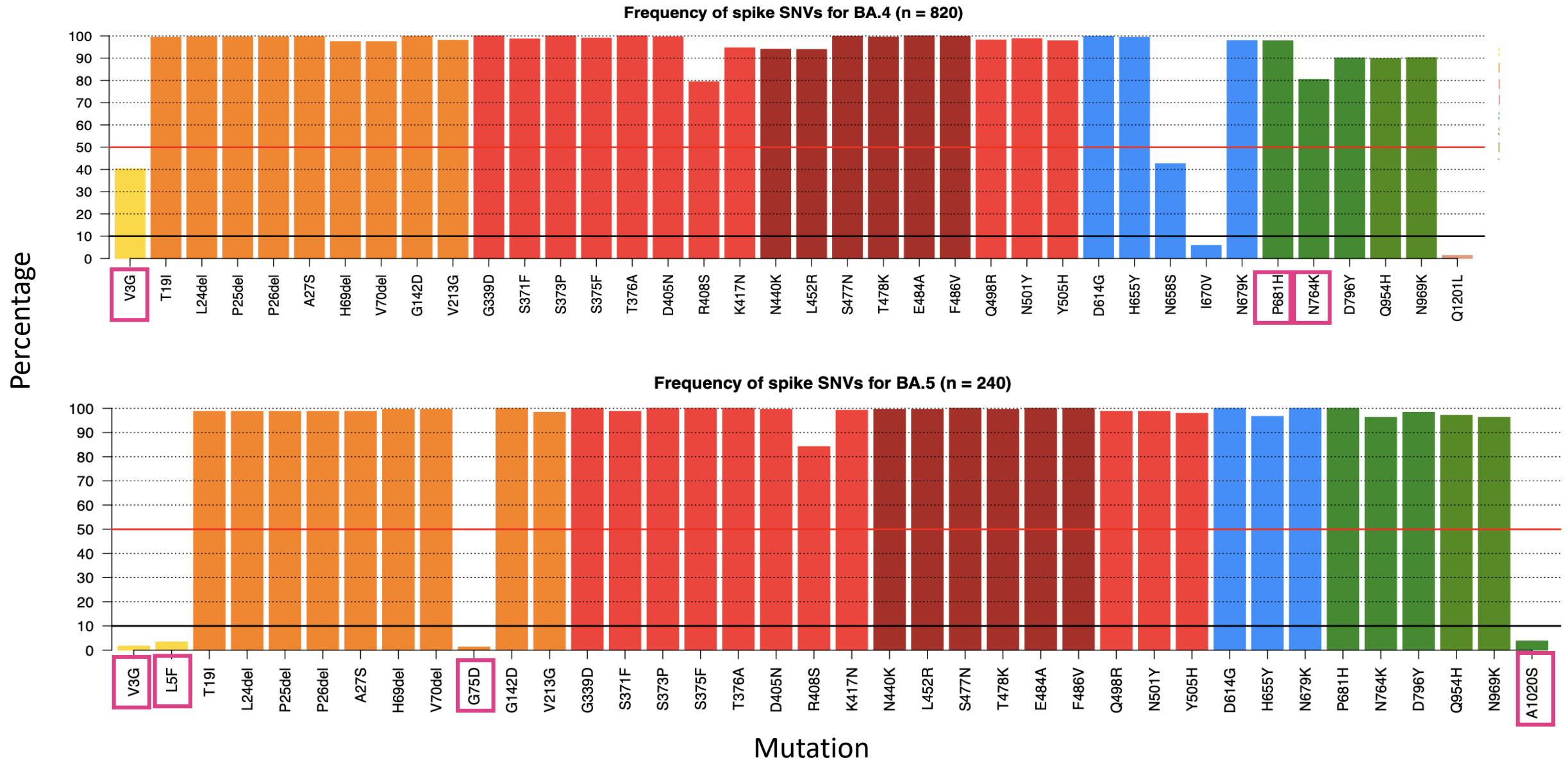


# Summary

- **Variant of Concern Omicron in South Africa**
  - Dominates 2022 sequencing data at >98% of genomes.
  - While BA.1 (and sub-lineages) was the predominant lineage in January (55%), BA.2 dominated in February (86%) and March (78%).
  - Omicron lineages BA.4 and BA.5 increased in prevalence in March (16%), and together are dominant in April (64%).
  - BA.4 and BA.5 make up 96% of May sequences, but more data is needed to determine prevalence.
  - BA.3 continues to be detected at low levels.
- NGS-SA teams are monitoring sequencing data for recombinants.
- Low frequency of previously circulating variants such as Delta still detected in recent data.

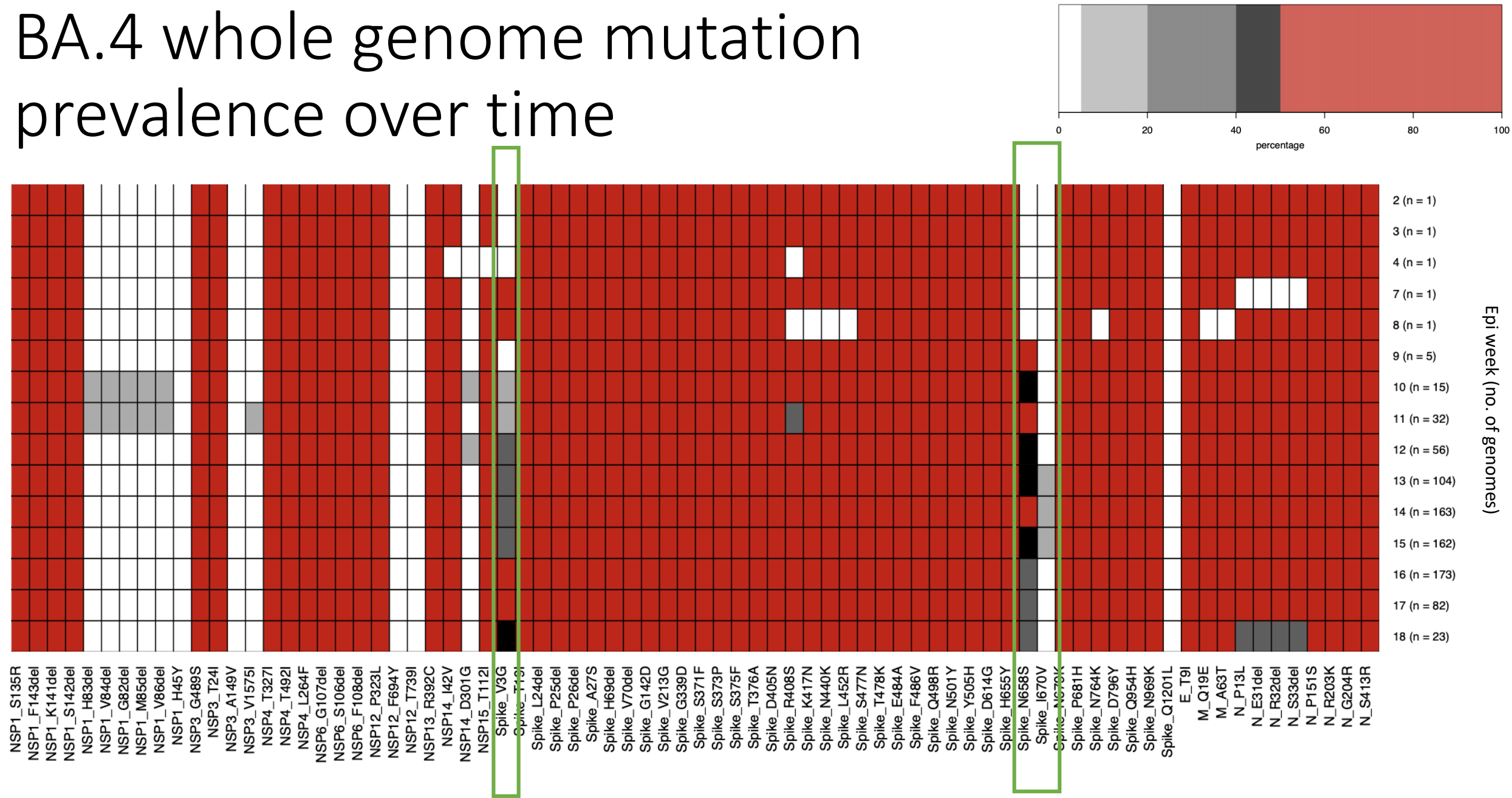
<sup>1</sup><https://github.com/cov-lineages/pango-designation/releases/tag/v1.3>

# BA.4 and BA.5 spike mutations

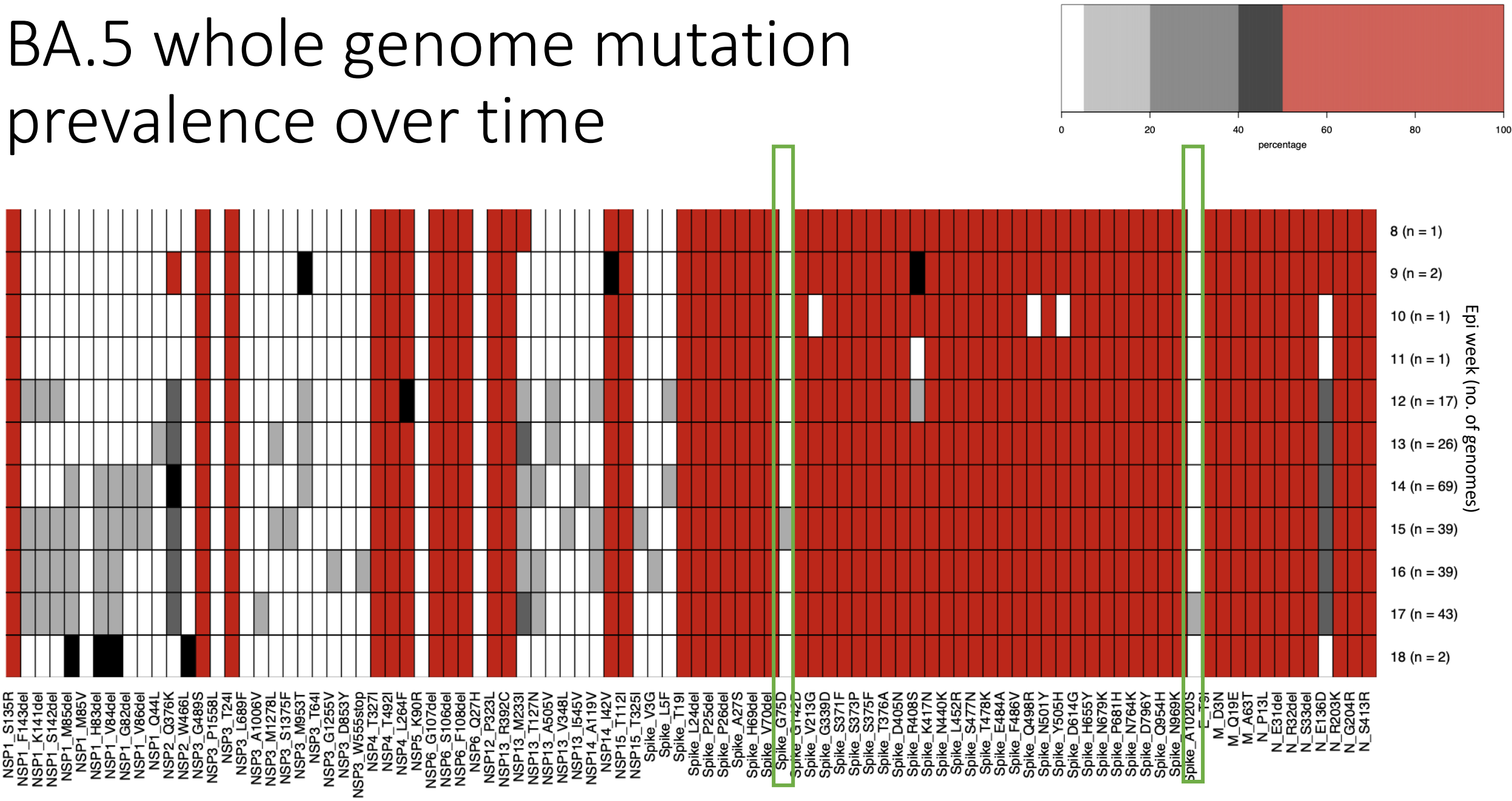




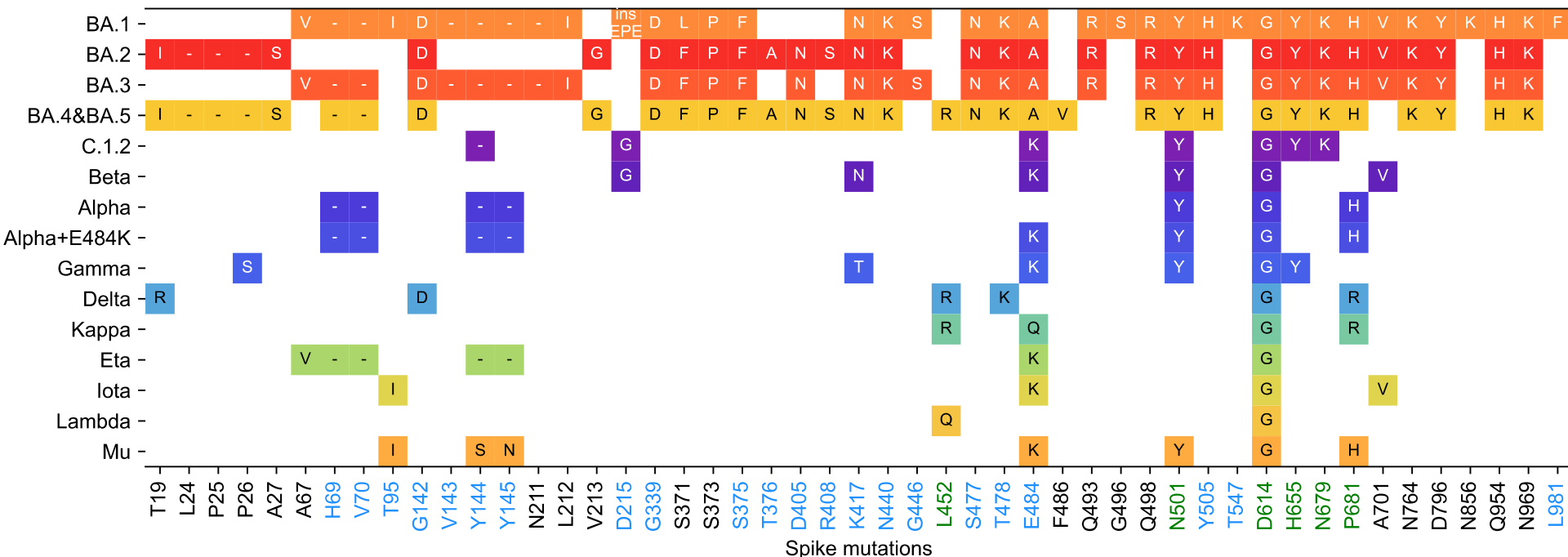
# BA.4 whole genome mutation prevalence over time



# BA.5 whole genome mutation prevalence over time



# Omicron spike mutations compared to other VOC/VOIs

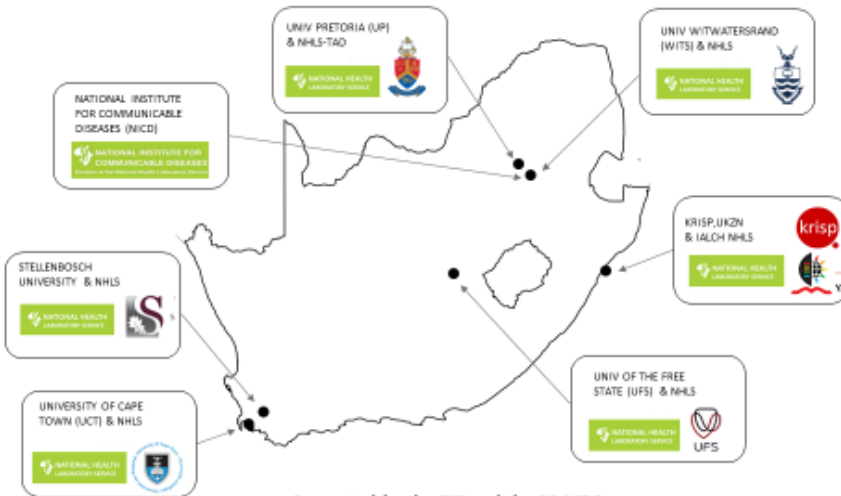


Only lineage-defining mutations are pictured here. Low prevalence mutations can be seen on the following slide.

## Mutation impact key

- Unknown or unconfirmed impact
- Known/predicted immune escape
- Enhanced infectivity

- Multiple changes within the two immunogenic regions in S1 (NTD and RBD)
  - including a three amino acid insertion
- Accumulation of mutations surrounding the furin cleavage site
  - Including combination of N679K and P681H
- Effect of most spike S2 subunit changes have not been defined, but may be linked to immune escape



Supported by the DSI and the SA MRC



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KWAZULU-NATAL  
INYUVESI  
YAKWAZULU-NATALI



EDCTP

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## 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

## UKZN-Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital



Dr Khanyi Msomi  
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 Cape Town, NHLS & Western Cape Government



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

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

**NHLS Greenpoint**  
Annabel Enoch

## Zoonotic arbo and respiratory virus program Centre for Viral Zoonoses Department Medical Virology/ NHLS Tshwane Academic division University of Pretoria



**ZARV research program/UP**  
Marietjie Venter (Head: ZARV)  
Adriano Mendes (Postdoc)  
Amy Strydom (Postdoc)  
Michaela Davis (MSc, intern medical scientist)  
Carien van Niekerk



**NHLS Tshwane**  
Prof Simnikiwe Mayaphi (HOD)

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Fabian Leendertz

## National Institute for Communicable Diseases



### Centre for Respiratory Diseases & Meningitis

Anne von Gottberg  
Thabo Mohale  
Daniel Amoako  
Josie Everatt  
Boitshoko Mahlangu  
Noxolo Ntuli  
Anele Mnguni  
Amelia Buys  
Cardia Fourie  
Noluthando Duma  
Linda de Gouveia  
Jackie Kleynhans  
Nicole Wolter  
Sibongile Walaza  
Mignon du Plessis  
Stefano Tempia  
Mvuyo Makhasi  
Cheryl Cohen

### Centre for HIV and STIs

Jinal Bhiman  
Cathrine Scheepers  
Constantinos Kurt Wibmer  
Thandeka Moyo  
Tandile Hermanus  
Frances Ayres  
Zanele Molaudzi  
Bronwen Lambson  
Tandile Hermanus  
Mashudu Madzivhandila  
Prudence Kgagudi  
Brent Oosthuysen  
Penny Moore  
Lynn Morris

### NICD Groups

NICD COVID-19 response team  
NICD SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing  
Group

### Sequencing Core Facility

Zamantungwa Khumalo  
Annie Chan  
Morne du Plessis  
Stanford Kwenda  
Phillip Senzo Mtshali  
Mushal Allam  
Florah Mnyameni  
Arshad Ismail



## 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



# 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  
Raquel Viana

## 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

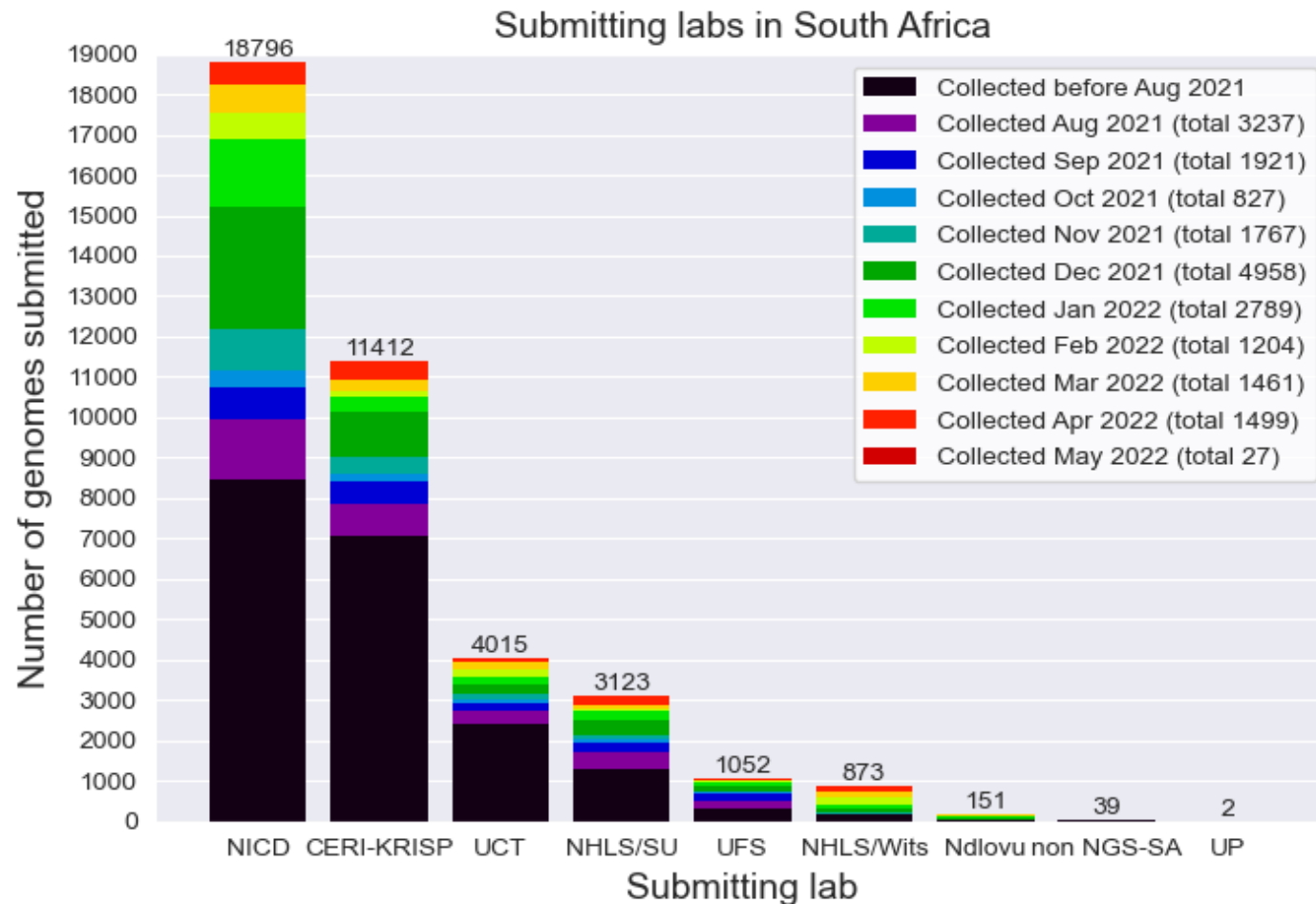
## SA MRC

Glenda Gray





# South African genomes submitted per submitting lab, 2020 - 2022 (N=39 463)



## NGS-SA Labs

**CERI:** Centre for Epidemic Response and Innovation

**KRISP:** KZN Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform

**NDLOVU:** Ndlovu Research Laboratories

**NICD:** National Institute for Communicable Diseases

**NHLS:** National Health Laboratory Service

**SU:** Stellenbosch University

**UCT:** University of Cape Town

**UFS:** University of the Free State

**UP:** University of Pretoria

Multiple labs from NGS-SA and collaborating public and private laboratories are contributing to sequencing, both as originating and as submitting (pictured here) laboratories.

# Currently circulating Variants of Concern (VOC)

WHO label	Pango lineage●	GISAID clade	Nextstrain clade	Additional amino acid changes monitored°	Earliest documented samples	Date of designation
Delta	B.1.617.2	G/478K.V1	21A, 21I, 21J	+S:K417N +S:K484K	India, Oct-2020	VOI: 4-Apr-2021 VOC: 11-May-2021
Omicron*	B.1.1.529	GR/484A	21K	+S:R346K	Multiple countries, Nov-2021	VUM: 24-Nov-2021 VOC: 26-Nov-2021

<https://www.who.int/en/activities/tracking-SARS-CoV-2-variants/> accessed 18 March 2022

●Includes all descendant lineages. See the cov-lineages.org and the Pango network websites for further details.

° Only found in a subset of sequences

# Previously circulating Variants of Concern

WHO label	Pango lineage•	GISAID clade	Nextstrain clade	Earliest documented samples	Date of designation
Alpha	B.1.1.7	GRY	20I (V1)	United Kingdom, Sep-2020	VOC: 18-Dec-2020 Previous VOC: 09-Mar-2022
Beta	B.1.351	GH/501Y.V2	20H (V2)	South Africa, May-2020	VOC: 18-Dec-2020 Previous VOC: 09-Mar-2022
Gamma	P.1	GR/501Y.V3	20J (V3)	Brazil, Nov-2020	VOC: 11-Jan-2021 Previous VOC: 09-Mar-2022

<https://www.who.int/en/activities/tracking-SARS-CoV-2-variants/> accessed 18 March 2022

- Includes all descendant lineages. See the cov-lineages.org and the Pango network websites for further details.

# 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 ( $\geq 14$  days after vaccine), especially if hospitalised and clinically severe
- Suspected re-infection ( $\geq 90$  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.)