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Global Influenza Surveillance Network, epidemiology and influenza vaccine effectiveness, in three influenza seasons, 2012-2015

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Background

During its first three consecutive influenza seasons, 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 field researchers in participating GIHNS hospitals actively screened consecutive admissions possibly related to influenza using a common protocol. Depending on the season, participating hospitals were in Russia, China, the Czech Republic, France, Turkey and Spain.

Methods

After consent, we collected information on socio demographic and clinical characteristics and obtained nasal, pharyngeal or nasopharyngeal swabs and ascertained influenza virus subtype or lineage with reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). The adjusted odds ratio (aOR) for admission with influenza related to strain and various patient characteristics was estimated with multilevel multivariate logistic regression taking into account calendar time and country clustering effect. Vaccine effectiveness was estimated as $(1-aOR)*100$.

Results

41,288 patients were screened, 35,547 were considered eligible, 21,872 met criteria for inclusion and had valid laboratory results. Finally, 4,698 (21%) were influenza positive.

Conclusion

Influenza vaccine effectiveness in preventing admissions with influenza was low to moderate. While influenza vaccination is to be recommended for preventing influenza related disease, improved vaccines that offer better protection are needed.

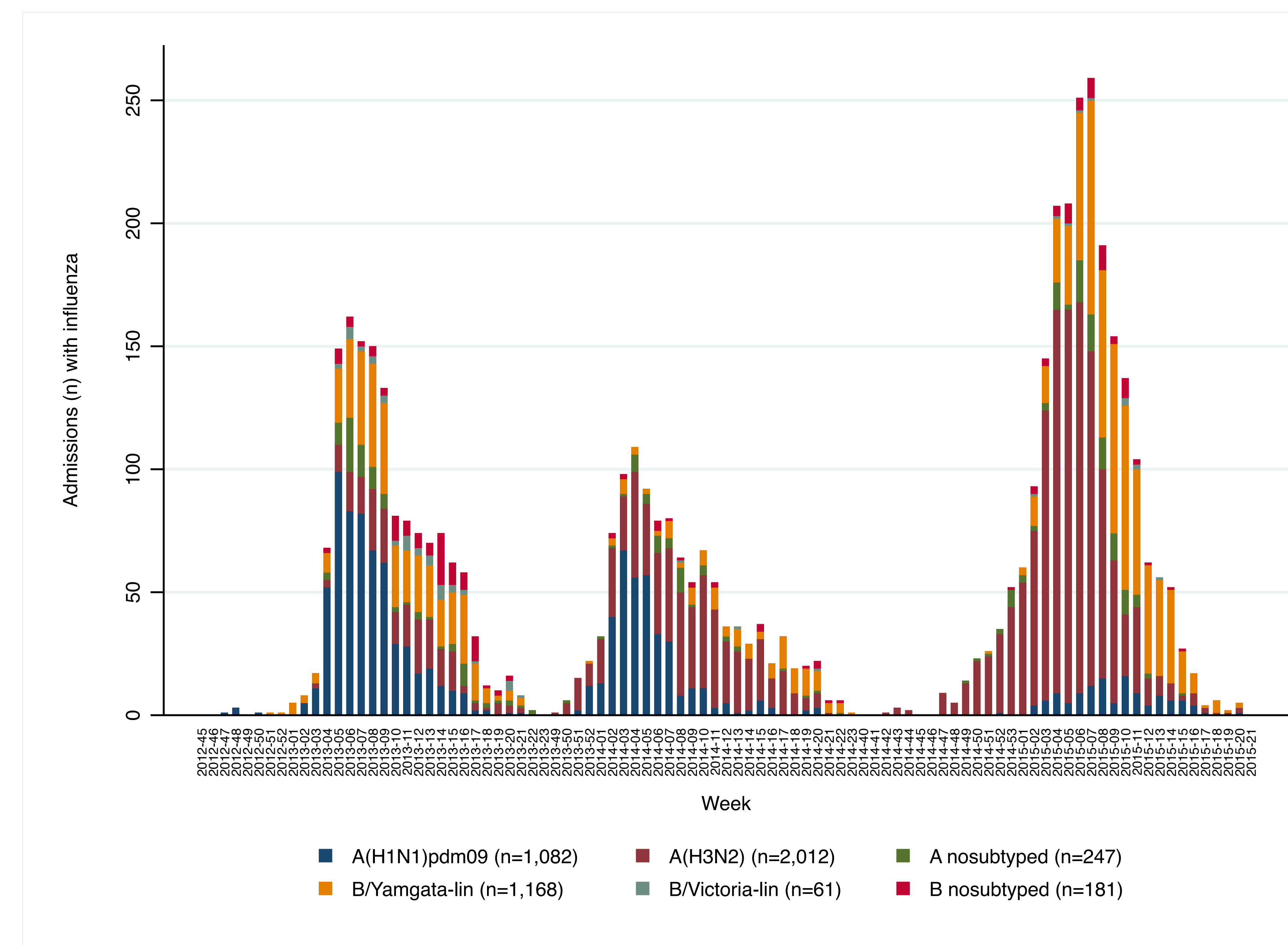


Figure 1. Admissions with influenza by season and week.

Vaccination provided low to moderate protection against hospital admission with laboratory –confirmed influenza in adults targeted for influenza vaccination.

GIHNS can fill a relevant gap in our understanding of influenza, given the opportunity of collaboration among different teams, the geographic representative surveillance on admissions with influenza and vaccine performance.

We speculate that influenza circulation variability could be related to evolving immunity in the population and virus adaptability to this ecologic background. Whereas the level of vaccine effectiveness could be related to this background immunity and the drift of the virus that could possibly be related to its genetic characteristics.

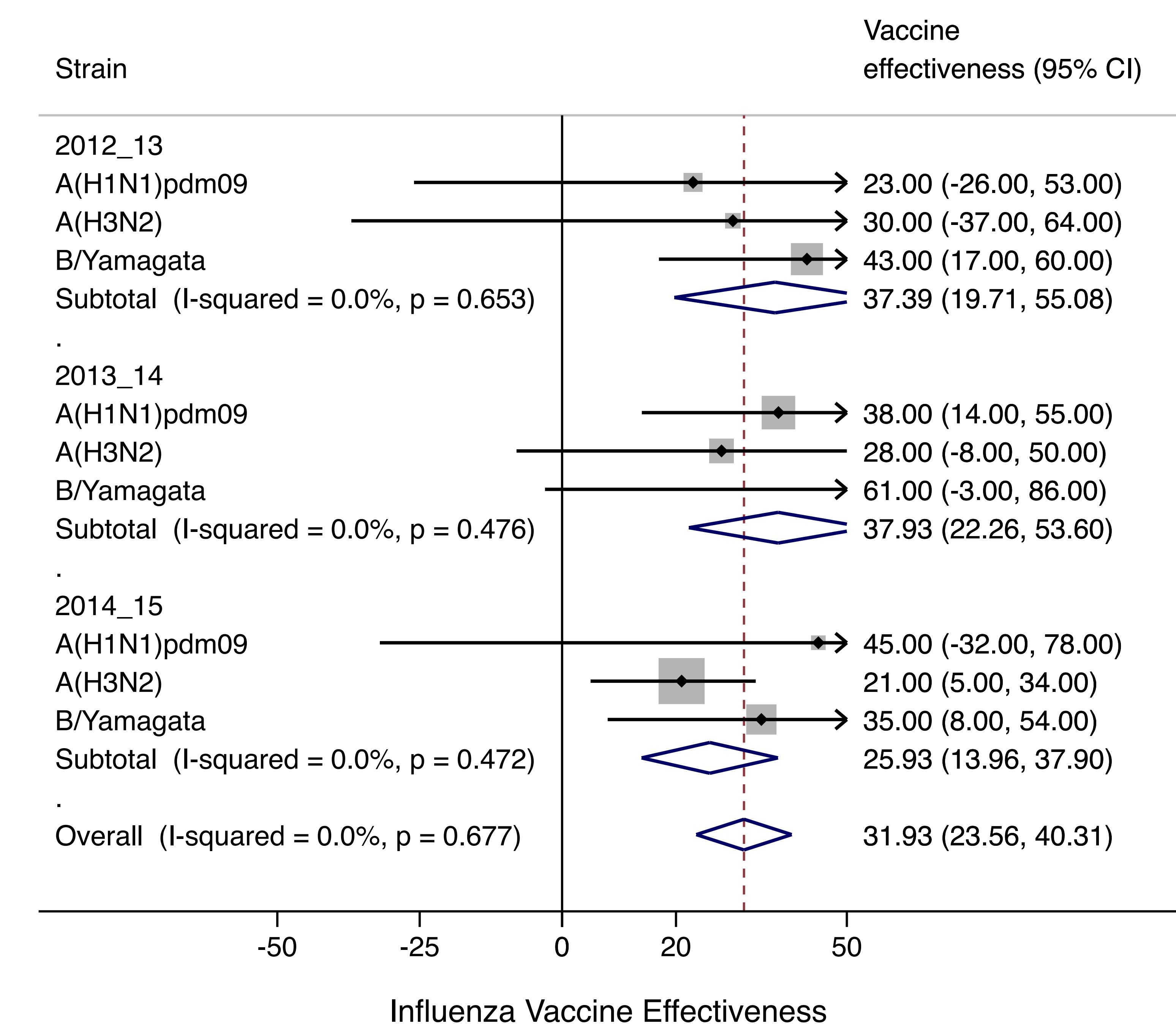


Figure 2. Influenza vaccine effectiveness

Waning protection of influenza vaccination. A test-negative study in four consecutive influenza seasons. Valencia Hospital Network for the Study of Influenza (VAHNSI), Spain.

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Background

Annual influenza vaccination is recommended to prevent influenza related complications. There exists an ongoing debate regarding the waning of vaccine protection. We present our results on the relationship of date of vaccination (DOV) with admission with influenza in four consecutive influenza seasons.

Methods

Consenting consecutive admissions were included and swabbed. Influenza infection and subtyping was performed by real time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). Only vaccinated patients were included.

The study was conducted in four consecutive seasons in the Valencia Region (Figure 1), located in the Eastern Mediterranean coast of Spain, Valencia Region population is 5 million inhabitants.

The Valencia network included nine, five, six and ten hospitals in the 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 seasons, in which we enrolled 1127, 520, 633 and 1599 18 years old and older subjects, belonging to target groups for vaccination, and registered as vaccinated with the seasonal influenza vaccine in Valencia's Vaccination Information System.

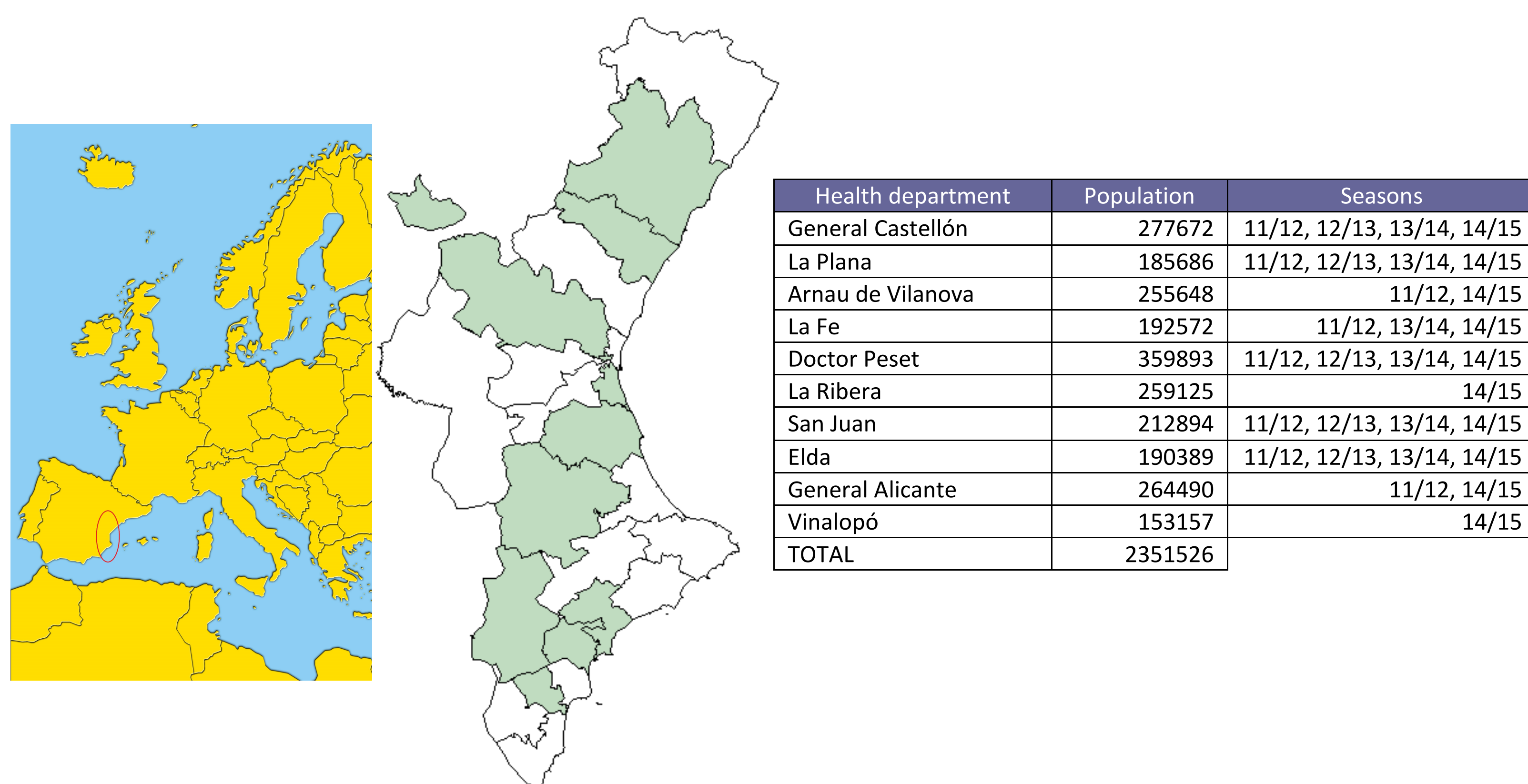


Figure 1: Participating Health Districts (hospitals) and population.

We explored if DOV could be explained by age, sex, underlying chronic conditions, previous influenza vaccination, smoking habits, socioeconomic status, previous general practitioner (GP) consultations or hospital admissions. We used a test-negative approach to compare the adjusted odds ratio (aOR) of admissions with influenza and vaccination in the third DOV tertile, with the first DOV tertile as reference, overall, by predominant strain and restricting the analysis only to admissions in 65 years old and older.

OR were estimated by a multilevel logistic regression approach adjusted by age, gender, smoking habits, social class, number of chronic conditions, being hospitalized in the last year, GP consultations, days from onset of symptoms to swabbing, calendar time (weeks) in restricted cubic splines and hospital as a random effect.

A sensitivity analysis was performed in individuals vaccinated both in the past and current season.

Results

We ascertained 293, 68, 106 and 357 admissions with influenza in vaccinated patients in 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 seasons (Figure 2).

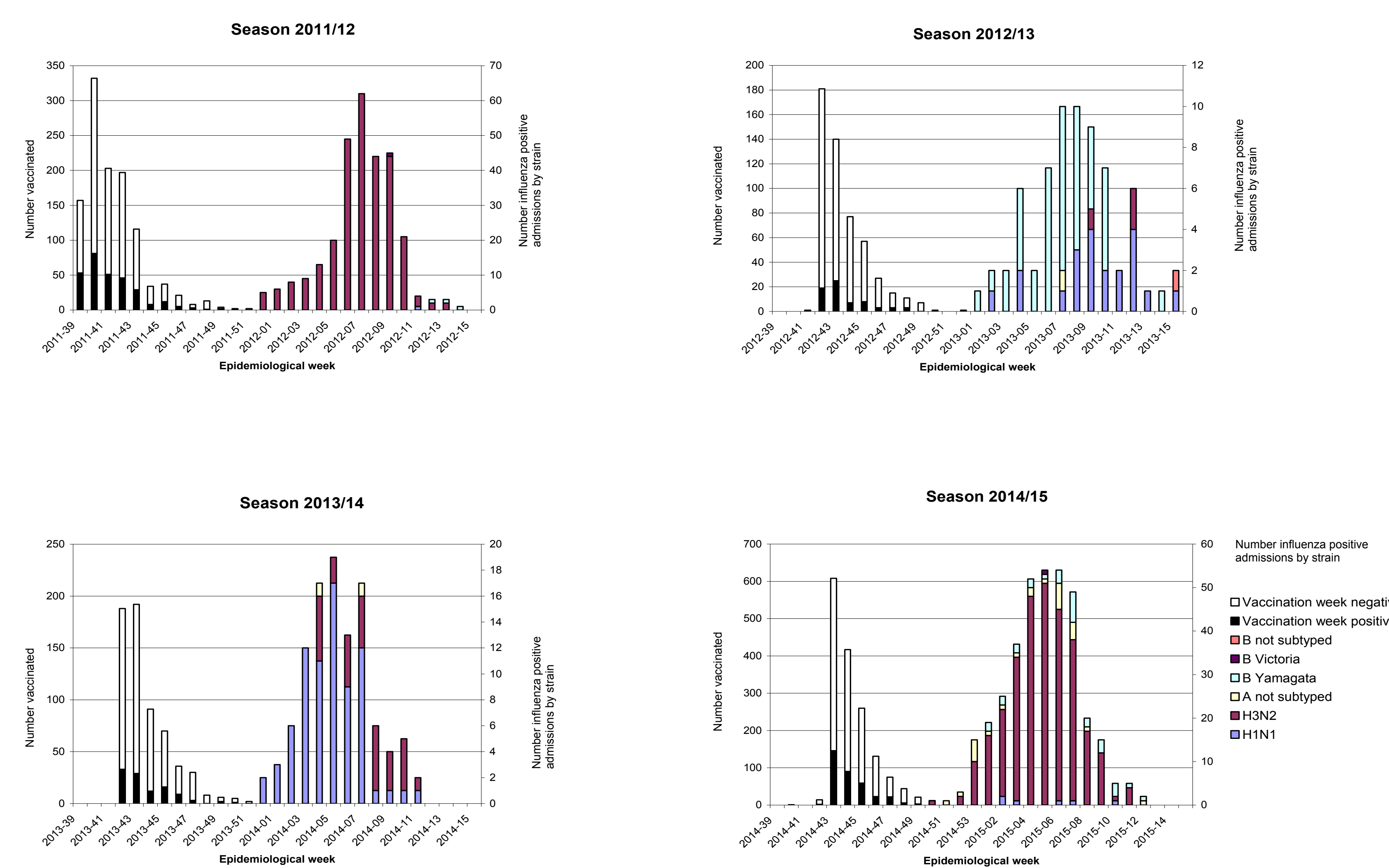


Figure 2: Distribution of vaccination date with RT-PCR result and distribution of influenza strains by season.

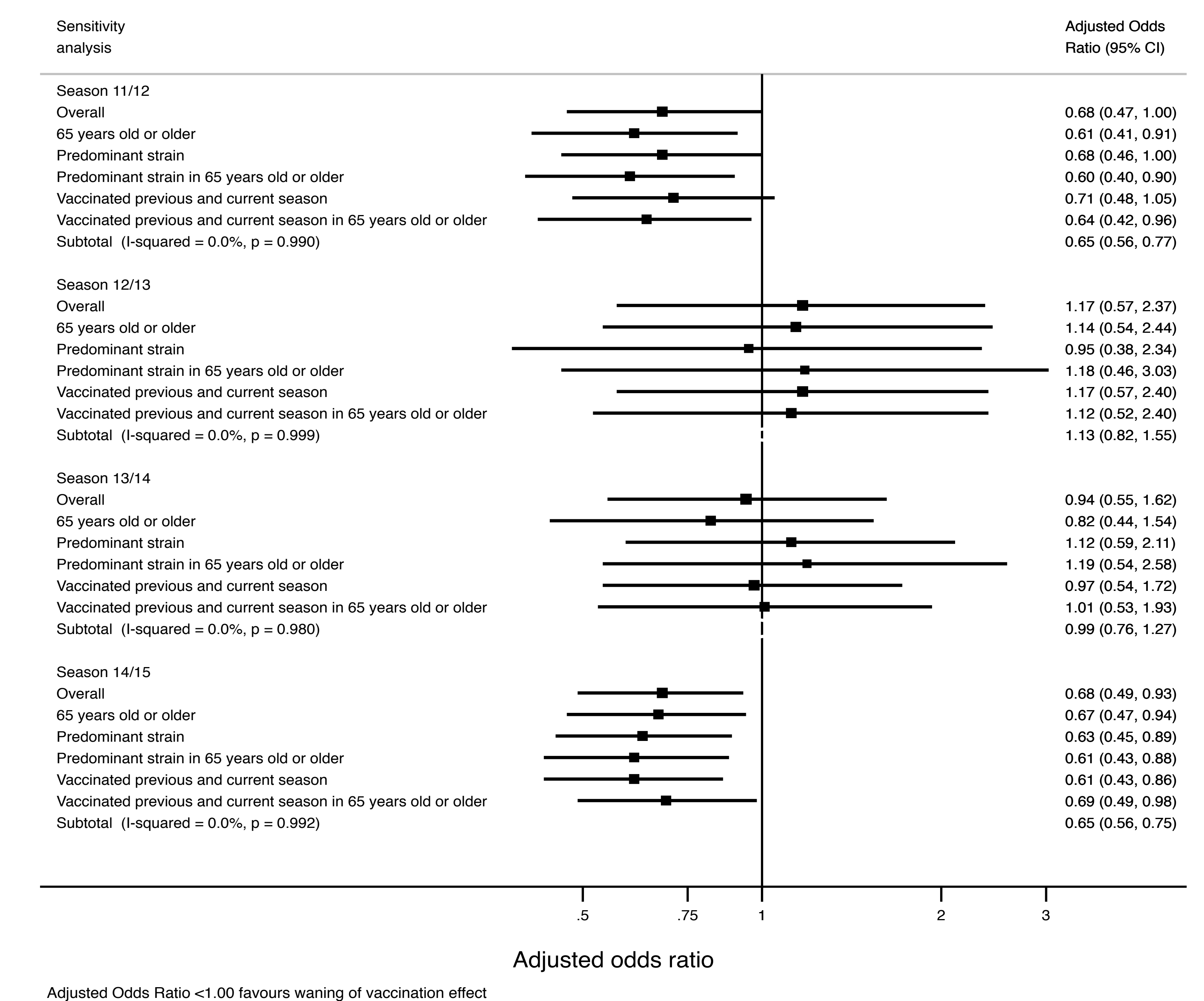


Figure 3: Adjusted odds ratio of admission with laboratory confirmed influenza (RT-PCR) in patients with later date of vaccination (third tertile) compared to those with and earlier date of vaccination (first tertile).

We observed a higher risk of admission with influenza in those individuals vaccinated at the beginning of the vaccination campaign in the 2011/12 season (aOR=0.68, 95%CI=0.47 to 0.99 of DOV third tertile compared to DOV first tertile) and in the 2014/15 season (aOR=0.68, 95%CI=0.49 to 0.93). Nevertheless, we did not find differences on vaccine protection by DOV tertile in the 2012/13 season (aOR=1.17, 95%CI=0.57 to 2.37) and in the 2013/14 season (aOR=0.94, 95%CI=0.55 to 1.62). Similar estimates were obtained in the sensitivity analysis including only those vaccinated both in the current and previous seasons (Figure 3).

Conclusion

Waning effect was observed in two mismatched A(H3N2) predominant seasons (11/12 and 14/15). Sparse numbers precluded other analysis by age group, strain or in those vaccinated only in the current season.

Admissions with influenza and other respiratory viruses, 2012 to 2015 seasons. Results from the Global Influenza Hospital Surveillance Network (GIHSN).

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Background

The Global Influenza Hospital Surveillance Network (GIHSN) is a platform able to generate relevant data to understand and define the burden of disease related to influenza and other respiratory viruses (IORV).

Admissions with respiratory viral infection are however not well described although it is accepted that they generate every year a significant public health problem.

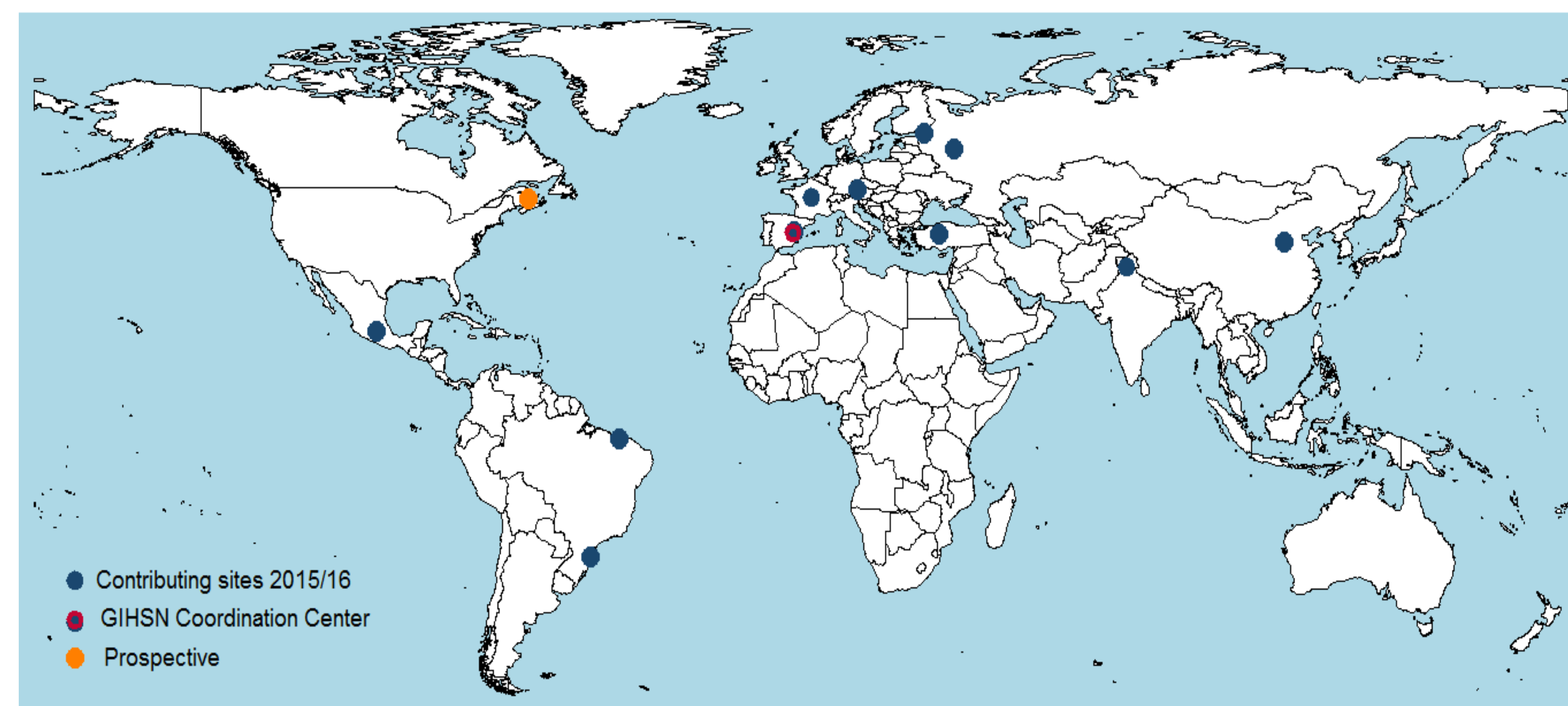


Figure 1: Map of the GIHSN network in the current season (2015/2016).

Methods

Consecutive consenting admissions with symptoms possibly related to an acute viral respiratory infection presenting within seven days of symptoms onset were enrolled and swabbed at GIHSN sites. The presence of IORV was assessed by real time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction in Russia (St. Petersburg, three seasons), Turkey (two seasons), Spain (Valencia, three seasons) and Brazil (Fortaleza, one season). Overall, 16,584 admissions were tested for the presence of IORV.

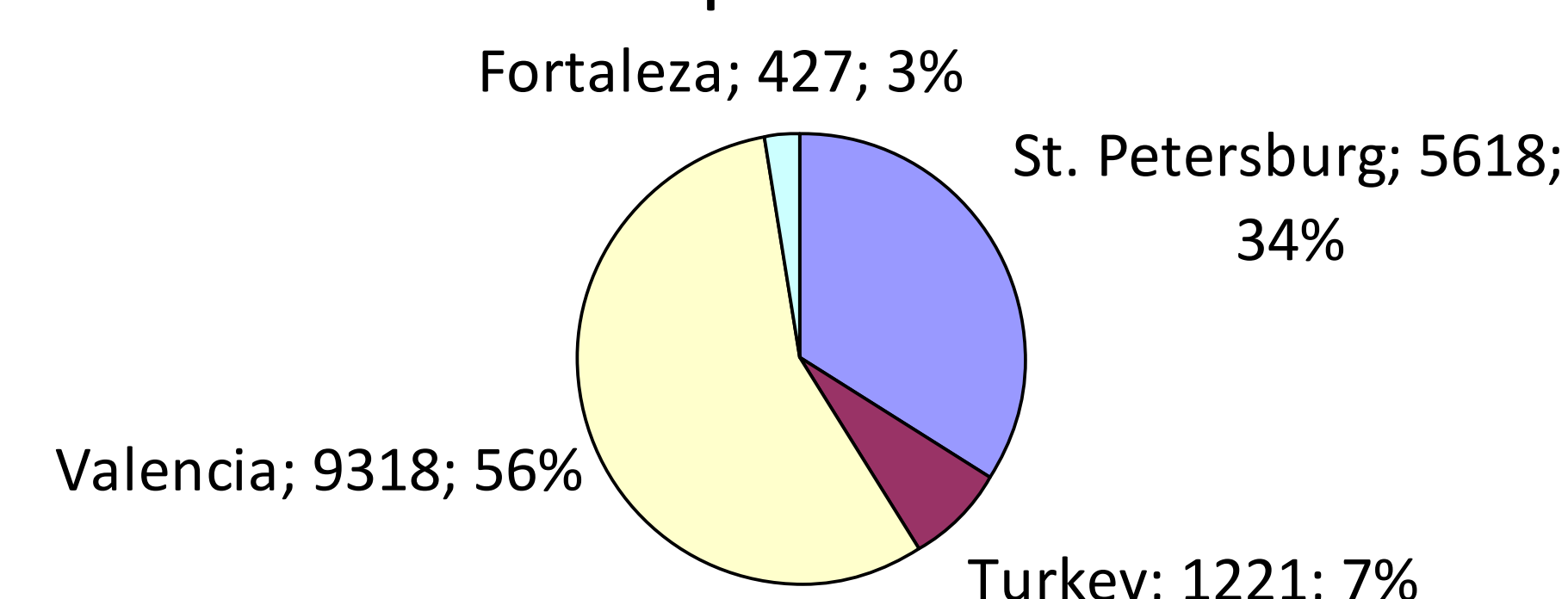


Figure 2: Admissions with laboratory result by site.

Results

We ascertained 6,884 (41%) IORV positives. Predominant viruses were influenza (40%), RSV (21%) and rhinovirus/enterovirus (13%).

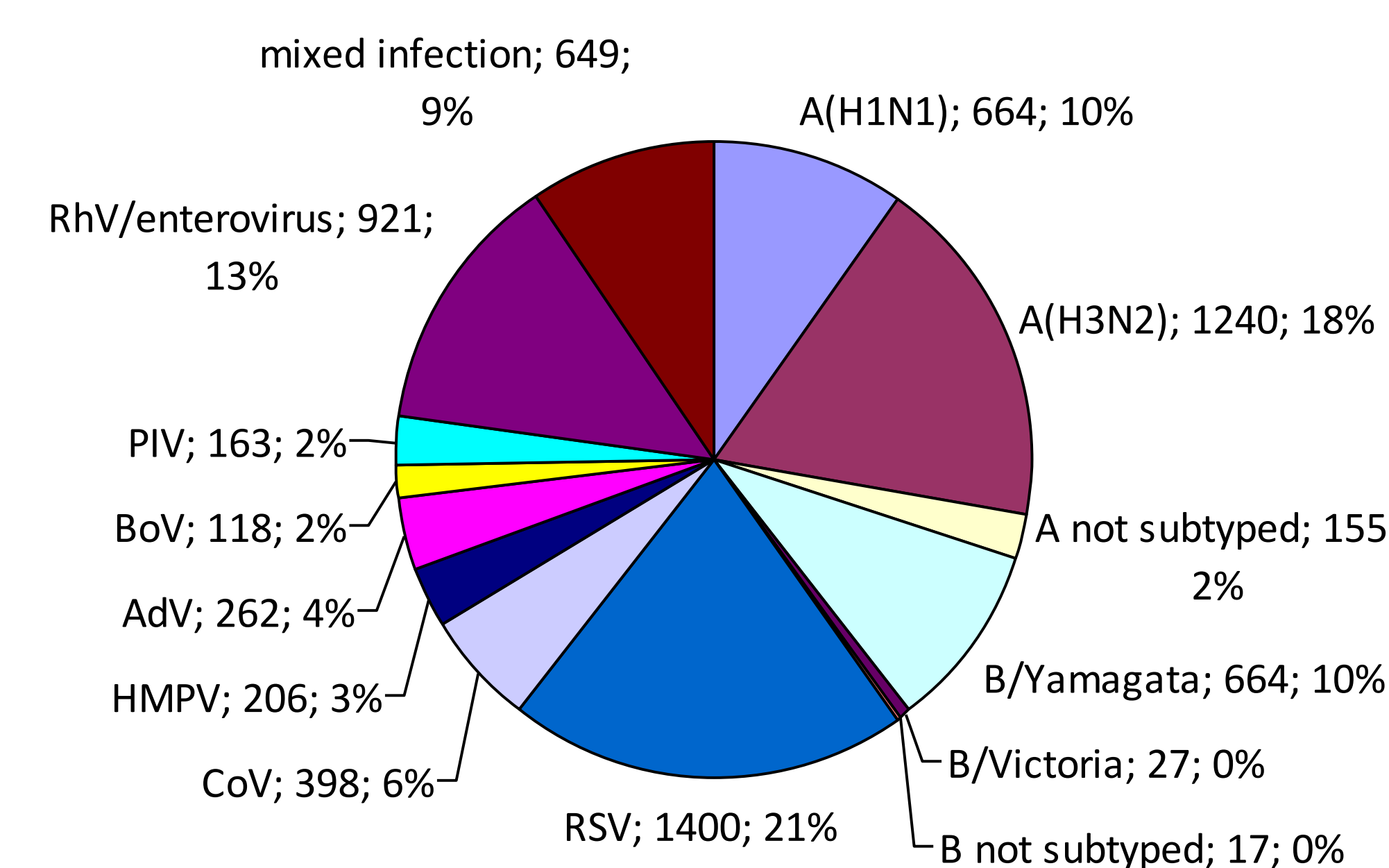


Figure 3: Respiratory viruses distribution. Seasons 2012/13 to 2014/15.

Whereas, 50-52% of IORV positives were observed in those under 5 years old, 18-27% of IORV positives were among those 65 years old or older. The virus type distribution was age-dependent.

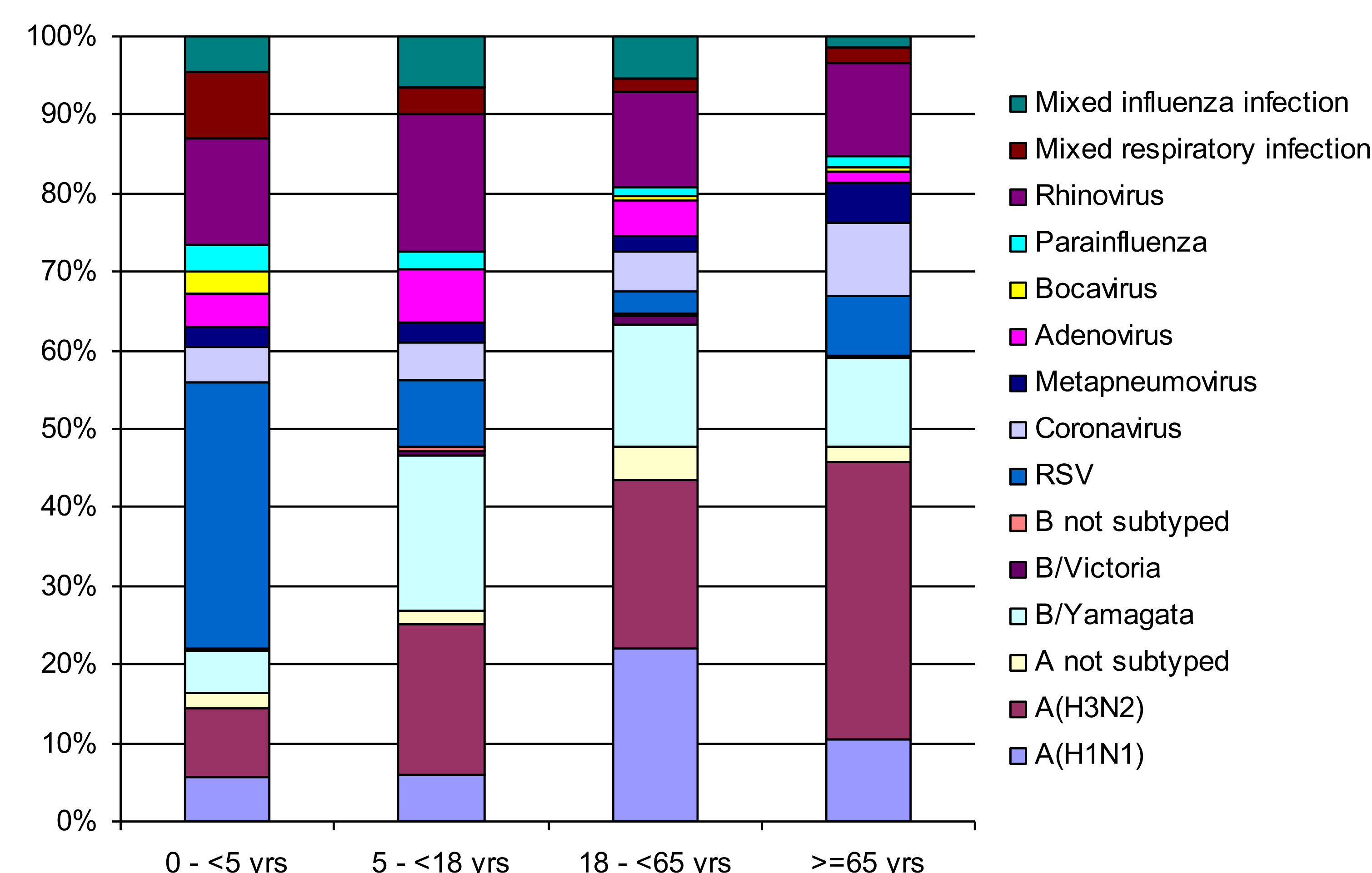


Figure 4: Virus distribution by age groups.

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) was dominant in those less than five years old (Figure 4), mostly in 0 to less than 6 months of age (data not shown). In subjects 65 years old and over A(H3N2) was dominant (Figure 4) with 30% or more positives, with its frequency increasing with age (data not shown). In the 65 years old and over, 10% of admissions were positive for RSV, with a decreasing trend by age (Figure 4). There was substantial seasonal variability in the predominance of IORV in included admissions (Figure 5).

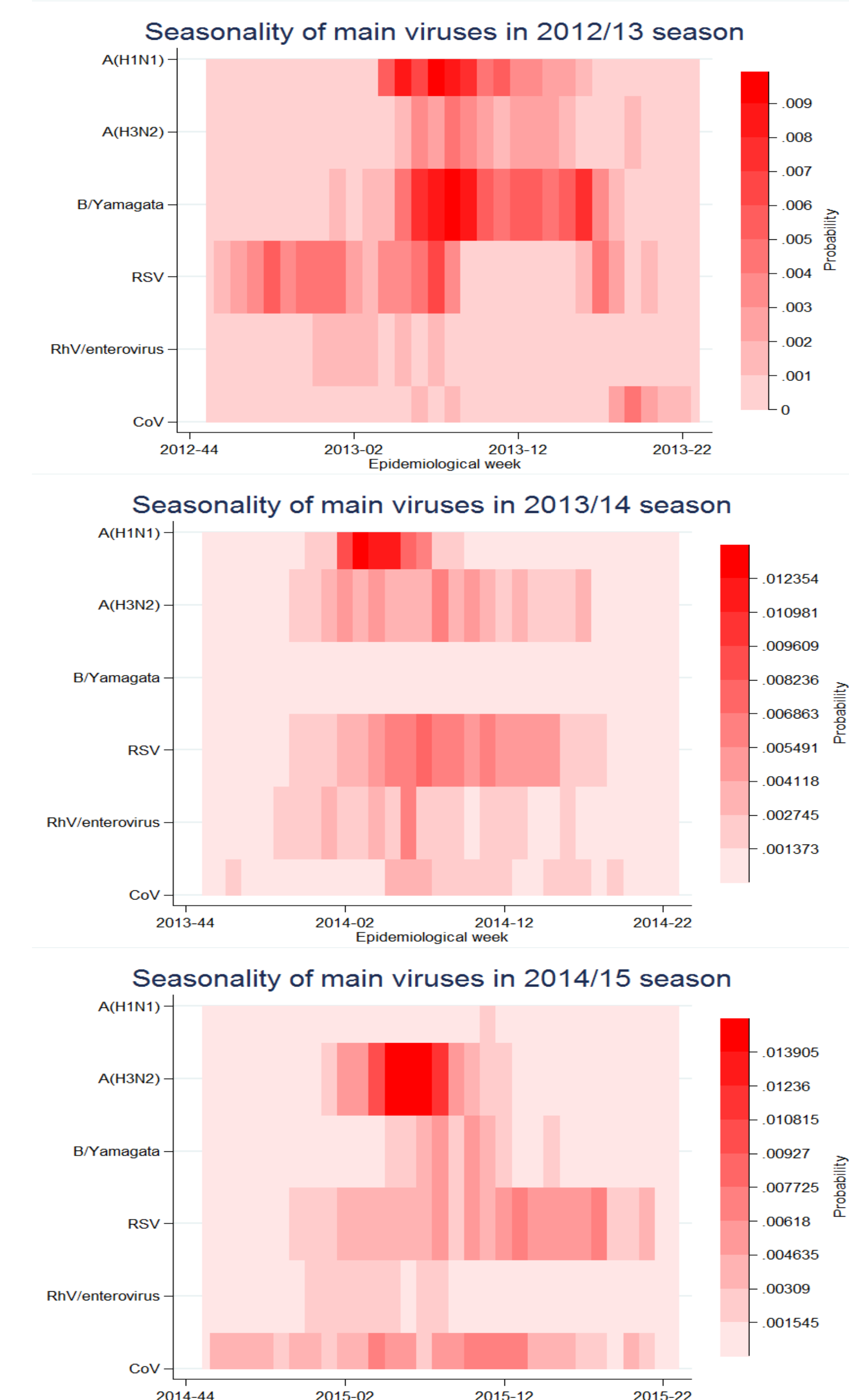


Figure 5: Seasonal distribution of the probability of admission with IORV in the GIHSN sites in three consecutive seasons.

Conclusion

The results from this multicenter surveillance further confirm the relevance of IORV infection worldwide.

The Global Influenza Hospital Surveillance Network as a growing platform to generate epidemiology evidence on the burden of severe influenza and other respiratory viruses

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ABSTRACT

Background: Very few hospital-based surveillance systems offer standardized common core protocols over a broad geographical area and there is a need to produce reliable influenza burden estimates. To fill this gap, the Global Influenza Hospital Surveillance Network (GIHSN) was initiated in 2011 and is now expanding.

Methods: The GIHSN is an international public-private partnership initiated by Sanofi Pasteur. It is coordinated by a regional public health foundation, FISABIO (Spain), and composed of several country partners affiliated with National Health Authorities. Results of each season and pooled analyses are presented at the GIHSN Global Annual Meeting each year in the presence of influenza experts and representatives from international institutions involved in epidemiology surveillance.

The sustainability of the network has recently been reinforced by the creation of the Foundation for Influenza Epidemiology in September 2015, governed by an Executive Committee that meets once a year to evaluate new proposals that are eligible for funding. The Foundation is an opportunity to facilitate additional funding from external donors (private and public) and it supports not-for-profit organizations able to coordinate a pool of hospitals with epidemiological research projects aligned with the GIHSN mission. As well as supporting the GIHSN influenza studies, it represents a new and growing platform to develop research on the epidemiology of other respiratory viruses. Notwithstanding the funding mechanisms of the Foundation, each study site retains full ownership of the data.

Results: The GIHSN studies were conducted in 4, then 5 and finally 6 countries during the 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 influenza seasons. The network currently includes more than 40 hospitals in 10 countries and the number of samples tested has increased by 62% from 2012 to 2015. Results are regularly published in scientific journals and available on www.gihsn.org.

Conclusions: The enlargement of the GIHSN network is an opportunity to learn from the variations of epidemiological patterns and burden of respiratory viruses across regions and to collect more representative data over time. An increase in the number of GIHSN partners will enable an increased sample size, thus amplifying the sensitivity and external validity of the results. Currently there is a need to expand the GIHSN network to additional Southern Hemisphere countries, to enable more specific and sensitive comparisons across sites and seasons.

BACKGROUND

Very few hospital-based surveillance systems offer standardized common core protocols over a broad geographical area and there is a need to produce reliable influenza burden estimates. To fill this gap, the Global Influenza Hospital Surveillance Network (GIHSN) was initiated in 2011 and is now expanding.

METHODS

The GIHSN is an international public-private partnership initiated by Sanofi Pasteur. It is coordinated by a regional public health foundation, FISABIO (Spain), and composed of several country partners affiliated with National Health Authorities.

This is a multi-centre, prospective, active surveillance, hospital-based epidemiological study. A **standard protocol** is shared between sites allowing comparison and pooling of results between sites. When vaccine coverage is sufficient, vaccine effectiveness is assessed using a test negative design. The sustainability of the GIHSN has recently been reinforced by the creation of the Foundation for Influenza Epidemiology in September 2015, governed by an Executive Committee that meets once a year to evaluate new proposals that are eligible for funding.

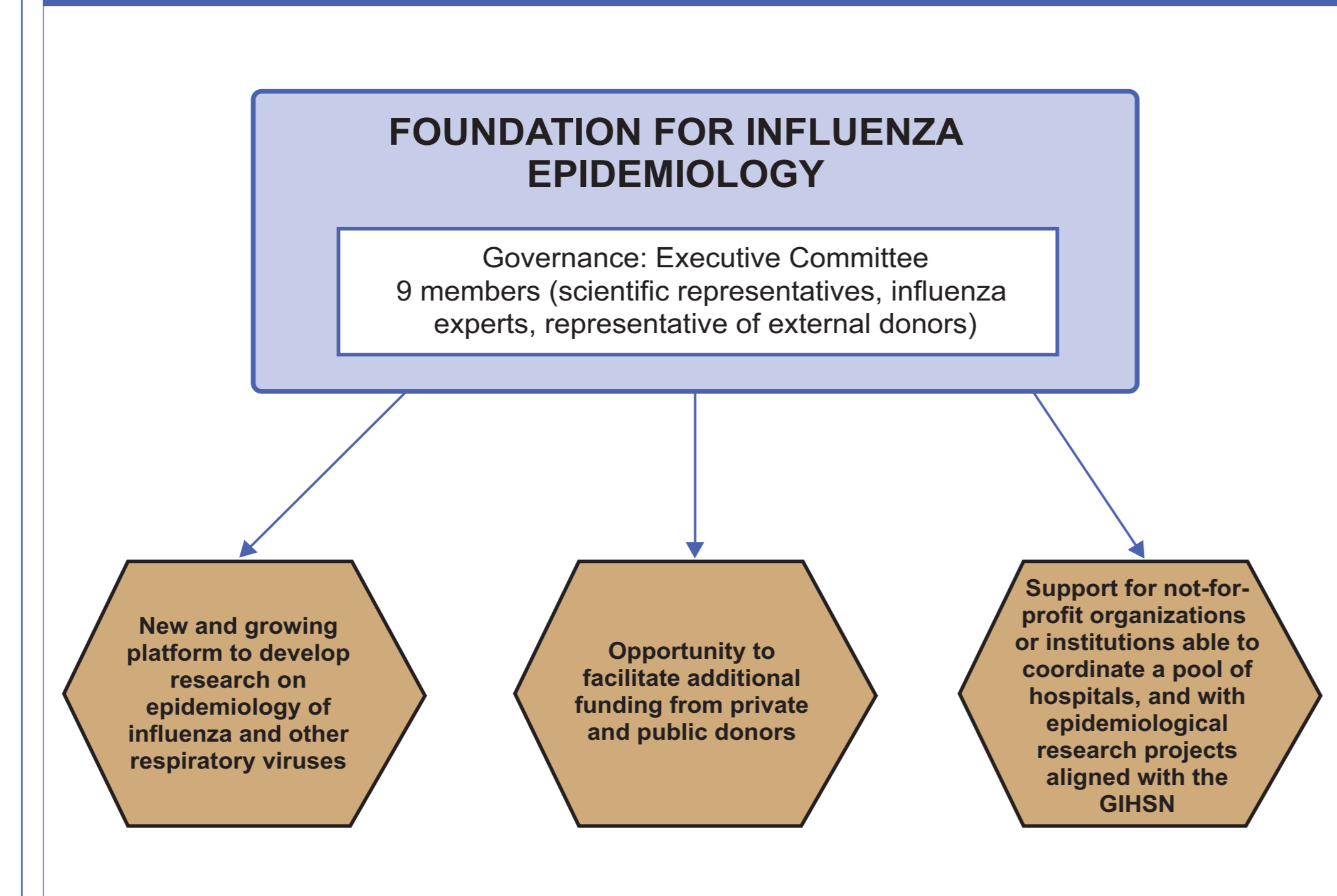
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The GIHSN and the Foundation for Influenza Epidemiology: development of a collaborative framework

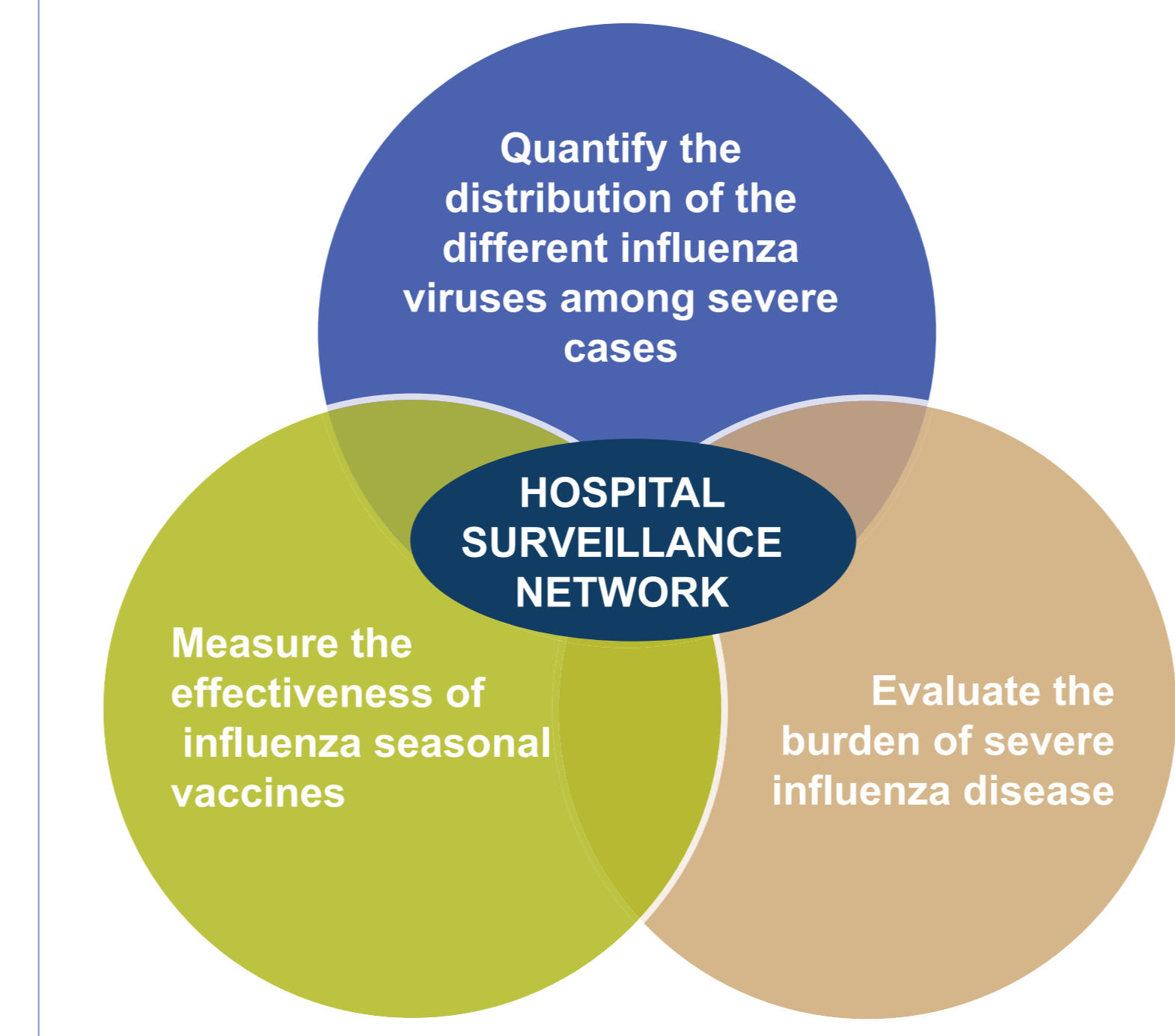
- All studies are funded through grants from the Foundation for Influenza Epidemiology
- Coordination activities and technical support is provided by FISABIO, an independent health institute based in Spain
- GIHSN sites funded by the Foundation are invited to share data generated during the season with FISABIO to produce the pooled analysis presented at the annual meeting
- This platform is an opportunity to plug additional research components such as other respiratory viruses

Every year, the Foundation for Influenza Epidemiology supports projects aligned with the GIHSN mission. Non-profit organizations that could coordinate a pool of hospitals in joining the GIHSN are eligible to respond to a call for proposal for funding, launched in May.

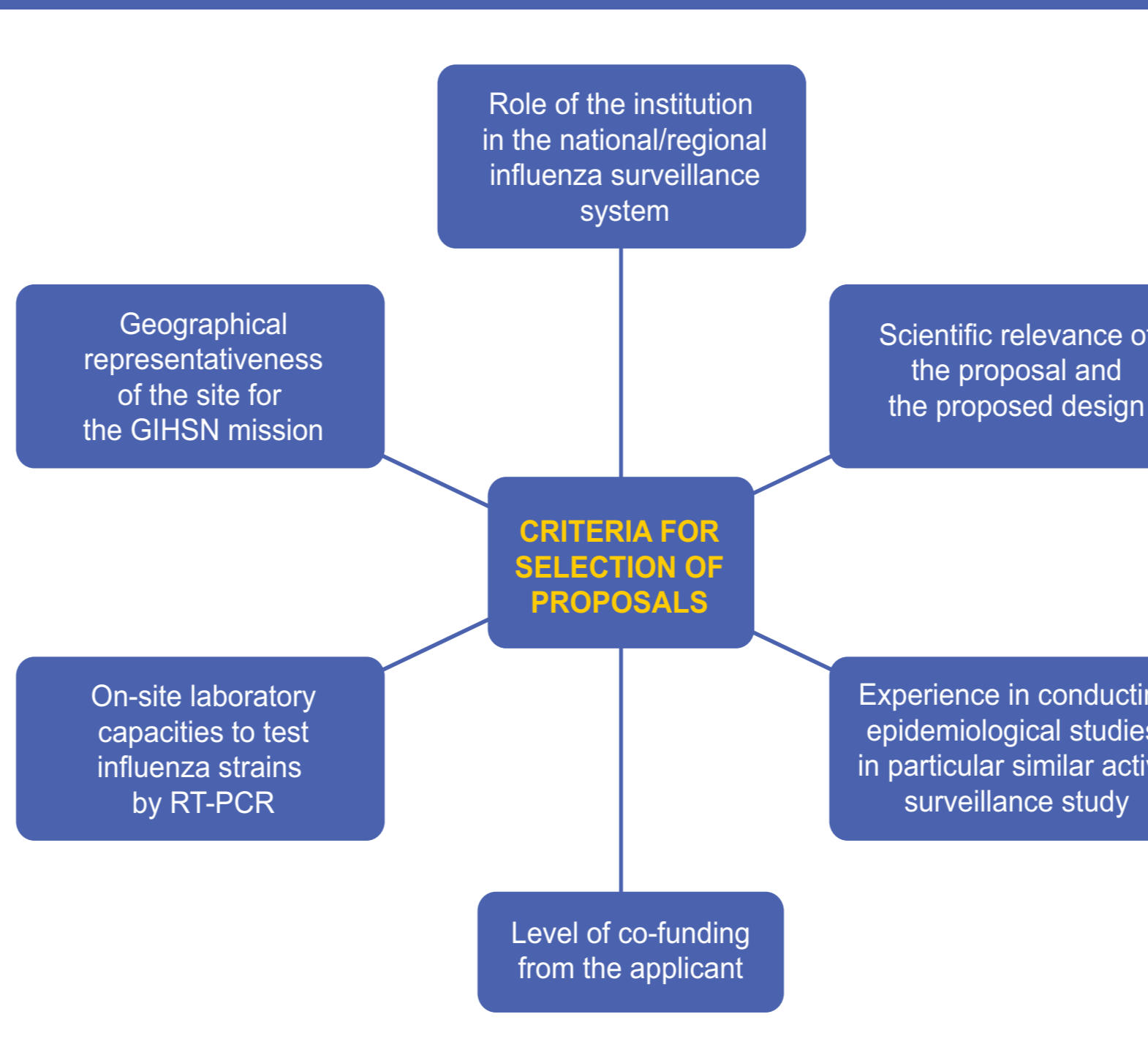
Main features of the Foundation for Influenza Epidemiology



The three main scientific objectives of the network



Criteria for the selection of proposals



RESULTS

Results of each season and pooled analyses are presented at the GIHSN Global Annual Meeting each year in the presence of influenza experts and representatives from international institutions involved in epidemiology surveillance.

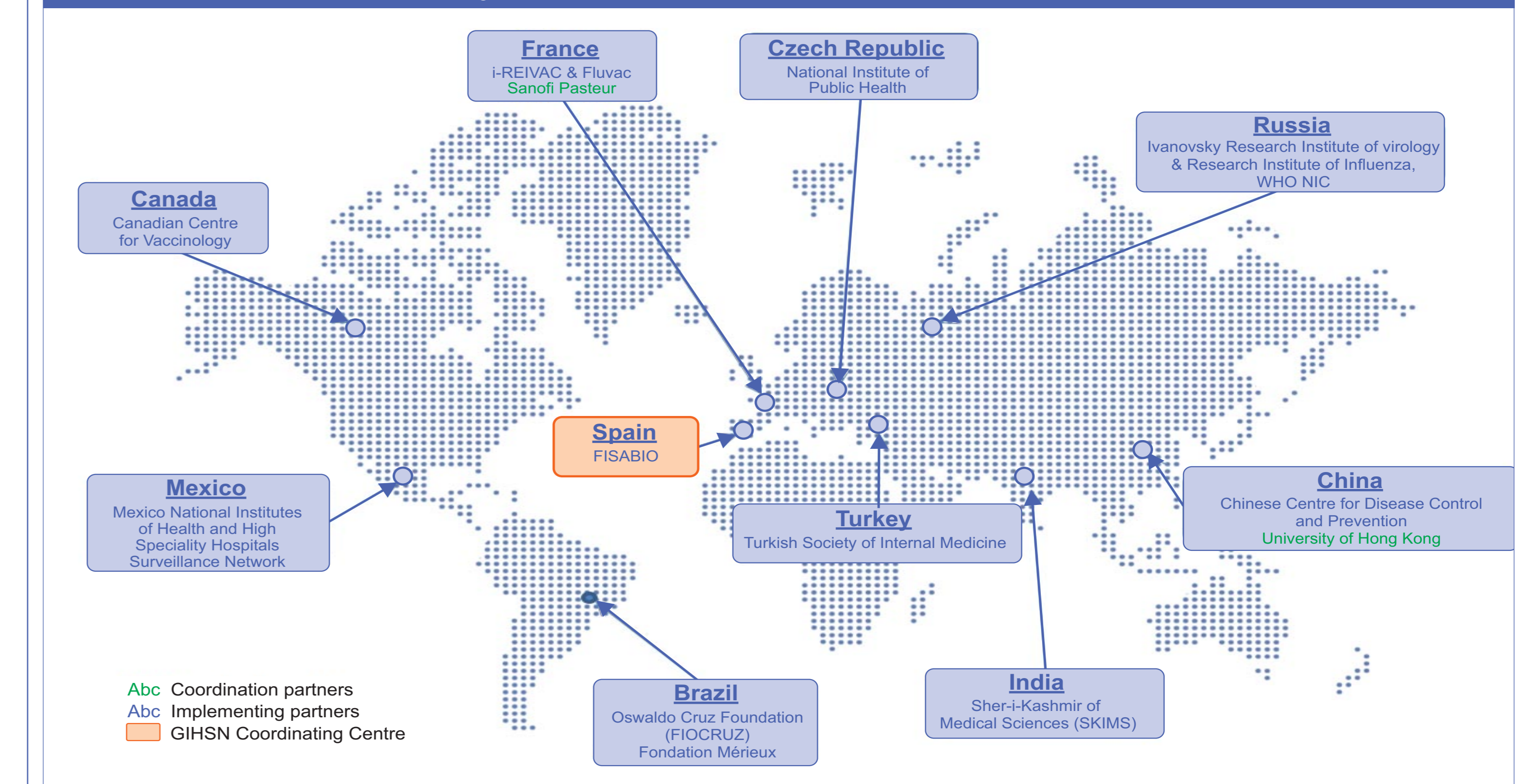
Results are regularly published in scientific journals and available on www.gihsn.org.

The GIHSN studies were conducted in 4, then 5 and finally 6 countries during the 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 influenza seasons. The network currently includes more than 40 hospitals in 10 countries and the number of samples has increased by 62% from 2012 to 2015.

Evolution of the Global Influenza Hospital Network over the seasons

Season	Number of countries	Number of implementing hospitals	Number of people included for ILI	Number of positive influenza cases	Number of positives for other respiratory viruses
2012-2013	4	21	5,906	1,545 (30.7%)	478 (8.1%)
2013-2014	5	24	5,963	1,139 (19.2%)	884 (15.3%)
2014-2015	6	27	9,589	2,176 (22.7%)	2,475 (22.2%)

Current partners and implementing sites for the 2015-2016 influenza season



CONCLUSIONS

The enlargement of the GIHSN network is an opportunity to learn from the variations of epidemiological patterns and burden of respiratory viruses across regions and to collect more representative data over time. An increase in the number of GIHSN partners will enable an increased sample size, thus amplifying the sensitivity and external validity of the results. Currently there is a need to expand the GIHSN network to additional Southern Hemisphere countries, to enable more specific and sensitive comparisons across sites and seasons.

Further information

More information about the network and description of the implementing partners can be found on the Global Influenza Hospital Surveillance Network website: www.gihsn.org