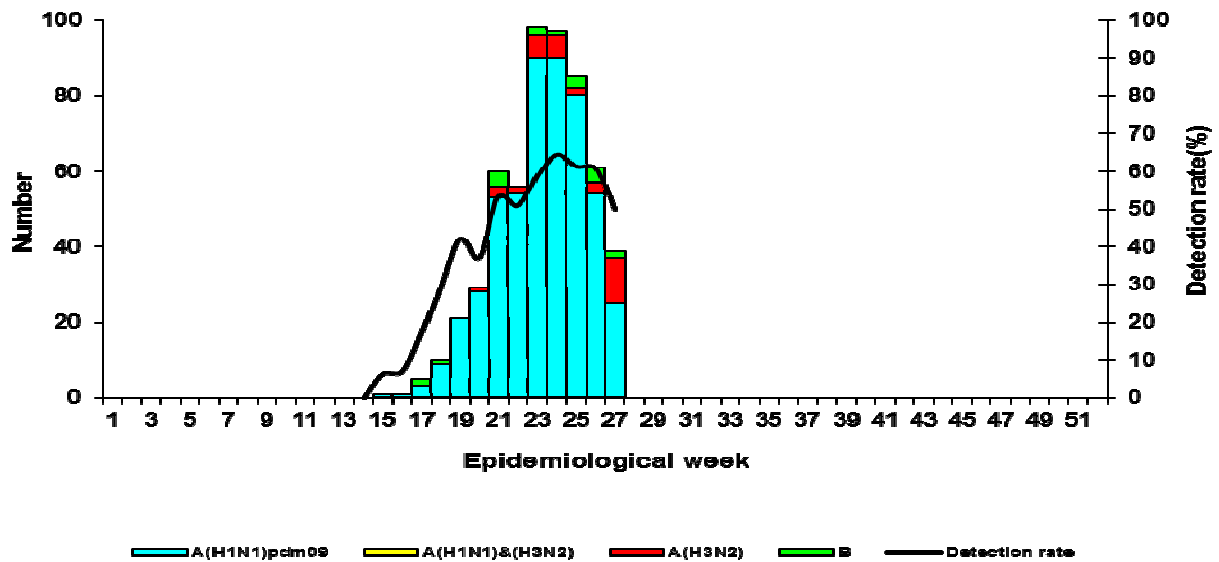


### Influenza surveillance

The 2013 influenza season which started in week 17 (week ending 28 April) is continuing but the number of submissions positive for influenza is starting to decrease. Over six weeks (20 May – 30 June) the average number of specimens for influenza testing submitted by the Viral Watch influenza surveillance programme has been 130 (range 100-167), with an average influenza detection rate of 58%. To date influenza has been detected in the specimens of 561 patients i.e. A (H1N1)pdm09 in 506 patients in all nine provinces; A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2)

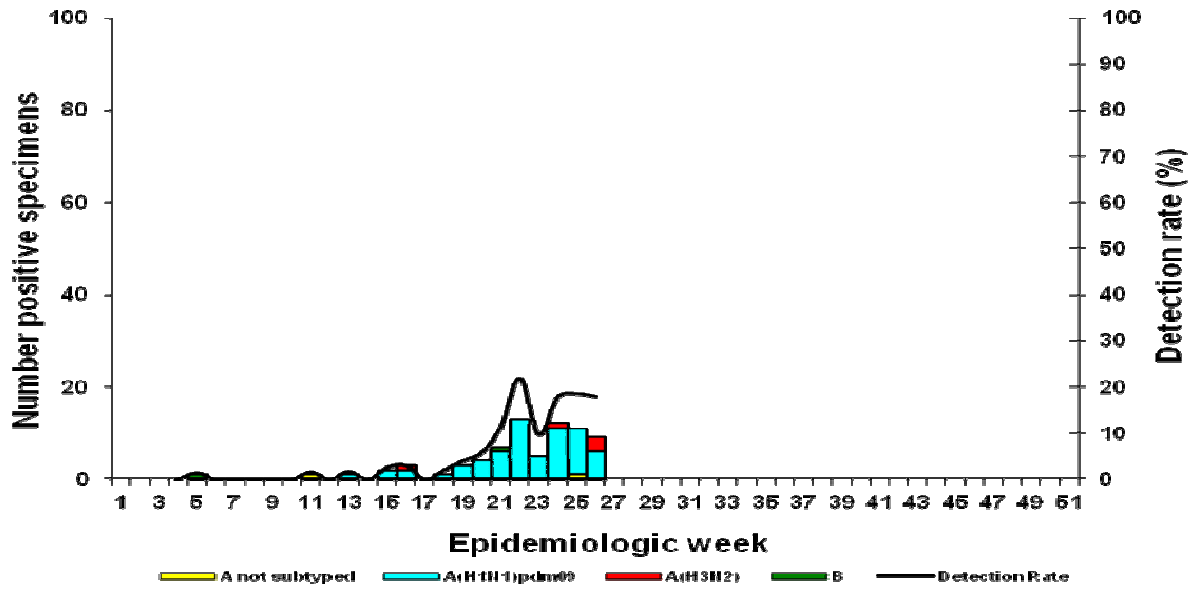
from three patients; A(H3N2) in 33 patients in five provinces; influenza A(H3N2) and influenza B from one patient; and influenza B from 18 patients in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape. Sixty-one patients positive for influenza were also positive for another respiratory virus, the majority (43) for adenovirus. In addition other respiratory viruses were detected in 251 patients negative for influenza. The majority (121) of these were rhinovirus, followed by adenovirus (64).



**Figure 2. Number of positive samples by influenza types and subtypes, and influenza detection rate by week, 2013**

During this time period 1588 specimens from patients admitted with severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) at the five SARI surveillance sites have been tested for influenza. Of these, 75 were positive for influenza, with all five SARI sites reporting influenza positives. Influenza A (not subtyped) was detected in two patients, influenza A

(H1N1)pdm09 in 63 patients, influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2) in one, and influenza B in four patients (Figure 3). In addition 1330 other respiratory viruses were detected in the specimens of 961 patients, rhinovirus (480) accounting for the majority, followed by RSV (352) and adenovirus (296).



**Figure 3. Number of positive samples by influenza types and subtypes, and influenza detection rate by week, SARI surveillance, 2013**

As in 2012 influenza season, influenza A(H1N1) pdm09 is the predominant seasonal strain circulating so far. Detailed guidelines for the prevention and treatment of influenza are available

at: [http://www.nicd.ac.za/assets/files/Healthcare%20Workers%20Handbook%20on%20Influenza%20in%20SA%20-10%20April%202013final%20\\_2.pdf](http://www.nicd.ac.za/assets/files/Healthcare%20Workers%20Handbook%20on%20Influenza%20in%20SA%20-10%20April%202013final%20_2.pdf)

**Source:** Centre for Respiratory Diseases and Meningitis, NICD-NHLS.