*GISAID, which stands for the Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data, is a repository for laboratories conducting genomic sequencing to share SARS-CoV-2 data. CDPH’s Regional Innovative Public Health Laboratory (RIPHL) submits data to GISAID, and so other laboratories sequencing SARS-CoV-2 in Chicago. All sequences uploaded to GISAID between 1/30/2021 and 1/5/2022 which were tagged by location as “Chicago” (N=1406) were used to generate the weekly variant proportions shown above.

While GISAID has a large sample size of genomic sequences, the sampling strategy is unknown – these data may include samples that have been selectively targeted for sequencing (for example in response to a high suspicion of having a variant of concern, or when investigating an outbreak), which can affect variant proportions and introduce bias. It can take several weeks from the date of sample collection to the data sequencing data is available on GISAID, and thus data is generally sparse at more recent timepoints.