*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 3/27/2021 and 3/26/2022 which were tagged by location as “Chicago” (N=6,133) 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 a 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.