

# Le epidemie da patogeni a trasmissione respiratoria

la programmazione regionale in preparazione  
alle emergenze di sanità pubblica

30 settembre 2024

## Il cambiamento climatico e i patogeni a trasmissione respiratoria

Dr Carlo Biagetti  
UO Malattie Infettive Rimini  
Programma SPIAR  
AUSL Romagna



# CLIMATE CHANGE

1. WHY YOU ?
2. PreCOVID era
3. Post COVID era



## How Antibiotic Resistance Happens

**1.**

Lots of germs.  
A few are drug resistant.



**2.**

Antibiotics kill  
bacteria causing the illness,  
as well as good bacteria  
protecting the body from  
infection.



**3.**

The drug-resistant  
bacteria are now allowed to  
grow and take over.



**4.**

Some bacteria give  
their drug-resistance to  
other bacteria, causing  
more problems.



**SPIAR**  
Sicurezza nelle cure

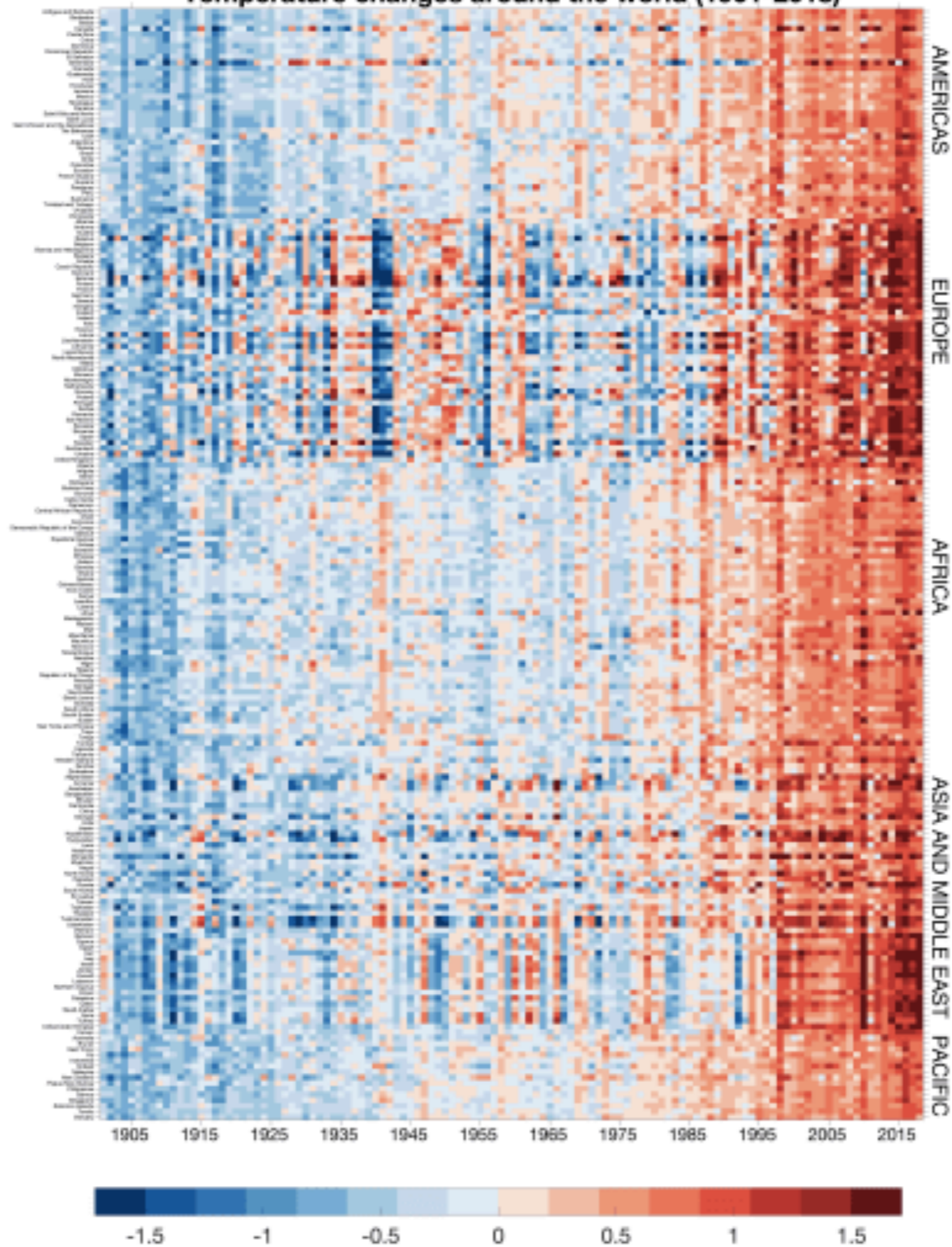




TIEDEMANN



Temperature changes around the world (1901-2018)



# Climate change and antibiotic resistance: a deadly combination

Jason P. Burnham 

## Heat and antibiotic resistance

Temperature is intimately linked with bacterial processes and infections.<sup>6</sup> Horizontal gene transfer, a major mechanism for the acquisition of

## Pollution and antibiotic resistance

More and more intense precipitation will lead to increased runoff and inevitably higher levels of pollution in our water. Pollutants are known to induce expression of antibiotic-resistance genes and bacterial mutagenesis.<sup>31</sup> Increased agricul-

## Disasters and infections

As the climate warms, the capacity of the atmosphere to hold water increases exponentially, meaning storms will be more severe and come with more precipitation. More precipitation leads to flooding, flood-related infections, population displacement, refugees, and overcrowding.



World Health  
Organization

# We must fight one of the world's biggest health threats: climate change

We know that worse is to come. Without bold and urgent action, climate change will displace around 216 million people by 2050, the World Bank estimates. Climate change is endangering lives and livelihoods as global food systems struggle to feed a growing world and water sources are compromised. And climate change is triggering a surge in infectious diseases like dengue and cholera which endanger millions.

**..exacerbate health inequity**



# Le epidemie da patogeni a trasmissione respiratoria

la programmazione regionale in preparazione  
alle emergenze di sanità pubblica

30 settembre 2024

## Il cambiamento climatico e i patogeni a trasmissione respiratoria

Dr Carlo Biagetti  
UO Malattie Infettive Rimini  
Programma SPIAR  
AUSL Romagna



# What are VRIs ?

(Viral Respiratory Infections)



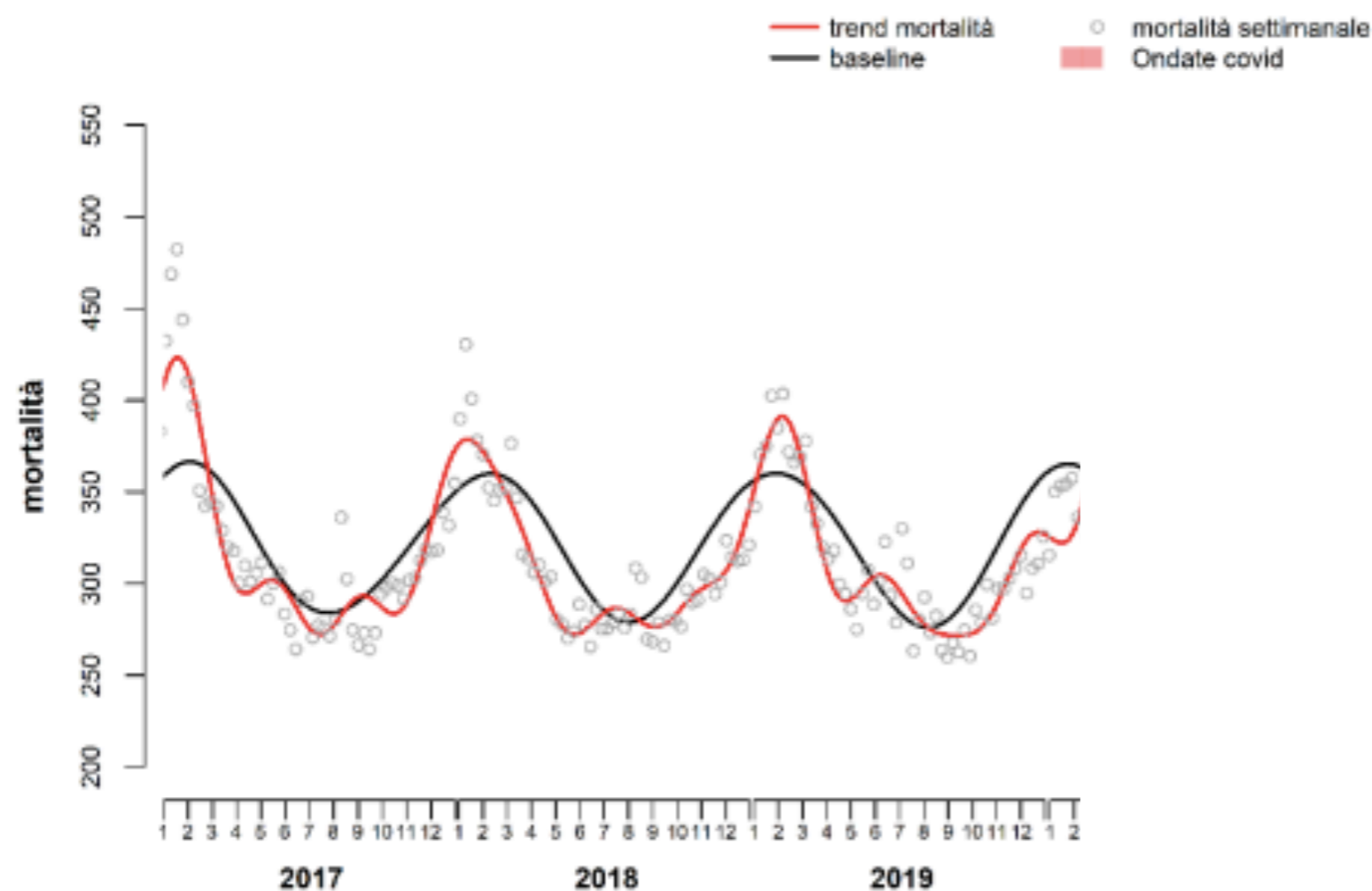
Respiratory virus	Family	Structure and genome	Subtypes	Primary routes of transmission	Seasonal patterns
Influenza virus <sup>15</sup>	<i>Orthomyxoviridae</i>	Enveloped ss - RNA viruses	A, B, C	Droplets and aerosols, contact	Winter peaks in temperate regions
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) <sup>10</sup>	<i>Paramyxoviridae</i>	Enveloped ss - RNA viruses	A, B	Direct and indirect contact, droplets, and aerosols	Winter and early spring peaks in temperate regions
Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) <sup>14</sup>	<i>Paramyxoviridae</i>	Enveloped ss - RNA viruses	A, B	Droplets and contact	Late winter and spring peaks in temperate regions
Parainfluenza viruses (PIV) <sup>14</sup>	<i>Paramyxoviridae</i>	Enveloped ss - RNA viruses	1, 2, 3, 4	Droplets and contact	PIV-1 and PIV-2 peak in the fall and winter in temperate regions, PIV-3 peaks in warm seasons, PIV-4 sporadically all-year
Human coronavirus (HCoV) <sup>13,16</sup>	<i>Coronaviridae</i>	Enveloped ss + RNA viruses	OC43, 229E, NL63, HKU1 <sup>a</sup>	Droplet spray and/or aerosol, contact	Winter peaks in most temperate regions
Rhinoviruses (RV) <sup>17</sup>	<i>Picornaviridae</i>	Enveloped ss + RNA viruses	Species A, B, and C, with >100 serotypes	Contact, droplet spray, and/or aerosol	All-year, with peaks in the autumn and spring in temperate regions
Human bocavirus (HBoV) <sup>15</sup>	<i>Parvoviridae</i>	Non-enveloped ss + DNA viruses	1, 2, 3	Contact, droplet spray, and/or aerosol	All-year, with a possible peak during the summer
Adenoviruses (ADV) <sup>13,18</sup>	<i>Adenoviridae</i>	Non-enveloped dsDNA viruses	53	Contact, possibly droplet spray and/or aerosol	All-year
Enterovirus (EV) <sup>14</sup>	<i>Picornaviridae</i>	Non-enveloped ss + RNA viruses	D68	Contact	Summer and autumn

<sup>a</sup>Other human coronaviruses include MERS-CoV, SARS-CoV and SARS-CoV-2.

**Table 1: Characteristics of etiology and seasonality of viral respiratory infections (VRIs).**



**Figura 3.** Andamento stagionale della mortalità totale per settimana nelle città italiane.  
Periodo gennaio 2017 – 24 maggio 2022.



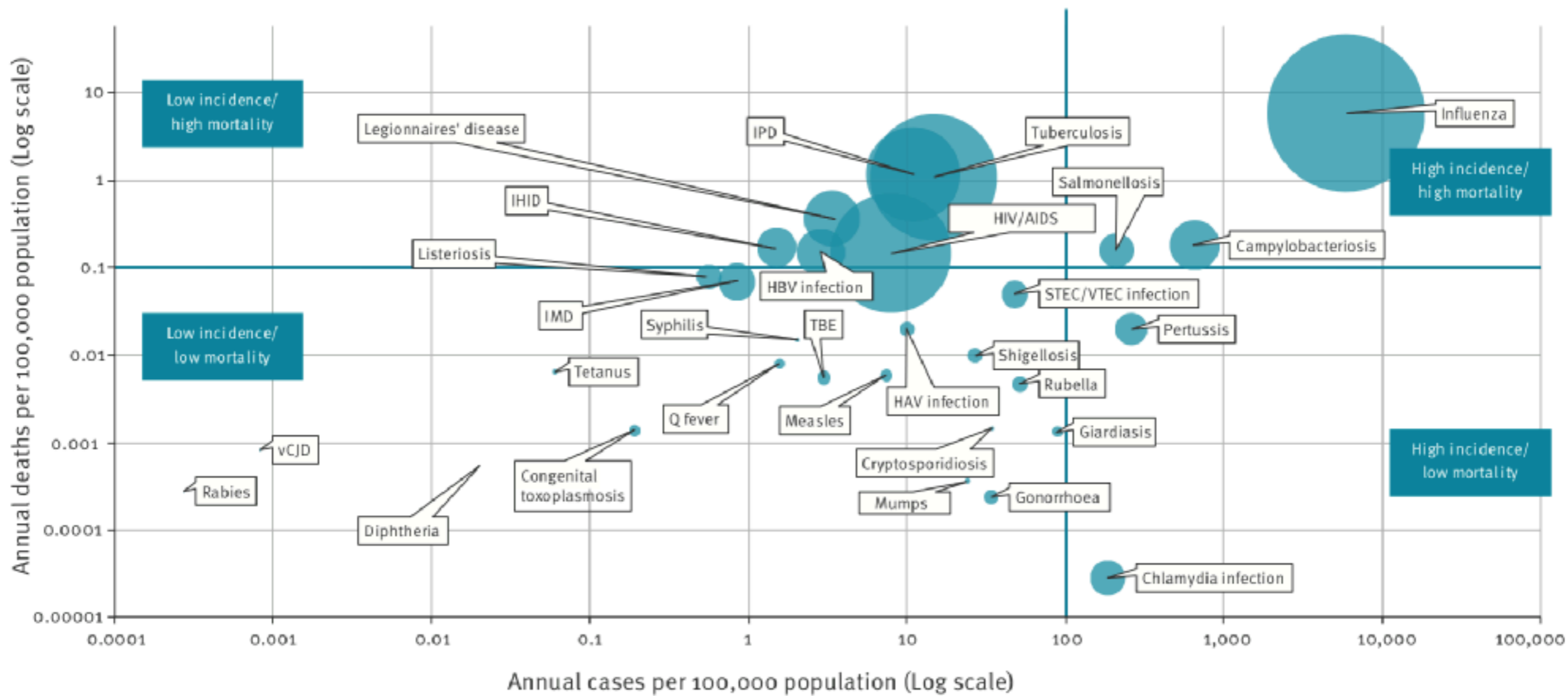
*Dati di 39 Comuni: Aosta, Trento, Bolzano, Torino, Milano, Brescia, Verona, Venezia, Padova, Genova; Reggio Emilia, Modena, Bologna, Forlì, Rimini, Firenze, Prato, Livorno, Ancona, Perugia, Viterbo, Civitavecchia, Roma, Rieti, Frosinone, Latina, Napoli, Campobasso, Potenza, Foggia, Bari, Taranto, Catanzaro, Reggio Calabria, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Siracusa, Cagliari*

*\*in questo report è stata esclusa Messina a causa di un mancato invio dei dati*



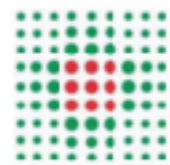
**Ogni anno si succedono 6-8 settimane in cui incrementano gli accessi in PS, i ricoveri, il consumo di antibiotici inappropriato, la mortalità e la trasmissione intraospedaliera di influenza**





Il diametro della bolla riflette il numero di DALY per 100.000 abitanti all'anno.





SERVIZIO SANITARIO REGIONALE  
EMILIA-ROMAGNA  
Azienda Unità Sanitaria Locale della Romagna

## SPIAR

Programma per la gestione del  
rischio infettivo ed uso  
responsabile degli antibiotici  
AUSL Romagna

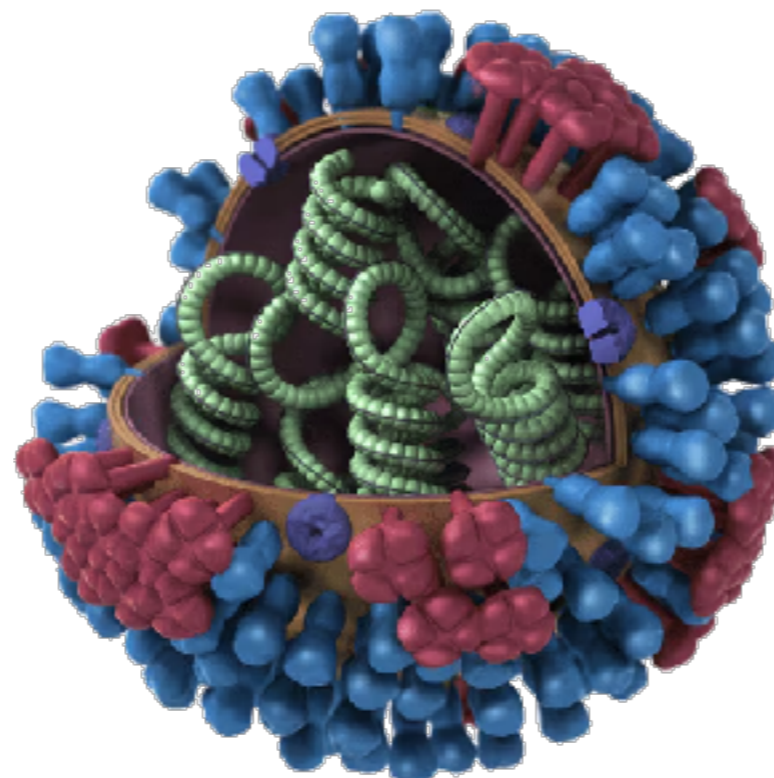
### ISTRUZIONE OPERATIVA PER L'INDIVIDUAZIONE PRECOCE E GESTIONE DEL PAZIENTE CON SOSPETTA INFLUENZA DURANTE L'EPIDEMIA STAGIONALE

Rev. 00

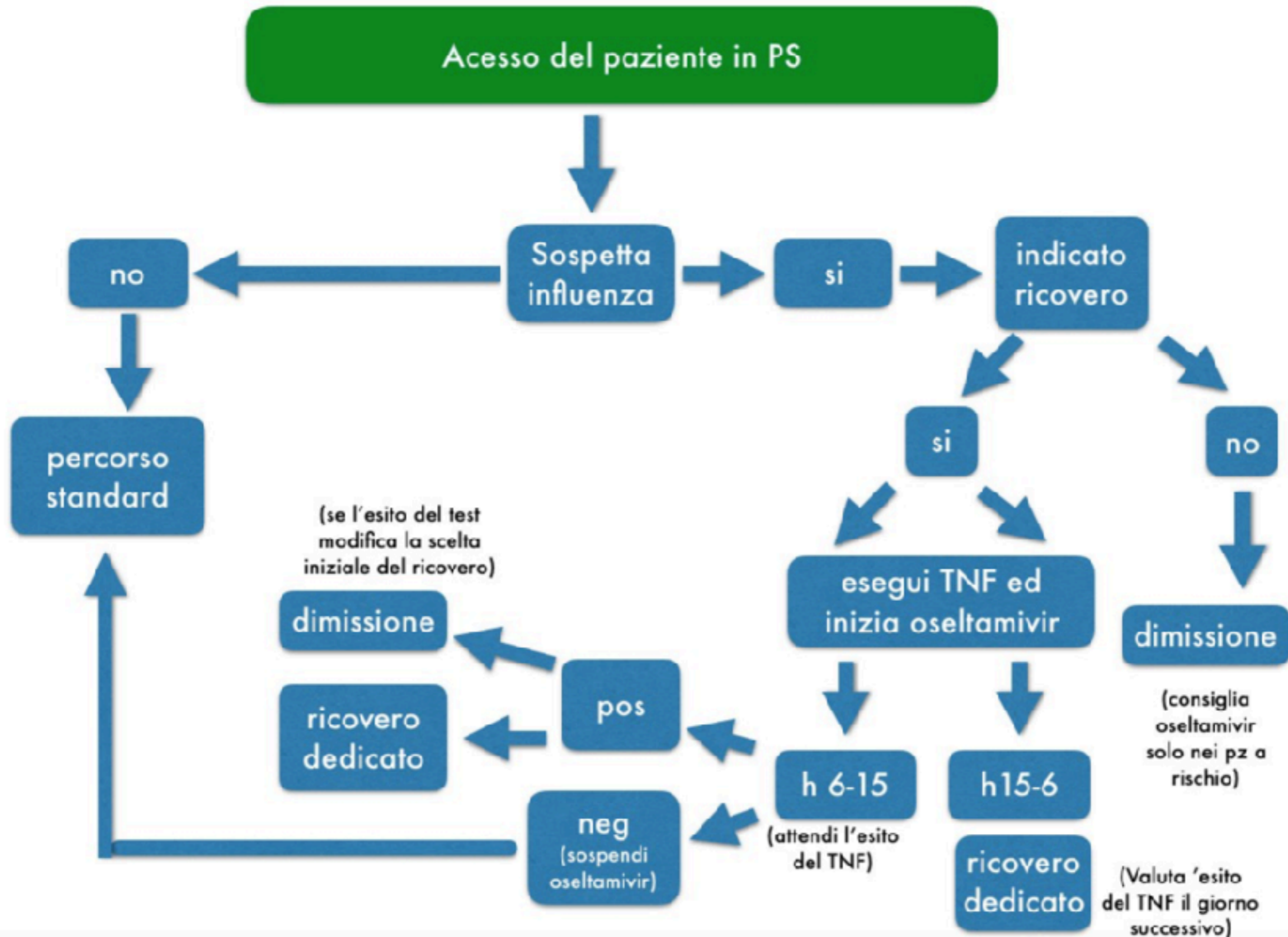
del 31.10.19

DOC 3

Pagina 1 di 6



# Algoritmo riassuntivo

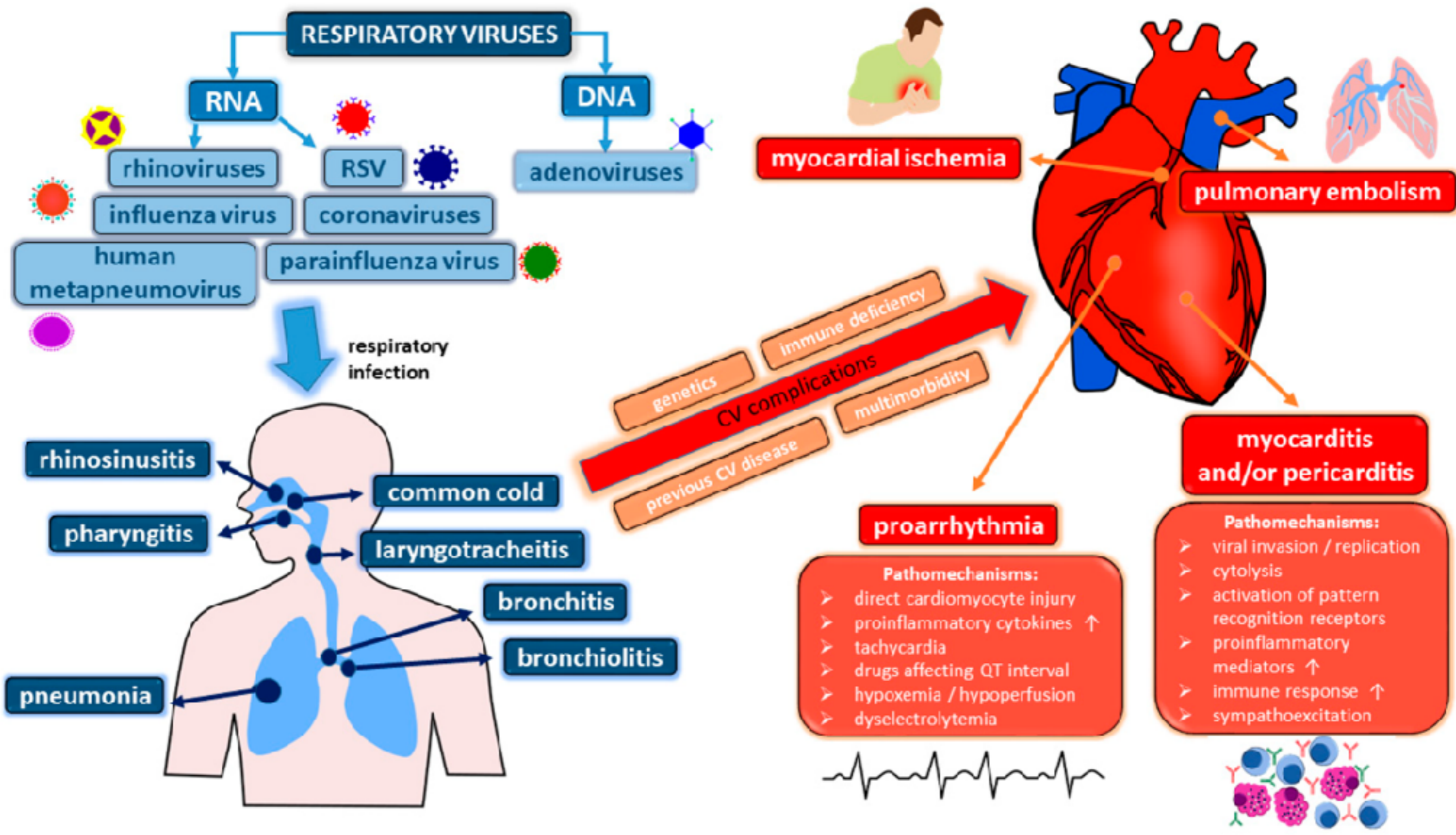




## Tamponi influenza-VRS, AUSL Romagna

	Positivi	Negativi	Totali
2014-15	14 (23,3%)	46	60
2015-16	6 (6,3%)	97	103
<b>2016-17</b>	<b>161 (25%)</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>636</b>
<b>2017-18</b>	<b>398 (25,4%)</b>	<b>1132</b>	<b>1530</b>
<b>2018-19</b>	<b>1009 (25,1%)</b>	<b>3031</b>	<b>4040</b>





## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Acute Myocardial Infarction after Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza Infection

**Table 2.** Incidence Ratios for Acute Myocardial Infarction after Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza Infection.\*

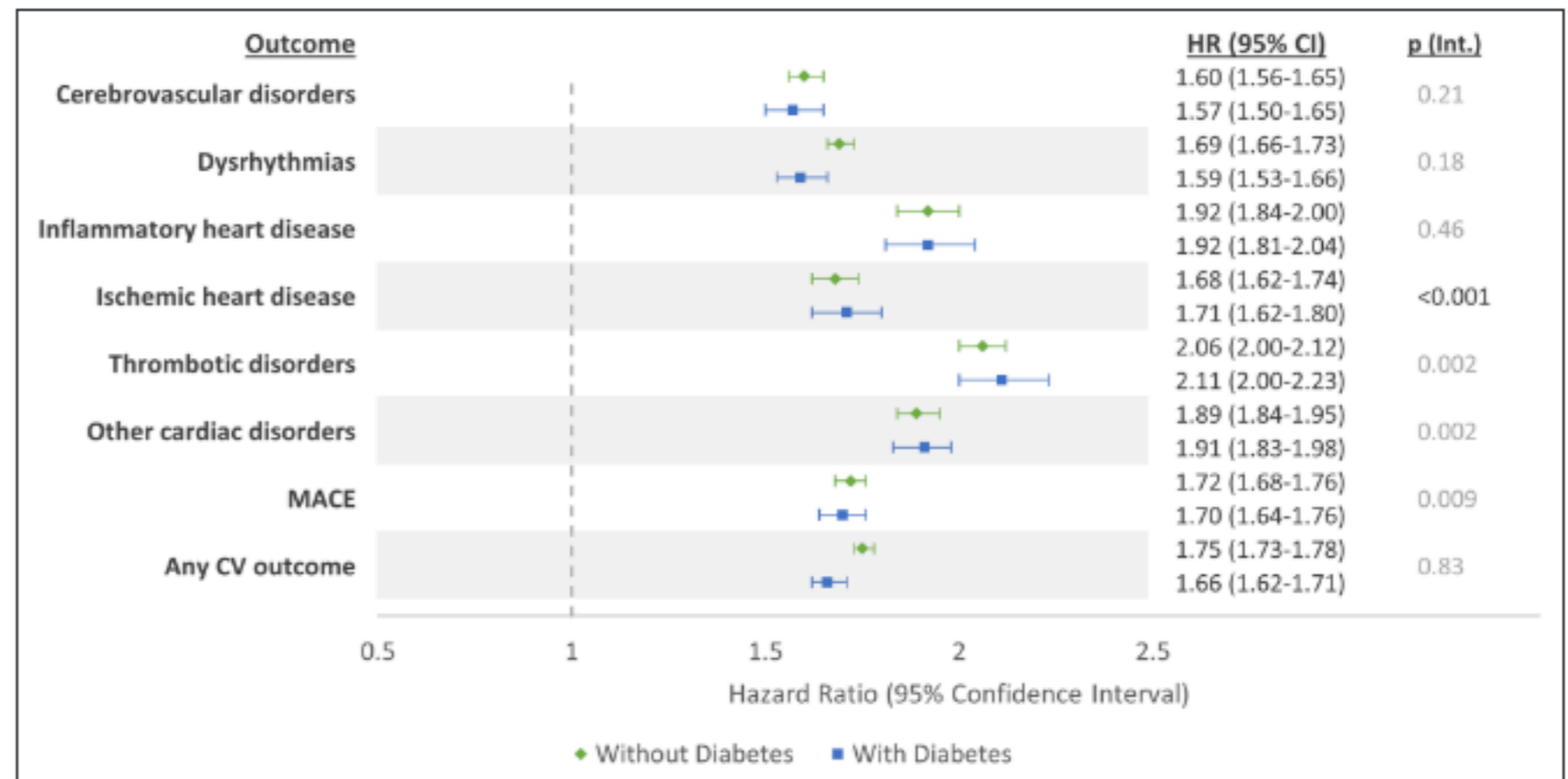
Variable	Incidence Ratio (95% CI)
<b>Primary analysis: risk interval, days 1–7</b>	6.05 (3.86–9.50)
Days 1–3	6.30 (3.25–12.22)
Days 4–7	5.78 (3.17–10.53)
Days 8–14	0.60 (0.15–2.41)
Days 15–28	0.75 (0.31–1.81)





ORIGINAL RESEARCH

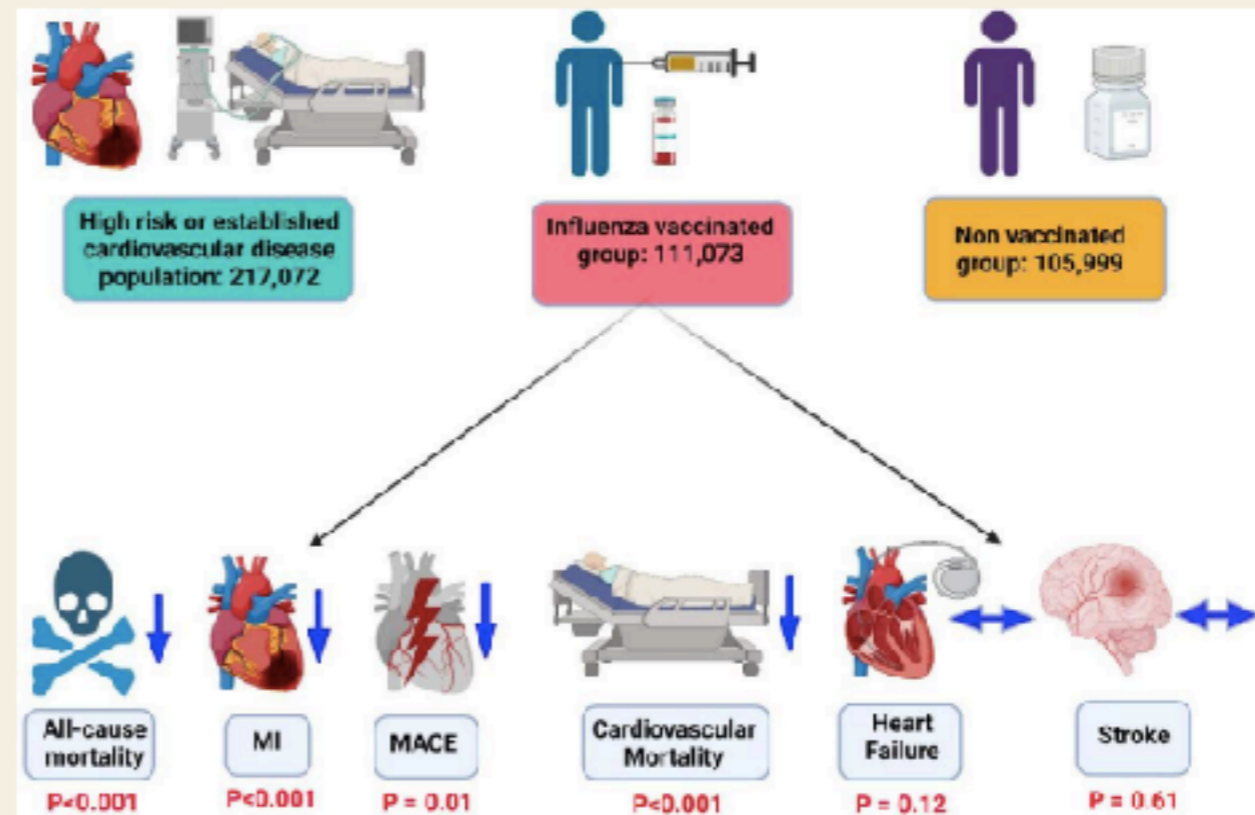
# Risk of Cardiovascular Disease After COVID-19 Diagnosis Among Adults With and Without Diabetes



# Cardioprotective effects of influenza vaccination among patients with established cardiovascular disease or at high cardiovascular risk: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Vikash Jaiswal<sup>1</sup>, Song Peng Ang<sup>2</sup>, Sadia Yaqoob<sup>3</sup>, Angela Ishak<sup>1,4</sup>, Jia Ee Chia<sup>5</sup>, Yusra Minahil Nasir<sup>6</sup>, Zauraiz Anjum<sup>7</sup>, M. Chadi Alraies<sup>8</sup>, Akash Jaiswal<sup>9</sup>, and Monodeep Biswas<sup>10\*</sup>

## Graphical Abstract



Cardioprotective effect of Influenza Vaccine among patients with established Cardiovascular disease or at high risk



OPEN

## Influenza vaccination and major cardiovascular risk: a systematic review and meta-analysis of clinical trials studies

Fatemeh Omid<sup>1</sup>, Moein Zangiabadian<sup>2,3</sup>, Amir Hashem Shahidi Bonjar<sup>4</sup>,  
Mohammad Javad Nasiri<sup>2b,c</sup> & Tala Sarmastzadeh<sup>2b,d</sup>

Studies involving more than 9,000 patients reported a 26% decreased risk of heart attacks in people who received a flu vaccine and a 33% reduction in cardiovascular deaths.



PNRR Action Plan  
M6C2 2.2b ICA C

## Evento formativo

# “Seasonal Influenza Preparedness”



**Venerdì 24/10/2024**  
**dalle 15:00 alle 17:00**



Centro Servizi di Pievesestina  
EDIFICIO B Sala A  
Codice corso WHR 45433



### **PROGRAMMA:**

ore 15: introduzione (Carlo Biagetti)

ore 15,15: Virus respiratori e cambiamento climatico (Carlo Biagetti)

ore 15,30: prevenzione dell'influenza (Chiara Reali)

ore 15,45: epidemiologia e diagnosi microbiologica dell'influenza (Giorgio Dirani)

ore 16: valutazione del rischio infettivo e buone pratiche di infection control (Sabrina Alvisi)

ore 16,15: gestione clinica (Kety Luzi)

ore 16,30: influenza in terapia intensiva (Emanuele Russo)

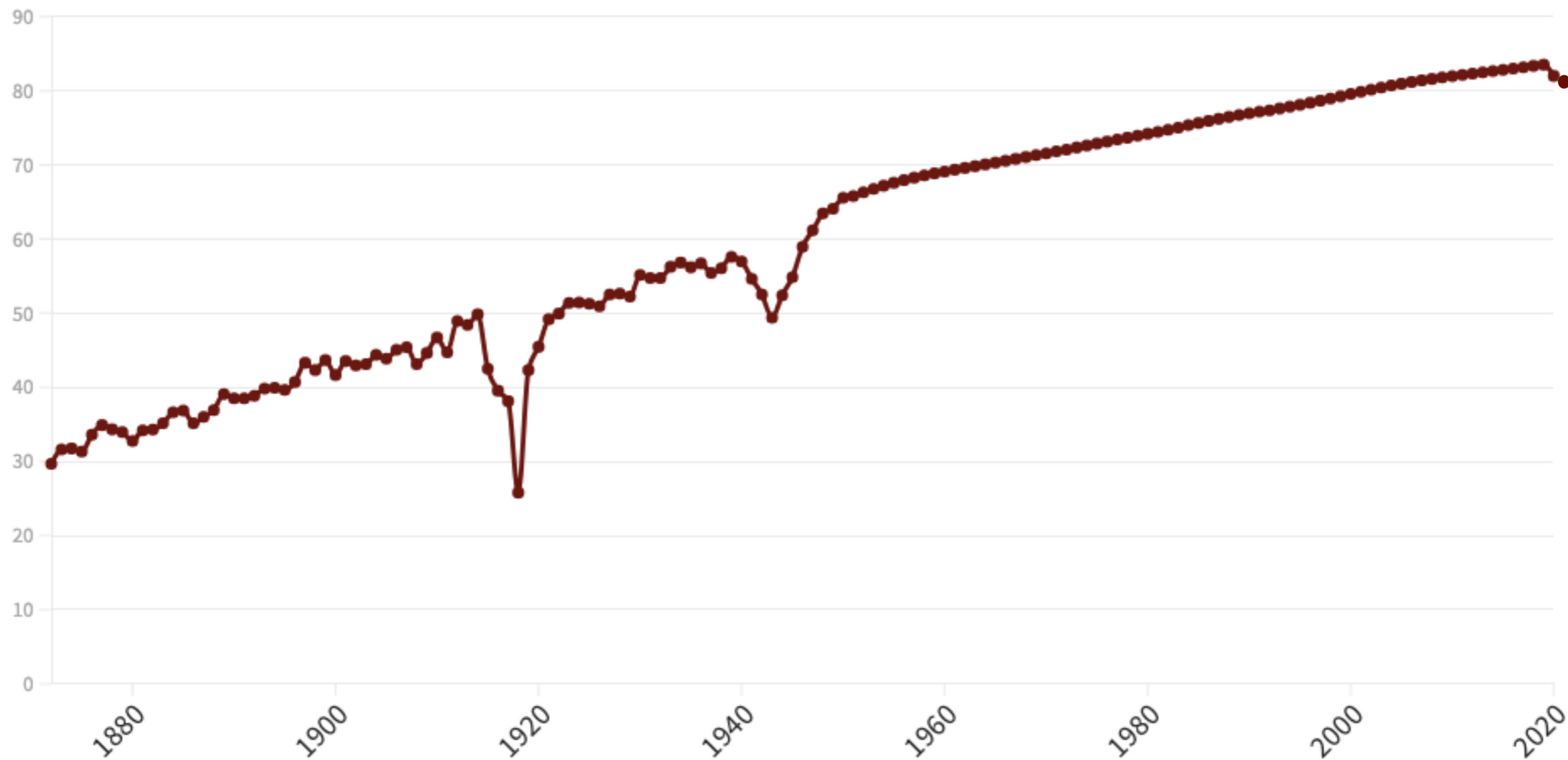






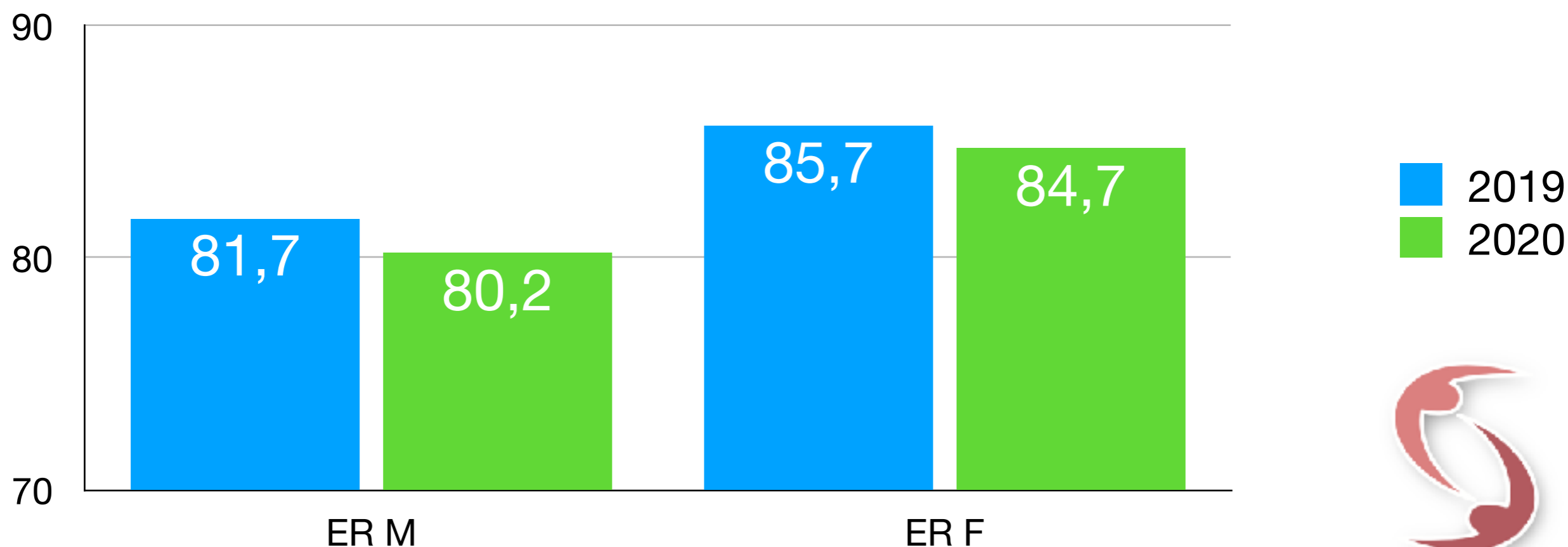
# L'aspettativa di vita in Italia dal 1872 al 2020

■ Aspettativa di vita



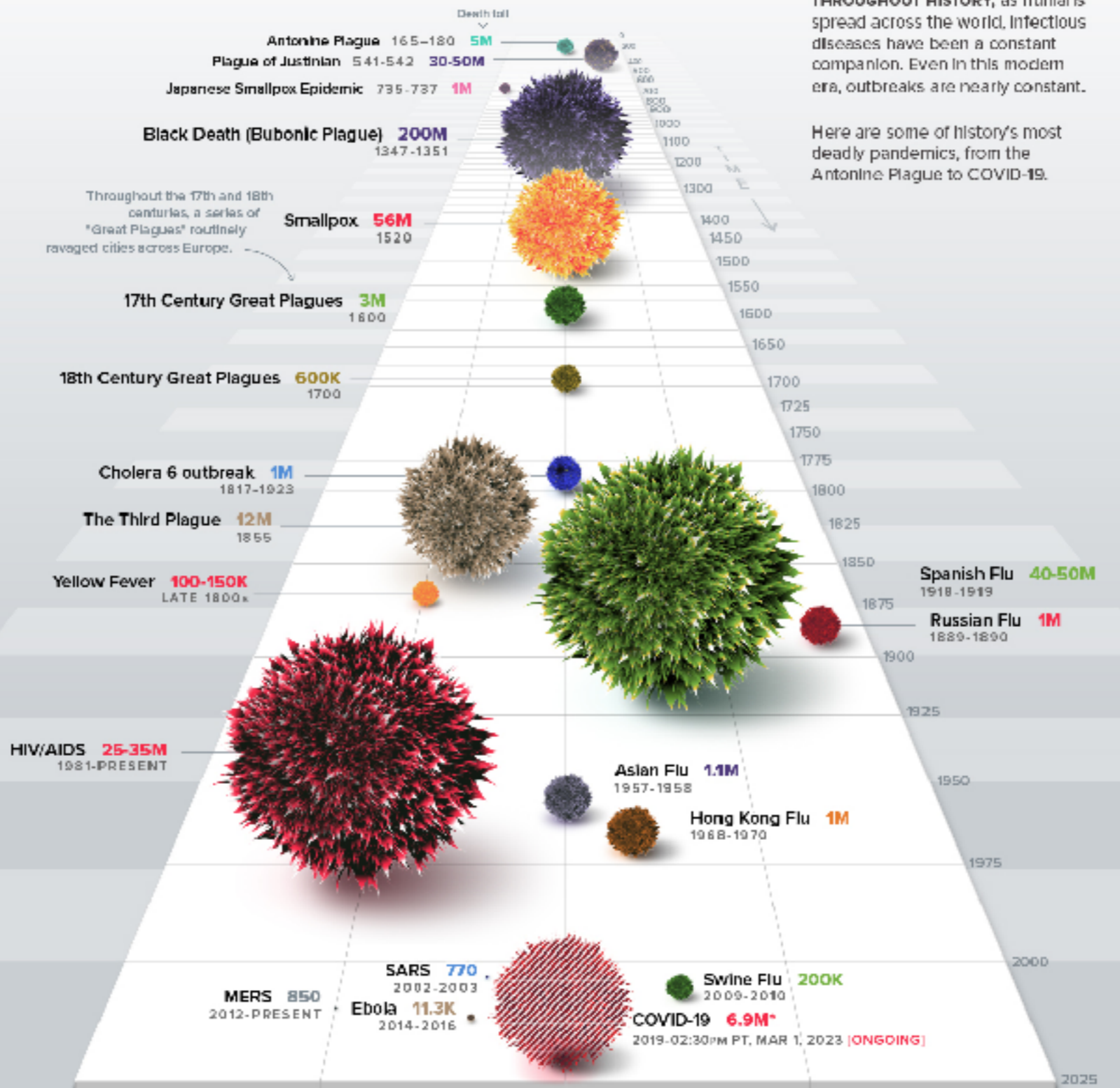
# Organizzazione sanitaria e profilo demografico dell'Emilia Romagna

L'epidemia da COVID-19 ha determinato nel 2020 un forte calo della speranza di vita, comportando un azzeramento dei guadagni che si erano registrati nei precedenti 10 anni



# HISTORY OF PANDEMICS

PAN-DEM-IC (of a disease) prevalent over a whole country or the world.

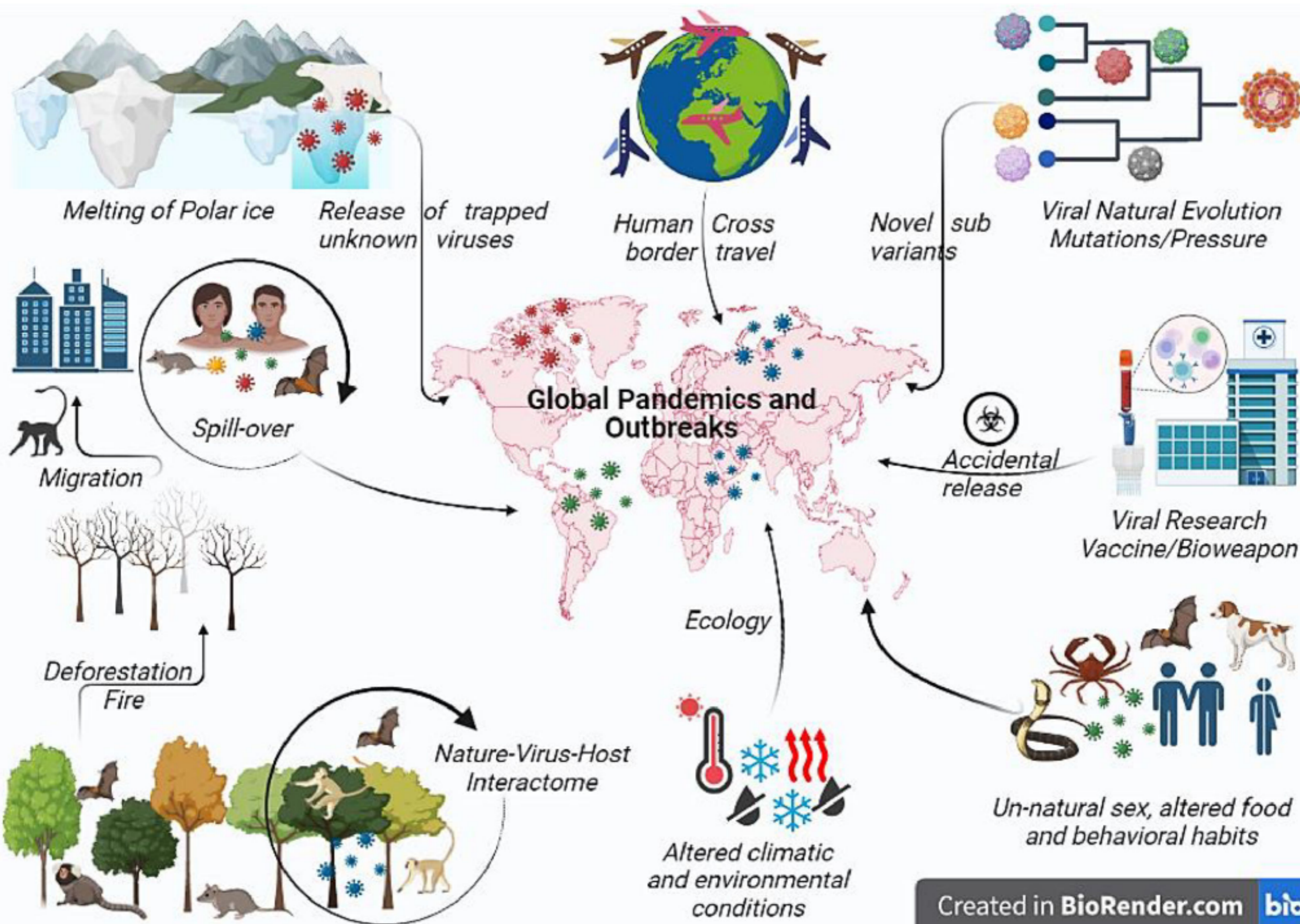


**2003 SARS**  
**2009 H1N1**  
**2012 MERS**  
**2019 COVID**

WHO officially declared COVID-19 a pandemic on Mar 11, 2020.

It is hard to calculate and forecast







[nature](#) > [news](#) > article

NEWS | 20 September 2024

# COVID pandemic started in Wuhan market animals after all, suggests latest study

**The finding comes from a reanalysis of genomic data.**

The most likely hosts include raccoon dogs and masked palm civet (*Paguma larvata*), which also might be susceptible to the virus. Other possible hosts include hoary bamboo rats (*Rhizomys pruinosus*), Amur hedgehog (*Erinaceus amurensis*) and the Malayan porcupine (*Hystrix brachyura*), but it is unclear whether these animals can catch SARS-CoV-2 and spread the infection. The team say the Reeves's muntjac (*Muntiacus reevesi*) and the Himalayan marmot (*Marmota himalayana*) could also be carriers, but are less likely than the other species.

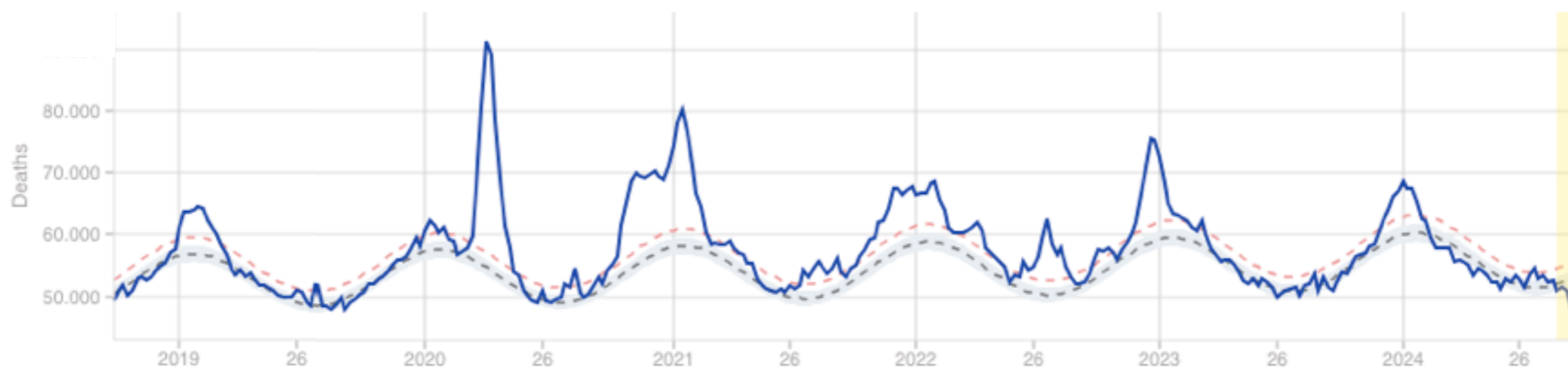
**raccoon dogs - cane procione**



# Graphs and maps

Last updated on week 38, 2024 [Print](#)

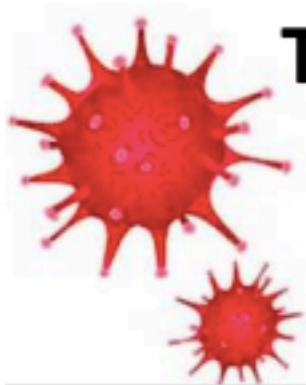
## Europe



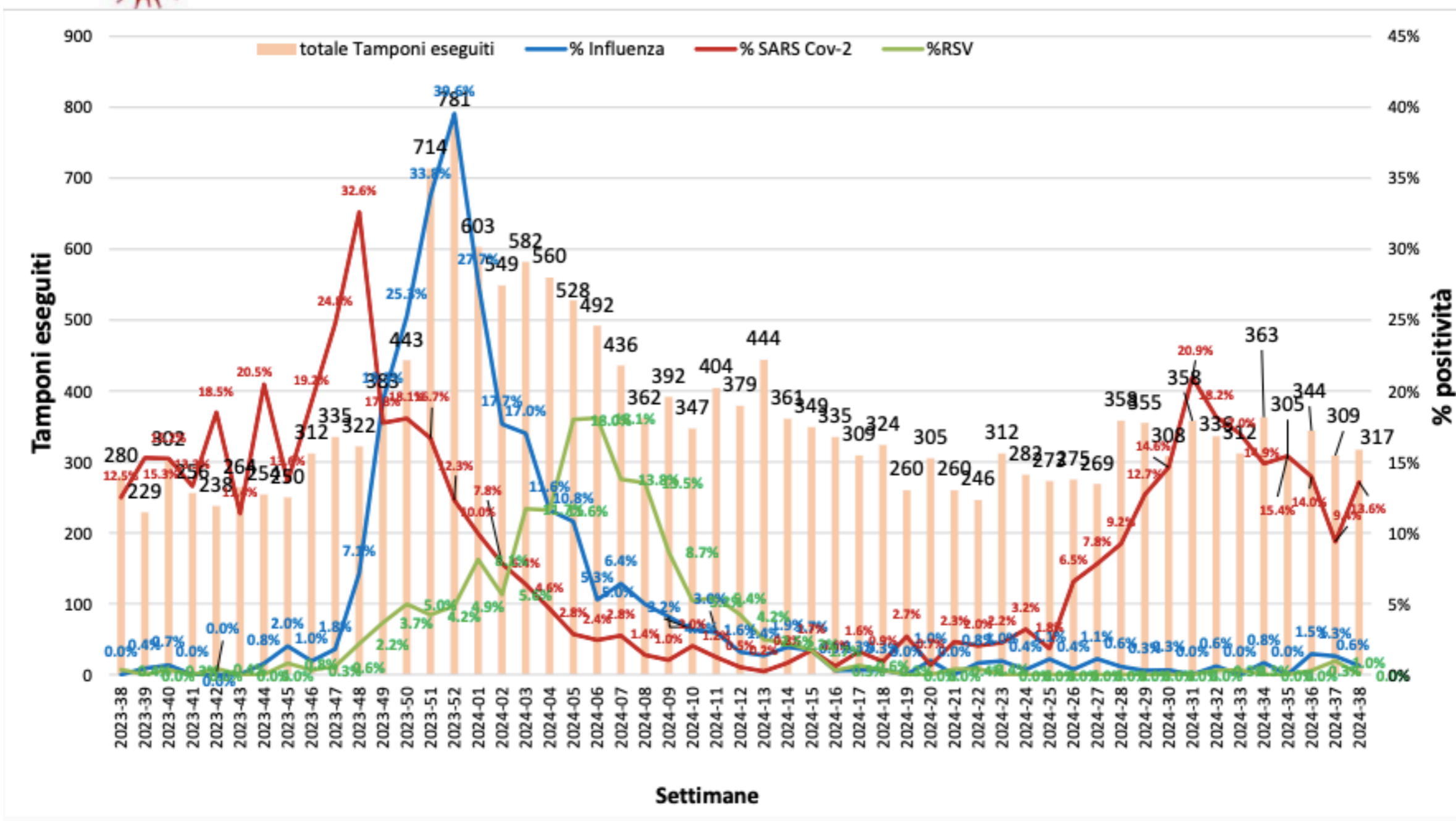
## Italy







# Tamponi eseguiti in urgenza nei Pronto Soccorso e reparti ospedalieri della Romagna a pazienti con sintomi/segni correlabili a possibile caso di Influenza/Covid-19/RSV



# Viral respiratory infections in a rapidly changing climate: the need to prepare for the next pandemic

Yucong He,<sup>a,b</sup> William J. Liu,<sup>c</sup> Na Jia,<sup>d</sup> Sol Richardson,<sup>a</sup> and Cunrui Huang<sup>a,b,\*</sup>

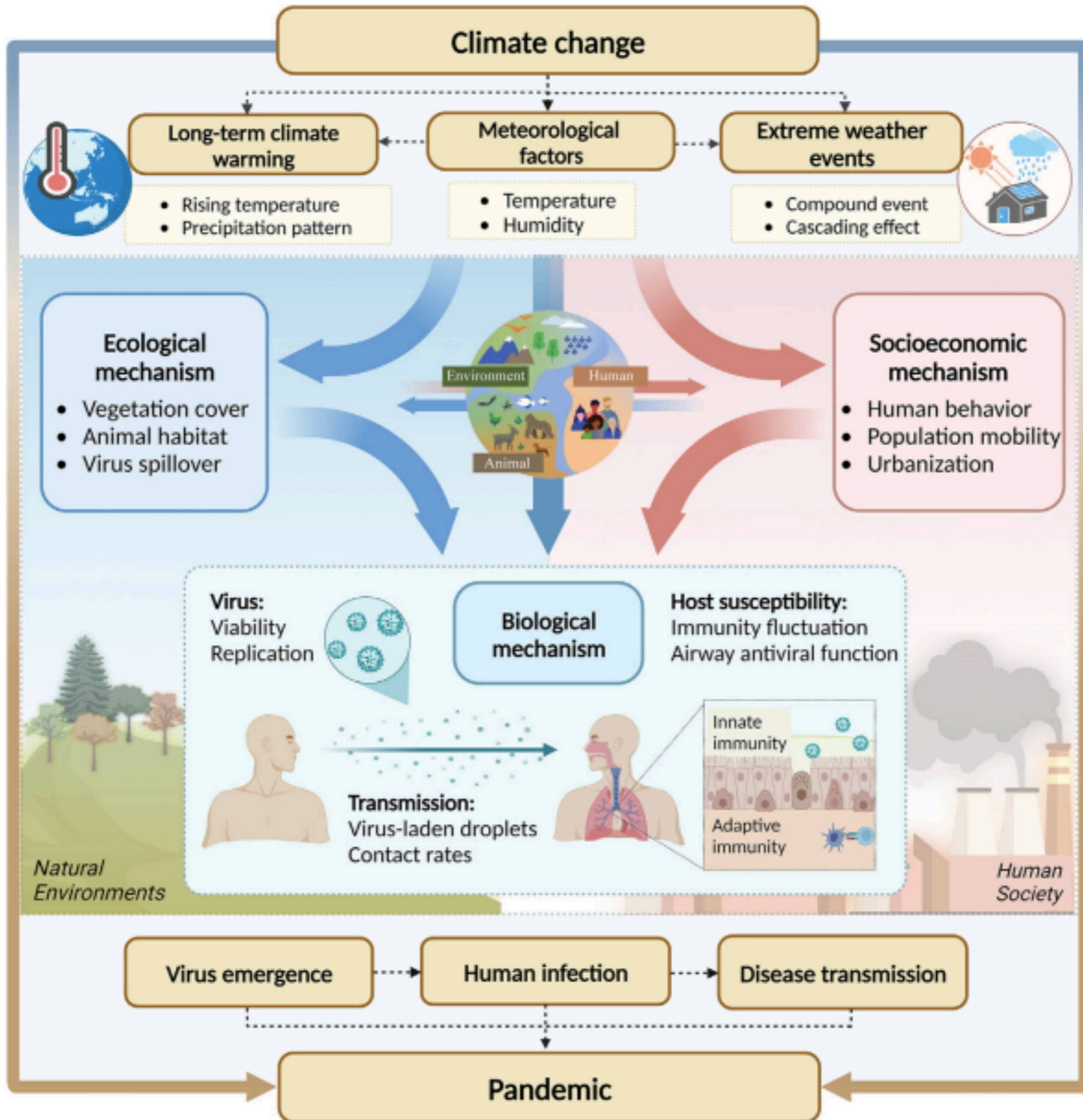
<sup>a</sup>Vanke School of Public Health, Tsinghua University, Beijing 100084, China

<sup>b</sup>Institute of Healthy China, Tsinghua University, Beijing 100084, China

<sup>c</sup>NHC Key Laboratory of Biosafety, National Institute for Viral Disease Control and Prevention, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Beijing 102206, China

<sup>d</sup>State Key Laboratory of Pathogen and Biosecurity, Beijing Institute of Microbiology and Epidemiology, Beijing 100071, PR China







1

Meteorological fluctation

2

Extreme weather

3

Long term global warming

1

Meteorological fluctation

2

Extreme weather

3

Long term global warming

In general, the transmission of respiratory viruses can be mostly categorized as occurring through three major routes:

- direct and/or indirect contact with contaminated surfaces or objects (fomites)
- short-range droplet-borne transmission
- long-range aerosol transmission.

Important determinants of the likelihood that droplet-borne viruses reach previously uninfected individuals are droplet sedimentation and evaporation, which are **largely influenced by climatic and other environmental conditions.**




[nature](#) > [news](#) > [article](#)

NEWS | 24 April 2024

# WHO redefines airborne transmission: what does that mean for future pandemics?

The World Health Organization was criticized for being too slow to classify COVID-19 as airborne. Will the new terminology help next time?

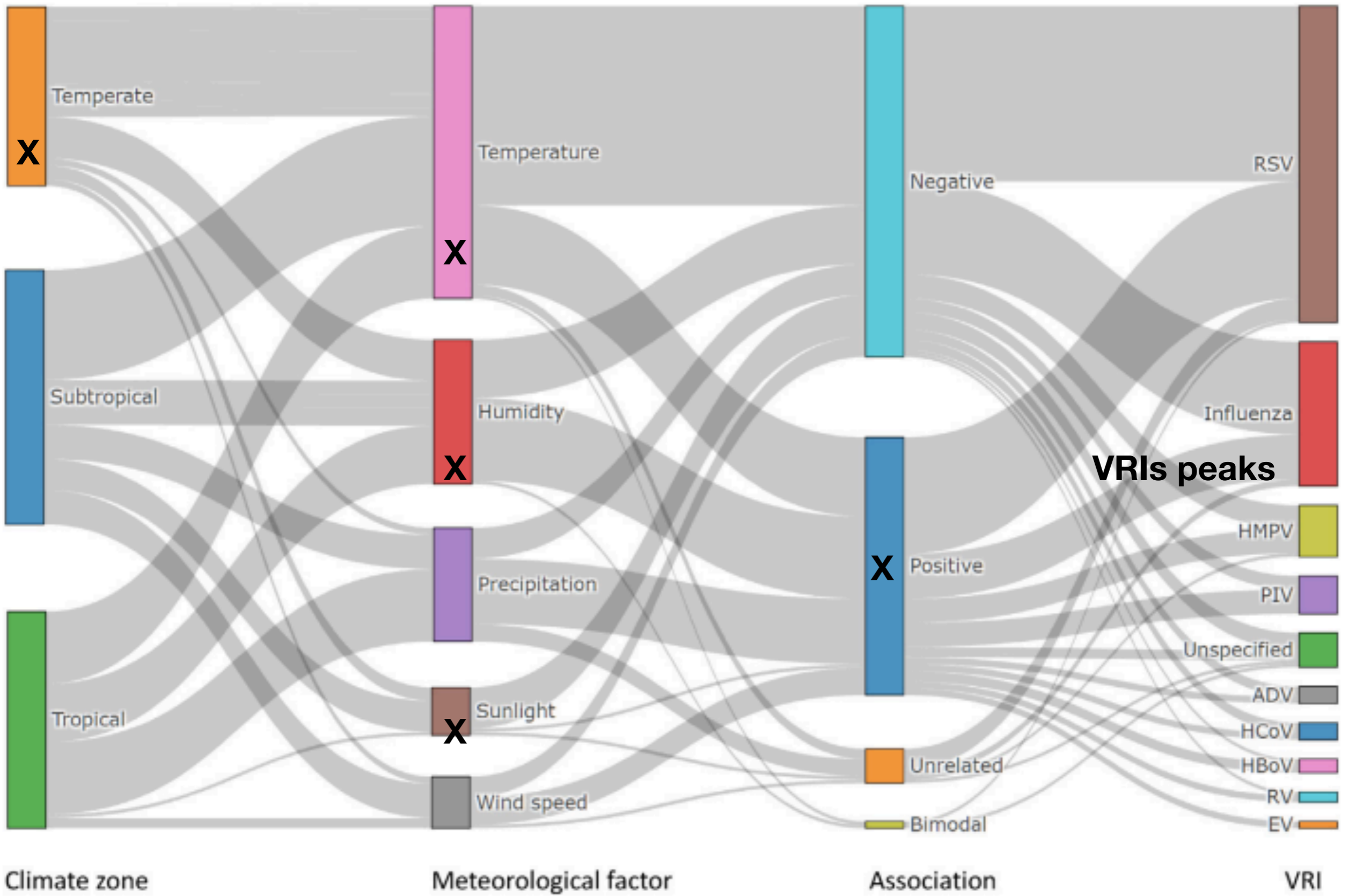




**Global technical consultation report  
on proposed terminology  
for pathogens that transmit  
through the air**

**Infectious respiratory particles (IRPs) exist on a continuous spectrum of sizes, and no single cut off points should be applied** to distinguish smaller from larger particles, this allows to move away from the dichotomy of previous terms known as ‘aerosols’ (generally smaller particles) and ‘droplets’ (generally larger particles).

**Many environmental factors influence the way IRPs travel through air**, such as ambient air temperature, velocity, humidity, sunlight (ultraviolet radiation), airflow distribution within a space, and many other factors, and whether they retain viability and infectivity upon reaching other individuals.



Climate zone

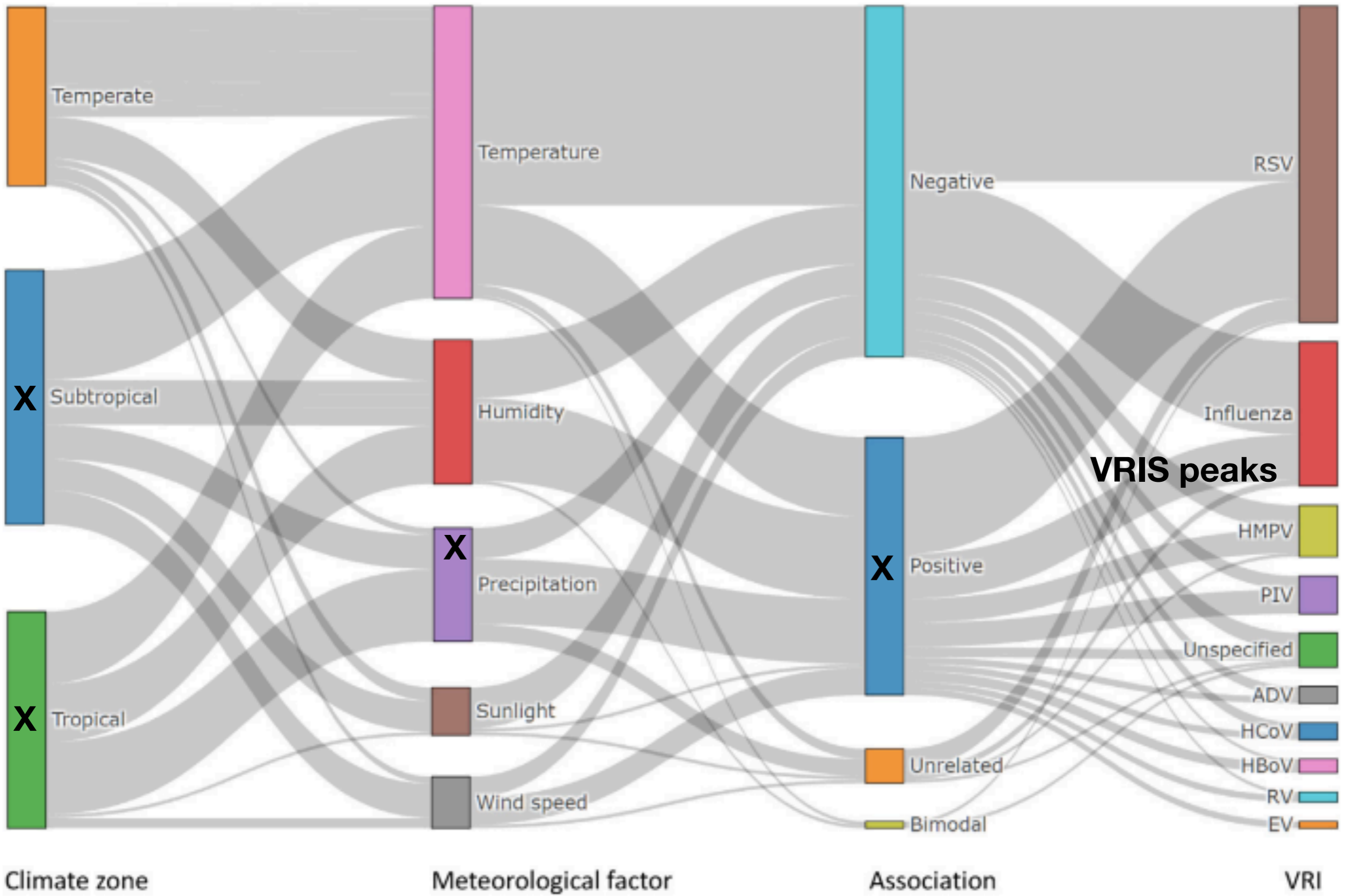
Meteorological factor

Association

VRI



- Earlier laboratory studies have revealed that **low temperature** and **low humidity** enhance viral viability and transmission, especially influenza, and can **compromise host airway antiviral defense**
- Seasonal epidemics of VRIs are not only shaped by single meteorological factors but likely **the composition of multiple meteorological conditions.**
- **Indoor climate:** studies show that individuals living in homes with **indoor heaters that elevate indoor RH levels** have lower rates of infections due to decreased virus viability
- Virus transmission is more prevalent in indoor environments that are well-air-conditioned but have **poor ventilation.** The indoor climate and ventilation rates, regulated by outdoor weather conditions, are suggested to play a vital role in moderating the seasonal patterns of VRIs

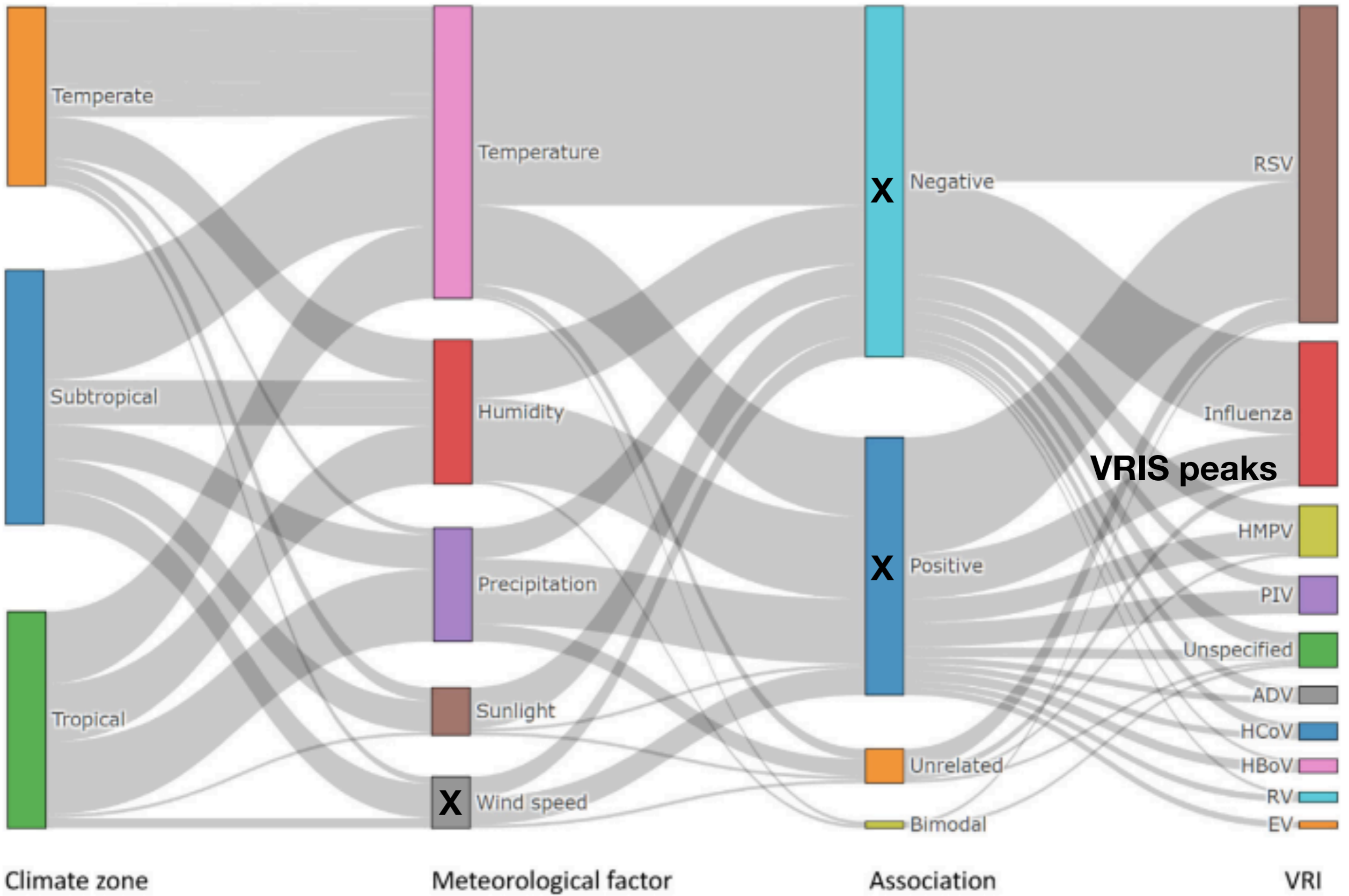


Climate zone

Meteorological factor

Association

VRI





1

Meteorological fluctuation

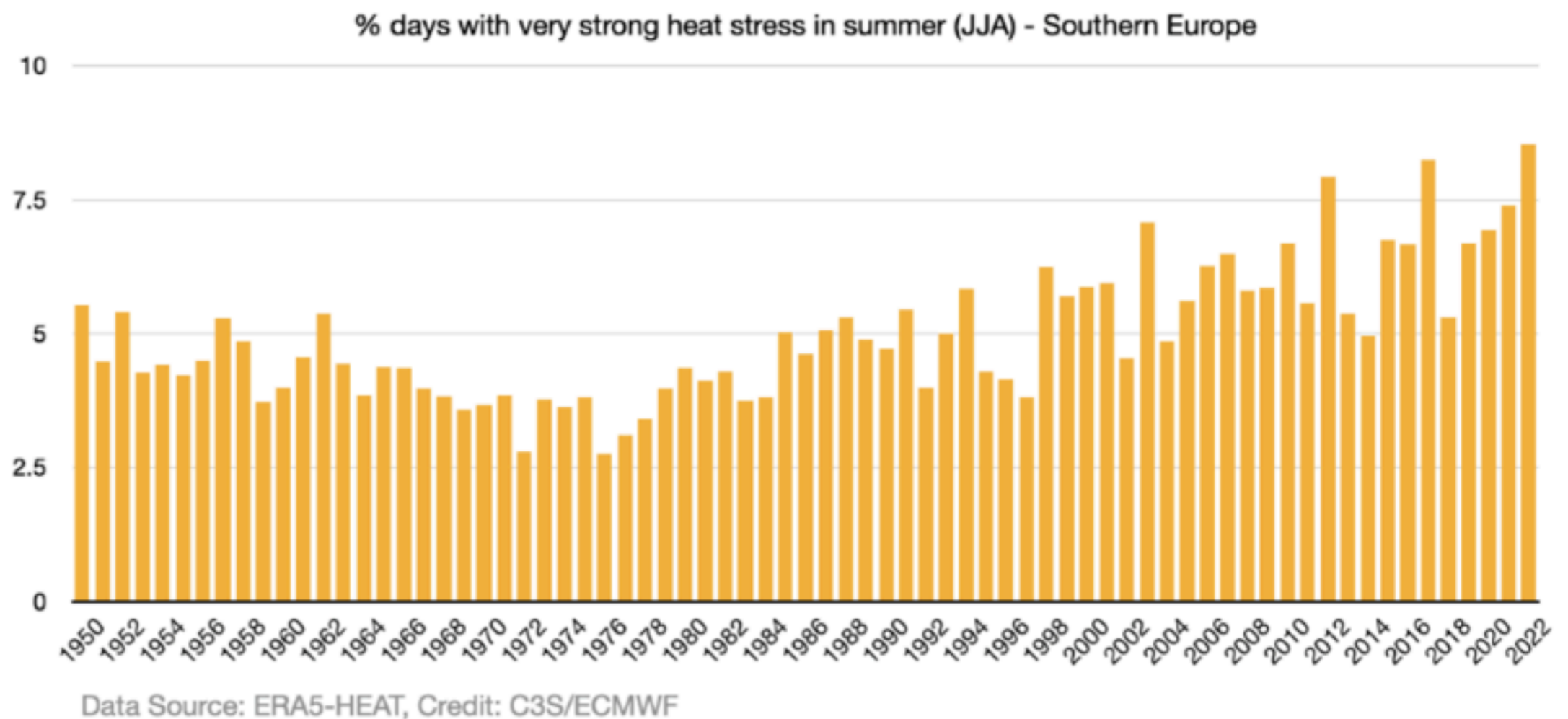
2

Extreme weather

3

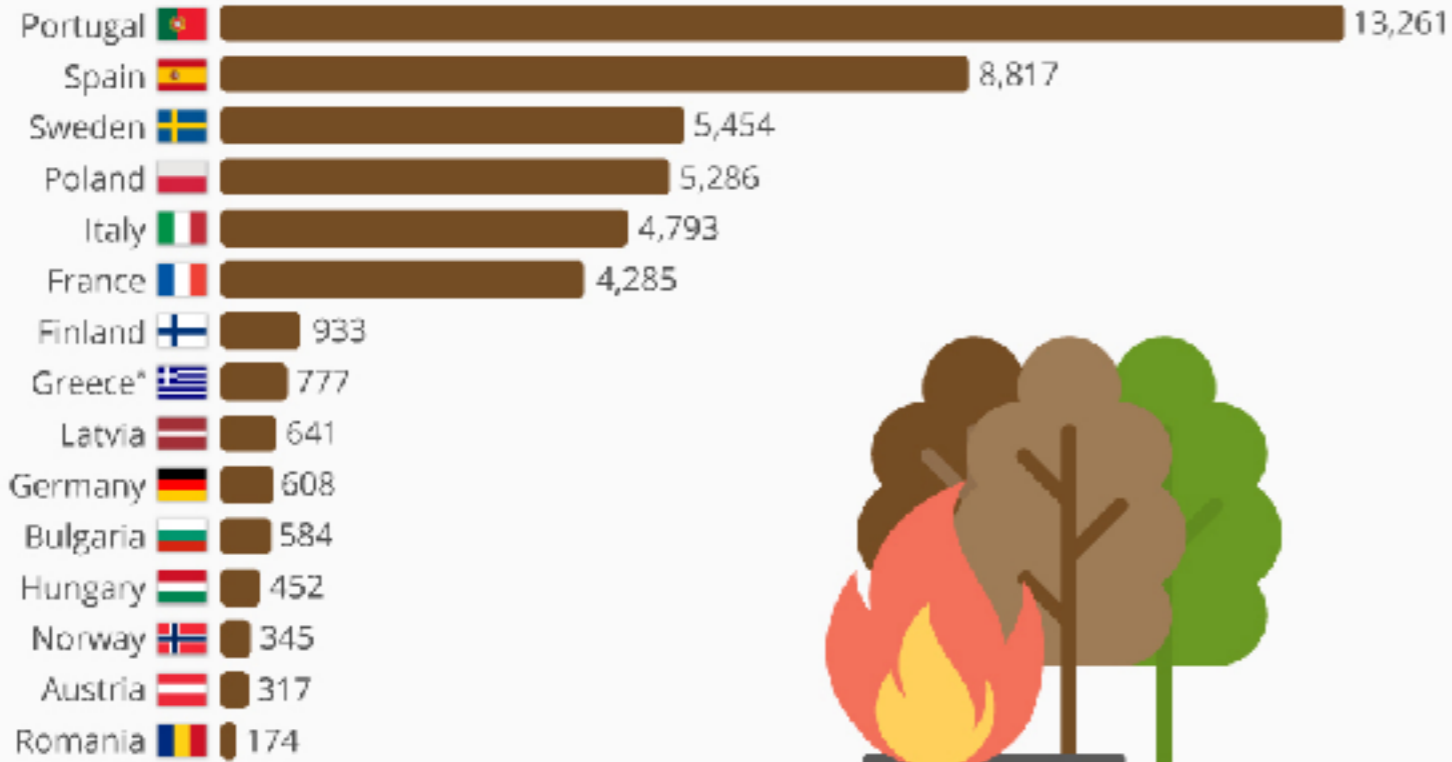
Long term global warming

# The European heatwave of July 2023 in a longer-term context



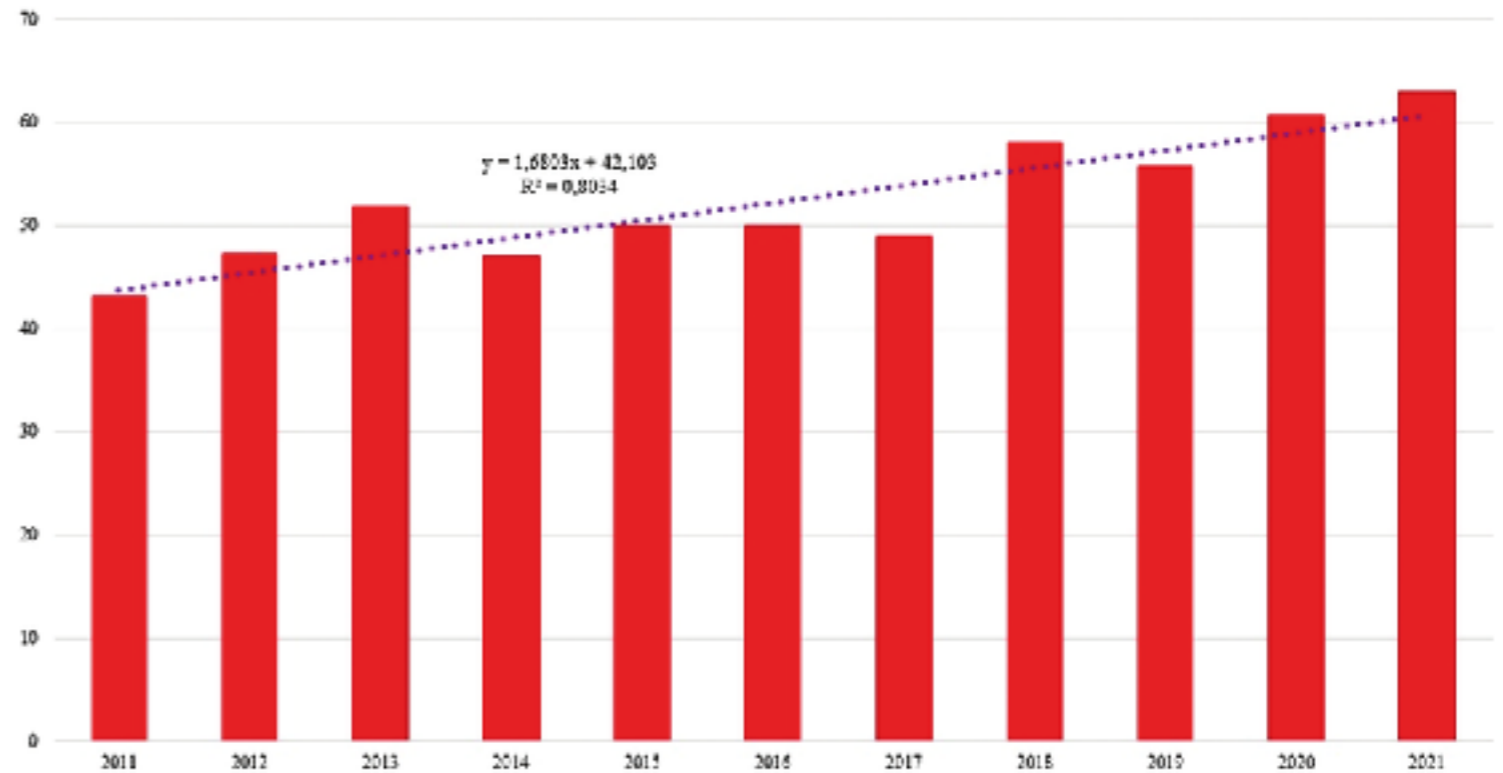
# Forest Fires in Europe

Number of forest fires in selected European countries in 2016



© StatistaCharts Source: European Commission

statista

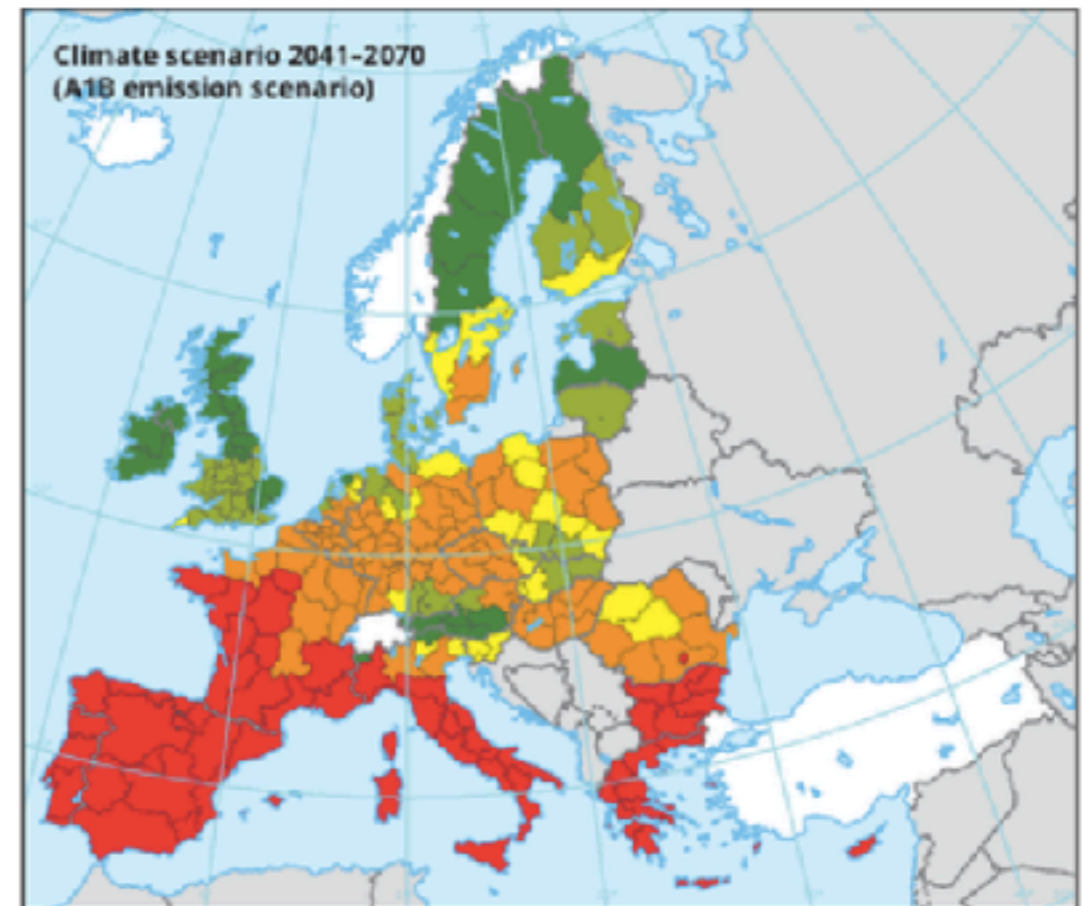
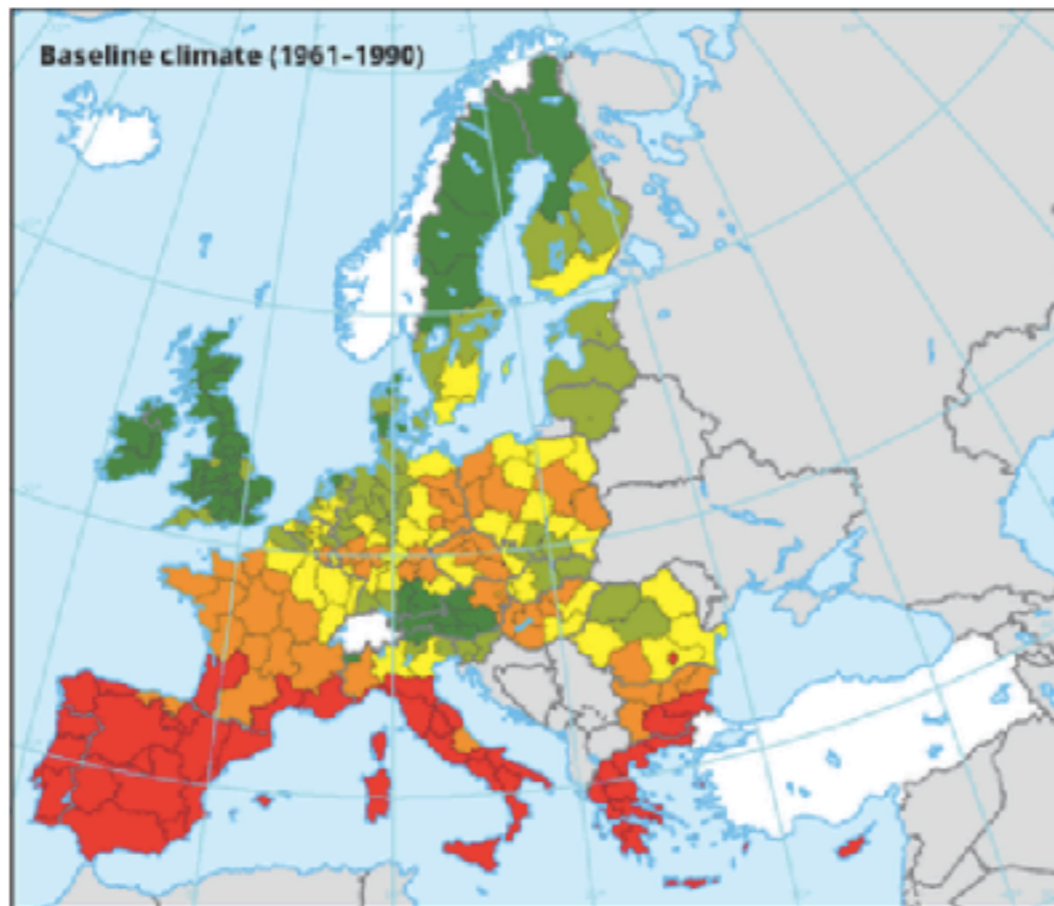






# Projected Forest fire risk in Europe

Map (static) | Published 19 Jul 2017 | Modified 20 Sept 2024



## Forest fire risk in Europe

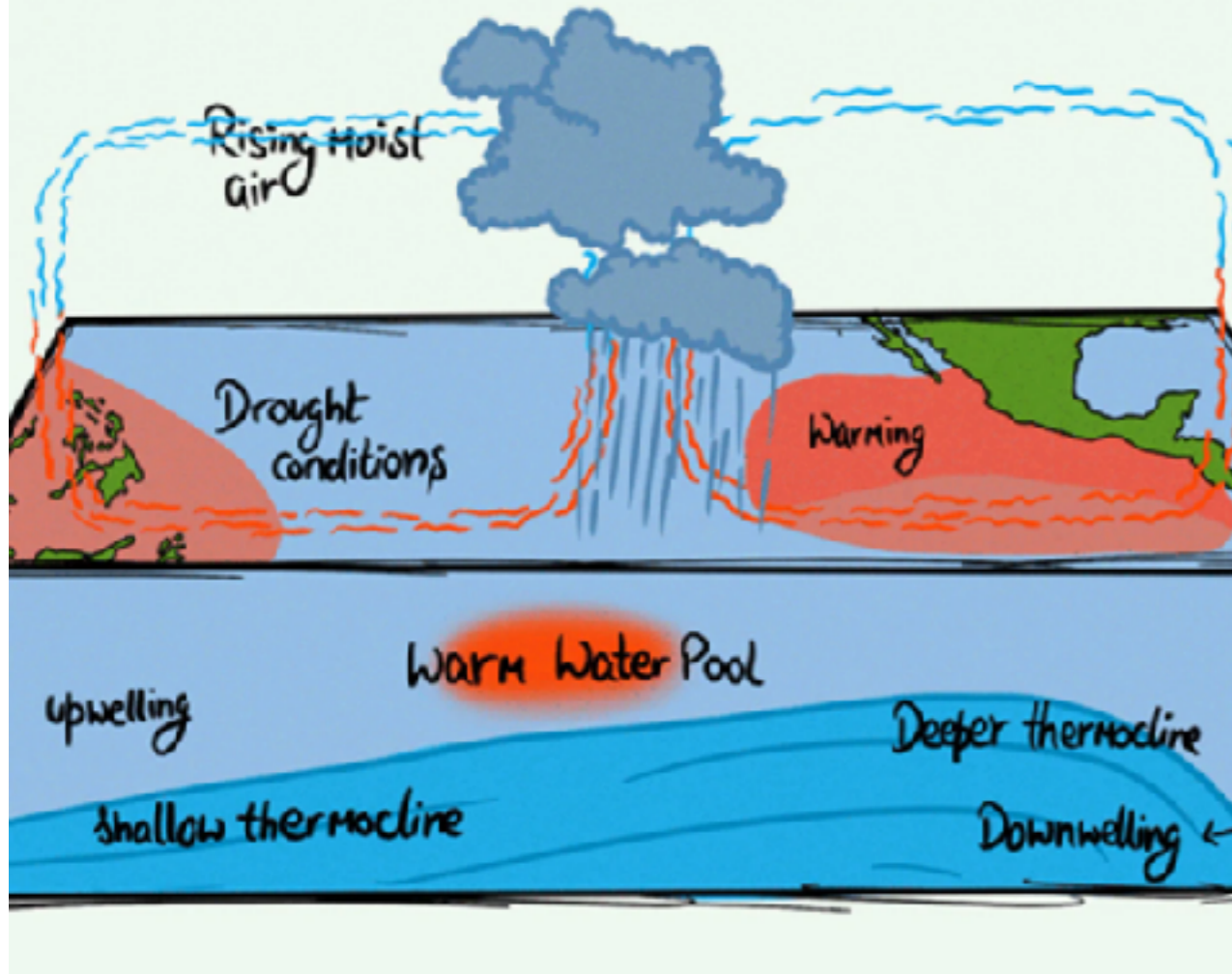
Very high High Medium Low Very low Not assessed Outside coverage

0 500 1000 1500 km

- High-pressure atmospheric conditions, sunlight and low wind speeds during heatwaves contribute to **high levels of air pollution**. Heatwaves and droughts exacerbate the spread of wildfires, resulting in widespread **elevations in levels of particulate matter (PM)**, which can exacerbate damage to lung function and/or pre-existing respiratory illnesses like **COPD and asthma**
- A time-stratified case-crossover study in China showed that **the risk of acute upper respiratory infections increased by 30% during heatwaves**
- Other studies reported exacerbation of pre-existing respiratory illnesses and **increased host susceptibility to VRIs** resulting from synergistic effects of compound exposures to aggravated **air pollution, heatwaves, wildfire, and droughts**



# EL Niño Condition





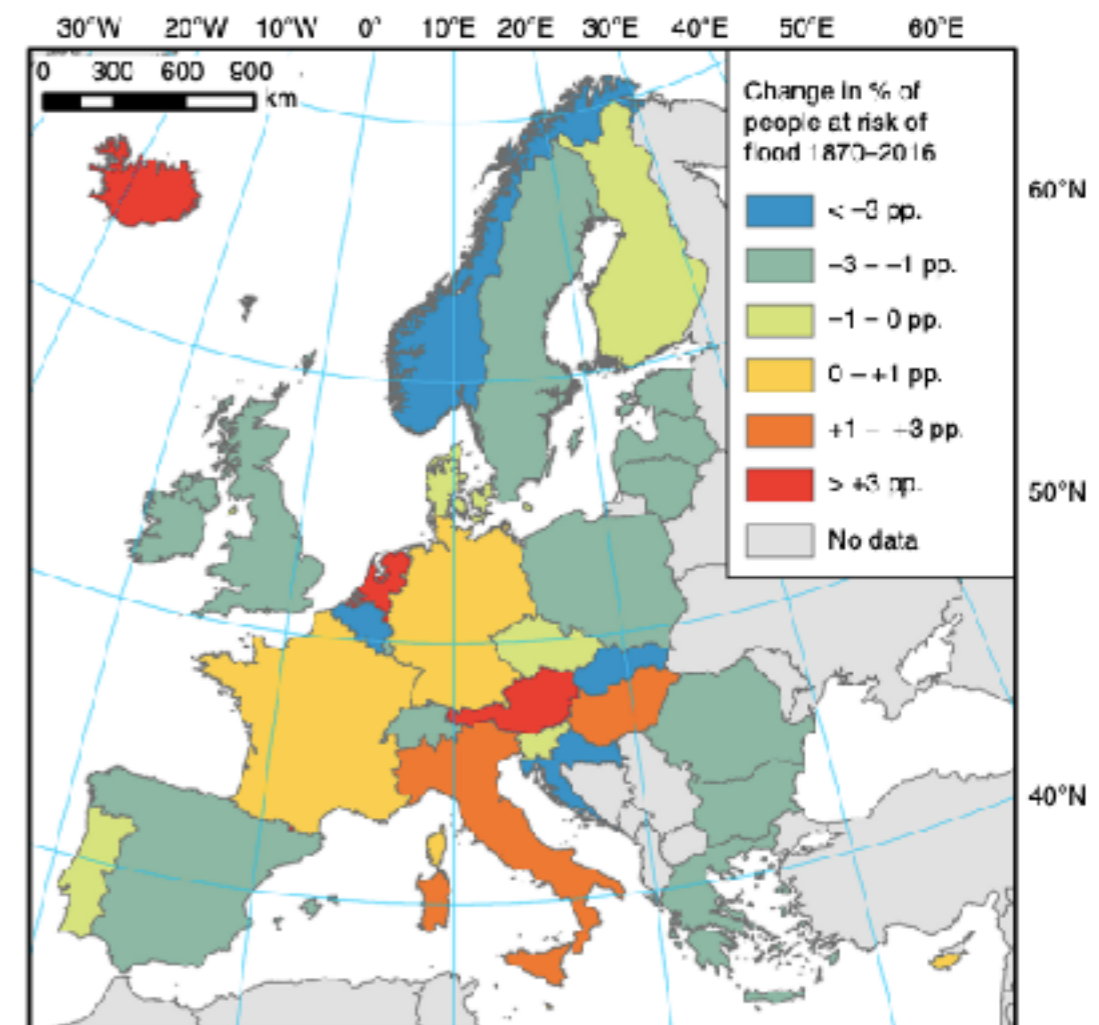
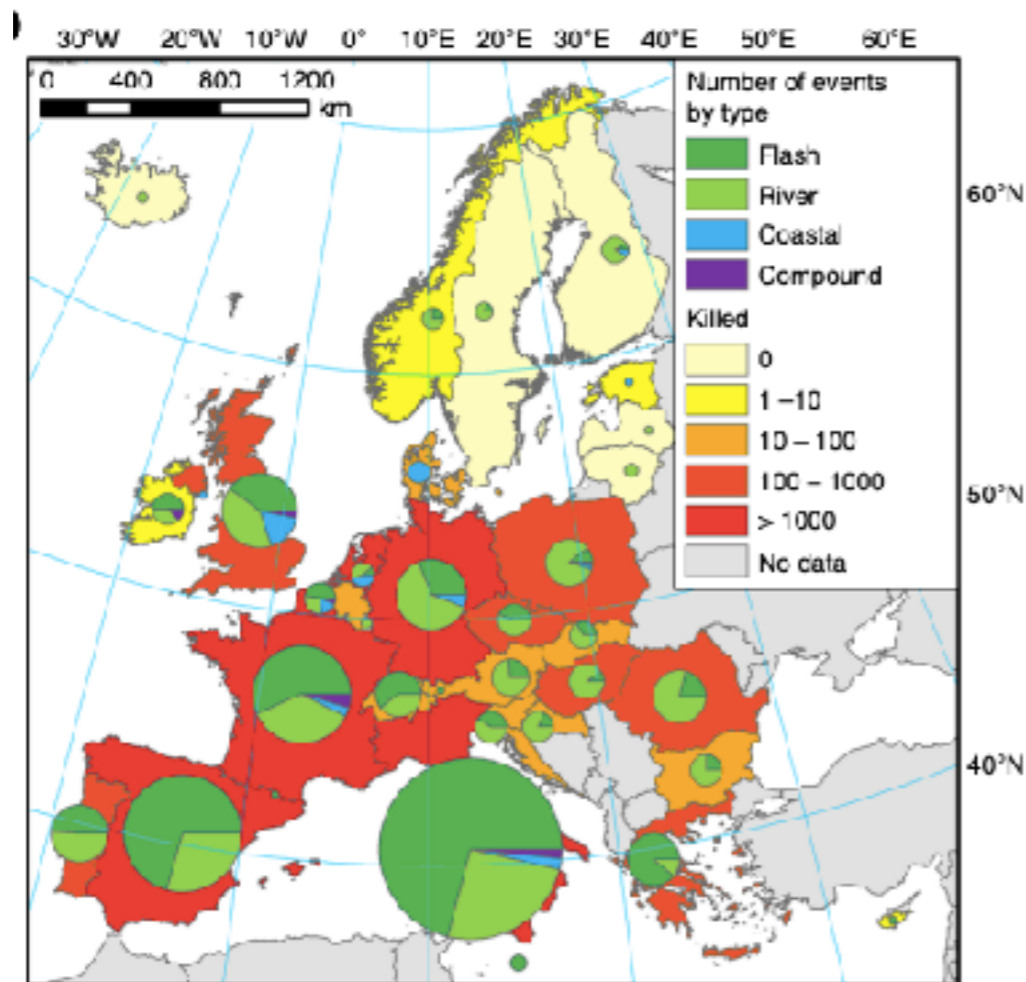
ARTICLE

DOI: 10.1038/s41467-018-04253-1

OPEN




# Trends in flood losses in Europe over the past 150 years

Dominik Paprotny<sup>1,2</sup>, Antonia Sebastian<sup>1,3</sup>, Oswaldo Morales-Nápoles<sup>1</sup> & Sebastiaan N. Jonkman<sup>1</sup>



Article

# Syndromic Surveillance in Public Health Emergencies: A Systematic Analysis of Cases Related to Exposure to 2023 Floodwaters in Romagna, Italy

Marco Montalti <sup>1,2,\*</sup> , Marco Fabbri <sup>3</sup>, Raffaella Angelini <sup>3</sup>, Elizabeth Bakken <sup>4</sup> , Michela Morri <sup>4</sup>, Federica Tamarri <sup>1</sup>, Chiara Reali <sup>1</sup>, Giorgia Soldà <sup>2,5</sup>, Giulia Silvestrini <sup>3</sup> and Jacopo Lenzi <sup>6</sup> 

European Journal of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10096-024-04842-7>

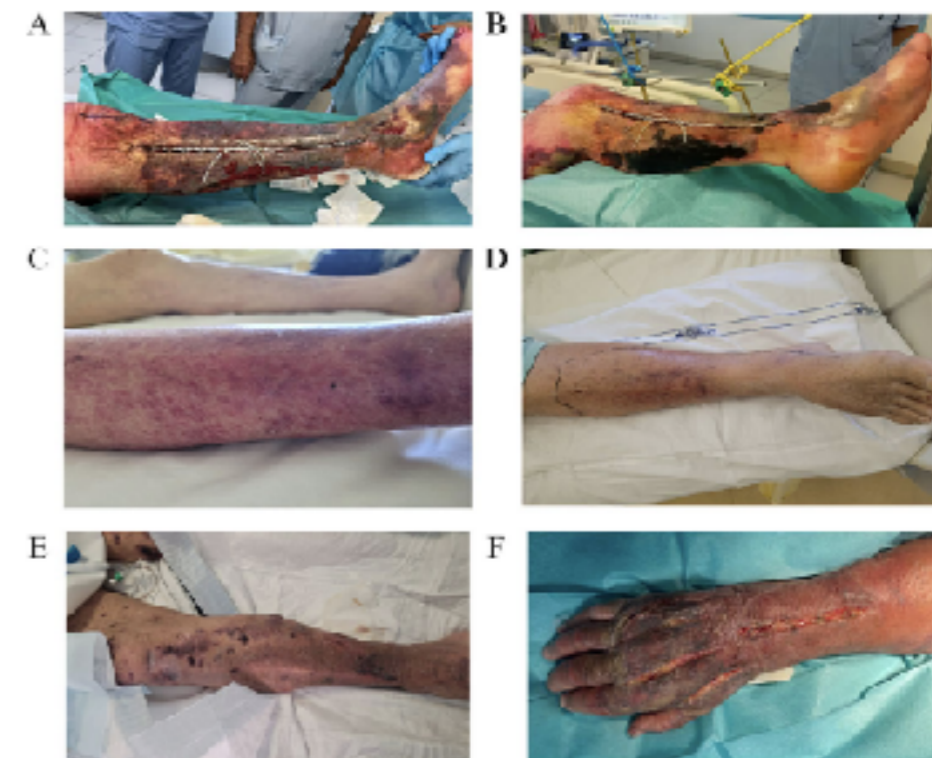
BRIEF REPORT



## Non-cholera *Vibrio* spp. invasive infections in the summer following May 2023 flood disaster in Romagna, Italy: a case series

I. Zaghi<sup>1,2</sup> · G. Tebano<sup>1</sup> · E. Vanino<sup>1</sup> · G. Vandi<sup>3</sup> · M. Cricca<sup>2,4</sup> · V. Sambri<sup>2,4</sup> · M. Fantini<sup>5</sup> · F. Di Antonio<sup>6</sup> · M. Terzitta<sup>6</sup> · E. Russo<sup>7</sup> · F. Cristini<sup>8</sup> · P. Bassi<sup>1</sup> · C. Biagetti<sup>3</sup> · P. Tatarelli<sup>1</sup>

Received: 3 February 2024 / Accepted: 7 May 2024



- These events may have cascading effects on **hydrological conditions, air quality, and health determinants**, modifying disease exposure, while increasing susceptibility and ultimately leading to **an increased risk of infections and outbreaks**
- In resource-limited tropical low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), which have been proven more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, **heavy rainfalls are found to be more likely associated with VRI peaks.**
- A cross-sectional study reported that direct exposure to **floodwater increased the risk of influenza-like illnesses (OR = 2.75).**
- **Disruption of housing, health access, and emergency response infrastructure** due to flooding can compromise health system resilience and **increase both exposure and vulnerability to VRI risks**



1

Meteorological fluctation

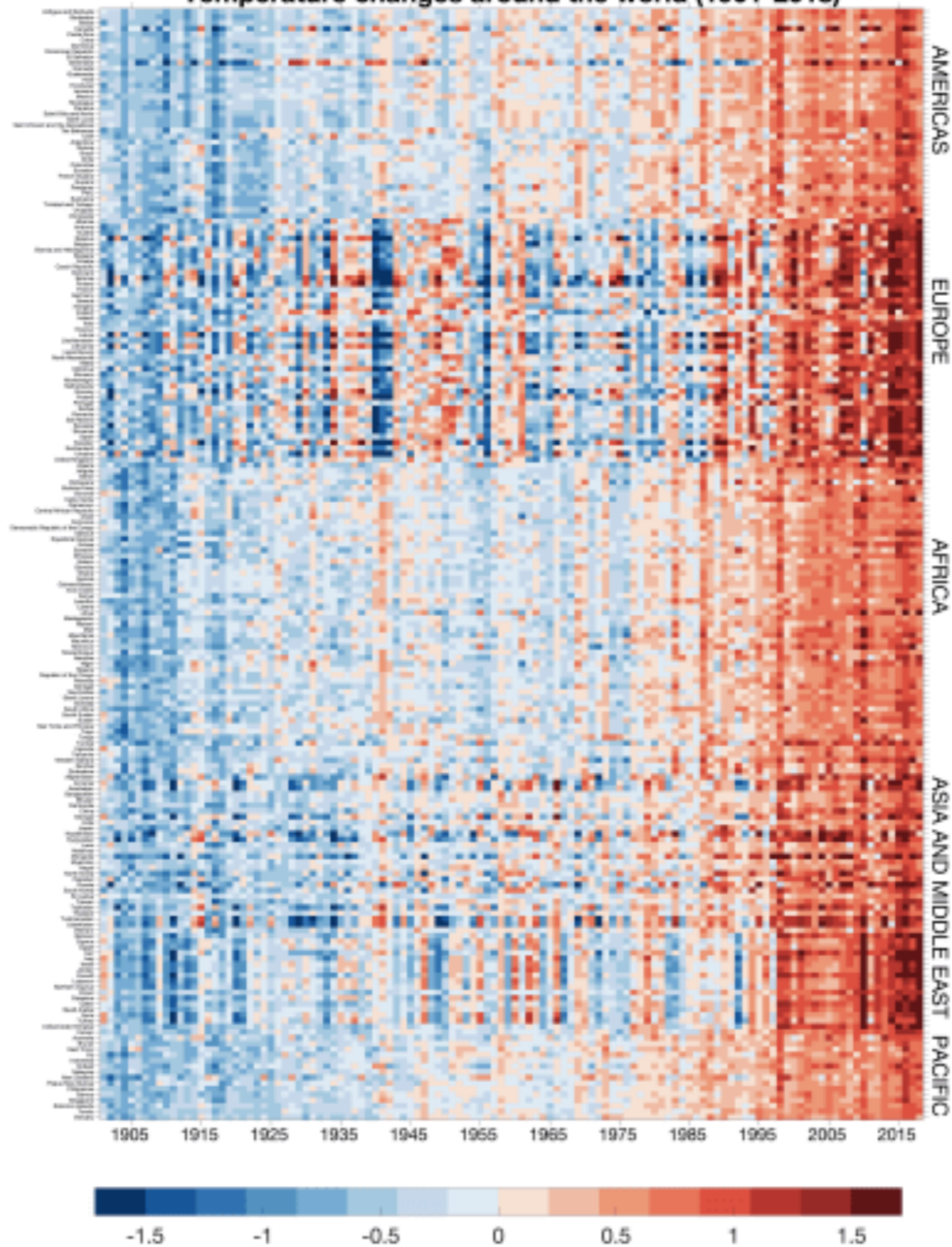
2

Extreme weather

3

Long term global warming

Temperature changes around the world (1901-2018)



# Shift in spatiotemporal dynamics of VRIs epidemics

- These include the changes in climate belts, alternations in vegetation coverage, melting of glacial permafrost, and loss of biodiversity.
- Recent epidemiological surveillance in temperate climates has revealed a **shift in the peak timing of RSV seasonal activity** towards warmer seasons over the past few decades, along with a shortened epidemic duration.
- Future RSV epidemics would have a northward shift in regional ranges as epidemic durations became **more persistent**.
- Densely populated areas would undergo the greatest rise in rapid intra-season temperature variability by the end of this century, **thereby increasing the risk of influenza morbidity by up to 50%**



# Host susceptibility

- Prolonged exposure to extremely high temperatures ( $\geq 36$  °C) in mice **impairs virus-specific CD8+ T cell responses and antibody production** following intranasal influenza virus infection.
- Heatwaves, along with wildfires, increase compound exposure to air pollution as well as allergens like pollens, which causes **airway irritation and respiratory tract inflammation**. This reduces airway responsiveness to harmful stimuli and weakened clearance, exacerbating the damage to lung function.

# Agricultural adaptation

- Climate change has led to prolonged droughts, **desertification**, and **land degradation**, which have had slow-onset but significant impacts on agriculture, especially in tropical regions in the developing world where soil quality is already poor. Increases in the frequency and severity of droughts exacerbate **food insecurity** in those areas currently vulnerable to undernutrition, **increasing susceptibility to infectious diseases by compromising host immunity**

# Human behavior

- **Crowding** in particular plays a key role in this regard.
- Outdoor climate can also affect human behavior, such as **gathering indoors during rainy days and using indoor heating on cold days or air conditioning on hot days.**
- This seems appropriate in explaining the different seasonal patterns of VRI epidemics for both cold temperate and hot subtropical or tropical regions, where such indoor crowding influenced by seasonal weather conditions facilitates human-to-human transmission
- Extreme weather events, including heavy rainfall and flooding, can disrupt housing, healthcare access, and emergency infrastructure, resulting in mass displacement and worsening living conditions



# Emerging VRIs with pandemic potential

- Of all the viruses mentioned above, three families of RNA viruses associated with respiratory infections appear to frequently jump species boundaries, including **Orthomyxoviridae**, **Coronaviridae**, and **Paramyxoviridae** (corresponding to five types of virus: influenza virus, HCoV, RSV, PIV, HMPV)
- **Stage 1** involves the pathogen remaining in its natural reservoir. Large-scale ecological and societal changes can **alter the likelihood of cross-species transmission**, which can lead to progression into stage 2.
- **Stage 2** is characterized by localized emergence, where **spillovers** from natural reservoirs result in **human-to-human transmission**.
- **Stage 3** is marked by the acquisition of **sustained human-to-human transmission** with low or no human immunity. **Increased global connectivity** can aid the transition to stage 3, leading to actual pandemics.



# Conclusion

- As suggested by both biological and epidemiological evidence, **temperature and humidity are the most significant meteorological drivers of VRI seasonality.**
- Due to climate change, **seasonal epidemics of VRIs may shift spatially and temporally**, with rising temperatures and abnormal rainfall patterns being contributing factors.
- **Extreme weather events** have the potential to exacerbate the risks of VRI transmission and increase outbreak risks
- The increasing concern of **spillover of emerging zoonotic pathogens** and the potential for pandemics is primarily a result of modifications in both natural and social environments as a result of climate change and human-animal environment interconnectedness.
- The contact patterns between humans and wildlife reservoirs have changed due to urbanization and **the intrusion of humans** into previously unoccupied regions.



# Conclusion

- The COVID-19 pandemic may be a harbinger of an **upcoming new era**, defined by outbreaks of emerging and re-emerging diseases that spread quickly and internationally
- Therefore, adopting the **One Health approach**, which systematically considers the interconnected interaction between humans, animals, and the environment we share, as well as the interconnection of climate change, human health, environmental sanitation, and biodiversity as a whole, is instrumental for understanding the regional and global health threats associated with climate change
- This perspective **can enhance interdisciplinary collaboration** in strengthening surveillance and early warning of viral diseases to inform **preparation for future pandemics**

