**Fig. legends**

**Fig. 1:** Epidemiological curve (top) and total genome assemblies (bottom) generated and deposited on GISAID by BRICS countries. The graphs illustrate the daily number of COVID-19 cases (bars) and associated deaths (line graph) for BRICS countries from January 2020 to 31 October 2022 (accessed from the COVID-19 Data Repository by the Centre for Systems Science and Engineering at John Hopkins University and retrieved through Our World In Data (OWID;<https://ourworldindata.org/>) and genomic data were retrieved from Global Initiative on Sharing Avian Influenza Data [GISAID;<https://www.gisaid.org/>). **B)** Pandemic timeline illustration of the milestones for BRICS countries during the pandemic timeline (1 January 2020 to 31 October 2022) (accessed from the COVID-19 Data Repository by the Centre for Systems Science and Engineering at John Hopkins University and retrieved through OWID.

**Fig. 2:** Epidemiological curve (top) and total genome assemblies (bottom) generated and deposited on GISAID by BRICS countries. The graphs illustrate the daily number of COVID-19 cases (bars) and associated deaths (line graph) for BRICS countries from January 2020 to 31 October 2022 (accessed from the COVID-19 Data Repository by the Centre for Systems Science and Engineering at John Hopkins University [(97)](https://sciwheel.com/work/citation?ids=12649944&pre=&suf=&sa=0) and retrieved through Our World In Data (OWID;<https://ourworldindata.org/>) and genomic data were retrieved from Global Initiative on Sharing Avian Influenza Data [GISAID;<https://www.gisaid.org/>; [(80)](https://sciwheel.com/work/citation?ids=4634667&pre=&suf=&sa=0)). **B)** Pandemic timeline illustration of the milestones for BRICS countries during the pandemic timeline (1 January 2020 to 31 October 2022) (accessed from the COVID-19 Data Repository by the Centre for Systems Science and Engineering at John Hopkins University (20) and retrieved through OWID.

**Fig. 3:** Epidemiological curve (top) and total genome assemblies (bottom) generated and deposited on GISAID by BRICS countries. The graphs illustrate the daily number of COVID-19 cases (bars) and associated deaths (line graph) for BRICS countries from January 2020 to 31 October 2022 (accessed from the COVID-19 Data Repository by the Centre for Systems Science and Engineering at John Hopkins University and retrieved through Our World In Data (OWID;<https://ourworldindata.org/>) and genomic data were retrieved from Global Initiative on Sharing Avian Influenza Data [GISAID;<https://www.gisaid.org/>). **B)** Pandemic timeline illustration of the milestones for BRICS countries during the pandemic timeline (1 January 2020 to 31 October 2022) (accessed from the COVID-19 Data Repository by the Centre for Systems Science and Engineering at John Hopkins University and retrieved through OWID.

**Fig. 4:** Epidemiological curve (top) and total genome assemblies (bottom) generated and deposited on GISAID by BRICS countries. The graphs illustrate the daily number of COVID-19 cases (bars) and associated deaths (line graph) for BRICS countries from January 2020 to 31 October 2022 (accessed from the COVID-19 Data Repository by the Centre for Systems Science and Engineering at John Hopkins University and retrieved through Our World In Data (OWID;<https://ourworldindata.org/>) and genomic data were retrieved from Global Initiative on Sharing Avian Influenza Data [GISAID;<https://www.gisaid.org/>). **B)** Pandemic timeline illustration of the milestones for BRICS countries during the pandemic timeline (1 January 2020 to 31 October 2022) (accessed from the COVID-19 Data Repository by the Centre for Systems Science and Engineering at John Hopkins University and retrieved through OWID.

**Fig. 5:** Epidemiological curve (top) and total genome assemblies (bottom) generated and deposited on GISAID by BRICS countries. The graphs illustrate the daily number of COVID-19 cases (bars) and associated deaths (line graph) for BRICS countries from January 2020 to 31 October 2022 (accessed from the COVID-19 Data Repository by the Centre for Systems Science and Engineering at John Hopkins University and retrieved through Our World In Data (OWID;<https://ourworldindata.org/>) and genomic data were retrieved from Global Initiative on Sharing Avian Influenza Data [GISAID;<https://www.gisaid.org/>). **B)** Pandemic timeline illustration of the milestones for BRICS countries during the pandemic timeline (1 January 2020 to 31 October 2022) (accessed from the COVID-19 Data Repository by the Centre for Systems Science and Engineering at John Hopkins University and retrieved through OWID.

**Fig. 6:** Schematic representation of the changes in the genetic compositions of SARS-CoV-2 lineages recorded for BRICS countries for 1 January 2020 to 31 October 2022.

**Fig. 7:** Graphical summary of the average number of days (+- SD) from sample collection to sequence submission to GISAID for the BRICS countries. The results are illustrated per month recorded for BRICS countries from 1 January 2020 to 31 October 2022.

**Fig. 8**: Illustration of the total proportions of sequencing platforms used by BRICS countries to produce SARS-CoV-2 whole-genome sequences submitted to GISAID (1 January 2020 to 31 October 2022).

**Tables**

**Table 1:** Comparative summary of BRICS statistics relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. The data below includes the total number of COVID-19 cases and deaths1.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Brazil** | **Russia** | **India** | **China** | **South Africa** |
| **Total cases** | >34.8M (>78.9M) | >21.1M (>55.6M) | >44.6M (>50.3M) | >1.0M (>105.2M) | >4.0 M (>8.6M) |
| **Total death** | >688 000 (>1.74M) | >382 000 (>0.77M) | >529 000 (0.626M) | >5 500 (0.448M) | >102 000 (1730 116) |
| **Total GISAID genome assemblies** | >186 000 (497 580) | 35 316 (168198) | 313 012 (334 804) | 2 685 (8 243 462) | 47 138 (128 233) |

1 Results are given relative to the metrics of the World Bank geographical groupings of the BRICS country, which were shown in brackets, i.e. Brazil (Latin America and the Caribbean), Russia (European and Central Asia), India (South Asia), China (East Asia and Pacific), and South Africa (Sub-Sahara Africa) (31/10/2022). For comparative purposes, cases per million were indicated in **Table S2**.

**Table 2**: Comparative summary of COVID-19 statistics of BRICS relative to other international groupings1,2,3.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **BRICS** | **HI countries** | **LI countries** | **LMI countries** | **UMI countries** |
| **Total cases** | >105.6M | >381.21M | >2.25M | >95.53M | >146.64M |
| **Total death** | >1.7M | >2.68M | >47.6M | >1.32M | >2.52M |
| **Total GISAID genome assemblies** | >0.5M | >11.7M | >0.028M | > 0.47M | >0.78M |

1Accessed 31/10/2022

2high-income (HI); low-income (LI); low-middle-income (LMI); upper-middle-income (UMI)

3Results are given relative to the metrics of the World Bank grouping classifications.