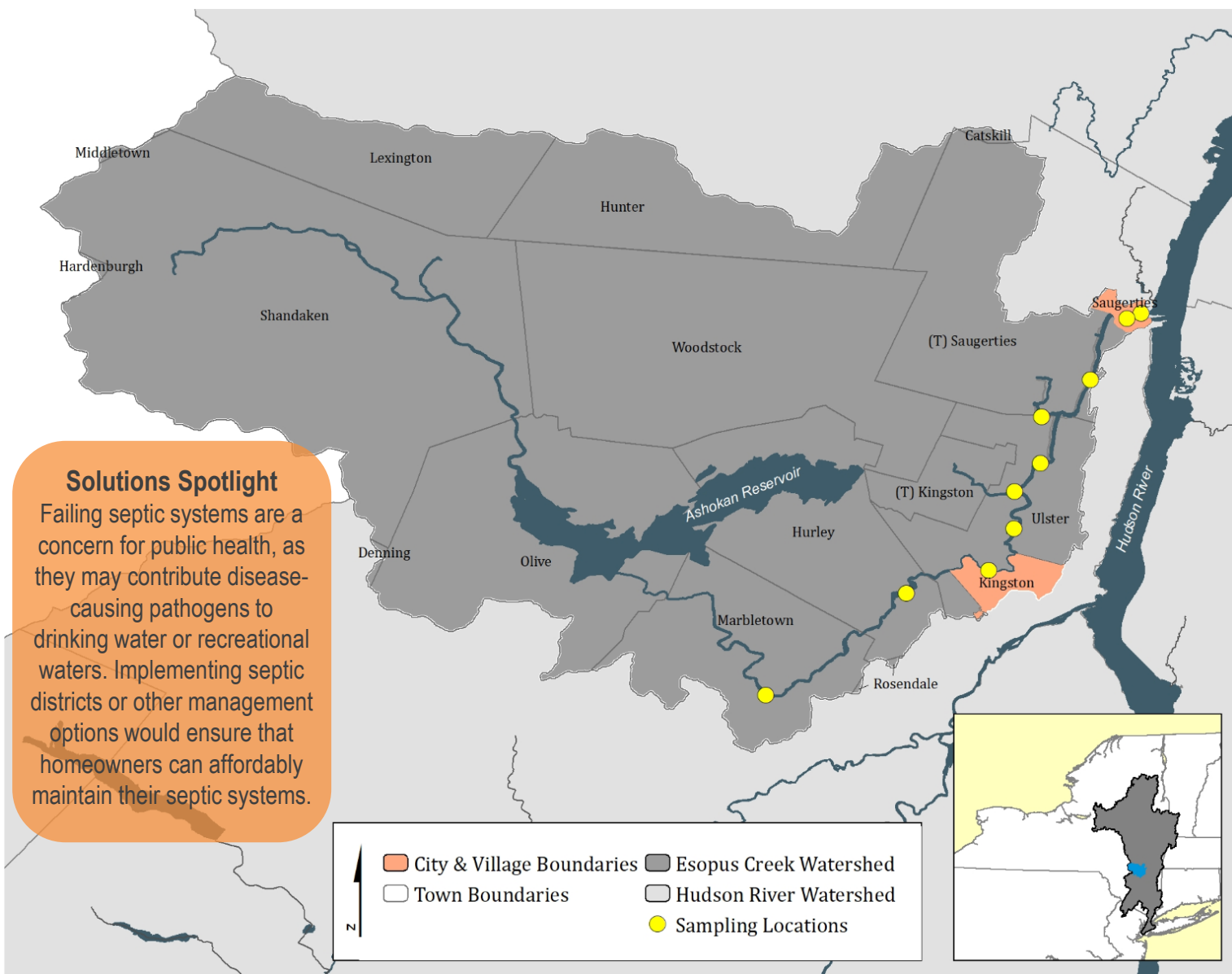


ESOPUS CREEK

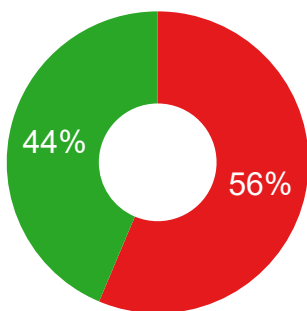
Community Water Quality Monitoring Results

2012-2021

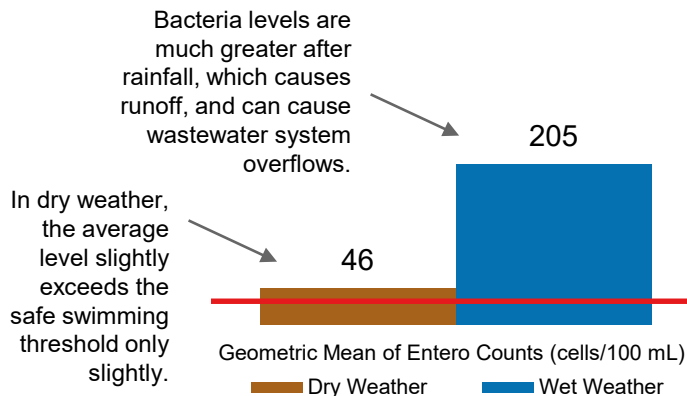


What portion of our samples were safe for swimming?

Slightly less than half of samples met the EPA guideline for safe swimming. In recent years, the proportion of samples meeting the guideline has decreased.



How does weather affect bacteria levels?



More: Explore a watershed map, data from each sampling site, and more at riverkeeper.org/water-quality/citizen-data/esopus-creek

Community Science

The water quality data presented here are based on an analysis of 536 samples collected since 2012 by Marbletown ECC members, Riverkeeper, and watershed residents. Samples are collected monthly (May to October) and processed by Riverkeeper. To get involved, contact Sebastian Pillitteri at spillitteri@riverkeeper.org.

About the Esopus Creek

The lower Esopus Creek begins at the outlet of the Ashokan Reservoir, and flows through a bedrock canyon before turning to the northeast and flowing through a wide, agricultural floodplain.

Why We Measure Bacteria

Fecal indicator bacteria such as *Enterococcus* (“Entero”) usually do not make us sick. But because they live in the guts of warm-blooded animals, when these bacteria are present in water, pathogens that can make us sick may also be present.

Sources of fecal bacteria may include sewer overflows and failures, inade-

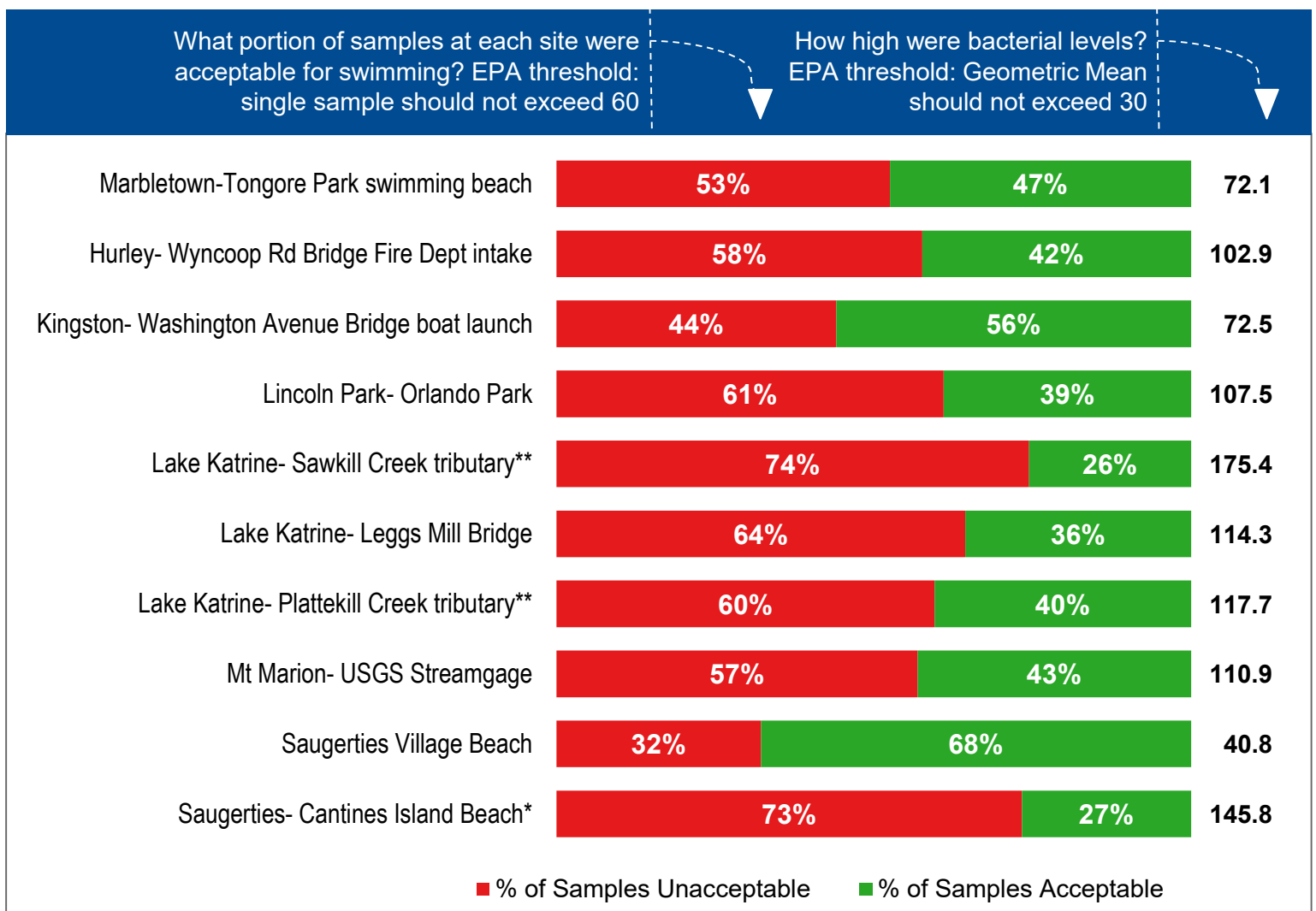
quate sewage treatment, urban or farm runoff, septic system failures, wildlife and contaminated sediment.

While research continues, the EPA has set thresholds to define if water is safe for swimming based on decades of science relying on measurements of these bacteria. Data are shown in Entero cells per 100 mL.

Signs of Progress

New York State DEC released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement regarding NYC’s management of Ashokan Reservoir, and its releases of turbid water into the Esopus Creek. This began a public comment process where communities can engage and advocate for the creek, to help wildlife, residents, and the 100,000 people downstream who drink from the Hudson River.

Visit: riverkeeper.org/stopthemud



Sampling began in 2012 and expanded to these sites in *2012 and **2013