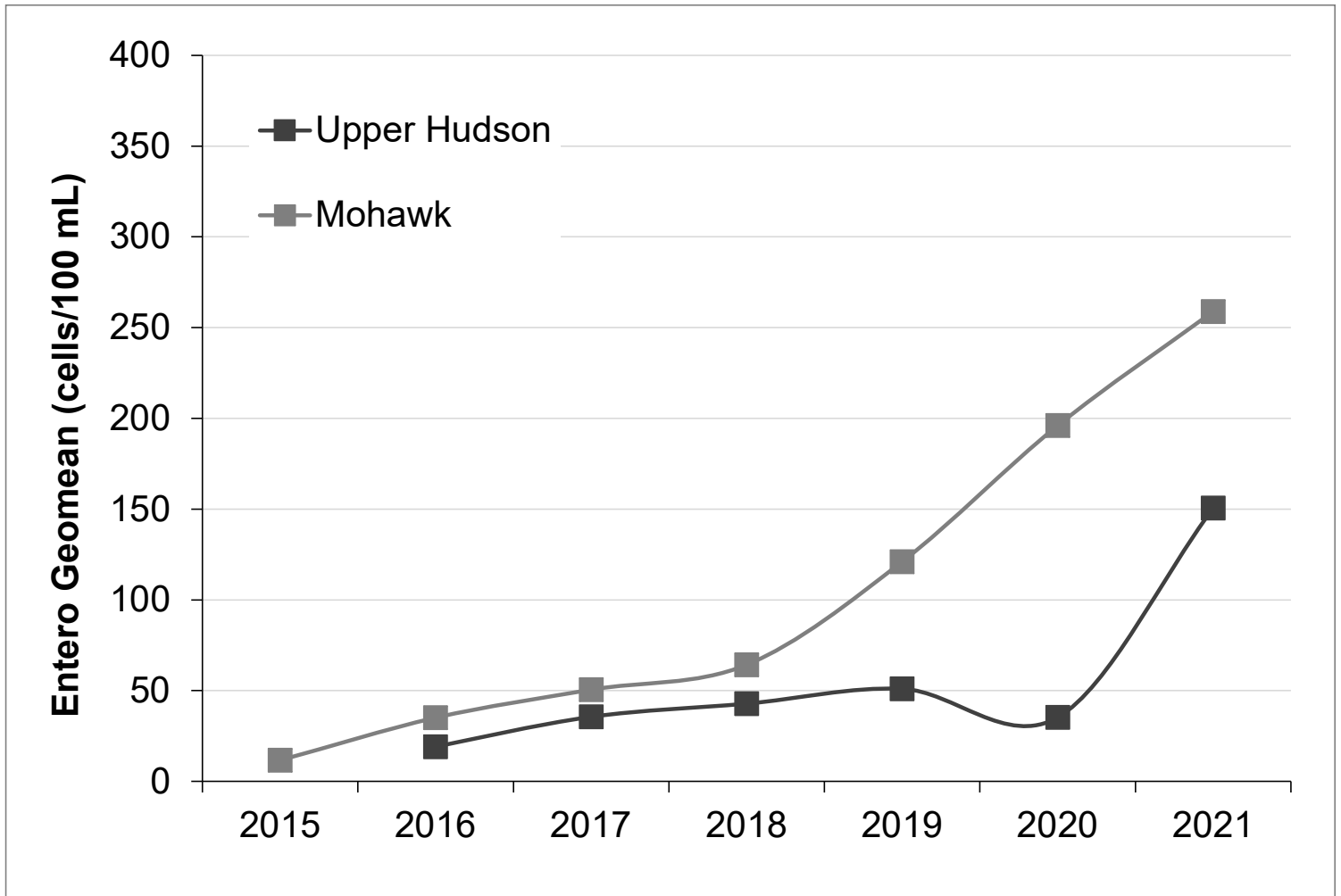


# Water Quality Over Time

## Mohawk & Upper Hudson Rivers, 2015-2021



### Why We Measure Bacteria

Fecal indicator bacteria such as *Enterococcus* (“Entero”) help us answer the question, “Is it safe to swim?” When these bacteria are present in water, pathogens that can make us sick may also be present. The EPA has set thresholds to define if water is safe for swimming based on decades of science relying on measurements of these bacteria.

### Is Water Quality Changing?

Wet weather triggers sewage leaks and spills, and stormwater runoff is also an Entero source. As a result, Entero counts tend to increase after rain at most sampling locations. Long-term trends vary by watershed. We have not yet studied the role of climate or other factors, such as land use, in these interannual trends.

### Community Science

The water quality data presented here are based on an analysis of samples collected from 2015-2021 by SUNY Cobleskill, SUNY Polytechnic, community scientists, and Riverkeeper (Mohawk: 693; Upper Hudson: 422). Samples were collected monthly from May to October (July to October in 2016 Upper Hudson) and processed by SUNY Cobleskill and Riverkeeper. Explore the data at [www.riverkeeper.org/water-quality/citizen-data](http://www.riverkeeper.org/water-quality/citizen-data).