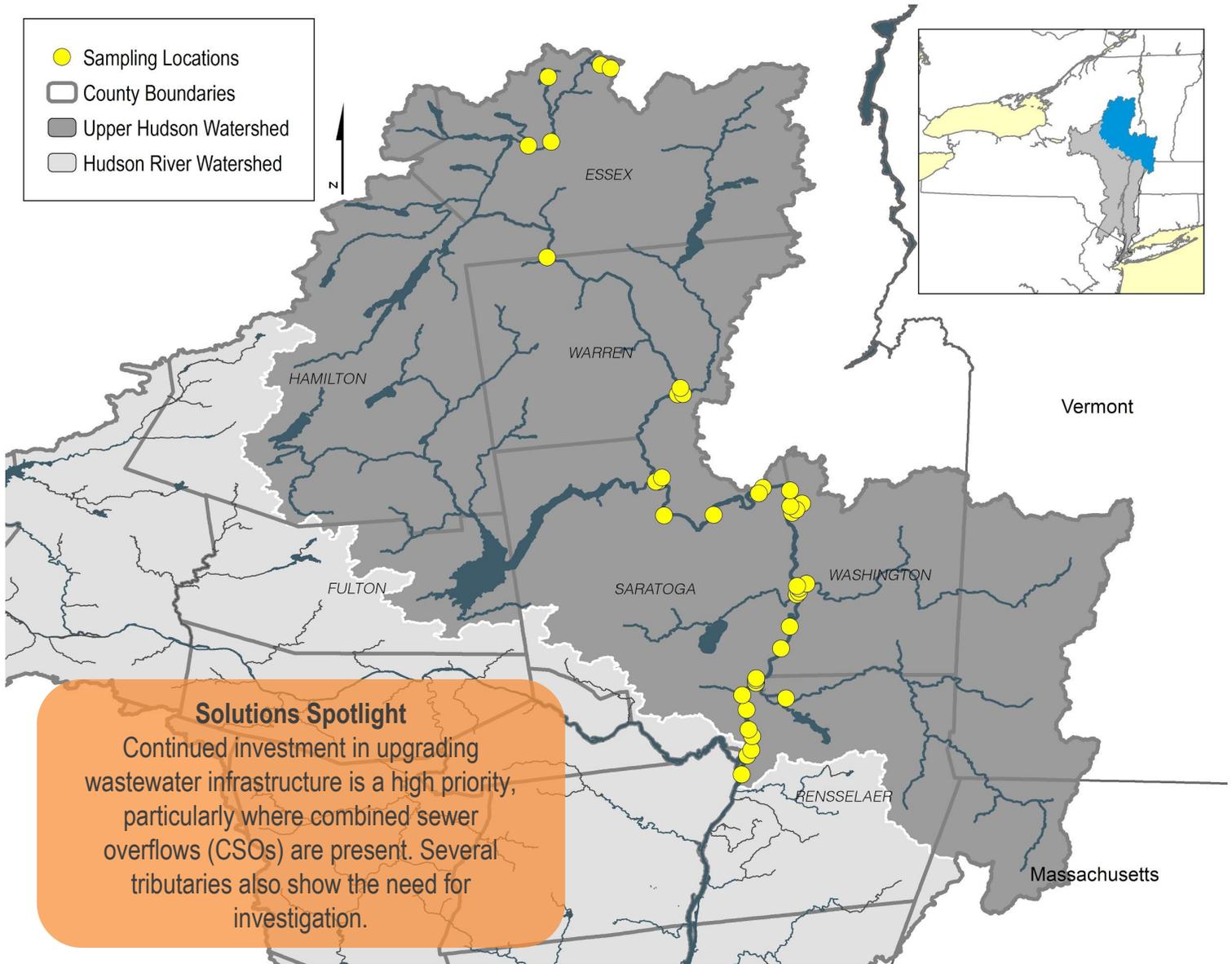


UPPER HUDSON RIVER

Community Water Quality Monitoring Results

2016-2018

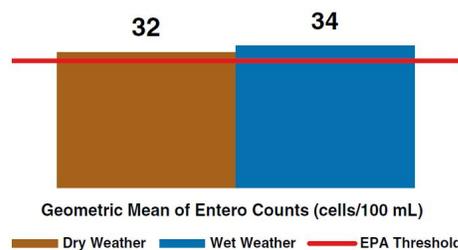
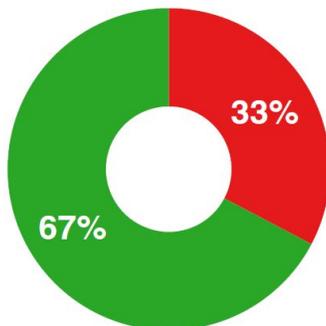


What the Data Show

What portion of samples were safe for swimming?

How high were the bacteria levels?

Two thirds of samples met the EPA guideline for safe swimming.



Overall bacteria levels barely exceed EPA's recommended safe-swimming level, even after rainfall, which causes runoff, and can cause wastewater system overflows. However, data from certain sampling sites, point to the need for local water quality improvements.

More: Explore a watershed map, data from each sampling site, year-to-year patterns and more at www.riverkeeper.org/water-quality/citizen-data/upper-hudson-river

Community Science

The water quality data presented here are based on an analysis of 434 samples collected by watershed residents and staff of Jarrett Engineers. Samples were collected in June, August & October of 2016, and from May to October in 2017-2018, and processed by Riverkeeper. To get involved, contact Sebastian Pillitteri at spillitteri@riverkeeper.org.

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.

About the Upper Hudson River

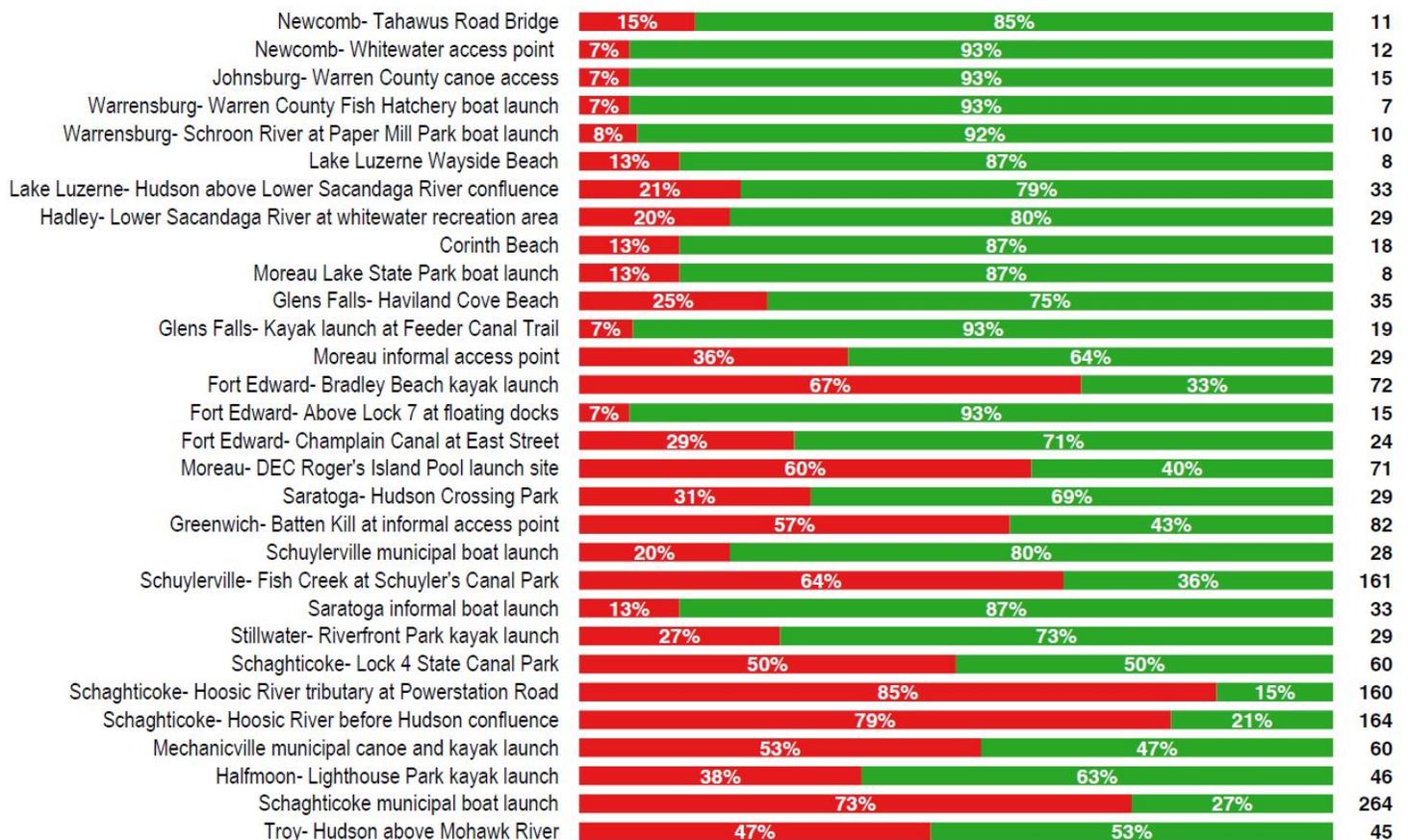
The Hudson River begins at Lake Tear of the Clouds, on New York’s highest peak, Mount Marcy. The “upper” part of the river is the portion above of the Federal Dam at Troy, which forms a barrier to the tides. More than 83,000 people use the Upper Hudson as a drinking water source.

Signs of Progress

In 2018, state and local communities committed to over \$23 million in wastewater infrastructure improvement projects in the Upper Hudson. A watershed plan is being developed by the Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition.

What portion of samples at each site were acceptable for swimming? EPA threshold: single sample should not exceed 60

How high were bacterial levels? EPA threshold: GM* should not exceed 30



*The geometric mean (GM) is a weighted average of all samples.