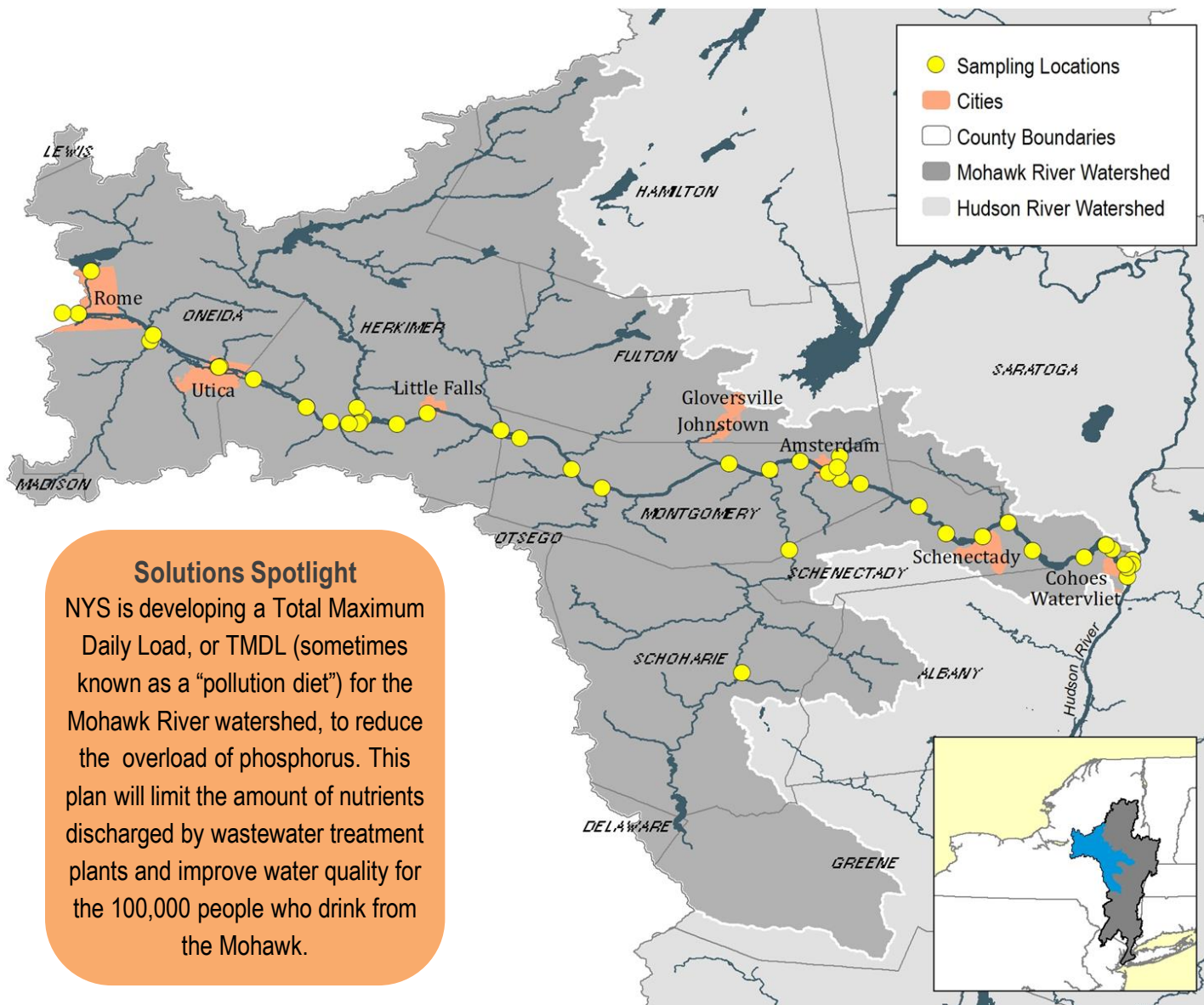


# MOHAWK RIVER

## Water Quality Monitoring Results

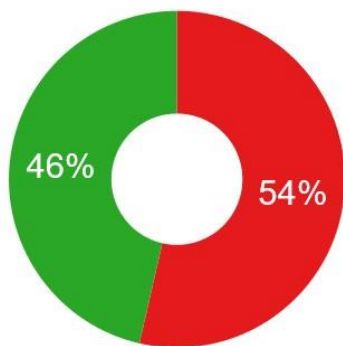
2015-2020



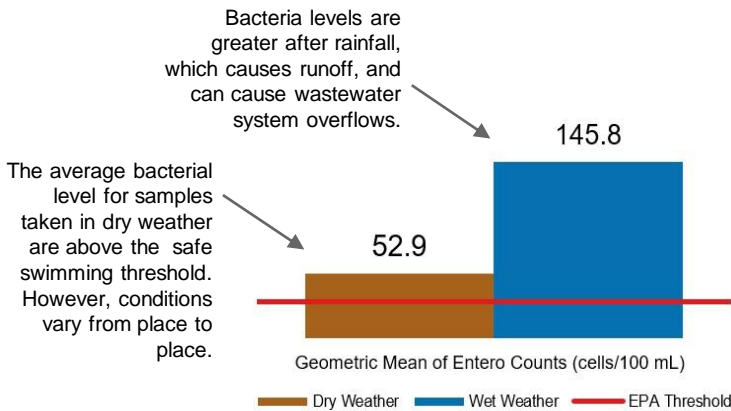
**Solutions Spotlight**  
 NYS is developing a Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL (sometimes known as a “pollution diet”) for the Mohawk River watershed, to reduce the overload of phosphorus. This plan will limit the amount of nutrients discharged by wastewater treatment plants and improve water quality for the 100,000 people who drink from the Mohawk.

### What portion of our samples were safe for swimming?

Less than half of samples met the EPA guideline for safe swimming. Since 2015, fewer samples have met this guideline each year.



### How does weather affect bacteria levels?



More: Explore a watershed map, data from each sampling site, and other info at [riverkeeper.org/water-quality/citizen-data/mohawk-river](http://riverkeeper.org/water-quality/citizen-data/mohawk-river).

## Community Science

The water quality data presented here are based on an analysis of 1297 samples collected and processed since 2015 by Riverkeeper, SUNY Cobleskill, and SUNY Polytechnic. Samples are collected monthly from May to October. If you would like to get involved with sampling contact Sebastian Pillitteri at [spillitteri@riverkeeper.org](mailto: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 Mohawk River

The Mohawk River is the largest tributary to the Hudson River and is also the Erie Canalway. More than 100,000 people use it as a source of drinking water.

## Signs of Progress

Scientists have long raised concerns about the potential for invasive fish to move from the Great Lakes to the Hudson via the Erie Canal, which includes part of the Mohawk River. The Reimagine the Canal initiative opened a new opportunity to prevent these and other non-native species from entering the Hudson.

