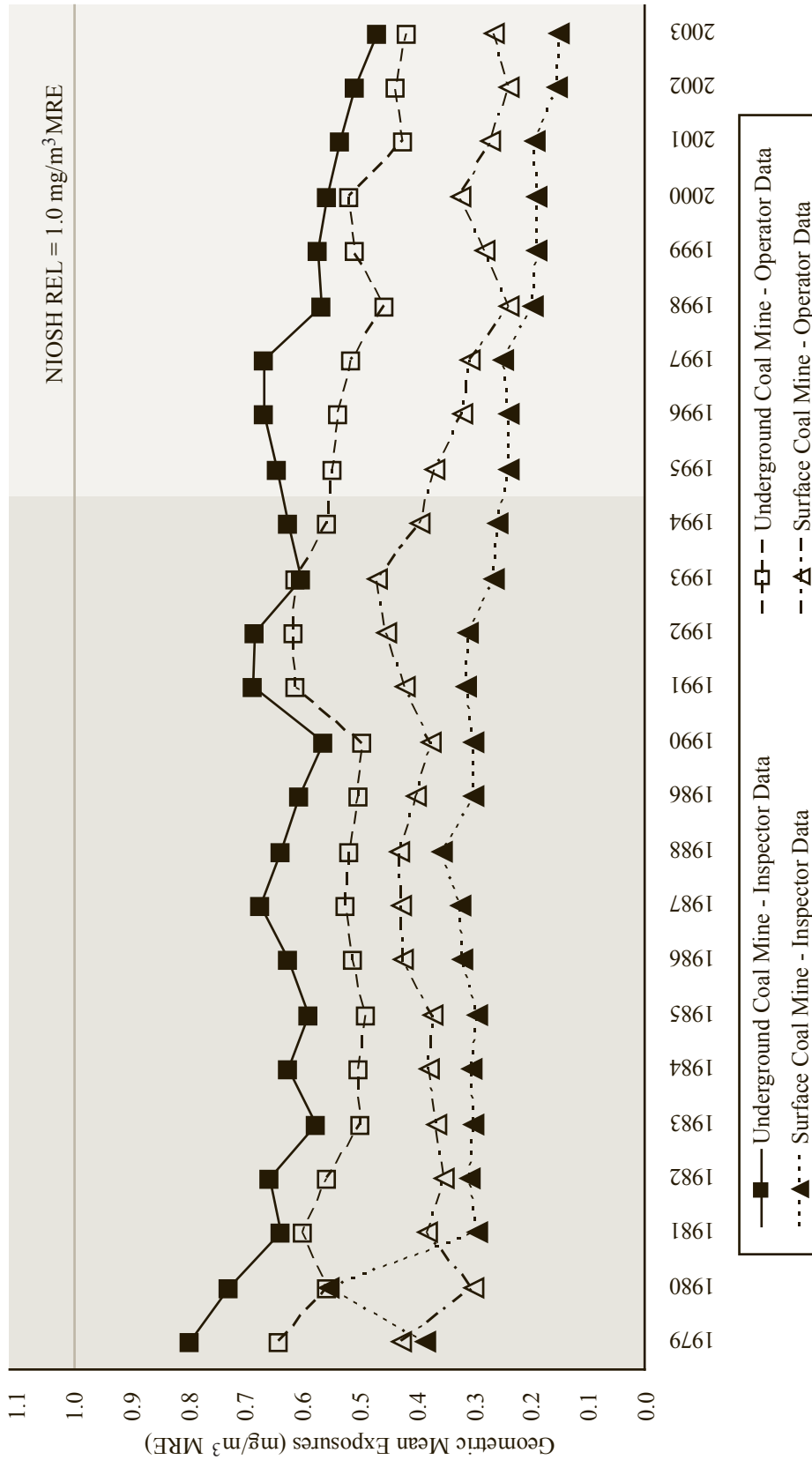


Respirable coal mine dust: Geometric mean exposures by type of mine, MSHA inspector and mine operator samples, 1979–2003



PEL - permissible exposure limit REL - recommended exposure limit mg/m³ - milligrams per cubic meter MRE - Mining Research Establishment
 MSHA - Mine Safety and Health Administration

NOTE: In coal mining, for respirable dust containing less than 5% quartz, the MSHA PEL is 2 mg/m³ MRE; for respirable dust containing greater than 5% quartz, the MSHA PEL is [(10 mg/m³ MRE) / (% quartz)]. The NIOSH REL of 1 mg/m³ MRE for respirable coal mine dust was adopted in September of 1995. Geometric means are reported in MRE equivalent. See appendices for source description, methods, and agents.

SOURCE: MSHA coal mine inspector and mine operator dust data.