

MDA Township Testing Program

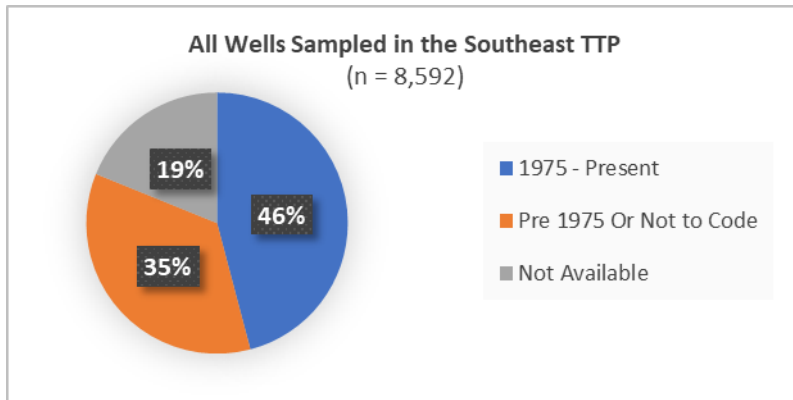
Well Code and Nitrate Concentrations in Private Drinking Water Wells

Below is a summary of wells from the Minnesota Department Agriculture (MDA) Township Testing Program (TTP) that were sampled for nitrate in southeastern Minnesota.

Statewide regulation of wells ([Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4725](#)) started on July 15, 1974. Some local regulations were in place prior to this date, however there were no statewide rules. Since 1974 the well code has expanded and changed several times to include new regulations. The MDA uses 1975 as the year for wells that are up to basic code since the well code wasn't in place until partway through 1974.

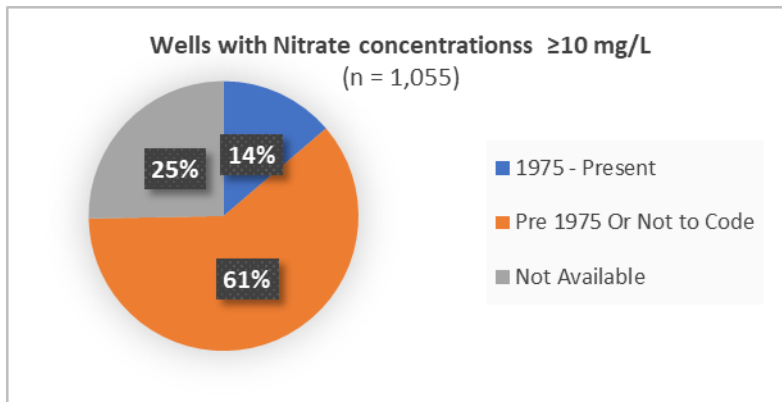
Overall, in the eight southeast counties 8,592 wells were sampled in the TTP program.

- 46% of those wells were post code wells
- 19% of those wells had no information on the date it was drilled
- 35% were pre-code (before 1975) or not to code. (*not to code = problem with the well such as: hand dug wells, cistern wells, hole in well cap, cracked casing, etc.).



Approximately 1,055 wells had nitrate concentrations at or above 10 mg/L.

- 14% of the wells ≥ 10 mg/L were post-code wells (1975-present).
- 25% of the wells ≥ 10 mg/L had no information on the date it was drilled
- 61% of the wells ≥ 10 mg/L were pre-code (before 1975) or not to code.



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Thanks and please let us know if you have any questions.

-Michelle

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