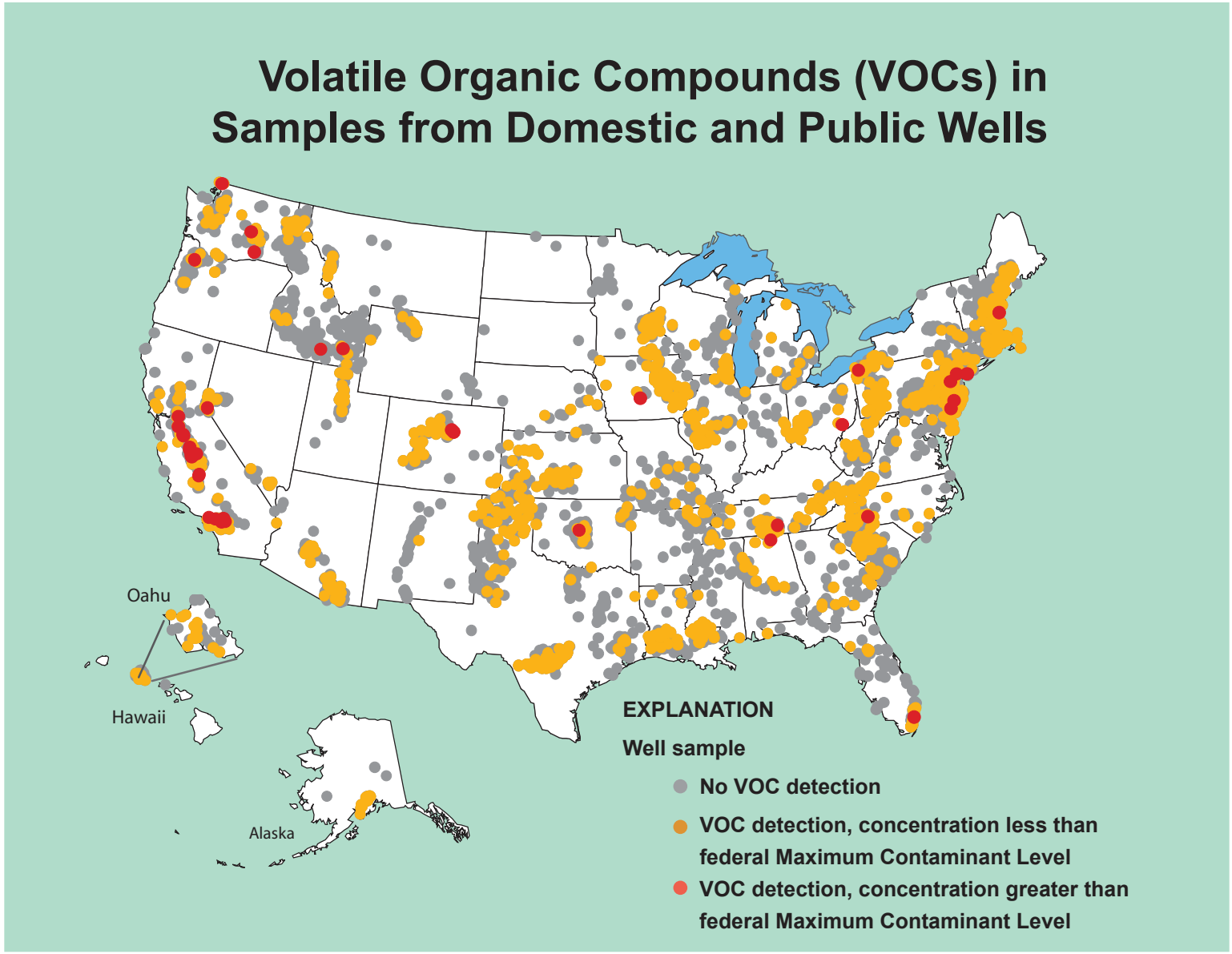

The U.S. Geological Survey released a report describing the occurrence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in ground water and drinking-water supply wells across the Nation. Ground water provides a drinking-water supply for about one-half of the Nation's population. VOCs, which are used extensively in industry commerce, and household products, were detected in 15 percent of the 3,500 samples from domestic and public wells at many locations across the Nation. However, VOC concentrations were seldom greater than federal drinking-water standards (Maximum Contaminant Levels). VOCs were detected more frequently in samples from public wells (26 percent) than domestic wells (14 percent). Because samples were collected prior to treatment or blending of water, human exposure to VOCs was not determined from this national assessment.