

# Public Health Dental Program Water Fluoridation Project



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# What Will We Cover Today?

- Who is promoting water fluoridation?
- Where are the non-fluoridated communities?
- Has fluoridation been in the news lately?



# Who – is Promoting Fluoridation?

## **Tooth decay remains one of the most common chronic diseases of childhood**

- 1 of 5 children 5 to 11 years have at least 1 untreated decayed tooth\*
- 1 of 7 adolescents aged 12 to 19 have at least 1 untreated decayed tooth\*
- The percentage of children and adolescents aged 5 to 19 years with untreated tooth decay is twice that from low-income families\*

\*<http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/> (website last reviewed February 6, 2015)



# Who – is Promoting Fluoridation?

## National

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Healthy People 2020 campaign: <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/oral-health>
- The American Dental Association through publications like Fluoride Nature's Cavity Fighter and the Fluoridation Facts publication: [www.ada.org/](http://www.ada.org/)
- American Academy of Pediatrics through the Campaign for Dental Health: <http://ilikemyteeth.org/>



# Who – is Promoting Fluoridation?

## Campaign for Dental Health “Life is better with Teeth” Myths & Facts Responses to Common Claims about Community Water Fluoridation

The TRUTH	FALSE CLAIMS	FACTS about CWF
Fluoride occurs naturally in water, though rarely at the optimal level to protect teeth.	<i>“Fluoride doesn’t belong in drinking water.”</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fluoride exists naturally in virtually all water supplies and even in various brands of bottled water.<sup>1,2</sup></li> <li>There are proven benefits for public health that come from having the optimal level of fluoride in the water – just enough to protect our teeth. In 2011, federal health officials offered a new recommended optimal level for water fluoridation: 0.7 parts per million.<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>
Numerous scientific studies and reviews have recognized fluoride as an important nutrient for strong healthy teeth.	<i>“Adding fluoride is forced medication.”</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fluoride is not a medication. It is a mineral and when present at the right level, fluoride in drinking water has two beneficial effects: preventing tooth decay and contributing to healthy bones.</li> <li>U.S. court decisions have rejected the argument that fluoride is a medication that should not be allowed in water.<sup>4</sup> The American Journal of Public Health summarized one of these rulings, noting that “fluoride isn’t a medication, but rather a nutrient found naturally in some areas but deficient in others.”</li> <li>There are several examples of how everyday products are fortified to enhance the health of Americans – iodine is added to salt, folic acid is added to breads and cereals, and Vitamin D is added to milk.</li> </ul>
Fluoridation is the most cost effective way to prevent tooth decay and promote healthy communities.	<i>“Our city council can save money by ending fluoridation of our water system.”</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A community that stops fluoridating, or one that has never started, will find that local residents end up spending more money on decay-related dental problems. Evidence shows that for most cities, every \$1 invested in CWF saves \$38 in unnecessary treatment costs.<sup>5</sup></li> <li>A Texas study confirmed that the state saved \$24 per child, per year in Medicaid expenditures because of the cavities that were prevented by drinking fluoridated water.<sup>6</sup></li> <li>A Colorado study showed that water fluoridation saved the state nearly \$149 million by avoiding unnecessary treatment costs. The study found that the average savings were roughly \$61 per person.<sup>7</sup></li> </ul>

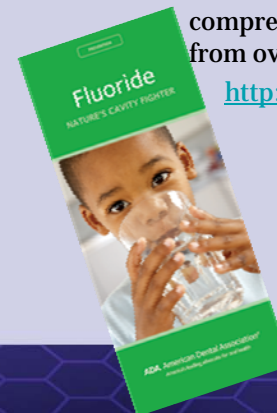
## Fluoridation: Tap in to Your Health Resources and Materials for Building a Fluoridation Campaign

### Resource Materials

Many successful campaigns to initiate or retain community water fluoridation were the results of efforts by a coalition of many community members, oftentimes including local dental societies, health organizations and local government. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Oral Health, includes in its [Infrastructure Development Tools](#) information for partnerships and coalitions, including framework best practices and a community toolbox. These materials are a great resource for building a coalition.

[Fluoridation Facts](#) is the ADA’s premier resource on community water fluoridation. This booklet is a comprehensive encyclopedia of fluoridation facts taken from over 350 scientific references...

<http://www.astdd.org/docs/02-ada-fl-toolkit.pdf>



# Who – is Promoting Fluoridation?

## State and Local Level

- Florida Department of Health – [www.flhealth.gov/fluoridation](http://www.flhealth.gov/fluoridation)
- Oral Health Florida – <http://oralhealthflorida.org>
- Florida Dental Association – <https://www.floridadental.org/public/the-importance-of-water-fluoridation>
- Florida Dental Hygiene Association – [www.fdha.org](http://www.fdha.org)



# Where are the non-fluoridated areas?

CDC – My Water's Fluoride -

<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/MWF/Index.asp>

Florida Department of Health -

[www.flhealth.gov/fluoridation](http://www.flhealth.gov/fluoridation)



Contact Your Local Municipality – (i.e. City of Tallahassee) or review the Annual Water Quality Report

# Fluoridation in the News

- Wellington
  - Niceville
  - Boynton Beach
  - Eustis
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- CDC/Public Health Service decides on new level of 0.7 mg/L





# Public Health Dental Program

**Questions/Comments**  
about the **Public Health Dental Program**  
**Water Fluoridation Project**



# Contact Information

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