

# Public Health Dental Program Water Fluoridation Project



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JULY 28, 2016  
STATEWIDE DENTAL PERFORMANCE  
MANAGEMENT MEETING 2016



# What Will We Cover Today?

- Who is promoting water fluoridation and why?
- Where are the non-fluoridated communities in my county and where can I find this information?
- Has fluoridation been in the news lately in Florida?



# Who is Promoting Fluoridation and Why?

- Fluoridation – optional in Florida
- The following 20 counties in Florida have *no* fluoridated community water system: Charlotte, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Flagler, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Liberty, Monroe, Okeechobee, Putnam, Sumter, Union, Walton and Washington.
- By 2060 - U.S. population age 65+ will double



# Who is Promoting Fluoridation and Why? - continued

## **Tooth decay remains one of the most common childhood conditions**

- 36.7 % of children ages two to eight experience caries
- 21.3% of children ages six to eleven experience caries
- 14.5% of children ages two to eight have untreated caries
- 5.6% of children ages six to eleven have untreated caries

\*Data according to the National Institute of Dental Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)



# Who is Promoting Fluoridation and Why? (continued)

## National Level

- 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 (ADA) 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/>



# Fluoridation Resources

## 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>



# Fluoridation in Florida

## State Level

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

## Local Level

- Oral Health Florida – <http://oralhealthflorida.org>



# Fluoridation at the Local Level





# Where are the non-fluoridated areas?

CDC – My Water’s Fluoride –

[https://nccd.cdc.gov/DOH\\_MWF/Default.aspx](https://nccd.cdc.gov/DOH_MWF/Default.aspx)

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



# Annual Water Quality Report



## *Orange County – Eastern Regional Water System*

Inorganic Contaminants	Date of Sample	MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level) Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contaminant
Sodium	3/2014	N	20.0	N/A	N/A	160	Salt Intrusion/leaching from soil
Fluoride	3/2014	N	0.695	N/A	4.0	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories; water additive which promotes strong teeth

# Fluoridation in the News

## 2015 Updates on Fluoride Campaigns

<u>Community</u>	<u>Current Fluoridation Status</u>
• Niceville	Fluoridated
• Boynton Beach	Fluoridated
• Eustis	Fluoridated
• Port Orange	Fluoridated



# Fluoridation in the News (continued)

## 2016 Updates on Fluoride Campaigns So Far

### Community

- Lake City
- Collier County
- Wellington
- Flagler County
- Palm Coast
- Dade City

### Results

Yes - March/2016  
Yes - May/2016  
Yes - June/2016  
Coming Soon  
Coming Soon  
Coming Soon



# Contact Information

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# Public Health Dental Program

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

