



# Community Water Fluoridation Online Resources for Local Health Departments

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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**NACCHO**  
National Association of County & City Health Officials



## Background

Community water fluoridation adjusts the amount of fluoride in drinking water to the level known to reduce tooth decay and promote good oral health. Water fluoridation's biggest advantage is that it is the best method of delivering fluoride to all members of the community, regardless of age, education, income level, or access to routine dental care. Fluoride's effectiveness in preventing tooth decay is not limited to children, but extends throughout life, resulting in fewer and less severe cavities. In fact, each generation born since the implementation of water fluoridation has enjoyed better dental health than the generation that preceded it.

Recognized by the CDC as one of the great public health achievements of the 20th century, community water fluoridation is recommended by nearly all public health, medical, and dental organizations, including the American Dental Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, U.S. Public Health Service, and World Health Organization. For over 70 years, people in the U.S. have benefited from drinking water with fluoride, leading to better dental health.

Equal access to sufficient levels of community water fluoridation must be ensured. Currently, community water fluoridation reaches 66 percent of Americans, or 211 million people, on public water supplies; however, over 100 million Americans do not receive fluoridated water. The fluoridation of water at levels for optimal dental health is a proper means of protecting and furthering the public's health.

## About NACCHO

NACCHO is the national organization representing local health departments. NACCHO supports efforts that protect and improve the health of all people and all communities by developing resources and programs promoting effective public health policies, health equity, and social justice. NACCHO's mission is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice for local health departments in order to ensure the conditions that promote health and equity, combat disease, and improve the quality and length of all lives.

# Resources

## NACCHO Communications Resources

NACCHO has a number of dissemination vehicles to help promote resources, including its website: <https://www.naccho.org/programs/environmental-health> and environmental health blog, The Essential Elements of Local Public Health (formerly Healthy People, Healthy Places) at <http://essentialelements.naccho.org/> For breaking news, NACCHO's MarComm staff maintain the website's front page. NACCHO also maintains a very active twitter feed with nearly 17,600 followers, as well as an active Facebook page.

## American Academy of Family Physicians

<https://www.aafp.org/home.html>

An assessment and summary of the scientific evidence on the benefits and harms of community water fluoridation was developed to assist family physicians who may be called upon to offer a professional opinion regarding local community water fluoridation: <https://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/fluoride.html>

## American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

<http://www.aapd.org/>

Policy on the Use of Fluoride: [www.aapd.org/media/Policies\\_Guidelines/P\\_FluorideUse.pdf](http://www.aapd.org/media/Policies_Guidelines/P_FluorideUse.pdf)

Guideline on Fluoride Therapy: <https://bit.ly/2J8VCtl>

These policies affirm that fluoride is a safe and effective adjunct in reducing the risk of caries and reversing enamel demineralization, and encourage public health officials, health care providers, and parents/caregivers to optimize fluoride exposure.

## American Academy of Pediatrics

<https://www.aap.org>

AAP Policy Statement - Maintaining and Improving the Oral Health of Young Children: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/134/6/1224>

## American Association of Public Health Dentistry

<http://www.aaphd.org/>

AAPHD Resolution on Community Water Fluoridation: <https://bit.ly/2HaQFnB>

The American Association of Public Health Dentistry reiterates its strong endorsement and support for the fluoridation of all community water systems as a safe and effective public health measure for the prevention of tooth decay.

## **American Dental Association**

<http://bit.ly/2CoDQCF>

The ADA offers Fluoridation Facts, with answers to FAQs regarding community water fluoridation: <https://bit.ly/2GQNrC9>

General resources include (linked):

- Ten Reasons to Fluoridate Public Water (PDF)
- Statements from Leading Health Authorities on Fluoridation (PDF)
- Fluoridation FAQs (PDF)
- Fluoridation Benefits for Adults (PDF)

## **American Public Health Association**

<https://www.apha.org/>

APHA Policy Statement Community Water Fluoridation in the United States: <https://bit.ly/1MHoeKg>

This position paper provides updated evidence for the many supportive policies held by the American Public Health Association (APHA) on community water fluoridation.

## **American Water Works Association**

<https://www.awwa.org/>

Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies - Policy Statement: <https://bit.ly/2qHBbfD>

DrinkTap, AWWA's water fluoridation website, features Questions About Water:

<https://bit.ly/2vxF78D>

## **Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD)**

<https://bit.ly/2GeZcnX>

Community Water Fluoridation Policy Statement (PDF): <https://bit.ly/2HcKQIq>

Policy statement outlines problem, methods, and actions regarding community water fluoridation.

## **Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)**

<http://www.astho.org/>

Oral Health Position Statement: <https://bit.ly/1NBaP1I>

Statement outlines ASTHO's support and comprehensive recommendations regarding oral health.

## **American Academy of Pediatrics**

Campaign for Dental Health

<https://ilikemyteeth.org/>

The Campaign for Dental Health, a program of the American Academy of Pediatrics, has organized to ensure that more children get the basic dental care they need to grow, learn, and lead healthy lives. This site focuses on the benefits of water fluoridation, and includes information about the fluoridation debate, as well as facts, tools, and resources.

## **The Center for Fluoride Research Analysis**

<http://fluoridescience.org/>

This site offers resources to assist healthcare and public health professionals as well as decision-makers in the community who engage in educating the general public regarding the best scientific information available on the use of fluoride.

## **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Division of Oral Health**

<https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/index.html>

Community Water Fluoridation: <https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/index.html>

The latest resources, data, guidelines and statistics, FAQs and other information on community water fluoridation and oral health.

## **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/MMWR**

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/index.html>

- Populations Receiving Optimally Fluoridated Public Drinking Water — United States, 1992–2006: <https://bit.ly/2H9kyEl>
- Surveillance for Dental Caries, Dental Sealants, Tooth Retention, Edentulism, and Enamel Fluorosis—United States, 1988–1994 and 1999–2002: <https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/index.html>
- Engineering and Administrative Recommendations for Water Fluoridation, 1995: <https://bit.ly/2J2IS8T>
- Recommendations for Using Fluoride to Prevent and Control Dental Caries in the United States: <https://bit.ly/2EVZEmH>
- Ten Great Public Health Achievements—United States, 1900–1999: <https://bit.ly/2IDK1dW>
- Achievements in Public Health, 1900–1999: Fluoridation of Drinking Water to Prevent Dental Caries: <https://bit.ly/2nLyfyZ>
- Water Fluoridation and Costs of Medicaid Treatment for Dental Decay—Louisiana, 1995–1996: <https://bit.ly/2HJqe5i>

## **The Community Guide**

This one-page handout summarizes the Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF) recommendation and systematic review evidence for community water fluoridation to reduce dental caries or cavities: <https://bit.ly/2DN3uha>

## **The Council of State Governments**

[www.csg.org/](http://www.csg.org/)

Resolution on Community Water Fluoridation (PDF): <https://bit.ly/2J8CETP>

This resolution seeks to encourage states to support and adopt community water fluoridation initiatives, which have been shown to be effective in reducing dental caries and saving costs associated with tooth decay.

## **FDI World Dental Federation Policy Statements**

<http://bit.ly/2Cilcfo>

One of the goals of FDI World Dental Federation is to develop and disseminate policies, standards, and information related to all aspects of oral health care around the world. FDI Policy Statements are put together through consultation, discussion and consensus among leading dental experts from around the world. Many statements are the result of projects carried out by the FDI Science Committee, whilst others are produced in collaboration with organizations including the World Health Organization.

- Promoting Oral Health through Water Fluoridation (PDF):  
<https://bit.ly/2HdW6xN>
- Promoting Dental Health through Fluoride Toothpaste (PDF):  
<https://bit.ly/2qJCYke>
- Fluoride in Restorative Materials (PDF): <https://bit.ly/2HcC4UG>
- Topical and Systemic Fluorides in Children with Renal Diseases (PDF):  
<https://bit.ly/2J5kp1y>

## **Fluoride Legislative User Information Database (FLUID)**

<fluidlaw.org>

The Fluoride Legislative User Information Database is a comprehensive database containing legal decisions by U.S. courts and current information on federal, state, and local policies regarding community water fluoridation.

## **Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center**

From the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Administration for Children & Families, these Oral Health Resources for Staff are designed to help Head Start and childcare staff learn about oral health for pregnant women, infants, and young children. Topics include dental visits, fluoride, nutrition, oral healthcare, oral hygiene, and safety and emergency first aid: <https://bit.ly/2DCH2rx>

## **Health Resources in Action**

<https://hria.org>

Community Water Fluoridation (CWF) and Oral Health Policy: With support from the DentaQuest foundation, HRiA is implementing a new approach to CWF via coalition building, grassroots organizing, and social marketing to leverage community values. To this end, HRiA developed a Community Toolkit with DentaQuest Foundation, which includes effective messaging for gaining support, how to locate and engage allies, and how to build community support:  
<http://fluoridationtoolkit.org/>

## **Hispanic Dental Association**

<https://hdassoc.org/>

As the leading voice for Hispanic oral health, the Hispanic Dental Association provides service, education, advocacy, and leadership to eliminate oral health disparities in the Hispanic community. Link to resources here: <https://hdassoc.org/education-and-resources/> HDA's endorsement of community water fluoridation is here: <https://bit.ly/2JU7XD4>

### **International Association of Dental Research**

<http://www.iadr.org/>

IADR Policy Statement: Promoting Oral Health in the 21st Century:  
A Call for Action

The 8th World Congress on Preventive Dentistry (WCPD) took place in 2005 in Liverpool, United Kingdom. Participants from 43 countries addressed the prevention of oral diseases, which are significant burdens on children and adults worldwide. The good news is that oral diseases are preventable and considerable improvements can be made if appropriate public health programmes are established. Participants emphasized that oral health is an integral part of general health and well-being and a basic human right. <http://www.iadr.org/IADR/About-Us/Policy-Statements>

### **The Linus Pauling Institute**

[lpi.oregonstate.edu/](http://lpi.oregonstate.edu/)

The Linus Pauling Institute's Micronutrient Information Center (MIC) is a source for scientifically accurate information on the functions and health effects of all micronutrients. Information on fluoride may be found here: Micronutrient Information Center—Fluoride: <http://lpi.oregonstate.edu/mic/minerals/fluoride>

### **National Academies**

<http://dels.nas.edu/>

Drinking Water: Understanding the Science and Policy Behind a Critical Resource: <http://dels.nas.edu/Materials/Booklets/Drinking-Water3>

This booklet provides an introduction to drinking water issues. It draws from a body of independent, peer-reviewed expert consensus reports from the National Research Council to provide an overview of public water supply and demand, water management and conservation, options for the government and the private sector, and the economic and ecological aspects of drinking water.

### **National Association of County and City Health Officials**

[www.naccho.org](http://www.naccho.org)

NACCCHO's Policy Statement on Oral health affirms and encourages oral health as an integral and essential component of overall health: <https://bit.ly/2FCcMBB>

### **National Cancer Institute**

<https://www.cancer.gov/>

Features basic information on fluoride, and explores the research that concluded that there is "no credible evidence" of an association between fluoridated drinking water and an increased risk for cancer: <https://bit.ly/2fyS5La>

## **National Dental Association**

[www.ndaonline.org/](http://www.ndaonline.org/)

It is the position of the National Dental Association that community water fluoridation is safe, beneficial, and cost effective and should be encouraged and supported under the following conditions: Position on Water Fluoridation: <http://www.ndaonline.org/position-on-water-fluoridation/>

## **National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research**

<https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/>

As noted in *Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General*, community water fluoridation continues to be the most cost-effective, equitable and safe means to provide protection from tooth decay in a community. NIDCR's Statement on Water Fluoridation: <https://bit.ly/2HwdyRz>

The Story of Fluoridation: The story of how dental science discovered – and ultimately proved to the world – that fluoride, a mineral found in rocks and soil, prevents tooth decay: <https://bit.ly/2HambC6>

## **National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center \* Georgetown University**

This collection of selected resources offers high-quality information about fluoridated community water: <https://bit.ly/2vmboz2>

## **National Network for Oral Health Access**

NNOHA fully supports the continued expansion of access to optimally fluoridated water: <http://www.nnoha.org/advocacy/cwf/>

## **National Research Council**

<http://www.nationalacademies.org/nasem/>

Fluoride in Drinking Water: A Scientific Review of EPA's Standards (2006):  
<https://bit.ly/2clcc81>

*Fluoride in Drinking Water* reviews research on various health effects from exposure to fluoride, including studies conducted in the last ten years.

## **Rural Health Information Hub**

Community Water Fluoridation Toolkit: <https://bit.ly/2vttAqv>

Provides information and resources on rural water fluoridation. Rural populations are less likely to have access to adequately fluoridated drinking water, and few rural oral health programs have focused on community water fluoridation. The local community can become the driving force to promote fluoridation and oral health.

## **U.S. Public Health Service**

<https://www.usphs.gov/>

Review of Fluoride Benefits and Risks: Report of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Fluoride of the Committee to Coordinate Environmental Health and Related Programs.

## **U.S. Surgeon General**

<https://www.surgeongeneral.gov/>

Resources from the Office of Surgeon General.

- U.S. Surgeons General's Statements on Community Water Fluoridation:  
<https://bit.ly/2qJQ552>
  - Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General – Executive Summary:  
<https://bit.ly/2HBUDyC>
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## **State Resources**

### **California Dental Association**

Fluoride and fluoridation information and resources: <https://www.cda.org/fluoride>

### **Colorado Community Water Fluoridation**

Facts, benefits, and resources: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/community-water-fluoridation>

### **Colorado Fluoride Facts**

Resources and information: [www.cofluoridefacts.org/](http://www.cofluoridefacts.org/)

### **The Connecticut Coalition for Oral Health**

Resources and information to advance oral health: <http://www.ctoralhealth.org/>

### **Oral Health Florida**

Resources and information about the Fluoridation Action Team, which collaborates with local communities to support access to community water fluoridation: <http://oralhealthflorida.org/action-teams/fluoridation-action-team/>

### **Fluoride In Kansas**

Fluoride Facts: [www.fluoridekansas.org](http://www.fluoridekansas.org)

### **Maryland Department of Health**

Community Water Fluoridation facts and resources: <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/oralhealth/Pages/community-water.aspx>

### **Better Oral Health Massachusetts Coalition**

The Better Oral Health for Massachusetts Coalition (BOHMAC) is a statewide organization that advocates for oral health policies to ensure that Massachusetts' residents, especially those most vulnerable, have benefit of comprehensive oral health prevention and treatment services: <http://massoralhealth.org/community-water-fluoridation/>

## **Oregon Dental Association**

"Five Reasons Why Fluoridation is Good for Communities" and other resources and information: <http://www.oregondental.org/government-affairs/community-waterfluoridation>

## **Pennsylvania Dental Association**

Community Water Fluoridation Talking Points and Other Media Resources, Quick Facts About Community Water Fluoridation, ADA Statement on Safety for Community Water Fluoridation: <https://bit.ly/2HXbkXU>

## **Texas Oral Health Coalition**

Resources and information: <http://www.txohc.org/fluoridation.html>

## **Virginia Department of Health**

Comprehensive community water fluoridation resources, including information for water works operators, and resources from the ADA, American Academy of Pediatrics, Campaign for Dental Health, CDC, EPA, and Fluoride Science: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/fluoride-information/resources/>

## **Wisconsin Dental Association**

Water fluoridation overview and resources:  
<https://www.wda.org/your-oral-health/fluoride>

# NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to improve the health of communities by strengthening and advocating for local health departments.

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