

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Public Health Service

Health Resources Administration

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AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
RE-EMPHASIZES SUPPORT OF FLUORIDATION

At its October 23, 1974 meeting, the Governing Council of the American Public Health Association renewed its support of fluoridation by adopting the following updated resolution:

"Nearly half a century of extensive research and 25 years of the controlled adjustment of fluorides to optimal concentrations in public water supplies have demonstrated the safety, practicality, economy, and effectiveness of water fluoridation in preventing a significant amount of dental caries. The fluoridation of public water supplies to optimal levels continues to be the best measure for preventing dental caries. Dietary fluoride supplements are not a substitute for water fluoridation but can be a possible alternative for those areas which cannot initiate community fluoridation.

"Therefore, be it RESOLVED that

"The American Public Health Association strongly endorses the fluoridation of all public water systems wherever feasible to optimal concentrations of fluorides for significant prevention of dental caries.

"Where public systems do not exist, the fluoride concentrations of the water in elementary schools should be adjusted to appropriate optimal levels.

"The Association recommends continued implementation of national policy on fluoridation of public water supplies and the provision of federal grants to assist communities and school districts to initiate and to maintain fluoridation programs:

"State and local health agencies are urged to inform all dentists and physicians of the fluoride levels in public and school water systems and provide information which encourages and recommends prescription of dietary supplements of fluoride in a safe and effective manner."

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