



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HEALTH  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

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Statement on Fluoridation

Community water fluoridation is a tried and proven method for preventing dental decay. Extensive community experience combined with world-wide research have shown fluoridation to be safe and effective.

Fluorides occur naturally in much of our water, but not always in the right amounts. By adjusting -- up or down -- the fluoride content of community water supplies to an optimum level, nearly two out of three dental cavities can be prevented in children. Everyone benefits from fluoridation: research shows that persons living in fluoridated communities can retain benefits for life, and the costs for children's dental care are about one-half as much in fluoridated communities as in fluoride-deficient communities. There is no scientific reason for any community to be without the protection of fluoridation.

The United States Public Health Service supports the fluoridation of community water supplies as a safe, effective and economical measure to reduce the attack rate and treatment costs of one of the most prevalent and destructive of diseases. I wholeheartedly concur in that endorsement.

Theodore Cooper, M.D.  
Assistant Secretary for Health

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