

Water fluoridation: What it costs, what it saves

Fluoridation: The annual per-person costs

Dallas, TX	25 cents
Hartford, CT	55 cents
Milwaukee, WI	63 cents
Phoenix, AZ	39 cents

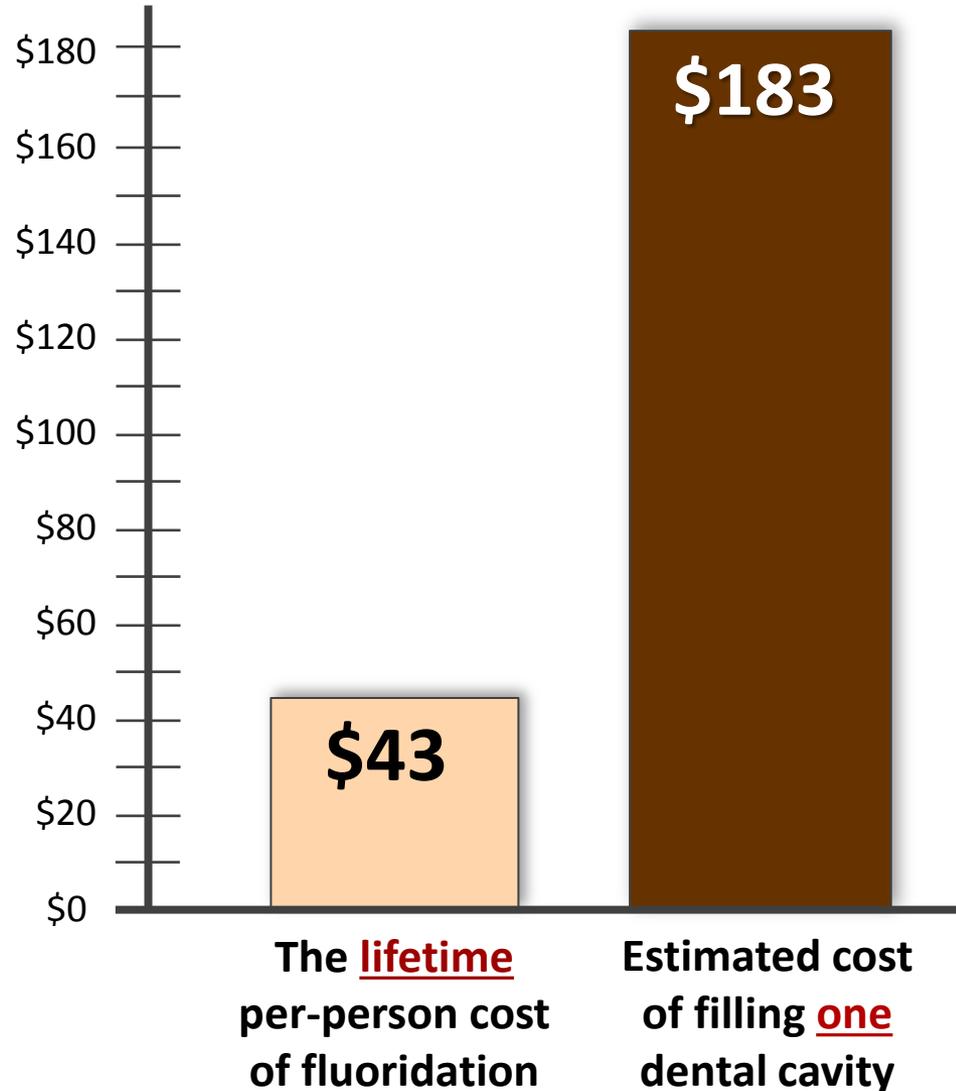
(Sources: "State of the Science: Community Water Fluoridation," Water Research Foundation, 2015; Dallas' cost is from a Dallas Water Utilities memorandum, May 23, 2014; Milwaukee's costs are based on information shared at hearings of the city's Common Council in July 2012; Hartford data was reported by the Connecticut Dept. of Public Health, July 2015.)



Big savings for Connecticut's capital city region



(Sources: The average cost of a filling is based on regional data from "2013 Survey of Dental Fees," American Dental Association. The average, annual per-person cost of water fluoridation is based on data obtained in July 2015 from the Metropolitan District Commission.)



State studies: CWF saves money

- A **Texas** study (2000) showed that fluoridation saved \$24 *per child, per year* in Medicaid expenditures for children.
- Researchers (2003) estimated that **Colorado** saved roughly \$61 per person that year because fluoridation policies reduced dental treatment costs.
- A **Louisiana** study (1999) found that low-income kids in communities *without* fluoridated water were 3 times more likely than those in fluoridated areas to need dental treatment in a hospital operating room.



(Source: Pew Center on the States, "Savings from Water Fluoridation: What the Evidence Shows," 2011.)

Compare the costs to other strategies

Scotland's Childsmile Program

- Fluoride tooth-brushing program (ages 3 to 6)
- Fluoride varnish
- Oral health education and referral to dentists

Annual Per-Person Cost

[Shown in U.S. Dollars]

\$23.70

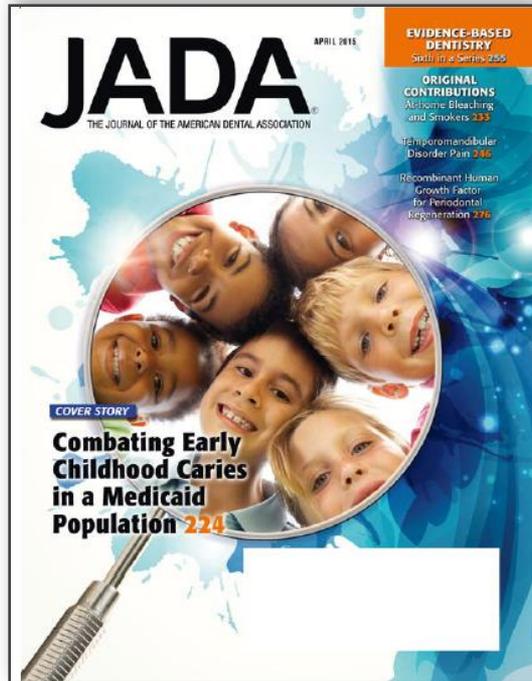
Water Fluoridation in England

- Reaches 6 million people — **both** children and adults

54 cents

(Sources: Projected annual per-child costs of Scotland's Childsmile are between £15 and £16, and this estimate is based on the program's 2013-14 budget of £14,956,000. Fluoridation's cost estimates are based on estimates of 6 million people served by fluoridated water and an annual cost of £2.1 million.)

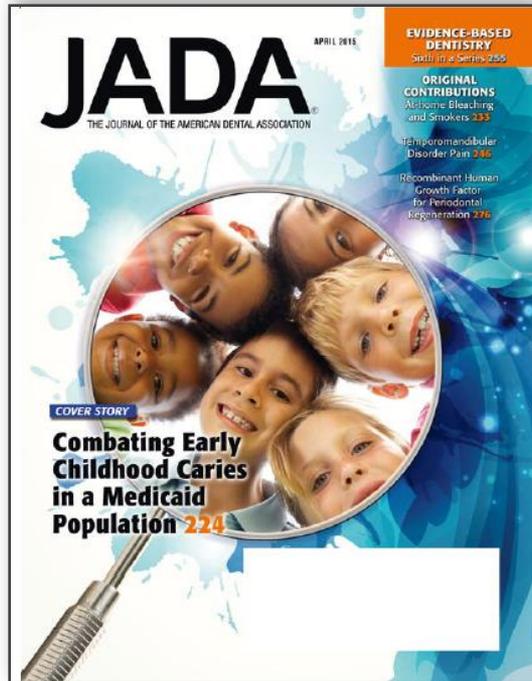
Ceasing CWF would punish families & taxpayers



“... defluoridating the [New York City] water supply would increase reparative dentistry costs by **\$55.9 million** for young children receiving Medicaid alone. The overall effect would be far greater, given that CWF additionally benefits young children in families above Medicaid eligibility as well as the entire state’s residents across their life spans.”

(Source: B.L. Edelstein, G. Hirsch, M. Frosh, and J. Kumar, “Reducing early childhood caries in a Medicaid population,” Journal of the American Dental Association, April 2015, pp. 224-232.)

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