

Position statements on water fluoridation

Included are several examples of the more than 90 national and international professional health organizations that support the use of fluoride for the prevention of dental cavities.

Alberta Health Services

As more Albertans keep their teeth for life, everyone benefits from Community Water Fluoridation.

Water Fluoridation:

- protects your teeth from decay & cavities
- helps you keep your teeth for life
- is safe

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/5452.asp>

Health Canada

It's Your Health: Fluoride and Human Health, updated 2010

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/iyh-vsv/environ/fluor-eng.php>

Many governments and health organizations, including Health Canada, the Canadian Public Health Association, the Canadian Dental Association, the Canadian Medical Association and the World Health Organization endorse the fluoridation of drinking water to prevent tooth decay.

Canadian Dental Association (CDA)

CDA's Position on the Use of Fluorides in Caries Prevention, revised April 2010

http://www.cda-adc.ca/_files/position_statements/fluoride.pdf

CDA supports fluoridation of municipal drinking water (at minimum levels required for efficacy as recommended by the Federal/Provincial Subcommittee on Drinking Water) as a safe, effective and economical means of preventing dental caries in all age groups. Fluoride levels in the water supplies should be monitored and adjusted to ensure consistency in concentration and avoid fluctuations.

Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA)

Fight the Good Fight: Fluoridation of Drinking Water, 2010

<http://www.cpha.ca/en/programs/history/achievements/05-he/fluoridation.aspx>

The fluoridation of drinking water is considered to be one of the great public health achievements. However, it is obvious that public health still needs to "fight the good fight" so that more Canadians have access to it for better oral health.

Ontario Medical Association

Ontario's Doctors Set The Record Straight on Fluoride in Drinking Water, October 2010

<https://www.oma.org/HealthPromotion/Pages/Fluoridation.aspx>

The Ontario Medical Association (OMA) has approved a policy that supports the addition of fluoride to drinking water, following extensive research on the issue.

World Health Organization (WHO)

The World Oral Health Report, 2003

http://www.who.int/oral_health/media/enlorh_report03_en.pdf

Community water fluoridation is effective in preventing dental caries in both children and adults.

Federation Dentaire Internationale (FDI)

Promoting Dental Health through Water Fluoridation, 2008

<http://www.fdiworldental.org/media/11327/Promoting-dental-health-through-water-fluoridation-2008.pdf>

The FDI recognizes that prevention by using fluoride is the most realistic way of reducing the heavy burden of dental decay worldwide.

American Dental Association (ADA)

Statement on Water Fluoridation and Efficacy and Safety (updated 2002)

<http://www.ada.org/2109.aspx>

The American Dental Association has endorsed fluoridation of community water supplies as safe and effective for preventing tooth decay for more than 40 years

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Community Water Fluoridation (reviewed and updated: January 7, 2011)

<http://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/>

Community water fluoridation is safe and effective in preventing tooth decay, and has been identified by CDC as one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century.

The past five Surgeons General supported community water fluoridation and encouraged communities to fluoridate their water. Here are the most recent three statements:

<http://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/benefits/>

Surgeon General's Statement on Community Water Fluoridation, 2004

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. Scientific studies have found that people living in communities with fluoridated water have fewer cavities than those living where the water is not fluoridated. For more than 50 years, small amounts of fluoride have been added to drinking water supplies in the United States where naturally-occurring fluoride levels are too low to protect teeth from decay. Over 8,000 communities are currently adjusting the fluoride in their community's water to a level that can protect the oral health of their citizens.

Australian Dental Association

Water Fluoridation Position Statement, April 2007

<http://www.ada.org.au/OralHealth/FLN/flinaust.aspx>

ADA believes the evidence supporting the safety and efficacy of fluoridating water supplies in order to reduce the incidence of dental caries to be overwhelming.

British Medical Association

Fluoridation of Water, January 2010

http://bmaopac.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/exlibris/aleph/a21_1/apache_media/VMYPT7FHYYI9TMH8V36U7PBQULMHQ9.pdf

The BMA remains committed to the fluoridation of main water supplies, after appropriate public consultation, on the grounds of effectiveness, safety and equity.