



## Statements on Community Water Fluoridation

**American Dental Association (ADA)** – The ADA is the oldest and largest national dental society in the world. It has grown to become the leading source of oral health related information for dentists and their patients.

In the **ADA's policies**, it states, "The Association endorses community water fluoridation as a safe, beneficial and cost-effective public health measure for preventing dental caries (cavities). This support has been the Association's policy since 1950."

**American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)** – The AAP and its member pediatricians dedicate their efforts and resources to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults.

In a press statement on the **AAP's website**, the organization states, "Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease of childhood, and water fluoridation is one of the most important public health initiatives in the 20th century. The AAP agrees that water fluoridation is beneficial for reducing and controlling tooth decay and promoting oral health in children and adults."

**American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD)** – The AAPHD provides a focus for meeting the challenge to improve oral health through promotion, education and expansion of knowledge.

AAPHD has **adopted a resolution** in support of community water fluoridation, stating that the AAPHD, "Reaffirms its support for the continuation and expansion of community water fluoridation; and encourages its members and constituents ... to help develop national and regional coalitions in support of fluoridation."

**American Medical Association (AMA)** – The AMA promotes the art and science of medicine and the betterment of public health. In 1951, the AMA endorsed the principle of fluoridation of community water supplies.

The AMA has developed a **water fluoridation policy** that "urges state health departments to consider the value of required statewide fluoridation."

**American Public Health Association (APHA)** – The APHA is the oldest, largest and most diverse organization of public health professionals in the world.

The **APHA has adopted a policy statement** that states the organization "Reiterates its strong endorsement and recommendation for the fluoridation of all community water systems as a safe and effective public health measure for the prevention of tooth decay ..."

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** – The CDC is dedicated to protecting health and promoting quality of life through programs that reduce the health and economic consequences of the leading causes of death and disability, thereby ensuring a long, productive, healthy life for all people.

The **CDC's website** states that, "The Division of Oral Health salutes the dedication and perseverance of fluoridation pioneers. Because of their efforts and continued support from generations of dentists and other health care providers, health care and public health organizations, community leaders, water plant operators, and untold others, the prevention of tooth decay through community water fluoridation is recognized by the CDC as one of 10 great achievements in public health of the 20th century. This simple, safe, and inexpensive public health intervention has contributed to a remarkable decline in tooth decay in the United States, with each generation enjoying better oral health than the previous generation."



**Hispanic Dental Association (HDA)** – The HDA is comprised of oral health professionals and students dedicated to promoting and improving the oral health of the Hispanic community and providing advocacy for Hispanic oral health professionals across the U.S.

In 2012, the organization **published a statement** that “it is the position of the HDA to endorse community water fluoridation in all communities – especially the Hispanic and underserved communities – as a safe, beneficial and cost effective public health measure based on science for preventing dental caries and to aid in the reduction of oral health disparities.

**National Dental Association (NDA)** – The NDA is a national forum for minority dentists and a leader in advancing their rights within the dental profession, the armed services, the government, and the private sector.

In an updated **Position Paper**, the NDA states that it “is committed to working with other dental organizations, government agencies, dental societies and individual dentists to encourage and facilitate the use of water fluoridation in local municipal water supplies, especially underserved areas, in an effort to impact as large a number of individuals as is possible.”

**National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)** – The mission of the NIDCR is to improve oral, dental and craniofacial health through research, research training, and the dissemination of health information.

The **NIDCR’s statement on water fluoridation** says, “The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research continues to support water fluoridation as a safe and effective method of preventing tooth decay in people of all ages. Community water fluoridation is a public health effort that benefits millions of Americans. For more than half a century, water fluoridation has helped improve the quality of life in the U.S. through reduced pain and suffering related to tooth decay, reduced tooth loss, reduced time lost from school and work, and less money spent on dental care.”

**Parent Teachers Association (PTA)** – As the largest volunteer child advocacy association in the nation, PTA provides the best tools to help their children be safe, healthy, and successful – in school and in life. In the **PTA’s position statement** concerning “Comprehensive Health Programs,” it supports fluoride in water.

**U.S. Surgeon General** – The Surgeon General of the United States is the nation’s leading spokesman on matters of public health. The last five Surgeons General have endorsed water fluoridation for all communities.

Former Surgeon General Richard H. Carmona said, “... Fluoridation is the single most effective public health measure to prevent tooth decay and improve oral health over a lifetime, for both children and adults ... Policymakers, community leaders, private industry, health professionals, the media, and the public should affirm that oral health is essential to general health and well-being and *take action* to make ourselves, our families, and our communities healthier. I join previous Surgeons General in acknowledging the continuing public health role for community water fluoridation in enhancing the oral health of all Americans.”

**World Health Organization (WHO)** – WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.

The **WHO has endorsed community water fluoridation**, stating that “Public health actions are needed to provide sufficient fluoride intake in areas where this is lacking, so as to minimize tooth decay.”