Treated Water Supply Fluoridation Support Information
Provided by NTMWD -Updated 2/27/2013 11:30 am

American Water Works Association (AWWA)

NOTE: AWWA gives the best synopsis of the current state of fluoridation review. These statements are supported by the other information included on these pages.

Source: http://www.drinktap.org/press-room/issues/fluoridation.aspx
Website Excerpt:

> *In 2000, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated that 66% of residents using community water systems, or 162 million people, had access to fluoridated tap water. That number continues to grow. North American water systems have added fluoride, a naturally occurring element, to their water supplies since 1945 to help prevent tooth decay. Since that time, child cavity rates have been reduced by 20-40% where fluoridation has been implemented.*
>
> - *The fluoridation of drinking water is endorsed by the American Dental Association, the American Medical Association, and the US Public Health Service.*
> - *The CDC proclaimed fluoridation to be one of the top ten greatest public health achievements of the past century.*
> - *As part of its "Healthy People 2010" campaign, the US Department of Health and Human Services set a goal of increasing the proportion of the American population served by community water systems with optimally fluoridated water to 75% by the year 2010.*

Source: http://www.awwa.org/legislation-regulation/regulations/chemical-contaminants/fluoride.aspx
Website Excerpt:

> *Current US guidelines and standards addressing fluoride in drinking water are undergoing review.*
>
> *In early 2011, the US Department of Health and Human Services and the US Environmental Protection Agency jointly announced steps to ensure that standards and guidelines on fluoride in drinking water provide the maximum protection to support good dental health, especially in children.*
>
> *HHS, through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, proposed that the recommended level of fluoride in drinking water be set at the lowest end of the current optimal range to prevent tooth decay, and EPA initiated review of the maximum amount of fluoride allowed in drinking water.*
>
> *HHS recommended that the optimal fluoride concentration range in water to reduce cavities and tooth decay is 0.7 mg/l, which is the lower end of the current range of from 0.7 – 1.2 mg/L.*
>
> *EPA is considering whether the current fluoride standard of 4 mg/L - set to prevent skeletal fluorosis - should be lowered to protect against severe dental fluorosis. EPA's review will be partly influenced by a 2006 National Research Council report on fluoride risks and benefits.*

AWWA has prepared a communications toolkit for municipalities on this topic. The information is too lengthy to provide in synopsis, but can be located at: http://www.awwa.org/resources-tools/public-affairs/communications-tools/public-communications-toolkit.aspx

American Dental Association

NOTE: The ADA supports the US Department of HHS determination.

Source: http://www.ada.org/5194.aspx
Document: ADA Press Release dated January 7, 2011
Website Excerpt:

> *As a science-based organization, the ADA supports the Department of Health and Human Services' recommendation to set the level for optimally fluoridated water at 0.7 parts per million. This adjustment will provide an effective level of fluoride to reduce the incidence of tooth decay while minimizing the rate of fluorosis in the general population.*
>
> *"This is a superb example of a government agency fulfilling its mission to protect and enhance the health of the American people," said ADA President Dr. Raymond F. Gist, DDS. "We have always looked to the federal health agencies to guide us on this and other public health matters, and we will continue to do so. We applaud the Department of Health and Human Services for reaffirming the safety and efficacy of optimal community water fluoridation, with science on their side."*

Center for Disease Control and Prevention

NOTE: The CDC supports the US Department of HHS and National Academy of Sciences (NRC) determinations.

Source: http://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/fact_sheets/cwf_qa.htm
Document: Community Water Fluoridation: Questions and Answers last updated October 22, 2012
Website Excerpt:

> *The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is proposing a change to the recommendation for the optimal fluoride level in drinking water to prevent tooth decay. The new recommendation, 0.7 milligrams of fluoride per liter of water, replaces the previous recommended range of 0.7 to 1.2 milligrams per liter. There are several reasons for this change, including that Americans have access to more sources of fluoride than they did when water fluoridation was first introduced in the United States. The new guidance will update and replace original recommendations provided in 1962 by the U.S. Public Health Service.*

Source: http://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/safety/nas.htm
Website Excerpt:

> *CDC considers comprehensive reviews by the NRC and other systematic scientific studies in its recommendation that community water fluoridation is a safe, effective, and inexpensive method to reduce tooth decay among populations with access to community water systems. Water fluoridation should be continued in communities currently fluoridating and extended to those without fluoridation.*

National Academy of Sciences

NOTE: The NAS report from March 2006 evaluated the standards set by EPA for maximum amounts allowed for safe drinking water standards. The report recommends that EPA take further action to fill in gaps regarding the effects of fluoride on children at the maximum levels to determine what is safe.

Source: http://dels.nas.edu/resources/static-assets/materials-based-on-reports/reports-in-brief/fluoride_brief_final.pdf
Website Excerpt:

> *After reviewing research on various health effects from exposure to fluoride, including studies conducted in the last 10 years, this report concludes that EPA's drinking water standard for fluoride—a maximum of 4 milligrams of fluoride per liter of water (4 mg/L)—does not protect against adverse health effects.*
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> *In light of the collective evidence on adverse health effects and total exposure to fluoride, the committee concludes that EPA's drinking water standard of 4 mg/L is not adequately protective of health. Lowering it will prevent children from developing severe enamel fluorosis and will reduce the lifetime accumulation of fluoride into bone that the majority of the committee concludes is likely to put individuals at increased risk of bone fracture and possibly skeletal fluorosis, which are particular concerns for those of the public who are prone to accumulating fluoride in their bones.*
>
> *From a cosmetic standpoint, EPA's standard for cosmetic effects of 2 mg/L does not completely prevent the occurrence of moderate enamel fluorosis. EPA has indicated that the standard was intended to reduce the severity and occurrence of the condition to 15% or less of the exposed population.*
>
> *Gaps in the information on fluoride prevented the committee from making some judgments about the safety or the risks of fluoride at concentrations between 2 and 4 mg/L and below. The report makes several recommendations for future research to fill those gaps, as well as recommendations to pursue lines of evidence on other potential health risk (e.g., endocrine effects and brain function).*

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

NOTE: The EPA states that adding fluoride to drinking water systems is up to the state or local municipality, not by federal mandate.

Source: http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/basicinformation/fluoride.cfm
Website Excerpt:

> *Fluoride is voluntarily added to some drinking water systems as a public health measure for reducing the incidence of cavities among the treated population. The decision to fluoridate a water supply is made by the State or local municipality, and is not mandated by EPA or any other Federal entity. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides recommendations about the optimal levels of fluoride in drinking water in order to prevent tooth decay. Information about CDC's recommendations can be found at: http://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/*

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

NOTE: Joint effort between HHS and EPA announced in January 2011 through press release in support of continued fluoridation. They are working together to maintain that a balance is kept in supporting a health benefit through fluoridation while maintaining safe levels and continuing to research possible health effects.

Source: http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/01/20110107a.html
Website Excerpt:

> *The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today are announcing important steps to ensure that standards and guidelines on fluoride in drinking water continue to provide the maximum protection to the American people to support good dental health, especially in children. HHS is proposing that the recommended level of fluoride in drinking water can be set at the lowest end of the current optimal range to prevent tooth decay, and EPA is initiating review of the maximum amount of fluoride allowed in drinking water.*
>
> *These actions will maximize the health benefits of water fluoridation, an important tool in the prevention of tooth decay while reducing the possibility of children receiving too much fluoride.*
>
> *HHS' proposed recommendation of 0.7 milligrams of fluoride per liter of water replaces the current recommended range of 0.7 to 1.2 milligrams. This updated recommendation is based on recent EPA and HHS scientific assessments to balance the benefits of preventing tooth decay while limiting any unwanted health effects. These scientific assessments will also guide EPA in making a determination of whether to lower the maximum amount of fluoride allowed in drinking water, which is set to prevent adverse health effects.*

Safe Drinking Water Act

NOTE: This section from the EPA website on SDWA.

Source: http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/index.cfm
Website Excerpt:

> *SDWA authorizes the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) to set national health-based standards for drinking water to protect against both naturally-occurring and man-made contaminants that may be found in drinking water. US EPA, states, and water systems then work together to make sure that these standards are met.*

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

NOTE: The TCEQ website has a statement taken from AWWA about fluoride, but a statement for/against could not be located. TCEQ supports that based on the AWWA information, addition of fluoride is a benefit and safe.

Source: http://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/chemicals/secondary/fluoride.html
Website Excerpt:

> *Q: Is the fluoride in my drinking water safe?*
> *A: Yes. When added or naturally present in the correct amounts, fluoride in drinking water has greatly improved the dental health of American and Canadian consumers.*

Texas Department of Health Services

NOTE: TDH supports fluoridation of water. They provide a link to the cost benefit study related to fluoridation and dental care.

Source: http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/index.cfm
Website Excerpt:

> *Fluoride helps prevent tooth decay. Community water fluoridation benefits everyone and has been identified as one of the top 10 public health achievements of the 20th century.*

Study Source: http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/dental/pdf/flstudy.pdf
Website Excerpt:

> *Approximately 10% of the Texas population presently benefits from natural or adjusted water fluoridation – all age, income, ethnic and racial groups benefit without regard to educational attainment or opportunity.*
>
> *Recommendations – The Texas Legislature should facilitate, when economically feasible, fluoridation for communities with a less than optimal public water fluoridation level. In addition, it is recommended that all fluoridated water systems be required to conduct routine monitoring and reporting of fluoride levels.*

U.S. Surgeon General National Prevention Strategy

NOTE: The strategy listed supports that dollars spent on fluoridation save 40 times in dental treatment costs.

Source: http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/initiatives/prevention/strategy/preventive-services.pdf
Website Excerpt:

> *More than 80 million people in the U.S. do not have access to fluoridated water. Water fluoridation reduces tooth decay by 25 percent in children and adults, and every dollar spent on fluoridation saves more than $40 in dental treatment costs.*

Removal Option at Tap

San Antonio Water System (SAWS)
Source: http://www.saws.org/Your_Water/fluoride/
Website Excerpt:

> *If I don't want fluoride in my water, how can I remove it?*
>
> *Customers can purchase reverse osmosis filtration systems that can remove fluoride from the water. Reverse osmosis is a very high level of filtration that removes up to 98% of dissolved minerals — including chlorine and fluoride — as well as virtually 100% of colloidal and suspended matter. Reverse osmosis filters are available in under-sink models.*