

STATEMENTS FROM SIX LEADING HEALTH AUTHORITIES REGARDING COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION

American Dental Association (ADA)

"The Association endorses community water fluoridation as a safe, beneficial and cost-effective public health measure for preventing dental caries. This support has been the Association's policy since 1950."

—ADA Operational Policies and Recommendations Regarding Community Water Fluoridation (Trans.1997:673).

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

"During the 20th century, the health and life expectancy of persons residing in the United States improved dramatically. To highlight these advances, MMWR will profile 10 public health achievements in a series of reports published through December 1999 (Fluoridation of drinking water was chosen as one of these achievements and profiled in the October 22, 1999 MMWR). Fluoridation safely and inexpensively benefits both children and adults by effectively preventing tooth decay, regardless of socioeconomic status or access to care. Fluoridation has played an important role in the reductions in tooth decay (40%-70% in children) and of tooth loss in adults (40%-60%)."

—CDC, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. "Ten Great Public Health Achievements—United States 1900-1999" April 1999.

American Medical Association (AMA)

"The AMA recognizes the important public health benefits of drinking properly fluoridated water and encourages its member physicians and medical societies to work with local and state health departments, dental societies, and concerned citizens to assure the optimal fluoridation of community drinking water supplies."

—AMA Letter to the American Dental Association, March 10, 1995.

U.S. Surgeon General

"A significant advantage of water fluoridation is that all residents of a community can enjoy its protective benefit — at home, work, school or play — simply by drinking fluoridated water or beverages and foods prepared with it...Water fluoridation is a powerful strategy in our efforts to eliminate differences in health among people and is consistent with my emphasis on the importance of prevention...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.

While we can be pleased with what has already been accomplished, it is clear that there is much yet to be done. 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."

-- Surgeon General Richard H. Carmona, Statement on Community Water Fluoridation, July 28, 2004.

National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)

"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."

—NIDCR: Statement on Water Fluoridation, June 2000.

World Health Organization (WHO)

"Most recently, efforts have been made to summarize the extensive database (on fluorides) through systematic reviews. Such reviews conclude that water fluoridation and use of fluoride toothpastes and mouthrinses significantly reduce the prevalence of dental caries....Water fluoridation, where technically feasible and culturally acceptable, has substantial advantages in public health..."

—WHO Effective use of fluorides for the prevention of dental caries in the 21st century; the WHO approach." Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology 2004;32:319-21



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Office of the Surgeon General
Rockville MD 20857

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SURGEON GENERAL STATEMENT ON COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION

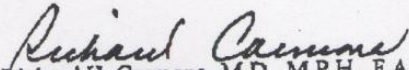
As noted in *Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General*, community water fluoridation continues to be the most cost-effective, equitable and safe means to provide protection from tooth decay in a community. Scientific studies have found that people living in communities with fluoridated 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.

Over 170 million people, or 67 percent of the United States population served by public water supplies, drink water with optimal fluoride levels for preventing decay. Of the 50 largest cities in the country, 43 are fluoridated. Although water fluoridation reaches some residents in every state, unfortunately, only 24 states are providing these benefits to 75% or more of their residents.

A significant advantage of water fluoridation is that all residents of a community can enjoy its protective benefit—at home, work, school or play— simply by drinking fluoridated water or beverages and foods prepared with it. A person's income level or ability to receive routine dental care is not a barrier to receiving fluoridation's health benefits. Water fluoridation is a powerful strategy in our efforts to eliminate differences in health among people and is consistent with my emphasis on the importance of prevention.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recognized the fluoridation of drinking water as one of ten great public health achievements of the twentieth century. Water fluoridation has helped improve the quality of life in the United States by reducing pain and suffering related to tooth decay, time lost from school and work, and money spent to restore, remove, or replace decayed teeth. An economic analysis has determined that in most communities, every \$1 invested in fluoridation saves \$38 or more in treatment costs. 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.

While we can be pleased with what has already been accomplished, it is clear that there is much yet to be done. 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.


Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.S.
VADM, USPHS
United States Surgeon General

Partial list of national and international organizations that endorse or support fluoridation of drinking water for preventive dental health:

American Hospital Association
American Medical Association
American Psychiatric Association
Florida Medical Association
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of Dental Research
American Association of Dental Schools
American Association of Public Health Dentistry
American College of Dentists
American Dental Association
American Dental Hygienists Association
Florida Dental Association
Federation of Dentaire International
National Institute of Dental Research
State and Territorial Dental Directors Association
American Water Works Association
Conference of State Sanitary Engineers
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Pharmaceutical Association
American Public Health Association
American Public Welfare Association
American School Health Association
National Cancer Institute
National Research Council
State Territorial Health Officer Association
Department of Defense
U.S. Public Health Service
World Health Organization
Florida Public Health Association
Florida Department of Health

State of Florida Department of Health
Department of Health
Public Health Dental Program
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Charlie Crist
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Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

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POLICY STATEMENT ON COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION

The Florida Department of Health is strongly committed to the fluoridation of community water systems. Fluoridation began nationally over sixty years ago and the Florida State Board of Health officially endorsed fluoridation in 1949. Strong support and active promotion of the measure as a safe, economical and effective means of reducing tooth decay has continued. Today, fluoridation is still the most cost-effective way to prevent dental cavities. It is an ideal public health measure where everyone benefits, whether rich or poor, no matter the age, without requiring any conscious effort of the individual.

Beginning in Gainesville in 1949, Florida cities have embraced the concept of fluoridation for their citizens. At present, approximately 12.9 million people are benefiting from fluoridation in Florida. Nationally, over 170 million people benefit from water containing fluoride at the recommended level for controlling dental decay.

National surveys of oral health dating back several decades document the continued benefit of fluoride in decreasing tooth decay in children and adults. It is doubtful that any other public health procedure has undergone more research, epidemiological study and intense public scrutiny than water fluoridation. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 1999 recognized fluoridation as one of the ten great public health achievements of the twentieth century. In the last few years, systematic reviews of community water fluoridation studies through the *Surgeon's General's Report on Oral Health*, CDC's *Recommendations for Using Fluoride to Prevent and Control Dental Caries in the United States*, and the *Oral Health Report* issued by the Task Force on Community Preventive Services have all reinforced the safety and efficacy of fluoridation in preventing dental decay in both children and adults.

Along with the overwhelming majority of the world's health care organizations and leaders within the scientific community, the Florida Department of Health firmly supports and continues to recommend water fluoridation as the most economical and effective means to control the major public health problem of dental caries.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ana M. Viamonte Ros".

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General