

Position Statements

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Position Statement of the [State/County] Public Health Association

Title: Supporting Evidence-Based Community Water Fluoridation for Stronger Community Oral Health

Preamble:

Whereas good oral health is foundational to overall health, quality of life, and economic well-being; and
Whereas tooth decay remains one of the most common chronic diseases, disproportionately affecting children, older adults, and economically disadvantaged populations; and
Whereas community water fluoridation (CWF) is a scientifically proven, safe, and cost-effective public health intervention supported by leading institutions such as the AAP, ADA, and WHO;

Position:

The [State/County] Public Health Association **strongly supports** the use of community water fluoridation as a core preventive health strategy. We believe that CWF:

1. Reduces dental decay across all age groups, including vulnerable populations.
2. Improves oral health for everyone by providing preventive oral care regardless of income, access to dental services, or geography.
3. Lowers long-term health care and dental treatment costs.
4. Is safe at recommended fluoride levels and consistent with evidence-based guidelines.

Call to Action:

We urge local and state policymakers, utility managers, health agencies, and community stakeholders to:

- Maintain and expand fluoridation programs where feasible;
- Resist efforts to discontinue CWF absent compelling, peer-reviewed evidence;
- Support public education campaigns to raise awareness of fluoride's benefits;
- Promote transparency and community engagement in water system decisions.

Adopted: [Date]

Review Cycle: Every five years or as new evidence emerges

Position Statements

Position Statement of the [Dental Association / Dental Public Health Society]

Title: Advancing Oral Health Through Safe and Equitable Water Fluoridation

Introduction:

Oral health is integral to overall well-being, but tooth decay continues to impose a significant burden on individuals and communities. As professionals committed to evidence-based dental practice and population health, we recognize the value of preventive interventions.

Core Beliefs:

- Community water fluoridation is a foundational public health measure with decades of demonstrable benefit.
- Fluoride delivered through community water distribution is a universal, low-cost method to reduce dental decay.
- Ensuring equitable access to fluoride in water supports underserved and marginalized populations who may lack consistent access to dental care.

Official Stance:

The [Dental Association / Society] affirms that:

- CWF at recommended concentrations is safe, effective, and endorsed by national and international health organizations.
- Discontinuation of fluoridation without rigorous scientific justification undermines public health goals.
- Dental professionals should advocate for fluoridation, engage in community education, and support policies that preserve this public measure.

Recommendations for Stakeholders:

- Encourage collaboration between health departments, water utilities, and elected officials to sustain fluoridation programs.
- Assist in developing educational materials to inform the public about fluoridation's safety and benefits.
- Monitor local water fluoride levels and support quality assurance practices.

Approved by Board: [Date]

Review Date: [Date]

Position Statements

Position Statement of a Community Health Coalition / Nonprofit Organization

Title: Ensuring Healthy Smiles — A Community Commitment to Water Fluoridation

Context:

Access to preventive dental care is not equal. Many families face barriers like cost, transportation, or provider shortages. Community water fluoridation provides a baseline level of oral health protection for everyone.

Principles:

- All members of a community deserve access to preventive health measures, regardless of socioeconomic status.
- Evidence-based public health strategies should be the foundation for local health policy.
- Clear, transparent communication and community trust are essential for effective public health implementation.

Statement:

The [Coalition / Organization] supports the preservation and expansion of community water fluoridation as a practical, effective, and equitable means of improving oral health outcomes. We commit to:

- Educating community members about the benefits and safety of fluoridation.
- Advocating for policies that sustain fluoridation in local water systems.
- Partnering with health departments, schools, and community groups to amplify awareness.
- Listening to community concerns and promoting respectful dialogue grounded in evidence.

Call for Action:

We call on local officials, water authorities, and health departments to uphold community water fluoridation, prioritize public health in decision-making, and ensure that any policy changes are guided by rigorous scientific input and broad stakeholder engagement.

Endorsed by Coalition Members: [Date]