

Wisconsin Public Health Association

2014 RESOLUTION

Promoting, Educating and Supporting Community Water Fluoridation at Optimum Levels for Wisconsin's Public Water Supplies

WHEREAS, dental caries is one of the most prevalent health problems in Wisconsin with 55 percent of 7-10 year old children having experienced dental decay; and

WHEREAS, extensive scientific evidence over the past half-century has established and consistently reaffirmed that fluoridation of community water supplies is the safest and the most cost-effective community-based method of preventing dental caries, regardless of socio-economic status; and

WHEREAS, increasing numbers of older adults today are retaining more of their teeth for longer periods of time and, therefore, are at risk of experiencing dental decay throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, the entire dentate population, including adults and older adults, receives substantial oral health benefits from fluoridation; and

WHEREAS, certain groups, e.g., those of lower socioeconomic status and underserved groups, are disproportionately affected by dental diseases while having less access to clinical prevention and treatment services; and

WHEREAS, dental caries experience has increased in communities in which fluoridation was discontinued; and

WHEREAS, community water fluoridation is a significant cost containment measure available for dental caries prevention in communities throughout Wisconsin, costing an average of approximately 50 cents per person per year while reducing the need for expensive treatment; and

WHEREAS, extensive scientific evidence supports the continued desirability of introducing and/or maintaining fluoridation in community water supplies; and

WHEREAS, fluoridation is endorsed by virtually every major national and international organization concerned with health and safety, such as the US Public Health Service and its associated agencies, including the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control, the American Association of Public Health Dentistry, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, the American Public Health Association, the American Water Works Association, the American Dental Association, the American Dental Hygienists' Association, the American Medical Association, the International Association for Dental Research, the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, The American Association for Community Dental Programs, and the World Health Organization; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE WISCONSIN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION:

1. Supports the continuation and expansion of community water fluoridation; and
2. Encourages its members and constituents to be well informed about and to continue to support optimal fluoridation, and to help develop regional and local coalitions in support of fluoridation; and
3. Commends communities and states that are providing access to optimal levels of fluoride in the drinking water and encourages them to continue to fluoridate and to monitor the process, and participate in state monitoring activities; and
4. Calls upon oral health and public health organizations and institutions to provide leadership in educating public officials, policy makers, and the general public about the need to implement and/or maintain optimal community water fluoridation; and

STATEMENT OF NEED

There is no cost with this measure to WPHA. Communities that discontinue the use of community water fluoridation or that never initiate it may see increased dental disease rates in their communities. For every \$1 invested in community water fluoridation approximately \$38 in preventable dental treatment is saved.

Approved at the WPHA Annual Business Meeting on May 13, 2014.

Bibliography

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3. American Public Health Association. Healthy communities 2000—model standards, guidelines for community attainment of the year 2000 national health objectives. 3rd ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 1991.
4. Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services. Make Your Smile Count Survey, 2008.
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention “Cost Savings of Community Water Fluoridation” accessed March 20, 2013. http://cdc.gov/fluoridation/fact_sheets/cost.htm