

Community water fluoridation is a safe, effective, and equitable way to improve oral health.



Community water fluoridation is a time-tested and evidence-based public health intervention.

- Communities fluoridate their water because it bathes teeth with a [low level of fluoride](#) throughout the day. This helps strengthen a tooth's surface, making it more resistant to decay.
- Adding fluoride to public water [began in 1945](#) and was adopted throughout the country after seeing the dramatic reduction of tooth decay among children.
- More than 209 million people in the U.S. and 98.8% of people in Dane County on a public water system had access to fluoridated water ([as of 2022](#)).
- For every \$1 invested in community water fluoridation, [communities save \\$20](#) in healthcare costs.



Community water fluoridation equitably protects our oral health.

- Community water fluoridation [equitably prevents cavities](#) and promotes good oral health, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, education, income, insurance status, or access to dental care.
- According to the CDC, 1 in 4 children living below the federal poverty level have [untreated tooth decay](#), which can lead to pain, school absences, difficulty concentrating, among other issues.
- Water fluoridation is an easy way to prevent this tooth decay, particularly among children who may not be able to see a dentist.



Nearly all public health, dental, and medical organizations support community water fluoridation, including:

- [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
- [American Dental Association](#)
- [CDC](#)
- [U.S. Public Health Service](#)
- [American Public Health Association](#)
- [National Institutes of Health](#)
- [Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)



There is no evidence the current recommended level of community water fluoridation harms health.

- The amount of fluoride added to the community water supply is extremely small.
- The levels discussed in recent reports and litigation are more than double the current levels used in community water fluoridation.
- Organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics and American Dental Association have written statements in 2024 that continue to support community water fluoridation.
- There may be funds from the state health department to support small water utilities that need help with infrastructure and storage costs.
- Your local health department will continue to monitor national recommendations for changes and stay up to date on recent research.