



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH  
LANSING

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## Michigan Community Water Fluoridation Position Statement 2015

The Michigan Department of Community Health stands firm in its commitment for community water fluoridation as a safe, effective and efficient public health measure to reduce dental decay in our population. Fluoridation of public water supplies in the United States began close to 70 years ago in our own Grand Rapids, Michigan. Currently, over seven million Michigan residents have access to community water fluoridation to improve oral health.

Community water fluoridation is given strong support and active promotion by over 100 prominent, credible health agencies including the World Health Organization, The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The American Public Health Association, The American Dental Association and The American Association of Pediatricians.

Fluoridation is still the most cost effective and efficient way to help prevent dental decay. It is an ideal public health practice that benefits all races, all ages, and all socio-economic levels. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recognized fluoridation of drinking water "as one of the ten great public health achievements of the 21<sup>st</sup> century." Fluoridation is especially beneficial to the citizens of Michigan who find it difficult to access health care such as children, persons with disabilities, the aging population or those without health or dental insurance.

The safety of community water fluoridation has been researched extensively since its inception in 1945. Scientific systematic reviews continue to demonstrate the safety and effectiveness of fluoridation. Both the Environmental Protection Act and the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act set standards for the proper amount of fluoride that is added to our water supplies.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the Michigan Department of Community Health, Oral Health Unit, monitor monthly fluoride levels for each community water system in Michigan. At the recommended fluoride levels for optimal oral health, there are no adverse health effects.

The Michigan Department of Community Health supports community water fluoridation as a safe, effective, and efficient public health measure to reduce dental decay for its citizens.

Nick Lyon, Director

Date