



Position Statement on Water Fluoridation

February 2023


The Scott County Board of Health is strongly committed to the fluoridation of community water systems. Community water fluoridation has been extensively studied for more than 70 years and has been proven to be safe and effective in preventing dental cavities. Water fluoridation improves oral health for people of all ages, income levels, and racial and ethnic backgrounds. Fluoride in community water systems prevents at least 25 percent of tooth decay in children and adults. Children who do not drink fluoridated water have a 32% higher rate of decay or missing teeth.

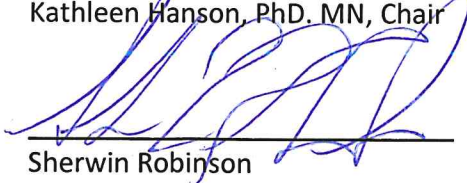
Today, fluoridation is still the most cost-effective way to prevent dental caries. The average lifetime cost per person to fluoridate a water supply is less than the cost of one dental filling, and in most cities, \$1 invested in water fluoridation saves \$38 in dental treatment costs.

In Scott County, the rate of emergency department utilization for oral health problems is higher than the state rate, and in Iowa, approximately one third of the population has not visited the dentist or dental clinic in the past year. Today more than 76 million Americans lack dental insurance. Community Water fluoridation offers an early, inexpensive preventive strategy that benefits all that simply turn on their tap.

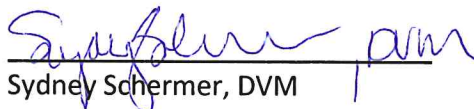
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recognized fluoridation as one of the ten great public health achievements of the twentieth century. In recent years, systematic reviews of community water fluoridation studies through the Surgeon General’s Report on Oral Health in America, CDC’s Recommendations 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.


The Scott County Board of Health firmly supports and continues to encourage water fluoridation at concentrations recommended by the Centers for disease Control and Prevention as the most economical and effective means to control the major public health problem of dental caries.


 Kathleen Hanson, PhD. MN, Chair


 Sherwin Robinson


 Ann O'Donnell, DO, Vice-Chair


 Sydney Schermer, DVM


 Michael Franzman, DDS



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Department of Health and Human Services, *Statement on the Evidence Supporting the Safety and Effectiveness of Community Water Fluoridation*:

<https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/pdf/Scientific-Statement-on-Community-Water-Fluoridation-h.pdf>

Water Research Foundation, *State of the Science: Community Water Fluoridation*:

<https://www.waterrf.org/resource/state-science-community-water-fluoridation-0>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Water Fluoridation Basics*:

<https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/basics/index.htm>

American Academy of Pediatrics, *Campaign for Dental Health-Fluoride Safety-A Guide for Health Professionals*:

<https://ilikemyteeth.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/FluorideSafetyforHealthProfessionals.pdf>

American Dental Association, *mouthhealthy™*: <https://www.mouthhealthy.org/all-topics-a-z/fluoridation/>

Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal, *Oral Health ED Visits Data*:

<https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/Health/Oral-Health/Oral-Health-ED-Visits>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Population Health, *Chronic Disease Indicators-Oral Health*:

https://nccd.cdc.gov/cdi/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=DPH_CDI.ExploreByLocation&rdRequestForwarding=Form

CareQuest Institute for Oral Health, *A Snapshot of the 76.5 Million Americans Without Dental Insurance*:

<https://www.carequest.org/resource-library/snapshot-765-million-americans-without-dental-insurance>

American Academy of Pediatrics, *Campaign for Dental Health-Common Questions About Fluoride*:

<https://ilikemyteeth.org/debate-fluoridation/fluoride-questions/>