

Community Water Fluoridation

- Fluoride, a mineral found naturally in drinking water, helps prevent tooth decay or cavities.
- Community water fluoridation is the process of adjusting the fluoride level in water to the amount that protects teeth.

History:

- Starting in the 1930's, the relationship between fluoridated water and tooth decay was studied.
- It was discovered that children drinking fluoridated water had less tooth decay.
- Now, community water fluoridation has been around for 80 years in the United States.

Benefits:

- Strengthens the tooth's surface
- Prevents new cavities
- Lowers the need for fillings
- Results in less tooth loss
- Protects everyone in the community



For more information on community water fluoridation, please visit the Wisconsin Oral Health Program's website: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/oral-health/community-water-fluoridation-fluoride.htm

All fluoride sources work together.

- Fluoridated water and over the counter fluoride products, like toothpaste, work in different ways.
- Teeth are protected best when using both fluoride products and fluoridated water.



Wisconsin's tooth decay:

- The risk is highest for children and older adults.
- 1 in 4 third graders have untreated tooth decay and need treatment.¹
- 1 in 2 older adults in nursing homes have untreated tooth decay.²

For more information, visit the Wisconsin Oral Health Program's data webpage: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/oral-health/reports.htm

1. Capriola, S. (2024). *Wisconsin Healthy Smiles Survey: Kindergarten and Third-Grade Children* [Infographic]. Wisconsin Oral Health Program, Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Publication number P-00589A.
2. Olson, M. A. (2018). *Wisconsin Healthy Smiles Survey: The Oral Health of Wisconsin's Older Adults* [Infographic]. Wisconsin Oral Health Program, Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Publication number P-01121A.

