

From: [Chris Wood](#)
To: [Water Utility Board](#)
Cc: [Chris Farrell](#)
Subject: LOS for Community Water Fluoridation - Madison Water Utility Board
Date: Friday, August 21, 2020 8:02:47 PM
Attachments: [ASTDD LOS for CWF Madison Water Utility Board.pdf](#)

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August 21, 2020

Madison Water Utility Board
119 East Olin Avenue
Madison, WI 53713

Dear Chairman McLinn,

On behalf of the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD), I am writing this letter to ask the Madison Water Utility Board you for your support for community water fluoridation in Madison, WI. ASTDD's official policy is that we fully support and endorse community water fluoridation in all public water systems throughout the United States. Community water fluoridation has been demonstrated to be safe, cost-effective and beneficial through every stage of life and for all people, regardless of age, race, ethnicity or socioeconomic status.

Dental caries (tooth decay) is a chronic infectious disease that can begin in early infancy and that, by the time children reach adulthood, will affect over 92 percent of the U.S. adult population.¹ In addition, dental caries particularly affects low-income and socially-marginalized populations.^{2, 3} Children from families with low incomes had nearly 12 times as many restricted-activity days (e.g., days of missed school) because of dental problems as did children from families with higher incomes.⁴

Scientific studies have confirmed the association between optimal levels of fluoride in water supplies, improved dental health and absence of any negative health impacts. As such, community water fluoridation has been the cornerstone of caries prevention in the United States.⁵ The CDC has recognized water fluoridation as one of ten great public health achievements of the twentieth century.⁶

In light of the above, I urge the Madison Water Utility Board to support the fluoridation of community water supplies in Madison, WI. Support for community water fluoridation is a major achievement that will positively impact the health of your constituents.

Sincerely,



Christine Farrell, RDH, BSDH, MPA
President, ASTDD

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Sources:

¹ Dye BA, Tan S, Smith V, et al. Trends in oral health status: United States, 1988-1994 and 1999-2004. *Vital Health Stat 11*. April 2007;(248):1-92.

² Fisher-Owens SA, Gansky SA, Platt LJ, Weintraub JA, Soobader MJ, Bramlett MD, Newacheck PW. [Influences on children's oral health: a conceptual model. *Pediatrics*. 2007;120\(3\):e510-520.](#)

³ Petersen PE. [The World Oral Health Report 2003: continuous improvement of oral health in the 21st century – the approach of the WHO Global Oral Health Programme.](#) *Community Dent Oral Epidemiol*. 2003;31(s1):3-24.

⁴ Adams PF, Marano MA. 1995. *Current estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, 1994* (Vital and Health Statistics: Series 10, Data from the National Health Survey; no. 193). Hyattsville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Health Statistics.

⁵ Pollick HF. Water fluoridation and the environment: current perspective in the United States. *Int. J Occup Environ Health*. 2004;10:343-350.

⁶ Ten Great Public Health Achievements—United States, 1900-1999. *MMWR*. December 24, 1999;48(50):1141.



ASTDD [Associate Membership](#) is open to anyone interested in dental public health.

Christine Wood
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President, ASTDD

ASTDD is an affiliate of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

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