



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health

Pat McCrory  
Governor

Aldona Z. Wos, M.D.  
Ambassador (Ret.)  
Secretary DHHS

Robin G. Cummings, M.D.  
Acting State Health Director

Community Fluoridation  
Position Statement from the Office of the State Health Director  
October 2013

For more than 65 years, the safety of community water fluoridation has been studied more thoroughly than any other public health measure, and repeatedly confirmed as being both safe and the most cost effective preventive measure that can be taken to reduce tooth decay in people of all ages. A broad range of dental and non-dental health organizations (see <http://www.ilikemyteeth.org/fluoridation/health-medical-authorities/>), including the Division of Public Health, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, support fluoridation. North Carolina has supported the fluoridation of drinking water supplies for over sixty years – Charlotte fluoridated its water supply in 1949, and at that time was the largest water system in the world to adjust its fluoride level to the recommended optimal level. North Carolina has continued to be a leader in this area and the latest figures shows that, of those North Carolinians who receive their water from a community water system, 87 percent receive the benefits of fluoridated water. As the size of the population receiving fluoridated water has grown, our statewide dental surveys have documented dramatic improvements in the dental health of our citizens.

You may obtain more information at the following internet addresses:

- The Campaign for Dental Health: <http://www.ilikemyteeth.org/fluoridation/>
- The Center for Fluoride Research Analysis: <http://www.fluoridescience.org/>
- The American Dental Association page on fluoridation: <http://www.ada.org/fluoride.aspx>
- The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <http://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/>
- Oral Health in America, A Report of the Surgeon General:  
<http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/DataStatistics/SurgeonGeneral/sgr/>
- N.C Oral Health Section web page: <http://www.oralhealth.ncdhhs.gov>

Staff in the N.C Division of Public Health, Oral Health Section, routinely monitor the literature to remain current on fluoridation issues. For additional information, please contact Dr. Kevin Buchholtz, Acting Section Chief, N.C. Division of Public Health, Oral Health Section at 919-707-5487 or [Kevin.Buchholtz@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Kevin.Buchholtz@dhhs.nc.gov).

Sincerely,

Robin Gary Cummings, M.D.  
Acting State Health Director

[www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov) • [www.publichealth.nc.gov](http://www.publichealth.nc.gov)  
Tel 919-707-5000 • Fax 919-870-4829

Location: 5605 Six Forks Road • Raleigh, NC 27609  
Mailing Address: 1931 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-1931  
An Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer

