



**Public Health**  
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Jones County, Iowa

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### *Position Statement on Community Water Fluoridation*

The Jones County Board of Health has reviewed and discussed the relevant evidence, and supports fluoridation of community water supplies as a safe and effective method to help prevent tooth decay. It is the Board's conclusion the science supports the current practice of community water fluoridation as sound public health policy, which protects and preserves the health of citizens. While the research and scientific evidence is extensive, the reasons for the Board's statement may be summarized in the following areas:

1. Community water fluoridation is one of the most practical, cost-effective, equitable, and safe measures communities can take to prevent tooth decay and improve oral health.
2. The safety and benefits of fluoride are well-documented and have been comprehensively reviewed by several scientific and public health organizations.
3. Community water fluoridation continues to offer substantial protection against tooth decay beyond that provided by other fluoride products.
4. Community water fluoridation has been shown to save money for both families and the health system by preventing tooth decay.

Community water fluoridation began nationally over seventy years ago. Today, fluoridation is still the most cost-effective way to prevent dental caries. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates every \$1 invested in fluoridation yields approximately \$38 savings in dental treatment costs. It is an ideal public health measure where everyone benefits, whether rich or poor, no matter the age, without requiring any conscious effort of the individual. Because of its contribution to the dramatic decline in tooth decay in the United States, the CDC named community water fluoridation one of the ten great public health achievements of the twentieth century. National surveys of oral health dating back several decades document the continued benefit of fluoride in decreasing tooth decay in children and adults. It is doubtful any other public health measure has undergone more research, epidemiological study, and intense public scrutiny than water fluoridation. 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 Preventative Services have all reinforced the safety and efficacy of fluoridation in preventing dental decay in both children and adults.

Along with the overwhelming majority of the world's health care organizations and leaders within the scientific community, the Jones County Board of Health firmly supports and continues to encourage community 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.

Adopted: August 11, 2016