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The American Association for Community Dental Programs (AACDP) supports community water fluoridation as the most cost effective preventive measure for dealing with one of the most common diseases in our country, tooth decay. Fluoridation is safe, effective, and economical with over 194 million Americans receiving its health and economic benefits.

AACDP is concerned about the increase in fluorosis in our country, however as this increase occurs in both fluoridated and non-fluoridated communities, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) needs to examine the major causes of the increase in fluorosis and not just attribute it to community water fluoridation. Studies need to be done to determine the causes of increased fluorosis, which according to a number of peer-reviewed studies may be related to improper fluoride toothpaste ingestion by young children, inappropriate fluoride prescriptions, and use of dry infant formulas in fluoridated communities.

To address the trend of increased dental fluorosis in children in United States, DHHS has recommended setting the optimal fluoride in drinking water at a standard of 0.7 ppm. AACDP is not in complete agreement with the proposed guideline of 0.7 ppm.

- The NHANES 1999-2004 survey did not collect residence history and water fluoridation status of the participants.
- There are over 130 million Americans who do not live in fluoridated communities and it is not known what percentage of these participants were in the NHANES survey.
- If water consumption is the same in high vs. low temperature regions of the country, the level of fluorosis would continue to be the same in the high temperature regions of the country that are now fluoridated at 0.7 ppm, the new standard.

Needless to say, DHHS needs to promote and support better studies on fluoridation and fluorosis, and develop initiatives and guidelines to lessen the inappropriate use of fluorides in infants and young children. The lack of evidence to relate fluoride in water supply alone with the increased fluorosis trend necessitates it.

AACDP is a national professional organization comprised of individuals who work in dental programs in city and county health departments and community-based dental programs. Our primary goal is to promote and protect the oral health of the residents of our communities. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Myron Allukian Jr., D.D.S., M.P.H., President

American Association for Community Dental Programs

Chairman, U.S. Surgeon General's Work Group on Fluoridation and Dental Health for the 1990

National Objectives on Prevention

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