

Water System Fluoride Update

City Council Workshop
December 2, 2024

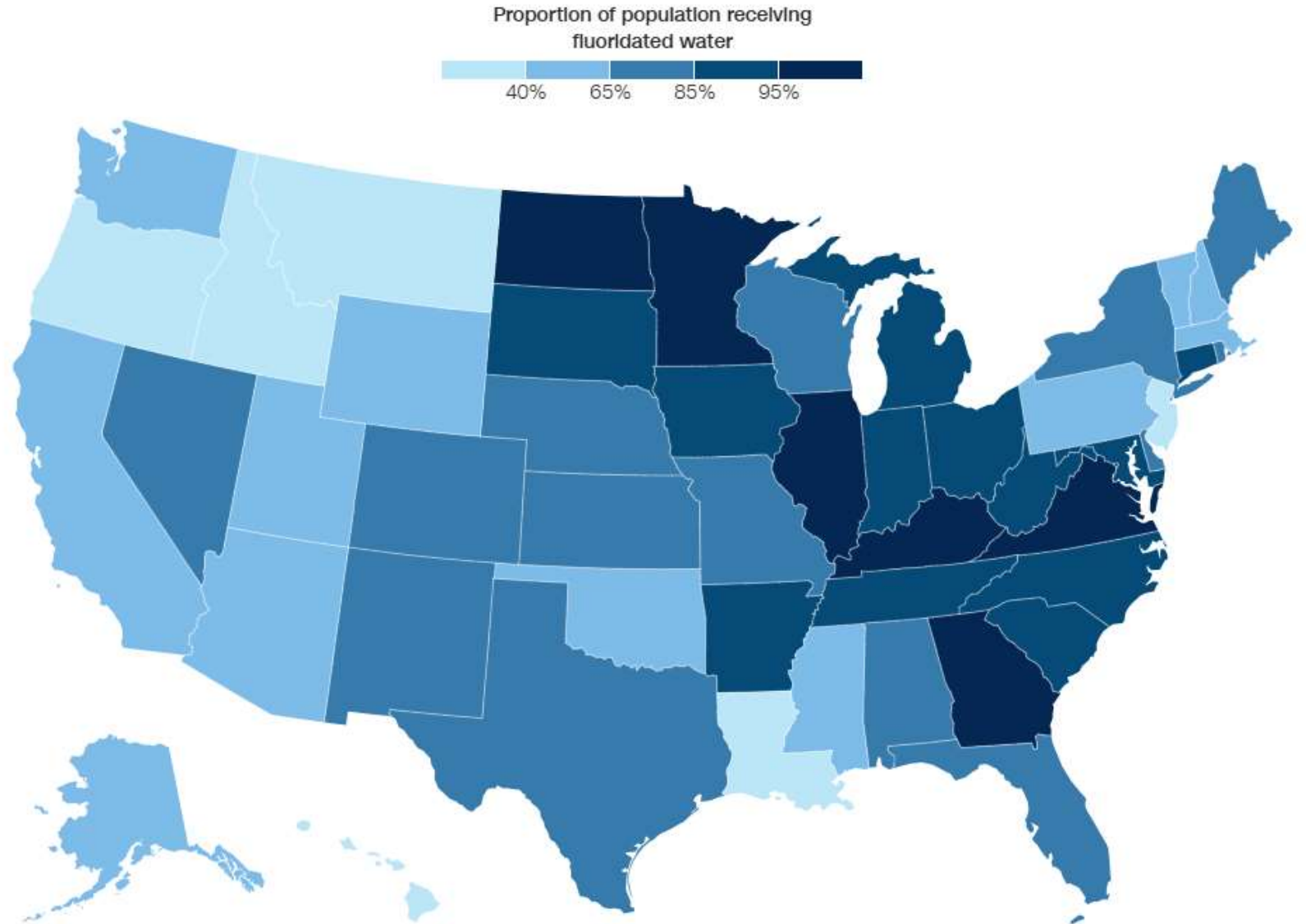
Fluoride History

- First addition of Fluoride in U.S. – 1945, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- 72.7% of United States population receiving fluoride in water as of 2020 (Centers for Disease Control)
- Camas - Fluoride implemented in 1966 (past Employee knowledge)
- Camas Municipal Code 13.16.020
 - “...authorized and directed to add a source of fluoridation to the public water supply...in accordance with laws of the State...”
- Camas one of approximately 50 purveyors in the State
 - Vancouver and Battle Ground included

Fluoride Use in United States Drinking Water

Most Americans have access to fluoridated water

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's latest estimates show that 72% of the US population are receiving fluoridated water through their water systems.



Note: Data as of Dec. 31, 2022.

Source: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Graphic: Soph Warnes, CNN

Fluoride History, cont.

- Topic has been very controversial – “dividing communities...”
 - Communities representing over 4.0 mil people banned since 2010 (including Portland area)
 - Calgary (1.2 mil population) reintroducing after stopping in 2011
- “For”
 - Dental health benefits
 - Cost of addition far less than cost of dental needs
 - August 2023 Statement on Community Water Fluoridation by DOH Chief Science Officer
 - Statements by CDC and Surgeon General
- “Against”
 - Toxic chemical with neurotoxic effects at low concentrations
 - Violates individual freedoms
 - Fluoride naturally occurring in water
- President-Elect’s Administration...

- [Community Water Fluoridation is Effective at Preventing Cavities](#)

(Press Release)



HEALTH AND WELLNESS | By Mimi Hicks | November 22, 2024

AMERICAN COMMUNITIES ARE PUSHING BACK ON USING FLUORIDE IN PUBLIC DRINKING WATER

A battle is brewing across towns in America over whether or not to continue using fluoride in the water.

Does fluoride in drinking water lower IQ? Question looms large in court battle

Experts clash over report suggesting fluoride can affect brain development

2 FEB 2024 • 4:00 PM ET • BY ERIK STOKSTAD

- [Research review contends fluoride in water is less effective than in 1970s](#) (ADA News Article)



HARVARD PUBLIC HEALTH

MAGAZINE OF THE HARVARD T.H. CHAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Is Fluoridated Drinking Water Safe?

Countries that do not fluoridate their water have also seen big drops in the rate of cavities.

- Community water fluoridation benefits all members of a community by preventing cavities, reducing oral health disparities, and saving money for everyone.

Requirements for Camas

- Washington State Dept. of Health and EPA
 - “Community Choice” - Not Required to add, but if we do...
- Camas meets requirements for sampling, monitoring, and notification
- WAC 246-290-460
 - “Optimal fluoride concentration is 0.7 mg/l”
 - Operating tolerance between 0.5 to 0.9 mg/l
 - Collect routine monitoring samples each business day downstream from each injection point
 - Submit monthly monitoring reports to DOH



Water System Operations Context

- Add Fluoride generally at all City-owned Wells and at WTP
- Buy in bulk from local supplier
 - Sodium Fluoride
 - 50 lb Bag in powder form
 - Imported product from over seas
 - Mix in small tank
 - Metered injection into system
- Product Cost = \$30k+/- per year
- Employee Costs - \$5-10k/year (estimate)

Federal Court Case

- 7-year legal battle in California Federal Court
 - Fluoride Action Network (FAN) vs. EPA
 - September 2024 Ruling
- District Court Judge Edward Chen ruling:
 - ruling "does not conclude with certainty that fluoridated water is injurious to public health..."
 - "...there is substantial and scientifically credible evidence establishing that fluoride poses a risk to human health."
 - "National Institutes of Health's toxicology [study], which concluded that "higher levels" of fluoride is now linked to lowered IQ in children."
 - While the report said more research was needed into the lower levels of fluoride exposure typically found in U.S. drinking water, Chen ruled that "there is not enough of a margin" of safety at those levels

Federal Court Case, cont

- Options for EPA:
 - Appeal
 - Studies vary...
 - Warning label about fluoride's risks to mandating removal of addition to drinking water
 - Judge Chen - "One thing the EPA cannot do, however, in the face of this Court's finding, is to ignore that risk,"
 - No real deadline for making changes...

Now What??



Regulation for City still comes from EPA/State

Could be a long time before any direction



States and water purveyors are currently under no obligation to change practices



Fluoride is (and has been) a “Community Choice”



Council decision on how to proceed

2023 State Legislation – if community makes any changes, must provide the DOH and the public a go notice prior to making a decision



QUESTIONS?