

# Tennessee Statistics

**FACT:** Tennessee is ranked 17th in the nation on community water fluoridation.

**FACT:** One in five children in Tennessee's School-Based Dental Prevention Program are referred to a dentist due to untreated tooth decay.

**FACT:** in 2014, only 58.3% of Tennesseans visited a dentist, compared to the national average of 64.4%.

**FACT:** The Tennessee Department of Health fully supports and endorses community water fluoridation at optimal levels of 0.7 ppm.

*Life is Better with Teeth!*



*Because of water fluoridation, people are enjoying a lifetime of healthier eating*

Approximately  
**88%**

of Tennesseans on community water systems receive fluoridated drinking water through their community water systems.

**Tap into "nature's cavity fighter!"**

*Drinking water with fluoride is one of the easiest and most beneficial things you can do to help prevent cavities!*

*Fluoride....*

*"...One of the 10 GREATEST PUBLIC HEALTH ACHIEVEMENTS in the 20th century."*



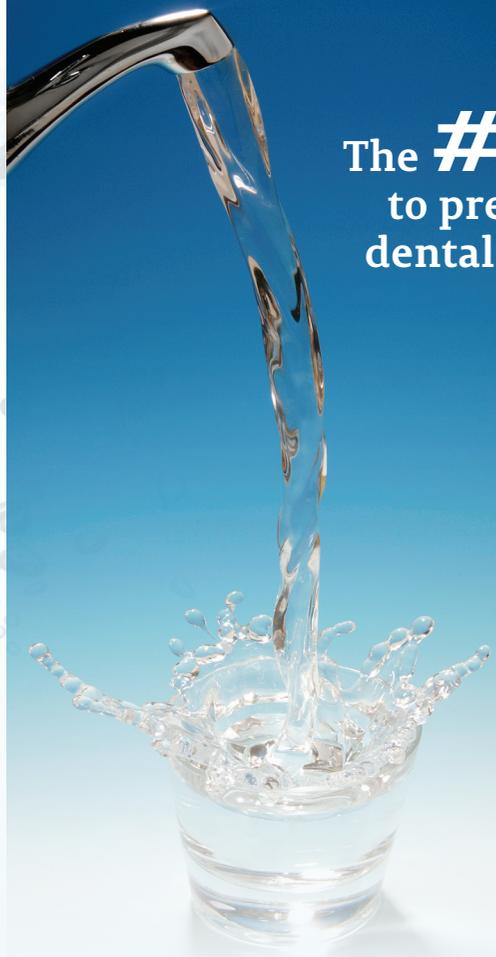
— Centers for Disease Control & Prevention



*For more information about fluoride and dental health, visit us on our website.*

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# Community Water Fluoridation



The **#1** way to prevent dental decay



[www.TN.gov/oralhealth](http://www.TN.gov/oralhealth)

# What is Tooth Decay?



- Tooth decay is a contagious disease.
- Tooth decay is the most prevalent chronic disease in childhood, roughly five times more common than asthma.
- 164 million hours of work are missed each year because of dental issues.
- Poor oral health can affect job prospects and social life, due to the appearance of a smile and teeth.

## COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION FACTS:



### It's Effective

Community water fluoridation has contributed to the largest decline in cavities in the United States.



### It's Safe

For over 70 years scientific research has consistently shown that community water fluoridation is safe.



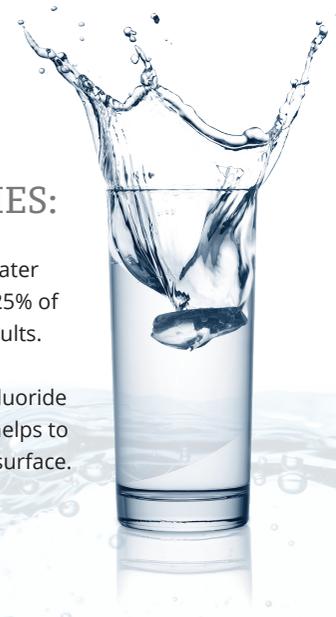
### It's Affordable

Community water fluoridation is the most cost-effective preventive strategy to reduce dental decay for adults and children.

## FLUORIDE IN WATER IS GOOD FOR COMMUNITIES:

**Prevents** - Community water fluoridation prevents at least 25% of tooth decay in children and adults.

**Protects** - Studies show fluoride in community water systems helps to protect and rebuild the tooth surface.



*Water fluoridation provides dental benefits to people of all ages and income groups without requiring them to spend extra money or change their daily routine.*

## Benefits of Community Water Fluoridation Include:



**Prevents Cavities**



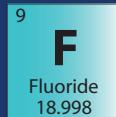
**Prevents Pain**



**Protects Teeth**

## What is Fluoride?

- Fluoride is a natural occurring ion of the periodic element, fluorine.
- Fluoride is the 13th most common element in the earth's crust.
- Fluoride is naturally present in virtually all water supplies.
- Fluoride is the compound used to fluoridate drinking water to promote oral health.
- Fluoride is used in toothpaste and mouth rinses to prevent tooth decay.



*An estimated 405 million people in 60 countries worldwide enjoy the benefits of fluoridated water.*