

Mississippi Fact Sheet Community Water Fluoridation and Oral Health

The benefits of having good oral health include:

- ❑ Good dental health contributes to general health and well-being across the lifespan.
- ❑ Having good oral health reduces complications associated with diabetes, heart disease and stroke, and may reduce the risk for low-birth weight and premature birth.
- ❑ Good oral health contributes to higher productivity in the workplace and decreased absenteeism at school.
- ❑ Good oral health enhances the pleasure of eating, improves self-esteem, and enhances social interactions.

The benefits of community water fluoridation include:

- ❑ Water fluoridation is an effective, safe and inexpensive way to prevent tooth decay.
- ❑ Children and adults who are at low risk for tooth decay can stay cavity free through frequent exposure to small amounts of fluoride in water.
- ❑ Water fluoridation prevents the loss of important minerals from tooth enamel in children and adults, and makes teeth resistant to tooth decay.

Did you know that?

- ❑ In Mississippi, 69 percent or about 7 in 10 third-grade children in public schools have experienced tooth decay and 10 percent of children have an urgent need for dental care. [Source: MSDH]
- ❑ In Mississippi, 35.1 percent or about 1 in 3 persons aged 65 years of age or older have lost all their natural teeth. [Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)]
- ❑ Mississippi ranks 2nd of 50 states for persons aged 65 years or older who have lost some or all of their natural teeth. [Source: CDC]
- ❑ Approximately 1.6 million Mississippians receive the benefits of fluoridated water; however, this represents only 54 percent of those on public water systems. In comparison, over 90 percent of the populations of Tennessee, Kentucky, and Georgia receive optimally fluoridated drinking water. [Source: CDC]
- ❑ The cities of Columbus, Laurel, Meridian, Newton, Calhoun City, New Albany, and Como implemented water fluoridation programs over 50 years ago. [Source: CDC]
- ❑ In Mississippi, the cost of water fluoridation is usually between one and two dollars per person per year and saves \$16-\$19 per person per year in dental treatment costs. [Source: MSDH/CDC]
- ❑ Since February 2004, the following public water systems resolved to fluoridate their water: City of McComb; Town of Port Gibson; Town of Tchula; City of Iuka; Farmington WA; Freney WA; Cason WA; City of Richland; N. Lauderdale WA; Topisaw Creek WA; City of Picayune; City of Petal; Town of Summit; Greenfield WA; Okatoma WA; Collinsville WA; Combined Utilities; City of Pontotoc; University of Mississippi, Oxford Campus; Town of Maben; Town of Ashland; Prairie Land WA; Town of Guntown; Lebanon WA; Town of Puckett; Quincy WA; Diamondhead Utilities; Southwest Leake WA; City of Nettleton; Town of Baldwyn; Hilton Heights WA; City of Itta Bena; Westwick Utilities; Double Ponds WA; Sunrise Utilities; City of Pascagoula; Glendale Utility District; Hopewell WA; Town of Wesson; Beat III WA; Marydell WA; Town of Ackerman; Central Yazoo WA; Smith's Crossing WA; Center Ridge WA; Town of Richton; MS Valley State University; Lewisburg WA; Central MS Correctional Facility; City of Hollandale; Southwest Jones WA; ACL WA; North Hinds WA; Lawrence County WA; Lake City WA; Town of Louise; L&F WA; Town of Hatley; City of Raleigh; Rawls Springs Utility District; City of Okolona; Evergreen WA; and Union Church WA, Kossuth WA, New Hope WA, Fisher Ferry Water District, Alcorn State University, Leesburg WA, .
- ❑ **Grant funding will be awarded first come, first served as it becomes available and includes equipment, housing, engineering, operator training, and up to one year of fluoride.**

For more information, call (601) 576-7500, or visit <http://www.HealthyMS.com/dental>.