



# **FDI DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT**

## **Promoting Oral Health through Water Fluoridation** Science Committee

**Revision submitted for adoption by the FDI General Assembly  
in September 2014, New Delhi, India**

**Revised version adopted by the General Assembly  
in September 2008, Stockholm, Sweden**

**Original version adopted by the General Assembly  
in November 2000, Paris, France**

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2 Water fluoridation is the adjustment of the fluoride concentration in fluoride deficient water  
3 supplies to a level recommended for optimal oral health. More than 370 million people in  
4 over 27 countries receive the benefits of water fluoridation.

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6 In recognition of the importance of promoting oral health through water fluoridation, the  
7 FDI World Dental Federation states that:

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- 10 • Over seventy years of research and recent systematic reviews have shown that  
11 water fluoridation is an effective public health measure for the prevention of dental  
12 decay in children and adults.
  - 13 • Water fluoridation is particularly appropriate for populations demonstrating  
14 moderate to high risk of dental decay.
  - 15 • Water fluoridation confers positive health savings and contributes to reducing  
16 disparities in the rates of dental decay in communities.
  - 17 • At the fluoride concentrations recommended for the prevention of dental decay,  
18 scientific research and reviews show that human general health is not adversely  
19 affected.
  - 20 • The public health benefits of water fluoridation in the prevention of dental decay far  
21 outweigh the possible occurrence of very mild/mild dental fluorosis.
  - 22 • In establishing the recommended level of fluoride to be used in water to prevent  
23 dental decay, public health authorities should be cognisant of the balance between  
24 the prevention of dental decay and dental fluorosis. To do so public health  
25 authorities should take into account the prevailing maximum ambient air  
26 temperature, the availability of other sources of fluoride and how they are used as  
27 well as dietary and cultural practices in the community for individuals from infancy  
28 through childhood.
  - 29 • Water supplies to be fluoridated should be reliable and should possess the  
30 necessary quality control measures, facilities and expertise available to implement  
31 and monitor water fluoridation.

- 32 • The dental profession, medical profession, health researchers and public health  
33 authorities should continue to research the effectiveness and safety of water  
34 fluoridation and other methods of delivering fluoride for the prevention of dental  
35 decay and this information should be made available to the public in a transparent  
36 manner.  
37

38 Other sources of fluoride are fluoride toothpaste, salt fluoridation, milk fluoridation,  
39 fluoride mouth rinses and a range of professionally applied fluoride products.

40 The FDI recommends a comprehensive preventive approach as the most appropriate  
41 method of reducing the heavy burden of dental decay worldwide and together with  
42 WHO supports the use of water fluoridation as an important public health measure.  
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