

# FLUORIDATION FACTS

## Water Fluoridation is...

### Equitable

- Water fluoridation is the best way to deliver fluoride to all members of most communities, regardless of age, educational attainment, or income level. (i)

### Viable

- 60% of Oregon residents surveyed would like their community water supply fluoridated. (m)

### Natural

- All sources of drinking water in the U.S. contain some fluoride.
- Fluoridation is an upward adjustment to an optimal level for dental health. (l)

### Safe

- Significant research has shown that it does not pose a health risk for humans. (c)

### Effective

- Water fluoridation results in an 18-40% reduction in tooth decay. (g)

### Economical

- On average, for every \$1 spent on fluoridation, \$38 dollars in dental treatment costs are saved. (d)

### Ideal

- The CDC recognizes water fluoridation as one of the ten great public health achievements of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. (j)

### Popular

- Nearly 70% of Americans drink fluoridated water.
- Only 20% of Oregonians drink fluoridated water. (a,k,l)

### Acceptable

- Community water fluoridation is supported by all major health professional and scientific organizations, like:
  - ♦ American Medical Association
  - ♦ American Water Works Association
  - ♦ American Dental Association
  - ♦ American Academy of Pediatrics
  - ♦ National Academy of Sciences
  - ♦ World Health Organization
  - ♦ American Public Health Association
  - ♦ American Cancer Society(h)

## Did you know...

- 1 in 5 Head Start children (aged 3 to 5) in Oregon suffer from baby bottle tooth decay that costs Oregon \$1500 to \$7000 per child treated.
- 47% of Oregon children between 3 to 5 years of age have already experienced cavities.
- 56% of Oregon children between 6 to 8 years of age also have experienced cavities.
- Tooth decay is five times more common than asthma in U.S. children and is the single most common chronic childhood disease. (a,b)

## TRI-COUNTY FLUORIDATION FORUM

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- b. Oregon Smile Survey, 2002.
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- d. Griffin, SO, et al, "Economic evaluation of community water fluoridation."
- e. Journal of Public Health Dentistry, spring 2001; 61:78-86.
- f. National Center for Fluoridation Policy and Research.
- g. CDC MMWR, August 17, 2001/50 (RR-14); 1-42.
- h. "Fluoridation Facts," American Dental Association, 1999.
- i. CDC MMWR, October 22, 1999/48 (41); 933-940.
- j. Satcher, David, MD, PhD, Surgeon General of the U.S., December 11, 2000.
- k. 1990 CDC Fluoridation Census
- l. National Center for Fluoridation Policy and Research
- m. Oregon Residents and Oral Health Issues Survey, March 1998.