



## FACT SHEET Fluoride in Drinking Water

- **Since 2011, Arkansas state law has required all systems serving more than 5000 people to add fluoride to drinking water.**
- **Beaver Water District adds fluoride to its drinking water at a rate of 0.7 mg/l.**
- **The District has four wholesale customers** -- Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers and Bentonville – and serves more than 300,000 people.
- **According to the American Dental Association, fluorosis does not affect the function of the teeth.** Enamel fluorosis occurs only when the teeth are under the gums and still developing. For infants in the first 12 months, the ADA recommends using ready-to-feed formula or using fluoride free water or water with low levels of fluoride to mix liquid concentrate or powdered formula.
- **According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, fluoride is present naturally in most water at a very low level.** More than 170 million people on public water systems in the United States enjoy the benefits of having their water adjusted to the optimal level for preventing tooth decay.
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lists fluoridation of drinking water among the 10 great public health achievements of the past century.** The CDC recommends community water fluoridation as a safe, effective and inexpensive way to prevent tooth decay (dental caries) among populations living in areas with adequate community water supply systems. Similar to many vitamins and minerals we consume for our health, fluoride should be taken in the proper amount.
- **According to the Arkansas Department of Health, 62% of the state's population on public water receives fluoridated water.** Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease of childhood. Among children, untreated decay has been associated with difficulty in eating, sleeping, learning, and proper nutrition.

### Sources:

**United States Environmental Protection Agency**

<http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/hfacts.html>

**American Dental Association (11/09/06)**

<http://www.ada.org/public/topics/fluoride/infantsformula.asp>

**Centers for Disease Control**

[http://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/safety/nrc\\_report.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/safety/nrc_report.htm)

**Arkansas Department of Health**

[www.healthyarkansas.com/Oral\\_Health/pdf/fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.healthyarkansas.com/Oral_Health/pdf/fact_sheet.pdf)

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### About Beaver Water District

Beaver Water District supplies drinking water to 300,000 people and industries in Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers, Bentonville and surrounding areas. These cities then resell the water to surrounding towns and communities. The District's mission is to serve our customers' needs by providing high quality drinking water that meets all regulatory requirements and is economically priced consistent with our quality standards. For more information, visit [www.bwdh2o.org](http://www.bwdh2o.org).