



Bridgetown area Fluoridation Survey 2014

PREPARED FOR:

Department of Health
WA – Water Unit

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In accordance with our Quality Assurance System, this report has been reviewed and approved by:

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1.0. Introduction

The Department of Health is considering the merits of fluoridating the public water supply in the Bridgetown area in the South-West. Most of Western Australia's drinking water is fluoridated to benefit teeth.

The Department of Health is looking for reliable and independent feedback from the community to inform any decision into whether the Bridgetown area's public water supply should be fluoridated.

The target population of the Bridgetown area referred to in the survey was defined as residents from the towns of:

- Balingup
- Boyup Brook
- Bridgetown
- Greenbushes
- Kirup
- Mullalyup

The most recent Census data for the survey area shows that some 4,086 adults live in this region.

The Water Unit of WA's Department of Health commissioned Patterson Research Group, as an independent research consultancy, to complete a reliable community survey among residents in the Bridgetown area in March 2014. The main aim of the research was to investigate the residents' awareness and attitudes regarding fluoridation of the water supply in the Bridgetown area. The research data found in this community survey will be used in the assessment on whether or not to fluoridate the public water supply in the Bridgetown area.

2.0. Executive Summary

1. The survey has found that 59% of respondents to the survey in the target area support the fluoridation of drinking water supplies, 28% did not support it – the residual (13%) unsure.
2. Thirty five per cent of respondents reported that they are not connected to the public water supply. It is probable that the sample method of including households with a residential address noted as being in one of the six towns may have included residents nearby the town itself, but outside the scheme water system.
3. Forty eight per cent of respondents use the public water supply for their drinking water (39% public water supply without filters, 9% used a water filter). Fifty per cent use rainwater tank supplies. The residual reported buying bottled water for their drinking supplies. Approximately 17% of respondents with connection to the public water supplies nonetheless reported that they use rainwater for their drinking water.
4. Twenty nine per cent of respondents are “certain” that the town water is already fluoridated, though 60% were uncertain and 11% believe that there is no fluoride in the public water supply.
5. Sixty per cent of respondents believe public water supply fluoridation is safe, 19% believe it is not safe, and the residual (21%) is uncertain.
6. Sixty nine per cent of respondents believe added fluoride can prevent tooth decay, 19% do not believe it and the residual is undecided. The reasons for acceptance of the decay preventative measures largely relate to the notion that “everyone knows this” either from personal experience, or citation of scientific studies.

The reasons for non-acceptance of the proposition is based largely on personal research (often from the internet); a query of why it is necessary because “things are ok now” and the notion that tooth decay is a function of poor diet.

7. Only about 3% of respondents report that they know nothing at all about fluoride in water supplies. Fifty one per cent of respondents report that they “know about” water fluoridation programs, 46% are aware of fluoridation of public water supplies but don’t feel they have an understanding of it.

8. Newspapers and television are the main information sources about fluoridation of public water supplies. However respondents who were not in favour of fluoridation are more likely to rely on family and friends, and are six times as likely to use the internet for information about fluoridation compared with respondents who were in favour of fluoridation.

3.0. Research Approach

3.1. Research Objectives

The Water Unit of WA's Department of Health commissioned Patterson Research Group, as an independent research consultancy, to complete a reliable community survey among residents in the Bridgetown area. The Bridgetown area was defined as residents of the towns¹ of:

- Balingup
- Boyup Brook
- Bridgetown
- Greenbushes
- Kirup
- Mullalyup

The main aim of the research was to investigate the residents' awareness and attitudes regarding fluoridation of the water supply in the Bridgetown area. The research data found in this community survey will be used in the assessment on whether or not to fluoridate the public water supply in the Bridgetown area.

In March 2014, 1897 privately listed phone numbers from the target area were called, to achieve a total 358 telephone interviews with residents within households in the Bridgetown area. The target sample of 358 was accepted as the sample was exhausted (exhaustion of fresh sample, i.e. unused telephone numbers) in this endeavour.

¹ The survey did not include Nannup or Donnybrook because these community water supplies are not interlinked with that of the Bridgetown area.

3.2. Research Method

3.2.1 Fieldwork Details

The research was carried out as a telephone survey of adults within the sample area. The sample of phone numbers was defined as the privately listed phone numbers that quoted the target towns as their residential address. It is probable that households within a short distance of the town centres were included in the sample, and this is supported by the finding that some 35% of respondents reported that their home was not connected to the public water supply.

The fieldwork was carried out by West Coast Field Services (WCFS) from their dedicated telephone room based in Applecross, WA.

All calls were made using WCFS dedicated Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing software. All interviewers were fully briefed as to the nature of the project and the questionnaire-specific instructions prior to commencing data collection.

358 adult residents of the target area aged 18 years or over completed the survey. The fieldwork took place from the 20th to the 29th of March 2014.

Post data collection, the data was weighted according to the latest census data available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to ensure that the sample profile most closely represents the true profile of Bridgetown area, in terms of age and gender.

3.2.2 Sample Selection

The towns included in the survey, and the proportions of the sample generated in each town are shown in the table below:

Balingup	12%
Boyup Brook	16%
Bridgetown	49%
Greenbushes	7%
Kirup	8%
Mullalyup	8%

These proportions are in line with the population distribution.

The sample was from the white pages listings of residential properties in the target towns.

3.2.3 Questionnaire

The questionnaire used for the research was designed by Patterson Research Group personnel, in consultation with key personnel from The Department of Health and was previously used for similar research in other geographical areas. A copy of the final questionnaire, as used for the data collection has been provided in Appendix A.

3.3.4 Sample Size and Survey Precision

The only practical limitation to the usage of the survey data is the limitation on interpretation based on the confidence interval for the sample size of 358 respondents. The default confidence level is 95%. Significant differences in the data from one subset to another are highlighted in the report based on the 95% confidence level.

Given the approximate 4,000 adult population for the target area, the sample of 358 respondents provides a theoretical survey error of +/- 4.9% at the 95% confidence level. The survey results have quoted sample sizes in each of the tables and figures to provide a guide on the accuracy or the reliability of the data. Survey accuracy is a function of both the sample size and the distance that the survey results are from 50% (broadly, the further a survey estimate is from 50%, the more accurate it will be). Hence, while the exact confidence limits will vary according to the survey result itself, some broad tolerance limit guidelines have been quoted to provide a guide as to the accuracy of the survey results. The grid below shows the variation in survey error for the sample size and population size for this survey, as the survey estimates move away from 50/50.

Figure 3.3.4.: Survey Precision Table

SURVEY PRECISION at 95% level of confidence	
	– Sample of 358 Population of >4,000
50/50	± 4.9 %
60/40	± 4.8 %
70/30	± 4.5 %
80/20	± 3.9 %
90/10	± 2.9 %

3.3.5 Response Rates

The response rate is calculated as the number of interviews as a proportion of the calls made. The response rate of 19% is shown in the table which follows:

Response rate	N=358
Interviews	358
Refusals	457
Not Available / unable to reach (6+ calls)	310
Disconnected or business/fax numbers	239
Ineligible	533
TOTAL NUMBERS CALLED	1897
Overall Response Rate:	19%

Response rates above 15% are considered good in modern random dial surveys.

3.3.6 Data Processing and Analysis

As a means of ensuring the highest quality of data, WCFS routinely validates a proportion of all data. Effectively this means that a random selection of respondents is re-contacted and their recorded responses are checked to ensure the most accurate recording of data is upheld by the field team at all times.

Post data collection, the data was weighted according to the latest census data available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Patterson Research Group routinely weights data to ensure that the sample profile reflects the true profile of the target community, in terms of age and gender.²

The final data set was analysed using the Q survey analysis software, the result of which are quantitative data tables. The data tables form the basis of this report and have been included in Appendix B.

² *Australian Bureau of Statistics (2011). Census Data: Popular Statistics.
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/web+pages/statistics?opendocument#from-banner=GT>. Updated April 2013

3.3.7 Sample Profile

The survey was designed to capture 360 respondents aged 18 years and over.

The sample was weighted using a 4 cell age/gender weights matrix, in order to reflect the age and gender distribution of the Bridgetown area according to the most recent Australian Bureau of Statistics population's projections.

The table below shows the sample profile for the survey, comparing the un-weighted and weighted raw sample numbers, and the final weighted proportions.

Figure 4.1.: Sample Profile

	Unweighted n=	Unweighted %	Weighted n=	Weighted %
18-39	61	17	75	21
40+	297	83	283	79
TOTAL	358	100	358	100
Male	168	47	172	48
Female	190	53	186	52
TOTAL	358	100	358	100

As may be inferred from the above the weighting factors were minor. It should be noted that the region has an older old age profile, with almost 8 in 10 adults in the 40+ age bracket.

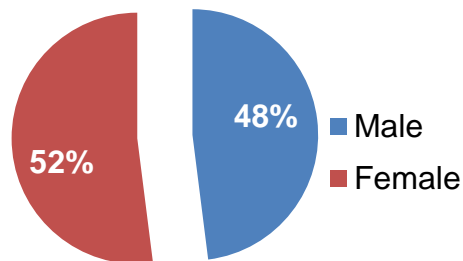
4.0. Detailed Findings

4.1. Demographics

4.1.1 Gender

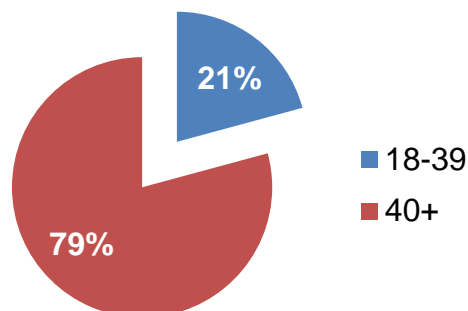
The gender profile of the sample was reflective of the profile for the region as shown in figure 4.1.1 below. The region has slightly more females (52%) than males (48%).

Figure 4.1.1 Gender Profile



4.1.2 Age Profile

The weighted age profile for the sample shown below reflects the very strong skew towards the older age groups. The relatively high concentration of older residents (79%) is reflected in a comparison with the whole of regional Western Australia, which has a 40+ age proportion of 62%.



4.2. Length of time residing in the survey area

Respondents were initially asked:

“How long have you lived in the Bridgetown region?”

The results are highlighted in Figures 4.2 and 4.2a which follow. The results indicate that 67% of respondents have lived in the Bridgetown area for over 10 years, with 18% living in the region for 5 to 10 years, and 9% for 3 – 5 years.

Figure 4.2.: How long have you lived in your current region (Bridgetown and surrounding areas)? (n=358)

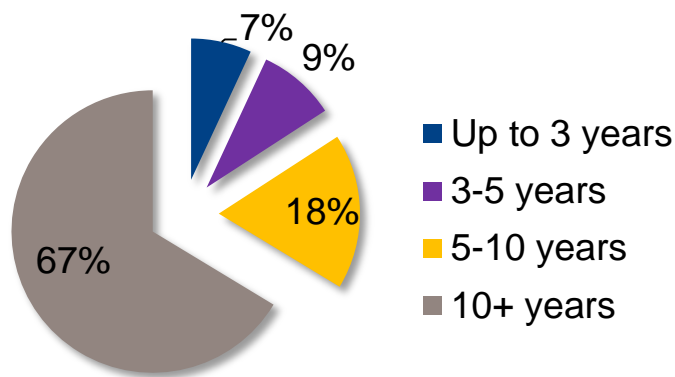


Figure 4.2a: How long have you lived in your current region (Bridgetown and surrounding areas)? (n=358)

Demographic	Total	Age Group		Gender	
		18-39	40+	Male	Female
Up to 3 years	7%	9%	6%	6%	7%
3-5 years	9%	13%	8%	7%	10%
5-10 years	18%	23%	16%	19%	17%
10+ years	67%	55%	70%	68%	65%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

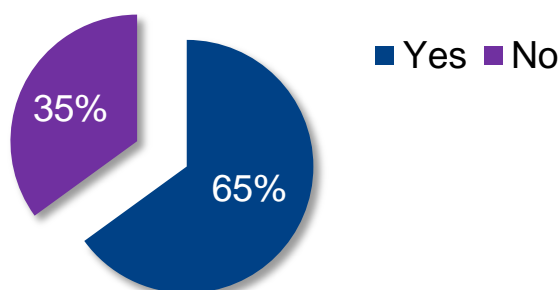
4.3. Whether Connected to Public Water Supply.

Respondents were asked whether or not their current residence was connected to the local public water supplies in their specific region through the question:

“Is your residence connected to the public drinking water supply?”

The results from this question are provided in Figures 4.3 and 4.3a which follow. The results indicate that 65% of respondents report that they are currently connected to the public water supply, with 35% not connected.

Figure 4.3.: Is your residence connected to the public drinking water supply? (n=358)



The 35% of respondents not connected to the public water supply may be partly explained by the phone listings for residences nearby the target towns being listed in the nominated towns; being within a short distance of the town centre, but outside the reticulated public water supply area.

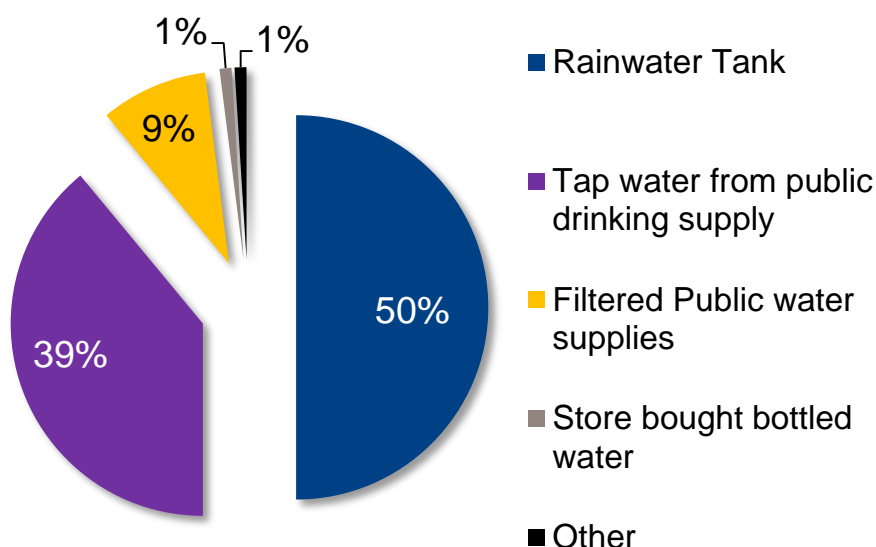
4.4. Most Commonly Used Source Of Drinking Water At Home

Respondents were asked the following question:

“What is your most commonly used source of drinking water at home?”

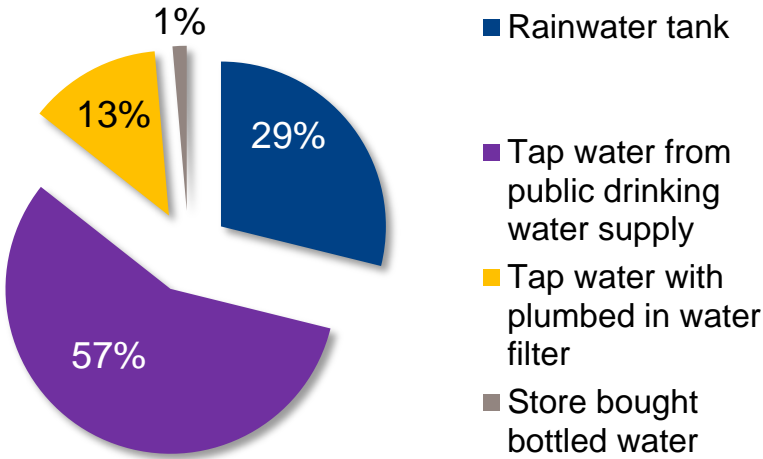
The findings from this question are outlined in Figures 4.4 and 4.4a that follow. Half the respondents (50%) primarily used rainwater tanks for their main source of drinking water, with 39% of respondents reporting that they used unfiltered tap water from the public drinking supply, and a further 9% use filtered town water, (48% total public water supply users). One per cent of respondents reported that they predominantly use store bought bottled water.

Figure 4.4.: What is your most commonly used source of drinking water at home (n=358)



Given the high proportion of respondents who are not connected to the public water supplies, it is relevant to examine the main drinking water proportions of respondents connected to the public supply in isolation. This is shown on Figure 4.4a overleaf.

Figure 4.4a: What is your most commonly used source of drinking water at home - Amongst respondents connected to the public water supplies. (n=246)



Note from the above that 29% of respondents who have public water supply connection report that they use rainwater tanks for drinking water. The total proportion using the public water supplies is 70% (made up of 57% who use tap water unfiltered and 13% who have a filter plumbed in).

4.5. Awareness of Whether Water Fluoridation Has Taken Place

Respondents were asked the following question: **“Do you know whether fluoride HAS or has NOT been added to the public drinking water supply in your area?”**

The results of this question are outlined in Figures 4.5 and 4.5a (for the subset of respondents connected to the public water supply), which follow. The data indicates that 60% of respondents overall were uncertain as to whether or not there had been fluoridation of the local public drinking water supply, while 29 percent of respondents were sure that it had already occurred, and 11% were sure the water supply had not been fluoridated...

Figure 4.5.: Do you know whether fluoride HAS or has NOT been added to the public drinking water supply in your area? (All respondents n=358)

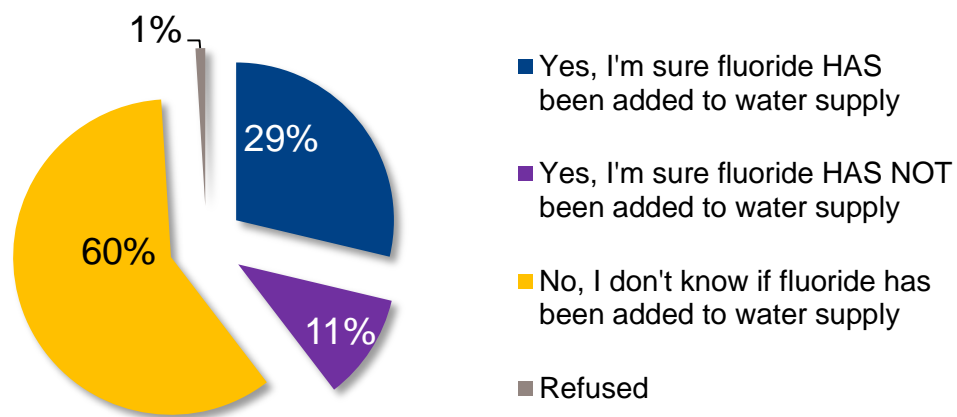
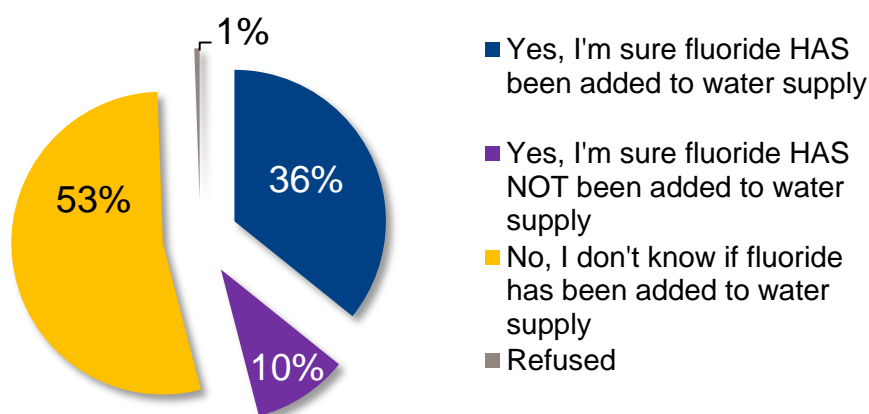


Figure 4.5a. Do you know whether fluoride HAS or has NOT been added to the public drinking water supply in your area? (Connected respondents n=246)



It appears from figure 4.5a that the subset of respondents that is connected to public water supply may be slightly more likely than the total sample to be sure that the water is fluoridated (36% compared to 29%).

Figure 4.5b below suggests that respondents aged under 40 are more likely to be sure that there is no fluoridation of the water supply (22% compared to 8% of respondents aged 40+).

Figure 4.5b: Do you know whether fluoride HAS or has NOT been added to the public drinking water supply in your area? (n=358)

Demographic	Total	Age Group		Gender	
		18-39	40+	Male	Female
Yes, I'm sure fluoride HAS been added to the water supply	29%	26%	29%	32%	25%
Yes, I'm sure fluoride HASN'T been added to the water supply	11%	22%	8%	10%	12%
No, I don't know if fluoride has been added to water supply	60%	50%	62%	57%	62%
Refused	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

4.6. Agreement with Fluoridation of Public Drinking Water Supply

Respondents were asked about their attitude towards the possibility of fluoridating the public drinking water supply through the following question:

“Do you agree with the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply?”

The results of this question are outlined in Figures 4.6 and 4.6a which follow. The results in figure 4.6 indicate that 59% of respondents agree with the proposal to fluoridate the public drinking water supply, with 28% opposing the idea and 13% undecided. There is little variation across the main demographic groups. Whilst there is an apparent difference in levels of agreement between respondents aged 18–39 and 40+ (the 40+ respondent age group seems more likely to be in agreement with fluoridation than those 18-39), the difference is within sample error.

Figure 4.6.: Do you agree with the fluoridation of the public water supply? (n=357)

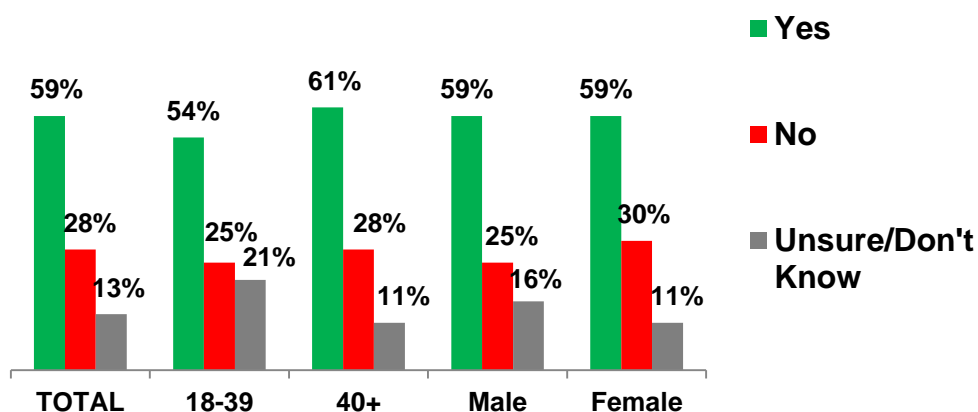
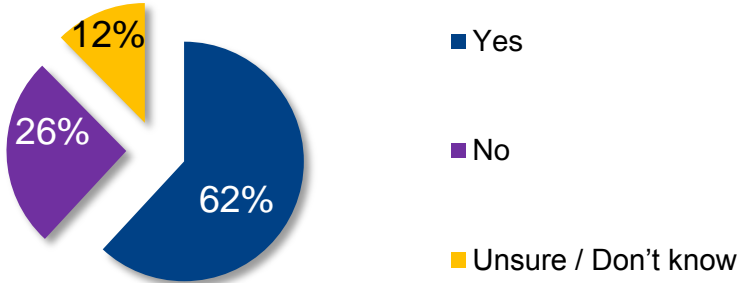


Figure 4.6a overleaf shows the attitude amongst respondents connected to the public water supply.

Figure 4.6a: Do you agree with the fluoridation of the public water supply?
(Connected respondents n=246)



Sixty two per cent of the subset of respondents that is connected to the public water supply agree with the fluoridation of public water supplies, approximately one in four (26%) do not, with 12% unsure.

4.7. Perception of Safety of Water Fluoridation

Respondents were asked whether or not the fluoridation of the public drinking water supply was safe for the community through the following question:

“Do you believe that the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply is safe?”

The results of this question are outlined in Figure 4.7, which follows. The results reveal that 60% of respondents believe the fluoridation of public drinking water to be safe, 19% of respondents do not believe it to be safe, with the remaining 20% undecided. An examination of possible demographic effects revealed that male respondents appear to be more likely than females to believe the fluoridation process is safe (67% vs. 54%).

Figure 4.7.: Do you believe that the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply is safe? (n=358)

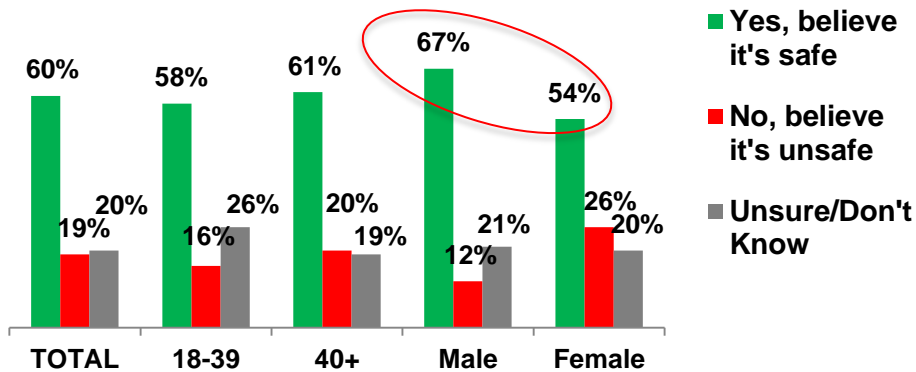
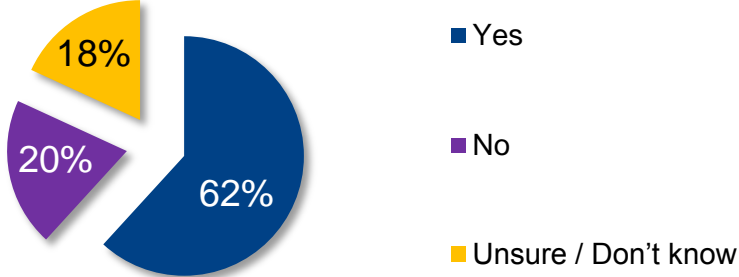


Figure 4.7a below shows that amongst respondents connected to the public water supply, some 62% believe it is safe to fluoridate the public water supplies, one in five (20%) believe it is not, with 18% unsure

Figure 4.7a. Do you believe that the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply is safe? (Connected respondents n=246)



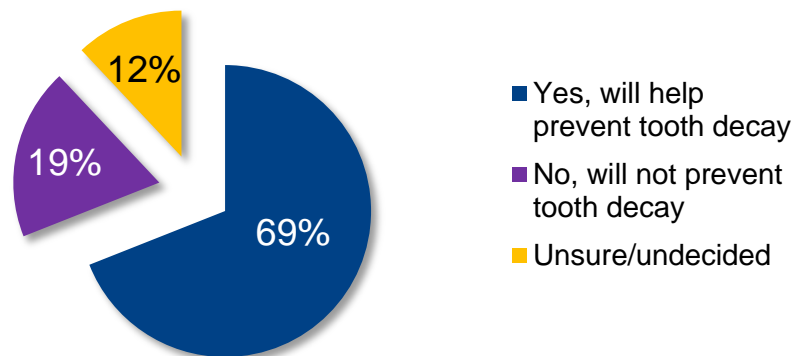
4.8. Whether Believe That Fluoridation of Water Supply Can Help Prevent Tooth Decay

Respondents were asked about their belief on whether or not the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply would aid in reducing tooth decay in residents through the following question:

“Do you believe that the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply can help prevent tooth decay?”

The results of this question are outlined in Figures 4.8 and 4.8a, which follow. The results indicate that 69% of respondents believe that the introduction of fluoride can help to prevent tooth decay, 19% of respondents do not and 12% were unsure. As with previous questions, there were only minor fluctuations across the demographics.

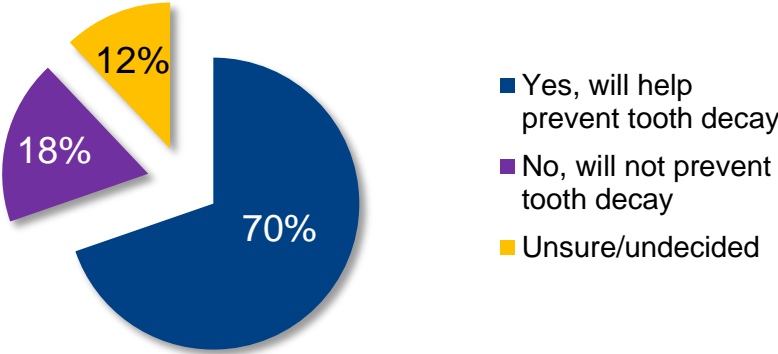
Figure 4.8.: Do you believe that the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply can help prevent tooth decay? (n=357)



There were negligible variations by age gender. Figure 4.8a overleaf shows that the opinion amongst respondents connected to the public water supply is very much the same.

Note from figure 4.8a below that 70% of connected respondents believe fluoridation of public water supplies does help prevent tooth decay, and 18% do not, with 12% unsure.

Figure 4.8a: Do you believe that the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply can help prevent tooth decay? (Connected respondents n=245)



4.8.1 Reasoning for belief that of fluoridation of drinking water does not prevent tooth decay

The 19% of respondents (approximately 62 respondents) who indicated that they did not believe that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water would help prevent tooth decay were asked to give the reasons for their opinions, through the following question:

“Can you please further explain why you don’t think that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay?”

A series of major themes and reasons was collated and response categories developed based on these qualitative responses, with the results from this question outlined in Figure 4.8.1, which follows. Due to the low sample size the demographics have not been shown in the analysis. Note also that the question allowed for multiple responses, so the table adds beyond 100%.

Figure 4.8.1.: Can you please further explain why you don’t think that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay? (n=62)

	Total
<i>Demographic</i>	
Teeth and oral health due to diet	23%
Personal research on health issues of fluoride	22%
Water with fluoride does not affect tooth decay	22%
No problems before/no need to change water/fine as it is	21%
Toothpaste has enough fluoride	15%
Just don't like the idea/not necessary	9%
Don't know enough	4%
Other/specify	2%

The results revealed a variety of reasons, including “personal research on negative health issues of fluoride” (22% of the 62 respondents), that “tooth and oral hygiene health are more related to diet” (23%) and that “water with fluoride does not affect oral hygiene” (22%). Other themes highlighted were that there haven’t been

problems before and there should be no need for any changes (21%), and that toothpaste has enough fluoride content in it to protect against possible tooth decay.

4.8.2 Reasoning for belief that fluoridation of drinking water does prevent tooth decay

The 69% of respondents (232 respondents) who indicated that they did believe that the fluoridation of public drinking water would help prevent tooth decay were asked to give the reasons for their opinion through the following question:

“Can you please further explain why you do think that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay?”

A series of major themes and reasons were collated and response categories developed based on these qualitative responses, with the results from this question outlined in Figure 4.8.2 below. The two most commonly identified reasons were personal histories from having healthy teeth as a result of living in an area with fluoridated water (24% of the 232 respondents), and from research articles and reports that have proven and outlined the benefit of fluoride in water supplies (21%).

Figure 4.8.2.: Can you please further explain why you do think that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay? (n=232)

Demographic	Total	Age Group		Gender	
		18-39	40+	Male	Female
Personal history of having healthy teeth from having fluoride in water supplies	24%	9%	28%	18%	29%
Research/ Reports that prove the benefit of fluoride	21%	15%	22%	23%	19%
Advice/Information from dentists and dental experts	12%	8%	13%	11%	13%
Personal history of tooth and oral hygiene issues from no fluoride	12%	19%	10%	13%	12%
Provides extra protection along with toothpaste	10%	16%	8%	12%	8%
Personal belief/ brought up to believe fluoride benefit	9%	13%	8%	9%	10%
Advertising/ media promoting it	8%	18%	5%	11%	5%
Word of mouth	6%	3%	6%	6%	6%
Provides extra protection for children	10%	11%	10%	2%	17%
Probably has benefits but may also have some minor negatives	3%	0%	4%	3%	3%
Other	3%	2%	4%	2%	4%

The question allowed for multiple responses (reasons) so the table adds beyond 100%. Other prominent reasons included advice from dentists and dental experts (12%), personal histories of tooth and gum problems from having no fluoridation in drinking water (12%), while a further 10% believed it would provide extra protection for children. This final reason was highlighted significantly more frequently by female respondents compared to male respondents (17% vs 2%).

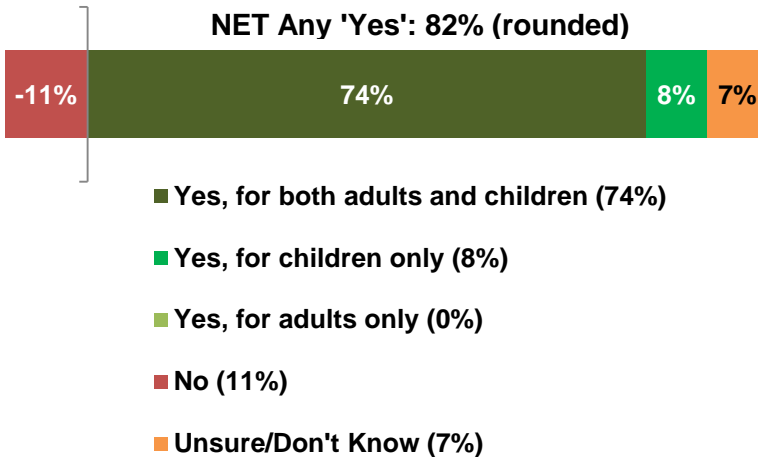
4.9. Whether In Favour of Adding Fluoride to the Public Drinking Water Supply.

The group of respondents who indicated they believed that fluoridation of the public drinking water would help to prevent tooth decay were then asked if they were in favour of the potential introduction of fluoride into the drinking water system through the question:

“Would you be in favour of adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply to assist in the prevention of tooth decay?”

The results of this question are outlined in Figures 4.9 and 4.9a, which follow. The results indicate that 74% of 247 respondents would be in favour of fluoridation of the public drinking water for both adults and children, while a further 8% said they would want it added for children only to create an overall “Total Support” figure of 82%. In comparison, 11% were not in favour of having fluoride added and the remaining 7% were undecided.

Figure 4.9.: Would you be in favour of adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply to assist in the prevention of tooth decay? (n=247)



There were no meaningful variations across the demographic groups.

4.10. Previous Understanding of Water Fluoridation

All 358 respondents were asked about their general knowledge and awareness of the idea of fluoridation of public drinking water supplies in general, through the following question:

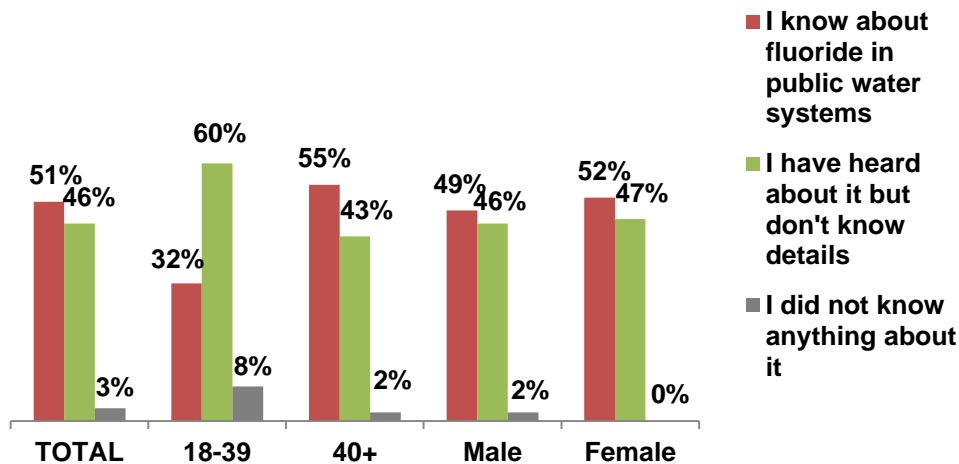
“Before today which of the following best describes your understanding about fluoride in public water supplies?”

The range of possible responses read out to respondents in rotated order was:

- I did not know anything about it
- I have heard about Fluoride in public water supplies but don't know much about it
- I know about fluoride in public water supplies

The results of this question are outlined in Figures 4.10 and 4.10a, which follow. The results indicate that, before this specific survey, there was a relatively even distribution of respondents who reported that they knew about fluoridation of public water supplies (51%), and respondents who reported having heard about it but did not know much about it (46%). Only 3% reported no knowledge of the concept.

Figure 4.10.: Before today which of the following best describes your understanding about fluoride in public water supplies? (n=358)



An examination of possible demographic effects in figure 4.10a overleaf revealed that older respondents were significantly more likely to report knowledge and understanding than younger respondents (55% vs. 32%).

Figure 4.10a: Before today which of the following best describes your understanding about fluoride in public water supplies? (n=358)

<i>Demographic</i>	Total	Age Group		Gender	
		<i>18-39</i>	<i>40+</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
I know about fluoride in public water systems	51%	32%	55%	49%	52%
I have heard about it but don't know the details	46%	60%	43%	46%	47%
I did not know anything about it	3%	8%	2%	5%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

4.11. Information sources about public water supply fluoridation

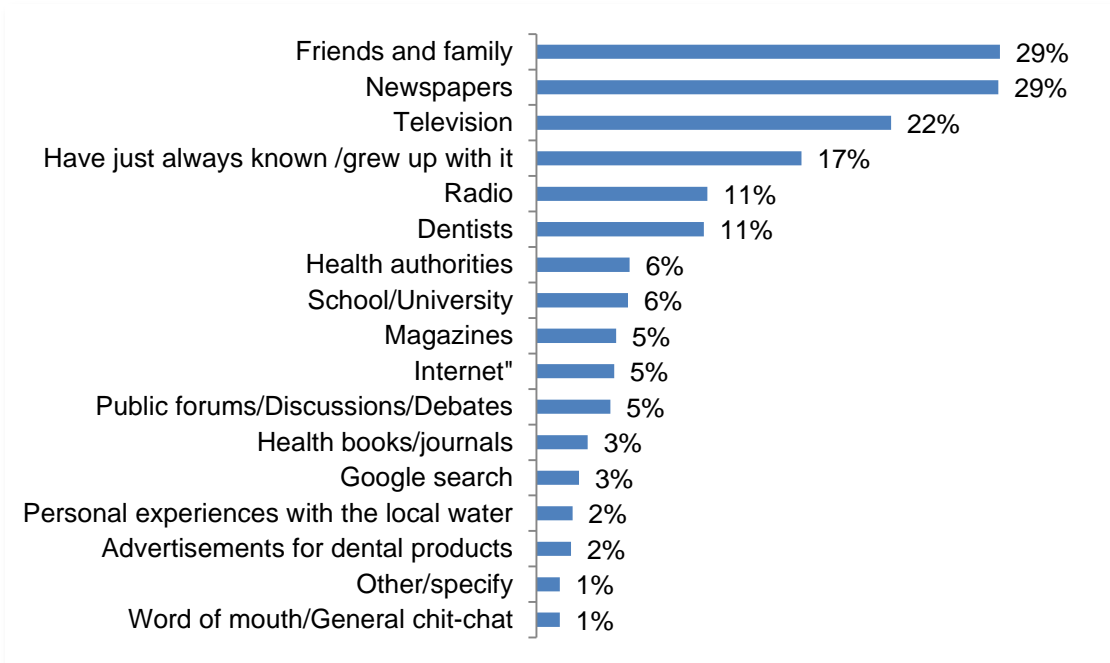
Finally, respondents were asked if they could recall all the main sources where they had learnt about fluoridation of public drinking water supplies, through the question:

“How did you find out about the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies?” (MULTIPLE RESPONSES ALLOWED)

The results of this question are outlined in Figure 4.11, which follows. The results from Figure 4.11 revealed a great variety of information sources, within which there is a group that is more frequently used. These were the more mainstream sources such as newspapers (29%) and television (23%), although information from “communication with friends and family” was also nominated by 29% of respondents.

Seventeen per cent of respondents simply stated that they had “always known about it” having grown up with the understanding of the benefits of fluoride as common knowledge, while both radio stations and dentists were referred to by 11% of respondents surveyed. Educational sources such as school/university (6%), health authorities (6%), and general internet research (5%) were identified less frequently. See figure 4.11 below, note that as multiple responses were allowed the table adds well beyond 100%..

Figure 4.11.: How did you find out about the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies? (Multiple responses) (n=350)



4.11.1 Information Sources Seemed to Differ for Respondents who are in favour and those who are not in favour of Fluoridation.

Figure 4.11.1 below shows the main source of information for the total sample, and the three sub-sets comparing respondents with favourable and unfavourable attitudes towards fluoridation.

The table enables a comparison of the information sources of respondents of differing attitudes on three attitudinal questions. They are questions 3, 4 and 5 from the survey questionnaire:

Q3. Do you agree with the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply?

Q4. Do you believe that the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply is safe?

Q5. Do you believe that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay?

	Total	Agree with Fluoridation?		Believe Fluoridation Safe?		Believe Fluoridation can help prevent tooth decay?	
		YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
<i>Demographic</i>							
Newspapers	29%	31%	25%	31%	22%	31%	24%
Friends and family	29%	26%	33%	25%	33%	24%	40%
Television	23%	23%	16%	23%	17%	23%	23%
Have just always known about it/grew up with it	17%	17%	22%	17%	20%	17%	22%
Radio	11%	11%	11%	11%	9%	11%	9%
Dentists	11%	12%	8%	12%	8%	12%	10%
Health authorities	6%	8%	2%	8%	2%	8%	4%
School/ University	6%	6%	4%	7%	6%	7%	6%
Internet (general)	5%	2%	12%	2%	16%	2%	10%
Google search	3%	1%	6%	1%	9%	1%	4%
TOTAL INTERNET	8%	3%	18%	3%	25%	3%	14%

It is interesting to note that the usage of the internet is so much higher amongst those with unfavourable attitudes towards fluoridation than do respondents with favourable attitudes. The difference is most marked in the assessment of whether fluoridation is safe. Twenty five per cent of respondents who disagree that fluoridation is safe report that they “use the internet” (or Google) for information, making the internet the most used information source after friends and family. This 25% internet usage may

be compared with just 3% amongst respondents who believe that fluoridation is safe. This latter group relies more heavily on newspapers and television.

A similar pattern is found on the question of whether or not fluoridation prevents tooth decay, (the favourable attitude group has 3% internet usage compared to 14% amongst respondents with unfavourable attitudes) and overall agreement with the fluoridation of public water supplies (the favourable attitude group has 3% internet usage compared to 18% amongst respondents with unfavourable attitudes). These comparisons may be found in the last row of figures in the above table.

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Appendix A – Questionnaire

Introduction

Hello, my name is (...) from Patterson Research Group. We are calling on behalf of the WA Department of Health. We are conducting a very brief survey in the Bridgetown area to ask you and your neighbours about your attitude towards the use of fluoride in public drinking water.

Could I please speak to the person in your household aged 18 years or over who will be having the next birthday?

Your responses will form part of a picture of your local community. The results of the survey will be used to help us obtain a representative community view on the use of fluoride in public drinking water supplies.

The survey will take approximately 5 minutes and all responses will be held in the strictest confidence.

Federal Privacy laws protect the confidentiality of any comments you make in relation to this survey. Your responses will be used solely for research purposes and while we prefer you to answer all questions in the survey, you do not have to.

SCREENER

S2. Could you please let me know what town you live in, or is your closest town? (Single response)

NB IF NOT LISTED READ OUT LIST AND CODE CLOSEST TOWN TO THEIR RESIDENCE– CODE AS APPROPRIATE.

Balingup	1
Boyup Brook	2
Bridgetown	3
Greenbushes	4
Hester	5
Kirup	6
Mullalyup	7
Other specify _____	87
Unsure / Don't know / Can't remember (screen out)	90

S3. To make sure we get a good cross section of the community can you please tell me your age?

Enter age _____

If under 18 years of age please thank and close

S4. Record the sex

MALE	1
FEMALE	2

QUESTIONNAIRE Water Fluoridation

Q1. Is your residence connected to the public drinking water supply? (Single response)

No	1
Yes	2
Unsure / Don't know / Can't remember	90
Refused	99

Q1a. What is your most commonly used source of drinking water at home? (Single response)

DO NOT READ OUT – CODE AS APPROPRIATE.

Tap water from public drinking water supply	1
Store bought bottled water	2
Rainwater tank	3
Tap water with plumbed in water filter	4
Other _____ (specif	87
Unsure / Don't know	90
Refused	99

Q2. Do you know whether fluoride has or has not been added to the public drinking water supply in your area? (Single response) DO NOT READ OUT – CODE AS APPROPRIATE.

No, I don't know if fluoride has been added to the public water supply or not	1
Yes, I am sure the public water supply HAS had fluoride added	2
Yes, I am sure the public water supply has NOT had fluoride added	3
Refused	99

Q3. Do you agree with the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply? (Single response)

No	1
Yes	2
Unsure / Don't know	90
Refused	99

Q4. Do you believe that the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply is safe? (Single response)

No	1
Yes	2
Unsure / Don't know	90
Refused	99

Q5. Do you believe that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay? (Single response)

No	1	Go to Q5a1
Yes	2	Go to Q5a2
Unsure / Don't know	90	Go to Q6b
Refused	99	Go to Q6b

(Q5a1 ONLY IF 'NO' – code 1 at Q5)

Q5a1. Can you please further explain why you gave this response; why you **DON'T** think that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay? (Probe fully)

_____	1 >Q6b
Unsure / Don't know / Can't remember	90 >Q6b
Refused	99 >Q6b

(Q5a2 ONLY IF 'YES' - code 2 at Q5)

Q5a2. Can you please further explain why you gave this response; why you **DO** think that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay? (Probe fully)

	1
Unsure / Don't know / Can't remember	90
Refused	99

(Q6a ONLY IF 'YES' – code 2 at Q5)

Q6a. Would you be in favour of adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply to assist in the prevention of tooth decay? (Single response).

(Interviewer note: if respondent says “yes”, clarify which yes option: “would this be for children only, for adults only or for both adults and children?” – please code options 2, 3 or 4)

No	1
Yes, for children only	2
Yes, for adults only	3
Yes, for both adults and children	4
Unsure / Don't know	90
Refused	99

ASK ALL

Q6b. Before today which of the following best describes your understanding about fluoride in public water supplies? READ OUT ROTATE DIRECTION.

I did not know anything about it	1 (Go to D1)
I have heard about Fluoride in public water supplies but don't know much about it	2 (Go to Q7)
I know about fluoride in public water supplies	3 (Go to Q7)

Q7. How did you find out about the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies?

(Multiple responses possible). DO NOT READ OUT

Newspapers	1
Magazines	2
Television	3
Radio	4
Advertisements for dental products	5
Health authorities	6
Dentists	7
Friends and family	8
Internet (if possible specify, which websites) _____ website	9
Other _____ (specify)	87
No information / source (used)	88
Didn't know about it before (now)	89
Unsure / Don't know / Can't remember	90
Refused	99

D1 Which of the following best describes your personal circumstance: READ OUT SR

Young single (17-24 yrs)	1
Middle single (25-44 yrs)	2
Mature single (45-64 yrs)	3
Young Couple (<45yrs)	4
Young Family (singles or couples with dependents, where oldest <13 yrs)	5
Mature Family (singles or couples with dependents, where oldest >13 yrs)	6
Empty Nester (couples 45-64 yrs with no dependents at home)	7
Retirees (singles or couples 65+ yrs with no dependents at home)	8
REFUSED	99

D2 How long have you lived in the (TOWN FROM S2) region?

Up to 3 yrs	1
From 3 – 5 yrs	2
From 5 – 10 yrs	3
Over 10 yrs	4
D.K. / Refused	90

ASK ALL

D3 Lastly what is your combined household income before tax?

Up to \$40K	1
\$41k - \$50K	2
\$51K - \$60K	3
\$61K - \$70K	4
\$71K- \$80K	5
\$81K- \$100K	6
\$101K - \$120K	7
\$121K-\$150K	8
\$151K+	9
Unsure / Don't know / Can't remember	90
REF	99

Thank you for your time. That completes the actual survey, but in case my supervisor needs to check my work could I please have your name and a contact number. **These details are only for our checking procedures. Apart from the checking process, you will not be contacted again after this survey, nor will your name be recorded on any database.**

NAME _____ TELEPHONE NO _____

INTERVIEWER NAME _____ INT NO _____

I hereby certify that these interviews are accurate and complete, taken in accordance with my instructions and the ICC/ESOMAR international code.

INTERVIEWERS SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

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Appendix B – Data Tables

BANNER	%
TOTAL	100%↑
AGE GROUP	
18- 39	17%↓
40+	83%↑
GENDER	
MALE	47%↑
FEMALE	53%↑
LOCATION	
Balingup	15%↓
Boyup Brook	16%↓
Bridgetown	56%↑
Greenbushes	6%↓
Kirup	4%↓
Mullalyup	2%↓
HOUSEHOLD INCOME	
Up to \$60K	48%↑
\$61K-\$100K	21%↑
\$101K+	13%↓
Don't Know	8%↓
Refused	9%↓
Column n	358

Figure 1.
Total sample; Unweighted; base n = from 358 to 360; total n = 360; 2 missing

Fluoride Banner	%
TOTAL	100%↑
Do you agree with the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply?	
Yes	58%↑
No	28%↓
Unsure / Don't know	14%↓
Do you believe that the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply is safe?	
Yes	58%↑
No	19%↓
Unsure / Don't know	22%↓
Do you believe that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay?	
Yes	69%↑
No	18%↓
Unsure / Don't know	13%↓
Column n	358

Figure 2.
Total sample; Unweighted; base n = from 358 to 360; total n = 360; 2 missing

Is your residence connected to the public drinking water supply? - SUMMARY	BANNER															
	AGE GROUP			GENDER		LOCATION						HOUSEHOLD INCOME				
	TOTAL	18-39	40+	MALE	FEMALE	Baligup	Boyup Brook	Bridge-town	Green-bushes	Kirup	Mulla-lyup	Up to \$60K	\$61K-\$100K	\$101K+	Don't Know	Refused
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	65%	73%	64%	63%	68%	47%	59%	80%↑	77%	47%	25%	66%	67%	59%	66%	68%
No	34%	27%	36%	37%	32%	53%	41%	19%↓	23%	53%	75%	33%	33%	41%	34%	32%
Unsure / Don't know / Can't remember	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
NET	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Column n	357	58	299	166	191	55	57	200	22	16	7	174	73	47	30	33

Figure 3. Is your residence connected to the public drinking water supply? - Total sample; Weight: Local Bridgetown Regions Weighted; base n = 357; total n = 360; 3 missing;

What is your most commonly used source of drinking water at home? - Coded - SUMMARY	BANNER															
	AGE GROUP			GENDER		LOCATION						HOUSEHOLD INCOME				
	TOTAL	18-39	40+	MALE	FEMALE	Baligup	Boyup Brook	Bridge-town	Green-bushes	Kirup	Mulla-lyup	Up to \$60K	\$61K-\$100K	\$101K+	Don't Know	Refused
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Rainwater tank	50%	33% ⁺	54% ⁺	47%	52%	74% ⁺	61%	31% [↓]	34%	81%	90%	51%	54%	33%	45%	68%
Tap water from public drinking water supply	39%	56% ⁺	35% ⁺	45%	34%	13% [↓]	31%	54% [↑]	54%	19%	10%	38%	38%	50%	40%	27%
Tap water with plumbed in water filter	9%	10%	8%	6%	11%	8%	8%	13%	4%	0%	0%	9%	8%	10%	11%	5%
Store bought bottled water	1%	0%	1%	0%	2%	2%	0%	1%	4%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	5%	0%
Other (specify)	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	4%	0%	1%	4%	0%	0%	1%	0%	7% [↑]	0%	0%
Unsure / Don't know	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
NET	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Column n	358	59	299	166	192	55	57	201	22	16	7	174	73	48	30	33

Figure 4. What is your most commonly used source of drinking water at home? -

Total sample; Weight: Local Bridgetown Regions Weighted; base n = 358; total n = 360; 2 missing;

What is your most commonly used source of drinking water at home? - Coded - SUMMARY	BANNER															
	AGE GROUP			GENDER		LOCATION						HOUSEHOLD INCOME				
	TOTAL	18-39	40+	MALE	FEMALE	Baligup	Boyup Brook	Bridge-town	Green-bushes	Kirup	Mulla-lyup	Up to \$60K	\$61K-\$100K	\$101K+	Don't Know	Refused
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Rainwater tank	29%	15%	33%	24%	33%	57% ⁺	34%	18% ⁺	20%	60%	100%	28%	32%	8%	31%	53%
Tap water from public drinking water supply	57%	72%	52%	66%	49%	27% ⁺	53%	65%	70%	40%	0%	58%	56%	74%	46%	40%
Tap water with plumbed in water filter	13%	13%	13%	9%	16%	16%	14%	15%	5%	0%	0%	13%	12%	18%	16%	8%
Store bought bottled water	1%	0%	2%	1%	2%	0%	0%	2%	5%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	7%	0%
Other (specify)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Unsure / Don't know	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
NET	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Column n	246	41	205	112	134	26	34	160	17	8	1	122	50	28	23	23

Figure 5. What is your most commonly used source of drinking water at home? –

Filter: Is your residence connected to the public drinking water supply?

Do you know whether fluoride has or has not been added to the public drinking water supply in your area?	BANNER															
	AGE GROUP			GENDER		LOCATION						HOUSEHOLD INCOME				
	TOTAL	18-39	40+	MALE	FEMALE	Baligup	Boyup Brook	Bridge-town	Green-bushes	Kirup	Mulla-lyup	Up to \$60K	\$61K-\$100K	\$101K+	Don't Know	Refused
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes, I am sure the public water supply HAS had fluoride added	29%	26%	29%	32%	25%	30%	21%	33%	32%	33%	10%	26%	34%	31%	26%	30%
Yes, I am sure the public water supply has NOT had fluoride added	11%	22%	8%	10%	12%	8%	8%	15%	19%	0%	0%	11%	9%	21%	2%	7%
No, I don't know if fluoride has been added to the public water supply or not	60%	50%	62%	57%	62%	62%	69%	52%	49%	63%	90%	63%	57%	44%	71%	64%
Refused	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	5%+	0%	0%
NET	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Column n	358	59	299	166	192	55	57	201	22	16	7	174	73	48	30	33

Figure 6. Do you know whether fluoride has or has not been added to the public drinking water supply in your area?
Total sample; Weight: Local Bridgetown Regions Weighted; base n = 358; total n = 360; 2 missing;

Do you know whether fluoride has or has not been added to the public drinking water supply in your area?	BANNER															
	AGE GROUP			GENDER		LOCATION						HOUSEHOLD INCOME				
	TOTAL	18-39	40+	MALE	FEMALE	Bal- gup	Boyup Brook	Bridge- town	Green- bushes	Kirup	Mulla- lyup	Up to \$60K	\$61K- \$100K	\$101K+	Don't Know	Refu- sed
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Yes, I am sure the public water supply HAS had fluoride added	36%	31%	37%	40%	32%	41%	30%	36%	31%	70%	0%	31%	41%	43%	36%	39%
Yes, I am sure the public water supply has NOT had fluoride added	10%	16%	8%	7%	13%	4%	3%	13%	20%	0%	0%	13%	8%	10%	4%	10%
No, I don't know if fluoride has been added to the public water supply or not	53%	53%	54%	52%	55%	55%	67%	51%	49%	20%	100%	56%	51%	43%	61%	51%
Refused	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	10%+	0%	0%	0%	5%	0%	0%
NET	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Column n	246	41	205	112	134	26	34	160	17	8	1	122	50	28	23	23

Figure 7. Do you know whether fluoride has or has not been added to the public drinking water supply in your area? Filtered for connected to water supply
Filter: Is your residence connected to the public drinking water supply?

Do you agree with the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply? - SUMMARY	BANNER															
	AGE GROUP			GENDER		LOCATION						HOUSEHOLD INCOME				
	TOTAL	18-39	40+	MALE	FEMA-LE	Balin-gup	Boyup Brook	Bridge-town	Green-bushes	Kirup	Mulla-lyup	Up to \$60K	\$61K-\$100K	\$101K+	Don't Know	Refused
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	59%	54%	61%	59%	59%	45%	70%	56%	72%	57%	65%	62%	65%	57%	21% ⁺	66%
No	28%	25%	28%	25%	30%	39%	16%	29%	12%	30%	35%	31%	17%	24%	47%	23%
Unsure / Don't know	13%	21%	11%	16%	11%	16%	14%	14%	16%	13%	0%	7% ⁺	17%	19%	32%	11%
NET	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Column n	357	59	298	165	192	55	57	201	21	16	7	173	73	48	30	33

Figure 8. Do you agree with the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply? - Total sample; Weight: Local Bridgetown Regions Weighted; base n = 357; total n = 360; 3 missing;

Do you agree with the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply? - SUMMARY	BANNER															
	AGE GROUP			GENDER		LOCATION					HOUSEHOLD INCOME					
	TOTAL	18- 39	40+	MALE	FEMA-LE	Balin-gup	Boyup Brook	Bridg-etown	Gree...	Kirup	Mulla-lyup	Up to \$60K	\$61K-\$100K	\$101K +	Don't Know	Refu-sed
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	62%	61%	62%	61%	62%	58%	81%	60%	63%	70%	0%	63%	68%	66%	32%	66%
No	26%	18%	28%	23%	28%	31%	13%	26%	16%	20%	100%	31%	15%	20%	33%	22%
Unsure / Don't know	12%	21%	10%	16%	10%	11%	6%	14%	21%	10%	0%	6%	17%	14%	35%	12%
NET	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Column n	245	41	204	111	134	26	34	160	16	8	1	121	50	28	23	23

Figure 9. Do you agree with the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply? -

Filter: Is your residence connected to the public drinking water supply? - Weight: Local Bridgetown Region

Do you believe that the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply is safe? - SUMMARY	BANNER															
	AGE GROUP			GENDER		LOCATION						HOUSEHOLD INCOME				
	TOTAL	18-39	40+	MALE	FEMA-LE	Balin-gup	Boyup Brook	Bridge-town	Green-bushes	Kirup	Mulla-lyup	Up to \$60K	\$61K-\$100K	\$101K+	Don't Know	Refused
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	60%	58%	61%	67%	54%	48%	68%	59%	65%	62%	65%	61%	68%	65%	33%*	57%
No	19%	16%	20%	12%*	26%*	22%	9%	22%	8%	25%	25%	22%	13%	17%	25%	20%
Unsure / Don't know	20%	26%	19%	21%	20%	29%	23%	20%	27%	13%	10%	17%	19%	18%	42%	23%
NET	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Column n	358	59	299	166	192	55	57	201	22	16	7	174	73	48	30	33

Figure 10. Do you believe that the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply is safe? -

Total sample; Weight: Local Bridgetown Regions Weighted; base n = 358; total n = 360; 2 missing;

Do you believe that the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply is safe? - SUMMARY	BANNER															
	AGE GROUP			GENDER			LOCATION					HOUSEHOLD INCOME				
	TOTAL	18- 39	40+	MALE	FEMA-LE	Balin-gup	Boyup Brook	Bridge-town	Green-bushes	Kirup	Mulla-lyup	Up to \$60K	\$61K-\$100K	\$101K+	Don't Know	Refused
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	62%	66%	60%	69%	56%	56%	75%	61%	65%	80%	0%	61%	69%	73%	40%	52%
No	20%	12%	22%	14%	25%	24%	9%	20%	10%	10%	100%	23%	16%	15%	14%	26%
Unsure / Don't know	18%	22%	17%	17%	19%	20%	17%	19%	25%	10%	0%	15%	15%	12%	46%*	22%
NET	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Column n	246	41	205	112	134	26	34	160	17	8	1	122	50	28	23	23

Figure 11. Do you believe that the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply is safe? -

Filter: Is your residence connected to the public drinking water supply? - Weight: Local Bridge

Do you believe that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay? - SUMMARY	BANNER															
	AGE GROUP			GENDER			LOCATION						HOUSEHOLD INCOME			
TOTAL	18- 39	40+	MALE	FEMA- LE	Balin- gup	Boyup Brook	Bridg- etown	Gree...	Kirup	Mulla- lyup	Up to \$60K	\$61K- \$100K	\$101K +	Don't Know	Refu- sed	
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Yes	69%	66%	69%	69%	68%	58%	81%	69%	69%	57%	65%	70%	70%	68%	56%	69%
No	19%	23%	18%	15%	23%	26%	12%	17%	19%	35%	25%	17%	22%	23%	22%	16%
Unsure / Don't know	12%	12%	12%	17%	8%	16%	7%	14%	12%	8%	10%	13%	7%	9%	21%	15%
NET	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Column n	357	58	299	166	191	55	56	201	22	16	7	174	72	48	30	33

Figure 12. Do you believe that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay? - Total sample; Weight: Local Bridgetown Regions Weighted; base n = 357; total n = 360; 3 missing;

Do you believe that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay? - SUMMARY	BANNER															
	AGE GROUP			GENDER			LOCATION						HOUSEHOLD INCOME			
TOTAL	18- 39	40+	MALE	FEMA- LE	Balin- gup	Boyup Brook	Bridg- etown	Gree...	Kirup	Mulla- lyup	Up to \$60K	\$61K- \$100K	\$101K +	Don't Know	Refu- sed	
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Yes	70%	77%	68%	74%	66%	52%	80%	72%	75%	80%	0%	69%	71%	79%	56%	70%
No	18%	15%	19%	12%	24%	31%	13%	14%	15%	20%	100%	20%	20%	15%	16%	14%
Unsure / Don't know	12%	8%	13%	15%	10%	17%	7%	15%	10%	0%	0%	11%	9%	6%	28%	16%
NET	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Column n	245	40	205	112	133	26	33	160	17	8	1	122	49	28	23	23

Figure 13. Do you believe that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay? - Filter: Is your residence connected to the public drinking water supply? -

Can you please further explain why you DON'T think that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay? - Coded	BANNER															
	AGE GROUP			GENDER		LOCATION					HOUSEHOLD INCOME					
	TOTAL	18-39	40+	MALE	FEMALE	Baligup	Boyup Brook	Bridge-town	Green-bushes	Kirup	Mullalyup	Up to \$60K	\$61K-\$100K	\$101K+	Don't Know	Refused
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Personal research on negatives/health issues of fluoride	22%	27%	20%	7%	31%	23%	15%	33%	41%	0%	0%	22%	26%	11%	13%	44%
Water with fluoride does not affect tooth decay/oral hygiene	22%	30%	19%	29%	17%	28%	15%	34%	20%	0%	0%	16%	22%	45%	11%	18%
Teeth and oral health due to diet	23%	11%	27%	11%	30%	25%	15%	16%	0%	0%	100%	37%	15%	15%	0%	18%
No problems before/don't need to change water/fine as it is	21%	9%	25%	27%	17%	16%	40%	5%	0%	87%+	0%	22%	9%	19%	62%	0%
Toothpaste has enough fluoride	15%	36%	8%	16%	14%	12%	15%	26%	0%	0%	0%	7%	20%	41%	0%	0%
Just don't like the idea/don't think it's necessary	9%	11%	8%	14%	6%	15%	0%	5%	59%+	0%	0%	6%	9%	0%	13%	39%
Don't know enough about it	4%	7%	3%	5%	3%	0%	0%	4%	0%	13%	0%	0%	8%	11%	0%	0%
Other/specify	2%	0%	3%	7%	0%	0%	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%	7%	0%	0%
NET	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Column n	62	14	48	24	38	13	6	33	4	5	1	25	18	10	5	4

Figure 14. Can you please further explain why you DON'T think that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay? - Total sample; Weight: Local Bridgetown Regions Weighted; base n = 62;

Can you please further explain why you DO think that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay? - Coded	BANNER															
	AGE GROUP			GENDER		LOCATION					HOUSEHOLD INCOME					
	TOTAL	18-39	40+	MALE	FEMALE	Bal- gup	Boyup Brook	Bridge- town	Green- bushes	Kirup	Mulla- lyup	Up to \$60K	\$61K- \$100K	\$101K+	Don't Know	Refu- sed
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Personal history of having healthy teeth from having fluoride in water supplies	24%	9%	28%	18%	29%	25%	31%	24%	0%	8%	45%	31%	13%	14%	20%	28%
Research/Reports that prove the benefit of fluoride in water supplies	21%	15%	22%	23%	19%	26%	29%	18%	23%	26%	0%	15%	22%	29%	23%	33%
Advice/Information from dentists and dental experts	12%	8%	13%	11%	13%	16%	17%	10%	6%	6%	18%	12%	17%	8%	10%	8%
Personal history of tooth and oral hygiene issues from no fluoride	12%	19%	10%	13%	12%	3%	15%	13%	18%	0%	18%	12%	15%	12%	0%	16%
Provides extra protection along with toothpaste	10%	16%	8%	12%	8%	7%	14%	11%	18%	0%	0%	6%	16%	18%	7%	8%
Personal belief/brought up belief of fluoride benefit	9%	13%	8%	9%	10%	5%	2%	11%	12%	8%	18%	8%	8%	13%	28%	4%
Advertisement/Media promoting it	8%	18%	5%	11%	5%	4%	8%	9%	11%	8%	0%	7%	14%	7%	6%	0%
Word of mouth information	6%	3%	6%	6%	6%	7%	3%	8%	6%	0%	0%	6%	3%	7%	13%	8%
Provides extra protection for children	10%	11%	10%	2%+	17%+	7%	0%	7%	23%	18%	45%	18%+	0%	6%	0%	0%
Probably has benefits but may also have some minor negatives	3%	0%	4%	3%	3%	7%	2%	4%	0%	0%	0%	4%	3%	2%	0%	0%
Other/specify	3%	2%	4%	2%	4%	4%	0%	3%	0%	25%+	0%	1%	8%	5%	0%	8%
Don't Know	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%+
NET	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Column n	232	37	195	106	126	30	42	133	14	9	4	115	48	33	13	23

Figure 15. Can you please further explain why you DO think that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay? - Total sample; Weight: Local Bridgetown Regions Weighted; base n = 232;

Would you be in favour of adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply to assist in the prevention of tooth decay? - Sample that believe that flouridated water can reduce tooth decay	BANNER															
	AGE GROUP			GENDER		LOCATION						HOUSEHOLD INCOME				
	TOTAL	18- 39	40+	MALE	FEMA-LE	Balin-gup	Boyup Brook	Bridge-town	Green-bushes	Kirup	Mulla-lyup	Up to \$60K	\$61K-\$100K	\$101K+	Don't Know	Refu-sed
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Yes, for both adults and children	74%	81%	72%	71%	77%	64%	87%	72%	78%	74%	69%	77%	69%	91%	54%	60%
No	11%	1% ⁺	13% ⁺	10%	11%	24%	7%	13%	5%	0%	0%	11%	8%	2%	22%	23%
Yes, for children only	8%	0%	10%	8%	8%	7%	0%	7%	17%	26%	15%	8%	15%	5%	0%	4%
Unsure / Don't know	7%	18%	4%	10%	4%	5%	7%	8%	0%	0%	15%	4%	8%	2%	24%	14%
Yes, for adults only	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
NET	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Column n	247	38	209	114	133	32	46	140	15	9	5	123	50	33	17	24

Figure 16. Would you be in favour of adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply to assist in the prevention of tooth decay? - Sample that believe that flouridated water can reduce tooth decay
Weight: Local Bridgetown Regions

Before today which of the following best describes your understanding about fluoride in public water supplies? - SUMMARY	BANNER															
	AGE GROUP			GENDER		LOCATION						HOUSEHOLD INCOME				
	TOTAL	18- 39	40+	MALE	FEMA-LE	Balin-gup	Boyup Brook	Bridge-town	Green-bushes	Kirup	Mulla-lyup	Up to \$60K	\$61K-\$100K	\$101K+	Don't Know	Refused
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
I know about fluoride in public water supplies	51%	32%*	55%+	49%	52%	54%	47%	48%	39%	45%	80%	62%+	40%	42%	34%	45%
I have heard about fluoride in public water supplies but don't know much about it	46%	60%	43%	46%	47%	46%	51%	48%	58%	46%	20%	38%	53%	58%	53%	55%
I did not know anything about it	3%	8%	2%	5%	2%	0%	1%	4%	4%	9%	0%	0%*	8%	0%	14%+	0%
NET	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Column n	358	59	299	166	192	55	57	201	22	16	7	174	73	48	30	33

Figure 17. Before today which of the following best describes your understanding about fluoride in public water supplies? - Total sample; Weight: Local Bridgetown Regions Weighted; base n = 358;

How did you find out about the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies? (MULTIPLE RESPONSES)- Coded - Sample able to recall where they first heard information	BANNER															
	AGE GROUP			GENDER			LOCATION					HOUSEHOLD INCOME				
	TOTAL	18- 39	40+	MALE	FEMA-LE	Balin-gup	Boyup Brook	Bridg-etown	Gree...	Kirup	Mulla-lyup	Up to \$60K	\$61K-\$100K	\$101K+	Don't Know	Refu-sed
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Newspapers	29%	15%	33%	34%	25%	23%	27%	34%	40%	27%	10%	33%	19%	29%	36%	26%
Friends and family	29%	47%	25%	27%	31%	26%	35%	29%	32%	15%	35%	30%	31%	33%	21%	20%
Television	23%	20%	23%	27%	19%	19%	19%	26%	23%	42%	0%	24%	21%	27%	24%	13%
Have just always known about it/grew up with it	17%	8%	19%	9%	23%	21%	21%	13%	4%	28%	25%	15%	20%	17%	8%	29%
Radio	11%	4%	12%	17%	5%	8%	6%	11%	0%	25%	20%	9%	13%	10%	24%	4%
Dentists	11%	16%	9%	8%	13%	13%	11%	11%	4%	23%	0%	12%	15%	11%	3%	0%
Health authorities	6%	2%	7%	5%	7%	9%	5%	7%	4%	0%	0%	6%	7%	6%	3%	5%
School/University	6%	7%	6%	8%	4%	8%	7%	5%	4%	4%	10%	5%	7%	13%	0%	3%
Internet (if possible specify, which websites)	5%	9%	4%	4%	6%	11%	4%	7%	0%	0%	0%	5%	4%	10%	4%	3%
Magazines	5%	3%	5%	5%	5%	8%	3%	5%	8%	5%	0%	6%	6%	2%	0%	7%
Health books/journals	3%	2%	4%	3%	4%	8%	2%	3%	8%	0%	0%	4%	0%	2%	4%	7%
Public forums/Discussions/Debates	5%	6%	4%	2%	7%	2%	2%	4%	0%	0%	25%	7%	3%	4%	0%	0%
Google search	3%	8%	2%	3%	3%	2%	2%	5%	0%	0%	0%	3%	2%	7%	0%	3%
Personal experiences with the local water	2%	0%	3%	0%	4%	0%	2%	4%	0%	0%	0%	2%	2%	0%	3%	8%
Advertisements for dental products	2%	3%	2%	2%	3%	0%	5%	3%	0%	0%	0%	2%	4%	2%	0%	3%
Other/specify	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	2%	1%	2%	0%	0%
Word of mouth/General chit-chat	1%	3%	1%	2%	1%	4%	0%	1%	0%	5%	0%	0%	1%	4%	5%	0%
Social Media Outlets (e.g. Facebook/Youtube)	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%
General media	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	3%
Pamphlets/Brochures	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%
Column n	350	56	294	161	189	55	56	197	21	14	7	173	70	48	26	33

Figure 18. How did you find out about the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies? (MULTIPLE RESPONSES)- - Sample able to recall where they first heard information
Weight: Local Bridgetown Regions Weighted;

Fluoride Banner

How did you find out about the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies? (MULTIPLE RESPONSES)- Coded - Sample able to recall where they first heard information	Do you agree with the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply?			Do you believe that the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply is safe?			Do you believe that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay?			
	TOTAL	Yes	No	Unsure / Don't know	Yes	No	Unsure / Don't know	Yes	No	Unsure / Don't know
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Newspapers	29%	31%	25%	28%	31%	22%	32%	31%	24%	28%
Friends and family	29%	26%	33%	35%	25%	33%	38%	24%	40%	43%
Television	22%	23%	16%	38%	23%	17%	26%	23%	23%	17%
Have just always known about it/grew up with it	17%	17%	22%	2%	17%	20%	11%	17%	22%	8%
Radio	11%	11%	11%	10%	11%	9%	11%	11%	9%	13%
Dentists	11%	12%	8%	8%	12%	8%	9%	12%	10%	4%
Health authorities	6%	8%	2%	4%	8%	2%	4%	8%	4%	0%
School/University	6%	6%	4%	11%	7%	6%	4%	7%	6%	3%
Internet (if possible specify, which websites)	5%	2%*	12%*	6%	2%*	16%*	4%	2%*	10%	12%
Magazines	5%	4%	9%	2%	4%	6%	6%	5%	3%	8%
Health books/journals	3%	2%	5%	4%	2%	7%	4%	4%	3%	0%
Public forums/Discussions/Debates	5%	6%	3%	0%	6%	5%	2%	5%	5%	0%
Google search	3%	1%	6%	4%	1%	9%*	2%	1%	4%	10%
Personal experiences with the local water	2%	1%	5%	2%	1%	4%	3%	2%	2%	6%
Advertisements for dental products	2%	3%	1%	0%	3%	1%	1%	3%	1%	0%
Other/specify	1%	2%	2%	0%	1%	4%	0%	1%	3%	0%
Word of mouth/General chit-chat	1%	0%	3%	4%	1%	3%	2%	0%	5%	2%
Social Media Outlets (e.g. Facebook/Youtube)	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
General media	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%
Pamphlets/Brochures	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Column n	348	208	96	45	209	69	72	244	62	42

Figure 19. How did you find out about the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies? (MULTIPLE RESPONSES)- Sample able to recall where they first heard information
Weight: Local Bridgetown Regions

How long have you lived in your current region? (within 30kms of town)? SUMMARY	BANNER															
	AGE GROUP			GENDER		LOCATION						HOUSEHOLD INCOME				
	TOTAL	18- 39	40+	MALE	FEMA-LE	Balin-gup	Boyup Brook	Bridge-town	Green-bushes	Kirup	Mulla-lyup	Up to \$60K	\$61K-\$100K	\$101K+	Don't Know	Refused
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Up to 3 yrs	7%	9%	6%	6%	7%	11%	7%	8%	4%	0%	0%	6%	3%	15%	6%	3%
From 3 – 5 yrs	9%	13%	8%	7%	10%	7%	8%	7%	8%	9%	25%	8%	6%	17%	3%	11%
From 5 – 10 yrs	18%	23%	16%	19%	17%	24%	18%	18%	19%	13%	10%	18%	18%	27%	8%	10%
Over 10 yrs	67%	55%	70%	68%	65%	56%	67%	67%	70%	78%	65%	67%	72%	41%*	81%	77%
NET	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Column n	358	59	299	166	192	55	57	201	22	16	7	174	73	48	30	33

Figure 20. How long have you lived in your current region?
Total sample; Weight: Local Bridgetown Regions Weighted; base n = 358; total n = 360; 2 missing;

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Appendix C Verbatim Comments

A note about the Verbatim Listings

The process of coding open ended responses sorts the responses into alphabetical order. The order of responses shown here does not relate to the order in which the comments were made. The order is a function of the coding process.

Question 1 “Other” sources of main drinking water

- A well.
- Bore water.
- Natural water (spring).
- Summer town water and winter we use rainwater.
- Tap water boiled.
- tap water but before it's been fully treated, live outside of town
- Tap water with jug filter.
- Town water shipped in due to plumbing not being finished.
- Underground spring.

Question 5 Reasons for Believing Fluoridation can help prevent Tooth Decay (232 Respondents)

- A lot of kids don't brush their teeth so having it in the water will help.
- Added to toothpaste; must be proven; grew up on rainwater, always told to brush teeth
- Ads say fluoride is beneficial/the dentist said it's good for teeth.
- Advertising for dental products says fluoride is good for your teeth/adding it to water supply ensures everyone has access to it esp. children who may not brush their teeth properly.
- Advertising; it's in toothpaste;
- All the fluoride in tooth paste so that what its used for
- All the research they have done has proven it.
- As a child, being told by the dentist
- Based on what I know from previous research fluoride is safe and non-harmful and beneficial in preventing tooth decay; would be against its introduction if it proves to be unsafe.
- Because fluoride has been use in the water all my life
- Because fluoride is used in detail treatment to help prevent tooth decay
- Because I am 65 and I grew up in Dublin and I still have 95% of my teeth and I believe it is because of the fluoride.
- Because I had a child on rainwater and she had her teeth reconstructed at age 4 because of no fluoride.
- Because I have had 4 children drinking water with fluoride and have found no absorbent tooth decay.
- Because I know people who live in areas that don't have fluoride that have trouble with their teeth.
- Because it has been shown by scientific studies that it does.
- Because its been stated in research that it does.
- Because my children grew up with fluoridated water and have far fewer cavities than I ever did
- Because of all the science behind it.
- Because of the Queenslanders who didn't have fluoride and they had trouble with their teeth.
- Because of the reports of dental people over the years.
- Because that's what the research proves.
- Because there has been a fair bit of evidence that it does

- Because they tell us it's good for us, reports and media say so.
- Because tooth cavities decreased significantly when fluoride was introduced in the 60s.
- Because until the introduction of bottled water and sports drinks, kids teeth were fine because they got fluoride in the water.
- Because were educated
- Because when I was young I had lots of cavities and since fluoride's introduction into water and tooth paste kids don't have cavities anymore
- Because you need a certain amount of fluoride to keep your teeth healthy
- Been clinically proven
- Been proven over the years
- Been told for the last 40 years
- Bottled water in families leads to tooth decay
- Brought up in a place with no fluoride, saw a lot of tooth decay, children grew up with fluoride, no tooth decay
- Came from UK and was in the water at that time
- Chemical composition of fluoride can displace any other decay.
- Children using fluoride supplement have teeth vastly improved on the generation before
- Colleague tells him, dentist tells him good for children under 12
- Countries where water is not fluoridated have teeth decay problems
- Dentists recommend it; (but giving up sugar prevents it too)
- Dentists says so
- Don't know how it works it just does
- Don't know, we were always told that it was good for our teeth, it's never done any harm to my knowledge
- Family are dentists, decay has decreased
- Fluoride is supposed to be good for your teeth we grew up with it in Perth
- Fluoridation is part of the dental practice that is recommended, kids benefited from fluoridation
- Fluoride gets into your teeth
- Fluoride helps calcium strength
- Fluoride helps with the coating of the teeth itself, and if the decay is in the teeth has started then it will continue anyway because its inside
- Fluoride in your toothpaste so it can't be that bad.
- Fluoride is known to prevent tooth decay
- Fluoride is supposed to coat your enamel
- From a scientific point of view there are more positives than negatives
- From the dentist

- From what I've read and listening to health professionals
 - From what my mum (dental nurse) has explained to me.
 - From what we've been told over the years in media it is safe.
 - Getting fluoride from the water, you're getting it all day
 - Goes back to Mrs Marsh on TV
 - Going to the dentist and knowing about children's teeth that live on farms- they normally have tooth decay because they drink rainwater
 - Good for children to prevent tooth decay if they don't clean their teeth properly when they are little
 - Grew up in Perth and drank fluoride water for 40 years and have all my teeth
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- Grew up in Sydney with fluoride, had strong teeth, may be incidental;
 - Have a science background and have read a bit about it, if it's the right amount, it works
 - Have always thought it was beneficial to prevent tooth decay
 - Have heard that it prevents tooth decay
 - Having grown up in Scotland there are many studies and results that prove it does reduce tooth decay however having worked in the conveyance of safe water quality it has since become apparent that there may be risks associated with the dosing of fluoride through high consumption of fluoride from various source
 - Health officials seem to think it's beneficial so they should know.
 - Hear a lot about fluoride and enamel and protecting teeth
 - Helps make a coating; strengthening; understanding for many years
 - Helps to harden enamel; not quite convinced, not sure it absorbs through the enamel or thru digestive system; seems to have helped children's teeth, fluoride stained their teeth though
 - How I've been brought up to believe
 - I believe the reason my kids have good teeth is because they drank water that was fluoridated
 - I believe I have heard that somewhere
 - I believe it has been proven it does, they warn against continuous drinking of rain water
 - I can remember there being some recent discussion to the contrary but nothing to change my opinion.
 - I come from cities where they use it and where they don't there's more tooth decay.

- I grew in NSW where they have fluoride and my teeth were fine till I moved to here and my children who had fluoride have less tooth decay than those who didn't.
- I grew up down here and can see the difference in teeth with people who have it.
- I grew up in Perth when they had fluoride and my teeth are fine.
- I grew up in the UK which had fluoridation
- I grew up when there wasn't fluoride and I think people had a lot more of tooth decay back in those days compared to what we have now.
- I grew up when they first introduced fluoride and there was apparently more decay before they did.
- I grew up with fluoride; it seems to be relatively beneficial and I haven't heard of any negative side-effects.
- I guess because its fluoride.
- I have been told that fluoride is good for your teeth.
- I have heard debate on radio and health professionals say it helps prevent decay.
- I have just always thought it made it better for the teeth.
- I have lovely strong teeth, always had fluoride in the water in the UK
- I have only got two fillings as we had fluoridated water as a child.
- I have read that fluoride will harden your teeth
- I have seen a few things on TV that confirm that.
- I just think that anything with fluoride is good for your teeth anyway, so should help with your teeth in the long run
- I know a lot of people out on farms and their teeth are not as good as mine
- I read some research the other day that since they added fluoride to the water supply tooth decay has gone down/areas that do not have it have tooth decay problems.
- I really don't have much knowledge but when you go the dentist and they talk about fluoride and that sort of thing
- I recently read an article in the which said that it was dangerous quotes from the medical lancet journal
- I think it has been proven to lessen tooth decay
- I think it's more about what you eat and consumption of sugar.
- I took fluoride tablets when I was pregnant and they have good teeth.
- I understand that is the scientific evidence that it does
- I used live in areas that had fluoridation.
- I was a dental nurse and I can see the difference between those who do and don't use fluoride.

- I was a teacher for 40 years and saw a great improvement over the years and all children were drinking fluoride water. apart from better dental care as well as fluoride water
- I was always informed that it does
- I was told that when I was a child.
- If we've got blokes getting paid \$200K+ saying it is safe then it should be.
- I'm 66 years of age and have a mouth full of cavities; I grew up in a time without fluoride. My grandkids don't have that and as can see that fluoride. The research shows this.
- In other areas where it's been introduced, children growing up in these areas have less interactions with the dentist
- In the paper Information on TV. suggests it is beneficial.
- Informed from my dentist
- It has been proven
- It has been seriously investigated and say it helps your teeth
- It has been used for a long time now and statistics show reduction in decay/people who drank non-fluoridated water had worse teeth.
- It has helped with me, didn't have a great deal of problem with addition of fluoride
- It is a proven fact due to research that has been published
- It might prevent tooth decay but if you look after your teeth there's no reason to put fluoride in the water.
- It must strengthen enamel/unsure.
- It probably does but I am not sure of any long term side effects associated with it/statistics show it helps with tooth decay.
- It puts a coating on teeth/hardens the enamel
- It seems to be statistically proven
- It strengthen teeth enamel
- It tends to harden the tooth enamel especially in younger people
- It will but with negative effects/it only acts on contact so ingestion could have negative health effects/research shows that it does prevent tooth decay but should not be ingested.
- It's a chemical of some sort that kills the bacteria that cause tooth decay, but it is also a chemical which causes damage to the body.
- It's a form of fluoride application for people who don't brush their teeth or see their dentist.
- It's added to toothpaste so I guess so.
- It's been around for a long time and anecdotal evidence shows it has reduced tooth decay.

- It's been in use for a long time
- It's been proven before to work
- It's been proven that it does from what I've been told and read - public knowledge
- It's been tested for a long time in Perth and even though people are for it and against it
- It's in toothpaste. It's just reports I've heard or listened to that say that.
- It's supposed to; confident it's true.
- its things I have heard over the years/and I know people who have lived in country towns without fluoride have been more susceptible to tooth decay
- It's what we've always been told/in the olden days people had terrible teeth as there was no fluoride.
- I've heard at the dentist that fluoride prevents decay.
- I've known people in other towns (with fluoride, and who take fluoride tablet) with children and their teeth are pretty good.
- Just and heard that fluoride is good for tooth decay
- Just from observation, people's teeth improved after fluoridation
- Just from what the dentist has told/as long that there is not overdosing.
- Just going on what we have been told all these years.
- Just purely by what we have been lead to believe media and what not
- Just what I have been told really/
- Just what you hear all the time
- Kids don't have a very good education on cleaning their teeth properly, so they need extra fluoride to help.
- Learnt in school that fluoride is good for teeth protection.
- Lived in America for 13 years, seen it working; go to the dentist and heard a lot of people just don't want it;
- Lived in England, people who had natural fluoride in water had no tooth decay I think it helps younger kids, but beneficial for adults;
- Lived in the metro area and it was safe; over forty/fifty years they would have found any problems.
- Look at how teeth have improved in this area over 20-30 years
- Lots of kids don't clean their teeth properly.
- Media has informed me about fluoride
- Medical opinions
- Medical research- my own children had to have fluoride tablets as they had rainwater only.
- Most dentists suggest using fluoridated toothpaste
- Most kids don't brush teeth properly so it can't hurt.

- Mum and Dad and the dentist told us.
- Must be a proven thing otherwise they wouldn't be doing it
- My children grew up with fluoride and have lovely teeth and I didn't have fluoride and have many fillings.
- My children have better teeth than me from taking fluoride/as long as they test that the dosage is not greater than the world health standards
- My children have no fillings my children have no fillings
- My children were brought up here and their teeth are alright.
- My dentist tells me fluoride treatment is quite safe.
- My grandchildren rarely need dental treatment and they have fluoride/farm kids on tank water have more decay.
- My mother gave me fluoride tablets and I gave them to my children and we had no tooth decay.
- My nana, when she was young, lost her teeth pretty quick (and they had no fluoride in the water)/proven, people have better teeth these days.
- My sons have no cavities in their teeth, have had fluoride all of their lives
- My teeth improved after moving to WA and drinking fluoridated water
- No not really
- Only by what I have been told by TV
- Only in children; "they say" during growing years, children need it; putting it in water effective; not needing it as you get older
- Other factors such as diet and improved dental care have also helped reduce tooth decay so there is no data to say that it's entirely due to fluoride/it does help a bit but no one knows how much.
- Our children were born after the addition of fluoride to water and their teeth are better than ours.
- Over the years I've heard that helped prevent tooth decay.
- People from the city who have had it - better teeth than those in other towns who don't have it (fluoride).
- Quite a few older people don't have good teeth because they didn't have it. They wouldn't put it in the water if it didn't work.
- Read all the scientific evidence
- Read sufficient research to indicate that's a true statement.
- Read the paper; magazines
- Research has shown that fluoridation of water has helped with dental caries in young people
- Research says that communities that have fluoride pressed on them have less tooth decay than communities that don't

- Research shows that areas that have fluoride have lower levels of tooth decay/you can no longer buy fluoride tablets.
- Scientific thing
- Scientifically proven
- Seem to have a lot better teeth nowadays which is an indication fluoride is benefiting children
- seems to be a lot less tooth decay in the age group that started on it
- Seen documentaries that have said about fluoride preventing tooth decays, articles and science supports it
- Some articles I have read (Choice magazine) have said that fluoride has helped in preventing tooth decay.
- Something that I heard or read years ago and put fluoride in toothpaste
- Son and grandchildren live on the farm; no town water; have tooth decay from no fluoride
- Statistics show the benefit of adding fluoride. That the reason they put in there, it's proven to reduce decay.
- That's what I have been brought up to believe, because media says it prevents tooth decay
- That's why they made so many millions of tubes of toothpaste - they wouldn't do that if there was no purpose to it.
- The amount of tooth decay we don't have
- The change in dental services over time shows fluoride has been of benefit/so much so that they are looking for extra work and pushing things like braces for cosmetic reasons.
- The Dental Association figures show that children's teeth have improved since fluoride was added/rates of decay decreased.
- The dentist said so
- the dentists tell us
- The enamel on the teeth is helped and strengthened by addition of fluoride.
- The evidence is there
- The fluoride argument back in the 50's (in Perth).
- The improvement from when she was a child to now I think talking generally children's teeth have better condition.
- The less instance of people with false teeth
- The studies have shown yes but whether it should be in the water and not just toothpaste I don't know
- There have been surveys done in Queensland (who don't have fluoride) compared to other states who have fluoride/there was a noticeable increase in tooth decay in areas where there was no fluoride

- There is good evidence to show that it reduces plaque and makes enamel stronger
- They brought it in for the children and their teeth
- They must think so if they put it in.
- They say fluoride is in toothpaste to prevent tooth decay same in the water
- They use fluoride in with toothpaste
- This what I have been lead to believe by dentists tooth paste commercials(commonly accepted myth)
- Tooth decay seems to have diminished in the cities and towns where there is fluoride.
- Tooth paste add and things says the fluoride is good for your teeth and saw a research once on this as well
- Toothpaste has fluoride so it must be good for your teeth
- TV campaigns
- Used to live in Scotland, gave kids tablets, helped prevent decay; or slows down
- Was told when she was a kid at school the fluoride it was good for our teeth
- We can only go by research they say it is safe to add to water
- We don't seem to get fluoride any other way except toothpaste so think adding to the water will reduce tooth issues.
- We had the tablets as kids and never had any problems
- We have friends around here campaigning against fluoride. I have always thought it was good for dental health and recently researched the subject and found out that there is considerable evidence that it has been beneficial all over the world and major studies have found no adverse health effects.
- We have three children, all brought up with scheme water (with fluoride), and all have good teeth, and I believe fluoride was the reason for that.
- We were told as children fluoride was good for our teeth.
- What people tell you; ads
- When I was young we lived on a farm and had to take fluoride tablets/this is any easy way to get it/makes teeth stronger.
- When my kids go to the dentist they need a fluoride treatment
- Years ago when they didn't have fluoride in the water, I lost a lot of teeth, and when it came in, my teeth seemed better.

Question 5: Reasons for Believing Fluoridation does not help prevent Tooth Decay. (62 Respondents)

- A GP said that they were trying to put fluoride into all medication as it is a calmativie and keeps population subdued.
- A lot of other products that have fluoride in it such as toothpaste, doesn't need to be put into the water.
- Because I don't think enough of it has been drunk to make it valid. It depends on how much water people drink.
- Because I don't think it's that active by the time people drink it,
- Because I have lived here for about forty years and I don't think it reduces tooth decay
- Because I think it's another chemical in our bodies; cleaning our teeth and our diets are more important in dental care than fluoride.
- Because in the 50's as a child, I think fluoride was in the public water and in later years they all had a fluoride deficiency.
- Because it's been proven fluoride doesn't prevent tooth decay. It's about good eating, toothpaste with fluoride in it and going to the dentist.
- Because my 7yr old and 5yr old have had 13 fillings between them, so I don't think it has helped.
- Because my recollections of what has been discussed over the years showing that it does not prevent tooth decay. Water cooperation should be more open with this information
- Because that makes no sense whatsoever. drinking the water will not make any difference to your teeth,
- Did my own research- other things seem to be a lot more effective, not much evidence of fluoride being effective. Already too much fluoride in everything we consume.
- Drank rain water my whole life and have perfectly good teeth.
- Fluoride has been shown to be a toxin with little or no health benefits
- Grandchildren grew up on this property all their lives and don't have any problems
- Hasn't been proven to me haven't heard that before. less likely to believe that.
- I agree that in tooth paste, fluoride in effective but not effect or safe in water
- I believe it is a poison, a good diet is all that is needed
- I did a course on tissue salts and was told minerals have been taken in combination with others, e.g. fluoride should be taken with calcium; it has not health benefits/we're not given a choice whether we have it or not.
- I didn't have fluoride when I was young and I don't think people have any better teeth today.

- I don't know how much is added to the water and I don't see the connection to my teeth.
- I don't know; it could possibly reduce tooth decay but any benefits would be lost by bad diet anyhow.
- I don't like anything been added to the water
- I don't really know, dentist says we should have it.
- I don't see any proof of it.
- I don't think it has any affect at all.
- I have done some research and I don't think it's a good idea.
- I just don't believe it.
- I just don't believe it's necessary.
- I never had fluoride in our water when we were younger and my teeth are fine.
- I read reports (going back 30 years) suggesting it's addition to drinking water was predominantly to save costs on waste removal, and those suggesting that while topical use may be fine constant fluoride intake is not good for your health.
- I think I only have 10 teeth left in my head, No I don't think it ever made any difference
- I think the harm- the things that cause tooth decay, every time you have something with sugar, you have 30mins of acid on your teeth and that's tooth decay, fluoride doesn't play any part in tooth decay, and it damages our bones, and that's why we all have osteoporosis because of the fluoride, I also use a fluoride free toothpaste
- I think you get enough fluoride in your toothpaste.
- I think you should be able to look after your teeth through what you eat. There is a strong taste of fluoride in our town water supply and I worry about the effect on the human body. We worry that too much is added to our water supply.
- If they don't get the dosage right, it could cause other health problems.
- In England I drank fluoridated water but stopped at age 20 and my teeth deteriorated/fluoride s a poison/accumulates in your system/bad for bones.
- In my circumstances I'm already getting exposure to fluoride with my dental plan and believe more would be harmful for me.
- It has been proven that it is but also causes other issues with long terms effects of fluoride. Just get kids to brush their teeth instead of expose them to that.
- It might help but the side effects are not worth it/on the kidneys/a lot of fluoride comes from Asia and quality varies and it's not tested properly/our community is small and I am concerned about the extra expense.

- It's a by-product of aluminium smelter, other countries have ceased using it, I buy fluoride free from health shops
- I've done research on it over the years and it was invented to keep the masses placid in the German POW camps and I know it's a toxic by-product of aluminium smelting has no place in our water
- Just don't know enough about the subject
- New research is out in relation to bacteria residing in the mouth that shows that before modern heavy consumption of sugar etc. healthy flora in mouth better able to combat teeth decay. I don't think fluoridating water can make up for paying close attention to what we eat and drink
- No one has control of how much fluoride we are taking it's in the water, toothpaste and fluoride tablets/it depends on how much water you consume as to how much fluoride you are taking
- Not many people drink straight tap water, and all those that do tend to mix it with other things, such as cordial coffee, tea
- Probably- the side effects far outweigh the benefits. the mental issues, links to cancer, the effect it has on the mind
- Research has been done on fluoridated areas; there may be some temporary benefits. Fluoride doesn't counteract the effects of fizzy drinks. It is imported from China and is a poison. Many American states have stopped using it and so have some European countries because there were no proven benefits.
- Research has proven that it doesn't in water supply but can be directly in toothpaste
- Studies are inconclusive, and it's been banned in other places in the world.
- The aborigines didn't have it and their teeth were fine/tooth decay is due to too much sugar in the diet and reducing that would help tooth decay more.
- The amount that they use would not make difference
- There are fortified toothpastes and some foods that naturally have fluoride in it
- There's a lot of kids out there who have decay in their teeth
- Tooth decay comes down to oral hygiene
- Tooth decay is prevented by good dental care and diet and I would rather the Govt put the money towards dental care.
- Water is water - why add something to it.
- We grew up on rain water and my teeth are fine/I don't agree with putting chemicals in the drinking water/people have been drinking rainwater for thousands of years without any ill effects.

- We lived on the farm with children (with only rainwater) and their teeth are good.
- You can choose to get your fluoride elsewhere than have the choice made for you.
- Young children are having too many and aren't cleaning and fluoride hasn't been proven to be beneficial