



Water Fluoridation Survey

Moora

September 2011

Water Unit
Environmental Health Directorate, Public Health Division
Department of Health, WA

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The Water Unit would like to thank the community members of Moora who took the time to complete the survey.

Disclaimer:

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Executive Summary

The Water Unit at the Environmental Health Directorate of the Department of Health WA was requested by the Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Advisory Committee to organise a postal survey of residents of the community of Moora. The purpose of the survey was to ascertain the level of awareness and support within the community for the addition of fluoride to the local public drinking water supply.

The postal survey took place in August 2011.

The major findings of the survey were:

- Just over half (51%) of the respondents agreed to the addition of fluoride in public drinking water supplies. The proportion who agreed to the addition of fluoride was higher than those who did not agree to the addition of fluoride (23%) and those who were unsure (26%).
- The majority agreed with the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies by age groups, except for the 18-34 years age group, in which case the majority were unsure. The proportion that did not agree was uniformly lower.
- Overall, 48% of respondents agreed that the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply is safe, with 19% not agreeing and 33% unsure.
- Overall, 49% of respondents agreed that fluoride in the public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay. This was larger than the 16% who did not agree and the 30% who were unsure (5% unstated).
- When comparisons were made between age groups, the majority of respondents in each age group agreed that adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply can assist in preventing tooth decay, except for the 18-34 years age group, in which case the majority were unsure. The proportion that did not agree was uniformly lower.

- Respondents who were in favour of adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply stated the benefit was seen to be for both adults and children.
- Overall, 74% of respondents stated that they usually consumed tap water from the public drinking water supply and 21% stated that they use rain water as their most common drinking water source, but this did not appear to affect their overall views on adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply or its benefits.

The results from the Water Fluoridation Survey indicate that around half of the respondents from Moora were in favour of the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply and agree that its addition can assist in the prevention of tooth decay. This is greater than the proportion of the respondents who are not in favour of it, with most of the remainder being unsure rather than not agreeing to the proposition.

1. Introduction

This report has been prepared by the Water Unit, Environmental Health Directorate, Department of Health WA for the Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Advisory Committee¹.

The Water Unit at the Environmental Health Directorate was requested by the Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Advisory Committee to organise a postal survey of residents of the community of Moora to ascertain the level of awareness and support within the community for the addition of fluoride to the local public drinking water supply.

This report documents the results of the Water Fluoridation Survey.

The Water Fluoridation Survey had two main objectives:

- To ascertain the level of awareness in the community on fluoride addition to the public water supply.
- To measure local support for the addition of fluoride in the Moora public drinking water supply.

Moora is a community of approximately 1840 people², located 180 km north of Perth, Western Australia. Drinking water is supplied to Moora by Water Corporation. This supply is presently not fluoridated³.

Information about drinking water supplied by Water Corporation can be found at:

www.watercorporation.com.au/about-us/our-performance/drinking-water-quality

¹ Refer: www.public.health.wa.gov.au/3/1583/2/fluoride_in_drinking_water.pm

² Refer: www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/SSC50514?opendocument&navpos=220

³ Water fluoridation is the adjustment of the amount of fluoride in drinking water to a level that helps protect teeth against decay. [source: www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/fluoridation/community_info.htm]

2. Methodology

2.1 Sample selection

Survey forms were based on the questions used previously for a similar survey of the greater Bunbury area⁴. This was designed to facilitate comparison of the results. The Moora survey was run at the same time as a similar survey of the Jurien Bay community.

The survey questions were chosen based on previously published literature on attitudes towards the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies and were worded to be succinct, centred on the research and ethically appropriate.

The survey sought some basic demographic and age breakdown information about the respondent's household but did not seek identifiable information about individuals. The approach letter and survey forms are set out in Appendix A and Appendix B respectively.

2.2 Data Collection

The postal survey was sent out in August 2011 to residential properties in Moora that have a registered Water Corporation service. The addresses were based on a (deidentified) database of addresses provided by Water Corporation. The survey form was addressed "Dear Householder" and was accompanied by a reply paid envelope for return at no cost to the respondent. A code was attached to the unmarked survey response sheets to ensure that duplicates were not submitted.

Whilst the survey form requested surveys to be returned by 29 August 2011, all surveys returned by 15 September 2011 were included in the data analysis, to ensure that as many survey results as possible were considered. No survey forms were received after 15 September 2011.

⁴ Epidemiology Branch (2011). Water Fluoridation Survey, Bunbury Area. Perth: Department of Health WA.

The survey was conducted in accordance with all applicable record keeping and privacy provisions for the Western Australian public sector.

2.3 Data analysis

For analysis that involved cross tabulation of multiple factors or areas of interest, only data that has a response was included. All analysis presented in this report was completed using de-identified data.

Survey responses that did not answer questions 1, 2 and 3, or were completely blank, were not considered as valid responses and were not included in the analysis.

2.4 Response rate

A total of 743 survey forms were sent out to Moora households. A total of 158 valid survey responses were returned, giving a response rate of 21.3%. Only one form was returned unopened (i.e. marked "Return To Sender"), due to an error in the postal address.

Based on peer-reviewed literature, the desirable response rate for a mail out survey, regardless of its subject matter, is 60%⁵. However this is not usually reached, with most response rates in mail out surveys generally ranging from 30% to 70%, with 45% response rates being the average in surveys reported in published literature. The lower the response rate, the more important is the issue of whether or how well the respondents represented the views of the community of interest overall.

Nevertheless, peer reviewed literature on survey methodology indicates that a person's decision about whether to participate in a survey or not is in part determined by how important the topic of the survey is to them, potentially leading to self-selection bias.⁶

⁵ References:

Owen-Smith, V., Burgess-Allen, J., Lavelle, K., Wilding, E., 2008. Can lifestyle surveys survive a low response rate?, *Public Health* vol 122: 1382-1383.

Hikmet, N., Chen, S.K., 2003. An investigation into low mail survey response rates of information technology users in health care organizations, *International Journal of Medical Informatics* vol 72: 29-34

⁶ Rogelberg SG, Fisher GG, Maynard DC, Hakei MD, Horvath M. 2001 Attitudes Towards Surveys: Development of a Measure and Its Relationship to Respondent Behavior. *Organizational Research Methods*. vol 4(1):3-25.

In essence, this means that community members with a view on the subject matter of a survey (in this case, fluoridation of public drinking water supplies) are more likely to respond than those with little interest in the topic.

2.5 Weighting the data

The survey results have not been statistically weighted according to the estimated resident population for Moora. The results and findings were solely based on the data from the responses of the returned surveys and need to be viewed in that light and the information in section 2.4 above.

3. Results

Results are presented for each question asked in the survey. Results that are presented in graphic form are also shown in table format in Appendix C of this report.

3.1 Demographics

The socio-demographic characteristics of the 158 valid responses are shown in Table 1. On balance, the survey respondents were predominantly female (58% female, 41% male, 1% unstated), relative to the gender ratios of the Moora community (approx. 51% female, 49% male⁷), and were predominantly over 45 years of age (78%), with 21% between 18 and 44 years of age and 1% unstated age.

Table 1 Demographic and socio-demographic characteristics of valid respondents, Moora

Age groups		
18-34	17	10.8%
35-44	16	10.1%
45-54	35	22.2%
55+	88	55.7%
Not stated	2	1.3%
Gender		
Male	64	40.5%
Female	92	58.2%
Not stated	2	1.3%
Who they live with		
Alone	37	23.4%
Partner only	65	41.1%
Partner and children	40	25.3%
Children only	9	5.7%
Friends or relatives	5	3.2%
Other	0	0.0%

⁷ Refer: www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/SSC50514?opendocument&navpos=220

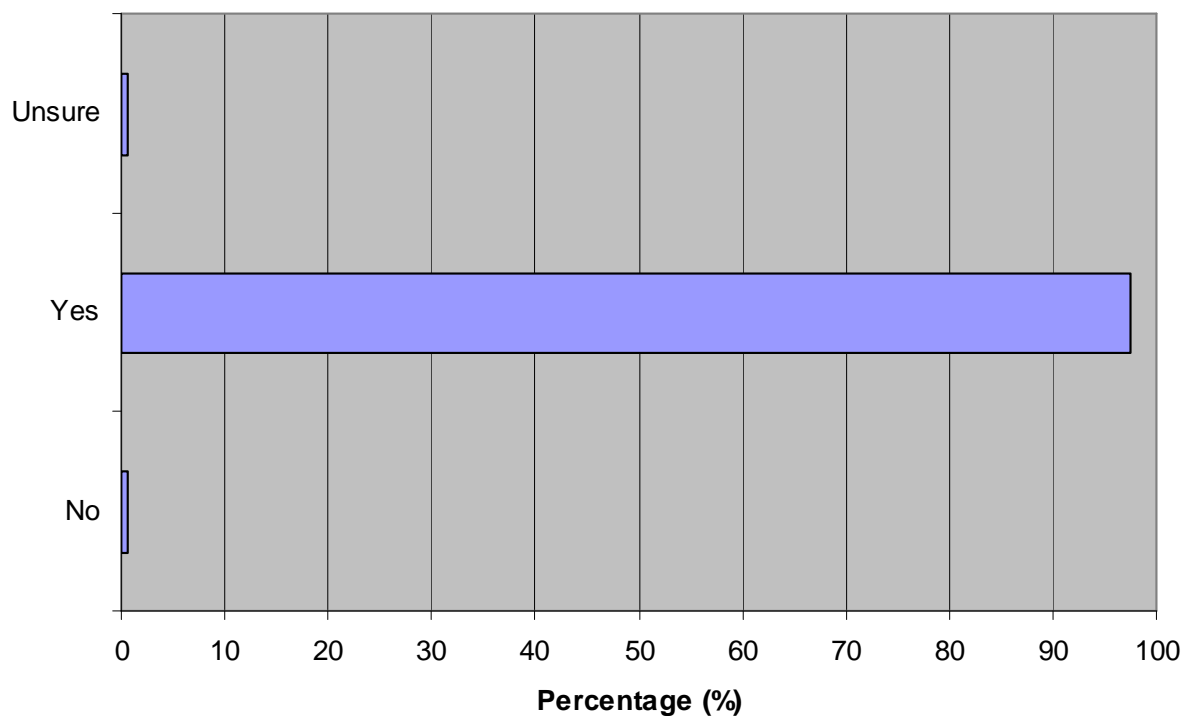
Not stated	2	1.3%
Youngest person in household		
0-10	23	14.6%
11-20	16	10.1%
21-30	9	5.7%
31-40	12	7.6%
41+	76	48.1%
Not stated	22	13.9%
Oldest person in household		
11-20	0	0.0%
21-30	7	4.4%
31-40	11	7.0%
41+	123	77.8%
Not stated	17	10.8%
Occupation of main provider		
Labourer	13	8.2%
Tradesperson	23	14.6%
Professional	32	20.3%
Clerical or service worker	22	13.9%
Manager	18	11.4%
Pensioner	28	17.7%
Not stated	22	13.9%

3.2 Fluoride in the public water supply

Respondents were asked if their premises were currently connected to the public drinking water supply.

Figure 1 shows that 97% of all valid respondents stated that they were connected to the Moora public drinking water supply, with 1% each answering no, unsure or unstated. The data is in Table 2 (in Appendix C).

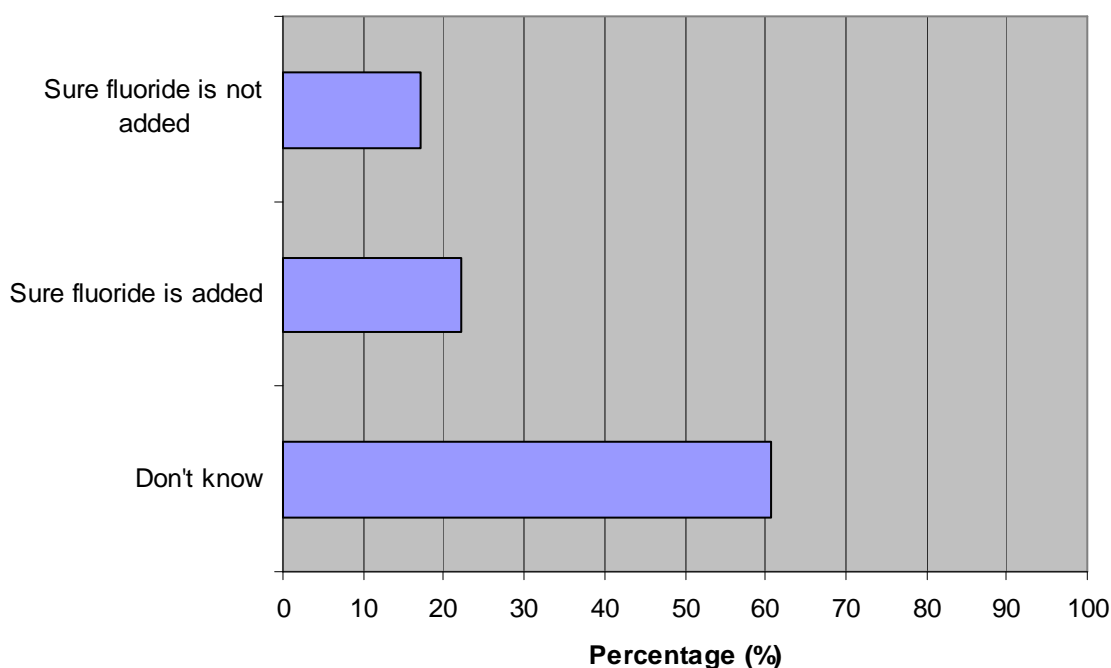
Figure 1 Percentage of valid respondents connected to the public drinking water supply, Moora



Respondents were also asked if they knew whether their drinking water supply currently had fluoride added to it.

Figure 2 illustrated that the majority of the respondents did not know if fluoride was currently added to their drinking water supply or not (61%). One-sixth (17%) of valid respondents were sure that fluoride was not currently added and just over one-fifth (22%) were sure that the public water supply was currently fluoridated. The data is in Table 3 (in Appendix C). NB The Moora drinking water supply is presently not fluoridated.

Figure 2 Percentage of valid respondents knowing whether fluoride has or has not been added to the public drinking water supply, Moora

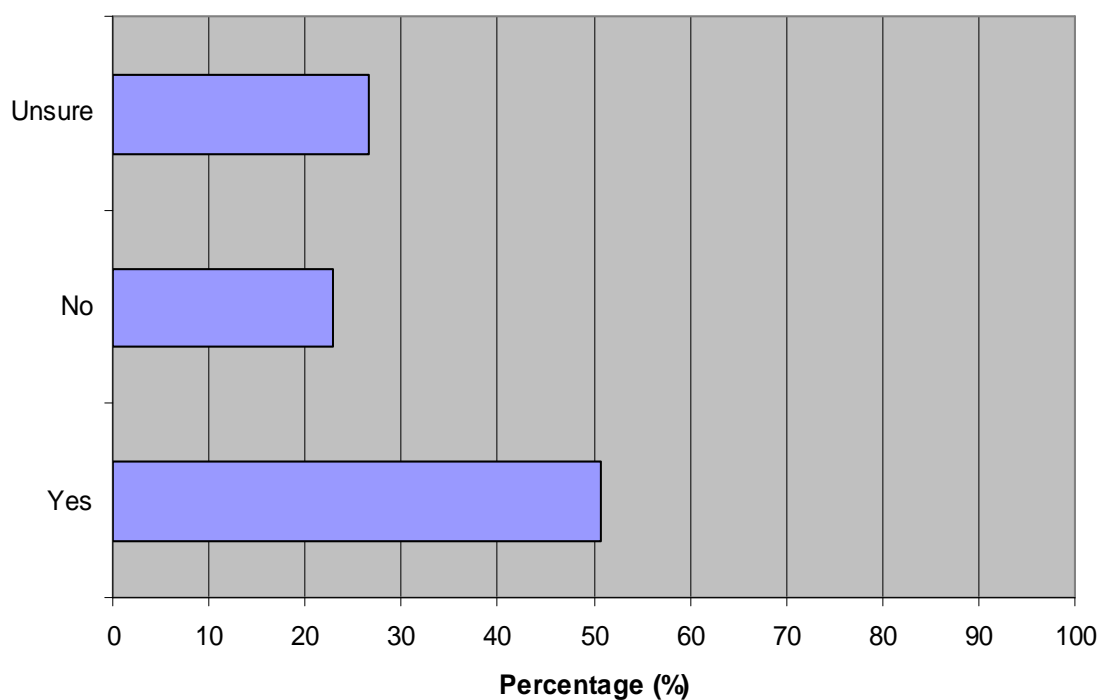


3.3 Attitude towards fluoridation

The survey asked about attitudes towards the addition of fluoride to the Moora public drinking water supply and the perceived safety and efficacy of fluoridation.

Overall, 51% of valid respondents agreed to adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply. Figure 3 illustrates that the proportion in agreement to the addition of fluoride was higher than those who did not agree to the addition of fluoride (23%) and those who were unsure (26%). The data is in Table 4 (in Appendix C).

Figure 3 Percentage of valid respondents and their agreement to adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply, Moora

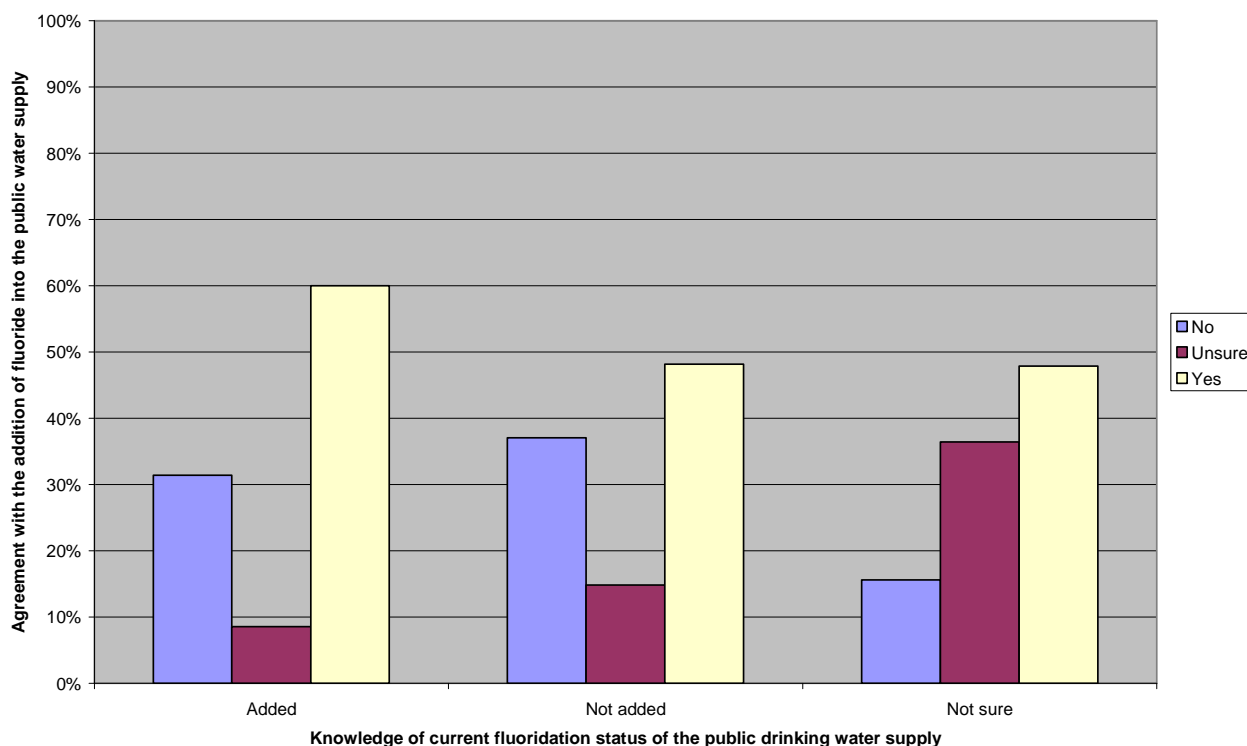


Regardless of whether respondents were sure whether the public drinking water supply was currently fluoridated, the majority of respondents agreed with fluoride being added to the public drinking water supply.

The yellow columns in Figure 4 show that 48% of valid respondents who were unsure if the public drinking water supply was fluoridated or not were in favour of its addition, 60% were in favour if they thought the water supply was already fluoridated and 48% were in favour of fluoridation if they thought the water supply was not currently fluoridated.

In all cases, the proportion in favour was greater than the proportion who were not (the blue columns) or who were unsure (the maroon columns). The proportions of those who were not sure of the current status of the public drinking water supply were more equally split between yes (48%) and unsure (36%). Similarly, the proportions of those who were sure the water was not currently fluoridated were more equally split between yes (48%) and no (37%). The data is in Table 5 (in Appendix C).

Figure 4 Percentage of valid respondents and their agreement to public drinking water supply fluoridation by knowledge of current fluoridation status of the water supply, Moora



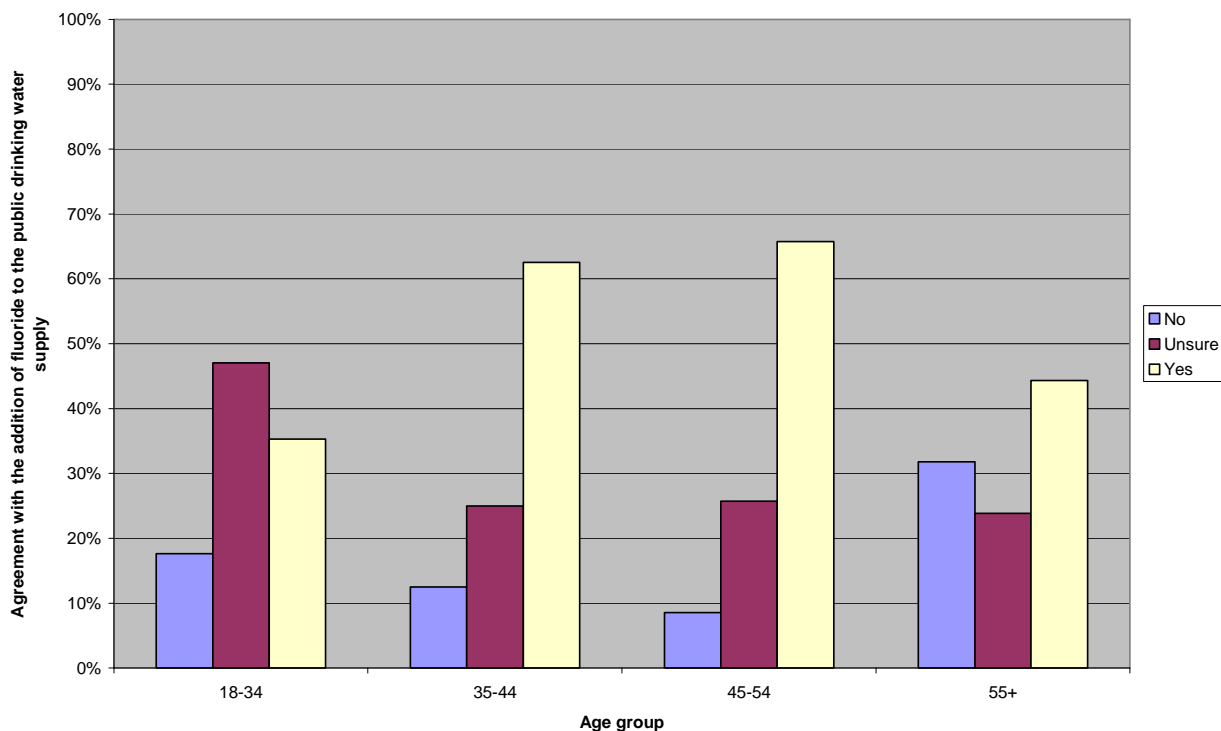
To determine if age was a significant factor in agreeing (or otherwise) with the addition of fluoride in the Moora public drinking water supply, comparison was made between four age groups. The majority of valid respondents agreed with the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies by age groups, except for the 18-34 years group, in which case the majority were unsure.

The yellow columns in Figure 5 show that 35% of valid respondents aged 18 – 34 years were in agreement along with 63% of valid respondents aged 35-44 years, 66% of valid respondents aged 45-54 years and 44% of valid respondents 55 years and over.

Agreement with the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply was higher than not agreeing (blue columns) or being unsure (maroon columns) for all age groups except for the 18-34 age group where 18% did not agree and 47% were unsure.

The proportion agreeing to the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply in the 35-44 and 45-54 years age group was higher. The data is in Table 6 (in Appendix C).

Figure 5 Percentage of valid respondents and their agreement with the addition of fluoride into the public drinking water supply, by age group, Moora

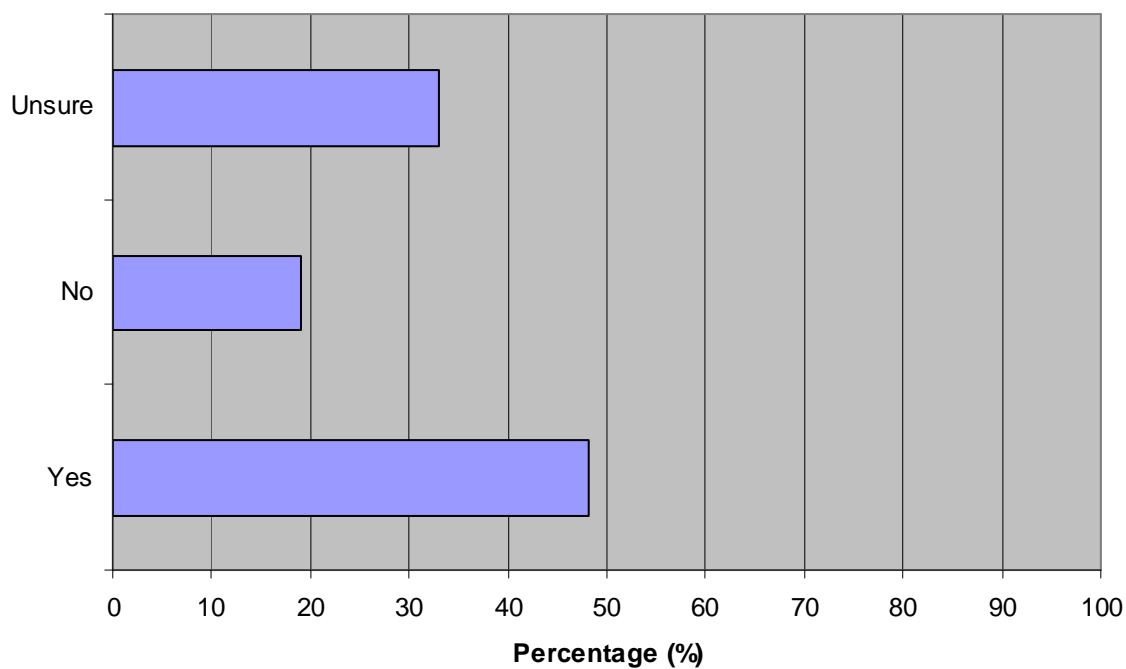


3.4 Perceptions of safety and efficacy of fluoridation

Figure 6 illustrates the breakdown of responses in relation to the safety of the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies.

Overall, 48% of valid respondents agreed that the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply is safe. Figure 6 illustrates the breakdown of responses in relation to the safety of the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies. This was larger than the 19% who did not agree that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies was safe and the 33% who were unsure. The data is in Table 7 (in Appendix C).

Figure 6 Percentage of valid respondents who agreed that the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply is safe, Moora

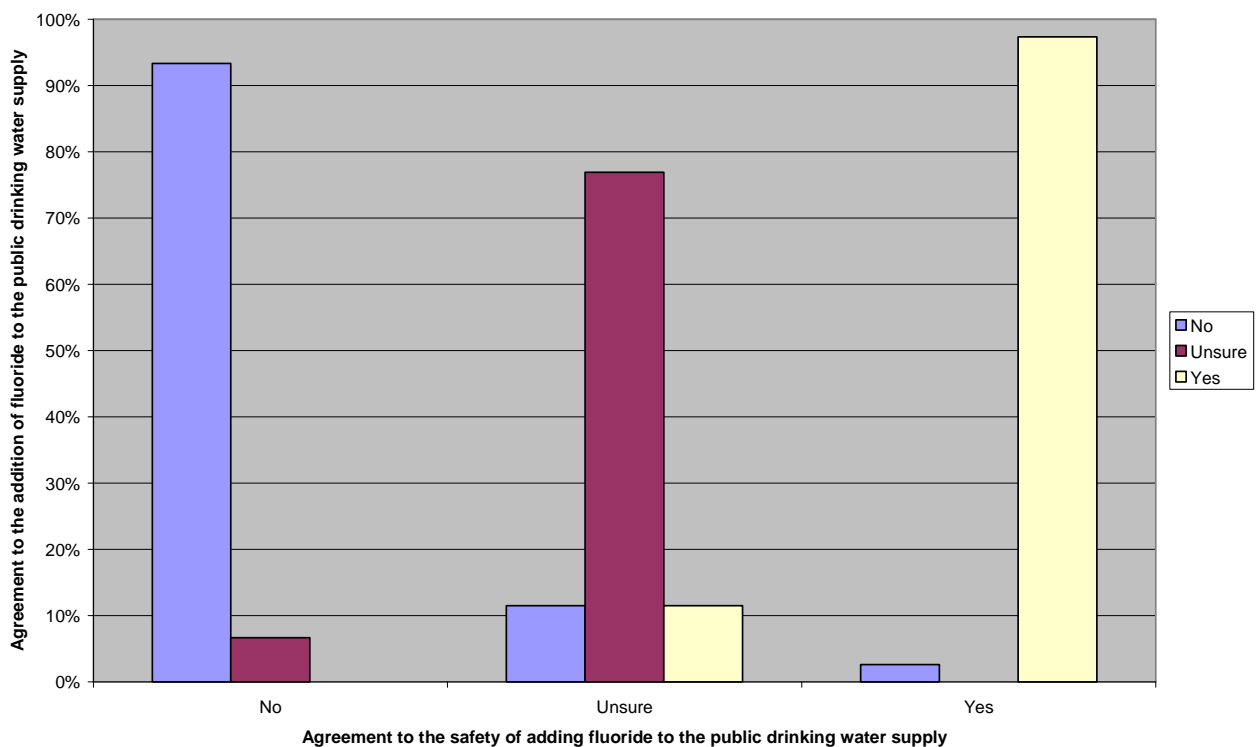


Respondents' perception of safety around the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies was linked to their agreement with adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply.

Figure 7 illustrates that 97% of respondents who agreed with the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies agreed it was safe, while those who did not agree to the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies also did not agree that it was safe to add fluoride to the public drinking water supply (93%). Of those who neither agreed nor disagreed with the addition of fluoride, the majority was unsure whether it was safe (77%).

The data is in Table 8 (in Appendix C).

Figure 7 Percentage of valid respondents and their perceived safety of the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies and agreement to public water supply fluoridation, Moora

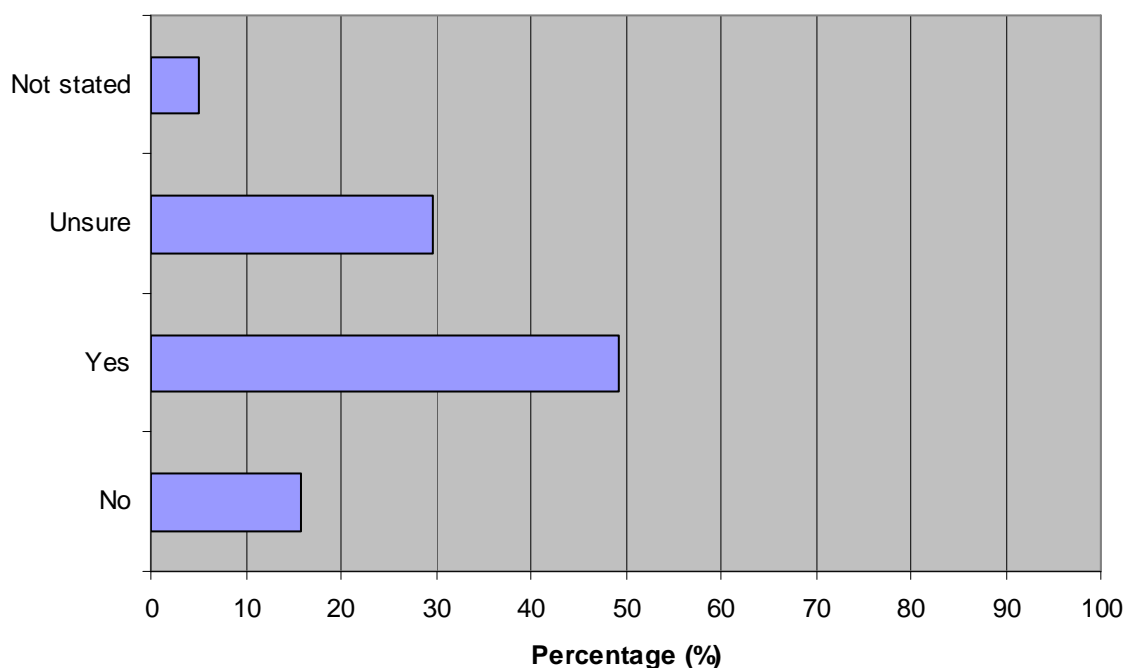


Respondents were asked if they agreed that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay (efficacy of fluoridation).

Figure 8 shows that 49% of valid respondents agreed that fluoride in the public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay. This was larger than the 16% who did not agree that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay and the 30% who were unsure (with 5% not stating a response to this question).

The data is in Table 9 (in Appendix C).

Figure 8 Percentage of valid respondents and their agreement that fluoride in the public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay, Moora

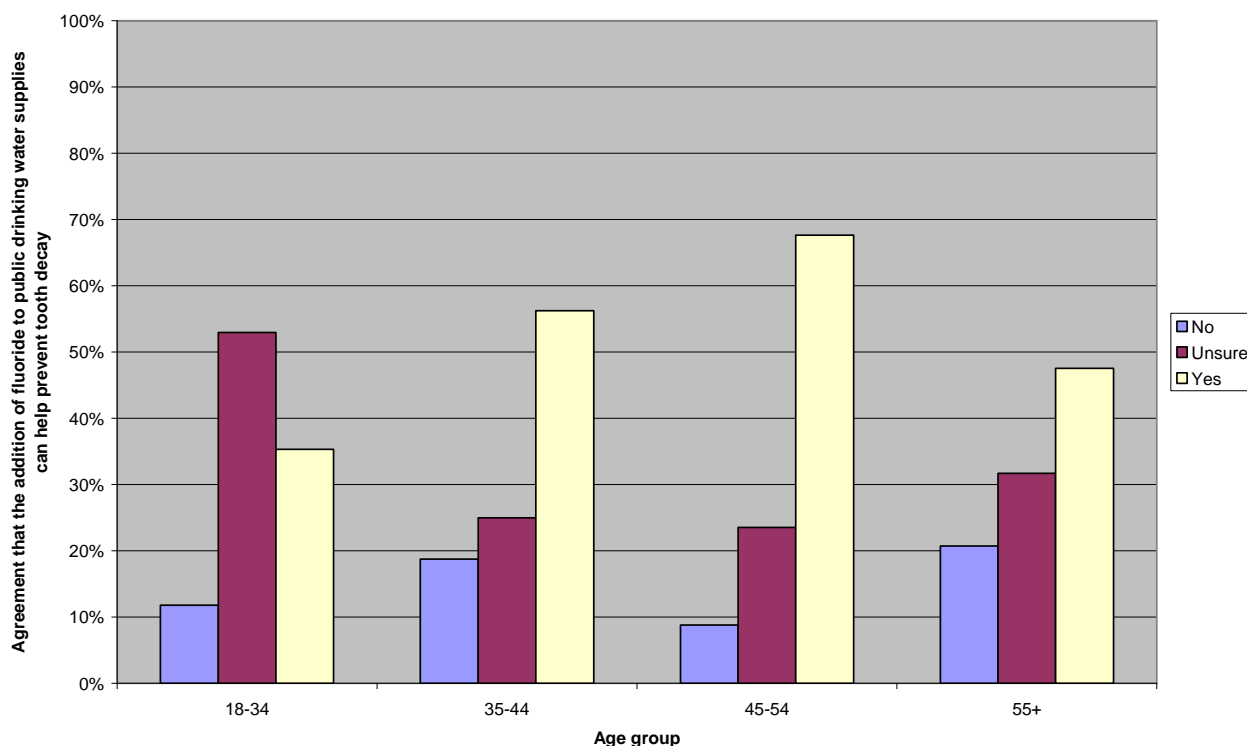


A number of respondents also provided written comments in the returned survey forms. These comments are set out in Appendix D, including two survey forms where the comments were not able to be codified.

When comparisons were made between age groups the majority of valid respondents in each age group agreed that adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply can assist in preventing tooth decay. Figure 9 illustrates that 35% of respondents aged 18 – 34 years, 56% of respondents aged 35 – 44 years, 68% of respondents aged 45 – 54 years and 48% of respondents aged 55 years and over agreed that fluoride in the public drinking water could assist in the prevention of tooth decay (yellow columns in Figure 9).

Considerably more respondents in the 18-34 age group were unsure (53%), as represented by the maroon columns. In all age groups the proportion who did not agree that adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply can assist in preventing tooth decay was uniformly lower (12% of respondents aged 18 – 34 years, 19% of respondents aged 35 – 44 years, 9% of respondents aged 45 – 54 years and 21% of respondents aged 55 years and over), as represented by the blue columns in Figure 9. These results were very similar to the results shown in Figure 5. The data is in Table 10 (in Appendix C).

Figure 9 Percentage of valid respondents and their agreement that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay, by age group, Moora

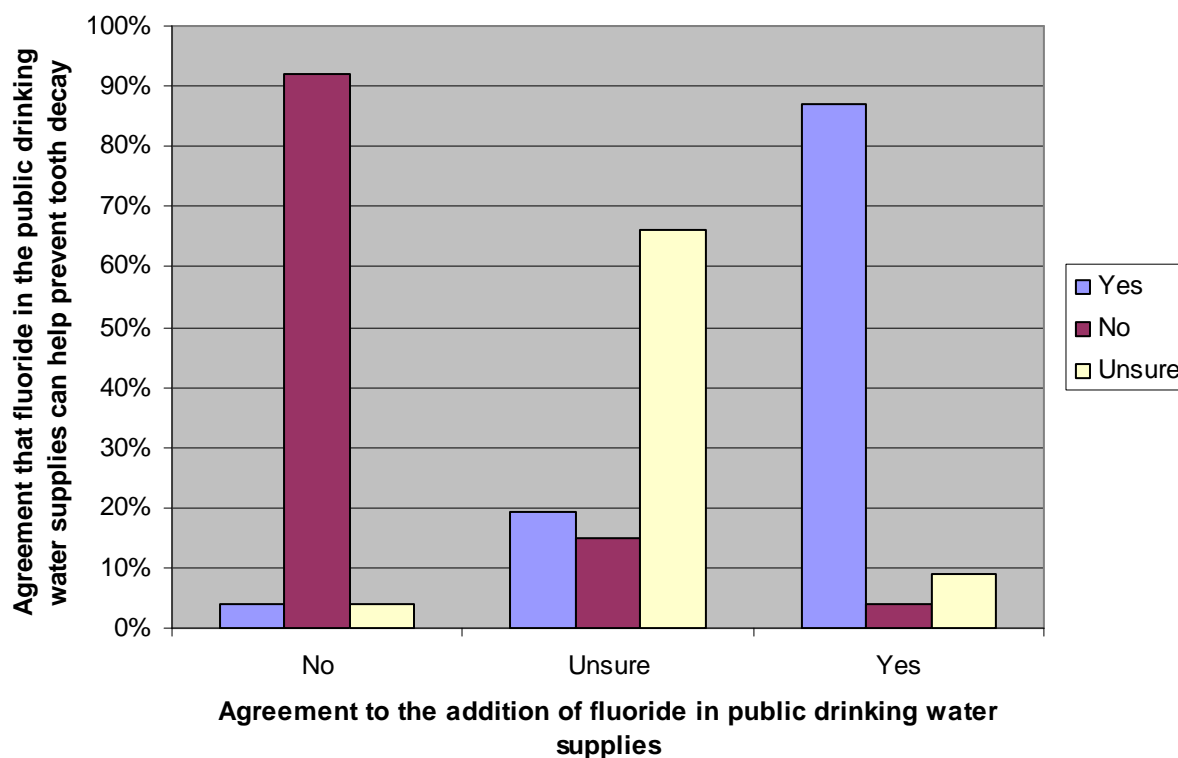


The views of respondents on whether adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply can help prevent tooth decay was significantly correlated with their agreement (or otherwise) to adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply.

Figure 10 illustrates that 87% of valid respondents who agreed to adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply agreed that doing so can help prevent tooth decay, with 9% of this group unsure and only 4% of this group not agreeing.

On the other hand, 92% of valid respondents who did not agree to adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply did not agree that doing so can help prevent tooth decay, with only 4% of this group agreeing and 4% unsure. Most (66%) of the respondents who were unsure about adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply were also unsure whether doing so can help prevent tooth decay. The data is in Table 11 (in Appendix C).

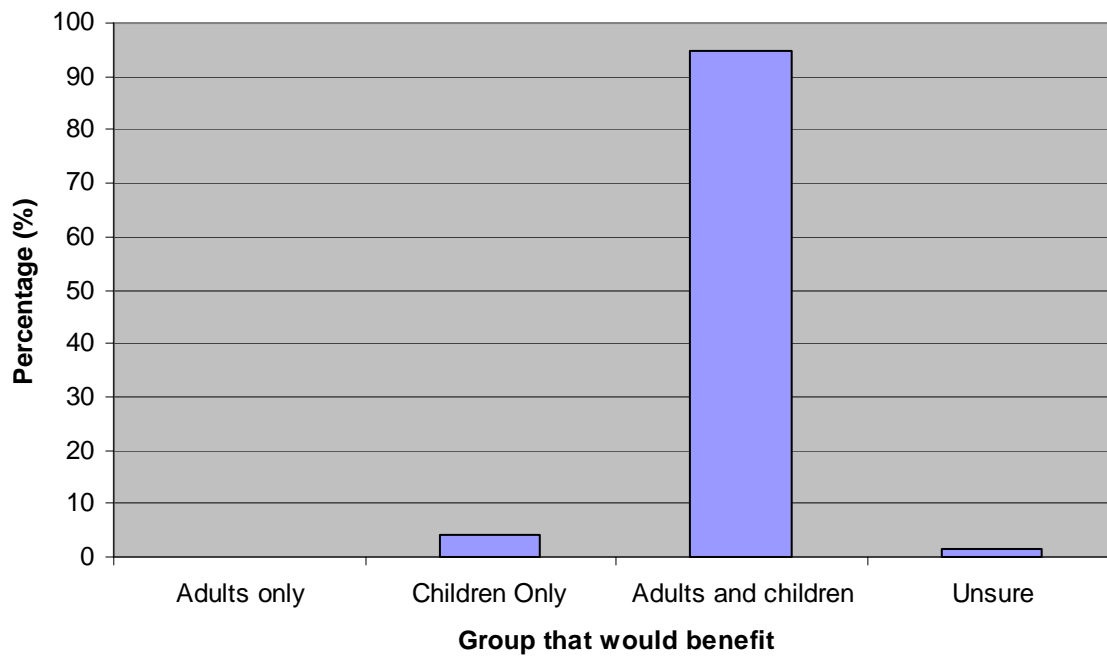
Figure 10 Percentage of valid respondents and their agreement that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay, Moora



Those respondents who agreed that fluoride could assist in the prevention of tooth decay were asked if they would be in favour of adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply to assist with tooth decay and what groups in the community they felt would benefit.

Figure 11 illustrates that, for respondents who were in favour of fluoridation, the benefit was overwhelmingly seen to be for both adults and children. The data is in Table 12 (in Appendix C).

Figure 11 Percentage of valid respondents (who agreed to fluoridation) and their perception on the benefits of the addition of fluoride in public drinking water supplies, Moora



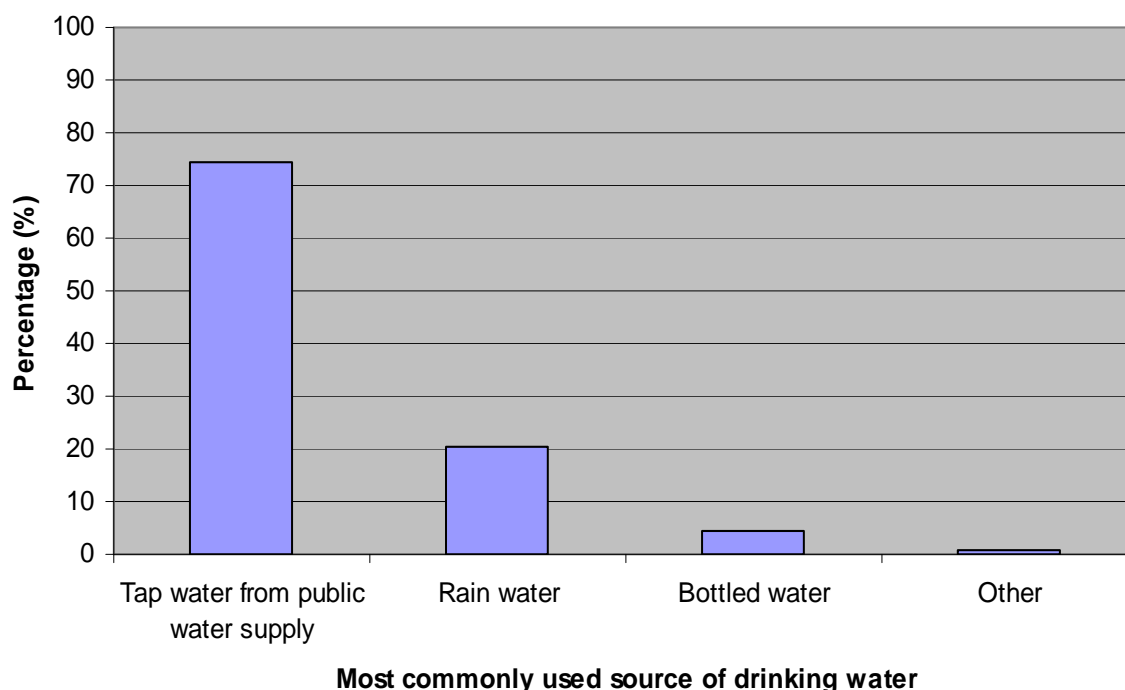
3.5 Drinking water source

While almost all households in the survey were connected to the Moora public drinking water supply, it was also of interest to determine what proportion of respondents actually consumes water from this supply.

Figure 11 illustrates that tap water is the most common type of water consumed. Overall, 74% of valid respondents stated that they usually consumed tap water from the public drinking water supply, with 21% stating that they use rain water as their most common drinking water source.

The data is in Table 13 (in Appendix C)..

Figure 12 Percentage of valid respondents and their most commonly used source of drinking water, Moora



Along with agreement to the addition of fluoride there was also interest in determining if the type of water consumed had an impact on the respondent's perception of the benefits (or otherwise) of adding fluoride to public drinking water supplies in assisting to prevent tooth decay.

Figure 13 illustrates that, for those who stated that they usually drink water from the public drinking water supply, 53% agree that the addition of fluoride to this type of water supply can assist in preventing tooth decay, with most of the remainder (34%) unsure.

For those who stated that they usually drink other water types, 47% agreed that the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water could assist in preventing tooth decay, with the remainder being reasonably evenly split between those who did not agree (28%) and those who were unsure (25%). The data is in Table 14. Note that the column heights in Figure 13 need to be viewed in light of the breakdown by water source in Figure 12.

Figure 13 Percentage of valid respondents and their agreement that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay, by water source, Moora

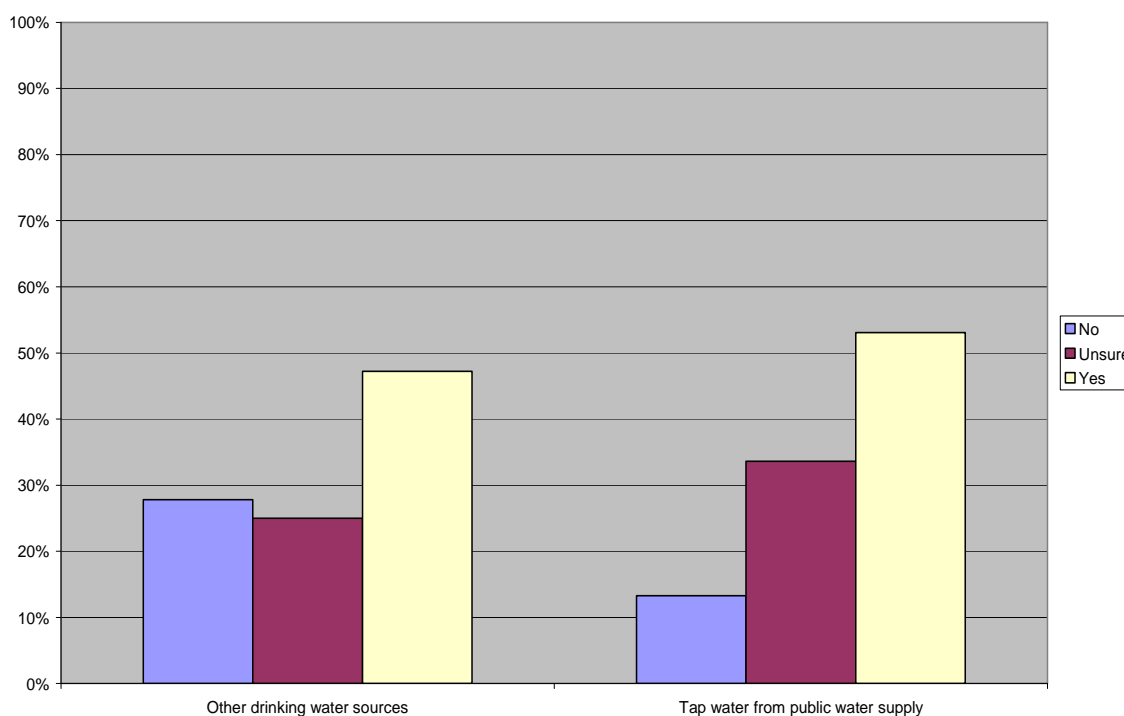
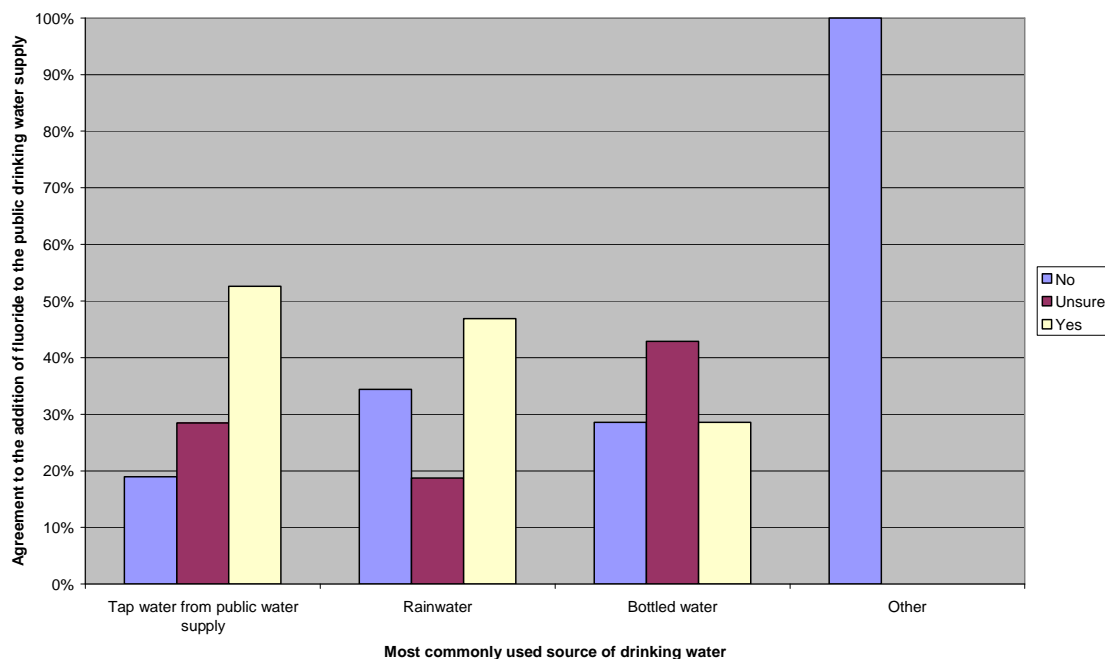


Figure 14 illustrates that the majority of respondents agreed to the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies regardless of what was their most commonly used source of drinking water. The yellow columns show that 53% of those who stated that they usually drink water from the public drinking water supply and 47% of those who stated that they usually drink rain water agreed to the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies.

The seven respondents in the “bottled water” category were more evenly split and the sole respondent in the “other” category did not agree to the proposition. The data is in Table 15 (in Appendix C). Note that the column heights in Figure 14 need to be viewed in light of the breakdown by water source in Figure 12, indicating that tap water from the public drinking water supply was the predominant source.

Figure 14 Percentage of valid respondents and their agreement to addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies, by water source, Moora



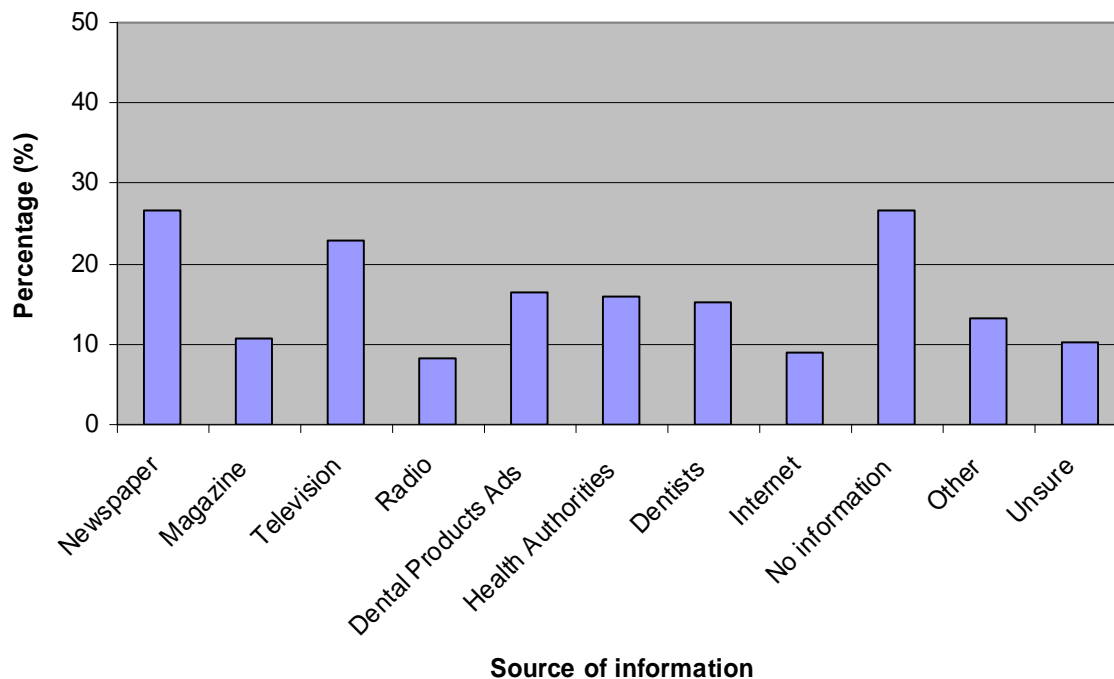
3.6 Information received on fluoridation

Respondents were asked where they had received information about the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies.

Figure 15 illustrates the main sources of information for those respondents who answered this question. Multiple responses were possible for this question. The information sources were reasonably equally split, with newspapers and television being the most important sources, although “No information” was also a common response to this question.

The data is in Table 16 (in Appendix C).

Figure 15 Percentage of respondents and their source of information about adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply, Moora



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Appendix A: Approach letter



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Dear Householder

Water Fluoridation Survey

The Department of Health is inviting residents of Jurien Bay and Moora to take part in a survey on attitudes towards the addition of fluoride to public drinking water.

The survey will take no more than a few minutes to complete. All information collected will be strictly confidential. The answers from all people who respond will be gathered together and no individual answers will be published or passed on. While you do not have to participate I hope that you do.

The results of the survey will be used to help us obtain a community view on the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies in Jurien Bay and Moora.

The survey needs to be completed by an adult over the age of 18 years and returned in the enclosed reply paid envelope by the **29 August 2011**.

If you have any queries about the survey, please call Richard Theobald on 9388 4967.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support and for participating in this important initiative.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Dodds".

Jim Dodds
DIRECTOR
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORATE

Encs

Environmental Health
All Correspondence: PO Box 8172 Perth Business Centre Western Australia 6849
Grace Vaughan House 227 Stubbs Terrace Shenton Park WA 6008
Telephone (08) 9388 4999 Fax (08) 9388 4955
wa.gov.au
ABN 28 684 750 332

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Appendix B: Water Fluoridation Survey Questionnaire



Government of Western Australia
Department of Health
Public Health

Water Fluoridation Survey 2011

0001

How to complete this form:

Answer questions by ticking only the single most appropriate option unless otherwise specified.

Please provide additional comments in the space provided.

Q1) Is your residence connected to the public water supply?

- No (Go to Q3)
- Yes (Go to Q2)
- Unsure (Go to Q2)

Q2) Do you know whether fluoride has or has not been added to your public water supply?

- No, I don't know if fluoride has been added to the public water supply
- Yes, I am sure the public water supply has had fluoride added
- Yes, I am sure the public water supply has not had fluoride added

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

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

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

- Yes
- No
- Unsure



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

- No (enter comment Q5a) (Go to Q7)
- Yes (enter comment Q5a) (Go to Q6)
- Unsure (Go to Q6)

Q5a) Comment _____
_____ [specify]

Q6) Would you be in favour of adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply to assist in the prevention of tooth decay?

- No
- Yes, in children only
- Yes, in adults only
- Yes, in both adults and children
- Unsure

Q7) Where have you received information on the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies? Select multiple options if necessary.

- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Television
- Radio
- Advertisements for dental products
- Health authorities
- Dentists
- Internet
- No information/source
- Other _____ [specify]
- Unsure



Q8) What is your most commonly used source of drinking water?

- Tap water from public drinking water supply
- Store bought bottled water
- Rainwater tank
- Other _____ [specify]
- Unsure

Now I just have a few questions to help to categorise your answers

Q9) Are you?

- Male
- Female

Q10) What age group are you?

- 18-34 years
- 35-44 years
- 45-54 years
- 55+ years

Q11) Do you live?

- alone
- with a partner only
- with a partner and children
- with children only
- with friends or relatives
- other _____ [specify]



Q12) How old is the youngest person living in your household?

- 0-10 years
- 11-20 years
- 21-30 years
- 31-40 years
- 41+ years

Q13): How old is the oldest person living in your household?

- 11-20 years
- 21-30 years
- 31-40 years
- 41+ years

Q14) What is the occupation of the main provider for the household?

- labourer
- tradesperson
- professional
- clerical or service worker
- manager

NO MORE QUESTIONS

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey (No. 0001).

Please return it by the **29 August 2011** in the reply paid envelope.



Appendix C: Result tables

Table 2 Number and percentage of valid respondents connected to the public drinking water supply, Moora

Connected to public drinking water supply	Number of valid responses	Percentage
No	1	0.6%
Yes	154	97.5%
Unsure	1	0.6%
Not stated	2	1.3%
Total	158	100.0%

Table 3 Number and percentage of valid respondents knowing whether fluoride has or has not been added to the public drinking water supply, Moora

Knowledge of current fluoridation status of the water supply	Number of valid responses	Percentage
Don't know	96	60.8%
Sure fluoride is added	35	22.1%
Sure fluoride is not added	27	17.1%
Total	158	100.0%

Table 4 Number and percentage of valid respondents and their agreement to adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply, Moora

Agreement to public drinking water supply fluoridation	Number of valid responses	Percentage
Yes	80	50.6%
No	36	22.8%
Unsure	42	26.6%
Total	158	100.0%

Table 5 Number and percentage of valid respondents and their agreement to public drinking water supply fluoridation by knowledge of current fluoridation status of the public drinking water supply, Moora

Knowledge of current fluoridation status of public drinking water supply	Agreement to public drinking water supply fluoridation			Total
	Yes	No	Unsure	
Sure added	(21) 60.0%	(11) 31.4%	(3) 8.6%	(35) 100.0%
Sure not added	(13) 48.2%	(10) 37.0%	(4) 14.8%	(27) 100.0%
Not sure	(46) 47.9%	(15) 15.6%	(35) 36.5%	(96) 100.0%
Total	(80) 50.6%	(36) 22.8%	(42) 26.6%	(158) 100.0%

Table 6 Number and percentage of valid respondents and their agreement with the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply, by age group, Moora

Age group	Agree with the addition of fluoride			Total
	Yes	No	Unsure	
18-34	(6) 35.3%	(3) 17.6%	(8) 47.1%	(17) 100.0%
35-44	(10) 62.5%	(2) 12.5%	(4) 25.0%	(16) 100.0%
45-54	(23) 65.7%	(3) 8.6%	(9) 25.7%	(35) 100.0%
55+	(39) 44.3%	(28) 31.8%	(21) 23.9%	(88) 100.0%
Total	(78) 50.0%	(36) 23.1%	(42) 26.9%	(156) 100.0%

Table 7 Number and percentage of valid respondents and their perception of the safety of fluoridation, Moora

Agrees fluoridation is safe	Number of valid responses	Percentage
Yes	76	48.1%
No	30	19.0%
Unsure	52	32.9%
Total	158	100.0%

Table 8 Number and percentage of valid respondents and their perceived safety of the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies and agreement to public water supply fluoridation, Moora

Perceived safety of the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies	Agreement to public water supply fluoridation			Total
	Yes	No	Unsure	
Yes	(74) 97.4%	(2) 2.6%	(0) 0%	(76) 100.0%
No	(0) 0.0%	(28) 93.3%	(2) 6.7%	(30) 100.0%
Unsure	(6) 11.5%	(6) 11.5%	(40) 76.9%	(52) 100.0%
Total	(80) 50.6%	(36) 22.8%	(42) 26.6%	(158) 100.0%

Table 9 Number and percentage of valid respondents and their perception of the efficacy of fluoridation, Moora

Agrees fluoridation can help prevent tooth decay	Number of valid responses	Percentage
No	25	15.8%
Yes	78	49.4%
Unsure	47	29.7%
Not stated	8	5.1%
Total	158	100.0%

Table 10 Number and percentage of valid respondents and their agreement that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay, by age group, Moora

Age group	Agreement that the addition of fluoride to public water supplies can help prevent tooth decay			Total
	Yes	No	Unsure	
18-34	(6) 35.3%	(2) 11.8%	(9) 52.9%	(17) 100.0%
35-44	(9) 56.3%	(3) 18.8%	(4) 25.0%	(16) 100.0%
45-54	(23) 67.6%	(3) 8.8%	(8) 23.5%	(34) 100.0%
55+	(39) 47.6%	(17) 20.7%	(26) 31.7%	(82) 100.0%
Total	(77) 51.7%	(25) 16.8%	(47) 31.5%	(149) 100.0%

Table 11 Number and percentage of valid respondents and their agreement to public drinking water supply fluoridation by their agreement that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay, Moora

Agreement that the addition of fluoride to public water supplies can help prevent tooth decay	Agreement to public drinking water supply fluoridation			Total
	Yes	No	Unsure	
No	(1) 4.0%	(23) 92.0%	(1) 4.0%	(25) 100.0%
Unsure	(9) 19.1%	(7) 14.9%	(31) 66.0%	(47) 100.0%
Yes	(68) 87.2%	(3) 3.8%	(7) 9.0%	(78) 100.0%
Total	(78) 52.0%	(33) 22.0%	(39) 26.0%	(150) 100.0%

Table 12 Number and percentage of valid respondents (who agreed to fluoridation) and their perception of the benefits of the addition of fluoride in public drinking water supplies, Moora

Perception of the benefits of the addition of fluoride	Number of valid responses	Percentage
Adults only	0	0.0%
Children Only	3	3.9%
Adults and children	72	94.7%
Unsure	1	1.3%
Total	76	100.0%

NB – This table adds to 76.

Table 13 Number and percentage of valid respondents and their most commonly used source of drinking water

Most commonly used source of drinking water	Number of valid responses	Percentage
Tap water from public water supply	116	74.4%
Rain water	32	20.5%
Bottled water	7	4.5%
Other	1	0.6%
Total	156	100.0%

Table 14 Number and percentage of valid respondents and their agreement that the addition of fluoride to public water supplies can help prevent tooth decay by water source, Moora

Most commonly used source of drinking water	Agreement that the addition of fluoride to public water supplies can help prevent tooth decay			Total
	No	Unsure	Yes	
Other	(10) 27.8%	(9) 25.0%	(17) 47.2%	(36) 100.0%
Tap	(15) 13.3%	(38) 33.6%	(60) 53.1%	(113) 100.0%
Total	(25) 16.8%	(47) 31.5%	(77) 51.7%	(149) 100.0%

Table 15 Number and percentage of valid respondents agreement to the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies by water source, Moora

Most commonly used source of drinking water	Agreement to public drinking water supply fluoridation			Total
	No	Unsure	Yes	
Tap water	(22) 19.0%	(33) 28.4%	(61) 52.6%	(116) 100.0%
Rain water	(11) 34.4%	(6) 18.7%	(15) 46.9%	(32) 100.0%
Bottled water	(2) 28.6%	(3) 42.9%	(2) 28.5%	(7) 100.0%
Other	(1) 100.0%	(0) 0.0%	(0) 0.0%	(1) 100.0%
Total	(36) 23.1%	(42) 26.9%	(78) 50.0%	(156) 100.0%

Table 16 Percentage of respondents and their source of information about adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply, Moora

Information Source	Newspaper	Magazine	Television	Radio	Dental Products Ads	Health Authorities	Dentists	Internet	No information	Other	Unsure
Counts	42	17	36	13	26	25	24	14	42	21	16
Percent	28.4%	11.5%	24.3%	8.8%	17.6%	16.9%	16.2%	9.4%	28.4%	14.2%	10.8%

Total counts for this question: 276 responses from 148 respondents

Multiple responses were possible for this question.

Percentage sum is a percentage of respondents (not responses) and therefore exceeds 100.

Appendix D: Respondents' comments

All comments are presented verbatim (apart from spelling corrections).

- It's what I was told at school in the 80's.
- tests support evidence
- fluoride helps to strengthen teeth
- Had it in water supply in the city.
- just look at the poms there terrible
- lived in USA until I was 15 had hardly any cavities till I came to Australia within 6 yrs all out. Due to no fluoride in water
- You see the difference in people who grew up with fluoride and those older folk who didn't
- I was given fluoride tablets as a child in the bush - I am 57 and only lost 1 tooth so far
- definitely. I would be very happy to see this introduced
- helpful
- all the science is proof and aboriginal teeth in the Pilbara are perfect as natural fluoride to 0.5 mg/L
- most water has fluoride in it naturally
- I haven't really looked at the research but if it helps them YES to Q3,4 and 5
- I grew up with fluoride
- As a child we were given fluoride tablets and this has led to us having strong healthy teeth
- Any small addition of fluoride is beneficial
- tests show yes
- I believe this works as prevention of tooth decay
- was a dental nurse for 30 years
- I seem to write big cheques for dentists
- not everyone brushes twice daily and it'll be a boost to peoples fluoride in take
- NO more than adults and children brushing their teeth from public information and advertising

- Because it won't completely cure tooth decay & diets will
- cleaning teeth often helps tooth decay and what's one diet
- However I do also believe that too much fluoride can cause decay. This have to be monitored.
- I have had no fillings after growing up drinking tap water. My wife has many fillings after growing up with rain water.
- can be taken individually
- Regular brushing is enough. Kids should know this from a young age.
- The Moora water is hard and also you get itchiness sometimes after showering
- I don't think enough people drink tap water to make a difference
- works in areas where naturally occurring fluoride is in water
- I am understanding that fluoride helps with teeth conditioning. I hope it doesn't create stones in liver Gall and kidneys
- Did not have fluoride where I grew up. Tooth decay is better avoided with dental hygiene and/or dietary choices
- Why not have free or subsidised tablets available and people can choose to administer to kids as we did?
- Other countries have never added or have deleted fluoride they have good teeth. Europe Asia
- Don't know enough about fluoride
- Dental decay is not only caused by lack of fluoride
- Calcium Fluoride occurs naturally in water. Sodium Fluoride (added) is a poison & by-product of aluminium manufacture
- Probably need more than this to stop tooth decay, dental hygiene and regular dentist visits are more beneficial
- My daughter had an allergy to fluoride when she was a baby
- Toothpastes have enough = There are too many unnecessary additives in our foods now
- No I don't. It causes brittle bone and goodness knows what else, early onset of brain disease in particular. I recommend you go home and take a good dose of monosodiumfluoroacetate and do us a favour.
- only have media reports to justify statement
- fluoride has also been credited with effects on mental alertness (negative)



EB 1 of 2
20 AUG 2011

Water Fluoridation Survey 2011

1582

How to complete this form:

Answer questions by ticking only the single most appropriate option unless otherwise specified.

Please provide additional comments in the space provided.

Q1) Is your residence connected to the public water supply?

- No (Go to Q3)
- Yes (Go to Q2)
- Unsure (Go to Q2)

Q2) Do you know whether fluoride has or has not been added to your public water supply?

- No, I don't know if fluoride has been added to the public water supply
- Yes, I am sure the public water supply has had fluoride added *NOT SURE. MAYBE.*
- Yes, I am sure the public water supply has not had fluoride added

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

- Yes
- No *I know it is illegal to add it in BATHING Europe & so where have you been? in a Tiegly dices cava I suppose.*
- Unsure

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

- Yes
 - No *No I do NOT. I causes brittle bones & goodness knows what ELSE, early onset of brain disease in particular.*
 - Unsure
- I recommend you go home and take a good dose of mono sodium fluorocacetate and do us a favour*



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

- No (enter comment Q5a) (Go to Q7)
- Yes (enter comment Q5a) (Go to Q6)
- Unsure (Go to Q6)

Q5a) Comment _____

_____ [specify]

Q6) Would you be in favour of adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply to assist in the prevention of tooth decay?

- No
- Yes, in children only
- Yes, in ~~adults only~~ *IN INTELLECTUALLY CHALLENGED PUBLIC SCHOOLS ONLY*
- Yes, in both adults and children
- Unsure

Q7) Where have you received information on the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies? Select multiple options if necessary.

- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Television
- Radio
- INTERNET STUDIES* Advertisements for dental products *HONEY GRUBBING GREEDY SWINES.*
- Health authorities *IN U.K. SCANDINAVIA, EUROPE, MANY STATES U.S.A.*
- Dentists
- Internet
- No information/source
- Other _____ [specify]

Unsure

If you go ahead m'd add it could be possible to bring a class action against you personally for crippling Australians, are you being bribed by some malignant foreign power I wonder?



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

- No (enter comment Q5a) (Go to Q7)
- Yes (enter comment Q5a) (Go to Q6)
- Unsure (Go to Q6)

Q5a) Comment Fluoride, as used in drinking water, contains uranium, arsenic, cadmium, aluminium and lead. Some of which are known to be HIGHLY CARCINOGENIC.

Sodium fluoride is also used in insecticide, rodenticide, herbicide & was added to nerve gasses.

Q6) Would you be in favour of adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply to assist in the prevention of tooth decay?

119 scientists in U.K. in 1990s researched the use of fluoride in drinking water and their statements included "Fluoridation of drinking water is the greatest scientific fraud of this century, if not of all time"

- No
- Yes, in children only
- Yes, in adults only
- Yes, in both adults and children
- Unsure

It has also been stated that there are only three possible reasons that Politicians permit public water to be fluoridated:-

- * Ignorance
- * Stupidity
- * Corruption.

Q7) Where have you received information on the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies? Select multiple options if necessary.

- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Television
- Radio
- Advertisements for dental products
- Health authorities
- Dentists
- Internet See "Resources" on www.doctorsaredangerous.com.
- No information/source
- Other Books [specify] Read : TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR HEALTH and Escape THE SICKNESS INDUSTRY" By Elaine Hollingsworth. (11th.edition)
- Unsure

Fluoride tablets, fluoride drops & fluoride chewing gum are now banned in Belgium due to the Government agrees that fluoride is poisonous & pose a great risk for physical and psychological health. Germany is following their lead and have are in the process of banning fluoride, including its use in toothpaste.



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