

E-MainStream

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CDC reports on fluoridation

A [new report](#) from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) details progress toward its *Healthy People 2010* goal of delivering optimally fluoridated water to 75 percent of the US population.

In 2006, that goal (defined as 0.7–1.2 mg/L) had been achieved for 69.6 percent of the population, an increase from 62.1 percent in 1992 and from 65 percent in 2000. By 2006, about half the states had reached the 75 percent target.

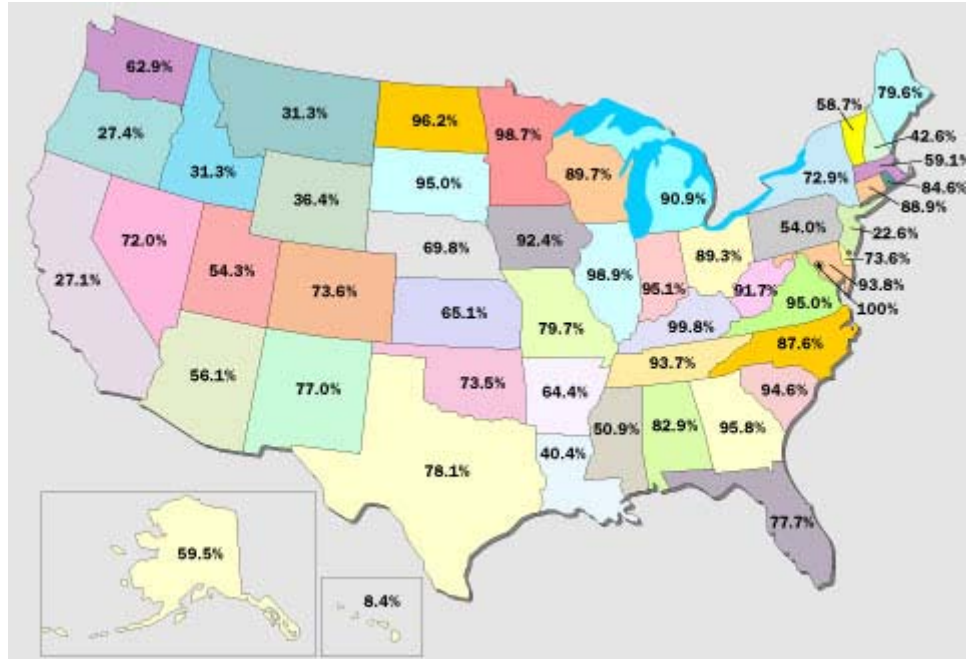
However, that was offset by populous states like California, which is third lowest among states (27.1 percent). While most states' fluoridation levels increased during the period, ten states saw decreases — including Louisiana, because Hurricane Katrina caused the relocation of residents from areas with fluoridation to areas without; and Idaho, because Boise's water system was reclassified as being below optimal.

Washington, D.C., was rated at 100 percent, while Hawaii was lowest with 8.4 percent. Of the roughly 184 million persons served by fluoridated community water systems, 8 million are served by systems where the fluoride is naturally occurring.

[CDC encourages water fluoridation](#) of public water systems and identified it as one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century. CDC says attainment of the 75 percent objective will require

- continuing science-based education of the public about the established safety of fluoridation;
- recognition by policymakers and the public that dental decay remains an important public health problem and that fluoridation is an equitable and cost-effective method of addressing the problem, even in small communities; and
- a political will to adopt new fluoridation systems in communities that are not served currently.

The Department of Health and Human Services launched [Healthy People 2010](#), a comprehensive, nationwide health promotion and disease prevention agenda, in 2000. Oral health is among the [28 focus areas](#). AWWA also has [endorsed the practice](#) and provides [online information](#) regarding fluoridation.



This map shows the percentage of state populations served by community water systems with optimally fluoridated water. Source: CDC, July 11, 2008