

The Arkansas Oral Health Coalition

is a supporter of affordable and equitable oral health care. Community water fluoridation is a proven method to provide oral health benefits to all Arkansans, regardless of income or geographic location.

Fluoridation has long had the support of dental and public health organizations, including the American Dental Association (ADA)¹, U.S. Surgeon General and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)². Studies show that fluoride is a major factor in the prevention of caries (tooth decay) and has been over the past several decades.

Since 2011, under the direction of the Arkansas Department (ADH) Office of Oral Health, the percentage of Arkansans enjoying the benefits of community water fluoridation has grown from 65% to 86%.

During the 88th General Assembly in 2011, three acts were passed to improve oral health and access to oral health services in Arkansas including Act 197, which requires all water systems serving 5,000 or more persons to maintain a fluoride content established by the state health department.

Act 197 ensures that more than **615,000** additional Arkansans are receiving the benefits of fluoridated water. The Delta Dental of Arkansas Foundation made a commitment to fund the reasonable capital start-up costs of the fluoridation equipment associated with Act 197 for up to five years.

Statewide support to continuing fluoridation is KEY in order to ensure that community water systems add the right amount of fluoride to the local drinking water to prevent cavities and tooth decay.

1 American Dental Association: http://www.ada.org/~media/ADA/Member%20Center/Files/fluoridation_facts.aspx

2 Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/index.html>

FACTS ON FLUORIDE



Community water fluoridation is safe.

About 75 percent of people in the U.S. on municipal water supplies enjoy the benefits of fluoridated water.



Children benefit from early fluoridation.

Fluoride in drinking water is absorbed by teeth still developing below the gums to help create a strong surface protecting the teeth from cavities. Children who drink fluoridated water are less susceptible to tooth decay and require less dental treatment.



Fluoridation helps families. Arkansans who may not have access to regular preventative dental care can receive the benefits of cavity protection simply through drinking fluoridated tap water.



Fluoride is available in more than just water.

Americans now have access to more sources of fluoride including toothpaste and mouth rinses.



Fluoridation saves money. Community water fluoridation has been shown to save money, both for families and the health care system. The average lifetime cost per person to fluoridate a water supply (\$0.25 – \$0.50 per year) is less than the cost of one dental filling. For most cities, every \$1 invested in water fluoridation saves \$38 in dental treatment costs per person.



2015 Community Water Fluoridation Awards Winner Healthy People 2020 Award

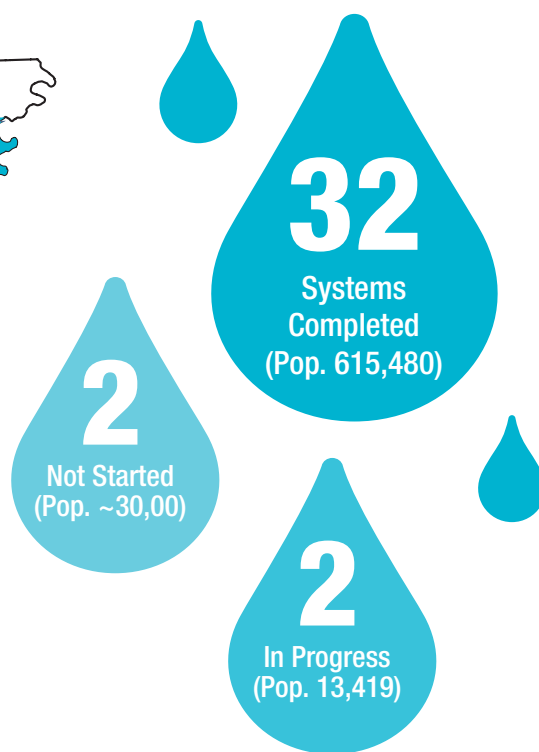
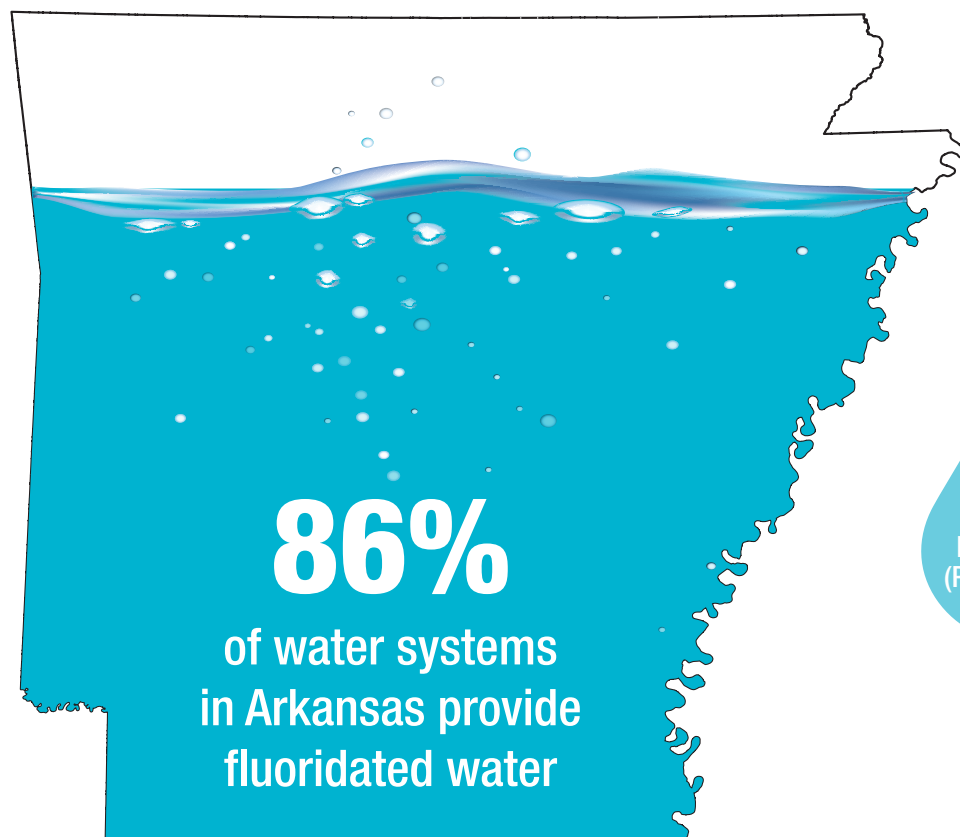
The state or territory having 79.6 % of the population served by community water systems with optimally fluoridated water for the first time OR achieving a 10% increase in the population served by community water systems with optimally fluoridated water since 2010.

¹ <http://www.ada.org/~media/ADA/Public%20Programs/Files/ADA-ASTDD-CDC%20Fluoridation%20Awards%20April%202016%20FINAL.pdf?la=en>

2015 State Fluoridation Initiative Award

The state with the most new systems fluoridating and/or to the state that had the greatest increase in population on fluoridation in 2015.

Fluoridation Work for Arkansas Community Water Systems (since 2011)



Total cost: \$7,688,987



Total population: 658,899

The Arkansas Oral Health Coalition is comprised of organizations who are advocates for community water fluoridation as an effective and cost efficient method to improve the oral health of Arkansans.



For more information about the importance of community water fluoridation, visit:

Arkansas Oral Health Coalition – <http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programsservices/oralhealth/pages/arkansasoralhealthcoalition.aspx>

Arkansas Center for Health Improvement – www.ACHI.net

American Medical Association (AMA) – www.ama-assn.org

American Dental Association (ADA) – www.ADA.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – www.CDC.gov