



ASTDD Fluoridation Challenge Surveillance Annual Reports 2014-2017 Fluoridation Challenges, by Year

Community Fluoridation Challenges: Community-specific challenges are recorded in a web-based [catalog](#) as they occur and are acted upon. Each year entries are made detailing actions promoting policy change, specifically discontinuation of existing fluoridation of community water systems. The entries include TV and newspaper op eds, letters to editor, city or water board minutes, as reported on dental list-servers, through Google Alerts or from State dental directors and fluoridation specialists and in cooperation with the American Dental Association and its state affiliates. The entries also include fluoridation initiations and State mandates, even though they are not included in annual summary reports, as they are believed to often influence a nearby community's reconsideration of fluoridation status.

Year	Community Fluoridation Challenges	Rollback	Maintain	Reaffirm ADA Award Category	Retain	Initiated	Total Cataloged Activities
2017	48	9	39	15	24	5	385
2016	89	26	63	26	37	7	275
2015	84	14	69	35	34	7	213
2014	88	16	72	20	52	10	130

Populations Impacted (rounded to the nearest tenth)

Year	Population Maintaining Fluoridation	Population Rollback
2017	1.8 million	0.2 million
2016	5.0 million	0.2 million
2015	13.2 million	0.3 million
2014	14.6 million	0.9 million

Definitions:

Rollback: Decision to discontinue CWF, formal (repeal policy) or informal (simply discontinue)

Maintain: Total number Reaffirmed or Retained

Reaffirm: Formal vote by the owners of the water system (water board/city council) or public vote). This is the definition used by the American Dental Association for Annual ADA, ASTDD, and CDC awards.

Retain: Discussion without a vote to address fluoridation directly, but implicitly reject proposals to discontinue by actions taken with regard to:

- purchase equipment or fluoridation additives
- consideration of public hearings, advisory votes, adding fluoridation to a referendum
- public requests to the board/council or response
- expansion of water system boundaries

Initiate: Formal votes to initiate fluoridation for the first time OR re-initiating fluoridation after stopping for one year or more. (Note: This does not track the number of initiation efforts that did not result in approval of fluoridation.)