



Dental Public Health Activity Descriptive Summary

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Community Water Fluoridation in Massachusetts

Several fluoridation efforts are ongoing in Massachusetts' communities. Under Massachusetts General Law 111, Section 8C, fluoridation initiatives in Massachusetts are initiated locally and are aimed at providing both oral health education and preventive services to community residents. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), Office of Oral Health (with its staff of a state fluoridation coordinator and a program coordinator) assists communities by providing education, engineering and technical assistance to local Boards of Health as they work to promote oral health through community water fluoridation efforts. The MDPH also assumes the initial costs of fluoridation for communities. The Preventive Health Services Block Grant and State funds support the initiation of the program. The program continues in 2014, with state and federal funds.

Lessons Learned:

Lessons learned through the establishment and efforts of community water fluoridation in Massachusetts include the need to educate the local Boards of Health, community residents, and dental and non-dental professionals on the safety and effectiveness of community water fluoridation.

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