



Dental Public Health Activities Descriptive Summaries

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New Hampshire Water Fluoridation Reporting System

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in collaboration with the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD), developed the Water Fluoridation Reporting System (WFRS), a surveillance system to collect and edit data on-line to monitor fluoridation in the United States. With the introduction of WFRS in 2001, New Hampshire decided to hire a summer intern to update the state's information. The state's chronic disease epidemiologist supervised the summer intern. The intern had proficient computer skills, which allowed him to understand the WFRS system without great difficulty. The only equipment needed was a computer with Internet access. The summer intern worked for approximately 4 weeks updating the information in the WFRS system. He was paid approximately \$8 per hour and spent about one month on WFRS, totaling \$1,280 for his service to update the information for New Hampshire. WFRS allows a state to go on-line to update basic information including populations served, fluoridation status, and contact information. Users enter data, such as high, low and average fluoride concentrations, and indicate whether their water systems met the daily fluoride testing requirements. WFRS automatically determines if the water system provided optimally fluoridated water for the month. Numerous reports, available with a click of the mouse, provide tools needed to monitor the quality of fluoridation. WFRS reports identify water systems that are not maintaining optimal levels of fluoride, thereby making it easier for states to provide assistance to these systems. Using WFRS, the updated numbers showed that 67% of New Hampshire residents received water from a public supply. Of the residents on public water supply, only 43% received fluoridated water. The information will be used to update publications and to monitor progress towards achieving the *Healthy New Hampshire 2010* objective for fluoridation. Consumer access to some of the information contained in WFRS is provided by **My Water's Fluoride** (<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/MWF/Index.asp>), an online resource for consumers in participating states to learn basic information of their public water system including the number of people served by the system and the target fluoridation level. General access to water fluoridation information from WFRS is also provided through **Oral Health Maps** (<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/gisdoh/>), a Web-based Geographic Information System interactive mapping application that shows the percentage of people receiving fluoridated water at the state and county level.

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