AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: **3B**
MEETING DATE: 1/7/2025

REPORT TO THE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

DEPARTMENT: Health X INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

SECTION: Access to Care

SUBJECT: Community Fluoridation

PREPARED BY: Bridget Boland-Cardinali FILING ID:

REVIEWED BY: Audra Martine IMPLEMENTATION DATE:

Policy:

Since 1962, the U.S. Public Health Service has recommended the addition of fluoride to drinking (tap) water to reduce the risk and severity of dental caries, one of the most common chronic diseases in children.

Current Status:

In 1986, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency established a maximum allowable concentration of 4.0 mg/L fluoride in public drinking water systems to prevent the adverse effects from fluoride exposure (such as bone disease) and a recommended maximum concentration of 2.0 mg/L to prevent dental fluorosis.

Fluoridated municipal drinking water – including water people drink as well as foods and beverages prepared using municipal drinking water – accounts for about 60% of fluoride intakes in the United States. In 2020, 62.9% of the U.S. population had access to a fluoridated community water system. Because of differences in amounts of fluoride in groundwater, private water sources (including well water) have variable fluoride concentrations.

Most people in the United States consume adequate amounts of fluoride through foods containing naturally occurring fluoride, fluoridated tap water, and food products made with fluoridated tap water.

Education:

Water fluoridation protects teeth in two main ways – by preventing the development of caries through ingestion of drinking water during tooth forming years and through direct contact of fluoride with teeth throughout life. While studies continue to occur on the benefits and risks associated to supplements, it is currently recommended as the best public health practice to maintain fluoridation in public water systems. Staff will present local data and additional information to the board at the meeting.

Source: United States Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health – Office of Dietary Supplements website

Fluoridation

LA CROSSE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

JANUARY 2025

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What is Fluoride?

- Naturally occurring mineral
- Found in rocks, soil, and most water sources
- Strengthens developing tooth enamel
- Slows down tooth decay

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HOW FLUORIDE WORKS



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Dental Impact



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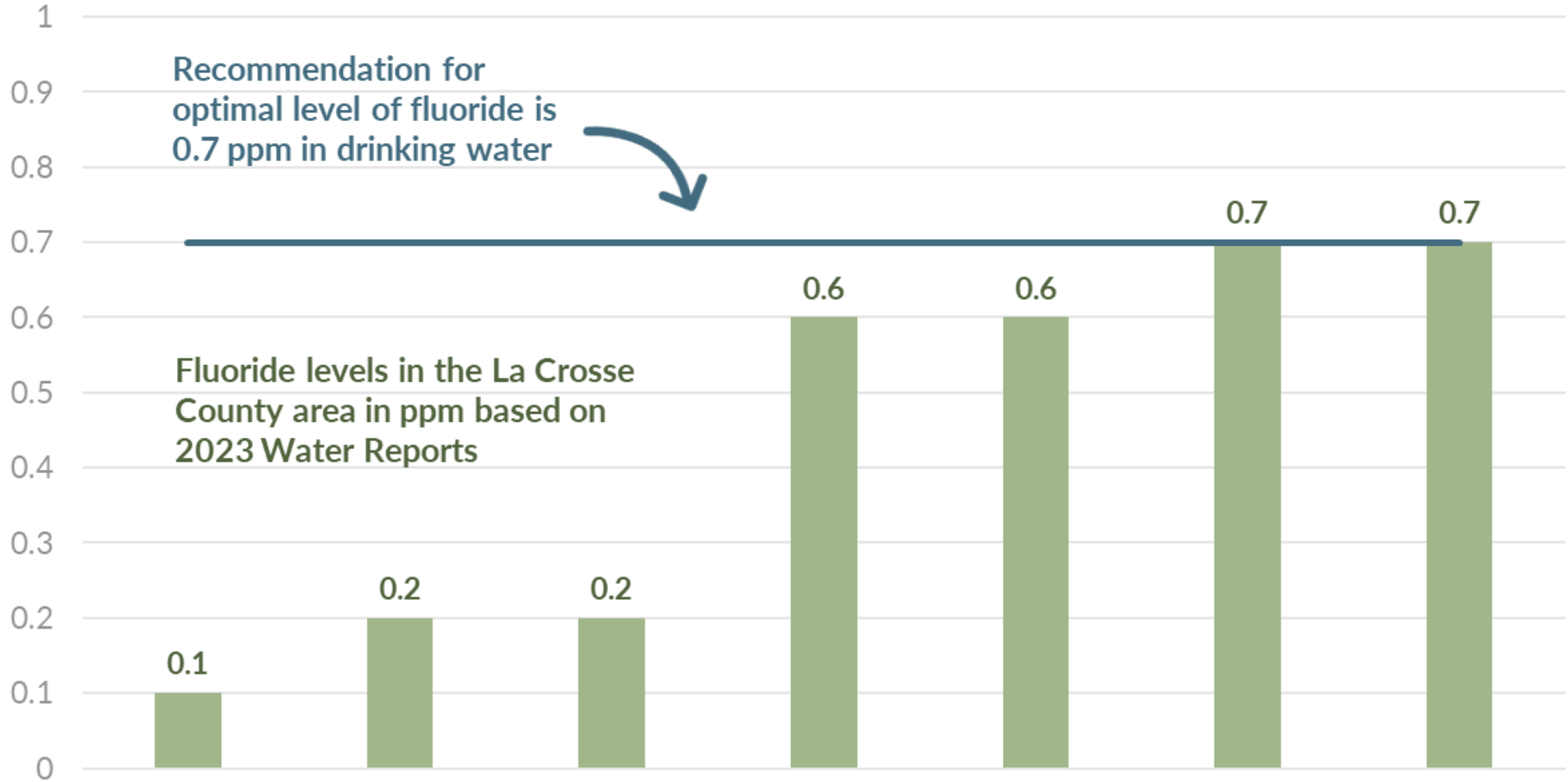
Fluoride Facts

- A review of 20 studies showed that children receiving fluoridated water had 35% fewer decayed, missing, and filled primary (baby) teeth, and 26% fewer decayed, missing, and filled permanent (adult) teeth than children receiving unfluoridated water.
- Optimal level is 0.7 mg/L

Source: https://ods.od.nih.gov/factsheets/Fluoride-HealthProfessional/#:~:text=Fluoride%20is%20the%20ionic%20form,contain%20trace%20amounts%20of%20fluoride

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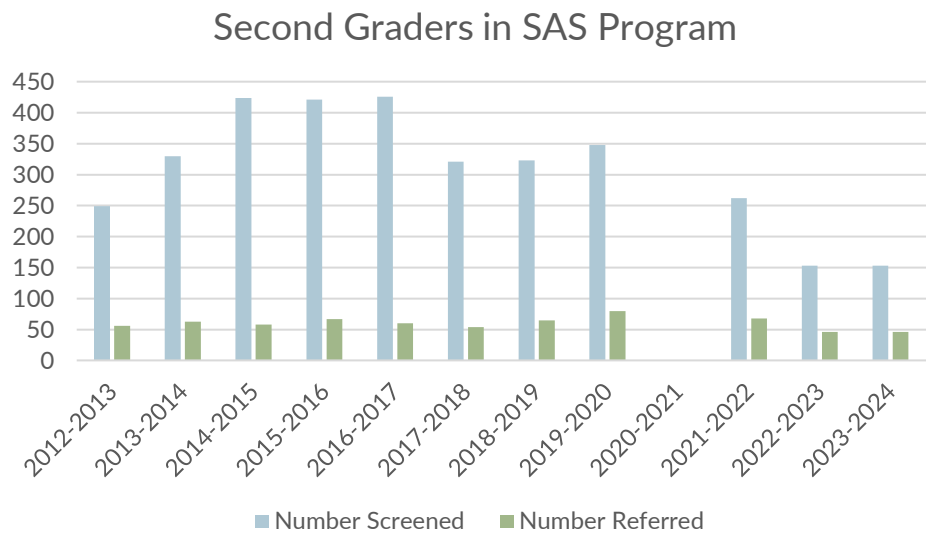
Fluoride Levels

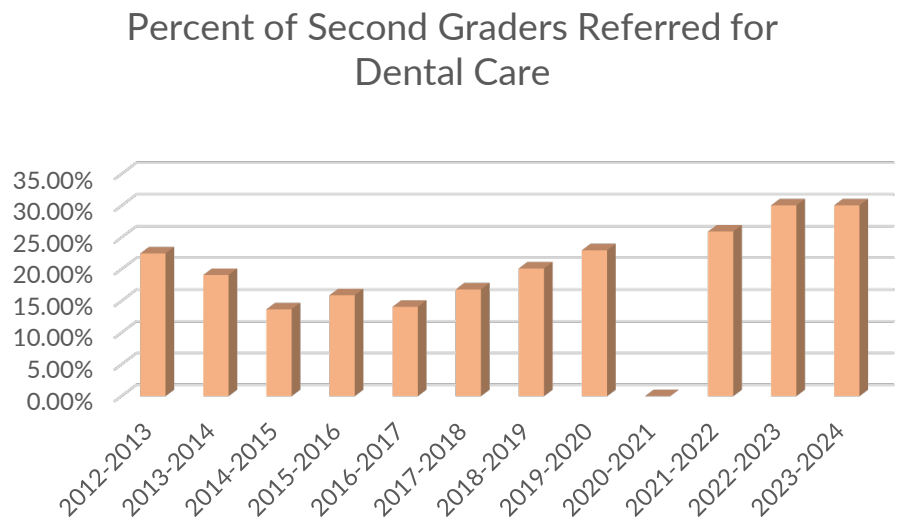


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Local Dental Snapshot

Seal-A-Smile Program





1851 LC
LA CROSSE COUNTY

Savings

POPULATION	ANNUAL SAVINGS
City of La Crosse 51,327	$1.64 million
City of Onalaska 19,018	$608,576

CDC Scientific Statement on Community Water Fluoridation | Fluoridation | CDC

U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: La Crosse city, Wisconsin

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Cost Perspective

Findings suggest that Medicaid eligible children in communities without water fluoridation had an increased cost for dental treatment per child that was twice as high as those children living in fluoridated communities.

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Resources

- The National Toxicology Program Monograph on the State of the Science Concerning Fluoride Exposure and Neurodevelopment and Cognition: A Systemic Review, August 2024 (NTP Monograph: State of the Science Concerning Fluoride Exposure and Neurodevelopment and Cognition: A Systematic Review; August 2024)

- DHS Oral Health Program Oral Health Program: Fluoride and Community Water Fluoridation | Wisconsin Department of Health Services

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References

Oral Health Program: Fluoride and Community Water Fluoridation | Wisconsin Department of Health Services

https://ods.od.nih.gov/factsheets/Fluoride-HealthProfessional/#:~:text=Fluoride%20is%20the%20ionic%20form,contain%20trace%20amounts%20of%20fluoride

Wisconsin Healthy Smiles Survey, Kindergarten and Third Grade Children

CDC Scientific Statement on Community Water Fluoridation | Fluoridation | CDC

U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: La Crosse city, Wisconsin

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Questions????

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