

Public Health England analysis finds no evidence of harm from fluoridated water

Public Health England's first-ever fluoridation monitoring report, published in March 2014, found no evidence of harm from consumption of fluoridated water after an analysis which compared a range of health indicators in fluoridated and non-fluoridated areas of England. (1)

After making statistical adjustments to take account of population differences in age, gender, deprivation and ethnicity, Public Health England found that there was no evidence of a difference between fluoridated and non-fluoridated areas in the rate of hip fractures, Down's syndrome, osteosarcoma and all types of cancers.

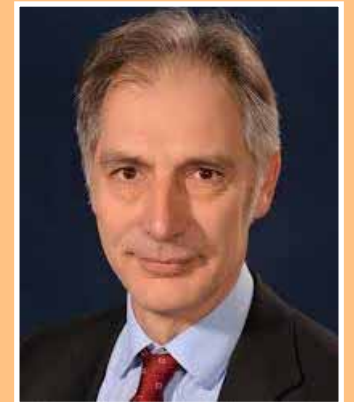
PHE did find evidence that the rate of kidney stones, bladder cancer and all-cause mortality was lower in fluoridated areas than non-fluoridated areas. However, it cautions that these findings cannot assume cause and effect. There could be other reasons why the rates for these conditions appear to be lower in fluoridated areas.

Dental benefits identified in fluoridated areas

The PHE analysis found that children aged five and twelve in fluoridated areas were less likely than those in non-fluoridated areas to have experienced any tooth decay, whilst average rates of decay were lower. Also, in fluoridated areas there were 45% fewer hospital admissions of children aged one to four for dental caries – mostly for tooth extractions under a general anaesthetic – than in non-fluoridated areas.

“This report provides further reassurance that water fluoridation is a safe and effective public health measure. We will use this report as a basis for discussions with local authorities on the scope and content of further reports and on the role of fluoridation as a public health measure.”

**Professor John Newton,
Chief Knowledge Officer,
Public Health England**



Reassurance on the safety and effectiveness of water fluoridation

Professor John Newton, chief knowledge officer at PHE, commented: “This report provides further reassurance that water fluoridation is a safe and effective public health measure. We will use this report as a basis for discussions with local authorities on the scope and content of further reports and on the role of fluoridation as a public health measure.”

1. Public Health England: *Water fluoridation – health monitoring report for England 2014*