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2012 Water Fluoridation Statistics



These statistics were prepared using water system data reported by states to the CDC Water Fluoridation Reporting System as of December 31, 2012, and the US Census Bureau state population estimates for 2012.

National Water Fluoridation Statistics

Total US population, people ^a	313,914,040
US population on community water systems (CWS), people ^b	282,534,910
Total US population on fluoridated drinking water systems, people ^b	210,655,401
Percentage of US population receiving fluoridated water ^c	67.1%
Percentage of US population on CWS receiving fluoridated water ^d	74.6%
Total number of CWS in United States ^b	52,734
Number of CWS providing fluoridated water ^b	18,502
Number of CWS adjusting fluoride ^b	5,999
Number of CWS consecutive to systems with optimal fluoride levels ^b	6,342
Number of CWS with naturally occurring fluoride at or above optimal levels ^{b,e}	6,151
Population served by CWS with naturally occurring fluoride at or above optimal levels ^{b,e}	11,116,202

State Fluoridation Percentage Calculations and States Ranked by Fluoridation Percentage

State	People receiving fluoridated water	People served by CWS	%	Rank
United States	210,655,401	282,534,910	74.6%	
Alabama ^f	3,781,607	4,822,023	78.4%	23
Alaska	361,240	682,528	52.9%	41
Arizona	3,199,068	5,536,324	57.8%	38
Arkansas	1,785,679	2,669,485	66.9%	33
California ^{f,g,h}	24,215,234	38,041,430	63.7%	34
Colorado ^f	3,757,694	5,187,582	72.4%	28
Connecticut	2,350,532	2,603,377	90.3%	14
Delaware	705,824	818,110	86.3%	19
District of Columbia	595,000	595,000	100%	
Florida	13,371,262	17,149,724	78.0%	24
Georgia ^f	9,551,793	9,919,945	96.3%	6
Hawaii	139,598	1,290,549	10.8%	50

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Idaho	395,863	1,097,332	36.1%	46
Illinois ^f	12,682,543	12,875,255	98.5%	3
Indiana	4,342,273	4,582,496	94.8%	8
Iowa	2,555,593	2,778,894	92.0%	12
Kansas	1,719,503	2,702,452	63.6%	Tied for 35
Kentucky ^f	4,375,026	4,380,415	99.9%	1
Louisiana ^f	1,996,568	4,601,893	43.4%	45
Maine	527,163	664,063	79.4%	22
Maryland	5,060,379	5,204,155	97.2%	4
Massachusetts ^f	4,681,038	6,646,144	70.4%	31
Michigan	7,218,670	7,999,859	90.2%	15
Minnesota	4,134,663	4,184,753	98.8%	2
Mississippi ^f	1,738,478	2,984,926	58.2%	37
Missouri	3,994,342	5,226,360	76.4%	26
Montana	252,299	788,805	32.0%	47
Nebraska	1,015,094	1,425,664	71.2%	30
Nevada	1,870,698	2,544,079	73.5%	27
New Hampshire	383,333	832,631	46.0%	43
New Jersey	1,206,270	8,288,715	14.6%	49
New Mexico	1,210,877	1,571,600	77.0%	25
New York	12,989,488	18,094,452	71.8%	29
North Carolina	6,164,847	7,042,655	87.5%	18
North Dakota	612,560	633,645	96.7%	5
Ohio	9,716,289	10,537,957	92.2%	11
Oklahoma	2,486,718	3,548,057	70.1%	32
Oregon	833,557	3,688,540	22.6%	48
Pennsylvania	5,885,390	10,780,146	54.6%	40
Rhode Island	837,549	997,824	83.9%	20
South Carolina	3,602,956	3,839,526	93.8%	9
South Dakota	646,671	690,759	93.6%	10
Tennessee	5,229,461	5,826,866	89.7%	16
Texas	20,002,506	25,113,656	79.6%	21
Utah	1,384,638	2,676,448	51.7%	42
Vermont	252,920	450,483	56.1%	39
Virginia	6,159,737	6,416,760	96.0%	7
Washington	3,515,797	5,525,840	63.6%	Tied for 35
West Virginia	1,365,697	1,499,749	91.1%	13
Wisconsin	3,597,525	4,025,756	89.4%	17
Wyoming	195,891	449,223	43.6%	44

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Footnotes

a. Census Population Count 2012. Annual Estimates of the Population for the United States, Regions, States, and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2010, to July 1, 2012, (NST-EST2012-01). Source: US Census Bureau, Population Division. Release Date: December 2012. Available at <http://www.census.gov/popest/data/intercensal/state/state2012.html>.

b. Reported in CDC Water Fluoridation Reporting System (WFRS). For purposes of this report, a water system is considered a community water system if so designated by the state drinking water administrator in accordance with the regulatory requirements of the US Environmental Protection Agency. In general, public water systems provide water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances to at least 15 service connections, or serve an average of at least 25 people for at least 60 days a year. A community water system is a public water system that supplies water to the same population year-round. Available at <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/drinkingwater/pws/factoids.cfm>.

c. Fluoridated population divided by total population.

- d. Fluoridated population divided by population served by community water systems.
- e. The increase from 2010 to 2012 in the population served by CWS with naturally occurring fluoride at or above optimal levels is due in part to two changes: 1) several states have improved the completeness and accuracy of their data for the natural fluoride concentration of community water systems and 2) some states had implemented the proposed recommendation of 0.7mg/L as the optimal concentration of fluoride in drinking water by December 31, 2012. See Federal Register Notice. Available at <https://federalregister.gov/a/2011-637>.
- f. Population served by CWS exceeded the US Census state population estimate; number of people was reduced by the ratio of the population estimate to the CWS population estimate.
- g. Complete data were not available from WFRS; state provided additional information.
- h. California is developing new methodology to describe the fluoridated status of water systems that draw water from multiple sources (e.g., ground water, surface water). This report does not reflect California's new methodology.

Additional Resources

More detail on U.S. Census Bureau estimates can be found at [Calculating Fluoridation Statistics](#)

Historical fluoridation statistics are available at [Reference Statistics](#)

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