

Fluoridation Facts in Virginia

- In 1952, the Town of Fries and the City of Lynchburg were the first communities to begin water fluoridation in Virginia.
- Currently, an estimated 5.7 million Virginians benefit from fluoridated drinking water, which represents 93.8 percent of the population served by public water systems.
- Virginia has been recognized for meeting and exceeding the goals of the Healthy People 2010. The Division of Dental Health has received a Certificate of Appreciation Award for the Healthy People 2000/2010 accomplishment from the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors and The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP).
- The optimal level of fluoridation for Virginia drinking water is set at 0.9 parts per million based on federal public health guidelines and the daily average temperature for the area.
- Fluoride levels of community water systems are analyzed and monitored on a daily basis at the local water treatment plant. The Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services in the Virginia Department of General Services performs independent tests on a monthly split sample submitted from each fluoridating system. The Division of Drinking Water and the Division of Dental Health in the Virginia Department of Health each review the testing results and monthly split samples to provide quality assurance for the fluoridation programs.
- Virginia has the distinction of having more engineers and dentists from the Division of Drinking Water and the Division of Dental Health complete The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Training in Basic Water Fluoridation Engineering than any other state.
- The commitment to updating the knowledge of water plant operators has lead to planning stage collaboration with the Virginia Rural Water Association, the Division of Drinking Water and the Division of Dental Health to establish a training center for operators including fluoridation courses. The specialized equipment necessary for the course has been purchased and a manual assembled, as the plans continue to be finalized.