

A Tale of Two Studies

The claim that artificial water fluoridation saves taxpayers money (\$38/person) is not valid. It is based on one American study (Griffin 2001), which used 30 year old data, and makes a number of assumptions that are incorrect.

STUDY #1: Griffin S, Jones K, Tomar S. An economic evaluation of community water fluoridation, Journal of Public Health Dentistry 2001;61(2).

- It **assumes** that with water fluoridation NO other mode of fluoride application in a dental office would be required.
- It **assumes** that costs for treating dental fluorosis would be "negligible" and were not included. Dental fluorosis is highly prevalent (25-70% of the population) and the costs to repair are significant.
- Included in the \$38 saved, the paper **assumed** \$18.12 per hour wages lost for time taken visiting the dentist - for every person. Many children are not earning and many salaried people would not lose wages for visiting a dentist.
- Many other costs of artificial water fluoridation **were not included**, such as medical treatments for fluorosis disease of bones and soft tissues (brain, endocrine systems, gut), and resulting lost wages, costs of special education, institutional care, etc.

More recent information disputes this claim by the above paper.

STUDY #2: (source: Dr. Osmunson DDS, MPH)

* <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/oralhealth/docs/databook.pdf#search='Oregon%20Decay%20experience>

** http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/Oral_Health/Documents/SmileSurvey2005FullReport.pdf

***US National Survey of children's health <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/oralhealth/portrait/1cct.htm>

****2004 data http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/waterfluoridation/fact_sheets/states_stats2002.htm

*****Portland vs Oregon [Maupome et al 2007](#) J PHD

JS Department of Health and Human Services http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/waterfluoridation/fact_sheets/states_stats2002.htm

<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/brfss/display.asp?state=WA&cat=OH&yr=2004&qkey=6610&grp=0&SUBMIT4=Go>

http://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/fact_sheets/states_stats2002.htm

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/41000.html>

	Portland Oregon Not Fluoridated	Vancouver, Washington Fluoridated
Population Fluoridated	19%	59% public water systems
Decay % 6-8 yr. Olds	57%*	59%**
Any Permanent Teeth Extracted	60%****	63%
Very Good/Excellent Teeth	58%***	51% Low Income Children***
Adult Dental Expenses	\$176/child/yr	\$180/child/yr*****
Median Income	\$42,593	\$48,185
Preventive Dental Visit	45%	60%(within 12 mo Low income)
Delay in tooth eruption	---	5% compared to Oregon
Bachelor's Degree	25.1%	27.7%
English Spoken	88%	88%
Race Similar	+1% Hispanic +1% Black	