

## There is no statistically significant difference in rates of tooth decay between the fluoridated and non-fluoridated areas of Washington.\*

\* *The Washington State Children's Dental Health Survey*, University of Washington Clinical Dental Research Center, Technical Report No. 9502, August, 1995. This University of Washington study found that higher rates of tooth decay were significantly related to poverty and to Hispanic origin, but not to fluoridation.

These data and data from a much larger study by the National Institute of Dental Research show that tooth decay rates vary widely without regard to fluoridation status. If fluoridation were effective, fluoridated localities would all have lower rates of decay than non-fluoridated localities. On the chart below, the fluoridated communities would all be at the top.

### Fluoridation and Tooth Decay Rates of Children in Washington

Fluoridation Status:      NF = Non-fluoridated      F = Fluoridated

Measure of Tooth Decay:    Dfs = Decayed or filled tooth surfaces (Each tooth is considered to have five surfaces: front, back, two sides and top. One cavity affecting two tooth surfaces receives a score of 2.)

<u>F-Status</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Dfs</u>	<u>F-Status</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Dfs</u>
NF	San Juan	2.4	NF	Klickitat	4.7
<b>F</b>	<b>Island</b>	<b>2.7</b>	NF	Spokane	4.9
NF	Asotin	3.5		<i>State Average</i>	4.9
NF	Mason	3.5	NF	Pierce	5.0
NF	Okanogan	3.5	NF	Jefferson	5.1
NF	Garfield	3.6	<b>F</b>	<b>Cowlitz</b>	<b>5.2</b>
NF	Chelan	3.7	NF	Grays Harbor	5.6
NF	Lincoln	3.8	NF	Stevens	5.7
NF	Benton	3.9	NF	Walla Walla	5.7
NF	Clallam	3.9	<b>F</b>	<b>Clark</b>	<b>5.8</b>
NF	Thurston	3.9	NF	Kittitas	6.1
<b>F</b>	<b>Lewis</b>	<b>4.1</b>	NF	Douglas	6.2
NF	Columbia	4.2	NF	Skamania	6.3
<b>F</b>	<b>Wahkiakum</b>	<b>4.2</b>	NF	Whatcom	7.1
NF	Adams	4.3	NF	Yakima	7.2
<b>F</b>	<b>King</b>	<b>4.3</b>	NF	Franklin	7.4
NF	Grant	4.7	NF	Pend Oreille	7.8

This table shows the findings of the University of Washington for sample groups in which water for all children was either fluoridated or non-fluoridated. The six counties for which sample groups were mixed, i.e., some children drinking fluoridated water and some drinking non-fluoridated water, are omitted. (*The Washington State Children's Dental Health Survey*, University of Washington Clinical Dental Research Center, Technical Report No. 9502, August, 1995; pp. 19 & 24.)