

Announcement

The British Fluoridation Society, UK Public Health Association, British Dental Association, and Faculty of Public Health have published a new report about water fluoridation, *One in a Million*.

Endorsed by the Chief Dental Officer (England) Professor Raman Bedi, and the British Medical Association, the report objectively reviews the scientific facts about fluoridation, to help local NHS decision makers in the UK to consider whether to implement new schemes in their areas. With the passing of the Water Act 2003, and regulations outlining the arrangements for consultation in 2005, communities with poor dental health who want water fluoridation now have a real chance of achieving their goal. Whilst the oral health of the UK population has improved dramatically in the last 30 years, significant inequalities remain. For example, children in non-fluoridated parts of the north of England have, on average, twice as much tooth decay as those in similar areas where the water supply is fluoridated.

Clearly targeted water fluoridation will be an effective way to help close this gap.

The content of *One in a Million* is available electronically on the British Fluoridation Society website, <http://www.bfsweb.org>, and includes sections on the dental benefits of fluoridation; the effects on general health; dental fluorosis, the ethics of fluoridation, the extent of fluoridation in the UK and worldwide; costs and cost-effectiveness; and technical and environmental aspects. Individual copies of the report can be purchased from the British Fluoridation Society, by emailing bfs@bfsweb.org. Also available via the BFS website are a report on research conducted by the School of Dental Sciences, University of Newcastle on the Bioavailability of Fluoride in Drinking-water: a human experimental study, and a scientific briefing paper on the York University Systematic Review of water fluoridation and subsequent research developments.

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