

LIFESAVERS GUIDE TO *FLUORIDATION*

RISKS/BENEFITS EVALUATED IN THIS 1983 QUESTION AND ANSWER REPORT

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What is fluoridation?

Fluoridation is the addition of fluoride to the public water systems, usually at the rate of about 1 part fluoride for every million parts of water (1 ppm), by weight.

What is fluoride?

Fluoride is an industrial waste product. According to the National Academy of Sciences, U.S. industries throw over 100,000 tons of fluoride into our atmosphere yearly.¹ We have no idea how much fluoride is being dumped into our waters but estimates range up to 500,000 tons or more.² This has led to the destruction of wildlife, crops, domestic animals, and human health. In certain areas the harmful effects of fluoride on human health have become so critical that industries have the waste fluoride hauled away. This is the fluoride used to fluoridate public water supplies.

Do you mean that fluoride is poisonous?

Yes. As little as one-tenth of an ounce will lead to death.³ No one is going to die from drinking one glass of fluoridated water, just as no one will die from smoking one cigarette. It is the longer-term chronic effects of glass after glass of fluoridated water — as with cigarette after cigarette — that takes its toll in human health — and life.⁴

Have these harmful effects been proven?

Yes. First, in a court case in Pennsylvania lasting 20 days and decided in 1978 in which top experts on both sides of the question were summoned from all over the world, it was proven by a preponderance of the evidence that fluoridation is harmful.⁵ In his decision, the presiding judge, the Hon. John P. Flaherty, pointed out that he was "compellingly convinced" of the adverse effects of fluoridation. Second, in a court case in Illinois lasting 40 days and decided in 1982, the presiding judge, the Hon. Ronald A. Niemann, ruled that fluoridation "created a risk . . . of serious health hazards" and declared the Illinois mandatory fluoridation law unconstitutional.^{6, 7}