

### ***What about recent reports of reduction in tooth decay rates?***

According to Dennis H. Leverett, Chairman of the Department of Community Dentistry at the Eastman Dental Center in Rochester, New York: "Prevalence in caries is declining in communities with unfluoridated water as well as in those with fluoridated water."<sup>171</sup> Studies from the United States,<sup>203, 204</sup> Australia,<sup>205</sup> New Zealand,<sup>206</sup> and Britain<sup>207</sup> have reported a 50% decrease in tooth decay rate in the nonfluoridated areas.

### ***Is there any danger from malfunctioning fluoridation equipment.***

Yes. In November of 1979, 50,000 people were poisoned and an estimated 10,000 people exhibited acute symptoms of fluoride poisoning when up to 50 ppm fluoride was dumped into the Annapolis, Maryland public water system.<sup>208-210</sup> An undisclosed number of citizens died of heart failure due to the spill, over 5 times the normal number during the week following the spill alone. Other spills include Stanly County North Carolina,<sup>211</sup> Rome, Pennsylvania,<sup>212</sup> Marin County California,<sup>213</sup> Los Lunas, New Mexico,<sup>214</sup> Jonesboro, Maine,<sup>215</sup> Harbor Springs, Michigan,<sup>216</sup> and others.

The most frightening aspect of this list is that such spills have occurred in other places and are probably occurring in every fluoridated area but are not being reported. Attempts were made to cover up the Annapolis and Marin County spills. People in Annapolis were not told about the spill until two weeks after it occurred, and only then when the local newspaper leaked the news. As an excuse, the county "health" officer stated: "We did not want to jeopardize the fluoridation program." In Marin County, people were not notified of the spill until 1 week later.

### ***Is fluoride an essential nutrient?***

No. Rats on diets with virtually no fluoride (0.005-0.007 ppm fluoride) have lived through as many as 4 generations with no difference in general health, dental health, or weight gain.<sup>217-220</sup> Studies claiming to show that fluoride is an essential nutrient<sup>221, 222</sup> have since been refuted.<sup>223-225</sup>

Fluoride at 3 ppm and at levels occurring naturally has been found to depress growth in farm animals<sup>226-229</sup> and humans;<sup>230</sup> fluoride at 1 ppm may be causing gum damage,<sup>231-233</sup> the major cause of tooth loss in adults.

### ***What about fluoride treatments in the dentist's office?***

According to N.C. Cons of the New York State Bureau of Dental Health and others, topical fluoride is practically ineffective in reducing tooth decay.<sup>234, 235</sup> Such treatment can be hazardous — even lethal. In the Jan. 20, 1979 issue of the **New York Times** was the headline: "\$750,000 Given In Child's Death In Fluoride Case." Even in this case, the death of the child might have been averted had it not been for the dentist who, after the child began vomiting, sweating, and complaining of dizziness, assured the mother that "the child had only been given a routine [fluoride] treatment."

### ***What about fluoridated toothpaste?***

Fluoridated toothpaste contains 1000 ppm fluoride. At this concentration gum damage has been reported.<sup>236-237</sup> Furthermore, a recent study has shown that it is ineffective in reducing tooth decay.<sup>238</sup> A family-sized tube of toothpaste contains enough fluoride to kill a small child (between 8 and 20 pounds) if entirely con-