

# **Water Fluoridation in Santa Clara County**

*Santa Clara County  
Public Health Department  
2009*

# Overview

- Santa Clara County: State of Oral Health
- Water Fluoridation as the Solution
- Three Important Facts about Water Fluoridation
- Medical, Scientific and Health Foundations Support Water Fluoridation
- Fluoridated Cities in Santa Clara County
- Goal in Santa Clara County

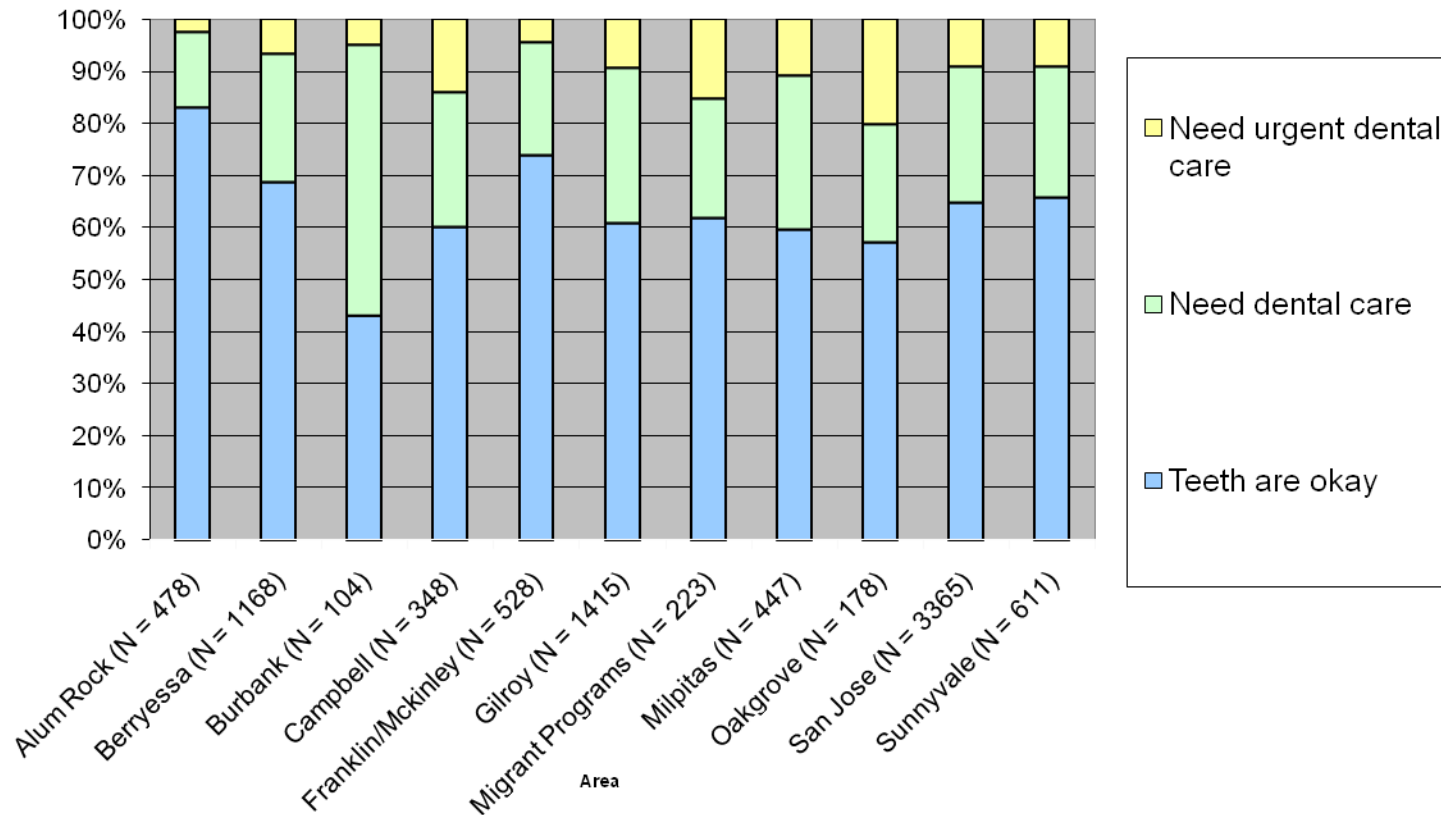
# Santa Clara County: State of Oral Health

- According to the American Dental Association, San Jose is the largest city in the U.S. without the benefits of community water fluoridation.
- The 2001 Health Trust study found about 1 in 3 kindergarteners and third graders had untreated tooth decay.
- The 2007 California Health Interview Survey found 22% of children 1-12 years have never visited a dentist.
- The 2005-2006 Santa Clara County Behavioral Risk Factor Survey found a third of adults have lost a tooth due to decay or gum disease.
- The 2007 California Health Interview Survey found 28% of adults did not have dental insurance last year.

# Santa Clara County: Oral Health Disparities

- According to the 2001 Health Trust study, about 3 in 5 Asian and Hispanic kindergartners had tooth decay experience, compared to 1 in 5 of their White counterparts.
- Also according to the 2001 Health Trust study, 74% of kindergartners eligible for the Free or Reduced-Price Meal Program had tooth decay experience compared to the 37% among those not eligible.
- According to the 2005-2006 Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, 35% of Hispanics, 21% of Asians and 18% of Whites had not visited a dentist or dental clinic in the past year.

# Santa Clara County Children's Oral Health Needs



# Rita's Story

“While I worked at a San Jose school site one day, Rita (not her real name) came into the office crying and complaining of a toothache. Her parents had to pick her up and she missed five school days because of the toothache and treatment. Rita is just one child, out of thousands in this area, who could benefit from water fluoridation.”

***K. Rodriguez, Registered Nurse***



# Untreated Tooth Decay Can Cause:

- Pain
- Infection
- Nutrition problems
- Tooth loss
- Sleep deprivation
- Attention deficit
- Impaired social development
- Missed school days



# Water Fluoridation as the Solution

- Over 445,500 children below 18 years of age could potentially benefit from water fluoridation in Santa Clara County for the rest of their lives.

*Santa Clara County Public Health Department*



- “Community water fluoridation is an effective, safe, and inexpensive way to prevent tooth decay.”

*Office of the U.S. Surgeon General, May 2000*



- “Community Water Fluoridation is one of the ten greatest public health achievements of the 20th Century.”

*U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*



# Water Fluoridation

## Fact #1: Safe

- According to the CDC, water systems with fluoridation levels between the levels of 0.7-1.2 parts per million (ppm) are considered safe and effective for preventing tooth decay.
- For example, the city of San Jose's 2007 Water Quality Report shows that Evergreen has water fluoridation within this safe range at 1.0 ppm.



# International and National Medical and Scientific Support for Water Fluoridation

- Center for Disease Control



- American Dental Association



- American Medical Association



- World Health Organization



- American Public Health Association



- American Academy of Family Physicians



- American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry



- National Institutes of Health



- American Academy of Pediatrics



- Office of the US Surgeon General



# State and Local Medical Organizations and Health Foundations Support Water Fluoridation

- Santa Clara County Public Health Department



- Santa Clara County Dental Society



- Silicon Valley Dental Hygienists Association



- California Department of Health Services



- California Dental Association



- The Health Trust



# Water Fluoridation

## Fact #2: Effective

- According to the CDC, water fluoridation reduces tooth decay 18%-40% in children and adults.
- According to the ADA, water fluoridation plays a protective role against tooth decay throughout life.



# Water Fluoridation

## Fact #3: Inexpensive

- According to the CDC, the approximate cost of fluoridation is \$0.50 a year per person.
- In Santa Clara County, the average cost of one filling is \$146, which would provide fluoridation for a family of four for approximately 73 years.



# US Surgeons General Endorse Water Fluoridation



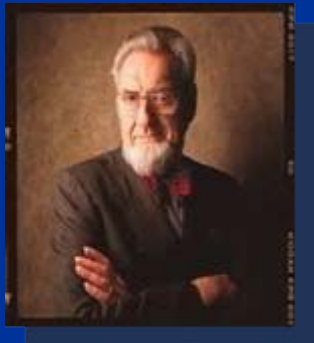
- “Community water fluoridation continues to be the most cost effective, practical and safe means for reducing and controlling the occurrence of tooth decay in a community.”

*Dr. Richard H. Carmona, Former U.S. Surgeon General, 2002-2006*



- “Water Fluoridation is an effective, safe and ideal public health measure that benefits individuals of all ages and economic strata.”

*Dr. David Satcher, Former U.S. Surgeon General, 1998-2002*



- “Fluoridation is the single most important commitment a community can make to the oral health of its children and to future generations.”

*Dr. C. Everett Koop, Former U.S. Surgeon General, 1982-1989*

# Fluoridated Cities in Santa Clara County

## Completely fluoridated:

- Palo Alto

## Parts of:

- Los Altos Hills
- Milpitas
- Mountain View
- San Jose (Evergreen, Alviso, Parts of North San Jose-North of Trimble Road)
- Santa Clara
- Sunnyvale

Sources: Santa Clara Valley Water District, San Jose Water Company and local city water departments.

# Non-Fluoridated Cities in Santa Clara County

- Campbell
- Cupertino
- Gilroy
- Los Altos
- Los Gatos
- Monte Sereno
- Morgan Hill
- Saratoga

Sources: Santa Clara Valley Water District, San Jose Water Company and local city water departments.

# Our Goal is to Improve the Oral Health of Santa Clara County

- Fluoridate all of Santa Clara County within five years.

