

2020 Water Fluoridation Statistics

For Public Health
MAY 15, 2024

WHAT TO KNOW

Biennially, CDC summarizes WFRS data into National Water Fluoridation Statistics. The 2020 statistics include the estimated proportion of the U.S. population receiving fluoridated water, and the estimated proportion of people on community water systems that receive fluoridated water, both nationally and in each state. These data were updated in July 2023.

2020 national water fluoridation statistics

Total U.S. population, persons ^a	331,501,080
U.S. population on community water systems (CWS), persons ^{b,c}	287,798,584
Total U.S. population on fluoridated drinking water systems, persons ^{b,c}	209,145,650
Percentage of U.S. population receiving fluoridated water ^{c,d}	62.9%
Percentage of U.S. population on CWS receiving fluoridated water ^{c,e}	72.7%
Total number of CWS in United States ^b	51,373
Number of CWS providing fluoridated water ^b	17,558
Number of CWS adjusting fluoride ^b	5,728
Number of CWS consecutive to systems with optimal fluoride levels ^b	5,696
Number of CWS with naturally occurring fluoride at or above optimal levels ^b	5,636
Population served by CWS with naturally occurring fluoride at or above optimal levels ^{b,c}	11,578,079

2020 state fluoridation percentage calculations and ranking

State	Persons Receiving Fluoridated Water ^c	Persons Served by CWS ^c	% Population Served by CWS Receiving Fluoridated Water	Rank ^f
U.S.	209,145,650	287,798,584	72.7	
Alabama	3,469,133	4,467,001	77.7	24
Alaska	229,789	545,179	42.1	45
Arizona	4,011,354	6,948,635	57.7	39
Arkansas	2,458,935	2,866,138	85.8	20
California	21,879,582	38,051,212	57.5	40
Colorado	4,123,671	5,480,628	75.2	28
Connecticut	2,473,983	2,736,539	90.4	14
Delaware	609,473	801,422	76	27
District of Columbia	690,093	690,093	100	1
Florida	14,886,493	18,952,021	78.5	23
Georgia	8,671,136	9,135,654	94.9	7
Hawaii	119,044	1,394,816	8.5	51
Idaho	441,664	1,405,388	31.4	47
Illinois	11,457,094	11,640,823	98.4	4
Indiana	4,683,083	5,066,252	92.4	11
Iowa	2,409,673	2,684,404	89.8	15
Kansas	1,820,664	2,785,355	65.4	34
Kentucky	4,050,483	4,055,441	99.9	2
Louisiana	1,582,811	4,161,676	38	46
Maine	544,916	685,410	79.5	22
Maryland	4,410,410	4,709,311	93.7	9
Massachusetts	3,691,328	6,385,621	57.8	38
Michigan	6,638,231	7,432,372	89.3	16
Minnesota	4,432,008	4,483,603	98.8	3
Mississippi	1,542,928	2,527,257	61.1	36
Missouri	3,843,523	5,323,578	72.2	30
Montana	240,294	765,861	31.4	48
Nebraska	1,317,170	1,784,114	73.8	29
Nevada	2,220,915	2,906,645	76.4	26
New Hampshire	398,698	863,017	46.2	44
New Jersey	1,333,544	8,279,024	16.1	50
New Mexico	1,398,194	1,820,853	76.8	25
New York	12,596,165	17,610,152	71.5	31
North Carolina	6,985,222	7,950,174	87.9	18
North Dakota	705,703	731,260	96.5	5
Ohio	9,177,890	9,901,174	92.7	10
Oklahoma	2,447,980	3,600,546	68	33
Oregon	944,045	3,576,686	26.4	49
Pennsylvania ^g	5,680,881	9,468,135	60	37
Rhode Island	809,308	979,110	82.7	21
South Carolina	3,567,836	3,891,342	91.7	12
South Dakota	710,136	757,461	93.8	8
Tennessee	5,592,155	6,296,831	88.8	17
Texas	19,743,163	27,818,869	71	32
Utah	1,637,472	3,214,451	50.9	43
Vermont	221,018	392,292	56.3	41
Virginia	6,713,205	7,027,639	95.5	6
Washington	4,304,476	6,616,621	65.1	35
West Virginia	1,277,174	1,409,744	90.9	13
Wisconsin	3,695,850	4,260,757	86.7	19
Wyoming	255,654	459,997	55.6	42

Footnotes

- ^a Census Population Count 2020, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for the United States, Regions, States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2020, to July 1, 2021 (NST-EST2021-POP); 2021. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. Accessed April 9, 2024. <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/tables/2020-2021/state/totals/>
- ^b Reported in CDC Water Fluoridation Reporting System (WFRS). For this report, a water system is considered a community water system (CWS) if so, designated by the state drinking water administrator, in accordance with the regulatory requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. A CWS supplies water to the same population year-round and serves at least 25 people at their primary residences or at least 15 residences that are primary residences (for example, municipalities, mobile home park, sub-divisions). <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/information-about-public-water-systems>
- ^c Estimates of state populations served by CWSs and reported in WFRS are controlled by using a product of the U.S. Census state population estimate and the U.S. Geological Survey's estimate of the percentages of state populations that are on public water systems. Estimates for populations served by each CWS are controlled proportionately within each state. For details on the population-controlling method used, see [Calculating Fluoridation Statistics](#). U.S. Geological Survey: Dieter CA, Maupin MA, Caldwell RR, et al. Estimated use of water in the United States in 2015: U.S. Geological Survey Circular 1441; 2018. <https://doi.org/10.3133/cir1441> [Supersedes USGS Open-File Report 2017–1131.]
- ^d Fluoridated population divided by total population.
- ^e Fluoridated population divided by population served by CWSs.
- ^f Based on highest to lowest percentage of population served by CWS receiving fluoridated water. Includes all states and Washington, DC (51 total rankings).
- ^g Complete data were not available from WFRS. State provided additional information.

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