

FIFTY YEARS OF FLUORIDATION AWARD

The cities of **Defiance** (Defiance County), **Fairport Harbor** (Lake), **Oregon** (Lucas), **Reynoldsburg** (Franklin), and **Wadsworth** (Medina County) celebrated their golden anniversary of community water fluoridation by receiving National Fluoridation "Fifty Year Awards" at the 2015 National Oral Health Conference. According to records kept by the Ohio Department of Health, these cities began adjusting fluoride levels in their water systems in August 1964.

The Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD), the American Dental Association (ADA), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) annually recognize hundreds of U.S. water systems that have continuously fluoridated for 50 years. The awards were announced in April and certificates forwarded to the Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Health Promotion for distribution to the cities.

The effectiveness of water fluoridation has been documented in the scientific literature for over 65 years. Even before the first public water system began to adjust the natural fluoride level to the optimum amount—which occurred in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1945—data from the 1930s and 1940s revealed 50-60% lower tooth decay rates in children who drank water containing fluoride. Studies prove water fluoridation continues to be effective in reducing tooth decay by 20-40%, even in an era with widespread availability of fluoride from other sources, such as fluoride toothpaste or fluoride varnish.

In 1952, the cities of Westerville (Franklin County) and Avon Lake (Lorain County) were the first Ohio communities to fluoridate. Below is a list of the community water systems that have previously received this award.

Past Recipients of Fifty Years of Fluoridation Award

2014 Awards

Logan

Upper Sandusky

2013 Award

Marietta

2012 Awards

City of Wellston

Bowling Green

Indian Hill

2011 Award

No Ohio communities began fluoridating in 1960; therefore, there was no 2011 award.

2010 Awards

Vermillion

Yellow Springs

2009 Award

Orrville

2008 Awards

Findlay

Salem

Jackson

Lake County West

Newark

2007 Awards

Berea

Huron

Cleveland

2006 Awards

Lorain

Oregon

Toledo

2005 Awards

Elyria

Oberlin

2004 Awards

Ironton

Portsmouth

Martins Ferry

Hamilton PWS-N & S

Medina

Glendale

2003 Awards (began fluoridation in 1952)

Westerville

Avon Lake