Fluoridation in Iowa

History and Status
Fluoridation History

- First national trials 1945 – Grand Rapids, MI and Newburgh, NY
- Waukon and Dubuque start fluoridation October 1951
- All cities > than 20,000 in the eastern half of Iowa fluoridated by 1960 (except Mason City) – Des Moines 1959
Fluoridation History

Fluoridation Starts and Population by Decade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decades</th>
<th>Systems started</th>
<th>Population x 10,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50's</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>99.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60's</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>51.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70's</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>20.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80's</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>20.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90's</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000's</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4.6</td>
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</tbody>
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Fluoridation History

- John Goodrich, Dental Director and MCH Director, 1960’s and 1970’s
- WIC money used to match local funds
  - $1500 per system
- Public Health regulated public water systems until mid-70’s when IDNR was formed
Fluoridation History

- CDC fluoridation funding 1979
  - 100% grants
  - State personnel
- I was hired October 1980 to do fluoridation work
- Became part of block grant by 1983
Fluoridation History

- Funding cut 1985, restored at $90,000/year 1986
- Constant or slightly declining since
- From late 70’s through today – development of rural water systems - fluoridated except in NW Iowa
Fluoridation History
Fluoridation Program

- IDPH Fluoridation Program is non-regulatory – IDNR regulates water systems
- We request copies of MOR’s from each active system – includes local fluoride analyses
Fluoridation Program

- We request that systems submit a sample to a lab monthly to be compared with local analysis.
- We try to visit each active system at least once every other year – check for equipment changes, meet new personnel, talk about operational, analytical issues.
Fluoridation Program

- Periodically we check on the fluoride status of community PWS – IDNR records of fluoride analyses and inventory of water systems
- Status data available online, operation data submitted to CDC WFRS system
Current Issues

- The primary fluoridation chemical, fluorosilicic acid, is produced at some phosphate fertilizer production plants.

- Because of equipment problems, business decisions and other issues, FSA has been short for the last few years – the price has risen dramatically.
Current Issues

- Fluoridation is not required in Iowa and it often does not have a recognized or vocal constituency - it’s an easy target for budget cutters.

- New IDNR requirements may be sparking an examination of fluoridation.
Current Issues

- Since 1984, 63 systems have stopped, 29 have natural fluoride or hooked to fluoridated RW
- In the last year, 5 systems with a total population of ~15,000 have stopped – cost a primary issue, but other issues contributed