

and of the armamentarium common to modern dental practice in the preparation of a tooth to receive a full veneer metallic crown that the absence of a rotating tool or tools designed to reduce rounded tooth surfaces to conform with the preparation requirements posed a major instrumental problem. An attempt

to design tools of relatively universal application to meet the clinical requirements became the object of the study. Veneer tools were designed which, when put to clinical use, proved to be of value in materially reducing the preparation time by increasing the efficiency of the operation.

The status of fluoridation programs in the United States, its territories and possessions

W. Philip Phair, D.D.S., M.P.H., and Marian F. Driscoll,† A.B., Chicago*

A survey completed by the Council on Dental Health in August, 1952, revealed that nearly 8,000,000 persons in 367 United States communities are receiving fluoridated water and that more than 16,000,000 additional people are scheduled to benefit soon from the public health measure by official actions of approval in 317 other communities. When these 317 projects are in operation, there will be approximately 24,000,000 people in the United States receiving fluoridated water in addition to some 4,000,000 who are known to be served by water with natural fluoride concentrations higher than 0.7 ppm.¹ All figures in this narrative report are exclusive of the territories and possessions which have been included in Table 3.

Questionnaires were mailed to all state and territorial health departments requesting specific information on fluoridation programs in their respective areas.

In some instances, information was received directly from local officials. The survey was not related to the natural occurrence of fluorides in public water supplies. Information was received from Alaska, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Panama Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, and all states except Arizona. Hawaii, Missouri, Nevada and Utah reported that there were no communities where official action had been taken on fluori-

Since this survey was completed, information has been received in the Central Office indicating that the total number of communities receiving fluoridated water as of September 30, 1952, was 423. These communities are served by 274 separate water systems. The total number of communities that had approved fluoridation and were planning to start operation was 305 as of September 30.

*Assistant secretary, Council on Dental Health, American Dental Association.

†Executive assistant, division of dental health education, Council on Dental Health, American Dental Association.

1. Task Group E5-10, Committee on fluoridation materials and methods, American Water Works Association. Natural and applied fluoridation census, J.A.W.W.A. 44:553 (June) 1952.

dation, and these areas are not included in Table 3.

The fluoridation program is gaining momentum as is evidenced by the fact that more than 40 per cent of the communities now receiving fluoridated water began their projects during the first seven months of 1952 and that nearly half of the new official approvals were given during this same period. In view of the fact that only 28 communities were using fluoridated water in late 1949 when fluoridation was recommended by the American Dental Association, the rapid progress made in this important public health measure is noteworthy.

According to a recent estimate, there are 16,747 public water supplies in the United States² and at least 1,401 of these have a natural fluoride concentration higher than 0.7 ppm.¹ Frequently more than one community is served by one supply. For instance, the 367 communities now receiving fluoridated water are served by 256 separate water systems, and the 317 communities where the procedure has been approved are served by 283 separate water systems.

If the gains made during the last few years can be used as some indication of the progress that will be made in the future, a mathematical estimate will give the hypothetical date of 1975 as the year when all fluoride-deficient public water supplies in the United States will have been fluoridated. This date is 23 years hence and highly problematical, but it is possible that the adoption of fluoridation programs will increase at an even greater rate and that the majority of public water supplies will have been fluoridated before 1975.

UNFAVORABLE ACTIONS

Progress is being made in spite of the fact that many objections have been raised by the misinformed and by those who have chosen to oppose the measure, apparently for reasons of financial and

political expediency or personal notoriety. Such persons have been largely responsible for unfavorable official actions in 39 communities: fluoridation was defeated in 22 referendums and four town meetings; city councils acted unfavorably in 12 instances, and the measure was opposed by the utility board in one community.

In three other communities the procedure has been discontinued, two as the result of referendums (Stevens Point, Wis. and Mount Dora, Fla.) and the other because of local controversy (Assumption, Ill.). These are the only three projects reported to have been halted after inauguration that have not yet resumed operation. Fluoridation was stopped for a few months in Charlotte, N. C., because of a problem in the ice manufacturing industry, but this problem was solved by procedures common to the industry and fluoridation was resumed. A temporary injunction halted the fluoridation program for a short time in Northampton, Mass., but the injunction was dismissed by court action. No court has, as yet, permanently restrained fluoridation.

METHOD OF APPROVAL

In the majority of instances, approval of the measure came through action of city councils or similar bodies, depending on the local governmental organization. Approval was obtained in 22 out of 45 instances where referendums were involved; the measure was acted on favorably at 10 of 14 town meetings in New England.

COMPOUND USED

The first choice of chemical, according to the reports, is sodium fluoride (NaF) which is used in 137 projects. Sodium

2. Bachman, George W., and associates. Health resources in the United States. Washington, D. C., The Brookings Institution, 1952, p. 207.

silicofluoride (Na_2SiF_6) is used in 104 projects, hydrofluosilicic acid (H_2SiF_6) in 26 projects and hydrofluoric acid (HF) in one project (Table 1).

Twelve Wisconsin projects started with sodium fluoride and later changed to sodium silicofluoride. An earlier report indicated that practically all water plants use dry feed units for sodium silicofluoride while half of the plants employing sodium fluoride use solution feeders and the other half, dry feeders.¹

COST PER CAPITA

The annual per capita cost ranges from less than two cents (\$0.018) to 25 cents. It appears that per capita cost figures are usually submitted on the basis of the annual expenditure for the fluoride compound. Waterworks operators state that added labor costs for fluoridation usually are negligible and difficult to ascertain. In 27 Wisconsin cities, however, estimates were made for a proportion of water plant labor costs which might be applied to fluoridation. These costs are not included in the table, but were estimated to run between one and 20 cents per capita and averaged seven cents. The questionnaire requested that equipment costs not be included in the annual per capita costs. Information on this subject is included in the Council's booklet "Fluoridation in the Prevention of Dental Caries," published in August, 1952.

Table 1. Number of water systems employing various fluoride compounds by year fluoridation began*

Year fluoridation began	NaF	Na_2SiF_6	H_2SiF_6	HF
1945-49	24	9	0	1
1950	16	13	1	0
1951	52	43	15	0
Jan-Aug. 1952	45	39	10	0
Totals	137	104	26	1

*One city reported use of both NaF and Na_2SiF_6 and another city reported use of both Na_2SiF_6 and H_2SiF_6 .

Table 2. Average annual per capita cost of fluoridation according to fluoride compound employed

	NaF	Na_2SiF_6	H_2SiF_6
Number reporting cost	70	63	7
Highest cost	\$0.232	\$0.25	\$0.14
Lowest cost	0.02	0.025	0.018
Average cost	0.096	0.077	0.10

Where sodium fluoride is employed, the average annual per capita cost is about nine and a half cents; for sodium silicofluoride, the cost is slightly more than seven and a half cents, and for seven projects using hydrofluosilicic acid, the average cost is 10 cents (Table 2).

HOW FINANCED

The majority of projects are financed by funds received by the water department from the sale of water. Several projects that were reported to be financed through the city budget for the water department are arbitrarily listed under "general funds." Of the 367 projects in operation, the method of financing is listed for 167 as follows: 61 through general funds (regular city budget), 93 through water revenues and 13 by other means which are listed in the "comments" column.

The questionnaire requested information as to whether water rate increases were necessary to finance the project. Only four indicated that an increase was necessary, while 21 others specifically stated that increases were not made.

COMMENT

The Council endeavors to keep current information on the status of fluoridation throughout the country. It is hoped that dentists, state health department personnel and other persons concerned will help supply information on each project as official approval, implementation or unfavorable community actions occur.

Table 3 • Facts regarding fluoridation programs in the United States, its territories and possessions, August 1952—Continued

State and community	Population served	Present status			Date of action	Method of action				Compound used			Cost per capita	How financed			Comments	
		Approved	In operation	Unfavorable		Local government	Electrate	Other	NaF	Na ₂ S ₂ O ₈	H ₂ S ₂ O ₈	General funds		Water revenue	Other			
DELAWARE																		
Dover	6,200	X			Apr. 1951	X												
Newark	7,200	X	X		Jan. 1951	X												
Smyrna	2,346	X	X		June 1952	X												
Totals		2	1	0		3	0	0	1	0	0			†	0	0		No increase in taxes Approved: 8,546 In operation: 7,200
FLORIDA																		
Clewiston	2,499	X	X		Oct. 1951	X												
Gainesville	26,861	X	X		Oct. 1949	X												
Lakeland	30,851	X	X	X	1951	X												
Miami	249,276	X	X		Apr. 1952	X												
Coral Gables	19,837	X	X			X												
Hialeah	19,676	X	X			X												
Miami Beach	46,282	X	X			X												
Miami Shores Village	5,086	X	X			X												
Miami Springs	5,018	X	X			X												
South Miami	4,809	X	X			X												
West Miami	4,043	X	X			X												
Mount Dora	3,028	X	X		Aug. 1952	X												
Naples	1,365	X	X		Oct. 1951	X												
Sanford	11,935	X	X		1951	X												
Tallahassee	27,237	X	X		1951	X												
Totals		2	11	2		7	1	0	2	2	0				4	0	0	Approved: 39,172 In operation: 384,302
GEORGIA																		
Athens	28,000	X	X		Feb. 1951	X												
Dekalb County	75,000	X	X		Apr. 1951	X												
Avondale		X	X			X												
Brookhaven		X	X			X												
Chamblee		X	X			X												
Clarkston		X	X			X												

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Table 3 • Facts regarding fluoridation programs in the United States, its territories and possessions, August 1952—Continued

State and community	Population served	Present status			Date of action	Method of action				Compound used			Cost per capita	How financed			Comments
		Approved	In operation	Unfavorable		Local government	Electorate	Other	Naf	Na ₂ Sif ₆	H ₂ Sif ₆	General funds		Water revenue	Other		
MASSACHUSETTS—Continued																	
Winchendon	6,477	X			Aug. 1951	X											
Wrentham State School	2,224		X		Jan. 1947		X	X									Approved and financed by State Dept. of Health
Totals		17	8	4		8	13	4	3	4	0		0.16	4	1	2	Approved and financed by State Dept. of Health
MICHIGAN																	
Algonac	2,639	X			Sept. 1949	X											
Ann Arbor	48,251	X			Dec. 1951	X				X				X			
Battle Creek	48,666	X			Apr. 1951	X			X					X			
Bay City	52,523	X			Jan. 1952	X				X				X			
Benton Harbor	18,769	X			Sept. 1951	X				X				X			
Buchanan	5,224	X			†	X											
Detroit	1,849,568	X			†	X											
East Lansing	30,325	X			†	X											
Edmore	971	X			†	X											
Flint	163,143	X			†	X											
Fremont	3,056	X			†	X											
Gladstone	4,831	X			†	X											
Grand Haven	9,536	X			†	X											
Grand Rapids	176,515	X			Jan. 1945	X											Study project; financed by U.S.P.H.S.
Grasse Pointe Farms	9,410	X			May 1951	X								X			
Hastings	6,096	X			Jan. 1951	X				X				X			
Ishpeming	8,962	X			†	X				X				X			
Jackson	51,088	X			Aug. 1951	X				X				X			
Kalamazoo (partially)	57,704	X			Aug. 1951	X				X				X			
Lake Odessa	1,596	X			Aug. 1952	X								X			
Ludington	9,506	X			Aug. 1949	X								X			
Marquette	17,202	X			Dec. 1949	X				X				X			
Marysville	2,534	X			Sept. 1951	X				X				X			
Midland	14,285	X			Apr. 1952	X				X				X			Financed by Dow Chemical
					Jan. 1946	X				X				X			

Table 3 • Facts regarding fluoridation programs in the United States, its territories and possessions, August 1952—Continued

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		Approved	In operation	Unfavorable		Local government	Electorate	Other	Naf	Na ₂ Sif ₆	H ₂ Sif ₆	Cost per capita	General funds	Water revenue	Other			
MINNESOTA—Continued																		
Perham	1,926	X			1951	X												
Red Lake Falls	1,733	X	X		Feb. 1951	X								X				
Rush City	1,175	X	X		1952	X												
St. Paul	309,474	X	X		1951	X												
Staples	2,775	X	X		Apr. 1952	X								X				
Thief River Falls	6,926	X	X		Sept. 1951	X							X	X				
Two Harbors	4,400	X	X		1952	X							X	X				
West Concord	770	X	X		Sept. 1951	X							X	X				
Winebago	2,127	X	X		June 1951	X							X	X				
Totals		18	16	1		35	0	0	12	4	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	Approved: 466,634 In operation: 83,789
MISSISSIPPI																		
Columbus	17,172	X	X		Aug. 1951	X						X		X				
Forest	2,874	X	X		Feb. 1952	X						X		X				
Jackson	98,271	X	X		†	X						X						
Meridian	41,893	X	X		†	X						X						
Totals		2	2	0		4	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	Approved: 140,164 In operation: 20,046
MONTANA																		
Bozeman	11,325	X	X		Aug. 1951	X												
Chinook	2,307	X	X		Mar. 1952	X						X						
Dillon	3,268	X	X		Jan. 1952	X												
Fort Belknap Indian Agency	141	X	X		May 1952	X				X								Seroptomist Club underwriting finances Approved by officials of Indian reservation
Roundup	2,856	X	X		Feb. 1952	X						X		X	2	0	0	Approved: 14,734 In operation: 5,163
Totals		3	2	0		4	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
NEBRASKA																		
Beatrice	11,813	X	X		Apr. 1951	X						X		X				
Fairbury	6,395	X	X		Mar. 1952	X						X		X				

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		Approved	In operation	Unfavorable action		Local government	Electorate	Other	NaF	Na ₂ SiF ₆	H ₂ SiF ₆		General funds	Water revenue	Other	
NEW YORK—Continued																
Clinton	2,000			X	Mar. 1952											
Elmira	70,000	X			Apr. 1952			X								
Fulton	14,422	X			May 1952											
Gloversville	23,500		X		Apr. 1952			X				0.15		X		Approved by Board of Water Commissioners. No increase in tax rates. Action postponed one year.
Hamburg	6,938			X	July 1952											Approved by Dept. of Public Works
Hoosick Falls	4,300	X			Feb. 1952			X								
Hudson	11,442	X			June 1952											
Larchmont	6,330	X			July 1952			X								
Newburgh	32,000		X		May 1945											
New Rochelle	59,725		X		Oct. 1951			X								Study project financed by State Health Dept. Approved by private water board. Increased water tax
Bronxville	6,778		X													
Eastchester	14,405		X													
North Pelham	5,046		X													
Pelham	1,843		X													
Pelham Manor	5,306		X													
Tuckahoe	5,991		X													
Olean	23,000		X													
Penn Yan	11,174		X		Nov. 1951											
Poughkeepsie	50,000	X			Mar. 1952											
River Head	4,800	X			Mar. 1952											
Rochester	256,000	X			June 1949											
Schenectady	112,000	X			June 1952											
Troy	71,000	X			June 1951											
Westfield	3,649	X			Feb. 1952			X								No increased water tax
Yonkers	153,000	X			Dec. 1951			X								Approved. 1,290,884 in operation. 300,743
Totals		14	13	2		16	3	4	3	3	1		2	4	1	

Table 3 • Facts regarding fluoridation programs in the United States, its territories and possessions, August 1952—Continued

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		Approved	In operation	Unfavorable action		Local government	Electorate	Other	NaF	Na ₂ SiF ₆	H ₂ SiF ₆	Cost per capita	General funds	Water revenue	Other			
OHIO—Continued																		
Wooster	14,239	X			Jan. 1951	X												
Youngstown	171,159	X			Jan. 1952	X												
Totals		13	4	0		14	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	Approved: 2,635,697 In operation: 128,358
OKLAHOMA																		
Bartlesville	19,228	X			May 1952	X												
Guthrie	10,113	X			April 1952	X						X						
Holdenville	6,192	X			June 1952	X												
Nowata	3,965	X			Aug. 1951	X												
Oklahoma City	243,504	X			Apr. 1952	X						X						
Totals		3	2	0		5	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	Approved: 259,809 In operation: 23,193
OREGON																		
Astoria	12,331	X			†													
Bend	11,409	X			May 1952	X												City Council rescinded its original approval. May submit question to electorate.
Corvallis	16,207	X			June 1952	X						X						Approved by popular vote
Eugene	35,879	X			†													
Florence	1,026	X			June 1952	X						X						
Gearhart	568	X			July 1951	X						X						
Hillsboro	5,142	X			†													
Pendleton	12,291	X			July 1952	X												
Totals		4	3	1		5	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Approved: 65,643 In operation: 17,801
PENNSYLVANIA																		
Brackenridge	6,400	X			Mar. 1952	X												
Brookville	4,397	X			Sept. 1951	X						X						Approved by water authority
Easton	33,589	X			May 1952	X						X						
Ebensburg	3,719	X			Dec. 1951	X						X						

Iowa Park	2,115	X	X	1951	X	X	0.05	X	No increase in water rates		
Marshall	22,255	X	X	May 1946	X	X	0.09	X			
Paris	21,636	X	X	Feb. 1952	X	X	†	X			
Sweetwater	13,580	X	X	Oct. 1951	X	X	0.10	X			
Temple	24,970	X	X	1951	X	X	0.144	X			
Tyler	38,864	X	X	May 1952	X	X	0.018	X			
Wellington	3,669	X	X	Sept. 1951	X	X	0.095	X			
Wichita Falls	67,709	X	X	July 1951	X	X		X	No increase in water rates		
Totals	3	10	0		13	0	0	1	0	Approved: 430,647 In operation: 294,576	
VERMONT											
Burlington	27,686	X	X	May 1952	X	X	0.11	X			
Montpelier	8,006	X	X	Apr. 1952	X	X					
Newport	4,902	X	X	†	X	X					
Rutland	17,082	X	X	May 1952	X	X	0.16	X			
Springfield	5,882	X	X	Mar. 1952	X	X					
Windsor	4,500	X	X		X	X					
Totals	2	2	2		3	3	0	0	1	0	Approved: 21,984 In operation: 33,568
VIRGINIA											
Alexandria	40,000	X	X	Nov. 1951	X	X					
Blackstone	3,500	X	X	Feb. 1952	X	X	†	X			Action tabled by City Council
Charlottesville	20,000	X	X	Nov. 1951	X	X					
Danville	35,000	X	X	Apr. 1952	X	X					
Fredericksburg	15,000	X	X	Apr. 1952	X	X					
Fries	2,000	X	X	Mar. 1952	X	X	†	X			
Lynchburg	50,000	X	X	Sept. 1951	X	X					
Norfolk	65,000	X	X	Feb. 1952	X	X					
Petersburg	35,000	X	X	Mar. 1952	X	X					
Richmond	200,000	X	X	Apr. 1952	X	X					Approved: 360,500 In operation: 70,000
Totals	7	2	1		10	0	0	2	0	0	Delayed by court injunction Cost included in new rate by private company
WASHINGTON											
Chehalis	5,639	X	X	† Feb. 1952	X	X	†	X			
Clarkston	5,617	X	X		X	X					
Kennewick	10,085	X	X	Dec. 1950	X	X	†	X			Implementation postponed for further study
Kirkwood	4,713	X	X	Sept. 1951	X	X					
Longview	20,339	X	X	†	X	X					Informative vote of people; not binding on City Council
Norwood Village	150	X	X	Feb. 1952	X	X					
Port Angeles	11,233	X	X	†	X	X					

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		Approved	In operation	Unfavorable action		Local government	Electorate	Other	NaF	Na ₂ SiF ₆	H ₂ SiF ₆	General funds		Water revenue	Other			
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA																		
Washington	1,000,000	X			June 1952	X						X						No increase in water rates
(Supplying water to nearby Arlington and Fairfax counties, Virginia)																		
Totals		0	1	0		1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	In operation: 1,000,000
ALASKA																		
Anchorage	11,060	X			1951	X												
Totals		1	0	0		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Approved: 11,060
PANAMA CANAL ZONE																		
Totals	52,822	0	1	0	Feb. 1952	X						†		†	0	0	0	In operation: 52,822
PUERTO RICO																		
Totals	928,337	X	1	0	1952	X												Six year plan for 76 municipalities Approved: 928,337

*Communities whose names are indented are supplied from community listed above.

†Information not reported

‡Approved by water company and board of health. Indiana Public Service Commission granted rate increase with fluoridation as one of the requirements.

§Voted at town meeting.

||Community started project with sodium fluoride; changed to sodium silicofluoride.