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Recommended Citation

American Dental Association, "ADA Celebrates 70 Years of Community Water Fluoridation at ADA 2015" (2015). *ADA News Releases*. 152.

<https://commons.ada.org/newsreleases/152>

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ADA Celebrates 70 Years of Community Water Fluoridation at ADA 2015
Fluoridation Promotions to Coincide with America's Dental Meeting

CHICAGO, Nov. 2, 2015 — This year marks the 70th anniversary of community water fluoridation, which is the single most effective public health measure to prevent tooth decay. Since its introduction in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1945, optimally fluoridated water has dramatically improved the oral health of tens of millions of Americans.

The ADA is marking the anniversary with poster displays in the rotunda of the Russell Senate Office building in Washington, D.C., as well as in the Convention Center at ADA 2015 – America's Dental Meeting, highlighting facts about community water fluoridation over the past 70 years.

In addition to the posters, dentist lawmaker Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) on Thursday, September 10, introduced [House Resolution 416](#), recognizing community water fluoridation as a “vitally important public health initiative” on its 70th anniversary. Original cosponsors to the resolution are Reps. Tom Cole (R-Okla.), Phil Roe (R-Tenn.), Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.), Jackie Speier (D-Calif.), Brian Babin (R-Texas), and Gregg Harper (R-Miss.).

In September, the ADA hosted a celebration and symposium to honor the 70th anniversary. The event drew 90 people from 28 states and two countries to celebrate water fluoridation and the positive effect it has had on the public's oral health.

Dr. Raymond Gist, 2010-2011 ADA president, spoke at the event, saying, "This is the most effective weapon in dentistry, I believe, to prevent not only tooth decay but mouth disease in general and overall health."

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has declared water fluoridation is one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century. Generations ago, many people lost their teeth by the time they were middle-aged due to decay. Today, thanks in part to community water fluoridation, more people than ever are keeping their natural teeth throughout their lifetime.

For more information on fluoride and its health benefits, visit ada.org/fluoride. For more information on ADA 2015, visit ada.org/meeting.

Editor's Note: Reporters are invited to follow the ADA on Twitter @AmerDentalAssn

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About the American Dental Association

The not-for-profit ADA is the nation's largest dental association, representing more than 158,000 dentist members. The premier source of oral health information, the ADA has advocated for the public's health and promoted the art and science of dentistry since 1859. The ADA's state-of-the-art research facilities develop and test dental products and materials that have advanced the practice of dentistry and made the patient experience more positive. The ADA Seal of Acceptance long has been a valuable and respected guide to consumer dental care products. The monthly *The Journal of the American Dental Association* (JADA) is the ADA's flagship publication and the best-read scientific journal in dentistry. For more information about the ADA, visit ada.org. For more information on oral health, including prevention, care and treatment of dental disease, visit the ADA's consumer website MouthHealthy.org.