Community Water Fluoridation
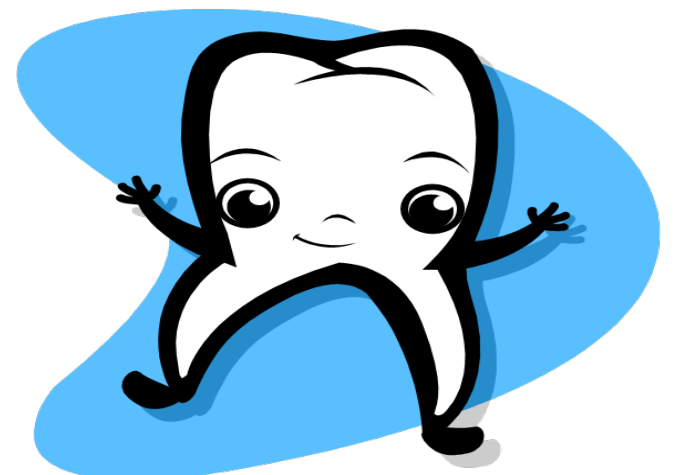## Missouri Office of Dental Health

Water Fluoridation Benefits

Why should we fluoridate water systems?

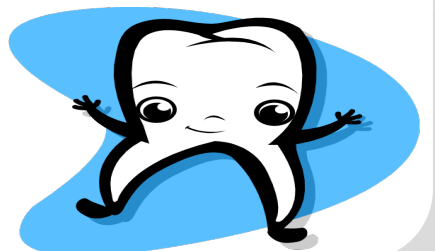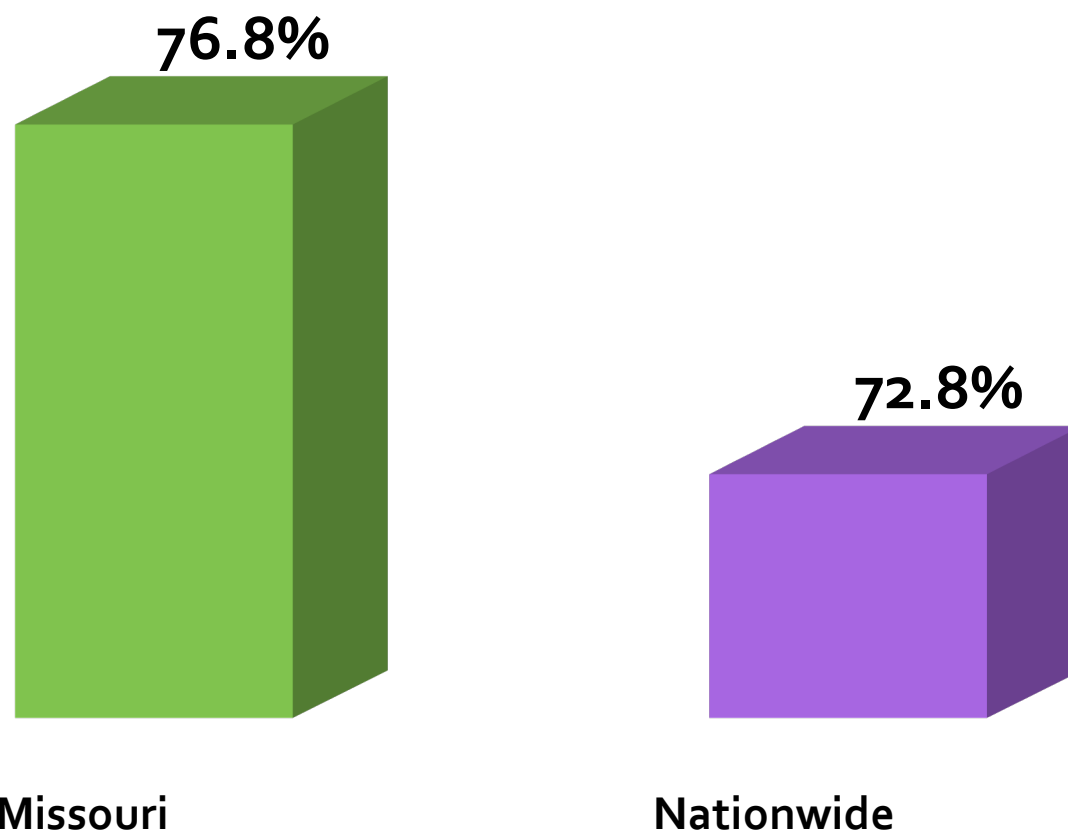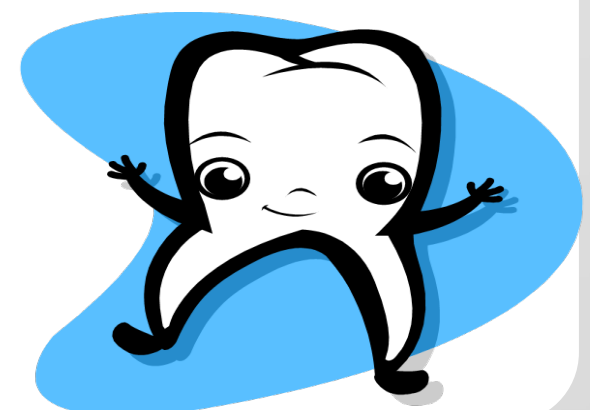|	
Prevents tooth decay	• **Most efficient way to prevent childhood diseases**
Protects all age groups from cavities	• **Prevents at least 25% of tooth decay in both children and adults**
Safe and effective	• **Many scientific researches show that fluoride is both safe and effective**
Equitable	• **Benefits everyone, no matter race, age or income level**
Saves money	• **A return of $20 for every $1 invested** • **Less expensive dental treatment needed** • **Saves communities and families money**
Natural	• **Already present in water in all water sources**

Community Water Fluoridation

Percentage of Missouri population CWS* receiving fluoridated water is 76.8%

Percentage of US population CWS receiving fluoridated water is 72.8%

Figure 1. Percent of Population Served by Community Water Systems Receiving Optimally Fluoridated Water, Missouri and Nationwide, 2016
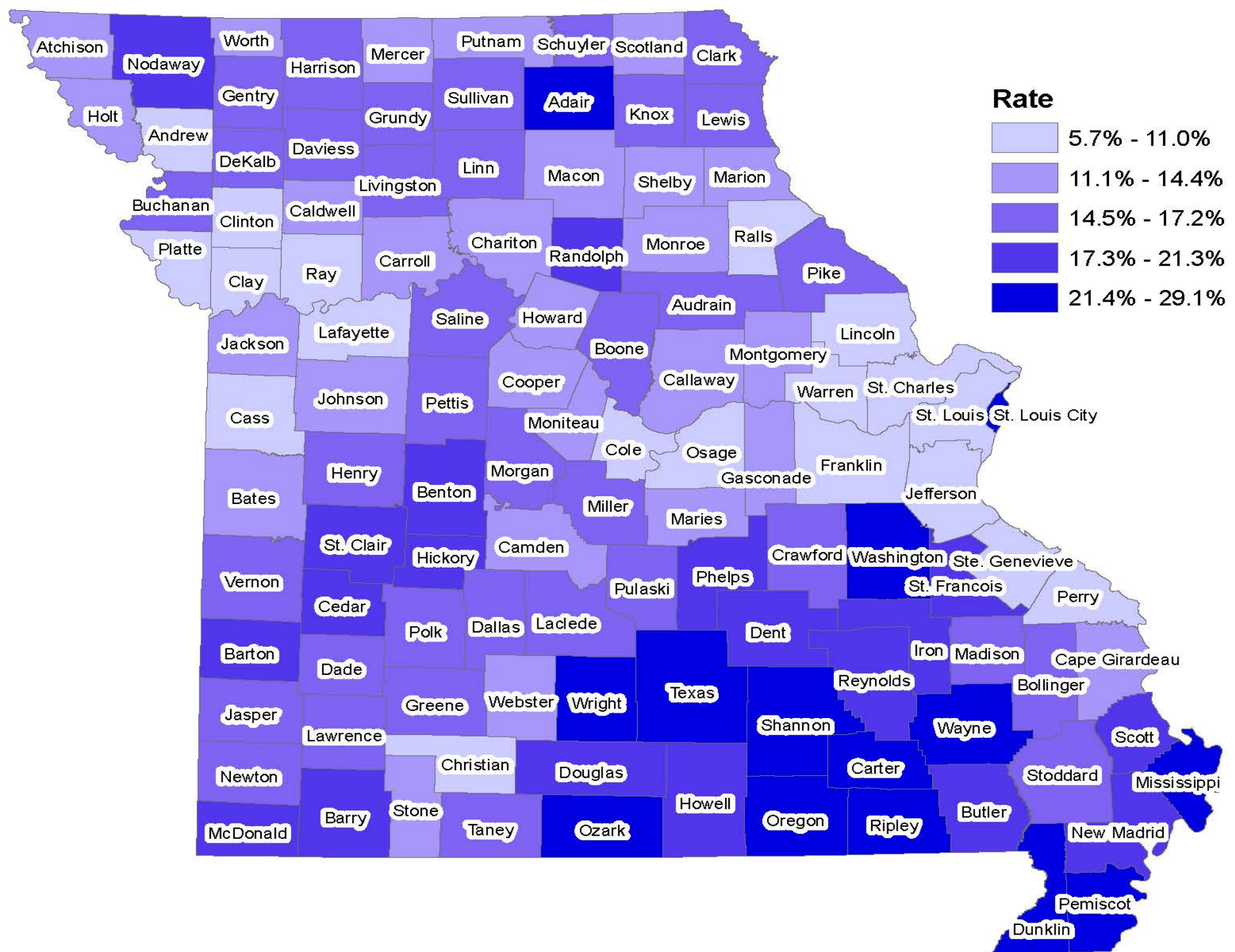
76.8%

72.8%

Missouri

Nationwide

CWS* - Community Water System
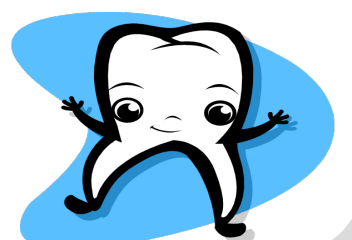
Poverty in Missouri

Tooth decay is one of the most common chronic diseases among children with 1 out of 4 living below poverty level.

Poverty Rates in Missouri by County, 2018

Rate

- 5.7% - 11.0%
- 11.1% - 14.4%
- 14.5% - 17.2%
- 17.3% - 21.3%
- 21.4% - 29.1%

Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019). Community Water Fluoridation. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/resources/communities-benefit-from-water-fluoridation.html

2. American Dental Association. (2016). 10 Reasons to Fluoridate Public Water. Fluoridation Tap in to Your Health. Retrieved from https://www.ada.org/~/media/ADA/Public%20Programs/Files/Fluoridation-Ten-Reasons-to-Fluoridate.pdf?la=en

3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2019). *Cost Savings of Community Water Fluoridation* https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/basics/cost.htm

4. U.S. Census Bureau. (2019). SAIPE State and County Estimates for 2018. Retrieved from https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/2018/demo/saipe/2018-state-and-county.html