

Health Indicator Report

Water Fluoridation

Background

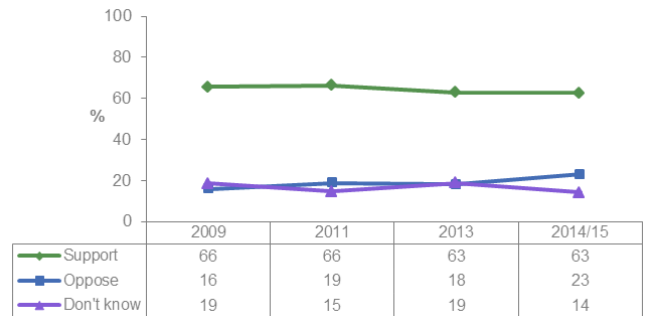
The purpose of this health indicator report is to provide information about public support for adding fluoride to drinking water in Halton Region when the natural amount is too low to prevent tooth decay.

Fluoride is naturally occurring and is found in varying levels in water sources throughout Halton Region and Ontario.¹ The recommended level of fluoride in drinking water to prevent tooth decay is between 0.5-0.8 parts per million (ppm).¹ Fluoride is added to the municipal water supply in Burlington, Oakville, Halton Hills and new developments in Milton to bring it up to optimal levels.¹

This Health Indicator Report uses data from the Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System.

Overall Findings and Trends Over Time

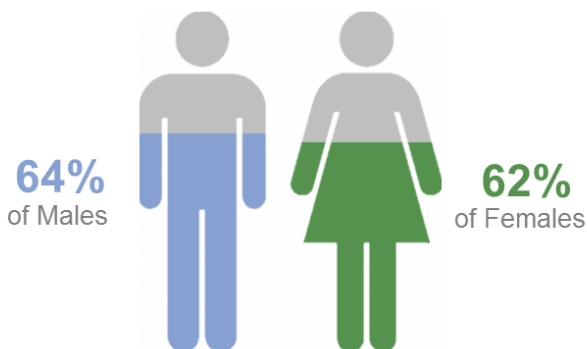
In 2014/15, 63% of Halton adults reported that they would support adding fluoride to drinking water when natural levels are too low to help prevent tooth decay, 23% opposed and 14% did not know. There were no statistically significant changes in support for adding fluoride to drinking water from 2009 to 2014/15.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported that they would support adding fluoride to drinking water, Halton Region, 2009-2015

Sex

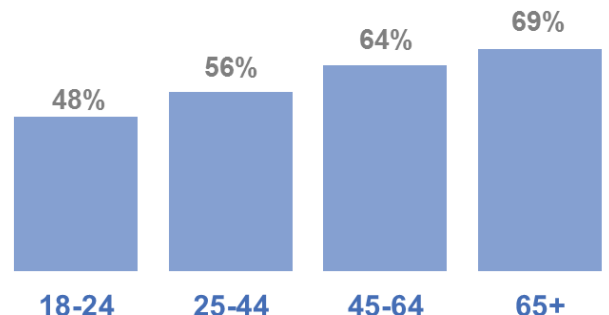
In 2014/15, there were no statistically significant differences by sex in the percentage of Halton adults who reported that they would support adding fluoride to drinking water when natural levels are too low to help prevent tooth decay.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported that they would support adding fluoride to drinking water, by sex, Halton Region, 2014/15

Age

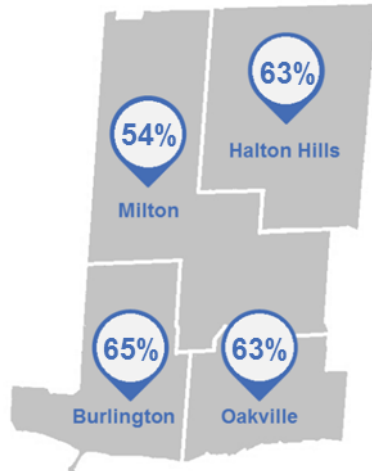
In 2014/15, the percentage of Halton adults who reported that they would support adding fluoride to drinking water when natural levels are too low to help prevent tooth decay increased as age increased. This difference was **statistically significant** when comparing adults aged 65+ to adults aged 18-24 and 25-44.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported that they would support adding fluoride to drinking water, by age, Halton Region, 2014/15

Municipality

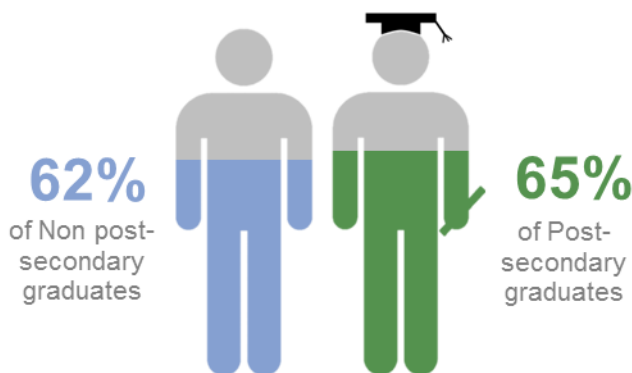
In 2014/15, Milton adults were less likely than adults in Burlington, Oakville and Halton Hills to report that they would support adding fluoride to drinking water when natural levels are too low to help prevent tooth decay, however, these differences were not statistically significant.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported that they would support adding fluoride to drinking water, by municipality, Halton Region, 2014/15

Education

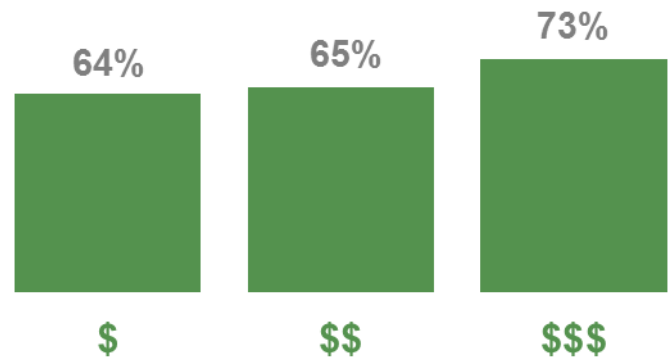
In 2014/15, there were no statistically significant differences by education in the percentage of Halton adults who reported that they would support adding fluoride to drinking water when natural levels are too low to help prevent tooth decay.



Percentage of adults aged 25 and over who reported that they would support adding fluoride to drinking water, by education, Halton Region, 2014/15

Income

In 2015, Halton adults in the high income group were more likely than adults in the middle and low income groups to report that they would support adding fluoride to drinking water when natural levels are too low to help prevent tooth decay. These differences were **statistically significant**.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported that they would support adding fluoride to drinking water, by income, Halton Region, 2015

Data Notes

For more information on RRFSS, methods, statistical significance and limitations associated with health indicator reports, please see the Data Notes and Guide available at www.halton.ca/healthstats.

Data Source: Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System [2009, 2011, 2013, May 2014-August 2015] Halton Region Health Department and Institute for Social Research, York University.

Limitations: Due to a change in question wording regarding income, results from 2014 and 2015 were not comparable. For income, only results from 2015 were reported on.

Estimates marked with an asterisk (*) should be interpreted with caution due to high variability.

References

1. Halton Region. Fluoride in Drinking Water-Frequently Asked Questions. Accessed August 2016 from <http://www.halton.ca/cms/one.aspx?portalId=8310&pageId=15215>.

For more health indicator and health status reports, visit the Halton Health Statistics website at www.halton.ca/healthstats.

Last Revised: August 2016
Expected Update: 2018