Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**
Public Health

Water Fluoridation Survey

Jurien Bay

September 2011

Water Unit
Environmental Health Directorate, Public Health Division
Department of Health, WA

Suggested Citation:

Environmental Health Directorate (2012). Water Fluoridation Survey, Jurien Bay. Perth: Department of Health WA.

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Acknowledgements:

The Water Unit would like to thank the community members of Jurien Bay who took the time to complete the survey.

Disclaimer:

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Executive Summary

The Water Unit at the Environmental Health Directorate of the Department of Health WA was requested by the Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Advisory Committee to organise a postal survey of residents of the community of Jurien Bay. The purpose of the survey was to ascertain the level of awareness and support within the community for the addition of fluoride to the local public drinking water supply.

The postal survey took place in August 2011.

The major findings of the survey were:

- Just over half (51%) of respondents agreed to the addition of fluoride in public drinking water supplies. The proportion who agreed to the addition of fluoride was higher than those who did not agree to the addition of fluoride (21%) and those who were unsure (25%).

- The majority agreed with the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies by age groups, except for the 18-34 years age group, in which case the majority were unsure. The proportion that did not agree was uniformly lower.

- Overall, 53% of respondents agreed that the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply is safe, with 17% not agreeing and 30% unsure.

- Overall, 52% of respondents agreed that fluoride in the public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay. This was larger than the 11% who did not agree and the 30% who were unsure (7% unstated).

- When comparisons were made between age groups, the majority of respondents in each age group agreed that adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply can assist in preventing tooth decay, except for the 18-34 years age group, in which case the majority were unsure. The proportion that did not agree was uniformly lower.

- Respondents who were in favour of adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply stated the benefit was seen to be for both adults and children.

- Overall, 26% of respondents stated that they usually consumed tap water from the public drinking water supply and 63% stated that they use rain water as their most common drinking water source.

- Those using tap water were more in favour of adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply than those using rain water, but the majority of both groups agreed that adding fluoride to public water supplies can help prevent tooth decay.

The results from the Water Fluoridation Survey indicate that around half of the respondents from Jurien Bay were in favour of the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply and agree that its addition can assist in the prevention of tooth decay. This is greater than the proportion of the respondents who are not in favour of it, with most of the remainder being unsure rather than not agreeing to the proposition.

The survey also indicated that, for the Jurien Bay community, rain water is more usually consumed than water from the public drinking water supply.

1. Introduction

This report has been prepared by the Water Unit, Environmental Health Directorate, Department of Health WA for the Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Advisory Committee[1].

The Water Unit at the Environmental Health Directorate was requested by the Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Advisory Committee to organise a postal survey of residents of the community of Jurien Bay to ascertain the level of awareness and support within the community for the addition of fluoride to the local public drinking water supply.

This report documents the results of the Water Fluoridation Survey.

The Water Fluoridation Survey had two main objectives:

- To ascertain the level of awareness in the community on fluoride addition to the public water supply.
- To measure local support for the addition of fluoride in the Jurien Bay public drinking water supply.

Jurien Bay is a coastal community located approximately 220 km north of Perth, Western Australia. Its population varies seasonally, with an estimated permanent population of approximately 1520[2]. Drinking water is supplied to Jurien Bay by Water Corporation. This supply is presently not fluoridated[3].

Information about drinking water supplied by Water Corporation can be found at:

www.watercorporation.com.au/about-us/our-performance/drinking-water-quality

[1] Refer: www.public.health.wa.gov.au/3/1583/2/fluoride_in_drinking_water.pm
[2] Refer: www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/GL_WA2354?opendocument&navpos=220
[3] Water fluoridation is the adjustment of the amount of fluoride in drinking water to a level that helps protect teeth against decay. [source: www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/fluoridation/community_info.htm]

2. Methodology

2.1 Sample selection

Survey forms were based on the questions used previously for a similar survey of the greater Bunbury area[4]. This was designed to facilitate comparison of the results. The Jurien Bay survey was run at the same time as a similar survey of the Moora community.

The survey questions were chosen based on previously published literature on attitudes towards the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies and were worded to be succinct, centred on the research and ethically appropriate. The survey sought some basic demographic and age breakdown information about the respondent's household but did not seek identifiable information about individuals. The approach letter and survey forms are set out in Appendix A and Appendix B respectively.

2.2 Data Collection

The postal survey was sent out in August 2011 to residential properties in Jurien Bay that have a registered Water Corporation service. The addresses were based on a (deidentified) database of addresses provided by Water Corporation. The survey form was addressed "Dear Householder" and was accompanied by a reply paid envelope for return at no cost to the respondent. A code was attached to the unmarked survey response sheets to ensure that duplicates were not submitted.

Whilst the survey form requested surveys to be returned by 29 August 2011, all surveys returned by 15 September 2011 were included in the data analysis, to ensure that as many survey results as possible were considered. As with the Moora survey, no survey forms were received after 15 September 2011.

[4] Epidemiology Branch (2011). Water Fluoridation Survey, Bunbury Area. Perth: Department of Health WA.

The survey was conducted in accordance with all applicable record keeping and privacy provisions for the Western Australian public sector.

2.3 Data analysis

For analysis that involved cross tabulation of multiple factors or areas of interest, only data that has a response was included. All analysis presented in this report was completed using de-identified data.

Survey responses that did not answer questions 1, 2 and 3, or were completely blank, were not considered as valid responses and were not included in the analysis.

2.4 Response rate

A total of 1057 survey forms were sent out to Jurien Bay households. A total of 154 valid survey responses were returned, giving a prima facie response rate of approximately 15%. However, being a coastal holiday destination, Jurien Bay has a larger proportion of dwellings that are not permanently occupied than Moora. The number of unoccupied dwellings at the time of the survey (August 2011) is not known.

Based on peer-reviewed literature, the desirable response rate for a mail out survey, regardless of its subject matter, is 60%[5]. However this is not usually reached, with most response rates in mail out surveys generally ranging from 30% to 70%, with 45% response rates being the average in surveys reported in published literature. The lower the response rate, the more important is the issue of whether or how well the respondents represented the views of the community of interest overall.

[5] References:

Owen-Smith, V., Burgess-Allen, J., Lavelle, K., Wilding, E., 2008. Can lifestyle surveys survive a low response rate?, Public Health vol 122: 1382-1383.
Hikmet, N., Chen, S.K., 2003. An investigation into low mail survey response rates of information technology users in health care organizations, International Journal of Medical Informatics vol 72: 29-34

Nevertheless, peer reviewed literature on survey methodology indicates that a person's decision about whether to participate in a survey or not is in part determined by how important the topic of the survey is to them, potentially leading to self-selection bias. [6]

In essence, this means that community members with a view on the subject matter of a survey (in this case, fluoridation of public drinking water supplies) are more likely to respond than those with little interest in the topic.

2.5 Weighting the data

The survey results have not been statistically weighted according to the estimated permanent resident population for Jurien Bay. The results and findings were solely based on the data from the responses of the returned surveys and need to be viewed in that light and the information in section 2.4 above and 3.1 overleaf.

[6] Rogelberg SG, Fisher GG, Maynard DC, Hakel MD, Horvath M. 2001 Attitudes Towards Surveys: Development of a Measure and Its Relationship to Respondent Behavior. Organizational Research Methods. vol 4(1):3-25.

3. Results

Results are presented for each question asked in the survey. Results that are presented in graphic form are also shown in table format in Appendix C of this report.

3.1 Demographics

The socio-demographic characteristics of the 154 valid responses are shown in Table 1. On balance, the survey respondents generally mirrored the gender ratios of the Jurien Bay community (respondents 47% male, 51% female; community 52% male, 48% female[7]) but were predominantly over 45 years of age (79%), with 19% between 18 and 44 years of age and 2% unstated age.

Most of the survey respondents (61%) lived in a household where the youngest person was over 40 years of age, with 20% of respondents living alone and 49% with a partner only, suggesting that the respondents were more likely to represent an older demographic group.

Table 1 Demographic and socio-demographic characteristics of valid respondents, Jurien Bay

Age groups		
18-34	9	5.8%
35-44	21	13.6%
45-54	28	18.2%
55+	93	60.4%
Not stated	3	1.9%
Gender		
Male	73	47.4%
Female	79	51.3%
Not stated	2	1.3%
Who they live with		
Alone	31	20.1%

[7] Refer: www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/GL_WA2354?opendocument&navpos=220

Partner only	75	48.7%
Partner and children	35	22.7%
Children only	6	3.9%
Friends or relatives	1	0.6%
Other	2	1.3%
Not stated	4	2.6%
Youngest person in household		
0-10	20	13.0%
11-20	10	6.5%
21-30	5	3.2%
31-40	2	1.3%
41+	94	61.0%
Not stated	23	14.9%
Oldest person in household		
11-20	1	0.6%
21-30	1	0.6%
31-40	11	7.1%
41+	119	77.3%
Not stated	22	14.3%
Occupation of main provider		
Labourer	5	3.2%
Tradesperson	18	11.7%
Professional	31	20.1%
Clerical or service worker	11	7.1%
Manager	18	11.7%
Pensioner	37	24.0%
Not stated	34	22.1%

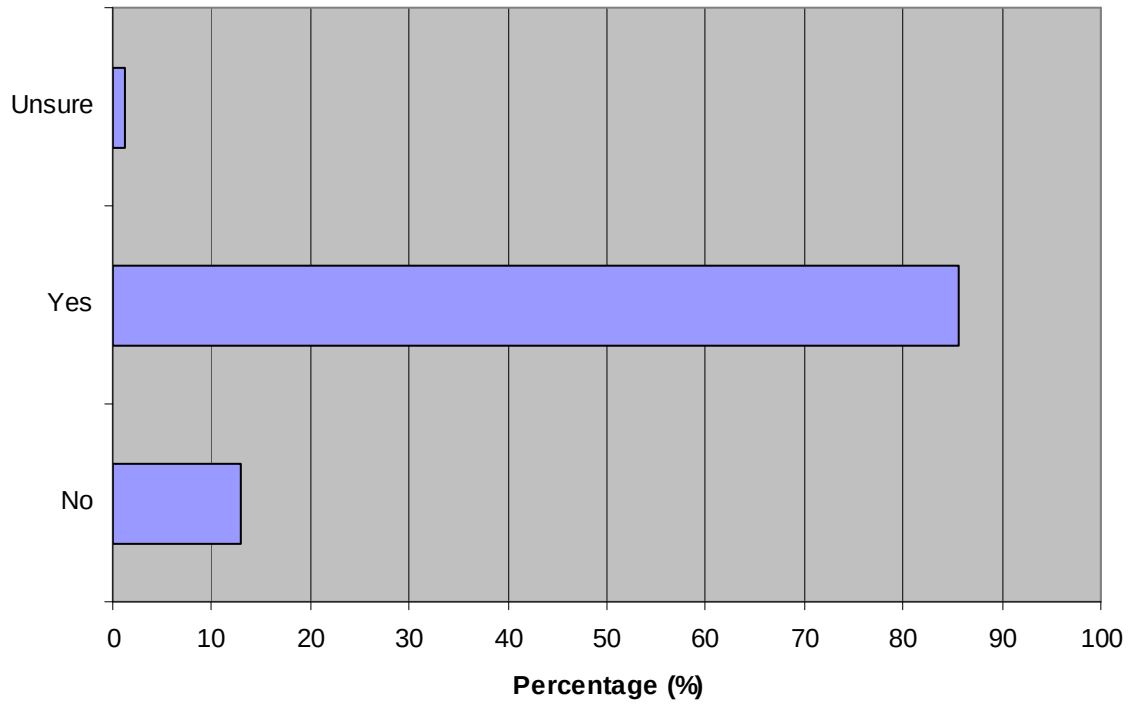
3.2 Fluoride in the public water supply

Respondents were asked if their premises were currently connected to the public drinking water supply.

Figure 1 shows that 86% of valid respondents stated that they were connected to the Jurien Bay public drinking water supply, with 1% answering unsure and 13% answering no. The higher no response to this question for Jurien Bay compared to the results for Moora (where 97% stated they were connected to the public drinking water supply and only 1% stated no) may warrant further investigation.

The data is in Table 2 (in Appendix C).

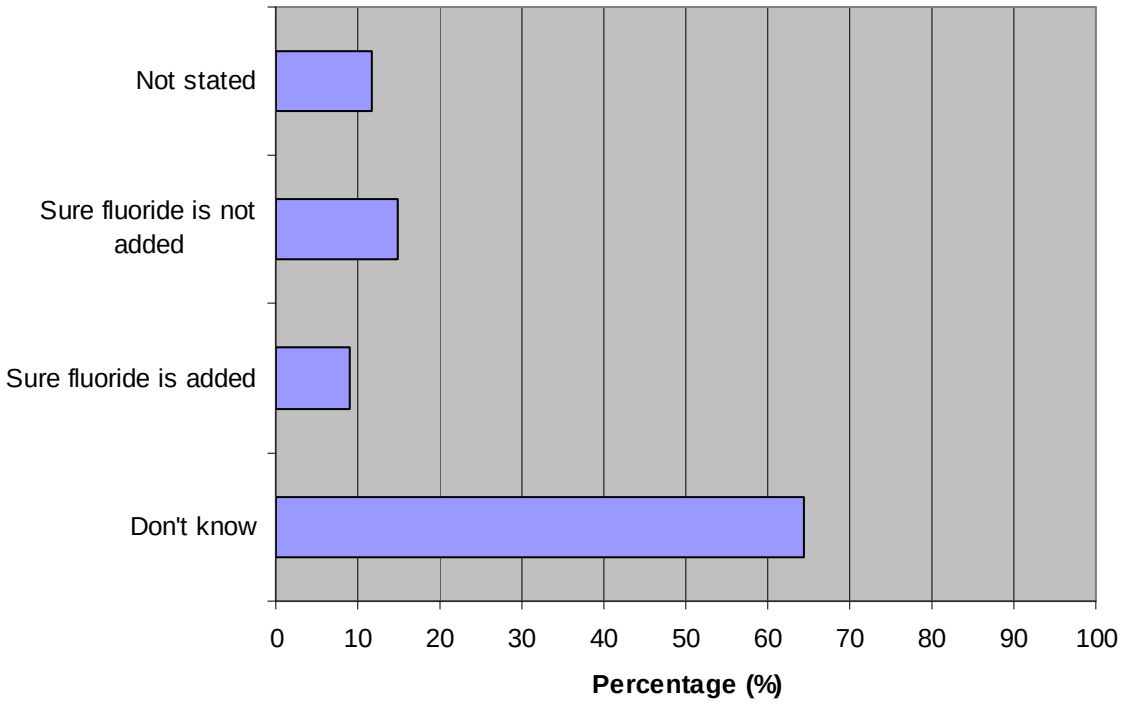
Figure 1 Percentage of valid respondents connected to the public drinking water supply, Jurien Bay



Respondents were also asked if they knew whether their drinking water supply currently had fluoride added to it.

Figure 2 illustrated that the majority of the respondents (64%) did not know if fluoride was currently added to their drinking water supply or not. About one in seven (15%) of valid respondents were sure that fluoride was not currently added and just under one-tenth (9%) were sure that the public water supply was currently fluoridated, with 12% not stated. The data is in Table 3. NB The Jurien Bay drinking water supply is presently not fluoridated.

Figure 2 Percentage of valid respondents knowing whether fluoride has or has not been added to the public drinking water supply, Jurien Bay



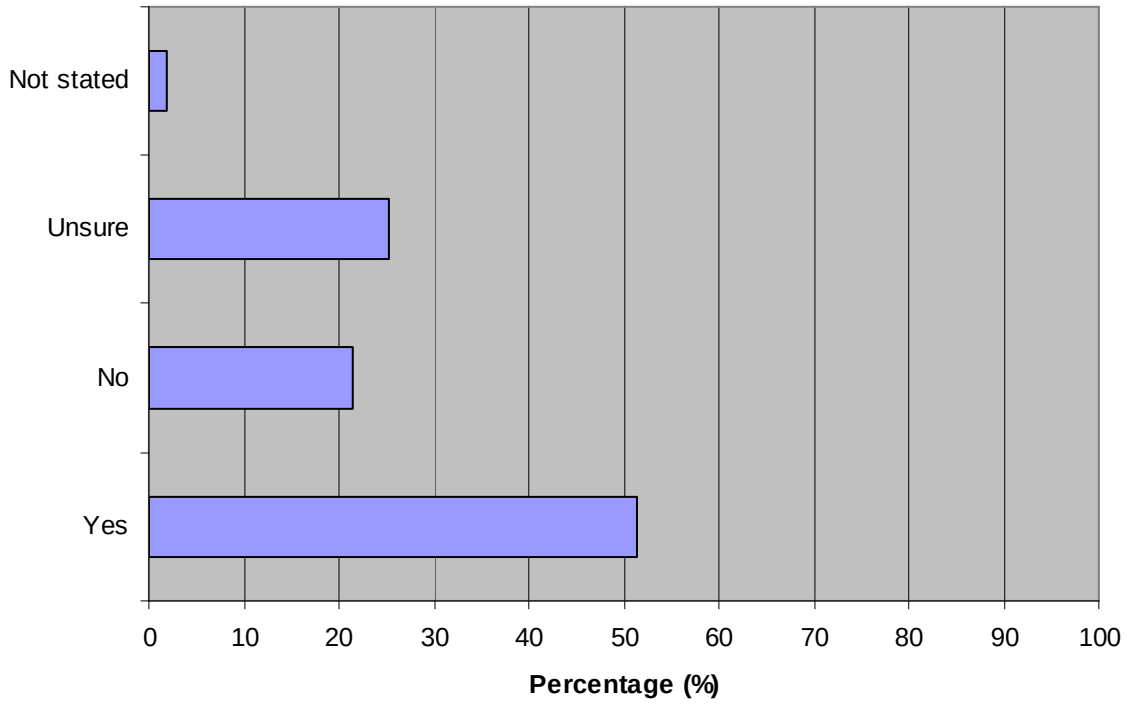
3.3 Attitude towards fluoridation

The survey asked about attitudes towards the addition of fluoride to the Jurien Bay public drinking water supply and the perceived safety and efficacy of fluoridation.

Overall, 51% of valid respondents agreed to adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply. Figure 3 illustrates that the proportion in agreement to the addition of fluoride was higher than those who did not agree to the addition of fluoride (21%) and those who were unsure (25%).

The data is in Table 4 (in Appendix C).

Figure 3 Percentage of valid respondents and their agreement to adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply, Jurien Bay



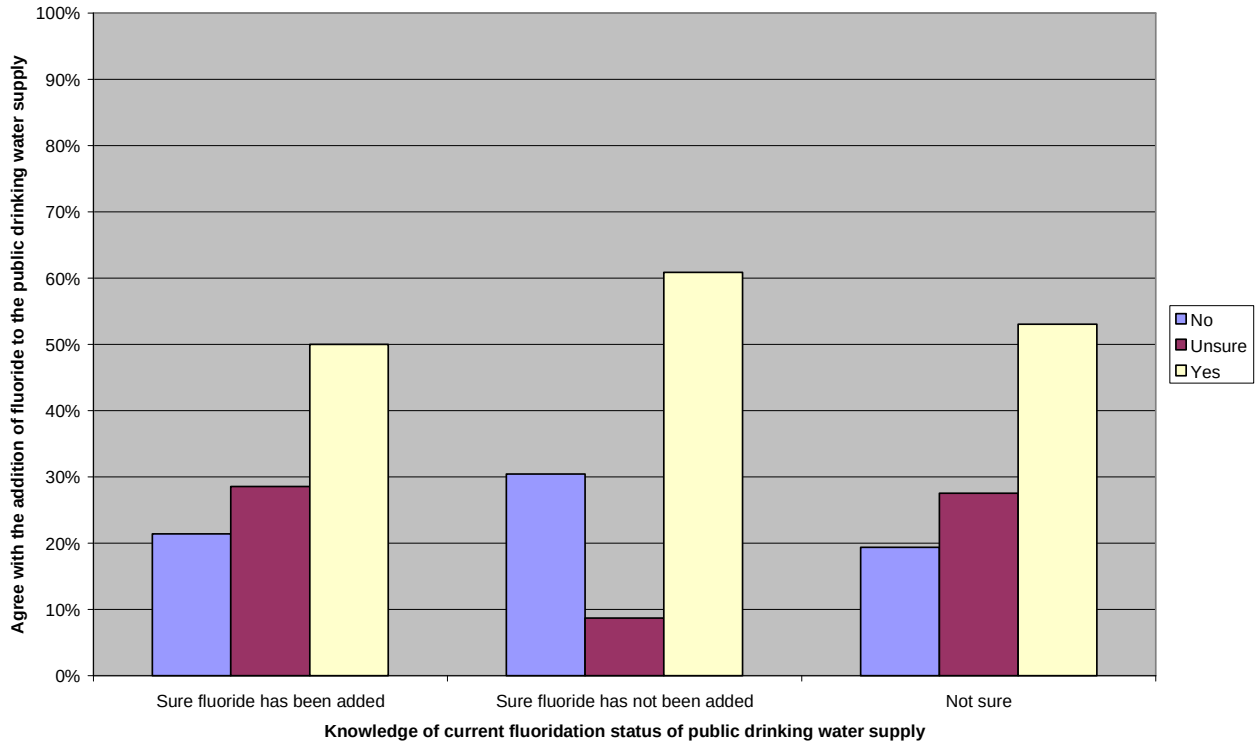
Regardless of whether respondents were sure whether the public drinking water supply was currently fluoridated or not, the majority of respondents agreed with fluoride being added to the public drinking water supply. This can be seen in Figure 4.

The yellow columns in Figure 4 illustrate that 53% of valid respondents who were unsure if the public drinking water supply was fluoridated or not were in favour of its addition, 50% were in favour if they thought the water supply was already fluoridated and 61% were in favour of fluoridation if they thought the water supply was not currently fluoridated.

In all cases, the proportion of respondents who agreed (the yellow columns) was greater than the proportion who did not agree (the blue columns) or who were unsure (the maroon columns).

Of the proportion that was sure that fluoride has not been added, the proportion who did not agree with fluoridation (30%) was greater than the proportion that was unsure (9%), but still less than the proportion in favour (61%). The data is in Table 5 (in Appendix C).

Figure 4 Percentage of valid respondents and their agreement to public drinking water supply fluoridation by knowledge of current fluoridation status of the water supply, Jurien Bay

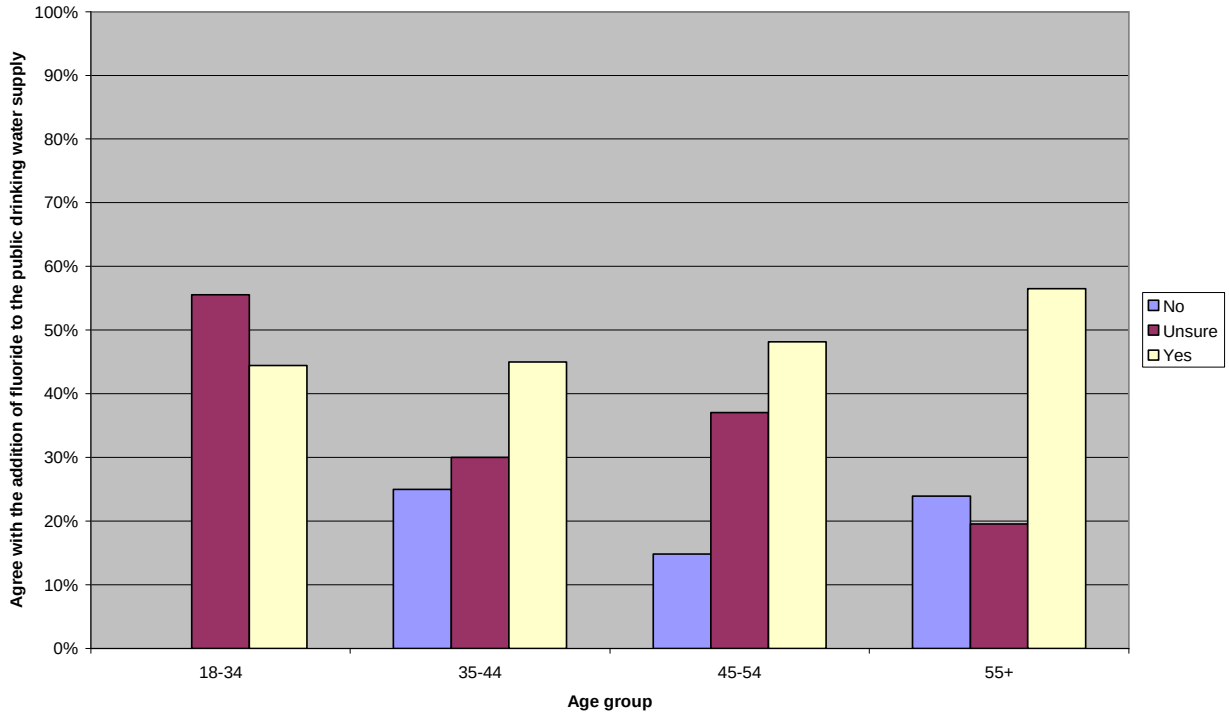


To determine if age was a significant factor in the agreement (or otherwise) to the addition of fluoride in the Jurien Bay public drinking water supply, comparison was made between four age groups. The majority of valid respondents agreed with the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies by age groups, except for the 18-34 years group, in which case the majority were unsure.

The yellow columns in Figure 5 illustrate that 44% of valid respondents aged 18 – 34 years were in agreement along with 45% of valid respondents aged 35-44 years, 48% of valid respondents aged 45-54 years and 57% of valid respondents 55 years and over.

Agreement with the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply was higher than not agreeing (blue columns) or being unsure (maroon columns) for respondents in all age groups except for the 18-34 age group, where 56% were unsure. In all cases the proportion who did not agree with the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply was lower still (the blue columns). The data is in Table 6 (in Appendix C).

Figure 5 Percentage of valid respondents and their agreement with the addition of fluoride into the public drinking water supply, by age group, Jurien Bay

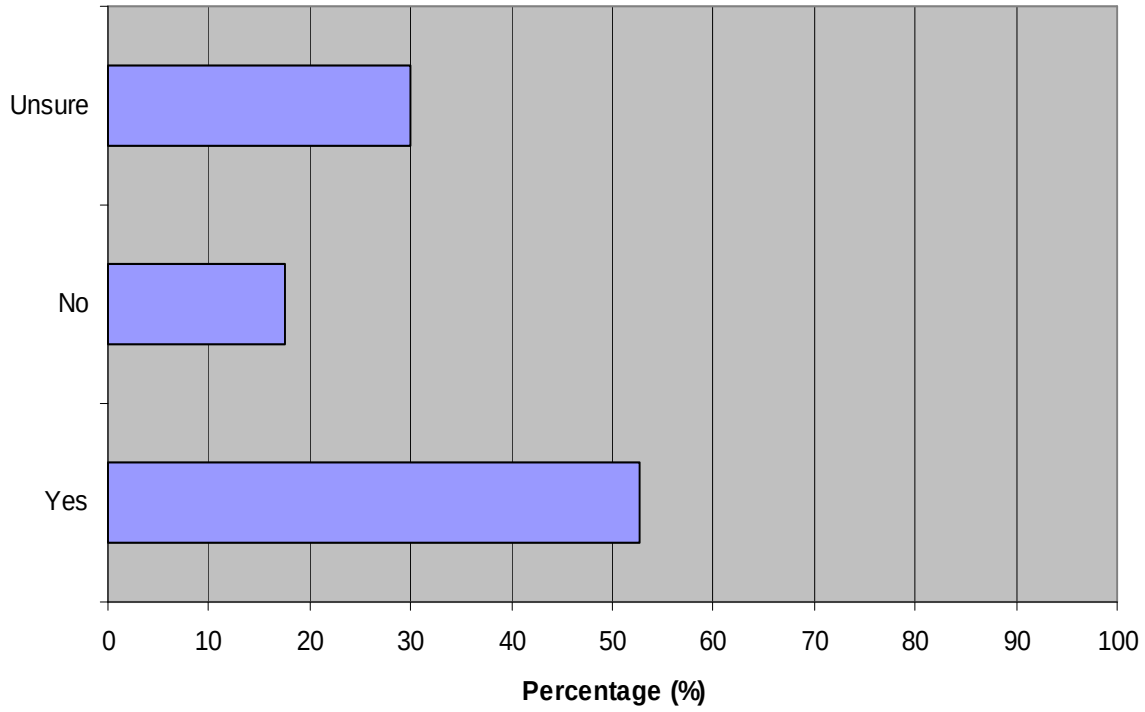


3.4 Perceptions of safety and efficacy of fluoridation

Figure 6 illustrates the breakdown of responses in relation to the safety of the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies.

Overall, 53% of valid respondents agreed that the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply is safe. This was greater than the 17% who did not agree that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies was safe and the 30% who were unsure. The data is in Table 7 (in Appendix C).

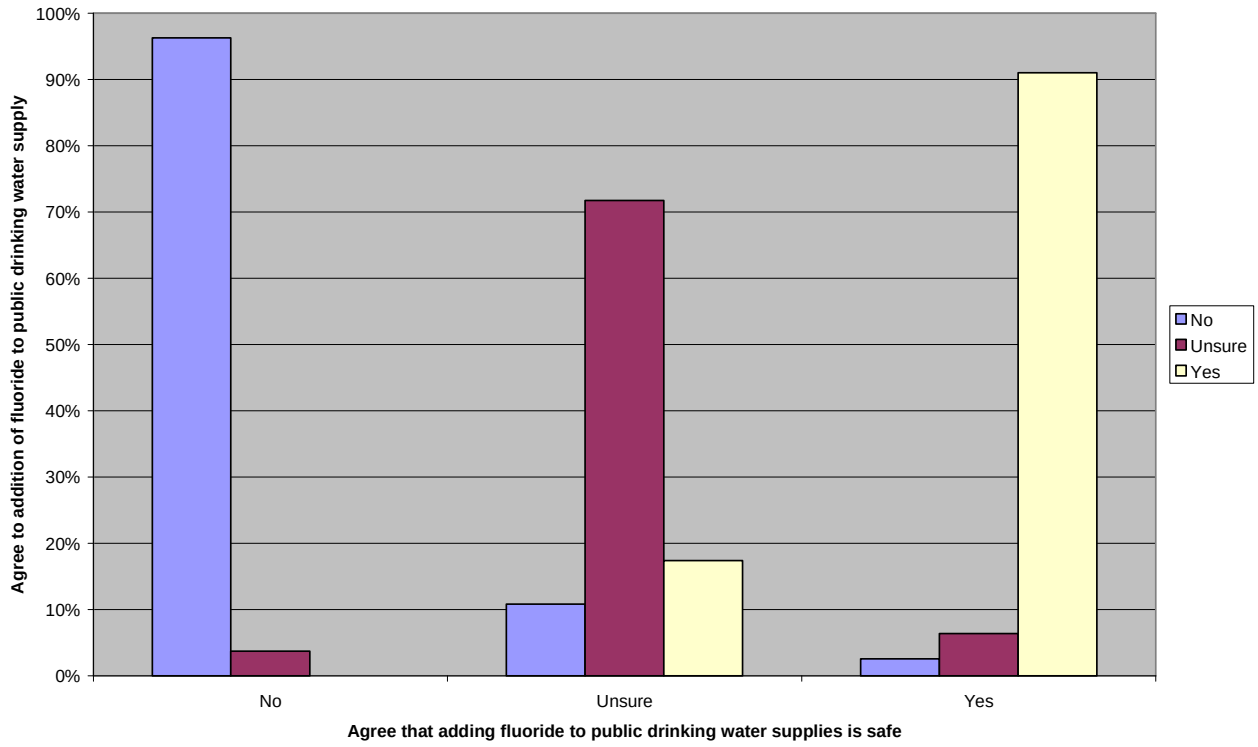
Figure 6 Percentage of valid respondents who agreed that the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply is safe, Jurien Bay



Respondents' perception of safety around the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply was linked to their agreement with adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply.

Figure 7 illustrates that 91% of respondents who agreed to the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies agreed it was safe (with most of the remainder being unsure), while for those who did not agree to the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply the majority thought it was not safe to add fluoride (96%). Of those who neither agreed nor disagreed with the addition of fluoride, the majority was unsure whether it was safe (72%). The data is in Table 8 (in Appendix C).

Figure 7 Percentage of valid respondents and their perceived safety of the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies and agreement to public water supply fluoridation, Jurien Bay

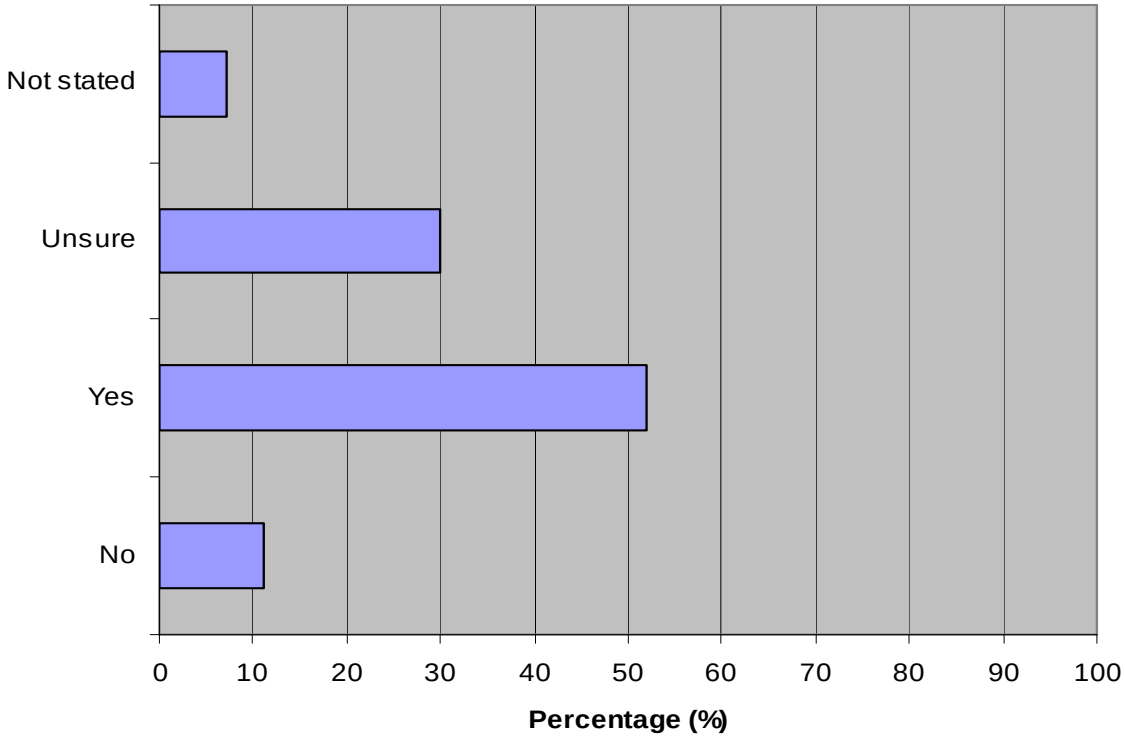


Respondents were asked if they agreed that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay.

Figure 8 illustrates that 52% of valid respondents agreed that fluoride in the public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay. This was larger than the 11% who did not agree that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay and the 30% who were unsure (with 7% not stating a response to this question).

The data is in Table 9 (in Appendix C).

Figure 8 Percentage of valid respondents and their agreement that fluoride in the public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay, Jurien Bay

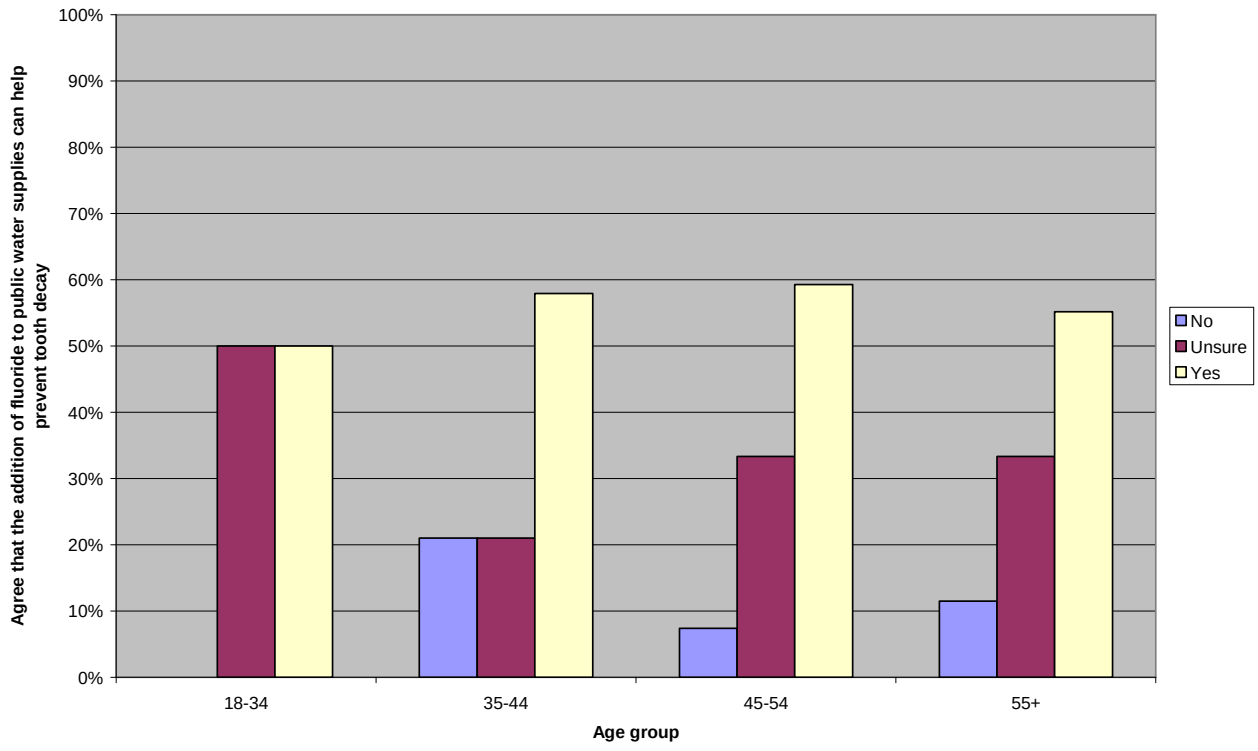


A number of respondents also provided written comments in the returned survey forms. These comments are set out in Appendix D, including one survey form where the comments were not able to be codified.

When comparisons were made between age groups the majority of valid respondents in each age group agreed that adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply can assist in preventing tooth decay. Figure 9 illustrates that 50% of respondents aged 18 – 34 years, 58% of respondents aged 35 – 44 years, 59% of respondents aged 45 – 54 years and 55% of respondents aged 55 years and over agreed that fluoride in the public drinking water could assist in preventing tooth decay (yellow columns in Figure 9).

An equivalent number of respondents in the 18-34 age group were unsure (50%), as represented by the maroon columns. In all age groups the proportion who did not agree that adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply can assist in preventing tooth decay was uniformly lower (no respondents aged 18 – 34 years, 21% of respondents aged 35 – 44 years, 7% of respondents aged 45 – 54 years and 12% of respondents aged 55 years and over), as represented by the blue columns in Figure 9. The data is in Table 10.

Figure 9 Percentage of valid respondents and their agreement that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay, by age group, Jurien Bay

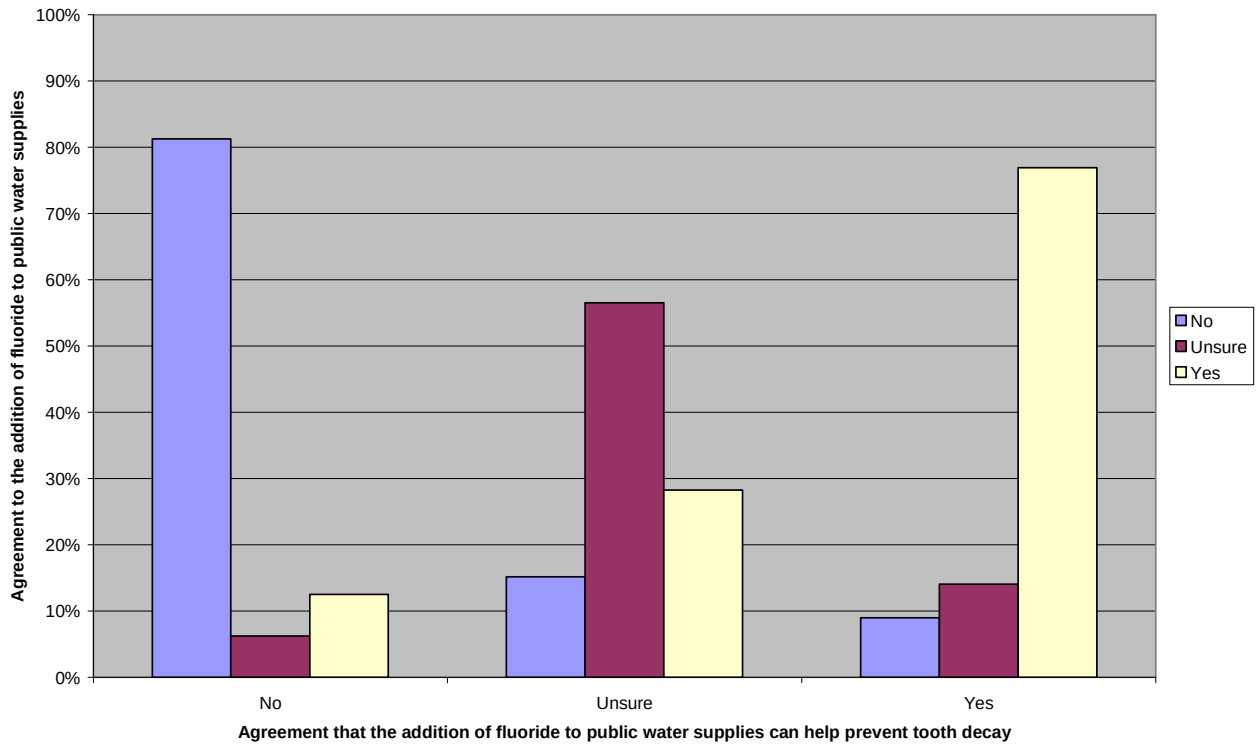


The views of respondents on whether adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply can help prevent tooth decay was correlated with their agreement (or otherwise) to adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply.

Figure 10 illustrates that 77% of valid respondents who agreed to adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply agreed that doing so can help prevent tooth decay, with 14% of this group unsure and only 9% of this group not agreeing.

On the other hand, 81% of valid respondents who did not agree to adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply did not agree that doing so can help prevent tooth decay, with 13% of this group agreeing and 6% unsure. Most (57%) of the respondents who were unsure about adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply were also unsure whether doing so can help prevent tooth decay. The data is in Table 11 (in Appendix C).

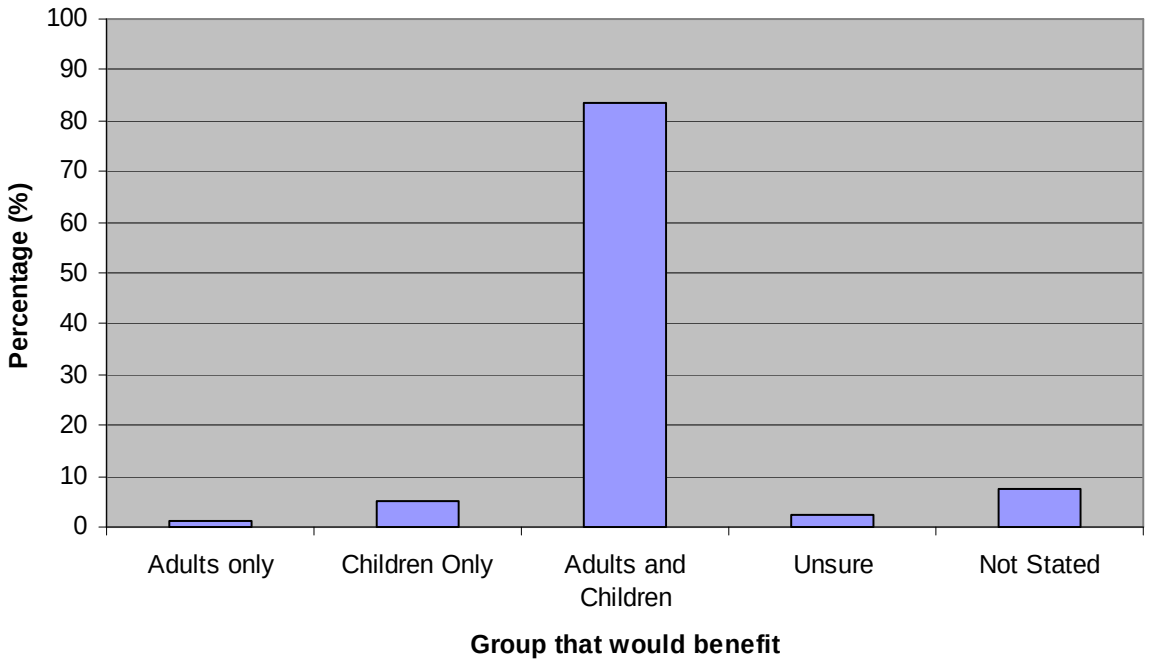
Figure 10 Percentage of valid respondents and their agreement that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay, Jurien Bay



Those respondents who agreed that fluoride could assist in the prevention of tooth decay were asked if they would be in favour of adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply to assist with tooth decay and what groups in the community they felt would benefit.

Figure 11 illustrates that, for respondents who were in favour of fluoridation, the benefit was overwhelmingly seen to be for both adults and children. The data is in Table 12 (in Appendix C).

Figure 11 Percentage of valid respondents (who agreed to fluoridation) and their perception on the benefits of the addition of fluoride in public drinking water supplies, Jurien Bay



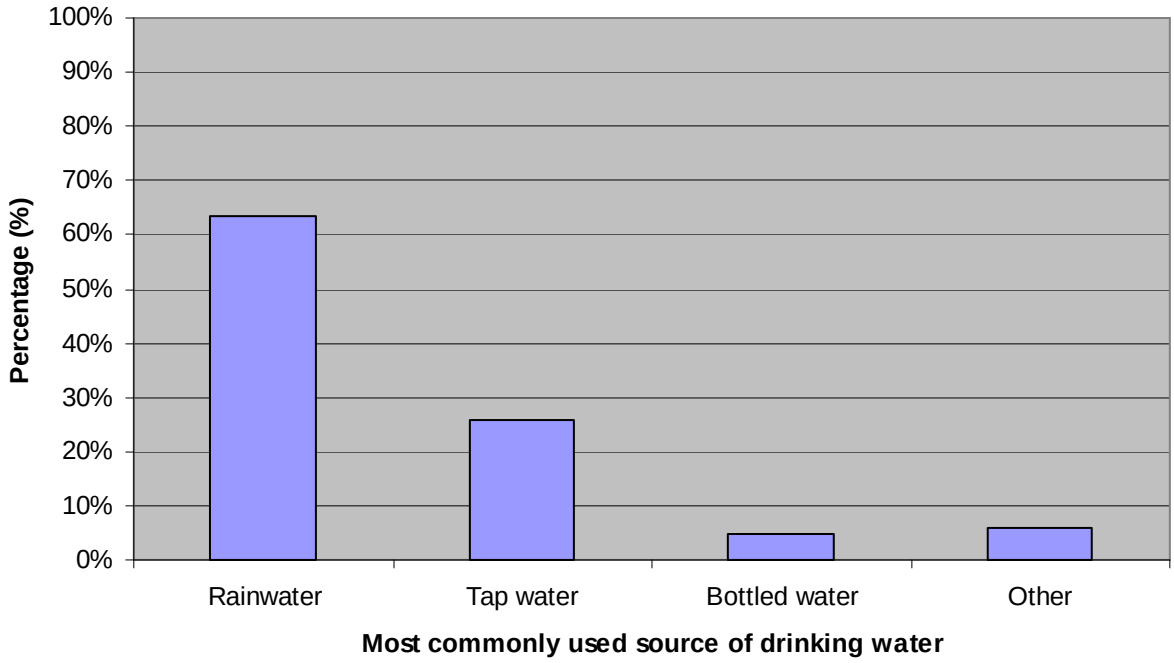
3.5 Drinking water source

While almost all households in the survey were connected to the Jurien Bay public drinking water supply, it was also of interest to determine what proportion of respondents actually consumes water from this supply.

Figure 11 illustrates that rain water is the most common type of water consumed. Overall, 26% of valid respondents stated that they consumed tap water from the public drinking water supply and 63% stated that they use rain water as their most common drinking water source.

These results markedly differ to the results for the Moora survey (74% tap water, 21% rain water) and are likely to correlate with responses in Appendix D about the taste of the Jurien Bay public drinking water supply. The data is in Table 13 (in Appendix C).

Figure 12 Percentage of valid respondents and their most commonly used source of drinking water, Jurien Bay



Along with agreement to the addition of fluoride there was also interest in determining if the type of water consumed had an impact on the respondent's perception of the benefits (or otherwise) of adding fluoride to public drinking water supplies in assisting to prevent tooth decay.

Figure 13 illustrates that, for those who stated that they usually drink water from the public drinking water supply, 74% agree that the addition of fluoride to this type of water supply can assist in preventing tooth decay, with the remainder (26%) unsure.

For those who stated that they usually drink other water types, a lower proportion, 49%, agreed that the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water could assist in preventing tooth decay, with the remainder being split between those who did not agree (16%) and those who were unsure (35%). The data is in Table 14. Note that the column heights in Figure 13 need to be viewed in light of the breakdown by water source in Figure 12.

Figure 13 Percentage of valid respondents and their agreement that the addition of fluoride to public water supplies can help prevent tooth decay by type of water source, Jurien Bay

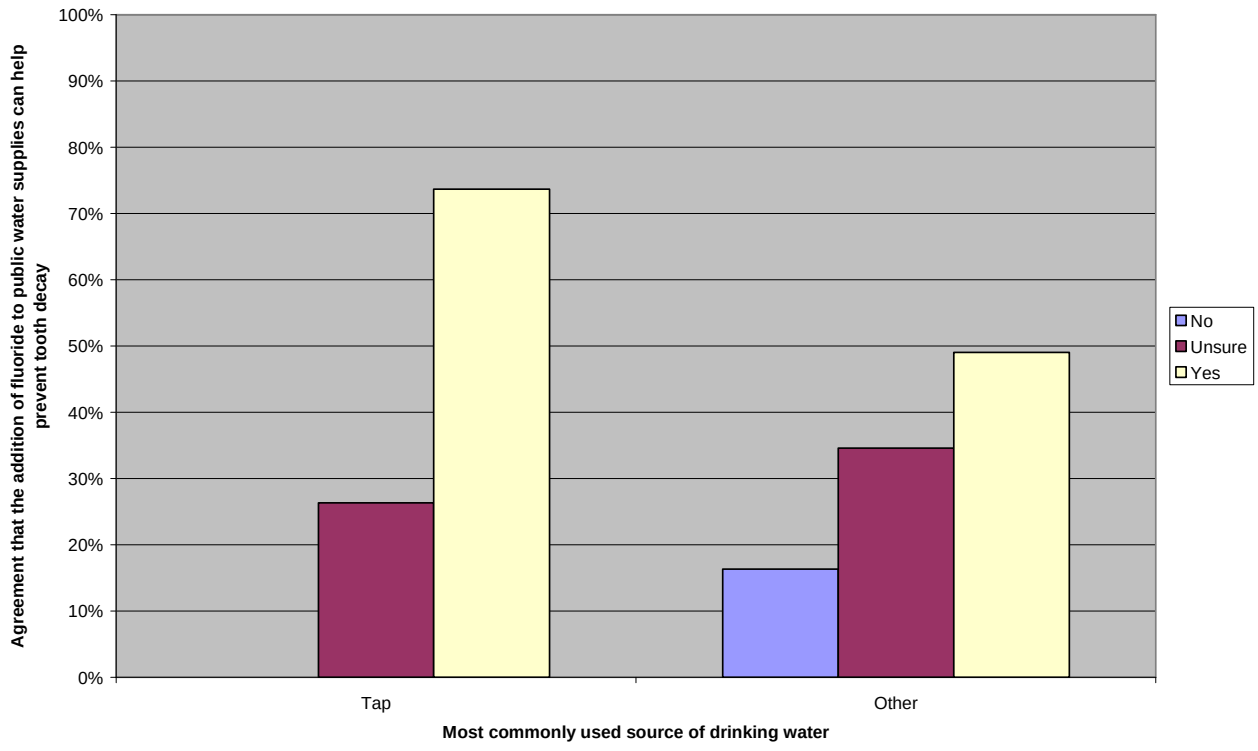
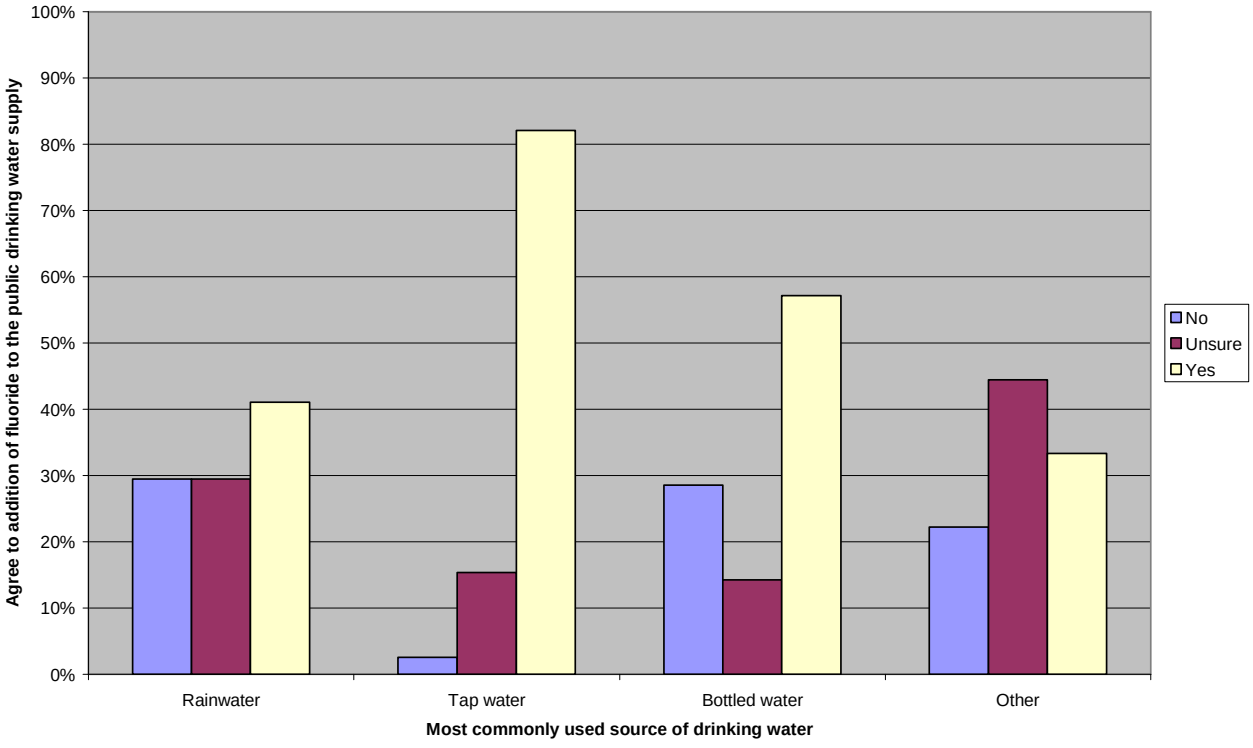


Figure 14 illustrates that the majority of respondents agreed to the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies regardless of what was their most commonly used source of drinking water, except for the nine respondents in the “other” category, who were more likely to be unsure. The yellow columns show that 82% of those who stated that they usually drink water from the public drinking water supply, 57% of those who stated that they usually drink bottled water and 41% of those who stated that they usually drink rain water agreed to the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies. However, those who stated that they usually drink rain water, which was the majority group, were more evenly split between yes (41%), no and unsure (29% each).

The nine respondents in the “other” category were more evenly split. The data is in Table 15 (in Appendix C). Note that the column heights in Figure 14 need to be viewed in light of the breakdown by water source in Figure 12, indicating that rain water was the predominant source.

Figure 14 Percentage of valid respondents and their agreement to addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies by water source, Jurien Bay



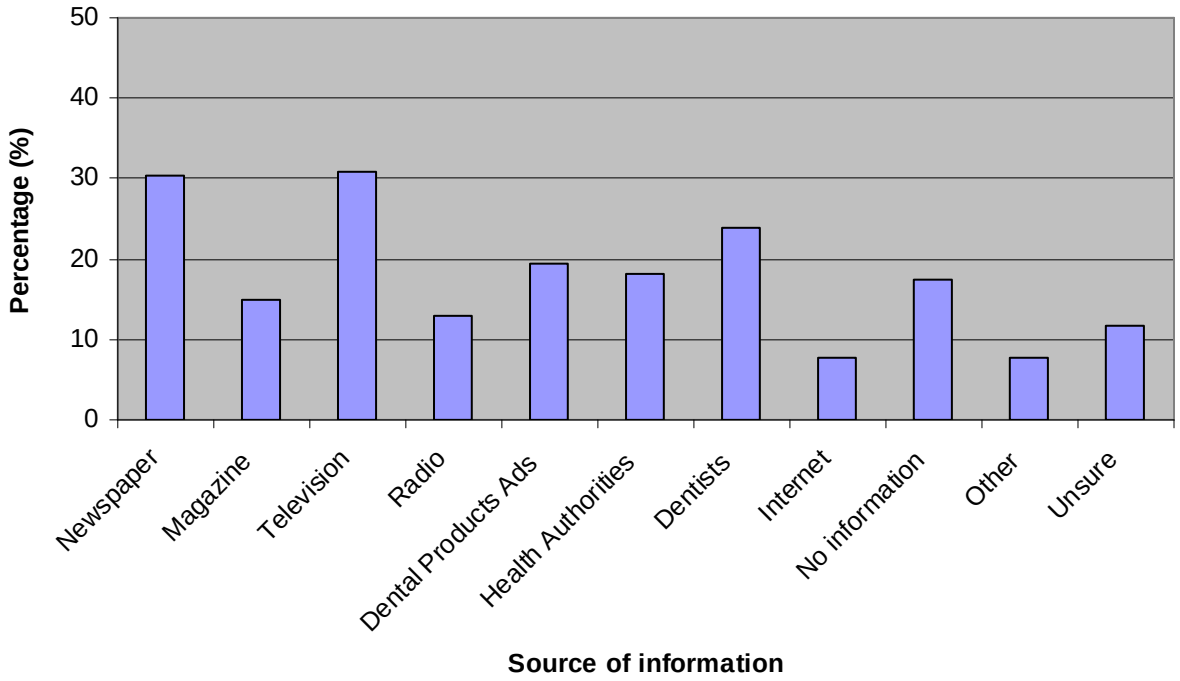
3.6 Information received on fluoridation

Respondents were asked where they had received information about the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies.

Figure 15 illustrates the main sources of information for those respondents who answered this question. Multiple responses were possible for this question. The information sources were reasonably equally split, with newspapers, television and dentists being the most important sources, although “No information” was also a common response to this question.

The data is in Table 16 (in Appendix C).

Figure 15 Percentage of respondents and their source of information about adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply, Jurien Bay



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Appendix A: Approach letter

Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Dear Householder

Water Fluoridation Survey

The Department of Health is inviting residents of Jurien Bay and Moora to take part in a survey on attitudes towards the addition of fluoride to public drinking water.

The survey will take no more than a few minutes to complete. All information collected will be strictly confidential. The answers from all people who respond will be gathered together and no individual answers will be published or passed on. While you do not have to participate I hope that you do.

The results of the survey will be used to help us obtain a community view on the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies in Jurien Bay and Moora.

The survey needs to be completed by an adult over the age of 18 years and returned in the enclosed reply paid envelope by the **29 August 2011**.

If you have any queries about the survey, please call Richard Theobald on 9388 4967.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support and for participating in this important initiative.

Yours sincerely

Jim Dodds
DIRECTOR
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORATE

Encs

Environmental Health
All Correspondence: PO Box 8172 Perth Business Centre Western Australia 6849
Grace Vaughan House 227 Stubbs Terrace Shenton Park WA 6008
Telephone (08) 9388 4999 Fax (08) 9388 4955
wa.gov.au
ABN 28 684 750 332

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Appendix B: Water Fluoridation Survey Questionnaire

Government of Western Australia
Department of Health
Public Health

Water Fluoridation Survey 2011

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How to complete this form:

Answer questions by ticking only the single most appropriate option unless otherwise specified.

Please provide additional comments in the space provided.

Q1) Is your residence connected to the public water supply?

- ☐ No (Go to Q3)
- ☐ Yes (Go to Q2)
- ☐ Unsure (Go to Q2)

Q2) Do you know whether fluoride has or has not been added to your public water supply?

- ☐ No, I don't know if fluoride has been added to the public water supply
- ☐ Yes, I am sure the public water supply has had fluoride added
- ☐ Yes, I am sure the public water supply has not had fluoride added

Q3) Do you agree with the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Q4) Do you believe that the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply is safe?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

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Q5) Do you believe that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay?

- ☐ No (**enter comment Q5a)** (Go to Q7)
- ☐ Yes **(enter comment Q5a)** (Go to Q6)
- ☐ Unsure (Go to Q6)

Q5a) Comment_____

_____*[specify]*

Q6) Would you be in favour of adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply to assist in the prevention of tooth decay?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes, in children only
- ☐ Yes, in adults only
- ☐ Yes, in both adults and children
- ☐ Unsure

Q7) Where have you received information on the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies? Select multiple options if necessary.

- ☐ Newspapers
- ☐ Magazines
- ☐ Television
- ☐ Radio
- ☐ Advertisements for dental products
- ☐ Health authorities
- ☐ Dentists
- ☐ Internet
- ☐ No information/source
- ☐ Other_____ *[specify]*
- ☐ Unsure

Q8) What is your most commonly used source of drinking water?

- ☐ Tap water from public drinking water supply
- ☐ Store bought bottled water
- ☐ Rainwater tank
- ☐ Other _____ *[specify]*
- ☐ Unsure

Now I just have a few questions to help to categorise your answers

Q9) *Are you?*

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

Q10) What age group are you?

- ☐ 18-34 years
- ☐ 35-44 years
- ☐ 45-54 years
- ☐ 55+ years

Q11) Do you live?

- ☐ alone
- ☐ with a partner only
- ☐ with a partner and children
- ☐ with children only
- ☐ with friends or relatives
- ☐ other_____ *[specify]*

Q12) How old is the youngest person living in your household?

- ☐ 0-10 years
- ☐ 11-20 years
- ☐ 21-30 years
- ☐ 31-40 years
- ☐ 41+ years

Q13): How old is the oldest person living in your household?

- ☐ 11-20 years
- ☐ 21-30 years
- ☐ 31-40 years
- ☐ 41+ years

Q14) What is the occupation of the main provider for the household?

- ☐ labourer
- ☐ tradesperson
- ☐ professional
- ☐ clerical or service worker
- ☐ manager

NO MORE QUESTIONS

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey (No. 0001).

Please return it by the **29 August 2011** in the reply paid envelope.

Appendix C: Result tables

Table 2 Number and percentage of valid respondents connected to the public drinking water supply, Jurien Bay

Connected to public drinking water supply	Number of valid responses	Percentage
Unsure	2	1.3%
Yes	132	85.7%
No	20	13.0%
Total	154	100.0%

Table 3 Number and percentage of valid respondents knowing whether fluoride has or has not been added to the public drinking water supply, Jurien Bay

Knowledge of current fluoridation status of the water supply	Number of valid responses	Percentage
Don't know	99	64.3%
Sure fluoride is added	14	9.1%
Sure fluoride is not added	23	14.9%
Not stated	18	11.7%
Total	154	100.0%

Table 4 Number and percentage of valid respondents and their agreement to public drinking water supply fluoridation, Jurien Bay

Agreement to public drinking water supply fluoridation	Number of valid responses	Percentage
Yes	79	51.3%
No	33	21.4%
Unsure	39	25.3%
Not stated	3	2.0%
Total	154	100.0%

Table 5 Percentage of valid respondents and their agreement to public drinking water supply fluoridation by knowledge of current fluoridation status of the public drinking water supply, Jurien Bay

Knowledge of current fluoridation status of public drinking water supply	Agreement to public drinking water supply fluoridation			Total
	Yes	No	Unsure	
Sure added	50.0%	21.4%	28.6%	100.0%
Sure not added	60.9%	30.4%	8.7%	100.0%
Not sure	53.1%	19.3%	27.6%	100.0%
Total	54.1%	21.5%	24.4%	100.0%

Table 6 Number and percentage of valid respondents and their agreement with the addition of fluoride to the public drinking water supply, by age group, Jurien Bay

Age group	Agree with the addition of fluoride			Total
	Yes	No	Unsure	
18-34	(4) 44.4%	(0) 0.0%	(5) 55.6%	(9) 100.0%
35-44	(9) 45.0%	(5) 25.0%	(6) 30.0%	(20) 100.0%
45-54	(13) 48.2%	(4) 14.8%	(10) 37.0%	(27) 100.0%
55+	(52) 56.5%	(22) 23.9%	(18) 19.6%	(92) 100.0%
Total	(31) 52.7%	(39) 20.9%	(78) 26.4%	(148) 100.0%

Table 7 Number and percentage of valid respondents and their perception of the safety of fluoridation of the public drinking water supply, Jurien Bay

Believes fluoridation of the public drinking water supply is safe	Number of valid responses	Percentage
Unsure	46	29.9%
No	27	17.5%
Yes	81	52.6%
Total	154	100.0%

Table 8 Number and percentage of valid respondents and their perceived safety of the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies and agreement to public water supply fluoridation, Jurien Bay

Perceived safety of the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies	Agreement to public drinking water supply fluoridation			Total
	Yes	No	Unsure	
Yes	(71) 91.0%	(2) 2.6%	(8) 6.4%	(78) 100.0%
No	(0) 0.0%	(26) 96.3%	(1) 3.7%	(27) 100.0%
Unsure	(8) 17.4%	(5) 10.9%	(33) 71.7%	(46) 100.0%
Total	(79) 52.3%	(33) 21.9%	(39) 25.8%	(151) 100.0%

Table 9 Number and percentage of valid respondents and their perception of the efficacy of fluoridation, Jurien Bay

Agrees that fluoridation can help prevent tooth decay	Number of valid responses	Percentage
No	17	11.0%
Yes	80	52.0%
Unsure	46	29.9%
Not stated	11	7.1%
Total	154	100.0%

Table 10 Number and percentage of valid respondents and their agreement that the addition of fluoride to public water supplies can help prevent tooth decay, by age group, Jurien Bay

Age group	Agreement that the addition of fluoride to public water supplies can help prevent tooth decay			Total
	Yes	No	Unsure	
18-34	(4) 50.0%	(0) 0.0%	(4) 50.0%	(8) 100.0%
35-44	(11) 57.9%	(4) 21.1%	(4) 21.1%	(19) 100.0%
45-54	(16) 59.3%	(2) 7.4%	(9) 33.3%	(27) 100.0%
55+	(48) 55.2%	(10) 11.5%	(29) 33.3%	(87) 100.0%
Total	(79) 56.0%	(16) 11.4%	(46) 32.6%	(141) 100.0%

Table 11 Number and percentage of valid respondents and their agreement to public drinking water supply fluoridation by their agreement that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay, Jurien Bay

Agreement that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay	Agreement to public drinking water supply fluoridation			Total
	Yes	No	Unsure	
Yes	(60) 76.9%	(7) 9.0%	(11) 14.1%	(78) 100.0%
No	(2) 12.5%	(13) 81.2%	(1) 6.3%	(16) 100.0%
Unsure	(13) 28.3%	(7) 15.2%	(26) 56.5%	(46) 100.0%
Total	(75) 53.6%	(27) 19.3%	(38) 27.1%	(140) 100.0%

Table 12 Number and percentage of valid respondents (who agreed to fluoridation) and their perception of the benefits of the addition of fluoride in public drinking water supplies, Jurien Bay

Perception of the benefits of the addition of fluoride	Number of valid responses	Percentage
Adults only	1	1.3%
Children only	4	5.1%
Adults and children	66	83.5%
Unsure	2	2.5%
Not Stated	6	7.6%
Total	79	100.0%

NB – This table adds to 79.

Table 13 Number and percentage of valid respondents and their most commonly used source of drinking water, Jurien Bay

Most commonly used source of drinking water	Number of valid responses	Percentage
Tap water from public water supply	39	26.0%
Rain water	95	63.3%
Bottled water	7	4.7%
Other	9	6.0%
Total	150	100.0%

Table 14 Number and percentage of valid respondents and their agreement that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay, by water source, Jurien Bay

Most commonly used source of drinking water	Agreement that the addition of fluoride to public water supplies can help prevent tooth decay			Total
	No	Unsure	Yes	
Tap	(0) 0.0%	(10) 26.3%	(28) 73.7%	(38) 100.0%
Other	(17) 16.4%	(36) 34.6%	(51) 49.0%	(104) 100.0%
Total	(17) 12.0%	(46) 32.4%	(79) 55.6%	(142) 100.0%

Table 15 Number and percentage of valid respondents agreement to the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies by water source, Jurien Bay

Most commonly used source of drinking water	Agreement to public drinking water supply fluoridation			Total
	No	Unsure	Yes	
Rain water	(28) 29.5%	(28) 29.5%	(39) 41.1%	(95) 100.0%
Tap water	(1) 2.6%	(6) 15.4%	(32) 82.1%	(39) 100.0%
Bottled water	(2) 28.6%	(1) 14.3%	(4) 57.1%	(7) 100.0%
Other	(2) 22.2%	(4) 44.4%	(3) 33.3%	(9) 100.0%
Total	(33) 22.0%	(39) 26.0%	(78) 52.0%	(150) 100.0%

Table 16 Percentage of respondents and their source of information about adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply, Jurien Bay

Information Source	Newspaper	Magazine	Television	Radio	Dental Products Ads	Health Authorities	Dentists	Internet	No information	Other	Unsure
Counts	47	23	48	20	30	28	37	12	27	12	18
Percent	30.5%	15.0%	31.2%	13.0%	19.5%	18.2%	24.0%	7.8%	17.5%	7.8%	11.7%

Total counts for this question: 302 responses from 154 respondents
Multiple responses were possible for this question.
Percentage sum is a percentage of respondents (not responses) and therefore exceeds 100.

Appendix D: Respondents' comments

All comments are presented verbatim (apart from spelling corrections).

- Yes, if it done correctly and save
- tooth decay can be prevented by cleaning and regular check ups
- reliant on info read about
- quality of our water is very good
- my daughters had fluoride in water in early 60's they have strong teeth today
- less dental problems when we lived in Perth which had fluoride in water supply
- it may help tooth decay but it is toxic to the body
- it is proven that it helps to prevent tooth decay
- it has been proven around the world
- I am 1 of 8 kids and the eldest 6 children were drinking rain water and the youngest 2 moved to town on scheme water and those 2 still have their own teeth the others all have false teeth
- has been done in South Australia for decades
- The water in Jurien is very high in calcium which we all hate. What will adding fluoride do to our poor quality of water when the calcium is of high concentrate.
- from what you hear the addition of fluoride is a help. People do have to help themselves also
- dentists and toothpaste have always recommended that fluoride prevents tooth decay
- That is what we are told - worked in Perth water
- personally we only drink rain water and I know many families do the same
- our source of drinking water was rain water, therefore all 5 of our children had supplementary fluoride tablets and all have good teeth in their 50's
- Fluoride was added to supply years ago when I was first married and my 3 children all have excellent teeth
- if people drink it. Jurien town water is terrible. We drink rain water only
- But residents do not drink it. It is disgusting. We catch our own rain water to drink and cook with and we live in town. City of Gosnells have it and children there still have tooth decay

- this is an archaic practice which has been discredited by research done over the last 20-30 yrs -see UNICEF paper released in 2000
- I believe soft drinks, sugary foods cause decay. THIS is the issue - not whether or not fluoride needs to be added to drinking water
- give us a reasonable quality water. It's crap, fluoride wont fix it.
- maybe but it’s a poison get dentist treatment only
- you bastards need to tell the public what fluoride and it's history (all it's history)
- Fluoride does more harm to the body than good
- fluoride is a toxic substance that can only be broken down by passing through a mammals digestive tract (worked in aluminium industry many yrs)
- as an environmental scientist I have studied this and it is not scientifically proven
- a lot of people don’t brush your teeth
- five year old has good teeth and has never drunk town water
- I am a plumber and believe that if someone wants fluoride well buy the tablet yourself and don’t do the whole town for half of the water goes on reticulation, toilets, showers, w/machines etc and that would be a waste of money + time + fluoride!

Q5) Do you believe that the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies can help prevent tooth decay?

☐ No **(enter comment Q5a)** (Go to Q7)
☑ Yes **(enter comment Q5a)** (Go to Q6)
☐ Unsure (Go to Q6)

Q5a) Comment Yes, I would prefer my children drank tap water with fluoride but the tap water in Jurien Bay *[specify]* is filled with so many minerals it is UNDRINKABLE, so we only drink rainwater

Q6) Would you be in favour of adding fluoride to the public drinking water supply to assist in the prevention of tooth decay?

Therefore, addition of fluoride would make no difference unless the quality of the water was improved.

☐ No
☐ Yes, in children only
☑ Yes, in adults only
☐ Yes, in both adults and children
☐ Unsure

Q7) Where have you received information on the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies? Select multiple options if necessary.

☐ Newspapers
☐ Magazines
☐ Television
☐ Radio
☐ Advertisements for dental products
☑ Health authorities
☐ Dentists
☐ Internet
☑ No information/source
☐ Other_____ *[specify]*
☑ Unsure

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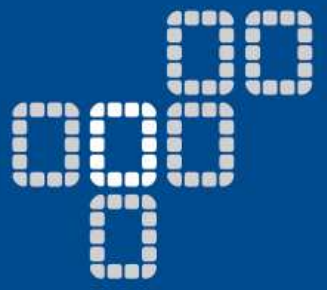

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