



The Minnesota Department of Health announced today that ST. ANTHONY VILLAGE has been awarded a Water Fluoridation Quality Award from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Fluoridation is the adjustment of fluoride in drinking water to a level that is effective for preventing tooth decay. This award recognizes those communities that achieved excellence in community water fluoridation by maintaining a consistent level of fluoride in drinking water throughout 2016.

For 2016, a total of 1,360 public water systems (PWSs) in 29 states received these awards, including 104 of 603 possible fluoridating PWSs in Minnesota. Nationally, nearly three-quarters (74.4 percent) of the population – or 211 million people - served by community PWSs have access to optimally fluoridated tap water.

“Water fluoridation is one of the best investments that a community can make in maintaining the oral health of its citizens. It is equally as effective in preventing cavities in children and adults,” stated Casey Hannan, MPH, Acting Director, CDC Division of Oral Health. “Fluoridation is also highly cost effective.”

Community water fluoridation has been recognized by CDC as one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. “Minnesota can be proud of its commitment to community water fluoridation. People of all ages and socioeconomic status have access to one of the most equitable ways to prevent tooth decay and improve overall health”, says Prasida Khanal, Minnesota Oral Health Program Director.

For questions about the award or the press release, contact either David Rindal, Senior Compliance Engineer, Minnesota Department of Health, Drinking Water Protection, at (651) 201-4660 and [david.rindal@state.mn.us](mailto:david.rindal@state.mn.us) or Clare Larkin, Prevention Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Health, Oral Health Program, at (651) 201-4230 and [clare.larkin@state.mn.us](mailto:clare.larkin@state.mn.us).