

Appendix 10

Letter, 24th September 20201, by Carol Kopf of the New York Coalition Opposed to Fluoridation (NYSCOF) in response to a brief account in the BMJ by reporter Zosia Kmiotowicz regarding the drive to fluoridate the UK.

Dear Editor

I don't understand how fluoridation could be deemed a success when evidence out of the US shows it has failed to achieve its objective – to prevent tooth decay, save money, close the disparity gap, put dentists out of business and keep Americans out of the hospital for dental conditions with only 10% of children afflicted with the mildest, little noticed form of fluoride fluorosis. After 76 years of fluoridation reaching record numbers of Americans:

- 70% of US children and adolescents are afflicted with dental fluorosis (1) – much of it moderate/severe – requiring expensive cosmetic dentistry (2)
- Tooth decay is epidemic, according to the American Association of Pediatric Dentists (3)
- In 1950 there were 42 dental Schools. Now there are 68. (4)
- 16,555 were enrolled in dental school in 1969-70. Now 25,995 are enrolled, the most ever. (4)
- Dental spending reached a historic high of \$136 billion, according to the American Dental Association (5)
- Dental hospital emergency room visits doubled from 1 million in 2000 to 2.2 million in 2012, costing 1.6 billion dollars annually. (6)
- Dental disparities persist (7)
- Maybe, as in the US, UK children are 'dentist-deficient' and need dental care; not fluoride?

References:

- 1) Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety: "Associations of low level of fluoride exposure with dental fluorosis among US children and adolescents, NHANES 2015-2016" <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0147651321005510?via%...>
- 2) Dentists' advertisements to cover fluorosis [.http://tinyurl.com/DentalFluorosisBeforeAfter](http://tinyurl.com/DentalFluorosisBeforeAfter)
- 3) Contemporary Pediatrics <https://www.contemporarypediatrics.com/view/tooth-decay-epidemic-among-t...>
- 4) American Dental Association "Then and Now Dental Education in the US." [.https://pages.ada.org/ada-news/dental-education-then-now?utm_campaign=AD...](https://pages.ada.org/ada-news/dental-education-then-now?utm_campaign=AD...)
- 5) Dentistry Today: "Dental Spending Increases in 2018." <https://www.dentistrytoday.com/news/industrynews/item/5981-dental-spendi...>
- 6) USA Today: "ER visits for dental problems." rising" <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/local/2015/06/24/er-visits-dental-pr...>
- 7) Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2019 "The Persistence of Oral Health Disparities for African American Children: A Scoping Review." <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6427601/>