



# Clallam County Citizens for Safe Drinking Water

January 10, 2011

On January 7, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Health and Human Services proposed that the amount of fluoride in drinking water be reduced from a maximum of 1.2 parts per million (ppm) to a maximum of 0.7 ppm. The reason for this first ever reduction is that people are now getting too much fluoride resulting in an epidemic of dental fluorosis.

Fluorosis is evidenced by light splotches on the teeth when mild and by brown, pitted, and brittle teeth when severe. When fluoridation was first introduced in the 1940s, it affected only between 1 and 10% of individuals and so was less of a problem. However, a recent study revealed that the percentage of 12 to 15 year olds with fluorosis has risen to 41%. Not mentioned was the fact that fluoride affects all of the bones in the body, not just the teeth.

The reasons for the increase in fluorosis are many, including its prevalence in foods, beverages, medications, pesticides, fertilizers, toothpaste, and other dental products.

Read the HHS press release at:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/01/20110107a.html>

Read the actual regulation which HHS has proposed at:

[http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/01/pre\\_pub\\_frn\\_fluoride.html](http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/01/pre_pub_frn_fluoride.html)