



**THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH** announced today that **City of Marshall** 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 the water to a level that is optimal for preventing tooth decay. The award recognizes those communities that maintained a consistent level of optimally fluoridated water throughout 2010. A total of 1603 water systems in 29 states received the award.

“Water fluoridation is one of the most effective means we have for preventing and controlling tooth decay throughout a person’s life. In fact, our latest studies show that even in an environment where people have access to multiple sources of fluoride, such as fluoride toothpaste and professional dental treatments, fluoridation continues to prevent at least 25 percent of tooth decay in children and adults,” stated Dr. William Bailey, DDS, MPH, acting director of the CDC Division of Oral Health. “We congratulate those water systems that maintain high quality standards for fluoridation throughout the year.”

Community water fluoridation has been recognized by CDC as one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th Century. CDC recommends water fluoridation as a safe, effective, and inexpensive method of preventing decay. In fact, every \$1 invested in fluoridation saves at least \$38 in costs for dental treatment.

The U.S. Task Force on Community Preventive Services has recommended that communities either adopt or maintain fluoridation of public drinking water supplies. In 2008, more than 195 million people, or 72.4 percent of the United States population served by public water supplies, had access to drinking water with optimal fluoride levels for preventing decay.

*“Michigan consistently exceeds the CDC recommendations for community water supplies by having 90% of our population on community water systems accessing fluoridated water. These awards demonstrate the commitment to quality by these community water systems. Water fluoridation benefits all residents of a community and it has demonstrated its effectiveness in preventing tooth decay throughout one’s lifetime,” states Christine Farrell, RDH, BSDH, MPA, Oral Health Program Director of Michigan.*

