

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Critical Review of Potential Adverse Health Effects of Fluoride in Drinking Water

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Health Canada

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Section 1. Literature search for human and animal Studies

Strategy

Search	Are there any health risks to exposure to fluoride in water?			
Question				
Major	1. Fluoride/fluo	oridation	_	
Concept	2. Water			
S	3. Outcomes: o	cancer, bone/skeletal toxicity, development	al/reproductive	
	toxicity, end	ocrine toxicity (including thyroid effects), in	nmunotoxicity,	
	genotoxicity and all other potential adverse effects			
Search	Concept 1	Concept 2	Concept 3	
Terms	Fluorides,	Water, drinking water, tap water, well	Adverse events,	
	fluorine,	water, spring water, mineral water,	reactions, health	
	flurine, fluride,	carbonated water, community water,	risks, individual	
	fluoridation rivers, lakes, ponds, streams, water outcomes		outcomes	
		supply, water sources, water resources,		
		water quality, water treatment		

Summary of output

Searched databases	Publication s	Level of selection of publications
Medline	295	3 concepts (2016-current)
EMBASE	591	3 concepts (2016-current)
PubMed	214	3 concepts (2016-current)
CINAHL	18	3 concepts (2016-current)
Toxline	215	3 concepts (2016-current)
PAIS index	178	FI + water
Health Technology Assessment	3	FI + water

Cochrane Library (Willey)	0	FI + water
Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews	28	FI + water (2016-current)
Cochrane Central Register of Controlled	34	FI + water (2016-current)
Trials		
Trials, WHO	104	FI (completed, with results)
Trials, EU	7	FI (completed, with results)
Trials, ISRCTN	18	FI (completed, with results)
Trials, USA	161	FI (completed, with results)
Trials, UK	0	FI (all)
Trials, Canada	10	FI (all)
Grey Literature (18 databases)	339	
Background	18	
TOTAL - before deduplication	2,233	
TOTAL – after deduplication	1,639	

Bibliographic database search terms and output

Medline Ovid ¹

Concept	#	Medline query	Results
Fluoride	1	exp Fluorides/	36,671
	2	exp Fluoridation/	5,807
	3	fluorid*.tw.	46,815
	4	fluorin*.tw.	24,699
	5	flurin*.tw.	6
	6	flurid*.tw.	232
	7	or/1-6	83,947
Water	8	Water/	153,755
	9	water.tw.	748,212
	10	Drinking Water/	7,719

¹ MEDLINE(R) Epub Ahead of Print, In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations, Ovid MEDLINE(R) Daily and Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1946 to Present

Concept	#	Medline query	Results
	11	drinking water.tw.	47,159
	12	exp Fresh Water/	62,271
	13	fresh water*.tw.	6,372
	14	freshwater*.tw.	34,209
	15	exp Mineral Waters/	4,263
	16	mineral water*.tw.	3,217
	17	exp Carbonated Water/	55
	18	carbonated water*.tw.	140
	19	exp Water Quality/	5,886
	20	(water adj3 quality).tw.	21,935
	21	exp Water Resources/	779
	22	(water* adj3 resource*).tw.	5,689
	23	Water Supply/	32,288
	24	(water adj3 supply).tw.	8,648
	25	(water* adj3 course*).tw.	524
	26	watercourse*.tw.	617
	27	exp Rivers/	25,532
	28	river*.tw.	61,402
	29	exp Lakes/	8,576
	30	lake*.tw.	37,378
	31	exp Ponds/	1,384
	32	pond*.tw.	16,113
	33	exp Groundwater/	9,100
	34	groundwater*.tw.	18,480
	35	ground water*.tw.	3,463
	36	Water Wells/	703
	37	water well*.tw.	501
	38	(water* adj3 course*).tw.	524
	39	watercourse*.tw.	617

Concept	#	Medline query	Results
	40	exp Natural Springs/	2,026
	41	natural spring*.tw.	101
	42	exp Hot Springs/	1,851
	43	hot spring*.tw.	2,056
	44	hotspring*.tw.	21
	45	spring water*.tw.	939
	46	springwater*.tw.	22
	47	(water* adj3 reservoir*).tw.	3,162
	48	stream*.tw.	65,949
	49	brook*.tw.	6,086
	50	creek*.tw.	3,148
	51	rivulet*.tw.	83
	52	rill*.tw.	120
	53	runnel*.tw.	23
	54	community water.tw.	523
	55	water fluoridation.tw.	1,267
	56	community water fluoridation.tw.	204
	57	CWF.tw.	121
	58	or/8-57	957,393
Outcomes	59	exp Fluoride Poisoning/	1,046
	60	(fluoride adj3 poisoning).tw.	121
	61	exp Bone Diseases/	492,641
	62	cancer*.tw.	1,705,562
	63	exp Neoplasms/	3,270,255
	64	neoplas*.tw.	255,862
	65	malignan*.tw.	556,683
	66	tumor*.tw.	1,397,806
	67	tumour*.tw.	264,641
	68	sarcoma*.tw.	93,670

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Concept	#	Medline query	Results
	69	carcinoma*.tw.	641,006
	70	tumor*.tw.	1,397,806
	71	(bone* adj3 disease*).tw.	24,734
	72	exp Bone Development/	60,998
	73	(bone* adj3 develop*).tw.	13,828
	74	exp Fractures, Bone/	180,742
	75	(bone* adj3 fracture*).tw.	20,569
	76	(bone* adj3 injur*).tw.	3,795
	77	(skelet* adj3 fluorosis).tw.	395
	78	(skelet* adj3 toxicit*).tw.	226
	79	exp Bone Neoplasms/	124,454
	80	(bone* adj3 cancer*).tw.	8,270
	81	(bone* adj3 neoplasm*).tw.	1,101
	82	(bone* adj3 tumor*).tw.	15,408
	83	(bone* adj3 tumour*).tw.	3,350
	84	(skelet* adj3 cancer*).tw.	680
	85	(skelet* adj3 neoplasm*).tw.	156
	86	(skelet* adj3 tumor*).tw.	1,057
	87	(skelet* adj3 tumour*).tw.	224
	88	exp Endocrine System Diseases/	963,395
	89	(endocrin* adj3 diseas*).tw.	5,078
	90	(endocrin* adj3 disorder*).tw.	6,324
	91	(endocrin* adj3 disturbance*).tw.	1,103
	92	(endocrin* adj3 disruption*).tw.	2,393
	93	(endocrin* adj3 dysfunction*).tw.	1,913
	94	endocrinopath*.tw.	3,522
	95	(hormon* adj3 disease*).tw.	3,312
	96	(hormon* adj3 disorder*).tw.	1,860
	97	(hormon* adj3 disruption*).tw.	506

Concept	#	Medline query	Results
	98	(hormon* adj3 dysfunction*).tw.	893
	99	(hormon* adj3 imbalance*).tw.	1,285
	100	exp Thyroid Diseases/	145,756
	101	(thyroid* adj3 diseas*).tw.	18,323
	102	(thyroid* adj3 disorder*).tw.	4,827
	103	(thyroid* adj3 dysfunction*).tw.	5,515
	104	(thyroid* adj3 abnormalit*).tw.	1,697
	105	(thyroid* adj3 anomal*).tw.	171
	106	Neurodevelopmental Disorders/	1,867
	107	(neurodevelopment* adj3 disorder*).tw.	9,811
	108	(neurodevelopment* adj3 diseas*).tw.	936
	109	exp Developmental Disabilities/	19,663
	110	(development* adj3 disabilit*).tw.	7,213
	111	(development* adj3 dela*).tw.	25,513
	112	(development* adj3 abnormalit*).tw.	7,736
	113	Intellectual Disability/	54,031
	114	(intellectual adj3 disabilit*).tw.	17,201
	115	(intellectual adj3 dysfunction*).tw.	156
	116	(intellectual adj3 impairment*).tw.	1,880
	117	exp Neurocognitive Disorders/	247,000
	118	neurocognitive disorder*.tw.	2,171
	119	exp cognition disorders/	90,921
	120	(cogniti* adj3 disorder*).tw.	9,248
	121	(cogniti* adj3 disease*).tw.	6,696
	122	exp Cognitive Dysfunction/	15,133
	123	(cogniti* adj3 dysfunction*).tw.	16,461
	124	Immune System Diseases/	12,177
	125	immunotoxic*.tw.	3,937
	126	immunopath*.tw.	16,870

Concept	#	Medline query	Results
	127	(immun* adj3 disease*).tw.	47,361
	128	(immun* adj3 disorder*).tw.	14,597
	129	(immun* adj3 dysfunction*).tw.	7,378
	130	(immun* adj3 dysregulation*).tw.	4,671
	131	Hypersensitivity/	48,076
	132	Hypersensitivity, Delayed/	18,978
	133	Hypersensitivity, Immediate/	12,492
	134	hypersensitivit*.tw.	60,456
	135	genotoxic*.tw.	32,443
	136	exp male urogenital diseases/	1,108,660
	137	exp Female Urogenital Diseases/	1,224,494
	138	(urogen* adj3 disease*).tw.	602
	139	(urogen* adj3 disorder*).tw.	211
	140	(genitourinary adj3 disease*).tw.	617
	141	(genitourinary adj3 disorder*).tw.	233
	142	(male adj3 genit*).tw.	5,723
	143	(female adj3 genit*).tw.	12,463
	144	(health adj3 hazard*).tw.	11,187
	145	(health adj3 risk*).tw.	56,982
	146	or/59-145	6,674,313
Fluoride + water	147	7 and 58	12,883
Fluoride +	148	7 and 58 and 146	1,372
water +			
outcomes			
2016 -	149	limit 148 to yr="2016 -Current"	295
current			
Reviews only	150	limit 149 to (meta analysis or "review" or "scientific	28
		integrity review" or "systematic review" or	

Concept	#	Medline query	Results
		systematic reviews as topic)	

EMBASE ²

Concept	#	EMBASE query	Results
Fluoride	1	exp fluoride/	35,562
	2	exp fluoridation/	6,256
	3	fluorid*.tw.	55,488
	4	fluorin*.tw.	29,336
	5	flurin*.tw.	21
	6	flurid*.tw.	209
	7	or/1-6	91,990
Water	8	water/	317,883
	9	water.tw.	949,249
	10	drinking water/	51,062
	11	drinking water.tw.	65,801
	12	exp tap water/	8,446
	13	tap water.tw.	13,667
	14	tapwater.tw.	240
	15	exp fresh water/	23,207
	16	fresh water*.tw.	8,517
	17	freshwater*.tw.	37,613
	18	water quality/	41,343
	19	water quality.tw.	27,273
	20	water treatment/	19,840
	21	water treatment.tw.	15,241
	22	exp water supply/	40,847
	23	(water adj3 supply*).tw.	12,420
	24	(water* adj3 resource*).tw.	7,716
	25	(water* adj3 reservoir*).tw.	4,029
	26	(water* adj3 course*).tw.	836
	27	watercourse*.tw.	935

² Embase: Excerpta Medica Database Guide

Concept #	EMBASE query	Results
28	exp river/	30,610
29	river*.tw.	78,325
30	exp lake/	15,700
31	lake*.tw.	47,036
32	exp pond/	4,829
33	pond*.tw.	20,683
34	exp ground water/	26,252
35	ground water*.tw.	6,199
36	groundwater*.tw.	24,734
37	exp well water/	2,975
38	(water adj3 well*).tw.	11,793
39	exp mineral water/	5,338
40	mineral water*.tw.	3,986
41	exp carbonated water/	130
42	carbonated water*.tw.	191
43	exp natural spring/	242
44	natural spring*.tw.	143
45	exp thermal spring/	2,971
46	hot spring*.tw.	2,377
47	hotspring*.tw.	31
48	spring water*.tw.	1,353
49	springwater*.tw.	34
50	exp "stream (river)"/	4,325
51	stream*.tw.	94,825
52	brook*.tw.	8,456
53	creek*.tw.	3,927
54	rivulet*.tw.	90
55	rill*.tw.	232
56	runnel*.tw.	32
57	community water.tw.	646

Concept	#	EMBASE query	Results
	58	water fluoridation.tw.	1,412
	59	or/8-58	1,221,777
Outcomes	60	exp fluorosis/	3,316
	61	fluoride intoxication.tw.	193
	62	fluoride poisoning.tw.	173
	63	fluoridosis.tw.	1
	64	exp neoplasm/	4,779,286
	65	exp malignant neoplasm/	3,584,172
	66	neoplas*.tw.	367,025
	67	cancer*.tw.	2,481,147
	68	malignan*.tw.	834,120
	69	carcinoma*.tw.	912,502
	70	sarcoma*.tw.	132,200
	71	tumor*.tw.	1,962,716
	72	tumour*.tw.	426,488
	73	exp bone disease/	1,204,429
	74	(bone* adj3 diseas*).tw.	37,645
	75	(bone* adj3 disorder*).tw.	9,155
	76	(skelet* adj3 disease*).tw.	5,669
	77	(skelet* adj3 disorder*).tw.	4,132
	78	exp bone injury/	324,785
	79	(bone* adj3 injur*).tw.	5,259
	80	(bone* adj3 damage*).tw.	5,463
	81	(bone* adj3 fracture*).tw.	29,849
	82	(bone* adj3 trauma).tw.	1,545
	83	(skelet* adj3 injur*).tw.	3,537
	84	(skelet* adj3 damage*).tw.	1,753
	85	(skelet* adj3 fracture*).tw.	1,880
	86	(skelet* adj3 trauma).tw.	781
	87	exp bone development/	111,099

Concept #	EMBASE query	Results
88	(bone* adj3 develop*).tw.	19,862
89	osteogenesis.tw.	25,397
90	(skelet* adj3 develop*).tw.	10,605
91	skeletogenesis.tw.	963
92	exp bone cancer/	101,542
93	(bone* adj3 cancer*).tw.	12,509
94	(bone* adj3 tumor*).tw.	21,086
95	(bone* adj3 tumour*).tw.	5,398
96	(bone* adj3 neoplasm*).tw.	1,538
97	osteosarcoma*.tw.	29,630
98	(skelet* adj3 cancer*).tw.	1,014
99	(skelet* adj3 tumor*).tw.	1,422
100	(skelet* adj3 tumour*).tw.	378
101	(skelet* adj3 neoplasm*).tw.	205
102	exp endocrine disease/	2,152,614
103	(endocrin* adj3 disease*).tw.	7,901
104	(endocrin* adj3 disorder*).tw.	10,179
105	(endocrin* adj3 disturbance*).tw.	2,684
106	(endocrin* adj3 dysfunction*).tw.	3,058
107	(endocrin* adj3 disruption*).tw.	2,901
108	endocrinopath*.tw.	5,698
109	(hormon* adj3 disorder*).tw.	2,821
110	(hormon* adj3 disruption*).tw.	609
111	(hormon* adj3 dysfunction*).tw.	1,433
112	(hormon* adj3 imbalance*).tw.	2,125
113	thyroid disease/	31,956
114	(thyroid* adj3 disease*).tw.	27,151
115	(thyroid* adj3 disorder*).tw.	7,659
116	(thyroid* adj3 abnormalit*).tw.	2,621
117	(thyroid* adj3 anomal*).tw.	262

Concept #	EMBASE query	Results
118	3 (thyroid* adj3 dysfunction*).tw.	8,785
119	exp mental disease/	2,280,520
120) (mental adj3 disease*).tw.	8,547
12′	(mental adj3 disorder*).tw.	58,262
122	2 (mental adj3 disturbance*).tw.	3,494
123	3 (mental adj3 illness*).tw.	41,522
124	(neurodevelopment* adj3 disorder*).tw.	13,066
125	6 (neuropsychiatric adj3 disorder*).tw.	13,872
126	6 (psych* adj3 disease*).tw.	21,908
127	(psych* adj3 disorder*).tw.	103,146
128	3 (psych* adj3 disturbance*).tw.	10,811
129) (psych* adj3 illness*).tw.	22,244
130	exp developmental disorder/	44,227
13′	(development* adj3 disorder*).tw.	31,349
132	2 (development* adj3 disease*).tw.	69,819
133	3 (development* adj3 disabilit*).tw.	9,938
134	l (development* adj3 dela*).tw.	36,568
135	(development* adj3 abnormalit*).tw.	10,461
136	exp intellectual impairment/	528,459
137	(intellectual adj3 impairment*).tw.	2,773
138	3 (intellectual adj3 disabilit*).tw.	25,169
139	(intellectual adj3 dysfunction*).tw.	196
140	exp cognitive defect/	485,131
14	(cogniti* adj3 defect*).tw.	1,217
142	2 (cogniti* adj3 disorder*).tw.	14,749
143	3 (cogniti* adj3 deficit*).tw.	37,950
144	l (cogniti* adj3 disabilit*).tw.	4,447
145	5 (cogniti* adj3 impairment*).tw.	104,619
146	6 (cogniti* adj3 dysfunction*).tw.	25,318
147	exp immunopathology/	1,861,146

Concept	#	EMBASE query	Results
	148	immunopath*.tw.	21,949
	149	(immun* adj3 disease*).tw.	66,959
	150	(immun* adj3 disorder*).tw.	21,255
	151	(immun* adj3 dysfunction*).tw.	10,633
	152	(immun* adj3 dysregulation*).tw.	7,542
	153	exp hypersensitivity/	667,780
	154	hypersensitivit*.tw.	86,607
	155	exp genotoxicity/	32,891
	156	genotoxic*.tw.	40,197
	157	exp urogenital tract disease/	2,543,465
	158	(urogenital adj3 disease*).tw.	861
	159	(urogenital adj3 disorder*).tw.	340
	160	(genitourinary adj3 disease*).tw.	868
	161	(genitourinary adj3 disorder*).tw.	311
	162	(male adj3 genit*).tw.	6,960
	163	(female adj3 genit*).tw.	16,842
	164	exp health hazard/	551,767
	165	(health adj3 hazard*).tw.	14,826
	166	(health adj3 risk*).tw.	70,092
	167	or/60-166	12,825,673
Fluoride + water	168	7 and 59	16,549
Fluoride + water +			3,175
outcomes	169	7 and 59 and 167	
2016 - current	170	limit 169 to yr="2016 -Current"	591
Reviews only	171		52

PubMed

Concept	#	Pubmed Query	Results
Fluoride	1	fluoride[MeSH Terms]	36,648
	2	fluoridation[MeSH Terms]	5,806
	3	fluorid*[Text Word]	62,000
	4	fluorin*[Text Word]	38,116
	5	flurin*[Text Word]	6
	6	flurid*[Text Word]	248
	7	(((((((fluoride[MeSH Terms]) OR fluoridation[MeSH	97,663
		Terms]) OR fluorid*[Text Word]) OR fluorin*[Text Word])	
		OR flurin*[Text Word]) OR flurid*[Text Word])))	
Water	8	water[MeSH Terms]	172,538
	9	water[Text Word]	929,227
	10	drinking water[MeSH Terms]	7,746
	11	drinking water[Text Word]	49,377
	12	tap water[MeSH Terms]	2,551
	13	tap water[Text Word]	10,337
	14	fresh water[MeSH Terms]	62,169
	15	fresh water*[Text Word]	34,531
	16	freshwater*[Text Word]	34,861
	17	water quality[MeSH Terms]	5,869
	18	water qualit*[Text Word]	21,220
	19	water treatment[MeSH Terms]	31,226
	20	water treatment*[Text Word]	10,810
	21	water supply[MeSH Terms]	32,795
	22	water supply[Text Word]	36,524
	23	water resource[MeSH Terms]	767
	24	water resource*[Text Word]	5,510
	25	water reservoir*[Text Word]	1,443
	26	water course[Text Word]	61

Concept	#	Pubmed Query	Results
	27	watercourse*[Text Word]	618
	28	river[MeSH Terms]	25,486
	29	river*[Text Word]	67,451
	30	lake[MeSH Terms]	8,549
	31	lake*[Text Word]	38,201
	32	pond[MeSH Terms]	1,379
	33	pond*[Text Word]	16,095
	34	ground water[MeSH Terms]	9,078
	35	ground water*[Text Word]	3,472
	36	groundwater*[Text Word]	20,109
	37	water well[MeSH Terms]	700
	38	water well*[Text Word]	1,061
	39	mineral water[MeSH Terms]	4,261
	40	mineral water*[Text Word]	5,495
	41	carbonated water[MeSH Terms]	55
	42	carbonated water*[Text Word]	168
	43	natural spring[MeSH Terms]	2,024
	44	natural spring*[Text Word]	263
	45	thermal spring*[Text Word]	302
	46	hot spring[MeSH Terms]	1,850
	47	hot spring*[Text Word]	2,520
	48	hotspring*[Text Word]	21
	49	spring water[MeSH Terms]	1,637
	50	spring water*[Text Word]	926
	51	springwater*[Text Word]	23
	52	stream[MeSH Terms]	25,486
	53	stream*[Text Word]	66,641
	54	brook*[Text Word]	6,169
	55	creek*[Text Word]	3,168

Concept	#	Pubmed Query	Results
	56	rivulet*[Text Word]	84
	57	rill*[Text Word]	125
	58	runnel*[Text Word]	23
	59	community water[MeSH Terms]	2,748
	60	community water*[Text Word]	514
	61	community water fluoridation[MeSH Terms]	967
	62	water fluoridation*[Text Word]	1,269
	63	community water fluoridation[Text Word]	204
	64	((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((1,062,076
		Terms]) OR water[Text Word]) OR drinking water[MeSH	
		Terms]) OR drinking water[Text Word]) OR tap	
		water[MeSH Terms]) OR tap water[Text Word]) OR fresh	
		water[MeSH Terms]) OR fresh water*[Text Word]) OR	
		freshwater*[Text Word]) OR water quality[MeSH Terms])	
		OR water qualit*[Text Word]) OR water treatment[MeSH	
		Terms]) OR water treatment*[Text Word]) OR water	
		supply[MeSH Terms]) OR water supply[Text Word]) OR	
		water resource[MeSH Terms]) OR water resource*[Text	
		Word]) OR water reservoir*[Text Word]) OR water	
		course[Text Word]) OR watercourse*[Text Word]) OR	
		river[MeSH Terms]) OR river*[Text Word]) OR	
		lake[MeSH Terms]) OR lake*[Text Word]) OR	
		pond[MeSH Terms]) OR pond*[Text Word]) OR ground	
		water[MeSH Terms]) OR ground water*[Text Word]) OR	
		groundwater*[Text Word]) OR water well[MeSH Terms])	

OR water well*[Text Word]) OR mineral water[MeSH

Terms]) OR mineral water*[Text Word]) OR carbonated

water[MeSH Terms]) OR carbonated water*[Text Word])

OR natural spring[MeSH Terms]) OR natural spring*[Text

Concept	#	Pubmed Query	Results
		Word]) OR thermal spring*[Text Word]) OR hot	
		spring[MeSH Terms]) OR hot spring*[Text Word]) OR	
		hotspring*[Text Word]) OR spring water[MeSH Terms])	
		OR spring water*[Text Word]) OR springwater*[Text	
		Word]) OR stream[MeSH Terms]) OR stream*[Text	
		Word]) OR brook*[Text Word]) OR creek*[Text Word])	
		OR rivulet*[Text Word]) OR rill*[Text Word]) OR	
		runnel*[Text Word]) OR community water[MeSH Terms])	
		OR community water*[Text Word]) OR community water	
		fluoridation[MeSH Terms]) OR community water	
		fluoridation[Text Word]) OR water fluoridation*[Text	
		Word]	
Outcomes	65	((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((5,037,262
		Word]) OR neoplasm[MeSH Terms]) OR neoplas*[Text	
		Word]) OR malignancy[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		malignan*[Text Word]) OR carcinoma[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		carcino*[Text Word]) OR sarcoma[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		sarco*[Text Word]) OR tumor[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		tumor*[Text Word]) OR tumour[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		tumour*[Text Word])) OR	
		((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((
		OR bone disease*[Text Word]) OR bone disorder*[Text	
		Word]) OR bone injur*[Text Word]) OR bone	
		fracture[MeSH Terms]) OR bone* fracture*[Text Word])	
		OR bone* trauma*[Text Word]) OR bone* damage*[Text	
		Word]) OR skelet* disease*[Text Word]) OR skelet*	
		disorder*[Text Word]) OR skelet* injur*[Text Word]) OR	
		skelet* fracture*[Text Word]) OR skelet* trauma*[Text	
		Word]) OR skelet* damage*[Text Word]) OR bone	
		neoplasm[MeSH Terms]) OR bone* neoplas*[Text	

Word]) OR bone cancer[MeSH Terms]) OR bone* cancer*[Text Word]) OR bone* tumor*[Text Word]) OR bone* tumour*[Text Word]) OR osteosarcoma[MeSH Terms]) OR osteosarcoma*[Text Word]) OR skelet* neoplas*[Text Word]) OR skelet* cancer*[Text Word]) OR skelet* tumor*[Text Word]) OR skelet* tumour*[Text Word]) OR bone development[MeSH Terms]) OR bone* development[Text Word]) OR osteogenesis[MeSH Terms]) OR osteogenesis[Text Word]) OR skelet* development[Text Word]) OR skeletogenesis[Text Terms]) OR endocrin* disease*[Text Word]) OR endocrin* disorder*[Text Word]) OR endocrin disturbance*[Text Word]) OR endocrin* disruption*[Text Word]) OR endocrin* dysfunction*[Text Word]) OR endocrinopath*[Text Word]) OR hormon* disease*[Text Word]) OR hormon* disorder*[Text Word]) OR hormon* disturbance*[Text Word]) OR hormon* disruption*[Text Word]) OR hormon* dysfunction*[Text Word]) OR hormon* imbalance*[Text Word]) OR thyroid disease[MeSH Terms]) OR thyroid* disease*[Text Word]) OR thyroid dysgenesis[MeSH Terms]) OR thyroid* dysgenesis[Text Word]) OR thyroid* disorder*[Text Word]) OR thyroid* abnormal*[Text Word]) OR thyroid* anomal*[Text Word]) OR thyroid* dysfunction*[Text disorders[MeSH Terms]) OR mental disorder*[Text Word]) OR mental disease*[Text Word]) OR mental disturbance*[Text Word]) OR mental illness*[Text Word]) OR neurodevelopment* disease*[Text Word]) OR

neurodevelopment* disorder*[Text Word]) OR neurodevelopment* disabilit*[Text Word]) OR neurodevelopment* dela*[Text Word]) OR ((developmental disorder, speech or language[MeSH Terms]))) OR developmental disorders of scholastic skills[MeSH Terms]) OR development* disorder*[Text Word]) OR developmental disability[MeSH Terms]) OR development* disabilit*[Text Word]) OR developmental delay disorder[MeSH Terms]) OR development* dela*[Text Word]) OR development* abnormalit*[Text Word]) OR development* impairment*[Text Word]) OR intellectual disability[MeSH Terms]) OR intellectual* disabilit*[Text Word]) OR aphasia, intellectual[MeSH Terms]) OR intellectual aphasia*[Text Word]) OR intellectual impairment*[Text Word]) OR intellectual dysfunction*[Text Word]) OR delirium, dementia, amnestic, cognitive disorders[MeSH Terms]) OR cognition disorders[MeSH Terms]) OR cognit* disorder*[Text Word]) OR mild cognitive impairment[MeSH Terms]) OR cogniti* impair*[Text Word]) OR cogniti* disease*[Text Word]) OR cogniti* defect*[Text Word]) OR cogniti* deficit*[Text Word]) OR cogniti* disabilit*[Text Word]) OR cogniti* dysfunction*[Text Word])) OR immunologic* disease*[Text Word]) OR immunologic* disorder*[Text Word]) OR immunologic* dysfunction*[Text Word]) OR immunologic* dysregulat*[Text Word]) OR immediate hypersensitivity[MeSH Terms]) OR delayed

Concept	#	Pubmed Query	Results
		hypersensitivity[MeSH Terms]) OR hypersensitivit*[Text	
		Word]) OR immunopath*[Text Word]) OR	
		genotoxic*[Text Word]) OR male urogenital	
		disease[MeSH Terms]) OR female urogenital	
		disease[MeSH Terms]) OR urogenit* disease*[Text	
		Word]) OR urogenit* disorder*[Text Word]) OR male	
		genitourinary disease[MeSH Terms]) OR female	
		genitourinary disease[MeSH Terms]) OR genitourin*	
		disease*[Text Word]) OR genitourin* disorder*[Text	
		Word]) OR health risk appraisal[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		health risk*[Text Word]) OR health hazard*[Text Word])))	
FI + water	66	((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((14,336
		fluorid*[Text Word]) OR fluorin*[Text Word]) OR flurin*[Text Word])	·
		OR flurid*[Text Word])))))) AND	
		((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((
		water[Text Word]) OR drinking water[MeSH Terms]) OR drinking	
		water[Text Word]) OR tap water[MeSH Terms]) OR tap water[Text	
		Word]) OR fresh water[MeSH Terms]) OR fresh water*[Text Word])	
		OR freshwater*[Text Word]) OR water quality[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		water qualit*[Text Word]) OR water treatment[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		water treatment*[Text Word]) OR water supply[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		water supply[Text Word]) OR water resource[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		water resource*[Text Word]) OR water reservoir*[Text Word]) OR	
		water course[Text Word]) OR watercourse*[Text Word]) OR	
		river[MeSH Terms]) OR river*[Text Word]) OR lake[MeSH Terms])	
		OR lake*[Text Word]) OR pond[MeSH Terms]) OR pond*[Text	
		Word]) OR ground water[MeSH Terms]) OR ground water*[Text	
		Word]) OR groundwater*[Text Word]) OR water well[MeSH Terms])	
		OR water well*[Text Word]) OR mineral water[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		mineral water*[Text Word]) OR carbonated water[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		carbonated water*[Text Word]) OR natural spring[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		natural spring*[Text Word]) OR thermal spring*[Text Word]) OR hot	
		spring[MeSH Terms]) OR hot spring*[Text Word]) OR	

#	Pubmed Query	Results
	hotspring*[Text Word]) OR spring water[MeSH Terms]) OR spring	
	water*[Text Word]) OR springwater*[Text Word]) OR stream[MeSH	
	Terms]) OR stream*[Text Word]) OR brook*[Text Word]) OR	
	creek*[Text Word]) OR rivulet*[Text Word]) OR rill*[Text Word]) OR	
	runnel*[Text Word]) OR community water[MeSH Terms]) OR	
	community water*[Text Word]) OR community water	
	fluoridation[MeSH Terms]) OR community water fluoridation[Text	
	Word]) OR water fluoridation*[Text Word]))	
67	((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((766
	fluorid*[Text Word]) OR fluorin*[Text Word]) OR flurin*[Text Word])	
	OR flurid*[Text Word])))))) AND	
	((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((
	water[Text Word]) OR drinking water[MeSH Terms]) OR drinking	
	water[Text Word]) OR tap water[MeSH Terms]) OR tap water[Text	
	Word]) OR fresh water[MeSH Terms]) OR fresh water*[Text Word])	
	OR freshwater*[Text Word]) OR water quality[MeSH Terms]) OR	
	water qualit*[Text Word]) OR water treatment[MeSH Terms]) OR	
	water treatment*[Text Word]) OR water supply[MeSH Terms]) OR	
	water supply[Text Word]) OR water resource[MeSH Terms]) OR	
	water resource*[Text Word]) OR water reservoir*[Text Word]) OR	
	water course[Text Word]) OR watercourse*[Text Word]) OR	
	river[MeSH Terms]) OR river*[Text Word]) OR lake[MeSH Terms])	
	OR lake*[Text Word]) OR pond[MeSH Terms]) OR pond*[Text	
	Word]) OR ground water[MeSH Terms]) OR ground water*[Text	
	Word]) OR groundwater*[Text Word]) OR water well[MeSH Terms])	
	OR water well*[Text Word]) OR mineral water[MeSH Terms]) OR	
	mineral water*[Text Word]) OR carbonated water[MeSH Terms]) OR	
	carbonated water*[Text Word]) OR natural spring[MeSH Terms]) OR	
	natural spring*[Text Word]) OR thermal spring*[Text Word]) OR hot	
	spring[MeSH Terms]) OR hot spring*[Text Word]) OR	
	hotspring*[Text Word]) OR spring water[MeSH Terms]) OR spring	
	water*[Text Word]) OR springwater*[Text Word]) OR stream[MeSH	
	Terms]) OR stream*[Text Word]) OR brook*[Text Word]) OR	
	creek*[Text Word]) OR rivulet*[Text Word]) OR rill*[Text Word]) OR	
	runnel*[Text Word]) OR community water[MeSH Terms]) OR	
	community water*[Text Word]) OR community water	
		hotspring*[Text Word]) OR spring water[MeSH Terms]) OR spring water*[Text Word]) OR springwater*[Text Word]) OR stream[MeSH Terms]) OR stream*[Text Word]) OR brook*[Text Word]) OR creek*[Text Word]) OR creek*[Text Word]) OR community water[MeSH Terms]) OR community water*[Text Word]) OR community water fluoridation[Text Word]) OR water fluoridation*[Text Word])) 67 (((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((

fluoridation[MeSH Terms]) OR community water fluoridation[Text Word]) OR water fluoridation*[Text Word]))) AND neoplasm[MeSH Terms]) OR neoplas*[Text Word]) OR malignancy[MeSH Terms]) OR malignan*[Text Word]) OR carcinoma[MeSH Terms]) OR carcino*[Text Word]) OR sarcoma[MeSH Terms]) OR sarco*[Text Word]) OR tumor[MeSH Terms]) OR tumor*[Text Word]) OR tumour[MeSH Terms]) OR disease[MeSH Terms]) OR bone disease*[Text Word]) OR bone disorder*[Text Word]) OR bone injur*[Text Word]) OR bone fracture[MeSH Terms]) OR bone* fracture*[Text Word]) OR bone* trauma*[Text Word]) OR bone* damage*[Text Word]) OR skelet* disease*[Text Word]) OR skelet* disorder*[Text Word]) OR skelet* injur*[Text Word]) OR skelet* fracture*[Text Word]) OR skelet* trauma*[Text Word]) OR skelet* damage*[Text Word]) OR bone neoplasm[MeSH Terms]) OR bone* neoplas*[Text Word]) OR bone cancer[MeSH Terms]) OR bone* cancer*[Text Word]) OR bone* tumor*[Text Word]) OR bone* tumour*[Text Word]) OR osteosarcoma[MeSH Terms]) OR osteosarcoma*[Text Word]) OR skelet* neoplas*[Text Word]) OR skelet* cancer*[Text Word]) OR skelet* tumor*[Text Word]) OR skelet* tumour*[Text Word]) OR bone development[MeSH Terms]) OR bone* development[Text Word]) OR osteogenesis[MeSH Terms]) OR osteogenesis[Text Word]) OR skelet* development[Text Word]) OR skeletogenesis[Text Word])) disease*[Text Word]) OR endocrin* disorder*[Text Word]) OR endocrin disturbance*[Text Word]) OR endocrin* disruption*[Text Word]) OR endocrin* dysfunction*[Text Word]) OR endocrinopath*[Text Word]) OR hormon* disease*[Text Word]) OR hormon* disorder*[Text Word]) OR hormon* disturbance*[Text Word]) OR hormon* disruption*[Text Word]) OR hormon* dysfunction*[Text Word]) OR hormon* imbalance*[Text Word]) OR thyroid disease[MeSH Terms]) OR thyroid* disease*[Text Word]) OR thyroid dysgenesis[MeSH Terms]) OR thyroid* dysgenesis[Text Word]) OR thyroid* disorder*[Text Word]) OR thyroid*

abnormal*[Text Word]) OR thyroid* anomal*[Text Word]) OR thyroid* disorders[MeSH Terms]) OR mental disorder*[Text Word]) OR mental disease*[Text Word]) OR mental disturbance*[Text Word]) OR mental illness*[Text Word]) OR neurodevelopment* disease*[Text Word]) OR neurodevelopment* disorder*[Text Word]) OR neurodevelopment* disabilit*[Text Word]) OR neurodevelopment* dela*[Text Word]) OR ((developmental disorder, speech or language[MeSH Terms]))) OR developmental disorders of scholastic skills[MeSH Terms]) OR development* disorder*[Text Word]) OR developmental disability[MeSH Terms]) OR development* disabilit*[Text Word]) OR developmental delay disorder[MeSH Terms]) OR development* dela*[Text Word]) OR development* abnormalit*[Text Word]) OR development* impairment*[Text Word]) OR intellectual disability[MeSH Terms]) OR intellectual* disabilit*[Text Word]) OR aphasia, intellectual[MeSH Terms]) OR intellectual aphasia*[Text Word]) OR intellectual impairment*[Text Word]) OR intellectual dysfunction*[Text Word]) OR delirium, dementia, amnestic, cognitive disorders[MeSH Terms]) OR cognition disorders[MeSH Terms]) OR cognit* disorder*[Text Word]) OR mild cognitive impairment[MeSH Terms]) OR cogniti* impair*[Text Word]) OR cogniti* disease*[Text Word]) OR cogniti* defect*[Text Word]) OR cogniti* deficit*[Text Word]) OR cogniti* disabilit*[Text Word]) OR cogniti* dysfunction*[Text Word])) OR immunologic* disease*[Text Word]) OR immunologic* disorder*[Text Word]) OR immunologic* dysfunction*[Text Word]) OR immunologic* dysregulat*[Text Word]) OR immediate hypersensitivity[MeSH Terms]) OR delayed hypersensitivity[MeSH Terms]) OR hypersensitivit*[Text Word]) OR immunopath*[Text Word]) OR genotoxic*[Text Word]) OR male urogenital disease[MeSH Terms]) OR female urogenital disease[MeSH Terms]) OR urogenit* disease*[Text Word]) OR urogenit* disorder*[Text Word]) OR male genitourinary disease[MeSH Terms]) OR female genitourinary disease[MeSH Terms]) OR genitourin* disease*[Text Word]) OR genitourin* disorder*[Text Word]) OR health risk appraisal[MeSH

Concept	#	Pubmed Query	Results
		Terms]) OR health risk*[Text Word]) OR health hazard*[Text	
		Word])))))	
2016 -	68	Search ((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((214
current		Terms]) OR fluorid*[Text Word]) OR fluorin*[Text Word]) OR	
		flurin*[Text Word]) OR flurid*[Text Word])))))) AND	
		((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((
		water[Text Word]) OR drinking water[MeSH Terms]) OR drinking	
		water[Text Word]) OR tap water[MeSH Terms]) OR tap water[Text	
		Word]) OR fresh water[MeSH Terms]) OR fresh water*[Text Word])	
		OR freshwater*[Text Word]) OR water quality[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		water qualit*[Text Word]) OR water treatment[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		water treatment*[Text Word]) OR water supply[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		water supply[Text Word]) OR water resource[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		water resource*[Text Word]) OR water reservoir*[Text Word]) OR	
		water course[Text Word]) OR watercourse*[Text Word]) OR	
		river[MeSH Terms]) OR river*[Text Word]) OR lake[MeSH Terms])	
		OR lake*[Text Word]) OR pond[MeSH Terms]) OR pond*[Text	
		Word]) OR ground water[MeSH Terms]) OR ground water*[Text	
		Word]) OR groundwater*[Text Word]) OR water well[MeSH Terms])	
		OR water well*[Text Word]) OR mineral water[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		mineral water*[Text Word]) OR carbonated water[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		carbonated water*[Text Word]) OR natural spring[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		natural spring*[Text Word]) OR thermal spring*[Text Word]) OR hot	
		spring[MeSH Terms]) OR hot spring*[Text Word]) OR	
		hotspring*[Text Word]) OR spring water[MeSH Terms]) OR spring	
		water*[Text Word]) OR springwater*[Text Word]) OR stream[MeSH	
		Terms]) OR stream*[Text Word]) OR brook*[Text Word]) OR	
		creek*[Text Word]) OR rivulet*[Text Word]) OR rill*[Text Word]) OR	
		runnel*[Text Word]) OR community water[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		community water*[Text Word]) OR community water	
		fluoridation[MeSH Terms]) OR community water fluoridation[Text	
		Word]) OR water fluoridation*[Text Word]))) AND	
		((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((
		neoplasm[MeSH Terms]) OR neoplas*[Text Word]) OR	
		malignancy[MeSH Terms]) OR malignan*[Text Word]) OR	
		carcinoma[MeSH Terms]) OR carcino*[Text Word]) OR	

sarcoma[MeSH Terms]) OR sarco*[Text Word]) OR tumor[MeSH Terms]) OR tumor*[Text Word]) OR tumour[MeSH Terms]) OR disease[MeSH Terms]) OR bone disease*[Text Word]) OR bone disorder*[Text Word]) OR bone injur*[Text Word]) OR bone fracture[MeSH Terms]) OR bone* fracture*[Text Word]) OR bone* trauma*[Text Word]) OR bone* damage*[Text Word]) OR skelet* disease*[Text Word]) OR skelet* disorder*[Text Word]) OR skelet* injur*[Text Word]) OR skelet* fracture*[Text Word]) OR skelet* trauma*[Text Word]) OR skelet* damage*[Text Word]) OR bone neoplasm[MeSH Terms]) OR bone* neoplas*[Text Word]) OR bone cancer[MeSH Terms]) OR bone* cancer*[Text Word]) OR bone* tumor*[Text Word]) OR bone* tumour*[Text Word]) OR osteosarcoma[MeSH Terms]) OR osteosarcoma*[Text Word]) OR skelet* neoplas*[Text Word]) OR skelet* cancer*[Text Word]) OR skelet* tumor*[Text Word]) OR skelet* tumour*[Text Word]) OR bone development[MeSH Terms]) OR bone* development[Text Word]) OR osteogenesis[MeSH Terms]) OR osteogenesis[Text Word]) OR skelet* development[Text Word]) OR skeletogenesis[Text Word])) disease*[Text Word]) OR endocrin* disorder*[Text Word]) OR endocrin disturbance*[Text Word]) OR endocrin* disruption*[Text Word]) OR endocrin* dysfunction*[Text Word]) OR endocrinopath*[Text Word]) OR hormon* disease*[Text Word]) OR hormon* disorder*[Text Word]) OR hormon* disturbance*[Text Word]) OR hormon* disruption*[Text Word]) OR hormon* dysfunction*[Text Word]) OR hormon* imbalance*[Text Word]) OR thyroid disease[MeSH Terms]) OR thyroid* disease*[Text Word]) OR thyroid dysgenesis[MeSH Terms]) OR thyroid* dysgenesis[Text Word]) OR thyroid* disorder*[Text Word]) OR thyroid* abnormal*[Text Word]) OR thyroid* anomal*[Text Word]) OR thyroid* disorders[MeSH Terms]) OR mental disorder*[Text Word]) OR mental disease*[Text Word]) OR mental disturbance*[Text Word]) OR mental illness*[Text Word]) OR neurodevelopment* disease*[Text Word]) OR neurodevelopment* disorder*[Text Word])

OR neurodevelopment* disabilit*[Text Word]) OR neurodevelopment* dela*[Text Word]) OR ((developmental disorder, speech or language[MeSH Terms]))) OR developmental disorders of scholastic skills[MeSH Terms]) OR development* disorder*[Text Word]) OR developmental disability[MeSH Terms]) OR development* disabilit*[Text Word]) OR developmental delay disorder[MeSH Terms]) OR development* dela*[Text Word]) OR development* abnormalit*[Text Word]) OR development* impairment*[Text Word]) OR intellectual disability[MeSH Terms]) OR intellectual* disabilit*[Text Word]) OR aphasia, intellectual[MeSH Terms]) OR intellectual aphasia*[Text Word]) OR intellectual impairment*[Text Word]) OR intellectual dysfunction*[Text Word]) OR delirium, dementia, amnestic, cognitive disorders[MeSH Terms]) OR cognition disorders[MeSH Terms]) OR cognit* disorder*[Text Word]) OR mild cognitive impairment[MeSH Terms]) OR cogniti* impair*[Text Word]) OR cogniti* disease*[Text Word]) OR cogniti* defect*[Text Word]) OR cogniti* deficit*[Text Word]) OR cogniti* disabilit*[Text Word]) OR cogniti* dysfunction*[Text Word])) OR immunologic* disease*[Text Word]) OR immunologic* disorder*[Text Word]) OR immunologic* dysfunction*[Text Word]) OR immunologic* dysregulat*[Text Word]) OR immediate hypersensitivity[MeSH Terms]) OR delayed hypersensitivity[MeSH Terms]) OR hypersensitivit*[Text Word]) OR immunopath*[Text Word]) OR genotoxic*[Text Word]) OR male urogenital disease[MeSH Terms]) OR female urogenital disease[MeSH Terms]) OR urogenit* disease*[Text Word]) OR urogenit* disorder*[Text Word]) OR male genitourinary disease[MeSH Terms]) OR female genitourinary disease[MeSH Terms]) OR genitourin* disease*[Text Word]) OR genitourin* disorder*[Text Word]) OR health risk appraisal[MeSH Terms]) OR health risk*[Text Word]) OR health hazard*[Text Word])))))) AND ("2016"[Date - Publication] : "2020"[Date -Publication])

69 Limit 68 to (meta analysis or "review" or "scientific integrity review" or "systematic review" or systematic reviews as topic)

19

CINAHL³

Concept	#	Cinahl query	Results
Fluoride	1	fluoride	5,449
	2	fluoride in water	1,142

 $^{^{\}rm 3}$ Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature

Concept	#	Cinahl query	Results
	3	water fluoridation or fluoridation of water or fluoride treatment	1,552
		or fluoride in water	
	4	fluoridation or fluoride or fluoridated	6,246
	5	TX water fluorid* OR TX fluorid* OR TX fluorin* OR TX flurin*	8,118
		OR TX flurid*	
	6	S1 OR S2 OR S3 OR S4 OR S5	8,118
Water	7	drinking water OR tap water	112
	8	TX drinking water OR TX tap water	26
	9	drinking water quality OR drinking water treatment OR	11,746
		drinking water safety	
	10	TX drinking water quality OR TX drinking water treatment OR	711
		TX drinking water safety	
	11	ground water OR water wells OR river OR lake OR pond	6,317
	12	TX ground water OR TX water wells OR TX river OR TX lake	49,341
		OR TX pond	
	13	mineral water OR carbonated water OR spring water OR hot	645
		springs	
	14	TX mineral water OR TX carbonated water OR TX spring	991
		water OR TX hot springs	
	15	S7 S8 OR S9 OR S10 OR S11 OR S12 OR S13 OR S14	50,317
Outcomes	16	fluorosis	687
	17	fluoride toxicity	28
	18	bone disease	11,078
	19	TX bone* disease*	12,465
	20	bone disorder	1,335
	21	TX bone* disorder*	1,576
	22	skeletal disease	757
	23	TX skelet* disease*	954
	24	skeletal disorders	542
	25	TX skelet* disorder*	641

Concept #	Cinahl query	Results
26	bone injury	4,342
27	TX bone* injur*	4,225
28	bone fracture	6,903
29	TX bone* fracture*	7,351
30	TX bone* damage*	788
31	bone trauma	615
32	TX bone* trauma*	1,049
33	TX skelet* injur*	1,799
34	TX skelet* damage*	241
35	TX skelet* fracture*	621
36	skeletal trauma	173
37	TX skelet* trauma*	319
38	bone development	2,675
39	TX bone* development*	3,347
40	osteogenesis	5,604
41	TX osteogen*	6,675
42	TX skelet* develop*	931
43	TX skeletogen*	22
44	bone cancer	8,333
45	TX bone* cancer*	3,117
46	bone tumor	10,075
47	TX bone* tumor*	3,054
48	TX bone* tumour*	768
49	bone neoplasm	10,075
50	TX bone* neoplas*	8,269
51	osteosarcoma	3,482
52	TX osteosarcoma*	3,505
53	osteogenic sarcoma	2,222
54	TX osteogenic sarcoma*	103
55	TX skelet* cancer*	358

Concept	#	Cinahl query	Results
	56	TX skelet* tumor*	251
	57	TX skelet* tumour*	57
	58	TX skelet* neoplas*	35
	59	endocrine disease	1,971
	60	TX endocrin* disease*	4,212
	61	endocrine disorders	1,526
	62	TX endocrin* disorder*	2,260
	63	endocrine disruptors	312
	64	endocrine disrupting chemicals	310
	65	TX endocrin* disrupt*	953
	66	TX endocrin* disturbance*	121
	67	TX endocrin* dysfunction*	315
	68	endocrine pathology	232
	69	TX endocrin* patholo*	391
	70	TX endocrinopath*	465
	71	TX hormon* disease*	1,380
	72	hormone disorders	252
	73	TX hormon* disorder*	544
	74	hormone disruptor	13
	75	TX hormon* disruptor*	28
	76	hormone imbalance	68
	77	TX hormon* imbalance*	204
	78	TX hormon* dysfunction*	269
	79	thyroid disease	4,066
	80	TX thyroid* disease*	4,324
	81	thyroid disorders	2,129
	82	TX thyroid* disorder*	773
	83	thyroid cancer	6,329
	84	TX thyroid* cancer*	4,093
	85	thyroid neoplasms	6,018

Concept #	Cinahl query	Results
86	TX thyroid* neoplas*	5,768
87	thyroid adenoma	4,888
88	TX thyroid* adenoma*	213
89	TX thyroid* abnormalit*	363
90	TX thyroid* anomal*	34
91	thyroid dysfunction	861
92	TX thyroid* dysfunction*	894
93	water fluoridation cancer	7
94	mental disease	74,025
95	TX mental* disease*	5,581
96	mental disorders	74,025
97	TX mental* disorder*	69,886
98	mental illness	74,025
99	TX mental* illness*	24,630
100	mental disabilities	52,583
101	TX mental* disabilit*	4,376
102	mental disturbance	392
103	TX mental* disturbance*	413
104	psychiatric disease	4,405
105	TX psych* disease*	23,501
106	psychiatric disorders	46,279
107	TX psych* disorder*	78,576
108	psychiatric illness	4,405
109	TX psych* illness*	12,623
110	TX psych* disturbance*	1,590
111	TX deveopment* disease*	1
112	developmental disorders	4,344
113	TX development* disorder*	18,045
114	developmental disabilities	11,039
115	TX development* disabilit*	23,179

Concept #	Cinahl query	Results
110	6 developmental delay	3,211
11	7 TX development* dela*	5,733
118	3 TX development* abnormalit*	1,109
119	o intellectual disability	21,791
120	TX intellectual disabilit*	25,228
12	1 intellectual impairment	551
12:	2 TX intellectual impairment*	587
123	3 TX intellectual dysfunction*	46
124	4 cognitive disease	6,663
129	5 TX cogniti* disease*	6,958
120	6 cognitive disorders	22,546
12	7 TX cogniti* disorder*	33,291
128	3 TX cogniti* defect*	128
129	ognitive deficits	23,070
130	TX cogniti* deficit*	6,535
13	1 cognitive disabilities	1,853
133	2 TX cogniti* disabilit*	2,223
13:	3 cognitive impairment	33,788
134	1 TX cogniti* impairment*	24,208
13	5 cognitive dysfunction	21,313
130	5 TX cogniti* dysfunction*	4,332
13	7 TX cogniti* dysregulation*	133
138	3 immune disease	3,588
139	9 TX immun* disease*	24,209
140) immune disorders	1,547
14	1 TX immun* disorder*	3,161
14:	2 immune dysfunction	784
143	3 TX immun* dysfunction*	1,343
14	1 immune dysregulation	671
14	5 TX immun* dysregulation*	765

Concept	#	Cinahl query	Results
	146	immunopathogenesis	410
	147	TX immunopath*	1,626
	148	hypersensitivity	23,866
	149	TX hypersensitiv*	24,399
	150	genotoxicity	597
	151	genotoxic	759
	152	TX genotoxic*	1,150
	153	TX urogenital disease*	893
	154	urogenital disorder	31
	155	TX urogenital disorder*	32
	156	urogenital dysfunction	27
	157	TX urogenital dysfunction*	29
	158	TX genitourinary disease*	224
	159	TX genitourinary disorder*	89
	160	TX genitourinary dysfunction	32
	161	male genitalia	2,351
	162	TX male* genit*	2,315
	163	female genitalia	7,135
	164	TX female* genit*	7,079
	165	health hazards	2,380
	166	TX health hazard*	4,258
	167	health risks	34,021
	168	TX health risk*	40,954
	169	cancer	389,786
	170	TX cancer*	499,978
	171	neoplasm	486,986
	172	TX neoplas*	426,880
	173	malignancy	82,898
	174	malignant	35,357
	175	TX malignan*	64,192

Concept	#	Cinahl query	Results
	176	tumor	486,986
	177	TX tumor*	162,815
	178	tumour	486,986
	179	TX tumour*	26,499
	180	carcinoma	93,540
	181	TX carcino*	105,458
	182	sarcoma	11,749
	183	TX sarcoma*	13,020
	184	S17 OR S18 OR S19 OR S20 OR S21 OR S22 OR S23 OR	1,088,674
		S24 OR S25 OR S26 OR S27 OR S28 OR S29 OR S30 OR	
		S31 OR S32 OR S33 OR S34 OR S35 OR S36 OR S37 OR	
		S38 OR S39 OR S40 OR S41 OR S42 OR S43 OR S44 OR	
		S45 OR S46 OR S47 OR S48 OR S49 OR S50 OR S51 OR	
		S52 OR S53 OR S54 OR S55 OR S56 OR S57 OR S58 OR	
		S59 OR S60 OR S61 OR S62 OR S63 OR S64 OR S65 OR	
		S66 OR S67 OR S68 OR S69 OR S70 OR S71 OR S72 OR	
		S73 OR S74 OR S75 OR S76 OR S77 OR S78 OR S79 OR	
		S80 OR S81 OR S82 OR S83 OR S84 OR S85 OR S86 OR	
		S87 OR S88 OR S89 OR S90 OR S91 OR S92 OR S93 OR	
		S94 OR S95 OR S96 OR S97 OR S98 OR S99 OR S100 OR	
		S101 OR S102 OR S103 OR S104 OR S105 OR S106 OR	
		S107 OR S108 OR S109 OR S110 OR S111 OR S112 OR	
		S113 OR S114 OR S115 OR S116 OR S117 OR S118 OR	
		S119 OR S120 OR S121 OR S122 OR S123 OR S124 OR	
		S125 OR S126 OR S127 OR S128 OR S129 OR S130 OR	
		S131 OR S132 OR S133 OR S134 OR S135 OR S136 OR	
		S137 OR S138 OR S139 OR S140 OR S141 OR S142 OR	
		S143 OR S144 OR S145 OR S146 OR S147 OR S148 OR	
		S149 OR S150 OR S151 OR S152 OR S153 OR S154 OR	
		S155 OR S156 OR S157 OR S158 OR S159 OR S160 OR	

Concept	#	Cinahl query	Results
		S161 OR S162 OR S163 OR S164 OR S165 OR S166 OR	
		S167 OR S168 OR S169 OR S170 OR S171 OR S172 OR	
		S173 OR S174 OR S175 OR S176 OR S177 OR S178 OR	
		S179 OR S180 OR S181 OR S182 OR S183 OR S184S17	
		OR S18 OR S19 OR S20 OR S21 OR S22 OR S23 OR S24	
		OR S25 OR S26 OR S27 OR S28 OR S29 OR S30 OR S31	
		OR S32 OR S33 OR S34 OR S35 OR S36 OR S37 OR S38	
		OR S39 OR S40 OR S41 OR S42 OR S43 OR S44 OR S45	
		OR S46 OR S47 OR S48 OR S49 OR S50 OR S51 OR S52	
		OR S53 OR S54 OR S55 OR S56 OR S57 OR S58 OR S59	
		OR S60 OR S61 OR S62 OR S63 OR S64 OR S65 OR S66	
		OR S67 OR S68 OR S69 OR S70 OR S71 OR S72 OR S73	
		OR S74 OR S75 OR S76 OR S77 OR S78 OR S79 OR S80	
		OR S81 OR S82 OR S83 OR S84 OR S85 OR S86 OR S87	
		OR S88Show Less	
	185	DT 2016 OR DT 2017 OR DT 2018 OR DT 2019 OR DT	1,736,713
		2020	
	186	S6 AND S15	168
	187	S6 AND S15 AND S184	87
	188	S6 AND S15 AND S184 AND S185	18
	188	S6 AND S15 AND S184 AND S185	18

Toxnet ⁴

Concept	#	Query	Results
FI	1	((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((97,663
		OR fluorid*[Text Word]) OR fluorin*[Text Word]) OR	
		flurin*[Text Word]) OR flurid*[Text Word])))	
Water	2	((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((1,042,045
		Terms]) OR water[Text Word]) OR drinking water[MeSH	
		Terms]) OR drinking water[Text Word]) OR tap	
		water[MeSH Terms]) OR tap water[Text Word]) OR fresh	
		water[MeSH Terms]) OR fresh water*[Text Word]) OR	
		freshwater*[Text Word]) OR water quality[MeSH Terms])	
		OR water qualit*[Text Word]) OR water treatment[MeSH	
		Terms]) OR water treatment*[Text Word]) OR water	
		supply[MeSH Terms]) OR water supply[Text Word]) OR	
		water resource[MeSH Terms]) OR water resource*[Text	
		Word]) OR water reservoir*[Text Word]) OR water	
		course[Text Word]) OR watercourse*[Text Word]) OR	
		river[MeSH Terms]) OR river*[Text Word]) OR lake[MeSH	
		Terms]) OR lake*[Text Word]) OR pond[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		pond*[Text Word]) OR ground water[MeSH Terms]) OR	

 $^{^{\}rm 4}$ The toxicology literature database for the National Institutes of Health, USA

Concept	#	Query	Results
		ground water*[Text Word]) OR groundwater*[Text Word])	
		OR water well[MeSH Terms]) OR water well*[Text Word])	
		OR mineral water[MeSH Terms]) OR mineral water*[Text	
		Word]) OR carbonated water[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		carbonated water*[Text Word]) OR natural spring[MeSH	
		Terms]) OR natural spring*[Text Word]) OR thermal	
		spring*[Text Word]) OR hot spring[MeSH Terms]) OR hot	
		spring*[Text Word]) OR hotspring*[Text Word]) OR spring	
		water[MeSH Terms]) OR spring water*[Text Word]) OR	
		springwater*[Text Word]) OR stream[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		stream*[Text Word]) OR brook*[Text Word]) OR	
		creek*[Text Word]) OR rivulet*[Text Word]) OR rill*[Text	
		Word]) OR runnel*[Text Word]) OR community	
		water[MeSH Terms]) OR community water*[Text Word])	
		OR community water fluoridation[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		community water fluoridation[Text Word]) OR water	
		fluoridation*[Text Word]	
Outcomes	3	((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((8,864,251
		OR neoplasm[MeSH Terms]) OR neoplas*[Text Word]) OR	
		malignancy[MeSH Terms]) OR malignan*[Text Word]) OR	
		carcinoma[MeSH Terms]) OR carcino*[Text Word]) OR	
		sarcoma[MeSH Terms]) OR sarco*[Text Word]) OR	
		tumor[MeSH Terms]) OR tumor*[Text Word]) OR	
		tumour[MeSH Terms]) OR tumour*[Text Word])) OR	
		((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((
		OR bone disease*[Text Word]) OR bone disorder*[Text	
		Word]) OR bone injur*[Text Word]) OR bone	
		fracture[MeSH Terms]) OR bone* fracture*[Text Word])	
		OR bone* trauma*[Text Word]) OR bone* damage*[Text	
		Word]) OR skelet* disease*[Text Word]) OR skelet*	

Concept # Query Results

disorder*[Text Word]) OR skelet* injur*[Text Word]) OR skelet* fracture*[Text Word]) OR skelet* trauma*[Text Word]) OR skelet* damage*[Text Word]) OR bone neoplasm[MeSH Terms]) OR bone* neoplas*[Text Word]) OR bone cancer[MeSH Terms]) OR bone* cancer*[Text Word]) OR bone* tumor*[Text Word]) OR bone* tumour*[Text Word]) OR osteosarcoma[MeSH Terms]) OR osteosarcoma*[Text Word]) OR skelet* neoplas*[Text Word]) OR skelet* cancer*[Text Word]) OR skelet* tumor*[Text Word]) OR skelet* tumour*[Text Word]) OR bone development[MeSH Terms]) OR bone* development[Text Word]) OR osteogenesis[MeSH Terms]) OR osteogenesis[Text Word]) OR skelet* development[Text Word]) OR skeletogenesis[Text Word])) endocrin* disease*[Text Word]) OR endocrin* disorder*[Text Word]) OR endocrin disturbance*[Text Word]) OR endocrin* disruption*[Text Word]) OR endocrin* dysfunction*[Text Word]) OR endocrinopath*[Text Word]) OR hormon* disease*[Text Word]) OR hormon* disorder*[Text Word]) OR hormon* disturbance*[Text Word]) OR hormon* disruption*[Text Word]) OR hormon* dysfunction*[Text Word]) OR hormon* imbalance*[Text Word]) OR thyroid disease[MeSH Terms]) OR thyroid* disease*[Text Word]) OR thyroid dysgenesis[MeSH Terms]) OR thyroid* dysgenesis[Text Word]) OR thyroid* disorder*[Text Word]) OR thyroid* abnormal*[Text Word]) OR thyroid* anomal*[Text Word]) OR thyroid* dysfunction*[Text Word])) OR

Concept # Query Results

OR mental disorder*[Text Word]) OR mental disease*[Text Word]) OR mental disturbance*[Text Word]) OR mental illness*[Text Word]) OR neurodevelopment* disease*[Text Word]) OR neurodevelopment* disorder*[Text Word]) OR neurodevelopment* disabilit*[Text Word]) OR neurodevelopment* dela*[Text Word]) OR ((developmental disorder, speech or language[MeSH Terms]))) OR developmental disorders of scholastic skills[MeSH Terms]) OR development* disorder*[Text Word]) OR developmental disability[MeSH Terms]) OR development* disabilit*[Text Word]) OR developmental delay disorder[MeSH Terms]) OR development* dela*[Text Word]) OR development* abnormalit*[Text Word]) OR development* impairment*[Text Word]) OR intellectual disability[MeSH Terms]) OR intellectual* disabilit*[Text Word]) OR aphasia, intellectual[MeSH Terms]) OR intellectual aphasia*[Text Word]) OR intellectual impairment*[Text Word]) OR intellectual dysfunction*[Text Word]) OR delirium, dementia, amnestic, cognitive disorders[MeSH Terms]) OR cognition disorders[MeSH Terms]) OR cognit* disorder*[Text Word]) OR mild cognitive impairment[MeSH Terms]) OR cogniti* impair*[Text Word]) OR cogniti* disease*[Text Word]) OR cogniti* defect*[Text Word]) OR cogniti* deficit*[Text Word]) OR cogniti* disabilit*[Text Word]) OR cogniti* disease[MeSH Terms]) OR immunologic* disease*[Text Word]) OR immunologic* disorder*[Text Word]) OR immunologic* dysfunction*[Text Word]) OR immunologic* dysregulat*[Text Word]) OR immediate

Concept	#	Query	Results
		hypersensitivity[MeSH Terms]) OR delayed	
		hypersensitivity[MeSH Terms]) OR hypersensitivit*[Text	
		Word]) OR immunopath*[Text Word]) OR genotoxic*[Text	
		Word]) OR male urogenital disease[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		female urogenital disease[MeSH Terms]) OR urogenit*	
		disease*[Text Word]) OR urogenit* disorder*[Text Word])	
		OR male genitourinary disease[MeSH Terms]) OR female	
		genitourinary disease[MeSH Terms]) OR genitourin*	
		disease*[Text Word]) OR genitourin* disorder*[Text Word])	
		OR health risk appraisal[MeSH Terms]) OR health	
		risk*[Text Word]) OR health hazard*[Text Word])))	
Toxicology	4	tox [subset]	5,639,829
FI + water	5	1 AND 2	14,344
FI + water	6	1 AND 2 AND 3	1,400
+			
outcomes			
FI + water	7	1 AND 2 AND 3 AND 4	940
+			
outcomes			
(toxicology)			
2016-		limit 7 to yr="2016 -Current"	215
current			

PAIS Index

Concept	#	PAIS query	Results
Fluoride	1	su(fluoride) OR su(Fluorides) OR su(fluoridation) OR	223
		su(fluoridation of water) OR su(fluoridation of drinking water)	
Water	2	su(Water) OR su(tap water) OR su(drinking water) OR su(tap	26,939
		water and drinking water) OR su(Water Quality) OR su(water	
		safety) OR su(water treatment)	
	3	su(Ground Water) OR su(water wells) OR su(Rivers) OR su(Lakes)	7,094
		OR su(Ponds) OR su(Water Sources)	
	4	su(mineral water) OR su(carbonated water) OR su(spring water)	223
		OR su(Hot Springs)	
	5	(su(Water) OR su(tap water) OR su(drinking water) OR su(tap	30,512
		water AND drinking water) OR su(Water Quality) OR su(water	
		safety) OR su(water treatment)) OR (su(Ground Water) OR	
		su(water wells) OR su(Rivers) OR su(Lakes) OR su(Ponds) OR	
		su(Water Sources)) OR (su(mineral water) OR su(carbonated	
		water) OR su(spring water) OR su(Hot Springs))	
Fluoride	6	(su(fluoride) OR su(Fluorides) OR su(fluoridation) OR	179
+ water		su(fluoridation of water) OR su(fluoridation of drinking water)) AND	
		((su(Water) OR su(tap water) OR su(drinking water) OR su(tap	

Concept	#	PAIS query	Results
		water AND drinking water) OR su(Water Quality) OR su(water	
		safety) OR su(water treatment)) OR (su(Ground Water) OR	
		su(water wells) OR su(Rivers) OR su(Lakes) OR su(Ponds) OR	
		su(Water Sources)) OR (su(mineral water) OR su(carbonated	
		water) OR su(spring water) OR su(Hot Springs)))	

Health Technology Assessment

Concept	#	Medline query	
			Results
Fluoride	1	exp Fluorides/	4
	2	exp Fluoridation/	2
	3	fluorid*.tw.	11
	4	fluorin*.tw.	1
	5	flurin*.tw.	0
	6	flurid*.tw.	0
	7	or/1-6	12
Water	8	exp Water/	6

	9	drinking water.tw.	1
	10	tap water*.tw.	3
	11	exp water supply/	4
	12	(water* adj3 suppl*).tw.	3
	13	(water* adj3 treatment*).tw.	1
	14	exp Water Purification/	1
	15	(water* adj3 purification).tw.	1
	16	lake*.tw.	7
	17	pond*.tw.	1
	18	ground water*.tw.	0
	19	exp mineral waters/	1
	20	mineral water*.tw.	1
	21	hot spring*.tw.	1
	22	communit* water*.tw.	0
	23	or/8-22	24
Fluoride +	24	7 and 23	3
water			

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)

Concept	#	CDSR query	
			Results
Fluoride	1	fluoride.mp. [mp=title, abstract, full text, keywords, caption text]	87
	2	fluoridation.mp. [mp=title, abstract, full text, keywords, caption text]	19
	3	fluorin*.mp. [mp=title, abstract, full text, keywords, caption text]	19
	4	flurin*.mp. [mp=title, abstract, full text, keywords, caption text]	2
	5	flurid*.mp. [mp=title, abstract, full text, keywords, caption text]	2
	6	or/1-5	107
Water	7	water.mp. [mp=title, abstract, full text, keywords, caption text]	1,236
	8	drinking water.mp. [mp=title, abstract, full text, keywords, caption text]	53
	9	tap water.mp. [mp=title, abstract, full text, keywords, caption text]	34
	10	(water adj3 fluorid*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, full text, keywords, caption text]	21
	11	community water*.mp. [mp=title, abstract, full text, keywords, caption text]	4
	12	fresh water.mp. [mp=title, abstract, full text, keywords, caption text]	8
	13	freshwater.mp. [mp=title, abstract, full text, keywords, caption text]	11
	14	ground water.mp. [mp=title, abstract, full text, keywords, caption text]	3
	15	groundwater.mp. [mp=title, abstract, full text, keywords, caption text]	3

Concept	#	CDSR query	
			Results
	16	(water* adj3 well*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, full text,	25
		keywords, caption text]	
	17	mineral water*.mp. [mp=title, abstract, full text, keywords,	12
		caption text]	
	18	carbonated water*.mp. [mp=title, abstract, full text,	2
		keywords, caption text]	
	19	spring water*.mp. [mp=title, abstract, full text, keywords,	1
		caption text]	
	20	(water* adj3 resource*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, full text,	4
		keywords, caption text]	
	21	(water* adj3 source*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, full text,	31
		keywords, caption text]	
	22	(water* adj3 suppl*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, full text,	60
		keywords, caption text]	
	23	river*.mp. [mp=title, abstract, full text, keywords, caption	222
		text]	
	24	lake*.mp. [mp=title, abstract, full text, keywords, caption	87
		text]	
	25	pond*.mp. [mp=title, abstract, full text, keywords, caption	72
		text]	
	26	or/7-25	1,535
Fluoride +	27	6 and 26	46
water			
2016 - current	28	limit 27 to last 5 years	28

Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL)

Concept	#	CENTRAL query	Results
Fluoride	1	exp fluorides/	2,477
	2	exp Fluoridation/	35

Concept	#	CENTRAL query	Results
	3	fluorid*.tw.	4,442
	4	fluorin*.tw.	322
	5	flurin*.tw.	1
	6	flurid*.tw.	8
	7	or/1-6	5,265
Water	8	water/	1,909
	9	exp Drinking Water/	116
	10	drinking water.tw.	756
	11	tap water.tw.	528
	12	tapwater.tw.	5
	13	exp Water Quality/	34
	14	(water adj3 quality).tw.	256
	15	community water.tw.	12
	16	water fluoridation.tw.	17
	17	exp groundwater/	17
	18	groundwater*.tw.	38
	19	ground water*.tw.	10
	20	exp Water Wells/	5
	21	(water* adj3 well*).tw.	238
	22	exp Natural Springs/	10
	23	natural spring*.tw.	7
	24	hot spring*.tw.	29
	25	springwater.tw.	2
	26	spring water*.tw.	46
	27	exp Mineral Waters/	127
	28	minteral water*.tw.	-
	29	exp Carbonated Water/	6
	30	carbonated water*.tw.	43
	31	exp fresh water/	31
	32	fresh water*.tw.	42

Concept	#	CENTRAL query	Results
	33	freshwater*.tw.	47
	34	exp Lakes/	4
	35	lake*.tw.	717
	36	exp Ponds/	-
	37	pond*.tw.	262
	38	exp Rivers/	4
	39	river*.tw.	737
	40	exp water supply/	166
	41	(water* adj3 suppl*).tw.	399
	42	or/8-41	5,743
Fluoride +	43	7 and 42	191
water			
2016 - current	44	limit 43 to yr="2016 -Current"	34

Cochrane Library (Wiley)

Concept	#	Cochrane query	Results
	1	MeSH descriptor: [Fluorides] in all MeSH products	2489
	2	MeSH descriptor: [Fluoridation] explode all trees	38
	3	(fluorid*):ti,ab,kw	4917
	4	#1 OR #2 OR #3	5001
	5	MeSH descriptor: [Drinking Water] explode all trees	125
	6	MeSH descriptor: [Water Quality] explode all trees	35
	7	#5 OR #6	144
	8	MeSH descriptor: [Bone Development] explode all trees	748
	9	MeSH descriptor: [Bone Diseases] explode all trees	12566
	10	MeSH descriptor: [Fractures, Bone] explode all trees	5600
	11	MeSH descriptor: [Bone Neoplasms] explode all trees	1195
	12	MeSH descriptor: [Osteosarcoma] explode all trees	250
		MeSH descriptor: [Endocrine System Diseases] explode	
	13	all trees	38563
	14	MeSH descriptor: [Endocrine Disruptors] explode all trees	8

Concept	#	Cochrane query	Results
	15	MeSH descriptor: [Thyroid Diseases] explode all trees	2024
	16	MeSH descriptor: [Thyroid Dysgenesis] explode all trees	1
	17	MeSH descriptor: [Thyroid Neoplasms] explode all trees	582
		MeSH descriptor: [Neurodevelopmental Disorders]	
	18	explode all trees	7150
	19	MeSH descriptor: [Learning Disorders] explode all trees	587
	20	MeSH descriptor: [Agnosia] explode all trees	84
	21	MeSH descriptor: [Agraphia] explode all trees	11
	23	MeSH descriptor: [Aphasia] explode all trees	384
	24	MeSH descriptor: [Intellectual Disability] explode all trees	1329
		MeSH descriptor: [Neurocognitive Disorders] explode all	
	25	trees	10105
		MeSH descriptor: [Cognitive Dysfunction] explode all	
	26	trees	1120
		MeSH descriptor: [Immune System Diseases] explode all	
	27	trees	54798
	28	MeSH descriptor: [Hypersensitivity] explode all trees	19545
		MeSH descriptor: [Genital Diseases, Male] explode all	
	29	trees	13646
		MeSH descriptor: [Genital Neoplasms, Male] explode all	
	30	trees	5396
	31	MeSH descriptor: [Genitalia, Male] explode all trees	2016
		MeSH descriptor: [Genital Diseases, Female] explode all	
	32	trees	15775
		MeSH descriptor: [Genital Neoplasms, Female] explode	
	33	all trees	5152
	34	MeSH descriptor: [Genitalia, Female] explode all trees	5124
		MeSH descriptor: [Male Urogenital Diseases] explode all	
	35	trees	37705

Concept	#	Cochrane query	Results
		MeSH descriptor: [Female Urogenital Diseases] explode	
	36	all trees	40677
		#8 OR #9 OR #10 OR #11 OR #12 OR #13 OR #14 OR	
		#15 OR #16 OR #17 OR #18 OR #19 OR #20 OR #21	
		OR #22 OR #23 OR #24 OR #25 OR #26 OR #27 OR	
		#28 OR #29 OR #30 OR #31 OR #32 OR #33 OR #34	
	37	OR #35 OR #36	163780
	38	#4 AND #7	1
	39	#4 AND #7 AND # 37	0

Clinical Trial Registries

Trial Database	Results	Comment
World Health Organization	104	Completed trials, with results
European Union	7	Completed trials, with results
ISRCTN	18	Completed trials, with results
US Clinical Trials	161	Completed trials, with results
UK Clinical Trials gateway	0	
Health Canada	10	Ongoing trials, no results available

Grey Literature (18 sources)

Resource	Results	Strategy
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)	0	Fluoride
CAB Direct	239	FI, water and outcomes
Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH)	0	Fluoride
Canadian Public Documents Collection	30	Fluoride (title or abstract)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	4	
Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD)	0	Fluoride
Conference Board E-Library	0	Fluoride
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	2	
Grey Literature Publishers List - International (The New York Academy of Medicine)	0	Fluoride (title or summary)
Grey literature Report	0	Fluoride
Health Quality Ontario	0	Fluoride
Health Systems Evidence	0	Fluoride
National Cancer Institute	2	
National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)	0	Fluoride
National Library of Medicine (MedlinePlus)	6	Fluoride
National Institutes of Health	3	
TRIP Database	10	Fluoride and water

Resource	Results	Strategy
World Catalogue (Worldcat)	40	Fluoride and water

Section 2. Excluded human studies (with reasons for exclusion)

(Studies arranged by exclusion level, reason for exclusion, then alphabetically by first author's last name)

Le	Bibliography	Reason for exclusion
vel		
L1	Abouleish, M. Y. Z. (2016). Evaluation of fluoride	Duplicate reference
	levels in bottled water and their contribution to health	
	and teeth problems in the United Arab Emirates Saudi	
	Dental Journal, 28(4), 194-202	
L1	Alarcón-Herrera, M. T., Martin-Alarcon, D.	Duplicate reference
	A.,Gutiérrez, M.,Reynoso-Cuevas, L.,Martín-	
	Domínguez, A.,Olmos-Márquez, M. A.,Bundschuh, J.	
	(2020). Co-occurrence, possible origin, and health-	
	risk assessment of arsenic and fluoride in drinking	
	water sources in Mexico: geographical data	
	visualization Science of the Total Environment,	
	698(#issue#), 134168	
L1	Altine, B., Gai, Y., Han, N., Jiang, Y., Ji, H., Fang,	Duplicate reference
	H.,Niyonkuru, A.,Bakari, K. H.,Rajab Arnous, M.	
	M.,Liu, Q.,Zhang, Y.,Lan, X. (2019). Preclinical	
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L2	Jayasinghe, S.,Zhu, Y. G. (2020). Chronic kidney disease of unknown etiology (CKDu): Using a system dynamics model to conceptualize the multiple environmental causative pathways of the epidemic Science of the Total Environment, 705 (no	No relevant health outcomes

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vel	Bibliography	Reason for exclusion
	maningtion/(405700) #Dana#	
	pagination)(135766), #Pages#	
L2	Kanagaraj, G.,Elango, L. (2019). Chromium and	No relevant health
	fluoride contamination in groundwater around leather	outcomes
	tanning industries in southern India: Implications from	
	stable isotopic ratio δ53Cr/δ52Cr, geochemical and	
	geostatistical modelling Chemosphere, 220(#issue#),	
	943-953	
L2	Karunanidhi, D., Aravinthasamy, P., Roy, P.	No relevant health
	D., Praveenkumar, R. M., Prasanth, K., Selvapraveen,	outcomes
	S.,Thowbeekrahman, A.,Subramani,	
	T., Srinivasamoorthy, K. (2020). Evaluation of non-	
	carcinogenic risks due to fluoride and nitrate	
	contaminations in a groundwater of an urban part	
	(Coimbatore region) of south India Environ Monit	
	Assess, 192(2), 102	
L2	Kaur, L., Rishi, M. S., Siddiqui, A. U. (2020).	No relevant health
	Deterministic and probabilistic health risk assessment	outcomes
	techniques to evaluate non-carcinogenic human	
	health risk (NHHR) due to fluoride and nitrate in	
	groundwater of Panipat, Haryana, India Environ Pollut,	
	259(#issue#), 113711	
L2	Kazi, T. G.,Brahman, K. D.,Baig, J. A.,Afridi, H. I.	No relevant health
	(2019). Bioaccumulation of arsenic and fluoride in	outcomes
	vegetables from growing media: health risk	
	assessment among different age groups Environ	
	Geochem Health, 41(3), 1223-1234	
L2	Keramati, H., Miri, A., Baghaei, M., Rahimizadeh,	No relevant health
	, , , , , , ,	-

Le vel	Bibliography	Reason for exclusion
	A.,Ghorbani, R.,Fakhri, Y.,Bay, A.,Moradi, M.,Bahmani, Z.,Ghaderpoori, M.,Mousavi Khaneghah, A. (2019). Fluoride in Iranian Drinking Water Resources: a Systematic Review, Meta-analysis and Non-carcinogenic Risk Assessment Biol Trace Elem Res, 188(2), 261-273	outcomes
L2	Kumar, S.,Singh, R.,Venkatesh, A. S.,Udayabhanu, G.,Sahoo, P. R. (2019). Medical Geological assessment of fluoride contaminated groundwater in parts of Indo-Gangetic Alluvial plains Sci Rep, 9(1), 16243	No relevant health outcomes
L2	Li, Y., Wang, S., Nan, Z., Zang, F., Sun, H., Zhang, Q., Huang, W., Bao, L. (2019). Accumulation, fractionation and health risk assessment of fluoride and heavy metals in soil-crop systems in northwest China Sci Total Environ, 663(#issue#), 307-314	No relevant health outcomes
L2	Marghade, D., Malpe, D. B., Subba Rao, N. (2019). Applications of geochemical and multivariate statistical approaches for the evaluation of groundwater quality and human health risks in a semi-arid region of eastern Maharashtra, India Environ Geochem Health, #volume#(#issue#), #Pages#	No relevant health outcomes
L2	Mejare, I. (2018). Current Guidance for Fluoride Intake: Is It Appropriate? Advances in dental research, 29(2), 167-176	No relevant health outcomes
L2	Mirzabeygi Rad Fard, M., Yousefi, M., Soleimani, H., Mohammadi, A. A., Mahvi, A. H., Abbasnia, A.	No relevant health outcomes

Le vel	Bibliography	Reason for exclusion
	(2018). The concentration data of fluoride and health risk assessment in drinking water in the Ardakan city of Yazd province, Iran Data Brief, 18(#issue#), 40-46	
L2	Mukherjee, I.,Singh, U. K.,Patra, P. K. (2019). Exploring a multi-exposure-pathway approach to assess human health risk associated with groundwater fluoride exposure in the semi-arid region of east India Chemosphere, 233(#issue#), 164-173	No relevant health outcomes
L2	Narsimha, A., Sanda, Rajitha (2018). Spatial distribution and seasonal variation in fluoride enrichment in groundwater and its associated human health risk assessment in Telangana State, South India Human and Ecological Risk Assessment, 24(8), 2119-2132	No relevant health outcomes
L2	Narsimha, A., Sudarshan, V. (2018). Data on fluoride concentration levels in semi-arid region of Medak, Telangana, South India Data in Brief, 16(#issue#), 717-723	No relevant health outcomes
L2	Narsimha, A., Sudarshan, V. (2018). Drinking water pollution with respective of fluoride in the semi-arid region of Basara, Nirmal district, Telangana State, India Data Brief, 16(#issue#), 752-757	No relevant health outcomes
L2	Noda, Grace (2016). The Controversy over Community Water Fluoridation : an Analysis of its Effects and Reasons Behind the Arguments #journal#, #volume#(#issue#), #Pages#	No relevant health outcomes

Le vel	Bibliography	Reason for exclusion
L2	Qasemi, M., Afsharnia, M., Zarei, A., Farhang, M., Allahdadi, M. (2019). Non-carcinogenic risk assessment to human health due to intake of fluoride in the groundwater in rural areas of Gonabad and Bajestan, Iran: a case study Human and Ecological Risk Assessment, 25(5), 1222-1233	No relevant health outcomes
L2	Radfard, M.,Rahmatinia, M.,Akbari, H.,Hashemzadeh, B.,Akbari, H.,Adibzadeh, A. (2018). Data on health risk assessment of fluoride in water distribution network of Iranshahr, Iran Data Brief, 20(#issue#), 1446-1452	No relevant health outcomes
L2	Samuel, O. A., PraiseGod, E. C., Theophilus, T. I., Omolola, K. C. (2018). Human health risk assessment data of trace elements concentration in tap water-Abeokuta South, Nigeria Data Brief, 18(#issue#), 1416-1426	No relevant health outcomes
L2	Singh, G., Kumari, B., Sinam, G., Kriti,, Kumar, N., Mallick, S. (2018). Fluoride distribution and contamination in the water, soil and plants continuum and its remedial technologies, an Indian perspectivea review Environ Pollut, 239(#issue#), 95-108	No relevant health outcomes
L2	Singh, G.,Rishi, M. S.,Herojeet, R.,Kaur, L.,Sharma, K. (2019). Evaluation of groundwater quality and human health risks from fluoride and nitrate in semi-arid region of northern India Environ Geochem Health, #volume#(#issue#), #Pages#	No relevant health outcomes
L2	Sisay, T.,Beyene, A.,Alemayehu, E. (2017).	No relevant health

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Le vel	Bibliography	Reason for exclusion
	Spatiotemporal variability of drinking water quality and the associated health risks in southwestern towns of Ethiopia Environ Monit Assess, 189(11), 569	outcomes
L2	Valeeva, E. R.,Ismagilova, G. A.,Stepanova, N. V.,Serazetdinova, F. I.,Saifullin, R. R.,Iliasova, A. R. (2017). Assessment of adolescents' exposure to non-carcinogenic risk associated with drinking water Journal of Pharmacy Research, 11(10), 1209-1213	No relevant health outcomes
L2	Yadav, K. K., Kumar, V., Gupta, N., Kumar, S., Rezania, S., Singh, N. (2019). Human health risk assessment: Study of a population exposed to fluoride through groundwater of Agra city, India Regul Toxicol Pharmacol, 106(#issue#), 68-80	No relevant health outcomes
L2	Yousefi, M., Asghari, F. B., Zuccarello, P., Conti, G. O., Ejlali, A., Mohammadi, A. A., Ferrante, M. (2019). Spatial distribution variation and probabilistic risk assessment of exposure to fluoride in ground water supplies: A case study in an endemic fluorosis region of northwest Iran International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 16 (4) (no pagination)(564), #Pages#	No relevant health outcomes
L2	Yousefi, M.,Ghalehaskar, S.,Asghari, F. B.,Ghaderpoury, A.,Dehghani, M. H.,Ghaderpoori, M.,Mohammadi, A. A. (2019). Distribution of fluoride contamination in drinking water resources and health risk assessment using geographic information system, northwest Iran Regul Toxicol Pharmacol,	No relevant health outcomes

Le vel	Bibliography	Reason for exclusion
	107(#issue#), 104408	
L2	Yousefi, M., Ghoochani, M., Hossein Mahvi, A. (2018). Health risk assessment to fluoride in drinking water of rural residents living in the Poldasht city, Northwest of Iran Ecotoxicol Environ Saf, 148(#issue#), 426-430	No relevant health outcomes
L2	Yu, J.,Zhou, J.,Long, A.,He, X.,Deng, X.,Chen, Y. (2019). A comparative study of water quality and human health risk assessment in longevity area and adjacent non-longevity area International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 16 (19) (no pagination)(3737), #Pages#	No relevant health outcomes
L2	Yuan, L.,Fei, W.,Jia, F.,Jun-Ping, L.,Qi, L.,Fang-Ru, N.,Xu-Dong, L.,Shu-Lian, X. (2020). Health risk in children to fluoride exposure in a typical endemic fluorosis area on Loess Plateau, north China, in the last decade Chemosphere, 243(#issue#), 125451	No relevant health outcomes
L2	Zhang, L.,Zhao, L.,Zeng, Q.,Fu, G.,Feng, B.,Lin, X.,Liu, Z.,Wang, Y.,Hou, C. (2020). Spatial distribution of fluoride in drinking water and health risk assessment of children in typical fluorosis areas in north China Chemosphere, 239(#issue#), 124811	No relevant health outcomes
L2	Kanduti, D., Sterbenk, P., Artnik, B. (2016). The use of fluoride and its effect on health. [Slovene] Zdravniski Vestnik, 85(5-6), 348-353	Non-English reference
L2	Ortega-Romero, M. S., Hernandez Sanchez, A. M., Medeiros-Domingo, M., Barbier, O. (2016). Evaluation of risk factors for renal disease in a	Non-English reference

Le vel	Bibliography	Reason for exclusion
	pediatric Mexican meztizo population from Apizaco in Tlaxcala Mexico Toxicology Letters, 259 (Supplement 1)(#issue#), S242	
L2	Yan, RuiXia,Xu, Rui,Zhou, Yuan,Li, YanGuo,Pang, YaXian,Liu, Jia,Hu, XiaoHong,Yang, FengYan,Wen, SongChen,Zhang, LiPing,Ren, JianLi,Liu, MingQing (2019). Effects of iodine and fluoride content in drinking water on prevalence of adults thyroid nodules in Cangzhou, Hebei Chinese Journal of Endemiology, 38(6), 472-475	Non-English reference
L2	Yan, RuiXia,Zhou, Yuan,Li, YanGuo,Xu, Rui,Li, ShuZhen,Wen, SongChen,Li, XiaoMei,Zhang, LiPing,Meng, YuJun,Ren, JianLi,Liu, MingQing (2019). Detection of thyroid nodules in children from areas with different drinking water iodine and fluoride contents in Cangzhou, Hebei Province Journal of Environmental & Docupational Medicine, 36(5), 470-473, 478	Non-English reference
L2	Abdur, Rashid,Guan, DongXing,Abida, Farooqi,Sardar, Khan,Salman, Zahir,Shah, Jehan,Khattak, S. A.,Khan, M. S.,Raees, Khan (2018). Fluoride prevalence in groundwater around a fluorite mining area in the flood plain of the River Swat, Pakistan Science of the Total Environment, 635(#issue#), 203-215	Only dental outcome
L2	Li, Z., Yang, K., Xie, C., Yang, Q., Lei, X., Wang, H. (2019). Assessment of potential health risk of major	Only dental outcome

Le vel	Bibliography	Reason for exclusion
	contaminants of groundwater in a densely populated agricultural area Environ Geochem Health, #volume#(#issue#), #Pages#	
L2	Rashid, A., Farooqi, A., Gao, X., Zahir, S., Noor, S., Khattak, J. A. (2020). Geochemical modeling, source apportionment, health risk exposure and control of higher fluoride in groundwater of sub-district Dargai, Pakistan Chemosphere, 243(#issue#), 125409	Only dental outcome
L2	Sezgin, B. I.,Onur, S. G.,Mentes, A.,Okutan, A. E.,Haznedaroglu, E.,Vieira, A. R. (2018). Two-fold excess of fluoride in the drinking water has no obvious health effects other than dental fluorosis J Trace Elem Med Biol, 50(#issue#), 216-222	Only dental outcome
L2	Alaska Nurses Association, (2018). An Emerging Threat to Drinking Water and Public Health: Forever Chemicals Alaska Nurse, 69(1), 5-8	Other fluoride/water type
L2	Chang, W., Wang, L., Zhang, Y., Wang, M., Wang, Y., Li, P. (2019). A review of sources, multimedia distribution and health risks of novel fluorinated alternatives Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety, 182 (no pagination)(109402), #Pages#	Other fluoride/water type
L2	Chubaka, Chirhakarhula (2019). Roof Harvested Rainwater in the Adelaide Region, South Australia #journal#, #volume#(#issue#), #Pages#	Other fluoride/water type
L2	Duan, Q ,Li, Y ,Lei, P ,Chen, X ,Guan, Z (2019). Skeletal Features of Children Living in the Area of	Other fluoride/water type

Le vel	Bibliography	Reason for exclusion
	Coal-Burning Type of Endemic Fluorosis Detected by X-Ray Imaging XXXIVth Conference of the International Society For Fluoride Research, 52(1), 86	
L2	Fan, Z.,Gao, Y.,Wang, W.,Gong, H.,Guo, M.,Zhao, S.,Liu, X.,Yu, B.,Sun, D. (2016). Prevalence of Brick Tea-Type Fluorosis in the Tibet Autonomous Region J Epidemiol, 26(2), 57-63	Other fluoride/water type
L2	Ghosh, S.,Rabha, R.,Chowdhury, M.,Padhy, P. K. (2018). Source and chemical species characterization of PM10 and human health risk assessment of semi-urban, urban and industrial areas of West Bengal, India Chemosphere, 207(#issue#), 626-636	Other fluoride/water type
L2	Guan, Z ,Wang, Y ,Duan, Q,Liu, R ,Li, F,Xu, S ,Yang, G ,Deng, J ,Li, Y ,Wu, C ,Liu, Y We, N ,Dong, Y,Qi, X ,Yu, W (2019). Basic Investigation and Clinic Treatment for the Coal-Burning Type of Endemic Fluorosis in Guizhou, China XXXIVth Conference of the International Society For Fluoride Research, 52(1), 83-84	Other fluoride/water type
L2	larc Working Group on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risk to Humans (2017). IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans Some Chemicals Used as Solvents and in Polymer Manufacture, #volume#(#issue#), #Pages#	Other fluoride/water type
L2	Mastrantonio, M.,Bai, E.,Uccelli, R.,Cordiano, V.,Screpanti, A.,Crosignani, P. (2018). Drinking water contamination from perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):	Other fluoride/water type

Le vel	Bibliography	Reason for exclusion
	an ecological mortality study in the Veneto Region, Italy Eur J Public Health, 28(1), 180-185	
L2	Medline Plus, (2017). Fluoride #journal#, #volume#(#issue#), #Pages#	Other fluoride/water type
L2	Medline Plus, (2017). Fluoride Overdose #journal#, #volume#(#issue#), #Pages#	Other fluoride/water type
L2	Medline Plus, (2018). Osteosclerosis #journal#, #volume#(#issue#), #Pages#	Other fluoride/water type
L2	Negm, A. M (2017). The Nile Delta #journal#, #volume#(#issue#), #Pages#	Other fluoride/water type
L2	Spitz, J (2019). Genetic, Epigenetic and Environmental Factors: The Triangle of Health XXXIVth Conference of the International Society For Fluoride Research, 52(1), 78-79	Other fluoride/water type
L2	Struneckà, A ,Strunecky, O (2019). Neurotoxicity of Fluoride: Autism Spectrum Disorders XXXIVth Conference of the International Society For Fluoride Research, 52(1), 77	Other fluoride/water type
L2	Davoudi, M ,Mahvi, A H,Barjasteh-Askari, F Bazrafshan, E,Sarmadi, M,Ghorbani, M,Yaseri, M (2019). Relationship of fluoride in drinking water with hypertension prevalence and blood pressure. PROSPERO 2019 CRD42019138629 #journal#, #volume#(#issue#), #Pages#	Research protocol
L2	Frazão, P,Belotti, L (2019). Effectiveness of fluoridation of public water supply in Brazil -	Research protocol

Le vel	Bibliography	Reason for exclusion	
	systematic review. PROSPERO 2019 CRD42019142050 #journal#, #volume#(#issue#), #Pages#		
L2	Rosário, H,Rosário, B,Vieira, W,Cericato, G,Nóbrega, D,Paranhos, L R (2019). External control of fluoride concentration in public water supply in Brazilian cities: a meta-analysis. PROSPERO 2019 CRD42019120870 #journal#, #volume#(#issue#), #Pages#	Research protocol	
L2	Alarcon-Herrera, M. T.,Martin-Alarcon, D. A.,Gutierrez, M.,Reynoso-Cuevas, L.,Martin- Dominguez, A.,Olmos-Marquez, M. A.,Bundschuh, J. (2020). Co-occurrence, possible origin, and health- risk assessment of arsenic and fluoride in drinking water sources in Mexico: Geographical data visualization Sci Total Environ, 698(#issue#), 134168	Used reference concentration	
L2	Bai, X.,Song, K.,Liu, J.,Mohamed, A. K.,Mou, C.,Liu, D. (2019). Health risk assessment of groundwater contaminated by oil pollutants based on numerical modeling International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 16 (18) (no pagination)(3245), #Pages#	Used reference concentration	
L2	Jolović, B., Stevanović, A., Nogić, M. (2017). Causes of increased concentration of fluorides in groundwater in Srebrenica municipality Journal of Engineering & Engineering & Processing Management, 9(1), 69-75	Used reference concentration	
L2	Levine, K. E., Redmon, J. H., Elledge, M.	Used reference	

Le vel	Bibliography	Reason for exclusion
	F., Wanigasuriya, K. P., Smith, K., Munoz, B., Waduge, V. A., Periris-John, R. J., Nalini, Sathiakumar, Harrington, J. M., Womack, D. S., Rajitha, Wickremasinghe (2016). Quest to identify geochemical risk factors associated with chronic kidney disease of unknown etiology (CKDu) in an endemic region of Sri Lanka - a multimedia laboratory analysis of biological, food, and environmental samples Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, 188(10), 548	concentration
L2	Li, Y., Wang, F., Feng, J., Lv, J. P., Liu, Q., Nan, F. R., Zhang, W., Qu, W. Y., Xie, S. L. (2019). Long term spatial-temporal dynamics of fluoride in sources of drinking water and associated health risks in a semiarid region of Northern China Ecotoxicol Environ Saf, 171(#issue#), 274-280	Used reference concentration
L2	Odiyo, J. O.,Makungo, R. (2018). Chemical and microbial quality of groundwater in Siloam village, implications to human health and sources of contamination International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 15(2), 317	Used reference concentration
L2	Ranasinghe, N.,Kruger, E.,Chandrajith, R.,Tennant, M. (2018). Groundwater fluoride in Sri Lanka: opportunities to mitigate the risk at maximum contaminant level Ceylon Med J, 63(4), 174-179	Used reference concentration

Section 3. Data abstraction and risk of bias assessment - human studies

(Studies arranged in a descending chronological order then alphabetically by author's last name)

Mercado 2023 [1]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	"The higher
Original study	Fluoride levels in:	 Dental fluorosis 	 Descriptive analysis 	concentration of fluoride in drinking
Study design:	Ground water			water is directly
Cross-sectional				related to the higher
Country:				degree of fluorosis."
Peru				
Participants:	Method of exposure		Results:	
12-15 years old students	assessment:		Fluoride in water/Dean's	
Sampling time frame:	 SPANDS method 		fluorosis index:	
2012			Panchacutes I: 0.98mg/L/2.08	
Sample size:			Tiabaya Pampas Nuevas: 0.79 mg/L/1.90	
504			Tiabaya El Cural: 0.73	
Sex:	Exposure level(s):	Method of outcome	mg/L/1.72	
Girls: 34.52%	• Ground water (mg/L)	ascertainment:	La Bedoya: 0.43 mg/L/1.54	
Exclusions:	0.22-0.98 mg/L	Dean's index		

Study Characteristics	Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Students with an oral			Panchacutes II: 0.32 mg/L/1	.42	
pathology treatment			La Tomialla: 0.22 mg/L/1.26		
 Live in a different region of the school 			Dental fluorosis for Panchacutes I:		
Source of funding / support:			Severe: 10.71% Moderate: 23.81%		
NR			Mild: 32.14%		
Author declaration of			Very Mild: 26.19%		
interest:			Questionable: 7.143 %		
			Normal: 0%		
NR			<u>Tiabaya Pampas Nuevas:</u>		
			Severe: 8.33% Moderate: 21.43%		
			Mild: 30.95%		
			Very Mild: 26.19%		
			Questionable: 9.52 %		
			Normal: 3.57%		
			Tiabaya "El Cural":		
			Severe: 5.95%		
			Moderate: 19.05%		
			Mild: 29.76%		
			Very Mild: 26.19%		
			Questionable: 10.71 %		
			Normal: 8.33%		
			La Bedoya:		
			Severe: 3.57%		
			Moderate: 15.48% Mild: 29.76%		
			Very Mild: 27.38%		
			v 61 y 1viiiu. 21 .30 /0		

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			Questionable: 13.10 %	
			Normal: 10.71%	
			Panchacutes II:	
			Severe: 2.38%	
			Moderate: 13.10%	
			Mild: 28.57%	
			Very Mild: 28.57%	
			Questionable: 15.48 %	
			Normal: 11.90%	
			<u>La Tomialla:</u>	
			Severe: 0%	
			Moderate: 10.71%	
			Mild: 27.38%	
			Very Mild: 30.95%	
			Questionable: 16.69%	
			Normal: 14.29 %	
			Relationship between	
			fluoridation and DF: (p<0,05;	
			χ2<0,05)	
			Relationship between "Never	,,,
			Fluoridation and DF	
			Normal: 7.5%	
			Questionable: 12.5%	
			Very Mild: 27.5%	
			Mild: 30%	
			Moderate: 17.5%	
			Severe: 5%	
			Relationship between "One"	
			Fluoridation and DF	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			Normal: 8.26%	
			Questionable: 11.98%	
			Very Mild: 27.69%	
			Mild: 29.75%	
			Moderate: 17.36%	
			Severe: 4.96%	
			Relationship between "Two"	
			Fluoridation and DF	
			Normal: 8.14%	
			Questionable: 12.21%	
			Very Mild: 27.33%	
			Mild: 29.65%	
			Moderate: 17.44%	
			Severe: 5.23%	
			Relationship between "Three"	
			Fluoridation and DF	
			Normal: 8.0%	
			Questionable: 12.0%	
			Very Mild: 28.0%	
			Mild: 30.0%	
			Moderate: 16.0%	
			Severe: 6.0%	

Risk of bias assessment		
Bias domain	Criterion	Response

Risk of bias assessment			
Bias domain	Criterion	Response	
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	Yes, participants were selected during the same timeframe, according to the same criteria and from the same eligible population.
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	-	NR
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Study provided reasons for exclusion of participants (students with an oral pathology treatment, and those who live in a different region than the school's one).
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Yes, fluoride exposure levels were obtained from water wells and the local schools, using the SPANDS method.
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	Yes, DF was assessed by researchers who were evaluated by university professor, using Dean's fluorosis index. Blinding of exposure status may have not significantly biased the assessment.
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, the primary outcomes discussed in methods were presented in the results section with adequate level of detail for data extraction

Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse	
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified	

Tang 2023 [2]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	Since "stratified
Original study	Fluoride levels in:	 Dental fluorosis 	 Descriptive analysis 	analysis indicated a weaker association
Study design:	 Ground water 		Mediation analysis Adjusted for age, say, DMI	between fluoride
Cross-sectional	 Urine samples 		 Adjusted for age, sex, BMI, parental education, family 	concentration and
Country:			income and low birth weight, in	DF prevalence in boys than in girls.",
China			addition to urinary creatinine for urine fluoride assessments	"the DF prevalence
Participants: 7-14 years old children	Method of exposure assessment:		Results:	may be sex- specific." Inflammatory
residing since birth in study area that is supplied by groundwater Sampling time frame: NR	 Fluoride in Drinking water_and Urine samples: lon-selective potentiometry (PF- 202-CF; INESA 		 Water fluoride concentration >1mg/L and DF prevalence: Normal: 17 (5.6%) Very mild: 47 (15.5%) Mild: 210 (69.3%) Moderate:29(9.6%) Water fluoride concentration 	factors may partially mediate the increased prevalence of mild DF in school-aged children with low-to-moderate fluoride

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Sample size: 593	Scientific Instrument Co., Ltd., China)		1mg/L and DF prevalence: Normal: 216 (74.5%) Very mild: 22 (15.2%)	exposure. The study demonstrates that
Sex: N (%): Girls: 300 (50.6%)	Exposure level(s): (Chinese standard	Method of outcome ascertainment:	Mild: 30 (10.3%) Moderate:0(0.00%)	the risk of DF has an upward trend
Exclusions:	fluoride limit in water = 1.0mg/L)	• Dean's Index	 Water fluoride and DF (PR (95% Cl), increase per 1ml/L): Overall DF: 1.50 (1.42, 1.57) 	when the fluoride gradually in increases, in water
 History of chronic medical conditions or other endemic diseases, such as kidney, liver, or endocrine disorders Children living in areas with exposure to other pollutants, such as lead, arsenic, or mercury. Source of funding / support: National Natural 	 Water fluoride: 0.20 to 3.90, mean 1.42 (SD 1.00), median 1.20 (IQR 0.70–2.20) mg/L Urinary fluoride: 0.01 to 5.54, mean 1.36 (SD 1.31), median 0.56 (IQR 0.16-2.29) mg/L Fluoride concentration:: Mean SD (>1mg/L) 	:	Very mild DF: 1.85 (1.64, 2.07) Moderate DF: 3.92 (3.03, 5.06) P < 0.001 • Urinary fluoride DF (PR (95% CI), increase per 1ml/L): Overall DF: 1.42 (1.35, 1.50) Very mild DF: 1.67 (1.48, 1.88) Mild DF:1.72 (1.61, 1.84) moderate DF: 3.02 (2.50, 4.13) P < 0.001	and urine.
Science Foundation of China (Grants No. 82073515, and No. 81773388) The State Key Program of National Natural Science Foundation of	SD (>1mg/L): Higher exposure gp.: Water: 2.19 ±0.81 Urine: 2.48 ±0.88 Lower exposure gp.: Water: 0.61 ±0.24		Association between fluoride content and DF by sex: PR (95%CI) Water Fluoride Overall: 1.33 (1.29, 1.36), P-interaction=0.325 Very Mild: 1.31 (1.23, 1.39) P-interaction=0.485	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
China (Grant No.	Urine: 0.18 ±0.12		Mild: 1.39 (1.35, 1.44)	
81430076)			P-interaction=0.431	
Author declaration of			Moderate: 1.33 (1.25, 1.42	2)
Author declaration of			P-interaction=0.852	
interest: No COI			Urinary Fluoride:	
			Overall: 1.27 (1.23, 1.30)	
			P-interaction=0.013	
			Very Mild: 1.25 (1.17, 1.32	2)
			P-interaction=0.025	,
			Mild: 1.32 (1.28, 1.36)	
			P-interaction=0.014	
			Moderate: 1.27 (1.20, 1.36	5)
			P-interaction=0.170	
			Sensitivity analysis for effec	
			fluoride exposure on DF: [Pl	<u> </u>
			(95%CI) for every 1mg/L	
			increment of water fluoride]	
			Adjusted for age and sex, w	ater
			fluoride (mg/L)	
			Overall: 1.50 (1.42, 1.57)	2
			WHO Guideline: 0.78 (0.6 0.89) *	0,
			Very Mild: 1.83 (1.62, 2.06	
			WHO Guideline: 1.25 (0.9	,
			1.52) *	5 ,
			Mild: 1.72 (1.61, 1.83)	
			WHO Guideline: 1.10 (0.9)	3.
			1.27) *	- 1
			Moderate: 3.18 (2.54, 3.98	3)
			WHO Guideline: 3.13 (2.3	
			3.90) *	•

Study Character	Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
			Adjusted for BMI, water fluor	ride	
			(mg/L)		
			Overall: 1.50 (1.42, 1.58) WHO Guideline: 0.79 (0.67	7	
			0.91) *	,	
			Very Mild: 1.82 (1.62, 2.05)	
			WHO Guideline: 1.23 (0.95		
			1.51) *	•	
			Mild: 1.72 (1.61, 1.83)		
			WHO Guideline: 1.11 (0.94	1,	
			1.28) *	`	
			Moderate: 3.27 (2.73, 3.92		
			WHO Guideline: 3.15 (2.40 3.90) *	J,	
			Adjusted for parental educat	ion,	
			and family income, water		
			fluoride (mg/L)		
			Overall: 1.50 (1.43, 1.58)	-	
			WHO Guideline: 0.79 (0.67 0.91) *	' ,	
			Very Mild: 1.83 (1.63, 2.06)	
			WHO Guideline: 1.22 (0.95		
			1.50) *	•	
			Mild: 1.73 (1.62, 1.84)		
			WHO Guideline: 1.11		
			(0.94,1.28) *	`	
			Moderate: 3.78 (2.93, 4.88		
			WHO Guideline: 3.12 (2.29 3.95) *	o,	
			Adjusted for low birth weight	,	
			water fluoride (mg/L)		
			Overall: 1.50 (1.42, 1.57)		

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			WHO Guideline: 0.79 (0.67	,
			0.91) *	
			Very Mild: 1.83 (1.62, 2.06)	
			WHO Guideline: 1.21 (0.92	.,
			1.50) *	
			Mild: 1.72 (1.61, 1.83)	
			WHO Guideline: 1.11 (0.94	•,
			1.28) *	_ `
			Moderate: 3.384 (2.82, 4.0	•
			WHO Guideline: 3.13 (2.37	,
			3.89) *	
			Adjusted for age, sex, BMI,	
			parental education, family	
			income, and low birth weight	,
			water fluoride (mg/L)	
			Overall: 1.50 (1.42, 1.58)	
			WHO Guideline: 0.78 (0.66	,
			0.90) *	
			Very Mild: 1.85 (1.64, 2.07)	
			WHO Guideline: 1.24 (0.95	,
			1.52) *	
			Mild: 1.723 (1.61, 1.84)	
			WHO Guideline: 1.10	
			(0.93,1.27) *	
			Moderate: 3.92 (3.03, 5.06	
			WHO Guideline: 3.13 (2.32	• •
			3.94) *	
			*Water fluoride ≤ 1.5 is	
			reference. P=0.001	
			Sensitivity analysis for effect	of
			fluoride exposure on DF: [PF	
			(95%CI) for every 1mg/L	_

Study Character	Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
			increment of urinary fluoride]		
			Adjusted for age and sex,		
			urinary fluoride (mg/L)		
			Overall: 1.41 (1.34, 1.48)		
			Very Mild: 1.66 (1.48, 1.87)		
			Mild: 1.57 (1.48, 1.68)		
			Moderate: 2.68 (2.26, 3.19)		
			Adjusted for BMI, urinary		
			fluoride (mg/L)		
			Overall: 1.41 (1.34, 1.48)		
			Very Mild: 1.63 (1.44, 1.85)		
			Mild: 1.57 (1.47, 1.67)		
			Moderate: 2.59 (2.18, 3.08)		
			Adjusted for parental education	on,	
			and family income, urinary		
			fluoride (mg/L)		
			Overall: 1.41 (1.34, 1.48)		
			Very Mild: 1.65 (1.47, 1.85)		
			Mild: 1.57 (1.47, 1.67)		
			Moderate: 2.98 (2.37, 3.75)		
			Adjusted for low birth weight,		
			urinary fluoride (mg/L)		
			Overall: 1.41 (1.34, 1.48)		
			Very Mild: 1.64 (1.45 1.86)		
			Mild: 1.57 (1.47, 1.67)		
			Moderate: 2.57 (2.14, 3.08)		
			Adjusted for urinary creatinine	,	
			urinary fluoride (mg/L)		
			Overall: 1.42 (1.35, 1.50)		
			Very Mild: 1.63 (1.43, 1.86)		

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
			Mild: 1.59 (1.48, 1.71) Moderate: 2.76 (2.19, 3.48	3)	
			Adjusted for age, urine creatinine, sex, BMI, parente education, family income an low birth weight, urinary fluo (mg/L) Overall: 1.42 (1.35, 1.50) Very Mild: 1.67 (1.48, 1.88)	d ride	
			Mild: 1.59 (1.48, 1.72) Moderate: 3.20 (2.49, 4.13	3)	

Risk of bias as	Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Response			
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A Not applicable			
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A Not applicable			
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	Yes, participants were selected according to the same crit and from the same eligible population. Time frame was reported in the study.			
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	++ Yes, the study was adjusted for major confounders (age, s BMI, low birth weight, parental education, family income low birth weight). Urinary fluoride was additionally adjusted urinary creatinine.	and		

Risk of bias as	Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Response				
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable			
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable			
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Yes, the study reported on the reasons for exclusion of study participants (history of chronic medical conditions such as kidney, liver, or endocrine disorders, children living in areas where iodine deficiency disorders were endemic, or where exposure to other potential pollutants such as lead, arsenic, or mercury was known/reported).			
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Yes, fluoride levels in water and urine were assessed suing Ion-selective potentiometry (PF-202-CF; INESA Scientific Instrument Co., Ltd., China)			
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	Yes, the outcome (DF) was assessed by two experienced dentists who were blinded to children's exposure status, using DFI.			
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, the primary outcomes discussed in methods were presented in the results section with adequate level of detail for data extraction			
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified			

Ahmad 2022 3

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	• "The significantly
Original study Study design:	Fluoride levels inDrinking water	• IQ Method of outcome	 T-test and Mann-Whitney test were used Statistical significance at p 	higher IQ, 99.95±15.50, of boys in the urban
Cross-sectional study	Urine Method of exposure	ascertainment:The Raven's Progressive	<0.05	area madrassas with a high drinking water fluoride level
Country:	assessment:	Matrices Intelligence Test • A teacher trained by a	Results: N (%) of IQ scores by high	compared to the IQ, 92.30±14.97, of
Pakistan Participants:	Exposure level:	psychologist administered the test	(urban) and low (rural) fluoride areas	boys in the rural area madrassas
Students (9 – 11 years of age) of madrassa (Islamic religious school)	Mean fluoride levels in urban madrassas (Karachi Central)		 IQ <70 retarded (low) High fluoride: 2 (3.33) Low fluoride: 5 (8.33) IQ 70 – 79 borderline (below) 	with a low drinking water fluoride level contradicts the previous reports of
in urban and rural locations within the province of Sindh	Drinking water: 2.04 mg/LUrine: 5.99 (±3.57) mg/L		average)High fluoride: 4 (6.67)Low fluoride: 6 (10)	higher fluoride levels being associated with a
Sampling time frame:	Mean fluoride levels in rural madrassas (Umerkot)		IQ 80 – 89 dull normal (low average) • High fluoride: 10 (16.67)	lower IQ. However, several confounding factors

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
NR	Drinking water: 1	.07 mg/L	• Low fluoride: 9 (15)	were not controlled
	• Urine: 3.53 (±1.09	9 mg/L)	<u>IQ 90 – 109 normal</u>	for in the present
Sample size:			(average)	study, including the
•			 High fluoride: 20 (33.33) 	level of parental
120			• Low fluoride: 19 (31.67)	education, socio-
			IQ 110 - 119 bright normal	economic status,
Sex N (%):			(high average)	and the levels of
Girls: 34 (28.3%)			 High fluoride: 16 (26.67) 	arsenic, lead, and
			• Low fluoride: 15 (25)	iodine." (p. 57)
Exclusions:			<u>IQ 120 – 129 superior</u>	
			(good)	
NR			High fluoride: 7 (11.67)	
			Low fluoride: 6 (10)	
Source of funding /			IQ >129 very superior	
support:			(excellent)	
NR			 High fluoride: 1 (1.66) 	
			• Low fluoride: 0 (0.0)	
Author declaration of			"A. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1.	
interest:			"No significant difference	
NR			was present between the IQ	
INIX			distribution in the high and	
			low fluoride areas on chi-	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			square testing after	
			combining the groups IQ	
			<70 and IQ 70-79, and the)
			groups IQ 120–129 and IC	!
			>129, so that the cells had	
			an n of 5 or more" (p. 56)	
			IQ scores by high (urban)	
			and low (rural) fluoride are	as
			stratified by gender	
			<u>Boys</u>	
			• High fluoride: 99.95 (±	
			15.50)	
			• Low fluoride: 92.30 (±	
			14.97)	
			<u>Girls</u>	
			• High fluoride: 96.90 (±	
			16.31)	
			• Low fluoride: 90.30 (±	
			15.49)	
			"comparing IQ of high	

Study Character	istics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			fluoride boys and low	
			fluoride boys p<0.05" (p. 5	57)

Risk of bias assessment						
Bias domain	Criterion	Resp	oonse			
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level	NA	Not applicable			
	adequately randomized?					
	Was allocation to study groups adequately	NA	Not applicable			
	concealed?					
	Did selection of study participants result in	-	NR (eligibility criteria and recruitment time frame not			
	appropriate comparison groups?		reported)			
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	-	t-test and Mann Whitney tests were used.			
	important confounding and modifying variables?		"several confounding factors were not controlled for			
			including the level of			
			parental education, socio-economic status, and the levels			
			of arsenic, lead, and iodine." (p. 49)			
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study	N/A	Not applicable			
	groups?					
	Were the research personnel and human subjects	N/A	Not applicable			
	blinded to the study group during the study?					
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or	-	Reasons for exclusion NR. "There were more than 230			
	exclusion from analysis?		students registered in madrassa in rural and urban areas			

Criterion	Door		
	Response		
		and the participants in this cross-sectional study	
		comprised 120 madrassa students, aged 9-11-years-old,	
		in the rural and urban areas of Sindh province, Pakistan.	
		According to the fluoride concentration in the groundwater,	
		the participants were determined using a stratified cluster	
		selection of areas based on the geological survey report of	
		the Government of Pakistan." (p. 54-55)	
Can we be confident in the exposure	_	Exposure assessment methods NR	
characterization?			
Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	_	"The Raven's Progressive Matrices Intelligence Test, with	
		a series of conceptual judgment multiple choice questions	
		in the Urdu and English languages, was employed in the	
		study" (p. 55). Unclear blinding	
Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Outcomes discussed in methods were reported in the	
		results	
Were there no other potential threats to internal	++	None identified	
validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate			
and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?			
1	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment? Were all measured outcomes reported? Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment? Were all measured outcomes reported? Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate	

Feng 2022 [4]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	"Excessive fluoride exposure may have
Original study	Fluoride level(s) in:	• Intelligence quotient (IQ).	Descriptive analysis	adverse effects on
Study design:	• Urine		Generalized linear model (GLM) Multipomial logistic regression	children's intelligence, and changes in children's intelligence may be
Cross-sectional			Multinomial logistic regression	associated with the
Country:				interaction between fluoride and MTHFD1 polymorphisms."
China				 Note: significant trends in
Participants:	Method of exposure		Results:	IQ with increasing creatinine-adjusted urinary
Children aged 8-12 years	assessment:		Mean IQ scores	fluoride were found only in high fluoride group; no
Sampling time frame:	 Fluoride ion-selective electrode (Shanghai 		HFG: 122.61±11.61CG: 121.50±12.14	significant trends were seen in the total
April-May 2017	Exactitude Instruments,		P=0.290Total: 122.05±11.88	population.
Sample size:	Shanghai, China) • Creatinine-adjusted		Distribution by intelligence level	
683	urinary fluoride		in HFG and CG	
	(UFcr) levels were calculated		 Normal: (IQ 90-109): 15.25% (HFG); 17.54% (CG) 	
Sex: N (%):	Exposure level(s):	Method of outcome	 High-normal (IQ 110-119): 	
Boys: 324 (47.44%)	Median UFcr (mg/L): 1.33	ascertainment:	25.81% (HFG); 24.85% (CG) • Superior (IQ 120-129): 30.21% (HFG); 33.04% (CG)	
Exclusions:	Children were divided	 The second revision of the Combined Raven's 	• Excellent (IQ≥130): 28.74%	
Non-residents	into two groups, high	Test – the Rural in China	(HFG); 24.56% (CG)	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
 On calcium supplements Had disorders of calcium or phosphorus metabolism, digestive diseases, or thyroid diseases. Children with IQ<90 Source of funding / support: The National Natural Science Foundation of China (Nos. 81972981, 82003401, and 81673116) Key Projects of Colleges and Universities of Henan Education Department (21A330006) Author declaration of interest: no COI 	fluoride group (HFG, UFcr>1.33 mg/L) and control group (CG, UFcr≤1.33 mg/L). Mean urinary fluoride [UF, unadjusted for creatinine] (mg/L): • HFG:1.56±0.82 • CG: 0.98±0.62 • P<0.001 • Total: 1.27±0.79 Mean UFcr (mg/L) • HFG: 2.15±0.91 • CG: 0.83±0.30 • P<0.001 • Total: 1.49±0.95	(CRTRC2) • Children completed the test "independently with the supervision of trained investigators".	 P=0.539 High fluoride group (HFG) Change in IQ score per 1.0 mg/L increase in UFcr level: β=-2.502 (95% CI: -4.411, -0.593); p=0.010 Change in the probability of "excellent" intelligence (IQ≥130) per 1.0 mg/L increase in UFcr level: OR=0.537 (95% CI: 0.290, 0.994); p=0.048 No significant trend in IQ scores by tertile of UFcr (≤1.63, 1.64-2.14, >2.14 mg/L); p=0.116 Control group No significant change in IQ score per 1.0 mg/L increase in UFcr level: p=0.181 No significant change in the probability of "excellent" intelligence (IQ≥130) per 1.0 mg/L increase in UFcr level: p=0.659 No significant trend in IQ scores by tertile of UFcr (≤0.66, 0.67-1.02, >1.02 mg/L); p=0.343 	

Study Characteristic	es es			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Ottudy	LAPOSCITO		Total • No significant change in IQ score per 1.0 mg/L increase UFcr level: p=0.376 • No significant change in the probability of "excellent" intelligence (IQ≥130) per 1.0 mg/L increase in UFcr level: p=0.396 • No significant trend in IQ scores by tertile of UFcr	in
			(≤1.02, 1.03-1.63, >1.63 mg/L); p=0.426 Statistically significant geneenvironmental interaction on the IQ scores	he
			[Polymorphisms in 4 loci of MTHFD1 related to neurodevelopment (rs11627387, rs1076991, rs2236224, and rs2236225) were analyzed]	
			 UFcr x rs11627387 x rs1076991 x rs2236224: F=1.669; p=0.021 UFcr x rs11627387 x rs1076991 x rs2236225: F=1.764; p=0.012 UFcr x rs11627387 x 	

Study Characteristics							
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions			
			rs1076991 x rs2236224 x rs2236225: F=1.614; p=0.				

Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion		Response		
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	All participants were recruited from the same four primary schools at the same time and using the same eligibility criteria.		
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	++	Yes, it was adjusted for major confounders such as children's age, sex, BMI, age at which pregnancy occurred, gestational weeks, birth weight, birth modes, and paternal and maternal education level.		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable		

Risk of bias a	Risk of bias assessment						
Bias domain	Criterion	Response					
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable				
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Yes, the study reported on the reasons for exclusion of study participants (non-residents, on calcium supplements, had disorders of calcium or phosphorus metabolism, digestive diseases, or thyroid diseases, and children with IQ<90).				
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Fluoride was measured in urine using fluoride ion- selective electrode (Shanghai Exactitude Instruments, Shanghai, China). Creatinine-adjusted urinary fluoride levels were calculated to correct for urine dilution.				
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	-	The Combined Raven's Test – the Rural in China (CRTRC2) was completed by children under supervision of "trained investigators". It is not reported whether the children and/or the "trained investigators" were aware of the exposure status.				
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, the primary outcome (children intelligence, IQ)				

Risk of bias a	Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Respo	onse			
reporting			discussed in methods were presented in the results section with adequate level of detail for data extraction			
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified			

García-Escobar 2022 [5]

Study Characteristics						
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions		
Reference type:	Exposures	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	• "Patients from rural		
Original study	Fluoride levels in	Dental fluorosis	 Fisher's exact test 	communities of the		
Study design:	 Drinking water 		 Spearman's rank order 	Anantapur district		
Cross-sectional			correlation	showed a high		
Country:			 Method for estimation of ORs 	prevalence (over		
India			not reported.	90%) of dental		
Participants:	Method of exposure		Results:	fluorosis. Moreover,		
785 subjects aged 10-60	assessment:		Overall prevalence	the Anantapur		
years				population presents		

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Sampling time frame:	• Fluoride levels in		• 94.6% (DI)	a high number of
NR	water: "ion		• 94.4 (TFI)	moderate and
Sample size:	chromatography		Prevalence of Moderate-Severe	severe cases (over
785	according to the		(MS) cases (DI) and TFI score	60%), while other
	parameters for		<u>4–9 cases</u>	populations showed
	potable waters for		[DI MS group corresponds to	less severe forms
	public consumption		TFI 4–9]	of fluorosis, despite
	in Spain (R.D.		• 62.8% (DI MS)	reporting superior
	140/2003)"		• 73.1% (TFI 4-9)	fluoride levels to
Sex: N (%):	Exposure level(s):	Method of outcome	Prevalence of fluorosis among	those found in the
Men: 322 (41.3%)	• Water fluoride (ppm):	ascertainment:	those consuming water with	Anantapur drinking
Exclusions:	1.1 to 2.92 (mean	The Dean Index (DI)	water fluoride ≤1.5 ppm	water."
Orofacial malformations	1.71, median 1.5)	The Thylstrup and	• 54.3% (DI)	"The severity of
or pathologies that		Fejerskov Index (TFI)	• 54.5% (TFI)	fluorosis concerning
could make			Prevalence of DI MS and TFI 4-	fluoride
examination difficult			9 among those consuming	concentration levels
 Systemic pathology 			water with water fluoride ≤1.5	in drinking water in
affecting fluoride			<u>ppm</u>	Anantapur suggests
metabolism			• 33.2% (DI MS)	that other factors
Absence of permanent			• 39.9% (TFI 4-9)	are involved in the
or definitive teeth			OR (95% CI)	severity of the
Dental surface wear or				dental fluorosis

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
stains due to tobacco,			DI MS	observed. A
betel, or another			•≤1.5 ppm: reference	potential change in
chewing habit			•>1.5 ppm: 1.81 (1.34–2.45)	the biological
 Excessive bacterial 			• P=0.000	susceptibility of the
dental plaque or			TFI 4-9	population to the
calculus			•≤1.5 ppm: reference	toxin, due to the
 Patients requiring 			•>1.5 ppm: 1.79 (1.28–2.5)	long-term
urgent dental attention			• P=0.000	exposition
 Patients with missing 			Spearman's rank order	(including several
data			correlation between water	generations) could
 Patients whose parents 	S		fluoride and moderate-severe	explain the
or grandparents came			fluorosis	phenomenon"
from a community			• DI MS: R _s =0.527; p=0.064	
outside Anantapur.			• TFI 4-9: R _s =0.610; p=0.027	
Source of funding /				
support:				
No external funding				
Author declaration of				
interest: No COI				

Risk of bias assessment

Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	NA	Not applicable
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	NA	Not applicable
	Did selection of study participants result in		Participants selected using same criteria. Sampling time
	appropriate comparison groups?	+	frame not reported.
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for		NR
	important confounding and modifying variables?	_	INK
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across	NΙΛ	Not applicable
	study groups?	NA	Not applicable
- ,	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?		
			Not applicable
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or		Reasons for exclusion were provided
	exclusion from analysis?	++	Reasons for exclusion were provided
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Fluoride was measured in water using ion
	characterization?	-	chromatography
	Can we be confident in the outcome	++	DF examined using the Thysltrup and Fejerskov criteria
	assessment?	77	and Dean Index
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	4.1	Outcomes discussed in the methods were reported in the
reporting		++	results

Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse	
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal			
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were	thods were	None identified	
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the		None Identified	
	study protocol)?			

Goodman 2022 ^[6]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	• " prenatal exposure
Original study	Fluoride level in	Children's IQ	 Generalized estimating equation 	to fluoride is associated with sustained impacts
Study design:	Maternal urine		(GEE) population averaged	on IQ."
Cohort	collected during one		models for panel data with an	• " an increment of 0.5
(ELEMENT)	or more trimesters of		autoregressive correlation	mg/L in maternal
(ELEIVIEINI)	pregnancy		structure (estimation across time).	urinary fluoride
Country:			 Age-stratified multiple linear 	concentration was associated with a 2-
Mexico			regression analyses (estimation	point decrement in
			at each time point)	children's Full-Scale IQ scores".

Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Participants:	Method of exposure		Results:	"Non-verbal abilities
 Women who were planning to conceive or were pregnant at <14 weeks gestation (Cohorts 2A and Cohort 3 of the ELEMENT project). Children examined at 	A modification of the hexamethyldisiloxane (Sigma Chemical Co., USA) microdiffusion method with the ionselective electrode An average of all available maternal urinary fluoride adjusted for creatinine		Changes in cognitive sore per 0.5 mg/L increase in MUFcre GEE population-averaged models • FSIQ/GCI: B=-2.12 (95% CI: -3.49, -0.75); p=0.002 • PIQ: B=-2.63 (95% CI: -3.87, -1.40); p<0.001 • VIQ: B=-1.29 (95% CI: -2.60, 0.01); p=0.053 • No interactions were between MUFcre and time (p>0.10). • No interaction between MUFcre and child sex (p>0.10) Linear regression analysis	may be more susceptible to impairment from prenatal fluoride exposure as compared to verbal abilities." • "These results were found among mother- child pairs living in a region of Mexico in which fluoride is added to salt."
ages 4, 5, and 6– 12 years	concentrations during pregnancy (1 to 3		Age 4	
Sampling time frame: Recruitment: Cohort 2A in 1997- 1999; Cohort 3 in 2001-2003 Sample size:	samples) was used as the exposure measure.		 GCI: B=-2.12 (95% CI: -3.83, -0.41); p=0.015 PIQ: B=-3.08 (95% CI: -4.69, -1.47); p<0.001) VIQ: B=-0.81 (95% CI: -2.30, 0.69); p>0.05 Age 5 GCI: B=-1.97 (95% CI: -3.64, - 	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
 Primary sample with complete covariate, maternal urinary fluoride, and outcome data for at least two time points: 348 mother-child dyads Examined at age 4 years: 386 Examined at age 5: 308 Examined at age 6-12: 278 Sex: N (%): Boys: Primary sample: 167 (47.99%) Age 4: 183 (47.41%) 	Exposure level(s): • Creatinine-adjusted maternal urinary fluoride (MUFcre, µg/L): 0.14 to 3.01; mean 0.90 (SD 0.39),	Method of outcome ascertainment: McCarthy Scales of Children's Abilities (MSCA) translated into Spanish to children aged 4 and 5 years	0.30); p=0.021 • PIQ: B=-2.46 (95% CI: 4.04, -0.87); p=0.003 • VIQ: B=-1.24 (95% CI: -2.97, 0.49); p>0.05 Age 6-12 • FSIQ: B=-2.01 (95% CI: -3.66, -0.46); p=0.012 • PIQ: B=-1.80 (95% CI: -3.39, -0.21); p=0.027 • VIQ: B=-1.93 (95% CI: -3.67, -0.18); p=0.031 • No interaction between MUFcre and child sex Sensitivity analyses (GEE models), B (95% CI) FSIQ/GCI. • Model A ⁵ : -2.10 (-3.47, -0.73) • Model A + number/timing of urine	
• Age 5: 151 (49.03%)	1110di1 0.00 (OD 0.00),	 Verbal scale (VIQ, a 	samples ⁶ : -2.12 (-3.49, -0.75)	

⁵ GEE models adjusted for gestational age, weight at birth, sex, parity (being the first child), age at outcome measurement, time of testing, smoking history (ever smoked during the pregnancy vs. non-smoker), marital status (married vs. others), maternal age at delivery, maternal education, and cohort/calcium treatment.

⁶ Number/timing of urine samples included as a covariate

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
• Age 6-12: 132 (47.48%)	median 0.83; IQR 0.64-1.11	measure of verbal reasoning and comprehension) • Perceptual-performance	 Model A – IQ score<70⁷: -1.67 (-2.93, -0.41) Model A – Cohort 3 Ca⁸: -1.98 (-3.70, -0.27) 	
Exclusions: Women with a history of		scale (PIQ, a measure of nonverbal reasoning and perceptual information processing) • General Cognitive Index	 Model A – Maternal IQ⁹: -2.40 (-3.79, -1.01) Model A + Maternal IQ¹⁰: -2.09 (-3.44, -0.73) Model A – HOME¹¹: -2.33 (-4.46, - 	
psychiatric disorders,		(GCI), the standardized composite score	0.20) • Model A + HOME ¹² : -2.11 (-4.06, -0.16)	
substance use, high-risk		Spanish version of Wechsler Abbreviated Scale of Intelligence	 Model A – Patella Lead¹³: -2.42 (-3.98, -0.86) Model A + Patella Lead¹⁴: -2.41 (- 	
pregnancy, or other medical conditions		(WASI) to children aged 6- 12 years. • Verbal IQ (VIQ, a	 Model A + Patella Lead : -2.41 (-3.98, -0.85) Model A – Tibia Lead¹⁵: -2.75 (-4.61, -0.89) 	

 $^{^{\}rm 7}$ Excluding cases with FSIQ/GCI, PIQ, or VIQ scores less than 70

⁸ Subset of cases who received calcium supplementation

⁹ Subset of cases who have data on maternal IQ

¹⁰ Subset of cases who have data on maternal IQ, adjusted for maternal IQ

¹¹ Subset of cases who have data on Home Observation for the Measurement of the Environment (HOME) scores

¹² Subset of cases with HOME score, adjusted for HOME score

¹³ Subset of cases who have data on maternal patella lead

¹⁴ Subset of cases with data on maternal patella lead, adjusted for maternal patella lead

¹⁵ Subset of cases who have data on maternal tibia lead

Study Characte	eristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Source of fund	ding	measure of verbal	• Model A + Tibia Lead ¹⁶ : -2.23 (-	
/ support:		reasoning and comprehension)	4.09, - 0.38) • Model A – Tibia and Patella	
• The American	ı	Performance (PIQ, a measure of nonverbal	Lead ¹⁷ : -2.73 (-4.71, -0.76) • Model A + Tibia and Patella	
British Cowdra	ay	reasoning and spatial	Lead ¹⁸ : -2.20 (-4.18, -0.22)	
Hospital provid	ded	processing) • Full-Scale intelligence	PIQ	
facilities for the	е	(FSIQ, a measure of		
ELEMENT		global intellectual functioning)	• Model A: 2.61 (-3.85, -1.38)	
research.		runctioning)	 Model A + number/timing of urine samples: -2.63 (-3.86, -1.39) 	
• U.S. National		Each child was evaluated by one of three	 Model A – IQ score<70: -2.61 (-3.81, -1.42) 	
Institutes of		psychologists supervised	• Model A – Cohort 3 Ca: -3.13 (-	
Health (NIH;		by experienced developmental	4.67, -1.58)	
grants		psychologist.	 Model A – Maternal IQ: -2.78 (4.04, -1.52) 	
R01ES021446	6	The inter-examiner	Model A + Maternal IQ: -2.46 (-	
and R01-		reliability: r>0.90 (MSCA);	3.68, -1.24) • Model A – HOME: -3.67 (-5.52, -	
ES007821)		not assessed for WASI	1.82)	
• The National			 Model A + HOME: -3.44 (-5.15, - 1.72) 	
Institute of			Model A – Patella Lead: -2.66 (-	
Environmenta	I		4.05, -1.27)	

¹⁶ Subset of cases with data on maternal tibia lead, adjusted for maternal tibia lead

¹⁷ Subset of cases who have data on maternal tibia and patella lead

¹⁸ Subset of cases with data on maternal tibia and patella lead, adjusted for maternal tibia and patella lead

Study Charact	eristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Health			• Model A + Patella Lead: -2.65	5 (-
Sciences/the			4.04, -1.27)	
U.S.			 Model A – Tibia Lead: -2.81 (-4.46, -1.16) 	•
Environmenta	I		 Model A + Tibia Lead: -2.41 (-4.07, -0.76) 	-
Protection			 Model A – Tibia and Patella L 	ead:
Agency			-2.75 (-4.50, -1.00)	
(NIEHS/EPA;			 Model A + Tibia and Patella L -2.32 (-4.08, -0.56) 	ead:
grant			,	
P01ES022844	1,		VIQ	
83543601)			• Model A: -1.28 (-2.58, 0.03)	
• The NIEHS			 Model A + number/timing of u samples: -1.30 (-2.60, 0.01) 	rine
(grant P42-			 Model A – IQ score<70: -1.05 	(-
ES05947,			2.31, 0.21)	1
P20ES01817	1)		 Model A – Cohort 3 Ca: -0.69 2.31, 0.94) 	(-
NIEHS Center	,		 Model A – Maternal IQ: -1.55 2.86, -0.24) 	(-
Grant			 Model A + Maternal IQ: -1.33 	(-
P30ES017885	5)		2.62, -0.04) • Model A – HOME: -0.71 (-2.72)	2
National Instit	ute		1.30)	۷,
of Public			 Model A + HOME: -0.54 (-2.4) 1.35) 	3,
Health/Ministr	y of		• Model A – Patella Lead: -1.62	<u> </u>
Health of Mex	ico		3.12, -0.11)	
Author			 Model A + Patella Lead: -1.62 3.13, -0.11) 	. (-

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
declaration of	f		• Model A – Tibia Lead: -2.09	(-	
interest: No C	COI		3.88, -0.31)	,	
			• Model A + Tibia Lead: -1.65	(-	
			3.44, 0.14)		
			Model A – Tibia and Patella A 00 (2.00 - 0.10)	Lead:	
			-2.09 (-3.99, -0.19)		
			 Model A + Tibia and Patella 	Lead:	
			-1.63 (-3.55, 0.28)		

Risk of bias assessment						
Bias domain	omain Criterion		Response			
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable			
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable			
	Did selection of study participants result in	+	Mother-child pairs were enrolled from three			
	appropriate comparison groups?		hospitals in Mexico City serving low to middle			
			income families. Eligibility criteria were slightly			
			different between the two cohorts (2A and 3), but			
			there is no indication that they differed in relation to			
			fluoride exposure level. Time frame was different for			

Risk of bias as	Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Response				
			the two cohorts (2A and 3). More information about study participants can be found in Perng et al. 2019 ¹⁹ .			
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	++	Yes, it was adjusted for major confounders such as maternal education, maternal age at delivery, marital status at delivery, maternal smoking, gestational age, weight at birth, birth order, child age at each outcome measurement, and cohort.			
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable			
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable			
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Yes, the study reported on the reasons for exclusion of study participants (women with a history of psychiatric disorders, substance use, high-risk pregnancy, or other medical conditions). Although it is not reported, there is no indication that losses to			

¹⁹ https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/9/8/e030427

Risk of bias a	Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Response			
			follow-up were related to intelligence level.		
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Fluoride was measured in maternal urine using a modification of the hexamethyldisiloxane (Sigma Chemical Co., USA) microdiffusion method with the ion-selective electrode		
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	Yes, IQ was consistently assessed by one of three psychologists who was unaware to the child's prenatal fluoride exposure and supervised by an experienced developmental psychologist. The ageappropriate assessment tools included the McCarthy Scales of Children's Abilities, MSCA, translated into Spanish (administered at ages 4 and 5 years), and the Spanish version of Wechsler Abbreviated Scale of Intelligence, WASI (administered at age 6-12 years).		
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, the primary outcome (children intelligence, IQ) discussed in methods were presented in the results section with adequate level of detail for data extraction		

Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Respo	nse		
Other	Were there no other potential threats to	++	None identified		
sources	internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were				
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the				
	study protocol)?				

Gupta 2022 🔼

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:		
Original study	Fluoride levels in:	Dental fluorosis	Descriptive analysis	concentrations of fluoride in potable	
Study design:	 Drinking water 	 Skeletal fluorosis 	 Analysis of variance 	water, poor socio-	
Case-Control Study	• Serum			economic status and	
Country:				nutritional deficiency also contribute to	
India				fluorosis in exposed	
Participants:	Method of exposure		Results:	individuals from endemic regions."	
Subjects: from endemic villages, controls: from	assessment:		Water fluoride concentration	• For the individuals	

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
non-endemic villages Sampling time frame: 2014-2015 Sample size: 180 Sex: N (%): NR Exclusions: Neonates, children, pregnant women and patients with other severe & chronic diseases Source of funding / support: • UGC, New Delhi • Chhattisgarh Council of Science and Technology Author declaration of	Drinking water: Thermo scientific orion 9609 BNWP ion selective fluoride electrode Serum: Semi auto analyzer (Model CHEM 400), Electronics India. Exposure level(s): Mean drinking water fluoride levels 1.16-7.56 ppm	Method of outcome ascertainment: • Dental Fluorosis: NR • Skeletal Fluorosis: NR	associated with: • Dental fluorosis: 0.67-0.83 ppm • Skeletal fluorosis: 0.43-0.83 ppm	residing in an endemic area and consuming the same high fluoride containing drinking water which doesn't have visible symptoms of dental or skeletal fluorosis, individuals might be considered in a preclinical stage of fluorosis and may develop symptoms of fluorosis in subsequent years. The finding of this study might be a preliminary screening for those individuals. However, urine and blood fluoride analyses of the subjects are also needed for further confirmation."	

Risk of bias as	Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Response				
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable			
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable			
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	Yes, participants were selected during the same timeframe, according to the same criteria and from the same eligible population.			
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	-	NR			
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable			
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable			
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Study provided reasons for exclusion of participants (Neonates, children, pregnant women and patients with other severe & chronic diseases)			
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Yes, fluoride exposure levels Drinking water samples from the study areas were collected and estimated for the fluoride content with the help of Thermo-scientific Orion 9609 BNWP ion selective fluoride electrode. Fluoride concentrations in serum was measured by the Semi auto analyzer (Model CHEM 400), Electronics India.			
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	-	NR – NR			
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, the primary outcomes discussed in methods were			

Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Resp	oonse		
reporting			presented in the results section with adequate level of detail for data extraction		
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified		

Ibarluzea 2022 [8]

Ibarluzea 2022					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Reference type:	Routes of	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis ²⁰ :	• "We observed no	
Original study	exposures:	• Children's	Student's t tests	negative effects on	
Study design:	Fluoride level in	cognition/intelligence	 One-way analysis of variance 	children's cognition	
Longitudinal	 Maternal urine 		 Pearson correlations 	and even found	
Country:	collected in the first		 Multiple linear regression 	positive associations	
Spain	and third trimesters			for verbal,	

²⁰ Student's t-test, one-way ANOVA and Pearson correlation were used to select variables for multiple linear regression (with p<0.2)

	of pregnancy			performance,
Participants:	Method of exposure	_	Results:	numeric, memory
Pregnant women	assessment:		Changes in cognitive score	scores and GCI, in
Children examined at	 Potentiometry using 		per unit (mg/g) increase in	boys at the age of 4
ages 1 and 4 years	an ion-selective		maternal creatinine-adjusted	years, although
Sampling time frame:	electrode (DX219-F,		urinary fluoride (MUFcr), β	when Hg levels were
Recruitment of pregnant	Mettler Toledo)		(95% CI) ²¹	included in the
women between 1997	 Urinary fluoride 		Bayley Mental Development	model only verbal
and 2008 in different	levels were adjusted		Index (MDI)	and GCI at week 32
study areas (Guxen et	for creatinine		Both trimesters MUFcr	and whole
al. 2012) ²²			• All: 1.48 (-4.2, 7.16)	pregnancy remained
Sample size:	_		• Boys: 3.84 (-5.04, 12.72)	significant or
 Assessed at age 1 			• Girls: 0.75 (-6.92, 8.43)	marginally
year: 316 mother-child			Week 12 MUFcr	significant."
pairs			• All: 0.55 (- 4.64, 5.74)	"The positive
• Assessed at ages 1 and			• Boys: 2.96 (-5.09, 11.01)	associations
4 years: 248 mother-			• Girls: -1 (-8.07, 6.07)	between MUFcr and
child pairs			Week 32 MUFcr	cognitive functions
Sex: N (%):	Exposure level(s):	Method of outcome	• All: 1.52 (-2.92, 5.97)	seemed to be more

²¹ Adjusted for child's age at testing (only for McCarthy), order of the child (between siblings), nursery at 14 months, breastfeeding, maternal social class, IQ and smoking

²² Guxens M, Ballester F, Espada M, Fernández MF, Grimalt JO, Ibarluzea J, Olea N, Rebagliato M, Tardón A, Torrent M, Vioque J, Vrijheid M, Sunyer J; INMA Project. Cohort Profile: the INMA--INfancia y Medio Ambiente--(Environment and Childhood) Project. Int J Epidemiol. 2012 Aug;41(4):930-40. doi: 10.1093/ije/dyr054. Epub 2011 Apr 5. PMID: 21471022

Boys:	Fluoride levels in	ascertainment:	• Boys: 2.50 (-4.46, 9.46)	evident in children of
 Assessed at age 1 	drinking water	 Bayley Scales of Infant 	• Girls: 1.7 (-4.30, 7.71)	mothers who lived
year: 146 (46.2%)	 Community 	Development (BSID) at	McCarthy, verbal	their pregnancy in
 Assessed at age 4 	fluoridated drinking	age 1 year	Both trimesters MUFcr	the nonfluoridated
years: 125 (50.4%)	water systems: mean	 McCarthy Scales of 	• All: 13.86 (3.91, 23.82)	zones."
Exclusions:	0.81 (SD 0.15) mg/L	Children's Abilities	• Boys: 13.38 (2.81, 23.95)	"The associations
At recruitment	 Community non- 	(MSCA) ²⁴	• Girls: -1.31 (-9.35, 6.74)	have been seen with
• Maternal age <16 years	fluoridated drinking		• P<0.05	MUFcr of the third
Multiple pregnancy	water systems: <0.1		Week 12 MUFcr	trimester and not
 Pregnancy achieved 	mg/L		• All: 1.11 (-4.86, 7.07)	with those of the first
with assisted	Mean (95% CI)		• Boys: 3.78 (-6.16, 13.71)	one."
reproduction techniques	maternal creatinine-		• Girls: -0.91 (-8.78, 6.96)	"As there is not
 Not planning birth in 	adjusted urinary		Week 32 MUFcr	information of
the referral hospital	fluoride levels (mg/g		• All: 12.01 (4.82, 19.19)	MUFcr of the
 Communication 	creatinine) ²³		• Boys: 11.79 (4.22, 19.36)	second trimester of
problems in Spanish or	Assessed at age 1		• Girls: -0.93 (-7.01, 5.15)	pregnancy, it is
Basque	<u>year</u>		• P<0.01	difficult to identify a
Analytical sample	• Both trimesters: 0.66		McCarthy, performance	window of exposure
• Incomplete data [To be	(0.61; 0.70)		Both trimesters MUFcr	related to the effect,
included, participants	• Week 12 of		• All: 5.86 (0.32, 11.39)	but the lack of
had to have 1) data on	pregnancy: 0.57		5.55 (5.52, 1.165)	associations in the

Trial Ex. 133.0397

²³ Detailed data on maternal creatinine-adjusted urinary fluoride levels by maternal and children's characteristics are reported in Supplementary tables S2, S3 and S5

²⁴ The motor scale of the MSCA was not included in this study.

	(0.000		
neuropsychological	(0.52; 0.62)	• Boys: 12.24 (2.87, 21.61)	first trimester
assessment at 1 year of	Week 32 of	• Girls: 2.03 (-4.77, 8.83)	indicate that the
age; 2) data on	pregnancy: 0.74	• P<0.05	effects are
neuropsychological	(0.69; 0.79)	Week 12 MUFcr	associated with later
assessment at 4 years	• P<0.001 [1 st vs. 3 rd	• All: 4.63 (-0.57, 9.82)	periods in
of age provided they	trimester]	• Boys: 9.11 (0.47, 17.75)	pregnancy."
also had assessment	Assessed at age 4	• Girls: 1.10 (-5.53, 7.73)	• "A positive
data at 1 year; 3)	<u>years</u>	Week 32 MUFcr	association between
maternal urinary	Both trimesters: 0.64	• All: 3.68 (-0.49, 7.85)	MUF and GCI
creatinine adjusted	(0.59; 0.68)	• Boys: 7.17 (0.24, 14.09)	scores and other
fluoride levels at the	• Week 12 of	• Girls: 1.69 (-3.44, 6.83)	measures of
first and third trimesters	pregnancy: 0.55	• P<0.05	cognitive functions
of pregnancy.]	(0.50;0.60)	McCarthy, numeric	at 4 years of age is
Source of funding /	• Week 32 of	Both trimesters MUFcr	observed among
support ²⁵ :	pregnancy: 0.73	• All: 6.22 (0.65, 11.79	boys in a
The Instituto de Salud	(0.67;0.79)	• Boys: 11.09 (1.79, 20.4)	prospective birth
Carlos III, Red de	• P<0.001 [1 st vs. 3 rd	• Girls: 3.03 (-3.96, 10.03)	cohort in Spain. The
Centros de	trimester]	• P<0.05	current findings
investigación en	Whole pregnancy	Week 12 MUFcr	contradict, with a
Epidemiología y Salud	mean (SD) maternal	• All: 4.47 (-0.79, 9.73)	few exceptions,
Pública (RCESP)	urinary fluoride	• Boys: 5.03 (-3.65, 13.7)	results obtained
CIBER Epidemiología y	(mg/L)		previously in cross-
Salud Pública		• Girls: 2.92 (-3.95, 9.78)	sectional and

²⁵ Information from Guxen et al. 2012.

Trial Ex. 133.0398

(CIBERESP)	Assessed at age 1	Week 32 MUFcr	prospective studies."
• The Fondo de	<u>year</u>	• All: 4.13 (-0.07, 8.32)	
Investigación Sanitaria	 Non-fluoridated 	• Boys: 8.56 (1.81, 15.31)	
• The European Union's	zone: 0.36 (0.21)	• Girls: 1.55 (-3.74, 6.85)	
6th and 7th Framework	Fluoridated zone:	• P<0.05	
Programmes (Hiwate,	0.65 (0.29)	McCarthy, memory	
Escape, Hitea and	• P<0.001	Both trimesters MUFcr	
Contamed projects)	Assessed at age 4	• All: 11.63 (2.62, 20.63)	
• The Ministerio de	<u>years</u>	• Boys: 11.3 (1.90, 20.7)	
Educación y Ciencia,	 Non-fluoridated 	• Girls: -2.12 (-9.32, 5.09)	
the Generalitat de	zone: 0.35 (0.20)	• P<0.05	
Catalunya	Fluoridated zone:	Week 12 MUFcr	
The Centre for	0.62 (0.26)	• All: 1.71 (-3.66, 7.09)	
Research in	• P<0.001	• Boys: 4.28 (-4.51, 13.06)	
Environmental	Both trimesters	• Girls: -1.40 (-8.46, 5.67)	
Epidemiology (CREAL)	mean (SD)	Week 32 MUFcr	
of Barcelona	creatinine-adjusted	• All: 9.2 (2.67, 15.73)	
• The Fundació La Caixa,	maternal urinary	• Boys: 9.26 (2.47, 16.05)	
the Fundació Roger	fluoride (mg/g	• Girls: -1.72 (-7.17, 3.72)	
Torné	creatinine)	• P<0.01	
The Consejería de	Assessed at age 1	McCarthy, general cognitive	
Salud de Andalucía	<u>year</u>	Both trimesters MUFcr	
The Junta the	 Non-fluoridated 	• All: 15.4 (6.32, 24.48)	
Andalucía	zone: 0.46 (0.25)	• Boys: 15.03 (5.3, 24.75)	
The Conselleria de	• Fluoridated zone:		

Sanitat de la	0.84 (0.40)	• Girls: -0.02 (-7.16, 7.12)
Generalitat Valenciana	• P<0.001	• P<0.01
• The CAJASTUR—Caja	Assessed at age 4	Week 12 MUFcr
Asturias	<u>years</u>	• All: 3.37 (-2.09, 8.83)
The Spanish	 Non-fluoridated 	• Boys: 7.14 (-2.06, 16.33)
Association against the	zone: 0.45 (0.26)	• Girls: 0.21 (-6.77, 7.19)
Cancer (AECC)	Fluoridated zone:	Week 32 MUFcr
(Delegación Provincial	0.82 (0.39)	• All: 11.48 (4.88, 18.08)
Asturias)	• P<0.001	• Boys: 11.39 (4.33, 18.44)
The Departamento de		• Girls: -0.16 (-5.55, 5.23)
Sanidad-Gobierno		• P<0.01
Vasco		Changes in cognitive score
The Diputación Floral		per unit (mg/g) increase in
de Gipuzkoa		MUFcr, β (95% CI)
• The University of		additionally adjusted for cord
Oviedo, the KUTXA –		blood Hg levels.
Caja Gipuzkoa San		Bayley Mental Development
Sebastián		Index (MDI)
• The city councils of		Both trimesters MUFcr
Zumarraga, Urretxu,		• All: 2.67 (-3.46, 8.81)
Legazpi, Azpeitia,		 No significant interaction by
Beasain and Azkoitia in		sex
Gipuzkoa	_	Week 12 MUFcr
Author declaration of		• All: 0.89 (-4.55, 6.32)
interest: no COI		

sex	
Week 32 MUFcr	
• All: 2.65 (-2.14, 7.45)	
No significant interaction by	
sex	
McCarthy, verbal	
Both trimesters MUFcr	
• All: 9.4 (-1.78, 20.57)	
• Boys:	
• Girls: -2.07 (-10, 5.87)	
• P<0.1	
Week 12 MUFcr	
• All: -1.5 (-7.53, 4.54)	
No significant interaction by	
sex	
Week 32 MUFcr	
• All: 9.74 (1.75, 17.74)	
• Boys:	
• Girls: -0.74 (-6.72, 5.25)	
• P<0.05	
McCarthy, performance	
Both trimesters MUFcr	
• All: 4.41 (-1.59, 10.41)	

 No significant interaction by sex

Week 12 MUFcr

- All: 3.85 (-1.62, 9.33)
- No significant interaction by sex

Week 32 MUFcr

- All: 2.33 (-2.15, 6.82)
- No significant interaction by sex

McCarthy, numeric

Both trimesters MUFcr

- All: 5.28 (-0.54, 11.1)
- No significant interaction by sex

Week 12 MUFcr

- All: 3.38 (-1.96, 8.71)
- No significant interaction by sex

Week 32 MUFcr

- All: 3.47 (-0.88, 7.82)
- No significant interaction by sex

McCarthy, memory

Both trimesters MUFcr

• All: 0.8 (-5.3, 6.9)

• No significant interaction by

sex

Week 12 MUFcr

• All: -0.52 (-6.06, 5.02)

• No significant interaction by

sex

Week 32 MUFcr

• All: 1.15 (-3.4, 5.69)

• No significant interaction by

sex

McCarthy, general cognitive

Both trimesters MUFcr

• All: 10.54 (0.19, 20.89)

• Boys: --

• Girls: -0.83 (-8.18, 6.52)

• P<0.05

Week 12 MUFcr

• All: 1 (-4.61, 6.61)

No significant interaction by

sex:

Week 32 MUFcr

• All: 8.15 (0.69, 15.61)

• Boys: --

• Girls: -0.46 (-6.04, 5.12)

• P<0.05

Changes in cognitive score per unit (mg/g) increase in MUFcr, β (95% CI), stratified

by fluoridated and non-

fluoridated zone

Bayley Mental Development Index (MDI)

Both trimesters MUFcr

- Both zones/non-fluoridated: -0.52 (-7, 5.95)
- No significant interaction by zone

Week 12 MUFcr

- Both zones/non-fluoridated: -1 (-6.66, 4.65)
- No significant interaction by zone

Week 32 MUFcr

- Both zones/non-fluoridated: 0.33 (-4.52, 5.19)
- No significant interaction by zone

McCarthy, verbal

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Both trimesters MUFcr

- Both zones/non-fluoridated:
- 15.58 (3.71, 27.45)
- Fluoridated zone: -2.4 (-11.17, 6.37)
- P<0.01

Week 12 MUFcr

- Both zones/non-fluoridated:
- 0.27 (-6.12, 6.65)
- No significant interaction by zone

Week 32 MUFcr

- Both zones/non-fluoridated:
- 16.11 (7.4, 24.81)
- Fluoridated zone: -2.3 (-8.6, 3.99)
- P<0.01

McCarthy, performance

Both trimesters MUFcr

- Both zones/non-fluoridated:
- 7.82 (1.58, 14.07)
- Fluoridated zone: not reported
- P<0.05

Week 12 MUFcr

• Both zones/non-fluoridated:

5.5 (-0.07, 11.07)

 No significant interaction by zone

Week 32 MUFcr

- Both zones/non-fluoridated:4.67 (0.08, 9.26)
- Fluoridated zone: not reported
- P<0.05

McCarthy, numeric

Both trimesters MUFcr

- Both zones/non-fluoridated:4.08 (-2.21, 10.36)
- No significant interaction by zone

Week 12 MUFcr

- Both zones/non-fluoridated:2.63 (-2.96, 8.23)
- No significant interaction by zone

Week 32 MUFcr

- Both zones/non-fluoridated:2.53 (-2.06, 7.13)
- No significant interaction by zone

McCarthy, memory

Both trimesters MUFcr

- Both zones/non-fluoridated:2.71 (-3.77, 9.18)
- No significant interaction by zone

Week 12 MUFcr

- Both zones/non-fluoridated:1.01 (-4.74, 6.77)
- No significant interaction by zone

Week 32 MUFcr

- Both zones/non-fluoridated:2.17 (-2.56, 6.9)
- No significant interaction by zone:

McCarthy, general cognitive

Both trimesters MUFcr

- Both zones/non-fluoridated: 15.46 (4.55, 26.36)
- Fluoridated zone: 1.96 (-6.09, 10.02)
- P<0.01

Week 12 MUFcr

Both zones/non-fluoridated:3.5 (-2.36, 9.36)

 No significant interaction by zone

Week 32 MUFcr

- Both zones/non-fluoridated:12.88 (4.82, 20.94)
- Fluoridated zone: 0.11 (-5.73, 5.95)
- P<0.01

Analyses stratified by fluoridated and non-fluoridated zone, boys only

 Significant associations only in non-fluoridated zones [see supplementary table S21 for details.]

Analyses stratified by maternal social class

 "more positive and significant associations were observed in children of mothers with a better social position" [see supplementary table S22]

Analyses stratified by quality of the family context; boys only

 Statistically significant associations only in families with a lower quality of the family context (supplementary table S23)

Other analyses

- Inclusion of other variables, such as other neurotoxicants
 (As, Mn, Pb, As x Pb), iodine, quality child's family context
 (HES), deprivation index did not substantially change the results.
- Analyses including women
 with only one sample of urine
 available (first or third
 trimester), adjustment for
 zone (fluoridated vs non fluoridated), or excluding
 extreme low scores of
 cognitive functions (less than
 2 SD) did not substantially
 change the results

Risk of bias assessment

Bias domain	Criterion Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?		Response		
Selection			Not applicable		
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	Mother-child pairs were enrolled from Gipuzkoa, Spain. Pregnant women were recruited between 1997- 2008. Their children were assessed at the age of 1 and 4 years. More information about study participants can be found in Guxen et al. 2012.		
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	++	Yes, study accounted for major confounders such as maternal characteristics (sociodemographic, behavioral and reproductive), maternal habits (smoking, type of water consumed) and child characteristics (sex, age, order of the child among siblings, breastfeeding, small for gestational age, and prematurity) and child habits (nursery attendance at 14 months). Adjustments also included creatinine, and Hg in umbilical cord blood, urinary iodine and urinary creatinine and specific gravity.		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Mother-child pairs were enrolled from Gipuzkoa, Spain. Pregnant women were recruited between 1997- 2008. Their children were assessed at the age of 1 and 4 years. More information about study participants can be found in Guxen et al. 2012.		
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Study reported on source and intake of drinking water (tap		

Risk of bias ass	Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Response				
	characterization?		or bottled) including food and drink, during the first and third trimesters. Bottled water intake was calculated based on the information provided by the mothers. Maternal urinary fluoride was measured by potentiometry using an ion-selective electrode (DX219-F, Mettler Toledo).			
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	Yes, children's neuropsychological development was consistently assessed using the Bayley Scales of Infant Development (BSID) (Bayley, 1977) and a standardized version of the McCarthy Scales of Children's Abilities (MSCA) adapted to the Spanish population (McCarthy, 2009) respectively. Assessments were conducted by specially trained neuropsychologists who were blinded to the child's fluoride's exposure status.			
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, the primary outcomes discussed in methods were presented in the results section with adequate level of detail for data extraction			
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified			

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Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	"No statistically
Original study	Fluoride levels in • Water	• IQ	 One-way ANOVA test and paired t-test were used 	significant correlation (p> 0.05) existed
Study design: • Cross-sectional study	• Urine	Method of outcome ascertainment:	Statistical significance at p< 0.05	between fluoride excretion and IQ in
Country:	Method of exposure assessment:	• Raven's Colored Progressive Matrices	Results:	Group A children. But there was a
• India	 Water fluoride: Acquired from the Public Health 	intelligence test	Correlation between IQ and urinary fluoride level	statistically significant
Participants:	Engineering Department • Urine fluoride: Selective		• Group A: $r = -0.161$ p = > 0.05	correlation between fluoride excretion
• School children (12-13 years of age) residing in	Ion Electrode Technique		• Group B: $r = -0.485$ p = < 0.01	and IQ level in Group B (p<0.01)
Dhand of Amer Tehsil, Mohanpura, or Muhana	Exposure level: Water fluoride		• Group C: r = -0.334 p = < 0.05	and Group C (p< 0.05). As the level of fluoride ion
of Sanganer Tehsil.	concentration by group			concentration in urine increased,
Sampling time frame: • September 2011 –	Group A: 2 ppmGroup B: 5 ppm			there was a significant decrease

Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
October 2011	• Group C: 2 – 5 ppm			in IQ level" (p. 3)
				• "The results
Sample size:	Urinary fluoride			indicated that there
-	concentration by group			was a positive
• N = 90	• Group A: 1.60ppm			correlation between
	• Group B: 6.82 ppm			excess fluoride in
Sex N (%):	• Group C: 2.69 ppm			drinking water and
• NR				IQ." (p. 1)
Exclusions:				
• Those with history of				
head trauma or injury				
Those with congenital				
or acquired neurological				
disorders				
Those with				
psychological disorders				
Source of funding /				
support:				
• None				

Study character	istics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Author declarati	ion of			
interest:				
• No COI				

sessment				
Bias domain Criterion		Response		
Was administered dose or exposure level	N/A	Not applicable		
adequately randomized?				
Was allocation to study groups adequately	NA	Not applicable		
concealed?				
Did selection of study participants result in	++	Participants recruited using same eligibility criteria and		
appropriate comparison groups?		recruited within same time frame		
Did the study design or analysis account for	_	ANOVA test and t-tests were conducted for statistical		
important confounding and modifying variables?		analysis.		
Were experimental conditions identical across study	NA	Not applicable		
groups?				
Were the research personnel and human subjects	NA	Not applicable		
blinded to the study group during the study?				
Were outcome data complete without attrition or	++	"The total number of school children aged 12-13 years at		
	Criterion Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized? Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed? Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups? Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables? Were experimental conditions identical across study groups? Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	Criterion Resp Was administered dose or exposure level N/A adequately randomized? NA Was allocation to study groups adequately NA concealed? The selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups? The study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables? The study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables? Were experimental conditions identical across study groups? NA Were the research personnel and human subjects NA blinded to the study group during the study? NA		

Risk of bias as	ssessment		
Bias domain	Criterion	Resp	onse
	exclusion from analysis?		Dhand, Mohanpura, and Muhana was 35, 42, and 39,
			respectively. Children with a history of trauma or injury to
			the head and those affected by any congenital or
			acquired neurological disorders or psychological
			disorders were excluded from the study. Thirty children
			were randomly allocated from each school into their
			respective groups. The children were divided into three
			groups: Group A (Fluoride concentration of 2 ppm),
			Group B (Fluoride concentration of 5 ppm), and Group C
			(Fluoride concentration of 2-5 ppm)."
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Water fluoride data was acquired from the Public Health
	characterization?		Engineering Department. Urinary fluoride measured
			using Selective Ion Electrode Technique
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	+	"The IQ of the children was measured using Raven's
			Coloured Progressive Matrices™ intelligence test [8],
			which consists of a series of multiple-choice questions.
			Before administering the test, a friendly explanation of
			the important instructions was given by a single examiner
			to avoid mental stress for those taking the test. Children
			were made to sit in a manner to ensure that they couldn't
			talk with each other." (p. 2). Unclear blinding.
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Outcomes discussed in methods were reported in the
reporting			results

Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Resp	onse	
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal	++	None identified	
	validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate			
	and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?			

Marques 2022 [10]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	• "The prevalence of
Original study	Fluoride levels in	Dental fluorosis	Chi-square test	dental fluorosis at
Study design:	Drinking water		 Student's t tests 	all levels was
Cross-sectional			 Logistic regression 	higher in fluoridated
Country:				areas, however, in
Brazil				both groups, there
Participants:	Method of exposure		Results:	were few cases
High school students	assessment:		Fluorosis prevalence and	with esthetic
aged 17-20 years	 Fluoride in water by 		severity (n, %)	implications."
Sampling time frame:	a specific ion		Fluorosis absent	
January to September	electrode (Orion		Exposed: 195 (58.9%)	
2017	Model 96–09)		• Unexposed: 260 (79.0%)	
Sample size:	coupled to the ion		Very mild or mild fluorosis:	
660 (331 exposed and	analyzer (Orion Star		• Exposed: 96 (29.0%)	
329 unexposed to	A211, S~ao Paulo,		• Unexposed: 55 (16.7%)	
fluoridated water)	Brazil).		Moderate fluorosis:	
			• Exposed: 40 (12.1%)	
Sex: N (%):	Exposure level(s):	Method of outcome	• Unexposed: 14 (4.3%)	
Boys: 275 (41.7%)	Fluoride levels in:	ascertainment:	P<0.001	
Exclusions:	Fluoridated water:	Thylstrup and Fejerskov	Multivariate logistic regression	
• Students who had lived	0.50 to 0.90 ppm	(TF) index		

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
in the study area <70%	Non-fluoridated	The intra and inter-	Very mild or mild fluorosis	
of their lives.	water: <0.05 ppm	examiner kappa indexes	Exposed: AOR [adjusted odds	
 Students with a fixed 		were 0.87 and 0.85 for	ratio] =2.26 (95% CI: 1.54-	
orthodontic appliance or		dental fluorosis.	3.32)	
those with			Unexposed: reference	
amelogenesis			• P<0.001	
imperfecta			Moderate fluorosis	
Source of funding /			• Exposed: AOR=3.66 (95% CI:	
support			1.93–6.95)	
NR			Unexposed: reference	
Author declaration of			• P<0.001	
interest:				
NR				

Risk of bias a	Risk of bias assessment			
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse	
Selection	NA	Not applicable		
	adequately randomized?	INA	Not applicable	
	Was allocation to study groups adequately	NΙΛ	Not applicable	
	concealed?	INA	NA Not applicable	
Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?		Participants selected using same criteria. Sampling time		
	++	frame reported.		

Risk of bias as	ssessment			
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse	
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	++	Confounders were adjusted for.	
	important confounding and modifying variables?		Combandore Were adjusted for:	
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across	NA	Not applicable	
	study groups?		Tet applicable	
	Were the research personnel and human			
	subjects blinded to the study group during the	NA	Not applicable	
	study?			
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or	++	Reasons for exclusion were provided	
	exclusion from analysis?	•	reasons for exclusion were provided	
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Fluoride was measured in water using a specific ion	
	characterization?	• •	electrode and ion analyzer	
	Can we be confident in the outcome	++	DF examined using the Thysltrup and Fejerskov criteria	
	assessment?		2. Oxaminou doing the myoth up and respective to the na	
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Outcomes discussed in the methods were reported in the	
reporting			results	
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal			
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were	++	None identified	
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the		Trono Idontinod	
	study protocol)?			

McLaren 2022 [11]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Routes of	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	"Although estimates
Original study	exposures:	Dental fluorosis	 Poisson, Zero-inflated 	of fluorosis were
Study design:	Water fluoridation		Poisson, or logistic regression	higher in Edmonton
Cross-sectional ["pre-	Fluoride levels in		(as appropriate) for	than in Calgary, it is
post cross-sectional	 Fingernails 		comparison between Calgary	important to note
design with comparison	Water (in water		and Edmonton	that nearly all cases
group"]	treatment plants)		 Difference-in-differences 	(>99%) in both
Country:			approach to compare trends	cities were mild,
Canada			over time between Calgary	which is in line with
			and Edmonton	national estimates."
Participants:	Method of exposure		Results:	
Children aged ~7 years	assessment:			
(grade 2 schoolchildren)	Water fluoridation		Fluorosis prevalence (95% CI),	
Sampling time frame:	<u>status</u>		<u>%</u>	
• 2018-2019 school year	 Never exposed to 		[Note: crude - weighted estimate	
Pre-cessation data	water fluoridation		for the full samples; adjusted - weighted estimate adjusted for	
(2004/2005 and	(Calgary)		covariates; subset - crude	
2009/2010 [Calgary	 Always exposed to 		weighted estimate for lifelong residents of Calgary or	
only]), early post-	water fluoridation		Edmonton who reported usually	
cessation data	(Edmonton)		drinking tap water.]	
(2013/2014) from	Fluoride levels in		Years 2018-2019	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
previous studies	• Fingernails: Method		Calgary (water fluoridation	
Sample size:	of analysis not		ceased in 2011)	
<u>2018-2019</u>	reported; reference		• Crude: 8.3 (6.6-10.3)*	
• Calgary: 1620	to Whitford et al.		• Adjusted: 7.7 (5.9-9.6)*	
• Edmonton: 1402	1999 (Caries Res.		• Subset: 6.2 (4.3-8.9)*	
<u>2004-2005</u>	33(6):462-7) who		Edmonton (water fluoridation continues)	
• Calgary: 380	determined fluorides		• Crude: 19.4 (16.3-22.9)	
• Edmonton: 41,749497	"with the electrode		,	
2009-2010	following HMDS-		• Adjusted: 18.3 (14.9-21.6)	
• Calgary: 365	facilitated diffusion".		• Subset: 18.8 (14.4-24.2)	
• Edmonton:	• Water collected in		*Calgary vs. Edmonton: P<0.05	
<u>2013-2014</u>	water treatment		Changes over time (crude	
• Calgary: 2084	plants: data from		estimates)	
• Edmonton: 1749	annual water quality		Calgary (water fluoridation ceased in 2011)	
Fingernail clippings	reports		• 2004-2005: 22.6 (18.8, 26.9)	
(2018/2019 <u>)</u>			• 2009-2010: 29.1 (24.6, 34.1)	
• Calgary: 34			• 2013-2014: 19.9 (17.8, 22.2)	
• Edmonton: 31			• 2018-2019: 8.3 (6.6-10.3)	
Sex: N (%):	Exposure level(s):	Method of outcome	,	
NR	Total fluoride in	ascertainment:	Edmonton (water fluoridation continues)	
Exclusions:	<u>fingernails</u>	 Tooth Surface Index of 	• 2004-2005: 39.8 (37.0, 42.7)	
NR	Mean (95% CI), μg/g		(, -)	

Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Source of funding /	• Calgary: 1.1 (0.9 to	Fluorosis [TSIF] criteria.	• 2009-2010: no data	
support:	1.2)	 Dental fluorosis 	• 2013-2014: 14.1 (11.4, 17.4)	
 Research grant from 	• Edmonton: 1.6 (1.3	expressed as prevalence:	• 2018-2019: 19.4 (16.3-22.9)	
the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) (PJT-156258) • Dr McLaren was supported by an Applied Public Health Chair research award funded by CIHR (Institute of Population & Public Health and Institute of	to 1.8) Median (inter-quartile range), µg/g • Calgary: 1.0 (0.7 to 1.2) • Edmonton: 1.3 (1.3 to 1.5) P<0.0001 Fluoride in water: range (average, if available), µg/L 26	expressed as prevalence: % with TSIF score ≥1 based on the most severe level of fluorosis detected on the central maxillary incisor teeth (permanent teeth only, and only if at least half erupted) • Intra-rater agreement kappa: 0.87 • Inter-rater agreement kappa: 0.77	• 2018-2019: 19.4 (16.3-22.9) Coefficient (95% CI) for difference of changes: -0.1 [-0.2 to -0.1], P<0.001).	
Musculoskeletal Health	Calgary			
& Arthritis), the Public	Bearspaw plant:			
Health Agency of	2005: 0.6-0.8			
Canada, and Alberta	2006: 0.7-0.7			
Innovates—Health	2007: 0.6-0.7			
Solutions (CIHR ID CPP-137907)	2008: 0.7-0.7			

²⁶ Fluoridation of drinking water in Calgary ceased on May 19, 2011. Water fluoride values for year 2011 in Calgary are underlined.

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Dr Weijs was supported	2009: 0.7-0.7			
by a CIHR Health	2010: 0.7-0.7			
System Impact	<u>2011: 0.1-0.7</u>			
Fellowship, 2017-2020	2012: 0.1-0.1			
(Award # 403867).	2013: 0.1-0.2			
Author declaration of	2014: 0.1-0.3			
interest: No COI	2015: 0.1-0.1 (0.1)			
	2016: 0.1-0.1 (0.1)			
	2017: 0.1-0.2 (0.1)			
	2018: 0.1-0.2 (0.1)			
	2019: 0.1-0.3 (0.2)			
	Glenmore plant:			
	2005: 0.7-0.8			
	2006: 0.6-0.8			
	2007: 0.7-0.7			
	2008: 0.6-0.7			
	2009: 0.6-0.8			
	2010: 0.6-0.9			
	<u>2011: 0.1-0.7</u>			
	2012: 0.2-0.3			
	2013: 0.1-0.3			
	2014: 0.1-0.3			
	2015: 0.2-0.3 (0.3)			

Study Characte	ristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
	2016: 0.2-0.3 (0.2)			
	2017: <0.1-0.3 (0.2	2)		
	2018: 0.2-0.3 (0.2)			
	2019: 0.1-0.3 (0.2)			
	Edmonton			
	 Rossdale plant: 			
	2005: 0.7-1.0 (0.8)			
	2006: 0.8-0.9 (0.8)			
	2007: 0.5-0.9 (0.7)			
	2008: 0.1-0.9 (0.8)			
	2009: 0.7-0.9 (0.8)			
	2010: 0.6-0.8 (0.7)			
	2011: 0.6-0.8 (0.7)			
	2012: 0.0-0.8 (0.5)			
	2013: 0.6-0.8 (0.7)			
	2014: 0.6-0.9 (0.7)			
	2015: 0.6-0.8 (0.7)			
	2016: 0.6-0.8 (0.7)			
	2017: 0.6-0.8 (0.7)			
	2018: 0.6-0.8 (0.7)			
	2019: 0.6-0.8 (0.7)			
	• EL Smith plant:			
	2005: 0.7-0.9 (0.8)			

Study Characte	ristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
	2006: 0.7-0.9 (0.8)			
	2007: 0.1-0.9 (0.8)			
	2008: 0.0-0.8 (0.4)			
	2009: 0.7-0.8 (0.7)			
	2010: 0.7-0.8 (0.7)			
	2011: 0.1-0.8 (0.6)			
	2012: 0.6-0.8 (0.7)			
	2013: 0.6-0.8 (0.7)			
	2014: 0.5-0.9 (0.7)			
	2015: 0.6-0.8 (0.7)			
	2016: 0.6-0.8 (0.7)			
	2017: 0.6-0.8 (0.7)			
	2018: 0.5-0.8 (0.7)			
	• 2019: <0.1-0.8 (0	.5)		

Risk of bias assessment			
Bias domain	Criterion	Response	
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level	NA Not applicable	
adequately randomized	adequately randomized?	NA Not applicable	
	Was allocation to study groups adequately	NA Not applicable	
concealed?	па погаррісавіе		
	Did selection of study participants result in	++ Participants selected using same criteria. Sampling time	

Risk of bias a	Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Response				
	appropriate comparison groups?		frame reported.			
Confounding			Confounders were adjusted for.			
	important confounding and modifying variables?	++	Comounaers were adjusted for.			
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across	NA	Not applicable			
	study groups?	14/ (Not applicable			
	Were the research personnel and human					
	subjects blinded to the study group during the	NA	Not applicable			
	study?					
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or		"We developed sampling weights that accounted for the			
	exclusion from analysis?		probability of selection (as per the sampling frame) and			
			the probability of non-response, thus increasing the			
			extent to which our samples resembled the underlying			
		++	target populations. This approach enabled us to handle			
			missing observations within the framework of our survey			
			sampling approach rather than, for example, having to			
			estimate differences between our samples and the			
			target populations"			
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure		Water fluoridation status: Calgary (fluoridation			
	characterization?	+	cessation); Edmonton (still fluoridated). Source of			
			information unclear.			
	Can we be confident in the outcome	++	DF examined using Tooth Surface Index of Fluorosis			

Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Response		
	assessment?			
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?		Outcomes discussed in the methods were reported in	
reporting		++	the results	
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal			
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were		None identified	
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the	++	None identified	
	study protocol)?			

Rani 2022 [12]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	• "The risk of dental
Original study	Fluoride levels in	Dental fluorosis	 Descriptive analysis 	fluorosis was
Study design:	 Groundwater 			significantly higher
Cross-sectional				in the areas
Country:				showing more
India				fluoride content in
Participants:	Method of exposure		Results:	drinking water."
Children aged 6-12 years	assessment:		Dean's fluorosis index (mean)	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Sampling time frame:	Fluoride in water: Ion		by level of groundwater fluoride:	
NR	Selective Electrode		• Low (<0.7 ppm): 0.62 [1	need to improve the
Sample size:	Method using ION		village]	quality of water and
1262	check 45 m.		• Optimum (0.7–1.5 ppm): 0.72	institute
			to 1.33 [5 villages]	de-fluoridation of
Sex: N (%):	Exposure level(s):	Method of outcome	• High (1.5-4 ppm): 1.32 to 2.31	drinking water in
Boys: 615 (48.7%)	Fluoride in	ascertainment:	[19 villages]	affected areas to
Exclusions:	groundwater (ppm):	Dean's Fluorosis Index	 Very high (>4 ppm): 2.62 to 	lower the burden of
Children who were not	0.532-8.802		3.34 [5 villages]	dental fluorosis in
continuous residents of			Correlation between	the community
the study area since			groundwater fluoride and	either by making
birth			Dean's fluorosis index	alternative sources
			• r=0.922; p<0.01	available or
Source of funding /				providing water with
support:				an optimal
• None				concentration of
				fluoride."
Author declaration of				
interest: No COI				

Risk of bias assessment	
Bias domain Criterion	Response

Risk of bias as	Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse			
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level	NA	Not applicable			
	adequately randomized?	INA	пот арріїсаріє			
	Was allocation to study groups adequately	NA	Not applicable			
	concealed?	INA	Not applicable			
	Did selection of study participants result in	+	Participants selected using same criteria. Sampling time			
	appropriate comparison groups?		frame not reported.			
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for		Correlation analyses, t-tests, and Chi-square tests were			
	important confounding and modifying variables?		conducted			
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across	NA	Not applicable			
	study groups?	INA				
	Were the research personnel and human					
	subjects blinded to the study group during the	NA	Not applicable			
	study?					
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or		NR			
	exclusion from analysis?	_	IVIX			
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Fluoride was measured in water using Ion Selective			
	characterization?	**	Electrode Method			
	Can we be confident in the outcome	++	DF examined using Dean's Fluorosis Index			
	assessment?	TT	DI GARITHEU USHIY DEATTS FIUDIOSIS HIUGA			
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Outcomes discussed in the methods were reported in the			
reporting		TT	results			

Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse		
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal				
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were		None identified		
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the	++	None identified		
	study protocol)?				

Saeed 2022 [13]

Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	"Mean urinary concentrations of
Original study	Fluoride levels in	Dental fluorosis	Chi-square testIndependent samples t-test	As and F as well as the
Study design:	• Urine	Non-verbal intelligence	Spearman's rank correlation	frequency of dental
Cross-sectional	 Groundwater used for drinking 	quotient (IQ)	(according to the Methods section); Pearson correlation (according to the title of table	fluorosis were found elevated among the exposed
Country:			2)	group."
Pakistan			 Linear regression (Backward stepwise) 	 "The cases of children with lower IQ were observed
Participants:	Method of exposure		Results:	high in the exposed
Children aged 5-16 years	assessment:		Dental fluorosis	group." • "… it was revealed

Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Sampling time frame: NR Sample size: 148 (118 exposed; 30 controls) Sex: N (%): Boys: 112 Exclusions:	 Urinary fluoride by fluoride ion-selective electrode (Hanna, Model HI-522). Water fluoride: NR Exposure level(s): Water fluoride (mg/L) Control group: 0–0.5, mean 0.15 (SD 0.13) 	Method of outcome ascertainment: • Dental fluorosis: Dean's index	Frequency and severity of dental fluorosis, n (%) Control group Normal: 28 (94.0) Questionable: 2 (6.0) Exposed group Normal: 0 Questionable: 16 (13.55) Very mild: 22 (18.65) Mild: 21 (17.80) Moderate: 25 (21.19)	that variations in dental fluorosis and IQ levels were more significantly associated with F- exposure compared to As."
 Non-permanent residents in the study area Drinking water source other than groundwater Source of funding / 	mean 0.15 (SD 0.13) • Exposed group: 0.10–15.80, mean 5.64 (SD 3.52) • P=0.000 <u>Urinary fluoride (mg/L)</u>	 Non-verbal IQ: Wechsler scale of intelligence (WISC-IV) 	• Severe: 34 (28.81) Correlation analysis Water fluoride and urinary fluoride: r=0.224; p=0.006	
support: None Author declaration of interest: No COI	 Control group: 0.40– 0.75, mean 0.24 (SD 0.15) Exposed group: 0.47–14.56, mean 3.27 (SD 2.60) P=0.000 		Water fluoride and dental fluorosis: r=0.380; p=0.000 Urinary fluoride and dental fluorosis: r=0.721; p=0.000 <u>Linear regression analysis</u>	
			Fluoride in urine as an	

Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			independent variable:	
			 β=0.38 (SE 0.03) [unstandardized] β=0.66 [standardized]; p=0 	.00
			Other independent variables	in
			the model: gender, family	
			economic status, arsenic in	
			urine.	
			Model summary: $F = 49.00$;	
			adjusted R ² =0.57; p=0.000	
			Non-verbal intelligence	
			quotient (IQ)	
			IQ score	
			Control group: 80.25-127.75	;
			mean 100.93 (SD 13.1)	
			Exposed group: 63.97–127.3	31;
			mean 97.26 (SD 15.39)	
			P=0.233	

Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			Correlation analysis	
			Water fluoride and urinary fluoride: r=0.224; p=0.006	
			Water fluoride and IQ score: 0.034; p=0.683	r=-
			Urinary fluoride and IQ score r=-0.655; p=0.000	:
			Dental fluorosis and IQ score r=-0.552; p=0.000):
			Note: Levels of fluoride significantly correlated with arsenic levels.	
			Linear regression analysis	
			Fluoride in urine as an independent variable:	
			 β=-3.45 (SE 0.50) [unstandardized] β=-0.60 [standardized] P=0.00 	

Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			Other independent variables i	n
			the model: age, gender,	
			parental education, dental	
			fluorosis.	
			Model summary: $F = 29.64$;	
			adjusted R ² =0.49; p=0.000	
			Intelligence level vs mean (SI	<u>D)</u>
			water fluoride (WF), urinary	
			fluoride (UF), water arsenic	
			(WA) and urinary arsenic (UA)
			Superior (IQ score ≥130): no	
			participants with this level	
			Above average (IQ score 120	-
			129)	
			• WF: 1.96±2.77 mg/L	
			• UF: 0.54±0.59 mg/L	
			WA: 0.02±0.05 mg/LUA: 0.68±1.54 mg/L	
			High Average (IQ score 111-	

Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			119)	
			• WF: 4.60±4.40 mg/L	
			• UF: 1.20±0.80 mg/L	
			• WA: 0.12±0.15 mg/L	
			• UA: 2.71±1.78 mg/L	
			Average (QI score 90-100)	
			• WF: 4.3±3.99 mg/L	
			• UF: 1.99±1.28 mg/L	
			 WA: 0.16±0.22 mg/L 	
			• UA: 3.13±2.29 mg/L	
			Low average (IQ score 80-8	9)
			• WF: 3.84±3.63 mg/L	
			 UF: 3.61±2.84 mg/L 	
			 WA: 0.14±0.16 mg/L 	
			• UA: 2.65±1.80 mg/L	
			Borderline (IQ score 70-79)	
			• WF: 6.19±4.59 mg/L	
			• UF: 7.13±2.62 mg/L	
			• WA: 0.15±0.09 mg/L	
			• UA: 3.75±1.26 mg/L	
			Retarded (IQ score <70)	
			• WF: 4.92±3.46 mg/L	
			• UF: 8.10±5.84 mg/L	

Study characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
			WA: 0.17±0.28 mg/L UA: 3.50±0.81 mg/L		

Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Response			
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level	N/A	Not applicable		
	adequately randomized?				
	Was allocation to study groups adequately	N/A	Not applicable		
	concealed?				
	Did selection of study participants result in	+	Participants selected using same criteria. Time frame not		
	appropriate comparison groups?		reported.		
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	++	"Multiple linear (Backward stepwise) regression		
	important confounding and modifying variables?		models were used to examine the associations between		
			(a) IQ level, MDA, SOD, CAT, GR, and dental fluorosis		
			with independent variables including age, gender,		
			economic status, parent education, As and F- in the urine."		
			(p. 3936)		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study	N/A	Not applicable		
	groups?				
	Were the research personnel and human subjects	N/A	Not applicable		
	blinded to the study group during the study?				

Risk of bias as	Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Response				
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	-	NR			
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Fluoride was measured in urine using fluoride ion-			
	characterization?		selective electrode			
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	+	IQ measured using the	++	Dental fluorosis	
			Wechsler scale of		assessed using Dean's	
			intelligence (WISC-IV).		Index.	
			Unclear blinding			
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Outcomes discussed in th	e met	hods were reported in the	
reporting			results			
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal	++	None identified			
	validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate					
	and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?					

Tawfik 2022 [14]

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	 "Correlation 	
Original study	Fluoride levels in:	 Dental fluorosis 	 Pearson's correlation 	between fluorosis status and fluoride	
Study design:	 Groundwater 			level in drinking	

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome		Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Cross-sectional					water was
Country:					performed by using Pearson`s
Egypt					correlation
Participants:	Method of exposure			Results:	coefficient and
7-14 years old children	assessment:			• Dental Fluorosis – Modified	revealed strong, positive, significant
with no tooth fillings or braces, who live in the same region since birth	 Water analysis was conducted in the National Research 			Dean's Index: Mean ± SD: 2.31 ±0.94	correlation.""Nubian children recorded moderate
Sampling time frame:	Centre (method unreported).			 Dental Fluorosis (%) Normal: 0% 	and severe
December 2020- March 2021	umeportea).			Questionable: 0% Very Mild: 19.8%	fluorosis status score because on analysis of their
Sample size:				Mild: 40%	drinking water, their
202				Moderate: 30% Severe:9.9%	result showed that
Sex: N (%):	Exposure level(s):	Method of	outcome	00,0,0,0,0,0	mean fluoride level was 8 mg/L."
NR	• Fluoride Levels in	ascertainment:			•
Exclusions:	drinking water: 7.5-9.5, mean 8mg/L	 Modified Dean' 	s Index		
 Teeth covered with filling or braces Parents or children who refused to join the study. Ethical Consideration 					
Source of funding /					
support:					

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Self-funded					
Author declara interest: No COI					

Risk of bias as	Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Response				
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable			
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable			
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	Yes, participants were selected using the same criteria and during the same timeframe			
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	-	NR			
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable			
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable			
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Yes, the study reported on reasons for exclusion of study participants (teeth covered with fillings or braces, parents or children who refused to join the study, and other "undeclared" ethical considerations)			

Risk of bias as	Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion		oonse		
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	+	Water analysis was conducted in the National Research Centre (method unreported).		
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	Yes, all participants were "clinically" examined for the outcome (DF), using Modified Dean's Index. Lack of blinding of outcome assessors would not appreciably bias results.		
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were presented in results section with adequate level of detail for data extraction		
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified		

Thilakarathne 2022^[15]

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Reference type:	Exposures	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	• "The prevalence of	
Original study	Fluoride level in	Dental fluorosis	 Chi square test for trends 	dental fluorosis was	
Study design:	 Drinking water 			high and it	
Cross-sectional				increased with the	
Country:				increase in the	
Sri Lanka					

Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Participants:	Method of exposure		Results:	fluoride content ir
Children aged 15 years	assessment:		Prevalence of dental fluorosis	the drinking wate
Sampling time frame:	• Fluoride content in		• TF score > 0: 51.7%	source."
NR	water by		• TF score > 1: 41.5%	
Sample size:	spectrophotometry		• TF score > 2: 20.5%	
1040 [total]			Prevalence of dental fluorosis	
989 [analytical]			by TF score	
Sex: N (%):	Exposure level(s):	Method of outcome	• TF0 [normal]: 48.3%	
Boys: 45.2% of the total	• Fluoride levels in	ascertainment:	• TF1: 10.2%	
sample	water: 0.0-1.9 mg/L	Thylstrup and Ferjeskov	• TF2: 20.9%	
Exclusions:		(TF) index	• TF3: 11.8%	
Children who had not			• TF4: 5.9%	
resided in the study			• TF5: 2.3%	
area since birth			• TF6: 0.5%	
Children with learning			Association between fluoride	
difficulties, wearing			level in drinking water and	
fixed orthodontic			prevalence of dental fluorosis	
appliances and those			(TF score>0)	
who were absent on the			• Water fluoride <0.3 mg/L:	
day of the oral			42.3%	
examination			Water fluoride 0.31-0.6 mg/L:	
Source of funding /			62.8%	

Study Characteris	stics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Research Grant			Water fluoride 0.61-0.9 m	g/L:
(RG/2016/84/D) fro	om the		70.1%	
University of Perad	leniya		• Water fluoride >0.9 mg/L:	88.9
Author declaration	n of		 p (Chi sq for trend) <0.001 	
interest:				
NR				

Risk of bias as	ssessment			
Bias domain	Criterion	Response		
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?		Not applicable	
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	NA	Not applicable	
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	+	Participants selected using same criteria. Sampling time frame not reported.	
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	-	Chi-square test for trends was conducted	
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	NA	Not applicable	
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the	NA	Not applicable	

Risk of bias a	ssessment		
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	oonse
	study?		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Reasons for exclusion were provided
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Fluoride was measured in water using spectrometry
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	DF examined using the Thysltrup and Fejerskov criteria
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Outcomes discussed in the methods were reported in the results
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified

Al-Omoush 2021 [16]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	"This study
Original study Study design:	Fluoride level in Drinking water samples from wells	Dental fluorosis prevalence and severity	Statistical significance at p = 0.05	concluded that higher fluorosis incidence and severity were present in the higher-
Cross-sectional study	Method of exposure	Method of outcome ascertainment:	Results: Frequency (%) distribution	altitude location (Ruwaished).
Country:	assessment:	Dean's index used to	of dental fluorosis by Dean's	Moreover, this study also indicated that
Jordan	Fluoride-ion selective electrode coupled with ionalyzer	determine dental fluorosis severity	the Normal ma	the preventive management of
Participants:			• N = 10 / 141 (7.1%) <u>Very mild</u>	dental fluorosis should be directed to
 School children residing in Ruwaished (age 15.3 +/- 1.4 years) and 	Exposure level: Average fluoride level in		• N = 13 / 141 (9.2%) <u>Mild</u>	de-fluoridation of drinking water in endemic areas." (p.
Kuraymah (age 16.1 +/- 1.3 years)	water (ppm) Ruwaished		• N = 21 / 141 (14.9%) <u>Moderate</u>	707 – 708)
Sampling time frame:	• 1.38 <u>Kuraymah</u>		• N = 51 / 141 (36.2) <u>Severe</u>	
NR	• 1.10			

Study Characteristic	Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
			• N = 46 / 141 (32.6)		
Sample size:					
• Ruwaished: 100			Frequency (%) distribution	١	
• Kuraymah: 141			of dental fluorosis by Dea	n's	
			Fluorosis Index in		
O 11 (0/)			Ruwaished		
Sex: N (%):			<u>Normal</u>		
• Ruwaished: Men: 60	0		• N = 0 / 100 (0%)		
(60%)					
• Kuraymah: Men: 85			<u>Very Mild</u>		
(39.7%)			• N = 9 / 100 (9%)		
			<u>Mild</u>		
Exclusions:			• N = 19 / 100 (19%)		
NR			<u>Moderate</u>		
			• N = 22/100 (22%)		
Source of funding /			<u>Severe</u>		
support: NR			• N = 50 / 100 (50%)		
Author declaration of	of				

Study Characteristics						
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions		
interest: No COI						

Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse		
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Did selection of study participants result in	+	Yes, participants were selected using the same		
	appropriate comparison groups?		criteria. However, the sampling timeframe was not		
			reported		
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	-	NR		
	important confounding and modifying variables?				
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Were the research personnel and human	N/A	Not applicable		

Risk of bias	assessment		
	subjects blinded to the study group during the study?		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	-	NR
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Yes, exposure was measured in water wells using a combination of F-selective electrode (Orion model 960900), coupled with an ionalyzer (Orion mode I901, Cambridge, U.S.A.)
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	Yes, outcome (dental fluorosis) was done by trained and calibrated examiners (no professional information reported), using Dean's fluorosis index. Lack of blinding of outcome assessors would not appreciably bias results.
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were presented in results section with adequate level of detail for data extraction
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the	++	None identified

Risk of bias assessment study protocol)?

Ayele 2021 [17]

Study Characteristics	Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions		
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	"The study		
Original study Study design:	Fluoride levels in Ground water (community wells)	Skeletal fluorosisJoint painNeurological manifestations	Descriptive analysisUnivariate analysisMultivariable regression	demonstrates high prevalence of neuro- medical manifestations of		
Cross-sectional (part of an ongoing cohort study in the Ethiopian Rift Valley)	Method of exposure assessment: The ion-selective electrode (ISE)	(headache, paresthesia, loss of appetite, constipation, and fatigue) Method of outcome	Results: • At least one clinical sign of skeletal fluorosis was observed in 54.4% of the study participants.	fluorosis in population living in the Main Ethiopian Rift valley. Fluoride concentration in drinking water and		
Country: Ethiopia	Exposure level:	ascertainment: A comprehensive physical examination with emphasis	 For every 1 mg/L increment of fluoride in 	joint pain were independent predictors of		

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
	Mean concentration: 6.8	on neurological	drinking water, the odds of	fluorosis."	
Participants:	± 4.3 mg/L	examination, conducted by	skeletal fluorosis increased		
Persons aged 10–70 years old, selected at random from those who lived and used water wells from 23 rural villages	• Range: 0.3–15.5 mg/L	two certified neurologists	by 1.15 upon adjustment for age and selected clinical variables [Adjusted OR 1.15, 95%CI (1.04–1.27); p = 0.006]. • Signs of crippling fluorosis were observed in small		
Sampling time frame:			proportion (1.6%) of participants.		
Two sampling periods (between 2018 and			 Fluoride concentration in drinking water and joint pain were found to be 		
2019)			independent predictors of skeletal fluorosis.		
Sample size:			 Headache and joint pain reported by 67.1% and 		
316			56.3% of participants as the most common		
Sex (N):			neurological manifestation, and skeletal fluorosis		

Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Men: 176 (55.7%)			symptom, respectively.	
			 The mean fluoride level 	
			was higher for those	
xclusions:			individuals who reported	
R			paresthesia compared to	
			those with no-paresthesia	а.
	I		 Loss of appetite, 	
ource of fundin	g <i>i</i>		constipation, and fatigue	
upport:			were reported by 48.0%,	
IIEHS's career			45.6%, and 56.6% of the	
evelopment			participants, respectively	
rant			 Individuals who reported 	
			headache are most likely	
			exposed to higher fluoride	е
uthor declaration	on of		concentrations in drinking	9
nterest:			water compared to those	
lo COI			reported no-headache	
			(p<0.001).	

Risk of bias assessment

Risk of bias as	ssessment		
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	oonse
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	Yes, participants were identified using the same method of ascertainment, recruited within the same time frame, and using the same criteria.
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	+	Yes, it accounted for age and select clinical covariates. The populations were reported as fairly homogenous with similar ethnicity, economic, and nutritional status.
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Study provided reasons for exclusion of participants (participation in the pilot testing of the field

Risk of bias	assessment				
			questionnaire)		
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Yes, exposure was meas	sured	in water using the ion
	characterization?		selective electrode metho	od.	
	Can we be confident in the outcome		Yes, the outcome		The outcome (multiple
	assessment?		(skeletal fluorosis) was		neurological
			assessed using		symptoms) was
			comprehensive		assessed using face-
			physical examination		to-face interviews by
			by two certified		trained field
			neurologists. Outcome		enumerators (graduate
			assessment methods		students and nurses /
		++	and lack of blinding of	_	medical doctors).
			outcome assessors		Comprehensive
			would not appreciably		physical examination
			bias results.		with a focus on
					neurological signs was
					conducted by two
					certified neurologists.
					Lack of blinding of
					outcome might have
					appreciably biased the

Risk of bias	assessment				
					results.
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?		Yes, primary outcome		Yes, the primary
reporting			(skeletal fluorosis)		outcome (medical
			discussed in the		conditions grouped as
			methods was		neurological) were
		++	presented in results	++	discussed in methods
			section with adequate		was presented in
			level of detail for data		results section with
			extraction		adequate level of detail
					for data extraction
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal		None identified		
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were				
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the	++			
	study protocol)?				

Cao 2021^[18]

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	• "The prevalence rate	
Original study	Fluoride levels in:	 Dental fluorosis 	• Rate or composition ratio	of dental fluorosis among children in	
Study design:	 Drinking water 		 Chi-square test 	each diseased area	
Cross-sectional	• Urine			is <30%."	
Country:				 "Results indicate reduction of fluoride 	
China				in Fuzhou county,	
Participants:	Method of exposure		Results: CHI SQURE tests	concluded in reduction of	
Dental fluorosis: Children	assessment:		add	endemic dental	
aged 8-<13 years	• The fluorine content		Detection rates for dental	fluorosis (with very	
<u>Urinary fluoride:</u> Age 25 and over	in water was determined by		fluorosis: (P:0.357) 2017: 1.75% (7/401)	mild and mild cases)."	
	"Standard Test		2018: 1.40% (7/500)	• "There is no	
Sampling time frame: June 2017- June 2019	Method for Drinking Water"		2019: 0.67% (3/445)	statistically	
	(GB/T5750.5-2006).		.062, P=0.357	significant difference in the detection rate	
Sample size:	Determination of		Overall, 2017-2019: 1.26%	of dental fluorosis	
Dental fluorosis: 1346	Urinary Fluorine Content Fluoride		(17/1 346)	among children in each year and	
<u>Urinary fluoride:</u> 450	Determination Ion		Total DF Index: 0.03	among children of	
	Selective Electrode Method»(WS/T89- 2015)		 Dental fluorosis cases: Suspicious: 35(2.60%) Very Mild: 12 (0.89%) 	different age. groups"	
Sex:	Exposure level(s):	Method of outcome	Mild: 5 (0.37%)		
Boys: 50%	 Drinking water 	ascertainment:	Moderate: 0		

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Exclusions: Demolition victims of	<u>Fluoride range:</u> 0.05-0.76 mg/L	Dean's index [by Dental fluorosis index (fluorosis	Severe:0	
Yinpu Natural Village	Urinary Fluoride	community index, FCI)] • The grading of dental	 Highest DF in Minhou County Detection rates/years: 	
Source of funding / support:	0.04 - 3.76 mg/L (Geometric Mean: 0.8 mg/L)	fluorosis was carried out according to "Diagnosis	2017: 21.21% (7/33) 2018: 17.95% (7/39)	
NR	Upper limit of normal	of Dental Fluorosis" (WS/T208-2011).	2019: 13.04% (3/23) P=0.7	
Author declaration of interest: No COI	value is ≤1.60 mg/L.	(VV3/1200-2011).	1 –0.7	

Risk of bias as	sessment		
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	oonse
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	Yes, participants were selected during the same timeframe, according to the same criteria and from the same eligible population.
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	-	NR
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable
	Were the research personnel and human subjects	N/A	Not applicable

Risk of bias as	sessment		
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	oonse
	blinded to the study group during the study?		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	-	NR
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Yes, fluoride exposure levels were obtained from drinking water samples that were collected from the local source of water supply in each village. Fluoride concentrations were determined using the Ion Selective Electrode Method (WS/T89-2015)
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	The diagnosis of DF was assessed by trained investigators using Dean's fluorosis index. Blinding of exposure status may have not significantly biased the assessment
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, the primary outcomes discussed in methods were presented in the results section with adequate level of detail for data extraction
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified

Dong 2021 [19]

Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type: Original	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	"Even low level of
study	Fluoride levels in • Drinking water	Dental fluorosis	 Binary logistic regression analyses were used to 	water or plasma fluoride exposure was associated with
Study design: Cross sectional	• Serum	Method of outcome ascertainment:	determine the association between fluoride exposure and dental fluorosis,	increased risk of dental fluorosis."
Country: United States	Method of exposure assessment:	Assessment of dental fluorosis conducted by	 Controlled for age, sex, race/ethnicity, BMI 	
	Water fluoride:	certified dentists,	categories, the ratio of	
Participants: US children and adolescents 6–19 years	Measured electrometrically using the ion-specific electrode (CDC, 2017a).	according to the Dean's Fluorosis Index (DFI) and assigned one of the DFI disease severity	family income to poverty and six-month time period when surveyed.	
old (NHANES survey)		categories, based on the area of the tooth surface	Results:	
Sampling time frame:	Serum fluoride:	with visible fluorosis and	 The rate of fluoride concentration in water 	
2015-2016	Measured in duplicate using the same sample	presence of pitting (NHANES Dental	above the recommended level of 0.7 mg/L was	
	and the average of two results was employed	Examiners Procedures Manual, 2016).	25%, but the prevalence	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Sample size:	(Centers for Disease		of dental fluorosis was	
2098 children and	Control and Prevention,		70%.	
adolescents	2017b).		 Binary logistic regression 	
			adjusted for covariates	
			showed that higher water	
Sex: Men: 1,054	Exposure level:		fluoride concentrations	
(50.24%)	Water fluoride (mg/L):		(0.31–0.50, 0.51–0.70, >	
•	Mean (SD)		0.70 compared 0.00-0.30	0)
	All: 0.46 (0.40)		were associated with	
Exclusions:	lusions:		higher odds of dental	
Men: 0.48 (0.41) Survey respondents with		fluorosis		
missing any of the	Women: 0.47 (0.38)		o <u>0.31–0.50:</u> OR=1.48	
	Children: 0.52 (0.44)		(1.13–1.96), p = 0.005	
fluoride measurements, dental fluorosis	,		o <u>0.51–0.70:</u> OR=1.92,	
	Adolescents 0.43 (0.35)		(1.44–2.58, p < 0.001	
assessment or complete data for all covariates and			o > 0.70: OR=2.30 (1.75	i
	Plasma fluoride (µmol/L):		3.07), p < 0.001	
outcomes.	Mean (SD)		The pattern of regression	
	All: 0.25 (0.22)		between plasma fluoride	
Source of funding /	All: 0.35 (0.22)		and dental fluorosis was	
	Men: 0.36 (0.19)		similar.	
	Women: 0.34 (0.25)			

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Fundamental	Children: 0.38 (0.24)			
Research Funds for	Adolescents: 0.32 (0.20)			
the Central Universities	,			
(No. 3332019030)				
 Youth Program of 				
Peking Union Medical				
College Hospital				
Foundation (No.				
PUMCH 201910847),				
 National Natural 				
Science Foundation of				
China (81703198).				
Author declaration of				
interest: No COI				

Risk of bias as	ssessment	
Bias domain	Criterion	Response

Risk of bias as	ssessment		
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	Yes, participants were selected using the same criteria and during the same timeframe
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	++	Yes, it accounted for major confounders such as age, sex, race, BMI, family income to poverty, and six month time period when surveyed
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	-	NR
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Yes, exposure was measured in water (the ion-specific electrode test) and serum (the ion-specific electrode and hexamethyldisiloxane [HMDS] test).

assessment		
Can we be confident in the outcome	++	Yes, outcome (dental fluorosis) was consistently
assessment?		measured by two dentists using Dean's Fluorosis
		Index, in accordance with the NHANES Dental
		Examiners Procedures Manual, 2016. Lack of
		blinding of outcome assessors would not appreciably
		bias results.
Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were
		presented in results section with adequate level of
		detail for data extraction
Were there no other potential threats to internal	++	None identified
validity (e.g., statistical methods were		
appropriate and researchers adhered to the		
study protocol)?		
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment? Were all measured outcomes reported? Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the	Can we be confident in the outcome +++ assessment? Were all measured outcomes reported? +++ Were there no other potential threats to internal +++ validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the

Du 2021 [20]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	• "Fluoride exposure
Original study	Fluoride levels in • Urine	Thyroid hormone dysfunction:	• Linear regression	can elevate the Tvols of school-age children, especially
Study design: Cross-sectional	Method of exposure assessment:	Total triiodothyronine (TT3)Total thyroxine (TT4)	Results: Tvol (cm3)	in boys, and high levels of iodine may alleviate this effect
Country: China	 Urinary fluoride (UF): the ion-selective electrode method (Shanghai 	Thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH)Tvols (thyroid volumes)	 All β (95% CI): 0.22 (0.14, 0.31), p-value: < 0.001 Boys 	to some extent" No significant difference between
Participants: Children aged 7–12	Exactitude Instrument, Shanghai, China).	Method of outcome ascertainment:	β (95% CI): 0.34 (0.20, 0.48), p-value: < 0.001 • Girls	boys and girls in age, maternal education, UCr, UF, UI, Tvol, TT4, and
years old	Exposure level:	 Clinical examination conducted by skilled 	β (95% CI): 0.14 (0.03, 0.24), p-value: 0.011	TT3. • BMI in boys was
Sampling time frame: 2017	Urinary fluoride (mg/l) All: 1.45 ± 0.88 Boys: 1.43 ± 0.89 Girls: 1.48 ± 0.87 t/x ² : 0.490	medical professionals • Serum TT3, TT4, TSH: radiation immunoassay using the auto biochemical analyzer	 Interaction β (95% CI): - 0.15 (- 0.30, - 0.01), p-value: 0.038 	significantly higher than that in girls (P < 0.05), TSH concentration

Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Sample size: 446 Sex (N): Boys: 237 (53.1%) Exclusions:	P-value: 0.624	(Cobas C501, Roche Diagnostics, Basel, Switzerland) • The B-mode ultrasound was performed to assess thyroid volumes (Tvols).	TT4 (nmol/l) was • All β (95% CI): 1.44 (- 1.28, 4.16), p-value: 0.297 • Boys: β (95% CI): 2.13 (- 2.89, 7.14), p-value: 0.404 • Girls • Tyo	was significantly lower in boys than girls (P < 0.001) Tvols increased by 0.22 (95% CI: 0.14, 0.31) cm³ with each standard deviation increment of UF. Tvols in boys were
• Children with a history of the thyroid-related diseases (such as hyperthyroidism, hypothyroidism, thyroid nodules, thyroid goiters,			 β (95% CI): 0.89 (- 2.27, 4.04), p-value: 0.580 Interaction β (95% CI): - 1.46 (- 6.17, 3.24), p-value: 0.542 	more susceptible to fluoride exposure than those in girls Tvols of children with high urinary iodine are less
 and Hashimoto's thyroiditis) Children with urinary iodine < 100 μg/l) 			 TT3 (nmol/l) All β (95% CI): - 0.05 (- 0.10, 0.01), p-value: 0.087 Boys β (95% CI): - 0.08 (- 0.17, 	susceptible to fluoride exposure (P for interaction < 0.05). TT3 levels were negatively related

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
support:			0.01), p-value: 0.072	concentrations at
 National Natural Science Foundation of China The Henan Department of Science and Technology, China 			 Girls β (95% CI): - 0.03 (- 0.10, 0.04), p-value: 0.381 Interaction β (95% CI): 0.01 (- 0.08, 0.10), p-value: 0.795 	moderate urinary iodine levels (≤ 300 μg/l).
Zhengzhou University			TSH (μIU/mI)	
Author declaration of interest: No COI			 All-β (95% CI): - 0.07 (- 0.20, 0.07) p-value: 0.316 Boys-β (95% CI): 0.06 (- 0.04, 0.17) p-value: 0.229 Girls-β (95% CI): - 0.15 (- 0.38, 0.08) p-value: 0.202 Interaction-β (95% CI): - 0.11 (- 0.33, 0.12) p-value: 0.363 	

Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse	
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable	
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable	
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	Yes, participants were selected using the same criteria and during the same timeframe	
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	++	Yes, it accounted for major confounders such as age, gender, BMI, maternal education, urinary creatinine, urinary iodine and urinary fluoride	
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable	
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable	
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	-	NR	
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Yes, exposure was measured in water (the ion-specific electrode test) and serum (the ion-specific	

Risk of bias assessment				
	characterization?		electrode and hexamethyldisiloxane [HMDS] test).	
	Can we be confident in the outcome	++	Yes, outcome (dental fluorosis) was consistently	
	assessment?		measured by two dentists using Dean's Fluorosis	
			Index, in accordance with the NHANES Dental	
			Examiners Procedures Manual, 2016. Lack of	
			blinding of outcome assessors would not appreciably	
			bias results.	
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were	
reporting			presented in results section with adequate level of	
			detail for data extraction	
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal	++	None identified	
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were			
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the			
	study protocol)?			

Farmus 2021 [21]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	"Our results suggest
Original study Study design: Cohort study	 Fluoride levels in Maternal urine (MUF): prenatal exposure Children urine (CUF): Childhood exposure 	 Intelligence at 3 to 4 years of age Method of outcome ascertainment: 	 Generalized estimating equations (GEE) used to assess association of interest Statistical significance at α 	the associations of prenatal and postnatal fluoride exposure with cognitive development may be
Country: Canada	Method of exposure assessment:	 Assessed by trained research assistants using the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of 	 = 0.05 for two-tailed test Pint: interaction between exposure timing and fluoride level was 	modified by sex, though further replication of this finding is needed.
Participants: Mother-child pairs in the Maternal-Infant Research on Environmental Chemicals (MIREC) study	 Specific gravity used to adjust for urinary dilution Prenatal exposure acquired by taking the mean trimester-specific fluoride level Childhood exposure acquired by measuring 	and Primary Scale of Intelligence-III (WPPSI- III) • Specific outcome measures include: Performance IQ (PIQ), Verbal IQ (VIQ), and Full- Scale IQ (FSIQ)	assessed • Adjusted covariates: maternal education, maternal race, total HOME score, age at urine sampling, and prenatal second-hand smoke	These results indicate that it is important to balance the risks of fluoride exposure during early brain development with its potential to prevent
Sampling time frame: 2008 to 2011	fluoride levels between 1.9 and 4.4 years of age		Results: Change (95% CI) in age-	caries, especially for pregnant women and infants." (p. 7)

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
	• Infant fluoride intake (IFI)		normed in FSIQ scores per	
Sample size:	estimated over first year		unit increase in standardized	
•	of life using water fluoride		fluoride exposure	
596	level and formula-feeding		<u>Males</u>	
	duration		• MUF: -1.86 (-3.22, -0.49)	
Sex N (%):			• IFI: -0.01 (-1.67, 1.65)	
Female: 305 (51.2%)	Exposure level:		• CUF: 0.07 (-1.66, 1.80)	
,	•		• Pint: .012	
Exclusions:	Median (range) fluoride		<u>Females</u>	
Exclusions.	levels		• MUF: -0.23 (-2.06, 1.60)	
 Fetal abnormalities 	MUF T1 (mg/L)		• IFI: -0.72 (-2.34, 0.89)	
 Medical complications 	• 0.31 (0.01 – 4.29)		• CUF: -0.41 (-2.07, 1.24)	
 Gestational illicit drug 	MUF T2 (mg/L)		• Pint: 0.77	
use	• 0.37 (0.03 – 5.28)		Overall	
	MUF T3 (mg/L)		• MUF: -1.28 (-2.37, -0.18)	
Source of funding /	• 0.49 (0.08 – 5.56)		• IFI: -0.38 (-1.53, 0.78)	
support:	IFI (mg F)		• CUF: -0.18 (-1.38, 1.02)	
National Institute of	• 0.09 (0.00 – 0.61)		• Pint: -0.23	
	CUF (mg/L)			
Environmental	• 0.39 (0.05, 2.89)		Change (95% CI) in age-	
Sciences (NIEHS)			normed in PIQ scores per	
Chemicals Management Plan at			unit increase in standardized	
Management Plan at				

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Health Canada, the			fluoride exposure	
Ontario Ministry of the	he		<u>Males</u>	
Environment, and th	ne		• MUF: -3.01	
Canadian Institutes	for		• IFI: -1.45 (-3.40, 0.49)	
Health Research	Health Research		• CUF: -1.49 (-3.50, 0.53)	
			• Pint: 0.01	
Author declaration of	of		<u>Females</u>	
interest:			• MUF: -1.18 (-3.32, 0.96)	
No COI			• IFI: -2.71 (-4.59, -0.83)	
No COI			• CUF: -1.53 (-3.45, 0.39)	
			• Pint: 0.01	
			<u>Overall</u>	
			• MUF: -2.36 (-3.63, -1.08)	
			• IFI: -2.11 (-3.45, -0.76)	
			• CUF: -1.51 (-2.90, -0.12)	
			• Pint: <0.001	
			Change (95% CI) in age-	
			normed in VIQ scores per	
			unit increase in standardized	
			fluoride exposure	
			<u>Males</u>	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			• MUF: -0.25 (-1.57, 1.07)	
			• IFI: 1.22 (-0.39, 2.83)	
			• CUF: 1.61 (-0.06, 3.29)	
			• Pint: 0.12	
			<u>Females</u>	
			• MUF: 0.87 (-0.91, 2.64)	
			• IFI: 1.31 (-0.25, 2.87)	
			• CUF: 0.63 (-0.98, 2.23)	
			• Pint: 0.30	
			<u>Overall</u>	
			• MUF: 0.15 (-0.91, 1.20)	
			• IFI: 1.27 (0.15, 2.39)	
			• CUF: 1.10 (-0.06, 2.26)	
			• Pint: 0.04	
			Change (95% CI) in FSIQ	
			scores per unit increase (0	.5
			mg/L MUF; 0.1 mg/day IFI	•
			0.5 mg/L CUF) in fluoride	
			exposure	
			<u>Males</u>	
			• MUF: -2.48 (-4.30, -0.66)	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			• IFI: -0.01 (-1.25, 1.24)	
			• CUF: 0.09 (-2.10, 2.28)	
			• Pint: 0.12	
			<u>Females</u>	
			• MUF: -0.31 (-2.76, 2.14)	
			• IFI: -0.54 (-1.75, 0.66)	
			• CUF: -0.52 (-2.62, 1.58)	
			• Pint: 0.77	
			<u>Overall</u>	
			• MUF: -1.71 (-3.17, -0.24)	
			• IFI: -0.28 (-1.15, 0.58)	
			• CUF: -0.23 (-1.75, 1.29)	
			• Pint: 0.23	
			Change (95% CI) in PIQ	
			scores per unit increase (0	0.5
			mg/L MUF; 0.1 mg/day IF	;
			0.5 mg/L CUF) in fluoride	
			exposure	
			<u>Males</u>	
			• MUF: -4.02 (-6.15, -1.89)
			• IFI: -1.09 (-2.54, 0.37)	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			• CUF: -1.89 (-4.44, 0.67)	
			• Pint: 0.01	
			<u>Females</u>	
			• MUF: -1.58 (-4.43, 1.28)	
			• IFI: -2.03 (-3.43, -0.63)	
			• CUF: -1.94 (-4.37, 0.50)	
			• Pint: 0.01	
			<u>Overall</u>	
			• MUF: -3.15 (-4.85, -1.44)	
			• IFI: -1.58 (-2.59, -0.57)	
			• CUF: -1.91 (-3.68, -0.15)	
			• Pint: <0.001	
			Change (95% CI) in VIQ	
			scores per unit increase ().5
			mg/L MUF; 0.1 mg/day IF	•
			0.5 mg/L CUF) in fluoride	
			exposure	
			<u>Males</u>	
			• MUF: -0.34 (-2.10, 1.43)	
			• IFI: 0.92 (-0.29, 2.12)	
			• CUF: 2.05 (-0.08, 4.16)	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			• Pint: 0.12	
			<u>Females</u>	
			• MUF: 1.16 (-1.22, 3.53)	
			• IFI: 0.98 (-0.19, 2.15)	
			• CUF: 0.79 (-1.24, 2.82)	
			• Pint: 0.30	
			<u>Overall</u>	
			• MUF: 0.20 (-1.22, 1.61)	
			• IFI: 0.95 (0.11, 1.79)	
			• CUF: 1.39 (-0.08, 2.86)	
			• Pint: 0.04	
			Sensitivity analysis where	
			influential mother-child	
			dyads were removed was	
			conducted	
			 Association of MUF and 	
			FSIQ in boys became	
			weaker and not statistica	lly
			significant	
			 No change in status of 	
			statistical significance fo	r

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			other associations tested	d

Risk of bias as	Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	oonse		
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level	N/A	Not applicable		
	adequately randomized?				
	Was allocation to study groups adequately	N/A	Not applicable		
	concealed?				
	Did selection of study participants result in	++	"We used data from the Maternal-Infant Research on		
	appropriate comparison groups?		Environmental Chemical (MIREC) longitudinal cohort, which		
			recruited 2001 pregnant women between 2008 and 2011.		
			Women were recruited from prenatal clinics if they were at		
			least 18 years old, less than 14 weeks gestation, and spoke		
			English or French. Exclusion criteria included fetal		
			abnormalities, medical complications, and illicit drug use during		
			pregnancy; further details have been previously described" (p.		
			2)		
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	++	"Covariates include maternal education, maternal		
	important confounding and modifying variables?		race, total HOME score, age at urine sampling, and prenatal		
			second-hand smoke" (p. 5)		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study	N/A	NA		
	groups?				

Risk of bias as	Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	oonse		
	Were the research personnel and human subjects	N/A	NA		
	blinded to the study group during the study?				
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or	++	Reasons for exclusion were provided.		
	exclusion from analysis?		"Our sample included 601 mother-child dyads who completed		
			the follow-up phase of the study (MIREC-Child Development		
			Plus) when children's neurodevelopmental		
			testing was conducted at 3-4 years of age. Data from five		
			mother-child dyads were excluded due to the mothers'		
			declining prenatal and birth data collection (i.e., trimester		
			fluoride exposures, demographic information, covariates, and		
			offspring date of birth), leaving N = 596 mother-child dyads for		
			our full analytic sample (Fig. 1). Other mother-child pairs		
			missing some data on fluoride exposure, outcomes, or		
			covariates were retained due to the flexibility of GEE to		
			incorporate missing data. On outcomes and covariates, no		
			more than 4.6% of data was missing (M = 1.08, range 0–4.6)."		
			(p. 2)		
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	"Urinary fluoride concentrations were analyzed using a		
	characterization?		modification of the hexamethydisiloxane"		
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	"Trained research assistants assessed children's intellectual		
			abilities at the age of 3–4 years using the Wechsler Preschool		
			and Primary Scale of Intelligence-III (WPPSI-III; Canadian		
			norms; Wechsler, 2002). Outcomes included Performance IQ		

Risk of bias ass	Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	oonse		
			(PIQ), a measure of nonverbal reasoning, Verbal IQ (VIQ), a		
			measure of verbal reasoning and comprehension, and Full-		
			Scale IQ (FSIQ), a measure of overall intellectual ability.		
			Examiners administered the WPPSI between 2012 and 2015,		
			prior to proposing our fluoride research; examiners are		
			therefore considered blinded to exposure status."		
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Outcomes discussed in methods were reported in the results		
reporting					
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal	++	None identified		
	validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate				
	and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?				

Fernandes 2021 [22]

s			
Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Exposures	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	 The authors pointed
Fluoride levels in	Dental fluorosis	Chi-square test	to the high
 Water collected from 	n	 Fisher's exact test 	prevalence of
school water			dental fluorosis
fountains			among children
	Exposure Exposures Fluoride levels in Water collected from school water	Exposure Outcome Exposures Outcome(s): Fluoride levels in Dental fluorosis Water collected from school water	Exposure Outcome Analysis & Results Exposures Outcome(s): Statistical analysis: Fluoride levels in Dental fluorosis • Chi-square test • Water collected from school water • Fisher's exact test

Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Participants:	Method of exposure		Results:	exposed to water
Children aged 6-12 years	assessment:		Group I (water fluoride ≤0.7	fluoride ≤0.7 ppm,
Sampling time frame:	Water fluoride:		ppm):	which may be "an
April-September 2019	combined ion-		• Fluorosis absent: 306 (63.1%)	indication of other
Sample size:	specific fluoride		children.	sources of fluoride
610	electrode (ORION—		• Fluorosis present: 179 (36.9%)	(F-toothpaste 1500
	9409BN) and a		children	ppm) in this region,
	reference electrode		Group II (water fluoride >0.7	which was
	(900200) connected		ppm):	previously observed
	to an ion analyser		 Fluorosis absent: 69 (55.2%) 	in other studies".
	710 A (ORION)		children.	
Sex: N (%):	Exposure level(s):	Method of outcome	• Fluorosis present: 56 (44.8%)	
Boys: 329 (53.9%)	Water fluoride (ppm):	ascertainment:	children	
Exclusions:	0.06-1.98	Thysltrup and Fejerskov	P=0.10	
• Children who used a	Group I (≤0.7): 485	criteria	Fluorosis absent: OR=1.02	
fixed orthodontic	children		(95% CI: 0.983-1.168)	
appliance or had	Group II (>0.7): 125		Fluorosis present: 0.77 (0.565-	
reading difficulties,	children, including:		1.055)	
tooth malformation	• 0.7-1.0: 111 children			
(such as amelogenesis	• >1.0-1.98: 14			
imperfecta,	children			
dentinogenesis				
imperfecta, or dentinal				

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
dysplasia)					
Source of funding	g <i>/</i>				
support:					
• NR					
Author declaratio	n of				
interest: No COI					

Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Response			
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	NA	Not applicable		
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	NA	Not applicable		
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	Participants selected using same criteria. Sampling time frame reported.		
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	-	NR		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	NA	Not applicable		
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the	NA	Not applicable		

Risk of bias a	Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Response			
	study?				
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Reasons for exclusion were provided		
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	"a fluoride concentration mapping of the school water supplies was prepared, and water fountains were sampled and analysed using a combined ionspecific fluoride electrode (ORION—9409BN) and a reference electrode (900200) connected to an ion analyser 710 A (ORION)." (p. 476)		
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	DF examined using the Thysltrup and Fejerskov criteria		
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Outcomes discussed in the methods were reported in the results		
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified		

Helte 2021 [23]

Study Characteristics						
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions		
Reference type: Original study	Exposures: Fluoride levels in	Outcome(s): Bone mineral density and	Statistical analysis: • Spearman's rank	"In this cohort of postmenopausal		
Study design: Cohort study [clinical	WaterDietUrine	fracture incidence in postmenopausal women	correlational (rho). • Multivariable linear regression.	women, the risk of fractures was increased in association with two		
sub-cohort of The Swedish Mammography	Method of exposure	Method of outcome ascertainment:	Results:	separate indicators of fluoride exposure. Our findings are		
Country: Sweden Participants: All SMC participants who were <85 years of age and residing in the city of Uppsala or nearby	 Tap water: Geological Survey of Sweden, and the Swedish Water and Wastewater Association), Food: Swedish National Food Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Fluoride Database of Selected Beverages and Foods 	BMD: measured at the lumbar spine and femoral neck using dual energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA; Lunar Prodigy; Lunar Corp.) Bone fractures: National Patient Register (NPR)	 At baseline: Mean urinary fluoride:	Our findings are consistent with RCTs and suggest that high consumption of drinking water with a fluoride concentration of ~1 mg=L may increase both BMD and skeletal fragility in older women"		

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
surrounding areas	Tea: scientific literature),		ascertained.	
	Urine: ion-selective		 Baseline BMD was slight 	ly
O	electrode (Combined ISE		higher among women in	
Sampling time frame:	F 800 DIN; WTW; Xylem		the highest vs. lowest	
Baseline: 2004-2009	Analytics Germany		tertiles of exposure.	
Follow-up: 2017	GmbH)).		 Fluoride exposures were 	
·			positively associated with	1
			incident hip fractures, wit	h
Sample size:	Exposure level:		multivariable-adjusted	
4,306	Water: ≤1 mg/L		hazard ratios of 1.50 (95	%
	 Mean urinary fluoride at 		CI: 1.04, 2.17) and 1.59	
	baseline: 1.2 mg/g		(95% CI: 1.10, 2.30), for	
Sex (N):	creatinine (0.1-7.3 mg/g		the highest vs. lowest	
Women only (100%)	creatinine)		tertiles of urine fluoride a	nd
	 Mean estimated dietary 		dietary fluoride,	
	fluoride intake: 2.2 mg/d		respectively.	
Exclusions:	(0.3-8.4 mg/d).		 Associations with other 	
• Women who completed			fractures were less	
a short version of the			pronounced for urine	
FFQ			fluoride, and null for dieta	ıry
With incomplete FFQ			fluoride.	
data			 Restricting the analyses 	0

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
With implausible energy	,		women with consistent	
intakes (>3S Dab over			long-term drinking water	
or below the log-			exposures prior to baseling	ne
transformed mean)			strengthened association	5
Without data on dietary			between fractures and	
fluoride, urine for			urinary fluoride.	
element analysis,				
urinary creatinine, or				
DXA scans on either				
side				
With urine creatinine				
concentrations <0.3 or				
>3.0 mg/L				
Not constantly drinking				
water fluoride from				
1982 to baseline				
Source of funding /				
support:				
• Formas, the Swedish				
Research Council for				

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Environment					
Agricultural Scientific	ences				
and Spatial Plar	nning				
• Swedish Resea	rch				
Council					
Author declarati	on of				

Risk of bias assessment						
Bias domain	Criterion	Response				
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized? Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A Not applicable N/A Not applicable				
	Did selection of study participants result in	++ Yes, participants were identified using the same method of ascertainment, recruited within the same				

Risk of bias as	ssessment		
	appropriate comparison groups?		time frame, and using the same criteria.
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	++	Yes, it accounted for major confounders such as age,
	important confounding and modifying variables?		education, height, total fat mass, lean body mass,
			parity, smoking, physical activity, alcohol intake,
			prevalent diabetes at baseline, eGFR, urinary calcium
			or dietary calcium intake, use of calcium
			supplements, use of vitamin D supplements, ever use
			of postmenopausal hormones, ever use of
			corticosteroids.
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across	N/A	Not applicable
	study groups?		
	Were the research personnel and human	N/A	Not applicable
	subjects blinded to the study group during the		
	study?		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or	++	Study provided reasons for exclusion of participants
	exclusion from analysis?		(women who completed a short version of the FFQ,
			with incomplete FFQ data, with implausible energy
			intakes (>3S Dab over or below the log-transformed
			mean), without data on dietary fluoride, urine for
			element analysis, urinary creatinine, or DXA scans on

Risk of bias	assessment		
			either side, with urine creatinine concentrations <0.3
			or >3.0 mg/L, or not constantly drinking water fluoride
			from 1982 to baseline)
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	"Yes, fluoride exposure levels were obtained for
	characterization?		fluoride in food (Swedish National Food Agency, U.S.
			Department of Agriculture's National Fluoride
			Database of Selected Beverages and Foods), in tea
			(scientific literature), in tap water (Geological Survey
			of Sweden, and the Swedish Water and Wastewater
			Association), and urine (ion-selective electrode
			(Combined ISE F 800 DIN; WTW; Xylem Analytics
			Germany GmbH)).
	Can we be confident in the outcome	++	"Yes, the outcome was assessed for BMD (measured
	assessment?		at the lumbar spine and femoral neck using dual
			energy X-ray absorptiometry [DXA; Lunar Prodigy;
			Lunar Corp.]) and bone fractures (using records from
			the National Patient Register [(NPR]). Outcome
			assessment methods and lack of blinding of outcome
			assessors would not appreciably bias results.
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcome (bone mineral density and

Risk of bias assessment					
reporting			bone fractures) discussed in the methods was		
			presented in results section with adequate level of		
			detail for data extraction		
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal	++	None identified		
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were				
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the				
	study protocol)?				

James 2021 [24]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	"In 2017, fluorosis
Original study	Community water fluoridation (CWF)	Dental fluorosis	 Association of interest was assessed using 	prevalence was 18% in Dublin (full CWF) and 12% in Cork-
Study design:		Method of outcome	multivariate logistic	Kerry (full CWF).
Before-and-after study	Method of exposure assessment: Exposure group	ascertainment:Examinations were completed at school by	regressionModel adjusted for the following covariates: age,	Fluorosis was predominantly "very mild" with no

Study Characteristics						
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions		
Country:	categories:	dental examiners and	gender, ownership of	statistically significant		
Ireland	Full CWF: lifetime exposure	nurses; this was performed from Jan to Jun 2002 and from Nov	medical card, and age of first toothpaste use	difference between 2017 and 2002." (p. 507)		
Participants: Children (7 to 9 years of age) from Dublin and Cork-Kerry in the year 2002 and 2017	 No CWF: no exposure Part CWF: sporadic exposure Unknown: unknown CWF exposure 	 2016 to May 2017 Same methods of assessment were applied in 2007 as 2002 Permanent teeth were 	Results: Odds (95% CI) of fluorosis prevalence in the year 2017 compared to 2002			
Sampling time frame: 2002 and 2014	Exposure level: CWF before and after introduction of policy	assessed, and fluorosis was determined using Dean's index scores of "very mild" or higher	Dublin Full CWFOR = 16 (-13, 56);p = 0.312Cork-Kerry Full CWF			
Sample size (N): Year 2000 Dublin = 679 Cork-Kerry = 565	measures Before in 2002: • 0.8 to 1.0 ppm After in 2007:		 OR = -7 (-41, 48); p = 0.771 Cork-Kerry No CWF OR = 97 (-18, 373); 			
Year 2017 • Dublin = 707 • Cork-Kerry = 1,148	• 0.6 to 0.8 ppm		p = 0.129 "Among children with full			

Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
			CWF in Dublin, fluorosis		
Sex N (%):			prevalence was 18% in		
			2017 and 15% in 2002, an	d	
(2002)			in Cork-Kerry, it		
• Dublin Full CWF			was 12% in 2017 and 13%		
Men: 360 (53%)			in 2002 Fluorosis		
 Cork-Kerry Full C 	WF		prevalence among childrer	1	
Men: 149 (45%)			with no CWF in Cork-Kerry	,	
Cork-Kerry No C\	WF		was 5% in		
Men: 103 (44%)			2017 and 3% in 2002. Non	Δ	
			of the differences were	C	
(2017)			statistically Significant"		
Dublin Full CWF			otationidally digilliouriti		
Men: 324 (46%)					
• Cork-Kerry Full C	WF				
Men: 178 (47%)					
• Cork-Kerry No C\	WF				
Men: 380 (49%)					
Exclusions:					
NR					

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Source of funding /					
support:					
• Health Research B	oard				
• Department of Hea	lth				
and the National O	ral				
Health Office of the	•				
Health Services					
Executive					
Author declaration	of				
interest:					
• No COI					

Risk of bias a	Risk of bias assessment						
Bias domain	Criterion	Response					
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level	N/A Not applicable					

Risk of bias a	ssessment						
	adequately randomized?						
	Was allocation to study groups adequately	N/A	Not applicable				
	concealed?						
	Did selection of study participants result in	++	Yes, participants were selected during the same				
	appropriate comparison groups?		timeframe and according to the same criteria.				
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	++	Yes, it accounted for major confounders such as age,				
	important confounding and modifying variables?		gender, medical card ownership, and age first used				
			toothpaste				
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across	N/A	Not applicable				
	study groups?						
	Were the research personnel and human	N/A	Not applicable				
	subjects blinded to the study group during the						
	study?						
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or	++	Study provided reasons for exclusion of participants				
	exclusion from analysis?		(no consent to follow up, no clinical data, School				
			refused, child moved away, fluoride status unknown,				
			fluoride tablets/drops)				
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Yes, fluoride exposure levels were obtained from				
	characterization?		public water supply records				

Risk of bias assessment					
	Can we be confident in the outcome	++	Yes, outcome (dental fluorosis) was measured by		
	assessment?		dental examiners assisted by dental nurses, and		
			using Dean's Fluorosis Index. Lack of blinding of		
			outcome assessors would not appreciably bias		
			results.		
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were		
reporting			presented in results section with adequate level of		
			detail for data extraction		
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal	++	None identified		
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were				
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the				
	study protocol)?				

Meghe 2021 [25]

Study Characteristics						
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions		
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	• "Out of the total 3268		
Original study	Fluoride levels in	Skeletal fluorosis	Descriptive analysis	subjects 2445 subjects		
	Ground water			included in the 'normal' grade, which does not		
Study design:		Method of outcome	Results:	show indications of		
Cross-sectional	Method of	ascertainment:	Relation of skeletal fluorosis	skeletal fluorosis."		
	exposure	Using physical tests	with F- level in drinking water	• " as the concentration		
	assessment:	designed for assessing joint pain. Classification	• Normal (74.8%):	of fluoride increases the cases of 'normal' grade		
Country:	Data from the		o ≤1 ppm: 29.73%			
India	Groundwater Survey	of skeletal fluorosis was	o 1.01–2.00: 28.14%	decreases."		
	and Development	based on the clinical and	o 2.01–4.00: 24.21%			
Participants:	Agency	radiological examinations	o >4.00: 17.92%			
Residents with no	(GSDA)	given by Teotia, M. and Singh, K.P.	• Mild (13.2%):			
evidence of skeletal		Omgn, R.i .	o ≤1 ppm: 13.9%			
fluorosis			o 1.01–2.00: 16.47%			
	Exposure level:		o 2.01–4.00: 22.7%			
	•≤1mg/L		o >4.00: 46.87%			
Sampling time	• 1.01-2.0 mg/L		• Moderate (6.0%):			
frame:	• 2.01-4.0 mg/L		o ≤1 ppm: –			
			o 1.01–2.00: 18.46%			

Study Characteristics							
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions			
NR	● >4.0 mg/L		o 2.01–4.00: 25.13%				
			o >4.00: 56.41%				
0			• Severe (4.1%):				
Sample size:			o ≤1 ppm: –				
3,268			o 1.01–2.00: 15.55%				
			。 2.01–4.00: 31.11%				
0 (1) 14	4.700		o >4.00: 53.34%				
Sex (N): Men: 1,760	1,760		Very severe (1.9%):				
(53.86%)			o ≤1 ppm: –				
			o 1.01–2.00: 17.74%				
Exclusions:			。 2.01–4.00: 25.81%				
Radiological			o > 4.00: 56.45%				
evidence of							
skeletal fluoro	neie						
Social reason							
 Lack of availar of time 	ionity						
or time							
Source of fund	ding /						
support:							

Study Characteristics						
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions		
Datta Meghe						
Institute of Medi	cal					
Sciences						
Author declara	tion					
of interest:						
No COI						

Risk of bias assessment							
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse				
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable				
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable				
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	+	Yes, participants were selected using the same criteria. However, the sampling timeframe was not				
			reported				

Risk of bias as	Risk of bias assessment					
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	-	NR			
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable			
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable			
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	+	Study provided some reasons for exclusion of participants (social reasons, lack of availability of time)			
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Yes, fluoride exposure levels were obtained from the Groundwater Survey and Development Agency (GSDA).			
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	-	Yes, the outcome was assessed using physical tests designed for assessing joint pain. Classification of skeletal fluorosis based on the clinical and radiological examinations given by Teotia, M. and Singh, K.P. (only for 360 out of 3268).			
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcome (skeletal fluorosis) discussed			

Risk of bias assessment							
reporting			in the methods was presented in results section with				
			adequate level of detail for data extraction				
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal	++	None identified				
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?						

Meng 2021 [26]

Study Characteristics						
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions		
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	"fluoride could impact		
Original study	Fluoride levels in	• Genotoxicity (5-	• Statistical significance at p =</td <td>5-mC level in human and rat. The U-shaped</td>	5-mC level in human and rat. The U-shaped		
	Drinking waterUrine	methylcytosine (5-mC) level)	0.05	relationship was found		
Study design: Cross-sectional study	· omic		Results:	between fluoride and 5-mC in the population and		
Country:	Method of exposure assessment:	Method of outcome ascertainment:	Mean (SD) of 5-mC by water quartile groups in mg/L	in the rats with 3 months fluoride treatments. These results clued that		
-		Extraction and		olada trat		

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
China	F-ion selective electrode	purification of genome DNA from blood:	• Q1: 0.15 (0.09)	the disruption of DNA methylation in mammals
Participants: Adults (> 18 years of	Exposure level:	Universal cylindrical genomic DNA extraction kit	 Q2: 0.11 (0.08) Q3: 0.11 (0.08) Q4: 0.14 (0.07) p = 0.001 	may has a certain association with fluoride in natural exposures." (p.
age) born in one of	Fluoride quartiles in	• Measured 5-mC level:	p 0.000.	5 – 6)
five villages (Hongguang, Xiaoshan, Fushan, Wanfa, and Leye) Sampling time frame: April – September 2016	drinking water: • Q1 (≤ P25): 1.4559 mg/L • Q2 (P25 ~ P50): 1.4559 ~ 2.2434 mg/L • Q3 (P50 ~ P75): 2.2434 ~ 3.2342 mg/L • Q4 (>P75): 3.2342 mg/L	Methyl Flash TM Global DNA Methylation ELISA Kit	Association between fluoride and 5-mC with cubic curve fitted • R ² = 0.061 • F = 6.045 • p = 0.001	
Sample size:				
281	Median levels of fluoride in drinking water			

Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Sex (N):	• 2.2434 mg/L			
Men: 90 (32%)				
Exclusions : NR	P50 (P25, P75) levels of fluoride in water by quartile (mg/L) $\underline{\text{Q1 (N = 70)}}$			
Source of funding / support:	• 1.100 (0.767, 1.414) Q2 (N = 71)			
 National Natural Science Foundation of China The Wu Liande Science Foundation of Harbin Medical 	 1.853 (1.629, 2.069) Q3 (N = 70) 2.691 (2.400, 2.949) Q4 (N = 70) 4.123 (3.600, 5.200) 			
University • Post-doctoral Scientific Research Developmental Fund of Heilongjiang Province	P50 (P25, P75) levels of fluoride in urine by quartile (mg/L) Q1 (N = 70)			

Study Characteristics	Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions		
	• 2.040 (1.612, 3.331)					
Author declaration	Q2 (N = 71)					
of interest:	• 2.432 (1.981, 3.083)					
No COI	Q3 (N = 70)					
	• 2.432 (1.788, 3.169)					
	Q4 (N = 70)					
	• 3.780 (2.940, 5.692)					

Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Response		
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A Not applicable		
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A Not applicable		
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++ Yes, participants were identified from the same population and recruited within the same time fr		

Risk of bias as	ssessment		
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	-	NR
	important confounding and modifying variables?		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across	N/A	Not applicable
	study groups?		
	Were the research personnel and human	N/A	Not applicable
	subjects blinded to the study group during the		
	study?		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or	-	NR
	exclusion from analysis?		
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Yes, exposure was measured in water and serum
	characterization?		using the fluoride ion-selective electrode method
	Can we be confident in the outcome	++	Yes, the outcome (CKDu) was assessed using biopsy
	assessment?		proven renal tubulointerstitial disease, uncontrolled
			hypertension or diabetes at the time of initial
			diagnosis, negative immunofluorescence for IgG,
			IgM, IgA, and C3, serum creatinine >1.2 mg/dL
			and/or A1M > 15.5 mg/L, HbA1C<6.5%
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, the primary outcomes discussed in methods
reporting			were presented in results section with adequate level

Risk of bias	Risk of bias assessment				
			of detail for data extraction		
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal	++	None identified		
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?				

Mohd Nor 2021 [27]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	● "Fluorosis was
Original study	Fluoride levels in public drinking water	Dental fluorosis	Chi-squared analysesLogistic regression	lower among children born after
Study design: Cross sectional	supply	Method of outcome ascertainment:	Results:	the adjustment of fluoride concentration in
study Country: Malaysia	Method of exposure assessment: Water fluoride: State	 Assessment of dental fluorosis was conducted by trained clinical and calibrated examiners (NAMN). 	 "Fluorosis prevalence was lower (31.9 percent) among the younger children born after the reduction of fluoride 	the water." • "Fluoridated water remained as a strong risk factor

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
	and national water	Assessment of fluorosis was	concentration in the water,	for fluorosis after
Participants:	quality reports	conducted by examining the	compared to a prevalence of	downward
Lifelong residents aged 9- and	Exposure level:	maxillary central incisors using Dean's Fluorosis Index. • Consensus on outcome	(38.4 percent) in the older cohort."	adjustment of its fluoride concentration."
12-year-olds	Original: 0.7 ppmReduced: 0.5 ppm	assessment must be achieved by agreement of two	Simple logistic regression of fluorosis and infant feeding	"Early tooth brushing practices
Sampling time		additional examiners, who did	(n=830)	and fluoridated
frame:		not participate in children's examination, with the initial	Fluorosis (Deans ≥ 2),	toothpaste were not statistically
2015 (calculated		examiner.	Type of water used to prepare	associated with
using the following			formula	fluorosis status."
information			Bottled water	"However, the
reported by the authors) • 9-year-old			Fluorosis: 3 (9.4%)No fluorosis: 29 (90.6%)	prevalence of fluorosis was significantly
children (born			• Reference	associated with
between 1			Tap water	parents' education
January and 31			• Fluorosis: 162 (25.7)	level, parents'
December 2006			• No fluorosis: 469 (74.3)	income, fluoridated
● 12-year-old			• OR (95% CI): 3.34 (1.0–11.11)	water, type of infant
children (born			• P-value: 0.049*	feeding method, age

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
between 1			Filtered tap water	breast feeding
January and 31 December 2003)			 Fluorosis: 47 (28.1%) No fluorosis: 120 (71.9%) OR (95% CI): 3.79 (1.1–13.03) 	ceased, use of formula milk, duration of formula
Sample size:			• P-value: 0.035*	milk intake, and type of water used to
1143 children aged 9-12 years old			Simple logistic regression of fluorosis and water fluoride	reconstitute formula milk"
Sex: Boys: 491			(n=1,143)	
(43%)			Fluorosis (Deans ≥ 2),	
			<u>0 lifetime</u>	
Exclusions:			• Fluorosis: 30 (12.30%)	
• Children who			No fluorosis: 517 (57.4%)Reference	
missed clinical examination.			0.5 ppm lifetime	
 Children with 			• Fluorosis: 100 (41.2%)	
unerupted,			• No fluorosis: 204 (22.7%)	
partially			•OR (95% CI): 8.45 (5.45-	
unerupted or			13.10)	
fractured			• P-value: 0.001	

Study Charact	Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
incisor(s), or			0.7 ppm for first 2 years and	then_	
have a fixed			<u>0.5 ppm</u>		
orthodontic			• Fluorosis: 113 (46.5%)		
appliance.			• No fluorosis: 179 (19.9%)		
			• OR (95% CI): 10.88 (7.03–		
Source of fund	ding		16.84)		
/ support:	_		• P-value: 0.001		
Ministry of High	ner				
Education,			Multiple logistic regression	of	
Malaysia			fluorosis (n=830)		
			Fluorosis (Deans ≥ 2),		
Author			Type of water used to prepar	e	
declaration of			formula		
interest:			Bottled water		
No COI					
			• Reference		
			<u>Tap water</u>		
			•OR (95% CI): 9.90 (1.28-		
			76.38)		
			P-value: 0.028		

Study Charac	teristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			Filtered tap water	
			• OR (95% CI): 8.78 (1.11–	
			69.71) 0.040	
			• P-value: 0.040	
			Multiple logistic regression	of
			fluorosis and water fluoride	9
			(n=1,143)	
			<u>0 lifetime</u>	
			• Reference	
			0.5 ppm lifetime	
			• Adjusted OR (95% CI): 5.9	7
			(3.32–10.72)	
			• P-value: <0.001	
			0.7 ppm for first 2 years and	<u>then</u>
			<u>0.5 ppm</u>	
			• Adjusted OR (95% CI): 9.12	2
			(5.15–16.14)	
			• P-value: <0.001	

Risk of bias a	ssessment		
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	oonse
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	Yes, participants were selected at random, during the same timeframe and according to the same criteria.
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	++	Yes, it accounted for major confounders such as fluoridated toothpaste, age started toothbrushing, formula use, feeding method, parents education, and family incomes
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or	++	Study provided reasons for exclusion of participants (children who missed clinical examination, those with

Risk of bias	assessment		
	exclusion from analysis?		unerupted, partially unerupted or fractured incisor(s),
			or have a fixed orthodontic appliance.)
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Yes, fluoride exposure levels were obtained from
	characterization?		state and national water quality reports
	Can we be confident in the outcome	++	Yes, outcome (dental fluorosis) was measured by
	assessment?		digital images of the maxillary incisors were taken to
			enable blind scoring of dental fluorosis. Images were
			uniquely coded to enable blind scoring. Examiners
			were trained on fluorosis scoring, and were blinded
			from the status of child's area of residence.
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were
reporting			presented in results section with adequate level of
			detail for data extraction
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal	++	None identified
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were		
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the		
	study protocol)?		

Rojanaworarit 2021 [28]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	• "In fluoride endemic
Original study	Fluoride levels in	Dental fluorosis	 A Wilcoxon-type test for trend 	areas, groundwater
Study design:	Groundwater used		to examine the trend in dental	containing natural
Cross-sectional	for household water		fluorosis prevalence across	fluoride utilized for
Country:	supply.		ordered levels of water fluoride	household
Thailand			concentration.	consumption
			 Poisson regression with robust 	resulted in high
			standard errors to estimate	dental fluorosis
			dental fluorosis prevalence	prevalence,
			ratios (PR).	particularly in the
Participants:	Method of exposure	-	Results:	groundwater with
Children aged 6-10 years	assessment:		Prevalence of dental fluorosis	fluoride
Sampling time frame:	 Annual records of 		(%) by subdistrict	concentrations of ≥
2015	fluoride		∙ Sai Ngam: 50.77	1.5 ppm."
Sample size:	concentrations in the		● Bang Sai Pa: 42.50	• "The finding of
289	groundwater used for		• Hin Mun: 64.18	23.3% prevalence
	the household water		● Bang Luang: 59.43	with only the very
	supply		• Nin Phet: 9.09	mild dental fluorosis
	corresponding to the		Prevalence of dental fluorosis	among children with
	residence of each		(%) by water fluoride level	time-averaged
	child from 2008 to			fluoride

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
	2015 were obtained		•<0.7 ppm: 23.3%	concentrations of <
	from the database at		• 0.7–1.49 ppm: 37.7%	0.7 ppm (the
	Nakhon Pathom		•≥1.5 ppm: 64.1%	referent category)
	Provincial Public		Exact probability test; P <	was evidence that
	Health Office		0.001	reassured the
Sex: N (%):	Exposure level(s):	Method of outcome	Severity of dental fluorosis by	safety of this
Boys: 153 (52.9%)	Time-averaged	ascertainment:	water fluoride level (number of	recommended
Exclusions:	fluoride concentration	 Children were examined 	cases; prevalence)	optimal fluoride
Children who had not	(ppm) by dental	by an "authorized dentist".	•<0.7 ppm: 1 (3.4%)	level"
resided within the study	fluorosis status	• Dean's index was applied	questionable; 7 (23.3%) very	• "When the fluoride
area since birth	Normal (no fluorosis)	to classify the severity of	mild	concentrations
Source of funding /	• Mean (SD): 2.0±1.6	dental fluorosis.	• 0.7-1.49 ppm: 5 (8.2%)	increased to the
support:	Median (IQR): 1.6		questionable; 14 (23.0%) very	range of 0.7-1.49
Fogarty International	(1.1)		mild; 6 (9.8%) mild; 3 (4.9%)	ppm, the
Center of the National	• Range: 0.4-9.4		moderate	prevalence among
Institutes of Health under	Questionable fluorosis		• ≥1.5 ppm: 8 (4.1%)	children in this
Award Number	Mean (SD): 1.7±0.6		questionable; 96 (48.4%) very	group also
U2RTW010088.	• Median (IQR): 1.7		mild; 21 (10.6%) mild; 10	increased to 37.7%,
Author declaration of	(0.6)		(5.1%) moderate	with the additional
interest: No COI	• Range: 0.6-3.0		PR (95% CI) by time-averaged	higher levels of mild
	Very mild fluorosis		water fluoride concentrations	and moderate
	• Mean (SD): 2.8±2.2		Univariable analysis	severity. Although the fluoride

Study Characte	ristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
	• Median (IQR): 2.0			concentrations in
	(1.4)		• 0.7–1.49 ppm: 1.62 (0.78;	this range did not
	• Range: 0.4-9.4		3.34); p=0.195	surpass the WHO's
	Mild fluorosis		•≥1.5 ppm: 2.75 (1.42; 5.31);	recommended limit
	• Mean (SD): 2.8±2.3		p=0.003	of 1.5 ppm, the
	• Median (IQR): 2.1		Multivariable analysis; adjusted	results of this study
	(1.4)		for child's demographic factors	were concerning as
	• Range: 1.1-9.4		<0.7 ppm: reference	the prevalence
	Moderate fluorosis		• 0.7–1.49 ppm: 1.62 (0.79;	exceeded one-third
	• Mean (SD): 4.1±3.5		3.32); p=0.190	of the children and
	• Median (IQR): 2.0		•≥1.5 ppm: 2.78 (1.45; 5.32);	14.7% of the
	(7.1)		p=0.002	severity was
	• Range: 1.2-9.4		Multivariable analysis; adjusted	beyond the very
	<u>All</u>		for caregiver factors	mild level."
	• Mean (SD): 2.4±2.1		<0.7 ppm: reference	• "In the extreme
	• Median (IQR): 1.9		• 0.7–1.49 ppm: 1.61 (0.28;	group with the
	(0.9)		9.21); p=0.592	fluoride ≥ 1.5 ppm
	• Range: 0.4-9.4		•≥1.5 ppm: 2.81 (0.51; 15.51);	the prevalence
	Time-averaged		p=0.235	further rose to
	fluoride concentration		Multivariable analysis; adjusted	64.1% or
	(ppm) by subdistrict		for breastfeeding	approximately 2.8
	<u>Sai Ngam</u>		■ <0.7 ppm: reference	times the prevalence of those

Study Characte	eristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
	• Mean (SD): 3.72		• 0.7–1.49 ppm: 3.08 (0.47;	in the reference
	(3.71)		20.04); p=0.238	group. The severity
	• Median (IQR): 1.40		•≥1.5 ppm: 5.30 (0.84; 33.45);	beyond the very
	(8.20)		p=0.076	mild level also grew
	• Range: 0.39-9.38		Multivariable analysis; adjusted	to 15.7%."
	Bang Sai Pa		for oral health behaviors	
	• Mean (SD): 3.06		<0.7 ppm: reference	
	(1.00)		• 0.7–1.49 ppm: 3.44 (0.48;	
	• Median (IQR): 3.35		24.62); p=0.218	
	(0.95)		•≥1.5 ppm: 6.46 (0.94; 44.48);	
	• Range: 1.07-3.94		p=0.058	
	<u>Hin Mun</u>		Multivariable analysis; adjusted	
	• Mean (SD): 2.31		for all covariates	
	(1.20)		<0.7 ppm: reference	
	• Median (IQR): 1.97		• 0.7–1.49 ppm: 1.64 (0.24;	
	(0.58)		11.24); p=0.615	
	• Range: 1.13-5.94		•≥1.5 ppm: 2.85 (0.44; 18.52);	
	Bang Luang		p=0.273	
	• Mean (SD): 1.76			
	(0.36)			
	• Median (IQR): 1.82			
	(0.51)			

Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
	• Range: 0.84-2.2	0		
	Nin Phet			
	• Mean (SD): 0.44			
	(0.05)			
	• Median (IQR): 0.	46		
	(0.10)			
	• Range: 0.37-0.5	1		

Risk of bias as	ssessment		
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	NA	Not applicable
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	NA	Not applicable
	Did selection of study participants result in	++	Participants selected using same criteria. Sampling time
	appropriate comparison groups?		frame reported.
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	++	Confounders were adjusted for.
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	NA	Not applicable

Risk of bias a	ssessment		
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse
	Were the research personnel and human		
	subjects blinded to the study group during the	NA	Not applicable
	study?		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or		None of the students declined to paritionate
	exclusion from analysis?	++	None of the students declined to pariticpate
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure		"annual records of fluoride concentrations in the
	characterization?		groundwater used for the household water supply
		++	corresponding to the residence of each child from 2008
			to 2015 were retrieved from the database at Nakhon
			Pathom Provincial Public Health Office."
	Can we be confident in the outcome	++	DF examined using Dean's Fluorosis Index
	assessment?		Di examined using bearts i luorosis index
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Outcomes discussed in the methods were reported in
reporting			the results
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal		
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were	++	None identified
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the	TT	NONE INCHINEU
	study protocol)?		

Sharma 2021 [29]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	"This study
Original study	Fluoride levels in Ground water samples	Dental fluorosis	 Disease prevalence is presented as percentages by group 	confirms the positive association
Study design:		Method of outcome		between the
Cross-sectional study	Method of exposure assessment:	ascertainment:Determined using Deans	Results:	presence of fluoride-rich rocks
Country:	 Samples from 3 water sources were randomly 	Fluorosis Index	Positive association between drinking water	around the water source and the
India	acquired per village Ion-selective electrode		fluoride levels and dental fluorosis prevalence	prevalence of fluorosis in the population of the
Participants: Children (age 6 - 19 years) residing in 12 villages from the Rudraprayag District	Exposure level: Low-risk area		Percent of children with dental fluorosis by drinking water fluoride levels	area." (p. 126)
Sampling time frame:	<0.6ppmIntermediate risk area0.6 – 1.5 ppm		<0.7mg/L: 1%> 1mg/L: 92%p-value: <0.001	
NR	<u>High-risk area</u>		F 13.00.	

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
	>1.5ppm		Prevalence of dental		
Sample size:			fluorosis by geological		
-			categories (fluoride level)		
558			Low-risk area (< 0.6ppm)		
			 No fluorosis 		
Sex:			Intermediate risk area (0.6	<u>=</u>	
NR			<u>1.5ppm)</u>		
			• Dental fluorosis: 59.9%		
Exclusions:			• Severe grade: 3.2%		
 Not "residents of s 	selected		Community fluorosis index:		
villages in their firs			1.05		
years of life" (p. 12			High-risk area (>1.5ppm)		
 Not "eldest child . 	,		Dental fluorosis: 93%		
each house" (p. 1	-		• Severe grade: 25.9%		
			 Community fluorosis inde 	ex:	
Source of funding	1		2.59		
support:	, •				
Self					

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Author declaration	n of				
interest:					
No COI					

Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Response			
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Did selection of study participants result in	+	Yes, participants were selected using the same		
	appropriate comparison groups?		criteria. However, the sampling timeframe was not		
			reported		
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	-	NR		
	important confounding and modifying variables?				
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across	N/A	Not applicable		

Risk of bias	assessment		
	study groups?		
	Were the research personnel and human	N/A	Not applicable
	subjects blinded to the study group during the		
	study?		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or	-	NR
	exclusion from analysis?		
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Yes, exposure was measured in water using the ion-
	characterization?		selective electrode (Orion company A324pH
			benchtop model) using the EPA-approved ISE test
			procedures.
	Can we be confident in the outcome	-	NR (no info on the type and/or training status of the
	assessment?		assessors)
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were
reporting			presented in results section with adequate level of
			detail for data extraction
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal	++	None identified
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were		
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the		
	study protocol)?		

Silva 2021 [30]

Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	Adolescents
Original study	Fluoride levels in:	• Dental fluorosis	Descriptive analysis	consuming fluoridated water
Study design:	 Drinking water 		Logistic Regression	were 5 to 11 times
Cross-sectional	(water fountains of schools/ daycares)			more likely than
Country:	scrioois/ daycares)			those of consuming non-fluoridated water
Brazil				to develop very mild/
Participants:	Method of exposure		Results:	mild and moderate fluorosis.
5 and 12 years old	assessment:		Data for 12-year-old children	
Sampling time frame:	• Fluoride levels in		[No dental fluorosis was observed in 5-year-old children	
NR	drinking water: Ion Electrode Orion		in either group]	
Sample size:	model No. 96-09,		Dental Fluorosis in FW	
692	Orion Research Inc. coupled to Orion Star		n(%)/NW n(%):	
5 years old: 330 (47.6%)	A214 Analyzer		Absent: 72 (40.4)/150(81.5)	
12 years old: 362			Very Mild/Mild:	
(52.4%)			74(41.6)/28(15.2)	
Sex: N (%):	Exposure level(s):	Method of outcome	Moderate: 32(18.0)/6(3.3) P<0.001	
Girls: 342 (49.4%)	Fluoridated Water	ascertainment:	1 40.001	
Exclusions:	<u>(FW)</u>	Thylstrup-Fejerskov index (TE)	Kappa index: 0.90	
Use of fixed orthodontic	Conc:<0.05 µg/mL	(TF)	 <u>Logistic regression</u> Very mild/mild DF vs. FW 	
appliance Teeth with	Non- Fluoridated		(Desviance Test: p=0,088):	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
amelogenesis	Water (NFW)		OR:5.45	
imperfectaNot being born or	Conc: 0.5-0.6 µg/mL		CI 95%: 3.23-9.19	
raised in subjected			P: <0.001	
area (Teresina) or not having access to public water supply.		Moderate DF vs. FW (Desviance Test: p=0,088): OR:11.11		
			CI 95%: 4.43-27.87	
Source of funding / support:			P: <0.001	
 Coordination of Improvement of Higher 			Reference: NFW for both Mil and moderate fluorosis	d
Education Personnel (Capes) Author declaration of interest: No COI			Multiple analysis controlled be socioeconomic and demographics.	у

Risk of bias assessment							
Bias domain	Criterion	Response					
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A Not applicable					
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A Not applicable					
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	+ Yes, participants were selected according to the same criteria and from the same eligible population. Time frame					

Bias domain	Criterion	Door	2000
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse
			was not reported in the study.
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	++	Yes, it accounted for important confounders such as sex, socioeconomic and other demographic characteristics including mother's education, and family income.
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Yes, the study provided reasons for exclusion of participants (use of fixed orthodontic appliance, teeth with amelogenesis imperfecta, those who were not born or raised in the target area, Teresina, and those with no access to public water supply)
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Yes, exposure was measured in water wells using a combination of ion electrode Orion (model 96-09), coupled with Orion Star analyzer (model A214)
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	Yes, outcome (dental fluorosis) was done by examiners (no professional information reported), using Thylstrup-Fejerskov index (TF). Lack of blinding of outcome assessors would not appreciably bias results.
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, the primary outcomes discussed in methods were presented in the results section with adequate level of detail for data extraction
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified

Tkachenko 2021 [31]

Study Characteristics	Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions		
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	• "The children		
Original study	Fluoride levels in • Drinking water	Blood level of the lipid peroxidation biomarkers (lipid acyl hydroperoxides,	 Kolmogorov-Smirnov test Kruskal-Wallis test 	had higher blood TBARS levels, while the acyl		
Study design: Cross-sectional	Method of exposure assessment:	2-thiobarbituric acid reactive substances (TBARS)) in the blood of children with chronic	Spearman's correlation analysisResults:	hydroperoxide levels were non- significantly increased in		
Country: Ukraine	Exposure level:	fluorosis Method of outcome	 Children with chronic fluorosis had by 25% higher blood TBARS levels (p < 0.05) than the healthy 	comparison with healthy children living in the non- fluorosis area."		
Participants: Children aged 7–10 years old with clinically diagnosed fluorosis from endemic fluorosis areas (exposed to drinking water fluoride (> 1.5 ppm) for >5 years.)	Drinking water: >1.5 ppm		 (p < 0.05) than the healthy subjects living in the nonfluorosis areas There was a nonsignificant 17.5% increase (p > 0.05) in the primary products of lipid peroxidation (acyl hydroperoxides) in the 	nuorosis area.		

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Sampling time fra	me:		blood of children from the	e	
2014 (date of the p	roject's		endemic fluorosis areas,		
ethics approval)	,		compared with the value	S	
,			obtained in the blood of	the	
			healthy children from the		
Sample size:			non-fluorosis area		
31					
Sex (N):					
Boys: 15 (48.4%)					
Exclusions:					
• Known cardiac, lu	ıng, liver,				
kidney diseases o	or				
diabetes mellitus					
• Use of cardiac dru	ugs				
• Consumption of a	iny				
vitamin or mineral	I				
supplements for a	at least 2				
weeks before bloc	bo				

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
samples withdraw	'n				
Source of funding	1				
support: NR					
Author declaration	n of				
interest: No COI					

Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	in Criterion Respo		ponse		
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not Applicable		
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not Applicable		
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	+	Yes, participants were identified using the same criteria and the same method of outcome ascertainment. Time frame was implied based on the approval of the respective ethics committee.		

Risk of bias a	ssessment		
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	-	NR
	important confounding and modifying variables?		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across	N/A	Not applicable
	study groups?		
	Were the research personnel and human	N/A	Not applicable
	subjects blinded to the study group during the		
	study?		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or	++	Study provided reasons for exclusion of participants
	exclusion from analysis?		(known cardiac, lung, liver, kidney diseases or
			diabetes mellitus, use of cardiac drugs, or
			consumption of any vitamin or mineral supplements for
			at least 2 weeks before blood samples withdrawn)
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	+	Study used Dean's Fluorosis Index as a tool for
	characterization?		diagnosis of dental fluorosis, which RSI considered a
			proxy for fluoride level exposure
	Can we be confident in the outcome	++	Yes, the blood levels of the selected elements and
	assessment?		lipid biomarkers were measured using the X-ray
			fluorescence method. Dental fluorosis was assessed
			using Dean's Fluorosis Index. Outcome assessment
			methods and lack of blinding of outcome assessors

Risk of bias	Risk of bias assessment				
			would not appreciably bias results.		
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcome [blood levels of lipid		
reporting			peroxidation biomarkers (lipid acyl hydroperoxides, 2-		
			thiobarbituric acid reactive substances (TBARS))]		
			discussed in the methods was presented in results		
			section with adequate level of detail for data extraction		
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal	++	None identified		
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were				
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the				
	study protocol)?				

Wang 2021 [32]

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Reference type:	Exposure:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	• "low-to-moderate	
Original study	Drinking water fluoride:	• IQ	Descriptive analysis	fluoride exposure	
Study design:	0.20–3.90 mg/L	Dental fluorosis	Multiple linear regression models	was associated with	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Cross-sectional Country: China Participants: 6.7–13 years old school children from Tianjin, China Sampling time frame: 2015 Sample size: 709 Sex: N (%): Girls: 328 (46.26%) Exclusions:	 Urinary fluoride: 0.02–5.41 mg/L Urine creatinine: 0.30–2.99 mg/L Method of exposure assessment: Fluoride concentrations in water and urine were measured by ion analyzer with a fluoride selective electrode (INESA, Shanghai, China). Creatinine in urine (for urinary fluoride) using early morning urine samples: Creatinine determination kit (Mindray, Shenzhen, 	(DF) Method of outcome ascertainment: Combined Raven's Test-The Rural in China (CRT-RC2), which is widely for cognitive ability verification test, because of less influenced by language, culture, ethnic, and religion differences. Dean's	 Multiple logistic regression model Adjustment for: age, gender, BMI, low birth weight, paternal education, maternal education, family incomes, urine creatinine (for urinary fluoride). Results: IQ, Linear regression Water fluoride (mg/L): IQ scores, β (95% CI) Q1 (≤ 0.30): Reference Q2 (0.30-1.00) All: 1.77 (-0.73, 4.27) Boys: 1.40 (-2.29, 5.08) Girls: 2.51 (-1.42, 6.45) Q3 (1.00-1.60) All: -2.77 (-5.44, -0.10) Boys: -4.45 (-8.41, -0.50) Girls: -1.72 (-5.91, 2.47) Q4 (> 1.60) 	the alteration of cholinergic system, DF and IQ" • "AChE partly mediated the elevated prevalence of DF and the lower probability of developing superior and above intelligence caused by fluoride."

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Source of funding /	China)	classification	Boys: -5.74 (-9.57, -1.91)	
support:	Enzyme-linked	system for dental	Girls: -5.27 (-9.32, -1.22)	
 National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grants No. 82073515 and No. 81773388) The State Key Program of National Natural Science of China (Grant No. 	immunosorbent assays (Shanghai Enzyme- linked Biotechnology, Shanghai, China) were used to detect the expression of cholinergic system.	fluorosis	 Urinary fluoride (mg/L): IQ scores, β (95% CI) Q1 (≤ 0.20): Reference Q2 (0.20-0.48) All: -1.99 (-4.64, 0.66) Boys: -1.62 (-5.65, 2.42) Girls: -3.29 (-7.34, 0.77) Q3 (0.48-0.90) All: -3.02 (-5.71, -0.33) Boys: -3.54 (-7.60, 0.52) Girls: -1.86 (-6.01, 2.29) 	
81430076)			○ Q4 (> 0.90)	
Author declaration of interest:	Exposure level(s): • Normal fluoride-		All: -4.49 (-7.21, -1.77) Boys: -6.09 (-10.29, -1.90) Girls: -5.98 (-9.99, -1.96)	
No COI	exposure group: water fluoride ≤1.0 mg/L • High-fluoride-exposure group: water fluoride >1.0 mg/L		 IQ, Logistic regression Water fluoride (mg/L) and IQ scores [OR (95% CI)] Superior and above (≥120): 0.69 (0.54, 	

Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
	,		0.90)	
			,	
			o High normal (110-119): 0.86 (0.70,1.06)	
			,	
			o Normal (90-109): 1 (control)	
			o Dull normal and below (≤89): 1.42	
			(1.08, 1.88)	
			 Urinary fluoride (mg/L) and IQ scores 	
			[OR (95% CI)]	
			o Superior and above (≥120): 0.67 (0.	46,
			0.97)	
			o High normal (110-119): 0.90 (0.68,	
			1.18)	
			o Normal (90-109): 1 (control)	
			o Dull normal and below (≤89): 1.39	
			(0.97, 2.00)	
			 AChE (nmol/L) and IQ scores [OR (95 	%
			CI)]	
			o Q1 (≤0.30): Reference	
			∘ Q2 (0.30−1.00)	
			Superior and above (≥ 120): 1.67	
			(0.92, 3.02)	
			High normal (110-119): 1.22 (0.73	3

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			2.04)	
			Normal (90-109): 1 (control)	
			Dull normal and below (≤ 89): 0).96
			(0.40, 2.27)	
			∘ Q3 (1.00−1.60)	
			Superior and above (≥ 120): 0.4	47
			(0.24, 0.94)	
			High normal (110-119): 0.78 (0	.47,
			1.30)	
			Normal (90-109): 1 (control)	
			Dull normal and below (≤ 89): 0	0.63
			(0.27, 1.47)	
			∘ Q4 (>1.60)	
			Superior and above (≥ 120): 0.	54
			(0.29, 1.00)	
			High normal (110-119): 0.92 (0	.53,
			1.57)	
			Normal (90-109): 1 (control)	
			Dull normal and below (≤ 89): 1	.68
			(0.77, 3.64)	
			DF, Prevalence	

Study Charac	teristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			Water fluoride (mg/L): dental fluoros	is,
			PR <i>(95% CI)</i>	
			∘ Q2 (0.30−1.00)	
			Crude: 1.21 (0.86, 1.70)	
			Adjusted: 1.20 (0.85, 1.69)	
			∘ Q3 (1.00−1.60)	
			Crude: 3.78 (2.90, 4.94)	
			Adjusted: 3.79 (2.90, 4.95)	
			⊙ Q4 (>1.60)	
			Crude: 3.90 (3.00, 5.08)	
			Adjusted: 3.97 (3.04, 5.17)	
			 Urinary fluoride (mg/L): dental fluore 	osis,
			PR <i>(95% CI)</i>	
			o Q1 (≤0.20): Reference	
			∘ Q2 (0.20−0.48)	
			Crude: 1.42 (1.09, 1.86)	
			Adjusted: 1.66 (1.28, 2.14)	
			∘ Q3 (0.48−0.90)	
			Crude: 2.18 (1.72, 2.75)	
			Adjusted: 2.73 (2.17, 3.44)	
			∘ Q4 (>0.90)	

Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			Crude: 2.56 (2.04, 3.21)	
			Adjusted: 3.24 (2.58, 4.07)	
			• Cholinergic system AChE (nmol/	L) and
			DF/IQ [PR (95% CI)]	
			Either DF or IQ <120	
			o Q1 (≤ 133.66): Reference	
			∘ Q2 (133.66–157.97)	
			Crude: 1.09 (0.94,1.26)	
			Adjusted: 1.06 (0.92,1.22)	
			∘ Q3 (157.97–184.03):	
			Crude: 1.14 (1.00,1.31)	
			Adjusted: 1.12 (0.97,1.28)	
			○ Q4 (>184.03)	
			Crude: 1.21 (1.06,1.38)	
			Adjusted: 1.22 (1.07,1.38)	
			DF and IQ <120	
			o Q1 (≤ 133.66): Reference	
			∘ Q2 (133.66–157.97)	
			Crude: 1.29 (1.08,1.54)	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			Adjusted: 1.27 (1.07,1.50)	
			∘ Q3 (157.97–184.03):	
			Crude: 1.37 (1.16,1.62)	
			Adjusted: 1.37 (1.17,1.62)	
			∘ Q4 (>184.03)	
			Crude: 1.46 (1.25,1.72)	
			Adjusted: 1.44 (1.23,1.68)	
			 "Sensitivity analyses were condu 	ucted for
			the association between fluoride	}
			exposure, DF, IQ, and cholinerg	ic
			system by adjusting for the cova	riates
			among demographics, developn	nent,
			socioeconomics, and delivery co	onditions.
			We obtained similar results to w	hat we
			found in the present analyses."	

Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	domain Criterion Response				
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level	N/A Not applicable			
	adequately randomized?				
	Was allocation to study groups adequately	N/A Not applicable			

Risk of bias assessment						
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse			
	concealed?					
	Did selection of study participants result in	++	Yes, participants were selected during the same timeframe,			
	appropriate comparison groups?		according to the same criteria and from the same eligible			
			population.			
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	++	Yes, it was adjusted for major confounders such as age, sex,			
	important confounding and modifying variables?		BMI, low birth weight, paternal education, maternal education,			
			family incomes, and urine creatinine (for urinary fluoride).			
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study	N/A	Not applicable			
	groups?					
	Were the research personnel and human subjects	N/A	Not applicable			
	blinded to the study group during the study?					
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or	++	Reported data was complete with no attrition or exclusion from			
	exclusion from analysis?		analysis.			
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Yes, fluoride exposure levels were obtained from drinking			
	characterization?		water samples that were collected from the local source of			
			water supply in each village. Fluoride concentrations in water			
			and urine were measured by ion analyzer with a fluoride			
			selective electrode (INESA, Shanghai, China).			

Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Response			
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	Yes, IQ was consistently	++	DF was independently
			assessed by trained		assessed by two trained
			teachers who were		dentists who were blinded
			blinded to the children's		to the children's exposure
			exposure status using the		status independently The
			Combined Raven's Test-		diagnosis of DF was
			The Rural in China (CRT-		estimated by Dean's
			RC2), which is widely for		fluorosis index.
			cognitive ability		
			verification test, because		
			of less influenced by		
			language, culture, ethnic,		
			and religion differences.		
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, the primary outcomes	discuss	sed in methods were
reporting			presented in the results sec	tion wit	h adequate level of detail for
			data extraction		
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal	++	None identified		
	validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate				
	and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?				

Yani 2021^[33]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type: Original study Study design: Cross-sectional Country: Indonesia Participants: 6–12 years old students from two different areas with different levels of drinking water fluoride in Palu City, with no history of head trauma, chronic disease, or were not undergoing treatment.	Exposure: • Ground water Method of exposure assessment: • NR	Outcome(s): • IQ • Dental fluorosis	Analysis & Results Statistical analysis: • Univariate analysis • Bivariate analysis Results: Dental fluorosis • High-fluoride area: ○ Total: 37 (61.7%) ○ Questionable (score 1): 1 (0%) ○ Very mild (score 2): 10 (0%) ○ Mild (score 3): 11 (11%) ○ Moderate (score 4): 8 (8%)	 "There is a relationship between Fluoride level in well water and the incidence of fluorosis in students, where the incidence of fluorosis was higher in the high fluorine area than in the low fluorine area." "The intelligence of children who suffered from fluorosis is lower than the intelligence
Sampling time frame:			o Severe (score 5): 7 (7%)	of children who do not suffer from fluorosis."

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Sample size:			• Low-fluoride area:	• "The level of
Sex: N (%): Females: 64 (64.0%) Exclusions: NR Source of funding / support: NR Author declaration of interest: No COI	Exposure level(s): • High fluoride area: 1.6 ppm • Low fluoride area: 0.10 ppm	Method of outcome ascertainment: • Dental fluorosis was assessed using Dean's fluorosis index • IQ was assessed using Raven's Color Progressive Matrix component.	 ○ Total: 3 (7.5%) ○ Questionable (score 1): 2 (%) ○ Very mild (score 2): 1 (1%) ○ Mild (score 3): 0 (0%) ○ Moderate (score 4): 0 (0%) ○ Severe (score 5): 0 (0%) IQ • High-fluoride area: ○ Low: 17 (28.3%) ○ High: 43 (71.7%) • Low-fluoride area: ○ Low: 0 (0%) ○ High: 40 (100%) 	intelligence of students who live in the high-fluorine area is lower than students who live in low fluorine area."
			IQ and Dental fluorosis	
			Dental fluorosis:	
			o Low: 15 (37.5%)o High: 25 (62.5%)	

Study Characte	ristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			No dental fluorosis:	
			∘ Low: 2 (3.3%)	
			o High: 28 (96.6%)	

Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Resp	oonse	
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level	N/A	Not applicable	
	adequately randomized?			
	Was allocation to study groups adequately	N/A	Not applicable	
	concealed?			
	Did selection of study participants result in	+	Yes, participants were selected according to the same criteria	
	appropriate comparison groups?		and from the same eligible population. However, the timeframe	
			was not reported.	
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	-	NR	
	important confounding and modifying variables?			
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study	N/A	Not applicable	
	groups?			
	Were the research personnel and human subjects	N/A	Not applicable	
	blinded to the study group during the study?			
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or	++	Reported data was complete with no attrition or exclusion from	
	exclusion from analysis?		analysis.	
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	-	NR	

Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Response			
	characterization?				
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	+	Yes, IQ was consistently	+	Yes, DF was consistently
			assessed by a trained		assessed by a trained
			philology using the		dentist using Dean's
			Raven's Coloured		fluorosis index. No
			Progressive Matrices. No		information reported on
			information reported on		assessor blindness
			assessor blindness		
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, the primary outcomes	discuss	sed in methods were
reporting			presented in the results section with adequate level of detail for		
			data extraction		
Other sources Were there no other potential threats to internal ++ None identified					
	validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate				
	and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?				

Yu 2021^[34]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	• Exposure:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	• "Our study
Original study	Fluoride content in • Drinking water	• IQ	LASSO Binomial regressionLinear regression model	suggests that fluoride is inversely
Study design:	G		G	associated with
Cross-sectional	UrineHair and nail		 The Adaptive Rank Truncated Product (ARTP) for 	intelligence."
Country:			investigating the associations	 "The interactions of fluoride with
China			of intelligence with genetic variations at the gene or pathway level.	mitochondrial function-related
Participants:	Method of exposure		Results:	SNP-set, genes
School children aged 7	assessment:		Water fluoride (mg/L)	and pathways may also be involved in
to 13 years old	 Water samples were 		o High (IQ ≥ 120): 0.70 (0.40–	high intelligence
Sampling time frame:	collected from each		1.00)	loss."
2015	public supply in the		o Non-high (70 ≤ IQ<120):	
	villages.		1.00 (0.50–1.90)	
Sample size:	Fluoride			
952	concentration was		 Urinary fluoride (mg/L) 	
Cov. N (0/).	assessed using the		o High (IQ ≥ 120): 0.33 (0.13–	
Sex: N (%):	national standardized		0.81)	
Girls: 481 (50.5%)	ion-selective		0.01)	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Exclusions:	electrode method in		o Non-high (70 ≤ IQ <120).	
 Non-respondents Congenital or acquired diseases affecting intelligence. Neurologic disorders Refused to provide blood, hair or nail samples Low genotypic detection rate Hair permed or dyed, or with hair samples less than 0.2 g (n = 250). Nails dyed or with nails samples less than 0.2 g (n = 340). 	China • An early-morning spot urine sample was collected from each subject. • Hair samples were collected from the occipital zone of the scalp.		 0.60 (0.16–2.22) Hair fluoride (μg/g) High (IQ ≥ 120): 8.26 (5.10.48) Non-high (70 ≤ IQ <120): 14.39 (10.25–20.56) Nail fluoride (μg/g) High (IQ ≥ 120): 11.71 (8.53–14.64) Non-high (70 ≤ IQ <120): 19.76 (14.16–27.32) Fluoride exposure and high intelligence: OR (95% CI) 	72–

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Source of funding /	Exposure level(s):	Method of outcome	Water fluoride (mg/L)	
support: • The State Key Program of National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant No. 81430076). • The National Program for Support of Top- notch Young Professionals and Health commission of Hubei Province Author declaration of interest: No COI	 Exposure level(s): Water fluoride (mg/L) Tertile 1 (≤0.60) Tertile 2 (0.61–	Method of outcome ascertainment: • IQ scores were measured by the second edition of Combined Raven's Test – The Rural in China (CRT- RC2) for children aged 7 to 13 years.	 Water fluoride (mg/L) Tertile 1 (≤0.60) Reference Tertile 2 (0.61–1.40) Crude: 0.95 (0.65, 1.38) Adjusted: 0.94 (0.64, 1.37) Tertile 3 (>1.40) Crude: 0.38 (0.24, 0.59) Adjusted: 0.39 (0.25, 0.61) Urinary fluoride (mg/L) Tertile 1 (≤0.22) Reference Tertile 2 (0.23–1.80) Crude: 1.26 (0.87, 1.83) Adjusted: 1.26 (0.87, 1.84) Tertile 3 (>1.80) Crude: 0.41 (0.26, 0.65) 	
	• Nail fluoride (μg/g)		Adjusted: 0.41 (0.26, 0.66)	

Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
	o Tertile 1 (≤14.6	64)	• Hair fluoride (μg/g)	
	o Tertile 2 (14.65	-	o Tertile 1 (≤10.40)	
	23.41)		Reference	
	○ Tertile 3 (>23.4)	1 1)	o Tertile 2 (10.41–17.02)	
			Crude: 0.16 (0.10, 0.2	9)
			Adjusted: 0.16 (0.09,	
			0.29)	
			∘ Tertile 3 (>17.02)	
			Crude: 0.08 (0.04, 0.1	6)
			Adjusted: 0.08 (0.04,	
			0.16)	
			 Nail fluoride (μg/g) 	
			o Tertile 1 (≤14.64)	
			Reference	
			o Tertile 2 (14.65–23.41)	
			Crude: 0.15 (0.08, 0.2	9)
			Adjusted: 0.15 (0.08,	
			0.29)	
			o Tertile 3 (>23.41)	
			Crude: 0.09 (0.04, 0.1	8)
			Adjusted: 0.09 (0.04,	
			0.19)	

Study Characte	ristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			Does-response relations	<u>hips</u>
			of IQ scores with fluoride	<u>9</u>
			<u>exposures</u>	
			• β and 95% CI for every 0.5	50
			mg/L increment of water	
			fluoride or urinary fluoride	
			• β and 95% CI for every 1.0	00
			μg/g increment of hair fluor	ride
			or nail fluoride.	
			 Adjustment: age, sex, 	
			maternal education and	
			paternal education.	
			Water fluoride (mg/L)	
			○ 0.20-3.40	
			Crude: -1.24 (-1.48, -0).99)
			Adjusted: -1.16 (-1.41	, -
			0.91)	
			∘ 3.40-3.90	
			Crude: -5.36 (-8.54, -2	2.18)
			Adjusted: -4.21 (-7.54	, -

Study Character	ristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			0.87)	
			Urinary fluoride (mg/L)	
			○ 0.01-1.60	
			Crude: 0.96 (0.29, 1.6	63)
			Adjusted: 1.01 (0.34,	
			1.68)	
			∘ 1.60-2.50	
			Crude: -5.08 (-6.94, -	3.22)
			Adjusted: -5.23 (-7.07	7, -
			3.39)	
			o 2.50-5.54	
			Crude: -0.50 (-1.13, 0	0.14)
			Adjusted: -0.34 (-0.98	3,
			0.30)	
			 Hair fluoride (µg/g) 	
			o 3.23-10.50	
			Crude: -2.34 (-2.69, -	1.99)
			Adjusted: -2.34 (-2.69	
			1.99)	•

	_			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			○ 10.50-45.04	
			Crude: -0.41 (-0.49, -0	0.34)
			Adjusted: -0.42 (-0.50	, -
			0.34)	
			 Nail fluoride (μg/g) 	
			○ 2.08-14.50	
			Crude: -1.11 (-1.41, -0).81)
			Adjusted: -1.10 (-1.41	, -
			0.80)	
			○ 14.50-99.60	
			Crude: -0.50 (-0.56, -0).44)
			Adjusted: -0.49 (-0.55	, -
			0.43)	
			Interaction of SNP-set so	<u>core</u>
			with fluoride exposure or	<u>1</u>
			high intelligence OR (95	<u>%</u>
			<u>CI).</u>	
			• The P-value for interaction	(p-
			inter) was adjusted for age	,
			sex, maternal education ar	nd
			paternal education.	
			High SNP: -set score group	p (-

Study Characte	ristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			1.59 to 0.00):	
			 Low SNP-set score group 	(-
			2.90 to -1.59):	
			 Water fluoride (binary varia 	able
			based on the limit of 1.00	
			mg/L)	
			o Sample size: 952	
			o High SNP: 0.33 (0.20, 0).55)
			o Low SNP: 0.27 (0.14, 0	.54)
			o p-inter: 0.030	
			Urinary fluoride (binary	
			variable based on the limit	of
			1.60 mg/L)	
			o Sample size: 952	
			o High SNP: 0.37 (0.22, 0	0.62)
			o Low SNP: 0.32 (0.16, 0	.63)
			o p-inter: 0.040	
			 Hair fluoride (binary variab 	le

Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			based on the median level	of
			14.00 μg/g)	
			o Sample size: 719	
			o High SNP: 0.17 (0.08, 0	0.34)
			o Low SNP: 0.12 (0.04, 0	.35)
			o p-inter: 0.010	
			 Nail fluoride (binary variable) 	е
			based on the median level	of
			19.60 µg/g)	
			o Sample size: 638	
			o High SNP: 0.13 (0.06, 0	0.31)
			o Low SNP: 0.12 (0.04, 0	.37)
			o p-inter: 0.242	

Risk of bias as	Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Response				
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A Not applicable				
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A Not applicable				
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++ Yes, participants were selected during the same timeframe, according to the same criteria and from the same eligible				

Risk of bias as	sessment		
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	oonse
			population.
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	++	Yes, it was adjusted for major confounders such as age, sex,
	important confounding and modifying variables?		maternal education and paternal education
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study	N/A	Not applicable
	groups?		
	Were the research personnel and human subjects	N/A	Not applicable
	blinded to the study group during the study?		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or	++	Study provided reasons for exclusion of participants (non-
	exclusion from analysis?		respondents, congenital or acquired diseases affecting
			intelligence, neurologic disorders, those who refused to
			provide blood, hair or nail samples, low genotypic detection
			rate, permed or dyed hair, or with hair samples less than 0.2
			g (n = 250), and dyed nails or with nails samples less than
			0.2 g (n = 340).). There were no significant differences
			between those included compared to those excluded in both
			"high" and "non-high" intelligence groups in most
			characteristics, except for parental education and family
			income, where the numbers excluded were appreciably
			higher than those included. Similarly those excluded were
			more likely to have experienced maternal drinking, smoking
			or anemia during pregnancy, or encountered a problematic
			delivery.
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Yes, fluoride exposure levels were obtained from drinking

Risk of bias ass	sessment			
Bias domain	Criterion	Response		
	characterization?		water samples that were collected from the local source of	
			water supply in each village. Fluoride concentration in water	
			was assessed using the national standardized ion-selective	
			electrode method in China.	
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	+	Yes, IQ was consistently assessed by professionals (no	
			credentials reported) who supervised the children during the	
			assessment. IQ scores were measured using the second	
			edition of Combined Raven's Test – The Rural in China	
			(CRT-RC2) for children aged 7 to 13 years. No information	
			reported on assessor blindness	
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, the primary outcomes discussed in methods were	
reporting			presented in the results section with adequate level of detail	
			for data extraction.	
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal	++	None identified.	
	validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate			
	and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?			

Zhao 2021[35]

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Reference type:	Exposure:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	"Dopamine relative	
Original study Study design: Cross-sectional Country:	Fluoride concentration in Drinking water Urine Method of exposure	• IQ	 Multivariable linear regression models (associations between fluoride and IQ scores) Multiplicative and additive models (appraising single gene-environment interaction) Generalized multifactor 	genes may modify the association between fluoride and intelligence, and a potential interaction among fluoride exposure	
China Participants: children, aged 6–11 years old, from endemic and non-endemic fluorosis areas in Tianjin, China. Sampling time frame: 2018 Sample size:	assessment: • Urinary fluoride: The national standardized method ion analyzer EA940 with F-ion selective electrode (Shanghai constant magnetic electronic technology Co, Ltd, China)		dimensionality reduction, GMDR (evaluating high- dimensional interactions of gene-gene and gene- environment).	and DA relative genes on IQ." • "fluoride exposure is inversely related to children's IQ; DA related genes polymorphism (ANKK1 Taq1A, COMT rs4680, DAT1 40 bp VNTR and MAOA uVNTR) have modifying	

Study Characteristics	Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions		
•	Exposure level(s): Fluoride in drinking water: • High fluoride areas: 1.53–2.84 mg/L • Non-endemic fluorosis area (WF: 0.15–0.37 mg/L Fluoride in urine: • Urinary fluoride concentration was	Method of outcome ascertainment: The Combined Raven's Test (modified in China)	Results: Associations between UF and IQ scores Overall: Log_UF were inversely linear associated with IQ score (P < 0.05) in both crude model and adjusted model β (95% CI): Crude: - 5.159 (- 8.996, - 1.321) Adjusted: - 5.957 (- 9.712, -	effects of fluoride exposure on IQ; UF, ANKK1 Taq1A, COMT Val 158 Met and MAOA uVNTR have a high- dimensional interaction on IQ."		
genotyping measurement Source of funding / support: The National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant No.	not normally distributed, with a median (quantile 1, quantile 3) of 1.03 (0.72, 1.47) mg/L • After log transformation, the		2.202)Bootstrapped estimation of the variance: (95% CI: - 10.356, - 1.834; p=0.006)			

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
81573107, 81372934).	mean (±SD) Log	_UF			
	was 0.015 (±0.25	52)			
Author declaration of					
interest:					
No COI					

Risk of bias assessment					
riterion	Resp	oonse			
as administered dose or exposure level	N/A	Not applicable			
dequately randomized?					
as allocation to study groups adequately	N/A	Not applicable			
oncealed?					
id selection of study participants result in	++	Yes, participants were selected during the same timeframe,			
ppropriate comparison groups?		according to the same criteria and from the same eligible			
		population.			
id the study design or analysis account for	++	Yes, it was adjusted for major confounders such age, gender,			
nportant confounding and modifying variables?		BMI, paternal education level, maternal education level,			
		household income, abnormal birth and maternal age at			
		delivery.			
ere experimental conditions identical across study	N/A	Not applicable			
roups?					
ii o	as administered dose or exposure level equately randomized? as allocation to study groups adequately ncealed? d selection of study participants result in propriate comparison groups? d the study design or analysis account for portant confounding and modifying variables? ere experimental conditions identical across study	as administered dose or exposure level equately randomized? as allocation to study groups adequately ncealed? d selection of study participants result in propriate comparison groups? d the study design or analysis account for portant confounding and modifying variables? ere experimental conditions identical across study N/A			

Risk of bias as	sessment		
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	oonse
	Were the research personnel and human subjects	N/A	Not applicable
	blinded to the study group during the study?		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or	++	Study provided reasons for exclusion of participants (negative
	exclusion from analysis?		long-term residence, mental retardation in an immediate family
			member, missing IQ test, questionnaire or physical
			examination, or no results of genotyping measurement).
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Yes, fluoride concentration in water was assessed using the
	characterization?		national standardized method ion analyzer EA940 with F-ion
			selective electrode (Shanghai constant magnetic electronic
			technology Co, Ltd, China) .
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	Outcome was consistently assessed using The Combined
			Raven's Test (modified in China). Test administrators were
			blinded to participants' drinking water fluoride exposure levels.
			All participant assessments were conducted by trained
			professionals and under the supervision of qualified teachers,
			and public health and medical doctors.
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, the primary outcomes discussed in methods were
reporting			presented in the results section with adequate level of detail for
			data extraction.
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal	++	None identified
	validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate		
	and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?		

Bai 2020 [36]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	"The data indicated
Original study	Fluoride levels in • Drinking water	Sex steroid hormones [testosterone, estradiol and sex hormone-binding	 Analysis of variance and Chi-square test for continuous and categorical 	gender- and age- specific inverse associations of
Study design: Cross-sectional	• Serum	globulin (SHBG)]	variables, respectively. • Adjusted linear regression	fluoride in plasma and water with sex
Country: USA	Method of exposure assessment: Levels of fluoride in water and serum were tested	Method of outcome ascertainment: • Total testosterone and	(age, gender, race, family PIR, serum cotinine, BMI category, seasonal period when surveyed and	steroid hormones of total testosterone, estradiol and SHBG in U.S.
Participants: US children and	using the ion-specific electrode method	estradiol: isotope dilution liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry (ID-LC-	session of blood sample collection) Results:	children and adolescents."
adolescents 6–19 years old (NHANES survey)	• Water fluoride (mg/L) • Total: 0.36 (0.30, 0.42)	MS/MS) • SHBG: reaction of SHBG with immuno-antibodies and chemo-luminescence	 Compared with subjects at the first tertile of plasma fluoride, percent changes (95% CI) in testosterone 	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Sampling time frame:	o Male children: 0.40	measurements of the	were:	
2013 – 2016	(0.32, 0.47)	reaction products	○ Second tertile: –8.08%	
	 Male adolescents: 		(-17.36%, 2.25%)	
	0.34 (0.28, 0.40)		○ Third tertile: –21.65%	
Sample size:	 Female children: 0.3 	7	(-30.44%, -11.75%)	
3,392	(0.29, 0.44)		P trend <0.001	
	 Female adolescents: 		 Male adolescents at the 	
	0.35 (0.28, 0.41)		third tertile of plasma	
Sex (N): Males	o p-value: 0.143		fluoride had decreased	
Total: 780 (50.6%)			levels of testosterone: -	
Children: 936 (50.6%)	 Plasma fluoride 		21.09% (-36.61% to -	
Offiliateri. 950 (50.070)	(umol/L)		1.77%).	
Adolescents: 1,716 (50.6%)	o Total: 0.35 (0.33,		 Similar inverse 	
	0.37)		associations were also	
Exclusions:	o Male children: 0.38		found when investigating	
	(0.36, 0.41)		the relationships between	
Participants missing	 Male adolescents: 		plasma fluoride and	
information on fluoride	0.34 (0.32, 0.36)		estradiol.	
levels in plasma or water,	o Female children: 0.3	6	 Decreased levels of SHBG 	
sex steroid hormones of	(0.34, 0.37)		associated with water and	
testosterone, estradiol,	 Female adolescents: 		plasma fluoride	
SHBG, or the examined	0.33 (0.31, 0.35)		Male adolescents (third)	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
covariates.	o p-value: <0.001		tertile): -9.39% (-	
			17.25% to -0.78%)	
Course of funding /			 Female children 	
Source of funding /			(second tertile): -	
support:			10.78% (–17.55% to	_
National Natural			3.45%)	
Science Foundation of			Percent change in	
China			testosterone (95% CI) at	
			tertiles T2 and T3,	
Author declaration of			compared to T1:	
interest: No COI			<u>Total</u>	
			• T2: -7.95 (-20.47, 6.56)	
			• T3: -8.11 (-15.84, 0.33)	
			• p trend = 0.069	
			Male Children	
			• T2: 10.90 (-8.11, 33.85)	
			• T3: -7.56 (-21.80, 9.27)	
			• p trend = 0.458	
			Male Adolescents	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			• T2: -2.35 (-19.83, 18.94)	
			• T3: -7.43 (-24.79, 13.94)	
			• p trend = 0.461	
			Female Children	
			• T2: -1.07 (-14.11, 13.96)	
			• T3: -3.97 (-15.95, 9.72)	
			• p trend = 0.549	
			Female Adolescents	
			• T2: -2.08 (-11.75, 8.66)	
			• T3: -3.58 (-14.75, 9.06)	
			• p = trend 0.540	
			Percent change in	
			Estradiol (95% CI) at	
			tertiles T2 and T3,	
			compared to T1:	
			<u>Total</u>	
			• T2: -4.55 (-16.08, 8.56)	
			• T3: 1.48 (-6.97, 10.70)	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			• p trend = 0.896	
			Male Children	
			• T2: 2.08 (-2.97, 7.39)	
			• T3: 0.72 (-4.07, 5.75)	
			• p trend = 0.705	
			Male Adolescents	
			• T2: -4.56 (-19.04, 12.52)	
			• T3: -1.25 (-14.54, 14.10)	
			• p trend = 0.823	
			Female Children	
			• T2: -15.59 (-32.04, 4.84)	
			• T3: -7.25 (-22.74, 11.35)	
			• p trend = 0.337	
			Female Adolescents	
			• T2: 3.50 (-21.43, 36.33)	
			• T3: 9.49 (-13.47, 38.53)	
			• p trend = 0.457	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			Percent change in SHB0 (95% CI) at tertiles T2 an T3, compared to T1:	
			<u>Total</u>	
			 T2: 2.71 (-4.84, 10.86) T3: -2.75 (-9.69, 4.74) p = trend 0.557 	
			Male Children	
			 T2: 5.38 (-2.14, 13.48) T3: -4.14 (-10.65, 2.85) p trend = 0.322 	
			Male Adolescents	
			T2: 0.38 (-7.95, 9.47)T3: -9.39 (-17.25, -0.78)p trend = 0.038	
			Female Children	
			 T2: -1.74 (-11.50, 9.10) T3: 0.12 (-7.47, 8.34) p trend = 0.984 	

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
			Female Adolescents		
			• T2: 2.09 (-13.3, 19.98)		
			• T3: -0.37 (-12.06, 12.88)		
			• p trend = 0.996		

Risk of bias a	Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse		
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level	N/A	Not applicable		
	adequately randomized?				
	Was allocation to study groups adequately	N/A	Not applicable		
	concealed?				
	Did selection of study participants result in	++	Yes, participants were identified using the same method		
	appropriate comparison groups?		of ascertainment, recruited within the same time frame,		
			and using the same criteria.		
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	++	Yes, it accounted for major confounders such as age,		
	important confounding and modifying variables?		gender, race, family PIR, serum cotinine, BMI category,		
			seasonal period when surveyed and session of blood		
			sample collection		

Risk of bias a	ssessment		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Study provided reasons for exclusion of participants (participants missing information on fluoride levels in plasma or water, sex steroid hormones of testosterone, estradiol, SHBG, or the examined covariates.)
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Yes, fluoride exposure levels in water and serum were measured using the ion-specific electrode method
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	Yes, the outcome was assessed for Total testosterone and estradiol using the isotope dilution liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry (ID-LC-MS/MS); and for SHBG using the reaction of SHBG with immuno-antibodies and chemo-luminescence measurements of the reaction products. Outcome assessment methods and lack of blinding of outcome assessors would not appreciably bias results.

Risk of bias assessment						
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcome (steroid sex hormones) discussed in the methods was presented in results section with adequate level of detail for data extraction			
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified			

Cui 2020 [37]

Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	Although fluoride was
Original study	Fluoride levels in	• IQ scores	Descriptive statistics	not the main focus ²⁷ ,
ong		Thyroid Stimulating	Doompare stationed	the study reported
	• Urine	, c		non-significant
Study design:		Hormone (TSH)	Results:	frequency differences
Cross-sectional study	Method of exposure	Dopamine (DA)	Mean (±SD) IQ by urinary	between urinary

²⁷ RSI conclusion provided as the author's reported conclusion did not include information on effects caused by exposure to fluoride

Study Characteristics								
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions				
	assessment:		fluoride levels	fluoride levels and IQ				
Country:	• Fluoride ion selective	Method of outcome	< 1.6 mg/L	scores, and TSH and DA levels				
China	electrode method	ascertainment:	• 112.16 (±11.50)	D/ (levels				
		 IQ: Combined Raven's Test (CRT) 	<u>1.6 – 2.5 mg/L</u>					
Participants:	Exposure level:	• TSH: measured in serum	• 112.05 (±12.01)					
School aged children (7 –	Distribution by urinary fluoride levels (N; %)	using electrochemical	≥ 2.5 mg/L					
12 years) from Tianjin	< 1.6 mg/L	i liminascanca mathod	• 110.00 (±14.92)					
Sampling time frame:	• N = 396 (79.52)	using ELISA and DA kit	<u>p-value</u>					
2014 - 2018	<u>1.6 – 2.5 mg/L</u>		• 0.578					
	• N = 66 (13.25)							
Sample size:	≥ 2.5 mg/L		Median (q1-q3) TSH in uIU/mL by urinary fluoride					
498	• N = 36 (7.23)		levels					
			< 1.6 mg/L					
Sex:			• 2.81 (2.21 – 3.81)					
Boys: 248 (49.8%)			<u>1.6 – 2.5 mg/L</u>					
			• 2.82 (2.01 – 3.82)					

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Exclusions:			≥ 2.5 mg/L	
Had incomplete			• 3.29 (2.30 – 4.48)	
information			<u>p-value</u>	
 Insufficient samples of blood 			• 0.287	
Source of funding /			Median (q1-q3) DA in ng/l	-
support:			by urinary fluoride levels	
National Nature Science			< 1.6 mg/L	
Foundation of China			• 5.62 (3.08 – 12.15)	
Tianjin Health Inspection	ı		1.6 – 2.5 mg/L	
Fund			• 5.77 (3.01 – 12.59)	
			≥ 2.5 mg/L	
Author declaration of interest:			• 7.24 (2.16 – 15.23)	
No COI			<u>p-value</u>	
110 001			0.925	

Risk of bias as	ssessment		
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	Yes, participants were identified from the same population and recruited within the same time frame.
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	-	NR
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Study provided reasons for exclusion of participants such as insufficient blood samples or incomplete data
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Exposure was measured in urine using fluoride ion selective electrode method (Chinese standard WS/T 89-

Risk of bias	Risk of bias assessment							
			2015).					
	Can we be confident in the outcome	+	IQ measured	++	TSH measured	++	DA measured	
	assessment?		using		in serum using		in plasma using	
			Combined		electrochemical		ELISA and DA	
			Raven's Test		luminescence		kit	
			(CRT).		method			
			Unclear					
			blinding					
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, all primar	y out	comes (IQ, thyroid	horn	nones and	
reporting			dopamine) discussed in methods were presented in results				sented in results	
			section with adequate level of detail for data extraction				a extraction	
Other	Were there no other potential threats to	++	None identified					
sources	internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were							
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the							
	study protocol)?							

Das 2020 [38]

Study Characteristics							
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions			
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	"The results revealed			
Original study	Fluoride levels in • Water wells	Dental Fluorosis	NR	that fluoride levels varied between 0.03 and 3.8 ppm. People			
Study design:	 Filtration plants 	Method of outcome	Results:	who drank well water			
Cross-sectional study	 Commercial brand water bottles 	ascertainment:Assessments were	Association between dental fluorosis and sources of	displayed increased fluoride levels (>0.81 ppm). The			
Country: Saudi Arabia	Method of exposure assessment:	completed by two dentists and two dental assistants	drinking water Well Water	prevalence of dental fluorosis was			
Participants:	 Collected samples (N= 63) from 12 regions/cities 	 Severity was determined using Dean's index 	 None: 163 Questionable: 141 	established to be 20.43% among the			
Dental college patients	and 9 water bottle brands		Very Mild: 105Mild: 71	total number of examined patients.			
(aged 9 to 50 years)	Exposure level:		Moderate: 12Severe: 3	The findings of this study show very mild			
Sampling time frame: July – December 2019	Mean (SD) Fluoride levels in ppm by water source		• Total: 495 <u>Filtered Water</u>	to moderate dental fluorosis prevail among the patients			
oal, Doodlinger 2010	type		None: 414Questionable: 197	who consume well			

Study Characteristics	Study Characteristics						
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions			
Sample size:	• Well Water		• Very Mild: 36	water in the Asir			
1,150	1.97 (0.20)		• Mild: 5	region."			
	Filtered Water		Moderate: 3				
Sex N:			• Severe: 0				
	1.05 (0.69)		● Total: 665				
Men: 609 (53%)	 Bottled Water 		<u>Total</u>				
	1.09 (0.10)		• None: 577				
Exclusions:			• Questionable: 338				
Patients without primary	or		Very Mild: 141				
permanent teeth fully			• Mild: 76				
erupted			Moderate: 15				
			• Severe: 3				
			● Total: 1150				
Source of funding / support:			<u>p-value</u>				
Deanship of Scientific			• <0.002				
Research							
Author declaration of							
interest: No COI							

Study Characteristics							
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions			

Bias domain	Criterion		Response		
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	Yes, participants were selected during the same timeframe and according to the same criteria.		
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	-	NR		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable		

Risk of bias	assessment		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	-	NR
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Yes, exposure was measured in water using the ion chromatography system (ExStik® FL700 Fluoride Meter, USA).
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	Yes, outcome (dental fluorosis) was done by 2 dentists and 2 dental assistants, using Dean's fluorosis index. Lack of blinding of outcome assessors would not appreciably bias results.
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were presented in results section with adequate level of detail for data extraction
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified

Fernandes 2020 [39]

Study Characteristics								
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions				
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	"The prevalence				
Original study	Fluoride level in	Dental fluorosis	NR	of dental fluorosis in				
	Water samples			group II [>0.7				
Study design:		Method of outcome	Results:	ppm F] was				
Cross-sectional study	Method of exposure	ascertainment:	N (%) dental fluorosis	higher (44.8%), but it was not				
Country: Brazil Participants:	"Combined ion-specific fluoride electrode and a reference electrode connected to an ion analyser 710 A" (p. 476)	 Single examiner with notetaker determined dental fluorosis using the Thysltrup and Fejerskov criteria 	absent • ≤0.7 ppm F: 306 (63.1) • >0.7 ppm F: 69 (55.2)	significantly different from group I [<0.7 ppm F] (36.9%)." (p. 477)				
Children (6 to 12 years of age) from rural public schools in São João do Rio do Peixe, Poço José de Moura, Marizópolis, and Uiraúna	Exposure level: Level of residual fluoride in water (ppm): Range: 0.06 – 1.98		N (%) dental fluorosis present • ≤0.7 ppm F: 179 (36.9%) • >0.7 ppm F: 56 (44.8%)					

Study Characteristics						
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions		
Sampling time fra	ame:					
NR						
Sample size:						
610						
Sex N (%):						
Men: 329 (53.9%)						
Exclusions:						
Use fixed orthod	ontic					
appliance						
Have reading diff						
Have tooth malformation	ormations					
Source of funding	g /					
support:						

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
NR					
Author declaration	n of				
interest: No COI					

Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion		Response		
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	+	Yes, participants were selected using the same criteria. However, the sampling timeframe was not reported		
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	-	NR		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across	N/A	Not applicable		

Risk of bias assessment				
	study groups?			
	Were the research personnel and human	N/A	Not applicable	
	subjects blinded to the study group during the			
	study?			
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or	++	Study provided reasons for exclusion of participants	
	exclusion from analysis?		(using fixed orthodontic appliance, have reading	
			difficulties, or have tooth malformations)	
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Yes, exposure was measured in water using the	
	characterization?		combined ion specific fluoride electrode (ORION—	
			9409BN) and a reference electrode (900200)	
			connected to an ion analyser 710 A (ORION).	
	Can we be confident in the outcome	++	Yes, outcome (dental fluorosis) was measured by a	
	assessment?		single examiner with notetaker using the Thysltrup and	
			Fejerskov criteria. Lack of blinding of outcome	
			assessors would not appreciably bias results.	
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were	
reporting			presented in results section with adequate level of	
			detail for data extraction	

Risk of bias assessment				
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal	++	None identified	
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?			

Godebo 2020 [40]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures	Outcome: Skeletal	Statistical analysis:	Negative associations
Original study	Fluoride levels in	fluorosis	 Bivariate and multivariable 	between F- exposure and
	Drinking water		linear regression analyses	bone quality at all three bone
Study design:	• Urine	Method of outcome	adjusted for age, sex, BMI,	sites
Cross-sectional		ascertainment:	smoking, current tooth paste	Fluoride-induced deterioration
	Exposure	 Bone scan in multiple 	use	of bone quality in humans,
Country:	assessment:	skeletal sites, using a		likely reflecting a combination
Ethiopia	24-hour urinary F-	novel mobile non-	Results:	of factors related to SOS: net
	content was	ionizing ultrasound	• 1 mg/L increase in F- in	bone loss, abnormal
Participants:	determined using the	device. Results were	drinking water was related to	mineralization and collagen
Adolescents and adult	ion selective electrode	examined using the	reduction of 15.8 m/s (95% CI:	formation, or altered

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
farmers living in the	and the	same assessment	−21.3 to −10.3) of adult tibial	microarchitecture.	
MER rural area	hexamethyldisiloxane (HMDS)-facilitated	criteria • X-ray validation for a	SOS. • 1 mg/L increase in 24-h urinary		
Sampling time frame: 2018-2019	diffusion method (Rango et al. 2017).	subset of participation, where radiographs were	F- (range: 0.04–39.5 mg/L) was linked to a reduction of 8.4 m/s		
Study population: 341	Water F- concentrations: Mean (SD)	analyzed by a radiologist/co-author with a specialization in skeletal fluorosis	 (95% CI: −12.7, −4.12) of adult tibial SOS. Adolescents: weaker and non-significant inverse associations 		
Sex: (men): 55.1%	• Water intake		between F- exposure and SOS Age, gender, and BMI were		
individuals who were	(liter/day): 1.3 ± 0.63		more significant predictors than in adults		
judged as incapable of undergoing detailed health	 FI in groundwater (mg/L): 6.8 ±4.30 FI intake (mg/day): 				
examinations.	9.13 ± 7.30				
Source of funding/ support: National Institute of Environmental Health	Urinary F- concentrations: Mean (SD) F- in 24-h urine				

Study Characteristics						
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions		
Sciences	(mg/L):					
	8.2 ± 7.6					
Author declaration	ı					
of interest:	F- excretion (mg)	:				
Not reported	5.01 ± 4.5					

Bias domain	Criterion		ponse
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	Participants were enrolled during 2 sampling periods (between 2018 and 2019), from 25 rural communities in the Main Ethiopian Rift (MER), each of which were primarily dependent on a single groundwater well.
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	++	Yes (age, sex, BMI, smoking, current toothpaste use)

Risk of bias a	ssessment		
	important confounding and modifying variables?		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Not considered a risk of bias as there were few eligible participants who got excluded based on a judgment that they would be incapable of undergoing detailed health examinations.
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Yes, 24-hour urinary F- content was determined for all groups, within the same time-frame, and using the same tool: ion selective electrode and the hexamethyldisiloxane (HMDS)-facilitated diffusion method
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	Yes, all participants underwent the same bone scan on the same 3 skeletal sites for adults, and 2 sites for children, using a standard "novel" mobile non-ionizing ultrasound device. Results were examined using the

Risk of bias assessment				
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?		same. Validation using X-ray radiographs was completed for a subset of participants by a radiologist/co-author with a specialization in skeletal fluorosis Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were	
reporting	vvere un medeured editormes reported:	++	presented in results section with adequate level of detail for data extraction	
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified	

Kim 2020 [41]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	"Findings from this
Original study	Fluoride levels in	Osteosarcoma (bone	 Conditional logistic regression to assess the 	study demonstrated that

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Study design:	• Water	cancer)	association of community water fluoridation with osteosarcoma.	community water fluoridation is not associated with an
Case-control	Method of exposure assessment:	Method of outcome ascertainment:	odioodarooma.	increased risk for osteosarcoma."
Country: USA	NR	Phase 1: histological confirmation of diagnosis	Results:	
	Exposure level:	followed by phone interviews	 A modestly significant interaction existed 	
Participants: Phase 1	Lived in a fluoridated area (0.7 ppm)	Phase 2: pathology reports	between fluoridation living status and bottled water	
 Cases: all patients younger than 40 years old, who were diagnosed with osteosarcoma 	 No Cases: 58 (24.6%) Controls: 81 (19.8%) Reference 		 use (P = 0.047). Risk of osteosarcoma (adjusted): For ever having lived in 	
Controls: patients with other bone tumors or non-neoplastic conditions, identified during the same periods, and from the same orthopedic surgery	 Yes Cases: 178 (75.4%) Controls: 328 (80.2%) OR: 0.76, 95% CI: (0.52 to 1.11), p-value: 0.156 		a fluoridated area for nonbottled water drinkers: [OR= 0.51 (95% CI: 0.31 - 0.84) P = 0.008)]. • For bottled water drinkers: [OR=1.86	

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
department as cases.			(95% CI: 0.54 - 6.41)	P	
Controls were matched to			= 0.326).		
cases on sex, age ±5					
years, and distance from					
the hospital					
Sampling time frame:					
• Phase 1: 1989–1993					
• Phase 2: 1994–2000					
Sample size:					
• Phase 1: cases (209),					
controls (440)					
• Phase 2: cases (108),					
controls (296)					
Sex (N):					
Phase 1 & 2 combined:					
• Cases: men: 142 (60.2%)					

Study Characteris	Study Characteristics						
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions			
• Controls: men 24	8						
(60.6%)							
Exclusions:							
Phase 1							
Patients older tha	n 40						
years of age at di	agnosis						
 Prior radiotherapy 	y						
 Renal dialysis 							
Phase 2							
 Radiotherapy 							
 Renal dialysis 							
 Foreign nationals 	who						
were in the United	d States						
solely for treatme	nt						
Source of funding	g <i>/</i>						
support:							
Statistical analysi	s: CDI						

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Research, Inc.				
Phase 1: the National				
Institute of Environmen	tal			
Health Sciences (NIH).				
Data collection: the Nev	W			
England Research				
Institute.				
Phase 2 was funded by	•			
the National Cancer				
Institute (NIH) and the				
National Institute of De	ntal			
and Craniofacial				
Research (NIH).				
Author declaration of				
interest:				
Declaration of interest				
provided				

Risk of bias as	ssessment			
Bias domain	Criterion	Response		
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable	
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable	
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	Cases and controls were recruited from the same population, within the same time frame timeframe, and with the same eligibility criteria other than by outcome of interest	
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	++	Yes, it accounted for major confounders such as age, race, ethnicity, income, ever lived in urban residence, distance from hospital, and ever drank bottled water (included only when bottled water * fluoridation exposure interaction was not significant), family income (via zip code and Census data)	
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable	
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the	N/A	Not applicable	

Risk of bias	Risk of bias assessment				
	study?				
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Study provided reasons for exclusion of participants (age >40, radiotherapy, renal dialysis, missing residential history, non matching cases or controls)		
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	+	Yes, fluoride exposure levels were obtained from state dental directors, state level administrators and from the 1992 CDC Fluoridation Census if needed.		
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	Yes, the outcome was assessed in cases and controls using medical records and histopathology reports. Outcome assessment methods and lack of blinding of outcome assessors would not appreciably bias results.		
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcome discussed in methods was presented in results section with adequate level of detail for data extraction		
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified		

Krishna 2020 [42]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	
Original study Study design: Case-control study Country:	Fluoride levels in Serum Method of exposure assessment: ISE Thermo Scientific Orion-5 Instrument	Diabetes Mellitus and Diabetic nephropathy using serum renal parameters Method of outcome ascertainment:	 Analysis conducted using one way Analysis of Variance test Statistical significance at p<0.05 Results:	showed that Fasting, post prandial blood glucose values and serum Fluoride were significantly higher in T2DM without CKD group
Participants: Patients (45 – 75 years of age) from RL Jalappa Hospital and Research Center	Exposure level: Mean (SD) levels of fluoride in ppm by study groups Controls • 0.0949 (0.12)	"Vitros 5.1 FS dry chemistry auto analyzer from Ortho Clinical Diagnostics (OCD) United States, based on the principle of "reflectance photometry".	Pearson correlation between serum fluoride and parameters (N = 30). Fasting Blood Sugar • 0.28 Postprandial Blood Sugar • 0.44*	as compared to the controls and T2DM with CKD." (p. 571) • "This study also supports the hypothesis of increase serum Fluoride increases DM and DN which
Sampling time frame: July 2019 – September	T2DM without CKD • 0.6318 (0.59)		<u>Urea</u> • 0.107	is evident from the results." (p. 575)

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
2019	T2DM with CKD		Serum Creatinine	
	• 0.5128 (0.30)		• 0.08	
Sample size:	<u>p-value</u>		<u>Albumin</u>	
90	0.001		• 0.102	
			<u>Sodium</u>	
Sex:			• 0.005	
NR			<u>Potassium</u>	
			• 0.101	
Exclusions:				
Non Kolar resident, with				
diabetes mellitus (DM),				
and no fluoride exposure				
• Use of drugs				
• Use of other factors that				
can result in diabetes or				
diabetic nephropathy				
Going through dialysis				
Has acute kidney injury				
Has hepatobiliary				

Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
disorder that result i	n			
proteinuria or album	inuria			
 Has gestational DM 	, type			
1 DM, or monogenic				
diabetic syndrome				
Source of funding /				
support:				
NR				
	_			
Author declaration of	of			
interest:				

Risk of bias assessment						
Bias domain	Criterion	Response				
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level	N/A Not applicable				

Risk of bias a	ssessment						
	adequately randomized?						
	Was allocation to study groups adequately N/A Not applicable						
	concealed?						
	Did selection of study participants result in	++	Yes, participants were identified from the same				
	appropriate comparison groups?		population and recruited within the same time frame.				
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	+	Yes, it accounted for some confounders as age and				
	important confounding and modifying variables?		sex				
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across	N/A	Not applicable				
	study groups?						
	Were the research personnel and human	N/A	Not applicable				
	subjects blinded to the study group during the						
	study?						
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or	++	Yes, the study provided reasons for exclusion of				
	exclusion from analysis?		participants (non-residents, with diabetes mellitus				
			(DM), and no fluoride exposure, use of drugs, use of				
			other factors that can result in diabetes or diabetic				
			nephropathy, dialysis, acute kidney injury,				
			hepatobiliary disorder resulting in proteinuria or				
			albuminuria, gestational DM, DM type I, or				

Risk of bias	assessment		
			monogenic diabetic syndrome)
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Yes, fluoride in serum was measured in serum using
	characterization?		the ISE Thermo Scientific Orion-5 Instrument
	Can we be confident in the outcome	++	Yes, the outcome (DM serum/renal parameters) was
	assessment?		measured using Vitros 5.1 FS dry chemistry auto
			analyzer from Ortho Clinical Diagnostics (OCD)
			United States, based on the principle of reflectance
			photometry
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, the primary outcomes discussed in methods
reporting			were presented in results section with adequate level
			of detail for data extraction
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal	++	None identified
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were		
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the		
	study protocol)?		

Lee 2020 [43]

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	"These findings	
Original study Study design:	Fluoride levels in • Water	Hip fractureOsteoporosisBone cancer	 Standardized incidence ratios to estimate the disease risk. Hierarchical Bayesian 	suggest that CWF is not associated with adverse health	
Ecological study	Method of exposure assessment:	Method of outcome ascertainment:	Poisson spatio-temporal regression model to	risks related to bone diseases."	
Country: South Korea Participants:	Data from the Korean Microdata Integrated Service (MIDS) of Statistics Korea.	Data from the National Health Insurance Service (NHIS) for select ICD-10 codes.	investigate the association between select bone diseases and CWF considering space and time interaction		
All residents in the Cheongju region	Exposure level: NR		Results: • The posterior relative risks (RR):		
Sampling time frame: 1 January 2004 - 31 December 2013			 Hip fracture: RR: 0.95, 95% CI: 0.87- 1.05 		

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Sample size: Fluoridated areas: 4,406,021 Non-fluoridated areas: 2,270,959			 Os≥≥teoporosis RR: 0.94, 95% CI: 0.87-1.02 Bone cancer RR: 1.20, 95% CI: 0.89-1.61 (a little high due to smaller sample size compared to the other bone diseases) 	е
Sex (N): • Fluoridated areas: Men: 2,200,104 (49.99) • Non-fluoridated areas: Men: 1,126,495 (49.69)	:		The RR of the selected bo diseases increased over time but did not increase in the CWF area compared to non-CWF areas.	ne n
Exclusions: Reported no exclusions to use of customized da from the NHIS				

Study Characterist	Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions		
Source of funding	I					
support:						
Division of Oral Hea	lth					
Policy, Ministry of H	ealth					
and Welfare, Repub	lic of					
Korea						
Author declaration	of					
interest:						
No COI						

Risk of bias assessment						
Bias domain	Criterion	Response				
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A Not applicable				
	Was allocation to study groups adequately	N/A Not applicable				

Risk of bias assessment						
	concealed?					
	Did selection of study participants result in	Yes, participants were identified using the same				
	appropriate comparison groups?		method of ascertainment, recruited within the same			
			time frame, and using the same criteria.			
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	+	Study accounted only for age and sex			
	important confounding and modifying variables?					
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across	N/A	Not applicable			
	study groups?					
	Were the research personnel and human	N/A	Not applicable			
	subjects blinded to the study group during the					
	study?					
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or	++	Study reported no missing information on any of the			
	exclusion from analysis?		study participants due to extraction of customized			
			data from the Korean NHIS.			
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Yes, fluoride exposure levels were obtained from the			
	characterization?		Microdata Integrated Service (MIDS) of Statistics			
			Korea.			
	Can we be confident in the outcome	++	Yes, the outcome was assessed using the respective			
	assessment?		ICD-10 codes from the National Health Insurance			

Risk of bias assessment						
			Service (NHIS) records. Outcome assessment methods and lack of blinding of outcome assessors would not appreciably bias results.			
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcome discussed in methods was presented in results section with adequate level of detail for data extraction			
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified			

Nanayakkara 2020 [44]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	• "CKDu patients
Original study	Fluoride levels in • Serum	CKDu	 Analysis conducted using the analysis of variance (ANOVA) test 	showed significantly higher serum fluoride

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Study design:	• Water	Method of outcome	Statistical significance at p	concentrations than	
Cross-sectional		ascertainment:	≤ 0.05	the healthy	
Country: Sri Lanka Participants:	Method of exposure assessment: • Drinking water samples from Girandurukotte and Medawachchiya	 Diagnosed CKDu ("biopsy proven renal tubulointerstitial disease, uncontrolled hypertension or diabetes at the time of initial 	Results: Mean serum fluoride level (SD) by CKDu stage Stage 0 (N = 276)	controls." • "The estimated glomerular filtration level was inversely proportional to the serum fluoride	
Men with chronic kidney disease of uncertain aetiology (CKDu) and healthy controls	 Blood samples from males with CKDu and healthy controls Samples analyzed using fluoride ion-selective electrode 	diagnosis, negative immunofluorescence for IgG, IgM, IgA, and C3, serum creatinine >1.2 mg/dL and/or A1M > 15.5 mg/L, HbA1C<6.5%")	 35.5 μg/L (16.3) Stage 1 (N = 10) 38.1 μg/L (18.1) Stage 2 (N = 60) 53.9 μg/L (34.2)* 	concentration, indicating the accumulation of fluoride in the body with the progression of CKDu, which can	
Sampling time frame: NR	Exposure level: Mean (SD) levels of	 Healthy controls ("no history of hypertension, diabetes or renal impairment, blood 	Stage 3 (N = 160) • 82.8 μg/L (41.9)*	further aggravate renal tissue damage." (p. 4)	
Sample size (N): • Men with CKDu = 311 • Healthy Controls = 276	fluoride in drinking water • 0.68 mg/L (0.48)	pressure not more than 140/90 mmHg, no proteinuria or glycosuria based on the dipstick	Stage 4 (N = 72) • 123.4 μg/L (59.9)* Stage 5 (N = 9)		

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
	Mean (SD) levels of	urine test, HbA1C<6.5%,	• 123.9 μg/L (52.6)*		
Sex:	fluoride in serum by stages	serum creatinine <1.2			
NR	of CKD	mg/dL and/ or A1M <	* p<0.05 compared to		
NIX.	Stage 0 (N = 276)	15.5 mg/L")	controls		
Exclusions:	• 35.5 µg/L (16.3)				
NR	<u>Stage 1 (N = 10)</u>				
	• 38.1 (18.1)				
Source of funding /	<u>Stage 2 (N = 60)</u>				
support:	• 53.9 (34.2)				
Special Coordination					
Funds for Promoting					
Science and Technology					
from the Ministry of					
Education, Culture, Sports,					
Science and Technology					
Author declaration of					
interest:					

Study Characteris	stics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
No COI				

Risk of bias as	Risk of bias assessment						
Bias domain	Criterion	Response					
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable				
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable				
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	+	Yes, participants were selected using the same criteria. However, the sampling timeframe was not				
	appropriate companson groups:		reported				
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	-	NR				
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable				
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the	N/A	Not applicable				

Risk of bias	assessment		
	study?		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	-	NR
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Exposure measured in water and serum using the fluoride ion-selective electrode method
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	Yes, the outcome (CKDu) was assessed using biopsy proven renal tubulointerstitial disease, uncontrolled hypertension or diabetes at the time of initial diagnosis, negative immunofluorescence for IgG, IgM, IgA, and C3, serum creatinine >1.2 mg/dL and/or A1M > 15.5 mg/L, HbA1C<6.5%
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, the primary outcomes discussed in methods were presented in results section with adequate level of detail for data extraction
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified

Russ 2020 [45]

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome: Dementia	Statistical analysis:	■ "Higher levels of	
Original study Study design:	Aluminum and fluoride levels in drinking water	Method of outcome ascertainment:	 Cox proportional hazards models for the association between 	aluminium and fluoride were related to dementia risk in a	
Cohort study	Method of exposure assessment:	Any mention of <u>ICD-9</u> <u>codes</u> 290.0–290.4,	aluminium and fluoride levels in drinking water with dementia in men	population of men and women who	
Country: Scotland	Data from the Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland (DWQR)	290.8, 290.9, 291.1, 291.2, 294.1, 294.2, 294.8, 294.9, and	 Age in years over the 	consumed relatively low drinking-water	
Participants: all people born in 1921 and at school in Scotland in June 1932 who took part in a comprehensive national intelligence test at a mean age of 11 years	Fluoride in drinking water: • Mean: 53.4 µg/L ±16.0 • Range: 23.8–181.1	331.0–331.912 and ICD-10 codes: F00- F05.1, F09, G30, and G3113 recorded on electronic medical records or death certificates after 2004, or from primary care records, specifically the	 age of 84 years was the timescale All models were additionally adjusted for IQ at age 11 years Sensitivity analysis was conducted, adjusting for SIMD rank. 	 No statistical interaction between aluminium and fluoride levels in relation to dementia. 	

Study Characteristics	Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions		
(Scottish Mental Survey 1932)		Greater Glasgow & Clyde Nursing Homes Medical Practice, which	 Additional model for the interaction between aluminium and fluoride. 	• A dose-response		
Sampling time frame: 2005-2014		exclusively treated residents of nursing homes	Results: Out of an analytic sample	pattern was observed between mean fluoride levels and		
Sample size (N): Initial: 37,597			of 2728 men and 4262 women alive in 2005:	dementia in women [HR: 1.34 (95% CI: 1.28–		
Analysis: 6,980			 622 men and 1350 women developed dementia. 	1.41, P <0.001)] and men [HR: 1.30 (95% CI: 1.22–		
Sex: N (%) Men: Initial: 19,272 (51%)			 All participants were approximately 84 years old at start of the 	1.39), P <0.001], with dementia risk more than doubled in the highest		
Analysis: 2,728 (39%)			exposure periodFollow-up duration:Mean: 2.7 years	quartile compared with the lowest.		
Exclusions:						

Study Characteris				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Participants missir	ng		o SD: 2.1 years	
residential location	,		○ Range: 0–7 years	
died before the			• Fluoride	
monitoring period			•i idolide	
began in 2005, or			o Mean: 53.4 μg/L	
missing childhood	IQ		o SD: 16.0	
test results			o Range: 23.8–181.	1
Source of funding	g/			
support:				
Alzheimer Scotlan	d			
through the Marjor	ie			
MacBeath beques	t			
Author declaratio	n of			
interest: None				

Risk of bias a	Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse		
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A			
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A			
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	Yes, using the same inclusion/exclusion criteria, and using the same methods for ascertainment of exposure and outcome, identified participants included all people born in 1921 and at school in Scotland in June 1932 who took part in a comprehensive national intelligence test at a mean age of 11 years (Scottish Mental Survey 1932).		
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	+	Yes, Cox proportional hazards models was used to assess the association between fluoride (and aluminum) levels in drinking water with dementia in men and women separately, adjusting for childhood IQ and SIMD. Given the narrow age cohort (all born in 1921) reflected a homogenous sample with no major factors to		

Risk of bias a	Risk of bias assessment				
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups? Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	confound the findings. No information could be identified regarding participants' exposure to drinking water before 2005, i.e., for the first 84 years of their lives.		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Study provided reasons for exclusion of participants (missing residential location, died before the monitoring period began in 2005, or missing childhood IQ test results), which were not related to the outcome		
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Yes, data on levels of fluoride exposure were consistently drawn within the same timeframe, from the same source: Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland (DWQR). Sampling sites were identified by longitude and latitude and were widely distributed across		

Risk of bias	assessment		
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?		Scotland, particularly where the population is more concentrated Yes, outcome was determined using relevant ICD9/10 codes for dementia, as recorded in on
	assessment:	++	electronic medical records or death certificates after 2004, or from primary care records, specifically the Greater Glasgow & Clyde Nursing Homes Medical Practice, which exclusively treated residents of nursing homes
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcome (dementia) discussed in methods were presented in results section with adequate level of detail
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified

Stangvaltaite-Mouhat 2020 [46]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	"Signs of fluorosis
Original study	Fluoride levels in drinking water	Dental fluorosis	 Prevalence for each age group was calculated using 	were detected in 2% of participants
Study design: cross- sectional (part of the	Method of exposure assessment:	Method of outcome ascertainment:	descriptive statistics (chi- square test, likelihood ratio, and the independent-	(N=21) and the presence of fluorosis did not associate
Lithuanian National Oral Health Survey)	Fluoride levels in drinking water were provided by the water suppliers.	 Assessments were conducted by one trained and calibrated examiner, 	sample t-test). • Analytical methods for DF were not reported	significantly with higher levels of fluoride in the
Country: Lithuania	Exposure level:	assisted by a dental assistant.DF was assessed using	Results:	drinking water (data not shown)."
Participants: Adults between 35 and 74 years old	• ≤ 1 ppm • > 1 ppm	the WHO index [World Health Organization, 2013]	Dental fluorosis prevalence by age group and gender	
			35-44 years	
Sampling time frame:			Males	
NR			Yes: 5 (4%)No: 125 (96%)	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Sample size: 1,39	97		Females	
			• Yes: 8 (4%)	
Sex: Men 462 (33	3.1%)		• No: 215 (96%)	
			<u>45–54 years</u>	
Exclusions: NR			Males	
			• Yes: 2 (2%)	
Source of fundin	a l		• No: 102 (98%)	
support:	9,		Females	
The Borrow Found	dation		• Yes: 3 (1%)	
			• No: 204 (99%)	
Author declarat	ion of		<u>55–64 years</u>	
interest: No COI			Males	
			• Yes: 1 (1%)	
			• No: 111 (99%)	
			Females	
			• Yes: 0 (0%)	
			• No: 248 (100%)	

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
			65-74 years		
			Males		
			• Yes: 2 (2%)		
			• No: 114 (98%)		
			Females		
			• Yes: 0 (0%)		
			• No: 253 (100%)		
			Dental fluorosis		
			prevalence by water		
			fluoride level		
			≤ 1 ppm		
			35–44 years		
			• Males: 121 (93%)		
			• Females: 198 (88%)		
			45-54 years		
			• Males: 95 (91%)		
			• Females: 181 (87%)		

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			55-64 years	
			• Males: 100 (89%)	
			• Females: 201 (80%)	
			65-74 years	
			• Males: 96 (83%)	
			• Females: 204 (80%)	
			>1ppm	
			35-44 years	
			• Males: 9 (7%)	
			• Females: 26 (12%)	
			45-54 years	
			• Males: 9 (9%)	
			• Females: 26 (13%)	
			55-64 years	
			• Males: 12 (11%)	
			• Females: 49 (20%)	
			65-74 years	
			• Males: 20 (17%)	

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
			• Females: 50 (20%)		

Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Response		
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable	
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable	
	Did selection of study participants result in	+	Yes, participants were selected using the same	
	appropriate comparison groups?		criteria. However, the sampling timeframe was not	
			reported	
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	-	NR	
	important confounding and modifying variables?			
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across	N/A	Not applicable	
	study groups?			
	Were the research personnel and human	N/A	Not applicable	
	subjects blinded to the study group during the			

Risk of bias assessment				
	study?			
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	-	NR	
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization? Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	Yes, fluoride exposure levels were obtained from public water suppliers Yes, outcome (dental fluorosis) was done by one trained and calibrated examiner, and a dental assistant, using the WHO index. Lack of blinding of outcome assessors would not appreciably bias results.	
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were presented in results section with adequate level of detail for data extraction	
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified	

Sun 2020 [47]

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	"decreased BMD in	
Original study Study design:	Fluoride levels in • Urine	 Reduction of bone mineral density (BMD) via CALCA gene methylation 	 Statistical significance at p<0.05 Associations of fluoride with CALCA exon 1 	women may be associated with exposure to excessive fluoride in	
Cross-sectional	Method of exposure assessment:	Method of outcome	methylation levels and T- scores stratified by age	an age-specific manner, which may	
Country:	Fluoride ion-selective electrode	ascertainment: • BMD: Standalone	groups were adjusted for age, menopause, BMI,	be modified by methylation of CALCA exon 1."	
- Crimia		ultrasound bone	high-density lipoprotein- cholesterol (HDL-C) and		
Participants: Female farmers (20 – 60 years of age) from 6 villages (3 endemic fluorosis villages with fluoride levels > 1.0 mg/L;	Exposure level: NR	densitometer CALCA methylation: Quantitative methylation- specific polymerases chain reaction	alkaline phosphatase (ALP) Results: Adjusted association of fluoride with CALCA exon 1		
3 control villages with fluoride levels < 1.0 mg/L)			methylation levels • r = 0.022		

Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
in Tongxu County			• p = 0.576	
Sampling time frame:			Adjusted association (β; 95% CI) of fluoride (mg/L) with CALCA exon 1	
Sample size:			methylation levels by age groups	
722			<u>20 − 60 yrs</u> (N = 722) • 0.270 (-0.621, 1.162)	
Sex (%): Women: 100%			<u>20 − 39 yrs</u> (N = 135) • 1.656 (-1.464, 4.776)	
Exclusions:			<u>40 − 44 yrs</u> (N = 70) • 4.953 (1.162, 8.743)	
 Had "history of chronic bone disease, bone fracture, cognitive 			<u>45 − 49 yrs</u> (N = 139) • -0.152 (-2.673, 2.369)	
impairment, chronic kidney disease"			<u>50 − 54 yrs</u> (N = 220) • 0.405 (-0.797, 1.607)	
• Were using			<u>55 – 60 yrs</u> (N = 158)	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
bisphosphonates			• -1.643 (-3.657, 0.370)	
Had incomplete data				
			Correlation between fluori	de
Source of funding /			and T-score	
support:			• r = 0.019	
 National Natural Scien 	ce		• p = 0.611	
Foundation of China				
 Scientific and 			Adjusted association (β;	
Technological Project	of		95% CI) of fluoride (mg/L)	
Henan Province			with T-score by age group	
			20 - 60 yrs (N = 722)	
Author declaration of interest:			• 0.010 (-0.032, 0.051)	
No COI			<u>20 – 39 yrs</u> (N = 135)	
			• 0.001 (-0.139, 0.139)	
			40 - 44 yrs (N = 70)	
			• 0.106 (-0.021, 0.233)	
			45 - 49 yrs (N = 139)	
			• 0.095 (-0.022, 0.212)	
			• 0.095 (-0.022, 0.212)	

Study Characteri	istics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			<u>50 – 54 yrs</u> (N = 220)	
			• -0.063 (-0.129, -0.002)	
			<u>55 – 60 yrs</u> (N = 158)	
			• 0.035 (-0.044, 0.114)	
			Interaction between fluoric	le
			and CALCA exon 1	
			methylation on BMD was	
			assessed	
			• "found evidence of a	
			significant association, a	S
			manifested by increased	
			BMD in women aged 45-	
			49 years induced by the	
			interactive effect of the	
			highest methylation of	
			CALCA exon 1 (tertile 3)	
			and fluoride exposure (β	=
			5.338, P = 0.016)"	

Study Characteris	stics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions

Risk of bias as	ssessment		
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	oonse
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level	N/A	Not applicable
	adequately randomized?		
	Was allocation to study groups adequately	N/A	Not applicable
	concealed?	IN//A	
	Did selection of study participants result in		Yes, participants were selected using the same
	appropriate comparison groups?	+	criteria. However, the sampling timeframe was not
			reported
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for		Yes, it accounted for major confounders such as age,
	important confounding and modifying variables?	++	menopause, BMI, high-density lipoprotein-cholesterol
			(HDL-C) and alkaline phosphatase (ALP)
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across	N/A	Not applicable
	study groups?	1 N/ / ⁻ 1	
	Were the research personnel and human	N/A	Not applicable
	subjects blinded to the study group during the	•	

Risk of bias	assessment		
	study?		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Study provided reasons for exclusion of participants (history of chronic bone disease, bone fracture, cognitive impairment, chronic kidney disease, use of bisphosphonates, or incomplete data)
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Yes, the urinary levels of fluoride was measured by a fluoride ion-selective
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	Yes, the outcome BMD was assessed using a standalone ultrasound bone densitometer. CALCA methylation was assessed using quantitative methylation-specific polymerases chain reaction method.
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcome (BMD reduction) discussed in methods were presented in results section with adequate level of detail
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified

Till 2020 [48]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcomes: Intellectual	Statistical analysis:	"Exposure to
Original study	Fluoride levels in	function	• Linear regression for the	increasing levels of
	Drinking water		association between	fluoride in tap water
Study design:	Urine samples	Method of outcome	fluoride and IQ scores	was associated with
Cohort study	(maternal)	ascertainment:	• Impact of feeding status	diminished non-
		• IQ scores were	(breast-fed versus	verbal intellectual
Country: Canada	Method of exposure	measured by the	formula-fed) and fetal	abilities; the effect
	assessment:	Wechsler Primary and	fluoride exposure on the	was more
Participants:	 Water fluoride 	Preschool Scale of	association	pronounced among
English-/French-	concentrations	Intelligence-III at 3-4	 Adjusted for child's sex 	formula-fed
speaking women,	recorded in municipal	years using United	and age at testing,	children.
>17 years old, and less	water reports.	States population-	maternal education,	
than 14 weeks gestation	 Maternal urinary 	based normative data	maternal race, second-	
were recruited from	fluoride (MUF) adjusted	(mean=100, SD=15).	hand smoke in the	
prenatal clinics in 10	for specific gravity as a		home, and quality of the	
Canadian cities	proxy of fetal fluoride	 Outcomes included 	child's home	
(Maternal-Infant	exposure.	Full Scale IQ, Verbal	environment	
Research on		IQ, and Performance		
Environmental	Water Fluoride	IQ (PIQ)	Results:	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Chemicals program)	concentration (mg/L)		Thirty-eight percent of	
	<u>Breastfed≥6 mo.</u>		mother-child dyads lived	
Sampling time frame:	• Fluoridated:		in fluoridated	
2008-2011	0.58 (0.08)		communities.	
	Non- Fluoridated:			
Sample size (N):	0.13 (0.06)		An increase of 0.5 mg/L	
398 mother-child pairs			in water fluoride	
(67.3% of those who	Formula-fed		concentration (almost	
completed testing)	• Fluoridated:		equal to the difference	
reported drinking tap	0.59 (0.07)		between fluoridated and	
water, had water	Non- Fluoridated:		non-fluoridated regions)	
fluoride data and	0.13 (0.05)		corresponded to	
complete covariate data			reduction in	
(BF: n=200; FF: n=198)	P-value: 0.18		performance IQ:	
			o <i>Formula-fed:</i>	
Sex:	Infant fluoride intake		9.3-point (95% CI:	
Children: girls	(mg/day)		<i>−13.77, −4.76)</i>	
Breastfed, fl: 51%	Breastfed≥6 mo.			
Breastfed, non-fl: 53%	• Fluoridated:		o <u>Breastfed:</u>	
Formula, fl: 54%	0.12 (0.07)		6.2-point (95% CI:	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Formula, non-fl: 47%	Non- Fluoridated:		−10.45, −1.94).	
	0.02 (0.02)			
Exclusions:			 Association remained 	
Participants with known	<u>Formula-fed</u>		significant upon	
fetal abnormality, had	Non- Fluoridated:		controlling for fetal	
any medical	0.34 (0.12)		fluoride exposure	
complications, or known	Non- Fluoridated:		∘ <i>Formula-fed:</i>	
illicit drug use during	0.08 (0.04)		(B=-7.93, 95% CI:	
pregnancy.			-12.84, -3.01)	
	P-value: <.001			
Source of funding/			○ Breastfed:	
support:			(B=-6.30, 95% CI:	
 National Institute of 			-10.92, -1.68)	
Environmental Health				
Science (NIEHS)				
Health Canada				
Ontario Ministry of the				
Environment,				
• CIHR				

Study Characteris	stics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Author declaratio	n of			
interest:				
No COI				

Risk of bias a	Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse		
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized? Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A N/A			
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	Yes, mothers were selected using the same criteria, during the same timeframe, from the same cities, with similar race, mean age at delivery, and employment.		
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	++	Yes, analysis was adjusted for child's sex and age at testing, maternal education, maternal race, second-hand smoke in the home, and quality of the child's home environment		

Risk of bias a	Risk of bias assessment				
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups? Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A N/A			
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Of all children who completed IQ testing, 398 pairs (67.3%) reported drinking tap water, had water fluoride data and complete covariate data (breastfed=200; formula-fed: n=198) Characteristics of women included in the analysis (398) were not substantially different from the original cohort (N=1945) or the subset without complete water fluoride and covariate data (n=203)		
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	+	Yes, data on levels of fluoride exposure were consistently drawn within the same timeframe, from the same source: municipal water reports. Maternal urinary fluoride (MUF) adjusted for specific gravity (non-validated) was used as a		

Risk of bias assessment						
			proxy of fetal fluoride exposure			
	Can we be confident in the outcome		Yes, IQ scores were measured by the Wechsler			
	assessment?	++	Primary and Preschool Scale of Intelligence-III			
		**	at 3-4 years using United States population-			
			based normative data (mean=100, SD=15).			
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?		Yes, primary outcome discussed in methods			
reporting		++	was presented in results section with adequate			
			level of detail for data extraction			
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal		Possibility of recall or response bias of mothers			
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were	+	completing the questionnaire			
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the	-				
	study protocol)?					

Wang 2020 [49]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	"low-moderate
Original study	Fluoride levels in	Thyroid hormone	 Multi-variable linear and 	fluoride exposure is
	Drinking water	dysfunction (TT3, TT4,	logistical regression	associated with
Study design:	Urine samples	FT3, FT4 and TSH	models for the	alterations in
Cross-sectional		levels in serum)	associations among	childhood thyroid
	Method of exposure		fluoride exposure,	function that may
Country:	assessment:	• Intelligence (IQ)	thyroid function and IQ	modify the
China	 Water samples were 		scores	association between
	collected randomly from	Method of outcome	 Sensitivity analyses 	fluoride and
Participants:	the public water	ascertainment:	were conducted by	intelligence"
Resident children, aged	supplies in each village	 Chemiluminescent 	modifying covariates	
7–13 years, randomly	• Urine samples for every	microparticle	adjusted in multivariable	
selected from endemic	child were collected in	immunoassay on the	models: age, sex, BMI,	
and non-endemic	the early morning	ARCHITECT i4000SR	maternal education,	
fluorosis areas in	before breakfast.	was employed to	paternal education,	
Tianjin, China.	• Fluoride levels in water	quantify thyroid	household income, low	
	and urine were	hormone levels in	birth weight	
Sampling time frame:	measured using an ion	serum.		
2015	analyzer EA940 with a		Results:	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
	fluoride ion selective	 A Combined Raven's 	(Mean ± SD)	
Sample size (N):	electrode (Wu et al.,	Test for Rural China		
571	2015).	(CRT-RC2) was taken	<u>Fluoride</u>	
		to evaluate the IQ of	Water fluoride (mg/L)	
Sex:	Water fluoride level:	each child	o 1.39 ± 1.01	
Boys: 292 (51.1%)	Mean (mg/L): 1.39		Urinary fluoride (mg/L)	
	±1.01		○ 1.28 ± 1.30	
Exclusions:				
 Not long- term 			Thyroid hormones:	
residents of the area			•TT3 (ng/mL):	
 Had congenital or 			○ 1.32 ± 0.19	
acquired diseases			• FT3 (pg/mL):	
affecting intelligence,			o 3.28 ± 0.32	
History of cerebral			∙ TT4 (μg/dL):	
trauma and			o 6.86 ± 1.16	
neurological disorders			• FT4 (ng/dL):	
• Positive screening test			○ 1.13 ± 0.12	
(e.g. hepatitis B,			•TSH (uIU/mL):	
Treponema palladium,			o 2.57 ± 1.29	
Down's syndrome)				

Study Characteristics	Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions		
• Exposure to smoking			Every 1 mg/L incremen	t		
and drinking during		of water fluoride was				
maternal pregnancy			associated with			
		○ 0.006 ng/mL				
Source of funding/ increase in TT3						
support: 0.013 pg/mL						
• State Key Program of		increase in FT3				
National Natural		○ 0.083 ng/mL				
Science of China			decrease in TT4			
 National Natural 			o 0.01 ng/mL			
Science Foundation of			decrease in FT4			
China			ο 0.13 μIU/mL			
 Fundamental 			increase in TSH			
Research Funds for						
the Central			Every 1 mg/L increment	t		
Universities			of urinary fluoride was			
associated with						
Author declaration of		o 0.007 ng/mL				
interest:			increase in TT3			
No COI			o 0.02 pg/mL			

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
			increase in FT3		
			o 0.09 ng/mL		
			decrease in TT4		
			o 0.009 ng/mL		
			decrease in FT4		
			ο 0.11 μIU/mL		
			increase in TSH		
			• Fluoride exposure was		
			inversely related to IQ		
			scores		
			Water fluoride:		
			B=-1.59 (95% CI:		
			-2.61, -0.57)		
			Urinary fluoride:		
			B=-1.21 (95% CI:		
			−1.99, −0.44) .		
		● Higher TT3, FT3 were			
			related to the increased		

odds of children having high normal intelligence TT3 OR=3.41 (95% CI: 1.04, 11.12) FT3 OR=3.277 (95% CI: 1.62, 6.62) • A significant modification effect by TSH on the association between urinary fluoride and IQ scores, without mediation by thyroid	Characteristic	:s			
high normal intelligence TT3 OR=3.41 (95% CI: 1.04, 11.12) FT3 OR=3.277 (95% CI: 1.62, 6.62) • A significant modification effect by TSH on the association between urinary fluoride and IQ scores, without mediation by thyroid	1	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
 TT3 OR=3.41 (95% CI: 1.04, 11.12) FT3 OR=3.277 (95% CI: 1.62, 6.62) A significant modification effect by TSH on the association between urinary fluoride and IQ scores, without mediation by thyroid 				odds of children having	
OR=3.41 (95% CI: 1.04, 11.12) • FT3 OR=3.277 (95% CI: 1.62, 6.62) • A significant modification effect by TSH on the association between urinary fluoride and IQ scores, without mediation by thyroid				high normal intelligence)
1.04, 11.12) FT3 OR=3.277 (95% CI: 1.62, 6.62) • A significant modification effect by TSH on the association between urinary fluoride and IQ scores, without mediation by thyroid				o <i>TT</i> 3	
 FT3				OR=3.41 (95% CI:	
OR=3.277 (95% CI: 1.62, 6.62) • A significant modification effect by TSH on the association between urinary fluoride and IQ scores, without mediation by thyroid				1.04, 11.12)	
 1.62, 6.62) A significant modification effect by TSH on the association between urinary fluoride and IQ scores, without mediation by thyroid 				o FT3	
A significant modification effect by TSH on the association between urinary fluoride and IQ scores, without mediation by thyroid				OR=3.277 (95% C	I:
effect by TSH on the association between urinary fluoride and IQ scores, without mediation by thyroid				1.62, 6.62)	
association between urinary fluoride and IQ scores, without mediation by thyroid				 A significant modification 	on
urinary fluoride and IQ scores, without mediation by thyroid				effect by TSH on the	
scores, without mediation by thyroid				association between	
mediation by thyroid				urinary fluoride and IQ	
				scores, without	
				mediation by thyroid	
hormones				hormones	

Bias domain	Criterion	Outo	come 1: Thyroid	Outcome 2: IQ	
		dyst	unction		
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A			
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A			
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	Yes, children were selected using the same criteria, durin the same timeframe, from villages that were similar in population and general demographics, and assessed for exposure and outcome using the same methods		
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	++	Yes, the analysis was adjusted for age, sex, BMI, matern education, paternal education, household income, low bit weight		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A			
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	N/A		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without	++	There was no loss of partici	pants due to attrition	

Risk of bias	assessment				
	attrition or exclusion from analysis?				
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?		,		d urine were within the same
	characterization?	++	9		method: ion analyzer EA940 ctrode (Shanghai constant
			magnetic electronic tec	hnology	Co, Ltd, China), and in
			accordance with the na	tional st	andardized method in China
			(Wu et al., 2015).		
	Can we be confident in the outcome		Yes, thyroid hormone		Yes, a Combined Raven's
	assessment?		levels in serum were		Test for Rural China (CRT-
			assessed for all		RC2) was taken to evaluate
			children using the		the IQ of each child
		++	same method:	++	
			Chemiluminescent		
			microparticle		
			immunoassay on the		
			ARCHITECT i4000SR		
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?		Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were		
reporting		++	presented in results section with adequate level of detail for		
			data extraction		

Risk of bias assessment				
Other	Were there no other potential threats to		None identified	
sources	internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++		

An 2019 [50]

Study Characteristic	Study Characteristics						
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions			
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	chronic fluoride			
Original study	Fluoride levels in • Community	Levels of reproductive hormones (SHBG and ABP) in serum	 Independent sample t- tests, one-way ANOVA and multivariate linear 	exposure from drinking water is associated with			
Study design: Cross-sectional	• Urine	Method of outcome ascertainment:	regression analyses • A generalized linear model was used to	alterations of serum SHBG and ABP concentrations in local male farmers			
Country: China (Henan Pr)	Method of exposure assessment:	An enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay	calculate gene- environment and gene- gene effects.	and that the effect of fluoride exposure on			

Study Exposure Outcome Analysis & Results Conclusions	Study Characteristics						
electrode (Shanghai	Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions		
Exactitude, Shanghai, used to measure serum among control subjects who were born or lived for at least 5 years before marriage in one of the 7 villages (Henan Province) Four villages with endemic fluorosis and three control villages, based on water fluoride concentration in relation to the standard of national drinking water quality (1.0 mg L-1 GB5749-2006). Exactitude, Shanghai, used to measure serum among control subjects accorded with the acconcentrations of SHBG accorded with the acconcentrations of SHBG accorded with the acconcentrations of SHBG accorded with the acconcentrations of SHBG accorded with the acco		a fluoride ion-selective	(R&D systems,	• The genotypic	ABP levels vary		
• 18-55 male farmers who were born or lived for at least 5 years before marriage in one of the 7 villages (Henan Province) • Four villages with endemic fluorosis and three control villages, based on water fluoride concentration in relation to the standard of national drinking water quality (1.0 mg L-1 GB5749-2006). China) assay was used concentrations of SHBG accorded with the to measure urine fluoride and ABP. Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (P=0.193, Pvull; P=0.050, Xbal; P=0.410, rs3798577). • Analysis adjusted for age, diet, exercise habits, tobacco use, alcohol and tea consumption Results: Water fluoride (Mean ± SD) • Group of villages with	Participants:	electrode (Shanghai	Minneapolis, USA) was	distribution of ESRα	depending on $ESR\alpha$		
• Group of villages with	 18-55 male farmers who were born or lived for at least 5 years before marriage in one of the 7 villages (Henan Province) Four villages with endemic fluorosis and three control villages, based on water fluoride concentration in relation to the standard of national drinking water quality 	China) assay was used to measure urine fluoride	concentrations of SHBG	accorded with the Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (P=0.193, Pvull; P=0.050, Xbal; P=0.410, rs3798577). • Analysis adjusted for age, diet, exercise habits, tobacco use, alcohol and tea consumption Results: Water fluoride (Mean ±	gene polymorphisms		
	2006).						

Study Character	ristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Sampling time f	rame:		2.44±1.88 mg/L	
2011-2012				
			 Group of villages with 	
Sample size (N)	:		low exposure (LEG):	
348			0.37± 0.15 mg/L	
Sex:			<u>Urinary fluoride (Mean ±</u>	
Males (100%)			SD)	
Waloo (10070)			• Fluoride (mg/L)	
Exclusions:			○ HEG 2.66 ± 1.03	
			○ LEG 0.95 ± 0.31	
Participants who resided in other p			P-value: <0.001	
for at least 1 year				
history of chronic	bone		Reproductive hormones	
disease, underwe	ent		(Mean ± SD)	
bisphosphonate,				
hormonal or calc	itonin		• ABP (nmol/L)	

Study Character	ristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
therapy, or suffer	ed		○ HEG 19.86 ± 22.46	
from colds over th	ne two		o LEG 24.04 ± 26.94	
weeks prior to stu	ıdy		D	
initiation			P-value= 0.144	
Source of fundir	ng/		• SHBG (nmol/L)	
support:			o HEG 30.07 ± 28.32	
National Natural	I		o LEG 35.90 ± 28.58	
Science Founda	ation of		P-value= 0.012	
China				
• Henan Departm	ent of			
Science and				
Technology, Chi	ina			
Author declarati	on of			
interest:				
No COI				

Risk of bias a	Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Response			
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized? Was allocation to study groups adequately	N/A N/A			
	concealed?				
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	 Yes, farmers were selected using the same inclusion/exclusion criteria, cluster sampling method, ascertainment methods, within the same timeframe from 7 villages in Henan Province, China. Participants were comparable between the high exposure group (4 villages with endemic fluorosis), and low exposure group (3 control villages), based on water fluoride concentration in relation to the standard of national drinking water quality (1.0 mg L-1 GB5749-2006). Overall participation rate was 96.94%. 		
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	+	Analyses were adjusted for age, urinary fluoride level, diet, exercise habits, tobacco use, alcohol and tea consumption		

Risk of bias as	ssessment		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Other indicators reflective of male reproductive function, including sexual life quality or adverse newborn birth outcomes were not accounted for due to small sample size.
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Overall non-participation rate was less than 4% and is unlikely to have biased the results of the analyses.
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Yes, fluoride levels in urine were measured for all participants using the same fluoride ion-selective electrode (Shanghai Exactitude, Shanghai, China)
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	Yes, levels of reproductive hormones (SHBG and ABP) in serum were measured for all participants using an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (R&D systems, Minneapolis, USA)
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were presented in results section with adequate level of

Risk of bias	Risk of bias assessment				
reporting			detail for data extraction		
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified		

Crnosija 2019 [51]

Study Characteristic	cs .			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	We found no
Original study	Fluoride levels in drinking water	Secondary bone cancer	Ordinary least squares regression and	evidence of an association between
Study design:		Method of outcome	diagnostic tests to determine the necessity	community water
Ecological study	Method of exposure assessment:	ascertainment: Data on inpatient	of a spatial regression using GeoDa 1.8.16.4,	fluoridation category and
Country:	Data from the water quality reports from	cancer patients admitted with an ICD9	and queen firstorder contiguity for generating	secondary bone cancer from 2008

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
USA (NY State)	individual providers in	code for secondary	spatial weights.	to 2010 at the
	the different NY State	bone cancer (198.5) to	Series of regression	county level in New
Darticinanta	counties	a New York State	models with county-level	York State
Participants:		hospital for relevant	percentage of secondary	
+18 years old		care, which was	bone cancer as the	
inpatients with		extracted from the	dependent variable	
metastatic bone cancer		Statewide Planning and		
who were admitted to a		Research Cooperative		
New York State		System (SPARCS)	Results:	
hospital for receiving		database; an	Fluoride in drinking water:	
care		inpatient/outpatient	• 0.7 mg/L (45 counties)	
		record of all hospital	• 0.8 mg/L (2 counties)	
Sampling time frame:		admissions collected	• 0.5 mg/L (1 county)	
-		and curated by New	• 0.4 mg/L (1 county)	
January 1, 2008 –		York State's	5 (),	
December 31, 2010		Department of Health		
		(NYSDOH)	Percentage of population	
Sample size (N):			in county with fluoridation	
24,661			•<25%	

Study Characteristics	3			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			o No. counties: 27	
Sex:			o 2 ^{ry} bone cancer:	
			12.9%	
			o Coefficient: ref	
Exclusions:			o p-value: -	
Patients with				
incomplete zip code,			• 25%-75%	
patient identification			o No. counties: 16	
code, patient's New			o 2 ^{ry} bone cancer:	
York State residency			12.9%	
status or less than 18				
years old			o Coefficient: 0.02	
			o <i>p-value: 0.96</i>	
Source of funding/				
support:			•>75%	
Not reported			o No. counties: 19	
			o 2 ^{ry} bone cancer: 12.	9

Study Characte	eristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Author declara	tion of		%	
interest:			o Coefficient: 0.02	
Not reported			o p-value: 0.97	

Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse	
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized? Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A N/A		
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	Yes, participants were identified using the same method of ascertainment, recruited within the same time frame, and using the same inclusion and exclusion criteria	
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	++	No accounting for confounders or appropriate standardization reported	

Risk of bias a	ssessment		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	There was no loss of participants due to attrition
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	 No information on whether individuals worked or went to school in a different county with a different water source, when they may have changed residences in their past or the degree to which the community fluoridation levels changed over time, or fluoride supplementation in counties without access to water fluoridation. Study only assessed counties' municipal water fluoride content, excluding private wells and assuming their fluoride level to be zero.
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	Yes, outcome was assessed based on data on inpatient cancer patients admitted with an ICD9 code for secondary bone cancer (198.5) to a New York

Risk of bias assessment				
			State hospital for relevant care, which was extracted	
			from the Statewide Planning and Research	
			Cooperative System (SPARCS) database; an	
			inpatient/outpatient record of all hospital admissions	
			collected and curated by New York State's	
			Department of Health (NYSDOH)	
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?		Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were	
reporting		++	presented in results section with adequate level of	
			detail for data extraction	
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal		None identified	
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were			
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the	++		
	study protocol)?			

Fernando 2019 [52]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	Higher fluoride
Original study	Fluoride level in serum	Chronic kidney disease of unknown origin	Descriptive statistics	exposure via drinking water is
Study design: Case-control Country:	Method of exposure assessment: ion-selective electrode (94-09 BNWP) with Orion	(CKDu), using fluoride level in urine Method of outcome	Results: • Water fluoride • Fluoride in ground water: 1.33 - 5.30	possibly the reason for higher fluoride in serum, while excessive urinary excretion would be
Sri Lanka	Star A329 Ionalizer (Thermo Orion MA, USA) after dilution with an equal volume of	one hundred milliliters of a random urine sample from each	mg/L o Fluoride MAC in drinking water: 0.60 mg/L	due to deterioration of the kidney, suggesting a
Participants: Cases: 19-76 years old, non-dialysis, biopsy- proven definite CKDu cases, recruited from Girandurukotte and Wilgamuwa renal	commercially available TISAB III buffer (Thermo Orion 940911).	subject was collected into sterile, screw-capped containers, and the supernatant was removed by centrifugation.	Serum fluoride: Mean ±SD [range] mg/L	possible nephrotoxic role of environmental fluoride exposure.

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
clinics.			○ <i>p</i> = 0.000 (showed a	
Controls (matched):			significant difference	
,			based on CKDu stage)
Healthy volunteers			but not with sex or	
			age)	
Sampling time frame:				
Nor reported			Urinary fluoride: Mean	
			±SD [range] mg/L	
Sample size (N):			o CKDu patients: 1.53 ±	-
193 (116 cases and 77			0.8 [0.45 – 6.92]	
controls)			o Controls: 1.26 ± 0.63	
			[0.36 – 3.80]	
			p = 0.004	
Sex:				
Cases: Men (81.1%)			Patients in the age	
Controls: Men (70.1%)			group 19–29 years	
			showed lower serum	
			fluoride levels than other	
Exclusions:				

Study Characteri	istics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Not reported			age groups	
Source of fundin	g/			
National Research	n			
Council (NRC) Ta				
Orient research G	rant			
Author docloretic	of			
Author declaration	on or			
interest:				
No COI				

Risk of bias a	Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Response			
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A			

Risk of bias assessment				
	Was allocation to study groups adequately	N/A		
	concealed?			
	Did selection of study participants result in		Cases and controls were recruited from the same	
	appropriate comparison groups?	+	population, but with difference in age (cases older). No	
		•	info on timeframe, ethnicity or eligibility criteria other	
			than by outcome of interest	
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	++	No accounting for confounding reported	
	important confounding and modifying variables?	++		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across	N/A		
	study groups?			
	Were the research personnel and human	N/A		
	subjects blinded to the study group during the			
	study?			
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or		Yes, only one case was not included in the analysis	
	exclusion from analysis?	++		
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure		Serum and urine fluoride levels for all cases and	
	characterization?	++	controls were measured during the same timeframe	
			and by the same ion-selective electrode method.	
	Can we be confident in the outcome	+	Yes, the outcome was assessed in cases and controls	

Risk of bias assessment				
	assessment?		using a confirmed biopsy and dialysis status. Outcome assessment methods and lack of blinding of outcome assessors would not appreciably bias results.	
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were presented in results section with adequate level of detail for data extraction	
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	Descriptive analysis with no adjustment to potential confounders	

Jimenez-Cordova 2019 [53]

Study Characteristic	cs			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	• Fluoride exposure
Original study	Fluoride levels in • Drinking water	 Vascular alterations using the carotid 	Multiple linear regression	is related to early vascular alterations, which

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Study design:	• Urine samples	intima media thickness	Adjusted for urinary	may increase the
Cross-sectional		(cIMT) and serum	specific gravity, BMI,	susceptibility of
Country:	Method of exposure assessment:	concentrations of vascular adhesion molecule 1 (VCAM-1),	age and sex	cardiovascular diseases in adult life.
Mexico (Chihuahua)	 Water samples were provided by each participant. 	intracellular adhesion molecule 1 (ICAM-1), endothelin 1(ET-1) and	• Water fluoride: Mean (IQR):	 Inconclusive results regarding fluoride exposure
Participants:	• F concentrations in	cystatin-C (sCys-C)	o 0.3 mg/mL (0.01–1.9)	and kidney injury
5-12 years old Mexican school children, who commonly drink tap water with a minimum of 2 years of residence	water and urine samples were assessed by a potentiometric method using an ion selective electrode	 Kidney dysfunction, using Kidney injury biomarkers [glomerular filtration rate (eGFR), and the urinary 	Maximum permissible limit: o 1.5	
in Hidalgo del Parral (fl:	(Orion 9609BNWP,	concentrations of	Urinary fluoride showed	
0.18 mg/L) or Aldama (fl: 2 mg/L), where	Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., USA);	kidney injury molecule 1 (KIM-1) and cystatin-	 Positive association with eGFR (β=1.3, 	
there is no concurrent	Del Razo et al., 1993.	C (uCys-C)]	p=0.015),	
exposure to arsenic	F concentration in urine was measured by	Method of outcome	νCAM-1 (β=111.1,	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Sampling time frame:	reference material (U-F-	ascertainment:	p=0.019)	
November 2015	0907 and U-F1510), Centre de Toxicologie du Quebec) and	 eGFR was determined by the Creatinine- Cystatin C-Based 	 ICAM-1 (β=57, p=0.032) cIMT (β=0.01, 	
Sample size (N): 374	controls were used for quality control.	CKiD Equation (Schwartz et al., 2012) • Urine and serum	p=0.032) • Inverse association with	
Sex:	Blood analysis	biomarkers are	υCys-C (β=-8.5,	
Boys: 46.8%	 Biochemical analysis (glucose, lipid profile, uric acid and creatine) 	measured using a custom human Magnetic Luminex	p=0.043)sCys-C (β=-9.6,p=0.021)	
Exclusions: Children with a	was performed by an automatic analyser	Screening Assay (R&D Systems, Inc., Minneapolis MN, USA)	 No significant association with 	
previous diagnosis of chronic diseases	(Prestige 24i, Tokyo Boeki Medical System Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).	that was read on a Luminex xMAP®	ET-1 (β=0.069,p=0.074)	
Source of funding/ support:	<u>Urine analysis</u>	Instrument (MAGPIX®, Luminex Corp., Austin TX, USA).	KIM-1 (β=29.1,p=0.212)	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Children's	• First morning void urine			
Environmental Health	was used			
Network	 Specific gravity was 			
 National Council of 	measured immediately			
Science and	using a refractometer			
Technology, Mexico	(PAL-10S, ATAGO®,			
	Tokyo, Japan)			
Author declaration of	Urine analysis was			
interest:	performed with a urine			
mileresi.	analyser (U-66, Mindray	,		
No COI	Co., Shenzhen, China).			

Risk of bias a	Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Response				
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A				
	Was allocation to study groups adequately	N/A				

Risk of bias a	ssessment		
	concealed?		
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	Yes, children were selected using the same criteria, and within the same timeframe
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	++	Yes, the analysis was adjusted for urinary specific gravity, BMI, age and sex
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Not considered a risk of bias as it listed the exclusion was due to incomplete data or unavailability of samples
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Yes, exposure was consistently assessed during the same timeframe and using the same tools for assessing fluoride levels in water and urine
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	Yes, outcome was consistently measured in serum and urine. Lack of blinding of outcome assessors would not appreciably bias results.

Risk of bias	Risk of bias assessment					
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were presented in results section with adequate level of			
			detail for data extraction			
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified			

Jimenez-Cordova 2019a [54]

Study Characteristic	cs			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	Fluoride exposure
Original study	Fluoride levels in drinking water	Urinary concentrations of inorganic arsenic	Multiple linear regressionAdjusted for urinary	decreases Arsenic methylation capacity, and
Study design: Cross-sectional	Method of exposure assessment:	Method of outcome ascertainment:	specific gravity, age, sex, BMI and smoking	increases its toxicity

Study Characteristics	Study Characteristics						
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions			
	The Fluoride	Concentrations were					
Country: Mexico Participants: Adult participants residing in Chihuahua	concentration in water and urine was assessed by a potentiometric method using an ion selective electrode (Orion 9609BNWP, Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., USA).	measured by hydride generation- cryotrapping-atomic absorption spectrometry using a Perkin Elmer Analyst 400 spectrometer (Perkin Elmer, Norwalk, CT)	Results: Water fluoride: $1.6 \ mg/L \pm 1.6$ Urinary fluoride: $2.8 \ \mu g/L \pm 2.8$				
for 1 or more years, were directly recruited from information sessions		equipped with a multiatomizer as previously described (Hernández-Zavala et al., 2008).	A statistically significant interaction of F and As exposure on the following was observed: • Increase in MAs% (β =				
Sampling time frame: 2013			0.16, p = 0.018) • Decrease in DMAs%				
Sample size (N): 236			 (β = -0.3, p = 0.034), Decrease in PMI (β=-0.07, p=0.052) Decrease in SMI 				

Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			(β=-0.13, p=0.097)	
Sex:				
Men: 29%				
Exclusions:				
Non-residents of				
Chihuahua provir	nce			
Source of fundir	ng/			
support:				
National Council	of			
Science and				
Technology, Mex	ico			
Author declarati	on of			
interest:				
No COI				

Bias domain	Criterion	Resi	ponse
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level	N/A	
Selection	'	IN/A	
	adequately randomized?		
	Was allocation to study groups adequately	N/A	
	concealed?		
	Did selection of study participants result in		Yes, participants were selected using the same
	appropriate comparison groups?	++	criteria, during the same timeframe, and assessed for
			exposure and outcome using the same methods
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for		Yes, the analysis was adjusted for urinary specific
	important confounding and modifying variables?	++	gravity, age, sex, BMI and smoking
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across	N/A	
	study groups?		
	Were the research personnel and human	N/A	
	subjects blinded to the study group during the		
	study?		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or		Not considered a risk of bias as it listed the reason for
	exclusion from analysis?	++	exclusion: non-residents of target location or
			unavailability of samples
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure		Yes, exposure was consistently assessed during the
	characterization?	++	same timeframe and using the same tools for
			assessing fluoride levels in water and urine

Risk of bias	assessment		
	Can we be confident in the outcome		Yes, outcome was consistently measured in urine.
	assessment?	++	Lack of blinding of outcome assessors would not
			appreciably bias results.
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?		Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were
reporting		++	presented in results section with adequate level of
			detail for data extraction
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal		None identified
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were		
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the	++	
	study protocol)?		

Khanoranga 2019 [55]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	"The relationship
Original study	Fluoride levels in	Dental fluorosis	 Relationship between fluoride level and DF was 	among the groundwater fluoride
Study design:	 Ground water samples Urinary samples	Method of outcome	conducted using Pearson's	concentration, urinary F, and dental

Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Cross-sectional study		ascertainment:	correlation	fluorosis was
Country: Pakistan Participants: Male brick kiln workers and controls (17 to 45 years of age) from three districts of Balochistan. Controls were office and university workers residing in locations with no fluoride exposure	Method of exposure assessment: Ion selective electrode method Exposure level: Fluoride levels (mg/L) found in groundwater samples of the three districts (Quetta Pishin, and Mastung) • Range: 0.87 – 1.59	 Single dentist conducted DF examination using the WHO Dean's Index CFI was calculated as: ∑ (Number of people x Dean numerical weight) / Total number of people examined 	Results: • Correlation between groundwater fluoride levels and CFI r = 0.90 • Correlation between urinary fluoride levels and CFI r = 0.96	assessed through Pearson's correlations. A strong positive relationship was determined by the aforementioned parameters (groundwater F, urinary F, and dental fluorosis)" (p. 419)
Sampling time frame: August – September 2017	Mean (SD) Fluoride levels (mg/L) found in urinary samples of participants from the three districts and controls			

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Sample size:	Quetta (n = 25)				
Brick kiln workers	• Mean: 0.17 (0.15)				
100	• Range: 0.013 – 0.54				
Controls	Pishin $(n = 50)$				
20	• Mean: 0.19 (0.21)				
	• Range: 0.002 - 0.842				
Sex:	Mastung (n = 25)				
Men: 100%	• Mean: 0.30 (0.19)				
	• Range: 0.092 – 0.811				
Exclusions: NR	Control $(n = 20)$				
EXClusions: NR	• Mean: 0.003 (0.002)				
	• Range: 0.0003 - 0.007				
Source of funding /					
support: NR					
Author declaration	of				
interest: NR					

Risk of bias as	Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Response				
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable			
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable			
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	Yes, participants were selected during the same timeframe and according to the same criteria.			
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	-	NR			
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable			
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable			
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	-	NR			
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Yes, exposure was measured in water using the US- EPA ion selective electrode (CRISON, GLP 22+).			

Risk of bias assessment				
	Can we be confident in the outcome	++	Yes, outcome (dental fluorosis) was measured by a	
	assessment?		single dentist using the WHO Dean's Index. Lack of	
			blinding of outcome assessors would not appreciably	
			bias results.	
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were	
reporting			presented in results section with adequate level of	
			detail for data extraction	
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal	++	None identified	
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were			
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the			
	study protocol)?			

Liu 2019 [56]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	• low-to-moderate
Original study	Fluoride levels in ground	age- and sex-	 Multivariable linear and 	fluoride exposure

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Study design:	water and urine	standardized height, weight and BMI z-	logistic regression analyses	is associated with overweight and
Cross-sectional	Method of exposure assessment:	scores, and childhood overweight/obesity (BMI z-score > 1)	 Adjusted for maternal age at delivery, second hand tobacco smoke, 	obesity in children.Gender and paternal education
Country: China	concentrations of Fluoride in water samples and morning urine samples were	Method of outcome ascertainment:	maternal education, paternal education, household income, child age, gender and low	level may modify the relationship
Participants: Randomly selected 7– 13 years old residents from low to-moderate fluorosis, ground water- supplied areas of Baodi District, Tianjin, China	measured by ion selective electrode (PF- 202-CF, INESA, Shanghai) using the national standardized method in China (WS/T 89-2006) (Wu et al., 2015; Yu et al., 2018)	 Study entry standardized anthropometric survey by a trained investigator without knowledge of the children's fluoride levels. Height was measured 	birth weight • Sensitivity analysis conducted after excluding children born to women with smoking, drinking, diabetes, under-nourishment and anaemia at pregnancy, and children with	
Sampling time frame: May - October 2015		using a stadiometer, and weight was	dystocia, hypoxia, premature birth and	

Study Characteristic	s			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
		measured using a	post-term birth	
Sample size (N):		standard dual reading		
2,430		scale. • Standardized specific	Results:	
		z-scores were	Water fluoride:	
Sex:		calculated using	o 0.83 mg/L (95%CI:	
Boys: 51.1%		WHO's Child Growth	0.81, 0.86)	
		standards, and for	o <i>p-value: 0.414</i>	
		weight using CDC's	Urinary fluoride	
Exclusions:		reference standards	o 0.43 mg/L (95%CI:	
History of chronic		(WHO standards are	0.41, 0.46)	
medical illness (e.g.		unavailable for this	o <i>p-value: 0.003</i>	
renal, hepatic, and		age group)		
endocrine disorders)	,		• linear dose-dependent	
• Long-term medicatio	n		positive association	
related to overweight	t		between water fluoride	
and obesity were not			levels and height z-	
included			score, as indicated by	
			the trend across fluoride	
			quartiles	

Study Characteristic	s			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Source of funding/			(Ptrend=0.022).	
support:			Each log unit (roughly	
National Natural			10-fold) increase in	
Science of China			urinary fluoride	
National Natural			concentration was	
Science Foundation	of		associated with a	
China			o 0.136 unit increase in	1
Fundamental			weight z-score (95%	
Research Funds for			CI: 0.039, 0.233)	
the Central			o 0.186 unit increase in	1
Universities			BMI z-score (95% CI:	•
			0.058, 0.314)	
			o 1.304-fold increased	
Author declaration o	f		odds of	
interest:			overweight/obesity	
No COI			(95% CI: 1.062,	
			1.602)	
			o These associations	
			were stronger in girls	
			than in boys (P	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			interaction= 0.016)	
			 Children of fathers 	
			with lower education	
			levels were more	
			vulnerable to fluoride	e
			(P interaction=0.056)
			● Each log unit (roughly	
			10-fold) increase in	
			water fluoride	
			concentration was	
			associated with a 0.129)
			unit increase in height z	<u>z</u> -
			score (95% CI: 0.005,	
			0.254), but not with	
			other anthropometric	
			measures.	

Risk of bias as	Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Response			
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level	N/A			
	adequately randomized?				
	Was allocation to study groups adequately	N/A			
	concealed?				
	Did selection of study participants result in		Yes, participants were selected at random from the		
	appropriate comparison groups?	++	same areas, using the same criteria and during the		
			same timeframe		
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for		Yes, it accounted for major confounders such as		
	important confounding and modifying variables?	++	maternal age at delivery, second hand tobacco smoke,		
		++	maternal education, paternal education, household		
			income, child age, gender and low birth weight		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across	N/A			
	study groups?				
	Were the research personnel and human	N/A			
	subjects blinded to the study group during the				
	study?				
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or	++	Not considered a risk of bias as it listed the exclusion		
	exclusion from analysis?		was due to those with extremes of BMI scores		
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Yes, exposure was consistently assessed during the		
	characterization?		same timeframe and using the same tools for assessing		
			fluoride levels in water and urine		

Risk of bias	assessment		
	Can we be confident in the outcome	++	Yes, outcome was consistently assessed by a trained
	assessment?		investigator without knowledge of the children's fluoride
			levels, in accordance with WHO and CDC standards
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were
reporting			presented in results section with adequate level of detail
			for data extraction
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal	++	None identified
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were		
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the		
	study protocol)?		

Malin 2019 [57]

Study Characteristic	cs			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	Fluoride exposure
Original study	Fluoride in drinking water and serum	Estimated glomerular filtration rate	Multiple linear regression	may contribute to complex changes in
Study design:		Serum uric acid	 Adjusted for age, sex, 	kidney and liver related parameters

Study Characteristics	Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions		
Cross-sectional	Method of exposure	Albumin to creatinine	race, BMI, family	among US		
	assessment:	ratio	income, daily protein	adolescents		
Country:	 Water samples were 	 Blood urea nitrogen 	intake and serum			
J	measured via an ion-	• AST/ALT	cotinine (biomarker of			
United States	specific electrode	• ALP	tobacco smoke			
		Gamma-glutamyl	exposure)			
Participants:	 Plasma fluoride was 	transferase				
US adolescents: 12–19	measured via an ion-	 Serum albumin 	Results:			
years old (NHANES	specific electrode and		 Tap water fluoride 			
survey)	hexamethyldisiloxane (HMDS) method	Method of outcome	0.48 mg/L \pm 0.03			
		ascertainment:	Plasma fluoride			
Sampling time frame:	Tap water and blood	 Serum was analyzed 	0.40 μ mol/L \pm 0.01			
2013–2016	collection times were	for markers of kidney	A 1 mg/L increase in			
2013-2010	not standardized	and liver function as	water fluoride was			
		part of a standard	associated with:			
Sample size (N):		biochemistry profile.	o 0.93 mg/dL lower			
4,470		From 2013 to 2016 a	blood urea nitrogen			
.,		Beckman Coulter	concentration (95%			
		UniCel DxC 800	CI: -1.44, -0.42;			

Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Sex:		Synchron chemistry	p=0.007).	
Men: 52.7%		analyzer was utilized;	o eGFR: -1.03	
		while from 2015 to	mL/min/m2 (95% CI: -	
		2016 a Beckman	2.93, 0.87); p > 0.99;	
Exclusions:		Coulter UniCel DxC	water fluoride was	
 Institutionalized 		660i Synchron Access	log2 transformed in	
persons		chemistry analyzer	this model.	
 Suggestive kidne 	э у	was utilized as well.	o SUA: 0.05 mg/dL	
diseases	-	Urine samples were	(95% CI: -0.07, 0.18);	
 Not drinking tap 	water	analyzed for albumin	<i>p</i> > 0.99	
• insufficient or		and creatinine using a	o ACR: -0.01 mg/g	
excessive protei	n	Turner Digital	(95% CI: -0.07, 0.06);	
intake		Fluorometer, Model	p = > 0.99; water	
		450 and Roche Cobas	fluoride and outcome	
		6000 Analyzer	variables were log2	
Source of funding	g/	respectively. Urine	transformed.	
support:		sample collection time	●1 μmol/L increase in	
Mount Sinai Chil	dren's	was not standardized.	plasma fluoride was	
Center Foundati	on		associated with:	
• NIH/NIEHS			o 10.36 mL/min/1.73m2	

Study Character	ristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			lower estimated	
Author declarati	on of		glomerular filtration	
interest:			rate (95% CI: −17.50	,
			-3.22; p=0.05)	
No COI			o 0.29 mg/dL higher	
			serum uric acid	
			concentration (95%	
			CI: 0.09, 0.50;	
			p=0.05)	
			o 1.29 mg/dL lower	
			blood urea nitrogen	
			concentration	
			(95%CI: −1.87,	
			-0.70; p < 0.001)	

Risk of bias assessment			
Bias domain	Criterion	Response	
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level	N/A	
	adequately randomized?		

Risk of bias as	ssessment				
	Was allocation to study groups adequately	N/A			
	concealed?				
	Did selection of study participants result in	++	Yes, participants were	sele	cted using the same criteria,
	appropriate comparison groups?	++	during the same timef	rame	
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for		Yes, it accounted for r	najor	confounders such as age,
	important confounding and modifying	++	sex, race, BMI, family	incon	ne, daily protein intake and
	variables?		serum cotinine (bioma	ırker d	of tobacco smoke exposure)
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across	N/A			
	study groups?	IN/A			
	Were the research personnel and human				
	subjects blinded to the study group during the	N/A			
	study?				
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition		Study provided reasor	ns for	exclusion of participants
	or exclusion from analysis?		(institutionalized perso	ons, k	idney diseases, not drinking
		++	tap water and insuffici	ent o	r excessive protein intake),
			which were not related	d to th	ne outcome
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Yes, exposure was co	nsiste	ently measured in serum
	characterization?		and urine using gold s	tanda	ard tests.
	Can we be confident in the outcome		Yes, outcome		Outcome (liver
	assessment?	++	(kidney dysfunction)	+	dysfunction) was
			was consistently		consistently assessed with
			measured in serum		results showing no

Risk of bias a	ssessment				
			and urine. Lack of		correlation (human
			blinding of outcome		evidence) but reported as
			assessors would not		having correlation with
			appreciably bias		exposure (based on
			results.		animal evidence)
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?		Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were		
reporting		++	presented in results se	ection	with adequate level of
			detail for data extraction	on	
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal		None identified		
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were	++			
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the	7.7			
	study protocol)?				

Malin 2019a [58]

Study Characteristic	S			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	Fluoride exposure
Original study	Fluoride level in drinking	Self-reported sleep	 Survey-weighted linear 	may contribute to changes in sleep

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
	water and serum	outcome measures	and multinomial logistic	cycle regulation and
Study design:			regression analyses	sleep behaviors
Cross-sectional	Method of exposure assessment:	Method of outcome ascertainment:	 Adjusted for age, sex, body mass index (BMI), race/ethnicity, and the 	among older adolescents in the US.
Country: US	 Fluoride concentrations were measured in blood plasma and household tap water. 	 Sleep habits and sleep disorders were ascertained through questionnaires in 	ratio of family income to poverty	
Participants:	 Collection times of 	participants' homes by	Results:	
16-19 years old adolescents with fluoride biomonitoring data and self-reported	blood and tap water were not standardized • Plasma fluoride concentrations were	trained staff using the Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) system.	• Tap water fluoride mean (SE): 0.39 mg/L (0.05)	
sleep outcome measures (NHANES 2015–2016)	measured using an ion- specific electrode and hexamethyl-disiloxane method	 The questions included in the sleep questionnaire were not validated 	• Plasma fluoride mean (SE): 0.35 µmol/L (0.02)	
Sampling time frame:	Tap water samples were measured		Median (IQR) for: • Water fluoride:	

Study Characteristics	Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions		
2015–2016	electrometrically w	ith an	0.27 (0.52) mg/L			
	ion-specific electro	de	 Plasma fluoride 			
Sample size (N):			0.29 (0.19) μmol/L			
419			 An IQR increase in water fluoride was 			
Sex:			associated with 1.97 times higher			
Men: 49.08			odds of reporting symptoms suggestiv	ve		
Exclusions:			of sleep apnea (95%	ó		
Not consuming tap water			Cl: 1.27, 3.05; p = 0.02)			
Consuming sleep medications			 24 min later bedtime (B = 0.40, 95% CI: 			
No fluoride samples			0.10, 0.70; p = 0.05) ○ 26 min later morning wake time (B = 0.43)	7		
Source of funding/			95% CI: 0.13, 0.73;			
support:			=0.04)			

Study Characte	eristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
NIH/NIEHS			o Among males, a 389	%
			reduction in the odd	s
			of reporting snoring	
Author declarat	tion of		(95% CI: 0.45, 0.87,	p
interest:			=0.03).	
No COI				

Risk of bias as	Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse			
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A				
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A				
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	Yes, participants were selected using the same criteria, during the same timeframe			
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	++	Yes, it accounted for major confounders such as age, sex, body mass index (BMI), race/ethnicity, and the ratio of family income to poverty			
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A				

Risk of bias	assessment		
	Were the research personnel and human	N/A	
	subjects blinded to the study group during the		
	study?		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or		Not considered a risk of bias as study documented the
	exclusion from analysis?		reasons for exclusion of participants (not drinking tap
		++	water, consuming sleep medications, and lack of
			plasma or water samples)
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure		Yes, exposure was consistently measured in serum and
	characterization?	+	urine. However, the questions included in the sleep
			questionnaire were not validated.
	Can we be confident in the outcome		Yes, outcome was consistently measured in serum and
	assessment?	++	urine. Lack of blinding of outcome assessors would not
			appreciably bias results.
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?		Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were
reporting		++	presented in results section with adequate level of detail
			for data extraction
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal		None identified
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were		
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the	++	
	study protocol)?		

Pei 2019 [59]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	Multiple signaling
Original study	• Fluoride levels in	Genetic biomarkers of	 Descriptive statistics 	pathways were
	drinking water	skeletal fluorosis		found to be
Study design:	Skeletal fluorosis		Results:	regulated by the differentially
Cross-sectional		Method of outcome	Water fluoride groups:	expressed miRNAs
	Method of exposure	ascertainment:	o 1.2 mg/L	Dysregulation of
	assessment:	• Serum miRNAs were	o >1.2 mg/L - ≤2 mg/L	molecular signaling
Country:	• Fluoride levels in	extracted with	o >2 mg/L - ≤4 mg/L	pathways are
China	drinking water, blood,	miRNeasy Mini Kit	○ <i>>4 mg/L</i>	involved in the
	and urine samples	(Qiagen, Valencia, CA,	C	process of fluoride-
Participants:	 Fluoride in drinking 	USA).		induced damage of
-	water was detected by	 After assessing the 	•31 miRNAs were	osteoblasts and
Residents aged 16 or	a F-ion selective	RNA's quality and	significantly and	osteoclasts.
older who lived in one of	electrode (Yingke	quantity, the miRNA	differentially expressed	However, the
five villages that are	Crystal Materials	microarray analysis	between cases and	regulatory
endemic in skeletal	Company) using a	(Affymetrix microRNA	controls. Of these, 21	mechanism of
fluorosis, (Zhao Dong	China national standard	4.0 Array, Santa Clara,	miRNAs were up-	fluoride on

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
County, Heilongjiang	(GB 5750.5-2006,	CA, USA) was	regulated and 10	molecular
Province)	China).	performed according	miRNAs were down-	pathways is still
	Urinary fluoride was	to the manufacturer's	regulated	not very clear
	also assessed by using	instructions.	• 3 additional miRNAs	
Sampling time frame:	the standard (WS/T 89-	• Quantitative PCR was	(miR-200c-3p, miR-1231	
NR	2015, China).	performed using a	and miR-3185) were	
	 Skeletal fluorosis was 	TaqMan miRNA PCR	significantly up-	
Sample size (N):	diagnosed using the	kit (Haigene, Harbin,	regulated in the cases	
Sample size (N):	national diagnostic	China) on an ABI7500		
302	standard for endemic	Fast Realtime PCR		
	skeletal fluorosis	system (ABI, USA).		
Sex:	(WS192-2008)			
Man. 200/	 Subjects were 			
Men: 30%	investigated using a			
	questionnaire, and were			
Exclusions:	face-to-face interviewed			
Bone diseases	by well-trained staff.			
	 Every subject received 			
Hypertension Atheres sleres is	a clinical examination,			
• Atherosclerosis	including X-ray			
Heart disease	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			

Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
• Diabetes	investigation			
Source of fundi	ng/			
support:				
National Natura	al			
Science Founda	ation of			
China				
 Translational M 	edicine			
Special Founda	ation of			
China-Russia M	Medical			
Research Cente	er			
• Harbin Medical				
University, Chir	na			
Science Founda	ation			
for Distinguishe	ed			
Young Scholars	s of			
Heilongjiang Pr	ovince,			
China				

Study Characte	eristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Author declara	tion of			
interest:				
No COI				

Risk of bias a	Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Response				
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?					
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A				
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	+	Whereas participants were selected using the same criteria, recruitment time frame was not reported			
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?		Not reported			
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A				
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A				

Risk of bias assessment				
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or		There was no attrition of exclusion of participants from	
	exclusion from analysis?	++	the analysis in this study	
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure		Yes, exposure was consistently measured in drinking	
	characterization?	++	water, blood, and urine samples using national standard	
			tests	
	Can we be confident in the outcome		Yes, outcome was assessed using national standards.	
	assessment?	++	Lack of blinding of assessors of skeletal fluorosis does	
			not seem to appreciably bias results	
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?		Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were	
reporting		++	presented in results section with adequate level of detail	
			for data extraction	
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal		None identified	
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were			
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the	++		
	study protocol)?			

Riddle 2019 [60]

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Reference type:	Exposures	Outcome	Statistical analysis:	Higher tap water	
Original study	Fluoride levels in	Attention-related	 Logistic regression to 	fluoride levels were	
	 Community source 	outcomes	examine the associations	associated with a	
Study design	Tap water		between fluoride	higher risk of ADHD	
Cross-sectional study	• Urine	Method of outcome	exposure measure	and increased	
		ascertainment	(UF _{SG} , CWF, tap water)	symptoms of	
Country	Method of exposure	 Attention deficit 	and ADHD	hyperactivity and	
Canada	ascertainment	hyperactivity disorder	 Linear regression used, 	inattention, especially	
	Community water	(ADHD) diagnosed by	with the same covariates	among adolescents.	
Participants	fluoridation status (CWF)	physician	to examine the		
Persons Youth 6-17 years	Acquired from city website	Hyperactivity/inattention	associations between the	Tap water fluoride	
old from the Canadian	reports or water treatment	subscale score	(UF _{SG} , CWF, tap water)	concentration was	
Health Measures Survey	plant	acquired using	and SDQ	significantly	
(Cycles 2 and 3).		Strengths and	hyperactivity/inattention	associated with	
	Urinary fluoride (UF _{SG}):	Difficulties	subscale score.	ADHD, adjusting for	
Study name	non-fasting spot samples	Questionnaire (SDQ)	 Adjusted covariates: sex, 	covariates	
Canadian Health		 Information on both 	age, ethnicity, BMI,		
Measures Survey	Tap water fluoride	outcomes were	highest parental		
(CHMS)	Samples from participants'	acquired from	education, household		
	home during Cycle 3	parents/guardians for	income, cigarette smoke		

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Sampling timeframe		participants 6 to 11	exposure at home, and		
• 2009–2011	Mean (SD) concentration	years of age	log ₁₀ -transformed lead		
• 2012–2013	of urinary fluoride	 Among those 12 to 17 	level in blood)		
	adjusted for specific	years of age, outcome			
Sample size (N)	gravity (mg/L)	information was	Results		
• Cycle 2:	• Urinary fluoride – sample	acquired from the	 Water fluoride 		
N=2,520	<u>1</u>	participants themselves	Mean ±SD: 0.23 mg/L		
• Cycle 3:	0.61 (0.39)		± 0.24 (cycles 3 only)		
N=2,667	• CWF status - sample 2		 Urinary fluoride 		
	0.64 (0.45)		Mean ±SD: 0.61 mg/L		
Sex (%)	 Tap water fluoride – 		±0.39 (cycles 2 & 3)		
Men: 50.8%-52.7%	sample 3				
	• 0.62 (0.48)		An increase of 1.0 mg/L		
Exclusion criteria			in water fluoride		
• Resided in home for ≤ 2	Mean (SD) concentration		concentration was		
years	of water fluoride (mg/L)		associated with 6.1 times		
 Reside in place with 	• <u>Urinary fluoride – sample</u>		higher odds of an ADHD		
mixed city fluoridation	<u>1</u>		after accounting for		
status Consume bottled	0.23 (0.24)		potential confounders		
water	 <u>CWF status – sample 2</u> 				
 Consume well rather 	0.26 (0.26)		• UF _{SG} did not significantly		

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
than municipal water	• Tap water fluoride –		predict ADHD	
Remove fluoride with	sample 3		aOR=0.96 (95% CI: 0.63,	
home filtration system	0.23 (0.24)		1.46); p=0.84	
	Mean (SD)		• UF _{SG} did not significantly	
Source of funding:	 Urinary fluoride 		predict SDQ hyperactive/	
Faculty of Health, York	11.3 (3.4)		inattentive subscale	
University	 CWF status 		scores	
	11.3 (3.3)		aOR = 0.31 (-0.04, 0.66);	
Conflict of interest:	 Tap water fluoride 		p = 0.08	
No COI	11.2 (3.5)			
			• An increase of 1.0 mg/L	
			in water fluoride	
			concentration was	
			associated with 6.1 times	
			higher odds of an ADHD	
			after adjusting for	
			potential confounders	
			• UF _{SG} did not significantly	

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
			predict ADHD		
			aOR=0.96 (95% CI: 0.6	3,	
			1.46); p=0.84		
			 UF_{SG} did not significantl 	y	
			predict SDQ hyperactive	e/	
			inattentive subscale		
			scores		
			aOR = 0.31 (-0.04, 0.66);	
			p = 0.08		
			ADHD diagnosis & tap		
			water fluoride		
			• aOR = 6.10 (1.60, 22.8)	•	
			p < 0.05		
			 Exposure-response 		
			relationship: yes		
			<u>SDQ</u>		
			hyperactive/inattentive		
			subscale score & tap wat	<u>er</u>	

Study Character	Study Characteristics						
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions			
			<u>fluoride</u>				
			• aOR = 0.31 (0.04, 0.58));			
			p < 0.05				
			 Exposure-response 				
			relationship: yes				
			ADHD diagnosis & UF _{SG}				
			• aOR = 0.96 (0.63, 1.46));			
			p < 0.05				
			• Exposure-response				
			relationship: yes				
			<u>SDQ</u>				
			Hyperactive/Inattentive				
			Subscale Score & UF _{SG}				
			• aOR = 0.31 (-0.04, 0.66	5);			
			p = 0.05				
			Exposure-response				
			relationship: yes				

Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Response			
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Did selection of study participants result in		Participants who lived in private households across		
	appropriate comparison groups?	++	Canada were randomly selected from Cycle 2 (2009–		
			2011) and Cycle 3 (2012–2013) of the CHMS.		
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account		Yes (child's sex, age at interview, ethnicity (white or		
	for important confounding and modifying		other), BMI, highest level of parental education, total		
	variables?	++	household income, smoking at home [yes/no], concurrent		
			blood lead level [log10-transformed], specific gravity of		
			urinary fluoride concentration)		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Were the research personnel and human	N/A	Not applicable		
	subjects blinded to the study group during				
	the study?				
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without	++	Not considered a risk of bias as it documented the		

Risk of bias	Risk of bias assessment					
	attrition or exclusion from analysis?		exclusion of those who reported drinking bottled water as their main source of water, or those who lived in their residence location for less than 3 years.			
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Yes, urinary fluoride was measured in non-fasting spot samples, adjusted for specific gravity (UFSG), and analyzed using an Orion PH meter with a fluoride ion selective electrode after being diluted with an ionic adjustment buffer. Samples were not standardized though with respect to collection time.			
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	Yes, hyperactivity/inattention subscale score from the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ; Goodman, 2001) and a physician-made diagnosis of ADHD were measured for all participants in both Cycles 2 and 3 of the CMHS.			
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were presented in results section with adequate level of detail for data extraction			
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered	++	None identified			

Risk of bias a	ssessment	
	to the study protocol)?	

Shaik 2019 [61]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	Long term intake of
Original study	Fluoride levels in drinking water	Thyroid function biomarkers (TSH, T3,	Descriptive analyses	fluoridated drinking water (0.02 -1.4 ppm) did not show
Study design:		T4 in serum)	Results:	effect on the thyroid
Cross-sectional	Method of exposure assessment:	Method of outcome	Water fluoride mean:	function in the children with normal
Country: India	 Water analysis was carried out using OAKTON Fluoride 	Serum T3, T4 wasdetermined with	Group I (0.01-0.6 ppm): 0.22 Group II (0.7-1.2 ppm): 0.89	nutritional status and optimal iodine intake
Participants:	Ion Selective Electrode Equipment, USA.	Competitive Chemi Luminescent Immunoassay kits	Group III (1.3-2.0 ppm): 1.44	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Children 9-13 years old		• Serum TSH was	•TSH: 40% of children of	
with lifelong residence in		determined with Ultra-	group I had deranged	
one of 19 villages in		Sensitive Sandwich	levels followed by group	
Mysore Taluk, with water		Chemi-Luminescent	III (20%) and Group II	
fluoride levels 0.01-1.8		Immunoassay with	(16%)	
ppm). Children must have		analyzer according to	T4: 24% of children of	
had good general health,		the manufacturer	both groups I and III had	
normal nutritional status,		recommendation.	deranged levels followed	
and were consuming			by group II (20%)	
lodized salt			• Inter group correlation of	
			drinking water fluoride	
Once the ending forms			levels to number of	
Sampling time frame:			deranged serum T3, T4,	
NR			and TSH of the children	
Sample size (N):			showed non-significant	
293			association	
200				
Sex:				
Boys: 46%				

Study Characteristics	5			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Exclusions:				
Non-resident children,				
and those with				
substandard growth or				
health status				
Source of funding/				
support:				
NR				
Author declaration of	:			
interest:				
No COI				
140 001				

Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Response		

Risk of bias a	ssessment		
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level	N/A	
	adequately randomized?		
	Was allocation to study groups adequately	N/A	
	concealed?		
	Did selection of study participants result in	+	Whereas participants were selected using the same
	appropriate comparison groups?		criteria, recruitment time frame was not reported
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for		Not reported
	important confounding and modifying variables?		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across	N/A	
	study groups?		
	Were the research personnel and human	N/A	
	subjects blinded to the study group during the		
	study?		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or	++	There was no attrition of exclusion of participants from
	exclusion from analysis?		the analysis in this study
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Yes, exposure was consistently measured in drinking
	characterization?		water using specialized tests
	Can we be confident in the outcome		Outcome was assessed using specialized standards.
	assessment?	++	Study was double-blinded with no likelihood to bias
			results.
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were
reporting		77	presented in results section with adequate level of

Risk of bias assessment					
			detail for data extraction		
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal		None identified		
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were				
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the	++			
	study protocol)?				

Soto-Barreras 2019 [62]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	• "No evidence was
Original study Study design:	Fluoride levels in • Drinking water samples • Urine samples	Intellectual abilityDental fluorosis	 Statistical significance at p<0.05 	found for fluoride- associated cognitive deficits. As the level of
Cross-sectional study	Method of exposure	Method of outcome ascertainment:	Results: • Mean (±SD) water fluoride	fluoride consumption
Country: Mexico	assessment:lon selective electrode	 Intellectual ability: Raven's Colored Progressive Matrices 	levels (mg/L) by dental fluorosis categories o TF 0: 0.75 ± 0.95	remains a public health concern and its implications for health are still

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Participants: Children (9 to 10 years of age) in grade 4 attending public elementary schools in Chihuahua Sampling time frame: May – December 2017 Sample size: 161	Exposure level: See results for exposure levels by dental fluorosis and intellectual ability categories	(RCPM) Dental fluorosis: Thylstrup- Fejerskov (TF) Index used to examine vestibular, occlusal, and lingual surfaces	 TF 1 – 2: 0.67 ± 0.15 TF 3 – 4: 1.22 ± 1.09 TF > 5: 1.66±0.93 p-value: 0.008 Mean (±SD) urinary fluoride levels (mg/L) by dental fluorosis categories TF 0: 0.48 ± 0.23 TF 1 – 2: 0.51 ± 0.38 TF 3 – 4: 0.62 ± 0.32 TF > 5: 0.67±0.41 p-value: 0.088 	uncertain, further research is needed to clarify whether or not fluoride may possibly have adverse effects on brain development." (p. 481) • "The fluoride content in the drinking water and the exposure dose were significantly higher in the moderate-to-severe
Sex: Men: 88 (54.7%) Exclusions: • Received topical fluoride			 Mean (±SD) exposure dose to fluoride (EDI) (mg/kg bw/day) by dental fluorosis categories TF 0: 0.016 ± 0.02 TF 1 − 2: 0.017 ± 0.02 TF 3 − 4: 0.035 ± 0.03 	fluorosis cases. The urinary fluoride level increased as the level of the severity of the dental fluorosis increased but no

Study Characteristics	Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions		
application in last 6			○ TF > 5: 0.047±0.03	statistically		
months			o <i>p-value: 0.001</i>	significant		
• Have different reside	nce			difference was		
since time of pregnar	ncy			present." (p. 477 –		
Have mental illness			• Mean (±SD) water fluoride	478)		
diagnosis			levels (mg/L) by IQ			
Have systemic disord	der		categories			
diagnosis			o Grade I: 1.48 ± 1.13			
			o Grade II: 1.05 ± 1.06			
			o Grade III: 1.04 ± 1.06			
Source of funding /			○ Grade IV: 0.97 ± 1.10			
support:			○ Grade V: 0.79 ± 1.17			
PRODEP program of t	he		∘ <i>p–value: 0.645</i>			
Mexican Minister of						
Education (SEP)			 Mean (±SD) urinary fluoride 			
			levels (mg/L) by IQ grade			
Author declaration of	•		categories			
			○ Grade I: 0.45 ± 0.34			
interest:			○ Grade II: 0.54 ± 0.29			
No COI			○ Grade III: 0.61 ± 0.38			
			○ Grade IV: 0.56 ± 0.33			
			○ Grade V: 0.35 ± 0.19			

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
			○ <i>p–value: 0.559</i>		
			 Mean (±SD) exposure 		
			dose/daily intake by IQ	grade	
			categories		
			○ Grade I: 0.03 ±0.03		
			○ Grade II: 0.026 ±0.03		
			○ Grade III: 0.027 ±0.03	3	
			○ Grade IV: 0.029 ±0.0	3	
			○ Grade V: 0.016 ±0.02		
			∘ <i>p–value: 0.3</i> 89		

Risk of bias a	Risk of bias assessment						
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse				
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable				
	Was allocation to study groups adequately	N/A	Not applicable				

Risk of bias a	ssessment		
	concealed?		
	Did selection of study participants result in	++	Yes, participants were selected during the same
	appropriate comparison groups?		timeframe and according to the same criteria.
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	-	NR
	important confounding and modifying variables?		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across	N/A	Not applicable
	study groups?		
	Were the research personnel and human	N/A	Not applicable
	subjects blinded to the study group during the		
	study?		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or	++	Study provided reasons for exclusion of participants
	exclusion from analysis?		(received topical fluoride application in last 6 months,
			have different residence since time of pregnancy, have
			mental illness diagnosis, or have systemic disorder
			diagnosis)
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Yes, exposure was measured in water using the ion
	characterization?		selective electrode (Orion 9609BNWP, Ionplus Sure-
			Flow Fluoride Electrode, Thermo Scientific, USA)
	Can we be confident in the outcome	++	Yes, outcome ++ Yes, outcome (dental

Risk of bias	Risk of bias assessment					
	assessment?		(IQ/intellectual ability)		fluorosis) was measured	
			was measured by an		by a single examiner,	
			independent		assisted by a recorder,	
			examiner, using the		using the Thysltrup and	
			Raven's Colored		Fejerskov Index. Lack of	
			Progressive Matrices		blinding of outcome	
			(RCPM). Lack of		assessors would not	
			blinding of outcome		appreciably bias results.	
			assessors would not			
			appreciably bias			
			results.			
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcomes	discu	ssed in methods were	
reporting			presented in results se	ction v	vith adequate level of detail	
			for data extraction			
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal	++	None identified			
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were					
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the					
	study protocol)?					

Zhang 2019 [63]

Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Exposures:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	Women who had
 Dental cleaning during pregnancy (DC) alone Community water fluoridation (CWF) alone DC and CWF combined 	Prevalence of preterm births (birth < 37 weeks gestation) Method of outcome ascertainment:	 Multivariate logistic regression Adjusted for maternal sociodemographic characteristics (age, race, nativity, education, 	dental cleaning during pregnancy and lived in a community with water fluoridation had lower prevalence of
Method of exposure assessment:	Derived from the infant's birth certificate	insurance), previous medical risk (diabetes,	preterm birth.
DC: PRAMS survey questionnaireCWF: MA Dept. of		behavioral factors (BMI)	
Public Health, Office of Oral Health		Results:Water fluoride levels:NR	
	Exposures: • Dental cleaning during pregnancy (DC) alone • Community water fluoridation (CWF) alone • DC and CWF combined Method of exposure assessment: • DC: PRAMS survey questionnaire • CWF: MA Dept. of Public Health, Office of	Exposures: Outcomes: Prevalence of preterm births (birth < 37 weeks gestation) Community water gestation) DC and CWF combined Method of exposure assessment: Derived from the infant's birth certificate CWF: MA Dept. of Public Health, Office of	Exposures: Outcomes: Statistical analysis: Multivariate logistic regression Community water gestation) Outcome Method of outcome ascertainment: Derived from the infant's birth certificate assessment: Derived from the combination of the public Health, Office of Oral Health Outcomes: Multivariate logistic regression Adjusted for maternal sociodemographic characteristics (age, race, nativity, education, income, health insurance), previous medical risk (diabetes, preterm births) and behavioral factors (BMI) Results: Water fluoride levels:

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Assessment			Prevalence of preterm		
Monitoring System)			birth among women with	า	
3 , ,			a singleton live birth wa	S	
			8.5% in Massachusetts.		
Sampling time frame	9 :		Overall, 58.7% of		
2009-2016			women had dental		
			cleaning during		
			pregnancy, and 63.6%		
Sample size (N):			lived in CWF.		
9,234			 Compared to women 		
			without DC and CWF		
Sex:			and adjusting for		
			potential confounders:		
Women: 100%			 Dental cleaning along 	9	
			and preterm birth:		
Exclusions:			significant (aRR =		
			0.74 [95% CI 0.55–		
Women with multiple	Э		0.98])		
births			o CWF alone and		
Missing data for der	ital		preterm birth: non-		

Study Characteri	istics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
cleaning during			significant (aRR =	
pregnancy, CWF	=,		0.81 [95% CI 0.63–	
and/or gestation	al age		1.05])	
 Missing data on 			○ DC–CWF and	
relevant materna	al		preterm birth:	
characteristics			significant (aRR =	
			0.74 [95% CI 0.57–	
	,		0.95]) were significar	nt
Source of fundin	ig/			
support:				
CDC				
Author declaration	on of			
interest:				
NR				

Risk of bias as	Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Response				
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level	N/A				

Risk of bias as	ssessment		
	adequately randomized?		
	Was allocation to study groups adequately	N/A	
	concealed?		
	Did selection of study participants result in		Yes, participants were selected using the same
	appropriate comparison groups?	++	criteria, during the same timeframe
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for		Yes, it accounted for major confounders such as
	important confounding and modifying variables?		maternal sociodemographic characteristics (age, race,
		++	nativity, education, income, health insurance), previous
			medical risk (diabetes, preterm births) and behavioral
			factors (BMI)
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across	N/A	
	study groups?		
	Were the research personnel and human	N/A	
	subjects blinded to the study group during the		
	study?		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or		Not considered a risk of bias as study reported that
	exclusion from analysis?		nonresponse adjustment factors were incorporated to
		++	address the increased likelihood of non-response from
			certain groups of women, such as those who had < 12
			years of education.
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Yes, exposure was consistently measured using the

Risk of bias	Risk of bias assessment				
	characterization?		PRAMS survey questionnaire (DC), and the MA Dept.		
			of Public Health records (CWF)		
	Can we be confident in the outcome	++	Yes, outcome was retrieved from state infant birth		
	assessment?	T T	certificates		
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?		Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were		
reporting		++	presented in results section with adequate level of		
			detail for data extraction		
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal		None identified		
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were				
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the	++			
	study protocol)?				

Zhou 2019 [64]

Study Characteristic	cs			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	High intake of
Original study	Fluoride levels in drinking water	Prevalence of one of seven eye diseases	 Multiple logistic regression analysis 	fluoride may act directly and/or indirectly on the

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Study design:			Adjusted for age,	eyeball.
Cross-sectional Country: China	Method of exposure assessment: Fluoride levels in the blood, urine, and	Method of outcome ascertainment: Complete ocular examination	smoking, drinking habits, blood pressure, BMI, education, and annual income.	 Significant positive association of water fluoride levels with pterygium and
Participants:	drinking-water		Results: • Drinking-water fluoride:	arteriosclerotic retinopathy, and significant inverse
Residents (for ≥10 years) of the Han			>1.2 mg/L	association with cataract.
nationality in 1 of 12 villages in north east China, aged ≥40 years			 Fluoride in the drinking water was closely associated with: 	 Non-significant associations with primary angle
old, with no congenital eye disease or ocular trauma			 Cataract: OR: 0.543 (95% CI 0.310– 0.845). 	closure glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, age-
Sampling time frame:			 Pterygium: OR: 1.991 (95% CI 1.931– 3.622). 	related macular degeneration, and strabismus.

Study Characte	Study Characteristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
NR			o Arteriosclerotic	
			retinopathy: OR:	
O	\ _		2.011 (95% CI 1.121	_
Sample size (N):		3.637).	
1,813			 Primary angle closure 	Э
			glaucoma: OR:1.179	
Savi			(95% CI: 0.788–	
Sex:			1.489).	
Men: 30%			 Diabetic retinopathy: 	
			OR: 1.845 (95% CI:	
Exclusions:			0.931–3.120).	
			o Age-related macular	
Less than 10 y	rears of		degeneration: OR:	
residence			1.048 (95% CI:	
congenital eye			0.735–2.221).	
disease or ocu	lar		○ Strabismus: OR:	
trauma			1.598 (95% CI:	
			0.936–2.689).	
Source of fund	ing/			
support:			 Compared to the contro 	I

Study Characteristics	Study Characteristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Center for Endemic			group:	
Disease Control			 Significant decrease 	
Chinese Center for			for cataract (14.9% in	
Disease Control and			exposed group,	
Prevention			24.7% in control	
			group)	
			 Significant increases 	
Author declaration of			for pterygium (7.7%	
interest:			in exposed group,	
No COI			3.2% in control	
			group)	
			 Significant increases 	
			for arteriosclerotic	
			retinopathy (17.6% in	
			exposed group, 6.4%	
			in control group).	
			 Non-significant 	
			associations with	
			primary angle closure	
			glaucoma, diabetic	

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
			retinopathy, age-		
			related macular		
			degeneration, and		
			strabismus		

Risk of bias as	Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion		Response		
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A			
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A			
	Did selection of study participants result in	+	Whereas participants were selected using the same		
	appropriate comparison groups?	_	criteria, recruitment time frame was not reported		
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for		Except for gender (P<0.001), there was no significant		
	important confounding and modifying variables?		difference between the two groups (exposed vs		
		++	control) for the other the confounders such as age,		
			smoking and drinking habits, blood pressure, body		
			mass index, education, and the annual income.		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A			

Risk of bias	assessment		
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	There was no attrition of exclusion of participants from the analysis in this study
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	+	Whereas the exposure was measured in drinking water, serum and urine, no information was provided on the methods/tests used in that regard
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	+	Outcome was assessed using standard examinations. With no information provided, lack of blinding might have an impact on ocular assessments conducted on study participants.
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were presented in results section with adequate level of detail for data extraction
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified

Zhou 2019a [65]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	"In conclusion, we
Original study Study design:	Fluoride levels in Drinking water samples Urine samples	Genotoxicity (Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) levels)	 Multivariable linear and logistic regression models Fluoride categorized into 	have showed that low-to-moderate concentrations of water fluoride and
Cross-sectional study	Method of exposure	Dental fluorosis (DF)Method of outcome	tertiles (T)Association of mtDNA with water and urinary fluoride	urinary fluoride were positively associated with DF prevalence,
Country: China	National standardized ion selective electrode method	ascertainment:mtDNA: quantitative real- time polymerase chain	levels were adjusted for age, gender, BMI, LBW, maternal education, paternal education, and	while inversely associated with circulating mtDNA levels. Additionally,
Participants: Children (7 to 13 years to age), from rural areas with low-to-moderate fluoride exposure in Tianjin Sampling time frame:	Exposure level in mg/L (P25 – P75): Non-DF group • Water: 0.70 (0.40 – 0.80) • Urine: 0.17 (0.09 – 0.31)	reaction assay • <u>DF</u> : Dean's classification system. Two independent experts conducted each examination. DF index was determined using the most serious form of fluorosis on ≥ 2 teeth	family income • Association of DF with water and urinary fluoride levels were adjusted for age, gender, BMI, LBW, maternal education, paternal education, and family income	our study indicates that the gender potentially modifies the associations of DF prevalence with relative mtDNA levels and low-to-moderate fluoride exposure,

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
2015	DF group			and that the reduced
	• Water: 1.60 (1.20 –	2.60)	Results:	mtDNA levels may
Sample size:	• Urine: 2.11 (0.45 –	,	mtDNA	partly mediate the
Sample Size.	`	,	IIIDNA	elevated prevalence
616			Change (95% CI) in	of moderate DF in
			mtDNA levels among	children under such
Cov N (0/)			those with water fluoride	exposure."
Sex N (%):			levels in T2 and T3	
Non-DF group			compared to T1 (mg/L)	
Men: 109 (45.4%)			<u>T1 (≤ 0.70)</u>	
,			Reference	
			<u>T2 (0.71 – 1.50)</u>	
DF group			B = -0.24 (-0.32, -0.15)	
Men: 202 (53.7%)			P = 0.035	
,			<u>T3 (> 1.50)</u>	
			B = -0.32 (-0.39, -0.24)	
Exclusions (from			P <0.001	
analysis):			Trend test	
Have cavities			P <0.001	
Have orthodontic			Change (95% CI) in	
appliances			mtDNA levels per 1 mg/L	
11			increase in water fluoride	

Study Characteristics	Study Characteristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			level	
Source of funding /			B = -0.10 (-0.14, -0.06)	
support:			P <0.001	
-			Change (95% CI) in	
• The State Key Program of			mtDNA levels among	
National Natural Science			those with urinary fluoride	
of China			levels in T2 and T3	
 The National Natural 			compared to T1 (mg/L)	
Science Foundation of			<u>T1 (≤ 0.21)</u>	
China			Reference	
The Fundamental Research			<u>T2 (0.22 – 2.08)</u>	
Funds for the Central			B = -0.03 (-0.12, 0.06)	
Universities			P = 0.516	
			<u>T3 (> 2.08)</u>	
			B = -0.27 (-0.35, -0.20)	
Author declaration of			P <0.001	
interest:			Trend Test	
NR			P <0.001	
			• Change (95% CI) in	
			mtDNA levels per 1 mg/L	
			increase in urinary fluoride)
			level	

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
			B = -0.12 (-0.14, -0.09)		
			P <0.001		
			Total DF		
			Odds (95% CI) of total D	F	
		among those with water			
			fluoride levels in T2 and	T3	
			compared to T1 (mg/L)		
			<u>T1 (≤ 0.70)</u>		
			Reference		
			<u>T2 (0.71 – 1.50)</u>		
			OR = 2.58 (2.02, 3.30)		
			P <0.001		
			<u>T3 (> 1.50)</u>		
			OR = 3.64 (2.91, 4.55)		
			P <0.001		
			Trend Test		
			P <0.001		
			 Odds (95% CI) of total D 	F	
			per 1 mg/L increase in		

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			water fluoride level	
			OR = 1.47 (1.40, 1.55)	
			P <0.001	
			 Odds (95% CI) of total D 	F
			among those with urinary	/
			fluoride levels in T2 and	T3
			compared to T1 (mg/L)	
			<u>T1 (≤ 0.21)</u>	
			Reference	
			<u>T2 (0.22 – 2.08)</u>	
			OR = 1.49 (1.26, 1.77)	
			P <0.001	
			<u>T3 (> 2.08)</u>	
			OR = 3.16 (2.53, 3.95)	
			P <0.001	
			Trend Test	
			P <0.001	
			 Odds (95% CI) of total D 	F
			per 1 mg/L increase in	
			urinary fluoride level	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			OR = 1.39 (1.32, 1.46)	
			P <0.001	
			Very Mild DF	
			• Odds (95% CI) of very m	ild
			DF among those with	
			water fluoride levels in T	2
			and T3 compared to T1	
			(mg/L)	
			<u>T1 (≤ 0.70)</u>	
			Reference	
			<u>T2 (0.71 – 1.50)</u>	
			OR = 2.33 (1.55, 3.51)	
			P <0.001	
			T3 (> 1.50)	
			OR = 4.93 (3.48, 6.98)	
			P <0.001	
			Trend Test	
			P <0.001	
			• Odds (95% CI) of very m	ild
			DF per 1 mg/L increase	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			water fluoride level	
			OR = 1.85 (1.63, 2.11)	
			P <0.001	
			• Odds (95% CI) of very m	ild
			DF among those with	
			urinary fluoride levels in	T2
			and T3 compared to T1	
			(mg/L)	
			<u>T1 (≤ 0.21)</u>	
			Reference	
			T2 (0.22 – 2.08)	
			OR = 1.31 (0.92, 1.86)	
			P = 0.135	
			<u>T3 (> 2.08)</u>	
			OR = 4.02 (2.81, 5.74)	
			P <0.001	
			Trend Test	
			P <0.001	
			• Odds (95% CI) of very m	ild
			DF per 1 mg/L increase	n
			urinary fluoride level	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			OR = 1.57 (1.41, 1.76)	
			P <0.001	
			Mild DF	
			• Odds (95% CI) of mild D	F
			among those with water	
			fluoride levels in T2 and	Т3
			compared to T1 (mg/L)	
			<u>T1 (≤ 0.70)</u>	
			Reference	
			<u>T2 (0.71 – 1.50)</u>	
			OR = 4.17 (2.80, 6.20)	
			P <0.001	
			<u>T3 (> 1.50)</u>	
			OR = 6.88 (4.78, 9.92)	
			P <0.001	
			Trend Test	
			P <0.001	
			• Odds (95% CI) of mild D	F
			per 1 mg/L increase in	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			water fluoride level	
			OR = 1.68 (1.57, 1.79)	
			P <0.001	
			• Odds (95% CI) of mild D	F
			among those with urinary	/
			fluoride levels in T2 and	T3
			compared to T1 (mg/L)	
			<u>T1 (≤ 0.21)</u>	
			Reference	
			T2 (0.22 – 2.08)	
			OR = 1.79 (1.44, 2.23)	
			P <0.001	
			<u>T3 (> 2.08)</u>	
			OR = 5.99 (4.15, 8.66)	
			P <0.001	
			Trend Test	
			P <0.001	
			• Odds (95% CI) of mild D	F
			per 1 mg/L increase in	
			urinary fluoride level	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			OR = 1.56 (1.45, 1.67)	
			P <0.001	
			Moderate DF	
			• Odds (95% CI) of	
			moderate DF per 1 mg/L	
			increase in water fluoride)
			level	
			OR = 3.85 (3.01, 4.92)	
			P <0.001	
			• Odds (95% CI) of	
			moderate DF per 1 mg/L	
			increase in urinary fluorio	de
			level	
			OR = 2.85 (2.39, 3.39)	
			P <0.001	

Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion		Response		
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	Yes, participants were selected during the same timeframe and according to the same criteria.		
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	++	Yes, it accounted for major confounders such as age, gender, BMI, low birth weight, maternal education, paternal education and family income		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Study provided reasons for exclusion of participants (children with cavities or had orthodontic appliances during the investigarion period)		

Risk of bias	Risk of bias assessment				
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization? Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?		Yes, exposure was measured in water using the national standardized ion selective electrode method * Yes, outcome (dental fluorosis) was measured independently by two dentists using Dean's Fluorosis Index. * Yes, outcome (mitochondrial DNA) was measured using DNA samples extracted from lymphocytes using the DNA extraction kit (GK1042, Shanghai Generay Biotech Co., Ltd., Shanghai, China), and quantified using		
			the Nanodrop ND1000 (Thermo scientific, Wilmington, DE, USA). * Lack of blinding of outcome assessors would not appreciably bias results.		
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were presented in results section with adequate level of detail for data extraction		
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified		

Bashash 2018 [66]

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	Positive association	
Original study Study design: Prospective cohort	 Fluoride levels in Maternal urinary samples (prenatal fluoride exposure 	 Attention-deficit/ hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) related symptoms in children between 6 to 12 years 	 Multivariate gamma regression models were used Models were adjusted for child 	between higher prenatal fluoride exposure and symptoms of inattention, but not	
study Country: Mexico	Method of exposure assessment: •≥ 1 second morning	of age Method of outcome ascertainment:	characteristics (gestational age, birth weight, sex, parity, age at outcome assessment) and	hyperactivity or impulse control, in a large Mexican cohort of children, suggesting neurotoxicity of early-	
Participants: Mother-child pairs residing in Mexico City enrolled in two of four cohorts of the Early Life Exposures to Environmental	void spot urine sample from gestational period was used and adjusted for creatinine • Number of participants (N) with	Conners' Rating Scales-Revised (CRS-R) Completed by mothers Used to evaluated ADHD related	maternal characteristics (smoking history, marital status, education, socioeconomic status, and cohort)	life exposure to fluoride	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Toxicants (ELEMENT)	maternal urinary	behaviours		
study; specifically, participants from cohorts 2A and 3 were included in the analysis.	fluoride measures adjusted for creatinine by trimester: 1st Trimester: N = 175 2nd Trimester:	• Scores the following: Cognitive Problems + Inattention, Restless- Impulsive, Hyperactivity, ADHD Index, DSM-IV	Results: Change (95% CI) in outcome per 0.5 mg/L unit increase in maternal urinary fluoride levels adjusted	
Sampling time frame:	N = 80	Inattention, DSM-IV Hyperactivity-	for creatinine	
Cohort 2A:	3 rd Trimester:	Impulsivity, and DSM-	• CRS-R scores (N =	
•1997 to 1999	N = 62	IV ADHD Total	210)	
Cohort 3:	Number of	Conners' Continuous	Cognitive Problems +	
•2001 to 2003	participants (N) by number of measurements	Performance Test, 2 nd edition (CPT-II) • Completed by children	Inattention β= 2.54 (0.44, 4.63) p= 0.0178	
Sample size (N): 213 Mother-child pairs	3 measurements: N = 14 2 measurements:	 Used to evaluate sustained attention and inhibitor control Scores the following: 	Restless-Impulsive β= 1.92 (-0.07, 3.91) p= 0.0586 Hyperactivity	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Sex: Girls:	N = 78 1 measurement:	Omission Errors, Commission Errors,	β= 1.05 (-0.91, 3.00) p= 0.2953	
•N (%) = 116 (54)	N = 122	and Hit Reaction Time Other Details	ADHD Index $\beta = 2.47 (0.43, 4.50)$	
Exclusions:	Exposure levels:	 CRS-R and CPT-II were completed 	p= 0.0175 <u>DSM-IV Inattention</u> β= 2.84 (0.84, 4.84)	
 No gestational urine sample available > 14 gestational weeks at recruitment Child behavioral tests not conducted during specified time period (6 to 12 years of age) History of psychiatric disorder(s) Medical complications 	 Mean (95% CI) level of fluoride in maternal urine adjusted for creatinine 0.85 mg/L (0.81, 0.90) 	 during the same visit Age and sex standardization were applied to outcome measures Experienced psychologist oversaw the psychometric tests performed 	p= 2.84 (0.84, 4.84) p= 0.0054 DSM-IV Hyperactivity- Impulsivity β = 1.69 (-0.33, 3.70) p= 0.1016 DSM-IV ADHD Total β = 2.38 (0.42, 4.34) p= 0.0176 • CPT-II scores (N = 210)	
Gestational use of alcohol/illegal drugs			Omission Errors β = 0.22 (-2.30, 2.74)	

Study Characteristics	S			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
by the mother Source of funding/			p= 0.8643 <u>Commission Errors</u> β = -0.43 (- 2.38 ,	
support: U.S. NIH, NIEHS/EPA, and the National Institute of Public Health/Ministry of Health of Mexico; facilities provided by the American British Cowdray Hospital	,		1.51) p= 0.6641 <u>Hit Reaction Time</u> β= 1.07 (-1.19, 3.32) p= 0.3546	
Author declaration of interest: NR	f			

Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	oonse		
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Did selection of study participants result in		Participants were maternal-child pairs from Mexico		
	appropriate comparison groups?		City, and consisted of two of four cohorts from the		
			Early Life Exposure in Mexico to Environmental		
		++	Toxicants (ELEMENT) study. Time of recruitment was		
			from 1997 to 1999 for cohort 2A and 2001 to 2003 for		
			cohort 3; however, mean maternal urinary fluoride		
			levels adjusted for creatinine was not significantly		
			different between groups.		
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for		Yes, regression models were adjusted for child		
	important confounding and modifying variables?		characteristics (gestational age, birth weight, sex,		
			parity, and age at outcome assessment), and maternal		
		++	characteristics (smoking history, marital status,		
			education, socioeconomic status, and cohort).		
			Interaction between sex and maternal urinary fluoride		
			levels adjusted for creatinine was assessed in		

Risk of bias a	ssessment			
			sensitivity analysis.	
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable	
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable	
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	231 mothers with a minimum of one MUFcr and a matching outcome (CRS-R or CPT-II) were identified for this project. However, complete demographic and outcome information were missing among 17 mother-child pairs, leaving 214 participants for our analyses, of whom 210 mother-child pairs had data for the CRS-R and CPT-II analyses (206 had data for both) (Fig. 1).	
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Fluoride levels were measured in maternal urinary samples collected during pregnancy. No difference in exposure assessment methods were reported between study participants.	
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	+	Participants were recruited at 14 Participants were recruited at 14 recruited	

Risk of bias assessment		
	gestational weeks or	less, and outcomes were
	less, and outcomes	measured in children
	were measured in	between 6 to 12 years of
	children between 6	age; regression models
	to 12 years of age;	were adjusted for the age
	regression models	at outcome assessment.
	were adjusted for	Conners' Continuous
	the age at outcome	Performance Test (CPT-II)
	assessment.	was completed by the
	Conners' Rating	child. An experienced
	Scales-Revised	psychologist oversaw the
	(CRS-R) was	psychometric tests.
	completed by the	
	mother. " parents	
	were unaware of	
	their offspring's	
	fluoride exposure	
	status, removing	
	reporting bias as a	
	limitation. An	
	experienced	

Risk of bias a	ssessment		
			psychologist
			oversaw the
			psychometric tests.
			However, missing
			teacher assessment
			report is a major
			limitation.
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, outcomes mentioned in the methods section
reporting		++	were reported on in the results section.
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal		None identified.
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were		
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the	++	
	study protocol)?		

Cui 2018 [67]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposure:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	• In the overall
Original study	Fluoride levels in urine samples	Intelligence quotient (IQ)	 Multiple linear regression models were used 	participants, the DRD2 Taq 1A polymorphism itself
Study design:			Model for overall were	was not related to IQ
Cross-sectional study	Method of exposure assessment:	Method of outcome ascertainment:	adjusted for age of child, maternal	scores in children who had a high level of
Country: China	Morning urine samples were collectedMeasured using ion	 Determined using the Combined Raven's Test – The Rural in China (CRT-RC) 	education, smoker in the family, stress, and anger • Model for DRD2 SNP	urine fluoride. In the CC/CT subgroup, urine fluoride levels and IQ
Participants: Children (7 to 12 years of age) from four schools in Tianjin found in locations with historic endemic (1.52 – 2.49 mg/L fluoride level in	selective electrode method Exposure levels: Median (interquartile range) levels of fluoride	method • Test was administered by professionals • Age-specific groups of the CRT-RC: Low: ≤ 69	of CC or CT was adjusted for age of child, maternal education, smoker in the family, stress, and anger • Model for DRD2 SNP	scores in children were unrelated. • Among the participants carrying the TT genotype, there was a strong and robust negative

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
drinking water) and non-endemic (0.20 – 1.00 mg/L levels of fluoride in drinking water) fluorosis. Sampling time frame:	in urine by DRD2 single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) • <u>CC (N = 103)</u> 1.3 (0.9 – 1.6) • <u>CT (N = 179)</u> 1.2 (0.8 – 1.8) • <u>TT (N = 44)</u>	Borderline: 70 – 79 Low average: 80 – 89 Average: 90 – 109 High average: 110 – 119 Good: 120 – 129 Excellent: ≥ 30	of TT was adjusted for age of child and having a cold • Robust estimates of variance were acquired using a bootstrap procedure	linear relationship between log-urine fluoride and IQ scores in children after adjusting for child age and have a cold more than 5 times a year.
2014 – 2015	1.3 (1.0 – 2.0)		Result: • Change (95% CI) in	
Sample size (N): 323			IQ score per log-unit increase in urinary	
Sex:			fluoride among all participants and by	
Boys:			subgroups	
• N (%) = 177 (54.8) Exclusions:			Overall (N = 323) β = -2.47 (-4.93, -0.01) p = 0.049	

Study Characteristi	cs		
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results Conclusions
Informed consent			[Bootstrapped
forms not signed by	/		estimate: 95%CI = -
guardians			4.97, 0.03;
• Moved			p = 0.053
No measurement o	f		DRD2 SNP of CC or
dopamine receptor-	-2		CT (N = 279)
(DRD2) genotyping			β = - 1.59 (- 4.24,
			1.05)
Source of funding/			p = 0.236
support:			[Bootstrapped
			estimate:
National Nature			95%CI = -4.14, 0.95;
Science Foundation	n of		p = 0.220
China			DRD2 SNP of TT (N =
Scientific and			<u>44)</u>
Technological Proje			β = -12.31 (-18.69, -
of Tianjin Medicine	in		5.94)
2014			,
Scientific and			p = < 0.001
Technological Proje	ect		[Bootstrapped

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
of Tianjin Centers for			estimate:	
Disease Control and			95%CI = -19.66, -	
Prevention			4.96;	
			p = 0.001	
Author declaration of			•"the safety	
interest: None			threshold of urine	
			fluoride levels in the	
			subgroup TT was 1.73	
			mg/L (95% CI = (1.51	
			mg/L, 1.97 mg/L))" (p.	
			276)	

Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse	
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable	
	Was allocation to study groups adequately	N/A	Not applicable	

Risk of bias a	ssessment		
	concealed?		
	Did selection of study participants result in	++	Participants were children (7 to 12 years of age) from
	appropriate comparison groups?		four schools in Tianjin (2014-2015) found in locations
			with historical endemic (1.52 - 2.49 mg/L fluoride level
			in drinking water) and non-endemic (0.20 - 1.00 mg/L
			levels of fluoride in drinking water) fluorosis.
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	++	Model for overall was adjusted for age of child,
	important confounding and modifying variables?		maternal education, smoker in the family, stress, and
			anger. Model for DRD2 SNP of CC or CT was
			adjusted for age of child, maternal education, smoker
			in the family, stress, and anger. Model for DRD2 SNP
			of TT was adjusted for age of child and having a cold.
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable
	Were the research personnel and human		Not applicable
	subjects blinded to the study group during the	N/A	
	study?		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or	++	Reasons for exclusion were provided. A total of 400
	exclusion from analysis?		children (7-12 years old) were enrolled. Children who
			had no informed consent form signed by their

Risk of bias	assessment		
			guardians or moved out (n = 35) and no DRD2 genotyping measurement (n = 42) were excluded, leaving 323 children for the study.
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Fluoride levels were measured in urine. No differences in exposure assessment methods were reported between participants.
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	The Combined Raven's Test - The Rural in China (CRT-RC) method was used by professionals to determine child IQ. Outcome unlikely to be affected by blinding status.
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	The outcome mentioned in the study objective was reported on in the results section.
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified.

Jimenez-Cordova 2018 [68]

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	•"urinary excretion of	
Original study	Fluoride levels in • Drinking water	Kidney injury • Urine levels of	Multiple linear regression analysis	4 early kidney injury biomarkers (ALB, Cys-C, KIM-1 and	
Study design: Cross-sectional study	samples • Urine samples	albumin (ALB), cystatin-C (Cys-C), kidney injury molecule	was usedInteraction analysisbetween fluoride and	OPN) is related to environmental F exposure in an adult	
Country: Mexico	Co-exposure: Arsenic levels in Urine samples	1 (KIM-1), clusterin (CLU), osteopontin (OPN), and trefoil factor 3	 tAS was conducted Results considered significant at p < 0.05 and marginally 	population, without an As interaction effect. Our results suggest a	
Participants: Adult (18	o o mo odmpioo	(TIFF-3))	significant at p < 0.1	possible tubular	
to 77 years of age) residents of 3 Chihuahua	Method of exposure assessment:	Kidney functionGlomerular filtration	 ALB models were adjusted for specific gravity, protein (15 	dysfunction from F exposure that might increase susceptibility	
communities (El Sauz, Aldama, and Gpe.	Fluoride levels in water and urine samples	rate (eGFR)	mg/dL), protein (30 mg/dL), mine-worker,	to the future development of CKD." (p. 104)	
Victoria) exposed to fluoride via drinking	Potentiometric method using ion	Method of outcome	Diabetes, urine leucocytes, Age, sex	(6. 101)	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
water	selective electrode Inorganic arsenic and	ascertainment:	 Cys-C models were adjusted for specific 	
Sampling time frame: July 2013	corresponding metabolite levels in urine samples • Hydride generation-	 eGFR Estimated using levels of creatinine (Creat) in serum and the Chronic Kidney 	gravit, protein (15 mg/dL), protein (30 mg/dL) amorphous urate crystals, and	
Sample size (N): 239	cryotrapping-atomic absorption	Disease Epidemiology Collaboration (CKD-	ageOPN models wereadjusted for specific	
Sex:	spectrometry using Perkin Elmer Analyst	EPI) formula • Commercial kit used	gravity, amorphous	
<u>Men</u>	400 spectrometer and	to determine Creat	urate crystals, age, and sex	
• N (%) = 68 (28.8)	multi-atomizer Total urinary arsenic	levels in urine Urinary kidney damage	• CLU models were	
Exclusions:	(tAS) is the sum of inorganic arsenic and	<u>biomarkers</u>	adjusted for specific gravity, protein (15	
< 18 years of ageInfrequent	corresponding	First morning void samples used	mg/dL), protein (30 mg/dL), smoking	
consumption of tap water	metabolites monomethylarsonic acid (MAs) or	Luminex xMAPTechnology usingMILLIPLEX MAP	index, age, and sex • KIM-1 models were	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Live in study area for< 1 year	dimethylarsinic acid (DMAs)	Human Kidney Toxicity panel 3 and 4	adjusted for specific gravity, amorphous	
Have cancer or kidney disease	Normalization of fluoride and tAS levels in urine	 Biomarker levels in urine were adjusted for specific gravity and 	urate crystals, mucoprotein, atherogenic index,	
Source of funding/ support: Mexican National	 Levine-Fahy method and urinary strip specific gravity 	Creatinine	and ageTFF-3 models wereadjusted for specificgravity, diabetes, age,	
Council of Science and Technology	Exposure levels: • Geometric mean		and sex •eGFR models were	
Author declaration of interest: None	(Interquartile range; IQR) level of water fluoride (mg/L); N =		adjusted for vascular diseases, cholesterol, alkaline phosphatase, and nephrotoxic drug	
	1.5 (0.19 – 1.8) • Geometric mean (IQR) level of urinary fluoride (μg/mL); N =		Results: • Change in outcome	

Study Characte	eristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
	236		(p-value) per unit	
	2.0 (1.1 – 3.5)		increase of fluoride in	
	 Geometric mean 		water (mg/L) and	
	(IQR) level of urin	nary	urine (µg/mL)	
	tAS (ng/mL); N =	236	<u>ALB (μg/mL)</u>	
	18.55 (10.6 – 34	1.1)	Water: β = 1.20 (p=	
	 Geometric mean 		<0.001)	
	(IQR) level of urin	nary	Urine: β = 0.56 (p=	
	inorganic As (ng/ı	mL);	<0.001)	
	N = 236		Cys-C (μg/mL)	
	1.8 (0.91 – 4.4)		Water: β = 0.03 (p=	
			0.005)	
			Urine: β = 0.022 (p=	
			0.001)	
			OPN (μg/mL)	
			Water: β= 0.10 (p=	
			0.028)	
			Urine: β = 0.038 (p=	
			0.041)	

Study Characte	Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
			CLU (μg/mL)		
			Water: β = 0.09 (p=		
			0.118)		
			Urine: β = 0.07 (p=		
			0.100)		
			KIM-1 (ng/mL)		
			Water: β = 0.045 (p=		
			0.162)		
			Urine: β = 0.048 (p=		
			0.008)		
			TFF-3 (ng/mL)		
			Water: β = 2.88 (p=		
			0.010)		
			Urine: β = 1.14 (p=		
			0.115)		
			eGFR (mL/min/1.73		
			<u>m²)</u>		
			Water: β = 0.19 (p=		

Study Characteristics						
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results Conclusions			
			0.675)			
			Urine: β = 0.49 (p=			
			0.030)			

Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse	
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable	
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable	
	Did selection of study participants result in	++	Participants consisted of adult residents of 3	
	appropriate comparison groups?		Chihuahua communities in Mexico. The study was	
			conducted in July 2013.	
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	++	Multiple linear regression models were adjusted for	
	important confounding and modifying variables?		several confounders. List of confounders vary by	
			outcome. See Table 4 on p. 102 for details. Arsenic	

Risk of bias a	Risk of bias assessment				
			was assessed for potential interaction with fluoride.		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Reasons for exclusion were provided for the study. "Adults who reported cancer or kidney disease were excluded from the study." (p. 98) Three participants without samples of urine were excluded.		
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Fluoride levels were measured in water and urine. No difference in exposure assessment methods were found between study participants.		
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	Kidney injury biomarkers were measured in urine, and eGFR was estimated using levels of creatinine in serum and the Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Collaboration formula. Blinding status unlikely to affect outcome assessment.		
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, outcomes mentioned in the abstract were		

Risk of bias assessment					
reporting			reported on in the results section.		
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified.		

Kumar, V 2018 [69]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	■ Mean TSH, water
Original study	Fluoride levels in	Thyroid functional	• Chi-square and Mann	fluoride levels, urine fluoride levels and
	• water	<u>activity</u>	Whitney tests	serum fluoride levels
Study design:	SerumUrine	 Serum levels of free triiodothyronine (T3), 	 Results considered significant at p<0.05 	of subjects of group 1 were found to be
Cross-sectional study	Method of exposure	free thyroxine (T4), and thyroid stimulating hormone	Results:	significantly higher than that of subjects

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Country: India Participants: Children (8 to 15 years of age) from endemic fluorosis	 assessment: Manual titration method, automatic analyzer, and radiometer 	(TSH) Method of outcome ascertainment: • Immuno	 Mean free T3 (pg/ml) by study group A: 3.125; B: 2.698 p = 0.26 Mean free T4 (ng/dL) 	of group 2 (p-value < 0.05). • Fluorosis and thyroid functional activity are positively correlated
area and fluorosis non- endemic area	Exposure levels: • Mean (range) level of	Chemiluminescence Mircroparticle Assay with Autoanalyzer	by study group A: 1.282; B: 1.193 p = 0.41 • Mean TSH (μIU/m) by	with each other. • Excessive fluoride levels also lead to alteration in thyroid
Sampling time frame: NR	water fluoride (ppm) by study groups A1: 1.1 (1.5 – 5)		study group A: 3.849; B: 2.588 p = 0.02	hormones activity
Sample size (N): 400 Group A (N = 200):	A2: 3.3 (1.8 – 5.8) B: 0.99 (0.94 – 1.08) • Range of urinary		Mean water fluoride (ppm) by study group	
Subjects from endemic fluorosis area	fluoride (ppm) level by study groups		A: 2.877; B: 1.020 p = 0.01 • Mean urinary fluoride	
• A1 (N = 100): Subjects with dental	A1: 0.27 – 8.6 A2: 0.6 – 7.64 B: 0.22 – 1.07		(ppm) by study group A: 2.982; B: 0.761	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
fluorosis	Range of serum		p = 0.02	
• A2 (N = 100):	fluoride (ppm) level		Mean serum fluoride	
Subjects with no	by study groups		(ppm) by study group	
dental fluorosis	A1: 0.05 – 0.71		A: 0.195; B: 0.059	
	A2: 0.05 – 0.71		p = 0.03	
Group B (N = 200):	B: 0.03 – 0.10		Percent (%) of thyroid	
Subjects from fluorosis			hormone level	
non-endemic area			derangement by study	
(controls)			group	
• Subjects with no			A: 67.5; B: 54	
dental fluorosis				
dental huorosis				
Cass ND				
Sex: NR				
Fuelveiene				
Exclusions:				
•≥ 15 years of age				
History of cancer,				
chronic disease, other				

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
type of dental					
staining, and					
medication use tha	at				
interferes with thyr	roid				
Source of funding/	1				
support: None					
Author declaration	ı of				
interest: None					

Risk of bias a	Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	oonse		
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable		

Risk of bias as	ssessment		
	Did selection of study participants result in	+	Participants consisted of children 8 to 15 years of age.
	appropriate comparison groups?		Information on recruitment time frame and
			participation rate not found.
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	_	NR
	important confounding and modifying variables?		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Subjects more than 15 years of age, or having history of the presence of any other form of dental staining, cancer/chronic disease and having thyroid-interfering medication were excluded from the study. Sample sizes were the same between study groups.
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Fluoride levels were measured in water, urine, and serum. No differences in exposure assessment methods were found between study groups.
	Can we be confident in the outcome	++	Thyroid hormones were measured in serum, and

Risk of bias	Risk of bias assessment				
	assessment?		therefore are unlikely to be affected by blinding status.		
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, outcomes mentioned in the introduction section were reported on in the results section.		
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified.		

Kumar, S 2018 [70]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	"The severity of
Original study Study design:	Fluoride levels in • Water samples	Severity of Dental Fluorosis (DF)	 Logistic regression analysis conducted to examine association 	dental fluorosis is positively correlated with the fluoride content in the water.
Cross-sectional study	Method of exposure assessment:	Method of outcome ascertainment:	between DF and potential risk factors • Model variables include	The water fluoride content is the

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Country: India Participants: Adolescents (12 to 15 years of age) from 16 schools in Jhabua and Dhar districts	Electrochemical probe method IS-3025 (Part 60). Exposure level: Mean (SD) water fluoride levels Jhabua: 1.29 (±0.52) Dhar: 1.23 (±0.39)	 DF severity was determined using the Modified Dean Index Examinations were conducted by trained dentists Instruments included mouth mirror and community periodontal index probe 	location, water storage method, and water fluoride content • Statistical significance at p < 0.05 Results: Correlation between water	strongest predictor for dental fluorosis." (p. 6)	
Sampling time frame: January 2015 to July 2015			fluoride levels (ppm) and DF severity • r = 0.967; p = 0.000		
Sample size:			Odds (95% CI) of DF at >1.2ppm compared to ≤ 1.2ppm		
Sex N (%):			• OR = 1.764 (1.309, 2.377); p < 0.0001		

Study Characteris	stics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Boys: 398 (49.75%	6)			
Exclusions:				
Medically compro	omised			
 Unwilling to partic 	cipate			
No parental cons	ent			
Source of funding	g /			
support:				
None that would				
influence the resul	ts			
Author declaration	on of			
interest:				
No COI				

Risk of bias a	ssessment		
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level	N/A	Not applicable
	adequately randomized?		
	Was allocation to study groups adequately	N/A	Not applicable
	concealed?		
	Did selection of study participants result in	++	Yes, participants were selected during the same
	appropriate comparison groups?		timeframe and according to the same criteria.
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	++	Yes, it considered for major confounders such as sex,
	important confounding and modifying variables?		residency, storage of water, dental hygiene, diet
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across	N/A	Not applicable
	study groups?		
	Were the research personnel and human	N/A	Not applicable
	subjects blinded to the study group during the		
	study?		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or	++	Study provided reasons for exclusion of participants
	exclusion from analysis?		(unwilling to participate, medically compromised, or
			whose parents did not give consent)
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Yes, exposure was measured in water using the

Risk of bias assessment				
characterization?		electrochemical probe me	thod IS	-3025 (Part 60).
Can we be confident in the outcome	++	Yes, outcome (dental	++	Yes, outcome
assessment?		fluorosis) was done by		(mitochondrial DNA)
		trained dentists, using	,	was measured
		Dean's modified index.		using DNA samples
		Lack of blinding of		extracted from
		outcome assessors		lymphocytes using
		would not appreciably		the DNA extraction
		bias results.		kit (GK1042,
				Shanghai Generay
				Biotech Co., Ltd.,
				Shanghai, China),
				and quantified using
				the Nanodrop
				ND1000 (Thermo
				scientific,
				Wilmington, DE,
				USA). Lack of
				blinding of outcome
				assessors would not
				appreciably bias

Risk of bias	Risk of bias assessment				
			results.		
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were presented in results section with adequate level of detail for data extraction		
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified		

Malin 2018 [71]

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Reference type:	Exposures	Outcome(s)	Statistical analysis:	"Adults living in	
Original study	Fluoride levels in	Thyroid function	 Linear regression was 	Canada who have	
	Drinking water		used to model TSH levels	moderate-to-severe	
Study design:	• Urine	Method of outcome	as a function of urinary	iodine deficiencies and	
Cross-sectional study		ascertainment	fluoride and iodine levels	higher levels of urinary	

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
	lodine level in	Serum TSH	• Adjusting for age, sex	fluoride may be at an	
Country:	• Urine		BMI, serum calcium)	increased risk for	
Canada				underactive thyroid	
	Method of exposure		Results	gland activity."	
Sampling period	ascertainment		Water fluoride (mg/L)		
Cycle 3 (2012 – 2013)	Water fluoride		Mean ±SD: 0.22 ±0.24		
	Basic anion exchange				
Participants:	chromatography.		Urinary fluoride (mg/L)		
Canadians (3-79) from 16			Mean ±SD: 0.94 ±1.05		
cities (CHMS)	<u>Urinary fluoride</u>				
	Non-fasting spot samples,		Change (95%CI) in serur	m	
Sample size:	analyzed using an Orion		TSH (mIU/L) per unit		
6,914,124	PH meter with a fluoride		increase in UFsg (mg/L)		
	ion selective electrode				
Sex (%):	after being diluted with an		No iodine deficiency		
Men: 51.54%	ionic adjustment buffer		ß = -0.02 (-0.19, 0.15)		
			p = 0.43		
Exclusions:	<u>lodine</u>				
 People living in the 3 	Colorimetric		<u>lodine deficiency</u>		
territories, remote areas,	microplate assay (using		$B = 0.36 \ (-0.03, \ 0.75)$		
reserves, or aboriginal	spot urine samples)		p = 0.03		

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
settlements, full-time					
Canadian military, and	Water fluoride				
institutionalized persons	0.22 mg/L ±0.24				
 Use of thyroid drugs 					
 Prior thyroid diseases 	Urinary fluoride				
 Pregnancy with excess 	0.94 mg/L \pm 1.05				
iodine levels (> 2.37					
μmol/L)					
Source of funding:					
• SSHRC					
• CIHR					
• CFI					
Statistics Canada					
Conflict of interest:					
No COI					

Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Response		
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable	
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable	
	Were the comparison groups appropriate?	++	Participants 3-79 years old were recruited from 16 sites across all provinces from Cycle 3 (2012–2013) of the CHMS. Exclusions included: people living in the 3 territories, on reserves or other aboriginal settlements in the provinces, full-time members of the Canadian forces, institutionalized people, and those living in remote areas, pregnant women, those with thyroid conditions or abnormally high iodine levels. The overall response rate for all aspects of Cycle 3 was 79%	
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	++	Yes (sex, age, BMI, total household income, serum calcium level, specific gravity of urinary fluoride concentration)	
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable	

Risk of bias	assessment		
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Missing data were<5% in all analyses except for household income which was reported by 77% of respondents; however, Statistics Canada provided imputed estimates for these missing values.
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Yes, urinary fluoride was measured in non-fasting spot samples, adjusted for specific gravity (UFSG), and analyzed using an Orion PH meter with a fluoride ion selective electrode after being diluted with an ionic adjustment buffer. Samples were not standardized though with respect to collection time.
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	TSH was measured in blood samples collected by a phlebotomist using a standard venipuncture method. Serum TSH was measured using a 3 rd generation assay analyzer equipped with a chemiluminescent detection system. Serum free T4 was analyzed using a competitive chemiluminescent immunoassay. Thyroid hormones were analyzed at the INSPQ on the Siemens ADVIA Centaur XP analyzer. Iodine

Risk of bias assessment					
			level was measured in spot urine samples by colorimetric microplate assay.		
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were presented in results section with adequate level of detail for data extraction		
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified		

Mohd Nor 2018 [27]

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Reference type: Original	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	"Findings indicate	
study	Fluoride levels in public	Dental fluorosis	Binary logistic regression	that the change in	
	drinking water supply			fluoride level from 0.7	
	3 3 3 3 1 7 7			to 0.5 ppm has	
Study design: Cross		Method of outcome	Results:	reduced fluorosis and	

Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
sectional	Method of exposure	ascertainment:	• "The prevalence of	maintains a
Country: Malaysia Participants: Lifelong residents aged 9- and 12-year-olds	assessment: Water fluoride: NR Exposure level: Original: 0.7 ppm Reduced: 0.5 ppm	 Assessment of dental fluorosis was conducted by trained clinical and calibrated examiners (NAMN). Assessment of fluorosis was conducted by 	fluorosis (Dean's score ≥ 2) among children in the fluoridated area (35.7%, 95% CI: 31.9%-39.6%) was significantly higher (P < 0.001) than children in the nonfluoridated area	caries-preventive effect. Although there is a reduction in fluorosis prevalence, the difference was not statistically significant."
Sampling time frame: 2015 (calculated using the following information reported by the authors) • 9-year-old children (born between 1 January and 31 December 2006 • 12-year-old children (born between 1 January and 31 December 2003)		examining the maxillary central incisors using Dean's Fluorosis Index. • Consensus on outcome assessment must be achieved by agreement of two additional examiners, who did not participate in children's examination, with the initial examiner.	(5.5%, 95% CI: 3.6%-7.4%)." • "Of those in the fluoridated area, the prevalence of fluorosis decreased from 38.4% (95% CI: 33.1% 44.3%) for 12-year-olds to 31.9% (95% CI: 27.6%-38.2%) for 9-year-olds, although this difference was not statistically significant (P = 0.139)."	

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Sample size:			Fluorosis prevalence no		
1,143 children aged 9-12			(%)		
years old			(0) Normal		
Sex: Boys: 491 (43%)			Fluoridated: 342 (56.3)Nonfluoridated: 494 (90.	1)	
			(1) Questionable		
Exclusions:			• Fluoridated: 41 (6.8)		
 Children who missed clinical examination. 			Nonfluoridated: 23 (4.2)(2) Very mild		
 Children with unerupted, partially unerupted or 			Fluoridated:95 (15.7)Nonfluoridated: 23 (4.2)		
fractured incisor(s), or have a fixed orthodontic			(3) Mild		
appliance.			Fluoridated: 65 (10.7)Nonfluoridated: 5 (0.9)		
Source of funding /			(4) Moderate		
support:			Fluoridated:53 (8.7)		
Ministry of Higher			Nonfluoridated: 2 (0.4)		

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Education, Malaysia			(5) Severe	
			• Fluoridated:0	
Author declaration of			Nonfluoridated: 0	
interest:			Not able to score	
No COI			• Fluoridated:11 (1.8)	
			• Nonfluoridated: 1 (0.2)	
			<u>Total</u>	
			• Fluoridated:607 (100.0)	
			Nonfluoridated: 548	
			(100.0)	
			Fluorosis (Deans > 0)	
			Fluoridated: 254 (42.6),	
			P<0.001	
			Nonfluoridated: 53 (9.7)	
			<u>Fluorosis (Deans ≥ 2)</u>	
			Fluoridated:213 (35.7),	
			P<0.001	
			Nonfluoridated: 30 (5.5)	

Study Characteris	Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
			Bivariate analysis of fluorosis prevalence with different fluoride exposures	n	
			<u>Fluorosis Deans ≥2</u>		
			0 ppm lifetimeN (%): 30 (12.30%)OR (95% CI), p-value:Ref.		
			0.5 ppm lifetime		
			N (%): 100 (41.2%)OR (95% CI), p-value: 8.45 (5.45-13.10), 0.001		
			0.7 ppm for first 2 years anthen 0.5 ppm	nd	
			N (%): 113 (46.5%)OR (95% CI), p-value: 10.88 (7.03-16.84), 0.00	1	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			Any fluorosis: Deans > 0	
			0 ppm lifetime	
			• N (%): 53 (9.7%)	
			• OR (95% CI), p-value:	
			Ref.	
			0.5 ppm lifetime	
			• N (%): 123 (40.5%)	
			◆ OR (95% CI), p-value:	
			6.33 (4.40-9.12), 0.001	
			0.7 ppm for first 2 years a	nd
			then 0.5 ppm	
			• N (%): 161 (55.1%)	
			• OR (95% CI), p-value:	
			7.58 (5.26-10.93), 0.001	
			Fluorosis prevalence aft	er
			fluoride concentration in	1
			the water supply was	
			reduced	

Study Characteris	Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
			Fluorosis (Deans > 0)		
			% Prevalence 12-year-old	1	
			(PreReduction)		
			• Fluoridated: 44.6		
			 Nonfluoridated (control): 		
			10.3		
			% Prevalence 9-year-old		
			(PostReduction)		
			• Fluoridated: 39.3		
			Nonfluoridated (control):		
			8.9		
			% Difference (post-pre)		
			Fluoridated: −5.3		
			 Nonfluoridated (control): 		
			-1.4		
			% Difference (pre)		
			• Fluoridated: 34.3		
			% Difference (post)		

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			• Fluoridated: 30.4	
			Fluorosis (Deans ≥ 2)	
			% Prevalence 12-year-old	1
			(PreReduction)	
			• Fluoridated: 38.4	
			 Nonfluoridated (control): 	
			4.7	
			% Prevalence 9-year-old	
			(PostReduction)	
			Fluoridated: 31.9	
			Nonfluoridated (control):	
			6.5	
			% Difference (post-pre)	
			Fluoridated: −6.5	
			 Nonfluoridated (control): 	
			1.8	
			% Difference (pre)	

Study Characteristics					
Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions		
		• Fluoridated: 33.7			
		% Difference (post)			
		• Fluoridated: 25.4			
	Exposure	Exposure Outcome	• Fluoridated: 33.7 % Difference (post)		

Risk of bias as	ssessment		
Bias domain	Criterion		ponse
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	Yes, participants were selected during the same timeframe and according to the same criteria.
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	-	NR
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across	N/A	Not applicable

Risk of bias	assessment		
	study groups?		
	Were the research personnel and human	N/A	Not applicable
	subjects blinded to the study group during the		
	study?		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or	++	Study provided reasons for exclusion of participants
	exclusion from analysis?		(children who missed clinical examination, or children
			with unerupted, partially unerupted or fractured incisor(s),
			or have a fixed orthodontic appliance).
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Yes, fluoride exposure levels were obtained from public
	characterization?		water supply records
	Can we be confident in the outcome	++	Yes, outcome (dental fluorosis) was measured using the
	assessment?		Dean's Index by 1 clinical examiner and verified by 2
			trained examiners who were not involved in the clinical
			examination. The diagnosis of dental fluorosis was
			confirmed only based on agreement of three out of four
			dentists of each group agreed. conditions. All examiners
			were blinded to the exposure status, with unique coding
			of each photograph.
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were
			presented in results section with adequate level of detail

Risk of bias	Risk of bias assessment					
reporting			for data extraction			
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal	++	None identified			
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were					
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the					
	study protocol)?					

Mustafa 2018 [72]

Study Characteristics	5			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposure:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	Life-long fluoride
Original study	Fluoride levels in	• Schooling	• Pearson correlation	intake from combined
	 Groundwater samples 	performance (average	analysis was	sources for adolescents in the
Study design:		score and high score	conducted	
Otady acoign.		[> 70%] prevalence)		United States were
Ecological study	Method of exposure		Decultor	not strongly
	assessment:	Mart - Lafauta	Results:	associated with pQCT
	Rainy and dry season	Method of outcome	Ground water fluoride	bone measures at age

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Country: Sudan	samples were	ascertainment:	<u>Dry season</u>	17.
	acquired from rural	Subjects assessed	0.14 – 2.07 mg/L	Findings provide
Participants: primary	parts of Khartoum	• Islamic studies I		support to the
school students (6 to	state	Islamic studies II	Rainy season	assertion that fluoride
14 years of age)	• A sample of 16	Arabic	0.01 – 1.34 mg/L	intakes, within these
residents of rural areas	groundwater wells were collected per	• English	Correlation between	ranges, are not associated with
in Khartoum state	season	Mathematics	average level of	adverse
	Analyzed "using	Sciences	fluoride in drinking	consequences on
Sampling time frame:	SPADNS reagent as	History	water (mg/L) and	bone outcome
NR	described by	Technology	average school	measures by age 17.
	Standard Methods."	Primary examination	performance score	
	(p. 105)	<u>results</u>	(%) by subject	
Sample size (N):		 Acquired from the 	Islamic studies I	
N = 775	Exposure levels:	Ministry of Education-	r = -0.50; p = 0.008	
	 Range for levels of 	Khartoum State	Islamic studies II	
Sex:	fluoride in	 Obtained for schools in locations sampled 	r = -0.47; p = 0.013	
● Boys N = 315	groundwater by season	for groundwater	<u>Arabic</u>	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Exclusions: NR	Dry season		r = -0.32; p = 0.11	
	0.14 – 2.07 mg/L <u>Rainy season</u>		<u>English</u>	
Source of funding/	0.01 – 1.34 mg/L		r = -0.46; $p = 0.016$	
support:			<u>Mathematics</u>	
Primary school results			r = - 0.33; p = 0.097	
from the Ministry of			<u>Sciences</u>	
Education-Khartoum			r = -0.53; p = 0.005	
State			•	
• Financial support from			<u>History</u>	
the Department of Research, Ministry of			r = -0.59; $p = 0.001$	
Higher Education and			<u>Technology</u>	
Scientific Research,			r = -0.30; $p = 0.158$	
Sudan			Overall score	
			r = -0.51; p = 0.007	
Author declaration of				
interest: NR			 Correlation between 	
			average level of	

Study Characte	Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
			fluoride in drinking		
			water (mg/L) and the		
			prevalence of high		
			school performance		
			score (%) by subject		
			Islamic studies I		
			r = -0.59; $p = 0.001$		
			Islamic studies II		
			r = -0.35; $p = 0.078$		
			<u>Arabic</u>		
			r = -0.47; $p = 0.014$		
			<u>English</u>		
			r = -0.41; $p = 0.034$		
			Mathematics		
			r = -0.39; $p = 0.045$		
			<u>Sciences</u>		
			r = -0.60; $p = 0.001$		
			<u>History</u>		
			r = -0.46; p = 0.016		
			Technology		

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
			r = -0.22; p = 0.265		
			Overall score		
			r = -0.48; p = 0.012		

Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse	
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable	
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable	
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	+	Participants consisted of children (6 to 14 years of age) in primary school who resided in rural areas of Khartoum state. The recruitment timeframe was not found.	
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	_	NR	

Risk of bias a	ssessment		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	No mention of excluding participants or missing data.
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Fluoride was measured in groundwater. No difference in exposure assessment methods was found between study areas.
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	Primary examination results provided by the Ministry of Education-Khartoum State were used to determine school performance. "The examinations are set and organized by the educational authorities of each state" (p. 105). Outcome unlikely to be affected by blinding status.
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Outcomes mentioned in the abstract were also reported on in the results section.
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal	+	Exposure was assessed at each study area. As

Risk of bias assessment				
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were		individual levels of exposure were not measured, the	
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the		possible variation between participants within a study	
	study protocol)?		area could not be accounted for in the analysis (i.e.	
			the potential exposure difference between those who	
			drink more water than those who drink less water).	

Oweis 2018 [73]

Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposure:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	●"In summary, the
Original study	Period-specific daily intake of fluoride	Radial and tibial bone characteristics	Multivariate regression models	findings show that the effects of life-long fluoride intake from
Study design: Prospective cohort study	 Birth to 8.5 years 8.5 to 14 years 14 to 17 years Birth to 17 years Cumulative average 	 Cortical content Cortical density Trabecular content Trabecular density Compression strength 	were used • Models were adjusted for height, weight, calcium and protein intake, time since	combined sources for adolescents in the United States were not strongly associated with pQCT

Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Country: USA	daily intake of fluoride Birth to 17 years	Torsion strength	peak height velocity (PHV), and physical	bone measures at age 17 the study
Participants: Adolescents (17 years of age) whose families	Method of exposure assessment:	Method of outcome ascertainment: • Peripheral quantitative	Results wereconsidered significant	support to the assertion that fluoride
were recruited into the lowa Fluoride Study (IFS) from hospitals following birth	 Questionnaires were administered to determine fluoride 	computed tomography (pQCT) used to acquire measurements at 17	at p < 0.01 • Results were considered suggestive at 0.01 <p<0.05< td=""><td>intakes, within these ranges, are not associated with adverse</td></p<0.05<>	intakes, within these ranges, are not associated with adverse
Sampling time frame:	intake frequency and amounts, and were distributed at the following time periods: " ages 1.5, 3, 6, and 9	years of age The total compression strength of the bone was calculated using	Results: RADIAL BONE - GIRLS	consequences on bone outcome measures by age 17." (p. 9)
1992 to 1995 lowa Bone Development Study (IBDS) – IFS Subset 1998 to 2000	months, then every four months up to age 4 years, and then every 6 months up to age 17 years." (p. 5) • Sources of exposure	the total area and total density Radiographic imaging was performed by technicians (N = 2) who were certified	 Change (SE) in trabecular content (mg) per 1 mg unit increase in daily fluoride intake during the specified time 	

Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Sample size (N): 380 Sex (N):	assessed include " water, other beverages, selected foods, dietary fluoride supplements, and	with the International Society of Clinical Densitometry (ISCD) • "The non-weight bearing, non-	period among girls 0 to 8.5 years (N = 140) β = -2.60 (2.53) p = 0.31	
• Boys N = 176 Exclusions: NR	ingested fluoride toothpaste" (p. 4) • Assays of individual and filtered water, select foods, and	dominant arm, and the weight-bearing left leg were selected for imaging." (p. 4)	8.5 to 14 years (N = $\frac{125}{125}$) $\beta = -0.15$ (2.21) $\beta = 0.95$ 14 to 17 years (N =	
Source of funding/	beverages were		<u>122)</u>	
 support: NIH grants Wright-Bush Shreves Endowed Professor Fund University of Iowa 	performed to determine the amount of fluoride • State health department records were used to determine levels of fluoride in public water		β = 0.09 (1.84) p = 0.96 0 to 17 years (N = 112) β = 0.59 (3.30) p = 0.86 • Change (SE) in trabecular density	
Author declaration of	·		Taboodial delisity	

Study characteri	Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
interest: NR	Exposure levels: • Range for level of fluoride intake Women: 0.7 - 0.7 /day Men: 0.7 - 0.9 m /day.	of .8 mg	Analysis & Results (mg/cm^3) per 1 mg unit increase in daily fluoride intake during the specified time period among girls 0 to 8.5 years (N = 140) $\beta = 2.22 (9.50)$ $p = 0.82$ 8.5 to 14 years (N = 125) $\beta = -3.79 (8.08)$	Conclusions	
			p = 0.64 14 to 17 years (N = 122) β = 3.70 (6.59) p = 0.58 0 to 17 years (N = 112)		

Study characte	Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
			β = 0.99 (12.14)		
			p = 0.94		
			Change (SE) in		
			cortical content (mg)		
			per 1 mg unit increase)	
			in daily fluoride intake		
			during the specified		
			time period among		
			girls		
			0 to 8.5 years (N =		
			<u>140)</u>		
			β = -5.79 (2.54)		
			p = 0.03		
			8.5 to 14 years (N =		
			<u>125)</u>		
			β = -0.74 (2.19)		
			p = 0.74		
			14 to 17 years (N =		
			<u>122)</u>		

Study characte	Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
			β = -1.19 (1.76)		
			p = 0.50		
			0 to 17 years (N =		
			<u>112)</u>		
			β = -3.19 (3.33)		
			p = 0.34		
			Change (SE) in		
			cortical density		
			(mg/cm ³) per 1 mg		
			unit increase in daily		
			fluoride intake during		
			the specified time		
			period among girls		
			<u>0 to 8.5 years (N = </u>		
			<u>140)</u>		
			$\beta = 5.30 (4.44)$		
			p = 0.24		
			8.5 to 14 years ($N =$		
			<u>125)</u>		

Study characte	Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
			β = -4.30 (3.63)		
			p = 0.24		
			14 to 17 years (N =		
			<u>122)</u>		
			$\beta = 0.42 (3.05)$		
			p = 0.89		
			<u>0 to 17 years (N = </u>		
			<u>112)</u>		
			β = -2.28 (5.46)		
			p = 0.68		
			Change (SE) in		
			compression strength		
			(mg ² /mm ⁴) per 1 mg		
			unit increase in daily		
			fluoride intake during		
			the specified time		
			period among girls		
			0 to 8.5 year (N =		
			<u>140)</u>		

Study characte	Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
			β = -1.08 (2.42)		
			p = 0.66		
			8.5 to 14 year (N =		
			<u>125)</u>		
			β = -1.21 (2.12)		
			p = 0.57		
			14 to 17 years (N =		
			<u>122)</u>		
			$\beta = 0.09 (1.76)$		
			p = 0.96		
			0 to 17 years (N =		
			<u>112)</u>		
			β = -2.00 (3.10)		
			p = 0.52		
			Change (SE) in		
			torsion strength (mm ³	3)	
			per 1 mg unit increas	e	
			in daily fluoride intake	•	
			during the specified		

Study characte	Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
			time period among		
			girls		
			<u>0 to 8.5 years (N = $\frac{1}{2}$ = $\frac{1}{2}$) = $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{$</u>		
			<u>140)</u>		
			β = -31.42 (12.28)		
			p = 0.02		
			8.5 to 14 years (N =		
			<u>125)</u>		
			β = -3.76 (9.95)		
			p = 0.71		
			14 to 17 years (N =		
			<u>122)</u>		
			β = -7.34 (7.73)		
			p 0.35		
			0 to 17 years (N =		
			<u>112)</u>		
			β =-21.00 (14.95)		
			p = 0.17		
			1		

Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			RADIAL BONE -	
			BOYS	
			Change (SE) in	
			trabecular content	
			(mg) per 1 mg unit	
			increase in daily	
			fluoride intake during	
			the specified time	
			period among boys	
			0 to 8.5 years (N =	
			<u>125)</u>	
			β = -4.83 (3.85)	
			p = 0.21	
			8.5 to 14 years (N =	
			<u>112)</u>	
			β = -1.79 (3.52)	
			p = 0.61	
			14 to 17 years (N =	
			<u>115)</u>	

Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			β = 1.41 (2.57)	
			p = 0.59	
			0 to 17 years ($N =$	
			<u>105)</u>	
			β =-5.63 (4.28)	
			p = 0.19	
			Change (SE) in	
			trabecular density	
			(mg/cm ³) per 1 mg	
			unit increase in daily	
			fluoride intake during	
			the specified time	
			period among boys	
			<u>0 to 8.5 years (N = </u>	
			<u>125)</u>	
			β = 0.36 (10.77)	
			p = 0.98	
			8.5 to 14 years (N =	
			<u>112)</u>	

Study characte	Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
			β = -3.36 (9.22)		
			p = 0.72		
			14 to 17 years (N =		
			<u>115)</u>		
			$\beta = 1.27 (7.00)$		
			p = 0.86		
			0 to 17 years ($N =$		
			<u>105)</u>		
			β = -7.88 (11.51)		
			p = 0.50		
			Change (SE) in		
			cortical content (mg)		
			per 1 mg unit increase	е	
			in daily fluoride intake)	
			during the specified		
			time period among		
			boys		
			<u>0 to 8.5 years (N = </u>		
			<u>125)</u>		

Study characte	Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
			β = 2.94 (4.04)		
			p = 0.47		
			8.5 to 14 years (N =		
			<u>112)</u>		
			β = -0.36 (3.49)		
			p = 0.92		
			14 to 17 years (N =		
			<u>115)</u>		
			β = 1.82 (2.63)		
			p = 0.49		
			<u>0 to 17 years (N = </u>		
			<u>105)</u>		
			$\beta = 0.37 (4.10)$		
			p = 0.93		
			Change (SE) in		
			cortical density		
			(mg/cm ³) per 1 mg		
			unit increase in daily		
			fluoride intake during		

Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			the specified time	
			period among boys	
			<u>0 to 8.5 years (N = </u>	
			<u>125)</u>	
			β = 11.64 (6.09)	
			p = 0.06	
			8.5 to 14 years (N =	
			<u>112)</u>	
			$\beta = 0.92 (4.94)$	
			p = 0.86	
			14 to 17 years (N =	
			<u>115)</u>	
			β = -0.51 (3.73)	
			p = 0.90	
			0 to 17 years (N =	
			<u>105)</u>	
			β = -0.21 (6.16)	
			p = 0.98	
			∙ Change (SE) in	

Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			compression strength	
			(mg ² /mm ⁴) per 1 mg	
			unit increase in daily	
			fluoride intake during	
			the specified time	
			period among boys	
			0 to 8.5 years (N =	
			<u>125)</u>	
			β = 2.70 (4.29)	
			p = 0.53	
			8.5 to 14 years (N =	
			<u>112)</u>	
			β = -0.79 (3.65)	
			p = 0.83	
			14 to 17 years (N =	
			<u>115)</u>	
			$\beta = 1.83 (2.80)$	
			p = 0.52	
			0 to 17 years (105)	

Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			$\beta = 0.72 (4.43)$	
			p = 0.88	
			Change (SE) in	
			torsion strength (mm ³)	
			per 1 mg unit increase	•
			in daily fluoride intake	
			during the specified	
			time period among	
			boys	
			<u>0 to 8.5 years (N = </u>	
			<u>125)</u>	
			β = -1.08 (19.57)	
			p = 0.96	
			8.5 to 14 years (N =	
			<u>112)</u>	
			β = -2.02 (16.68)	
			p = 0.91	
			14 to 17 years (N =	
			<u>115)</u>	

Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			β = 14.60 (12.40)	
1			p = 0.24	
			0 to 17 years (N =	
			<u>105)</u>	
			$\beta = 8.05 (19.62)$	
			p = 0.69	
			TIBIAL BONE - GIRLS	3
			• Change (SE) in	
			trabecular content	
			(mg) per 1 mg unit	
			increase in daily	
			fluoride intake during	
			the specified time	
			period among girls	
			0 to 8.5 years (N =	
			<u>136)</u>	
			$\beta = 2.77 (7.78)$	

Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			p = 0.73	
			8.5 to 14 years (N =	
			<u>121)</u>	
			β = 2.86 (6.37)	
			p = 0.66	
			14 to 17 years (N =	
			<u>119)</u>	
			β = -0.25 (5.60)	
			p = 0.97	
			<u>0 to 17 years (N = </u>	
			<u>109)</u>	
			$\beta = 0.24 \ (10.07)$	
			p = 0.98	
			Change (SE) in	
			trabecular density	
			(mg/cm ³) per 1 mg	
			unit increase in daily	
			fluoride intake during	
			the specified time	

Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			period among girls	
			0 to 8.5 years (N =	
			<u>136)</u>	
			$\beta = 0.38 \ (9.28)$	
			p = 0.97	
			8.5 to 14 years (N =	
			<u>121)</u>	
			β = -1.97 (7.70)	
			p = 0.80	
			14 to 17 years (N =	
			<u>119)</u>	
			$\beta = 1.24 (6.10)$	
			p = 0.84	
			<u>0 to 17 years (N = </u>	
			<u>109)</u>	
			β = -8.66 (11.63)	
			p = 0.46	
			Change (SE) in	
			cortical content (mg)	

Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			per 1 mg unit increase	•
			in daily fluoride intake	
			during the specified	
			time period among	
			girls	
			0 to 8.5 years (N =	
			<u>136)</u>	
			β = -11.97 (9.97)	
			p = 0.23	
			8.5 to 14 years (N =	
			<u>121)</u>	
			β = 14.18 (8.01)	
			p = 0.08	
			14 to 17 years (N =	
			<u>119)</u>	
			$\beta = 11.49 (6.25)$	
			p = 0.07	
			0 to 17 years (N =	
			109)	

Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			β = 14.24 (11.95)	
			p = 0.24	
			Change (SE) in	
			cortical density	
			(mg/cm ³) per 1 mg	
			unit increase in daily	
			fluoride intake during	
			the specified time	
			period among girls	
			<u>0 to 8.5 years (N = </u>	
			<u>136)</u>	
			$\beta = 6.44 \ (4.91)$	
			p = 0.19	
			8.5 to 14 years (N =	
			<u>121)</u>	
			β = -6.64 (3.84)	
			p = 0.09	
			14 to 17 years (N =	
			<u>119)</u>	

Study characte	eristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			β = -1.11 (3.10)	
			p = 0.72	
			<u>0 to 17 years (N = </u>	
			<u>109)</u>	
			β = -0.86 (6.07)	
			p = 0.89	
			Change (SE) in	
			compression strength	
			(mg ² /mm ⁴) per 1 mg	
			unit increase in daily	
			fluoride intake during	
			the specified time	
			period among girls	
			0 to 8.5 years (N =	
			<u>136)</u>	
			β = -5.39 (5.56)	
			p = 0.34	
			8.5 to 14 years (N =	
			<u>121)</u>	

Study characte	eristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			$\beta = 0.96 (4.67)$	
			p = 0.84	
			14 to 17 years (N =	
			<u>119)</u>	
			$\beta = 3.17 (3.72)$	
			p = 0.40	
			0 to 17 years (N =	
			<u>109)</u>	
			β = -1.62 (6.82)	
			p = 0.82	
			Change (SE) in	
			torsion strength (mm ³	()
			per 1 mg unit increase	е
			in daily fluoride intake)
			during the specified	
			time period among	
			girls	
			0 to 8.5 years (N =	
			<u>136)</u>	

Study characte	eristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			β = -111.79 (60.22)	
			p = 0.07	
			8.5 to 14 years (N =	
			<u>121)</u>	
			β = 111.99 (49.32)	
			p = 0.03	
			14 to 17 years (N =	
			<u>119)</u>	
			$\beta = 44.73 \ (38.60)$	
			p = 0.25	
			0 to 17 years (N =	
			<u>109)</u>	
			β = 64.15 (74.10)	
			p = 0.39	
			TIBIAL BONE - BOYS	
			∙ Change (SE) in	
			trabecular content	

Study character	ristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			(mg) per 1 mg unit	
			increase in daily	
			fluoride intake during	
			the specified time	
			period among boys	
			0 to 8.5 years (N =	
			<u>124)</u>	
			β = -1.95 (9.08)	
			p = 0.84	
			8.5 to 14 years (N =	
			<u>111)</u>	
			$\beta = 0.02 (7.82)$	
			p = 0.99	
			14 to 17 years (N =	
			<u>114)</u>	
			$\beta = 9.77 (5.84)$	
			p = 0.10	
			0 to 17 years (N =	
			<u>104)</u>	

Study characte	eristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			β = -5.82 (9.37)	
			p = 0.54	
			Change (SE) in	
			trabecular density	
			(mg/cm ³) per 1 mg	
			unit increase in daily	
			fluoride intake during	
			the specified time	
			period among boys	
			<u>0 to 8.5 years (N = </u>	
			<u>124)</u>	
			$\beta = 9.91 \ (9.63)$	
			p = 0.31	
			8.5 to 14 years (N =	
			<u>111)</u>	
			β = 2.65 (8.43)	
			p = 0.76	
			14 to 17 years (N =	
			<u>114)</u>	

Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			β = 6.64 (6.32)	
			p = 0.30	
			0 to 17 years (N =	
			<u>104)</u>	
			β = 7.31 (10.37)	
			p = 0.49	
			Change (SE) in	
			cortical content (mg)	
			per 1 mg unit increas	е
			in daily fluoride intake)
			during the specified	
			time period among	
			boys	
			0 to 8.5 years (N =	
			<u>124)</u>	
			β = 13.74 (13.05)	
			p = 0.30	
			8.5 to 14 years (N =	
			<u>111)</u>	

Study characte	eristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			β = 13.18 (11.40)	
			p = 0.25	
			14 to 17 years (N =	
			<u>114)</u>	
			$\beta = 21.40 \ (8.38)$	
			p = <0.01	
			<u>0 to 17 years (N = </u>	
			<u>104)</u>	
			β = 16.19 (13.63)	
			p = 0.24	
			Change (SE) in	
			cortical density	
			(mg/cm ³) per 1 mg	
			unit increase in daily	
			fluoride intake during	
			the specified time	
			period among boys	
			<u>0 to 8.5 years (N = </u>	
			<u>124)</u>	

Study characte	eristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			$\beta = 7.37 (5.50)$	
			p = 0.19	
			8.5 to 14 years (N =	
			<u>111)</u>	
			β = -7.16 (4.37)	
			p = 0.11	
			14 to 17 years (N =	
			<u>114)</u>	
			β = -3.52 (3.46)	
			p = 0.31	
			0 to 17 years (N =	
			<u>104)</u>	
			β = -0.06 (5.52)	
			p = 0.99	
			Change (SE) in	
			compression strength	
			(mg ² /mm ⁴) per 1 mg	
			unit increase in daily	
			fluoride intake during	

Study characte	eristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			the specified time	
			period among boys	
			<u>0 to 8.5 years (N = </u>	
			<u>124)</u>	
			β = 10.96 (7.81)	
			p = 0.17	
			8.5 to 14 years (N =	
			<u>111)</u>	
			β = 7.53 (6.92)	
			p = 0.28	
			14 to 17 years (N =	
			<u>114)</u>	
			β = 10.58 (5.22)	
			p = 0.05	
			0 to 17 years (N =	
			<u>104)</u>	
			$\beta = 9.37 \ (8.34)$	
			p = 0.27	
			• Change (SE) in	

Study characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			torsion strength (mm ³)	
			per 1 mg unit increase	
			in daily fluoride intake	
			during the specified	
			time period among	
			boys	
			0 to 8.5 years (N =	
			<u>124)</u>	
			β = 93.65 (87.79)	
			p = 0.29	
			8.5 to 14 years (N =	
			<u>111)</u>	
			β = 72.06 (74.95)	
			p = 0.34	
			14 to 17 years (N =	
			<u>114)</u>	
			β = 175.06 (56.42)	
			p = <0.01	
			0 to 17 years (N =	

Study character	ristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			<u>104)</u>	
			$\beta = 90.24 \ (95.28)$	
			p = 0.35	

Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Response		
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable	
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable	
	Did selection of study participants result in	++	Participants were adolescents (17 years of age),	
	appropriate comparison groups?		whose families were recruited from lowa hospitals	
			following birth. The time of sampling for the lowa	
			Fluoride Study (IFS) was from 1992 to 1995, and for	
			the Iowa Bone Development Study (IBDS), a subset of	
			IFS, was from 1998 to 2000.	
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	++	Mutlivariable regression models were adjusted for height, weight, time since PHV [Peak Height Velocity],	

Risk of bias a	Risk of bias assessment				
	important confounding and modifying variables?		calcium and protein intake, and physical activity		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Reasons for exclusion and missing data were reported. Specifically, [n]ine tibial scans at 4% and 38% combined had movement artifacts and were excluded from the analyses. [a] 20% lower sample size resulted when calcium, protein, and physical activity were added to the model due to missing data."		
			Interpolation was used when assessing fluoride intake: period-specific daily fluoride intakes in mg F/day were determined using area-under-the-curve (AUC). Each AUC required data at the upper and lower endpoints, with endpoints allowed to be interpolated from estimates within 7 months of the stated endpoints. The		

Risk of bias a	Risk of bias assessment			
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?		cumulative 'average' daily fluoride intake in mg from birth to age 17 years was calculated using AUC, with the requirements that each participant have at least one daily fluoride intake estimate recorded, obtained or interpolated for each of the period-specific fluoride intakes. If a time point was missing, linear interpolation using the nearest two points to the required time point was done. Fluoride intake was assessed using multiple questionnaires, and considered the following sources of exposure: water, other beverages, selected foods, dietary fluoride supplements, and ingested	
	Can we be confident in the outcome	++	fluoride toothpaste. The study authors state that "[f]luoride intakes for the study participants were based on parent and adolescent reports of ingested fluoride- containing products, which is an indirect method of quantifying intake, limited to fluoride assay results, and possesses several limitations in terms of its reliability and validity. Participants were followed from birth to 17 years of age. Trabecular and cortical bone characteristics of	

Risk of bias a	Risk of bias assessment				
	assessment?		the radial and tibial bone were determined using peripheral quantitative computed tomography (pQCT). Radiographic imaging was performed by certified technicians.		
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, outcomes mentioned in the methods section were reported on in the results section.		
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified.		

Quadri 2018²⁸ [74]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposure:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	• Increased levels of
Original pilot study	Fluoride levels in • Urine samples	Nephrotoxicity: Renal tubule	 One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) or 	apoptosis were observed in high fluoride group (Gp 2)
Study design:	Serum samples	ultrastructural changes	Student's t test used to statistically	compared to normal
Case-control (Only cross-sectional analysis results relevant to the	Method of exposure assessment:	Renal tubule apoptosis	compare groups • Results were identified as	fluoride group (Gp 1), which leads to cell death and renal
review are included)	 Measured using potentiometric method with fluoride selective 	Method of outcome ascertainment:	statistically significant at p <0.05	injury. • Various degrees of fluoride-associated
Country: India	ion electrode	Renal biopsy • Suggested for G-1	Results:	damages to the architecture of tubular
Participants: Children (4 to 12 years of age) with nephrotic	Exposure levels: Urinary fluoride,	and G-2 participants who had kidneys of	Ultrastructural changesTEM images showed accumulation of	epithelia, such as cell swelling and lysis, cytoplasmic

²⁸ Quadri et al. 2018: Although study is designed primarily as case-control studies, only results from the cross-sectional analysis were relevant to this review. Therefore, study was assessed for quality as cross-sectional using the OHAT risk of bias tool.

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
syndrome minimal change disease (NS- MCD) from All India	mean ±SD • Gp 0: 0.56 ppm ±0.15	regular size with no blockage and proteinuria, but the	multiple dark spherical microparticles within the tubular basement	vacuolation, nuclear condensation, apoptosis, and
Institute of Medical Sciences' department	• Gp 1: 0.61 ppm ±0.17 • Gp 2: 4.01 ppm ±1.83	cause was unknown • Ultrasounds were	membranes and basement membrane	necrosis, were observed.
for pediatric outpatients	Serum fluoride, mean ±SD	used to guide the procedure	disintegration in Gp 2	
Sampling time frame: June 2012 - January 2015	• Gp 0: 0.07 ppm ±11 • Gp 1: 0.07 ppm ±0.01 • Gp 2: 0.1 ppm ±0.013	 Biopsy gun was used to acquire kidney tissues A nephrologist and/or 	 Glycogen lysis, rarefactions of cytoplasmic ground substances, 	
Sample size (N): 156 Group 1 (G-1): Nephrotic syndrome patients (NSP) with normal fluoride levels in urine (≤ 1 ppm)	 Significantly higher level of fluoride in urine was reported among participants in G-2 than those in G-1 and G-0 (p = 0.001) Significantly higher 	interventional radiologist conducted the procedure Ultrastructural changes of kidney tissues • Transition electron microscopy (TEM) Renal tubule apoptosis	hypervacuolation, and chromosome condensation were observed frequently in the renal tubule of Gp 2 while the same was less frequent in Gp1.	

Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
level of fluoride in	Terminal	• The increased levels	
serum was reported	deoxynucleotidyl	of nuclear swelling,	
among participants in	transferase	chromatin	
G-2 than those in G-1	deoxyuridine	disintegration, and	
and G-0 ($p = 0.001$)	triphosphate (dUTP)	other signs of	
	nick end labeling	apoptosis were	
	(TUNEL) assay	observed in G-2 as	
		compared to Gp 1.	
		The pyknotic changes	
		in the cells of the	
		renal tubules of G-2	
		observed but it was	
		only occasional.	
		Renal tubule apoptosis	
		• Level of renal tubule	
		apoptosis among	
		participants in G-1	
		and G2	
	level of fluoride in serum was reported among participants in G-2 than those in G-1	level of fluoride in serum was reported deoxynucleotidyl among participants in G-2 than those in G-1 and G-0 (p = 0.001) • Terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase deoxyuridine triphosphate (dUTP) nick end labeling	level of fluoride in serum was reported among participants in G-2 than those in G-1 and G-0 (p = 0.001) The increased levels of nuclear swelling, chromatin disintegration, and other signs of apoptosis were observed in G-2 as compared to Gp 1. The pyknotic changes in the cells of the renal tubules of G-2 observed but it was only occasional. Renal tubule apoptosis Level of renal tubule apoptosis among participants in G-1

Study Characteristics							
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions			
support: None			G-1 = 7%				
			G-2 = 22%				
Author declarati	ion of		p = 0.001				

Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse	
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable	
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable	
	Did selection of study participants result in	++	Participants were children (4 to 12 years of age) with	
	appropriate comparison groups?		nephrotic syndrome minimal change disease (NS-	
			MCD) from All India Institute of Medical Sciences'	
			department of pediatric outpatients. The study period	
			was from June 2012 to January 2015. Each study	
			group has the same number of participants.	

Risk of bias as	Risk of bias assessment				
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	-	ANOVA or t-tests were used to conduct statistical comparisons between study groups.		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	-	N of childhood nephrotic syndrome patients recruited = 156; however, N in group 1 = 32, N in group 2 = 32, and N in healthy controls or group 0 = 32		
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Fluoride levels were measured in urine and serum samples. No differences in exposure assessment methods were reported between study groups.		
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	+	Ultrastructural and apoptotic analysis was conducted with transmission electron microscopy and terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase deoxyuridine triphosphate nick end labelling, respectively. Blinding status unlikely to affect outcome assessment.		
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	+	Ultrastructural changes in kidney tissues and		

Risk of bias assessment					
reporting			apoptosis in kidney tubules were mentioned in the methods section. Ultrastructural changes were described in more specific details in the results section.		
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	+	Insufficient information on participants available (i.e. patient characteristics, general place of residence, etc.).		

Rathore 2018 [75]

Study Characteristic	s			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	When serum FT3,
Original Study	Fluoride levels in	Thyroid hormone	NR	FT4 and TSH of
	Drinking water	derangement		different category of our study were
Study design:	samples Urine samples	Serum levels of free T4 (FT4), free T3	Results:	compared we found

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Cross-sectional study	Blood samples	(FT3), and thyroid stimulating hormone	Free T3: mean, ±SD,[range] (pg/mL)	significant difference between these.
Country: India Participants: Children (8 to 14 years of age) from Jodhpur district	Method of exposure assessment: Drinking water samples: • Electrochemical	(TSH) Method of outcome ascertainment: • Chemiluminescence	<u>Gp 1:</u> 2.66 pg/mL ±0.46, [2.11 − 3.89] <u>Gp 2:</u> 2.73 pg/mL ±0.36, [2.13 − 3.56] <u>Gp 3:</u> 2.84 pg/mL ±0.46, [2.02 − 4.26]	• FT3 levels was highest in gp 4 with minor difference in other groups; concentration of FT4 levels was maximum
villages of Rajasthan Sampling time frame: NR	method <u>Urine and blood</u> <u>samples</u> • F ion specific electrode <u>Exposure groups</u>	Assay	Gp 4: 3.06 pg/mL ±0.78, [1.91 − 4.42] • Free T4: mean ±SD, [range] (ng/dL) Gp 1: 0.98 ±0.21, [0.79 − 1.79]	in gp 3, whereas TSH levels were significantly higher in gp 4. • As the level of fluoride increases in drinking
Sample size (N): 100 • N = 25 per exposure group	 Villages were categorized based on fluoride levels in drinking water, yielding the following 		Gp 2: 1.02 ±0.26, [0.78 – 1.89] Gp 3: 1.11 ±0.28, [0.76 – 1.98] Gp 4: 1.22 ± 0.33,	water, levels of thyroid hormones were also increased but the levels were not as significantly higher as

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Sex: NR	exposure groups:		[0.75 – 1.89]	other studies.
	Gp 1: <1ppm			
Exclusions: "Children	Gp 2: 1-1.9 ppm		$ullet$ TSH: Mean \pm SD,	
	Gp 3: 2-3.9 ppm		[range] (µIU/mL)	
who were not the	Gp 4: ≥ 4ppm		<u>Gp 1:</u> 1.33 ±0.78,	
permanent residents of			[0.4 – 2.99]	
that particular area and	Francisco leveler		<u>Gp 2:</u> 1.64 ±0.88),	
with a change of source	Exposure levels:		[0.29 – 3.76]	
of drinking water, those	• Urinary fluoride, mean		- <u>Gp 3:</u> 1.86 ±0.77,	
with orthodontic	±SD		[0.76 – 3.74]	
brackets, dentofacial	○ <i>Gp 1: 1.25 mg/L</i>		<u>Gp 4:</u> 1.91 ±1.10,	
deformities or any	±0.42		<u>06 4.</u> 1.31 ±1.10, [0.75 – 4.99]	
syndromes or	○ <i>Gp 2: 1.23 mg/</i> L		[0.75 – 4.99]	
uncooperative,	<i>±</i> 0.32			
medically and	o Gp 3: 3.03 mg/L			
physically	<i>±</i> 0.58			
compromised	o Gp 4: 4.49 mg/L			
patients" (p. 328)	±1.21			
	• Serum fluoride, mean			
	±SD			

Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Source of funding/	o Gp 1: 0.046 mg/L			
support: NR	±0.02			
	o Gp 2: 0.046 mg/L			
Author declaration of	±0.02			
Author declaration of interest: NR	○ Gp 3: 0.11 mg/L			
interest: NR	±0.09			
	o Gp 4: 0.20 mg/L			
	<i>±</i> 0.13			

Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse	
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable	
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable	

Risk of bias as	ssessment		
	Did selection of study participants result in	+	Participants were children from Jodhpur district
	appropriate comparison groups?		villages of Rajasthan. Recruitment time frame and
			participation rate between exposure groups not found.
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	_	NR
	important confounding and modifying variables?		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or	++	Children who were not the permanent residents of that
	exclusion from analysis?		particular area and with a change of source of drinking
			water, those with orthodontic brackets, dentofacial
			deformities or any syndromes or uncooperative,
			medically and physically compromised patients were
			excluded from the study. Sample sizes were the same
			across exposure groups (N = 25).
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Fluoride levels were measured in drinking water, urine,
	characterization?		and blood. No difference in exposure assessment
			methods were found between exposure groups.

Risk of bias assessment				
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	FT3, FT4, and TSH were measured in serum, and therefore are unlikely to be affected by blinding status.	
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, outcomes mentioned in the abstract were reported on in the results section.	
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	+	No description of the statistical methods used in the analysis.	

Shruthi 2018 [76]

Study Characteristic	cs			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposure:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	Higher proportion of
Original study	Fluoride levels in	Non-skeletal	Frequency between	study subjects with
	Drinking water samples	manifestations of fluoride toxicity	study groups	clinical manifestations of non-skeletal

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Study design:			Result:	fluorosis compared to
Country: India Participants: Individuals living in randomly selected villages of Bangarpet taluk, Kolar. Study groups are comprised of areas with high (Thimmasandra and Batwarahalli) and normal (Maddinayakanahalli) levels of fluoride in water. The median	Method of exposure assessment: • Measured using ion- electrode method • Used to calculate exposure dose which takes into consideration Fluoride level (mg/L) Water intake/day (L/day) Body weight (kg) Exposure levels: High fluoride group > 1.5 mg/L fluoride in water	Method of outcome ascertainment: Evaluated using clinical history for the following: • Dyspepsia with nausea, vomiting, abdomen pain, constipation, or diarrhea • Muscle weakness • Tiredness • Fatigue • Polyuria • Polydipsia • Recurrent abortions or stillbirths	• Number (%) of participants with non-skeletal manifestations of fluorosis by study groups Dyspepsia = 32 (100.0) High fluoride group = 24 (75.0) Normal fluoride group = 8 (25.0) Muscle weakness = 13 (100.0) High fluoride group = 9 (69.23)	those without clinical manifestations of non-skeletal fluorosis at nearly same doses of fluoride exposure in both high and normal fluoride groups indicates that these manifestations may be due to fluoride exposure through water or other sources like food. • Participants with dyspepsia in the high fluoride group are three-times higher than those in the normal fluoride group.

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
(interquartile range)	Normal fluoride group		Normal fluoride	
age of participants is 30	< 1.0 mg/L fluoride in		group =	
(18.75 – 45) years in	water		4 (30.77)	
the high fluoride group,			Fatigue = 32 (100.0)	
and 33 (20 – 45) years			-	
in the normal fluoride			High fluoride group =	
group.			19 (59.38)	
			Normal fluoride	
Sampling time frame:			group =	
Study duration of 1			13 (40.62)	
year				
			"None of the study	
Sample size (N):			participants had	
High fluoride group			complaints of polyuria,	
			polydipsia, repeated	
• N = 486			abortions, and	
Normal fluoride group			repeated stillbirths"	
• N = 417			(p. 1225)	
			"The study subjects	

Study Character	istics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			with clinical	
Sex:			manifestations of	
			non-skeletal fluorosis	
High fluoride grou	<u>ıb</u>		were higher compared	
• Men N (%): 245	(55.1)		to those without	
Normal fluoride g	roup		clinical manifestations	
●Men (%) = 200 ((44.9)		of non-skeletal	
	,		fluorosis at nearly	
Exclusions:			same doses of	
exclusions:			fluoride exposure in	
 Has no teeth, 			both high and normal	
 Has artificial tee 	th		fluoride groups" (p.	
Is pregnant			1225)	
Is bedridden				
• Is not available				
following the sec	cond			
visit				
Source of fundir	ng/			

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
support:					
None					
Author declarati	ion of				
interest:					
None					

Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse	
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable	
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable	
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	Participants consisted of individuals living in villages that were randomly selected from Bangarpet taluk, Kolar. Study groups were comprised of areas with high	
			and normal levels of fluoride in water. The median	

Risk of bias as	ssessment		
			(interquartile range) age of participants is 30 (18.75 –
			45) years in the high fluoride group, and 33 (20 – 45)
			years in the normal fluoride group. The study duration
			was 1 year.
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	_	NR
	important confounding and modifying variables?		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable
	Were the research personnel and human		Not applicable
	subjects blinded to the study group during the	N/A	
	study?		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or	++	Persons with no teeth, artificial teeth, pregnant women,
	exclusion from analysis?		bedridden, and the persons who were not available
			even after two visits were excluded from the study. No
			mention of missing data.
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Fluoride was measured in drinking water. No difference
	characterization?		in exposure assessment methods were reported
			between participants.
	Can we be confident in the outcome	-	Clinical history of select conditions were used to
			determine non-skeletal fluorosis manifestations.

Risk of bias assessment					
	assessment?		Uncertain if outcome assessors were blinded to exposure status.		
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Outcomes mentioned in the methods section were also reported on in the results section.		
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified.		

Yu 2018 [77]

Study Characteristic	cs			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	●"In our study, urinary
Original study	Fluoride levels in Urine samples	Intelligence quotient (IQ)	Piecewise linear regression and	fluoride levels presented a positive relationship with water
Study design:	Drinking water		multiple logistic regression models	fluoride concentration,

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Cross-sectional study	samples	Method of outcome ascertainment:	were used to assess associations of interest	indicating that fluoride from drinking water makes important
Country: China	Method of exposure assessment:	Second edition of the Combined Raven's Test – The Rural in	Stepwise linear regression models	contribution to urinary fluoride." (p. 120)
Participants: Random sample of children (7 to 13 years of age) from rural areas of Tianjin city with high and normal levels of fluoride Sampling time frame:	 Water samples Public water supplies were randomly sampled per village (N = 168) Measured using the national standardized ion selective electrode method 	China (CRT-RC2) • Used to determine IQ scores which was grouped as: Retarded: ≤ 69 Marginal: 70 – 79 Dull normal: 80 – 89 Normal: 90 – 109	used to identify possible confounders • Models were adjusted for age, sex, paternal education, maternal education, and low birth weight Results:	"chronic exposure to excessive fluoride, even at a moderate level, was inversely associated with children's intelligence scores, especially excellent intelligence
Sample size (N): 2,886 Normal-fluoride exposure (water	Urine samples: • Early morning spot urine samples were acquired from participants (N =	High normal: 110 – 119 Superior: 120 – 129 Excellent: ≥ 130 • The validated test was independently	• Threshold effect analysis: Change (95% CI) in IQ scores per 0.5 mg/L increment of fluoride	performance, with threshold and saturation effects observed in the dose- response relationships." (p. 123)

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
fluoride ≤ 1.0 mg/L) • N = 1,636 High-fluoride exposure (water fluoride > 1.0 mg/L) • N = 1,250	2,380) • Measured using the national standardized ion selective electrode method Exposure levels:	completed by participants within 40 minutes and this was overseen by four trained professionals	in water by concentration ranges $0.20 - 3.40 \text{ mg/L}$ $\beta = -0.04 \text{ (- 0.33, 0.24)}$ $3.40 - 3.90 \text{ mg/L}$ $\beta = -4.29 (- 8.09, -$	
Sex: Normal-fluoride exposure Boys N (%): 849 (51.9) High-fluoride exposure Boys N (%): 667 (53.4)	 Mean (SD) levels of fluoride in water (mg/L) (p <0.001) Normal-fluoride exposure 0.50 (0.27) High-fluoride exposure 2.00 (0.75) 		• Threshold effect analysis: Change (95% CI) in IQ scores per 0.5 mg/L increment of fluoride in urine by concentration ranges 0.01 – 1.60 mg/L	
Exclusions:	 Mean (SD) levels of fluoride in urine 		$\beta = 0.36 \text{ (- 0.29,}$ 1.01)	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Were not lifetime	(mg/L) (p <0.001)		<u>1.60 – 2.50 mg/L</u>	
residents of the study	Normal-fluoride		β = -2.67 (-4.67, -	
area	<u>exposure</u>		0.68)	
Has a disease that	0.41 (0.49)		<u>2.50 – 5.54 mg/L</u>	
impacts intelligence	High-fluoride		β = -0.84 (-2.18,	
(congenital or	<u>exposure</u>		0.50)	
acquired)	1.37 (1.08)			
Has history of			0.11 (0.70(.01) (1.0	
cerebral trauma or			• Odds (95% CI) of IQ	
neurological disorders			level among children	
Has history of a			exposed to high water	
positive screening test			fluoride (> 1.0 mg/L)	
for Down's syndrome			compared to normal	
or hepatitis			water fluoride (≤ 1.0	
B/treponema			mg/L); normal IQ is	
palladium infection			the control	
Gestational exposure			Excellent IQ	
to maternal smoking			OR = 0.47 (0.32,	
Gestational exposure			0.71)	
·			Superior IQ	

Study Characteristics						
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions		
to maternal drinking			OR = 0.89 (0.69,			
			1.15)			
Source of funding/			High normal IQ			
support:			OR = 0.96 (0.80,			
			1.15)			
State Key Program of			<u>Dull normal IQ</u>			
National Natural			OR = 0.85 (0.62,			
Science of China, and	1		1.17)			
the Fundamental			Marginal IQ			
Research Funds for			OR = 1.25 (0.69,			
the Central			2.26)			
Universities						
			• Odds (95% CI) of IQ			
Author declaration of			level among children			
interest: None			exposed to high urine			
			fluoride (> 1.60 mg/L)			
			compared to normal			
			urine fluoride (≤ 1.60			
			mg/L); normal IQ is			
			the control			

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			Excellent IQ	
			OR = 0.49 (0.26,	
			0.93)	
			Superior IQ	
			OR = 0.84 (0.58,	
			1.20)	
			High normal IQ	
			OR = 0.87 (0.68,	
			1.12)	
			<u>Dull normal IQ</u>	
			OR = 0.63 (0.39,	
			1.01)	
			Marginal IQ	
			OR = 1.44 (0.72,	
			2.91)	
			Stratified threshold	
			effect analysis: Odds	
			(95% CI) of IQ level	

Study Characte	ristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			per 0.5 mg/L	
			increment of fluoride	
			in water; normal IQ is	
			the control	
			Excellent IQ (Fluoride	
			<u>level of 0.20 – 1.40</u>	
			mg/L)	
			OR = 0.60 (0.47,	
			0.77)	
			Excellent IQ (Fluoride	
			<u>level of 1.40 – 3.90</u>	
			mg/L)	
			OR = 1.09 (0.88,	
			1.36)	
			Superior IQ	
			OR = 0.99 (0.93,	
			1.06)	
			High normal IQ	
			OR = 0.98 (0.94,	
			1.03)	

Study Characte	eristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			<u>Dull normal IQ</u>	
			OR = 0.96 (0.88,	
			1.05)	
			Marginal IQ	
			OR = 1.04 (0.89,	
			1.23)	
			 Stratified threshold 	
			effect analysis: Odds	
			(95% CI) of IQ level	
			per 0.5 mg/L	
			increment of fluoride	
			in urine; normal IQ is	
			the control	
			Excellent IQ	
			OR = 0.87 (0.76,	
			1.01)	
			Superior IQ	
			OR = 0.96 (0.89,	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			1.04)	
			High normal IQ	
			OR = 0.99 (0.94,	
			1.04)	
			Dull normal IQ	
			OR = 0.90 (0.81,	
			1.00)	
			Marginal IQ	
			OR = 1.07 (0.91,	
			1.25)	

Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse	
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable	
	Was allocation to study groups adequately	N/A	Not applicable	

Risk of bias as	ssessment		
	concealed?		
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	Participants were a random sample of children (7 to 13 years of age) from rural areas of Tianjian City with high and normal levels of fluoride. The study was conducted in 2015 and the multistage random sampling technique, stratified by area, was performed to select representative samples among local children
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	++	who were permanent residents since birth. Regression models were adjusted for age, sex, paternal education, maternal education, and low birth weight.
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Of the 2886 children recruited, urine samples were acquired from 2380 participants. A total of 2886 children completed the IQ assessments.

Risk of bias	assessment		
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Fluoride was measured in drinking water and urine samples. No differences in exposure assessment methods were found between participants.
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	IQ scores were determined using the Combined Raven's Test - The Rural in China (2nd Edition) which is a validated test that was independently completed by participants within 40 minutes, and this was overseen by trained professionals. Outcome unlikely to be affected by blinding status.
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, the outcome mentioned in the abstract was reported on in the results section.
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified.

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	●The PON1 and
Original study Study design: Case-control (Only cross-sectional analysis results are relevant to current review)	Fluoride levels in Serum Method of exposure assessment: Venipuncture used to collect samples of overnight fasting	Degree of lipid peroxidation • Plasma thiobarbituric acid reactive substance (TBARS) • Erythrocyte TBARS Lipid profiles • Cholesterol	 Pearson's correlation was used Correlations at level of 0.05 and 0.01 (2-tailed) were identified as significant Results:	related activities such as ARE and lactonase were found to be reduced in fluorosis patients. It is ascribed from the findings that the toxic effect of fluoride collectively abrogates not only
Country: India Participants:	blood • Measured using Orion Ion Analyser Exposure level:	Triglyceride (TGL)High-density lipoprotein (HDL)LDLVLDL	Correlation between serum fluoride and outcomes in patients with fluorosis • Plasma TBARS r = 0.095; p = 0.019	antiatherogenic activity but also reduces lactonase activity of PON1 thereby toxic HCy may get accumulated,

²⁹ Arulkumar 2017: Although study is designed primarily as case-control study, only results from the cross-sectional analysis were relevant to this review. Therefore, study was assessed for quality as cross-sectional using the OHAT risk of bias tool.

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Fluorosis (dental and	Drinking water fluoride	Enzyme activity	Erythrocyte TBARS	which support the
skeletal) cases and controls from 3 Tamil Nadu districts with high	concentration: > 1.5 mg/l	Paraoxonase (PON1)Arylesterase (ARE)	r = 0.783; p = 0.000 • <u>Cholesterol</u> r = 0.121; p = 0.003	chances of cardiovascular related complications in
levels of fluoride in water (Salem,	• Mean (SD) level of	Lactonase	• <u>TGL</u>	fluorosis patients. • Positive correlation
Dharmapuri, and Krishnagiri)	fluoride (mg/L) in serum by study groups	Method of outcome ascertainment:	r = -0.043; p = NS • <u>HDL</u> r = -0.075; p = 0.006	with erythrocyte TBARS (p < 0.01),
Sampling time frame:	Group I (controls): 0.07 (0.08) Group II (mild	 Venipuncture used to collect samples of overnight fasting blood 	• <u>LDL</u> r = 0.157; p = 0.000 • <u>VLDL</u> r = -0.038; p = NS	plasma TBARS (p < 0.05), cholesterol (p < 0.01) and LDL (p < 0.01).
Sample size (N): 508	fluorosis): 0.13 (0.02) Group III (moderate	 Biochemical assays conducted at ≤ 2 days from sample collection 	• <u>PON1</u> r = -0.738; p = 0.000	 Significant inverse association of serum fluoride levels with
Group I (controls) • N = 52 Group II (mild fluorosis)	fluorosis): 0.19 (0.03)	Erythrocyte and plasma TBARS	• <u>ARE</u> r = -0.447; p = 0.000 • <u>Lactonase</u>	PON1, ARE, and lactonase.
• N = 112	<u>Group IV (severe</u> <u>fluorosis):</u>	Creatinine kinase(CK-MB) assay	r = -0.645; p = 0.000	 No significant association of serum

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Group III (moderate fluorosis) • N = 136 Group IV (severe fluorosis) • N = 208	0.28 (0.03)	 Used to evaluate fluoride toxicity by identifying lipid peroxidation products TGL and HDL AGAPPE diagnostic 	Activity of membrane bound and pesticide scavenging enzymes in fluorosis patients. Serum level of AChE (U/I)	fluoride levels with TGL and VLDL. No observed correlation with serum HDL; however, serum fluoride modulates the activities of PON1,
Sex (N): Group I (controls) • Men = 28; Women =		kit Other parameters of blood Standard protocols PON1	 Controls: 6.29 ± 0.68 Mild: 4.64 ± 0.54 Moderate: 4.11 ± 0.4 Severe: 3.78 ± 0.35 	ARE and lactonase. Increased LDH5 isoenzyme (liver synthesized) activity is an indication of
24 Group II (mild fluorosis) • Men = 76; Women = 36 Group III (moderate fluorosis)		• p-nitrophenol released at 412 nm used to determine enzyme activity ARE	Serum level of ATPase/Na+ K+ ATPase • Controls: 2.41 ± 0.34 • Mild: 2.56 ± 0.31	possible liver damage in fluorosis patients. Therefore, it was concluded that the prolonged fluoride ingestion (observed in
•Men = 78; Women =		Enzyme activity determined using	Moderate: 2.64 ± 0.29Severe: 2.87 ± 0.4	moderate and severe

Study Characterist	tics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
58		absorbance of		groups) caused
Group IV (severe		phenylacetate at 270		continuous
fluorosis)		nm		multifaceted
•Men = 112; Wome	n =	Lactonase activity		calamities beyond the
96		UV-visible		regenerative capacity
		spectrophotometer		of the liver tissues.
Exclusions:		used to determine		Furthermore, the
Exclusions:		absorbance at 270 nm		decreased activity of
• "smoking, heart,				the erythrocyte
liver/kidney diseas	e,	0		membrane bound
cancer, chronic		Serum level of AChE		enzymes, AChE and
inflammation,		and ATPase/Na+ K+		ATPase indicates the
autoimmune and		<u>ATPase</u>		prevalence of memory
hematological		AChE: described by		loss with lower IQ
disorders." (p. 207)	Ellman et al. [17]		scores as well as
		ATPase: measured by		defect in signaling and
Source of funding/	1	estimating the		energy metabolism in
support:		liberated inorganic		fluorosis patients.
	on al	phosphorus (Pi), after		
Periyar University, a	ana	the reaction of		

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Indian Council of		erythrocytes			
Medical Research		homogenate with A	TP		
		[18].			
Author doclaration	an of	Total ATPase:			
Author declaration of interest: NR		assayed using UV-vis			
		spectropho-tometer at			
		660 nm.			

Risk of bias assessment			
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	+	Participants were from 3 Tamil Nadu (India) districts with high levels of fluoride in water. Recruitment time frame not found.

Risk of bias as	Risk of bias assessment						
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	-	NR				
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable				
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable				
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Reasons for exclusion were provided for the study. "Exclusion criteria were smoking, heart, liver/kidney disease, cancer, chronic inflammation, autoimmune and hematological disorders." (p. 207) There was no mention of missing data.				
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++	Fluoride was measured in serum. No difference in exposure assessment methods were found between participants.				
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	Outcome levels were measured using blood samples, and therefore are unlikely to be affected by blinding status.				
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Outcomes mentioned in the methods section were				

Risk of bias assessment						
reporting			also reported on in the results section.			
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal	++	None identified.			
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?					

Bashash 2017 [79]

Study Characteristics	5			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	Higher prenatal
Original study	Fluoride levels in Maternal urinary	Neurocognitive function in children at 4 years of	Linear regression models were used	exposure to fluoride (as indicated by
Study design: Prospective cohort	samples during gestation (proxy measure of prenatal	age, and 6 to 12 years of age	 Models assessing maternal urinary fluoride levels as 	average creatinine- adjusted maternal urinary fluoride
study	exposure to fluoride) • Child urinary samples	Method of outcome	exposure were adjusted for child	concentrations during pregnancy) was

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Country: Mexico Participants: Mother-	at 6 to 12 years of age (proxy measure of postnatal exposure to	ascertainment: Standardized version of McCarthy Scales of	characteristics (gestational age, birth weight, sex, parity,	associated with lower GCI scores in children at approximately 4y
child pairs from three hospitals in Mexico City that were enrolled in	fluoride) Method of exposure	Children's Abilities (MSCA) • Completed at 4 years	age at outcome assessment) and maternal	old, and with lower Full-Scale IQ scores at 6–12 y old.
two of four cohorts of the Early Life Exposures in Mexico to Environmental Toxicants (ELEMENT) study; specifically, participants from cohorts 2A and 3 were included in the analysis	assessment: • Second morning void spot urine sample • Ion-selective electrode-based assays used to measure fluoride in most samples • Maternal fluoride	of age • Used to acquire a standardized composite score called the General Cognitive Index (GCI) Wechsler Abbreviated Scale of Intelligence (WASI)	characteristics (smoking history, marital status, delivery age, IQ, education, and cohort) • Models assessing child urinary fluoride levels were adjusted for the main	• In models that focused on the cross- sectional relationship between children's exposure to fluoride (reflected by their specific gravity— adjusted urinary fluoride levels) and IQ
Sampling time frame: Cohort 2A:	levels in urinary samples were adjusted for creatinine • Child fluoride levels in	Completed at 6 to 12 years of ageUsed to acquire Full-Scale IQ	covariates of interest Results: Change (95% CI) in	score and that contained the main covariates of interest, there was not a clear, statistically significant

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
 May 1997 – July 1999 Cohort 3 2001 to 2003 Sample size (N): 299 mother-child pairs Sex: GCI analysis: Girls N (%) = 160 (56) IQ analysis: Girls 	urinary samples were adjusted for specific gravity Exposure levels: Water fluoride levels in Mexico City: o 0.15 - 1:38 mg/L (Juárez- Lópezetal.2007; Martínez-Mier et al.2005).	Other Details Experienced developmental psychologist trained and oversaw the administration of tests by three other psychologists Psychologist conducting the assessment was blinded to the child's exposure level	outcome per 0.5 mg/L increase in maternal urinary fluoride levels adjusted for creatinine • GCI β = -3.15 (-5.42, -0.87) p = 0.01 • IQ β = -2.50 (-4.12, -0.59) p = 0.01	association between contemporaneous children's urinary fluoride (CUFsg) and IQ either unadjusted or adjusting for MUFcr
N (%) = 116 (55)Exclusions:No gestational urine	Maternal urinary fluoride (Mean ±SD) o 0.88 mg/L ±0.34 Child urinary fluoride (Mean ±SD)		Change (95% CI) in outcome per 0.5 mg/L increase in child urinary fluoride levels adjusted for specific gravity	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
sample available	0.84 mg/L ±0.40		• IQ − Without	
(Cohort 1 and 2B)			adjustment of	
•> 14 gestational			maternal urinary	
weeks at recruitment			<u>fluoride levels</u>	
• Do not intend to			β = - 0.89 (-2.63,	
reside in study area			0.85)	
for ≥ 5 years			• IQ – With adjustment	
History of psychiatric			of maternal urinary	
disorders,			<u>fluoride levels</u>	
pregnancies that are			β = - 0.77 (-2.53,	
high-risk, or			0.99)	
gestational diabetes				
Daily alcohol				
consumption				
Illegal/prescription				
drug use				
• Have kidney disease,				
high blood pressure,				
preeclampsia,				

Study Characteristics Conclusions Study **Exposure Outcome Analysis & Results** circulatory disease, and seizures during gestation No neurocognitive function measurement in the child Source of funding/ support: NIH, NIEHS/EPA, and the National Institute of Public Health/Ministry of Health of Mexico; facilities provided by the American British Cowdray Hospital **Author declaration of** interest: No competing

Study Characte	eristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
financial interest	ts			

Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Response			
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Did selection of study participants result in		Participants were mother-child pairs from three		
	appropriate comparison groups?		hospitals in Mexico City that were enrolled in two of		
			four cohorts of the Early Life Exposures in Mexico to		
		++	Environmental Toxicants (ELEMENT) study. Time of		
			recruitment was from May 1997 to July 1999 for cohort		
			2A and 2001 to 2003 for cohort 3; however, mean		
			maternal urinary fluoride levels adjusted for creatinine		
			was not significantly different between groups (Cohort		

Risk of bias as	ssessment		
			3 - Intervention; Cohort 3 - Placebo; Cohort 2A).
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for		Regression models were adjusted for child
	important confounding and modifying variables?		characteristics (gestational age, birth weight, sex,
			parity, and age at outcome assessment), and maternal
			characteristics (smoking history, marital status, age at
			delivery, IQ, education, and cohort).
		+	We also note that the coefficients for the associations
			between fluoride on cognition varied substantially in
			some of the sensitivity analyses, particularly with
			respect to the subgroups of participants who have
			data on SES, lead exposure, and mercury exposure
			(of which, for the latter, the effect estimates almost
			doubled).
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable
	Were the research personnel and human		Not applicable
	subjects blinded to the study group during the	N/A	
	study?		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or		Reasons for exclusion were documented. N = 512 for
	exclusion from analysis?		pregnant women with data on fluoride and creatinine;

Risk of bias	assessment		
			N = 312 and 234 for children with data on GCI and IQ, respectively; N = 287 for children with GCI and complete covariate data; N = 211 for children with IQ and complete covariate data. In the comparisons of participants in relation to missing data, the proportion of females was somewhat higher in the included versus excluded group for both the GCI and IQ analyses, and the mean levels of maternal blood Hg for those included were 28.5% and 24.9% higher than the mean levels for those excluded in the GCI and IQ analyses, respectively. We also note that the coefficients for the associations between fluoride on cognition varied substantially in some of the sensitivity analyses, particularly with respect to the subgroups of participants who have data on SES, lead exposure, and mercury exposure (of which, for the latter, the effect estimates almost doubled).
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	+	Fluoride levels were measured in maternal and child

Risk of bias as	Risk of bias assessment				
	characterization?		urinary samples. A relatively smaller number of		
			prenatal samples were	asse	ssed at a different lab
			because the quality co	ntrol	criteria for ion-selective
			electrode-based metho	ds w	ere not met.
	Can we be confident in the outcome		Participants were		Participants were
	assessment?		recruited at 14		recruited at 14
			gestational weeks or		gestational weeks or
			less. General		less. Full-Scale IQ was
			Cognitive Index (GCI)		measured using the
			was acquired using		Wechsler Abbreviated
			the standardized		Scale of Intelligence
			version of the		(WASI) at age 6 to 12.
		++	McCarthy Scales of	++	An experienced
			children's Abilities		developmental
			(MSCA) at age 4. An		psychologist trained and
			experienced		oversaw the
			developmental		administration of the
			psychologist trained		tests by three other
			and oversaw the		psychologists. As well,
			administration of the		the psychologist
			tests by three other		conducting the

Risk of bias a	Risk of bias assessment				
			psychologists. As well, the psychologist conducting the assessment was blinded to the child's exposure level. Regression models were adjusted for the age at outcome assessment.		assessment was blinded to the child's exposure level. Regression models were adjusted for the age at outcome assessment.
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, outcomes mention reported on in the resu		n the abstract were also ection.
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified.		

Chauhan 2017 [80]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type: Abstract Study design: NR Country: India Participants: Population exposed to fluoride Sample size (N): 100 Sex: Men (100%)	Exposure: • Fluoride Method of exposure assessment: NR Exposure level: NR	Outcomes: • Semen morphological parameters • Hypothalamictesticular axis hormones (LH, FSH, prolactin, testosterone) • Oxidative stress markers Method of outcome ascertainment: NR	Statistical analysis: NR Results: • "LH, FSH, testosterone and prolactin values was significantly (p<0.05) alters in fluoride exposed population." (p. S236) • "Increased lipid peroxidation and Protein carbonyl content and decreased antioxidant	• "This study suggests that hypothalamic testicular axis hormones and oxidative stress parameters can be useful as early markers for determination of disease fluorosis in population those residing in high fluoride regions." (p. S236)
			status i.e., SOD, CAT,	

Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Exclusions: NR			GPx and GSH was	
			observed." (p. S236)	
0	~.I		"Sperm count, motility	
Source of fundin	ig/		and viability was	
support: NR			delineated in exposed	
			population." (p. S236)	
Author declaration	on of			
interest: NR				

Risk of bias a	Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse			
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable			
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable			
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	NA	Abstract			

Risk of bias a	ssessment		
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	NA	Abstract
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	NA	Abstract
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	NA	Abstract
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	NA	Abstract
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	NA	Abstract
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	NA	Abstract

Stephenson 2017 [81]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference Type:	Exposure:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	These results suggest
Abstract	• Fluoridated water	Suicide rates	Correlation coefficients	that fluoridation may be correlated with a decrease in the
Study design: NR	Method of exposure	Method of outcome		rate of suicide by
	assessment:	ascertainment:	Results	reducing the levels of
Country: US	 State data from the 	• NR	 Relationship between 	microorganisms found
Particle and a ND	CDC		fluoridated water and suicide rates:	in drinking water.
Participants: NR	Exposure levels: NR		<u>Year 2010</u>	
			r= -0.386; p= 0.05	
Sampling time frame:			<u>Year 2012</u>	
2010, 2012, and 2014			r= -0.324; p= 0.020	
			<u>Year 2014</u>	
Sample size (N): NR			r= -0.342; p= 0.014	

Study Characteristics						
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions		
Sex: NR						
Age: NR						
Exclusions: NR						
Source of funding	ng/					
support: USTAR						
Author declaration	on of					
interest: NR						

Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Response		
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level	N/A Not applicable		

Risk of bias as	ssessment		
	adequately randomized?		
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	NA	Abstract
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	NA	Abstract
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	NA	Abstract
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	NA	Abstract
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	NA	Abstract

Risk of bias a	Risk of bias assessment					
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	NA	Abstract			
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	NA	Abstract			

Verma 2017 [82]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	"Prevalence of dental
Original study	Fluoride levels in ground water	Dental fluorosis	Chi-square testMultivariable analysis with generalized estimating	fluorosis was considerably high, affecting nearly two-
Study design:		Method of outcome	equation (GEE) regression	thirds of the students,
Cross-sectional study	Method of exposure	ascertainment:	model	and
	assessment:	 Dental examination using 		mainly in government
	The Orion method	Dean's fluorosis index		schools and long-

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Country:	(Selective Electrode	Community fluorosis	Results:	term residents of the	
India	fluoride estimation	index (CFI)	Karl Pearson correlation	area."	
	apparatus)		coefficient (all 6 villages)		
Participants:			Mean fluoride level in		
High school adolescents	Exposure level:		water: 1.4 mg/L ± 0.38		
(12–17 years) from	Mean water fluoride:		Community fluorosis index:		
randomly selected	• Holur: 0.85 mg/L.		2.3 ± 0.37		
government and private	• Other 5 villages: ≥1.2				
schools in urban and rural	mg/L		Multivariable regression		
areas of Kolar taluka (6	• All 6 villages: 1.4 ±0.38		analysis (GEE) by drinking		
villages). All students who	All o villages. 1.4 ±0.00		water source:		
were residents of the area					
since birth were included in			Fluorosis present:		
the study.			o Bore well water: 551		
·			(63.7%)		
			Pipe/tape water: 79		
Sampling time frame:			(64.8%)		
February - August 2013			• Total:		
			o Bore well water: 865		
			Pipe/tape water:122		
Sample size:			• β estimate (95%CI):		

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
1,026			o Bore well water:		
			0.92(-0.32,2.16), p-		
Cov (NI)			value: 0.145		
Sex (N):			Pipe/tape water: 0		
Boys: 509 (49.6%)					
Exclusions:					
NR					
Source of funding	1				
support:					
None					
140110					
Author declaration	n of				
interest:					
• No COI					

Risk of bias assessment

Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse		
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	Yes, participants were selected during the same timeframe and according to the same criteria.		
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	++	Yes, it accounted for some confounders such as fluoridated toothpaste, consumption of finger millet and tea.		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	-	Insufficient information provided on reasons for exclusion of participants		
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Yes, exposure was measured in water using the Orion method (Selective Electrode fluoride estimation		

Risk of bias assessment				
	characterization?		apparatus).	
	Can we be confident in the outcome	++	Yes, outcome (dental fluorosis) was measured by a	
	assessment?		dental specialist using Dean's Fluorosis Index and	
			Community fluorosis index (CFI). Lack of blinding of	
			outcome assessors would not appreciably bias	
			results.	
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were	
reporting			presented in results section with adequate level of	
			detail for data extraction	
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal	++	None identified	
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were			
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the			
	study protocol)?			

Cardenas-Gonzalez 2016 [83]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
	Exposures:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	• The correlation of
Reference type:	Fluoride levels in	Kidney injury biomarkers	 Spearman's correlation and linear 	fluoride levels between urine and
Original study	Urine samplesDrinking water	• Kidney injury	regression models were used.	water samples was significant
Study design:	samples	molecule 1 (KIM-1) • Neutrophil gelatinase-	 Model 1 was adjusted 	suggesting that water is the main source of
Cross-sectional study	Method of exposure assessment:	associated lipocalin (NGAL)	for age, sex, and BMI z-score • Model 2 was adjusted	fluoride exposure. • Urinary miR-200c was
Country: Mexico	Urine Samples One spot urine	Serum creatinine (SCr)MircroRNAs	for model 1 covariates and urinary specific	correlated with fluoride There was
Participants: Children	sample used	(miRNAs): miR-21,	gravity	no correlation between any of the
(5 to 12 years of age) residents of Villa de Reyes County of San Luis Potosi, who were	 Ion selective electrode was used to measure fluoride Water samples 	miR200c, and miR- 423 • Estimated glomerular	 Model 3 was adjusted for model 1 covariates and urinary creatinine 	other biomarkers and toxicants exposure levels.
between grades 1 to 6 at two public	Water samples were	filtration rate (eGFR) • Albumin-creatinine	Results:	 Regression models examining the

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
elementary schools	collected on March 2015	ratio (ACR)	Correlation between urinary levels of fluoride	association between urine fluoride and
Sampling time frame: June 2014	 tap and bottled water samples were acquired from 63 participants 	Method of outcome ascertainment: KIM-1 and NGAL	(ppm) and kidney injury biomarkers: • KIM-1 (pg/mL)	the kidney injury biomarkers did not show any statistically significant differences
Sample size (N): 83	 Well water samples were acquired at various depths (1 m = 	Micro-bead assaysMeasured in urine samples	r = 0.09; p = 0.38 • NGAL (ng/mL) r = -0.2; p = 0.07 • miR-21 (copies/µl)	(data not shown).
Sex: Boys	superficial; 100 m = middle; 130 m = deep)	Urinary albumin, urinary creatinine, and	r = 0.05; p = 0.67 • miR-200c (copies/μl)	
N (%) = 47 (56.63)	from three water systems that are local	• Daytona auto-	r = 0.27; p = 0.01 • miR-423 (copies/μl)	
Exclusions:	 Ion selective electrode was used to measure fluoride 	analyzer <u>miRNAs</u>	r = 0.14; p 0.22 • <u>SCr (mg/dL)</u>	
Were not lifetime residents of the study area		 RNA isolation, reverse transcription, pre- 	r = 0.07; p = 0.53 • <u>eGFR (mL/min)</u>	
Girls with menarche	Exposure level: Tap water fluoride,	amplification, qPCR, and quantification	r = - 0.19; p = 0.07 • <u>ACR (mg/gCr)</u>	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
 Has congenital kidney disease or urinary tract infections Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs or antibiotics use Source of funding/support: National Council on Science and Technology Fundacion Mexico en Harvard A. C., NIH/NIEHS 	mean (range) o 2.47 ppm (2.08 - 2.94) Urinary fluoride, mean (range) 2.18 ppm (0.34 - 8.60)	Measured in urine samples	r = 0.08; p = 0.45 Regression analysis No statistically significant differences reported between fluoride levels in urine and outcome biomarkers	Conclusions
 Harvard-NIEHS Centre for Environmental Health 				
•HSPH-NIEHS				

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Author declarat	tion of			
interest: None				

Risk of bias assessment				
Bias domain	Criterion	Response		
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable	
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable	
	Did selection of study participants result in	++	Participants were children (5 to 12 years of age) from	
	appropriate comparison groups?		Villa de Reyes county of San Luis Potosi, who were	
			between grades 1 to 6 at two public elementary	
			schools. The time of sampling for the study was June	
			2014.	
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	++	Model 1 was adjusted for age, sex, and BMI z-score.	
	important confounding and modifying variables?		Model 2 was adjusted for model 1 covariates and	

Risk of bias a	ssessment		
			urinary specific gravity. Model 3 was adjusted for
			model 1 covariates and urinary creatinine.
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the	N/A	Not applicable
	study?		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or	++	Reasons for exclusion were provided for the study. "Of
	exclusion from analysis?		the initial 107 child participants, we excluded 16 with
			no urine or blood sample and 8 with an incomplete
			questionnaire." (p. 655)
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Fluoride levels were measured in urine and tap water
	characterization?		samples. No difference in exposure assessment
			methods were found between participants.
	Can we be confident in the outcome	++	Several kidney injury biomarkers were measured in
	assessment?		urine (KIM-1, NGAL, miR-21, miR-200c, miR-423,
			creatinine) or serum (creatinine). Other biomarkers of
			kidney injury assessed include the estimated
			glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) and albumin-
			creatinine ratio (ACR), where albumin was measured

Risk of bias	Risk of bias assessment				
			in urine.		
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	+	All outcomes mentioned in the methods section were reported on in the results section. Although spearman correlation coefficients and p-values were reported for the association between fluoride and outcomes, regression estimates were not provided but indicated as not being statistically different.		
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified.		

de Moura 2016 [84]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	"The prevalence of
Original study	Fluoride levels in	Dental fluorosis	 Prevalence of dental fluorosis 	fluorosis was high, though the severity

Study Characteristics						
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions		
Study design:	• Water	Method of outcome	Descriptive data analysis	was low in individuals exposed to fluoridation since		
Cross-sectional	Method of exposure assessment:	Assessment conducted by	Results: • The prevalence of fluorosis	birth."		
Country: Brazil	NR	dental surgeons using the Thylstrup-Fejerskov (TF) Index	was 77.9% (n = 445). • 12.1% (n = 69) of all			
	Exposure level: 0.6-0.8 ppm (as reported		participants had fluorosis of TF3, and 0.4% of TF4			
Participants: 11 to 14-year-old school children with fully erupted permanent teeth, signed informed consent, and completed sociodemographic questionnaire.	by the same author in in earlier study (Moura et al. 2010), for the same city of residence of the study participants		 and TF5 (n=2). Of the participants with higher severity of fluorosis: 98.6% (n = 70) belonged to the lowest social class (≥ B2), 91.5% were born and always lived in 			
Sampling time frame: 2011			Teresina, o 94.4% consumed fluoridated water supply			

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Sample size:			o 76% used infant		
571 (out of 596)			toothpaste, and		
			64% reported swallowing		
Sex (N):			this toothpaste		
NR					
Exclusions:					
• Children with imperfect					
amelogenesis					
Children undergoing fixe					
orthodontic treatment at	t				
the time of the					
assessment.Children who were abse	ant				
on the day of clinical	5Ht				
examination					
Source of funding /					
support:					

Study Characteristics						
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions		
NR						
Author declaration	n of					
interest:						
NR						

Risk of bias assessment						
Bias domain	n Criterion Response					
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable			
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable			
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	++	Yes, participants were selected during the same timeframe and according to the same criteria.			
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	-	NR			
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across	N/A	Not applicable			

Risk of bias assessment				
	study groups?			
	Were the research personnel and human	N/A	Not applicable	
	subjects blinded to the study group during the			
	study?			
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or	++	Study provided reasons for exclusion of participants	
	exclusion from analysis?		(children with imperfect amelogenesis, undergoing fixed	
			orthodontic treatment at the time of the assessment, or	
			those who were absent on the day of clinical	
			examination).	
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	-	NR	
	characterization?			
	Can we be confident in the outcome	++	Yes, outcome (dental fluorosis) was measured by dental	
	assessment?		surgeons using the Thylstrup-Fejerskov (TF) Index.	
			Dentists were blinded to participants' clinical condition	
			and residence.	
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were	
reporting			presented in results section with adequate level of detail	
			for data extraction	

Risk of bias assessment					
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal	++	None identified		
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?				

Heck 2016 [85]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	No evidence of an
Dissertation	Fluoridated water	Trouble workingRetardation	Linear regression models used	effect of water fluoridation on general
Study design: Cross-sectional study	Method of exposure assessment:	 General health 	 Models adjusted for race, sex, urban 	health, trouble working for children or adults, retardation in children.
Cross-sectional study	Data from the 1992Fluoridation Census	Method of outcome ascertainment:	status, and income.	
Country:	and the 1990 Census were combined to	Trouble working in	Results: Change (standard	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Participants: Child (14 to 15 years of age) and adult (17 to 90 years of age) civilians who are not institutionalized from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey III (NHANES III) Sampling time frame: NR	acquire the proportion of individuals with optimally fluoridated water in a county • The same fluoridation exposure is given to all individuals in the same county Exposure levels: NR	 children and adults: Self-reported Difficulty conducting specific activities (housework, gardening, exercise, or play) Categories: No difficulty, some difficulty, moderate difficulty, and could not do Retardation in children Self-reported Physician diagnosed mental retardation General Health in 	error; SE) in outcome from the effect of residential optimal water fluoridation among children • Trouble working (N = $\frac{2.583}{0.039}$) • Retardation (N = $\frac{4.796}{0.002}$) • General Health (N = $\frac{4.618}{0.002}$) Change (SE) in outcome from the effect	
Sample size (N):		children and adults	of optimal water	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
• Counties: 35 • Populations: > 500,000 Sex: NR		 General health of participant as decided by physician Categories: Excellent, very good, good, fair, and poor 	fluoridation among adults • Trouble working (N = 7,100) β = 0.041 (0.043) • General health (N =	
Exclusions: NR			$\frac{7,088}{\beta} = -0.028 (0.143)$	
Source of funding/ support: NR				
Author declaration of interest: NR				

Risk of bias assessment						
Bias domain	Criterion	Res	ponse			
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable			
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable			
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	+	Study subject were from NHANES III where "national estimates of the health and nutritional status of the United States' civilian, noninstitutionalized population aged two months and older" are provided. Recruitment time frame not found.			
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	+	Models adjusted for race, sex, urban status, and income			
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable			
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable			
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without	-	Not reported.			

Risk of bias	assessment						
	attrition or exclusion from analysis?						
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure		Fluoride ex	posure e	stimated using	g data fro	om the 1992
	characterization?	++	Fluoridation	n Census	and 1990 Ce	nsus fror	n the US Bureau of
			the Census	S.			
	Can we be confident in the outcome		Trouble		Retardation		General health
	assessment?		working is		is self-		status was
			self-		reported.		determined by an
			reported.		Outcome		examining
			Outcome		assessors		physician.
			assessors		unlikely		Outcome
			unlikely		affected by		assessors
		++	affected	++	exposure	++	unlikely affected
			by		status as		by exposure
			exposure		data were		status as data
			status as		from		were from
			data were		different		different sources.
			from		sources.		
			different				
			sources.				
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, results	s were re	ported for gen	eral hea	th, trouble

Risk of bias assessment					
reporting			working, and retardation.		
Other	Were there no other potential threats to		Exposure was assessed at the level of the county. As		
sources	internal validity (e.g., statistical methods		individual levels of exposure were not measured, variation in		
	were appropriate and researchers		fluoride levels within the county could not be accounted for in		
	adhered to the study protocol)?	+	the analysis (i.e. potential difference in fluoride water		
			exposure among those who drink tap water sometime		
			compared to all the time).		

Kousik 2016 [86]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposure:	Outcomes:	Statistical analysis:	 The results also
Original study Study design: Cross-sectional study/	Fluoride levels inUrine samplesGround water samples	Body mass index (BMI)Intelligence quotient (IQ)	Correlation analysisResults:Correlation between	reveal that exposure dose has a positive correlation with urinary fluoride (r=0.513, P < 0.01), a negative correlation

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
ecological study		Method of outcome	urinary fluoride and	with IQ ($r = -0.343$,
	Method of exposure	ascertainment:	exposure dose	P<0.01), and a non-
Country: India	assessment:	<u>BMI</u>	r = 0.513; p = <0.01	significant correlation
Gourny, maia	Water samples	 Information needed for calculations were 	 Correlation between urinary fluoride and 	with BMI (r = 0.083). • Children residing in
Participants: Children	Randomly acquired	acquired from 8	BMI	areas with higher than
(6 to 18 years of age) from Simlapal Block in	from 50 tube wells • Performed field	primary schools	r = 0.022; p not <0.01	normal water fluoride level demonstrated
Bankura District	investigations during November 2014	IQ • Determined using the	 Correlation between urinary fluoride and IQ 	more impaired development of
Sampling time frame:	Measured using ion- selective electrodeUsed to calculate	Combined Raven's Test for Rural China (CRT-RC)	r = -0.751; p = <0.01 • Correlation between exposure dose and	intelligence
Sample size (N): 149	'Fluoride exposure dose' (ED) which takes into	Test was independently completed in a	BMI r = -0.083; p not < 0.01	
Sex:	consideration: Fluoride level	double-blind manner in the classroom	Correlation between exposure dose and IQ	
<u>Boys</u>	Water intake/day	Scores were grouped as	r = -0.343; p = < 0.01 • Relationship between	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
• N = 66	Body weight	Retarded/low: ≤ 69	exposure dose and	
	Urine samples	Borderline: 79 - 79	BMI among boys age	
Exclusions: NR	 Measured using ion- selective electrode 	Below average: 80 – 89 Average: 90 – 109	6-8 years BMI = 13.9 - 2.7 ED r = 0.073	
Source of funding/	Exposure levels:	Above average: 110	p = 0.832	
support: NR	Mean (SD) levels of fluoride	– 119Excellent: 120 – 129Outstanding: ≥ 130	 Relationship between exposure dose and BMI among girls age 	
Author declaration of	in water samples	Garatamanng, = 100	6-8 years	
interest: NR	2.11 mg/L (1.64)		BMI = 13.3 + 29.3	
	• Levels of fluoride in		ED	
	urine samples		r = 0.092	
	Min = 0.45 mg/L		p = 0.716	
	Max = 17.00 mg/L		• Relationship between	
			exposure dose and	
			BMI among boys age 8-10 year	
			BMI = 15.3 – 12.7	
			ED	

Study Characteristics						
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions		
			r = 0.124			
			p = 0.451			
			 Relationship between 			
			exposure dose and			
			BMI among girls age			
			8-10 years			
			BMI = 14.1 - 5.69			
			ED			
			r = 0.144			
			p = 0.362			
			 Relationship between 			
			exposure dose and			
			BMI among boys age			
			>10 years			
			BMI = 17.3 - 20.1			
			ED			
			r = 0.217			
			p = 0.371			
			 Relationship between 			
			exposure dose and			

Study Characte	eristics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
			BMI among girls age	
			>10 years	
			BMI = 14.3 + 3.63	
			ED	
			r = 0.133	
			p = 0.575	

Risk of bias assessment						
Bias domain	Criterion	Response				
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A	Not applicable			
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A	Not applicable			
	Did selection of study participants result in appropriate comparison groups?	+	Participants consist of children (6 to 18 years of age) from Simlapal Block in Bankura District. Recruitment timeframe not found.			
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	-	NR			

Risk of bias assessment						
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable			
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A				
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	No mention of excluding participants or missing data.			
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization?	++		els were measured in water and urine. No assessment methods were reported ticipants.		
	Can we be confident in the outcome assessment?	++	Eight primary schools of respective villages were used to collect age, weight and height for calculating body mass index (BMI). Outcome unlikely to be affected by	++	The intelligence quotient (IQ) of each child was measured according to Combined Raven's Test for Rural China (CRT-RC), published by Huadong Normal University in 1989. The children were administered to take the test in the classroom, working	

Risk of bias assessment						
			blinding status. independently, in a double blind manner according to)		
			the directions of the CRT-RC manual for the test administration conditions.			
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, outcomes mentioned in the abstract were reported on in the results section.	ed		
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified.			

Sabokseir 2016 [87]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	• "Fluorosis indices, if
Original study	Fluoride levels in	 Dental fluorosis 	 Logistic regression was used to assess the 	used alone, could result in

Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
	• Water		association between	misdiagnosis of
Study design:		Method of outcome	fluoride drinking water	dental fluorosis and
Cross-sectional study	Method of exposure	ascertainment:	levels and fluorosis	misguide health policymakers in
	assessment:	• Dentists assessed photos		their decision about
Country:	Acquired from the town's	using the Dean's Index	Results:	public health
-	primary health care trust	and Thylstrup and	Percentage of genuine	measure related to
Iran		Fejerskov (TF) Index	fluorosis by exposure	use of fluoride."
	Exposure level:		categories	"Information about
Participants:	Fluoride levels by town		High Water Fluoride:	adverse health-
Children (9 years of age)	and category of exposure:		47.7%	related conditions linked to DDEs at
randomly selected from			Optimal Water Fluoride:	specific positions
locations with high, optimal,	Gerash (high fluoride)		20.6% • Low Water Fluoride:	on teeth could help
and low fluoride drinking water levels in Fars	• 2.12 – 2.85 ppm		3.3%	to differentiate
water levels in Fais	Sepidan (low fluoride)		• p-value: <0.001	between genuine
	• 0.24 – 0.29 ppm		•	fluorosis and
Sampling time frame:	Shiraz (optimal fluoride)		0.11 (0.72) 013 (fluorosis-
NR	• 0.62 – 1.22 ppm		Odds (95% CI) of genuine fluorosis with optimal compared to high fluoride	resembling defects." (p. 8)
Sample size:			levels:	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
376			• 0.292 (0.168 – 0.506)	
Sex (N): Boys: 196 (53%)			Odds (95% CI) of genuine fluorosis with low compared to high fluoride levels: • 0.037 (0.011 – 0.127)	
Exclusions:				
 Resided in other town from birth to age 5 years for >6 months <7 permanent incisor teeth Have orthodontic brackets Have overlapping teeth Have large restorations Have severe extrinsic stains on incisors 				
Source of funding / support:				

Study Characteristics					
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions	
Vice-Chancellery for					
Research of Shiraz					
University of Medical					
Science					
Author declaration of					
interest:					

Risk of bias assessment						
Bias domain	Criterion	Response				
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A Not applicable				
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A Not applicable				
	Did selection of study participants result in	+ Yes, participants were selected using the same criteria. However, the sampling timeframe was not reported				

Risk of bias as	Risk of bias assessment				
	appropriate comparison groups?				
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for important confounding and modifying variables?	+	Study accounted only for sex		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across study groups?	N/A	Not applicable		
	Were the research personnel and human subjects blinded to the study group during the study?	N/A	Not applicable		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or exclusion from analysis?	++	Study provided reasons for exclusion of participants (resided in other town from birth to age 5 years for >6 months, have <7 permanent incisor teeth, orthodontic brackets, overlapping teeth, large restorations, or severe extrinsic stains on incisors).		
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure characterization? Can we be confident in the outcome	++	Yes, fluoride exposure levels were obtained from each town's primary health care trust records Yes, outcome (dental fluorosis) was measured by 8		
	assessment?		calibrated dentists: 4 using the Dean's Index (DI) and 4 using Thylstrup and Fejerskov (TF) Index. The diagnosis of dental fluorosis was confirmed only if three out of four		

Risk of bias assessment				
			dentists of each group agreed. Dentists were blinded to participants' clinical condition and residence.	
Selective reporting	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were presented in results section with adequate level of detail for data extraction	
Other sources	Were there no other potential threats to internal validity (e.g., statistical methods were appropriate and researchers adhered to the study protocol)?	++	None identified	

Xiang 2016 [88]

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Reference type:	Exposures:	Outcome(s):	Statistical analysis:	"This study suggests
Original study	Fluoride levels in Taps, deep wells, or river	Dental fluorosisDefect dental fluorosis	Prevalence of dental fluorosis and defect dental	that defluoridation of drinking water is effective for

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
Study design: Cross-sectional study	sources	Method of outcome	fluorosis were calculated	controlling endemic fluorosis in China
Country:	Method of exposure assessment:	ascertainment: • Permanent teeth were	Results: • "The prevalence of dental	and that the role of fluoridation of public water supplies for the
China	 Fluoride ion selective electrode 	examined by dentists and endemic fluorosis control and prevention expert	fluorosis and defect dental fluorosis in 2002 had a significant positive dose–	of control dental caries needs to be further studied." (p.
Participants: Children (8 – 14 years of age) from Wamiao and Xinhuai	Exposure level: Mean fluoride level in tap water (SD) in 2013 Wamiao	 Assessment conducted using Dean's classification and the Chinese "Clinical diagnostic standard for dental fluorosis" 	response correlation with the drinking water fluoride with the coefficient correlations, regression equations, and p values	23)
Sampling time frame:	• 0.91 mg/L (0.02)	Defect dental fluorosis:	being r=0.999, y=99.552/(1+40.049×e-	
 2002: before defluoridation 2013: 10 years after defluoridation Sample size (N):	<u>Xinhuai</u> 0.89 mg/L (0.03)	"Defect means there was a small dent, or/and a large pit, or/and a larger striped area in the surface of the dental enamel. Defect dental fluorosis included some "moderate" dental	3.464x), and p=0.017; and r=0.987, y=17.520x – 6.950, and p=0.001, respectively." (p. 23) • "The prevalence of dental fluorosis and defect dental fluorosis were significantly	

Study Characteristics				
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
<u>2002:</u>		fluorosis (grade 3) and all	decreased with the	
• Wamiao = 236		"severe" dental fluorosis	decreased drinking water fluoride in Wamiao in 2013	
• Xinhuai = 290		(grade 4) as diagnosed by Dean's criteria" (p. 25)	after defluoridation	
2013:		2 can c cineria (p. 20)	compared with the results	
• Wamiao = 68			in 2002." (p. 23)	
• Xinhuai = 65				
Sex (N):				
Wamiao in 2002				
Men: 130 (55.1%)				
Xinhuai in 2002				
Men: 159 (54.8%)				
Exclusions:				
2013 participants				
Absent from village for				

Study Characteris	stics			
Study	Exposure	Outcome	Analysis & Results	Conclusions
>=1year				
Source of funding	g /			
support:				
National Natural So	cience			
Foundation of Chir	na			
Author declaratio	on of			
interest:				
No COI				

Risk of bias assessment					
Bias domain	Criterion	Response			
Selection	Was administered dose or exposure level adequately randomized?	N/A Not applicable			
	Was allocation to study groups adequately concealed?	N/A Not applicable			

Risk of bias a	ssessment		
	Did selection of study participants result in	++	Yes, participants were selected during the same
	appropriate comparison groups?		timeframe and according to the same criteria.
Confounding	Did the study design or analysis account for	-	NR
	important confounding and modifying variables?		
Performance	Were experimental conditions identical across	N/A	Not applicable
	study groups?		
	Were the research personnel and human	N/A	Not applicable
	subjects blinded to the study group during the		
	study?		
Attrition	Were outcome data complete without attrition or	++	Study provided reasons for exclusion of participants
	exclusion from analysis?		(those who were absent from village for >=1year).
Detection	Can we be confident in the exposure	++	Yes, exposure was measured in water using a fluoride
	characterization?		ion selective electrode (Manufactured by Chang Sha Yi
			Ming Experimental Instrument Co., Ltd, China).
	Can we be confident in the outcome	++	Yes, outcome (dental fluorosis) was assessed by 2
	assessment?		dentists and 1 expert in endemic fluorosis using Dean's
			Index and the Chinese "Clinical diagnostic standard for
			dental fluorosis" (WS/T208-2001). Lack of blinding of
			outcome assessors would not appreciably bias results.

Risk of bias assessment			
Selective	Were all measured outcomes reported?	++	Yes, primary outcomes discussed in methods were
reporting			presented in results section with adequate level of detail
			for data extraction
Other	Were there no other potential threats to internal	++	None identified
sources	validity (e.g., statistical methods were		
	appropriate and researchers adhered to the		
	study protocol)?		

Section 4. Excluded animal studies (with reasons for exclusion)

Level	Bibliography	Reason for Exclusion
L1	Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health. CADTH Rapid Response Reports. 2019. 10:23	One or more exclusion criteria
L1	Klein, E., Ciobanu, M., Klein, J., Machi, V., Leborgne, C., Vandamme, T., Frisch, B., Pons, F., Kichler, A., Zuber, G., Lebeau, L "HFP" fluorinated cationic lipids for enhanced lipoplex stability and gene delivery. <i>Bioconjug Chem.</i> 2010. 21:360-71	One or more exclusion criteria
L1	McInnes, S. J., Michl, T. D., Delalat, B., Al-Bataineh, S. A., Coad, B. R., Vasilev, K., Griesser, H. J., Voelcker, N. H "Thunderstruck": Plasma-Polymer-Coated Porous Silicon Microparticles As a Controlled Drug Delivery System. <i>ACS Appl Mater Interfaces</i> . 2016. 8:4467-76	One or more exclusion criteria
L1	Sinha, S., Vorse, K. S., Kariya, P. B., Mallikarjuna, R 'Pitted' to 'pleasing' in 20 min. <i>BMJ Case Reports</i> . 2015. #volume#:#pages#	One or more exclusion criteria
L1	Fernandez-Maza, L., Corral, A., Becerro, A., Gonzalez, D., Parrado, A., Balcerzyk, M., Ocana, M (18)F-fluorination of BaGdF5 nanoparticles for multimodal imaging and PET/CT biodistribution in mouse. <i>Journal of Labelled Compounds and Radiopharmaceuticals</i> . 2019. 62 (Supplement 1):S166-S168	One or more exclusion criteria
L1	Bouchlaka, M., Gordon, J., Ludwig, K., Niles, D., Bednarz, B., Fain, S., Capitini, C (19)F-MRI for tracking NK Cells after adoptive transfer. <i>Journal of Immunology. Conference</i> 101st Annual Meeting of the American Association of Immunologist, IMMUNOLOGY. 2014. 192:#pages#	One or more exclusion criteria

Level	Bibliography	Reason for Exclusion
L1	Chopra, A (99m)Tc-glutamate peptide 3-aminoethyl estradiol. <i>Molecular Imaging and Contrast Agent Database</i> (MICAD). 2004. #volume#:#pages#	One or more exclusion criteria
L1	Bohmer, V., Van Der Born, D., Szymanski, W., Antunes, I., Klopstra, M., Samplonius, D., Sijbesma, J., Helfrich, W., Visser, T., Feringa, B., Elsinga, P 18 F-labelled click based PSMA-tracer for prostate cancer imaging. <i>Journal of Labelled Compounds and Radiopharmaceuticals</i> . 2019. 62 (Supplement 1):S94-S95	One or more exclusion criteria
L1	Fernandez-Maza, L.,Rivera-Marrero, S.,Balcerzyk, M.,Fernandez-Gomez, I.,Parrado-Gallego, A.,Sablon-Carrazana, M.,Perez-Perera, R.,Diaz-Garcia, O.,Perera-Pintado, A.,Prats-Capote, A.,Rodriguez-Tanty, C 18F Labeling of a new naphthalene derivative as potential alzheimer disease PET imaging agent. Synthesis and preclinical studies. <i>European Journal of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging.</i> 2015. 1):S282	One or more exclusion criteria
L1	Sviripa, V. M., Zhang, W., Balia, A. G., Tsodikov, O. V., Nickell, J. R., Gizard, F., Yu, T., Lee, E. Y., Dwoskin, L. P., Liu, C., Watt, D. S 2', 6'-Dihalostyrylanilines, pyridines, and pyrimidines for the inhibition of the catalytic subunit of methionine S-adenosyltransferase-2. <i>J Med Chem.</i> 2014. 57:6083-91	One or more exclusion criteria
L1	Inkster, J.,Lin, K. S.,Ait-Mohand, S.,Gosselin, S.,Benard, F.,Guerin, B.,Pourghiasian, M.,Ruth, T.,Schaffer, P.,Storr, T 2-Fluoropyridine prosthetic compounds for the 18F labeling of bombesin analogues. <i>Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters</i> . 2013. 23:3920-6	One or more exclusion criteria

Level	Bibliography	Reason for Exclusion
L1	Connett, P 3rd Citizens Conference of the Fluoride Action Network. <i>Fluoride</i> . 2008. 41:175	One or more exclusion criteria
L1	Suzuki, M., Everett, E. T., Whitford, G. M., Bartlett, J. D 4-phenylbutyrate Mitigates Fluoride-Induced Cytotoxicity in ALC Cells. <i>Front Physiol.</i> 2017. 8:302	One or more exclusion criteria
L1	Mitra, R., Goddard, R., Pörschke, K. R 9,9-Difluorobispidine Analogues of Cisplatin, Carboplatin, and Oxaliplatin. <i>Inorg</i> <i>Chem.</i> 2017. 56:6712-6724	
L1	Ebenhan, T., Wagener, J., Suthiram, J., Marjanovic, P. B., Sathekge, M. M., Zeevaart, J. R < sup>68Ga-PSMA-11: An one-year performance experience on a singlevial kit-type preparation of a potent PETradiodiagnostic agent for prostate cancer imaging. Molecular Imaging and Biology. 2016. 18 (2 Supplement):S1173	One or more exclusion criteria
L1	Perrin, D. M [(18)F]-Organotrifluoroborates as Radioprosthetic Groups for PET Imaging: From Design Principles to Preclinical Applications. <i>Acc Chem Res.</i> 2016. 49:1333-43	One or more exclusion criteria
L1	Tibrewala, R.,Bahroos, E.,Mehrebian, H.,Foreman, S. C.,Link, T. M.,Pedoia, V.,Majumdar, S [18F]-sodium fluoride PET-MR imaging reveals bone-cartilage interactions in hip osteoarthritis. <i>Osteoarthritis and Cartilage</i> . 2019. 27 (Supplement 1):S145-S147	One or more exclusion criteria
L1	Frederic, D.,Bertrand, K.,Annelaure, D.,Camp Nadia, V.,Michael, K.,Bertrand, T.,Raphael, B [¹⁸ F]DPA-716 as a candidate for imaging the TSPO 18 kDa with PET: Radiosynthesis and comparative	One or more exclusion criteria

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Reason for Exclusion

evaluation ([¹¹ C]DPA-713 /
[¹⁸ F]DPA-714) in a rat model of
neuroinflammation. Journal of Labelled Compounds and
Radiopharmaceuticals. 2011. 1):S275

L1 Riondato, M., Pastorino, S., Giovannini, E., Ferrando, O., Lazzeri, P., Duce, V., Ciarmiello, A.. [¹⁸F]FET production with a modified gallium-68 automated synthesizer in a Radiopharmacy without cyclotron facility. European Journal of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging. 2019. 46 (1 Supplement 1):S723

One or more exclusion criteria

L1 Xiong, L., Shen, B., Gambhir, S. S., Chin, F. T., Rao, J., [¹⁸F]YF<inf>3</inf> nanoprobes: Novel 18Flabeled imaging agents for tumor targeting. Molecular Imaging and Biology. 2012. 1):S168

One or more exclusion

criteria

L1 Johanna, R., Jori, J., Cesare, F., Anniina, P., Juha, R., Merja, One or more exclusion H., Olof, S.. [C] Novel [F-18] S1P3-receptor tracer for preclinical PET imaging in Alzheimer's disease. Journal of Labelled Compounds and Radiopharmaceuticals. 2011. 1):S455

criteria

L1 Palczewska-Komsa, M.. [Comparison of fluoride concentrations in human, dog, fox and raccoon dog bones criteria from northwestern Poland]. Pomeranian J Life Sci. 2015. 61:319-28

One or more exclusion

L1 Machoy-Mokrzyńska, A., Machoy, Z.. [Current trends in fluorine research]. Ann Acad Med Stetin. 2006. 52 Suppl 1:73-7

One or more exclusion

L1 Montero, M., Rojas-Sanchez, F., Socorro, M., Torres, J., Acevedo, A. M.. [Dental caries and fluorosis in children One or more exclusion

criteria

criteria

25 March 2023 895 consuming water with different fluoride concentrations in Maiquetia, Vargas State, Venezuela]. Invest Clin. 2007. 48:5-19

L1 Golubkina, N. A., Burtseva, T. I., Gatsenko, Alu. [Drinking water quality indices in the Orenburg Region]. Gig Sanit. 2011. #volume#:70-4

One or more exclusion criteria

L1 Yun, Z. J., Chen, P. Z., Bian, J. C., Wang, Y. T., Gao, J., Ma, A. H., Liu, Y., Li, H. X.. [Epidemiological investigation on endemic fluorosis along the Yellow River alluvial plain of Shandong province]. Chung-Hua Liu Hsing Ping Hsueh Tsa Chih Chinese Journal of Epidemiology. 2010. 31:1280-3

One or more exclusion criteria

L1 Varenne, B., Fournet, F., Cadot, E., Msellati, P., Ouedraogo, One or more exclusion H. Z., Meyer, P. E., Cornu, J. F., Salem, G., Petersen, P. E. [Family environment and dental health disparities among urban children in Burkina Faso]. Rev Epidemiol Sante Publique. 2011. 59:385-92

criteria

- L1 Smoliar, N. I., Bezvushko, E. V., Chukhrai, N. L., Dzhaser, A. One or more exclusion Kh. [Incidence of malocclusion in children living in areas criteria with high fluoride content in water]. [Russian]. Stomatologiia. 2014. 93:52-54
- L1 Skudarnov, S. E., Kurkatov, S. V.. [Incidence of noncommunicable diseases and health risks due to potable water quality]. [Russian]. Gigiena i sanitariia. 2011. #volume#:30-32

One or more exclusion criteria

L1 de Carvalho, R. B., Medeiros, U. V., dos Santos, K. T., Pacheco Filho, A. C.. [Influence of different concentrations of fluoride in the water on epidemiologic

One or more exclusion criteria

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L2	Mofatto, L. S., Frozoni, M. R., do Espírito Santo, A. R., Guimarães, G. N., de Souza, A. P., de Campos Vidal, B., Line, S. R Fluoride effect on the secretory-stage enamel organic extracellular matrix of mice. <i>Connect</i>	Only dental outcomes

Level	Bibliography	Reason for Exclusion
	Tissue Res. 2011. 52:212-7	
L2	Cao, J., Chen, J., Wang, J., Wu, X., Li, Y., Xie, L Tissue distributions of fluoride and its toxicity in the gills of a freshwater teleost, Cyprinus carpio. <i>Aquatic Toxicology</i> . 2013. 130-131:68-76	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non- mammalian species etc)
L2	Cardenas-Gonzalez, M., Jacobo Estrada, T., Rodriguez-Munoz, R., Barrera-Chimal, J., Bobadilla, N. A., Barbier, O. C., Del Razo, L. M Sub-chronic exposure to fluoride impacts the response to a subsequent nephrotoxic treatment with gentamicin. <i>Journal of Applied Toxicology</i> . 2016. 36:309-19	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non- mammalian species etc)
L2	Casellato, S., Masiero, L., Ballarin, L Toxicity of fluoride to the freshwater mollusc Dreissena polymorpha: Effects on survival, histology, and antioxidant enzyme activity. <i>Fluoride</i> . 2012. 45:35-46	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non- mammalian species etc)
L2	Chai, L., Dong, S., Zhao, H., Deng, H., Wang, H Effects of fluoride on development and growth of Rana chensinensis embryos and larvae. <i>Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety</i> . 2016. 126:129-137	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non- mammalian species etc)
L2	Chai, L., Wang, H., Zhao, H., Dong, S Chronic Effects of Fluoride Exposure on Growth, Metamorphosis, and Skeleton Development in Bufo gargarizans Larvae. <i>Bull Environ Contam Toxicol.</i> 2017. 98:496-501	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non-

Erciyas, K., Sarikaya, R.. Genotoxic evaluation of sodium

L2

mammalian species etc)

Other exclusion reasons

Level	Bibliography	Reason for Exclusion
	fluoride in the Somatic Mutation and Recombination Test (SMART). Food Chem Toxicol. 2009. 47:2860-2	(route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non- mammalian species etc)
L2	Feng, P., Wei, J., Zhang, Z Intervention of selenium on chronic fluorosis-induced injury of blood antioxidant capacity in rats. <i>Biological Trace Element Research</i> . 2011. 144:1024-31	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non- mammalian species etc)
L2	Gui, C. Z.,Ran, L. Y.,Li, J. P.,Guan, Z. Z Changes of learning and memory ability and brain nicotinic receptors of rat offspring with coal burning fluorosis. <i>Neurotoxicology and Teratology</i> . 2010. 32:536-541	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non- mammalian species etc)
L2	Jianjie, C., Wenjuan, X., Jinling, C., Jie, S., Ruhui, J., Meiyan, L Fluoride caused thyroid endocrine disruption in male zebrafish (Danio rerio). <i>Aquatic Toxicology</i> . 2016. 171:48-58	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non- mammalian species etc)
L2	Karademir, B Effects of fluoride ingestion on serum levels of the trace minerals Co, Mo, Cr, Mn, and Li in adult male mice. <i>Fluoride</i> . 2010. 43:174-178	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non- mammalian species etc)
L2	Khanum, Z.,Suleman, S.,Mustanser, A.,UI Hassan, M. W.,Raees, K.,Kanwal, M. A.,Zia, A.,Ahmad, K. R Comparative teratological outcomes of fluoride ions and a fluoridated insecticide (Bifenthrin) in chick embryos.	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non-

Level	Bibliography	Reason for Exclusion
	Fluoride. 2019. 52:59-65	mammalian species etc)
L2	Lu, J.,Xu, Q.,Zheng, J.,Liu, H.,Li, J.,Chen, K Comparative proteomics analysis of cardiac muscle samples from pufferfish Takifugu rubripes exposed to excessive fluoride: Initial molecular response to fluorosis Cardiac muscle proteomics of fish Jian Lu et al. <i>Toxicology Mechanisms and Methods.</i> 2009. 19:468-475	(route of exposure other
L2	Lu, J.,Xu, Q.,Zheng, J.,Liu, H.,Li, J.,Chen, K Comparative proteomics analysis of cardiac muscle samples from pufferfish Takifugu rubripes exposed to excessive fluoride: initial molecular response to fluorosis. <i>Toxicology Mechanisms & Methods</i> . 2009. 19:468-75	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non- mammalian species etc)
L2	Lu, J., Zheng, J., Liu, H., Li, J., Xu, Q., Chen, K Proteomics analysis of liver samples from puffer fish Takifugu rubripes exposed to excessive fluoride: an insight into molecular response to fluorosis. <i>Journal of Biochemical & Molecular Toxicology</i> . 2010. 24:21-8	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non- mammalian species etc)
L2	Mukhopadhyay, D.,Priya, P.,Chattopadhyay, A Sodium fluoride affects zebrafish behaviour and alters mRNA expressions of biomarker genes in the brain: Role of Nrf2/Keap1. <i>Environmental Toxicology and Pharmacology</i> . 2016. 40:352-359	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non- mammalian species etc)
L2	Nabavi, S. F.,Eslami, S.,Moghaddam, A. H.,Nabavi, S. M Protective effects of curcumin against fluoride-induced oxidative stress in the rat brain. <i>Neurophysiology</i> . 2011. 43:287-291	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non- mammalian species etc)
L2	Nabavi, S. F., Moghaddam, A. H., Eslami, S., Nabavi, S. M	Other exclusion reasons

Level	Bibliography	Reason for Exclusion
	Protective effects of curcumin against sodium fluoride- induced toxicity in rat kidneys. <i>Biological Trace Element</i> <i>Research.</i> 2012. 145:369-374	(route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non- mammalian species etc)
L2	Nabavi, S. F.,Moghaddam, A. H.,Nabavi, S. M.,Eslami, S Protective effect of curcumin and quercetin on thyroid function in sodium fluoride intoxicated rats. <i>Fluoride</i> . 2011. 44:147-152	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non- mammalian species etc)
L2	Nabavi, S. M., Nabavi, S. F., Eslami, S., Moghaddam, A. H In vivo protective effects of quercetin against sodium fluoride-induced oxidative stress in the hepatic tissue. <i>Food Chemistry</i> . 2012. 132:931-935	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non-mammalian species etc)
L2	Nabavi, S. M., Nabavi, S. F., Habtemariam, S., Moghaddam, A. H., Latifi, A. M Ameliorative effects of quercetin on sodium fluoride-induced oxidative stress in rat's kidney. <i>Ren Fail.</i> 2012. 34:901-6	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non- mammalian species etc)
L2	Nabavi, S. M., Nabavi, S. F., Loizzo, M. R., Sureda, A., Amani, M. A., Moghaddam, A. H Cytoprotective effect of Silymarin against sodium fluoride-induced oxidative stress in rat erythrocytes. <i>Fluoride</i> . 2012. 45:27-34	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non-mammalian species etc)
L2	Palczewska-Komsa, M., Kalisinska, E., Kosik-Bogacka, D. I., Lanocha, N., Budis, H., Baranowska-Bosiacka, I., Gutowska, I., Chlubek, D Fluoride accumulation in dog bones. <i>Fluoride</i> . 2014. 47:98-108	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non-

Level	Bibliography	Reason for Exclusion
		mammalian species etc)
L2	Ranjan, R., Swarup, D., Patra, R. C Changes in levels of zinc, copper, cobalt, and manganese in soft tissues of fluoride-exposed rabbits. <i>Fluoride</i> . 2011. 44:83-88	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non- mammalian species etc)
L2	Santoyo-Sanchez, M. P.,Del Carmen Silva-Lucero, M.,Arreola-Mendoza, L.,Barbier, O. C Effects of acute sodium fluoride exposure on kidney function, water homeostasis, and renal handling of calcium and inorganic phosphate. <i>Biological Trace Element Research</i> . 2013. 152:367-372	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non- mammalian species etc)
L2	Sarkar, S. D., Maiti, R., Ghosh, D Management of fluoride induced testicular disorders by calcium and vitamin-E coadministration in the albino rat. <i>Reprod Toxicol.</i> 2006. 22:606-12	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non- mammalian species etc)
L2	Schieferstein, H.,Betzel, T.,Haller, S.,Cindy, F.,Muller, C.,Ross, T. L Total evaluation of a new polar 18F-labeled PEG-click-folate. <i>Journal of Labelled Compounds and Radiopharmaceuticals</i> . 2013. 1):S183	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non- mammalian species etc)
L2	Shashi, A.,Bhushan, B.,Bhardwaj, M Histochemical pattern of gastrocnemius muscle in fluoride toxicity syndrome. <i>Asian Pacific Journal of Tropical Medicine</i> . 2010. 3:136-140	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non- mammalian species etc)
L2	Shashi, A., Sharma, N., Bhardwaj, M Pathological	Other exclusion reasons

Level	Bibliography	Reason for Exclusion
	evaluation of pancreatic exocrine glands in experimental fluorosis. <i>Asian Pacific Journal of Tropical Medicine</i> . 2010. 3:36-40	(route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non- mammalian species etc)
L2	Shi, X.,Zhuang, P.,Zhang, L.,Feng, G.,Chen, L.,Liu, J.,Qu, L.,Wang, R The bioaccumulation of fluoride ion (F(-)) in Siberian sturgeon (Acipenser baerii) under laboratory conditions. <i>Chemosphere</i> . 2009. 75:376-80	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non- mammalian species etc)
L2	Singh, R., Hussain, M. A., Kumar, J., Kumar, M., Kumari, U., Mazumder, S Chronic fluoride exposure exacerbates headkidney pathology and causes immune commotion in Clarias gariepinus. <i>Aquat Toxicol.</i> 2017. 192:30-39	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non- mammalian species etc)
L2	Singh, R.,Khatri, P.,Srivastava, N.,Jain, S.,Brahmachari, V.,Mukhopadhyay, A.,Mazumder, S Fluoride exposure abates pro-inflammatory response and induces in vivo apoptosis rendering zebrafish (Danio rerio) susceptible to bacterial infections. <i>Fish Shellfish Immunol.</i> 2017. 63:314-321	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non- mammalian species etc)
L2	Srilatha, K.,Banji, D.,Banji, O. J. F.,Vinod, K. R.,Saidulu, A Investigation on the anti-genotoxic effect of Ocimum Sanctum in Fluoride induced genotoxicity. <i>International</i> Research Journal of Pharmacy. 2013. 4:160-164	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water, mixture exposure, non- mammalian species etc)
L2	Thammitiyagodage, M. G., De Silva, N. R., Rathnayake, C., Karunakaran, R., Wgss, K., Gunatillka, M. M., Ekanayaka, N., Galhena, B. P., Thabrew, M. I Biochemical and	Other exclusion reasons (route of exposure other than drinking water,

Level	Bibliography	Reason for Exclusion
	histopathological changes in Wistar rats after consumption	mixture exposure, non-
	of boiled and un-boiled water from high and low disease	mammalian species etc)
	prevalent areas for chronic kidney disease of unknown	
	etiology (CKDu) in north Central Province (NCP) and its	
	comparison with low disease prevalent Colombo, Sri	
	Lanka. BMC Nephrology. 2020. 21 (1) (no	
	pagination):#pages#	
L2	Thammitiyagodage, M. G., Gunatillaka, M. M., Ekanayaka,	Other exclusion reasons
	N.,Rathnayake, C.,Horadagoda, N. U.,Jayathissa,	(route of exposure other
	R., Gunaratne, U. K., Kumara, W. G., Abeynayake, P	than drinking water,
	Ingestion of dug well water from an area with high	mixture exposure, non-
	prevalence of chronic kidney disease of unknown etiology	mammalian species etc)
	(CKDu) and development of kidney and liver lesions in rats.	
	Ceylon Med J. 2017. 62:20-24	
L2	Vasant, R. A., Narasimhacharya, A. V. R. L Alleviation of	Other exclusion reasons
	fluoride-induced hepatic and renal oxidative stress in rats	(route of exposure other
	by the fruit of Limonia acidissima. Fluoride. 2011. 44:14-20	than drinking water,
		mixture exposure, non-
		mammalian species etc)
L2	Vasant, R. A., Narasimhacharya, A. V. R. L Ameliorative	Other exclusion reasons
	effect of tamarind leaf on fluoride-induced metabolic	(route of exposure other
	alterations. Environmental Health and Preventive Medicine.	than drinking water,
	2012. 17:484-493	mixture exposure, non-
		mammalian species etc)
L2	Yu, Z.,Xu, C.,Yuan, K.,Gan, X.,Feng, C.,Wang, X.,Zhu,	Other exclusion reasons

L., Zhang, G., Xu, D.. Characterization and adsorption

mechanism of ZrO(2) mesoporous fibers for health-

hazardous fluoride removal. J Hazard Mater. 2018. 346:82- mixture exposure, non-

(route of exposure other

than drinking water,

Level	Bibliography	Reason for Exclusion
	92	mammalian species etc)
L2	Broadbent, J. M., Thomson, W. M., Moffitt, T. E., Poulton, R Health effects of water fluoridation: A response to the letter by Menkes et al. <i>New Zealand Medical Journal</i> . 2015. 128:73-74	Human subjects
L2	Chaitanya, Ncsk, Karunakar, P., Allam, N. S. J., Priya, M. H., Alekhya, B., Nauseen, S A systematic analysis on possibility of water fluoridation causing hypothyroidism. <i>Indian J Dent Res.</i> 2018. 29:358-363	Human subjects
L2	Choi, A. L.,Sun, G.,Zhang, Y.,Grandjean, P Developmental fluoride neurotoxicity: a systematic review and meta-analysis. <i>Environ Health Perspect.</i> 2012. 120:1362-8	Human subjects
L2	Yeung, C. A A systematic review of the efficacy and safety of fluoridation. <i>Evid Based Dent.</i> 2008. 9:39-43	Human subjects
L2	Yin, X. H., Huang, G. L., Lin, D. R., Wan, C. C., Wang, Y. D., Song, J. K., Xu, P Exposure to fluoride in drinking water and hip fracture risk: a meta-analysis of observational studies. <i>PLoS One.</i> 2015. 10:e0126488	Human subjects
L2	Matsui, H., Morimoto, M., Horimoto, K., Nishimura, Y Some characteristics of fluoride-induced cell death in rat thymocytes: cytotoxicity of sodium fluoride. <i>Toxicology in Vitro</i> . 2007. 21:1113-20	In-vitro models (mammalian cells/ tissues, bacterial cells, plant cells etc.)
L2	Oliveira, R. C. D., Matsuda, S. S., Silva, T. L. D., Buzalaf, M. A. R Effects of sodium fluoride during osteoblasts mineralization in C57BL/6J and C3H/HeJ inbred strains of mice. <i>Bone.</i> 2012. 1):S84	In-vitro models (mammalian cells/ tissues, bacterial cells, plant cells etc.)

Level Bibliography **Reason for Exclusion** L2 Choubisaa, S. L.. A brief and critical review of endemic Non-systematic review hydrofluorosis in Rajasthan, India. Fluoride. 2018. 51:13-33 L2 Dhar, V., Bhatnagar, M.. Physiology and toxicity of fluoride. Non-systematic review Indian J Dent Res. 2009. 20:350-5 L2 Dharmaratne, R. W.. Exploring the role of excess fluoride in Non-systematic review chronic kidney disease: A review. Human and Experimental Toxicology. 2019. 38:269-279 L2 Gouri Pratusha, N., Banji, O. J. F., Banji, D., Ragini, Non-systematic review M., Pavani, B., Fluoride toxicity - A harsh reality. International Research Journal of Pharmacy. 2011. 2:79-85 L2 Kabir, H., Gupta, A. K., Tripathy, S.. Fluoride and human Non-systematic review health: Systematic appraisal of sources, exposures, metabolism, and toxicity. Critical Reviews in Environmental Science and Technology.. 2019. #volume#:#pages# L2 Perumal, E., Paul, V., Govindarajan, V., Panneerselvam, L.. Non-systematic review A brief review on experimental fluorosis. *Toxicol Lett.* 2013. 223:236-51 L2 Prystupa, J., Fluorine - A current literature review. An NRC Non-systematic review and ATSDR based review of safety standards for exposure to fluorine and fluorides. Toxicology Mechanisms and Methods, 2011, 21:103-170 L2 Sharma, D., Singh, A., Verma, K., Paliwal, S., Sharma, Non-systematic review S., Dwivedi, J.. Fluoride: A review of pre-clinical and clinical studies. Environ Toxicol Pharmacol. 2017, 56:297-313 L2 Strunecka, A., Strunecky, O.. Chronic Fluoride Exposure Non-systematic review and the Risk of Autism Spectrum Disorder. Int J Environ

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Level	Bibliography	Reason for Exclusion
L2	Barbier, O., Cardenas-Gonzalez, M., Parada-Cruz, B., Lopez V. D., Jimenez-Cordova, M., Solis-Angeles, S., Del Razo, L. M Fluoride: An underestimated nephrotoxic. <i>Toxicology Letters</i> . 2016. 259 (Supplement 1):S13	•
L2	Burgstahler, A. W.,Freeman, R. F.,Jacobs, P. N Toxic effects of silicofluoridated water in chinchillas, caimans, alligators, and rats held in captivity. <i>Fluoride</i> . 2008. 41:83-88	Commentary/ communication/ editorial/ letter/ conference abstract/ poster/ presentation
L2	Cardenas-Gonzalez, C.,Del Razo, L. M.,Barbier, O.,Jacobo, T Effect of nephrotoxic treatment with gentamicin on rats exposed to fluoride. <i>Toxicology Letters</i> . 2012. 1):S4	Commentary/ communication/ editorial/ letter/ conference abstract/ poster/ presentation
L2	Choi, A. L., Grandjean, P., Sun, G., Zhang, Y Developmental fluoride neurotoxicity: Choi et al. Respond. Environ Health Perspect. 2013. 121:A70	Commentary/ communication/ editorial/ letter/ conference abstract/ poster/ presentation
L2	Dian, B. J., Selvakumar, R., Joseph, F. J., Teresa, M. M., Thomas, V. P., Sheshadri, M. S Does Vitamin D Deficiency and Renal Dysfunction play a role in the pathogenesis of Fluorotoxic Metabolic Bone Disease (FMBD). <i>Indian Journal of Endocrinology and Metabolism</i> . 2017. 21 (7 Supplement 1):65	Commentary/ communication/ editorial/ letter/ conference abstract/ poster/ presentation
L2	Fina, B. L.,Rigalli, A Effect of fluoride on oxygen consumption (OC) by rat tissues. <i>Bone.</i> 2011. 48 (6):S284	Commentary/ communication/ editorial/ letter/ conference abstract/ poster/ presentation
L2	Fina, B. L.,Roma, S. M.,Bues, F.,Di Loreto, V. E Effect of sodium fluoride (F) on rat growth plate cartilage (GPC).	Commentary/ communication/ editorial/

Level	Bibliography	Reason for Exclusion
	Bone. 2015. 71:258	letter/ conference abstract/ poster/ presentation
L2	Gama-Dominguez, Y.,Jacobo-Estrada, T.,Lopez-Ventura, D.,Moreno-Licona, N. J.,Trevino, S.,Barbier, O Effect of renal ischemia on sub-chronically exposed rats to fluoride evaluated by the expression of hypoxia-inducible factor 1alpha (HIF-1alpha). <i>Toxicology Letters.</i> 2016. 259 (Supplement 1):S241-S242	Commentary/ communication/ editorial/ letter/ conference abstract/ poster/ presentation
L2	Iano, F. G., Ferreira, M. C. F., Fernandes, M., Oliveira, R., Ximenes, V. F., Buzalaf, M. A. R Chronic toxicity of fluoride in the Liver antioxidant defense. <i>Free Radical Biology and Medicine</i> . 2010. 1):S221	Commentary/ communication/ editorial/ letter/ conference abstract/ poster/ presentation
L2	Iano, F. G., Ferreira, M. C. F., Quaggio, G. B., Oliveira, R. C., Ximenes, V. F., Buzalaf, M. A. R Effect of fluoride in antioxidant systems of the heart. <i>Free Radical Biology and Medicine</i> . 2011. 1):S57	Commentary/ communication/ editorial/ letter/ conference abstract/ poster/ presentation
L2	Jain, A., Mehta, V. K., Mahdi, A. A., Bhatnagar, M The effects of fluoride and arsenic exposure on the cholinergic-nitrergic system, cognitive functions and inflammatory markers. <i>Journal of Neurochemistry</i> . 2015. 1):141-142	Commentary/ communication/ editorial/ letter/ conference abstract/ poster/ presentation
L2	Khalili, J.,Biloklytska, H The activity of fructose diphosphatase and acid-base status in rats exposed to fluoride and ammonium chloride. <i>Toxicology Letters</i> . 2009. 1):S108-S109	Commentary/ communication/ editorial/ letter/ conference abstract/ poster/ presentation
L2	Krook, L. P., Justus, C Fluoride poisoning of horses from artificially fluoridated drinking water. <i>Fluoride</i> . 2006. 39:3-10	Commentary/ communication/ editorial/ letter/ conference abstract/ poster/ presentation

Level	Bibliography	Reason for Exclusion
L2	Sabour, S., Ghorbani, Z Developmental fluoride neurotoxicity: clinical importance versus statistical significance. <i>Environ Health Perspect</i> . 2013. 121:A70	Commentary/ communication/ editorial/ letter/ conference abstract/ poster/ presentation
L2	Spittle, B Fluoride toxicity and donkeys. <i>Fluoride</i> . 2010. 43:4	Commentary/ communication/ editorial/ letter/ conference abstract/ poster/ presentation
L2	Spittle, B Halting the inertia of indifference: Fluoride and fertility revisited. <i>Fluoride</i> . 2009. 42:159-161	Commentary/ communication/ editorial/ letter/ conference abstract/ poster/ presentation

Section 5. Literature search for in-vitro studies

Strategy

Search	Are there any health risks	s due to fluoride exposure?
Question		
Major	1. Fluoride	
Concepts	2. Outcomes: cancer, imm	unotoxicity, genotoxicity and all other potential
	adverse effects	
Search	Concept 1	Concept 2
Terms	Fluorides, fluorine, flurine,	Mechanism of action, mode of action, cancer,
	fluride, fluoridation	immunotoxicity, genotoxicity, toxicokinetics,
		pharmacokinetics

Summary of output

Searched databases	Publi	ications	Level of selection of
	All Reviews		publications
	types		
Medline	7,939	719	2 concepts (2006-current)
EMBASE	12,185	843	2 concepts (2006-current)
PubMed	5,026	248	2 concepts (2006-current)
TOTAL – before deduplication			
TOTAL ³⁰ – after deduplication			

³⁰ Not including bibliographies of examined references/studies/reviews

Bibliographic database search terms and output

Medline Ovid

Concept	#	Medline query	Results
Fluoride	1	exp Fluorides/	36692
	2	exp Fluoridation/	5807
	3	fluorid*.tw.	46854
	4	fluorin*.tw.	24726
	5	flurin*.tw.	6
	6	flurid*.tw.	232
	7	or/1-6	84015
Outcomes	8	Mechanism of action.mp.	70346
	9	(mechanism* adj3 action*).tw.	127638
	10	mode of action.mp.	31469
	11	(mode* adj3 action*).tw.	45237
	12	exp Adverse Outcome Pathways/	74
	13	exp Toxicity Tests/	110616
	14	(toxic* adj3 test*).tw.	16946
	15	exp Animal Testing Alternatives/	3293
	16	(toxic* adj3 test*).tw.	16946
	17	Molecular initiating events.mp.	84
	18	exp In Vitro Techniques/	590172
	19	in vitro testing.mp.	3264
	20	in vitro test*.mp.	12152
	21	Structure-Activity Relationship/	174437
	22	structure activity relationship*.tw.	35238
	23	exp Pharmacokinetics/	305321
	24	pharmacokinetic*.tw.	156167
	25	toxicokinetics/	564
	26	toxicokinetic*.tw.	3957
	27	exp Neoplasms/	3272969
	28	neoplas*.tw.	256019

Concept #	‡	Medline query	Results
	29	cancer*.tw.	1708153
	30	malignan*.tw.	557197
	31	tumor*.tw.	1399337
	32	tumour*.tw.	264854
	33	sarcoma*.tw.	93788
	34	carcinoma*.tw.	641589
	35	Mutagens/	29170
	36	Mutagenicity Tests/	17114
	37	mutagen*.tw.	112688
	38	Mutation/	419475
	39	mutation*.tw.	619079
	40	genotox*.tw.	33102
	41	Toxicogenetics/	846
	42	toxicogenetic*.tw.	96
	43	micronucle*.tw.	14773
	44	electrophil*.tw.	15711
	45	Carcinogenesis/	12664
	46	carcinogen*.tw.	137554
	47	DNA Damage/	65176
	48	(dna adj3 damage*).tw.	82615
	49	Oxidative Stress/	128743
	50	oxidative stress.tw.	175319
	51	epigenetic*.tw.	76064
	52	Genomic Instability/	7624
	53	(gen* adj3 instabilit*).tw.	15934
	54	DNA Repair/	48704
	55	(dna adj3 repair).tw.	57731
	56	chronic inflamm*.tw.	59714
	57	immortaliz*.tw.	20410
	58	Immunosuppressive Agents/	94418

Concept	#	Medline query	Results
	59	(immunosuppressi* adj3 agent*).tw.	11153
	60	receptor mediated effect*.tw.	1045
	61	Cell Transformation, Neoplastic/	60040
	62	(cell* adj3 transformation*).tw.	21256
	63	Cell Proliferation/	218511
	64	(cell* adj3 proliferation*).tw.	271003
	65	Cell Death/	45588
	66	(cell* adj3 death*).tw.	168258
	67	SAR.tw.	16656
	68	ADME.tw.	2503
	69	or/8-68	6666866
Fluoride +	70	7 and 69	16345
outcomes			
2006 - current	71	limit 70 to yr="2006 -Current"	7939
Rev/ SR /MA /CR	72	limit 71 to (meta analysis or "review" or "scientific	719
		integrity review" or "systematic review" or	
		systematic reviews as topic)	

EMBASE

Concept	#	EMBASE query	Results
Fluoride	1	exp fluoride/	35,467
	2	exp fluoridation/	6,247
	3	fluorid*.tw.	55,347
	4	flurid*.tw.	209
	5	fluorin*.tw.	29,221
	6	flurin*.tw.	21
	7	or/1-6	91,724
Outcomes	8	exp adverse outcome pathway/	303
	9	exp toxicity testing/	45,203
	10	exp animal testing alternative/	2,528
	11	exp in vitro study/	5,967,650
	12	exp structure activity relation/	192,917
	13	exp pharmacokinetics/	728,239
	14	toxicokinetics/	11,781
	15	exp neoplasm/	4,776,218
	16	exp malignant neoplasm/	3,581,546
	17	neoplas*.tw.	366,974
	18	cancer*.tw.	2,479,130
	19	malignan*.tw.	833,939
	20	carcino*.tw.	1,089,354
	21	sarco*.tw.	240,714
	22	tumor*.tw.	1,962,166
	23	tumour*.tw.	426,370
	24	exp mutagenic agent/	19,000
	25	(mutagen* adj3 agen*).tw.	1,431
	26	exp mutagen testing/	30,874
	27	(mutagen* adj3 test*).tw.	4,565
	28	exp mutation/	1,172,173
	29	mutation*.tw.	832,123

Concept	#	EMBASE query	Results
	30	exp gene mutation/	721,611
	31	(gene* adj3 mutation*).tw.	156,767
	32	exp genotoxicity/	32,745
	33	exp genotoxicity assay/	8,698
	34	genotox*.tw.	40,902
	35	exp toxicogenetics/	1,032
	36	toxicogen*.tw.	2,168
	37	carcinogenesis/	182,175
	38	(cancer* adj3 induction).tw.	5,533
	39	(cancer* adj3 theor*).tw.	1,909
	40	cancerogen.tw.	93
	41	neoplasmogen.tw.	-
	42	oncogen.tw.	405
	43	tumorigen.tw.	96
	44	tumourigen.tw.	3
	45	(tumor* adj3 formation).tw.	23,293
	46	(tumour* adj3 formation).tw.	3,400
	47	(tumor* adj3 genesis).tw.	1,164
	48	(tumour* adj3 genesis).tw.	291
	49	(tumor* adj3 induction).tw.	9,484
	50	(tumour* adj3 induction).tw.	1,702
	51	exp micronucleus/	8,775
	52	micronucle*.tw.	17,680
	53	exp DNA damage/	143,856
	54	(dna adj3 damag*).tw.	110,172
	55	(dna adj3 break*).tw.	33,127
	56	(dna adj3 lesion*).tw.	11,399
	57	(dna adj3 fragment*).tw.	62,587
	58	exp DNA repair/	93,230
	59	(dna adj3 repair*).tw.	76,069

Concept	#	EMBASE query	Results
	60	(gen* adj3 repair*).tw.	19,933
	61	exp chromosome aberration/	204,053
	62	(chromosom* adj3 aberration*).tw.	28,335
	63	(chromosom* adj3 anomal*).tw.	6,740
	64	(chromosom* adj3 abnormal*).tw.	31,791
	65	(chromosom* adj3 defect*).tw.	3,580
	66	(chromosom* adj3 error*).tw.	1,009
	67	exp oxidative stress/	280,685
	68	oxidative stress*.tw.	233,273
	69	exp electrophilic stress/	288
	70	electrophil* stress*.tw.	262
	71	exp epigenetics/	72,239
	72	epigenetic*.tw.	106,194
	73	exp cell transformation/	132,325
	74	(cell* adj3 transformation*).tw.	26,817
	75	exp cell proliferation/	502,056
	76	(cell* adj3 proliferat*).tw.	414,852
	77	exp cell death/	148,899
	78	(cell* adj3 death).tw.	217,775
	79	(cell* adj3 necrosis).tw.	17,903
	80	(cell* adj3 aging).tw.	9,410
	81	(cell* adj3 degeneration).tw.	11,723
	82	(cell* adj3 survival).tw.	107,618
	83	(gene* adj3 transformation*).tw.	7,356
	84	genomic instability/	18,837
	85	gen* instabilit*.tw.	18,896
	86	genetic stability/	10,184
	87	(gen* adj3 stabilit*).tw.	17,142
	88	(gen* adj3 damag*).tw.	18,571
	89	exp chronic inflammation/	33,613

Concept	#	EMBASE query	Results
	90	chronic inflammat*.tw.	93,597
	91	or/8-90	
			12,062,946
Fluoride +	92	7 and 91	25,744
outcomes			
2006 - current	93	limit 92 to yr="2006 -Current"	12,185
Reviews only	94	limit 93 to Review	843

PubMed

Concept	#	Pubmed query	Results
Fluoride	1	(((fluoride[MeSH Terms]) OR fluorid*[Text Word]) OR	97522
		fluorin*[Text Word]) OR flurin*[Text Word]	
Mechanistic	2	((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((
		OR adverse outcome pathway*[Text Word]) OR	
		toxicity test[MeSH Terms]) OR toxicity test*[Text	
		Word]) OR animal testing alternatives[MeSH Terms])	
		OR animal testing alternative*[Text Word]) OR in	
		vitro[MeSH Terms]) OR in vitro stud*[Text Word]) OR	
		in vitro test*[Text Word]) OR structure activity	
		relationships[MeSH Terms]) OR structure activity	
		relationship*[Text Word]) OR	
		pharmacokinetics[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		pharmacokinetic*[Text Word]) OR	
		toxicokinetics[MeSH Terms]) OR toxicokinetic*[Text	
		Word]	
Cancer	3	((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((
		cancer*[Text Word]) OR neoplasm[MeSH Terms])	
		OR neoplas*[Text Word]) OR malignancy[MeSH	
		Terms]) OR malignan*[Text Word]) OR	
		carcinoma[MeSH Terms]) OR carcino*[Text Word])	
		OR sarcoma[MeSH Terms]) OR sarco*[Text Word])	
		OR tumors[MeSH Terms]) OR tumor*[Text Word])	
		OR tumours[MeSH Terms]) OR tumour*[Text Word])	
		OR oncogenesis[MeSH Terms]) OR oncogens[MeSH	
		Terms]) OR oncogen*[Text Word]) OR	
		carcinogenesis tests[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		carcinogens[MeSH Terms]) OR tumor*	
		formation*[Text Word]) OR tumour* formation*[Text	
		Word]) OR tumor* genesis[Text Word]) OR tumour*	

Concept	#	Pubmed query	Results
		genesis) OR cancer induction[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		cancer* induction[Text Word]) OR induction cancer*)	
		OR cancer* theor*[Text Word]	
Genotoxicity	4	((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((
		tests[MeSH Terms]) OR genotoxicant induced	
		micronuclei[MeSH Terms]) OR genotoxic	
		stresses[MeSH Terms]) OR genotoxins[MeSH	
		Terms]) OR genotox*[Text Word]) OR micronucleus	
		assays[MeSH Terms]) OR micronucle* assa*[Text	
		Word]) OR dna damage[MeSH Terms]) OR dna	
		damag*[Text Word]) OR dna break[MeSH Terms])	
		OR dna break*[Text Word]) OR dna lesion*[Text	
		Word]) OR dna fragmentation[MeSH Terms]) OR dna	
		fragment*[Text Word]) OR dna repair[MeSH Terms])	
		OR dna repair*[Text Word]) OR chromosome	
		aberration[MeSH Terms]) OR chromosom*	
		aberration*[Text Word]) OR chromosom*	
		anomal*[Text Word]) OR chromosome	
		abnormality[MeSH Terms]) OR chromosom*	
		abnormal*[Text Word]) OR chromosome defective	
		micronucleus[MeSH Terms]) OR chromosom*	
		defect*[Text Word]) OR chromosom* error*[Text	
		Word]) OR oxidative stress[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		oxidative stress*[Text Word]) OR electrophilic	
		stress*[Text Word]) OR cell transformation,	
		neoplastic[MeSH Terms]) OR cell*	
		transformation*[Text Word]) OR cell	
		proliferation[MeSH Terms]) OR cell*	
		proliferation*[Text Word]) OR cell aging[MeSH	
		Terms]) OR cell* aging[Text Word]) OR cell*	

Concept	#	Pubmed query	Results
		degeneration*[Text Word]) OR cell death[MeSH	
		Terms]) OR cell* death*[Text Word]) OR cell*	
		necros*[Text Word]) OR cell survival[MeSH Terms])	
		OR cell* survival[Text Word]) OR epigenetic[MeSH	
		Terms]) OR epigenetic process[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		epigenomic[MeSH Terms]) OR epigen*[Text Word])	
		OR genomic stability[MeSH Terms]) OR genomic	
		instability[MeSH Terms]) OR genomic stabilit*[Text	
		Word]) OR genomic instabilit*[Text Word]) OR	
		genom* stabilit*[Text Word]) OR genom*	
		instabilit*[Text Word]) OR chronic	
		inflammation[MeSH Terms]) OR chronic	
		inflammat*[Text Word]	
Outcomes, all	5	earch ((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((1580398
		Terms]) OR adverse outcome pathway*[Text Word])	
		OR toxicity test[MeSH Terms]) OR toxicity test*[Text	
		Word]) OR animal testing alternatives[MeSH Terms])	
		OR animal testing alternative*[Text Word]) OR in	
		vitro[MeSH Terms]) OR in vitro stud*[Text Word]) OR	
		in vitro test*[Text Word]) OR structure activity	
		relationships[MeSH Terms]) OR structure activity	
		relationship*[Text Word]) OR	
		pharmacokinetics[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		pharmacokinetic*[Text Word]) OR	
		toxicokinetics[MeSH Terms]) OR toxicokinetic*[Text	
		Word])) OR (((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((
		Terms]) OR cancer*[Text Word]) OR	
		neoplasm[MeSH Terms]) OR neoplas*[Text Word])	
		OR malignancy[MeSH Terms]) OR malignan*[Text	
		Word]) OR carcinoma[MeSH Terms]) OR	

carcino*[Text Word]) OR sarcoma[MeSH Terms]) OR sarco*[Text Word]) OR tumors[MeSH Terms]) OR tumor*[Text Word]) OR tumours[MeSH Terms]) OR tumour*[Text Word]) OR oncogenesis[MeSH Terms]) OR oncogens[MeSH Terms]) OR oncogen*[Text Word]) OR carcinogenesis tests[MeSH Terms]) OR carcinogens[MeSH Terms]) OR tumor* formation*[Text Word]) OR tumour* formation*[Text Word]) OR tumor* genesis[Text Word]) OR tumour* genesis) OR cancer induction[MeSH Terms]) OR cancer* induction[Text Word]) OR induction cancer*) OR cancer* theor*[Text Word])) OR tests[MeSH Terms]) OR genotoxicant induced micronuclei[MeSH Terms]) OR genotoxic stresses[MeSH Terms]) OR genotoxins[MeSH Terms]) OR genotox*[Text Word]) OR micronucleus assays[MeSH Terms]) OR micronucle* assa*[Text Word]) OR dna damage[MeSH Terms]) OR dna damag*[Text Word]) OR dna break[MeSH Terms]) OR dna break*[Text Word]) OR dna lesion*[Text Word]) OR dna fragmentation[MeSH Terms]) OR dna fragment*[Text Word]) OR dna repair[MeSH Terms]) OR dna repair*[Text Word]) OR chromosome aberration[MeSH Terms]) OR chromosom* aberration*[Text Word]) OR chromosom* anomal*[Text Word]) OR chromosome abnormality[MeSH Terms]) OR chromosom* abnormal*[Text Word]) OR chromosome defective micronucleus[MeSH Terms]) OR chromosom*

Concept	#	Pubmed query	Results
		defect*[Text Word]) OR chromosom* error*[Text	
		Word]) OR oxidative stress[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		oxidative stress*[Text Word]) OR electrophilic	
		stress*[Text Word]) OR cell transformation,	
		neoplastic[MeSH Terms]) OR cell*	
		transformation*[Text Word]) OR cell	
		proliferation[MeSH Terms]) OR cell*	
		proliferation*[Text Word]) OR cell aging[MeSH	
		Terms]) OR cell* aging[Text Word]) OR cell*	
		degeneration*[Text Word]) OR cell death[MeSH	
		Terms]) OR cell* death*[Text Word]) OR cell*	
		necros*[Text Word]) OR cell survival[MeSH Terms])	
		OR cell* survival[Text Word]) OR epigenetic[MeSH	
		Terms]) OR epigenetic process[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		epigenomic[MeSH Terms]) OR epigen*[Text Word])	
		OR genomic stability[MeSH Terms]) OR genomic	
		instability[MeSH Terms]) OR genomic stabilit*[Text	
		Word]) OR genomic instabilit*[Text Word]) OR	
		genom* stabilit*[Text Word]) OR genom*	
		instabilit*[Text Word]) OR chronic	
		inflammation[MeSH Terms]) OR chronic	
		inflammat*[Text Word])	
Fluoride +	6	Search (((((fluoride[MeSH Terms]) OR fluorid*[Text	12181
outcomes (all)		Word]) OR fluorin*[Text Word]) OR flurin*[Text	
		Word])) AND (((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((
		pathways[MeSH Terms]) OR adverse outcome	
		pathway*[Text Word]) OR toxicity test[MeSH Terms])	
		OR toxicity test*[Text Word]) OR animal testing	
		alternatives[MeSH Terms]) OR animal testing	
		alternative*[Text Word]) OR in vitro[MeSH Terms])	

OR in vitro stud*[Text Word]) OR in vitro test*[Text Word]) OR structure activity relationships[MeSH Terms]) OR structure activity relationship*[Text Word]) OR pharmacokinetics[MeSH Terms]) OR pharmacokinetic*[Text Word]) OR toxicokinetics[MeSH Terms]) OR toxicokinetic*[Text Terms]) OR cancer*[Text Word]) OR neoplasm[MeSH Terms]) OR neoplas*[Text Word]) OR malignancy[MeSH Terms]) OR malignan*[Text Word]) OR carcinoma[MeSH Terms]) OR carcino*[Text Word]) OR sarcoma[MeSH Terms]) OR sarco*[Text Word]) OR tumors[MeSH Terms]) OR tumor*[Text Word]) OR tumours[MeSH Terms]) OR tumour*[Text Word]) OR oncogenesis[MeSH Terms]) OR oncogens[MeSH Terms]) OR oncogen*[Text Word]) OR carcinogenesis tests[MeSH Terms]) OR carcinogens[MeSH Terms]) OR tumor* formation*[Text Word]) OR tumour* formation*[Text Word]) OR tumor* genesis[Text Word]) OR tumour* genesis) OR cancer induction[MeSH Terms]) OR cancer* induction[Text Word]) OR induction cancer*) OR cancer* theor*[Text Word])) OR tests[MeSH Terms]) OR genotoxicant induced micronuclei[MeSH Terms]) OR genotoxic stresses[MeSH Terms]) OR genotoxins[MeSH Terms]) OR genotox*[Text Word]) OR micronucleus assays[MeSH Terms]) OR micronucle* assa*[Text Word]) OR dna damage[MeSH Terms]) OR dna

damag*[Text Word]) OR dna break[MeSH Terms]) OR dna break*[Text Word]) OR dna lesion*[Text Word]) OR dna fragmentation[MeSH Terms]) OR dna fragment*[Text Word]) OR dna repair[MeSH Terms]) OR dna repair*[Text Word]) OR chromosome aberration[MeSH Terms]) OR chromosom* aberration*[Text Word]) OR chromosom* anomal*[Text Word]) OR chromosome abnormality[MeSH Terms]) OR chromosom* abnormal*[Text Word]) OR chromosome defective micronucleus[MeSH Terms]) OR chromosom* defect*[Text Word]) OR chromosom* error*[Text Word]) OR oxidative stress[MeSH Terms]) OR oxidative stress*[Text Word]) OR electrophilic stress*[Text Word]) OR cell transformation, neoplastic[MeSH Terms]) OR cell* transformation*[Text Word]) OR cell proliferation[MeSH Terms]) OR cell* proliferation*[Text Word]) OR cell aging[MeSH Terms]) OR cell* aging[Text Word]) OR cell* degeneration*[Text Word]) OR cell death[MeSH Terms]) OR cell* death*[Text Word]) OR cell* necros*[Text Word]) OR cell survival[MeSH Terms]) OR cell* survival[Text Word]) OR epigenetic[MeSH Terms]) OR epigenetic process[MeSH Terms]) OR epigenomic[MeSH Terms]) OR epigen*[Text Word]) OR genomic stability[MeSH Terms]) OR genomic instability[MeSH Terms]) OR genomic stabilit*[Text Word]) OR genomic instabilit*[Text Word]) OR genom* stabilit*[Text Word]) OR genom*

Concept	#	Pubmed query	Results
		instabilit*[Text Word]) OR chronic	
		inflammation[MeSH Terms]) OR chronic	
		inflammat*[Text Word]))	
2006 - current	7	Search (((((((fluoride[MeSH Terms]) OR fluorid*[Text	5026
		Word]) OR fluorin*[Text Word]) OR flurin*[Text	
		Word])) AND (((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((
		pathways[MeSH Terms]) OR adverse outcome	
		pathway*[Text Word]) OR toxicity test[MeSH Terms])	
		OR toxicity test*[Text Word]) OR animal testing	
		alternatives[MeSH Terms]) OR animal testing	
		alternative*[Text Word]) OR in vitro[MeSH Terms])	
		OR in vitro stud*[Text Word]) OR in vitro test*[Text	
		Word]) OR structure activity relationships[MeSH	
		Terms]) OR structure activity relationship*[Text	
		Word]) OR pharmacokinetics[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		pharmacokinetic*[Text Word]) OR	
		toxicokinetics[MeSH Terms]) OR toxicokinetic*[Text	
		Word]))	
		Terms]) OR cancer*[Text Word]) OR	
		neoplasm[MeSH Terms]) OR neoplas*[Text Word])	
		OR malignancy[MeSH Terms]) OR malignan*[Text	
		Word]) OR carcinoma[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		carcino*[Text Word]) OR sarcoma[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		sarco*[Text Word]) OR tumors[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		tumor*[Text Word]) OR tumours[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		tumour*[Text Word]) OR oncogenesis[MeSH Terms])	
		OR oncogens[MeSH Terms]) OR oncogen*[Text	
		Word]) OR carcinogenesis tests[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		carcinogens[MeSH Terms]) OR tumor*	
		formation*[Text Word]) OR tumour* formation*[Text	

Word]) OR tumor* genesis[Text Word]) OR tumour* genesis) OR cancer induction[MeSH Terms]) OR cancer* induction[Text Word]) OR induction cancer*) OR cancer* theor*[Text Word])) OR tests[MeSH Terms]) OR genotoxicant induced micronuclei[MeSH Terms]) OR genotoxic stresses[MeSH Terms]) OR genotoxins[MeSH Terms]) OR genotox*[Text Word]) OR micronucleus assays[MeSH Terms]) OR micronucle* assa*[Text Word]) OR dna damage[MeSH Terms]) OR dna damag*[Text Word]) OR dna break[MeSH Terms]) OR dna break*[Text Word]) OR dna lesion*[Text Word]) OR dna fragmentation[MeSH Terms]) OR dna fragment*[Text Word]) OR dna repair[MeSH Terms]) OR dna repair*[Text Word]) OR chromosome aberration[MeSH Terms]) OR chromosom* aberration*[Text Word]) OR chromosom* anomal*[Text Word]) OR chromosome abnormality[MeSH Terms]) OR chromosom* abnormal*[Text Word]) OR chromosome defective micronucleus[MeSH Terms]) OR chromosom* defect*[Text Word]) OR chromosom* error*[Text Word]) OR oxidative stress[MeSH Terms]) OR oxidative stress*[Text Word]) OR electrophilic stress*[Text Word]) OR cell transformation, neoplastic[MeSH Terms]) OR cell* transformation*[Text Word]) OR cell proliferation[MeSH Terms]) OR cell* proliferation*[Text Word]) OR cell aging[MeSH

Concept	#	Pubmed query	Results
		Terms]) OR cell* aging[Text Word]) OR cell*	
		degeneration*[Text Word]) OR cell death[MeSH	
		Terms]) OR cell* death*[Text Word]) OR cell*	
		necros*[Text Word]) OR cell survival[MeSH Terms])	
		OR cell* survival[Text Word]) OR epigenetic[MeSH	
		Terms]) OR epigenetic process[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		epigenomic[MeSH Terms]) OR epigen*[Text Word])	
		OR genomic stability[MeSH Terms]) OR genomic	
		instability[MeSH Terms]) OR genomic stabilit*[Text	
		Word]) OR genomic instabilit*[Text Word]) OR	
		genom* stabilit*[Text Word]) OR genom*	
		instabilit*[Text Word]) OR chronic	
		inflammation[MeSH Terms]) OR chronic	
		inflammat*[Text Word]))) AND ("2006"[Date -	
		Publication] : "2020"[Date - Publication])	
Rev /SR /MA	8	Search ((((((((fluoride[MeSH Terms]) OR fluorid*[Text	248
/CR		Word]) OR fluorin*[Text Word]) OR flurin*[Text	
		Word])) AND (((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((
		pathways[MeSH Terms]) OR adverse outcome	
		pathway*[Text Word]) OR toxicity test[MeSH Terms])	
		OR toxicity test*[Text Word]) OR animal testing	
		alternatives[MeSH Terms]) OR animal testing	
		alternative*[Text Word]) OR in vitro[MeSH Terms])	
		OR in vitro stud*[Text Word]) OR in vitro test*[Text	
		Word]) OR structure activity relationships[MeSH	
		Terms]) OR structure activity relationship*[Text	
		Word]) OR pharmacokinetics[MeSH Terms]) OR	
		pharmacokinetic*[Text Word]) OR	
		toxicokinetics[MeSH Terms]) OR toxicokinetic*[Text	
		Word])) OR ((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((

Terms]) OR cancer*[Text Word]) OR neoplasm[MeSH Terms]) OR neoplas*[Text Word]) OR malignancy[MeSH Terms]) OR malignan*[Text Word]) OR carcinoma[MeSH Terms]) OR carcino*[Text Word]) OR sarcoma[MeSH Terms]) OR sarco*[Text Word]) OR tumors[MeSH Terms]) OR tumor*[Text Word]) OR tumours[MeSH Terms]) OR tumour*[Text Word]) OR oncogenesis[MeSH Terms]) OR oncogens[MeSH Terms]) OR oncogen*[Text Word]) OR carcinogenesis tests[MeSH Terms]) OR carcinogens[MeSH Terms]) OR tumor* formation*[Text Word]) OR tumour* formation*[Text Word]) OR tumor* genesis[Text Word]) OR tumour* genesis) OR cancer induction[MeSH Terms]) OR cancer* induction[Text Word]) OR induction cancer*) OR cancer* theor*[Text Word])) OR tests[MeSH Terms]) OR genotoxicant induced micronuclei[MeSH Terms]) OR genotoxic stresses[MeSH Terms]) OR genotoxins[MeSH Terms]) OR genotox*[Text Word]) OR micronucleus assays[MeSH Terms]) OR micronucle* assa*[Text Word]) OR dna damage[MeSH Terms]) OR dna damag*[Text Word]) OR dna break[MeSH Terms]) OR dna break*[Text Word]) OR dna lesion*[Text Word]) OR dna fragmentation[MeSH Terms]) OR dna fragment*[Text Word]) OR dna repair[MeSH Terms]) OR dna repair*[Text Word]) OR chromosome aberration[MeSH Terms]) OR chromosom* aberration*[Text Word]) OR chromosom*

anomal*[Text Word]) OR chromosome abnormality[MeSH Terms]) OR chromosom* abnormal*[Text Word]) OR chromosome defective micronucleus[MeSH Terms]) OR chromosom* defect*[Text Word]) OR chromosom* error*[Text Word]) OR oxidative stress[MeSH Terms]) OR oxidative stress*[Text Word]) OR electrophilic stress*[Text Word]) OR cell transformation, neoplastic[MeSH Terms]) OR cell* transformation*[Text Word]) OR cell proliferation[MeSH Terms]) OR cell* proliferation*[Text Word]) OR cell aging[MeSH Terms]) OR cell* aging[Text Word]) OR cell* degeneration*[Text Word]) OR cell death[MeSH Terms]) OR cell* death*[Text Word]) OR cell* necros*[Text Word]) OR cell survival[MeSH Terms]) OR cell* survival[Text Word]) OR epigenetic[MeSH Terms]) OR epigenetic process[MeSH Terms]) OR epigenomic[MeSH Terms]) OR epigen*[Text Word]) OR genomic stability[MeSH Terms]) OR genomic instability[MeSH Terms]) OR genomic stabilit*[Text Word]) OR genomic instabilit*[Text Word]) OR genom* stabilit*[Text Word]) OR genom* instabilit*[Text Word]) OR chronic inflammation[MeSH Terms]) OR chronic inflammat*[Text Word]))) AND ("2006"[Date -Publication]: "2020"[Date - Publication])) AND ((((("meta analysis"[Publication Type]) OR "systematic review"[Publication Type]) OR "review"[Publication Type]) OR "scientific integrity

Concept	#	Pubmed query	Results
		review"[Publication Type]) OR "guideline"[Publication	
		Type])	

Section 6. Weight of evidence using Bradford Hill considerations for causality³¹

Reducing IQ scores

Strength of association

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical Significance	Effect on lowering IQ scores	Population
Feng 2022 [4]	High fluoride group (HFG)	P=0.010	Positive	Children
J	Change in IQ score per 1.0 mg/L increase in UFcr level: β=-			
	2.502 (95% CI: -4.411, -0.593)			
Goodman 2022	Changes in cognitive score per 0.5 mg/L increase in MUFcre	P=0.002	Positive	Children
[<u>6</u>]	GEE population-averaged models			
	FSIQ/GCI: B=-2.12 (95% CI: -3.49, -0.75)			
	PIQ: B=-2.63 (95% CI: -3.87, -1.40)	P<0.001	_	
	VIQ: B=-1.29 (95% CI: -2.60, 0.01);	P=0.053	_	
Ibarluzea 2022 [8]	Changes in cognitive score per unit (mg/g) increase in		Positive	Children
	maternal creatinine-adjusted urinary fluoride (MUFcr), β			
	(95% CI)			
	Bayley Mental Development Index (MDI)			
	Both trimesters MUFcr			
	• All: 1.48 (-4.2, 7.16)			
	• Boys: 3.84 (-5.04, 12.72)			
	• Girls: 0.75 (-6.92, 8.43)			
	McCarthy, verbal	P<0.05	_	
	Both trimesters MUFcr			

³¹: Includes data from RSI-identified studies only.

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical	Effect on lowering	Population
		Significance	IQ scores	
	• All: 13.86 (3.91, 23.82)			
	• Boys: 13.38 (2.81, 23.95)			
	• Girls: -1.31 (-9.35, 6.74)			
	McCarthy, performance	P<0.05	_	
	Both trimesters MUFcr			
	• All: 5.86 (0.32, 11.39)			
	• Boys: 12.24 (2.87, 21.61)			
	• Girls: 2.03 (-4.77, 8.83)			
	McCarthy, numeric	P<0.05	_	
	Both trimesters MUFcr			
	• All: 6.22 (0.65, 11.79			
	• Boys: 11.09 (1.79, 20.4)			
	• Girls: 3.03 (-3.96, 10.03)			
	McCarthy, memory	P<0.05	_	
	Both trimesters MUFcr			
	• All: 11.63 (2.62, 20.63)			
	• Boys: 11.3 (1.90, 20.7)			
	• Girls: -2.12 (-9.32, 5.09)			
	McCarthy, general cognitive	P<0.01	_	
	Both trimesters MUFcr			
	• All: 15.4 (6.32, 24.48)			
	• Boys: 15.03 (5.3, 24.75)			
	• Girls: -0.02 (-7.16, 7.12)			

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical Significance	Effect on lowering IQ scores	Population
	Changes in cognitive score per unit (mg/g) increase in			
	MUFcr, β (95% CI), stratified by fluoridated and non-			
	fluoridated zone			
	Bayley Mental Development Index (MDI)			
	Both trimesters MUFcr			
	Both zones/non-fluoridated: -0.52 (-7, 5.95)			
	 No significant interaction by zone 			
	McCarthy, verbal	• P<0.01	_	
	Both trimesters MUFcr			
	 Both zones/non-fluoridated: 15.58 (3.71, 27.45) 			
	• Fluoridated zone: -2.4 (-11.17, 6.37)			
	McCarthy, performance	P<0.05	_	
	Both trimesters MUFcr			
	Both zones/non-fluoridated: 7.82 (1.58, 14.07)			
	Fluoridated zone: not reported			
	McCarthy, numeric		_	
	Both trimesters MUFcr			
	Both zones/non-fluoridated: 4.08 (-2.21, 10.36)			
	 No significant interaction by zone 			
	McCarthy, memory		_	
	Both trimesters MUFcr			
	Both zones/non-fluoridated: 2.71 (-3.77, 9.18)			
	 No significant interaction by zone 			
	McCarthy, general cognitive	P<0.01	_	
	Both trimesters MUFcr			

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical Significance	Effect on lowering IQ scores	Population
	• Both zones/non-fluoridated: 15.46 (4.55, 26.36)			
	• Fluoridated zone: 1.96 (-6.09, 10.02)			
Saeed 2022 [13]	Non-verbal intelligence quotient (IQ)	P=0.233	Positive	Children/adolescents
	IQ score			
	Control group: 80.25-127.75; mean 100.93 (SD 13.1)			
	Exposed group: 63.97-127.31; mean 97.26 (SD 15.39)			
	Correlation analysis	P=0.006		
	Water fluoride and urinary fluoride: R ² =0.224			
	Water fluoride and IQ score: R ² =-0.034	P=0.683		
	Urinary fluoride and IQ score: R ² =-0.655	P=0.000		
	Intelligence level vs mean (SD) water fluoride (WF), urinary		_	
	fluoride (UF)			
	Superior (IQ score ≥130): no participants with this level			
	Above average (IQ score 120-129)			
	• WF: 1.96±2.77 mg/L			
	• UF: 0.54±0.59 mg/L			
	High Average (IQ score 111-119)			
	• WF: 4.60±4.40 mg/L			
	• UF: 1.20±0.80 mg/L			
	Average (QI score 90-100)			
	• WF: 4.3±3.99 mg/L			
	• UF: 1.99±1.28 mg/L			

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical	Effect on lowering	Population
		Significance	IQ scores	
	Low average (IQ score 80-89)			
	• WF: 3.84±3.63 mg/L			
	• UF: 3.61±2.84 mg/L			
	Borderline (IQ score 70-79)			
	• WF: 6.19±4.59 mg/L			
	• UF: 7.13±2.62 mg/L			
	Retarded (IQ score <70)			
	• WF: 4.92±3.46 mg/L			
	UF: 8.10±5.84 mg/L			
Farmus 2021 [21]	Change (95% CI) in age-normed in FSIQ scores per unit	P=0.012	Positive	Children
	increase in standardized fluoride exposure			
	<u>Males</u>			
	• MUF: -1.86 (-3.22, -0.49)			
	• IFI: -0.01 (-1.67, 1.65)			
	CUF: 0.07 (-1.66, 1.80)			
-	<u>Females</u>	P=0.77		
	• MUF: -0.23 (-2.06, 1.60)			
	• IFI: -0.72 (-2.34, 0.89)			
	CUF: -0.41 (-2.07, 1.24)			
	<u>Overall</u>	P=-0.23	_	
	• MUF: -1.28 (-2.37, -0.18)			
	• IFI: -0.38 (-1.53, 0.78)			
	CUF: -0.18 (-1.38, 1.02)			

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical	Effect on lowering	Population
		Significance	IQ scores	
	Change (95% CI) in age-normed in PIQ scores per unit increase	P=0.01		
	in standardized fluoride exposure			
	<u>Males</u>			
	• MUF: -3.01			
	• IFI: -1.45 (-3.40, 0.49)			
	CUF: -1.49 (-3.50, 0.53)			
	<u>Females</u>	P=0.01	_	
	• MUF: -1.18 (-3.32, 0.96)			
	• IFI: -2.71 (-4.59, -0.83)			
	CUF: -1.53 (-3.45, 0.39)			
	<u>Overall</u>	P=<0.001		
	• MUF: -2.36 (-3.63, -1.08)			
	• IFI: -2.11 (-3.45, -0.76)			
	CUF: -1.51 (-2.90, -0.12)			
	Change (95% CI) in age-normed in VIQ scores per unit increase	P=0.12		
	in standardized fluoride exposure			
	<u>Males</u>			
	• MUF: -0.25 (-1.57, 1.07)			
	• IFI: 1.22 (-0.39, 2.83)			
	CUF: 1.61 (-0.06, 3.29)			
	<u>Females</u>	P=0.30	_	
	• MUF: 0.87 (-0.91, 2.64)			
	• IFI: 1.31 (-0.25, 2.87)			
	CUF: 0.63 (-0.98, 2.23)			
	<u>Overall</u>	P=0.04	_	

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical Significance	Effect on lowering Population IQ scores
	• MUF: 0.15 (-0.91, 1.20)		
	• IFI: 1.27 (0.15, 2.39)		
	CUF: 1.10 (-0.06, 2.26)		
	Change (95% CI) in FSIQ scores per unit increase (0.5 mg/L	P=0.12	_
	MUF; 0.1 mg/day IFI; 0.5 mg/L CUF) in fluoride exposure		
	<u>Males</u>		
	• MUF: -2.48 (-4.30, -0.66)		
	• IFI: -0.01 (-1.25, 1.24)		
	CUF: 0.09 (-2.10, 2.28)		
	<u>Females</u>	P=0.77	_
	• MUF: -0.31 (-2.76, 2.14)		
	• IFI: -0.54 (-1.75, 0.66)		
	CUF: -0.52 (-2.62, 1.58)		
	<u>Overall</u>	P=0.23	_
	• MUF: -1.71 (-3.17, -0.24)		
	• IFI: -0.28 (-1.15, 0.58)		
	CUF: -0.23 (-1.75, 1.29)		
	Change (95% CI) in PIQ scores per unit increase (0.5 mg/L	P=0.01	_
	MUF; 0.1 mg/day IFI; 0.5 mg/L CUF) in fluoride exposure		
	<u>Males</u>		
	• MUF: -4.02 (-6.15, -1.89)		
	• IFI: -1.09 (-2.54, 0.37)		
	CUF: -1.89 (-4.44, 0.67)		
	<u>Females</u>	P=0.01	_
	• MUF: -1.58 (-4.43, 1.28)		

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical Significance	Effect on lowering IQ scores	Population
	• IFI: -2.03 (-3.43, -0.63)			
	CUF: -1.94 (-4.37, 0.50)			
	<u>Overall</u>	P=<0.001	_	
	• MUF: -3.15 (-4.85, -1.44)			
	• IFI: -1.58 (-2.59, -0.57)			
	CUF: -1.91 (-3.68, -0.15)			
	Change (95% CI) in VIQ scores per unit increase (0.5 mg/L	P=0.12	_	
	MUF; 0.1 mg/day IFI; 0.5 mg/L CUF) in fluoride exposure			
	<u>Males</u>			
	• MUF: -0.34 (-2.10, 1.43)			
	• IFI: 0.92 (-0.29, 2.12)			
	CUF: 2.05 (-0.08, 4.16)			
	<u>Females</u>	P=0.30	_	
	• MUF: 1.16 (-1.22, 3.53)			
	• IFI: 0.98 (-0.19, 2.15)			
	CUF: 0.79 (-1.24, 2.82)			
	<u>Overall</u>	P=0.04	_	
	• MUF: 0.20 (-1.22, 1.61)			
	• IFI: 0.95 (0.11, 1.79)			
	CUF: 1.39 (-0.08, 2.86)			
	Sensitivity analysis where influential mother-child dyads were		_	
	removed was conducted			
	 Association of MUF and FSIQ in boys became weaker and not 			
	statistically significant			
	 No change in status of statistical significance for other 			

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical Significance	Effect on lowering IQ scores	Population
	associations tested			
Wang 2021 [32]	IQ, Linear regression		Positive	Children
	• Water fluoride (mg/L): IQ scores, β (95% CI), Q1 (≤ 0.30):			
	Reference:			
	○ Q2 (0.30-1.00)			
	All: 1.77 (-0.73, 4.27)			
	Boys: 1.40 (-2.29, 5.08)			
	Girls: 2.51 (-1.42, 6.45)			
	○ Q3 (1.00-1.60)			
	All: -2.77 (-5.44, -0.10)			
	Boys: -4.45 (-8.41, -0.50)			
	Girls: -1.72 (-5.91, 2.47)			
	○ Q4 (> 1.60)			
	All: -4.10 (-6.71, -1.48)			
	Boys: -5.74 (-9.57, -1.91)			
	Girls: -5.27 (-9.32, -1.22)			
	 Urinary fluoride (mg/L): IQ scores, β (95% CI) 			
	○ Q2 (0.20-0.48)			
	All: -1.99 (-4.64, 0.66)			
	Boys: -1.62 (-5.65, 2.42)			
	Girls: -3.29 (-7.34, 0.77)			
	o Q3 (0.48-0.90)			
	All: -3.02 (-5.71, -0.33)			
	Boys: -3.54 (-7.60, 0.52)			

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical	Effect on lowering	Population
		Significance	IQ scores	
	Girls: -1.86 (-6.01, 2.29)			
	○ Q4 (> 0.90)			
	All: -4.49 (-7.21, -1.77)			
	Boys: -6.09 (-10.29, -1.90)			
	Girls: -5.98 (-9.99, -1.96)			
	IQ, Logistic regression			
	 Water fluoride (mg/L) and IQ scores [OR (95% CI)] 			
	o Superior and above (≥120): 0.69 (0.54, 0.90)			
	o High normal (110-119): 0.86 (0.70, 1.06)			
	o Normal (90-109): 1 (control)			
	o Dull normal and below (≤89): 1.42 (1.08, 1.88)			
	 Urinary fluoride (mg/L) and IQ scores [OR (95% CI)] 			
	o Superior and above (≥120): 0.67 (0.46, 0.97)			
	o High normal (110-119): 0.90 (0.68, 1.18)			
	o Normal (90-109): 1 (control)			
	Dull normal and below (≤89): 1.39 (0.97, 2.00)			
	Similar results were obtained with sensitivity analyses for the		_	
	association between fluoride exposure and IQ reduction			
Cui 2020 [37]	Mean (±SD) IQ by urinary fluoride levels	0.578	Non-significant	Children/
	• < 1.6 mg/L: 112.16 (±11.50)		association	adolescents
	• 1.6 – 2.5 mg/L: 112.05 (±12.01)			
	• ≥ 2.5 mg/L: 110.00 (±14.92)			
Soto-Barreras	Mean (±SD) water fluoride levels (mg/L) by intellectual grade	0.645	No association	Children/ adolescents
2019 [62]	categories			
	• Grade I: 1.48 ± 1.13			

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical Significance	Effect on lowering IQ scores	Population
	• Grade II: 1.05 ± 1.06			
	• Grade III: 1.04 ± 1.06			
	• Grade IV: 0.97 ± 1.10			
	• Grade V: 0.79 ± 1.17			
	Mean (±SD) urinary fluoride levels (mg/L) by intellectual grade	0.559	<u> </u>	
	categories			
	• Grade I: 0.45 ± 0.34			
	• Grade II: 0.54 ± 0.29			
	• Grade III: 0.61 ± 0.38			
	• Grade IV: 0.56 ± 0.33			
	• Grade V: 0.35 ± 0.19			
	Mean (±SD) exposure dose/daily intake by intellectual grade	0.389	_	
	categories			
	• Grade I: 0.03 ± 0.03			
	• Grade II: 0.026 ± 0.03			
	• Grade III: 0.027 ± 0.03			
	• Grade IV: 0.029 ± 0.03			
	• Grade V: 0.016 ± 0.02			
Arulkumar 2017	Serum level of AChE (U/I)	P< 0.001	Possibly positive	Adults (fluorosis
[78]	• Controls: 6.29 ± 0.68			patients)
	• Mild: 4.64 ± 0.54			
	• Moderate: 4.11 ± 0.4			
	• Severe: 3.78 ± 0.35			
	Serum level of ATPase/Na+ K+ ATPase	P< 0.001		-

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical	Effect on lowering	Population
		Significance	IQ scores	
	• Controls: 2.41 ± 0.34			
	• Mild: 2.56 ± 0.31			
	• Moderate: 2.64 ± 0.29			
	• Severe: 2.87 ± 0.4			
Bashash 2017 [79]	Change in outcome per 0.5 mg/L increase in maternal urinary		Positive	Children/ adolescents
	fluoride levels			
	o $GCI: \beta = -3.15 (-5.42, -0.87)$	p = 0.01		
	o $IQ: \beta = -2.50 (-4.12, -0.59)$	p = 0.01	_	
	Change in outcome per 0.5 mg/L increase in child urinary		_	
	fluoride levels			
	o IQ – Without adjustment of maternal urinary fluoride levels:			
	β = - 0.89 (-2.63, 0.85)	Non-significant		
	 IQ – With adjustment of maternal urinary fluoride levels 			
	β = - 0.77 (-2.53, 0.99)	Non-significant		
Yani 2021 [33]	IQ		Positive	Children
	High-fluoride area:			
	o Low: 17 (28.3%)			
	o High: 43 (71.7%)			
	Low-fluoride area:			
	o Low: 0 (0%)			
	o High: 40 (100%)			
	IQ and Dental fluorosis			
	Dental fluorosis:			
	o Low: 15 (37.5%)			

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical Significance	Effect on lowering IQ scores	Population
	o High: 25 (62.5%)			
	No dental fluorosis:			
	o Low: 2 (3.3%)			
	o High: 28 (96.6%)			
Yu 2021 [34]	Does-response relationships of IQ scores with fluoride		Positive	Children
	exposures (β and 95% CI for every 0.50 mg/L increment of			
	water fluoride or urinary fluoride)			
	 Water fluoride (mg/L) 			
	○ 0.20-3.40			
	Crude: -1.24 (-1.48, -0.99)			
	Adjusted: -1.16 (-1.41, -0.91)			
	○ 3.40-3.90			
	Crude: -5.36 (-8.54, -2.18)			
	Adjusted: -4.21 (-7.54, -0.87)			
	Urinary fluoride (mg/L)			
	○ 0.01-1.60			
	Crude: 0.96 (0.29, 1.63)			
	Adjusted: 1.01 (0.34, 1.68)			
	○ 1.60-2.50			
	Crude: -5.08 (-6.94, -3.22)			
	Adjusted: -5.23 (-7.07, -3.39)			
	○ 2.50-5.54			
	Crude: -0.50 (-1.13, 0.14)			
	Adjusted: -0.34 (-0.98, 0.30)			
Zhao 2021 [35]	Associations between UF and IQ scores		Positive	Children

	Statistical Significance	Effect on lowering IQ scores	Population
were inversely linear associated with IQ			
) in both crude model and adjusted model			
59 (- 8.996, - 1.321)			
5.957 (- 9.712, - 2.202)			
ed estimation of the variance: (95% CI: -			
334; p=0.006)			
in IQ score per log-unit increase in urinary		Positive	Children/ adolescents
I participants and by subgroups			
<u>23)</u>			
c, - 0.01), p = 0.049	p = 0.236		
estimate: 95%Cl = -4.97, 0.03]	p = 0.053		
CC or CT (N = 279)			
.24, 1.05)	p = 0.236		
estimate: 95%Cl= -4.14, 0.95]	p = 0.220		
TT (N = 44)		_	
8.69, -5.94), p=< 0.001	p=< 0.001		
estimate: 95%Cl= -19.66, -4.96]	p = 0.001		
shold of urine fluoride levels in the subgroup			
. (1.51-1.97)			
een exposure dose and IQ: r = -0.343	p < 0.01	Positive	Children/ adolescents
een average level of fluoride in drinking water	p = 0.007	Possible positive	Children/ adolescents
	erage level of fluoride in drinking water ool performance score (%):		

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical Significance	Effect on lowering IQ scores	Population
	Overall score: r = -0.51			
	Correlation between average level of fluoride in drinking water	p = 0.012		
	(mg/L) and the prevalence of high school performance score			
	(%):			
	Overall score: r = -0.48			
Till 2020 [48]	An increase of 0.5 mg/L in water fluoride concentration (almost	Significant	Positive	Children/ adolescents
	equal to the difference between fluoridated and non-fluoridated			
	regions) corresponded to reduction in performance IQ:			
	 Formula-fed: 9.3-point (95% CI: −13.77, −4.76) 			
	 Breastfed: 6.2-point (95% CI: −10.45, −1.94). 			
	Association remained significant upon controlling for fetal			
	fluoride exposure			
	 Formula-fed: (b =-7.93, 95% CI: −12.84, −3.01) 			
	 Breastfed: (b =−6.30, 95% CI: −10.92, −1.68) 			
Wang 2020 [49]	Change in IQ scores per 1 mg/L increment of water fluoride	Significant	Positive	Children/ adolescents
	 Water fluoride (continuous): b =−1.59 (−2.61, −0.57), 			
	p=0.002			
	Change in IQ scores per quartile increment of water fluoride			
	compared to the reference (≤0.70 mg/L)			
	Water fluoride (1.00–1.90): −3.07 (−5.64, −0.49), p: 0.02			
Yu 2018 ⁷⁷	Odds (95% CI) of having excellent IQ level per 0.5 mg/L		Positive	Children/ adolescents
	increment of fluoride in water; normal IQ is the control			
	• Fluoride level of 0.20 – 1.40 mg/L: OR = 0.60 (0.47, 0.77)			
	• Fluoride level of 1.40 – 3.90 mg/L: OR = 1.09 (0.88, 1.36)			

Consistency

Study	Design	Country	Population	Association	Time period
Goodman 2022 ^[6]	Cohort	Mexico	Mother-child pairs	Positive	1997-1999
					2001-2003
Feng 2022 [4]	Cross-sectional	China	Children	Positive	2017
Ibarluzea 2022 [8]	Cohort	Spain	Mother-child pairs	Positive	1997–2008
Kaur 2022 ^[9]	Cross-sectional	India	Children	Positive	2011
Saeed 2022 [13]	Cross-sectional	Pakistan	Children and adolescents	Positive	NR
Ahmad 2021 [3]	Cross-sectional	Pakistan	Children	None	NR
Farmus 2021 [21]	Cohort	Canada	Mother-child pairs	Positive	2008-2011
Wang 2021 [32]	Cross-sectional	China	Children	Positive	2015
Yani 2021 [33]	Cross-sectional	Indonesia	Children	Positive	NR
Yu 2021 [34]	Cross-sectional	China	Children	Positive	2015
Zhao 2021 [35]	Cross-sectional	China	Children	Positive	2018
Cui 2020 [37]	Cross-sectional	China	Children/ adolescents	Non-significant	2014 - 2018
Till 2020 [48]	Cohort	Canada	Children/ adolescents	Positive	2008-2011
Wang 2020 [49]	Cross-sectional	China	Children/ adolescents	Positive	2015
Soto-Barreras 2019 [62]	Cross-sectional	Mexico	Children/ adolescents	None	2017
Cui 2018 [67]	Cross-sectional	China	Children/ adolescents	Positive	2014-2015
Mustafa 2018 [72]	Cross-sectional	Sudan	Children/ adolescents	Possible	NR
Yu 2018 💯	Cross-sectional	China	Children/ adolescents	Positive	2015
Bashash 2017 [79]	Cohort	Mexico	Children/ adolescents	Positive	1997-1999
					2001-2003
Arulkumar 2017 [78]	Cross-sectional	India	Adults (fluorosis patients)	Possible	NR
Kousik 2016 [86]	Cross-sectional	India	Children/ adolescents	Positive	NR
Heck 2016 [85]	Cross-sectional	United States	Adults, children/ adolescents	None	NR

Temporality

Study	Design	Outcome, time of assessment
Goodman 2022 ^[6]	Cohort	GCI/FSIQ, PIQ, and VIQ scores across ages 4, 5 and 6–12 years
Ibarluzea 2022 [8]	Cohort	Results in boys suggest improved scores in cognitive domains with maternal urinary concentrations.
Farmus 2021 [21]	Cohort	Performance IQ at the ages of 1.9 and 4.4 years
Till 2020 [48]	Cohort	IQ scores at the age of 3-4 years old
Bashash 2017 [79]	Cohort	GCI scores at the age of 4 years old
		 Full-Scale IQ scores at the age of 6–12 years old
All other studies wer	e cross-sectional (tem	porality is not applicable)

Biological gradient (exposure-response)

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical Significance	Effect on lowering IQ scores	Population
Arulkumar 2017 [78]	Serum level of AChE (U/I)	P= 0.000	Possible	Adults
	• Controls: 6.29 ± 0.68		positive	(fluorosis
	• Mild: 4.64 ± 0.54			patients)
	 Moderate: 4.11 ± 0.4 			
	• Severe: 3.78 ± 0.35			
	Serum level of ATPase/Na+ K+ ATPase	P= 0.000	=	
	• Controls: 2.41 ± 0.34			
	• Mild: 2.56 ± 0.31			
	 Moderate: 2.64 ± 0.29 			
	• Severe: 2.87 ± 0.4			
Bashash 2017 [79]	Change in outcome per 0.5 mg/L increase in maternal urinary fluoride		Positive	Children/
	levels			adolescents
	\circ GCI: $\beta = -3.15$ (-5.42, -0.87)	p = 0.01		
	o $IQ: \beta = -2.50 (-4.12, -0.59)$	p = 0.01	_	
	Change in outcome per 0.5 mg/L increase in child urinary fluoride levels		-	
	○ $IQ - Without$ adjustment of maternal urinary fluoride levels: $\beta = -0.89$ (-2.63, 0.85)	Non-significant		

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical	Effect	on	Population
		Significance	lowering	IQ	
			scores		
	IQ – With adjustment of maternal urinary fluoride levels				
	β = - 0.77 (-2.53, 0.99)	Non-significant			
Cui 2018 ^[67]	Change (95% CI) in IQ score per log-unit increase in urinary fluoride		Positive		Children/
	among all participants and by subgroups				adolescents
	<u>Overall (N = 323)</u>				
	β = -2.47 (-4.93, - 0.01), p = 0.049	p = 0.236			
	[Bootstrapped estimate: 95%Cl = -4.97, 0.03]	p = 0.053	=		
	DRD2 SNP of CC or CT (N = 279)		_		
	β = - 1.59 (- 4.24, 1.05)	p = 0.236			
	[Bootstrapped estimate: 95%Cl= -4.14, 0.95]	p = 0.220	_		
	DRD2 SNP of TT (N = 44)		_		
	β = -12.31 (-18.69, -5.94), p=< 0.001	p=< 0.001			
	[Bootstrapped estimate: 95%Cl= -19.66, -4.96]	p = 0.001	_		
	The safety threshold of urine fluoride levels in the subgroup TT: 1.73 mg/L (1.51-1.97)				
Kousik 2016 [86]	Correlation between exposure dose and IQ: r = -0.343	p = < 0.01	Positive		Children/
					adolescents
Mustafa 2018 [72]	Correlation between average level of fluoride in drinking water (mg/L)	p = 0.007	Possible		Children/
	and average school performance score (%):		positive		adolescents
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Study	Effect estimates	Statistical Significance	Effect on lowering IQ scores	Population
	Overall score: r = -0.51 Correlation between average level of fluoride in drinking water (mg/L) and the prevalence of high school performance score (%): Overall score: r = -0.48	p = 0.012		
Till 2020 [48]	An increase of 0.5 mg/L in water fluoride concentration (almost equal to the difference between fluoridated and non-fluoridated regions) corresponded to reduction in performance IQ: • Formula-fed: 9.3-point (95% CI: -13.77, -4.76)	Significant	Positive	Children/ adolescents
	 Breastfed: 6.2-point (95% CI: -10.45, -1.94). Association remained significant upon controlling for fetal fluoride exposure 			
	 Formula-fed: (β =-7.93, 95% CI: -12.84, -3.01) Breastfed: (β =-6.30, 95% CI: -10.92, -1.68) 			
Wang 2020 [49]	Fluoride exposure was inversely related to IQ scores • Water fluoride: β =-1.59 (95% CI: -2.61, -0.57)	P=0.002	Positive	Children/ adolescents
Yu 2018 [77]	Odds (95% CI) of having excellent IQ level per 0.5 mg/L increment of fluoride in water; normal IQ is the control • Fluoride level of 0.20 – 1.40 mg/L: OR = 0.60 (0.47, 0.77) • Fluoride level of 1.40 – 3.90 mg/L: OR = 1.09 (0.88, 1.36)		Positive	Children/ adolescents

Thyroid dysfunction

Strength of association

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical Significance	Effect on Population thyroid dysfunction
Du 2021 ^[20]	Tvol (cm3)		Positive Children/
	• All: β (95% CI): 0.22 (0.14, 0.31), p-value:	< 0.001	association adolescents
	• Boys: β (95% CI): 0.34 (0.20, 0.48)	< 0.001	_
	• Girls: β (95% CI): 0.14 (0.03, 0.24)	0.011	_
	• Interaction: β (95% CI): - 0.15 (- 0.30, - 0.01)	0.038	_
	TT4 (nmol/l)		_
	• All: β (95% CI): 1.44 (- 1.28, 4.16)	0.297	
	• Boys: β (95% CI): 2.13 (- 2.89, 7.14)	0.404	-
	• Girls: β (95% CI): 0.89 (- 2.27, 4.04)	0.580	_
	• Interaction: β (95% CI): - 1.46 (- 6.17, 3.24)	0.542	_
	TT3 (nmol/l)		-
	• All: β (95% CI): - 0.05 (- 0.10, 0.01), p-value:	0.087	
	• Boys: β (95% CI): - 0.08 (- 0.17, 0.01)	0.072	_
	• Girls: β (95% CI): - 0.03 (- 0.10, 0.04)	0.381	_
	• Interaction: β (95% CI): 0.01 (- 0.08, 0.10)	0.795	_

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical Significance	Effect on thyroid dysfunction	Population
Cui 2020 [37]	Median (q1-q3) TSH in uIU/mL by urinary fluoride levels • < 1.6 mg/L: 2.81 (2.21 – 3.81) • 1.6 – 2.5 mg/L: 2.82 (2.01 – 3.82) • ≥ 2.5 mg/L: 3.29 (2.30 – 4.48)	0.287	Non- significant association	Children/ adolescents
Kumar 2018 ^[69]	Thyroid hormone (Mean) levels by study group (A: fluorosis endemic area, B: fluorosis non-endemic area) • Free T3 (pg/ml): A: 3.125; B: 2.698	p = 0.26	Positive	Children/ adolescents
	 Free T4 (ng/dL): A: 1.282; B: 1.193 TSH (μIU/m): A: 3.849; B: 2.588 Percent (%) of thyroid hormone level derangement: A: 67.5; B: 54 	p = 0.41 p = 0.02	-	
Rathore 2018 [75]	 Exposure groups:	P value: NR	Positive	Children/ adolescents

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical	Effect	on	Population
		Significance	thyroid		
			dysfund	tion	
	<u>Gp 1:</u> 0.98 ng/dL ±0.21, [0.79 − 1.79]				
	<u>Gp 2:</u> 1.02 ng/dL ±0.26, [0.78 – 1.89]				
	<u>Gp 3:</u> 1.11 ng/dL ±0.28, [0.76 – 1.98]				
	<u>Gp 4:</u> 1.22 ng/dL ± 0.33, [0.75 – 1.89]				
	 TSH: Mean ± SD, [range] (μIU/mL) 				
	<u>Gp 1:</u> 1.33 μIU/mL ±0.78, [0.4 – 2.99]				
	<u>Gp 2:</u> 1.64 μIU/mL ±0.88), [0.29 – 3.76]				
	<u>Gp 3:</u> 1.86 μIU/mL ±0.77, [0.76 – 3.74]				
	<u>Gp 4:</u> 1.91 uIU/mL ±1.10, [0.75 – 4.99]				
Wang 2020 [49]	Every 1 mg/L increment of water fluoride was associated with	P=0.028	Positive		Children/
	• 0.006 ng/mL increase in TT3	(significant only			adolescents
	• 0.013 pg/mL increase in FT3	before			
	• 0.083 ng/mL decrease in TT4	correction for			
	• 0.01 ng/mL decrease in FT4	multiple testing)			
	• 0.13 μIU/mL increase in TSH				
	Every 1 mg/L increment of urinary fluoride was associated with	0.013			
	• 0.007 ng/mL increase in TT3	(Remained			
	• 0.02 pg/mL increase in FT3	significant after			
	• 0.09 ng/mL decrease in TT4	corrections for			
	• 0.009 ng/mL decrease in FT4	multiple testing)			
	• 0.11 μIU/mL increase in TSH				

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical Significance	Effect on thyroid dysfunction	Population
Malin 2018 [71]	Every 1mg/L increment of urinary fluoride (in iodine-deficient adults) was associated with a 0.35 mIU/L increase in TSH [95% CI: 0.06, 0.64].	p = 0.01 (one- tailed)	Possible positive	Children/ adolescents and adults

Consistency

Study	Design	Country	Population	Time period
Du 2021 [20]	Cross-sectional	China	Children/ adolescents	2017
Cui 2020 [37]	Cross-sectional	China	Children/ adolescents	2014 - 2018
Kumar 2018 ^[69]	Cross-sectional	India	Children/ adolescents	NR
Rathore 2018 [75]	Cross-sectional	India	Children/ adolescents	NR
Wang 2020 [49]	Cross-sectional	China	Children/ adolescents	2015
Malin 2018 [71]	Cross-sectional	Canada	Children/ adolescents and adults	2012 – 2013

Biological gradient (exposure-response)

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical Significance	Effect on thyroid dysfunction	Population
Kumar 2018 ^[69]	Thyroid hormone (Mean) levels by study group (A: fluorosis endemic area, B: fluorosis non-endemic area)	p = 0.26		
	• Free T3 (pg/ml): A: 3.125; B: 2.698			
	• Free T4 (ng/dL): A: 1.282; B: 1.193	p = 0.41		
	• TSH (µIU/m): A: 3.849; B: 2.588	p = 0.02		
	• Percent (%) of thyroid hormone level derangement: A: 67.5; B:			
	54			
Rathore 2018 [75]	Exposure groups:	P value: NR	Positive	Children/
	Gp 1: <1ppm			adolescents
	Gp 2: 1-1.9 ppm			
	Gp 3: 2-3.9 ppm			
	Gp 4: ≥ 4ppm			
	Free T3: mean, ±SD, [range] (pg/mL)			
	<u>Gp 1:</u> 2.66 pg/mL ±0.46, [2.11 – 3.89]			
	<u>Gp 2:</u> 2.73 pg/mL ±0.36, [2.13 − 3.56]			
	<u>Gp 3:</u> 2.84 pg/mL ±0.46, [2.02 – 4.26]			
	<u>Gp 4:</u> 3.06 pg/mL ±0.78, [1.91 – 4.42]			
	• Free T4: mean ±SD, [range] (ng/dL)			
	<u>Gp 1:</u> 0.98 ng/dL ±0.21, [0.79 − 1.79]			
	<u>Gp 2:</u> 1.02 ng/dL ±0.26, [0.78 − 1.89]			

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical Significance	Effect on thyroid dysfunction	Population
	<u>Gp 3:</u> 1.11 ng/dL ±0.28, [0.76 − 1.98] <u>Gp 4:</u> 1.22 ng/dL ± 0.33, [0.75 − 1.89] • TSH: Mean ± SD, [range] (μIU/mL) <u>Gp 1:</u> 1.33 μIU/mL ±0.78, [0.4 − 2.99] <u>Gp 2:</u> 1.64 μIU/mL ±0.88), [0.29 − 3.76]			
	<u>Gp 3:</u> 1.86 μIU/mL ±0.77, [0.76 – 3.74] <u>Gp 4:</u> 1.91 uIU/mL ±1.10, [0.75 – 4.99]			
Wang 2020 ^[49]	Every 1 mg/L increment of water fluoride was associated with • 0.006 ng/mL increase in TT3 • 0.013 pg/mL increase in FT3 • 0.083 ng/mL decrease in TT4 • 0.01 ng/mL decrease in FT4 • 0.13 µIU/mL increase in TSH	P=0.028 (significant only before correction for multiple testing)	Positive	Children/ adolescents
	 Every 1 mg/L increment of urinary fluoride was associated with 0.007 ng/mL increase in TT3 0.02 pg/mL increase in FT3 0.09 ng/mL decrease in TT4 0.009 ng/mL decrease in FT4 0.11 μIU/mL increase in TSH 	0.013 (Remained significant after corrections for multiple testing)		
Malin 2018 [71]	Change (95%CI) in serum TSH (µIU/L) per unit increase in UFsg (mg/L)	p = 0.43	Possible positive	Children/ adolescents and

S	Study Effect estimates		Effect on thyroid dysfunction	Population
	No iodine deficiency: $\beta = -0.02 (-0.19, 0.15)$			adults
	lodine deficiency: ß = 0.36 (-0.03, 0.75)	p = 0.03		

Experimental evidence

Selected animal studies (tier-1; medium to high quality) investigating thyroid dysfunction

Animal model	F in DW ³² (mg/L)	Significantly altered outcomes	D-R trend
Rat (chronic) (943)	0, 5, 10, 20	Serum T4, FT4 and TSH levels	Inconsistent change across time
		(no change in serum T3, FT3)	points and only occurred at
		(no change in scrain 13, 1 13)	higher doses
Rat (chronic) ³³	0, 10, 20	None	None
		(serum T3, T4 and TSH levels were assessed)

³² "[t]he fluoride concentration in drinking water for rats must be about 4–5 times greater in order to achieve serum fluoride levels comparable to those in humans (Angmar-Mansson and Whitford, 1984)" (as cited in Cardenas-Gonzalez et al., 2013) (NRC, 2006; McPherson et al., 2018)

³³ McPherson CA, Zhang G, Gilliam R, Brar SS, Wilson R, Brix A, Picut C, Harry GJ. 2018. An evaluation of neurotoxicity following fluoride exposure from gestational through adult ages in Long-Evans hooded rats. Neurotoxicol Res: 1-18.

Kidney dysfunction

Strength of association

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical Significance	Effect on kidney dysfunction	Population
Nanayakkara 2020 [44]	Mean serum fluoride level (±SD) by CKDu stage	* p<0.05	Possible	Adult non-
	• Stage 0: 35.5 μg/L (±16.3)	compared to controls		dialysis CKDu cases
	• Stage 1: 38.1 μg/L (±18.1)	-		
	• Stage 2: 53.9 μg/L (±34.2) *	-		
	• Stage 3: 82.8 μg/L (±41.9) *	_		
	• Stage 4: 123.4 µg/L (±59.9) *	_		
	• Stage 5: 123.9 µg/L (±52.6) *	-		
Fernando 2019 [52]	Serum fluoride: Mean ±SD [range] mg/L	p = 0.000	Possible	Adult non-
	CKDu patients: 1.43 ±1.2 [0.47 – 9.58]			dialysis
	Controls: 1.07 ±0.3 mg/L [0.51 – 1.92]			CKDu cases
	p = 0.000 (showed a significant difference based on CKDu stage but			
	not with sex or age)			
	Urinary fluoride: Mean ±SD [range] mg/L	p = 0.004	<u>—</u>	
	CKDu patients: 1.53 ±0.8 [0.45 – 6.92]			
	Controls: 1.26 ±0.63 [0.36 – 3.80]			
Malin 2019 [57]	1 mg/L increase in water fluoride was associated with:	p=0.007	Possible	Children/
	0.93 mg/dL lower blood urea nitrogen concentration (95% CI:			adolescents
05.14	40			

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical	Effect on	Population
		Significance	kidney	
			dysfunction	
	−1.44 , −0.42).			
	• eGFR: -1.03 mL/min/m2 (95% CI: -2.93, 0.87)	p > 0.99		
	Water fluoride was log2 transformed in this model.			
	• SUA: 0.05 mg/dL (95% CI: -0.07, 0.18)	p > 0.99		
	• ACR: -0.01 mg/g (95% CI: -0.07, 0.06)	p > 0.99	<u> </u>	
	Water fluoride and outcome variables were log2 transformed.			
	1 μmol/L increase in plasma fluoride was associated with:		<u> </u>	
	 10.36 mL/min/1.73m2 lower estimated glomerular filtration rate 	p=0.05		
	(95% CI: −17.50, −3.22)			
	 0.29 mg/dL higher serum uric acid concentration (95% CI: 0.09, 	p=0.05	_	
	0.50)			
	 1.29 mg/dL lower blood urea nitrogen concentration (95%CI: 	p < 0.001	_	
	-1.87, -0.70)			
Jimenez-Cordova 2018 [68]	Change in outcome (p-value) per unit increase of fluoride in water		Possible	Adults
	(mg/L) and urine (µg/mL)			
	• ALB (µg/mL)	p= <0.001		
	Water: β= 1.20	ρ= <0.001		
	Urine: β = 0.56	p= <0.001	_	
	• Cys-C (mg/mL)		<u> </u>	
	Water: β= 0.03	p= 0.005		
	<i>Urine:</i> β = 0.022	p= 0.001		
	OPN (mg/mL)		<u> </u>	
	-			

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical Significance	Effect on kidney dysfunction	Population
	Water: β= 0.10	p= 0.028		
	<i>Urine:</i> β = 0.038	p= 0.041	<u> </u>	
	• CLU (μg/mL)		<u> </u>	
	Water: β= 0.09	p= 0.118		
	Urine: β = 0.07	p= 0.100	_	
	• KIM-1 (ng/mL)		<u> </u>	
	Water: b= 0.045	p= 0.162		
	Urine: b= 0.048	p= 0.008	_	
	• TFF-3 (ng/mL)		<u> </u>	
	Water: β= 2.88	p= 0.010		
	Urine: β = 1.14	p= 0.115		
	• eGFR (mL/min/1.73 m2)		<u> </u>	
	Water: β= 0.19	p= 0.675		
	Urine: β = 0.49	p= 0.030	<u>—</u>	

Consistency

Study	Design	Country	Association	Population	Time period
Nanayakkara 2020 [44]	Cross-sectional	Sri Lanka	Possible	Adult CKDu cases	NR
Fernando 2019 [52]	Case-control	Sri Lanka	Possible	Adult non-dialysis CKDu cases	NR
Jimenez-Cordova 2019 [53]	Cross-sectional	Mexico	Inconclusive	Children/ adolescents	2015
Malin 2019 [57]	Cross-sectional	United States	Possible	Children/ adolescents	2013–2016
Jimenez-Cordova 2018 [68]	Cross-sectional	Mexico	Possible	Adults	2013
Cardenas-Gonzalez 2016	Cross-sectional	Mexico	None	Children/ adolescents	2014

Biological gradient (exposure-response)

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical Significance	Effect on kidney dysfunction	Population
Nanayakkara 2020 [44]	Mean serum fluoride level (±SD) by CKDu stage • Stage 0: 35.5 μg/L (±16.3) • Stage 1: 38.1 μg/L (±18.1) • Stage 2: 53.9 μg/L (±34.2) * • Stage 3: 82.8 μg/L (±41.9) *	* p<0.05 compared to controls	Possible	Adult non- dialysis CKDu cases
	 Stage 4: 123.4 μg/L (±59.9) * Stage 5: 123.9 μg/L (±52.6) * 	-		
Fernando 2019 [52]	 Serum fluoride: Mean ±SD [range] mg/L CKDu patients: 1.43 ±1.2 [0.47 – 9.58] Controls: 1.07 ±0.3 mg/L [0.51 – 1.92] p = 0.000 (showed a significant difference based on CKDu stage but not with sex or age) 	p = 0.000	Possible	Adult non- dialysis CKDu cases
	• Urinary fluoride: Mean ±SD [range] mg/L CKDu patients: 1.53 ±0.8 [0.45 – 6.92] Controls: 1.26 ±0.63 [0.36 – 3.80]	p = 0.004	_	
Malin 2019 [57]	 1 mg/L increase in water fluoride was associated with: 0.93 mg/dL lower blood urea nitrogen concentration (95% CI: -1.44, -0.42). 	p=0.007	Possible	Children/ adolescents
	eGFR: -1.03 mL/min/m2 (95% CI: -2.93, 0.87) Water fluoride was log2 transformed in this model.	p > 0.99	_	

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical	Effect on	Population
		Significance	kidney	
			dysfunction	
	• SUA: 0.05 mg/dL (95% CI: -0.07, 0.18)	p > 0.99		
	ACR: -0.01 mg/g (95% CI: -0.07, 0.06)	p > 0.99		
	Water fluoride and outcome variables were log2 transformed.			
	1 μmol/L increase in plasma fluoride was associated with:			
	• 10.36 mL/min/1.73m2 lower estimated glomerular filtration rate	p=0.05		
	(95% CI: −17.50, −3.22)			
	• 0.29 mg/dL higher serum uric acid concentration (95% CI: 0.09,	p=0.05		
	0.50)			
	• 1.29 mg/dL lower blood urea nitrogen concentration (95%CI:	p < 0.001		
	-1.87, -0.70)			
Jimenez-Cordova 2018 68	Change in outcome (p-value) per unit increase of fluoride in water		Possible	Adults
	(mg/L) and urine (µg/mL)			
	• ALB (µg/mL)			
	Water: β= 1.20	p= <0.001		
	<i>Urine:</i> β = 0.56	p= <0.001	_	
	• Cys-C (mg/mL)		_	
	Water: β= 0.03	p= 0.005		
	<i>Urine:</i> β = 0.022	p= 0.001		
	OPN (mg/mL)			
	Water: β= 0.10	p= 0.028		
	<i>Urine: β= 0.038</i>	p= 0.041	<u> </u>	

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical Significance	Effect on kidney dysfunction	Population
	• CLU (μg/mL)			
	Water: β = 0.09	p= 0.118		
	Urine: β = 0.07	p= 0.100	_	
	• KIM-1 (ng/mL)			
	Water: b= 0.045	p= 0.162		
	<i>Urine: b= 0.048</i>	p= 0.008		
	• TFF-3 (ng/mL)		_	
	<i>Water: β</i> = 2.88	p= 0.010		
	<i>Urine: β</i> = 1.14	p= 0.115	_	
	• eGFR (mL/min/1.73 m2)		_	
	Water: β= 0.19	p= 0.675		
	<i>Urine:</i> β = 0.49	p= 0.030	_	

Experimental evidence

Selected animal studies (tier-1; medium to high quality) investigating kidney effects

Animal model	F in DW (mg/L)	Significantly altered outcomes	D-R trend
Rat (subchronic) (219)	0, 15, 50	Histology (proximal tubule injury)	Altered at all doses tested
Rat (subchronic) (820)	0, 2.3, 23	Histology	Altered at highest dose tested
Rat (subchronic) (1260)	0, 0.5, 5, 20	Kidney function (CRE levels)	Altered at highest dose tested
Mice (subchronic) (252)	0, 6.8, 68	Histology	Altered at all doses tested
Mice (chronic) (1751)	0, 0.05, 1.5, 10	None (histology and kidney function ³⁴ were assessed)	None
Mice (subchronic) (631)	0, 150,	None (kidney function was assessed)	None
Rat (subchronic) (1215)	0, 15	Histology	Single dose (tier-2 study)

³⁴ Blood urea nitrogen and creatinine levels

Sex hormones

Strength of association

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical Significance	Effect on male reproduction	Population
Bai 2020 [36]	 Compared with subjects at the first tertile of plasma fluoride, percent changes (95% CI) in testosterone were: Second tertile: -8.08% (-17.36%, 2.25%) Third tertile: -21.65% (-30.44%, -11.75%) Male adolescents at the third tertile of plasma fluoride had decreased levels of testosterone: -21.09% (-36.61% to -1.77%). Similar inverse associations were also found when investigating the relationships between plasma fluoride and estradiol. Decreased levels of SHBG associated with water and plasma fluoride 	P trend <0.001	Inverse	Children/ adolescents
	 Male adolescents (third tertile): -9.39% (-17.25% to -0.78%) Female children (second tertile): -10.78% (-17.55% to -3.45%) 			
	• Testosterone (ng/dL) ○ Total: 28.74 (26.11, 31.37) ○ Male children: 4.48 (4.01, 4.95) ○ Male adolescents: 281.91 (258.56, 305.26) ○ Female children: 5.32 (4.96, 5.68) ○ Female adolescents: 23.80 (22.71, 24.89)	<0.001		

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical Significance	Effect on male reproduction	Population
	• Estradiol (pg/mL)	<0.001		
	o Total: 12.22 (11.35, 13.08)			
	o Male children: 2.30 (2.23, 2.37)			
	 Male adolescents: 15.02 (13.93, 16.11) 			
	o Female children: 4.89 (4.33, 5.45)			
	o Female adolescents: 49.32 (45.15, 53.48)			
	• SHBG (nmol/L)	<0.001	_	
	o Total: 55.27 (52.90, 57.63)			
	 Male children: 89.91 (84.42, 95.40) 			
	 Male adolescents: 34.69 (32.62, 36.77) 			
	o Female children: 77.09 (71.35, 82.82)			
	o Female adolescents: 54.01 (50.78, 57.25)			
An 2019 ^[50]	Water fluoride (Mean ± SD)		Inverse	Adults
	• Group of villages with high exposure (HEG): 2.44±1.88 mg/L			
	 Group of villages with low exposure (LEG): 0.37± 0.15 mg/L 			
	Urinary fluoride (Mean ± SD), mg/L	P = <0.001	_	
	• HEG: 2.66 ± 1.03			
	• LEG: 0.95 ± 0.31			
	Reproductive hormones (Mean ± SD), nmol/L		_	
	ABP	P = 0.144		
	• HEG: 19.86 ± 22.46			

Study	Effect estimates	Statistical	Effect on	Population
		Significance	male	
			reproduction	
	• LEG: 24.04 ± 26.94			
	SHBG	P = 0.012	-	
	• HEG 30.07 ± 28.32			
	• LEG 35.90 ± 28.58			

Consistency

Study	Design	Country	Population	Time period
An 2019 ^[50]	Cross-sectional	China	Adults (males)	2011-2012

Experimental evidence

Selected animal studies (tier-1; medium to high quality) investigating male fertility

Animal model	F in DW (mg/L)	Significantly altered outcomes	D-R trend
Rat (subchronic) (237)	0, 10, 50, 100	Sperm quality ³⁵ , testicular 3β-HSDH, serum testosterone	Altered at all doses tested
		levels, histology of testis and counts of germ cells	
Rat (subchronic) (238)	0, 5, 110	Sperm quality ³⁶ , serum testosterone and histology of testis	Altered at all doses tested
Mice (subchronic) (211)	0, 11, 22, 45	Sperm quality ³⁷ , serum testosterone and histology of testis	Altered at all doses tested
Mice (subchronic) (924)	0, 11, 22, 45	Ultra-structure of testicular tissues ³⁸ and mitophagy in Leydig	Altered at all doses tested
		cells	
Mice (subchronic) (925)	0, 11, 22, 45	Testicular morphology and ultrastructure of sperm	Altered at higher doses
Mice (subchronic) (1595)	0, 13, 32, 68	Sperm quality ³⁹ , hyperactivation and [Ca ²⁺] levels	Altered at higher doses
Mice (subchronic) (1596)	0, 13, 32, 68	Sperm abnormalities and DNA integrity	Altered at higher doses
Mice (subchronic) (1718)	0, 22, 45, 68	Gonad weights, sperm quality ⁴⁰	Altered at higher doses
Mice (chronic) (1759)	0, 11, 22, 45	Sperm quality and histology of testis	Altered at all doses tested
Mice (chronic) (1799)	0, 11, 22, 45	Sperm quality ⁴¹ and histology of testis	Altered at higher doses

 $^{^{35}}$ Total Sperm Count, Motility, and Abnormality

³⁶ Sperm motility and abnormality

 $^{^{\}rm 37}$ The sperm count, the abnormal ratio of sperm and sperm head

³⁸ Mitochondrial structural impairment in germ cells, Sertoli cells and Leydig cells

³⁹ Sperm motility, count and survival

⁴⁰ Sperm count, viability and morphology

⁴¹ Sperm count, motility and viability

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