

Information topic	Details
Indicator name	Access to fluoridated drinking water
Domain and topic	Drinking-water quality: Access to fluoridated drinking water
Indicator definition and units	Number and percentage of the population on registered community drinking-water supplies (those are registered and verified by Taumata Arowai) with access to fluoridated drinking water.
Data source	<p>Extract from the Public Register of Drinking Water supplies, by the Water Services Authority Taumata Arowai, September 2025.</p> <p>Ministry of Health and local authority websites – for establishing the status of supplies directed to fluoridate where the Authority’s records were not up-to-date.</p>
Numerator	Estimated number of people who were served with fluoridated drinking water from registered drinking water supplies
Denominator	Population on registered community drinking water supplies.
Methodology	<p>The number of people served with fluoridated water is calculated by summing the populations of distribution zones (components of a supply network) that are listed as fluoridated in the data source.</p> <p>To adjust for supplies that were directed to fluoridate, yet marked as ‘unfluoridated’ by the Authority, we confirmed the likely status of each supply by searching for announcements by the relevant local authorities to corroborate the status as reported by the Ministry of Health here.</p> <p>The adjustments were made by adding the population figures of the supplies whose state we confirmed to the totals produced from the raw data supplied by the Authority.</p>
Time period and time scale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health historic data: Annual from 1 July – 30 June, from 2009/10 onwards Taumata Arowai data (2024 onward): Annual, snapshot of the records held at the time of data provision
Population coverage	Population on registered and verified drinking-water supplies.
Spatial Coverage	National & Territorial Authority
Measures of frequency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and percentage of people who have access to fluoridated drinking water Percentage of people who have access to fluoridated drinking water by territorial authority
Confidence interval methodology	N/A
Limitations of indicator	The indicator only represents the population served by water supplies registered and verified by the Authority, instead of all New Zealanders. For example, people who rely on wells or rain tanks for potable drinking water are excluded, as are water supplies that were not registered at the time data was provided to EHINZ.

Limitations of data source	<p>The population statistics in the report are provided by the supply operators and are not reviewed for consistency or correctness.</p> <p>Records in the data source may not be current and, so fail to reflect the actual fluoridation status of a given supply at the time of publication.</p>
Created by	Environmental Health Intelligence New Zealand
Related indicators	Access to safe drinking water Waterborne diseases related to drinking water Oral health of children
For more information	https://www.taumataarowai.govt.nz/for-the-public/public-registers https://www.health.govt.nz/strategies-initiatives/programmes-and-initiatives/oral-health/implementation-of-community-water-fluoridation
References	<p>The websites below were accessed between December 15th – 17th 2025 to confirm the fluoridation status of supplies that the Water Services Authority data stated were not fluoridated, in opposition to data released by the Ministry of Health.</p> <p> https://www.kaweraudc.govt.nz/drinking-water-fluoridation/fluoride-faq https://www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/services/water/drinking-water/fluoride-in-our-water/ https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/News-Events/News/Fluoridation-begins-for-Levin-and-%C5%8Chau-water-supply https://www.npdc.govt.nz/council/news/2023/july/fluoride-set-to-enter-new-plymouth-s-water-supply-after-instruction-from-the-director-general-of-health/ http://waipadc.govt.nz/our-services/water-services/water-fluoridation https://www.wdc.govt.nz/Services/Water-services/Water-Supply/Fluoridation https://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/water/drinking-water/fluoridation https://shape.nelson.govt.nz/fluoridation-nelsons-water-supply https://www.fndc.govt.nz/Services/Water/fluoridation-of-council-water-supplies https://www.watercare.co.nz/home/about-us/what-we-do/drinking-water https://www.tauranga.govt.nz/services/water/drinking-water/whats-in-my-water/fluoride https://www.waitaki.govt.nz/Services/Water-and-wastewater/Fluoridation-Requirement https://www.westernbay.govt.nz/council/news-and-updates/news?item=id:2uanoltaj1cxbyn4o0p4 </p>