

## File a Formal Complaint - Gerald Steel

[Geraldsteel](#) (Fri, 15 Sep at 4:00 PM) via Portal Meta

The Arcora Foundation (formerly Washington Dental Service Foundation ("WDSF")) has recently produced the attached pro-fluoridation brochure and co-branded it with its Smile Mobile activity and with Clallam County Health & Human Services ("CCHHS"). Eleven years ago WDSF spent over \$400,000 to build the City of Port Angeles a fluoridation facility under a contract/grant that would have required the City to pay money back to WDSF if fluoridation was terminated before 10 years of use. Fluoridation was terminated about a year ago after 10 years of use. The City Council has put a ballot measure up for the November 7, 2017 City election asking whether the City should restart fluoridation. My Client, Protect the Peninsula's Future, believes that this Arcora brochure was created to be mailed to City of Port Angeles voters before November 7, 2017 to promote a yes vote on the fluoridation ballot measure (advising the City Council to restart fluoridation). To the best of our knowledge, Arcora is not registered with the PDC as a political committee that can promote a yes vote on the fluoridation ballot measure. We believe that significant funds have been used to develop and print the brochure and we believe that Arcora is in violation of registration and reporting requirements. We also take issue with Clallam County Health & Human Services. We believe that by co-branding this brochure which we believe is intended to be mailed to City of Port Angeles voters prior to November 7, 2017, that CCHHS is also promoting a yes vote on the fluoridation ballot measure and acting as a political committee without registration or reports. It is our understanding that such public agency support, spending money to promote a yes vote on this ballot measure, is not allowed by law. The money spent by CCHHS is small and reflects primarily the Health Officer's time to consider and agree to the co-branding.

Therefore, I am filing this formal complaint as the attorney for Protect the Peninsula's Future.

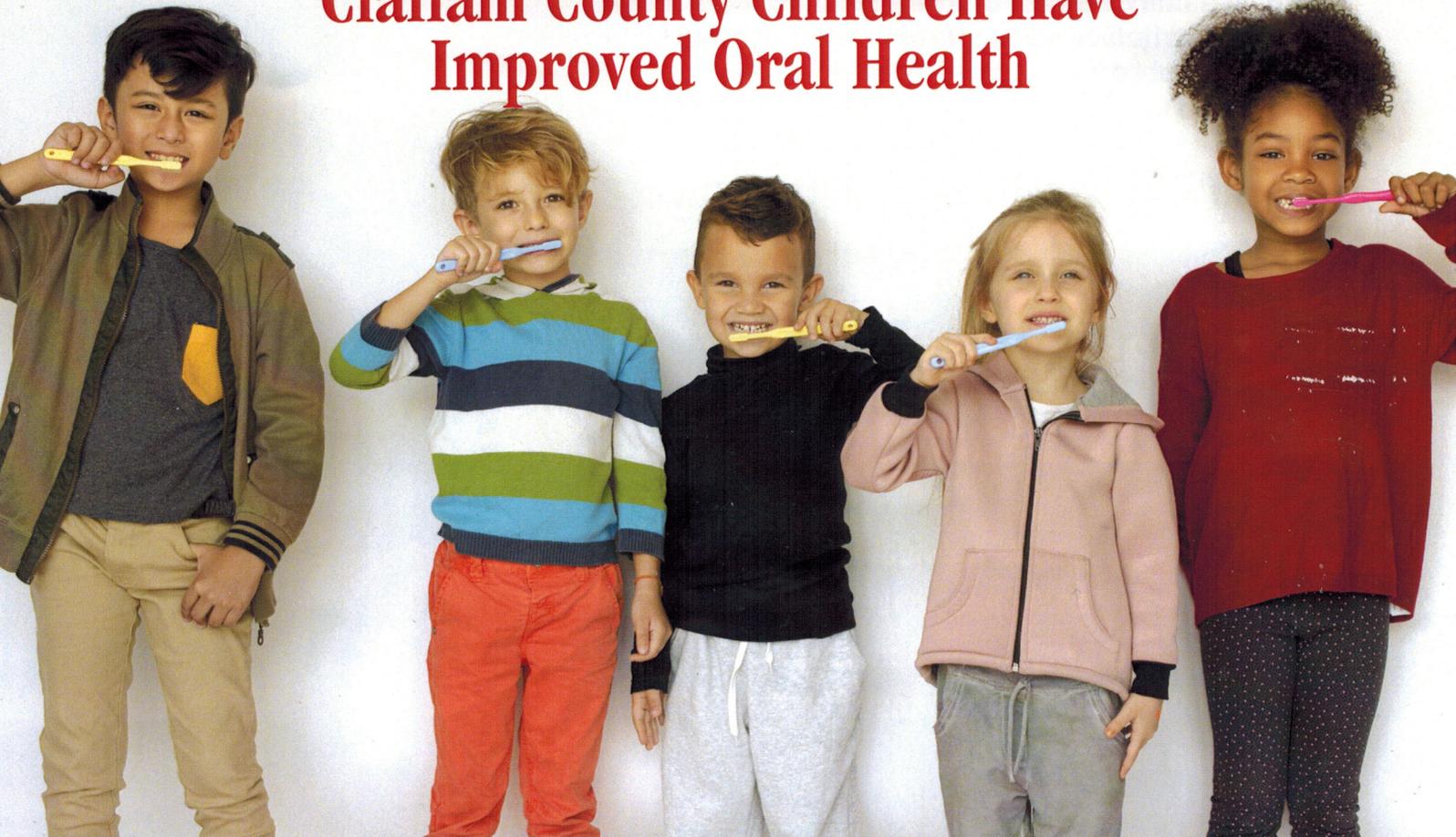
**Optimal fluoride in water  
protects and heals teeth –  
improving overall health.**



Clallam County Health & Human Services  
111 E. 3rd Street  
Port Angeles, WA 98362

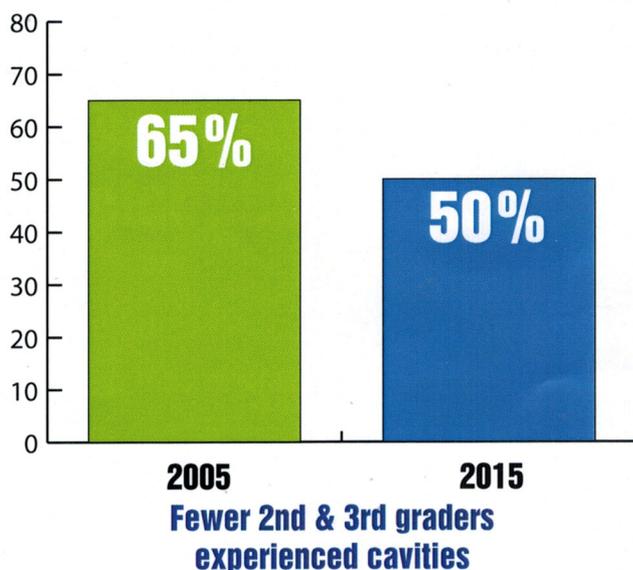
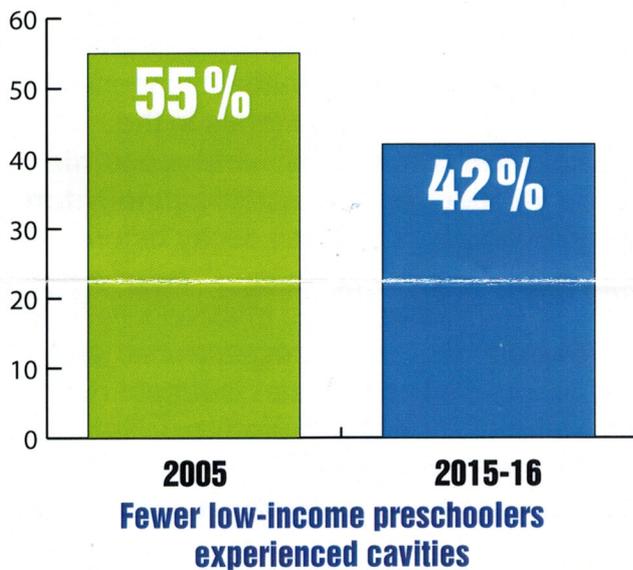
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**Clallam County Children Have  
Improved Oral Health**





## Clallam County children have improved oral health over the last decade, but challenges remain.



**Recent surveys of children in Clallam County show a substantial improvement in kids' oral health in the past ten years.**

### What has helped children these past 10 years?

- The percentage of people with access to fluoridated water increased from 5% to 31%.
- The Access to Baby and Child Dentistry program helped connect more children to dental care, increasing utilization of dental services for kids ages 0-6 by 28 percent.
- More dental clinics served children and low-income residents (SeaMar, Lower Elwha, Jamestown S'Klallam, VIMO and SmileMobile).

### What challenges remain?

- In August of 2016, Port Angeles lost optimal fluoride in drinking water, bringing its availability in Clallam County back to 5%. Statewide 56% of people on public water systems have fluoridated water, nationally 75% do.
- Clallam County remains listed by the federal government as having a shortage of dental professionals. Children, especially low-income children, and low-income adults still have trouble finding dentists.
- In the most recent survey, 21% of children have untreated decay by the 3rd grade compared to the state average of 12%.



# Optimal fluoride in water protects and heals teeth – improving overall health.

## What is fluoride?

**Fluoride, a natural mineral, is found in most water supplies.** Fluoridation adjusts the existing fluoride concentration to a level known to reduce tooth decay and improve oral health. Fluoride does this by joining with other minerals in the mouth to rebuild the tooth surface when a hole starts to form. Fluoride in water works with toothpaste and varnish to fix small decay before it becomes a cavity.

More than 70 years of scientific research has consistently shown that **an optimal level of fluoride in community water is both safe for health and for preventing cavities** by at least 25% in children and adults.

Just as iodine is supplemented to salt, Vitamin D to milk, and folic acid to breads and cereals to protect human health, **fluoride is supplemented to water to help defend against cavities.**

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*Clallam County is one of 35 of the state's 39 counties identified by the federal government as not having enough dental professionals to serve the public. Fluoride in the water helps strengthen and protect teeth for everyone, including those who have difficulty accessing dental care.*

*The SmileMobile visits locations annually throughout Clallam County to provide care for babies and children 18 and under. For more information, please call 1-888-286-9105.*





## What is the benefit to the community?

**Fluoridation reaches individuals of all ages and socio-economic groups**, making it a sound, population-based public health measure to improve oral health.

**Painful cavities can affect school attendance, sleep, employment opportunities, nutrition, pocketbooks and quality of life.**

The small amount of money needed to fluoridate water is a fraction of what it costs to treat dental disease in the community. **Fluoridation costs an average area homeowner less than 10 cents per month, much less than the cost of a single filling, for a lifetime of protection.** It reduces personal out-of-pocket costs for private payers and public insurance charges for low-income families and disabled individuals.

**Bottom line: water with fluoride saves money.**



**Please, ask your dentist or doctor about fluoride.**

**Since fluoridation began, medical and dental professionals in Port Angeles have reported a noticeable improvement in their patients' dental health, with fewer cavities in both children and adults.**

