



## CDHA Responds to Study Linking Lower IQ Scores to Consumption of Fluoridated Water During Pregnancy

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A new Canadian study, titled [“Association Between Maternal Fluoride Exposure During Pregnancy and IQ Scores in Offspring in Canada”](#), examining the effects of community water fluoridation is making headlines. As with all scientific studies, it is important to critically appraise the research methodology, the validity of its findings and its contribution to a larger body of existing, reliable evidence before contemplating any policy changes.

The study by researchers at York University in Toronto, found that children whose mothers consumed higher levels of fluoride in their tap water during pregnancy assessed lower on IQ tests than those who had less consumption. Both sexes tested lower on the IQ tests, however, boys tested statistically lower than girls.

The measure of IQ as a test of intelligence is highly questionable and the study has numerous limitations, including the erroneous assumption that correlation is causation. Due to these factors, we must use caution when deciding if policy changes and recommendations should be made.

With over 70 years of community water fluoridation experience in Canada, the evidence clearly demonstrates that it protects the oral and overall health of communities. The Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA) promotes this important public health practice as a safe and effective way to reduce dental decay for all. For more information, read CDHA’s [position paper](#) and [FAQs](#) on Community Water Fluoridation.