



Centers for Disease Control
Atlanta GA 30333

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THE FLUORIDE/AIDS ALLEGATION

In recent months, John Yiamouyiannis, Ph.D., has made allegations linking acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and fluoride. In the recently published book, "Fluoride: The Aging Factor"¹, he states that fluoride confuses the immune system and causes it to attack the body's own tissues. People reading this book seem to then assume that fluoride causes AIDS. In a National Health Action Committee newsletter², he alludes to this link, and states that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) statistics show that AIDS is far more prevalent in fluoridated areas than in nonfluoridated areas (areas not identified). In an article published in the Springfield, Missouri, Leader and Press³, Yiamouyiannis is quoted as saying that fluoride robs the body of its ability to fight infection and depresses the immune system anywhere from 30 to 70 percent. He also says that in areas where water is fluoridated, the incidence of AIDS is three times higher than the average.

On June 20, 1983, Yiamouyiannis spoke at a city council meeting in Delaware, Ohio.⁴ The transcript of this meeting reads:

"With the CDC, I looked into the area of AIDS, to find, first of all, the six big cities in this country, three which are fluoridated and three that are not. The incidence of AIDS, which you expect, if the immune system has been retarded by fluoride, was three times as high in the fluoridated areas as was in the nonfluoridated areas. At that time, and approximately half the country is fluoridated and half is not, approximately 90 percent of AIDS cases are coming from fluoridated areas and only 10 percent are coming from nonfluoridated areas. Now what this means, after this vector was brought into our environment, is hard to say. It was mentioned that it was brought in from Haiti. But whatever it is, the people who are living in fluoridated areas seem to be less capable of taking care of themselves or defending their bodies against this than those people who come from nonfluoridated areas."

The anti-fluoridationists thus have another scare tactic to use against fluoridation.

The AIDS Program, Center for Infectious Diseases, CDC, has made the following statement concerning this allegation:

"Although the cause of AIDS is unknown, we have gathered a considerable amount of data on it and we have made several observations worth noting. The data that support the hypothesis that AIDS is caused by an infectious agent, presumably a virus, suggest that AIDS is transmitted sexually and through blood-products or blood. Those most at risk for AIDS include homosexual or bisexual males with multiple sexual partners, intravenous drug abusers, persons of Haitian origin, and persons with hemophilia.

We have no scientific evidence that AIDS is transmitted through air, food, water, inanimate objects, or casual contact. The patterns in which AIDS occurs indicate that it is not related to widespread or general exposures to chemical agents such as DDT, dioxin, or fluoride. The allegation that fluoride is a cause of AIDS is unfounded."

Dental Disease Prevention Activity
Center for Prevention Services

References

1. Yiamouyiannis, J. Fluoride: the aging factor. Delaware, Ohio, Health Action Press, 1983. 210p.
2. Yiamouyiannis, J. Newsletter. The National Health Action Committee, Delaware, Ohio. Aug. 1983.
3. Catron, J. Fluoridated water can ruin health, speaker says. Leader and Press, Springfield, Missouri, Oct. 27, 1983. p. 1-2B.
4. Yiamouyiannis, J. City council meeting. Delaware, Ohio. June 20, 1983. tape