



# Survey of West Virginia School

Districts:

## School Based and School Linked Oral Health Services in 2008-2009

West Virginia School Health Technical Assistance and  
Evaluation Center

Robert C. Byrd Center for Rural Health

Marshall University

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# 1998 Prevalence of Dental Caries and Dental Sealants in West Virginia

## **Dental Caries**

- Children, age eight years 65.6%
- Adolescents, age 15 years 66.0%

## **Untreated Caries**

- Children, age eight years 35.5%
- Adolescents, age 15 years 32.9%

## **Dental Sealants**

- Children age eight years (1st Molars) 36.7%
- Adolescents (1st and 2nd molars) age 14 34.6%

# Pew Report - 2010

- West Virginia is among eight states that received an “F”.

*The Cost of Delay, Pew Center on the States,*  
<http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org>)

# Pew Report - 2010

1. High risk schools with sealant programs
2. Percentage of residents with fluoridated public water supplies
3. Hygienists allowed to place sealants without dentist's prior exam
4. % of Medicaid-enrolled children getting dental care
5. Pays medical providers for early preventive health (e.g., fluoride varnish)
6. Dentists' median fees reimbursed by Medicaid
7. Authorizes new primary care dental providers
8. Tracks data on children's dental health

“Sealants and fluoridated water have been found effective both at protecting teeth and saving money. Sealants cost one-third as much as filling a cavity and have been shown after just one application to prevent 60 percent of decay in molars. And for every \$1 invested in water fluoridation, communities save \$38 in dental treatment costs, according to the CDC.”

--Pew Center on the States, *The Cost of Delay*

# Purposes

- To measure progress in expansion of school-based oral health services in each county;
- To identify issues, needs and barriers to implementing school based oral health services; and
- To develop a county-level directory describing current school-based oral health services

<b>RESA</b>	<b>Response Percent#</b>	<b># Responding /Total Counties in RESA</b>
1	5.1	2/5
2	10.3	4/5
3	7.7	3/4
4	10.3	4/6
5	12.8	5/9
6	12.8	5/5
7	23.1	9/12
8	17.9	7/8
Total counties	39	

Students who received:	#
An oral health screening/assessment by school nurses/dental hygienists	21,291
Fluoride rinse/supplements	11,400
Fluoride varnishes	204
Sealants	960
Dental exams by a dentist	6,623
Cleanings	3,200
Restorative care (fillings)	1,544
<i>Answered question: 26</i>	

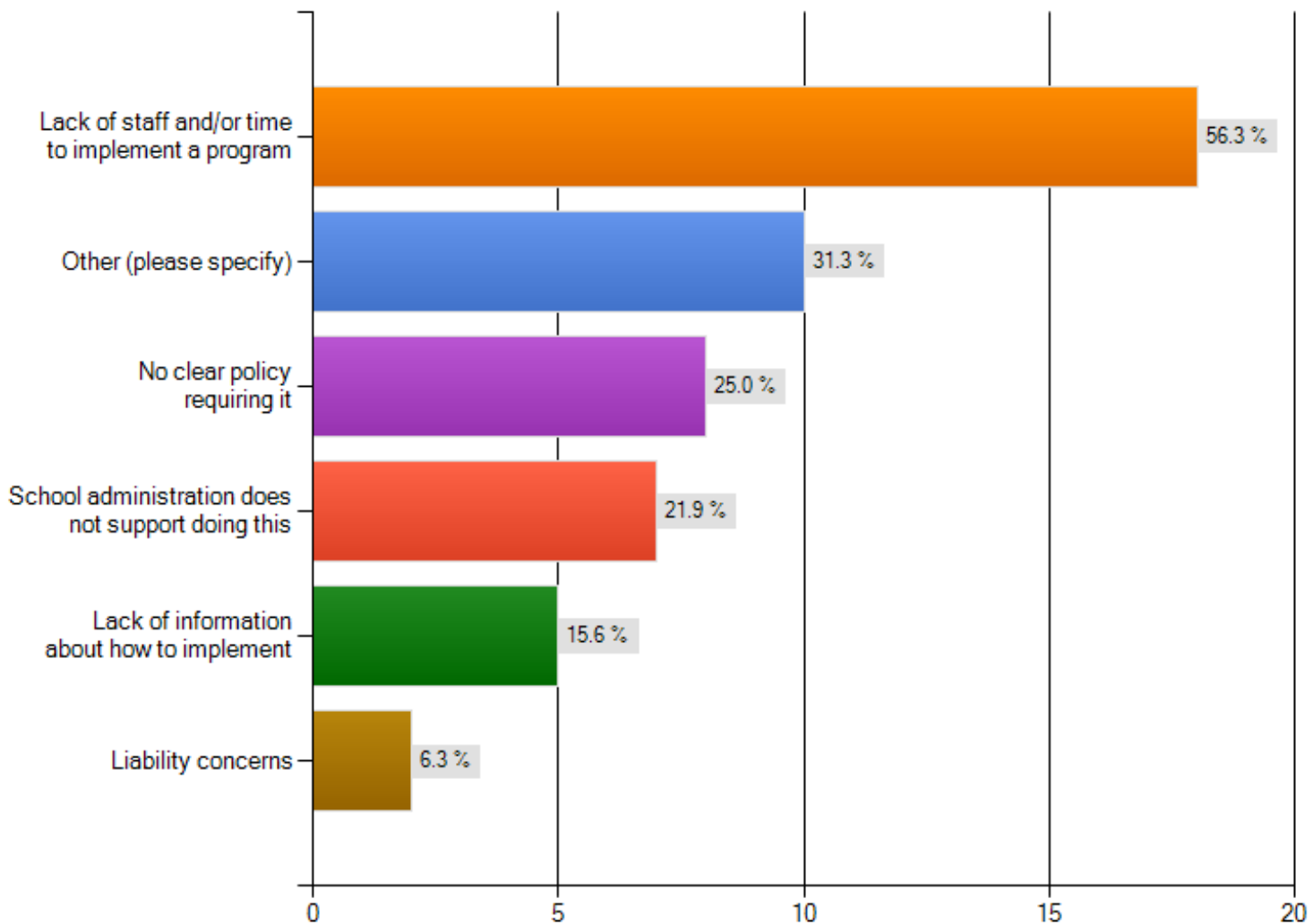


# Do you and/or the school nurses know the fluoride levels of the water systems or wells supplying the residences and schools of students ?

No	76.3%
Yes, for both residence and school	15.8%
Yes, for schools only	7.9%
Yes, for residence only	0.0%

*Answered question: 38*

**If a fluoride rinse/supplement program is not offered in schools where a majority of the students have less than optimally fluoridated water, what are the reasons?**



# Please indicate how your school system and/or community provide for students who have difficulty obtaining needed dental care.

No provisions for care that I am aware of	48.6%
Local dentists accept selected number of children free of charge	29.7%
Public dental clinic	10.8%
Transportation is provided	8.1%
Other (please specify)	16.2%

*Answered question: 37*

# Summary

- Sealant programs: 9 counties, 960 students
- 76% did not know fluoride levels
- Only 36% conduct fluoride rinse programs in any of their schools
- Reasons for not providing fluoride: lack of time, unclear policies, lack of administration support

# Fluoride Levels in WV

- 69.8% of total population have fluoridated water
- 91 % of those with public water supply have fluoridated water
- 43 counties have less than 75% of their total population receiving fluoridated water

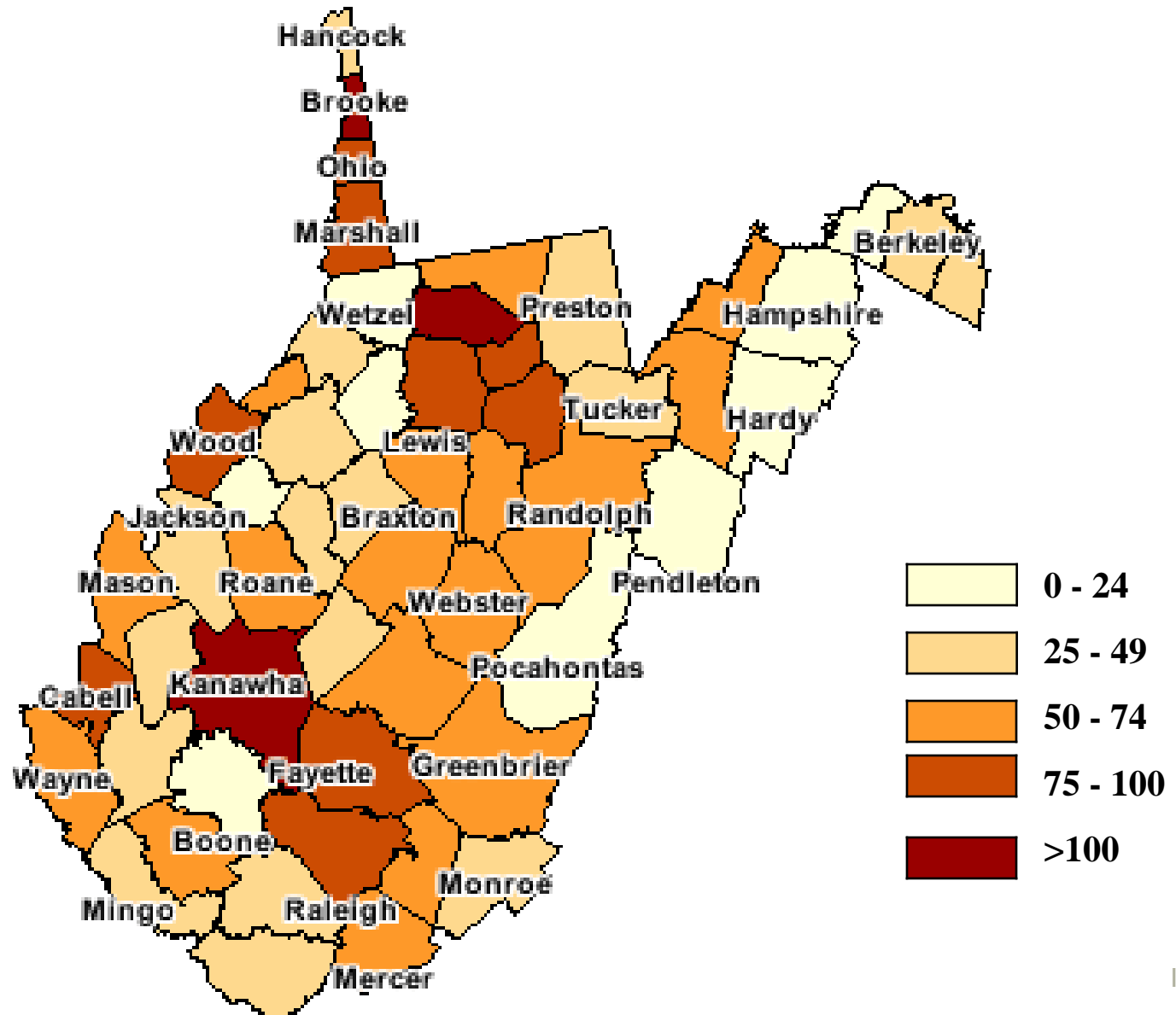
# Fluoride Levels in WV

- Among the population with a public water supply, eleven counties have less than 75% of that population with adequately fluoridated water systems.
- 542 public water districts

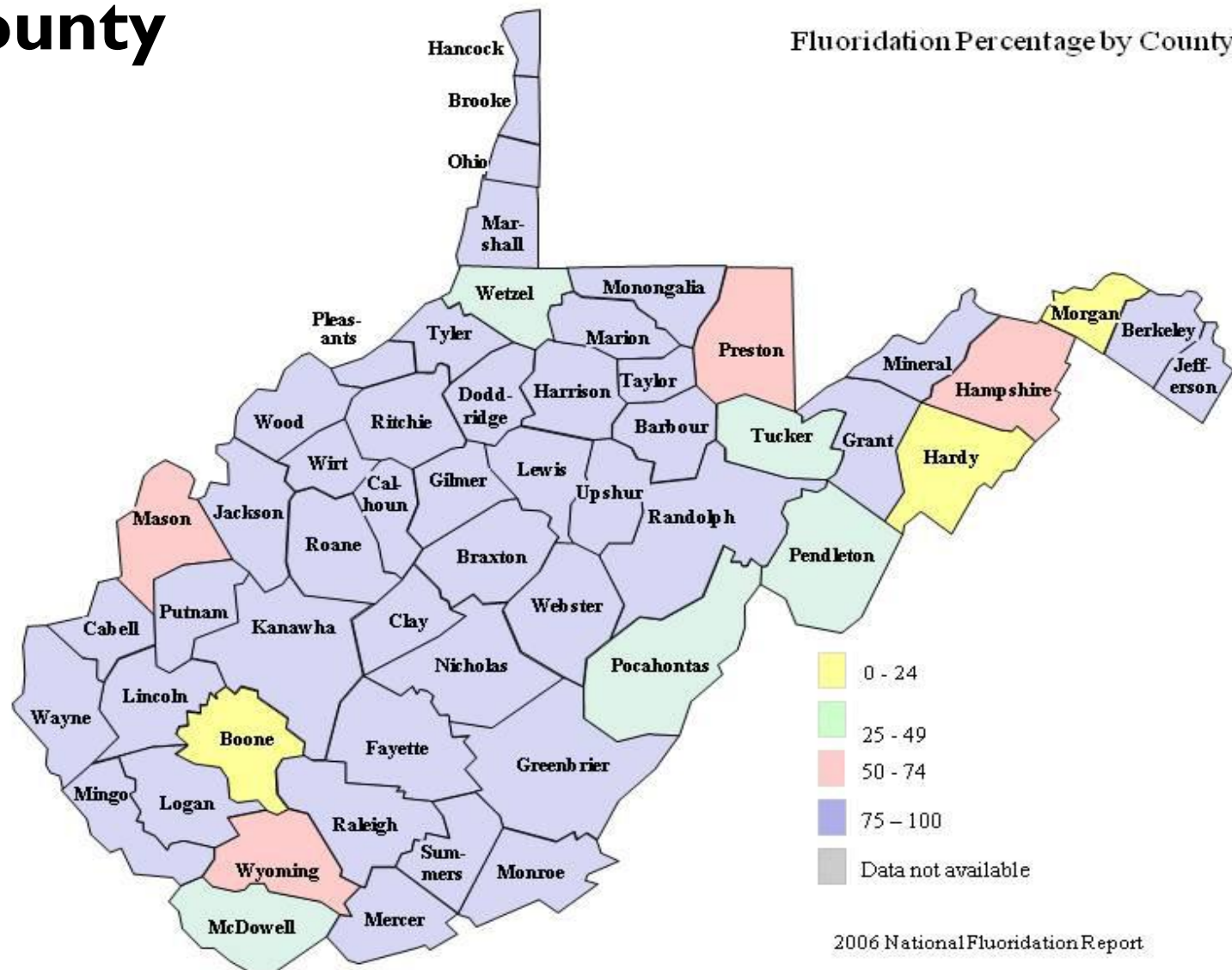
**My Water's Fluoride:**

<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/MWF>

# Percentage of total county population receiving fluoridated water



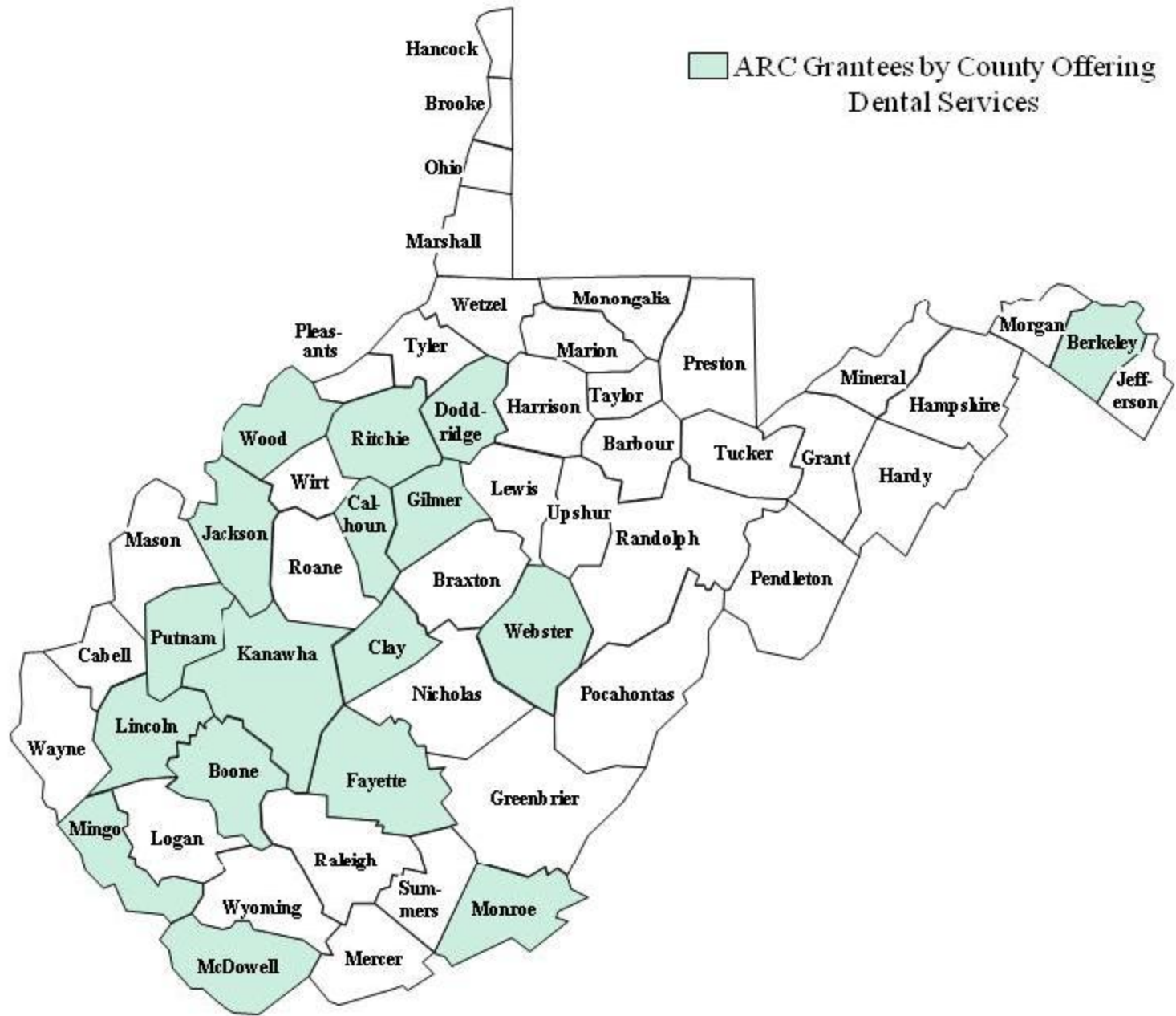
# Percentage of public water supply population with fluoridated water by county





# Recommendations

- Ensure access to a dental home by working with local dental societies
- Provide information about community fluoride levels
- Tool kits to assist schools in developing oral health prevention programs
- Increase fluoride rinse programs in high risk schools
- Fund sealant programs
- Follow up survey in two years



# Resources/Information

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Tool kits, resources:

WV School Based Health Assembly

[www.wvsbha.org](http://www.wvsbha.org)

WV Partners for Oral Health

<http://www.oralhealthwv.org/>