

Enamel Mottling in Saudi Arabian children resident in communities with differing levels of fluoride in drinking water

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ABSTRACT. The variation in climatic conditions, can be significant in determining the optimum level of fluoride in drinking water. This study of the prevalence and severity of mottling in three cities in Saudi Arabia highlights this particular problem, while comparing the findings in Saudi Arabia with those of Ireland, a country of temperate climate, where water fluoridation on a national scale has been in existence for almost thirty years. The findings in Rabegh, where the level of fluoride in drinking water is 0.77 p.p.m., suggest the optimum level of fluoride for water fluoridation programmes throughout the Kingdom. At the same time, the findings in Jeddah present another variable to which attention has not previously been drawn, namely, bottled water and its fluoride content.