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## No comparison

Re: **Experience shows that fluoridation works, — Dec. 1**

Cavities in our teeth are caused by the combination of a mighty duo: bacteria in the mouth and sugar. These two, in combination produce acids which dissolve the enamel of our teeth. The types and quantity of bacteria in our mouths is influenced by heredity and other factors. The quantity of sugar left on our teeth is clearly influenced by what we eat and efforts to remove the sugar by brushing and flossing.

Controlling the impact of sugar in our mouths involves many factors, including what you eat, dental hygiene, the availability of nutrients such as calcium, magnesium and vitamin D from food and water which are known to protect teeth and bones, and complex socioeconomic factors.

When you compare individuals or communities in an attempt to determine what causes cavities, all of these factors influencing cavities must be taken into consideration.

To state that fluoridation of drinking water is the "cause" of any differences in cavity rates between individuals or groups, without assessing the effects of the many other factors determining cavities, is like comparing apples to oranges. It is not a valid comparison. No cause and effect conclusions can be drawn.

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