

Dear Parent, Is There Fluoridated Water in Your Community?

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INTRODUCTION

- Fluoridated water (WF) is one of the 10 major public health achievements of the 20th century and the most cost-effective and equitable method of delivering fluoride to members of a community.
- While most states in the USA (86%, n=44/51) have WF systems serving more than 50% of the state's population, New Jersey has the second to lowest population percentage receiving WF (16%).
- Patients and their families are often unaware of the fluoride levels in their water, so it may be up to providers to identify that information.

OBJECTIVE

- To map a process to identify WF levels at specific addresses in the state of New Jersey.

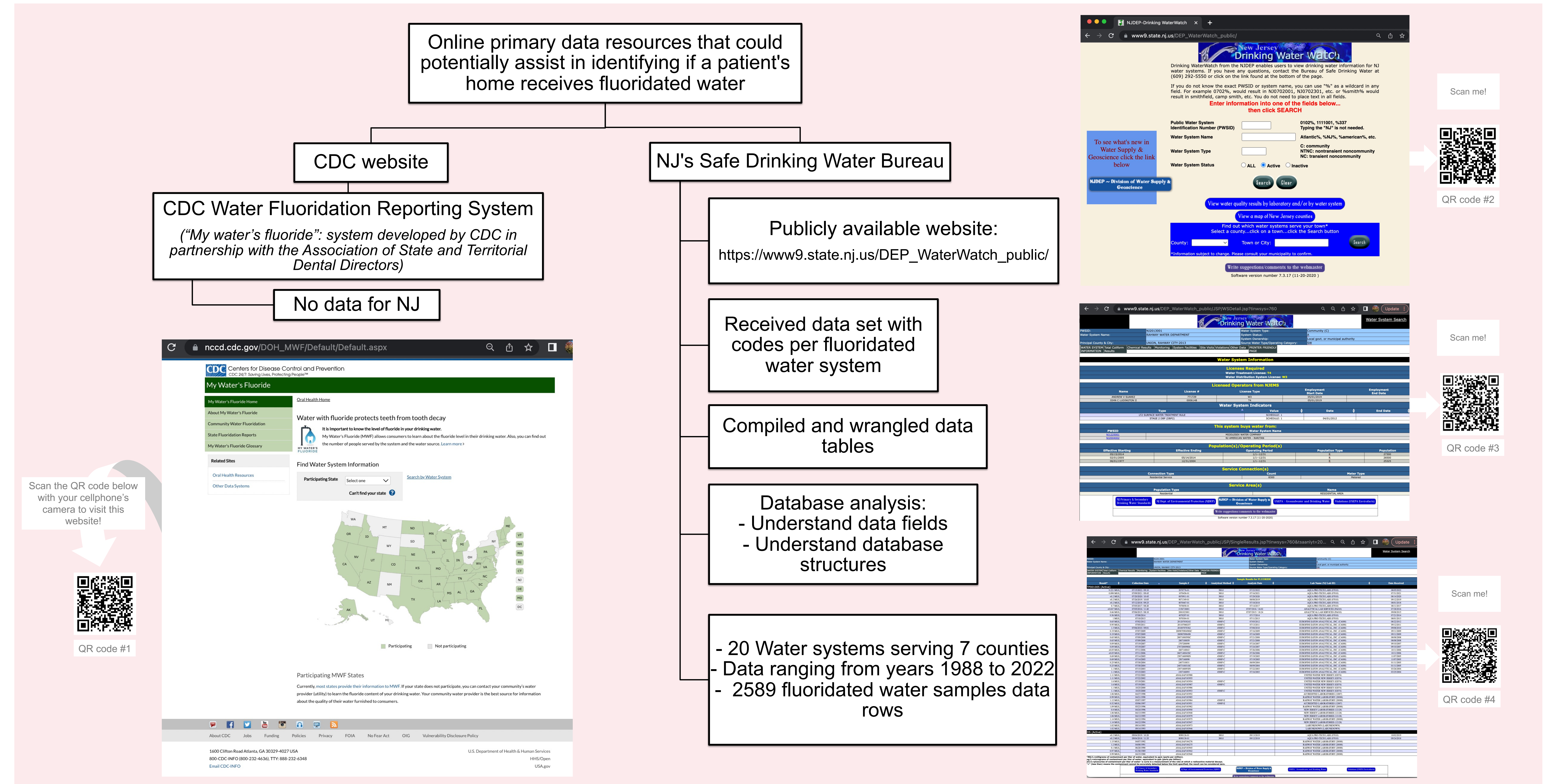
METHODS

- During December 2022, we investigated the CDC's website of fluoridated water systems for data pertaining to NJ water systems.
- During January 2023, we contacted the NJ Bureau of Safe Drinking Water regarding fluoridated water systems in New Jersey. This dataset was analyzed to identify the data fields indicating water fluoridation at a home address.

References:

- 1) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Achievements in public health, 1900-1999: fluoridation of drinking water to prevent dental caries." MMWR 48 (1999): 933-940. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm4841a1.htm>
- 2) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "2018 Fluoridation Statistics" <https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/statistics/2018stats.htm>
- 3) CDC's My Water's Fluoride: https://nccd.cdc.gov/DOH_MWF/Default/Default.aspx
- 4) NJ Water watch website: https://www9.state.nj.us/DEP_WaterWatch_public/

RESULTS



DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- Collecting and understating data describing fluoridated water systems involves complex data mining and data analysis procedures.
- The management of the fluoridated water systems involves actions from healthcare providers, policy makers, and communities.
- This data makes it more challenging for pediatric dentists to understand if their patents are actually ingesting fluoridated water at home or not. There is no centralized management of all fluoridated water systems, an individual water system needs to be contacted to know if a home has access to fluoridated water or not.