

Supplementary material:

The data in table 1 were mentioned in the part of Introduction.

A nationwide screening of high fluoride (> 1.2mg/L) in drinking-water in those villages where fluoride-safe piped drinking water supply had or not provided was carried out from 2005 to 2007 in 231 175 villages in 27 provinces all over China.

Table 1 Screening of high fluoride water source and state of fluoride-safe water supply project in 2005-2007

| Areas | Provinces | FNB and FSB areas | | | | FNB areas | | | | FSB areas | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|--|----------|-----------|-----------|--|----------|--------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | Whole (n) | | Water fluoride concentration > 1.2mg/L (n) | | Whole (n) | | Water fluoride concentration > 1.2mg/L (n) | | Whole (n) | | | Water fluoride concentration > 1.2mg/L (n) | | |
| | | villages | subjects | Villages | subjects | Villages | Subjects | Villages | Subjects | Projects (n) | Villages covered by projects | Subjects covered by projects | Projects (n) | Villages covered by projects | Subjects covered by projects |
| Northeast | 3 | 14970 | 13278357 | 4819 | 3565643 | 8384 | 6867018 | 4414 | 3235747 | 4831 | 6586 | 6411339 | 327 | 405 | 329896 |
| Northwest | 6 | 60341 | 33719656 | 14847 | 6231642 | 29259 | 16141145 | 11083 | 4417891 | 12304 | 31082 | 17578511 | 1750 | 3764 | 1813751 |
| Central | 8 | 150726 | 142896892 | 31802 | 29325313 | 112911 | 102483543 | 25194 | 22491430 | 28556 | 37815 | 40413349 | 4735 | 6608 | 6833883 |
| Southwest | 3 | 727 | 1190609 | 87 | 99421 | 454 | 797083 | 80 | 96015 | 132 | 273 | 393526 | 7 | 7 | 3406 |
| South | 7 | 4411 | 4438468 | 140 | 79701 | 977 | 829920 | 97 | 62308 | 1234 | 3434 | 3608548 | 22 | 43 | 17393 |
| Total | 27 | 231175 | 195523982 | 51695 | 39301720 | 151985 | 127118709 | 40868 | 30303391 | 47057 | 79190 | 68405273 | 6841 | 10827 | 8998329 |

Northeast: Heilongjiang, Jilin, Liaoning; Northwest: Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, Qinghai, Ningxia, Gansu, Shaanxi; Central: Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shanxi, Shandong, Henan, Anhui, Jiangsu; Southwest: Sichuan, Chongqing and Yunnan; South: Hubei, Zhejiang, Hunan, Jiangxi, Fujian, Guangxi and Guangdong.