



## What's Going on in Water? 2019 Highlights

### Policy & Advocacy Highlights: NDWA a leader in elevating the issues

- 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans
  - A huge **"THANK YOU"** to all of you who've engaged in this advocacy effort
  - 69 US House of Representatives members sent a [letter](#) to the secretaries of USDA and HHS requesting the addition of a water icon to the MyPlate nutritional graphic in the upcoming 2020-2025 DGAs
    - 32 Rs and 37 Ds signed the letter, co-led by Reps Marshall (R), Pingree (D) with Walorski (R), McGovern (D), Bera (D) and Roe (R)
    - Supported by 24 experts and 14 organizations who signed a letter led by IBWA, used to show Representatives the science and popularity of the MyPlate request
  - In January NPI submitted a comment signed by 62 individuals and 13 organizations (attached)
  - Find model comment language and tips for comment-writing on the NDWA DGAs 2020 [Take Action page](#) – about 80 comments for water have been submitted to date – *keep 'em coming!*
  - NDWA created new "Put Water on MyPlate" sticker templates and sticky pads; 1000's of these pads have been distributed to educators, advocates and others for teaching and raising awareness
    - Download and print "Put Water on MyPlate" stickers [here](#)
    - Email [dwalliance@ucanr.edu](mailto:dwalliance@ucanr.edu) if you'd like sticky pads to distribute
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
  - Released a [proposed new Lead and Copper Rule](#) while, though [not perfect](#), does pay attention to school and childcare tap water safety
  - Released (on 2/19/2020) a [Request for Applications](#) that includes up to \$22.8M for awards to reduce lead exposure in school and childcare drinking water
  - Harvard SPH and UC NPI provided study findings to EPA Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water to inform developments (report "[Early Adopters State Approaches to Testing School Drinking Water for Lead in the United States](#)" released Jan. 2019)
- Child Nutrition Act
  - Childhood Obesity Conference 2019 pre-conference session on Child Nutrition Reauthorization ratified Child Nutrition Reauthorization water recommendations for NSLP, CACFP and WIC
  - Recommendations were provided to Congressional offices, shared with ally organizations, and are part of NANA model comment; contact Christina (NPI) or Colin (CSPI) for more information
- InnerCity Struggle, based in Los Angeles, engaged high school students in drinking water advocacy through a Voices for Healthy Kids grant; as part of the work students assessed the effectiveness of school drinking water access using the Photo-Evidence Tool developed by allies with a Healthy Eating Research grant
- NDWA working group formed to explore idea of a Congressional Drinking Water Caucus
  - We discovered some interest, but further planning was overshadowed by other activity in Washington! We'll re-visit the idea if/when it seems appropriate
- We were close to holding a Congressional Briefing (sponsored by Senator Cory Booker and co-hosted by Environmental Defense Fund) on finding and reducing lead in childcare drinking water, when impeachment hearings scotched the plan

## New Resources in 2019

- Research
  - NDWA maintains a [bibliography](#) of drinking water research
    - *Make sure we know about your new research – email [dwalliance@ucanr.edu](mailto:dwalliance@ucanr.edu)*
    - *Submit a short news post about your recent peer-reviewed publication for posting on the website*
- Promotional campaigns
  - Using graphics provided by Philadelphia Department of Public Health, NDWA created multi-lingual “water” decals; 1000’s of these are now in circulation across the country
    - Contact us at [dwalliance@ucanr.edu](mailto:dwalliance@ucanr.edu) if you’d like more decals
  - [Play Every Day Campaign](#), targeted at 0-5 year olds and their caregivers by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services includes lots for water
- Educational resources
  - Water Safety
    - [Child Care Drinking Water Safety](#) factsheet
  - “Healthy Hydration”
    - Quick-read versions in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
  - School
    - Youth-led high school [water messaging campaign](#) from California 4-H
  - Early Years
    - [“Healthy Drinks, Healthy Kids”](#) expert consensus report from Healthy Eating Research, released September 2019
    - More great [videos from 1,000 Days](#) in English and Spanish
- Factsheets for advocacy
  - [“Fast Facts for Water Access in Schools”](#) from Voices for Healthy Kids
  - [“Infant and Toddler Beverage Recommendations for the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans”](#) from Nutrition Policy Institute
  - [“Are Sugar-Sweetened Beverages a Problem?”](#) from Nutrition Policy Institute
- National Drinking Water Alliance website - [DrinkingWaterAlliance.org](http://DrinkingWaterAlliance.org)
  - Since inception (June 2016): 27,630 users; 37,280 sessions; 76,336 page views
  - Most visited pages since inception:
    - [Home page](#)
    - [Map](#) of media reports of tap water contamination
    - [Facts](#) (factsheet library)
    - [News page](#)
  - *Send new or updated resources to [dwalliance@ucanr.edu](mailto:dwalliance@ucanr.edu) to be added to the NDWA website*
  - *Use the drinking water listserv to connect and share information, and the website news page to share your work*

*Please let us know what we’re missing!*