



2021 & 2022 Highlights

Policy Highlights

- **2021** - At the request of the White House Executive Office of the President, NDWA allies developed a memo providing background information together with policy and program recommendations for drinking water safety and access improvements to be considered for Build Back Better infrastructure investments. **The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act**, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework (BIF) or Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal was signed into law by President Biden on November 15, 2021, with [\\$55 billion of wins](#) for water.
- Jurisdictions are stepping up to support access to water in schools, such as,
 - **2021** - Hamilton County, TN, now requires water bottle filling stations in all newly constructed or majorly renovated schools.
 - **2021** - Arkansas [Act 775](#) requires water bottle filling stations in all newly constructed or majorly renovated schools.
 - **2022** – California [AB 2638](#) requires water bottle filling stations in all schools that are newly-constructed or modernized through a general obligation bond. It further allows all students and school personnel to carry refillable water bottles and states that schools “shall encourage water consumption through promotional and educational activities and signage that focus on the benefits of drinking water and highlight water bottle filling stations throughout schools.”
 - In tandem with his authorship of this bill, CA Asm. Bloom successfully obtained a \$5M addition to [CA’s Drinking Water for Schools program](#) in the 2022 state budget, an equity-boosting move.
- **2022** – **White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health**. At the direct request of the White House Executive Office of the President, we submitted [drinking water recommendations for the 2022 White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health](#), based on years of research by NDWA members. Water was included in other groups’ recommendations, including:
 - The National Sugar Sweetened Beverage Group, a working group coordinated by [Healthy Food America](#), included recommendations to support consumption of drinking water among their [Healthy Beverage Strategy Recommendations](#) to reduce consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages.
 - Water recommendations were included in [HER Recommendations for the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health](#).
 - The Tufts University-led [Task Force on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health](#) included a recommendation aimed to support drinking water access in schools in their [comprehensive Report of recommendations](#); see report page 24 for that recommendation.

And also ...! NDWA policy recommendations were echoed in reports from leading groups, including,

- **2021** - Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, “From Crisis to Opportunity: Reforming Our Nation’s Policies to Help All Children Grow Up Healthy.”¹
- **2021** - National Clinical Care Commission, “Leveraging Federal Programs to Prevent and Control Diabetes and Its Complications.”² [Summary](#).
- **2022** - Bipartisan Policy Center, “Strengthening the Child Nutrition Programs.”³ [Summary](#).

Advocacy Highlights

- **Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR)** was not completed in 2021 or in 2022. However, NDWA continued advocacy to improve implementation of 2010’s Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, which contained groundbreaking language requiring access to safe drinking water in schools and childcare facilities operating federal child nutrition programs.
 - Read the drinking water provisions and subsequent regulatory language in these 1-pagers:
 - [From Statute to Tap: National School Lunch Program](#)
 - [From Statute to Tap: Child and Adult Care Food Program](#)
 - **2021** - NDWA allies, including 36 organizations and 39 individuals, sent a [letter](#) to the two committees overseeing CNR - the Senate Agriculture Committee and the House Education and Labor Committee - suggesting feasible strategies to foster healthy hydration by taking advantage of CNR. Learn more [here](#).
 - **2021** - NDWA allies arranged a series of meetings with Congressional offices on CNR priorities, including access to safe and appealing drinking water.
 - **2022** – With Congress still considering CNR, NDWA allies again sent a [letter](#) to the two committees overseeing the process.
- **EPA’s Lead and Copper Rule for drinking water**
 - **2021** - NDWA members submitted [a public comment](#) on proposed revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule. A revised Lead and Copper Rule with increased stringency around lead in tap water was released in December 2021 with EPA’s commitment to further improvements through Lead and Copper Rule Improvement (LCRI), coming in the next couple of years.

Resource Highlights

- **Healthy beverage toolkit for Native communities**
 - **2021** - After a multi-year Water First! Learning Community project in Southwestern Native American communities, the Notah Begay III Foundation released [Increase Healthy Beverage Consumption and Reduce Sugar-Sweetened Beverages: A Community Roadmap](#). Informed by the Learning Community experiences, the Roadmap is an evidence-based resource for tribal communities’ work to advance healthy beverages.
 - Read the [news post](#) to learn more and be sure to open the Roadmap.
- **Lead in school and childcare tap water**
 - **2021** - NDWA members provided US EPA with recommendations for collection and maintenance of tap water lead testing data for schools and childcares, informing

¹ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. 2021. *From Crisis to Opportunity: Reforming Our Nation’s Policies to Help All Children Grow Up Healthy*. At, <https://media.stateofobesity.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/12132618/State-of-Childhood-Obesity-10-13-21-Final-WEB.pdf>, see page 27.

² National Clinical Care Commission. 2021. *Report to Congress on Leveraging Federal Programs to Prevent and Control Diabetes and Its Complications*. At, <https://health.gov/about-odphp/committees-workgroups/national-clinical-care-commission/report-congress>, pages 38-41.

³ Bipartisan Policy Center. 2022. *Strengthening the Child Nutrition Programs*. At, https://bipartisanpolicy.org/download/?file=/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/BPC_Strengthening-the-Child-Nutrition-Programs.pdf, page 23.

development of [EPA's 3Ts Sampling eTracker for Schools](#) (downloadable XLS) and for [child care facilities](#), released in May 2021.

- **COVID-19 tap water safety**
 - **2021** - USDA Team Nutrition developed a new webpage, "[Watch Out for Water Safety](#)," (released 6/21) to provide technical assistance to schools and childcares when reopening buildings after pandemic closures. What was NDWA's role?
 - The Building Water SLAM (Stagnation, *Legionella*, and Metals during pandemic building closures) Study Group, a national group hosted by Purdue University's Center for Plumbing Safety, shared research methods and findings. NDWA and SLAM members then:
 - Developed an Info Sheet: [Tap Water Safety When Reopening Buildings After COVID-19 Shutdowns](#).
 - Communicated with USDA FNS, which, supported by the info sheet, led to USDA's development of the webpage.
 - Shared the info sheet with the CDC COVID-19 Food Systems Work Group liaison and members of the unit from NIOSH and WASH, which then informed updates to CDC's Considerations for Schools webpage and [Reopening Buildings](#) guidance on COVID-19 safety practices.
- **COVID-19 drinking water access**
 - **2021** - CDC NOPREN Drinking Water Working Group NDWA allies developed an infographic: [Turn On the Tap! School Drinking Water Access During COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond](#), aimed at encouraging schools to turn drinking fountains back on, with tips for how to do so safely despite the ongoing pandemic.

Education & Outreach Highlights

- **2021 & 2022** - NDWA member National CACFP Sponsors Association (NCA) featured the National Drinking Water Alliance in their Partner Resource blog:
 - [Stay Hydrated This Summer](#)
 - [Hydration is Key](#)
 - [Water in Child Care Settings](#)
- **2021** - Thanks to NDWA's summer student intern, we updated the NDWA interactive water safety map, adding 235 new points. Learn more in this [news post](#).
- **2021** - NDWA was featured on a Mission: Readiness podcast. [News post and link](#).

Please let us know what we're missing. Send new or updated resources to ceahecht@ucanr.edu

Website Analytics

National Drinking Water Alliance website - DrinkingWaterAlliance.org

Lifetime Highlights (June 2016 - December 31, 2022):

- 46,434 Users in 60,134 Sessions, with 113,283 Page Views
- Most Visited Pages:
 1. [Home page](#)
 2. [Map](#) of media reports of tap water contamination
 3. [Facts](#) (Factsheet library)
 4. ["Newly Updated Interactive Map Tracks Water Safety" Blog Post](#)