

Report 68: Bottled water: where is the science, are we wasting resource and needlessly anxious

Convener: Cosette Serabjit-Singh

Brief History: Bottled water represents a fairly recent change in US beverage consumption that contributes to waste, a return to dental caries seen in the absence of fluoridated water and may represent a belief that tap water represents a health risk.

Discussion Highlights: Budget for health care and research is constrained and focus on the important health concerns can be eroded by concerns that are unfounded. Is the scientific knowledge about real vs. imagined health risk informing consumer choice, bottled water being representative? Is it the responsibility of agencies like NIEHS to assure consumers when there is little risk?

Recommendations: Determine whether there are community concerns (such as health benefit of bottle water) that can be addressed with available evidence, especially those concerns that impede moving environmental health sciences forward.

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