

# DETERMINATION OF FLUORIDE IN BOTTLED DRINKING WATER PROFFERED OR SOLD DURING THE ARBA'EEN HOLY TREK IN IRAQ

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**SUMMARY:** Bottled drinking water consumption has increased recently, particularly with travellers and in some urban communities. Drinking water with fluoride levels above 1 mg /L may cause fluorosis. Bottled drinking water that was proffered or sold in Arba'een's anniversary holy trek (Najaf to Karbala, Iraq) was analysed for fluoride concentrations. The average amount of fluoride in the bottled drinking water was 0.28 mg/L. The results showed that there were very significant differences ( $p < 0.001$ ), ranging from 50% to 900%, between the measured and the on-label fluoride levels.

Key words: Bottled water; Fluoride content; Labelling of bottled water; Iraq.

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