



# Clay Community Health Happenings

February 2015

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation



## Healthy Weight Community Champion 2015 Program Recognizes the Town Of Penney Farms

Florida's county and municipal governments play an important role in decreasing the prevalence of unhealthy weight in their jurisdictions. Local governments can implement a variety of policies that have been shown to increase physical activity and improve nutrition. These "best practice" policies are reflected in the Healthy Weight Community Champion submission criteria. By implementing best practices within their jurisdictions, local governments can create environments where the healthy choice is the easy choice.

Many jurisdictions are making great progress in policy and environmental change. To celebrate these efforts, all local governments in Florida were invited to submit descriptions of their policies and programs. In 2015, the Florida Department of Health is recognizing 65 communities as Healthy Weight Community Champions, an increase from the 38 communities recognized in 2014.

"Health improves in communities through local solutions," said State Surgeon

General and Secretary of Health Dr. John Armstrong. "The number of recognized communities has almost doubled from the 2014 recognition cycle which demonstrates a growing commitment among local governments to make Florida a healthy place to live, work and play."

Winnie Holland, Health Officer for the Florida Department of Health in Clay County (DOH-Clay), presented the 2015 Healthy Weight Community Champions recognition to the Town of Penney Farms during the February 2015 Clay County's Board of County Commissioners meeting.



Some of the town's highlights for being selected are:

- The Town's Comprehensive Plan promotes compact mixed use developments that encourage walking and biking.
- The community has a program to inspect sidewalks on a regular basis. Grants are

currently being sought to replace all the sidewalks in the entire community and add sidewalks in the few areas where there are none.

- The Town supports a resident volunteer group, the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), that assists the Sheriff's Department by patrolling the community.

## Clay Health Cleans Up!



On February 19, 2015, two miles of Henley Road were swept clean by five Florida Department of Health Clay County employees.

This was the fourth planned clean-up event where DOH-Clay volunteers picked up six bags of garbage. Some of the trash items collected included alcoholic beverage containers (cans and bottles), cigarette butts, fast food restaurant trash, and candy wrappers.

"As you can see, we are making a difference on this road. We started by collecting a total of twelve bags on our first cleanup event in September 2014 and the

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amount of trash collected has reduced to 6 bags on our last cleanup”, said DOH-Clay Health Officer, Winnie Holland.

Florida Health Cleans Up! is a venture of Healthiest Weight Florida, a public-private collaboration bringing together state agencies, not-for-profit organizations, businesses and entire communities to help Florida’s children and adults make consistent, informed choices about healthy eating and active living. The Department’s goal is to encourage physical activity and walking while emphasizing how small choices affect your health and environment.

More information about both Healthiest Weight Florida and Florida Health Cleans Up! Can be found at: [www.HealthiestWeightFL.com](http://www.HealthiestWeightFL.com)

## Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Prevention

According to the CDC, the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States and is responsible for nearly 26,000 new cases of cancer each year. HPV infections are responsible for the majority of cases of cervical cancer and have been increasingly linked to cancers of the anus, penis,

throat, vagina, and vulva. The combined cost of HPV-associated cancers and other conditions is estimated to be \$8 billion per year in the U.S. Immunization has been one of the most successful and safest public health interventions available. In 2006, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices’ (ACIP) recommended the HPV vaccine for routine vaccination of adolescent girls between ages 11-12. In 2010, ACIP expanded the recommendation to include adolescent males.

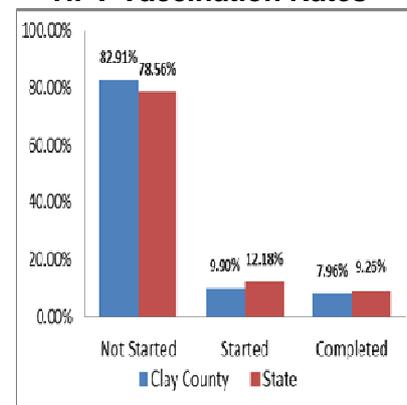
Despite the availability of the HPV vaccine, coverage rates remain alarmingly low. According to the National Immunization Survey—Teen 2013 data, 57.3% of girls and 34.6% of boys received at least one dose of the HPV vaccine compared to 86% for Tdap and 77.8% for meningococcal conjugate vaccines. High coverage rates for other adolescent vaccines make it clear that widespread HPV vaccination is possible in the U.S. and our county.

Locally, the Florida Department of Health in Clay County (DOH-Clay) provides services for a population of 192,832 residents of which 52,610 are between the ages of 9 through 26 years of age. In Clay County, from the 9 through 26 year old

population, only 4,189 (7.96%) have completed the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination series, 4,801 (9.13%) have started the series and 43,620 (82.91%) have not started at all. The completion rate for Clay County is well below the 9.26% at State level. See chart for County/State comparison.

According to Florida Charts data, Cervical Cancer incidence in Clay County is 8.5 per 100,000 population (State level is 8.9) and Cervical Cancer death is 3 per 100,000 population (State level is 2.8). Findings, based on investigations by researchers at Harvard Medical School and the University of Southern California suggest that the vaccine does not promote risky sexual behaviors among our young population who have received the HPV vaccine.

HPV Vaccination Rates



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