



Jeb Bush
Governor

M. Rony François, M.D., M.S.P.H., Ph.D.
Secretary, Department of Health

PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Friday, May 26, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Jeannine Mallory, Public Information Director
PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
727-824-6908 (for media use only)



**Men's Health Week to Bring Vivia Font, Nationally
Noted Speaker, to Pinellas County**

Vivia Font (photo)

Men's Health Week, June 12-18, 2006, is a time to heighten the awareness of preventable health problems and encourage early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys.

According to the Men's Health Network, men die at higher rates than women from the top causes of death - heart disease, cancer, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, accidents, pneumonia and influenza, diabetes, suicide, kidney disease, and chronic liver disease and cirrhosis.

Men also die younger than women. In 1920, women outlived men only by one year. Today, the life expectancy gap has widened: On average, women survive men by six years. Many of the top causes of death are preventable, and can be treated, if found early. Many diseases and health conditions can be prevented by reducing risk factors.

As part of Men's Health Week, the Pinellas County Health Department will welcome **Vivia Font** to a **free event on Thursday, June 15** at the **Salvation Army Community Center** (1625 N. Belcher Road in Clearwater) that begins at **4:00 p.m.** with free health screenings. Free dinner is included (at 5:30 p.m.), with Ms. Font's presentation set to begin at 5:45 p.m.

Vivia Font's expertise extends to all issues related to the physical and emotional health of men and their families, including the role of women in men's health. Of Chilean and Cuban heritage, Vivia is uniquely qualified by cultural and linguistic background to carry the message of men's health to the expanding Hispanic/Latino population. Her presentation in Pinellas County will focus on Latino Men's Health Issues.

Please call in advance to make your reservation for this event. **For more information or to reserve a seat for the presentation and dinner, please call the Hispanic Outreach Center at (727) 445-9734.**

(NOTE: Photo courtesy Men's Health Network.)

###

The mission of the Pinellas County Health Department is to promote, protect and improve the health and safety of residents and visitors through public and private community efforts.
www.PinellasHealth.com