

The Satcher Health Leadership Institute



David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D.

Founding Director and Senior Advisor, The Satcher Health Leadership Institute, Morehouse School of Medicine
16th Surgeon General of the United States



David Satcher, MD, PhD is Founding Director and Senior Advisor of The Satcher Health Leadership Institute which was established in 2006 at the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia. The mission of the Institute is to develop a diverse group of public health leaders, foster and support leadership strategies, and influence policies toward the reduction and ultimate elimination of disparities in health. The Institute's programs reflect Dr. Satcher's experience in improving public health policy and his commitment to eliminating health disparities for underserved groups, such as minorities and the poor and shedding light on neglected issues, such as mental and sexual health.

Dr. Satcher was sworn in as the 16th Surgeon General of the United States in February 1998 and served until 2002. He also served as the 10th Assistant Secretary for Health in the Department of Health and Human Services making him only the second person in history to have held both positions simultaneously. His tenure of public service also includes serving as Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Administrator of the Toxic Substances and Disease Registry from 1993 to 1998. He was the first person to have served as Director of the CDC and Surgeon General of the United States.

Dr. Satcher has held top leadership positions at the Charles R. Drew University for Medicine and Science, Meharry Medical College, and the Morehouse School of Medicine. He has been a Macy Foundation Fellow, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar, and a Senior Visiting Fellow of the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Dr. Satcher held the position of Director of the National Center for Primary Care (NCPC) at the Morehouse School of Medicine from 2002 to 2004. He presently occupies the Poussaint-Satcher-Cosby Chair in Mental Health at the Morehouse School of Medicine. This recognizes his long commitment to removing the stigma attached to mental illness, as evidenced by *Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General*, the first surgeon general's report on mental health released during his tenure as surgeon general. As Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health, Dr. Satcher led the department's effort to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in health, an initiative that was incorporated as one of the two major goals of *Healthy People 2010*. In 2005, he was appointed to serve on the World Health Organization Commission on Social Determinants of Health.

Dr. Satcher has received over 50 honorary degrees and numerous distinguished honors including top awards from the National Medical Association, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians. The Ronald Davis Special Recognition Award from the American College of Preventive Medicine and the Symbol of H.O.P.E. Award for health promotion and disease prevention. He received the Benjamin E. Mays Trailblazer Award and the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Award for Humanitarian Contributions to the Health of Humankind from the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases.

Previously, Dr. Satcher served on the Board of Directors of Johnson and Johnson and MetLife. He has also served locally on the board of United Way of Greater Atlanta and The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta. Currently, he sits on the board of the CDC Foundation.

Dr. Satcher graduated from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia in 1963 and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He holds MD and PhD degrees from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. He is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society and a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Preventive Medicine and the American College of Physicians. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences, the 100 Black Men of Atlanta and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

A proponent of healthy lifestyles through physical activity and good nutrition, Dr. Satcher is an avid runner, rower, and gardener.