

Immediate Office of the Director

Director Mandy K. Cohen, MD, MPH



Mandy K. Cohen, MD, MPH, is the Director for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Administrator of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. She is one of the nation's top health leaders with experience leading large and complex organizations, and a proven track-record protecting Americans' health and safety.

Dr. Cohen is an internal medicine physician and led the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, where she was lauded for her outstanding leadership during the COVID crisis, focusing on equity, data accountability, and transparent communication. She also transformed the

North Carolina Medicaid program, through the state's Medicaid expansion and her focus on "whole person health" with the launch of the country's first statewide coordination platform, NCCARE360.

Prior to joining CDC, Dr. Cohen served as the Executive Vice President at Aledade and CEO of Aledade Care Solution, which helps independent primary care practices, health centers, and clinics deliver better care to their patients and thrive in value-based care.

Dr. Cohen previously served as Chief Operating Officer and Chief of Staff of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and served as Acting Director of the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight. Dr. Cohen was involved in many aspects of the Affordable Care Act policy development and implementation, including the expansion of coverage, insurance protections, and new provider payment models.

In February 2019, Modern Healthcare named Dr. Cohen one of the Top 25 Women Leaders in Healthcare. In September of 2020, Dr. Cohen was awarded the Leadership in Public Health Practice Award from Harvard University's T.H. Chan School of Public Health for her outstanding leadership through the COVID pandemic and Dr. Cohen was named Tar Heel of the Year for 2020. She has been elected to the National Academy of Medicine and currently serves as an adjunct professor at the Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Cohen received her bachelor's degree from Cornell University, her Doctor of Medicine from the Yale School of Medicine, and her Master's in Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health. She trained in Internal Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Cohen is married and has two daughters.

Immediate Office of the Director

Principal Deputy Director Nirav D. Shah, MD, JD



Nirav D. Shah, MD, JD, serves as the Principal Deputy Director (PDD) of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In his PDD role, he is involved with CDC's work around data modernization, public health preparedness and response, laboratories, and communications.

Prior to this role, Shah served as the Director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, leading the state public health agency. In particular, he led the State of Maine's public health response to COVID-19, managing a cross-disciplinary team of state employees and serving as the primary public communicator during the crisis.

In addition to COVID-19, Shah also led several key initiatives in Maine. One involves the State's efforts to mitigate the public health effects of climate change. Another focuses on reducing the dangers posed by PFAS/PFOA chemicals in Maine's environment.

From 2015-2019, Shah served as the Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health. Among his key initiatives were lowering the blood lead poisoning action level to align with that of the U.S. CDC, launching an effort to study and ultimately reduce disparities in maternal mortality in Illinois, and organize the state's response to the opioid crisis.

Shah served for nearly two years as President of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). He has also been awarded four honorary doctorates in recognition of his work leading the State of Maine's response to COVID-19 (University of New England, 2021; University of Southern Maine, 2022; Colby College, 2022; Bates College, 2022).

Earlier in his career, Shah worked for the Cambodian Ministry of Health as an economist and epidemiologist. There, he assisted the governmental hospital system with budgeting and cost-effectiveness analysis. He also investigated infectious disease outbreaks such as dengue fever and drug-resistant malaria. He was also involved in Cambodia's response to SARS and avian influenza.

Shah previously worked as an attorney at Sidley Austin LLP, where his practice focused on health care regulation and enforcement. Shah holds an MD and JD from The University of Chicago.

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Deputy Director for Program and Science/Chief Medical Officer **Debra Houry, MD, MPH**



Debra Houry, MD, MPH, is the Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Director for Program and Science at CDC. In this role, she is responsible for establishing, strengthening, and maintaining collaboration and coordination across CDC's national centers including infectious diseases, chronic disease, environmental health, injury prevention, and public health infrastructure. She also provides overall direction to, and coordination of, the scientific and medical programs. Dr. Houry is also the Designated Federal Officer for the Advisory Committee to the CDC Director, working directly with private and public sector constituents to prioritize CDC's activities and address key areas including data

modernization and health disparities. As a board-certified emergency physician, she has seen firsthand the impact of infectious diseases, chronic health conditions, and injuries on individuals, families, and communities and strives to address and prevent challenges with implementable, evidence-based practices.

Prior to this role, Dr. Houry served for nearly two years (2021-2023) as CDC's acting Principal Deputy Director, overseeing improvements to lab quality, updating global health strategy and governance, and elevating cross-cutting initiatives across the agency such as social determinants and mental health. She was also a key leader in the CDC Moving Forward reorganization process for the agency. From 2014-2021, Dr. Houry served as the Director of the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the CDC. Under her leadership, the budget increased from \$150 to \$714 million with expansion of multiple programs. Other notable achievements under her leadership included releasing the CDC Opioid Prescribing Guidelines for Chronic Pain, acquiring the management of the Drug Free Communities program encompassing 700 local coalitions, expanding the National Violent Death Reporting System from 18 to 50 states, and standing up new funding lines in adverse childhood experiences, suicide, drowning, and firearm violence prevention.

She previously served as vice chair and tenured associate professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine and as associate professor in the Rollins School of Public Health. Dr. Houry also served as an attending physician at Grady Memorial Hospital in the emergency department and in the medication assisted treatment clinic for opioid use disorder.

Dr. Houry has participated on numerous public health boards and committees and is an alum of Leadership Atlanta and the Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine program. She has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed publications, is a member of the National Academy of Medicine, and has received numerous awards throughout her career including the APHA Jay Drotman award, US Department of Health and Human Services Group Award for Service to America, and the AMA Award for Outstanding Government Service.

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Deputy Director for Policy, Communications, and Legislative Affairs/Chief Strategy Officer Andi Lipstein Fristedt, MPA



Andi Lipstein Fristedt, MPA, is the Deputy Director for Policy, Communications, and Legislative Affairs. In this role, she provides strategic policy direction to advance CDC's public health mission and oversees the agency's communication activities and engagement with Congress and other Washington-based partners and policymakers.

Fristedt served as the Deputy Commissioner for Policy, Legislation, and International Affairs at the US Food and Drug Administration from 2021 to 2023. Under her leadership, FDA advanced key policies to address tobacco use, strengthen nutrition and food safety, and bolster medical product regulation and health equity. Fristedt also oversaw the agency's engagement with Congress, securing critical new resources and authorities, most notably under the Food and Drug Omnibus Reform Act of 2022. Her work at FDA also focused on strengthening the agency's engagement with Tribal partners and advancing FDA's global activities.

Prior to her role with the FDA, Fristedt worked for nearly a decade in various capacities with the US Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP). She first served as a senior advisor to Chairman Tom Harkin and later to Ranking Member and Chair Patty Murray. In addition to serving as the Senate's top Democratic public health staffer beginning in 2012, she was the HELP Committee's Deputy Health Policy Director from 2017 to 2021. Fristedt spearheaded the Senate Democratic response to COVID-19, developing extensive policy proposals advanced over the course of the pandemic. During her time in the Senate, she also led the drafting or negotiation of a wide range of public health legislation that was signed into law, including two reauthorizations of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act; legislation increasing the legal age of tobacco sale to 21; and key provisions of the 21st Century Cures Act, the Lower Health Care Costs Act, and the SUPPORT for Patients Act.

Fristedt began her federal service at CDC Washington where she led the agency's engagement with Congress on key issues, including HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis. She first joined CDC as a Presidential Management Fellow.

Before joining the federal government, Fristedt worked as a Chief of Staff in the Oregon House of Representatives and completed a fellowship at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

Fristedt holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Oregon and a master's degree in public affairs from the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, where she studied health and health policy.

Immediate Office of the Director

Deputy Director for Global Health **Howard Zucker, MD, JD**



Howard Zucker, MD, JD, is the Deputy Director for Global Health, a position he assumed in January 2023. In this role, he has broad operating authority and responsibility for overall planning, direction, and management of global strategy and programs across CDC. Prior to this position, Dr. Zucker was a Visiting Research Professor at the School of Global Health, New York University. From 2014-2021, he served as Commissioner of Health for New York State where he oversaw the state response to many public health crises including Ebola, legionella, Zika, Covid-19, a measles outbreak, End the AIDS epidemic initiative, e-cigarette contamination, the opioid crisis, and water safety and quality issues.

Dr. Zucker's career also included serving as Assistant Director General at the World Health Organization (WHO). Serving as the highest-ranking American at WHO, he oversaw policy on a spectrum of global health issues with an overall budget of \$200 million. In this role, he also chaired the International Medical Products Anti-Counterfeiting Taskforce, a coordinated network across and between countries with the objective of halting the production, trading, and selling of counterfeit medicines around the globe, and he oversaw the world's essential medicines list - the global model formulary comprised of all medications vital to health and used by more than 150 nations worldwide.

Dr. Zucker also served as a White House Fellow and as Health and Human Services' Deputy Assistant Secretary of Health, where he worked on the federal SARS response plan and on the response to the anthrax crisis. He created and ran the nation's Medical Reserve Corps and spearheaded programs in several other areas, including development of a children's hospital in Iraq, maternal and child health in Afghanistan, and disease prevention with the Hungarian Minister of Health. Dr. Zucker has traveled on medical missions to China, as well as Haiti after the 2010 earthquake.

Dr. Zucker graduated from McGill University and holds a Doctor of Medicine degree from George Washington University School of Medicine, a Juris Doctor degree from Fordham University Law School, and a Master of Laws from Columbia Law School. He completed his training in pediatrics at Johns Hopkins Hospital, anesthesiology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, pediatric critical care/pediatric anesthesiology at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and pediatric cardiology at Boston Children's Hospital. He is board certified in six specialties and completed a post-graduate diploma in Global Health Policy at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Dr. Zucker was Director of the pediatric intensive care unit at New York Presbyterian Hospital and has had academic appointments at Yale, Columbia, and Einstein medical schools. He was an Institute of Politics Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School and is a member of the Supreme Court Bar.

Immediate Office of the Director

Office of the Chief Operating Officer **Robin D. Bailey Jr., MA**



Robin D. Bailey Jr., MA, is the Chief Operating Officer of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one of 10 major operating divisions of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In this role, he oversees management, facilities, and operations at the Atlanta-based public health agency. Specifically, Bailey provides executive oversight for CDC's budget; facilities design, maintenance, security, management analysis, and safety and personnel security; acquisitions, contractual assistance, and grants; information technology and security; and human resources strategy, training, and workplace development.

Bailey has more than 30 years of service in various senior level positions within the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the U.S. Department of the Air Force. As IRS's Human Capital Officer, he provided executive leadership and direction to nearly 2,000 professionals to manage recruitment, hiring, employee development, retention, performance management, payroll, employee services, workforce relations, employee engagement, and recognition programs for more than 80,000 IRS employees.

Prior to IRS, Bailey served as Southeast Regional Administrator with the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) in Atlanta, Georgia. He provided executive leadership to orchestrate the execution of all 15 federal nutrition assistance programs that provided more than \$25 billion in benefits each year through cooperating state agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Prior to this position, he served as the FNS Deputy Administrator for Management and Information Technology in Alexandria, Virginia, where he provided executive oversight of information technology, human resources, contract management, and logistics and facility services. Prior to FNS, he served as Director of Human Resources Management at the U.S. Forest Service in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he led more than 600 staff who provided human resources management policy and operational services for nearly 50,000 employees.

Bailey is an Air Force veteran and served as an Air Force civilian in a wide range of leadership positions, including the Civilian Deputy and Staff Director to the 96th Air Base Wing Commander at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. In this role he co-led more than 5,000 service members in providing essential base operating support and services for more than 20,000 personnel and family dependents, six wings, and 50 associate units.

Bailey holds an undergraduate degree from Park College (now Park University), in Parkville, Missouri, and a Master of Arts degree in communications from the University of Oklahoma.

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Office of the Chief of Staff **Kate Wolff, MPA**



Kate Wolff, MPA, is CDC's Chief of Staff. Wolff has more than 16 years of experience both inside and outside of government, creating positive organizational outcomes through strong collaboration, effective problem-solving, and crisis management. Wolff first joined the federal government at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in 2009, working in a variety of roles in the HHS Secretary's office, including director of scheduling and advance, before joining the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to help manage the response to the 2014 influx of unaccompanied children, and the first chief of staff for the Office of Refugee Resettlement in 2015. Through her various roles at HHS, she

has demonstrated the ability to collaborate with cross-functional teams, often with competing goals, to solve complex, high-stakes problems.

Since re-joining HHS Secretary's office in 2021 as a Counselor, Wolff has continued to move the needle to support HHS's goals across public health and human services priorities and led complex policy development and implementation, including COVID-related policy in Head Start, as well as engagement with diverse partners, including the disability community, child welfare advocates, and local officials. Wolff led work on immigration on behalf of HHS, including day-to-day oversight of the Unaccompanied Children's (UC) program, HHS-wide efforts to support new arrivals, including Ukrainians, Afghans and asylum-seekers, and preparations for the termination of the title 42 Order. Wolff has also been responsible for interagency negotiations to support Tribal sovereignty and overseeing efforts to distribute infant formula through Operation Fly Formula. Prior to joining the Secretary's office, Wolff served as senior advisor to the Assistant Secretary for ACF, playing an instrumental role as part of the team responsible for stabilizing the UC program in the wake of unprecedented organizational challenges, resulting in program improvements and ongoing change management efforts to reduce the amount of time children spend in congregate settings.

Wolff has an undergraduate degree in political science from the University of Kansas and a Master of Public Administration from the University of the District of Columbia.