



Dr. Tom Frieden, MD, MPH
President and CEO
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an initiative of Vital Strategies

[Dr. Tom Frieden](#) is President and Chief Executive Officer of Resolve to Save Lives, a global initiative and part of the global public health organization [Vital Strategies](#). Resolve to Save Lives works with countries to prevent 100 million deaths from heart disease and to make the world safer from epidemics.

Dr. Frieden sounded the alarm on the novel coronavirus in January 2020, and was one of the first to declare a global pandemic. He has used his and his initiative's expertise and presence globally to help government leaders, organizations, policymakers, media and the public better understand the pandemic and how to respond effectively. The Prevent Epidemics team at his initiative provides expert advice, technical assistance, and practical resources to more than 60 countries and is on the ground responding to the pandemic, including in the U.S. The team supports New York State and other jurisdictions to set up best practice contact tracing programs. Globally, Vital Strategies is leading effective, data-driven approaches to reduce transmission, save lives, and restart economic activity as safely and soon as possible.

A former director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, former commissioner of the New York City Health Department, and one of the world's leading health experts, Dr. Frieden is a physician with advanced training in internal medicine, infectious disease, public health, and epidemiology and extensive experience in public health management. He has transformed the organizations he has led, creating global models of scientific rigor, maximum accountability, measurable impact, community engagement, and increased staff morale. Dr. Frieden's research on a broad range of topics is widely cited and he is the author of more than 250 influential scientific publications that have identified the what, how and why of action to improve health.

Highlights of a 30-year track record of achievement include:

- As Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Dr. Frieden improved morale, effectiveness, and impact. He led the CDC's work that ended the Ebola epidemic, launched an initiative that will prevent heart attacks and strokes, sounded the alarm and accelerated progress addressing the epidemic of opioid use, and increased effective action on the front lines to find and fight winnable battles and protect and improve health in the United States and around the world. Because of his leadership at CDC, Americans are safer from antibiotic resistance, foodborne and healthcare-associated infections, heart attacks, strokes, cancer, and exposure to dangerous pathogens (2009-2017).
- As the first Director of International Health Programs of Bloomberg Philanthropies, Dr. Frieden designed and launched the Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use, a program that has prevented more than 35 million deaths around the world (2006-2009, pro bono).
- As Commissioner of the New York City Health Department, Dr. Frieden led health transformation in New York City, increasing life expectancy by 3 years, preventing more than 100,000 deaths from smoking, and spurring national and global action on, among other areas, better understanding and control of public health problems including HIV, tobacco control, nutrition, as well as the integration of health care and public health, initiating the country's largest community-based electronic health records project. Dr. Frieden led a reorganization that increased revenues and optimized health impact. His work strengthened New York City's health department place as a model for the world (2002-2009).
- Dr. Frieden guided the tuberculosis control program in India to rapidly improve diagnosis and treatment. The program became the largest and fastest-expanding effective tuberculosis control program in the world, saving at least 3 million lives (1996-2002).
- Dr. Frieden ran New York City's tuberculosis control program, leading work to control the largest outbreak of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis ever to occur in the U.S. and reducing multidrug-resistant cases by 80 percent. The tuberculosis control program he created is a model for the U.S. and the world, with intensive community outreach, clinical excellence, intensive support for patients, effective integration of health care and public health, ongoing analysis and publication of key epidemiologic and program aspects, and rigorous accountability (1990-1996).