



Vivek Murthy

Nominee for Surgeon General; Member of President-elect Biden's COVID-19 Advisory Board



Life In Brief

Born: July 10, 1977

Birthplace: Huddersfield, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Marital Status: Married

Education Summary:

- MBA, Yale University, 2003
- MD, Yale University, 2003
- BA, Biochemical Sciences, Harvard University, 1997

Family:

- Wife, Dr. Alice Chen, Founding Executive Director for Doctors for America
- Two children

Work History:

- US Surgeon General, 2014-2017
- Vice Admiral, US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps., 2014-2017
- President/Co-founder, Doctors for America, 2009-2014
- Physician, Brigham and Women's Hospital, 2006-2014
- Chairman/Co-founder, TrialNetworks, 2010-2014

Quick Summary

Former US Surgeon General and non-profit executive who focuses on preventative care and

mental health; key health advisor to the Biden 2020 campaign

- Experienced doctor and public health leader whose career spans academia, government service and the non-profit sector
- As Surgeon General, focused on multiple public health initiatives, the opioid crisis, the Zika and Ebola crises, and addiction; completed a listening tour around America in order to find the most pressing health issues for the public
- Since leaving the position of US Surgeon General, Murthy has focused on mental health, specifically loneliness, authoring a book on the effects of loneliness on overall health outcomes
- Heavily influenced by his parents' immigration story; has founded multiple nonprofits to improve health care education and outcomes in India
- Serves in multiple advisory roles in the Biden presidential campaign, including as the co-chair of health policy on the Biden-Sanders Unity Taskforce, indicating his proximity to Democratic leaders

Approach and Motivations

Patient concerns from early on in his medical career inform his current focus on mental health and loneliness

- Murthy's father, Hallegere, was a doctor in Miami; Murthy would observe his father at the health clinic, drawing him into the medical field at an early age
- Focus on loneliness and mental health derives from his early days as a doctor, where he first encountered severe issues with loneliness in his patients
- Emphasizes that healthy relationships are as important to overall health as vaccines and ventilators



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- Remains connected to his Indian heritage, founding several nonprofits to improve health outcomes and health education throughout India

participating in service improves our connections to others

Policy Position and Areas of Focus

Covers a range of health issues including mental health, public health and health care access

Public Health: Advised Obama administration on epidemic outbreaks; led initiatives focused on preventative care

- As an advisor to the Biden campaign, Murthy has expressed concerns about vulnerabilities in the health care system due to COVID-19 - running out of beds, equipment, or health care workers
- Worked with the Obama administration to mitigate the outbreak of both the Zika and Ebola viruses, by ensuring adequate hospital preparedness, improved lab capacity and comprehensive provider training
- Introduced the Step It Up! Campaign, as Surgeon General, to promote walking and physical activity, combat obesity rates and focus on disease prevention

Mental Health & Addiction: Focuses on the impact of loneliness on overall health and pursuing anti-addiction policies

- Crafted the first Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs and Health; addressed addiction as a chronic illness; began "Turn the Tide" to improve opioid education and treatment
- Focuses on the impact of chronic loneliness, which he called an "epidemic" with significant impact on overall health outcomes; focusing on the quality and consistency of connections and

Health Care Expansion: Career track record that focuses on improving health outcomes and access for vulnerable communities

- Co-founded Swasthya Project; trains women in villages as health providers and educators
- Conducted research to improve health care services for women and minorities by providing them with access to clinical trials

Core Communities

Murthy has a medical career that spans academia and government service with strong ties to Democratic establishment circles

Policy Wonks: Well connected to former executive branch officials who serve with him on the Biden Coronavirus Taskforce and in the Obama administration

- Served with Zeke Emanuel, former ACA architect in the Obama admin.; Irwin Redliner, Director, National Center for Disaster Preparedness, Columbia Univ.; and David Kessler, fmr. FDA Commissioner, Bush 43 and Clinton admin. on the Biden Coronavirus Taskforce
- Served with Sylvia Matthews-Burwell, fmr. HHS Secretary, in the Obama admin.

Progressive Health Officials: Works with a range of public health officials

- Served with Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, 2018 Michigan gubernatorial candidate on the Biden-Sanders Unity Taskforce
- Worked with Don Berwick, Senior Fellow, Institute for Healthcare Improvement and fmr. CMS Administrator, Obama admin.



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Academics: Well connected to academics through research and position on the Biden-Sanders Unity Taskforce

- Conducted research with Dr. Cary Gross, Founder/Director of Cancer Outcomes Public Policy and Effectiveness Research Center, Yale University
- Conducted research with Dr. Harlan Krumholz, Director, Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation, Yale-New Haven Hospital
- Served with Sherry Glied, Dean, Graduate School of Public Health, NYU in the Obama admin. and on the Biden-Sanders Unity Taskforce

Relevant Financial Information

No known donations/relevant financial information found

Publications, Media and Speaking

Has significantly increased his media presence and reach after leaving the Dept. of Health and Human Services, largely appearing on left-leaning media outlets

Publications: Has published for both research organizations and popular media

- Books: Published “Together: The Healing Power of Human Connection in a Sometimes Lonely World” in 2020 focused on the mental health effects of loneliness
- Research has appeared in Science and the Journal of the American Medical Association
- Frequent Outlets: Harvard Business Review, The Atlantic
- Frequent Subjects: Effects of loneliness on health outcomes, COVID-19

Media: Highly engaged with news media through podcasts and television appearances

- Frequent Outlets: CNN, CBS, NPR, podcasts (e.g. The Oath with Chuck Rosenberg)
- Frequent Subjects: COVID-19 response, mental health, loneliness
- Social Media Habits: Part of the LinkedIn Speaker Series in May 2020; uses Twitter account to promote core health policies important to him as well as share personal highlights

Speaking: Engages with academic institutions and nonprofit groups

- Frequent Subjects: Opioid crisis, gun violence happiness in health
- Frequent Audiences: Think tanks (e.g. The Aspen Institute and CSIS)

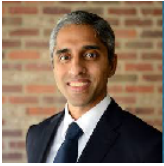
Professional Affiliations

- Advisor, President-elect Biden's COVID-19 Advisory Board
- Co-Chair, Health Policy, Biden-Sanders Unity Taskforce
- Board Member, US Olympic and Paralympic Committee
- Board Member, NCAA
- Board Member, RAND Corporation
- Advisory Board Member, Satcher-Kennedy Center for Mental Health Equity

Family and Personal Background

Murthy’s educational accolades highlight his work ethic and focus

- Murthy’s dedication to making the most of his education early on is evident through his continued success at all levels. Murthy credits



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Vignette
by National Journal

his parents for instilling in him the importance of an education

- History of academic excellence includes being named Valedictorian, Miami Palmetto Senior High School, graduating Magna Cum Laude from Harvard studying Biochemical Science, and membership in the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society

Retains close ties to his parents

- Has spent much of quarantine during the COVID-19 pandemic in Miami with his extended family
- Until he attended medical school, his mother cut his hair; Murthy describes her as “his favorite barber” and she gave him another haircut during COVID-19 quarantine

Heavily influenced by his family’s immigration and commitment to service

- Murthy’s grandfather fought for democracy and independence in India
- Parents “instilled in him the values of service, education and health” through their commitment to providing a better life for Murthy and his siblings

Criticisms and Controversies

No known criticisms or controversies