



Issues

- Budget Management
- Education
- Energy
- Health Care
- Homeland Security
- Hurricane Recovery
- Immigration
- Jobs & Economy
- Medicare
- National Security
- Pandemic Flu
- Patriot Act
- Renewal in Iraq
- Social Security
- [More Issues »](#)

News

- Current News
- Press Briefings
- Proclamations
- Executive Orders
- Radio

 [RSS Feeds](#)

Major

Speeches

- Iraq
- Stem Cell Research
- G-8 Summit
- Press Conference

Interact

- [Ask the White House](#)
- [White House Interactive](#)

Your

Government

- President's Cabinet
- USA Freedom Corps
- Faith-Based & Community
- OMB
- NSC
- [More Offices »](#)

Appointments

- Nominations
- Application



[PHOTO ESSAYS](#)

[Home](#) > [Government](#)

Admiral John O. Agwunobi, MD, MBA, MPH Assistant Secretary for Health U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

John O. Agwunobi was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on December 17, 2005 to be Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and an Admiral in the US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. As the ASH, Dr. Agwunobi serves as the Secretary's primary advisor on matters involving the nation's public health. He also oversees the US Public Health Service and its Commissioned Corps for the Secretary.



Dr. Agwunobi is a seasoned public health professional with experience in health care delivery, managed care, and health policy. Prior to becoming the ASH, Dr. Agwunobi served as Florida's Secretary of Health and State Health Officer, under Governor Jeb Bush, from October 2001 to September 2005. Dr. Agwunobi confronted many public health challenges during his tenure, including leading the state's public health and medical response to the unprecedented four major hurricanes that struck Florida in 2004. In addition, the day after being named Secretary, Dr. Agwunobi led the Florida Department of Health in its response to the nation's first-ever intentional anthrax attack. He subsequently guided the state's nationally-recognized efforts to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and mitigate the effects of a bioterrorism attack.

As Secretary, Dr. Agwunobi moved the Department toward increased efficiency, customer focus, and productivity. He led the call for a healthier Florida, advocating for improved nutrition and exercise in an effort to address the state's epidemic of overweight and obesity. His Department's many successes included responses to West Nile, SARS, and numerous other infectious disease outbreaks, efforts to decrease the state's infant mortality rate, lowering tobacco use among young Floridians, addressing racial and ethnic health disparities, and improving overall access to medical and dental care.

As a pediatrician, Dr. Agwunobi dedicated himself to working with underserved populations. Before moving to Florida, Dr. Agwunobi was Medical Director and Vice President of Medical Affairs and Patient Services at the Hospital for Sick Children, a Washington, DC-based pediatric rehabilitation hospital and community health care provider. He simultaneously served as medical director for an affiliated managed care plan, where he maintained a network of more than 2,300 physicians and specialists.

Dr. Agwunobi completed his pediatric residency at Howard University Hospital in Washington, DC, rotating between Children's National Medical Center and the District of Columbia General Hospital--then one of the nation's busiest inner-city hospitals. In addition to his medical degree, Dr. Agwunobi holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Georgetown University in Washington, DC, and a Master of Public Health degree from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in Baltimore, MD. He is also a certified managed care executive.



Dr. Agwunobi has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including Public Administrator of the Year, APHA Public Health Hero Citation, and Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. He previously served as Chair of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee to the Director, and on the Board of Directors of the National Quality Forum--an advisory group formed at the recommendation of the President's Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry.

Dr. Agwunobi has a passion for leadership and innovation and sees his role as Assistant Secretary for Health as an opportunity to enhance the Secretary's efforts to further the mission of HHS and the health of the nation by building, strengthening, and leveraging relationships across the public health community and the US Public Health Service.

[President](#) | [Vice President](#) | [First Lady](#) | [Mrs. Cheney](#) | [News & Policies](#)
[History & Tours](#) | [Kids](#) | [Your Government](#) | [Appointments](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Contact](#) | [Text only](#)
[Accessibility](#) | [Search](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Help](#)