



2026 Bloomberg American Health Summit Agenda  
*October 20, 2026*

**Tuesday, October 20, 2026**

7:30 AM                      Credential Pickup

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM              Networking Breakfast Reception

**9:00 AM – 11:15 AM | Morning Plenary Session**

9:00 AM – 11:15 AM              Main Plenary

*Curtain Raiser Video*

**Opening Remarks**

**Michael R. Bloomberg**, WHO Global Ambassador for  
Noncommunicable Diseases and Injuries

*Interview:*

**A City Response to Overdose and Homicides**

**Moderator** **Jonathan Capehart**, Co-Host, The Weekend, MS NOW  
**Brandon M. Scott**, Mayor, City of Baltimore

**From Vision to Impact: The Bloomberg American Health Initiative**

**Remarks**

**Ron Daniels**, President, Johns Hopkins University

*Interview:*

**Moderator** **Meredith Cohn**, Reporter, The Baltimore Banner

**Panelists** **Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein**, Director, Bloomberg American Health Initiative

**Michelle Spencer**, Deputy Director, Bloomberg American Health Initiative

## Adolescent Health

*Introduction:*

**Shadille Estepan**, Bloomberg Fellow, Born This Way Foundation

*In Conversation:*

**Youth Mental Health and Digital Media**

**Moderator** **Rebecca Ruiz**, Senior Reporter, Mashable

**Panelists** **Emma Vadehra**, Director of Policy, New York State Executive Chamber

**Dr. Pamela Y. Collins**, Bloomberg Centennial Professor and Chair of the Department of Mental Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

*Panel:*

**Youth Mental Health, Suicide, and AI**

**Moderator** **Rebecca Ruiz**, Senior Reporter, Mashable

**Panelists** **Laura Reiley**, Advocate and Journalist, Cornell Chronicle

**Emily Haroz**, Director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Suicide Prevention, Co-Director of Research at the Center for Indigenous Health, and Lead, AI For HOPE initiative

## A Focus on Rural Health

**Remarks**

**Building a Healthier Rural America**

**Dr. Kelly Henning**, Public Health Program Lead, Bloomberg Philanthropies

*Video Presentation:*

**The Initiative in Rural America**

## Environmental Challenges

### *Introduction:*

**Daniel Ryan**, Bloomberg Fellow, U.S. National Park Service

### *Interview:*

#### **Environment and the Changing Policy Landscape**

**Moderator Pien Huang**, Correspondent, Science Desk, NPR

**Panelists Carol Browner**, Former Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Gina McCarthy**, Chair, America is All In, Former White House National Climate Advisor, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator

### *Panel:*

#### **Advancing Environmental Health Through Advocacy and Policy**

**Moderator Pien Huang**, Correspondent, Science Desk, NPR

**Panelists Shelley Hearne**, Distinguished Professor of the Practice and Co-Director of the Lerner Center for Public Health Advocacy, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health  
**Katrina Forrest**, Executive Director, CityHealth

## Food Systems for Health

### *Introduction:*

**Louie Martinez**, Bloomberg Fellow, Roadrunner Food Bank

### *Keynote:*

#### **Preserving Our Food Systems**

**Sean Sherman**, Founder and Executive Director, NATIFS and The Sioux Chef

### *In Conversation:*

#### **Food and Our Health**

**Sarah Todd**, STAT News

**Ashley Gearhardt**, Professor of Psychology, University of Michigan

### **Remarks**

**Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein**, Director, Bloomberg American Health

Initiative

**Michelle Spencer**, Deputy Director, Bloomberg American Health Initiative

11:15 AM – 12:15 PM Networking Lunch

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM | Afternoon Plenary Session

**Welcome Back Remarks**

**Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein**, Director, Bloomberg American Health Initiative

**Michelle Spencer**, Deputy Director, Bloomberg American Health Initiative

*Video Presentation:*

**A Decade of Building a National Network**

**Remarks**

**Keshia Pollack Porter**, Dean, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

**Remarks**

**Wes Moore**, Governor, State of Maryland

*In Conversation:*

**The Intersection of Health and Technology**

**Rachel Cohrs Zhang**, Health Policy Reporter, Bloomberg News

**Dr. Monica Bharel**, Global Clinical Lead for Public Health, Google for Health

**Addiction and Overdose**

*Introduction:*

**Tricia Bautista**, Bloomberg Fellow, NYC Health + Hospitals

*Panel:*

**AI, Wastewater, and Addiction Surveillance**

**Moderator Pien Huang**, Correspondent, Science Desk, NPR

**Panelists Jackie Seitz**, Privacy and Civil Rights Lawyer, Seitz Health Law

**Carsten Prasse**, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Health and Engineering, Johns Hopkins Whiting School of Engineering and Bloomberg School of Public Health

*In Conversation:*

**Addressing Overdose in America**

**Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein**, Director, Bloomberg American Health Initiative

**Dr. Allison Arwady**, Public Health Team, Bloomberg Philanthropies

**Violence**

*Video Presentation:*

**Implementation of the U.S. National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence**

*Introduction:*

**Elena Jackendoff**, Bloomberg Fellow, Everytown for Gun Safety

*In Conversation:*

**Taking Action for Safer Communities**

**Vann R. Newkirk II**, Senior Editor, The Atlantic

**Monisha Henley**, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, Everytown for Gun Safety

*Panel:*

**Reducing Homicides and Overdoses**

**Moderator Vann R. Newkirk II**, Senior Editor, The Atlantic

**Panelists Daniel Webster**, Bloomberg Professor of American Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

**Nab Dasgupta**, Gillings Innovation Fellow and Senior

Scientist, University of North Carolina Gillings School of  
Global Public Health

*In Conversation:*

**County-Level Suicide Prevention Data and Policy**

**Shannon Frattaroli**, Director, Johns Hopkins Center for Injury  
Research

**Marjory Givens**, Senior Advisor, University of Wisconsin-  
Madison Population Health Institute and County Health  
Rankings & Roadmaps

**Closing Remarks**

**Remarks**

**Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein**, Director, Bloomberg American Health  
Initiative

**Michelle Spencer**, Deputy Director, Bloomberg American Health  
Initiative

**Closing Performance**

**The Peabody Institute**

**Afternoon Plenary Concludes**

*Closed sessions for Bloomberg Fellows and Collaborating Organizations only*

**2:30 PM – 4:00 PM**

Focus Area Annual Meetings

**5:15 PM – 6:00 PM**

Bloomberg Fellows Alumni Pre-Mixer

**6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

Evening Reception