

PUBLIC HEALTH

Tonya Joiner

*Assistant Secretary –
Office of Public Health*

MISSION & ROLE



MISSION & ROLE

Office of Public Health: Delivering Measurable Impact for Louisiana Residents

As public servants, we **protect and provide access to health care, disease prevention, and safety during disasters**. With compassion and dedication, we stand ready to protect and serve the people of Louisiana.



MISSION & ROLE



**Infectious
disease
prevention
and response**



**Access to
public health
services**



**Food, water,
and
environmental
safety**



**Safety during
emergencies
and disasters**

MISSION & ROLE

Jullette Saussy, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer



Tonya Joiner, JD
Assistant Secretary



Sallie Guy
Senior Advisor



Darlene Smith
Vital Records &
Statistics



Elizabeth Adkins
Community &
Preventive Health



Glennis Gray, Ph.D.
Community
Preparedness & Health
Protection



Vacant
Environmental Health



Jen Katzman
Finance &
Administration

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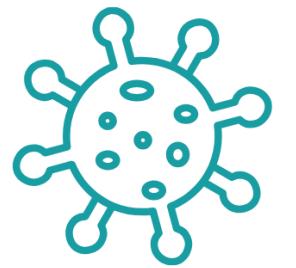


Vital Records

Birth Certificates

Death Certificates

Orleans Parish
Marriage Records



Community &
Preventive Health

Newborn Screening
Program

Parish Health Units

Infectious Diseases

WIC Program

Commodity Supplemental
Food Program

STI/HIV Prevention

Adolescent School Health



Community
Preparedness & Health
Protection

Emergency Medical
Services

Chronic Disease
Prevention

Emergency
Preparedness



Environmental Health

Restaurant Inspections

Laboratory Testing

Safe Drinking Water

Community Sewage
Program

Cannabis Program



Finance &
Administration

Opioid Surveillance

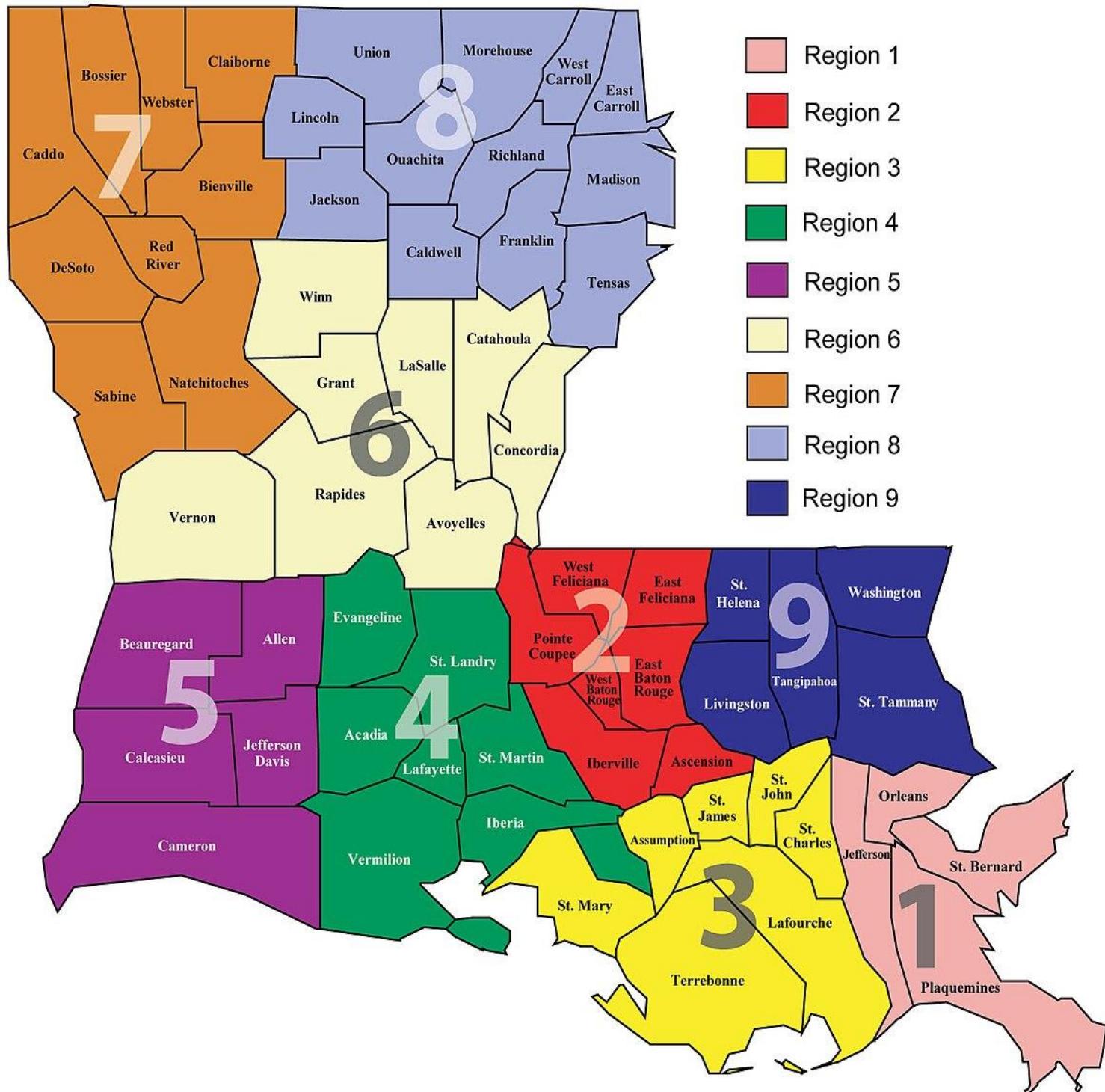
Budget

Records Retention

Lease Management

Planning &
Performance

MISSION & ROLE



9 Regional Offices



64 Parish Health Units

2025 PERFORMANCE



2025 PERFORMANCE

National Public Health Accreditation

To receive accreditation, a health department must undergo a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of quality standards and measures. Accreditation demonstrates that the Office of Public Health has been rigorously examined and meets or **exceeds national standards** that promote **continuous quality improvement for public health**.



2025 PERFORMANCE

Birth Certificates

258,248

Birth certificates and birth cards
issued statewide

Marriage Licenses & Certificates

9,093

Marriage licenses and certificates
issued in Orleans Parish

Death Certificates

352,935

Death certificates issued statewide

Parish Health Units

110,000+

Clinical encounters at
64 parish health units

Laboratory Services

834,953

Lab tests conducted

Community Healthways

5,000

Louisiana residents assisted with
food, job resources, and education

Engineering

920

Water and Sewer Project Plans
reviewed and permitted

Sanitarian Services

26,750

Non-retail food inspections
completed (body art, seafood plants,
marijuana retailers, dairy farms)

Emergency Medical Services

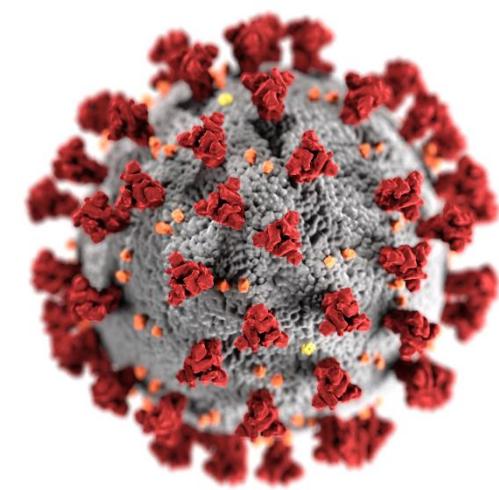
17,800

EMS licenses issued statewide

2025 PERFORMANCE

Disease Investigation and Response

- **Foodborne illness containment**
 - Epidemiologists' investigation triggered from reports of **15 cases of norovirus-like illnesses**
 - Sanitarian Services recalled roughly **18,000 sacks = 126,760 pounds of oysters**
- **ByHeart formula recall**
 - Within **2 days**, Sanitarian Services:
 - Visited **120+ retail locations** statewide
 - Identified **26 locations** with recalled product still in stock
 - Ensured the removal and destruction of **400+ units** of formula
- **Measles exposure containment (Louisiana airport)**
 - Epidemiologists conducted rapid contact tracing, monitoring, and education of exposed Louisiana residents, **limiting transmission to 3 cases**
- **Tuberculosis control (high-risk case management)**
 - Conducted **71 tuberculosis contact investigations** and **screened nearly 700 contacts**



2025 PERFORMANCE

Public Safety and Oversight

- Sanitarian Services conducted **91,000+** inspections statewide, including:
 - **Super Bowl 2025**
 - **1,487** permitted facilities identified within a mile radius of the Superdome
 - **Jazz and Heritage Festival**
 - **Inspectors visit each vendor** for proper food handling and temperatures on all food items being stored onsite
 - **Retail food establishments**
 - **80,000** annual retail food inspections



Sanitarians working at the Super Bowl



Rotting alligators



Health inspection



Rotting meat

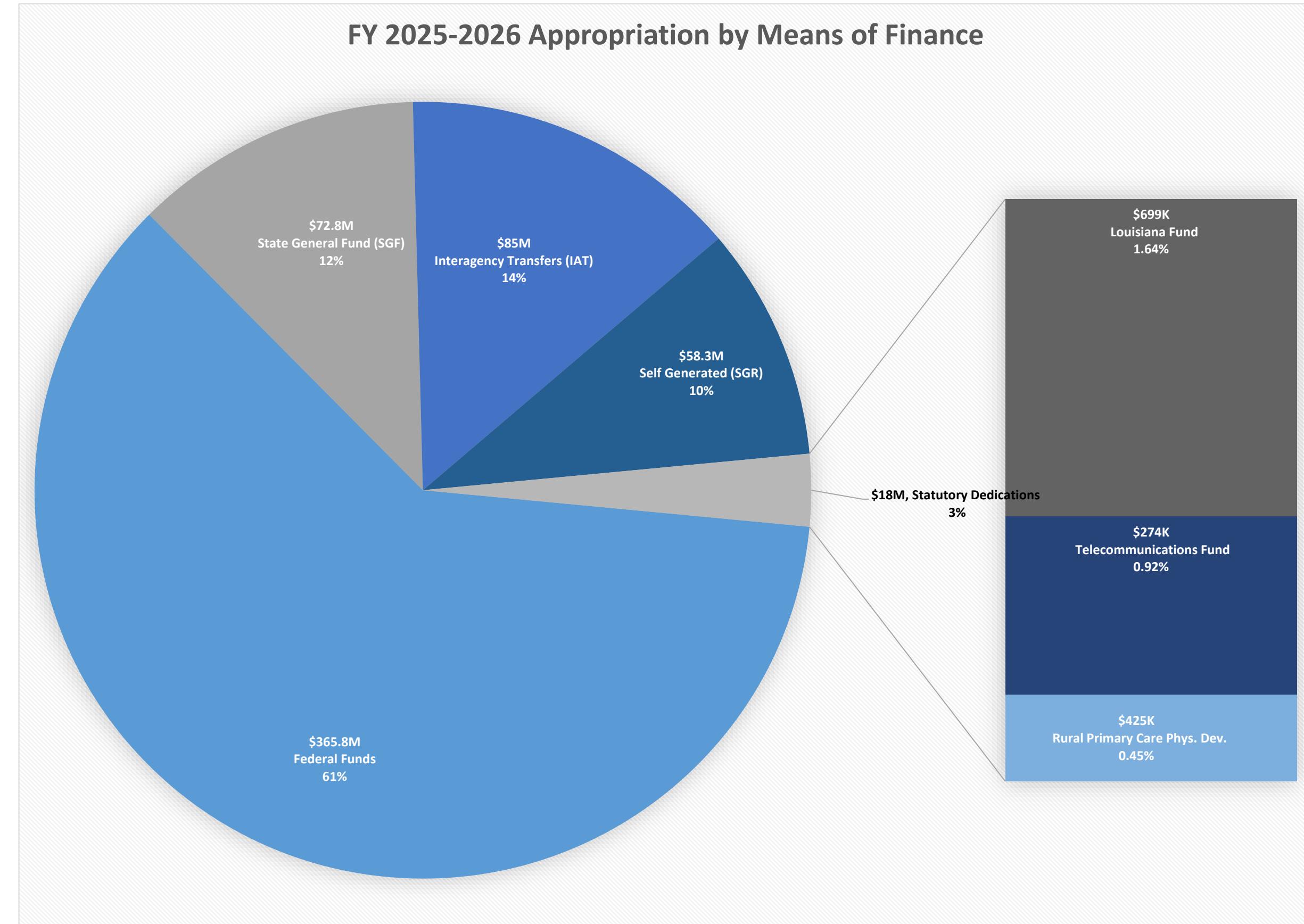
FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

**FY26 Total Budget:
\$599.2 million**

- **Federal:** 61%
- **State General Fund:** 12%
- **Interagency Transfers:** 14%
- **Self-Generated Revenues:** 10%
- **Statutory Dedications:** 3%



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

FY 26 Key Investments

- Over \$167 million strategically invested to protect health and modernize Louisiana's public health system
 - \$81.3 million: Nutrition and WIC services (maternal and child health promotion through food security)
 - \$75.1 million: HIV/AIDS Drug Assistance Program (insurance coverage and medication access)
 - \$18.3 million: Public Health IT (surveillance, reporting, and data modernization)
 - \$23.8 million: State Laboratory services (disease detection, water safety, newborn screening)
- Sustained investment aligns funding with rising public health demand
 - Expanded access to preventive and life-saving services
 - Improved outbreak detection and faster response times
 - Modernized IT systems, resulting in improved decision-making
 - Expanded laboratory capacity to support statewide emergency readiness
- Funds support communities across all regions of Louisiana
 - Resources directed toward highest-need populations
 - Strong fiscal oversight and compliance with federal requirements
 - Investments reduce long-term health care costs and improve outcomes



2026 STRATEGIES & PRIORITIES



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Increase Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) Participation by 25% Statewide

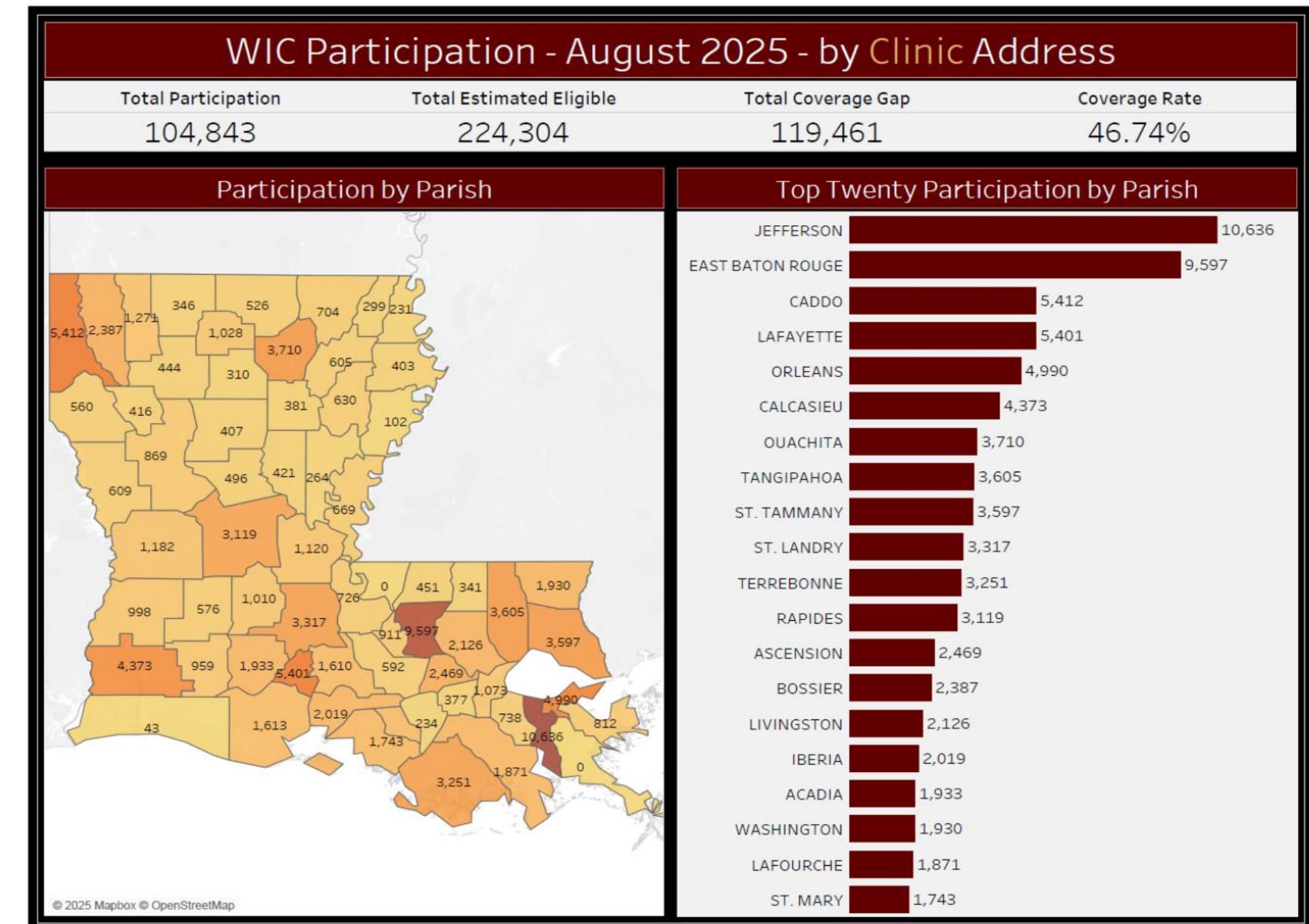
As of August 2025, Louisiana's WIC coverage rate stood at **46.74%**, with **104,843** participants out of an estimated **224,304** eligible individuals, leaving roughly **119,000** eligible individuals not enrolled. These estimates are based on Medicaid enrollees in WIC-eligible categories, including pregnant and postpartum women and children ages 0-4.

- **Barriers**

- Public misconception
- Understaffed WIC clinics
- Fixed and flat funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- **Interventions**

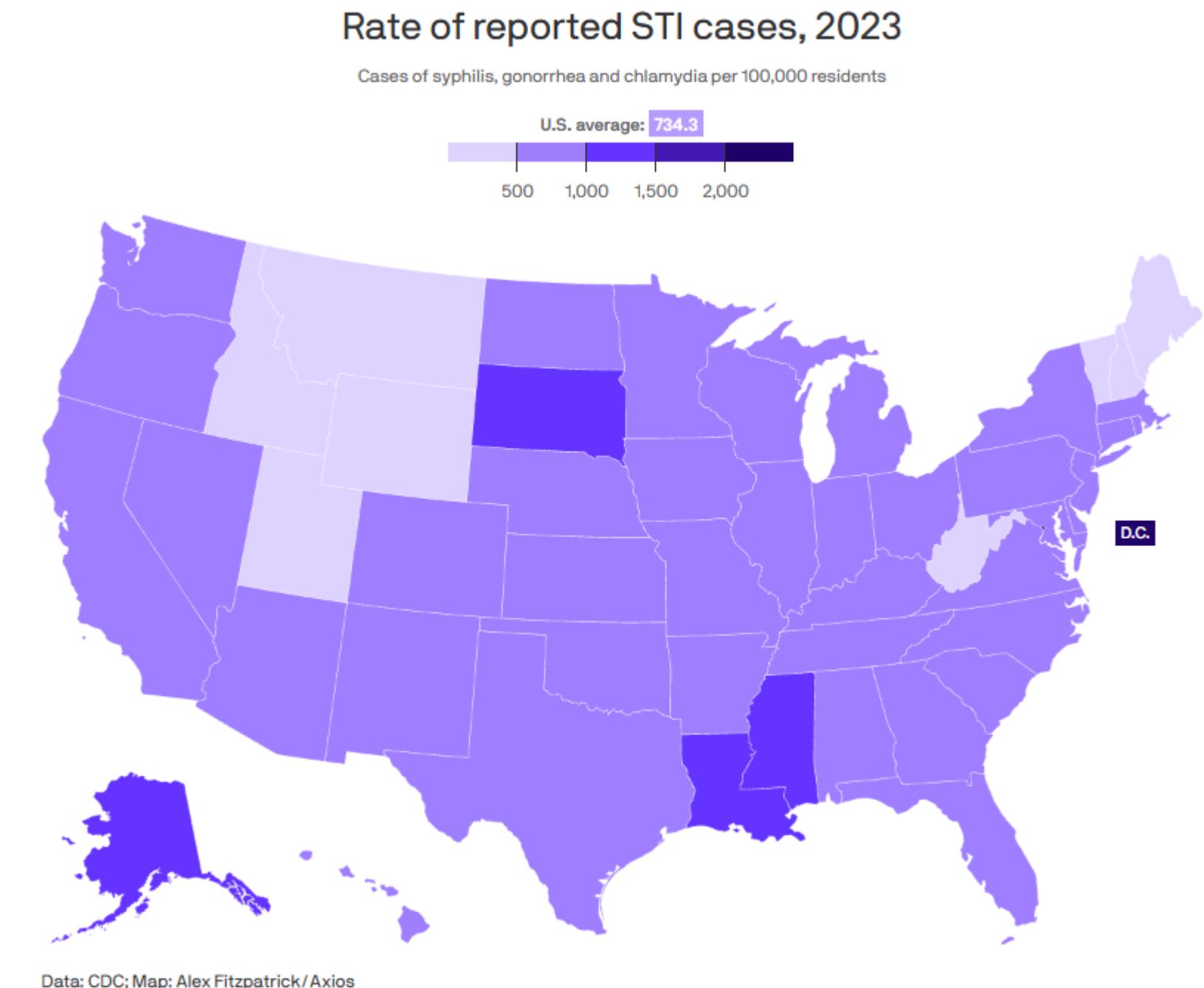
- Gap analysis
- New policy language
- Mobile units



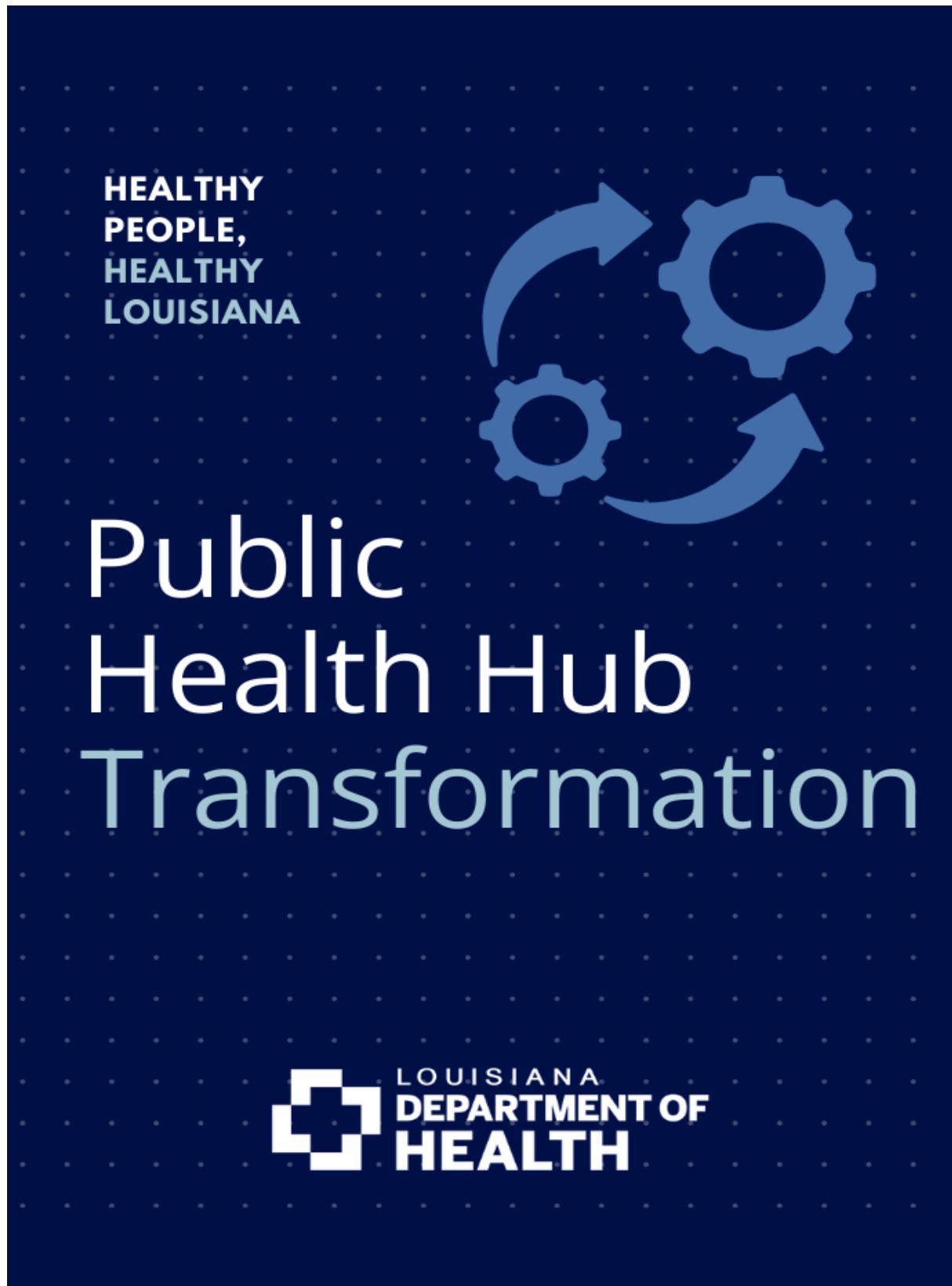
2026 STRATEGIES & PRIORITIES

Reduce HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Disease Burden

- **Barriers**
 - Sexual health-related stigma
 - Social determinants (poverty, health inequity)
 - Stagnant federal STI funding despite increasing disease burden
 - Inconsistent national screening/testing recommendations
- **Interventions**
 - Targeted education (how to prevent, screen, and treat STIs)
 - More testing (expanded services at parish health units, local jails, Local Governing Entities)
 - Immediate linkage to care after positive test results to ensure timely treatment and reduced risk of transmission



2026 STRATEGIES & PRIORITIES



Public Health Hub Transformation

The Office of Public Health is committed to empowering our people to move from dependence to independence by **delivering the highest-quality health care infrastructure** to ensure healthier, safer lives for the people of Louisiana.

- Integrated behavioral health and case management
- Community paramedicine for treatment-in-place
- Expanded sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment
- Chronic disease screening and bridge to community care
- Tobacco cessation and health promotion
- One Door access to WIC, SNAP, and Medicaid eligibility and enrollment

2026 STRATEGIES & INTERVENTIONS

Reduce Tobacco Use Among Louisiana Youth and Adults by 3% (137,932 Fewer Adults; 32,000 Fewer Youth Tobacco Users)

Tobacco use is the **leading cause of preventable deaths** in Louisiana. **\$2.19 billion** is spent annually on smoking-related healthcare costs.

- **Barriers**

In Louisiana:

- 26% of adults currently use tobacco (estimated **910,000** adults 18 and older)
- 13% (**39,313**) middle and high school students currently vape.
- Most youth first try vapes and any tobacco at **12** or **13** years of age.
- **90%** of adult smokers started smoking before age **18**.

- **Interventions**

- Boost access to and utilization of tobacco cessation treatments by **10%**.
- Expand mass reach communication interventions to motivate quitting and prevent youth initiation by **25%**.
- Mobilize youth-led tobacco prevention education and outreach within school and community settings by **20%**.
- Enhance initiatives focused on limiting tobacco product availability and accessibility among youth by **10%**.
- Increase the implementation of comprehensive tobacco and smoke-free policies in communities and organizations of all types by **15%**.



RESIDENT IMPACT & ENGAGEMENT



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To watch the video, please visit
https://youtu.be/L_o3424ygu8

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Working Together
for a Healthier
Louisiana.

THANK YOU

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