

SURGEON GENERAL

Evelyn Griffin, MD

Louisiana Surgeon General

OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL

Thank you, Dr. Ralph Abraham!



OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL

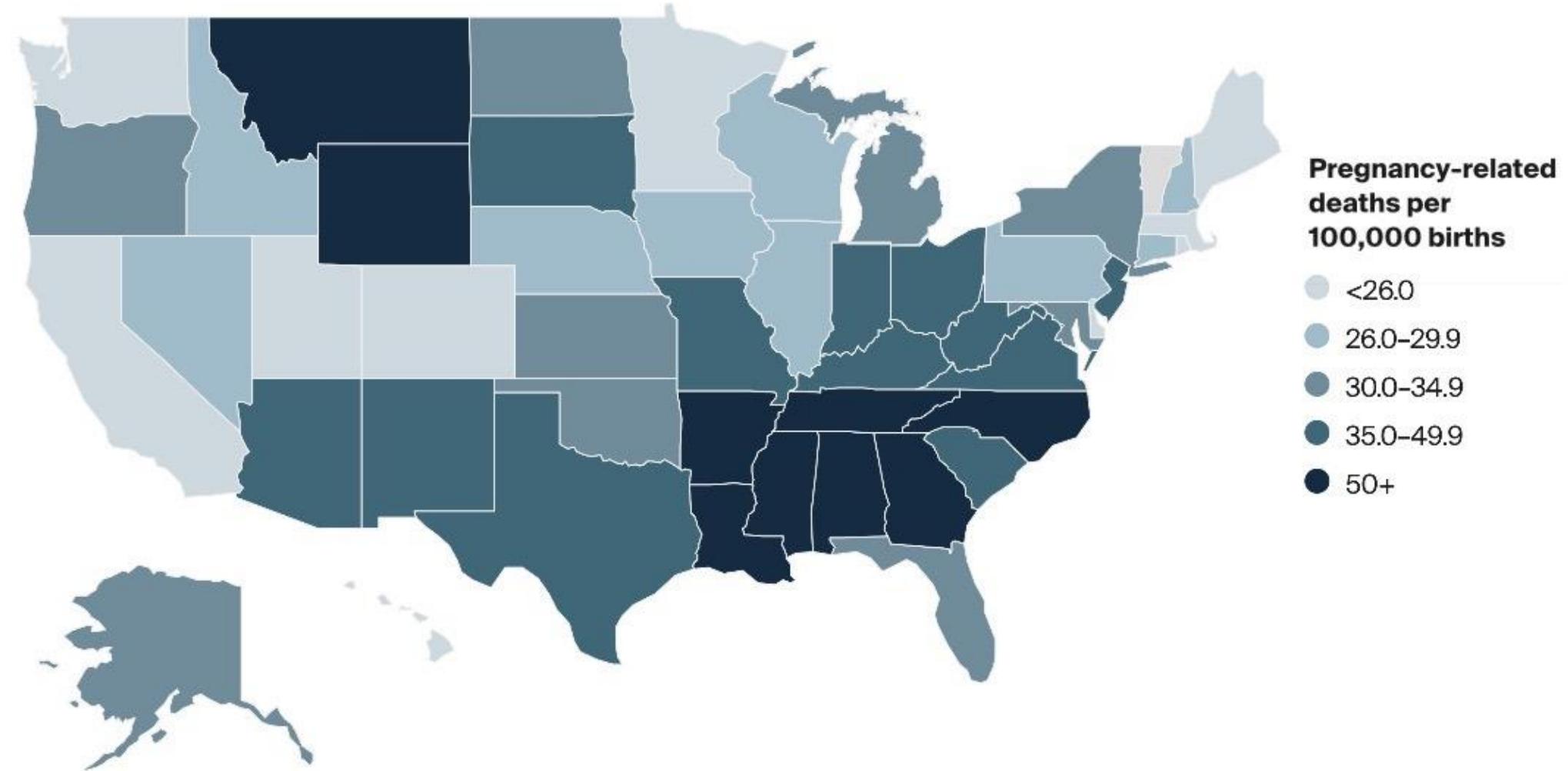


Dr. Evelyn Griffin

- Building a Resilient Louisiana
- #ByLouisianiansForLouisianians

A TIME FOR BOLD, TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP

There were wide interstate differences in pregnancy mortality ratios between 2019 and 2023.



Notes: Deaths during pregnancy through one year postpartum per 100,000 live births. Vermont is excluded from the exhibit because it reported <10 pregnancy-related deaths from 2019 to 2023.

Data: CDC WONDER Mortality File.

Source: Eugene Declercq and Laurie C. Zephyrin, *Maternal Mortality in the United States, 2025* (Commonwealth Fund, July 2025).
<https://doi.org/10.26099/kdfd-fc19>

- Office of the Surgeon General (OSG) and LDH alignment
- Shared vision and courage for meaningful change
- Louisiana's health outcomes among the lowest in the nation
- Chronic disease is rising across all communities

2026 PRIORITIES

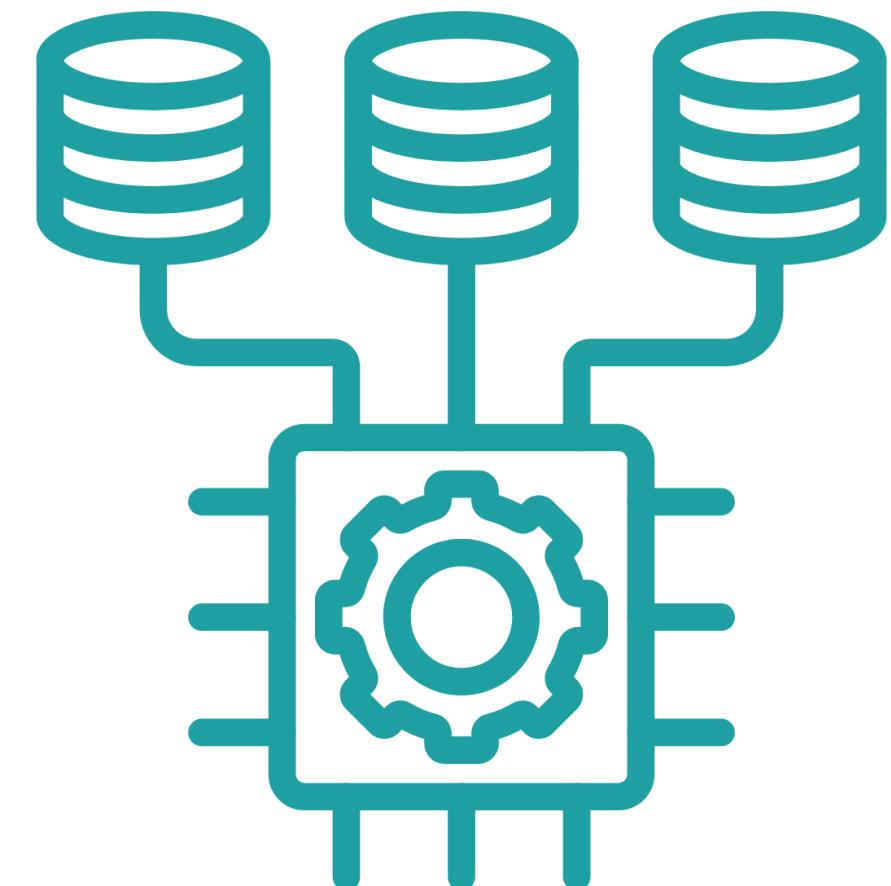
3 CORE FOCUS AREAS



**Women's
Health**



**Rural
Health**



**Data
Systems**

WHY WOMEN'S HEALTH MATTERS

- Women make around **80%** of health care decisions for families
- Improving **women's health** improves outcomes for:
 - Children
 - Families
 - Communities
- **Healthy women = a healthier Louisiana**



“women – especially mothers – shoulder an estimated **80% of the family's medical decision-making responsibilities”**

OFFICE ON WOMEN'S HEALTH AND COMMUNITY HEALTH



OWHCH staff with Miss Louisiana 2025 Gabrelle McLeod

- State Sen. Regina Barrow created the **Office on Women's Health and Community Health (OWHCH)**.
- This program office is focused on **improving women's health outcomes**.
 - Louisiana faces **severe maternal morbidity and mortality challenges**.
- OWHCH is also focused on **rural and inner-city communities**.
- **Informatics, policy, and education** drive this office.

A NEW MODEL FOR HEALTH

- Chronic disease demands **a new approach**
- Focus on **root causes** and **prevention**
- **Lifestyle medicine:** nutrition, movement, stress, sleep
- **Conventional care + innovation + holistic, evidence-based solutions**



A STARTUP MINDSET IN GOVERNMENT

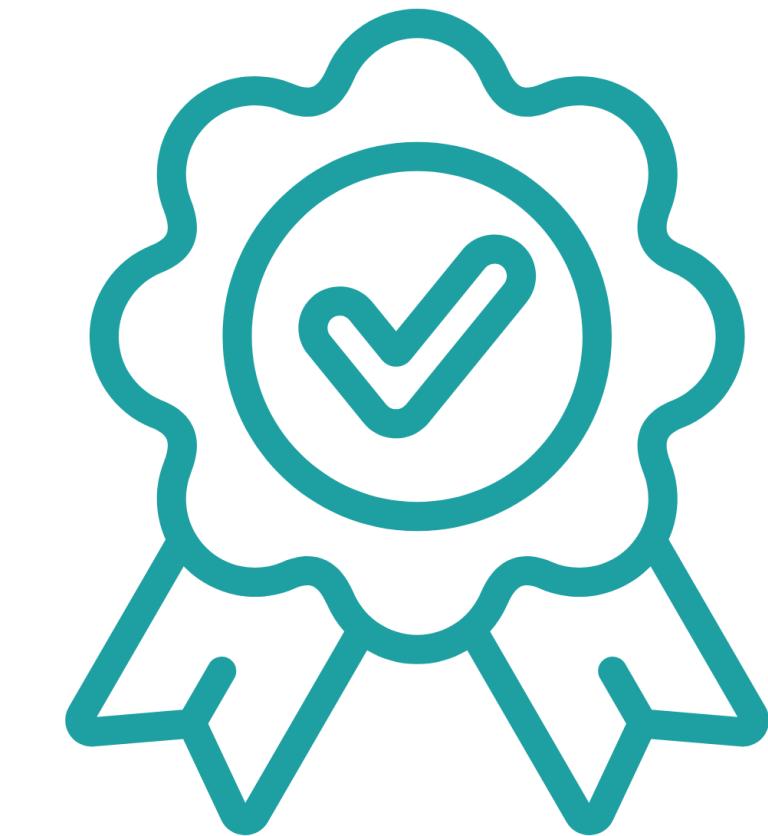
The Office of the Surgeon General will operate like a lean startup:



**Small, agile
team: clinicians,
data, media,
policy**

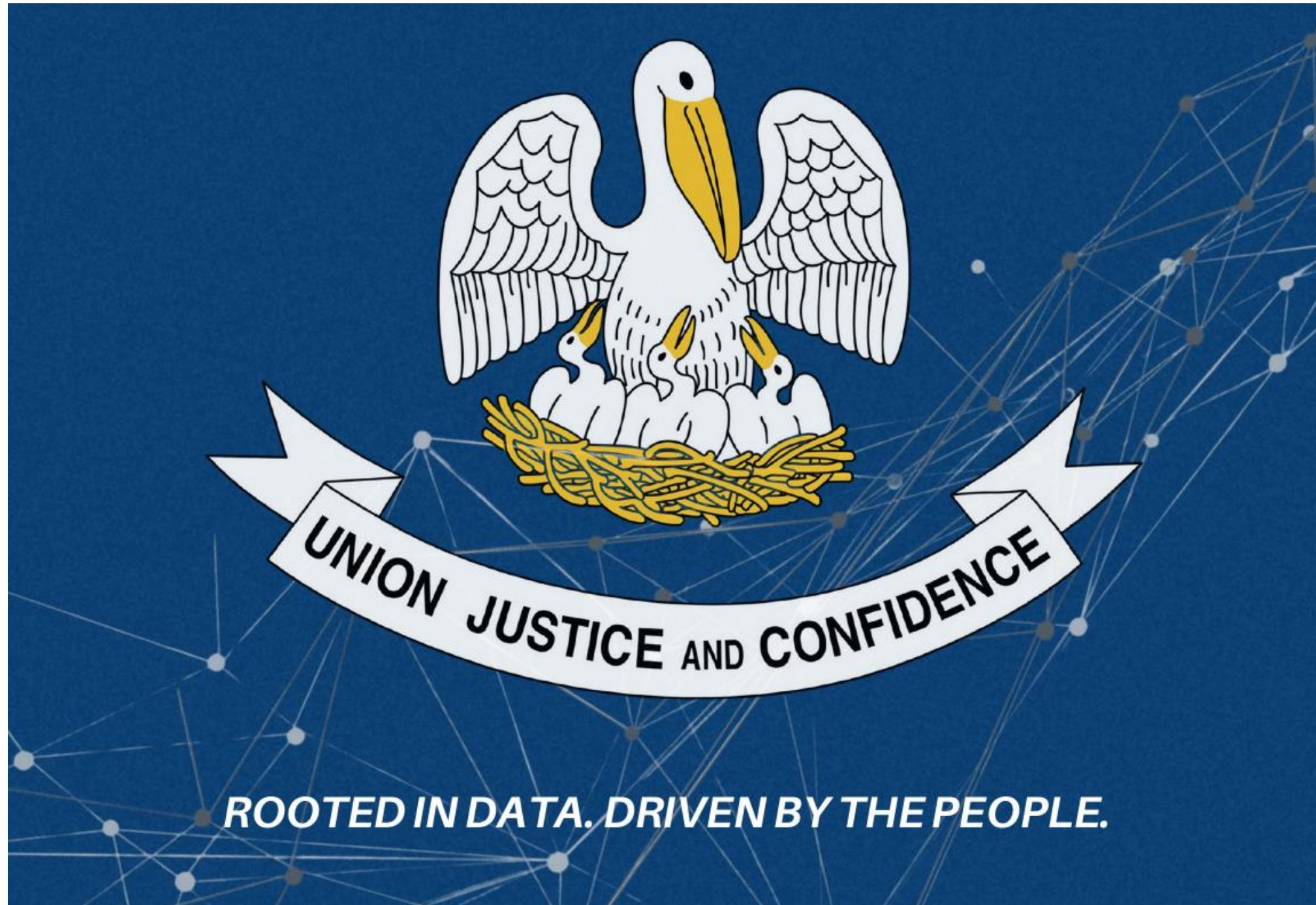


**Partnering
with LDH and
communities**



**Transparent,
approachable,
accountable**

DATA AS THE FOUNDATION



- **Modernizing data systems** to identify gaps and guide solutions
- **Building scalable models** other states can replicate

A PEOPLE-CENTERED APPROACH



*LDH Bureau of Minority Health Access and
Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports Director
Rudy Macklin with student athletes and coaches*

- A Surgeon General's Office of the people
- Traveling the state, **listening, learning, earning trust**
- Supporting local people, local resources, local solutions
- Health care built on **connection and community**

CLOSING: LOUISIANA WILL LEAD

- Innovation with humanity
- Focus on family, faith, and fearlessness
- This office is open — bring ideas and partnerships



THANK YOU

Evelyn Griffin, MD

Louisiana Surgeon General



LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH