



Opioid Response in Cobb County Leadership Cobb 2025

September 18, 2024

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Healthier lives. Healthier community.

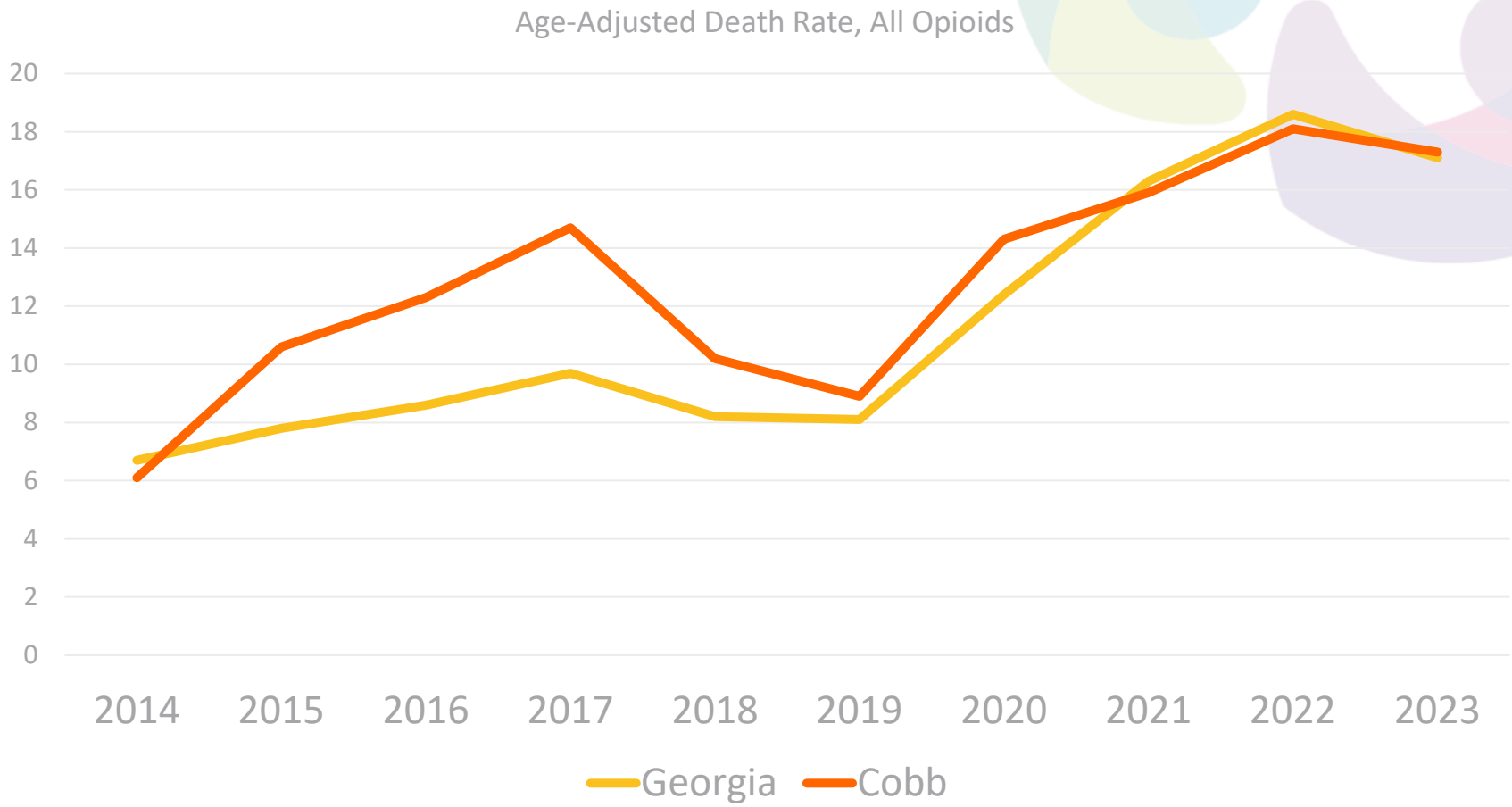
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WHY ARE WE ALARMED?

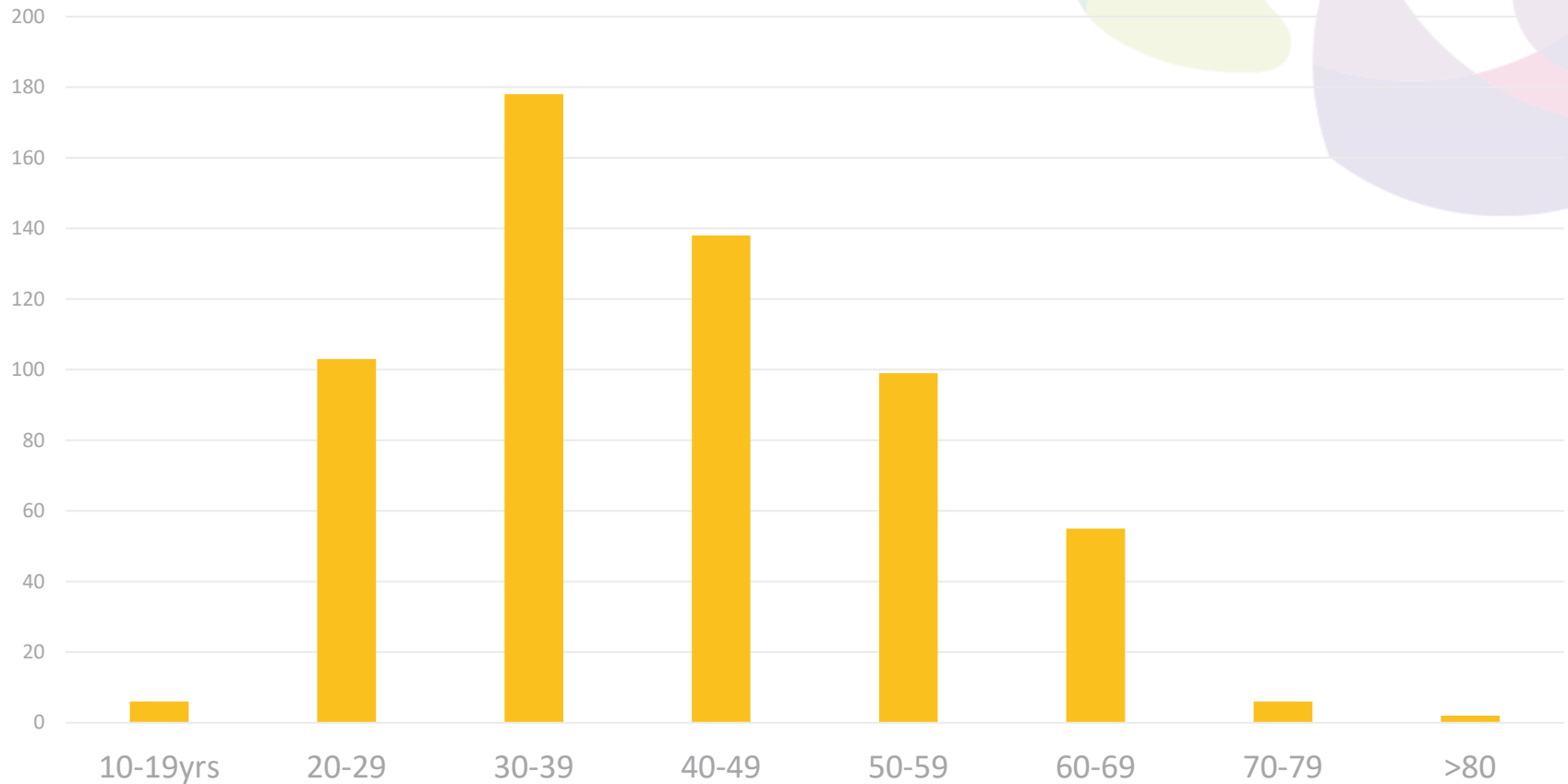


Cobb County opioid death rates are increasing and have been higher than the State until recently



The majority of deaths in Cobb County are occurring in our 30-49 year-olds

Number of Deaths, All Opioids, 2019-2023



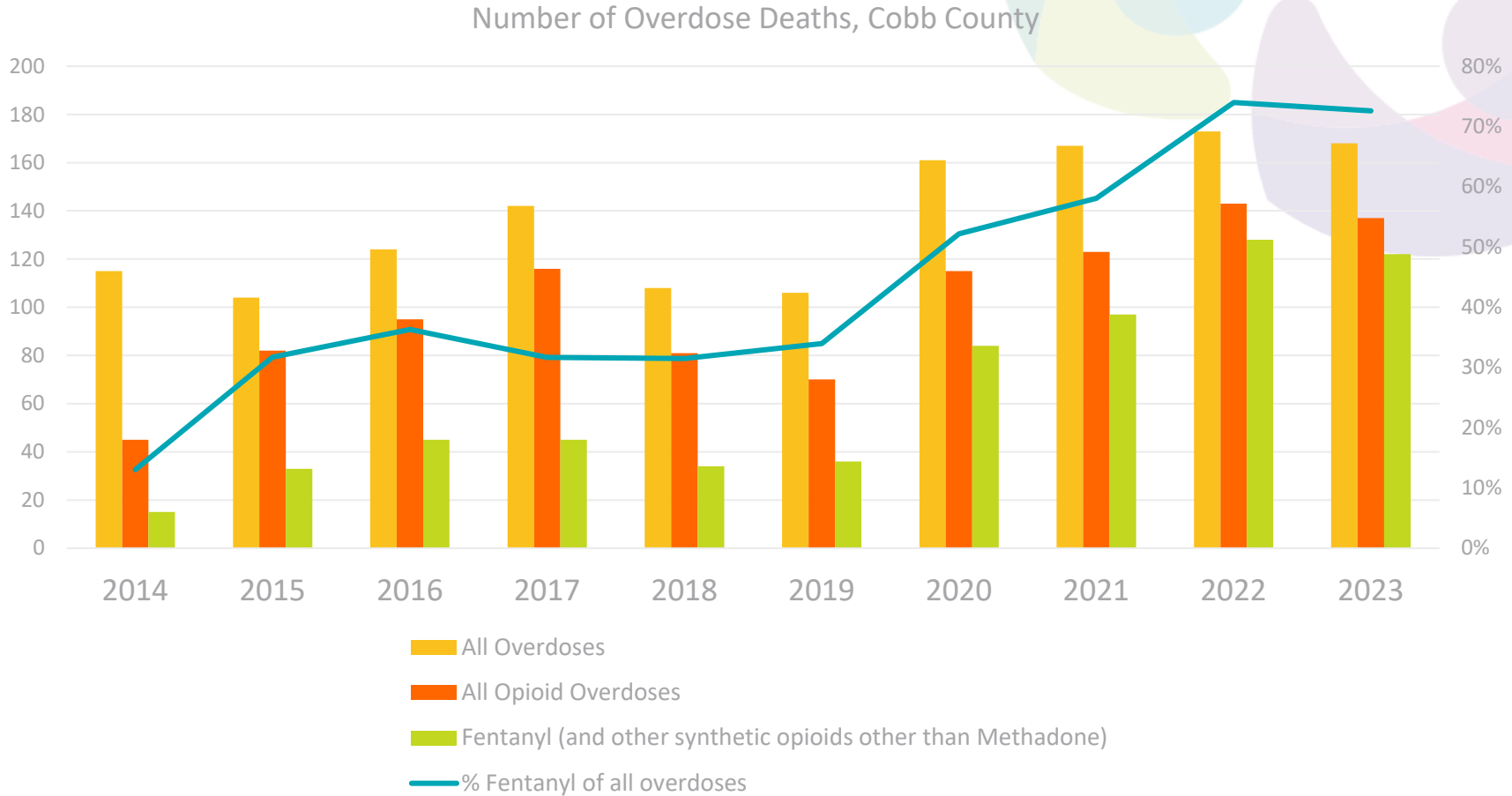
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What is Fentanyl?

- Fentanyl, an opioid 50X stronger than heroin, is being mixed into street drugs, causing overdose deaths to spike across the country.
- 2mg of fentanyl – the amount on the tip of the pencil in the photo at left- is a potentially deadly dose



The percentage of overdose deaths due to Fentanyl continues to increase in Cobb County



What is being done?

- Many Cobb providers, like The Extension, are fighting to make a difference and to provide help!
- Cobb Strategic Opioid Coalition – Cobb Opioid Strategic Plan
- Cobb Opioid Fatality Review Committee
- Cobb Opioid Settlement Council
- More community education
- More access to prevention and harm reduction products



SAFE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL OF MEDICATIONS

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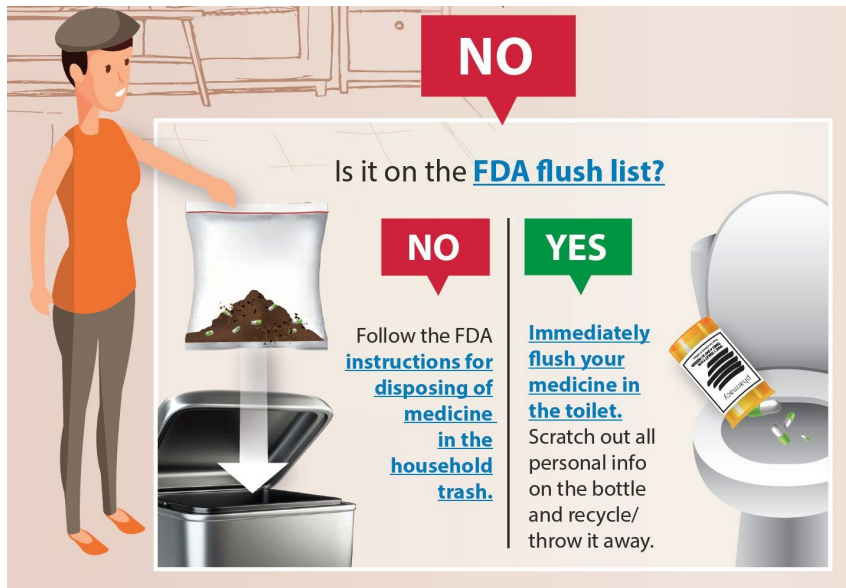


Importances of safe storage and disposal of medication

- Protects against adverse effects, such as overdose and accidental use of expired medications
- Protects children and pets from accidental ingestion
- Safeguards against intentional misuse, theft, and diversion



Disposal Don'ts



- **DON'T** keep unused controlled medications after treatment period
- **DON'T** share unused or leftover medication
- **DON'T** flush medications in the toilet or down the sink
 - See [FDA's flush and no flush lists](#)

- **Do** mix with an undesirable substance and throw into trash
- **Do** mix with DisposeRX Packets and throw into trash
- **Do** use medication drop boxes
- **Do** take medications to take-back locations





NALOXONE TRAINING

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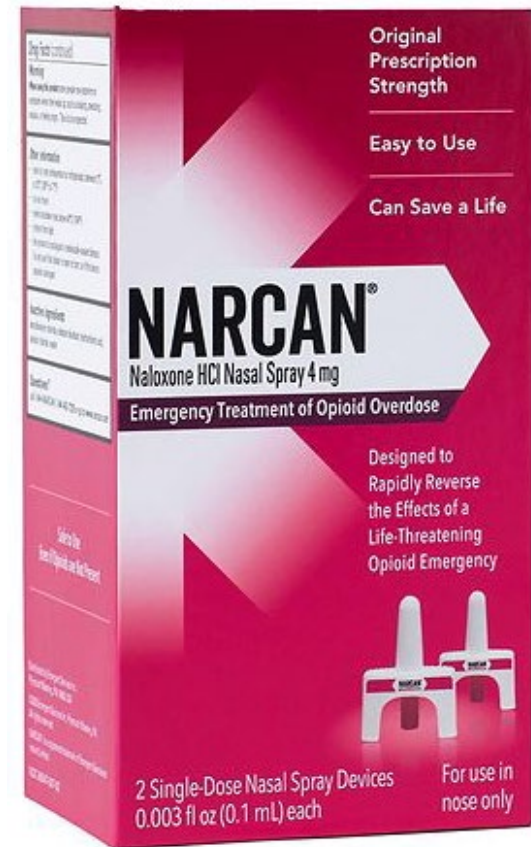
Should you carry naloxone?

If you answer “yes” to any of these questions, you **SHOULD** carry naloxone:

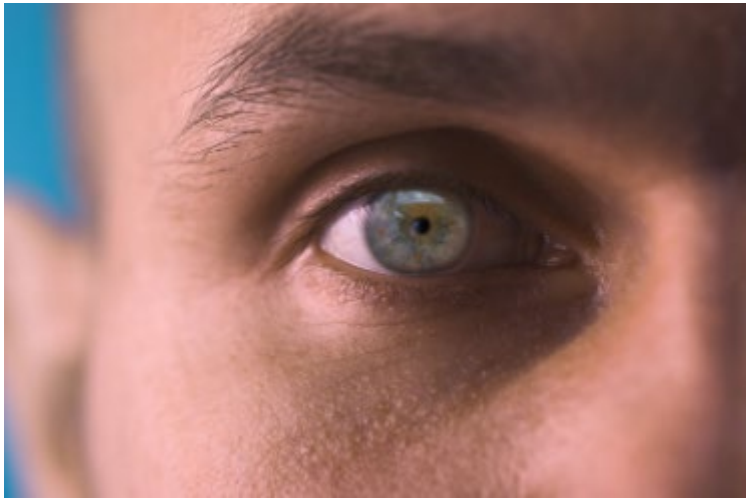
- *Are you a first responder?*
- *Have you or a family member ever been prescribed an opioid (e.g., Hydrocodone, Percocet)?*
- *Have you ever taken a “pain pill” from a friend or know someone who has?*
- *Do you take any kind of recreational street drugs, or do you go to events where others might?*
- *Are you a concerned community leader and willing to help someone who has potentially overdosed?*

More About Narcan (naloxone)

- Life- saving medication that temporarily reverses the effects of opioid overdose
 - Does not replace emergency care
 - Can be used every 2-3 minutes until awakened or help arrives
- Available at the pharmacy, over the counter, and the Department of Public Health
- There are no negative side effects if used for non-opioid emergencies
- Think of Narcan as a fire extinguisher but for opioid overdoses



How do I recognize an opioid overdose?



- The face is extremely pale and/or clammy to the touch.
- The body is limp.
- Fingernails or lips have a blue or purple cast.
- The person may be vomiting or making gurgling noises.
- The person cannot be awakened from sleep or cannot speak.
- Breathing is very slow or stopped.
- The heartbeat is very slow or stopped.
- Pin-point pupils

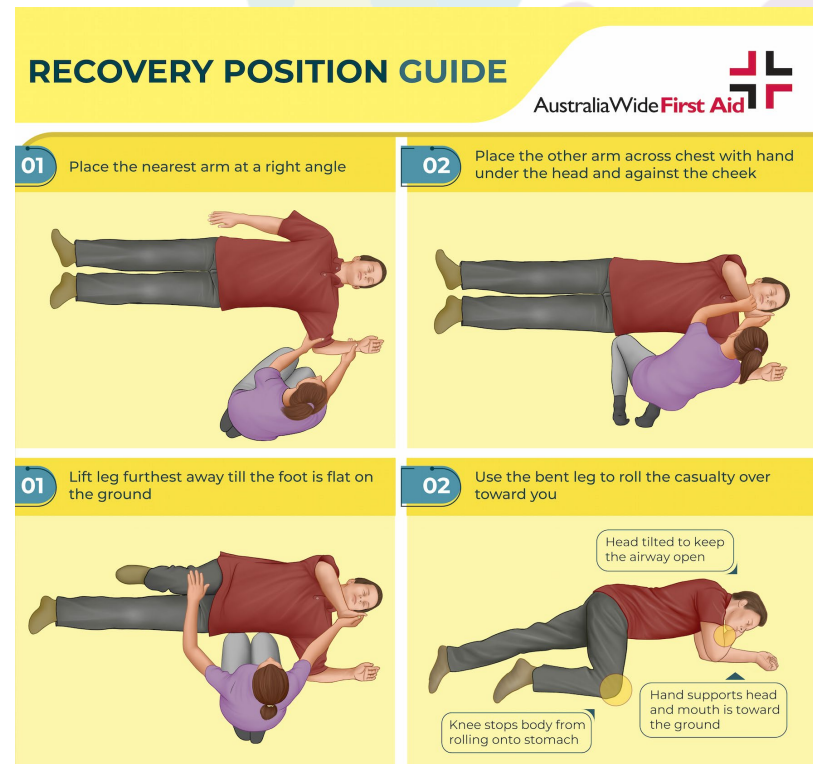
The Three S's

- Shake
- Shout
- Sternal Rub



Responding to an overdose

- Administer naloxone, if available.
- **Always** call 911.
 - *GA Amnesty Law* protects the bystander that calls 911 if they have drugs in their possession.
- Try to keep the person awake and breathing.
- Lay the person in the recovery position.
- Stay with them until emergency workers arrive.



How can you make a difference?

- Stay informed on the issues
- Be willing to have courageous conversations
- Properly secure medications in your home
- Properly dispose of any unused medications in your home (and maybe your parents' home?)
- Do not share medications
- Explore opioid alternative pain medications with your medical provider when needed
- Get trained and carry naloxone
- Get involved in the Cobb Opioid Strategic Coalition
- Advocate for access to more treatment services

Questions?

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