



MENTAL HEALTH AND CANNABIS USE



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Drug Free Australia has taken the position that research evidence now demonstrates a likely link between heavy high-potency marijuana use and certain mass murders.

Research in the past has brought this to the world's attention e.g. The Cannabis-Psychosis Link by Marie-Josee Lynch, MD, Rachel A. Rabin, MSc, and Tony P. George, MD, FRCPC | 12 January 2012. This paper is summarised as "Fewer neurological soft signs among first episode psychosis patients with heavy cannabis use." Schizophrenia Research 107 (2009) 158-164.

Therefore, Drug Free Australia is seeking to bring urgent attention to Australian and New Zealand Governments, whether Federal or State, regarding extremely important research relating to **Mental Health and cannabis use.** It appears that Australian public policies have moved from concern for the health and wellbeing of society – by improving and promoting good health – to pushing unnecessary drug use for profiteers while charging the tab to society–at-large.

DFA believes that it is time for governments worldwide to promote research and media publicity which avoids the cherry-picked faux studies used by those wanting to legalise cannabis. Rather, the focus should be on its serious harms to mental and physical health particularly related to early use.

London – Smoking high-potency <u>marijuana</u> every day could increase the chances of developing psychosis by nearly five times, according to the biggest-ever study to examine the impact of pot on psychotic disorder rates. The scientists estimated that people who smoked marijuana daily were three times more likely to be diagnosed with psychosis compared with people who never used the drug. For those who used high-potency marijuana daily, the risk jumped to nearly five times. The <u>paper was published online by the journal Lancet</u>. It was paid for by funders including Britain's Medical Research Council, the Sao Paulo Research Foundation and the Wellcome Trust. (click here)





Our main findings show that among the measures of cannabis use tested, the strongest independent predictors of whether any given individual would have a psychotic disorder or not were daily use of cannabis and use of high-potency cannabis. The odds of psychotic disorder among daily cannabis users were 3.2 times higher than for never users, whereas the odds among users of high-potency cannabis were 1.6 times higher than for never users. Starting to use cannabis by 15 years of age modestly increased the odds for psychotic disorder but not independently of frequency of use or of the potency of the cannabis used. These measures of extent of exposure did not interact with each other, nor did they interact with the sites. This lack of interaction between degree of cannabis use (i.e., daily use of cannabis or use of high-potency cannabis) and site might reflect insufficient power in our study; however, it could also indicate that although the magnitude of the effect might vary depending on the degree of cannabis use, there is a consistent effect of daily use and use of high-potency cannabis on the ORs for psychotic disorders across all study sites." (source)

After Aurora, Questions About Mass Murder and Mental Illness



When looking at the rates of violent crime overall – homicide, for instance - the best estimate is that 5% to 10% of murders are committed by people with mental illness. But a far larger proportion of mass homicides, including the brutal July 2011 attacks in Norway, the Tucson, Ariz., shooting that wounded Congresswoman Gabby Giffords and the Virginia Tech massacre in 2007, involve perpetrators with mental illness. The proportion far outstrips the rates of mental illness in the population.

So what leads one person to violence but not another? In some cases, it may be the stigma of mental illness that provokes it, by exacerbating existing symptoms of delusion, disconnection from reality, social withdrawal, and lack of emotion. A rare insight into the mind of a patient with schizophrenia comes from a former academic who wrote anonymously about her experience with social stigma from her disease (via writer <u>David Dobbs</u> at Wired). "N" writes: . . . " (source)

Tell Your Children: The Truth About Marijuana, Mental Illness, and Violence



Alex Berenson (Author) reveals the link between teenage marijuana use and mental illness, and a hidden epidemic of violence caused by the drug-facts the media have ignored as the United States rushes to legalize cannabis.

Psychosis brings violence, and cannabis-linked violence is spreading. In the four states that first legalized, murders have risen 25 percent since legalization, even more than the recent national increase. In Uruguay, which allowed retail sales in July 2017, murders have soared this year.

Berenson's reporting ranges from the London institute that is home to the scientists who helped prove the cannabis-psychosis link to the Colorado prison where a man now serves a thirty-year sentence after eating a THC-laced candy bar and killing his wife. He sticks to the facts, and they are devastating.

With the US already gripped by one drug epidemic, this book will make readers reconsider if marijuana use is worth the risk." (source)

The contribution of cannabis uses to variation in the incidence of psychotic disorder across Europe (EU-GEI): a multicentre case-control study

In conclusion, our findings confirm previous evidence of the harmful effect on mental health of daily use of cannabis, especially of high-potency types. Importantly, they indicate for the first time how cannabis use affects the incidence of psychotic disorder. Therefore, it is of public health importance to acknowledge alongside the potential medicinal properties of some cannabis constituents the potential adverse effects that are associated with daily cannabis use, especially of high-potency varieties." (source)

Cannabis and Psychosis: Recent Epidemiological Findings Continuing the "Causality Debate"

Livne et al., which parallels the liberalization of cannabis laws, offers potential opportunities to delineate the causal influence of cannabis on psychosis in a counterfactual or "potential outcomes" framework. It will be critical to follow the trend observed in the study in future waves of nationally representative surveys, to inform public health policy on the mental health impact of recreational cannabis consumption." (source)

Association of High-Potency Cannabis Use With Mental Health and Substance Use in Adolescence British Journal of Psychiatry

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Conclusions and Relevance: To our knowledge, this study provides the first general population evidence suggesting that the use of high-potency cannabis is associated with mental health and addiction. Limiting the availability of high-potency cannabis may be associated with a reduction in the number of individuals who develop cannabis use disorders, the prevention of cannabis use from escalating to a regular behavior, and a reduction in the risk of mental health disorders." (source)

Literature reviews of studies on Marijuana and Violence

- https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7084484/
- https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32121373/
- https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/17/5/1578
- https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/relationship-between-cannabis-and-violence-review
- https://www.drugfree.org.au/images/pdf-files/library/Marijuana_/A_ Review_of_Cases_of_Marijuana_and_Violence.pdf

Chronic Marijuana Use and Violence

 https://d3sdrOllis3crb.cloudfront.net/images/pdf-files/library/Brain_ Mental_Health/Chronic_Marijuana_Use_and_Violence_Linked.pdf

Association Between the Use of Cannabis and Physical Violence in Youth: A Meta-Analytical Investigation

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The results demonstrate a moderate association between cannabis use and physical violence, which remained significant regardless of study design and adjustment for confounding factors (i.e. socioeconomic factors, other substance use). Cannabis use in this population is a risk factor for violence." (source)

Violence and Cannabis Use: A Focused Review of a Forgotten Aspect in the Era of Liberalizing Cannabis

• https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyt.2020.567887/full

David G. Evans, Esq letter to Attorney General Garland, 16 March 2022

In regard to the community having grave concerns regarding Marijuana and Violence David comments that there are many factors that increase violence and gun deaths, but marijuana is one of the most significant factors in crime and violence.

For example,



there are 65 reports of marijuana-involved mass violence – representing 1000s of deaths and 1000s of injuries. We have no doubt there are many more. Each incident has an informational link to the relevant reports of how marijuana is involved with the perpetrator's behavior. (Exhibit 5). The perpetrators of mass killings are often marijuana users or used marijuana heavily in adolescence. The Secret Service has reported on this marijuana connection. (Exhibit 6)." (source)

Blame Legalised Marijuana for Increased Mass Shootings

 https://cloudflarepoc.newsmax.com/ronaldkessler/booker-harris-sandersthc/2022/06/01/id/1072447/

TEXAS Uvalde killer and his marijuana use

 https://d3sdrOllis3crb.cloudfront.net/images/pdf-files/library/Brain_ Mental_Health/TEXAS_Uvalde_killer_and_his_marijuana_use.pdf

Cannabis Use and Suicidal Behavior and Long-term Harms—Reply

The primary aim of our study was to examine associations of cannabis use disorder (CUD) with self-harm, suicide, and overall mortality risk in adolescents and young adults with mood disorders. In this population-based retrospective longitudinal cohort study of Medicaid-enrolled individuals aged 10 to 24 years with mood disorders, more than 10% also had diagnosed CUD. The presence of CUD was significantly associated with increased risk of nonfatal self-harm, all-cause mortality, death by unintentional overdose, and death by homicide." (source)

Texas data - For 2020, 180 of the 251 child fatalities caused by abuse or neglect involved a parent or caregiver actively using a substance and/or under the influence of at least one substance that affected the ability to care for the child. While opioid use was identified in four child fatalities, marijuana was the substance most identified as an active substance in child abuse and neglect-related fatalities and was identified as prior use in 107 of the cases.

The violence marijuana issue example in the U.S. needs to be included, the issue of marijuana and spousal abuse and child fatalities. This is not just an issue of dozens of mass murders it is happening in homes nationwide impacting massive numbers of innocent children and family members - see page 22 (source)



Association of Cannabis use with self-harm and mortality risks among youths with mood disorders

• https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2775255

Recreational marijuana legalisation and domestic violence

https://everybrainmatters.org/science/marijuana-violence/

Current causes of death in children and adolescents in the United States

Drug overdose and poisoning increased by 83.6% from 2019 to 2020 among children and adolescents, becoming the third leading cause of death in that age group. This change is largely explained by the 110.6% increase in unintentional poisonings from 2019 to 2020. The rates for other leading causes of death have remained relatively stable since the previous analysis, which suggests that changes in mortality trends among children and adolescents during the early Covid-19 pandemic were specific to firearm-related injuries and drug poisoning; Covid-19 itself resulted in 0.2 deaths per 100,000 children and adolescents in 2020." (source)



Association of Cannabis Potency with Mental ill health and addiction: A systematic review:

The Lancet Psychiatry. View in Article

Cannabis use and prospective long-term association with anxiety: a systematic review and meta-analysis of longitudinal studies: Usage du cannabis et association prospective à long term avec l'anxiété: une revue systématique et une méta-analyse d'études longitudinales.

Can J Psychiatry. 2021; 66: 126-138 View in Article

What is the prevalence and risk of cannabis use disorders among people who use cannabis? A systematic review and meta-analysis.

Addict Behav. 2020; 109106479 View in Article

The PRISMA 2020 statement: an updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews.

BMJ. 2021; **372**: n71 View in Article

High-potency cannabis and the risk of psychosis.

Br J Psychiatry. 2009; **195**: 488-491 View in Article

Daily use, especially of high-potency cannabis, drives the earlier onset of psychosis in cannabis users.

Schizophr Bull. 2014; 40: 1509-1517 View in Article

Interaction between cannabis consumption and childhood abuse in psychotic disorders: preliminary findings on the role of different patterns of cannabis use.

Early Interv Psychiatry. 2018; 12: 135-142 View in Article

The contribution of cannabis use to variation in the incidence of psychotic disorder across Europe (EU-GEI): a multicentre case-control study.

Lancet Psychiatry. 2019; 6: 427-436 View in Article



Daily use of high-potency cannabis is associated with more positive symptoms in first-episode psychosis patients: the EU-GEI case-control study.

Psychol Med. 2020; 51: 1-9 View in Article

Effects of continuation, frequency, and type of cannabis use on relapse in the first 2 years after onset of psychosis: an observational study.

Lancet Psychiatry. 2016; 3: 947-953 View in Article

Examining links between cannabis potency and mental and physical health outcomes.

Behav Res Ther. 2019; 115: 111-120 View in Article

Risk factors for the onset of dependence and chronic psychosis due to cannabis use: survey of patients with cannabis-related psychiatric disorders.

Neuropsychopharmacol Rep. 2020; 40: 332-341 View in Article

Association of high-potency cannabis use with mental health and substance use in adolescence.

JAMA Psychiatry. 2020; **77**: 1044-1051 View in Article

A within-person comparison of the subjective effects of higher vs. lower-potency cannabis.

Drug Alcohol Depend. 2020; 216108225 View in Article

Characterising heterogeneity in the use of different cannabis products: latent class analysis with 55 000 people who use cannabis and associations with severity of cannabis dependence.

Psychol Med. 2020; 50: 2364-2373 View in Article

The effectiveness of inhaled Cannabis flower for the treatment of agitation/irritability, anxiety, and common stress.

J Cannabis Res. 2020; 2: 47 View in Article



Changes in cannabis potency and first-time admissions to drug treatment: a 16-year study in the Netherlands.

Psychol Med. 2018; **48**: 2346-2352 View in Article

The International Cannabis Toolkit (iCannToolkit): a multidisciplinary expert consensus on minimum standards for measuring cannabis use.

Addiction. 2021; 117: 1510-1517 View in Article

How does cannabidiol (CBD) influence the acute effects of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in humans? A systematic review.

Neurosci Biobehav Rev. 2019; 107: 696-712 View in Article



RECOMMENDATIONS THAT CAN HELP PREVENT THE AUSTRALIAN "LOST GENERATION DYING"

All Australian Governments and community leaders needs to take this evidence regarding Mental Health very seriously. The issue of cannabis-caused violence needs to be addressed. For example, the Australian Government must consider organising several Mental Health teams working 24/7 to evaluate the mental health and wellbeing of those involved in animal cruelty, road rage, spousal abuse and child fatalities. These teams should have the authority to place these individuals into detox and rehabilitation centres for three to twelve months according to their progress. They will also need to be constantly reminded that they are very important to the Australian community's future. Here in Queensland, we have one centre available. and a third that could be built. They could be equipped at minimum cost and run with existing staff for this mental health program.

1. Queensland Government Regional Accommodation Centre

https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/industry/queenslands-quarantine-network/queensland-regional-accommodation-centre

The Queensland Regional Accommodation Centre is Queensland's first purpose-built accommodation centre located at Wellcamp,15km from the centre of Toowoomba. It is an investment in keeping Queenslanders safe and supporting our economic recovery. The Centre forms part of Queensland's Whole-of-Government Pandemic Plan and will play a critical role in the State's isolation and quarantine network. It allows us to enhance existing quarantine and isolation arrangements and provide purpose-built accommodation to safeguard Queenslanders against a range of public health scenarios. The project was announced by the Queensland Government on 26 August 2021, with delivery of accommodation centres in two stages, with the first stage of 500 beds.



2. U. K. Drive to get offenders drug-free and cut crime

New prison wings designed to get offenders clean will receive funding thanks to the government's 10-year strategy to tackle drug-fuelled crime. (source)

- £120 million to crack down on addiction and tackle drug-fuelled crime
- · abstinence-led drug wings to be rolled out in prisons
- community drug testing boosted and extra support for prison leavers to prevent relapse



A £120 million drive, announced today (22 July 2022), will see the rollout of specialised wings across England and Wales which will treat drug addiction, including through abstinence, and then keep prisoners substance-free.

This tough approach will follow them through the prison gate, with offenders kept under closer control in the community with more drug testing, treatment and extra support to kick their addictions and keep our streets safer.

Ground-breaking new 'problem-solving courts' will also direct drug and alcohol abusers to tackle their addiction head-on or face tough consequences – including time in jail where necessary.

Illegal drug use costs the taxpayer nearly £22 billion each year, including NHS, prison and police costs. Around half of all prisoners have a drug problem but those who get treatment are 19 percentage points less likely to reoffend.

Deputy Prime Minister, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, Dominic Raab said: Drugs trap criminals in a destructive cycle of offending and prevents them from getting their lives back on track.

Our plan will get offenders into rehab earlier, get them off all drugs permanently and support prisoners once they're released into the community. That will drive down reoffending and make our streets safer."

3. The Early intervention of the 'Tried & Tested' Drug Court Moves to Dubbo



The Dubbo region will benefit from a \$31.5 million investment in drug rehabilitation and access to justice. Deputy Premier John Barilaro today announced the NSW Government will invest \$27.9 million over the coming four financial years to expand the NSW Drug Court to Dubbo, on top of the recent \$3.6 million upgrade to the city's courthouse. "The Drug Court is a tried and tested silver bullet to help address the abuse of highly addictive and dangerous illicit drugs that continue to cripple our community. (source)

4. Substance Misuse Briefing - Drug Courts 2020

Enhancing the Criminal Court Response to Substance Misuse: An Evidence and Practice Briefing (Drug Court Effectiveness) Evidence suggests substance misuse courts are effective at reducing reoffending and drug and alcohol misuse. Practitioners identify key problem-solving features including judicial engagement, fast-tracked treatment, tailored support, and multi-agency collaboration. "Such a process can motivate and inspire individuals to do better than they thought they were capable of" (source)

The article in the Sunday Courier Mail 5 June 2022 called "Lost generation dying" relates a mental health shortage with thousands in peril. The research outcome in this paper has led DFA to reach the conclusion that Mental Health is above politics, and it is in the national interest to provide staff, resources, support from all Government Departments, community, and media.

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Prevent. Don't Promote Drug Use



appendix

7/22 – 21 yo Bobby Crimo III, the suspected mass shooter who gunned down seven people and injured dozens at the Independence Day parade in <u>Highland Park, Illinois</u>, was a stoner who lost touch with reality per his friends. https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/restoring-america/restoring-america/restoring-america/fairness-justice/highland-park-and-why-we-need-to-talk-about-marijuana

5/22 – 18 year old Salvador Ramos shot 19 children and 2 teachers dead in a classroom in Uvalde, Texas. His co-worker stated he would often talk about how much he despised his mother and grandmother, whom he told her did not let him smoke weed or do what he wanted. He started picking fights with co-workers again and bragging about quitting his job, saying he no longer needed the money, Ms. Rodriguez said. He told her and others that he was going to "act out" in a big way and they would all hear about it, she said. "He wanted to cause trouble," she said. "He wanted to cause destruction." https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/05/25/us/shooting-robb-elementary-uvalde

12/21 - Lyndon James McLeod, was in the middle of a targeted gun rampage that would leave five people dead in Denver and Lakewood. He seemed to get his money from a marijuana growing operation. https://denverite.com/2021/12/29/gunman-targeted-former-tattoo-business-relations-fulfilling-plan-outlined-in-self-published-novels/

11/21 – Ethan Crumbly shot and killed 4 students and injured 7 others at Oxford HS in Michigan. His parent bought him a gun for his birthday. He wrote in his journal of his failing grades and mental problems ("seeing demons and asked for help") and witnesses told investigators marijuana was often used in the house. https://www.cnn.com/2022/08/05/us/oxford-school-shooter-home-life/index.html

11/21 – Darrell Brooks smelled of marijuana when being arrested following driving a vehicle through Kenosha, WI during a Christmas parade killing six victims and injuring 60 more. https://www.cnn.com/2021/11/22/us/what-we-know-about-suspect-in-waukesha-parade-tragedy/index.html

10/21 – Jacob Bergquist shot and killed two people and injured 4 at the Boise Towne Square mall. Bergquist had a felony conviction in Illinois for theft and a and a misdemeanor conviction in Wisconsin for marijuana possession. https://www.columbian.com/news/2021/nov/10/multiple-people-reported-boise-mall-shooter-to-police-earlier-over-guns-odd-behavior/

4/18 – Travis Reinking was convicted of 8 counts of first degree murder shooting people at a Waffle House in Antioch Tennessee while naked wearing nothing but a green jacket. He claimed to be not guilty by reason of insanity with schizophrenia causing delusions and hallucinations. A day before the shooting he stole a BMW and wrote in a journal he has plans to drive to Colorado, hang out with friends and smoke marijuana. https://www.durangoherald.com/articles/waffle-house-shooting-case-goes-to-nashville-jury/

11/18 – Ian David Long killed 13 people in a shooting at the Borderline Bar and Grill in Thousand Oaks, CA his toxicology was positive for THC, caffeine and nicotine

2/18 – Nicholas Cruz killed 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida admitted using "a lot" of marijuana resulting in him hearing to kill and attempted suicide multiple times. Parkland shooting suspect Nikolas Cruz spoke of 'voices,' says he attempted suicide (nbcnews.com)

11/17 – Kevin Neal, a known marijuana grower, used a semi-automatic rifle and 2 handguns at 7 shooting sites (including an Elementary School) leaving 4 dead in Red Bluff, CA Neal used a semi-automatic rifle and 2 handguns at 7 shooting sites (including an Elementary School) leaving 4 dead in Red Bluff, CA <u>Tehama County shooting</u>: <u>Kevin Neal 'off the hinges,' neighbors say (mercurynews.com)</u>

5/17: <u>Salman Abedi</u> the Manchester England bomber had calls about his erratic behaviour made around five years before the bombing to Police after Abedi left school, where he was known to have smoked marijuana and mixed with gangs in south Manchester http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/05/24/father-brother-manchester-bomber-arrested-libya/

5/17: Richard Rojas was a troubled man with a history of drunken driving bolted from his maroon Honda Accord after his deadly midday rampage in Times Square that left one person dead and 20 others injured. He later told another officer, "I smoked marijuana. I laced the marijuana with PCP," according to the complaint http://www.cnn.com/2017/05/19/us/new-york-times-square-driver-charged/

9/16: WA Cascade Mall Shooter Arcan Cetin blamed cannabis for his behavior http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2016/09/28/cascade-mall-shooter-arcan-cetin-attributes-legal-issues-cannabis-use/

6/16: <u>Omar Mateen</u> Orlando night club shooter admitted to using <u>marijuana</u> and steroids <u>New Details Emerge About Orlando Nightclub Shooter Omar Mateen - ABC News (go.com)</u>

11/15: Robert Dear Planned Parenthood gunman in Colorado moved to CO from North Carolina for marijuana http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3338082/Cabin-dwelling-recluse-attacked-Planned-Parenthood-happily-married-father-art-dealer-turned-pot-smoking-oddball-sought-sadomasochistic-sex-online-divorce.html

11/15: Brahim Abdeslam Paris bomber was known marijuana dealer from his café in Molenbeek Brussels The Belgian Connection: How Brahim Abdeslam Became an ISIS Suicide Bomber (newsweek.com)

8/15: Jody Herring, mother on THC (the psychoactive component in marijuana) pills for pain, shot and killed Vermont Social worker and 2 others <u>State employees remember Lara Sobel's commitment to children - VTDigger</u>

7/15: Chattanooga TN shooter Mohammad Abdulazeez killed 4 Marines and a sailor, was a heavy user of marijuana <u>Details Emerge About Alleged Chattanooga Shooter's Life | HuffPost Latest News</u>

6/15: Dylnn Roof shoots 9 parishioners dead in Charleston, South Carolina, was an admitted marijuana user with schizophrenia http://www.cnn.com/2017/05/16/us/dylann-roof-court-documents-competency/index.html

4/14: Richard Kirk, Colorado father of 3, shoots his wife in the head while she is talking to the 911 operator after eating marijuana laced candy <u>Denver Man Who Said Marijuana Made Him Kill His</u> Wife Gets 30 Years (nbcnews.com)

1/14: Mall in Columbia (MD) shooter marijuana user Darion Aguilar killed 2 and then himself Maryland Mall Shooter was a Pothead - Accuracy in Media (aim.org)

4/13: Boston Marathon bombing, <u>both Tsarnaev brothers</u> were heavy marijuana users Lessons from Boston bombings about marijuana, education - The San Diego Union-Tribune (<u>sandiegouniontribune.com</u>)

12/12: Jacob T Roberts in Clackamas Town Center OR killed 2 seriously injured 1 and then killed himself <u>a chronic marijuana since</u> age 16 <u>Clackamas Town Center shooter carried 145 rounds, fired 17 shots - oregonlive.com</u>

7/12: Aurora, Colorado theater shooter, James Holmes, was reported to be a marijuana user Marijuana abuse common thread in mass killings – Vermont Daily Chronicle

1/11: Tuscon Massacre convict Jared Loughner was a habitual pot user <u>Marijuana's Role in the Arizona Shooting | HuffPost Latest News</u>

3/10: Pentagon shooter John Bedell's history of mental illness and marijuana abuse <u>Pentagon shooter John Bedell's parents warned cops - New York Daily News (nydailynews.com)</u>



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