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# Advocate

September 2017

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## September Is Suicide Prevention Month

### Changes Ahead for TCCY

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#### Suicide Prevention Month

In September, Tennesseans join the nation working together to prevent suicide by recognizing Suicide Prevention Month.

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## TCCY Plans Major Change in Leadership

After 29 years serving as executive director for TCCY, Linda O'Neal has announced she will retire in June 2018. TCCY is assured a smooth transition over the coming months as Associate Director Richard Kennedy will be the new executive director. We celebrate Linda for her years of service to TCCY and the children of Tennessee. We wish her a happy retirement and are excited to have Richard's leadership as we continue to advocate to improve the quality of life for children and families.



O'Neal



Kennedy

Linda's message: <http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/tccy/attachments/ONeal-Retirement-Letter.pdf>.

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## Tennessee Works to Reduce Suicide

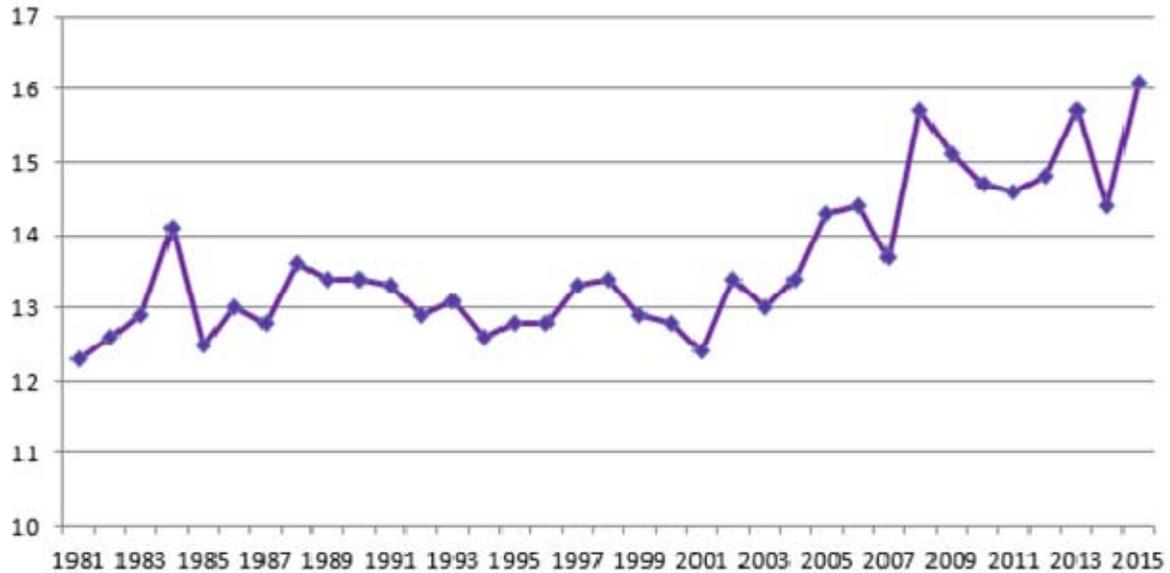
Tennessee continues to develop tools to address suicide, which is the third leading cause of death for youth ages 10 to 19. The rate of suicide in this age group has increased since 2011. One Tennessean between the ages of 10 and 24 dies by suicide every four days.

Legislation signed into law this year by the Governor requires two hours of suicide prevention training for licensed counselors every five years. Other strategies for combating suicide include training to recognize and respond to suicide; working with faith groups; and helping military families, who have faced an increased rate of suicide.

The Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network is continuing its Gun Safety Project to address the two-thirds of suicide deaths in Tennessee completed using firearms. The project aims to educate gun dealers on strategies to prevent suicides and to make gun safety and resource information available to buyers.

A recommendation from a Rand Corporation report on preventing suicide in the military, also relevant to others in stressful situations, is to promote self care. A small study, which interviewed families of people who died by suicide, found most lost loved ones who were dealing with mental illness and/or substance abuse. The researcher suggested the best way to prevent suicide is to provide improved access to higher quality mental health and support services. A [recent study](#) by the Appalachian Regional Commission found Appalachian Tennesseans reported more mentally unhealthy days than the rest of Tennesseans and the average American and a third higher suicide rate. Conversely, the state's rate of mental health providers is about a third lower than the national average.

### SUICIDE RATES IN TENNESSEE, 1981-2015



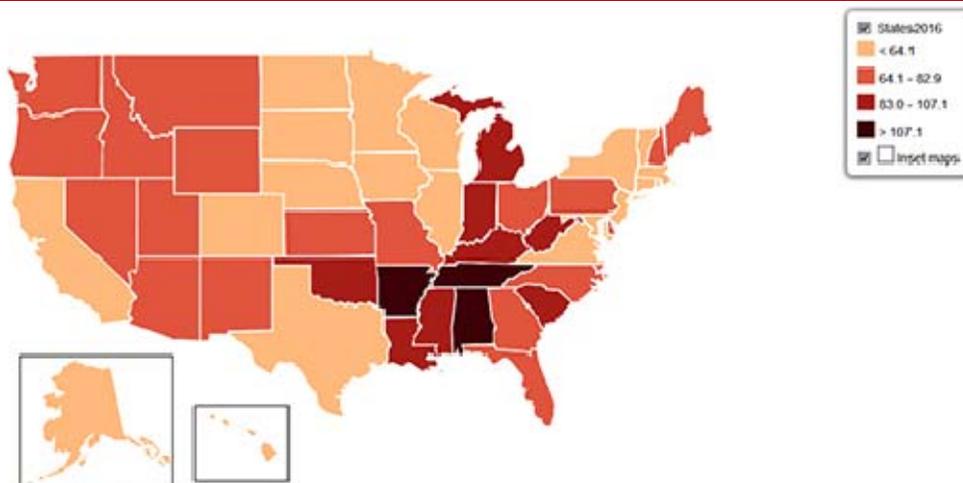
**Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network** (including information on Suicide Prevention Month activities), <http://bit.ly/1BbY6xS>.

TSPN, **Gun Shops and Suicide: A Q&A with the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network**, <http://bit.ly/2vFJ3PX>.

Irving, D., *Rand Review*, **Is Suicide Preventable? Insights from Research**, <http://bit.ly/2qTDVGF>.

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### Tennessee Fights Opioid Abuse



September is also National Recovery Month. Suicide risk is linked to substance abuse disorders, including opioid abuse. Nationally, opioid prescriptions per person tripled between 1999 and 2015. This increase is linked to an increase in drug overdose deaths. Use of Tennessee's 2012 prescription drug monitoring system, which requires physicians to check a database before prescribing painkillers, resulted in a 36 percent decline in patients who saw multiple prescribers for the same drugs in 2013

and a drop in opioid prescriptions. The database is also a tool for evaluating efforts to reduce use.

Earlier this year, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services received a federal grant for its Prescription for Success treatment programs. These funds will provide treatment services, including continuum of care services, treatment for pregnant women, tele-treatment in rural counties, medication-assisted treatment and recovery support services.

Centers for Disease Control (CDC), **Opioid Info**, <http://bit.ly/2vw3HB6>.

CDC, **State Successes**, <http://bit.ly/2xs1Tvf>, <http://bit.ly/2vEeyJz>.

TN Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, **Prescription for Success Data Indicators**, <http://bit.ly/2wG6KLU>.

Vestal, C., Pew Charitable Trusts, **With Opioid Crisis, a Surge in Hepatitis C**, <http://bit.ly/2xHelGQ>.

TN Department of Health, **Data Dashboard**, <http://bit.ly/2wNqPiS>.

TN Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, **Trends in Drug Overdose Deaths involving Opioids Tennessee and the United States 2014 and 2015**, <http://bit.ly/2vBCwWH>.

(Map source: CDC)

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## SCORE Report Links Student Health with Academic Achievement

SCORE (State Collaborative on Reforming Education) spent the past year studying links between student health and ability to learn. The group released a research brief *Better Health, Better Learning: Research on Improving Student Health and Academic Success*, reporting key findings:

- Physical activity, nutrition and overall well-being can have a profound effect on achievement.
- High-quality education and academic achievement are associated with improved health outcomes later in life.
- Mental and emotional health are critical for student success.
- Investing in student health leads to short- and long-term economic benefits.

Southern, K., SCORE, **Better Health for Better Learning** blog post, <http://bit.ly/2xzLCUr>.

SCORE, **Better Health, Better Learning: Research on Improving Student Health and Academic Success**, <http://bit.ly/2xjKaGx>.

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## TCCY Releases KIDS COUNT: State of the Child in Tennessee

The **KIDS COUNT: The State of the Child in Tennessee 2016** report by the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) focuses on the importance of preventing and responding appropriately to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), current ACEs data for Tennessee, and also ranks counties on child well-being.

This report includes the most recent data on **Adverse Childhood Experiences** (ACE) in Tennessee from the Tennessee Department of Health Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

While two in five adults in Tennessee have experienced no ACEs, more than one in six Tennesseans has experienced four or more ACEs, the critical point where outcomes are increasingly compromised. Tennesseans with four or more ACEs report lower average income; lower educational attainment; poorer health; and higher rates of obesity, smoking, depression and heart disease.

The ***KIDS COUNT: The State of the Child in Tennessee*** is available online at <http://tn.gov/tccy/article/tccy-kcsoc16>.

Profiles for individual counties, including ranks, are available at <http://www.tn.gov/tccy/article/tccy-kc-soc16-counties>.

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## No Compilation of Laws on Children, Youth and Families

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) has funded printing of the *Tennessee Compilation of Selected Laws on Children, Youth and Families* for many years using residual (allocated but unexpended) federal juvenile justice grant dollars from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Since 2000, Congress has severely reduced or eliminated funding for OJJDP grants so residual **funding is no longer available to pay for printing the *Compilation*.**

TCCY has compiled an update containing information on legislation enacted in the 2017 Session of the Legislature (<http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/tccy/attachments/TNchild2017.pdf>). It contains information on legislation amending Tennessee Code Annotated Titles 36 and Title 37. While the *Compilation* contains other titles, these two are among the most used and are areas where TCCY could reasonably identify changes. The information contained in the document includes a summary of each bill as filed, a summary of any amendments to the bill, and the Public Chapter number and links to more information.

**2017 Update** of Legislative Changes,  
<http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/tccy/attachments/TNchild2017.pdf>.

Links to the ***2016 Compilation of Laws for Children Youth and Families*** and its *Special Supplement*, <http://www.tn.gov/tccy/article/tccy-leg-tnchild>.

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## TCCY Budget Recommendations

Each year TCCY is directed by law to recommend to the Governor and legislative leaders state budget priorities for services for children and youth. Prior recommendations have helped Tennessee improve outcomes for Tennessee's children. The Fiscal Year 2019 year budget will be proposed by the Governor and enacted by the Legislature. TCCY recommendations include:

- **Increase and make recurring funding to address adverse childhood experiences in Tennessee** in the FY 2019 budget.
- **Fund *Tennessee Compilation of Selected Laws on Children, Youth and Families*.** The Commission urges the Governor to provide \$55,000 in recurring funding in the FY 2018-19 TCCY budget for publication of the *Tennessee Compilation of Selected Laws on Children, Youth and Families*.

- **Restore Healthy Start Home Visiting Programs** to the previous funding level of \$3.5 million using recurring funding administered by the Department of Health.
- **Fund Quality Home Visiting Programs**, which are among the front line strategies for preventing and mitigating toxic stress and adverse childhood experiences.

TCCY's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Recommendations are available on the TCCY website at <http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/tccy/attachments/leg-budget.pdf>.

TCCY legislative updates will return in early 2018 when the General Assembly returns and legislators file new bills.

Legislative Summary: <http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/tccy/attachments/legislat.pdf>.

TCCY Budget Recommendations: <http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/tccy/attachments/leg-budget.pdf>.

TCCY Legislative Listserv: <http://www.tn.gov/tccy/article/leg-listserv>.

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## Update



**Jennifer Drake-Croft**, TCCY director of Early Childhood Well-Being, was chosen as a 2017 Nashville Emerging Leaders Award (NELA) winner in the Government & Public Affairs category. NELA acknowledged her work toward nurturing and protecting children within the community and as co-founder of All Children Excel (ACE) Nashville.

**Dr. Gerald Papica** was recently re-elected to the United States Ombudsman Association (USOA) Board of Directors for FY 2017-2019. He has provided leadership to the USOA for more than 17 years in various capacities.



Executive Director **Linda O'Neal** has been invited to serve on the board of directors of FrameWorks Institute.

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## Mark Your Calendar

Sept. 7, **Saving Lives in Rural West Tennessee**, presented by Rural West Suicide Prevention Network Conference and co-sponsored by Northwest Council on Children and Youth, Jackson-Madison County Hospital, Ayers Auditorium, Jackson. Contact [Dana.Cobb@tn.gov](mailto:Dana.Cobb@tn.gov).

Sept. 8, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, **Northeast Tennessee Council on Children and Youth** presents "**Aftermath: From Birth to Worth**," a look at the region's challenges with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and Substance Abuse, Appalachian Community Federal Credit Union Community Room, 5034 Bobby Hicks Highway, Gray. Register at <http://bit.ly/2xpEzNO>.

Sept. 8, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. TCSW, NASW-TN and the Tennessee AETC present **Addressing Ethical Dilemmas in an Era of Complex Practice Issues**, Nashville First Church of the Nazarene, 510 Woodland Street, Nashville. Individual registration: \$40. Registration for 6 or more: \$30 per person.

Participants eligible for 4 CE hours, including 3 Ethics Requirement hours. Register at <http://bit.ly/2vFQJm1>. Contact [pfooster@tcsw.org](mailto:pfooster@tcsw.org).

Sept. 8-10, **Partnership for Drug-Free Kids Parent Coach training**, Memphis. Contact Kristina Clark at [kristina\\_clark@drugfree.org](mailto:kristina_clark@drugfree.org).

Sept. 11-12, **2017 First Episode Psychosis Conference: "Walking Together on the Road to Recovery,"** Embassy Suites South, Cool Springs, 820 Crescent Center Dr., Franklin, sponsored by TN Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services in partnership with Vanderbilt University and Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations Conference. Information: <http://bit.ly/2vra4r7>. Register at <http://bit.ly/2vZ8Q9h>.

Sept. 12, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., **Association of Infant Mental Health in TN (AIMHiTN)** and Helen Ross McNabb Center host meeting at Bridgewater Place, 205 Bridgewater Rd., Knoxville. The event will share information about **Infant Mental Health Endorsement**. Free. Lunch provided. Register at <http://bit.ly/2uKy7iJ>.

Sept. 13, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mental Health America presents **"Co-Occurring Disorders,"** Second Harvest Food Bank, 331 Great Circle Rd., Nashville, with information on resources, public policy, resources and treatments for co-occurring disorders. CEUs available. Cost, including lunch: \$89. Register at <http://www.mhamt.org/>.

Sept. 13, 10:30 a.m., **Suicide Prevention Awareness Day**, Trevecca Community Church, 335 Murfreesboro Pike, Nashville. RSVP by Sept. 1 to <http://bit.ly/2g6Jz6l>.

Sept. 15, 8:00 a.m., **Northwest Council on Children and Youth Legislative Forum & Networking Breakfast**, Boling Center, Room 206 ABC, UT Martin. More details to come. Contact [Dana.Cobb@tn.gov](mailto:Dana.Cobb@tn.gov).

Sept. 15, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., TN Suicide Prevention Network presents **"Saving Lives in South Central Tennessee,"** Arnold Air Force Base, Gossick Leadership Center, 4176 Westover Rd., Suite 204B, Tullahoma. Registration fee: \$20. Register at <http://bit.ly/2vldfNS>.

Sept. 15-17, **Partnership for Drug-Free Kids** presents **Parent Coach Training**, Nashville. Contact Kristina Clark at [kristina\\_clark@drugfree.org](mailto:kristina_clark@drugfree.org).

Sept. 20, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., **Mid-Cumberland Council on Children and Youth** presents **"The Impact of the Opioid Epidemic on Tennessee's Children and Building Strong Brains,"** Madison Precinct Police Department, 412 Myatt Dr., Madison, with Dr. Monty Burks and Rebecca MacFarlane. <http://bit.ly/2iwZIJ5>.

Sept. 21, 5:30 to 7 p.m., Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network **"Saving Lives in the Mid-Cumberland Region,"** Centennial Park Event Shelter, 2500 West End Ave., Nashville. Contact: [jperley@tspn.org](mailto:jperley@tspn.org). Register at <http://bit.ly/2w5czBv>.

Sept. 22, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., **"P.A.U.S.E. for Perspectives and Understanding Suicide Experiences,"** William O. Beach Civic Hall Center, 350 Pageant Ln. Suite 201, Clarksville. No registration fee. RSVP at <http://bit.ly/2xdxMYA>.

Sept. 22-24, **Partnership for Drug-Free Kids** presents **Parent Coach Training**, Knoxville. Contact Kristina Clark at [kristina\\_clark@drugfree.org](mailto:kristina_clark@drugfree.org).

Sept. 27, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., East Tennessee Council on Children and Youth presents “**What a Difference a Decade Makes: Celebrating Suicide Prevention in Tennessee**,” Bridgewater Place, 205 Bridgewater Road, Knoxville. Guest speaker Clark Flatt of the Jason Foundation. Information: 865-594-6658 or [Lindsey.Cody@tn.gov](mailto:Lindsey.Cody@tn.gov).

Sept. 28-29, **National Alliance on Mental Illness Tennessee 2017 State Convention ENGAGE \* EDUCATE \* EMPOWER**, The Inn at Opryland, 2401 Music Valley Drive, Nashville. Registration: <http://bit.ly/2g72PB2>.

March 13-14, 2018, **Children's Advocacy Days**, War Memorial Auditorium. Contact: [John.Rust@tn.gov](mailto:John.Rust@tn.gov).

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## In the News

McMillin, J., *Lebanon Democrat*, **Adverse childhood experiences present lifelong challenge**, <http://bit.ly/2xtHV2l>.

Old, J., *Hartsville Vidette*, **Trousdale ranks high in education, low in other areas**, <http://bit.ly/2xdCLs9>.

Pignolet, J., *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, **Report ranks Shelby County last in state for child well-being**, <http://memne.ws/2vmhLRN>.

WPSD TV, **Weakley County ranks best in Tennessee for child health**, <http://bit.ly/2w4YRNe>.

Sangenito, S., ACEs Connection, **TCCY releases new KIDS COUNT: State of the Child in Tennessee**, <http://bit.ly/2wp5FrM>.

Clelland, K., *Standard Banner*, **County ranks higher in drug-related births, abuses**, <http://bit.ly/2x4o5e4>.

Powell, J. *Columbia Daily Herald*, **Suicide prevention in county raises public awareness**, <http://bit.ly/2w4Kokn>.

Dries, B., *Memphis Daily News*, **Early Childhood Literacy Efforts Push ‘Knowledge-Based Competency,’** <http://bit.ly/2w4FHai>.

Lucia, B., *Route Fifty*, **The Upcoming Census Has Big Implications for Federal Funds Flowing to States**, <http://bit.ly/2vyjW1n>.

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## Research Information

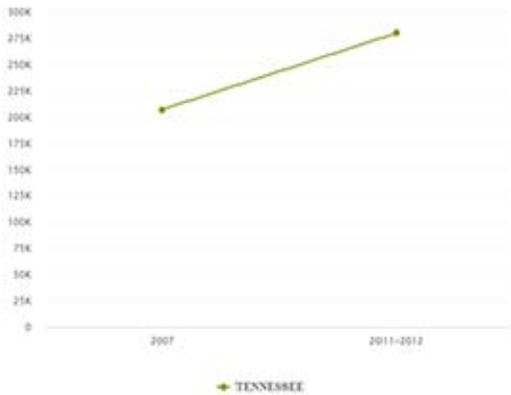
Samuels, C., *Education Week*, **Minority Students Still Missing Out on Special Education, New Analysis Says**, <http://bit.ly/2wcCeYN>.

Appalachian Regional Commission, **Health Disparities in Appalachia**, report: <http://bit.ly/2vyc1kX>, Tennessee Fact Sheet: <http://bit.ly/2wDCi5a>.

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# Tennessee KIDS COUNT Facts

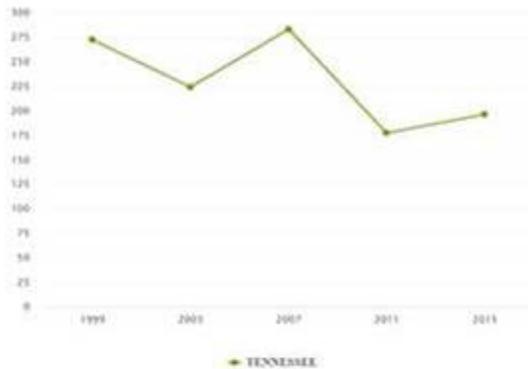
## Children Who Have One or More Emotional, Behavioral or Developmental Condition



### CHILDREN WHO HAVE ONE OR MORE EMOTIONAL, BEHAVIORAL, OR DEVELOPMENTAL CONDITIONS (NUMBER)

National KIDS COUNT  
KIDS COUNT Data Center, [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)  
A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation

## Adolescent Deaths by Accident, Homicide and Suicide (Number)



### TEEN DEATHS BY ACCIDENT, HOMICIDE, AND SUICIDE (NUMBER)

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth  
KIDS COUNT Data Center, [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)  
A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation

Note: Non-consecutive years appear adjacent in the trend line because one or more years have been deselected.

<http://bit.ly/2xa7032>

<http://bit.ly/2w14Pyw>

More data on Tennessee child well-being are available at <http://bit.ly/15alkVu>.

No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability or ability to pay, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity operated, funded or overseen by the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY). It is the intent of TCCY to bind all agencies, organizations or governmental units operating under its jurisdiction and control to fully comply with and abide by the spirit and intent of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

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