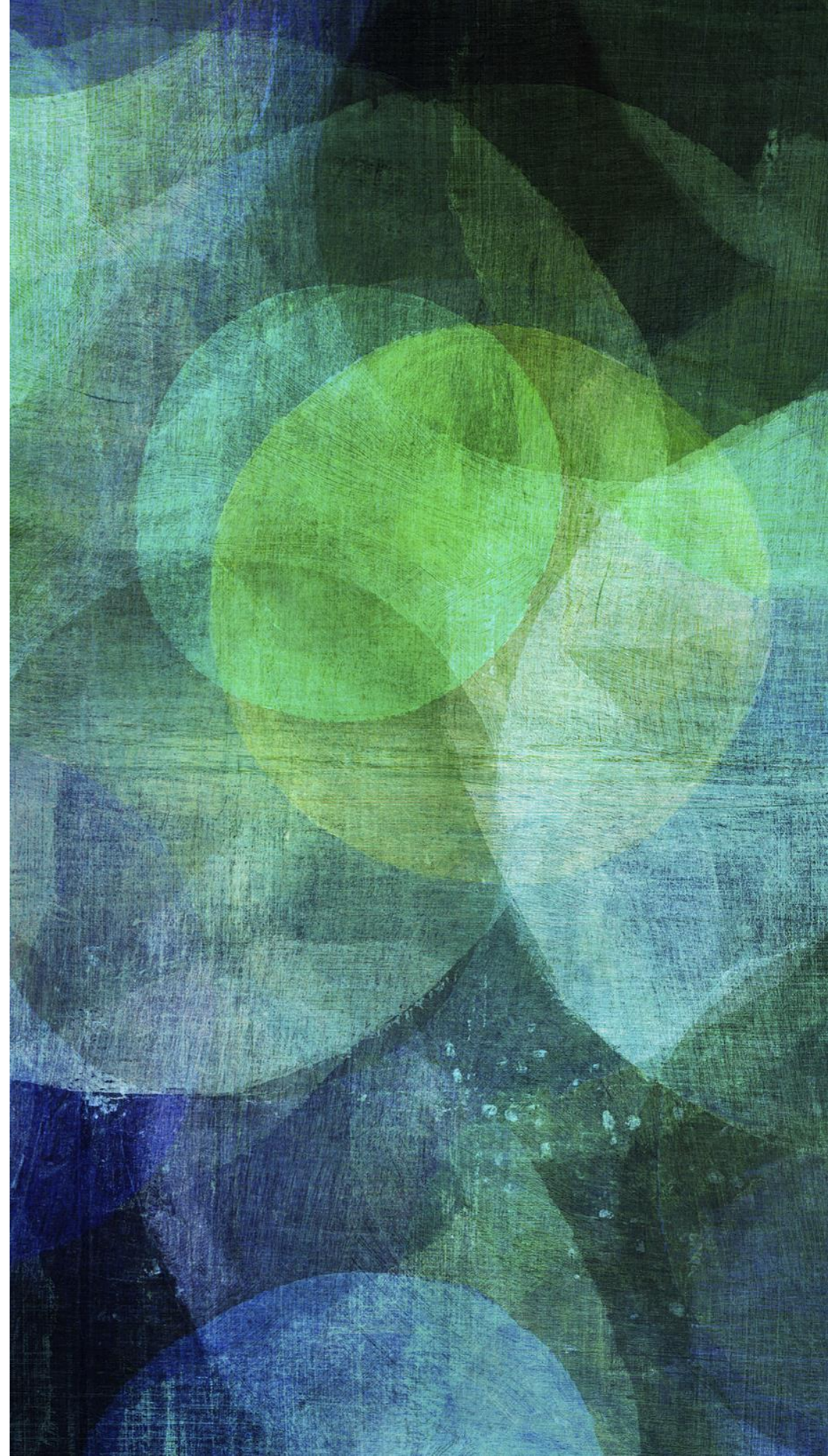


COMUNIDAD LATINA IN HOWARD COUNTY

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*2023 Health Needs
Assessment Results*



About Me

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- *Communications professional with ample experience in podcast, non-commercial radio, video production*
- *Owner of C.O. Communications since August 2022*
- *Passionate about bringing people together, connecting one another, and bridging the gap*
- *Immigrant, 22 years in the United States*
- *Mother, wife, daughter, and latina*



CO Communications LLC, is your bridge to the Hispanic community. Led by a seasoned industry expert, we specialize in podcast and video production, translations, voice over, and hosting services, all tailored to connect businesses with the Hispanic community in a culturally responsible way. We're not just a business, we're your partner in creating meaningful connections.



BACKGROUND

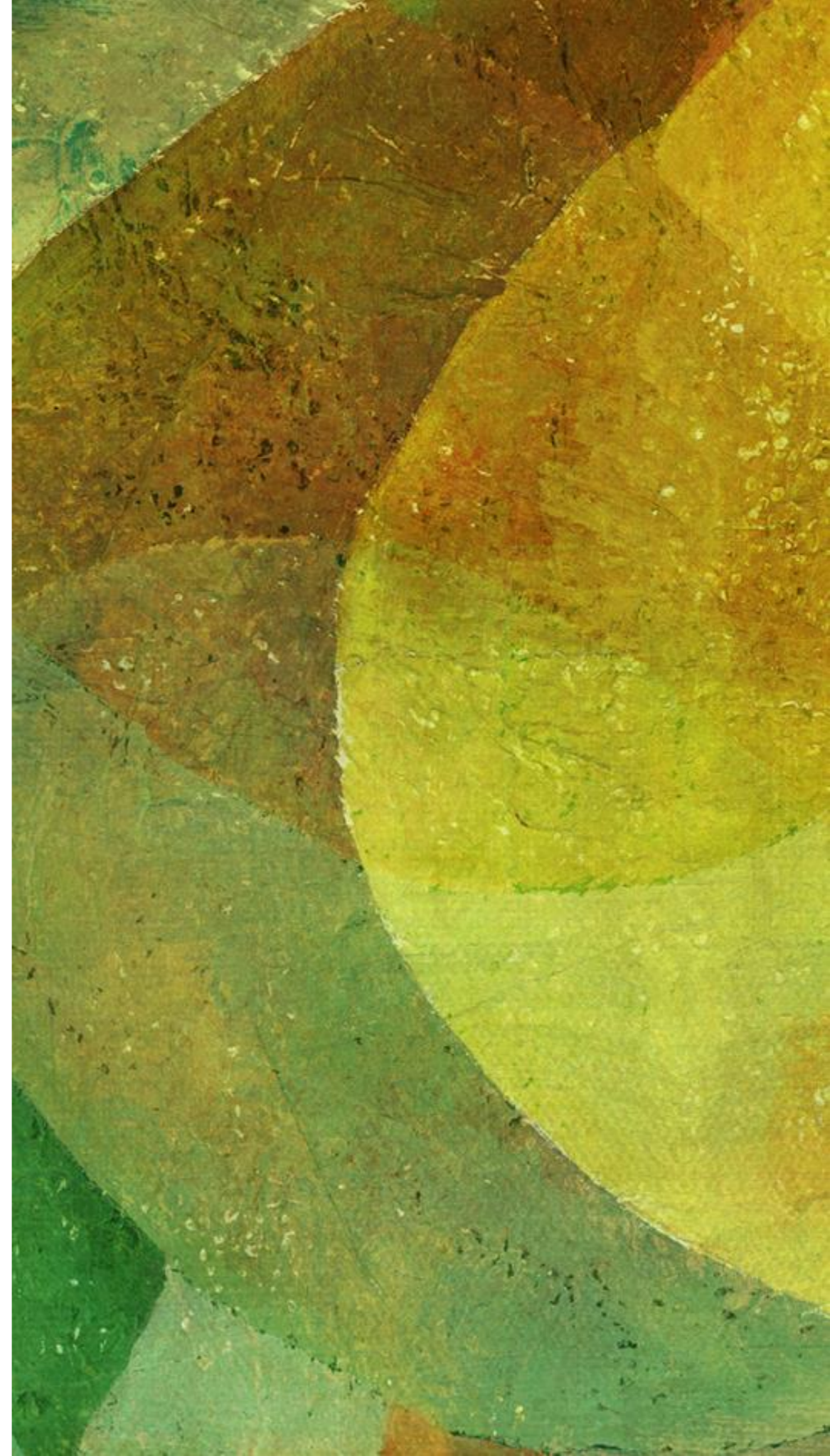
- *Almost 100 residents were interviewed through individual one on one conversations and focus groups.*
- *No identification information was collected but through observation I can deduct that:*
- *100% of participants are latinos, immigrants and first generation*
- *70% of those interviewed were women and 30% men*
- *10% of participants were under 25 years old (latest [census](#) data shows that latinos in MD between ages of 18 and 24 years old are 15% of the total population)*
- *55% of participants where between the ages of 26 and 50*
- *35% of participants where 50+ (latest [census](#) data shows that latinos in MD between the ages of 25 and 64 years old represent 38% of the total population)*

QUESTION # 2

Question # 2 asked: “From your experience, what are the 2-3 biggest challenges you are currently facing that make it hard to live a long, healthy, life?”

Top 10 categories:

- 1. Health*
- 2. Immigration support*
- 3. Lack of information*
- 4. Housing*
- 5. Day care*
- 6. Access to affordable food*
- 7. Support in education*
- 8. Transportation*
- 9. Mental Health*
- 10. Supports for Entrepreneurship*





QUESTIONS 3 & 4

- *Question 3 asked participants to circle up from a list of previously identified challenges all the options they felt affected our comunidad.*
- *Question 4 asked participants to go back to the list and circle the top 2 challenges from the ones they had selected.*
- *The top 7 categories identified through this exercise are:*
 1. *Health*
 2. *Immigration*
 3. *Education*
 4. *Information*
 5. *Work*
 6. *Transportation*
 7. *Childcare*



Results Question # 2

- 1. Health*
- 2. Immigration support*
- 3. Lack of information*
- 4. Housing*
- 5. Day care*
- 6. Access to affordable food*
- 7. Support in education*

Combined Results Questions # 3 & 4

- 1. Health*
- 2. Immigration*
- 3. Education*
- 4. Information*
- 5. Work*
- 6. Transportation*
- 7. Childcare*



Results Question # 2

- 1. Health*
- 2. Immigration support*
- 3. Lack of information*
- 4. Housing*
- 5. Day care*
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Combined Results Questions # 3 & 4

- 1. Health*
- 2. Immigration*
- 3. Education*
- 4. Information*
- 5. Work*
- 6. Transportation*
- 7. Childcare*



Results Question # 2

- 1. Health*
- 2. Immigration support*
- 3. Lack of information*
- 4. Support in education*
- 5. Day care*

Combined Results Questions # 3 & 4

- 1. Health*
- 2. Immigration*
- 3. Information*
- 4. Education*
- 5. Childcare*

HEALTH

➤ *Top issues in health:*

- 1. No health insurance or access to health care*
- 2. Intersection of immigration status and access to care*
- 3. High cost of health care/affordability*
- 4. Specialty and chronic illness care*
- 5. Access to care in Spanish*
- 6. Quality of care*
- 7. Emergency care*

“Without a social security I can’t have (health) insurance”

“If I make too much I can’t get service”

“Having access to a regular doctor at a discounted rate is not enough, we need affordable specialty care too”

“I have no one to talk to, I told someone what I was feeling once and she called me loca”

“My daughter was in the hospital for 2 weeks and just came out. I’m not sending her to school because another girl is bullying her, she’s hitting her, and she is even threatening her. The school keeps calling me, I don’t want to get in trouble, I don’t know what to do to keep my daughter safe”

“Stress makes us make mistakes and doesn’t allow us to make good decisions”

MENTAL HEALTH & OTHERS

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- *Stress - inability to work, not paid fairly*
- *Anxiety - not enough income*
- *Depression - no insurance, no care, long wait lists*
- *Need for care in Spanish*
- *Youth suffering from loneliness, anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation.*
- *Inexistent care for undocumented individuals with special needs.*



IMMIGRATION DEFINITIONS

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- *Undocumented - All immigrants without a legal status:*
 - *Entered with out inspection -EWI*
 - *Entered with legal status but overstayed*
 - *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals - DACA*
- *Currently in process of legalizing*
- *Vulnerable Immigrants - limbo (TPS, U-visa)*
- *Mix-status families - US Citizens, permanent residents, TPS, undocumented.*

“I pay taxes but
I have no retribution
from it ”

“American new hires
in lower level positions
make more money”

“Having access
to a regular doctor
at a discounted rate
is not enough,
we need affordable
specialty care too.”

IMMIGRATION

- *Large percentage of undocumented residents:*
 1. *Work/career barriers:*
 - Difficulty finding/keeping jobs*
 - Employer abuse*
 - Lower wages*
 2. *Fear:*
 - Deportation and family separation*
 - To apply for resources*
 - To call police*
 3. *Housing:*
 - Higher down payments and security deposits*
 - More requirements for rentals and purchases*
 - Higher interest rates*
 4. *Health:*
 - Not eligible for insurance*
 - Only one sliding fee PCP in the county*
 - No specialty care*

IMMIGRATION

- *Smaller percentage with pending cases:*
 1. *Long waits and high costs of processes*
 2. *Inability to work while waiting*
 3. *Inability to travel while waiting*
 4. *Not eligible for insurance or other state/federal benefits while waiting*
- *Mixed status:*
 1. *Not accessing resources for eligible members due to fear, public charge, and lack of information .*
- *Difficulty obtaining a driver's license across the board.*
- *Professional immigrants have difficulty validating their studies.*

“My friends tell me to apply for food stamps for my kids, but I am scared, I don't want problems”

“I am here but I can't find a job until I have my papers, what am I supposed to do, how am I supposed to provide for my family?”

“I do not know where to find support, we need information”

“We need services in Spanish”

“We need information in Spanish about existing programs”

INFORMATION

- *Majority of our Spanish speaking residents do not know where to find information about services and resources.*
- *Information is not available Spanish.*
- *Rely on friends and family for information, which leads to misinformation.*

EDUCATION - HCPSS

- *Lack of support in Spanish within HCPSS.*
- *Many expressed concern around safety in schools: - Daily fights, drugs, gangs, arms in school buildings.*
- *No support with homework.*
- *Anxiety due to high performance pressure.*
- *Difficulty understanding and implementing IEPs.*
- *Discrimination, isolation, bullying against latino students.*
- *Need for transitional programs for graduating HS students with special needs.*
- *Need for higher ed information on registration and payment options.*

“The teacher told my daughter she wasn’t going to do anything with her life because she’s latina”

“There is help, but we need to fight to get it”

“We need transitional programs for our special needs kids out of high school and into adulthood”

“I want to learn
English
but I have to work”

“I’d like to learn
interior design
in Spanish
but there are
no classes in the
county”

“I don’t have anyone
who can watch my kids
so I can’t take classes”

EDUCATION - ADULTS

- *Need for English classes, barriers:*
 1. *Cost of classes*
 2. *No time to study*
 3. *No transportation to go to classes*
 4. *Need for childcare to attend classes*
- *Small segment of the community is illiterate.*
- *Need for vocational training in Spanish for youth and adults.*
- *Need for classes in Spanish: financial literacy, parenting, entrepreneurship programs, programs for women, first aid, CPR, internet and basic technology.*

CHILDCARE

- *High childcare costs impedes access to day care and affects all aspects of life.*
- *Families rely on relatives and neighbors to watch their kids.*
- *No information on affordable pre-school programs.*

“I can’t work because daycare is too expensive, I would make less money at work than what it costs to pay for daycare”

“I can’t study because there is no one to watch my kids”

“If Latinos living in the United States were an independent country, the U.S. Latino GDP would be tied with France for the seventh-largest GDP in the world”.

Latino Impact in the U.S. Economy

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- *Latinos account for over 18.5% of the total U.S population (2020 Census)*
- *Largest racial/ethnic minority in the nation.*
- *68.3% of Latinos are in the workforce (63.6% all Americans).*
- *High latino presence in key industries like agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, construction, and administrative support.*
- *There’s approximately 5 million Latino Owned Businesses in the U.S.*
- *Latino households earned more than \$1.2 trillion, and payed \$308.5 billion in taxes*

➤ *Source <https://salud-america.org/the-unsung-impact-of-latinos-on-the-u-s-economy/>*



POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- *Changes in legislation regarding health and immigration.*
- *More funding to support programs catered to latinos and immigrants. (i.e. Columbia Community Care)*
- *Hiring program for undocumented individuals.*
- *Different kind of lending for low income and undocumented individuals.*
- *Affordable health care program that includes primary care, specialty care, dental, vision, etc.*
- *Access to affordable health insurance.*

GRACIAS POR SU ATENCION

PREGUNTAS?



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