



VENTURA COUNTY

PLACE OF LAST DRINK SURVEY



SPOTLIGHT

Bars, Clubs and Restaurants

Volume IV

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**Ventura County
Behavioral Health**
ALCOHOL & DRUG PROGRAMS
PREVENTION SERVICES

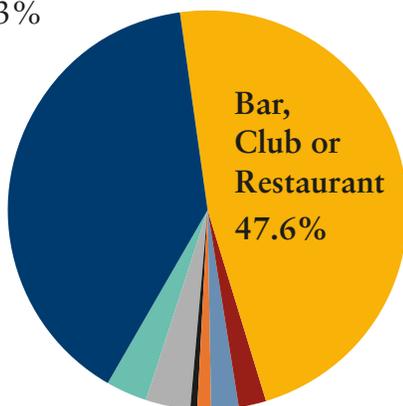
INTRODUCTION

Since 2001, Ventura County Behavioral Health Alcohol & Drug Programs – Prevention Services has obtained an average of 200 Place of Last Drink Surveys each month from participants in the County’s Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Program. Participants are adults 18 and older who have been arrested and convicted of driving under the influence or an impaired driving offense. During their program exit interview, these clients are given the opportunity to voluntarily participate in the Place of Last Drink Survey. Available in both Spanish and English, the Place of Last Drink Survey was designed to capture information useful for identifying the places, settings and circumstances associated with impaired driving.

One of the most important items on the Place of Last Drink Survey asks respondents to report where they consumed their last drink prior to their DUI arrest. The two most commonly reported places of last drink among all respondents were at a bar, club or restaurant (47.6%) or in a private residence (39.5%) (Figure 1). This issue of the Spotlight will focus on those who reported drinking their last drink at a bar, club or restaurant (N = 2,303) and how they differ from those drinking in other locations.

Figure 1. Place of Last Drink (N=4,840)

- Bar, Club or Restaurant – 47.6%
- Private residence – 39.5%
- Did not report – 3.1%
- In some other place – 3.8%
- In a hotel room – 0.5%
- At work – 1.1%
- At a park or beach – 2.1%
- In a vehicle – 2.3%



SELECTED FINDINGS

Generally, persons whose Place of Last Drink was at a bar, club or restaurant had a similar Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) at the time of the DUI arrest compared with persons drinking elsewhere. Nearly 30 percent (27.8%) of those who were drinking at a bar, club or restaurant had a Blood Alcohol Concentration twice the legal limit or more. A similar percent of persons drinking elsewhere had Blood Alcohol Concentrations .16 or higher (26.3%). Average Blood Alcohol Concentration for persons who were drinking at a bar, club or restaurant was .14, not significantly different from those drinking elsewhere (.13).

Those who were drinking at a bar, club or restaurant reported consuming a fewer number of drinks compared with those who were drinking elsewhere, even though Blood Alcohol Concentrations were similar between both groups. Despite no difference in average Blood Alcohol Concentrations, those who reported a bar, club or restaurant as their Place of Last Drink consumed 6 drinks while those who reported drinking elsewhere indicated that they consumed 7 drinks. Also, those drinking at a bar, club or restaurant reported drinking distilled spirits/hard liquor more often than those who drank somewhere else (58.8% vs. 41.7%, respectively).

Women were more likely to be at a bar, club or restaurant for their Place of Last Drink. Women are more likely to report their Place of Last Drink at a bar, club or restaurant than any other place (58.7%) while men are more likely to report another type of location (54.2%, respectively). Also, women and men reported drinking differently when their Place of Last Drink was at a bar, club or restaurant. Women tend to consume significantly fewer drinks compared to men (5.2 vs. 7.1) but report slightly higher Blood Alcohol Concentrations (.14 vs. .13). Alcohol content, serving size, and “heavy pouring” may all contribute to this phenomenon.

Those leaving a bar, club or restaurant prior to their DUI were more likely to have at least one passenger in their car. Almost half (45.6%) were with at least one passenger at the time of arrest, compared with only 31.4 percent of those who had been drinking at other locations prior to the arrest. However, those whose Place of Last Drink was a bar, club or restaurant were less likely to report their DUI involved a crash when compared to those who left from some other location (10.6% vs. 17.4%).

COMPARING UNDERAGE, YOUNG AND OLDER ADULT DUI PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

For the most part, the Place of Last Drink bars, clubs or restaurants are within Ventura County. Sixty-nine percent of all the bars, clubs or restaurants mentioned on the Place of Last Drink Survey are within Ventura County. The most common cities mentioned that were outside of Ventura County included Agoura Hills, Santa Barbara, Hollywood, Los Angeles and Woodland Hills.

Four cities account for a majority of all Place of Last Drink bars, clubs or restaurants mentioned by participants, and are also where the largest concentration of alcohol establishments are located.

A total of 680 retail alcohol establishments are in the cities of Ventura, Thousand Oaks, Oxnard, and Simi Valley, making up 70.4 percent of retail alcohol establishments in the County (*Figure 2*). A majority of participants who consumed their last drink in a bar, club or restaurant (83.3%) are also having their last drink in one of these four cities.

Figure 2. Bars, Clubs, or Restaurants in Ventura County Reported on the Place of Last Drink Survey

	Number of Times City was Mentioned as Location of POLD Bar, Club, or Restaurant	Number of Unique Bars, Clubs or Restaurants Mentioned per City	Number of Licensed Retail (On-Sale Only) Alcohol Establishments*
Ventura	574	89	228
Thousand Oaks	288	37	147
Simi Valley	243	38	140
Oxnard	217	65	165
Camarillo	118	27	97
Santa Paula	22	9	29
Moorpark	21	8	40
Ojai	11	7	49
Port Hueneme	9	4	26
Fillmore	5	4	15

* Source: California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, December 2008

Most commonly mentioned cities of Place of Last Drink bars, clubs and restaurants differed according to age. In *Figure 3*, the top nine cities mentioned by persons whose Place of Last Drink was at a bar, club or restaurant are presented with the most frequently mentioned city at the top followed by other cities in descending order. Young adults (21 to 25 years old), and older adults (26 and older) report their Place of Last Drink in Ventura more often than other cities (*Figure 3*). Underage adults (18 to 20 years old) were nearly as likely to report Thousand Oaks or Hollywood as the city where they had their last drink, though they are more likely to mention Ventura or Oxnard. Young adults reported drinking at bars, clubs and restaurants in the City of Ventura more often than their underage and older adult counterparts. Underage and older adults were more likely to drink in Oxnard compared to young adults.

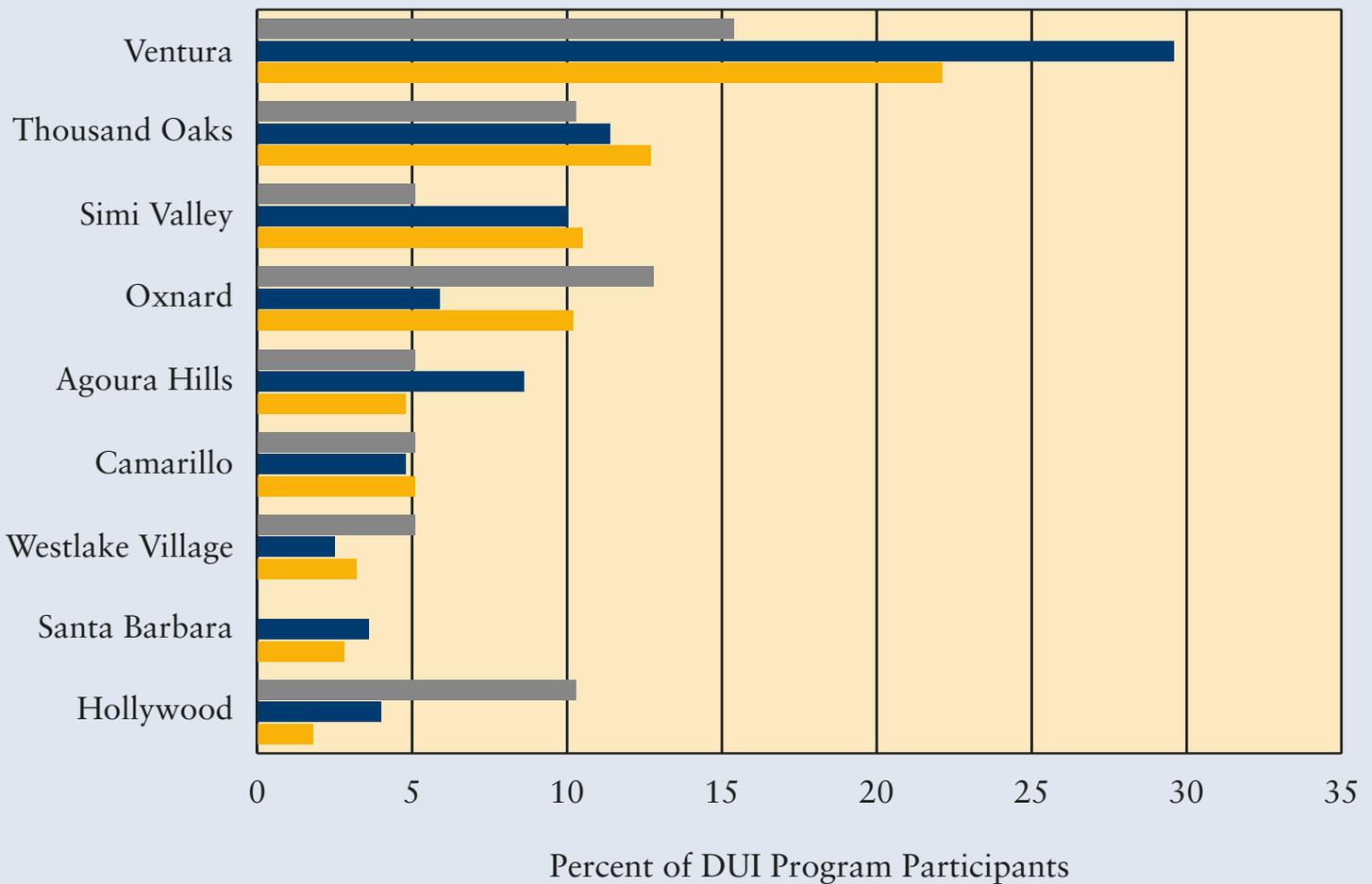
Cities mentioned outside of Ventura County where participants consumed their last drink at a bar, club or restaurant varies by age group. Several cities outside of the County were mentioned often. Young adults reported drinking in Agoura Hills more often than underage persons and older adults. Hollywood appears to be the most common location outside of Ventura County where underage adults had their last drink at a bar, club or restaurant. Underage adults did not mention Santa Barbara unlike their older counterparts (*Figure 3*).

More young adults aged 21 to 25 reported drinking a combination of beer, mixed drinks or shots, and/or wine compared to underage and older adults. About one in seven older adults (14.3%) and just over one in six underage adults (18.4%) reported drinking a combination of alcohol types, whereas over one fifth of young adults (21.3%) reported drinking multiple forms of alcohol prior to their DUI arrest.

Underage and young adults are more likely to have passengers in the car with them. About half of underage persons (52.7%) and young adults (47.5%) indicated they had at least one passenger with them at the time of arrest. Only one third of older adults (34.3%) were not driving alone at the time of the stop.

Figure 3. Most Commonly Mentioned Cities Where Place of Last Drink was a Bar, Club or Restaurant, Comparing Underage, Young, and Older Adult DUI Program Participants

■ 18 to 20
 ■ 21 to 25
 ■ 26 or older



Of all Place of Last Drink bars, clubs or restaurants mentioned in Ventura County, 19 locations account for 43 percent of all mentions (42.8%). *Figure 4 (Map)* depicts the 19 bar, club and restaurant locations mentioned by respondents. A majority of locations, 10 of the 19, are in the city of Ventura.

Participants drive on average 3 to 8 miles from the most commonly cited bars, clubs or restaurants where they had their Place of Last Drink before being stopped by law enforcement. The amount of distance driven from the 19 most commonly cited locations varies from 0 to 90 miles, with an overall average of 4.6 miles. This suggests that drinking in one city in Ventura County may have a serious impact on other neighboring jurisdictions (*Figure 4*). The greatest average number of miles driven (8 miles) among these 19 locations originated from the city of Ventura, where there is the highest concentration of licensed establishments in the County.

Drivers from the top 19 mentioned bars, clubs, or restaurants as the Place of Last Drink are driving in 25% of the total area of Ventura County before they are stopped by law enforcement for DUI. The average distance driven from a bar, club or restaurant demonstrates how communities may be affected by those driving under the influence of alcohol. In *Figure 4*, each location has a circle that depicts the area around a bar that may be affected because of the average distance driven by intoxicated drivers from that location before being stopped for a DUI. All of these areas combined account for 461 square miles of Ventura County, which accounts for 25% of the total area of Ventura County. The road networks of the communities appear to be the most impacted by intoxicated drivers. A total of 2,666 miles of road way (422 highway miles and 2,244 non-highway miles) are within these potentially affected communities, representing 15% of all road ways within the County.

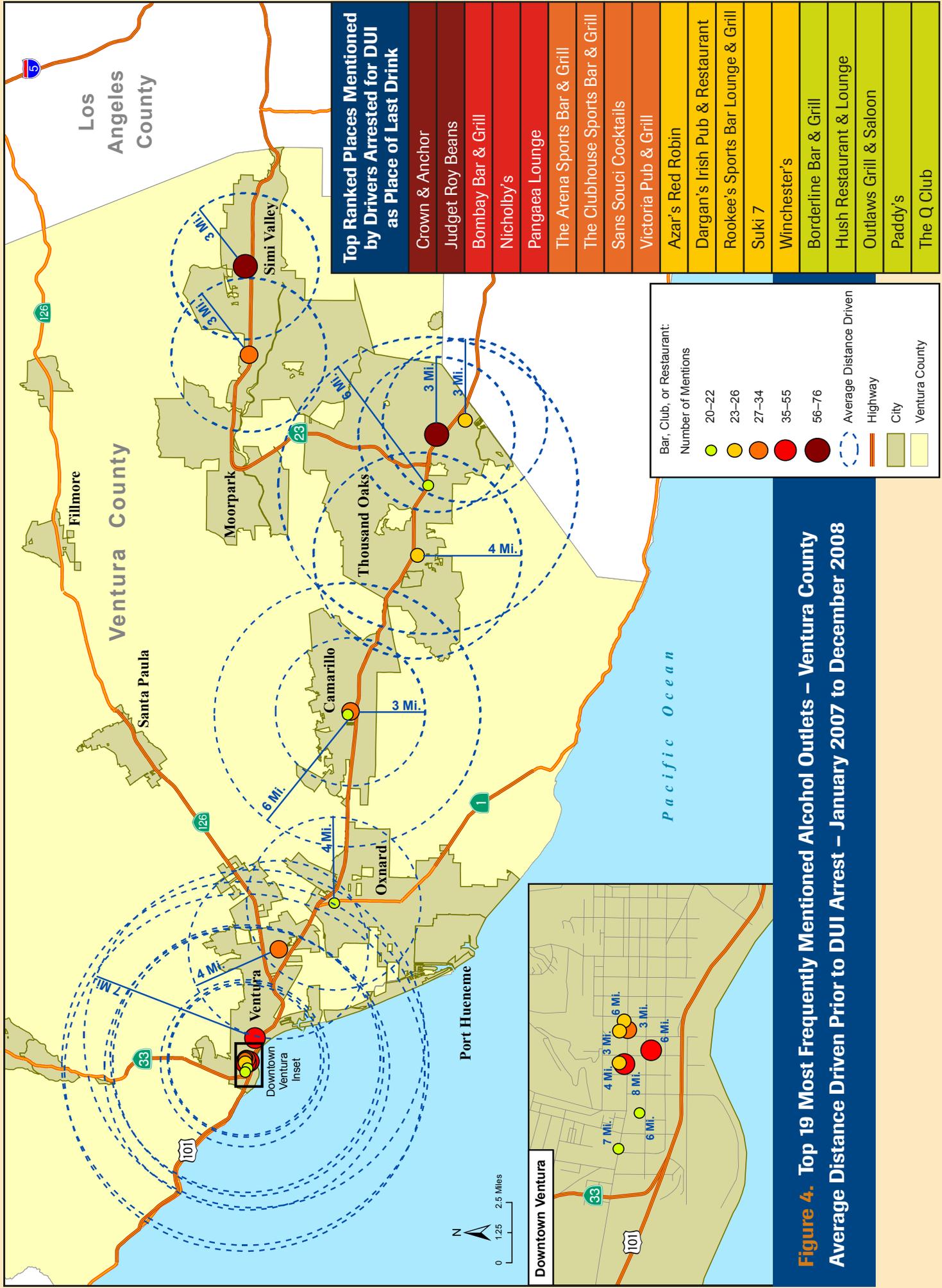


Figure 4. Top 19 Most Frequently Mentioned Alcohol Outlets – Ventura County Average Distance Driven Prior to DUI Arrest – January 2007 to December 2008

SUMMARY AND DATA LIMITATIONS

As part of an ongoing commitment to data-driven planning and evaluation, Ventura County Behavioral Health Alcohol & Drug Programs – Prevention Services reviews and utilizes Place of Last Drink data to shape prevention activities countywide and measure the impact of their efforts.

Selected findings from the Place of Last Drink database are extracted and summarized periodically for publication in the Spotlight. The current issue includes 4,840 Place of Last Drink Surveys collected during a two year time period between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2008. This information is intended to assist law enforcement, city and county officials, community members and local coalitions to identify issues and support policies aimed at enhancing public health and safety.

Data from the Place of Last Drink Survey are collected from DUI Program participants through an interview administered at the end of their program. Interviews, rather than self-administered surveys, are conducted to increase data quality and completion of all survey items. Self-report measures like this have two major limitations. First, participants may want to appear in a certain way and may provide less accurate responses as a result. Another limitation of self-report is the respondent's memory, which may be unreliable over time. Despite these challenges, with a greater number of respondents and the long history of collecting and analyzing these data, such biases typically "wash out". Also, using analyses that rely on large groups of respondents while excluding rare or unusual responses, data findings provide a more reliable depiction of the circumstances around DUI arrests.

USING RESEARCH TO SUPPORT PREVENTION POLICY

Ventura County Behavioral Health Alcohol & Drug Programs – Prevention Services operates according to the premise that the best solutions to community AOD problems are data-driven and community-involved.

As part of this commitment Place of Last Drink information has been used to consider local

patterns of underage alcohol access, to map geographic 'hot spots' for impaired driving, and to monitor trends in the types and quantities of alcohol consumed prior to DUI arrest. Analyses by age, gender and city of residence are routinely undertaken to inform local prevention efforts.



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