Child and Young Adult 2012 Full Release Now Available

The final Child and Young Adult dataset is now available; it contains information on mothers and their children, collected biennially from 1986 to 2012. The cohort for this dataset is divided into two groups: the NLSY79 children, who are 14 years and younger as of December 31 of the survey's calendar year, and the young adults who are 15 years and older at the end of the calendar year. The 2012 survey year (the latest year for which data are available) gathered information on 515 children and 5,808 young adults. Information on children and their family background has been updated in this full public release for the 7,892 children born to mothers who were interviewed in 2012. Data collected for both children and young adult children can be linked with information collected from their mothers in the main NLSY79.

General content of the Child and Young Adult Surveys

The NLSY79 Child and Young Adult survey gauges children's health, abilities, achievement, problems, activities, attitudes, school progress, and home environment. This information is obtained from the mother's report, assessments administered to the child by the interviewer, and the child's self-report. Beginning in 1988, children ages 10 and older have answered a self-administered set of questions about their families, friends, jobs, schools, after-school activities, computer use, religious attendance, and use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs. As of 1994, NLSY79 children ages 15 and older no longer receive cognitive assessments and other assessments similar to those given to their younger counterparts. Instead, the young adults participate in a

personal or telephone interview similar to those given to their mothers. These interviews cover such issues as work experience, military experience, schooling, training, family background, health, fertility, income and assets, dating and relationships, attitudes, smoking, and drug and alcohol use. In 2012, the oldest "young adults" interviewed were 41 years of age. Starting in the 2012 survey year, "young adults" over age 30 are interviewed once every 4 years rather than biennially.

New 2012 content for the Young Adult Survey

The NLSY Young Adult 2012 survey instrument included more questions from the NLSY79 Main Youth Mother Supplement, adding in the Behavioral Problems Index, allowing users to make greater intergenerational comparisons. The "Children in the Household" section

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queries respondents in the Young Adult cohort who have biological children, adopted children, stepsons or stepdaughters, or children of a partner living with them.

The 2012 Young Adult questionnaire also included new sections of questions on discrimination and adversity. There were two sets of questions that asked about experiences with both day-to-day discrimination (for all Young Adult respondents) and major instances of discrimination (for respondents age 21 and older). And there was a new series of questions on childhood adversity: questions about growing up with household members who were depressed, mentally ill, or suicidal; problem drinkers or alcoholics; or physical abusers. Respondents also said how much parental love and affection they received in their formative years. The NLSY79 main study respondents, which include the mothers of the Young Adults, answered these questions about themselves in the most recent survey, thus making it possible for intergenerational research for these childhood issues.

The latest Young Adult survey round asked a series of personality questions. A subset of respondents answered the mini-IPIP, a shortened version of the International Personality Item Pool. The mini-IPIP asks respondents about the accuracy of descriptive phrases about one's self, such as "I am the life of the party," "I sympathize with other's feelings," and "I get upset easily." Having data from both the mini-IPIP and the Ten-Item Personality Inventory (TIPI) will allow researchers to compare these two ways of measuring the Big Five personality traits (openness, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness, and neuroticism)

New health-related variables were added to this survey round, including a short series of questions about head-trauma injuries and two questions about suicide ideation.

Finally, the "Income" section now includes a question about whether or not respondents have a "rainy day" emergency savings fund that would cover expenses for 3 months.

How to obtain Child and Young Adult data

Researchers can access the 1986–2012 Child and Young Adult dataset via the NLS Investigator (www.nlsinfo.org/investigator). Researchers can also find data documentation, including a user's guide, through this site. □

2016 Marks the 50th Anniversary of NLS

In 2016, the National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS) will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its inception. In the mid-1960s, the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Manpower Policy, Evaluation, and Research contracted with the Center for Human Resource Research (CHRR) at The Ohio State University to conduct longitudinal studies of the labor market experiences of four population groups of Americans. The groups, known collectively as the "Original Cohorts" of the NLS, were selected because each faced important labor market decisions of special concern to policymakers. The Older Men respondents faced decisions about the timing and extent of their labor force withdrawal at retirement age. Mature Women were experiencing a return to the labor force as their children became independent. As the Young Men and Young Women completed their schooling, they began careers or joined the military, married, and started families.

The Older Men's cohort included 5,020 men ages 45–59 in 1966, with data available through the 1990 survey year, the final year the Older Men were interviewed. For the last fielding period in 1990, 2,092 men were interviewed, which was 41.7 percent of the original sample. The 1990 survey also collected information about deceased respondents from 1,341 widows and 865 other family members of the Older Men's cohort, thus making information available regarding 85.6 percent of the original sample members. Thirteen survey rounds of data are available.

The Young Men's cohort included 5,225 men who were ages 14–24 when first interviewed in 1966, with data available through 1981, when active surveying was discontinued. For the last fielding period in 1981, a total of 3,398 were interviewed, 65 percent of the original sample. Twelve survey rounds of data are available.

The Mature Women's cohort included 5,083 women in round 1 in 1967, ranging from 30 to 44 years old. Approximately 44 percent (2,237) of the round-1 sample were interviewed in 2003, the last survey year.

The Young Women's cohort, first interviewed in 1968, initially included 5,159 women ranging from 14 to 24 years old. For the last fielding period in 2003, a total of 2,859 women were interviewed, 55.4 percent of the original sample.

In 1979, a new survey of youth began. The NLSY79 contained 12,686 youth who were 14 to 22 when first interviewed in 1979. This cohort of young baby-boomers born in 1957 to 1964 are still being interviewed today. The interviews chronicle life cycle experiences of this cohort, such as schooling, employment, marriage, children, and health. Beginning in 1986, the NLSY79 began administering the Child supplement, assessments that gathered information about the biological children of women in the NLSY79. The children (and young adults) of the NLSY79 continue to be interviewed, allowing for intergenerational research.

The NLSY97, which is the newest cohort of youth, documents the transition from school to work and from adolescence to adulthood. The NLSY97 sample consists of 8,984 youth who were born in 1980 to 1984, and were ages 12 to 17 when first interviewed in 1997. Data collection continues today, as the respondents enter their 30s, and we gather information on their early careers and various life events.

Check the NLS website (www.NLSinfo.org) periodically to learn about 50th anniversary celebration events, which will likely be held from mid-2015 through late 2016. ☐

Journal Seeks NLS-Related Submissions

The *Journal of Marriage and Family* (JMF) is currently accepting submissions for its August 2016 special issue celebrating 50 years of the National Longitudinal Surveys. Papers are due April 1, 2015. This issue will be guest edited by Elizabeth Cooksey, professor of sociology and associate director of the Center for Human Resource Research (CHRR). The focus is on family research undertaken using any of the NLS datasets: The Young Men's Survey; the Young Women's Survey; the Older Men's Survey; the Mature Women's Survey; the NLSY79; the NLSY79 Child and/or Young Adult Surveys, and the NLSY97. *JMF* welcomes original research that uses one or more NLS dataset(s), as well as national or international comparative work where NLS data are employed. The issue will include an introduction that gives background information on each of the NLS datasets used in selected papers. There is no need for authors to provide in-depth information on dataset history or data collection methods used. However, authors should give explanations of variable choice and sample restrictions in each paper as appropriate.

Complete instructions for preparing and submitting manuscripts online are available at http://www.ncfr.org/jmf/submit-jmf. In your submission letter, please indicate your desire for the manuscript to be considered for the "Special Issue Celebrating 50 Years of the National Longitudinal Surveys." Submissions will undergo a peer review process just as regular submissions to the journal. A $25 processing fee will be collected at the time of submission. Need assistance? Contact the editorial office at jmf@prc.utexas.edu. ☐

NLS Research Trends: Popular Topics in 2014

Obesity-related research was the most popular NLS research topic in the 300+ research citations listed for 2014 in the *NLS Annotated Bibliography*. Researchers linked obesity with lower grade point average, wage penalties, and bankruptcy. They also studied obesity's persistence and the effect of maternal obesity on young children's standardized tests scores. Researchers examined increases in obesity associated with urban sprawl, shorter inter-pregnancy intervals, childhood poverty, family instability, and family stress.

The second most prevalent NLS research area in 2014 was crime (including arrest and incarceration).

Other popular topics included substance use, debt, the Great Recession, working women's wage penalties, the role of fathers, and risky sexual behaviors.

To view all research citations for 2014, go to www.nlsbibliography.org and search by Year. □

Spotlight on Religion Variables

The NLSY97, NLSY79, NLSY79 Child, and NLSY79 Young Adult respondents have all provided information on religion preference and practices. A cohort-by-cohort description follows:

NLSY97 Religion Variables

Respondents provided information about their religious preferences, including their denomination or designation, in rounds 1, 9, 12, and 15. In addition, respondents were asked about their partner's religion as well as the religion of their children's other parent at the time of their pregnancies. In rounds 3-8, respondents also provided the religion of household members. In the first round of the Parent's Questionnaire, the parent being interviewed indicated the religion in which he or she was raised and his or her religion at the time of the interview.

NLSY97 respondents also provided information about their beliefs and their practices in select rounds. In rounds 4-15, they indicated how often they attended worship services. In rounds 1-4 (if the respondent still lived with his or her family), they indicated the number of days per week the family did something religious, such as going to church, praying or reading scriptures together. In rounds 12 and 15, the respondent reported on the importance of religious faith in daily life.

In addition, in rounds 6, 9, 12 and 15, the respondent heard a series of statements about religion, and he or she indicated whether the statement was true or false. These rounds used the following statements:

- I don't need religion to have good values.

- Religious teaching should be obeyed exactly as written in every situation.

- I often ask God to help me make decisions.

- God has nothing to do with what happens to me personally.

- I pray MORE than once a day.

The NLSY97 parent interview in round 1 also asked the respondent's parent how often the parent (and the parent's spouse or partner) had attended church service in the 12 months preceding the interview.

NLSY79 Religion Variables

Questions about religious affiliation were asked of NLSY79 respondents in 1979, 1982, 2000, and 2012. The 1979 questions asked the respondents to name the religion in which they were raised and their present religion. In addition to religious affiliation questions, the survey also asked how often a respondent attended religious services: never attend, attend several times a year, about once a month, three times a month, about once a week,

or more than once a week. Many respondents who were classified as "other" religions in 1979 were reclassified in 1982 as "general Protestant."

The respondent was asked to answer the same sequence of questions on religion in reference to his or her spouse in 1982, and 2000–2012. In addition, in 1988, and 1992–2012, female respondents were asked how often they argue about religious matters with their husband or partner.

NLSY79 Child Religion Variables

Since the 1988 Child survey, children ages 10 and older are asked to name their religious affiliation and how often they attend religious services. They are also asked if they usually attend with their parents, if they would attend even if their parents didn't, whether many of their friends attend services, and the extent to which their friends attend the same services.

NLSY79 Young Adult Religion Variables

All Young Adults have been asked about religious affiliation and attendance, as well as the importance of religion to them, since 1994. Beginning in 2002, additional questions were added for younger Young Adults about attendance with parents and friends, which parallel questions asked in the Child Survey and mentioned in the preceding paragraph. In 2008, a follow-up question was added after the religious affiliation question; those identifying themselves as Christians are further asked if they consider themselves born-again

or evangelical. Beginning in 2010, older Young Adults were also asked whether many of their friends attended religious services and if some of the friends worshipped at the same place as the respondent.

In addition, since 1994, Young Adults have been asked the religious affiliation of all their reported spouses or partners and how frequently they argue about religion with their current spouse or partner. Since 2010, Young Adults with a current spouse or partner are asked additional questions about their religion. Questions are asked about frequency of worship attendance, whether the spouse or partner attends services with the respondent, and if the spouse or partner is a born again/ evangelical Christian.

Original Cohort Religion Variables

No questions about religious attendance or beliefs were asked of the Older Men, Young Men, Mature Women, or Young Women cohorts.

Accessing NLS religion variables

All religion-related variables are available in the public datasets, available at www.nlsinfo.org/investigator. Use "religious," "religion," "worship," "God," "pray" or "spiritual" in NLS Investigator's "Word in Title" search option.

NLS research citations related to religion can be found in the NLS Annotated Bibliography at www.nlsbibliography.org. As of January 2015, 129 citations with the keyword "religion" or "religious influences" have been listed there.

Data Collection and Release Schedule

Following is the latest schedule for NLSY79 and NLSY97 data collections and data releases:

- *NLSY97 Survey.* Data from rounds 1 through 15 of the NLSY97 are now available. These data were collected in the survey years between 1997 and 2011. Round-16 NLSY97 data collection has been completed, with a round-16 data release scheduled

for a late 2015 release. The next data collection round (round 17) is scheduled to begin in fall of 2015.

- *NLSY79 Main Survey.* Data from rounds 1 through 25 of the NLSY79 are now available. These data were collected in the survey years between 1979 and 2012. (Note one exception: the cumulative Employers' all-

employer-history roster is currently available for survey years 1979–2010. Updates incorporating 2012 data will be available in early 2015). Round-26 of the NLSY79 is now being conducted and will continue through the first part of 2015.

- *NLSY79 Child Survey and NLSY79 Young Adult Survey.* Both of these surveys are fielded during approximately the same time frame as the main NLSY79 survey. The latest Young Adult data collection effort is now taking place, with the next NLSY79 Child data collection round to begin in early

2015. A full Child and Young Adult data release of all survey years through 2012 is now available. (See related article in this issue of the newsletter.)

Each NLS cohort's dataset includes a merger of all previously released rounds from that cohort. All public NLS data can be accessed for free at www.nlsinfo.org/investigator. The NLS Investigator features data from the active NLSY cohorts as well as the four NLS Original Cohorts: Older Men (1966–1990 survey years), Mature Women (1967–2003 survey years), Young Women (1968–2003 survey years), and Young Men (1966–1981 survey years). □

FAQs Frequently Asked Questions

The NLS staff encourages researchers to contact NLS User Services with questions and problems encountered while accessing and using NLS data or documentation. Every effort is made to answer these inquiries. Following are some recent questions and answers that may be of general interest to NLS users:

Q1. I'm wondering about the quality of abortion reporting in the NLSY97. Are any measures taken to reduce underreporting?

The abortion questions ("How many of these pregnancies [since date of last interview] ended in abortion?") have always been administered in self-administered format for in-person interviews. The self-administered portion of the questionnaire is provided to the participant on a laptop, with the participant entering in his or her data confidentially, then turning the laptop screen back to the interviewer for the next portion of the survey. The question ordering is also structured to reduce the chances of underreporting. We first ask for the total number of pregnancies, then the number of all pregnancies resulting in live births, then the number of pregnancies resulting in nonlive births. Finally, we ask for the outcome of each reported non-live pregnancy (stillbirth, miscarriage, or abortion).

Q2. How do I locate data on the GPA of the participants in the NLSY97?

In the NLS Investigator (https://www.nlsinfo.org/investigator) you can find high school grade point average in the index under Education, or search for question name YSCH-7300. The question is asked over multiple years. GPA information can also be found in the high school transcript data (for example: question name TRANS_GPA). For college GPA, see YSCH-20900 and YSCH-22707. (YSCH-20900 is GPA by college by term, while YSCH-22707 is GPA by college.) You will see YSCH-20900A and YSCH-22707A in round 15 for respondents responding with a letter grade.

Q3. How do I find the age of the parents of NLSY97 respondents?

Age of the parent was collected as part of the household roster, where we collect information on each member of the respondent's household. To determine parents' ages at the time of the first interview, follow each of these steps:

1. Use the variables HHI2_AGE.xx and HHI2_RELY.xx in the household roster to first find the ages of the parents who live with the respondent. The

HHI2_RELY.xx variables indicate the relationship of each person in the household to the respondent. Relationship code 3 is for the biological mother of the respondent and relationship code 4 is for the biological father. Once the line number of the roster that contains the particular parent has been identified, the corresponding variable HHI2_AGE.xx will indicate the parent's age at the time of the initial interview. For example, if the value of HHI2_RELY.02 =3, then the age of the respondent's biological mother can be found in the variable HHI2_AGE.02.

2. For parents who do not live with the respondent, locate the parent on the nonresident roster. The appropriate variables to use for non-resident parents are NONHHI_AGE.xx and NONHHI_RELATION. xx. Follow the same process on the NONHHI roster that was used for residents on the HHI2 roster.

3. For a small number of cases, the date of birth of the responding parent was corrected inside the parent questionnaire but never updated on the HHI2 roster. For those cases in which the month and year of birth of the responding parent can be found in the variables PINF-058_M and PINF-058_Y, respectively, use the values in these variables to recalculate the age of the parent at the time of the initial interview. This can be done by comparing the date of birth in PINF-058 to the round 1 interview date (see CV_INTERVIEW_DATE for year 1997). To find the line number of the responding parent on the HHI2 roster, use the variable PARYOUTH_PARENTID.

Q4. I'm working with the NLSY79 Geocode data, and for the "State of Birth in 1979" variable, I get many values, presumably coded for the state in which the respondent was born. Where can I find a list of which state names are assigned to which values?

The Geocode Codebook Supplement contains the information you need. In the geocode zip file, you should find the folder called GeoCodebookSup_etc. Open this folder and locate the file called geotoc.htm, which is the table of contents. Attachment 102 provides a list of the state codes.

Q5. If an NLSY79 respondent completes his/her GED, how is that computed for the Highest Grade Completed (HGCREV) variable? For example, if a person has completed only a sixth grade education until 2000 but then she gets a GED diploma in 2001, will her education (as shown in the variable HGCREV) jump to 12 in 2002?

Yes, HGCREV is assigned a grade of 12 following the receipt of a GED. Using your example, this respondent would be 12 on HGCREV in 2002 after receiving a GED in 2001.

Q6. Does the NLSY97 dataset provide any information about college majors?

Yes, see question YSCH-21300.xx.

Q7. Can you explain the NLSY97 CV_HH_POV_RATIO variable?

The CV_HH_POV_RATIO variable, created for each survey year, is the ratio of the household income over the federal poverty level. CV_HH_POV_RATIO has two implied decimal places, which means the data extracted from NLS Investigator needs to be divided by 100 to move the decimal point two places to the left. A ratio of 1.00 means the household income equals the poverty level for that family size. If CV_HH_POV_RATIO is less than 1.00, household income is less than the poverty threshold; if CV_HH_POV_RATIO is greater than 1.00, household income is greater the poverty threshold for that family size. For example, if a respondent's CV_HH_POV_RATIO is .75, the respondent's household income is 75 percent of the poverty level. If a respondent's CV_HH_POV_RATIO is 2.00, the respondent's household income is 2 times the poverty level. □

Completed NLS Research

The following is a listing of recent research based on data from the NLS cohorts that has not appeared in its current form in a previous issue of the NLS News. (See the *NLS Annotated Bibliography* at www.nlsbibliography.org for a comprehensive listing of NLS-related research.)

Aughinbaugh, Alison and Donna S. Rothstein. "Do Cognitive Skills Moderate the Influence of Neighborhood Disadvantage on Subsequent Educational Attainment?" *Economics of Education Review* 44 (February 2015): 83–99. [NLSY97]

Bacak, Valerio and Edward H. Kennedy. "Marginal Structural Models: An Application to Incarceration and Marriage During Young Adulthood." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 77, 1 (February 2015): 112–125. [NLSY97]

Cellini, Stephanie Riegg and Latika Chaudhary. "The Labor Market Returns to a For-Profit College Education." *Economics of Education Review* 43 (December 2014): 125–140. [NLSY97]

Chen, Stacey H. and Shakeeb Khan. "Semi-Parametric Estimation of Program Impacts on Dispersion of Potential Wages." *Journal of Applied Econometrics* 29, 6 (September/October 2014): 901–919. [Young Men]

Dong, Yan, Li Gan, and Yingning Wang. "Residential Mobility, Neighborhood Effects, and Educational Attainment of Blacks and Whites." *Econometric Reviews* 34, 6-10 (2015): 762–797. [NLSY79]

Deza, Monica. "Is There a Stepping Stone Effect in Drug Use? Separating State Dependence from Unobserved Heterogeneity Within and Between Illicit Drugs." *Journal of Econometrics* 184, 1 (January 2015): 193–207. [NLSY97]

Donado, Alejandro. "Why Do Unionized Workers Have More Nonfatal Occupational Injuries?" *Industrial and Labor Relations (ILR) Review* 68, 1 (January 2015): 153–183. [NLSY79]

Ganzach, Yoav and Chemi Gotlibovski. "Individual Differences and the Effect of Education on Religiosity." *Learning and Individual Differences* 36 (December 2014): 213–217. [NLSY97]

Hannon, Lance and Robert DeFina. "Just Skin Deep? The Impact of Interviewer Race on the Assessment of African American Respondent Skin Tone." *Race and Social Problems* 6, 4 (December 2014): 356–364. [NLSY97]

Johar, Meliyanni and Jeffrey Truong. "Direct and Indirect Effect of Depression in Adolescence on Adult Wages." *Applied Economics* 46, 36 (December 2014): 4431–4444. [NLSY97]

Killoren, Sarah E. and Arielle R. Deutsch. "A Longitudinal Examination of Parenting Processes and Latino Youth's Risky Sexual Behaviors." *Journal of Youth and Adolescence* 43, 12 (December 2014): 1982–1993. [NLSY97]

Kuhn, Peter and Hani Mansour. "Is Internet Job Search Still Ineffective?" *The Economic Journal* 124, 581 (December 2014): 1213–1233. [NLSY97]

Kukla-Acevedo, Sharon and Colleen M. Heflin. "Unemployment Insurance Effects on Child Academic Outcomes: Results from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth." *Children and Youth Services Review* 47, 3 (December 2014): 246–252. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79]

Maclean, Johanna Catherine. "The Lasting Effects of Leaving School in an Economic Downturn on Alcohol Use." *Industrial and Labor Relations (ILR) Review* 68, 1 (January 2015): 120–152. [NLSY79]

McGee, Andrew. "How the Perception of Control Influences Unemployed Job Search." *Industrial and Labor Relations* (ILR) Review 68, 1 (January 2015): 184–211. [NLSY79] Meredith, Neil R. "Religious Service Attendance and Labour Force Status: Evidence from Survey Data Using Count Data Methods." *Applied Economics* 46, 34 (December 2014): 4242–4255. [NLSY79]

Moilanen, Kristin L. "Predictors of Latent Growth in Sexual Risk Taking in Late Adolescence and Early Adulthood." *Journal of Sex Research* 52, 1 (2015): 83–97. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79 Young Adult]

Norton, Edward C., Lauren H. Nicholas, and Sean Sheng-Hsiu Huang. "Informal Care and Inter-vivos Transfers: Results from the National Longitudinal Survey of Mature Women." *B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy* 14, 2 (May 2013): 377–400. [Mature Women]

Pais, Jeremy. "Cumulative Structural Disadvantage and Racial Health Disparities: The Pathways of Childhood Socioeconomic Influence." *Demography* 51, 5 (October 2014): 1729–1753. [NLSY79]

Rodgers, Joseph Lee, Carol A. Van Hulle, Brian M. D'Onofrio, Paul J. Rathouz, Will Beasley, Amber Johnson, Irwin D. Waldman, and Benjamin B. Lahey. "Behavior Problems and Timing of Menarche: A Developmental Longitudinal Biometrical Analysis Using the NLSY-Children Data." *Behavior Genetics* 45, 1 (January 2015): 51–70. [Children of the NLSY79, NLSY79 Young Adult]

Sipsma, Heather L., Jeannette R. Ickovics, Haiqun Lin, and Trace Kershaw. "The Impact of Future Expectations on Adolescent Sexual Risk Behavior." *Journal of Youth and Adolescence* 44, 1 (January 2015): 170–183. [NLSY97]

Tumin, Dmitry, Siqi Han, and Zhenchao Qian. "Estimates and Meanings of Marital Separation." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 77, 1 (February 2015): 312–322. [NLSY79]

Zajacova, Anna, Katrina Michelle Walsemann, and Jennifer Beam Dowd. "The Long Arm of Adolescent Health Among Men and Women: Does Attained Status Explain Its Association with Mid-Adulthood Health?" *Population Research and Policy Review* 34, 1 (February 2015): 19–48. [NLSY79]

NLS Contact Information

NLS News is a quarterly newsletter that provides information about changes in labor market activities and other significant events that occur in the lives of several groups of men and women over time. Also, it includes information about new data releases, completed NLS research, and other information of interest to researchers. *NLS News* is available at http://www.bls.gov/nls/nlsnews.htm.

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