

Drug Related Information Monthly Report - December 2019 Fact Sheet



Research Division
National Dangerous Drugs Control Board

Introduction

Currently, drug prevalence, drug related offences and drug related offenders who were arrested by Sri Lankan law enforcement agencies are increasing. Studying about reported drug related arrests and treatment data is very helpful to identify the current trends and patterns on drug abuse. Therefore, the research division has introduced the Drug Abuse Monitoring System (DAMS). DAMS is a computerized information system, which collects information on persons arrested for drug related offences and persons seeking treatment for drug use. This report is prepared by using recorded data of DAMS in November and December in 2019 and the report revealed information on drug related arrests.

Objectives

The objectives are to document current trends and patterns on drug related arrests and treatment for policy making and to disseminate knowledge on current trends to the NDDCB staff and other related agencies for drug control, planning of prevention, treatment and outreach programmes.

Results and Findings

According to the recorded figures, 4469 persons were arrested for drug related offences during November and December in 2019. Among these arrestees, 2036 persons were arrested in November and 2433 persons were arrested in December. It was 19% increase in December with compare to November in 2019.

District

By considering the arrested data in December, the highest number of persons (771) was reported from Colombo district. Gampaha (196), Galle (141), Kalutara (133) and Puttalam (122) districts were recorded as the next highest number of drug related arrests respectively. 16 districts were highlighted with increased number of arrested persons in December with compared to November and highest increasing percentage was reported from Matale district. 7 districts showed a decrease in December with compared to November in 2019 and highest decreasing percentage was indicated from Kurunegala district. 28 persons were arrested from Hambanthota district and 1 person was arrested from Killinochchi district in November and it was same in December. However, considerable numbers of arrests were reported in every district during the considered period.

Gender

The majority (98%) of the arrested persons in December was males and rest was females. By comparing the data in November and December, the majorities were males in both months and figures were same.

Age

60% of arrested persons in December belonged to 20-34 age category. There were significant numbers of arrested persons in all age categories. By comparing age categories of arrested persons in November with December, it can be clearly identified that there were only small variations within the proportions of each categories.

Marital Status

47.51% of the arrested persons in December were married and 52.24% were unmarried. Rest of the arrested persons in December was divorced and separated. By considering the arrested persons in November, 50.83% of them were unmarried and 48.58% were married while rest of them was divorced, widowed and separated. The data highlighted that the percentage of unmarried arrested persons in December was greater than the percentage of married persons and it was same in November.

Education

Although 2.42% of arrested persons in December never been to school, there were 39.87% of the arrested persons who had been obtained Ordinary Level education qualification. Also, 8.51% of the arrested persons in December had completed advanced level. There were 7 arrested graduates and 5 arrested professional qualifiers in December. By considering the arrested persons in November, it can be clearly identified that there were significant numbers of persons for each educational category except category of professionals.

Ethnicity and Religion

72.3% of the arrested persons in December were Sinhalese, 11.7% were Tamils, 8.8% were Moors and rest of the persons belonged to Malay, Burgher and other ethnicity categories. By comparing the ethnicities of arrested persons in November and December, the majorities of the arrested persons in each of these two months were Sinhalese but considerable number of arrested persons from other ethnicities such as Tamils and Moors were also recorded. These data showed that the percentage of Tamils was greater than the percentage of Moors in November and it was same in December.

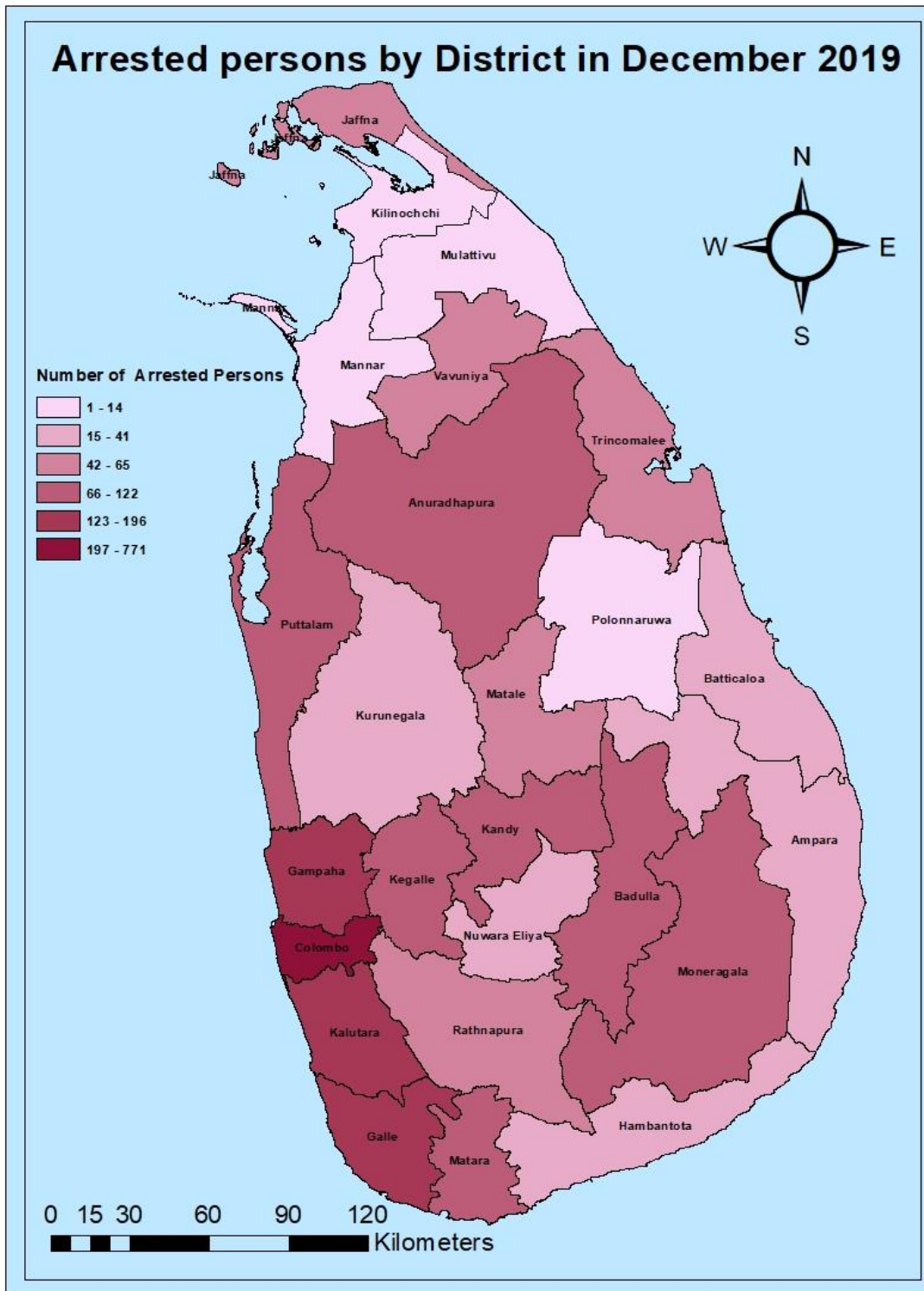
73.41% of the arrested persons in December were Buddhists, 12.33% were Islam, 9.95% were Hindus and 4.23% were Christians. By comparing the religions of arrestees in November with December, it can be identified that distributions of religions of arrestees in November and December were significantly similar. Majority of the arrested persons was Buddhists but there were arrested persons belonged to other religions as well. Therefore, it indicated that religion and ethnicity were not significant factors for engaging the drug related offences.

Occupation

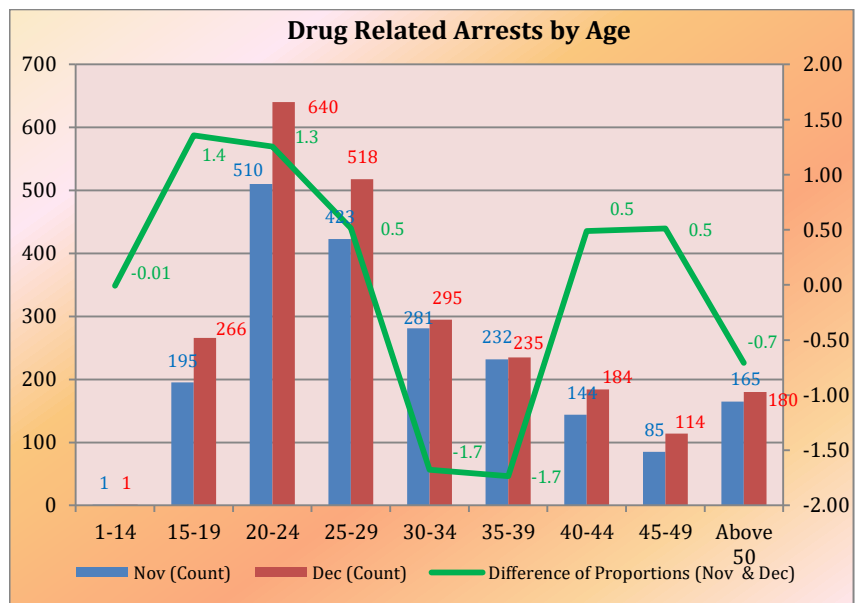
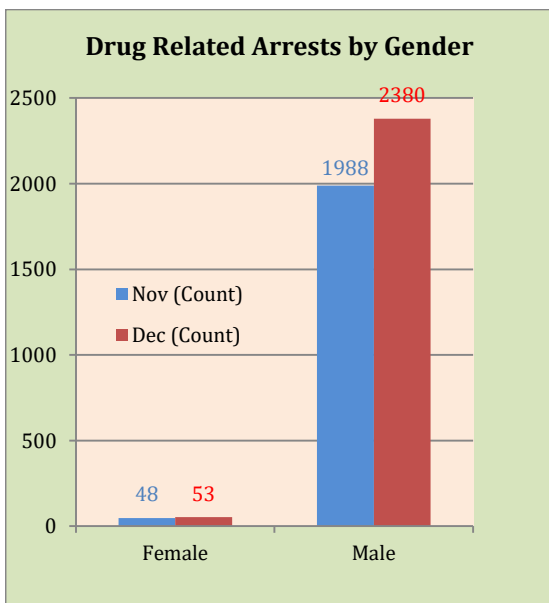
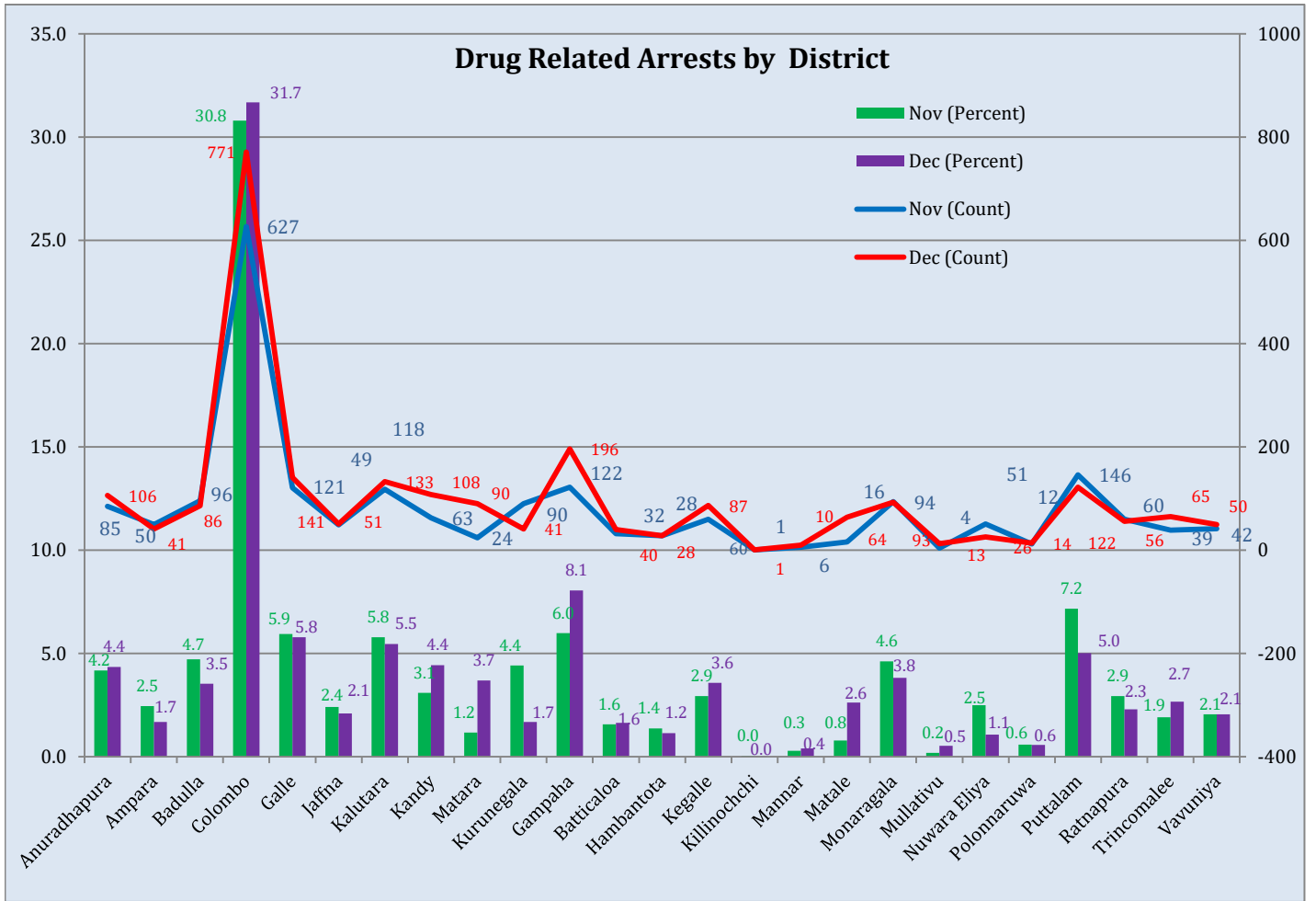
From the related data in December, 39.0% of arrestees were labourers, 8.0% were farmers, 13.9% were unemployed, 5.0% were self-employed, 0.6% was students and 3.3% were professionals. By comparing the distributions of occupation of arrestees between November and December, it can be clearly identified that ratio of labourers was the highest from ratios of each occupation category which were engaging by arrestees in each months. In addition some of the arrestees were working as drivers, fishermen, businessmen etc. However, there were small fluctuations in ratios of every occupation which were being engaged by arrestees in December with compared to November.

Type of Drugs

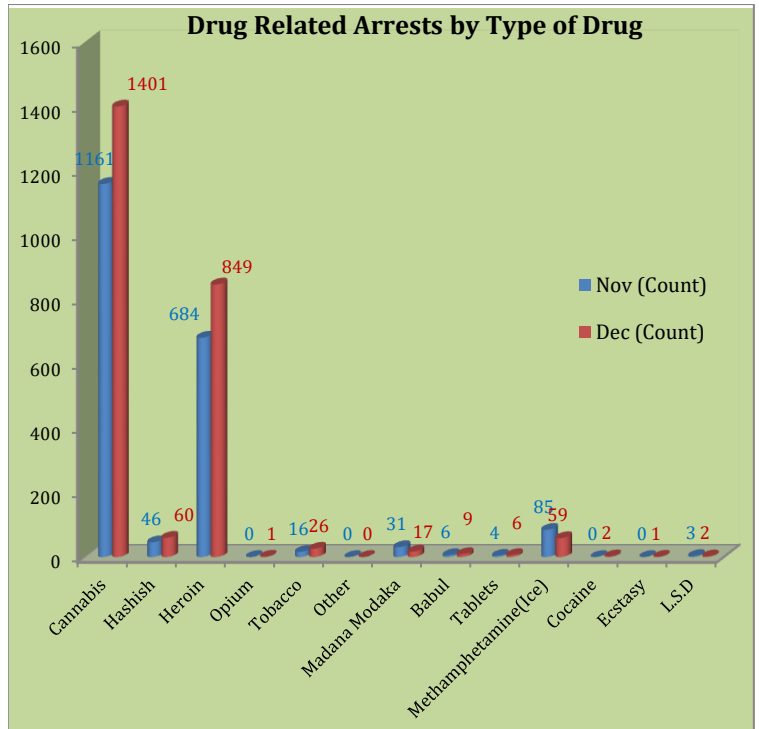
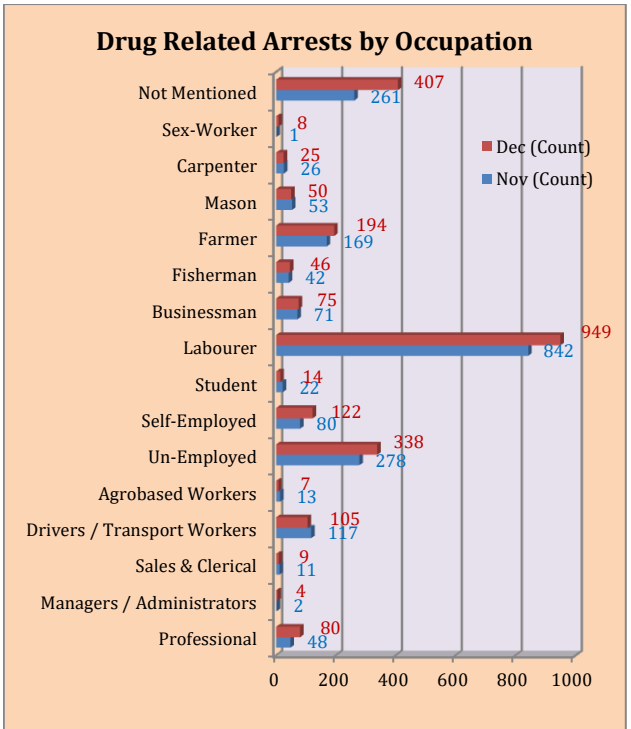
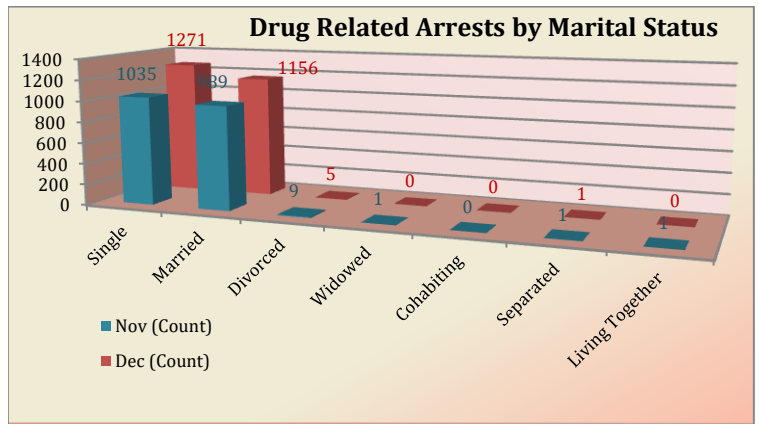
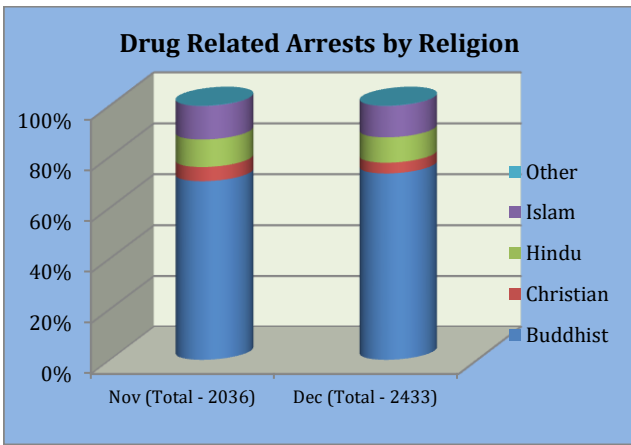
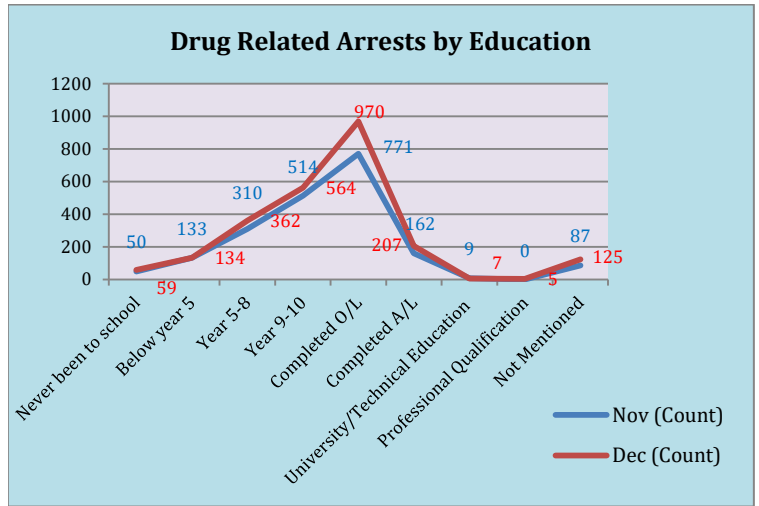
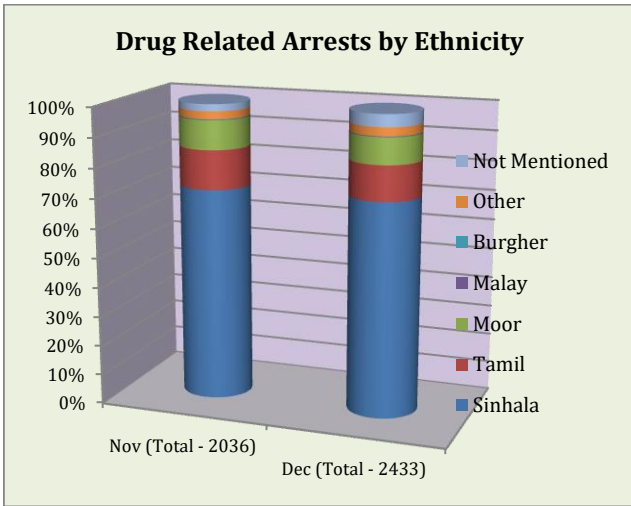
Cannabis was the most reported drug, which was involved in drug related offences in November as well as December, but the cannabis related offences had been increased from 57.02% to 57.58% in December with compared to November. Heroin was the next highest abused drug. 33.60% and 34.90% of arrestees in November and December were engaging in heroin related offence respectively. Hashish (2.47%), Opium (0.04%), tobacco (1.07%), madanamodaka (0.70), babul (0.37%), tablets (0.25%), L.S.D (0.08%), Cocaine (0.08%), Ecstasy (0.04%) and methamphetamine (Ice) (2.42%) were the rest of the drugs which were involved in drug related offences in December.



(Source - Drug Abuse Monitoring System in November - December 2019)



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