



# Health Impact Assessment (HIA) & Transportation

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# What is Health?



**Genetics (5%), Personal Behaviors (30%), Health Care (10%), Social and Environmental Conditions (55%)**

World Health Organization, Commission on the Social Determinants of Health (2008)



## The “Problem”

Policy, program, and project decisions made in sectors that do not consider health as their primary mission, generally do not consider the potential effects on human health, often resulting in unintended negative consequences.

# Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

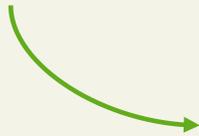
•“A systematic process that uses an array of data sources and analytic methods and considers input from stakeholders to determine the potential effects of a **proposed** policy, plan, program, or project on the health of a population and the distribution of those effects within the population. HIA provides recommendations on monitoring and managing those effects.” – *National Academies 2011*

## Bottom line:

Practical way to collaborate across sectors and agencies, and translate public health research into predictions and reasonable recommendations that decision-makers can use

# HIA Addresses Determinants of Health

*How does the proposed project, plan, policy*



*and lead to health outcomes*

# HIA Examples

- HIA can be applied to a wide range of sectors
  - **Energy:** state legislature's decision on funding for the Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program
  - **Agriculture:** statewide farm-to-school legislation
  - **Built environment:** HIA of the city's proposed zoning changes
- HIA can be applied to policy, project, program
  - **Policy:** Proposed changes to SNAP
  - **Project:** Senior housing redevelopment in California
  - **Program:** Zero tolerance program



# Scope of HIA

## Three levels

- Rapid/ “desktop”
- Intermediate
- Comprehensive



# The Value of Doing a HIA

- Involves a **broad-range of impacted people** (community capacity building/empowerment)
- It's an effective tool for **meaningful cross-sector collaboration**
- Identifies harms & benefits **before decisions are made** (proactive versus reactive)
- Identifies **evidence-based strategies** to promote health & prevent disease.
- Increase **transparency**, support inclusiveness, democracy, and **community engagement** in the policy decision-making process

# The HIA Process

1. Screening – do we need to conduct a HIA
2. Scoping – determine the important health effects, affected populations, available evidence, etc
3. Assessment – analyze baseline conditions and likely health effects
4. Recommendations – develop health-based recommendation and a feasible plan for implementing them
5. Reporting – disseminate the report to the public, stakeholders, solicit input
6. Monitoring – track outcomes of a decision and its implementation
7. Evaluation - of the process and impacts

# Stakeholder Engagement: This makes HIA different from other assessments

- Participatory process
- Brings public health professionals, community stakeholders, planners, developers, and policymakers to the table with a focus on practical, realistic solution
- Can ensure a more democratic and transparent decision-making process
- Stakeholder engagement at each of the HIA steps
- Variety of strategies



# Why are more people not doing this?

Some challenges...

- Awareness is growing, but overall low about HIA
- Still in our silos
- Limited funding/resources
- Concern about adding another layer of bureaucracy
- Skepticism about predictions

But...

- The value and opportunity is being realized

## To Recap...

- HIA adds the most value when health is not already the main point of the policy, program, or project under consideration
- Selective application of HIA is important: it should provide new, actionable information, and not become another needless layer of permitting/evaluation bureaucracy
  - HIA are not necessary for all proposed projects and policies!
- Best for an active decision-making process (proactive not reactive)

# The Health Impact Project

<http://www.healthimpactproject.org>

## Who We Are:

- A collaboration of RWJF and Pew Charitable Trusts (2009)

## Purpose:

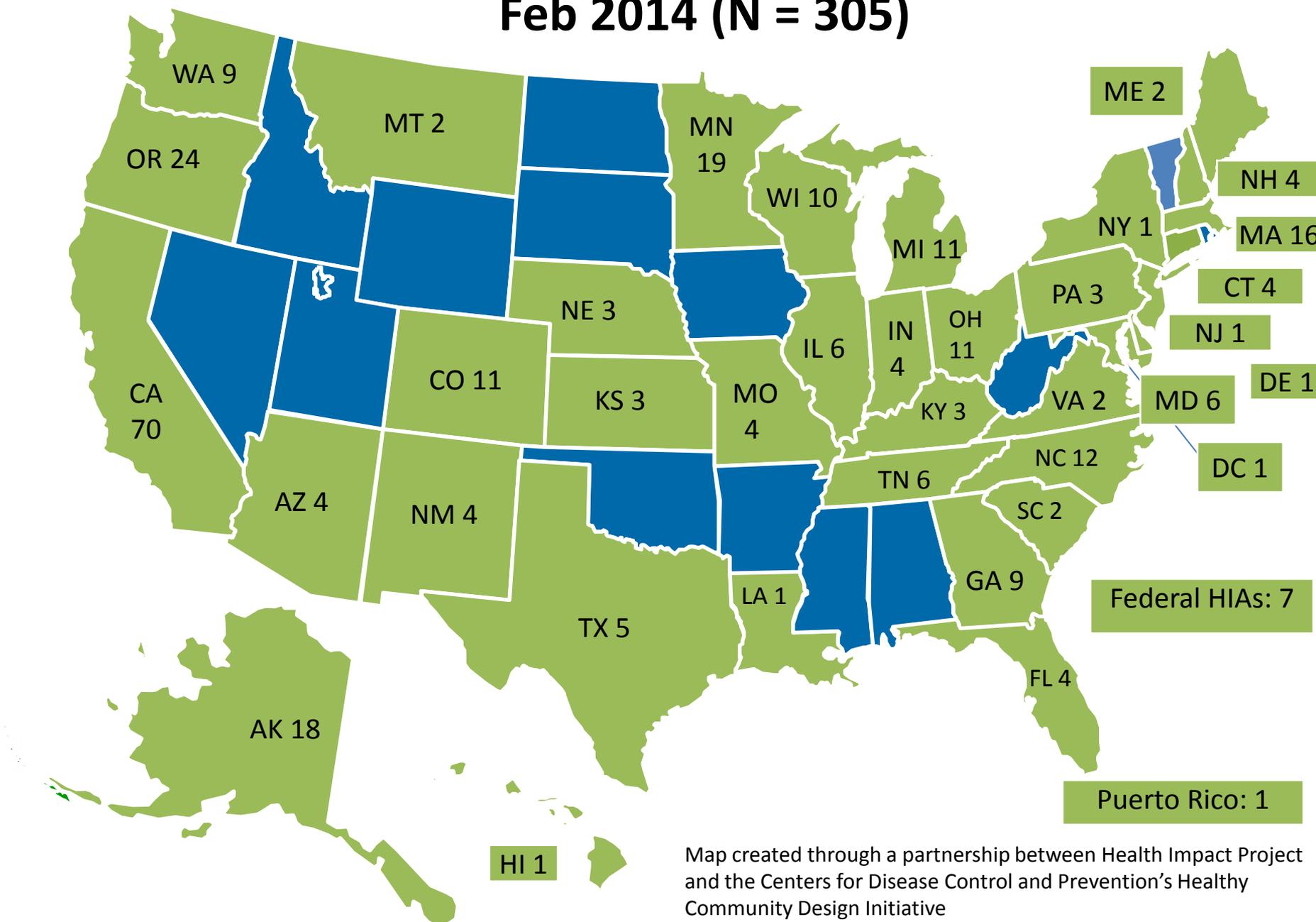
- Promote the use of HIA and build the field in the U.S.

## How We Do It:

- Funding a series of demonstration projects; doing HIA ourselves
- Providing technical assistance to support new HIA practitioners
- Serving as neutral convener – connect people to resources
- Garnering lessons learned to identify potential levers for bringing health into the policy discussion

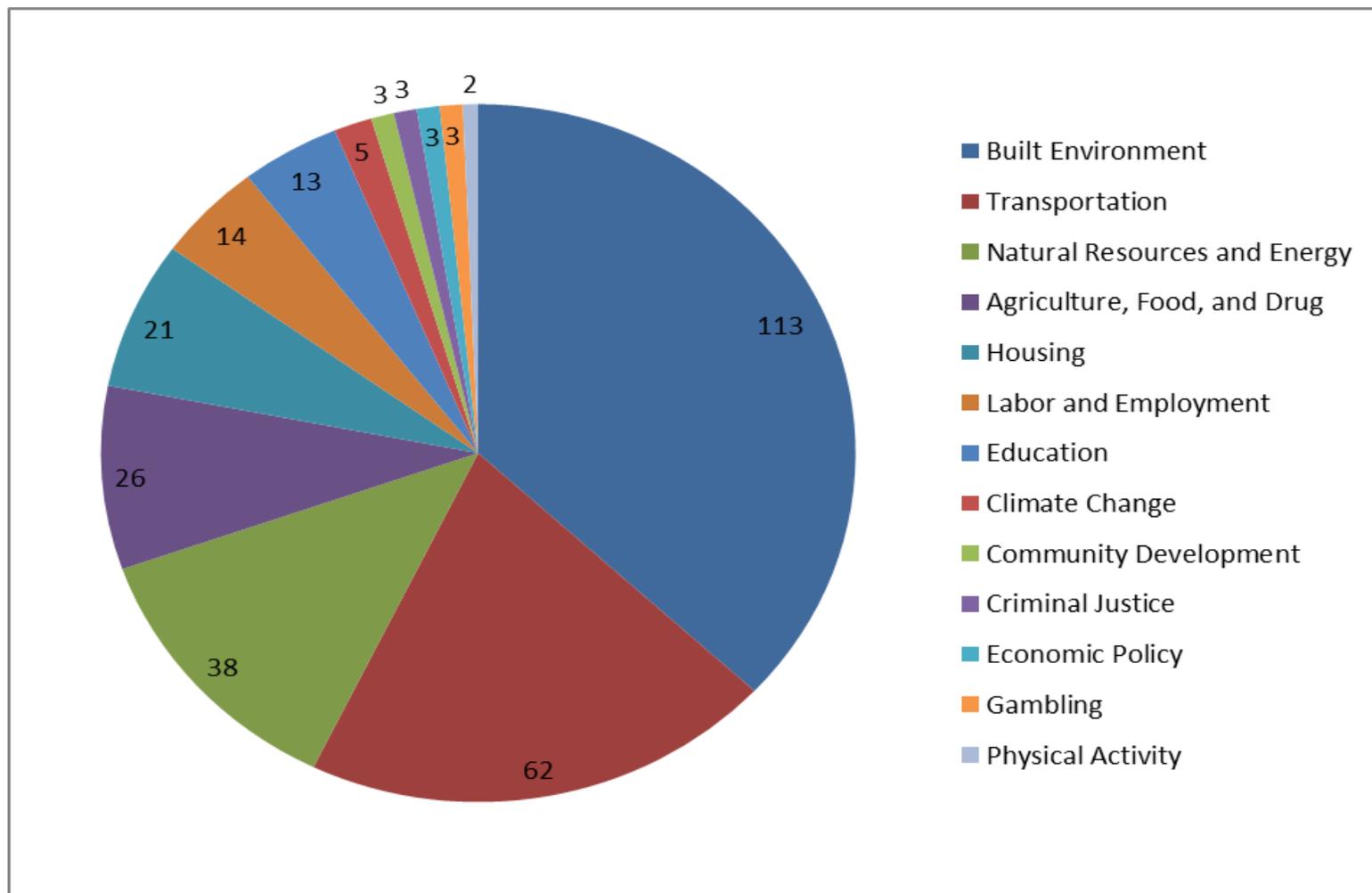
# Completed and In Progress HIAs

## Feb 2014 (N = 305)

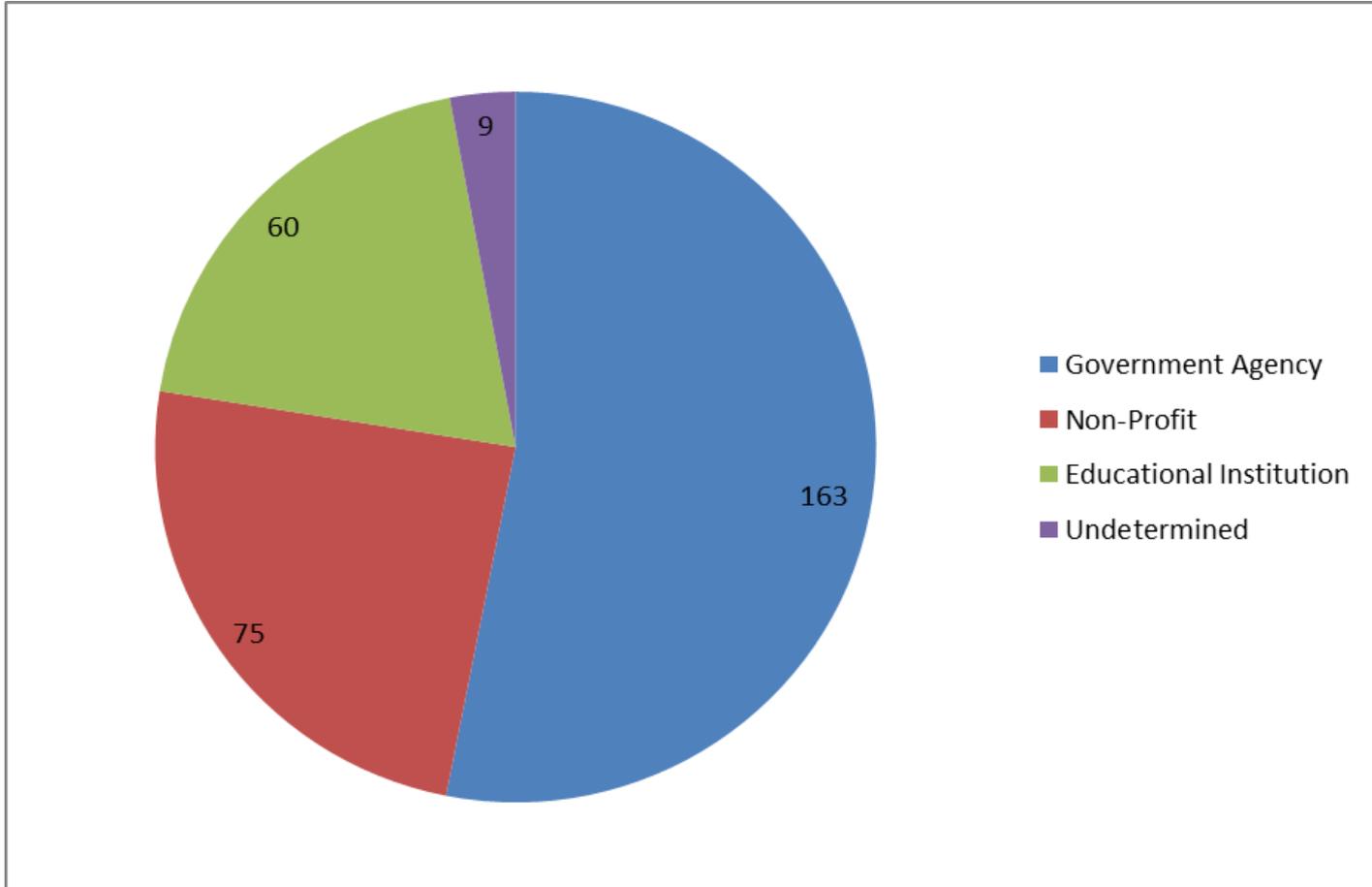


Map created through a partnership between Health Impact Project and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Healthy Community Design Initiative

# What topics have HIAs addressed?



# Who conducts HIAs?



# What HIA Does for Transportation?

- “Transportation HIAs help policymakers see and address the potential health effects of a proposed transportation project, plan, or policy before it is built or implemented”
- Help make those connections between transportation and health (broadly defined) – safety, air quality, physical activity, noise, access, worker health, etc.
- Way to maximize positive health effects and minimize negative ones
- Helps find nontraditional allies
- CDC – Transportation HIA Toolkit
  - [http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/transportation/hia\\_toolkit.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/transportation/hia_toolkit.htm)

# Growing Support for Applying HIA to Transportation Decisions

- U.S. DOT/FHWA engaged through the National Prevention Council (e.g., funding – Partnership for Sustainable Communities – HUD, DOT, EPA)
- MPOs (e.g., Nashville)
- State DOT's (e.g., MA)- 2009 Healthy Transportation Compact (HTC) required the "establishment of a healthy transportation policy" and "establish methods to implement the use of health impact assessments"



## Examples of Transportation HIAs

- Atlanta BeltLine - comprehensive transportation and economic development project
- Road diet – as part of updating City of Omaha’s Transportation Master Plan
- CA high speed rail proposal
- Proposed Multimodal Hub in Seattle
- MA speed limit legislation
- Locally - Baltimore Red Line & Baltimore Rail Intermodal Facility
- Currently BCHD HIA partnering with BCDOT

For more examples: [www.healthimpactproject.org](http://www.healthimpactproject.org)

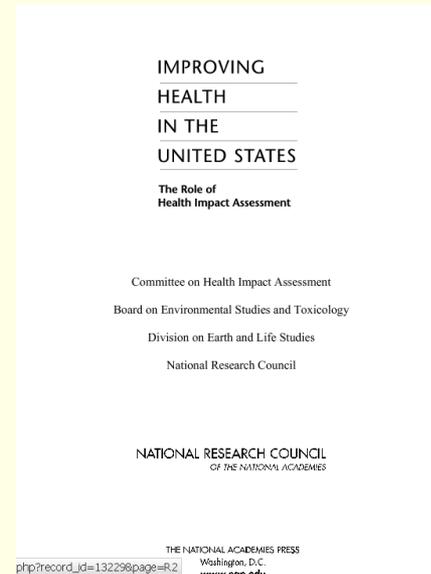
# Key Resources

**Improving Health in the United States:  
The Role of Health Impact  
Assessment, National Research Council**

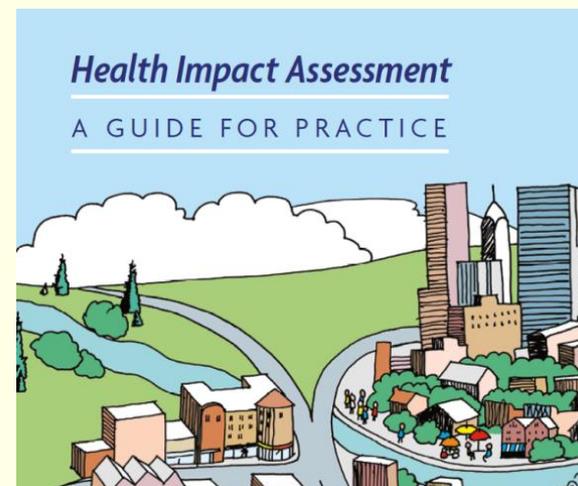
**Health Impact Assessment: A Guide for  
Practice, Rajiv Bhatia**

**Minimum Elements and Practice  
Standards for Health Impact  
Assessment (Version 2), North  
American HIA Practice Standards  
Working Group**

**A Health Impact Assessment Toolkit: A  
Handbook on Conducting HIA, 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Edition, Human Impact Partners**



A Health Impact  
Assessment Toolkit  
A Handbook to Conducting HIA, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition



## Other Opportunities to Learn and Connect

- HIA Course @ JHSPH, March-May, 8 weeks
- Free 6 hour online course from the American Planning Association
- 3<sup>rd</sup> National HIA Meeting – Washington, D.C. June 16-17, 2015
- Other trainings around the country: Human Impact Partners, Public Health Institutes, etc.
- Society of Practitioners of Health Impact Assessment (SOPHIA) - <http://www.hiasociety.org/>



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