



Improving Life
Opportunities for
Youth, Families,
and Communities
of Color

Successful Strategies to Reduce Racial/Ethnic Disparities in JDAI Jurisdictions

History of Juvenile Justice System

Enlightenment Period: Hull House and Juvenile Court

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- Jane Addams and the Hull House (West Chicago)
 - Social services
- Creation of Juvenile Court In Chicago (1899)

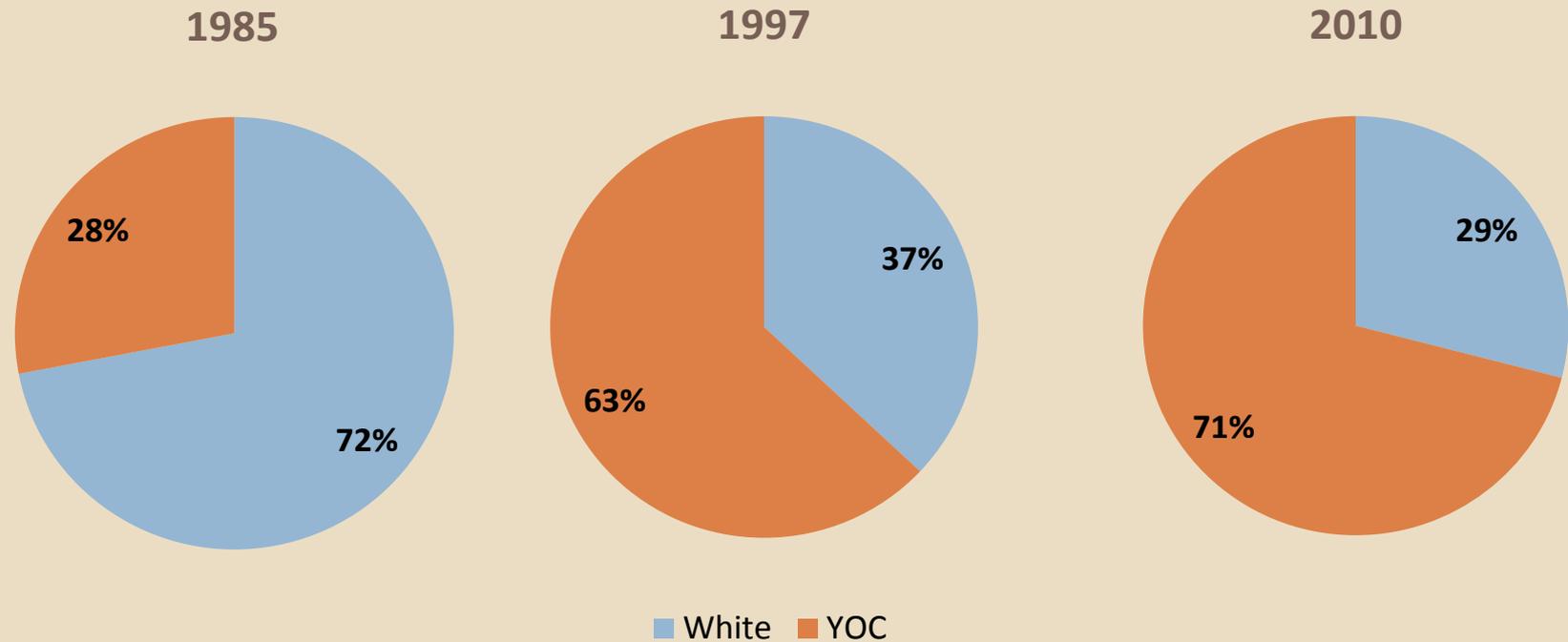
Historical Importance of Community Involvement

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- Historically Juvenile Justice Reform has benefited from the significant contributions of community members; everyday people can fundamentally change the function, form and philosophy of juvenile justice.
- The first “Children’s Court” was developed in 1899 in Chicago by community activist Jane Addams.
- Juvenile Probation was started in Boston by Shoemaker John Augustus who bailed out 19 boys ranging in age from 7 – 15 years.
- Jane Addams and John Augustus represent the historical role of community members providing cutting edge leadership within juvenile justice reform movements of the past.
- A community activist and a shoemaker with no institutional authority were able to make lasting contributions to reform that to this day are still fundamental components of juvenile justice systems across the nation.

National Data: Shift in Composition of Public Detention Centers

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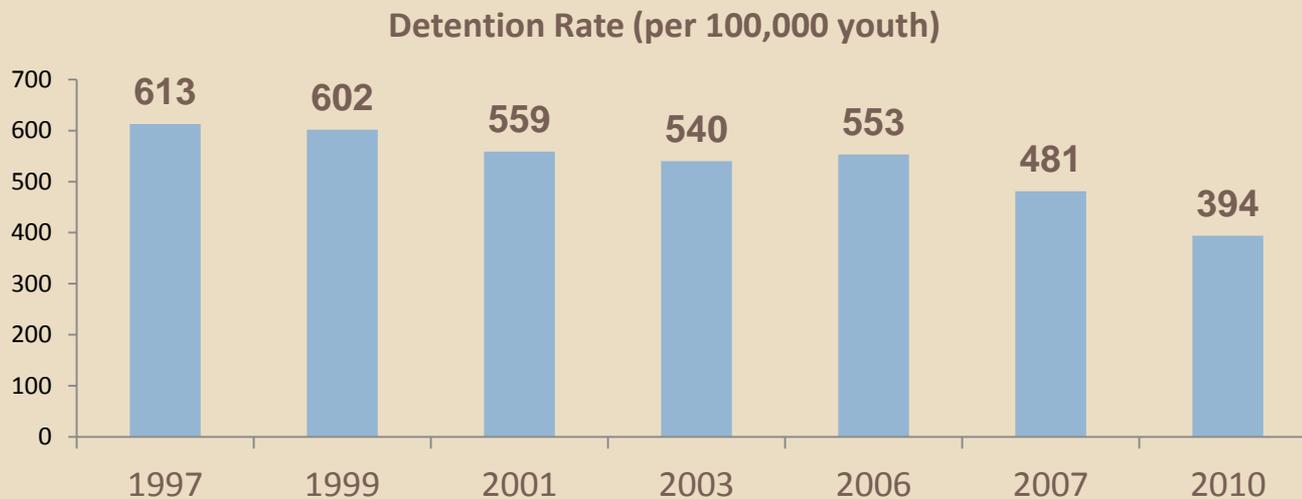


Detention of youth of color has increased since 1985. By 2010, more than 70% of detained youth nationwide were youth of color.

Source: Census of Public and Private Juvenile Detention, Correctional and Shelter Facilities, 1985. Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement, 1997 & 2010.

National Detention Rates One Day Count (1997-2010)

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	1997	1999	2001	2003	2006	2007	2010	Percent Change (1997-2010)
White	54	54	52	47	43	41	33	-39%
Black	264	258	225	213	228	222	179	-32%
Latino	122	116	111	105	103	97	78	-36%
Native American	125	133	134	138	152	99	88	-30%
Asian	48	41	37	37	27	22	16	-67%
Total	613	602	559	540	553	481	394	-36%

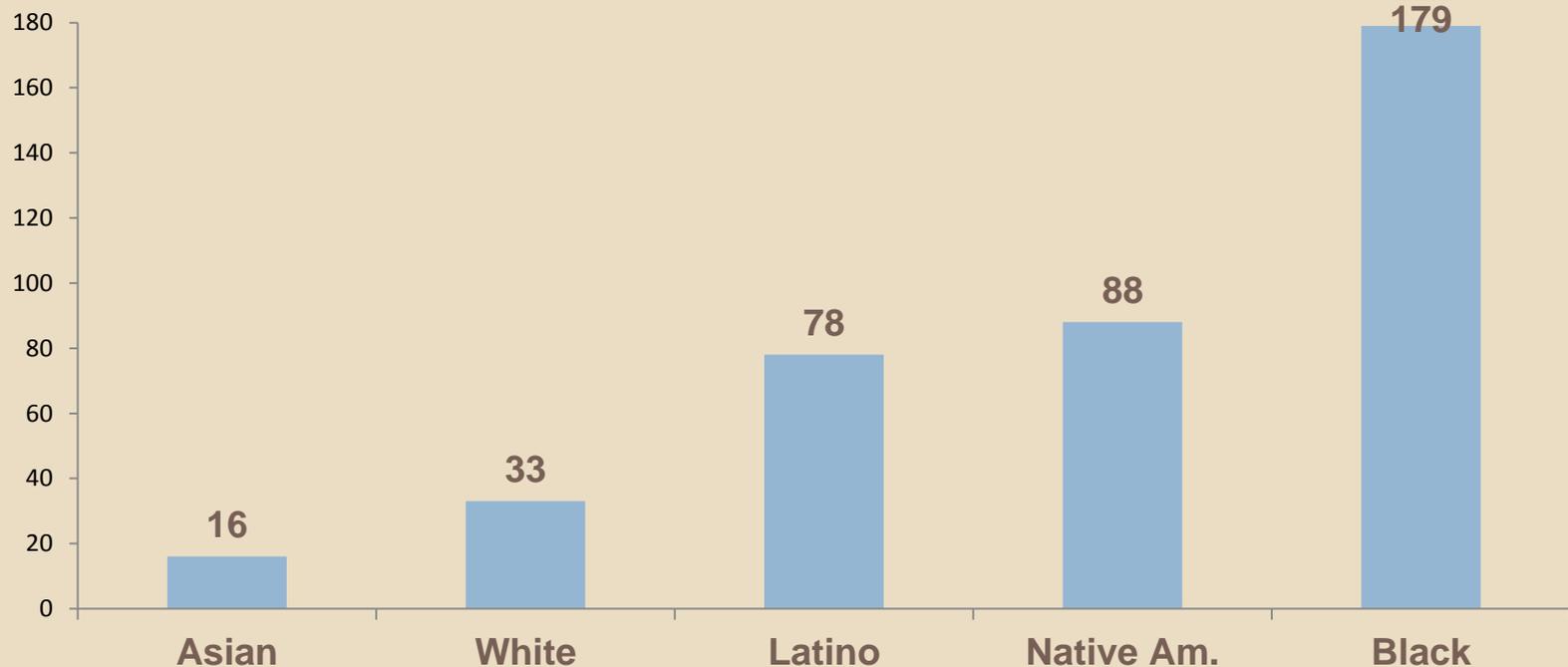
Source: Sickmund, M., Sladky, T.J., Kang, W., and Puzzanchera, C. (2011) "Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement."

Online. Available: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/>

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National Detention Rates (2010) per 100,000 youth in the population

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In a one-day count of detention facilities around the nation, youth of color were overrepresented in detention.

- Latino youth were **2.4 times** as likely to be detained as White youth.
- Native American youth were **2.7 times** as likely to be detained as White youth.
- Black youth were **5.4 times** as likely to be detained as White youth

Source: Sickmund, M., Sladky, T.J., Kang, W., and Puzzanchera, C. (2011) "Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement." Online. Available: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/>

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□ **Components:**

- Site Based Work
- Community Justice Network for Youth (CJNY)

□ **Philosophy:**

- Incarceration is harmful
- Data is key
- Local communities can play a critical role in juvenile justice reform

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Creating a Safe Space: Avoid the Global Conversation

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DRIVERS OF DETENTION

SOCIETAL

Racism

Implicit Bias

Poverty

Family
Dynamics

Doors of Detention

SYSTEMIC

Differential
Enforcement

Administrative/
Technical Violations

Differential
Processing

Commitments

Creating a Safe Space: Avoid the Blame Game

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It's the fault of:

the kids, the families, the community, the parents, society at large, music videos, television, the police, judges, the mayor, the governor, the President, racism, subtle discrimination, overt discrimination, the “system,” drugs, guns, poor education,

inadequate housing, the schools, the kids, the families, the community, the parents, society at large, music videos, the police, judges, the mayor, the governor, the President racism, subtle discrimination, overt discrimination, the “system,” drugs, guns, poor education, inadequate housing, the schools, the kids, the families, the community, the parents, society at large, music videos, the police, judges, the mayor, the governor, the President ,racism, subtle discrimination, overt discrimination, the “system,” drugs, guns, poor education, inadequate housing, the schools ...

Data Driven

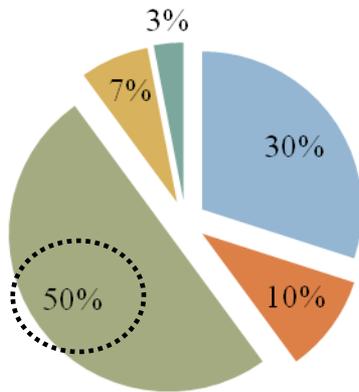
Why are data important?

- *In fact, it is probably fair to say that no area of domestic policy – not even welfare – has been so thoroughly abandoned to misinformation, overstatement, oversimplification, emotion and disregard for the consequences as has the arena of juvenile justice.*
- *In state after state, juvenile justice policy is now being revised and rewritten on the strength of anecdote, in response to isolated incidents of brutality, or as a result of politically opportunistic pandering to public fears, frustrations and prejudices.”*

Douglas W. Nelson, Former President, Annie E. Casey Foundation

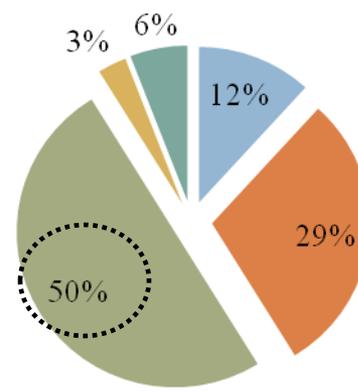
Rate vs. Percent

**Hope County Youth Population (10-17)
(2009)**



White Black Latino API Native American

**Hope County Detention Admissions
(2009)**

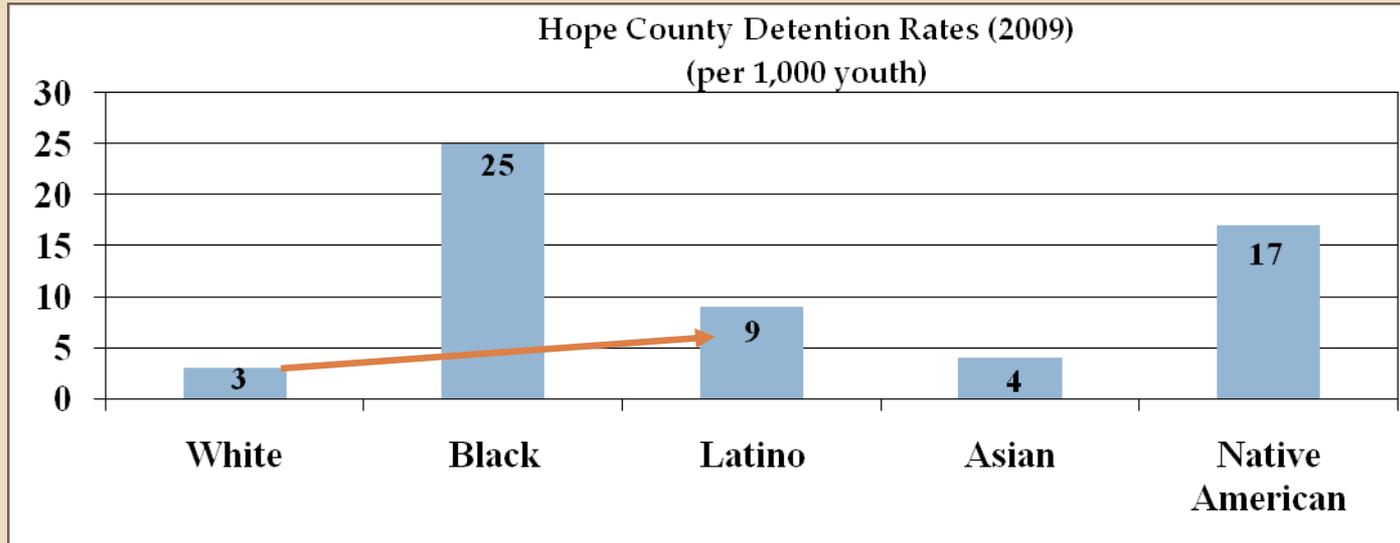


White Black Latino API Native American

	White		Black		Latino		API		Nat. Am.		Total
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Youth Pop. (10-17)	30,000	30%	10,000	10%	50,000	50%	7,000	7%	3,000	3%	100,000
Detained	100	12%	250	29%	425	50%	25	3%	50	6%	850

When we compare the percentage of Latino youth in the youth population and the percentage of Latino youth in the detention population, it appears that Latino youth are not overrepresented.

Rate vs. Percent



But... When we compare the rate at which Latino youth are detained to the rate at which White youth are detained, we note that Latino youth are **detained at 3 times the rate** of White youth.

How are rates calculated?

$$= \frac{\text{Youth Detained}}{\text{Youth in Population}} = \frac{425}{50,000} = .009$$

x 1,000

	White	Black	Latino	API	Nat. Am.
Youth Pop. (10-17)	30,000	10,000	50,000	7,000	3,000
Detained	100	250	425	25	50
Rate	3	25	9	4	17

¹² = 9 Latino youth detained per 1,000 Latino youth in the population

BI Strategy for Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities

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1. Identify Disparities

- Identify whether and to what extent racial and ethnic disparities exist

2. Identify, Analyze and Strategize around a “Target Population”

- Identify target population to focus the work.
- “Dig deeper” into target population to learn more about policy, practice, and/or procedure and other factors contributing to disparities.
- Strategize around how policy, practice, and/or procedure change might result in reductions in disparities.
- Pilot or adopt policy change

3. Measure Progress

- Monitor Effectiveness of Policy Change
- Document changes in disparities

Ongoing process



Target Populations

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- Detention Admissions for lower level offenses and technical violations.
- Once identified, the stakeholder group must determine whether the system can safely supervise these youth admitted for “target populations” in the community.

Why is this important?

BI targets these types of offenses/violations because our experience reveals that these are the types of offenses for which youth of color are often unnecessarily securely detained.



Identifying a Target Population

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1. *Disparate Treatment of Similarly Situated Youth*

- Override rates
- Lengths of stay for specific offenses charged

2. *Inappropriate or Unnecessary Detention Utilization for Youth of Color*

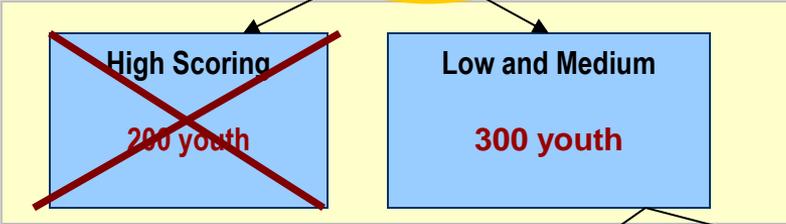
- Special Detention cases
- Lower level offenses

3. *Inconsistent Decision Making*

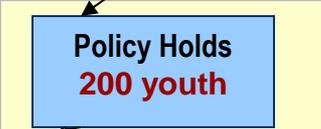
- Between agencies
- Within an agency

Identifying a Target Population Using RAI Data

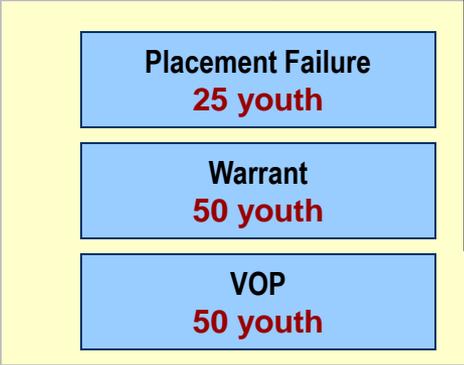
Detention Intake: RAI Administration



Next, BI will focus on low and medium scoring youth w
Finally, BI will focus on **discretionary holds.**
(1) How many of th
holds and how (4) What kind of



We want to know more about local policy holds.
(1) What kind of policy holds exist?
(2) What is the racial and ethnic breakdown for each local policy hold?
(3) What is the justification for each policy hold?
(4) Which department or agency is the policy mandated by? (i.e. Courts; Probation)



required for discretionary holds?



Digging Deeper: *Asking the Right Questions* *Asking the Right People*

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- **The Issue with Disparities:**
 - In a review of detention utilization in San Francisco County, officials noticed that African American girls had a higher placement failure rate than other girls.
- **Reasons: The possibilities are endless!**
- **The Process: Dig Deeper!**
 - First, the group reviewed approximately 25 files of girls and found the vast majority were sent back to juvenile hall for “assault.”
 - Next, the group talked to the girls.
- **The Findings: It’s all about hair.**
 - The interviews revealed that girls were assaulting because of “hair” policies-- use of hair care products, frequency of washing mandates and style restrictions.
- **The Solution:**
 - A change in “hair policy” resulted in decrease in placement failures for African American girls.

Why Involve the Community

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- **Community brings urgency**
 - ▣ Community sees youth in detention as their own, and thus, are the stakeholders who push the hardest for reform.
- **Community brings insight**
 - ▣ Community members from the neighborhoods contributing to detention bring intimate knowledge and important insight into youth and the issues they face in their community.
- **Community brings resources**
 - ▣ Community members offer potential resources or conduit to resources within communities most impacted by system involvement. Often, these resources can be tapped as community based alternatives to formal system involvement.

What are the responsibilities of the system stakeholders in engaging community?

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- Respect (timing and location of meetings)
- Transparency (sharing information)
- Power sharing
- Open to criticism
- Education – training on policy/practice and general Juvenile Justice language.

Burns Institute Approach to Community Engagement

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1) Coach Up Community Stakeholders

- ▣ Juvenile Justice, DMC, & Detention Alternatives 101
- ▣ Review of past and current reform efforts

2) System and Policy Map

- ▣ Identify each agency and the various decision points within their discretion that may contribute to racial and ethnic disparities
- ▣ Request data be regularly collected, analyzed and made public by Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Geography, and Offense at all decision points throughout the system

3) Establish Sustainability Strategy

- ▣ Community stakeholders maintain their role and voice within the collaborative
- ▣ Community Task Force on DMC

Success Is Built on Relationships...

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- Relationships: the bedrock of community engagement
- System and community stakeholders: need trust and respect to deal with these tough and often emotional issues
- Tension between system and community stakeholders is often a sign of movement towards addressing deep-rooted systemic issues.

Contact Us

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Please note our new address!

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