

Fentanyl: The 3rd Wave of the Opioid Crisis



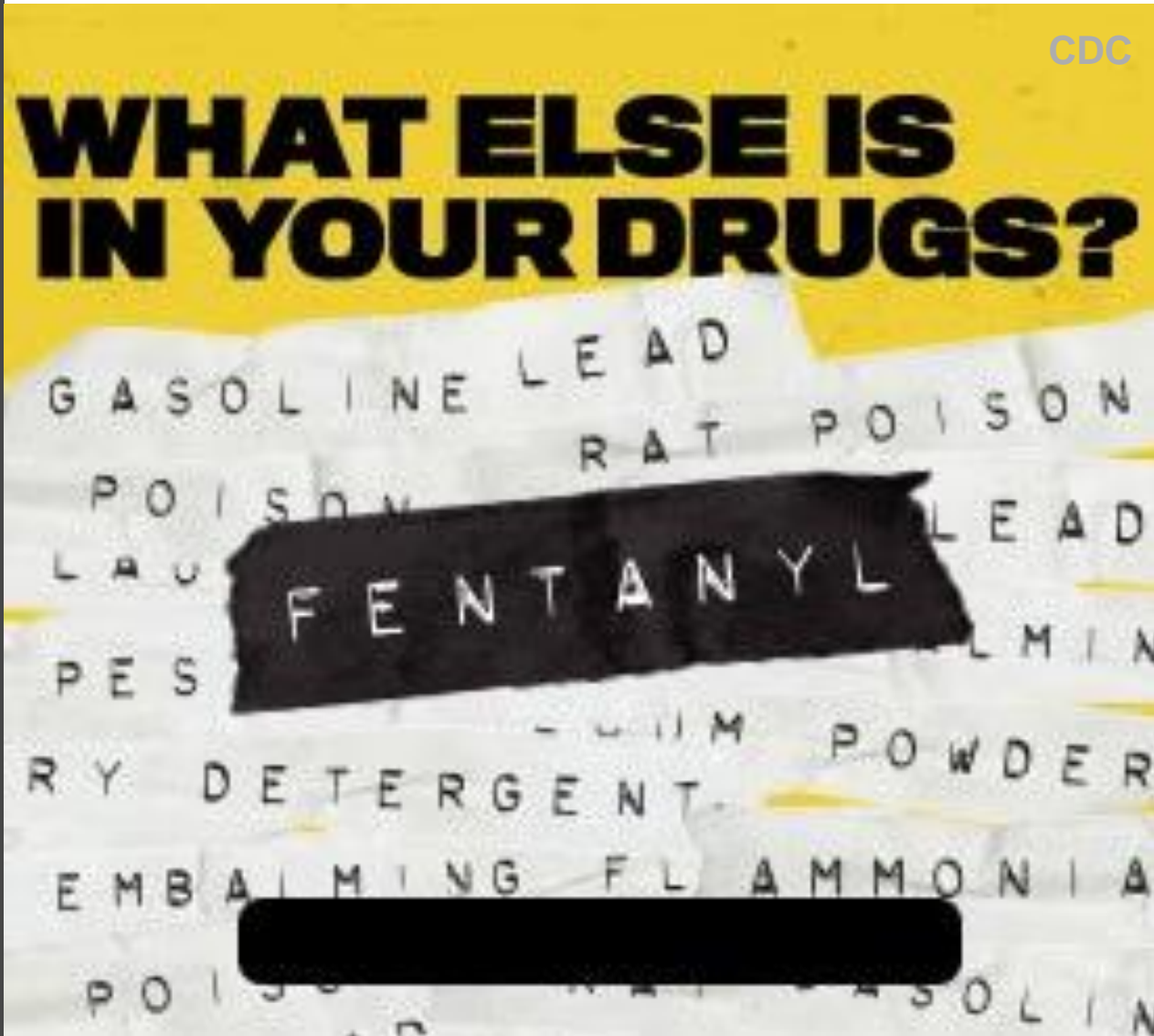


Topics Covered

- What is Fentanyl
- The State of the Opioid Crisis
- Vaping and Fentanyl
- Parent Resources



Rapid Rise of Synthetic Opioid Deaths



40,010 fentanyl overdose deaths (2021)

#1 killer for people age 18-45

More than:

- Car accidents (22,442)
- Suicide (21,678)
- COVID (21,335)
- Cancer (17,114)

A young man with dark hair, wearing a dark baseball cap and a dark long-sleeved shirt, is sitting on the floor. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is solid black.

NH

DEAD ON ARRIVAL for youth

a short film on the dangers of fentanyl |
for kids from award-winning
documentary filmmaker

 WATCH NOW

What?



Fentanyl: The 3rd Wave of the Opioid Crisis

Synthetic opioid 80-100 times stronger than morphine, 50 times stronger than heroin

Prescription & illegally

Cheap => Used to cut other drugs

Pressed pills, powders, crystalline substances

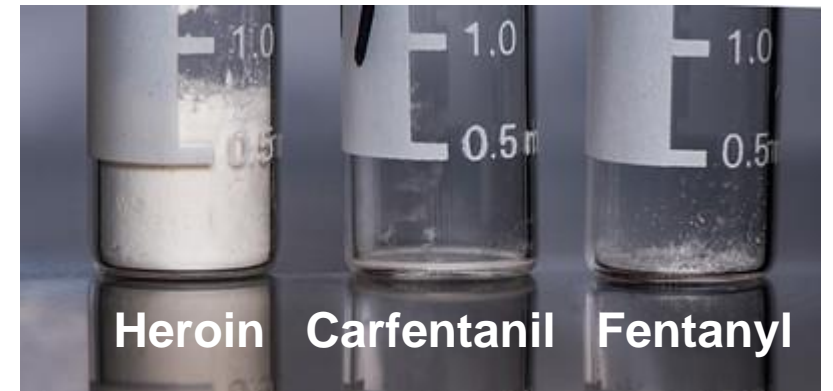
560% increase; 41% of all OD deaths

~136 people die every day from an opioid overdose in the US

1 kilo has the potential to end 500,000 lives

DEA: 2 out of every 5 pills contain a potentially lethal dose

“Nitazenes” – protonitazene & isotonitazene



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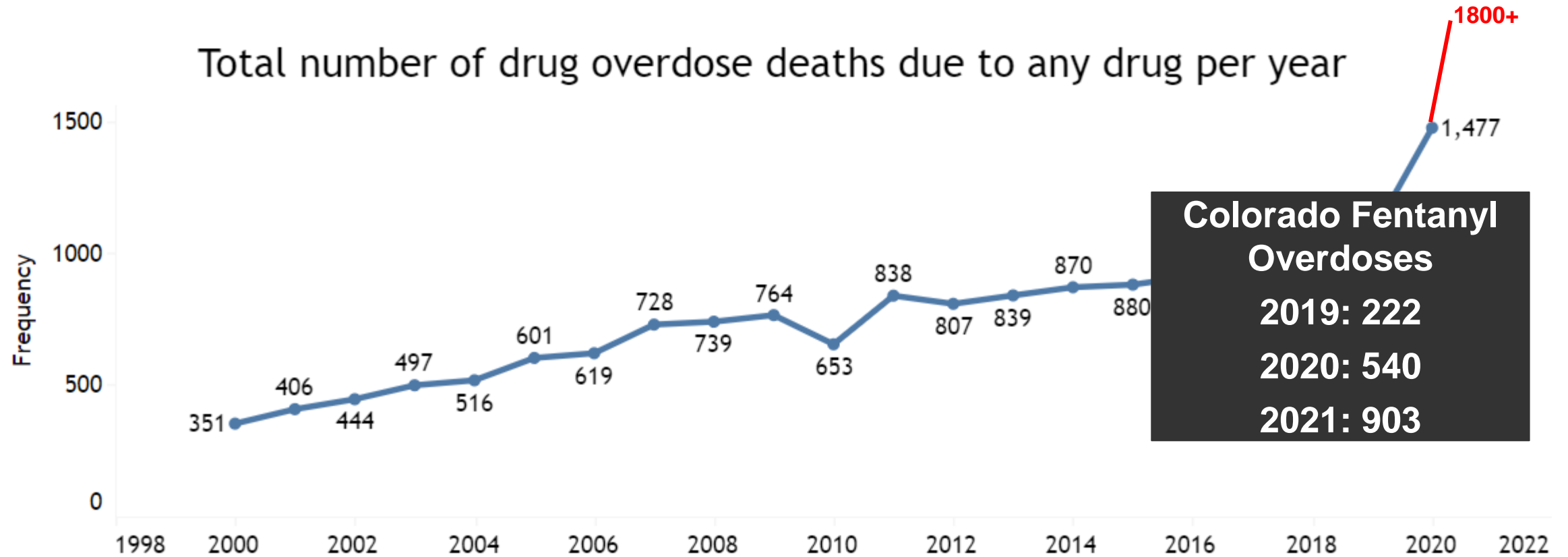
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for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention



Total number of drug overdose deaths due to any drug per year



**Colorado Fentanyl
Overdoses**
2019: 222
2020: 540
2021: 903

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>



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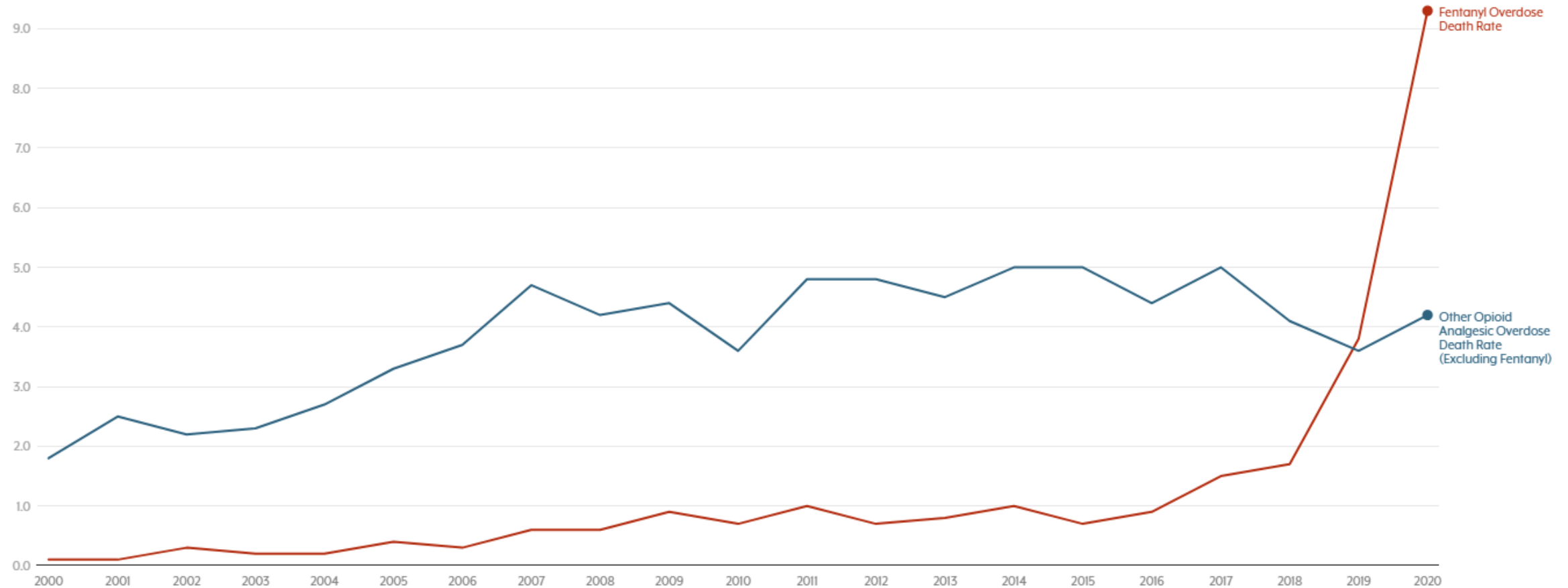
Figure 4. Fentanyl-Related Deaths Drove the Increase in Opioid Analgesic Overdoses in 2020

Overdose deaths by drug type, 2000-2020



Figure 5. The Fentanyl Overdose Death Rate Increased Dramatically Between 2016 and 2020, While the Death Rate of Other Opioid Analgesics Remained Steady

Age-adjusted overdose death rate (per 100,000) by year, 2000-2020



CDC's Unique Work In Action: *Overdose Deaths are the Tip of the Iceberg*

For every **1** prescription or illicit opioid overdose death in 2015 there were...



18 heroin

people who had a substance use disorder involving

62 people who had a substance use disorder involving prescription opioids

377 people who misused prescription opioids in the past year

2,946 people who used prescription opioids in the past year

Counterfeit Pills

- Fake prescription pills are easily accessible and often sold on social media or dark web
- Levels of fentanyl vary widely per batch because manufactured in garages or warehouses in Mexico
- Street names: hillybilly heroin, percs, blues or mexis
- Crushed, put powder on foil, and heat (\$1-\$13/pill in 2020-2022)
- Often contain fentanyl or methamphetamine, made to look like prescription opioids such as:
 - Oxycodone (Oxycontin®, Percocet®)
 - Hydrocodone (Vicodin®)
 - Alprazolam (Xanax®) – in CO only 5% of DEA-purchased pills since 2017 are actually Xanax without fentanyl
 - Stimulants like amphetamines (Adderall®)

Xanax



Oxy M30 “Blues”

Authentic



Counterfeit



Fentanyl and Vaping

Whoever is lacing marijuana cartridges likely is doing so by creating their own mix of THC and fentanyl and filling empty cartridges they bought online, then packaging them to look like vape pens that are legally purchased at dispensaries, he said.

“Those under 21 who can’t buy legally see the packaging and think it’s legit,” Smith said.

- San Diego DEA
- Dr. Chris Hoyte from Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug Safety
- Harm Reduction Action Center



https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2020-09/Fentanyl%20Used%20in%20Vape%20Pens_PRB%20FINAL.pdf
<https://kdvr.com/news/local/fentanyl-vaping-overdose-teens/>
<https://filtermag.org/fentanyl-marijuana-myth/>

What Parents Can Do



Talk To Your Youth

- Keep your cool
- Do your homework
- Give them the facts
- Don't lecture
- Don't use scare tactics
- Give them praise
- Be honest and have an open dialogue free of judgement and condemnation
- Make sure they know the legal consequences of using drugs
- Make sure they know the life-long consequences of addiction

https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2022-03/20220208-DEA_Social_Media_Drug_Trafficking_Threat_Overview.pdf



COMMON EMOJI CODES

FAKE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS			DEALER SIGNALS	
PERCOCET & OXYCODONE 🟡🔵📄🟡	XANAX 🟡🔴🚚	ADDERALL 🟡Ⓐ🚂	DEALER ADVERTISING 💰👑💰📱🔪	
OTHER DRUGS			HIGH POTENCY 🚀💣💣	
METH 🧊💙💎🔪	HEROIN ❤️🌿	COCAINE ❄️🌨️👶💎📄🔑😊🍷	UNIVERSAL FOR DRUGS 🍁	
MDMA & MOLLIES ❤️⚡✖️🔴🔪	MUSHROOMS 🍄	COUGH SYRUP 🍇💜📄	MARIJUANA 👋🔥🌴🌲😬👋🍀	LARGE BATCH 🍪

Disclaimer: These emojis reflect common examples found in DEA investigations. This list is not all-inclusive, and the images above are a representative sample.

Fact Sheets

- [One Pill Can Kill](#)
- [DEA Drug Fact Sheet for Fentanyl](#)
- [DEA Counterfeit Pills](#)
- [DEA Social Media Drug Trafficking](#)

Parent Resources

- [Dead on Arrival](#)
- [Natural High](#)
- [SAFE Project](#)
- [Get Smart About Drugs](#)
 - [Growing Up Drug Free, A Parent's Guide to Prevention](#)
- [One Pill Can Kill](#): parent resources toward bottom of page
- [Forward Together Colorado](#): parent and youth portals



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*You may be thinking to yourself, “**my child isn’t caught up in the drug culture**” or “**my child wouldn’t even know where to get something like that.**” Does your child have a **cell phone**? Is your child on **social media** platforms? If the answer is “yes,” **they likely do know about the teen drug culture** and do have easy access. Much like the vaping epidemic that we experienced in 2018 and 2019, **parents are often the last to know.***

*Chief Communications Officer for Colorado Springs
School District 11*



Carry Naloxone & Know How to Use it



Naloxone Overdose Reversal Medication



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THANK YOU

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