



# The Overdose Response Strategy (ORS)

*Jim Gioia, Drug Intelligence Officer (DIO)  
Shasta Minery, MSW, LCSW Public Health Analyst (PHA)*



Funded by the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**COLLABORATE • SHARE • INFORM & HELP**

# Federal Acknowledgement

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# What is the Overdose Response Strategy (ORS)?

The Overdose Response Strategy is an unprecedented and unique collaboration between public health and public safety, created to help local communities reduce drug overdoses and save lives by sharing timely data, pertinent intelligence and innovative strategies.





The ORS allows us to...

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**COLLABORATE** across public health and public safety sectors



By creating opportunities to...

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**SHARE** data, insights and trends we are seeing related to drug overdose in our communities



We use that information to...

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**INFORM AND HELP** local communities develop local solutions to reduce overdoses and save lives



## **COLLABORATE** across public health and public safety sectors

The ORS is implemented by joint teams made up of **Drug Intelligence Officers** and **Public Health Analysts**, who work together on drug overdose issues within and across sectors and states.



The ORS creates **joint teams** that can simultaneously promote public health *and* public safety efforts.



Public safety officials, first responders, public health officials and people who use drugs **intersect naturally**.



The ORS is designed to increase the **positive impact** and **outcomes** of those intersections.





## **SHARE** data, insights and trends we are seeing related to drug overdose in our communities

By sharing information across sectors, the ORS is growing the body of evidence related to **early warning signs** and **prevention strategies**.



**Drug Intelligence Officers** have a finger on the pulse of emerging trends and threats.



**Public Health Analysts** can obtain, analyze and act on data more quickly than in more traditional settings.





## **INFORM AND HELP** local communities develop local solutions to reduce overdoses and save lives

With the information shared, and programs inspired by ORS, we are **helping communities and individuals make healthier, safer choices.**

The ORS creates an infrastructure and environment to address overdose threats, **utilizing the best existing strategies to help save lives.**

Public safety agencies are already responding to overdoses.

The ORS helps equip these partners with the best available public health information **to help them save lives.**



# ORS Teams

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**GUIDE**



**CONNECTOR**



**BRIDGE**



**TRANSLATOR**



**DIPLOMAT**





# ORS Program Strategies

- 1 **Share data systems** to inform rapid and effective community overdose prevention efforts
- 2 Support immediate, **evidence-based response** efforts that can directly reduce overdose deaths
- 3 Design and use promising strategies at the **intersection of public health and public safety**
- 4 Disseminate information to support the implementation of **evidence-informed prevention strategies** that can reduce substance use and overdose



# CDC and CDC Foundation



The **CDC Foundation** is an independent non-profit created by Congress to mobilize resources to support CDC's critical health protection work.

*The CDC Foundation helps CDC do more, faster, by forging partnerships between CDC and others to fight threats to health and safety.*

**CDC supports the ORS by providing CDC Foundation with funding for Public Health Analyst (PHA) positions and other key program activities.**





# Public Health Analysts (PHA)

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- Work with key public health and public safety agencies, non-governmental (e.g., treatment and prevention) organizations and other key stakeholders to increase interagency data sharing and support evidence-based and promising overdose prevention strategies
- **Key PHA Activities:**
  - Develop and coordinate shared data systems that allow public health, law enforcement and others to respond quickly and effectively to the overdose crisis
  - Support the development and implementation of evidence-based responses to generate immediate reductions in overdoses
  - Promote evidence-based practices to prevent or reduce substance use and misuse
  - Promote the active engagement of local communities in the discussion, planning and implementation of ORS goals and activities



# ONDCP and HIDTA



**The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)** administers two grant programs:

1. High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)
2. Drug Free Communities (DFC)

*HIDTA funding supports federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies operating in areas determined to be critical drug-trafficking regions of the United States.*

**ONDCP supports the ORS by providing HIDTAs with funding for Drug Intelligence Officer (DIO) positions and other key program activities.**



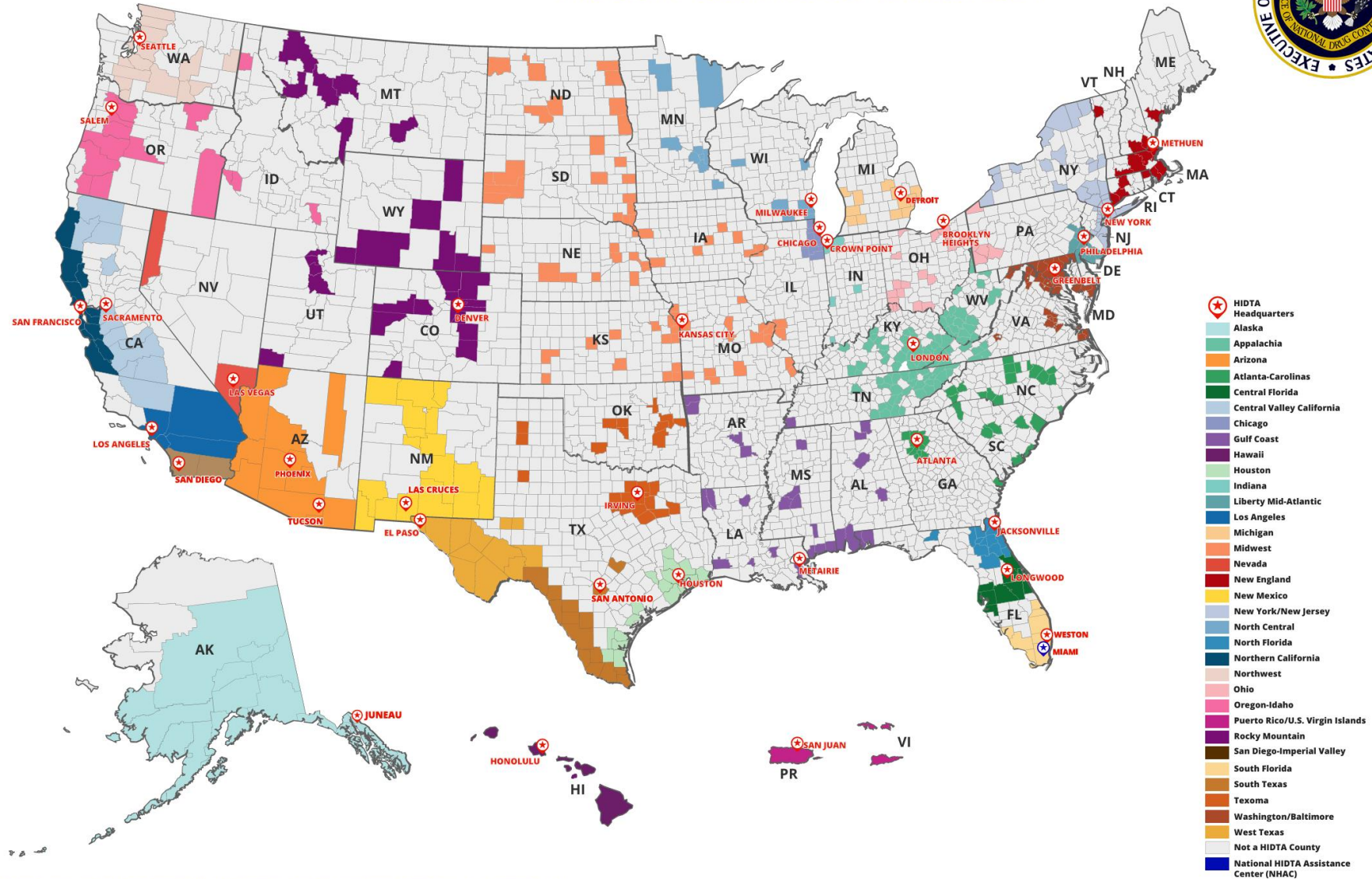
# Drug Intelligence Officers (DIO)

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- Partner with public health agencies and public health analysts to bridge communication gap with public safety
- DIOs fill a critical gap in intelligence sharing by:
  - reporting cross-jurisdictional links
  - communicating interstate intelligence
  - relaying case referrals between agencies
  - developing timely intelligence reports for law enforcement audiences
- **Felony Arrest Notifications (FANs):**
  - Track and relay drug-related felony arrests of out-of-state (non-local) residents and report this information to the individual's home law enforcement agency and other law enforcement agencies with a vested interest



# HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREAS (HIDTA) PROGRAM COUNTIES SEPTEMBER 2024



Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program (HIDTA), September, 2024.



# Current Work Overview



## PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

- *ORS Cornerstone Project*
- *Maine Drug Monitoring Initiative (DMI)*
- *Maine Environmental Scan*
- *Maine Law Enforcement Drug Intelligence Report*
- *OPTIONS Program Support*
- *Overdose Fatality Review Support*
- *Overdose Prevention in Correctional Facilities Support*
- *State of Maine Data Team Support*



## OUR PARTNERS

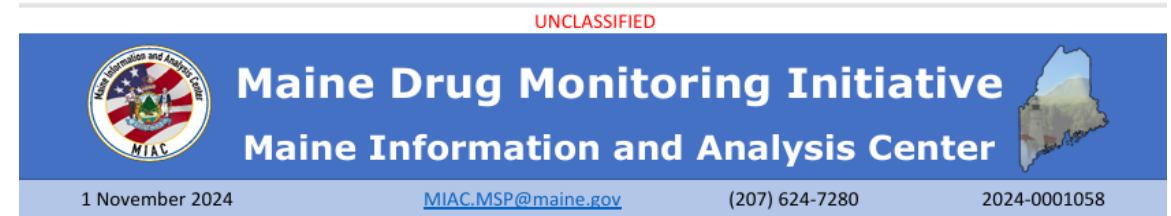
- *Health and Environmental Testing Lab (HETL)*
- *Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention*
- *Maine Department of Health and Human Services*
- *Maine Information and Analysis Center*
- *National Guard Counterdrug Program*
- *New England HIDTA*
- *Maine Office of Behavioral Health*
- *University of Maine Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center*

***We continue to  
build and expand our partnerships.***



# Maine Drug Monitoring Initiative (DMI)

- The Maine DMI report is a collection of information obtained from various sources and partners
- Focuses on emerging threats and trends along with additional information and news
- Written by the ORS Maine PHA with contributions from the Maine DIO and Maine Information Analysis Center (MIAC) analysts
- Distributed monthly by the MIAC and featured on the Maine Drug Data Hub for increased exposure and distribution



**(U) Purpose:** *This Maine Drug Monitoring Initiative (DMI) report is a collection of information obtained from various sources and partners, including but not limited to public health, law enforcement, and EMS. The MIAC welcomes the sharing of information that your agency believes may be beneficial to this report and to other agencies.*

**(U) Public Health Awareness – Pink Cocaine “Tusi”**

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has reported seeing an emergence of pink cocaine as dealers are marketing it as a “new” drug and catering to the polydrug user population. Pink cocaine, also referred to as “tusi” is a powdered mixture of substances, which is dyed pink from food dye or baking powder, may have a sweet smell, and typically produces mind-altering, hallucinogenic effects.

The original compound in tusi was 2C-B, a psychedelic phenylethylamine. Once 2C-B became harder to get, drug organizations shifted to a drug cocktail, which they dyed pink and sold as pink cocaine. Pink cocaine rarely contains 2C-B anymore, and the actual substances included in pink cocaine are not known until a sample is tested. Effects of pink cocaine can vary greatly as many seizures contain mixtures of a variety of dangerous drugs.

The DEA laboratory testing has identified pink powders containing combinations such as:

- Ketamine and MDMA
- Methamphetamine, Ketamine and MDMA
- Cocaine and fentanyl
- Fentanyl and xylazine

Currently, pink cocaine is not a commonly trafficked substance. However, state and local law enforcement have encountered pink cocaine at the retail level as it has been found in areas with active night club scenes like Miami, New York, and Los Angeles.<sup>1</sup>

Additionally, the U.S. Coast Guard issued a press release on 5 June 2024 that they had seized more than 140 pounds of the ketamine-based hallucinogenic party drug “tusi” during a 4-month patrol of the coasts of Central and South America.<sup>2</sup>

**(U) Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL)**





# ORS Cornerstone Projects



2021 TOPIC  
Public Safety, Public Health and Harm Reduction  
Resources on Stimulants

[DOWNLOAD 2021 REPORT](#) →



2019 TOPIC  
Overdose Prevention Services in Jails

[DOWNLOAD 2019 REPORT](#) →



2018 TOPIC  
Promising Strategies for Implementing Linkages to Care  
at the Nexus of Public Health and Public Safety

[DOWNLOAD 2018 REPORT](#) →



2017 TOPIC  
Law Enforcement Knowledge, Understanding and  
Perceptions of 911 Good Samaritan Laws

[DOWNLOAD 2017 FINDINGS](#) →



Source: <https://orsprogram.org/cornerstone-projects/>



# ORS Success Stories across the U.S.

KANSAS TEAM



## 19 New Agencies Onboarded to ODMAP

The Kansas (KS) ORS team spearheads the recruitment of key public health and public safety stakeholders across their state into the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP). To accomplish ...

MINNESOTA TEAM



## Youth Prevention Tiktok Video Goes Viral

In 2020, Minnesotans ages 15-24 experienced a 26 percent increase in drug overdose deaths and those ages 25-34 experienced a 57 percent increase. Consequently, the Minnesota Department of Health ...

OKLAHOMA TEAM



## Finding shelter for sex trafficking victims with substance use disorder

As sex traffickers often use substances to help maintain control over trafficking victims, these individuals may develop substance use disorders (SUD). Victims of sex trafficking in need of safe ...

COLORADO AND MINNESOTA TEAM



## Identifying an Advocate for ODMAP Participation

Identifying a champion or strategy to advocate for Overdose Detection Mapping Application (ODMAP) utilization among stakeholders can be valuable for strengthening partner relationships and boosting participation. This approach was ...

CONNECTICUT TEAM



## 'Silence on the Streets' Documentary Production and Screening

The Connecticut ORS team, with the U.S. Attorney's Office, initiated a project to address the educational gap in substance use awareness. Recognizing the limitations of the outdated resources currently ...

ALASKA TEAM



## Responding to Opioid Overdoses in Alaska

Recognizing the disproportionate effects the overdose epidemic has had on rural Alaska residents, the Alaska Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) team works to organize and support overdose prevention and response ...

LOS ANGELES TEAM



## Riverside County Sheriff Department to Implement Naloxone for Direct Inmate Access

The California (Los Angeles / Riverside) Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) team sought to identify a strategy for appropriate naloxone access in county jail facilities. Soliciting insights from the LA ...

Source: <https://orsprogram.org/ors-stories-and-news/>

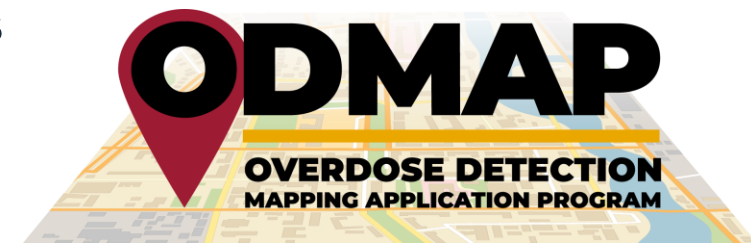


# Overdose Detection Mapping Program (ODMAP) Overview

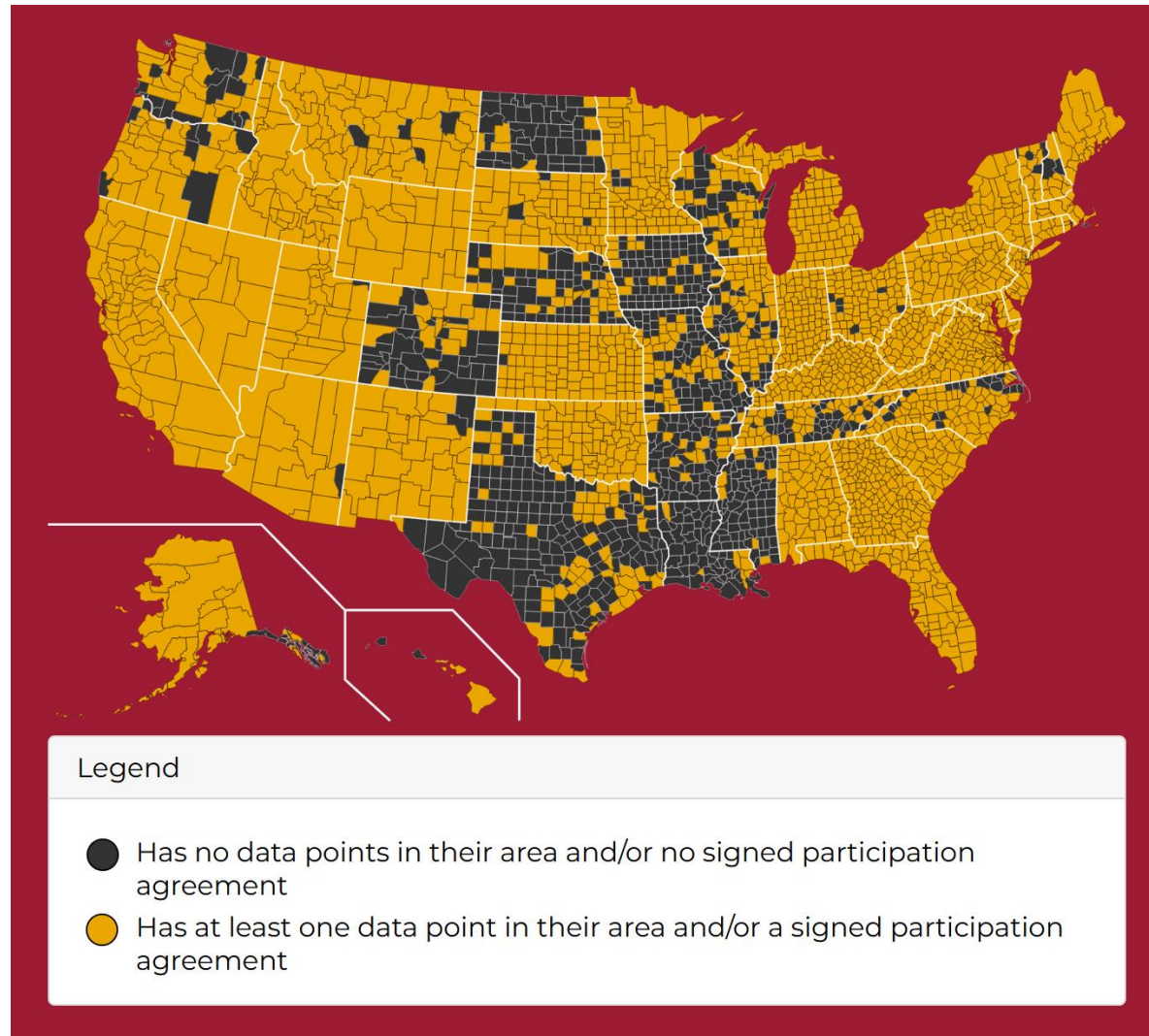
ODMAP is a free, web-based tool that provides near real-time surveillance of suspected overdose events to support public safety and public health efforts to mobilize an immediate response to overdose events.

- Provide **near real-time surveillance** of suspected overdose events
- Provide participating agencies with data to **identify** suspected overdose **occurrences** and **spikes** in near real-time
- Enable participating agencies to **develop effective strategies** for addressing overdose incidents occurring in their jurisdictions
- Enhance the development of **regional strategies** designed to **prevent the spread** of substance use disorders resulting in overdose incidents

Source: <https://odmap.org>



# ODMAP National Engagement



As of July 2024, approximately 5,200 agencies across all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico are using the platform. Over 2.6 million overdose events have been entered into ODMAP and 34,800 users registered.

Source: <https://odmap.org:4443/Content/docs/ODMAP-State-Implementation-Still.pdf>



# Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL)



## Commonly Encountered Substances:

- Fentanyl
- Cocaine
- Methamphetamine
- Xylazine

*It is common to see various combinations of these substances in one sample.*



# Trends - Pills



DEA



Google Images



MDEA



Left: Authentic oxycodone M30 tablets (top) vs. counterfeit oxycodone M30 tablets containing fentanyl (bottom). Center: Authentic Adderall tablets (top) vs. counterfeit Adderall tablets containing methamphetamine (bottom). Right: Authentic Xanax tablets (white) vs. counterfeit Xanax tablets containing fentanyl (yellow).



# Trends - Powders



MDEA



# Questions and Discussion

## Contact Information

### James Gioia

Drug Intelligence Officer – Maine  
New England HIDTA  
978-802-0067  
[james.gioia@maine.gov](mailto:james.gioia@maine.gov)

### Shasta Minery, MSW, LCSW

Public Health Analyst - Maine  
CDC Foundation  
404-245-2077  
[sminery@cdcfoundation.org](mailto:sminery@cdcfoundation.org)

## Thank you!



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