



# Poverty – What Do We Know, What Can We Do?

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# For Our Time Together...

What Is Poverty?

Poverty? In Dallas??

Let's Talk  
About

Why Does Poverty  
Matter?

What Can We Do About  
It?



Will Rogers

“It’s not what we don’t  
know that hurts us, it’s  
what we know that  
just ain’t so!”





# What is Poverty?

We know it when we see it, but how do we define it?

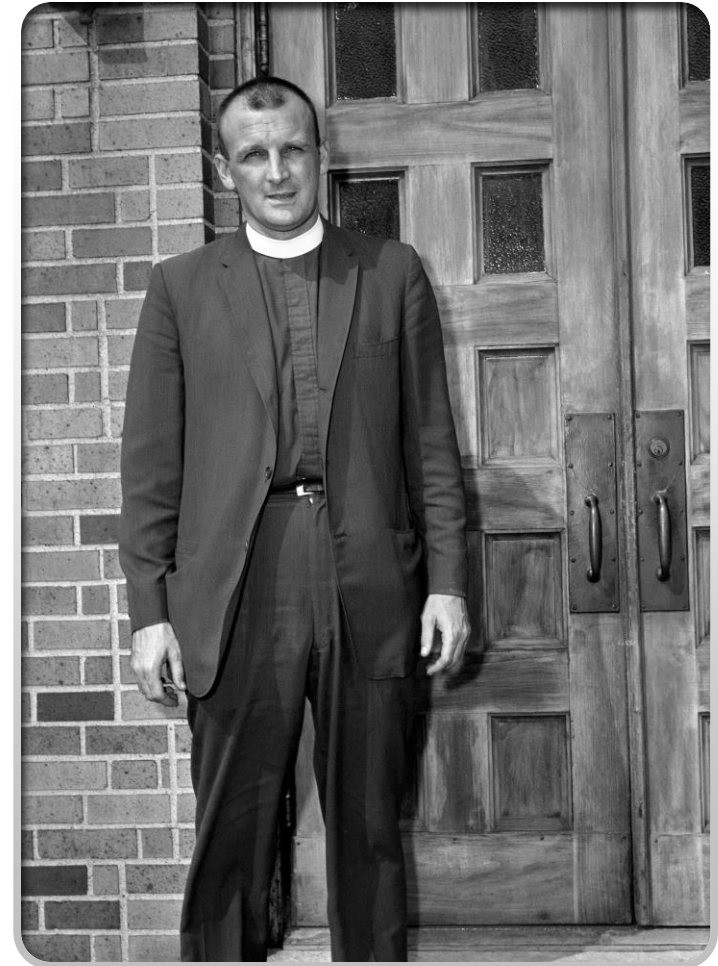


## A Litany

Father Robert W. Castle, an Episcopal priest, was rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Jersey City, New Jersey, from 1960 to 1968, before resigning. In 1968 he wrote *Prayers for the Burned-Out City*.

The book jacket states "... the city brings into a single focus all of our problems of environmental pollution, inefficient transportation and unwieldy government. Even worse, it is the city which has spawned the ghetto, and the ghetto in turn has begotten economic exploitation, unemployability, ersatz education and chronic despair.

These are the combustible materials heaped high in the ghettos of over forty cities throughout the country, and their burned-out sectors are symbolic of the ravages wrought upon the minds and hearts of those condemned to live in the wasteland of the inner-city."



**Robert W. Castle Jr. in 1964**  
*Photo: Maurice C. Carroll/The New York Times*



# How is Poverty Defined?



How  
Much Is  
Enough?



How  
Much is  
Too  
Little?



"Mollie Orshansky 1967" by Unknown  
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# Defining Poverty – 2015

Size of family unit	Related children under 18 years									
	None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight or more	
<b>One person (unrelated individual)</b>										
Under 65 years	12,331									
65 years and over	11,367									
<b>Two people</b>										
Householder under 65 years	15,871	16,337								
Householder 65 years and over	14,326	16,275								
<b>Three people</b>										
Four people	24,447	24,847	24,036	24,120						
Five people	29,482	29,911	28,995	28,286	27,853					
Six people	33,909	34,044	33,342	32,670	31,670	31,078				
Seven people	39,017	39,260	38,421	37,835	36,745	35,473	34,077			
Eight people	43,637	44,023	43,230	42,536	41,551	40,300	38,999	38,668		
Nine people or more	52,493	52,747	52,046	51,457	50,490	49,159	47,956	47,658	45,822	

Source: US Bureau of the Census, 2014 Poverty Threshold Table



# Minimum Wage Is Often Below Poverty Wage

Size of family unit	Related children under 18 years								
	None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight or more
One person (unrelated individual)									
Under 65 years	122%								
65 years and over	133%								
Two people									
Householder under 65 years	190%	92%							
Householder 65 years and over	211%	93%							
Three people									
Four people	244%	158%	79%						
Five people	247%	182%	125%	63%					
Six people	256%	202%	156%	107%	54%				
Seven people	267%	221%	181%	138%	95%	49%			
Eight people	271%	230%	196%	159%	123%	85%	44%		
Nine people or more	276%	240%	209%	177%	145%	112%	77%	39%	
	259%	229%	203%	176%	149%	123%	94%	63%	33%





# What About a Living Wage?

## Costs for a Family of Three in Dallas Co.

\$6,652	Food
\$7,859	Childcare
\$6,875	Medical
\$11,052	Housing
\$9,593	Transportation
\$4,682	Other
\$46,713	Required Income
\$6,068	Taxes
\$52,781	Income Before Taxes
\$25.38	Required Hourly Wage

## Typical Annual Wages

Education, Training, and Library - \$47,820
Healthcare Support - \$24,590
Protective Service - \$38,020
Food Prep, Serving, & Related - \$18,930
Office & Administrative Support - \$31,850
Production - \$31,530
Community & Social Service - \$44,040



# Poverty Is More Than a Status Related to Income



Moving 2-3  
Times A Year



Accessing  
Subprime  
Financial Tools



Giving Up,  
Looking On,  
Exhaustion





# Poverty? In Dallas??

How can the leading region in producing new millionaires be home to a city with almost half of her children at risk?



# The Face of Inequality...



65° Saturday, February 20, 2016 **The Dallas Morning News**

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Opinion > Latest Columns

### Latest Columns

## Poverty is eating at Dallas' core

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File 2013/Staff Photographer

Julie Garcia shares a breakfast sandwich with one of the stray dogs in the area she lives in southeast of downtown Dallas.

By REGINA MONTOYA

Published: 18 August 2014 09:24 PM



# Poverty in Dallas

Among  
Highest  
in  
Poverty  
Rates

- In 2015, 20% of Dallas residents lived below the poverty line.
- 40% lived below 185% of the poverty line.

Among  
Dallas  
Children

- In 2015, 31% of Dallas children lived below the poverty line.
- 57% lived below 185% of the poverty line.



# Who is Poor in the City of Dallas?

## At the Margin

- 19.7% (351,880) of City Residents Live at or Below 100% of the Poverty Threshold ( $\pm 1.2\%$ )

## By Race and Ethnicity

- |                                 |                       |        |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| • Non-Hispanic White            | 8.1% ( $\pm 0.8\%$ )  | 48,516 |
| • Non-Hispanic African American | 27.6% ( $\pm 2.9\%$ ) | 96,565 |
| • Non-Hispanic Asian            | 19.6% ( $\pm 3.4\%$ ) | 13,542 |
| • Hispanic of Any Race          | 26.4% ( $\pm 2.2\%$ ) |        |

## By Age

- |             |                       |         |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------|
| • Under 18  | 30.8% ( $\pm 2.5\%$ ) | 139,804 |
| • 18 to 64  | 16.6% ( $\pm 1.0\%$ ) | 190,379 |
| • 65 and Up | 12.0% ( $\pm 1.6\%$ ) | 21,697  |



# What About Dallas County?

## At the Margin

- 17.5% (455,066) of County Residents Live at or Below 100% of the Poverty Threshold ( $\pm 0.9\%$ )

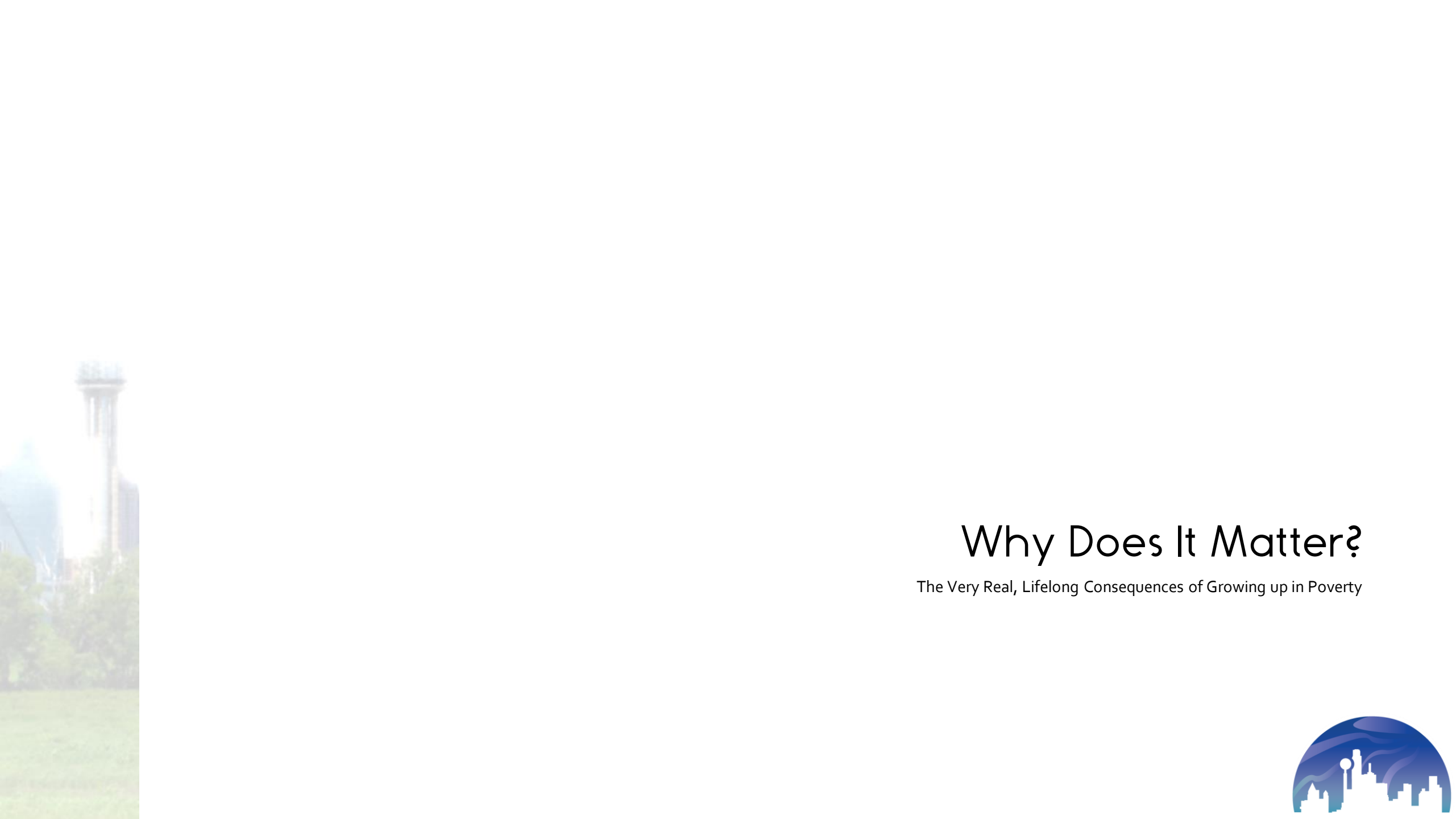
## By Race and Ethnicity

- |                                 |                       |         |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| • Non-Hispanic White            | 8.4% ( $\pm 0.7\%$ )  | 65,188  |
| • Non-Hispanic African American | 22.6% ( $\pm 2.0\%$ ) | 126,940 |
| • Non-Hispanic Asian            | 12.7% ( $\pm 2.5\%$ ) | 19,112  |
| • Hispanic of Any Race          | 23.1% ( $\pm 1.7\%$ ) | 232,690 |

## By Age

- |             |                       |         |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------|
| • Under 18  | 26.8% ( $\pm 1.8\%$ ) | 182,583 |
| • 18 to 64  | 15.2% ( $\pm 0.7\%$ ) | 245,319 |
| • 65 and Up | 10.8% ( $\pm 1.3\%$ ) | 27,164  |





# Why Does It Matter?

The Very Real, Lifelong Consequences of Growing up in Poverty





# A Different World...



# Poverty Impacts Brain Development

THE BRAIN

## Study Finds Association Between Poverty And Brain Development During Childhood

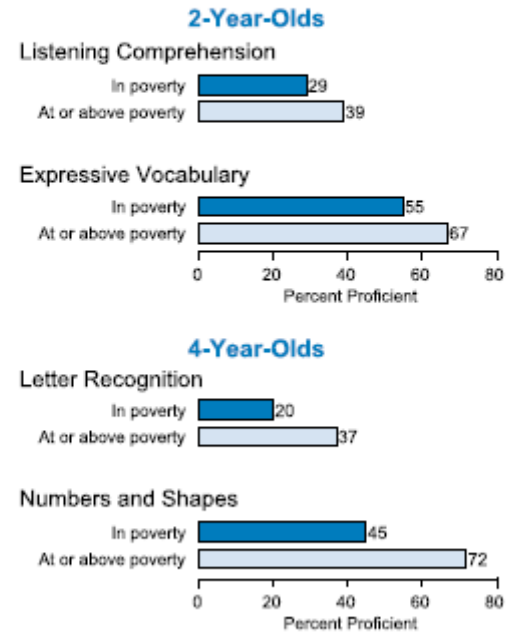
April 1, 2015 | by Justine Alford



# Poverty Impacts Educational Outcomes

FIGURE 1

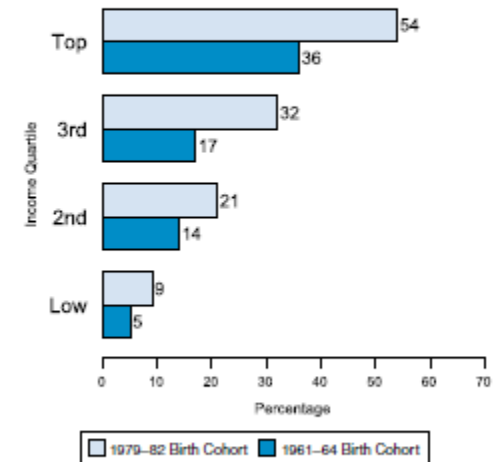
*Percentage of Children Demonstrating Proficiency in Various Cognitive Skills by Poverty Status and Age, 2003-04 and 2005-06*



Source: NCES (2009a). Data are from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort.

FIGURE 4

*Percentage of Students Completing College, by Income Quartile and Birth Cohort*



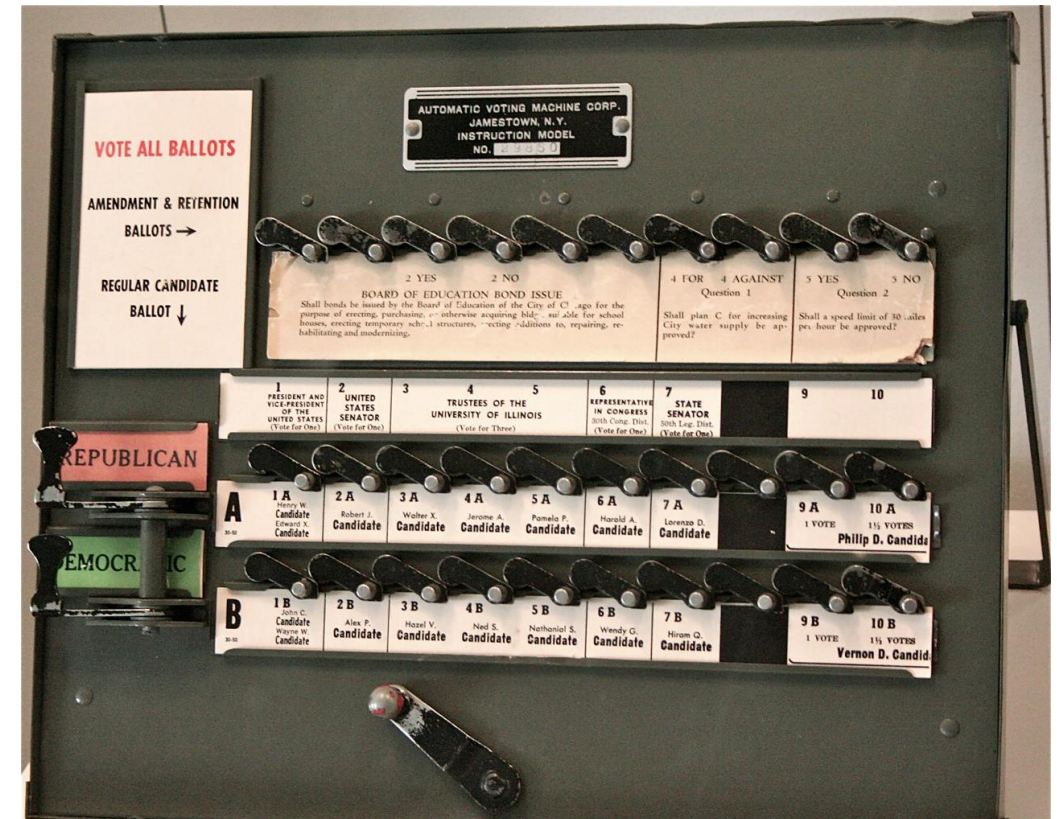
Source: Bailey and Dynarski (2011).



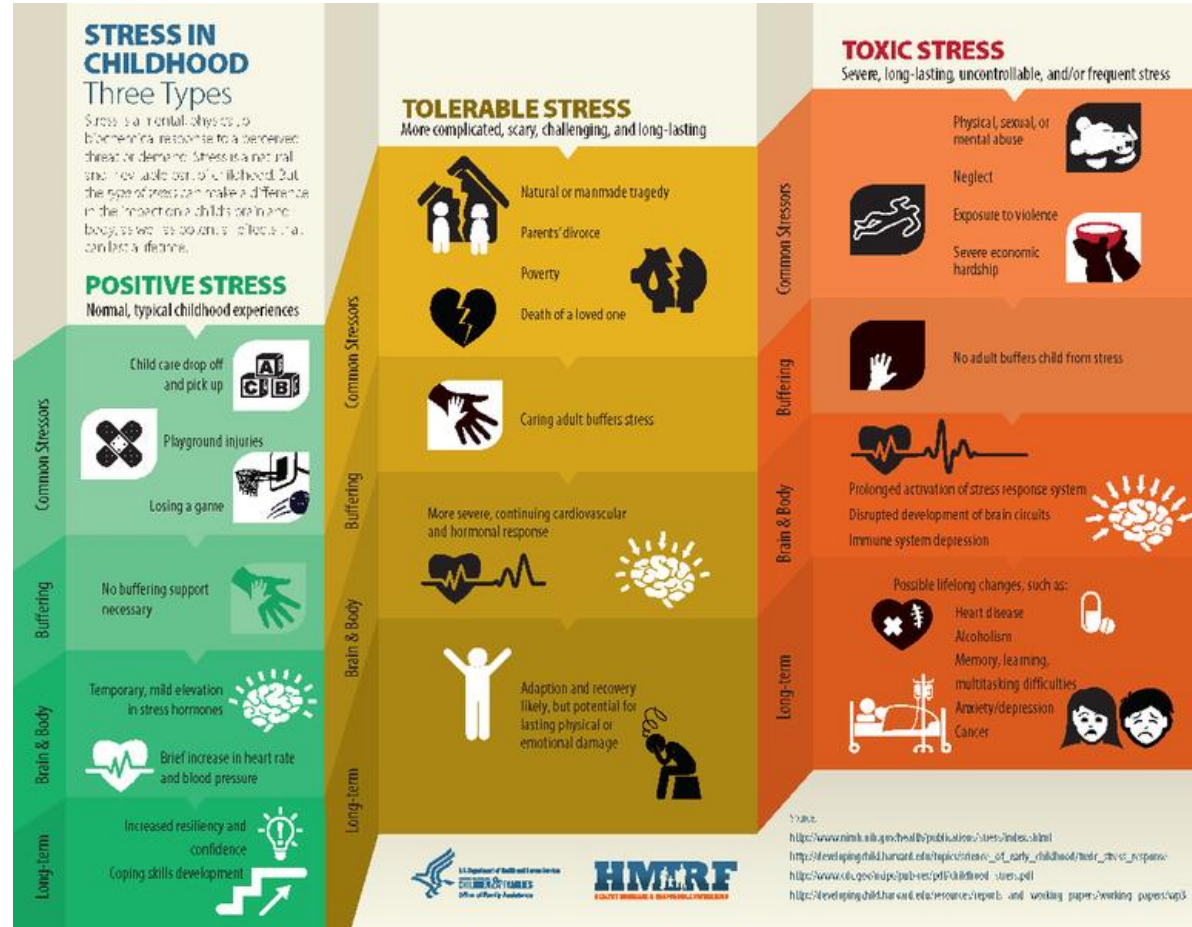
# Economic Distress Impacts Civic Participation

46% of Non-voters have family incomes less than \$30,000 per year.

Only 19% of likely voters are from low-income families.



# Why Should We Care?



# Measuring Toxic Stress



Housing  
Distress



Over-crowding



Poverty



Un-  
employment



Transportation



Health  
Insurance

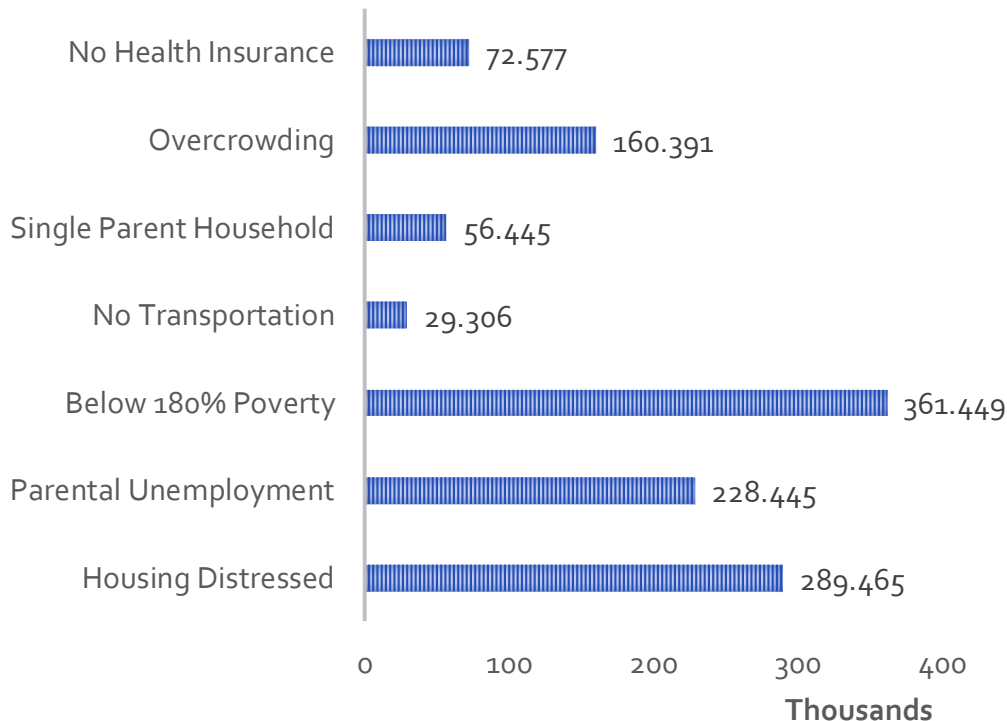


Single Parent  
Households



# Toxic Stress Among Dallas County Kids, 2015

## NUMBER OF CHILDREN BY RISK FACTOR



**Only 89,819 Kids Have 0 Risk Factors**

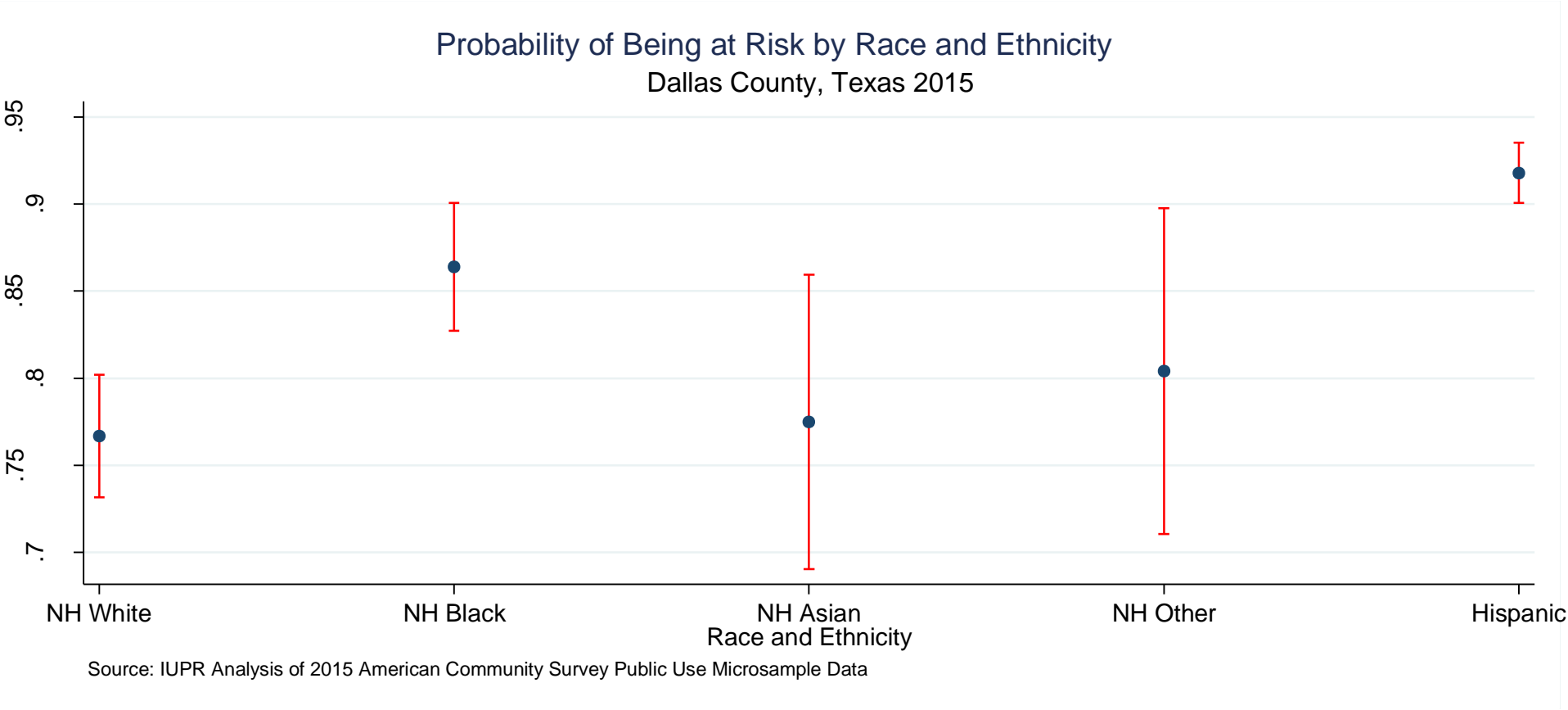
**216,450 Kids Have Only 1 Risk Factor**

**196,162 Kids Have 2 Risk Factors**

**179,845 Kids Have 3 or More Risk Factors**

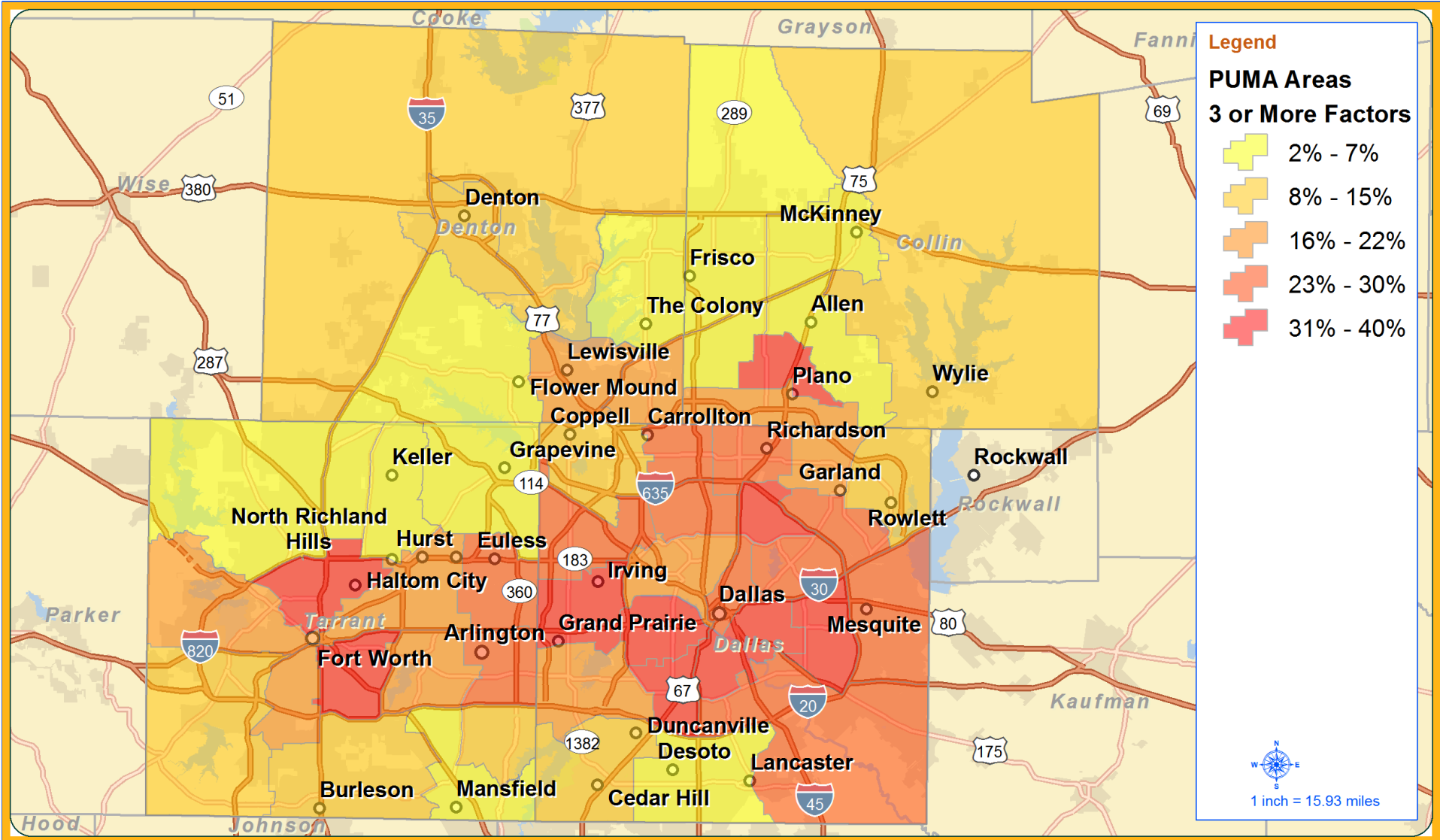


# Risk by Race





# Distribution of Risk by PUMA in North Texas





# What Can We Do About It?

Something Must Be Different

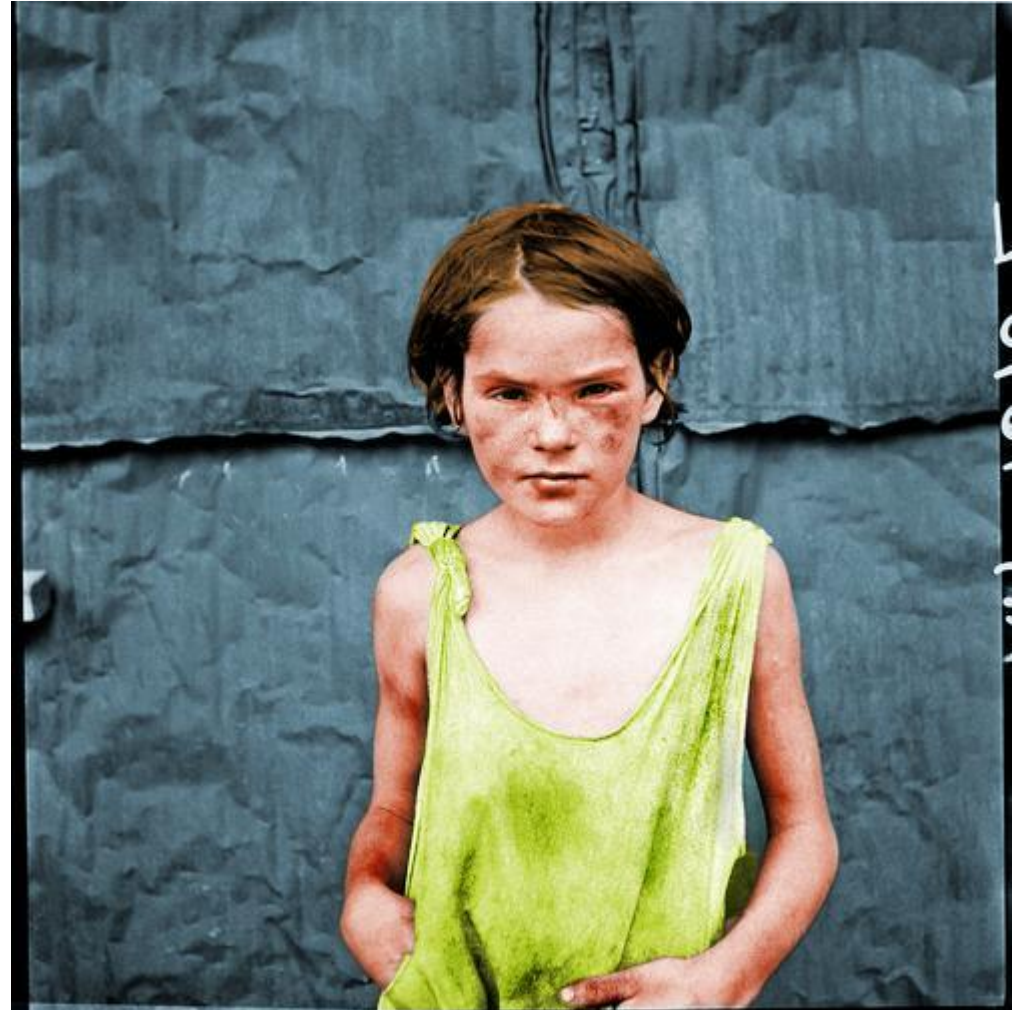


## Poverty: Damaged Child

Dorothea Lange

Oklahoma City, OK, USA

1936 (Colorized by Kelly Short)



## For More Information

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