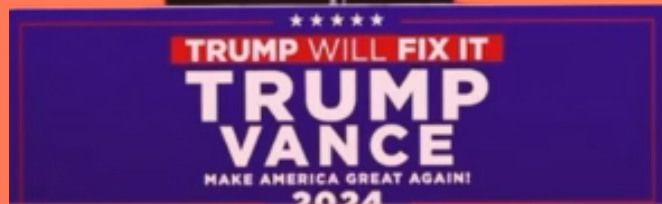


Advocacy booklet



# IS AMERICA REALLY BECOMING HEALTHY AGAIN?

A critique of MAHA and U.S. Public Health policy

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## 01

What is community health?

## 02

What is MAHA?

## 03

Current Public Health Data

## 04

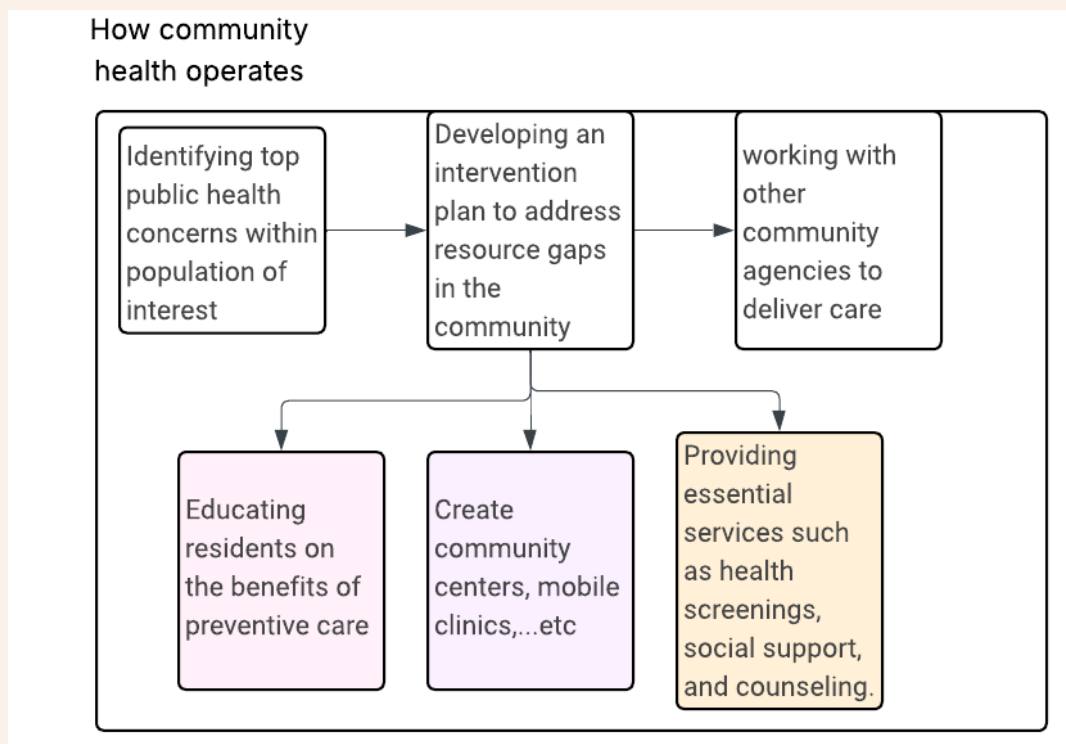
Political framing and policy impact

## 05

Actions Steps and Sources

# WHAT IS COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Community health refers to the collective well-being of a community's members. It is an interdisciplinary field within public health, as it considers multiple factors that shape shared health outcomes, such as socioeconomic status, access to preventive healthcare, and ethnic or cultural background. (1)



Community health is important to

- Address Health Disparities.
- Lower Healthcare Costs.
- Enact Public Health Initiatives.
  - Example: HIV clinics will work to decrease the estimated 31,800 new HIV infections that occur in the U.S. each year. (2)

# WHAT IS MAHA?



“Make America Healthy Again,” or as often framed as “Make our Children Healthy Again,” is a political movement led by RFK Jr. that calls for “fixing the root causes” of childhood chronic diseases.

“During this administration, we will begin reversing the childhood chronic disease crisis by confronting its root causes—not just its symptoms. This means pursuing truth, embracing science, and enacting pro-growth policies and innovations to restore children’s health.” (3)

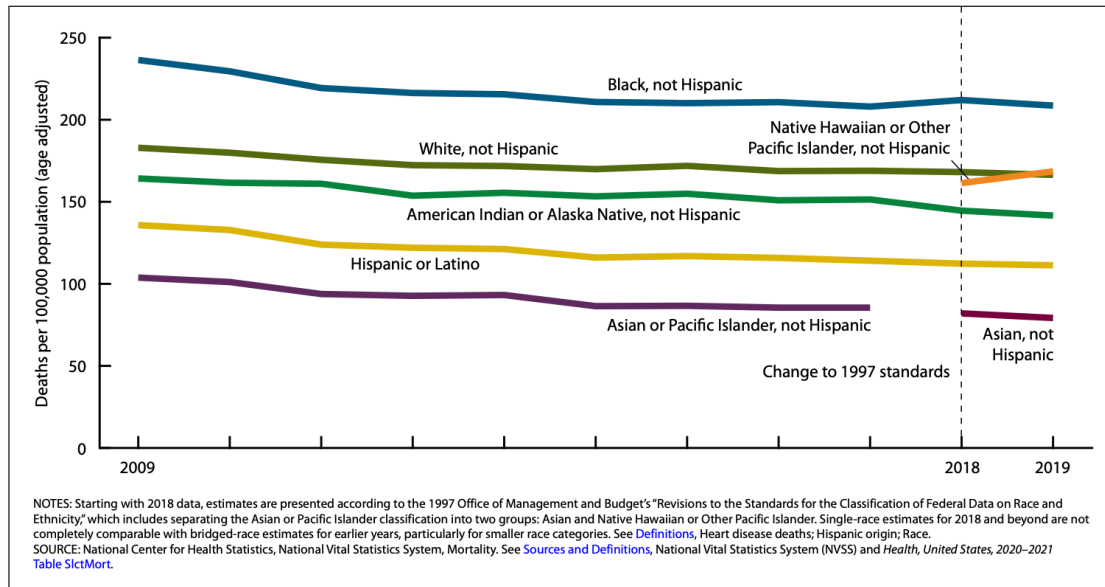
He is the same man who said:

- “There’s been no per capita increase in the number of guns we have in this country.” (4)
- Certain types of cancer—specifically glioblastomas, a devastating form of brain cancer—are caused by cell phone and wifi use that damages mitochondria and “opens the blood-brain barrier.”(5)
- “COVID-19 is targeted to attack Caucasians and Black people,” he said. “The people who are most immune are Ashkenazi Jews and Chinese. We don’t know whether it’s deliberately targeted or not.”(6)

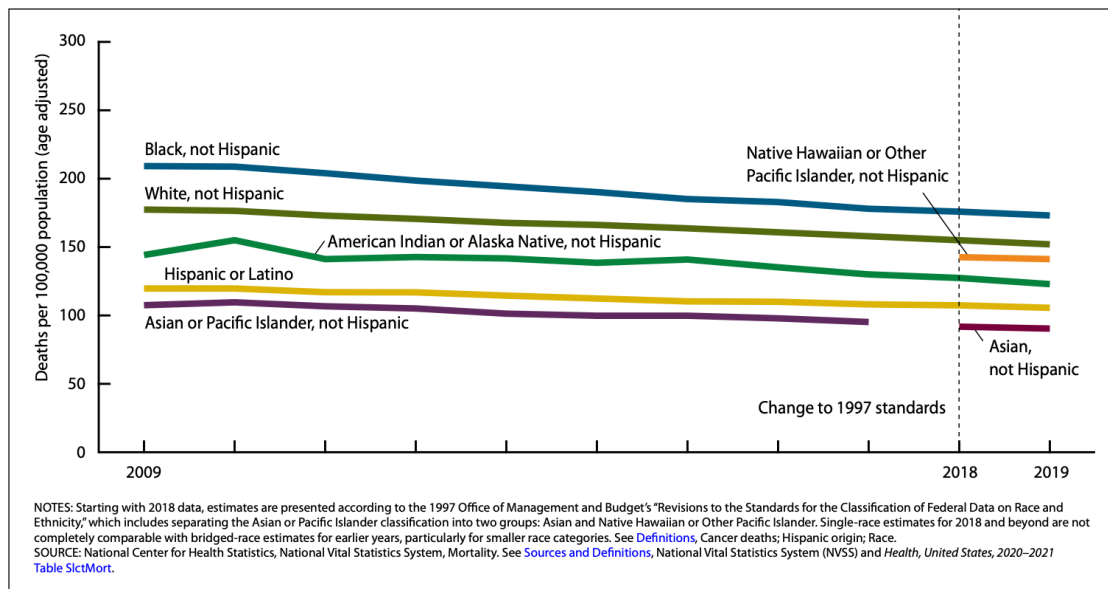


# MOST RECENT U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH DATA

**Figure 1. Heart disease death rates, by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 2009–2019**



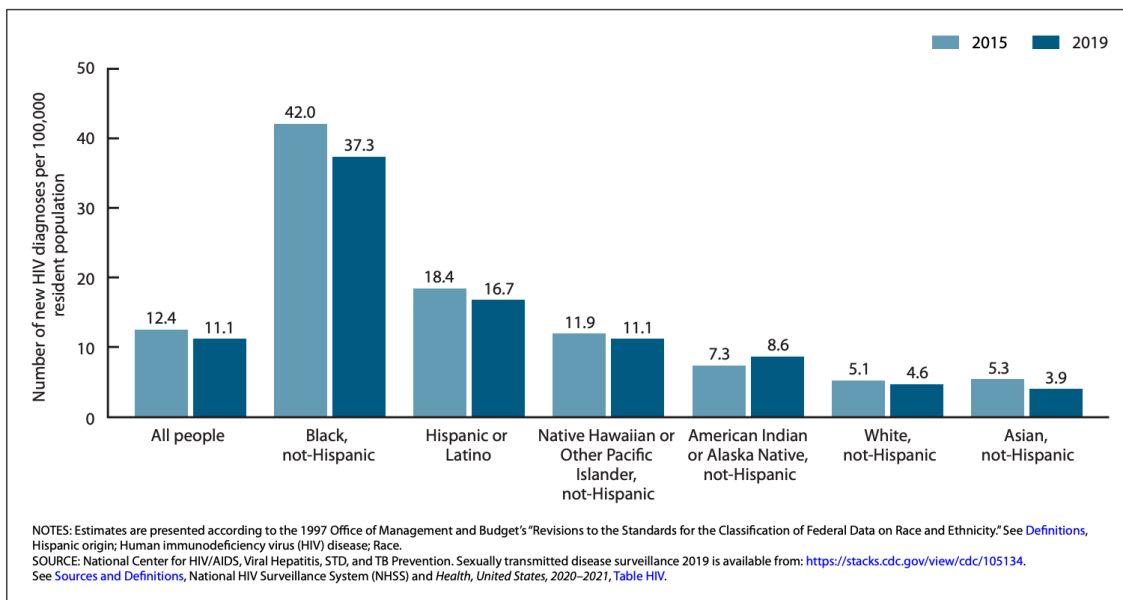
**Figure 2. Cancer death rates, by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 2009–2019**



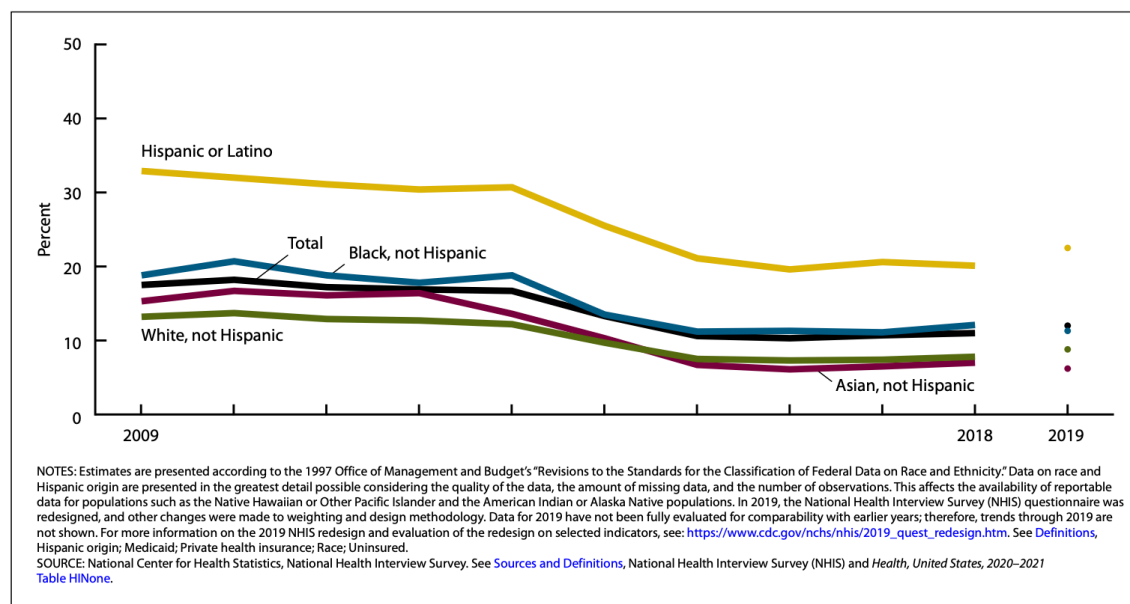
The CDC's most recent public health report was conducted and published in 2020–2021. There is no evidence in the literature of more recent updates, particularly during the Trump administration, when additional barriers emerged in adequately representing issues related to women's health, trans health, and other marginalized groups.

# MOST RECENT U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH DATA

**Figure 3. New diagnoses of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection, by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 2015 and 2019**



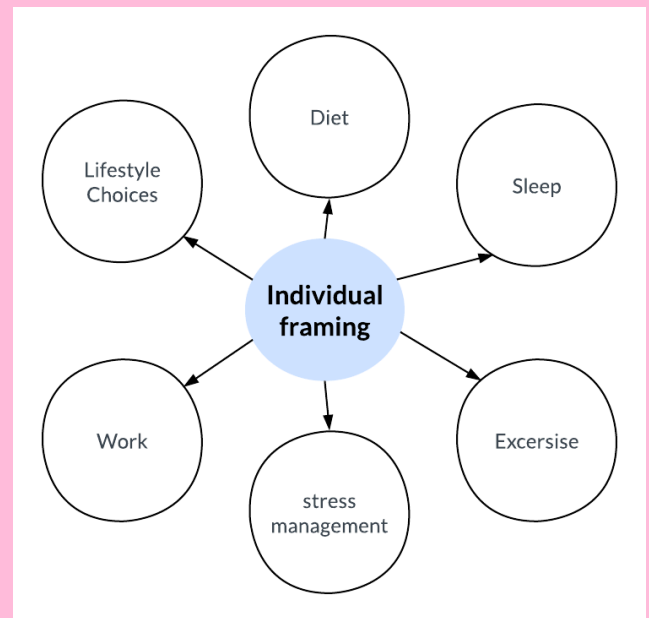
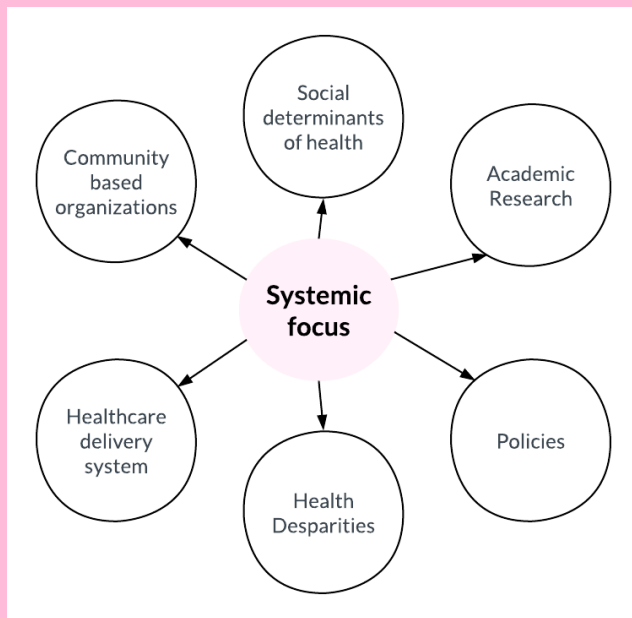
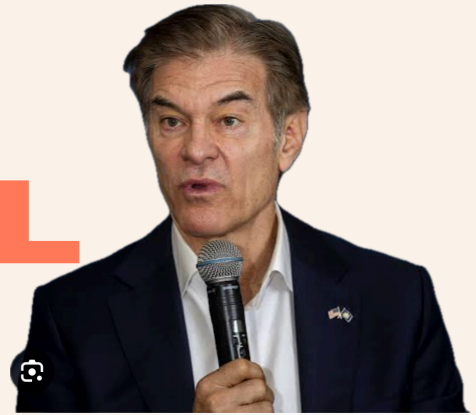
**Figure 4. Lack of health insurance coverage among people under age 65, by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 2009–2019**



Although these charts are outdated, they still underscore key public health challenges, particularly healthcare affordability and access, along with persistent racial disparities. (7)

# POLITICAL FRAMING

Narrow and misleading



What should be prioritized / what gets emphasized

Main discourse:

TAKE CARE OF YOUR OWN SELF

- Oz signaled his plans to focus on chronic disease in the U.S., saying it was “the patriotic duty of all Americans to take care of themselves.” (8)

📌 **Problem:** This framing blames individuals for their own illnesses while ignoring structural conditions—like poverty, unsafe housing, and lack of access to healthy food or sleep—that shape health outcomes.

# POLICY IMPACT

This Lancet report highlights numerous ways current policy changes affect different aspects of healthcare. This booklet will focus exclusively on service delivery.

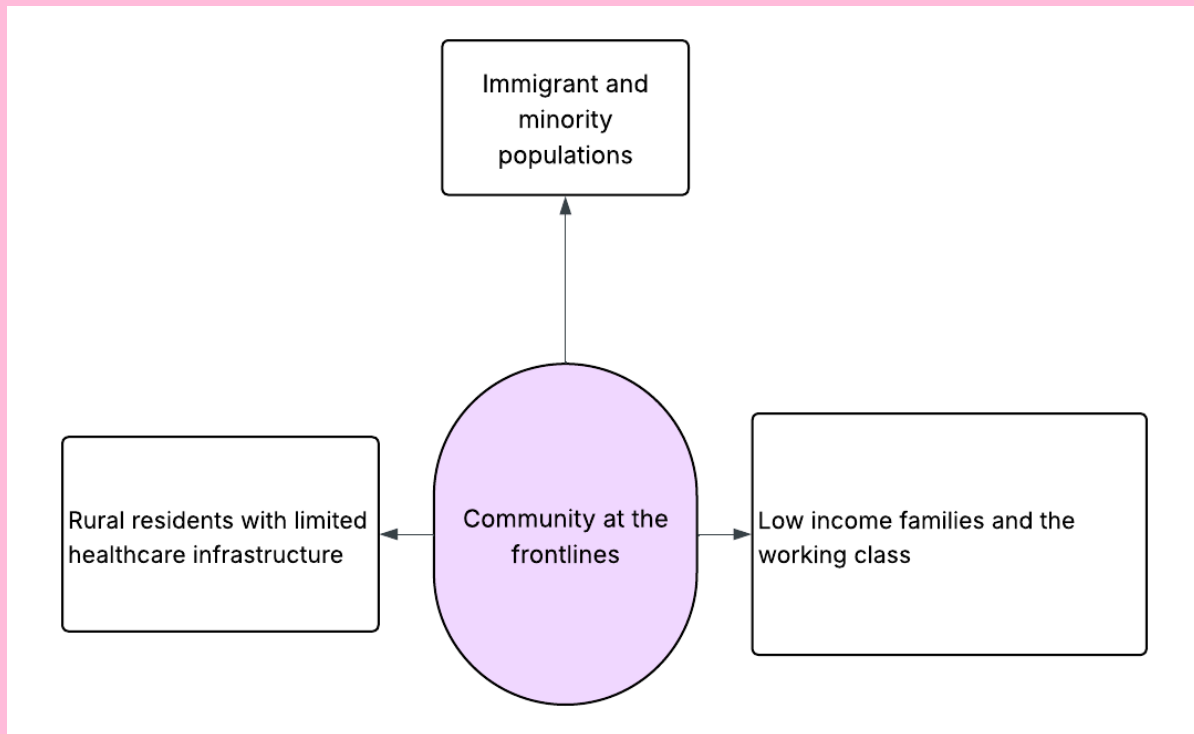
- **Public Health:** Cuts to CDC and local health departments; termination of grants for COVID-19 response and routine services.
- **Emergency Management:** Plans to eliminate FEMA and ASPR; weakened disaster preparedness.
- **Gender & Reproductive Health:** Cuts to Title X and Planned Parenthood; bans on gender-affirming care.
- **Health & Social Services:** Dismantling of agencies supporting mental health, disability, and veterans; layoffs and budget cuts.

Service delivery					
	Public health				
	Emergency management and public health emergencies				
	Gender affirming and reproductive healthcare				
	Health and social services				

Table 1: Summary evaluation of the likely impact of early Trump administration policies. (9)



# WHO IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF THIS STRUGGLE?



**MAHA overlooks existing economic pressures and disparities in accessibility that prevent people from managing their own health. It frames health as an individualistic act, not as a collectivist effort.**

# REFRAMING PUBLIC HEALTH

## From Individual to Collective Responsibility

### 1. **Shift the Focus:**

From diet & exercise  
→ to policies, access,  
and equity.

### 2. **Recognize Reality:**

Health outcomes  
are shaped by  
where people live,  
work, and learn.

### 3. **Empower Communities:**

Solutions must  
address economic  
pressures,  
infrastructure, and  
systemic barriers.



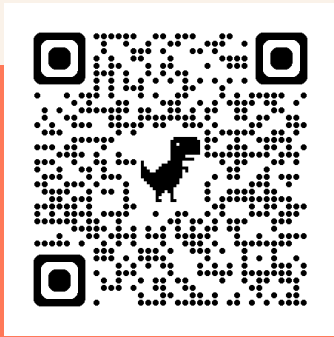
# ACTION STEPS

## DON'T BE MISINFORMED

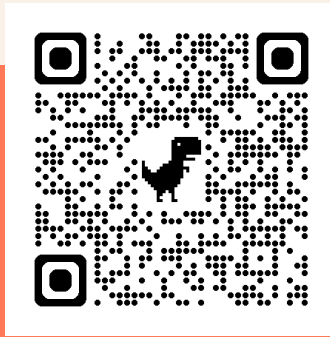
01.

- Fact-check sources before internalizing opinions.
- Use reliable news outlets for campaign information and follow credible health organizations and centers for accurate access to healthcare information.

### Resources:



NYC Health+Hospitals  
resource database  
based on zip-code



Charles B. Wang  
Health Education  
resources

## EMAIL YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

02.

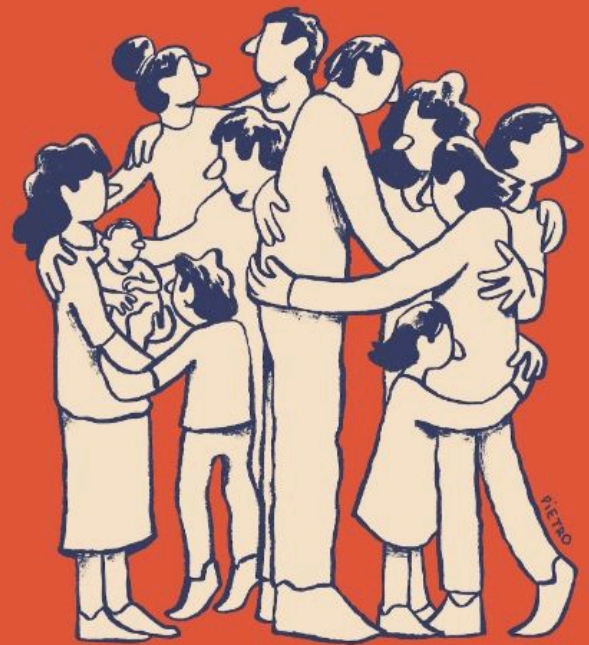
- Identify your reps via:



## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

03.

- Go to town hall meetings
- Ask questions
- Register to vote, if you can!



U N I T Y

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