



**YOUNG CHILDREN  
PRIORITY FIRST**

The logo for the Early Childhood Community Development Centre (eccdc) features the lowercase letters 'eccdc' in a bold, brown, sans-serif font. A small green leaf is positioned above the letter 'd'.

early childhood community development centre

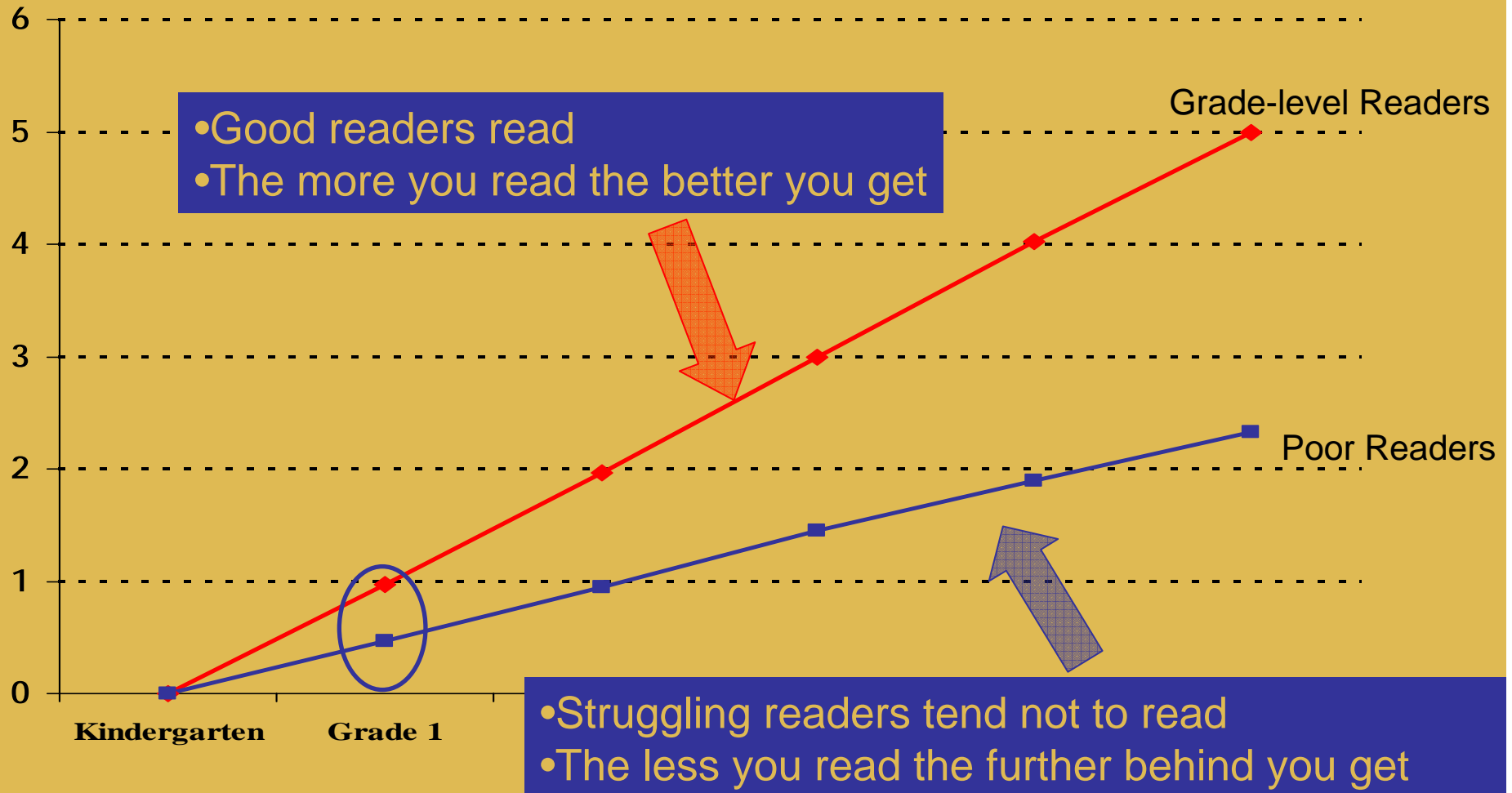
## **Understanding the Early Years (UEY)**

**The ability to read, write and use numbers is crucial for the labour market success and social well-being of individuals. It is also widely accepted that economies with highly literate populations will be more competitive**

*(Literacy Utilization in Canadian Workplaces, Professors Harvey Krahn and Graham S. Lowe, 1998 at <http://www.statcan.ca>)*

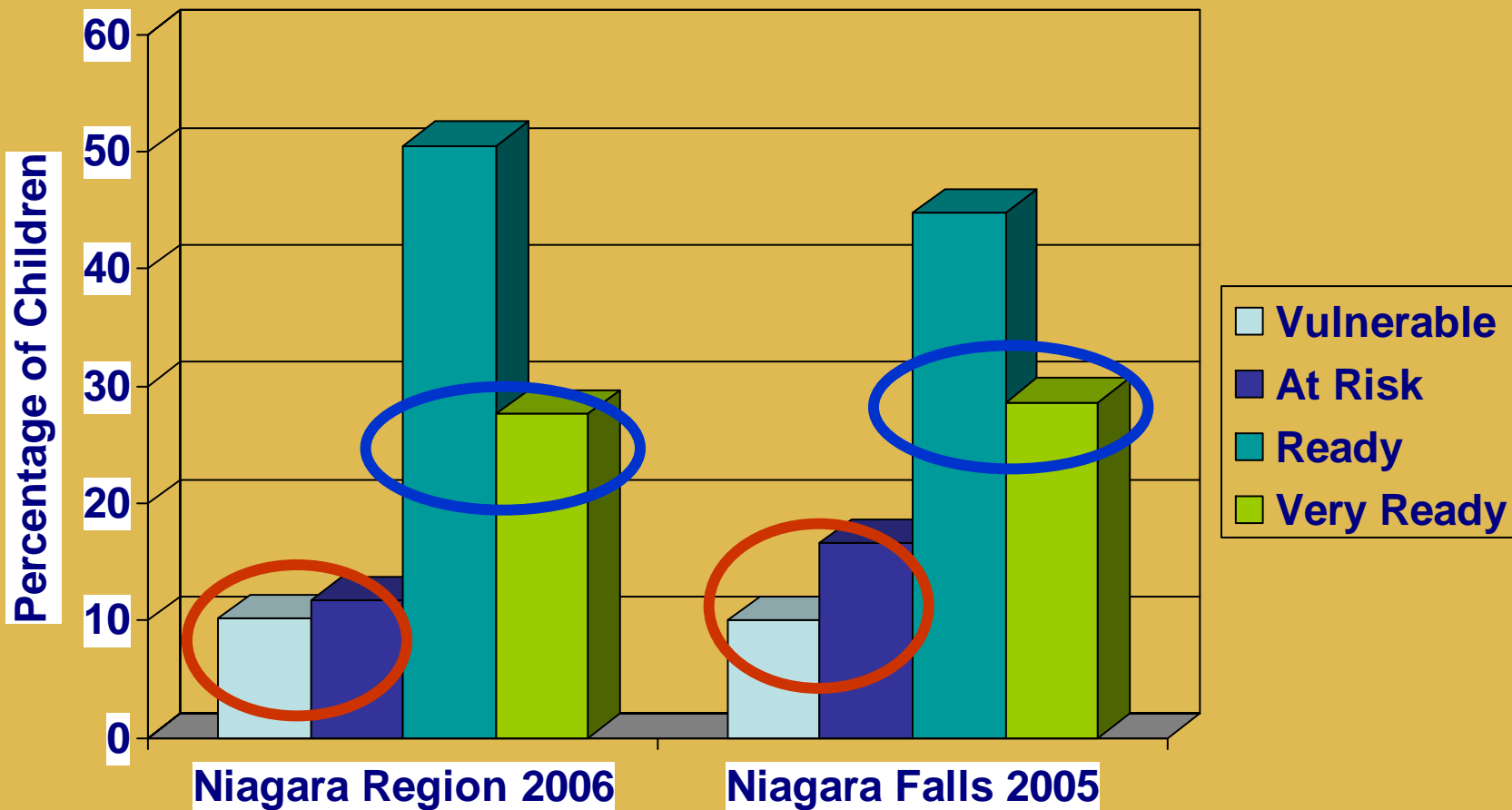
# THE MATTHEW EFFECT

*“THE RICH GET RICHER AND THE POOR GET POORER”*



McNamara, J., Scissos, M. & Monteiro, C. (2003). *A Longitudinal Study of Early Identification Markers for Children At-Risk For Reading Disabilities.*

# SCHOOL READINESS TO LEARN (UEY 2005 & 2006)



# PRIORITIES AS IDENTIFIED BY UEY

## NIAGARA FALLS 2005

N=135

69.1%

Did not show interest in books, reading, or math

63.6 %

Could not read or write simple words or sentences

49.1%

Could not count, compare or recognize numbers, name shapes and tell time

## NIAGARA REGION 2006

N = 628

78.3%

Did not show interest in books, reading, or math

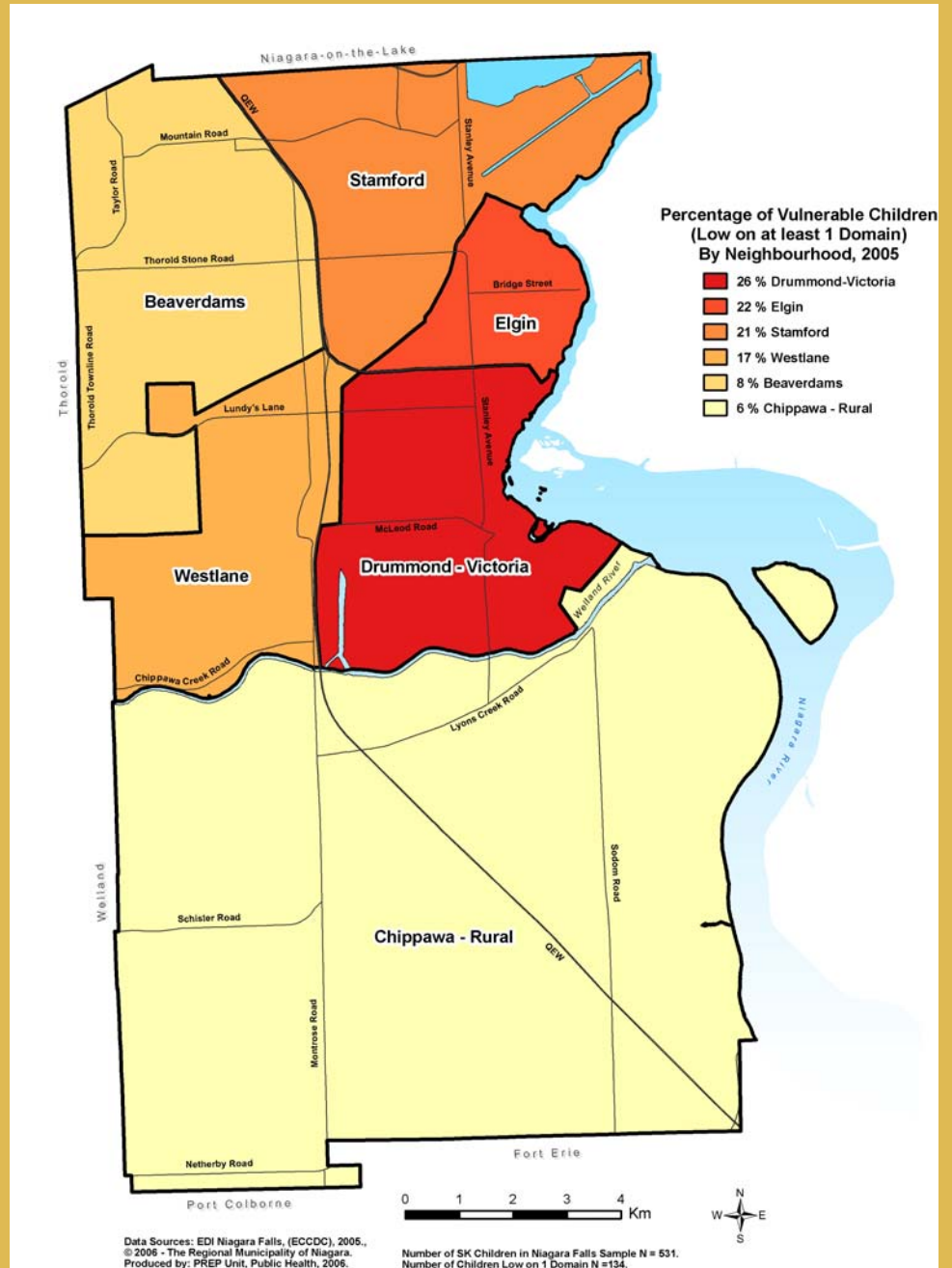
73.1%

Could not read or write simple words or sentences

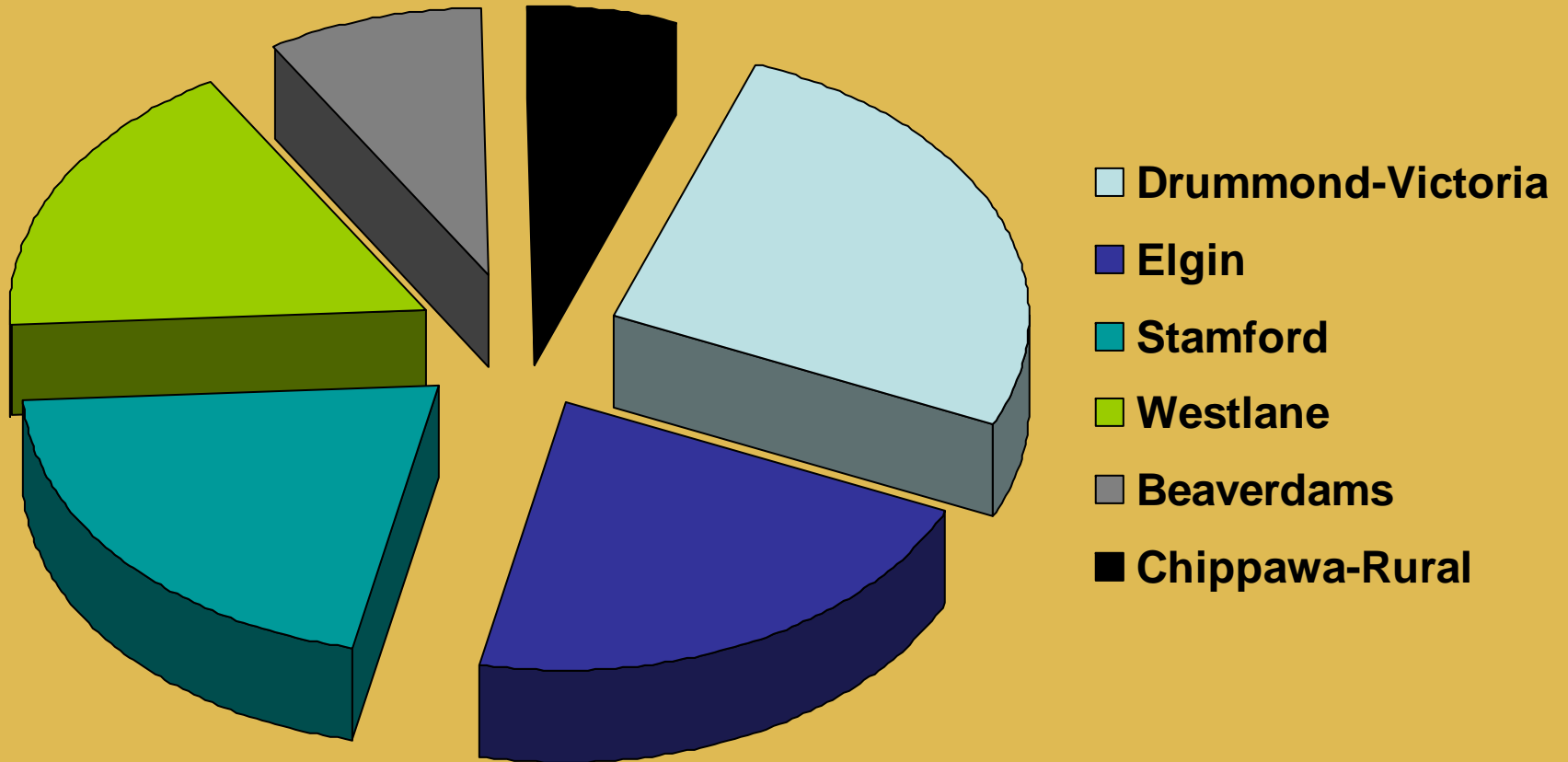
69.8%

Could not count, compare or recognize numbers, name shapes and tell time

# CHILDREN WITH LOW SCORES ON AT LEAST ONE OR MORE DOMAINS



# NUMBER OF CHILDREN SCORING LOW ON ONE OR MORE DOMAINS (NIAGARA FALLS EDI 2005)



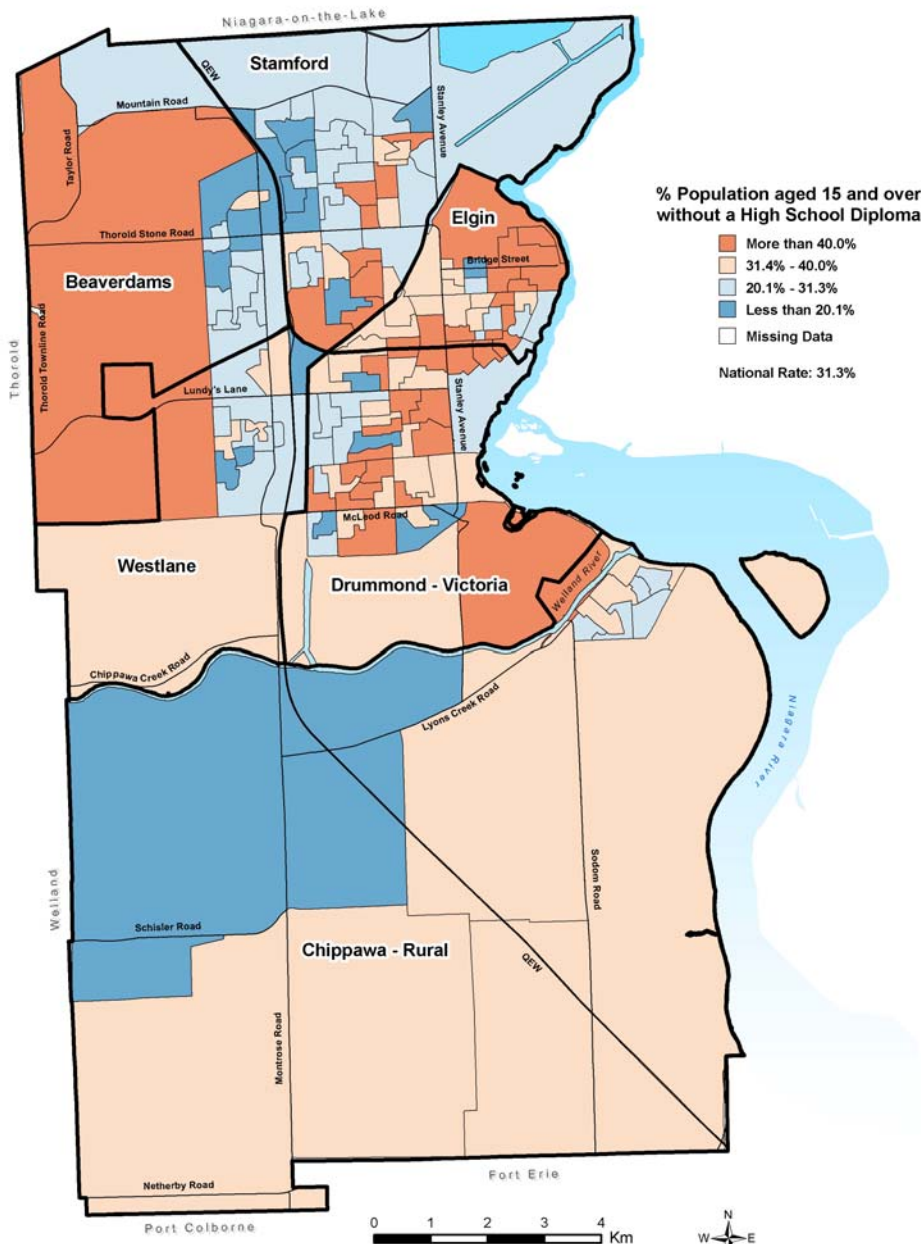
# NIAGARA FALLS

## SOCIAL VARIABLES

- A large majority of people over 15 in

Niagara Falls are without a high school diploma (StatsCan, 2001)

- The Niagara Falls rate is higher than the National average 31.3% (StatsCan, 2001)



Data Sources: 2001 Census, [Dissemination Area] Statistics Canada, © 2006 - The Regional Municipality of Niagara. Produced by: PREP Unit, Public Health, 2006.



# **READINESS TO LEARN OVERALL (KEY)**

**At average Age  
5 Years  
7 Months**

**Niagara Falls 2005  
25.3%  
At Risk or Vulnerable**

**Niagara Region 2006  
21.86%  
At Risk or Vulnerable**



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