# Coming Back Differently: An Exploratory Case Study of Near Death Experiences of Webpages

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These two captures of the same page one month apart have the same content - can we assume it stayed the same in between?
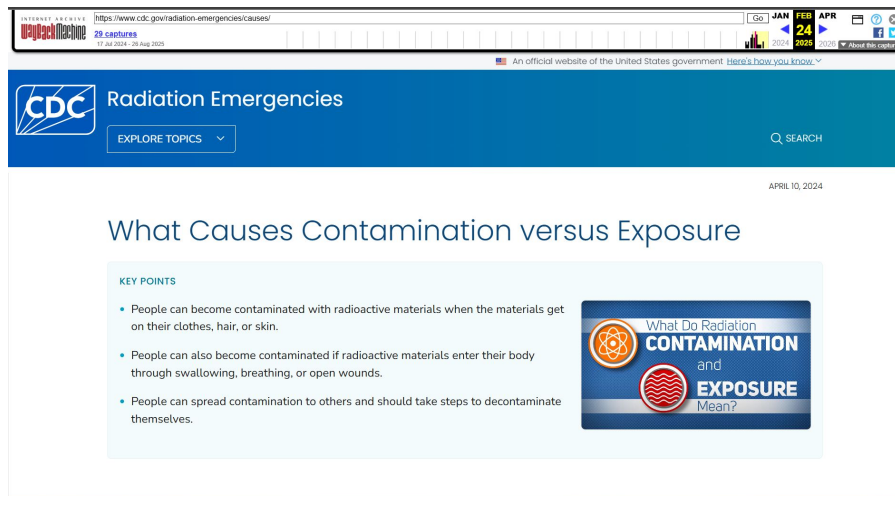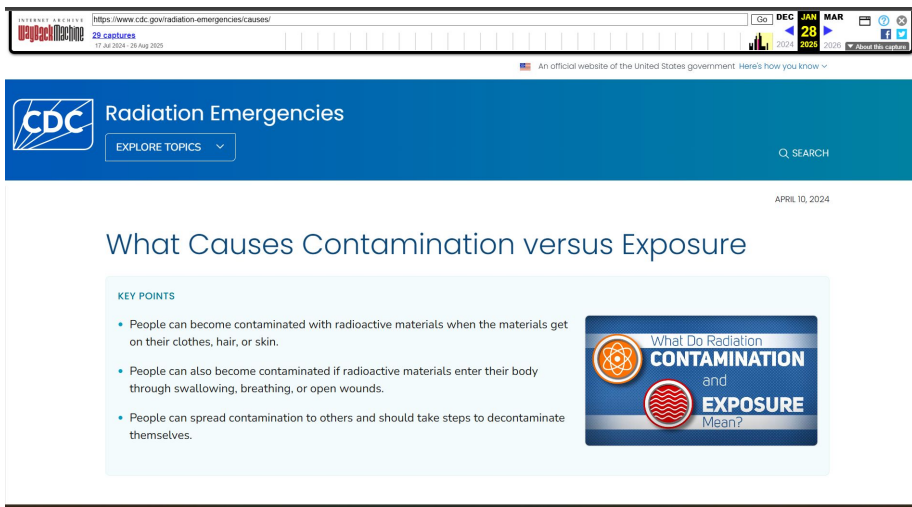
In February 2025, an executive order resulted in many US government webpages being taken down

EYEWITNESS NEWS abc7 24/7 Live

CDC websites, datasets taken down as agency complies with Trump executive orders

By Jen Christensen, Nick Valencia, Jacqueline Howard, Deidre McPhillips and Brenda Goodman, CNN

Saturday, February 1, 2025

Rather than being permanently deleted, a federal judge ordered that they be restored (and edited individually)

The Guardian

News | Opinion | Sport | Culture | Lifestyle

US news | US politics | World | Climate crisis | Middle East | Ukraine | US immigration | Soccer | Business | Environment | Tech | Science | Newsletters | Wellness

Trump administration

Judge orders CDC and FDA to restore webpages removed after Trump order

US agencies told to reinstate critical public health information that had been scrubbed from public view

Marina Dunbar
Tue 11 Feb 2025 14.34 EST

https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/feb/11/trump-dei-cdc-fda

In fact, this page had two captures with different content between those two dates

403 http status code

There are over 8,000 CDC webpages with TimeMaps that fit this 200 - not 200 - 200 pattern in February 2025.
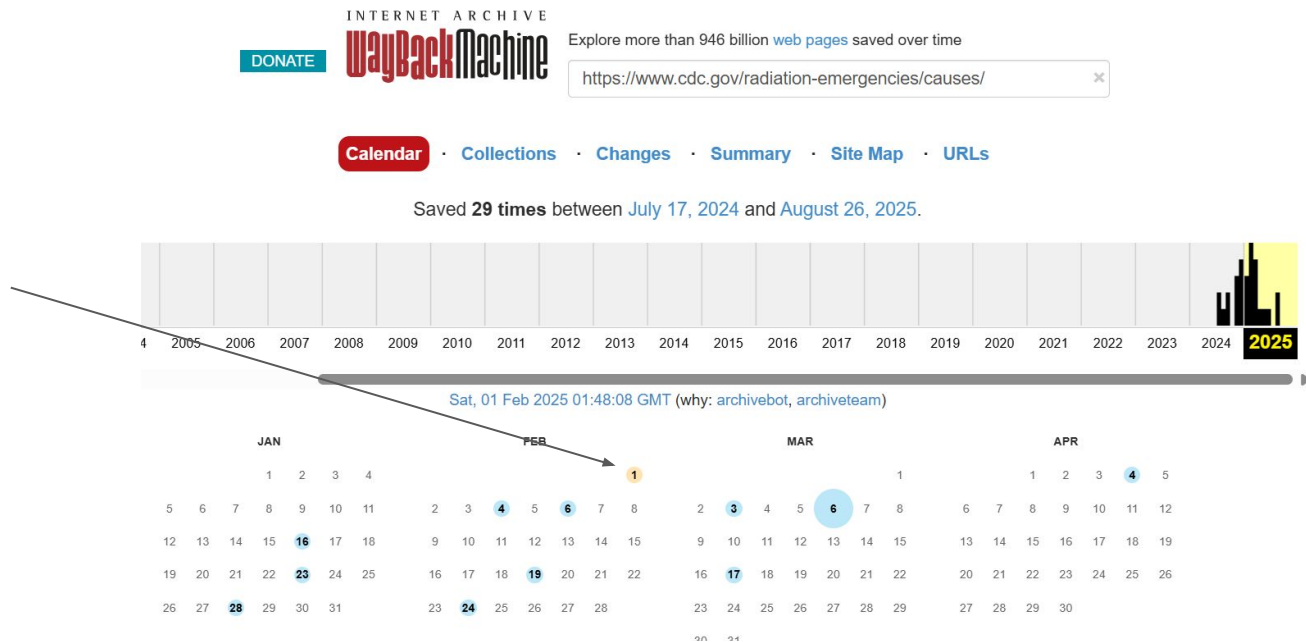
"Life and death are a part of a continuous sequence rather than dichotomous categories."

| Clinical death stage | → | Liminal stage | → | Coming back (differently) |
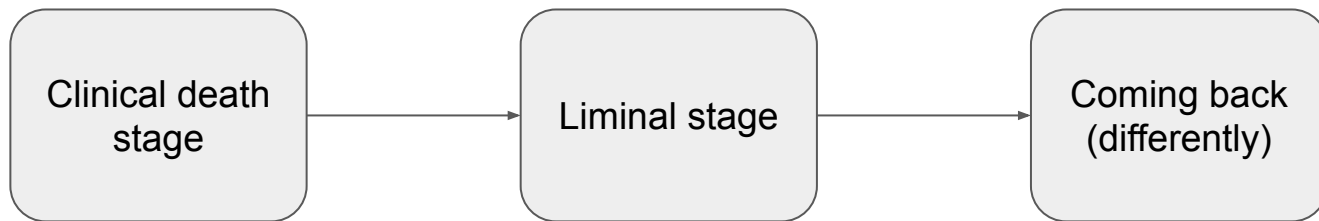
Roy

Hit in head by shell

"You're in a kind of complete darkness, between hallucination and consciousness."
Coma for 6 days

Rehab for 6 months

Limor Meoded Danon.. Between My Body and My "Dead Body": Narratives of Coma. Qualitative Health Research. 2015;26(2):227-240

A near death experience of a webpage follows 3 stages

http status code

200   not 200   200   200
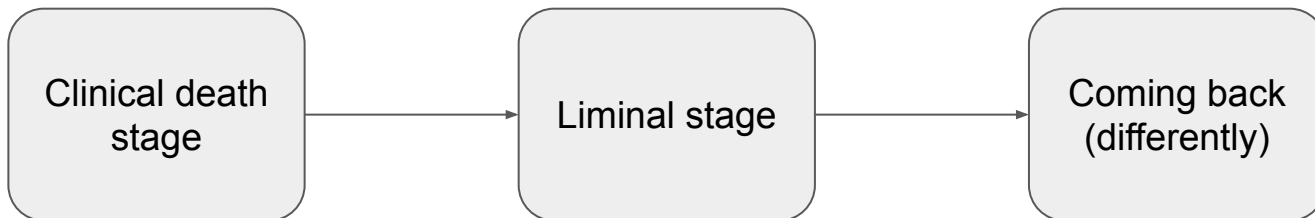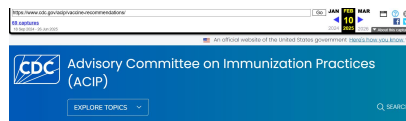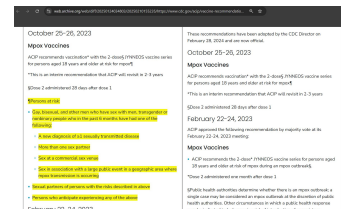
Many CDC webpages have at least one non-successful HTTP status code in February 2025 (clinical death)
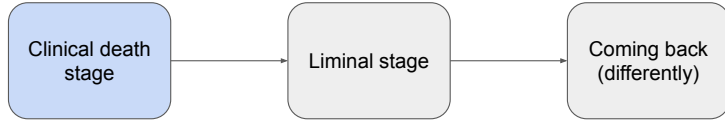
Status code: 404
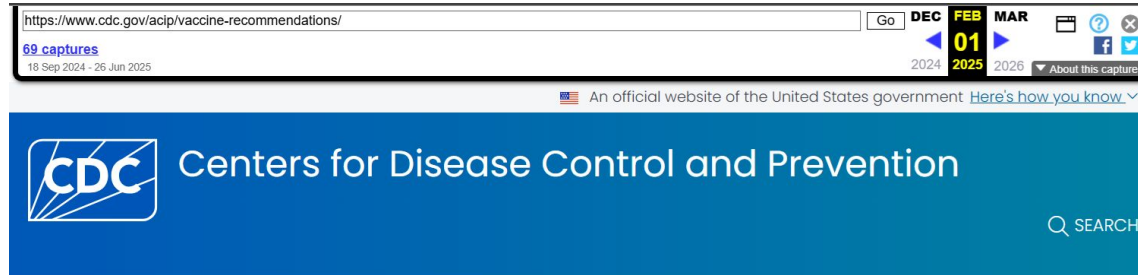
Data.CDC.gov webpages redirected to this error sink (clinical death stage)
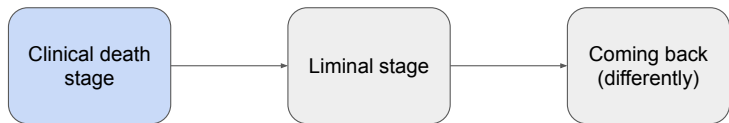
Status code: 302 then 200

Clinical death stage reasons could include redirects (error sinks), removals, bot prevention, or server unavailability.

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Clinical death stage  →  Liminal stage  →  Coming back (differently)
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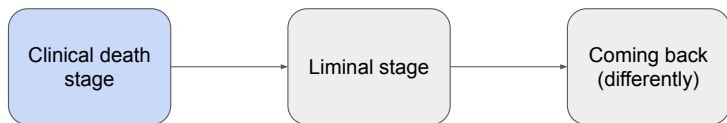
Status Code	All CDX matches	HTML matches only
301 Moved Permanently	9791	4496
302 Found	1153	2
403 Forbidden	8133	793
404 Not Found	3063	1593

TABLE I

STATUS CODES OF CDC NEAR DEATH WEBPAGES, FOR STATUS CODES WITH AT LEAST 20 PAGES. REDIRECTS 3XX ARE THE MOST COMMON STATUS CODE, FOLLOWED BY FORBIDDEN AND NOT FOUND.

"A liminal space is the time between the 'what was' and the 'next.' It is a place of transition."
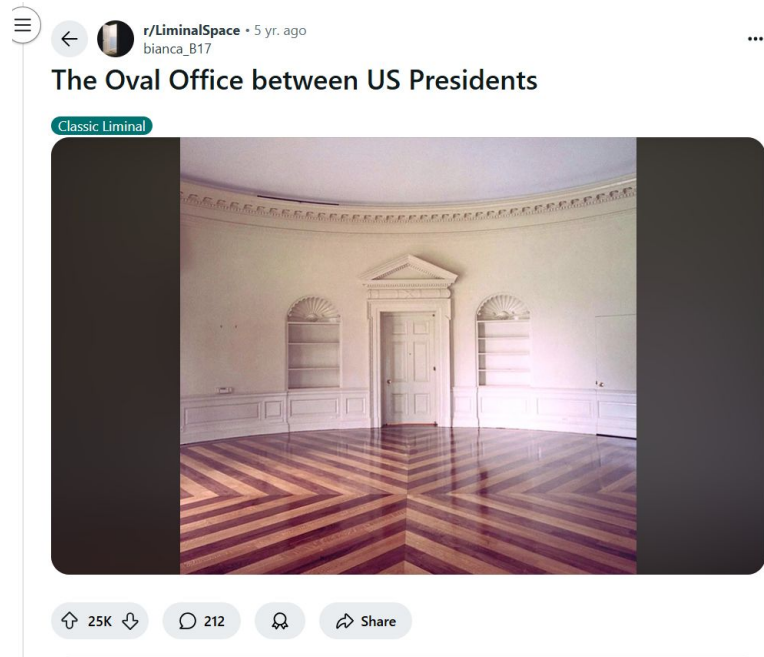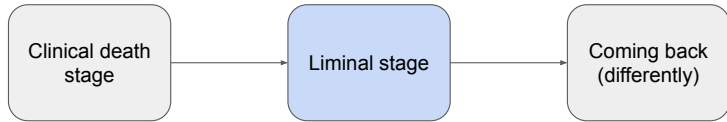
CDC webpages displayed a banner in February 2025 while they were edited to comply with new executive orders (liminal stage)
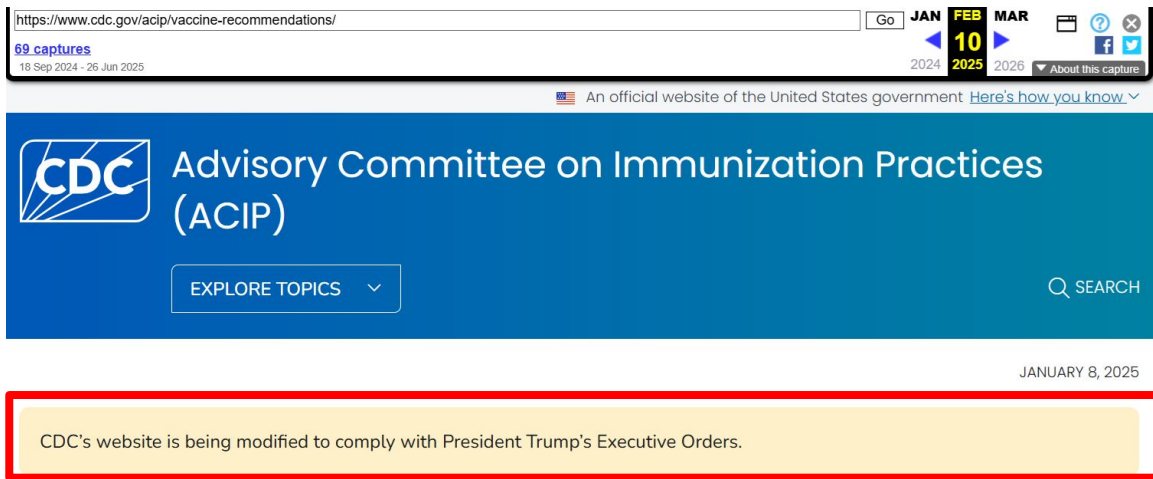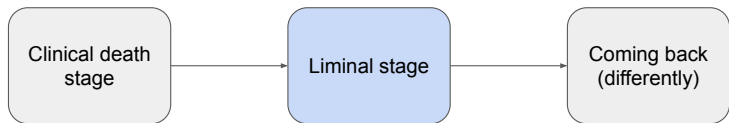
Some CDC webpages still display a banner today

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Clinical death stage  →  Liminal stage  →  Coming back (differently)
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HIV

EXPLORE THIS TOPIC ⌄

🔍 SEARCH

Living with HIV

🛡 For Everyone
OCT. 28, 2024

Per a court order, HHS is required to restore this website as of 11:59PM ET, February 14, 2025. Any information on this page promoting gender ideology is extremely inaccurate and disconnected from the immutable biological reality that there are two sexes, male and female. The Trump Administration rejects gender ideology and condemns the harms it causes to children, by promoting their chemical and surgical mutilation, and to women, by depriving them of their dignity, safety, well-being, and opportunities. This page does not reflect biological reality and therefore the Administration and this Department rejects it.

Liminal webpages are highly fragile and are at risk of changing or being entirely permanently deleted.
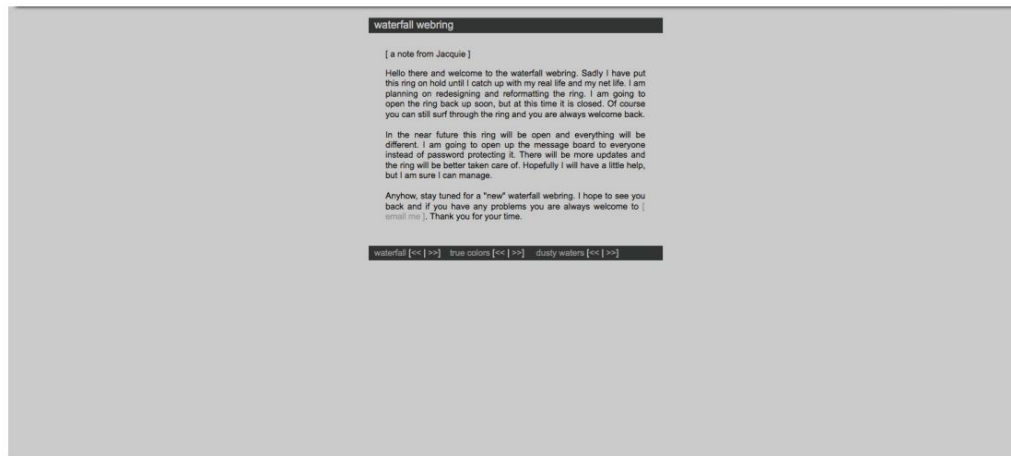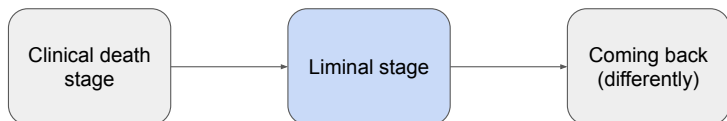
Figure 2. Jacquie. "Waterfall Webring" Splash page. *Waterfall is closed for Repairs*. Screen capture as it appeared on 9 Oct 1999. Retrieved from the Wayback Machine. https://web.archive.org/web/19991009032311/http://www.jacquiesworld.com/waterfall. Accessed 11 July 2019.

M. Olszanowski, "girl. is. a. four. letter. word the collective practices of amateur self-imag (in) ing and personal website production 1996 to 2001"

CDC webpages contain a last updated date, both machine readable and human readable


```
<meta property="cdc:last_updated"
content="January 8, 2025"/>
```

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

EXPLORE TOPICS

SEARCH

JANUARY 8, 2025
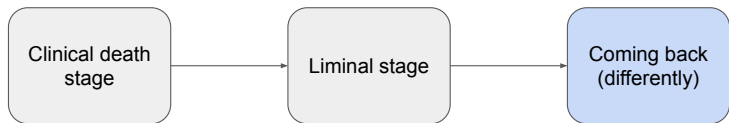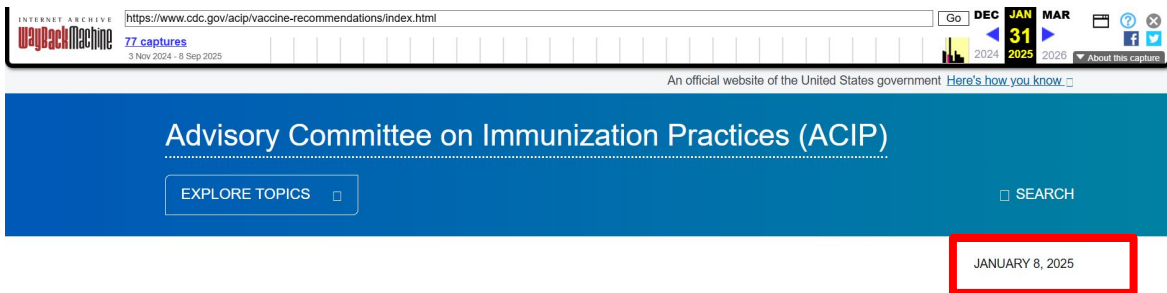
ACIP Recommendations

AT A GLANCE

- The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) develops recommendations on how to use vaccines to control disease in the United States.

This CDC webpage experienced unannounced, silent changes (coming back differently)


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Clinical death stage  →  Liminal stage  →  Coming back (differently)
```

January 24, 2025
"Last updated:
January 8"

February 10, 2025
"Last updated:
January 8"

October 25-26, 2023

Mpox Vaccines

ACIP recommends vaccination* with the 2-dose§ JYNNEOS vaccine series for persons aged 18 years and older at risk for mpox¶

*This is an interim recommendation that ACIP will revisit in 2-3 years

§Dose 2 administered 28 days after dose 1

¶Persons at risk:
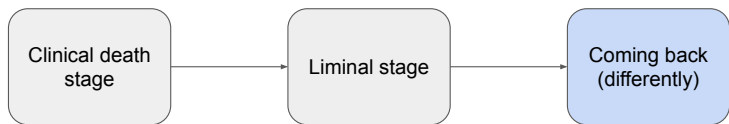- Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, transgender or nonbinary people who in the past 6 months have had one of the following:
  - A new diagnosis of ≥1 sexually transmitted disease
  - More than one sex partner
  - Sex at a commercial sex venue
  - Sex in association with a large public event in a geographic area where mpox transmission is occurring
- Sexual partners of persons with the risks described in above
- Persons who anticipate experiencing any of the above

February 22-24, 2023

These recommendations have been adopted by the CDC Director on February 28, 2024 and are now official.

October 25-26, 2023

Mpox Vaccines

ACIP recommends vaccination* with the 2-dose§ JYNNEOS vaccine series for persons aged 18 years and older at risk for mpox¶

*This is an interim recommendation that ACIP will revisit in 2-3 years

§Dose 2 administered 28 days after dose 1

February 22-24, 2023

ACIP approved the following recommendation by majority vote at its February 22-24, 2023 meeting:

Mpox Vaccines

- ACIP recommends the 2-dose* JYNNEOS vaccine series for persons aged 18 years and older at risk of mpox during an mpox outbreak§.

*Dose 2 administered one month after dose 1

§Public health authorities determine whether there is an mpox outbreak; a single case may be considered an mpox outbreak at the discretion of public health authorities. Other circumstances in which a public health response may be indicated include ongoing risk of introduction of mpox into a

Deleted text

We analyzed the 8,824 candidates for changes using an iterative combination of manual and automated methods
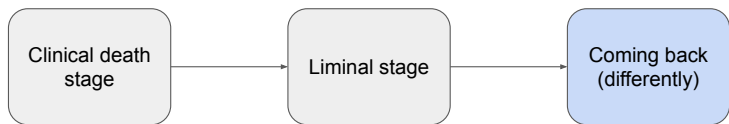
CDC Coming Back Differently
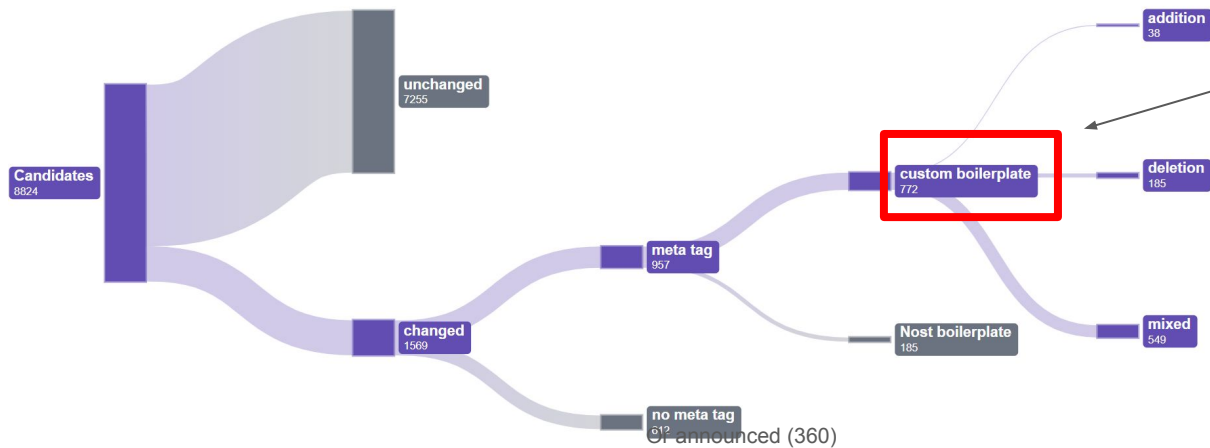
One tenth of candidates contain silent updates!

We presented a case study of CDC webpages that experienced a near death experience

- We examined the pages in the context of their lifespan and near death experience, identifying three stages (clinical death, liminal, and coming back differently)
- We showed that the CDC last updated date is not trustworthy

Sankey data

From	To	Amount (current)
Candidates	unchanged	7255
Candidates	changed	1569
changed	meta tag	957
meta tag	custom boilerplate	772
meta tag	Nost boilerplate	185
custom boilerplate	addition	38
custom boilerplate	deletion	185
custom boilerplate	mixed	549
changed	no meta tag	612