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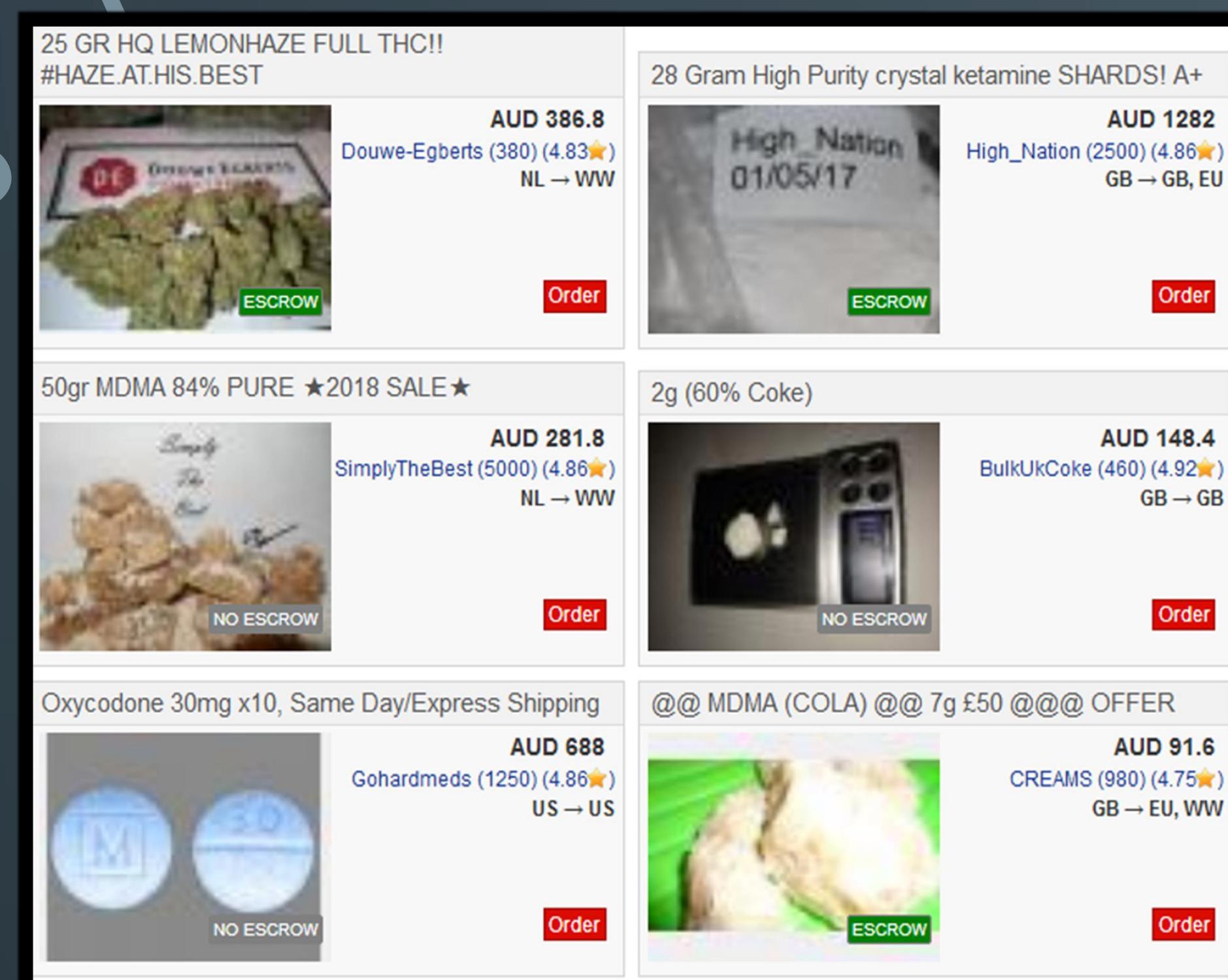
**NDARC**  
National Drug & Alcohol Research Centre

# Do cryptomarket users differ in reporting emergency medical treatment following MDMA, cocaine or LSD use?

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## What are cryptomarkets?

- Also known as “darknet” or “deep-web”
- eBay style anonymous online drug marketplaces
- Rising in usage around the world



## Aim

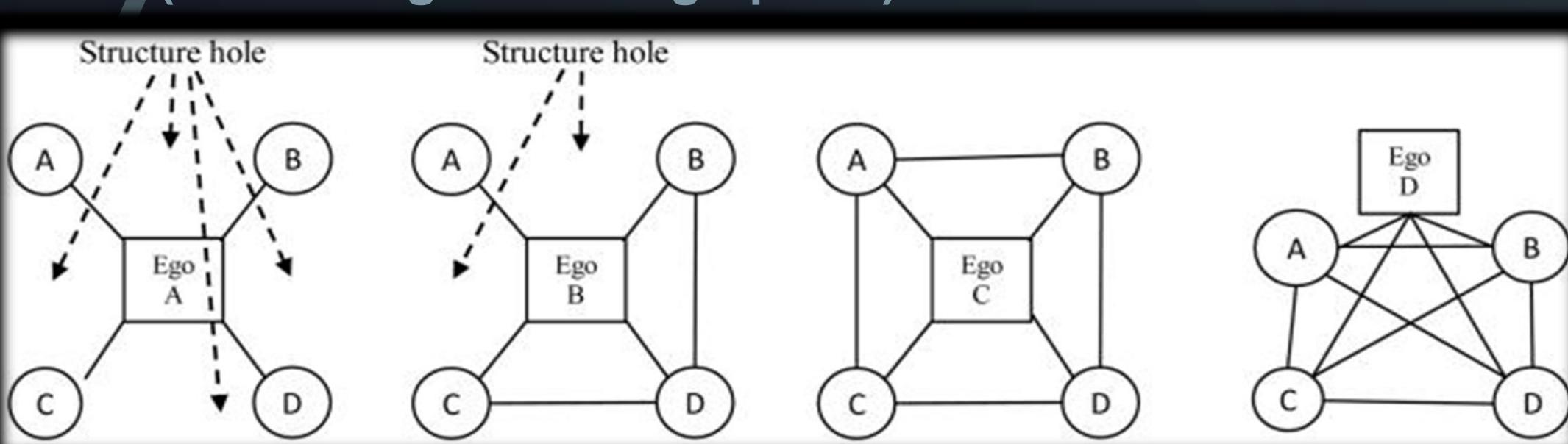
- This study aimed to explore the relationship between cryptomarket use, social networks and adverse drug events.

## Method

- The Global Drug Survey (2018) – largest online anonymous drug survey (n = 76,984).
- Data collected on:
  - Cryptomarket use
  - Social networks
  - Adverse drug events (ADE)\*
  - \*If emergency medical treatment (EMT) was sought or if EMT was required and not sought.
  - Reasons were given if EMT was required and not sought.

## Analyses

- Chi square analyses comparing group proportions
- Social network analysis for structural hole measures
- Hierarchical binary logistic regression predicting adverse drug events with structural hole measures and cryptomarket use (controlling for demographics).

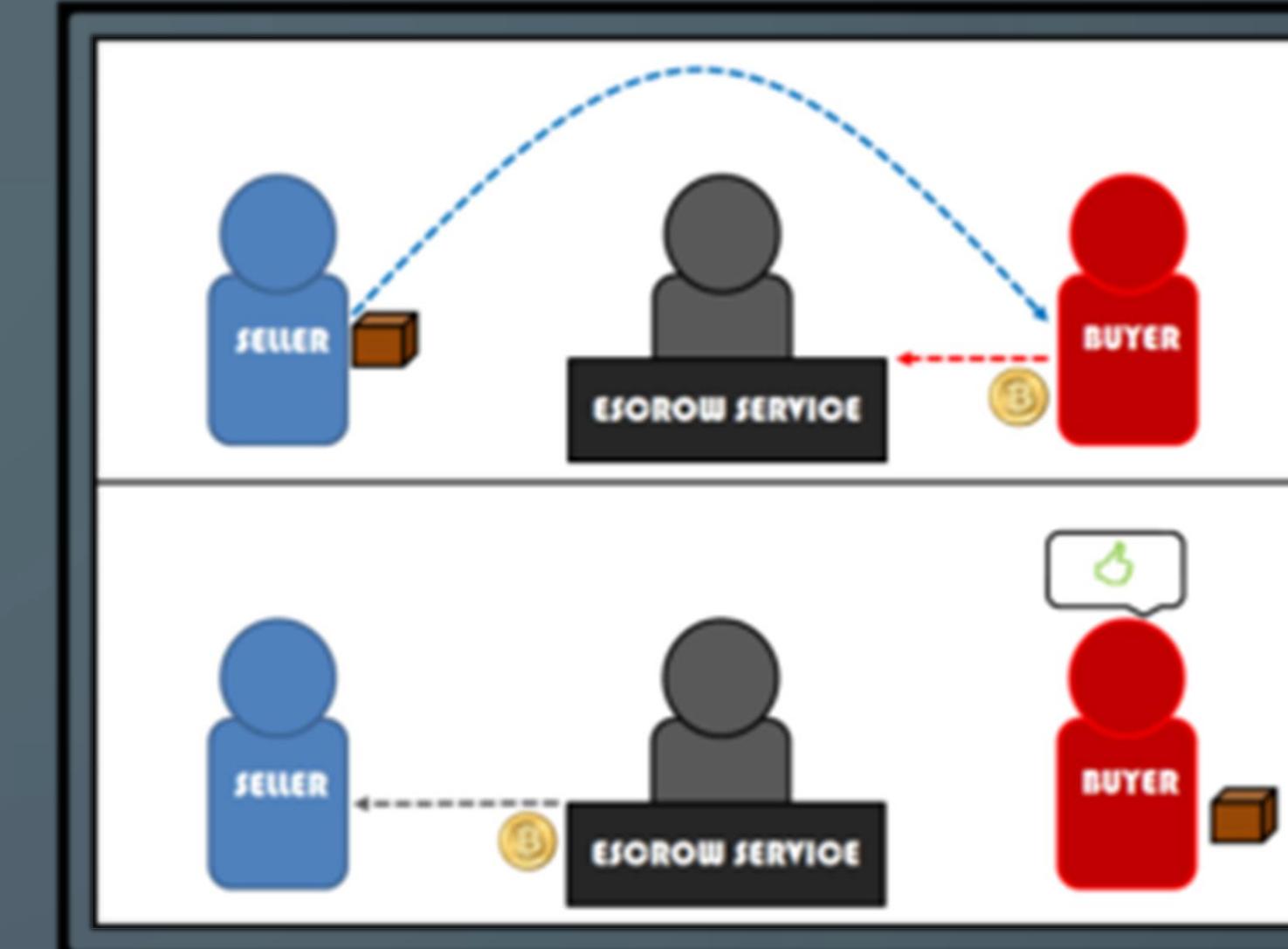


## How do they work?

- Encrypted (like cryptocurrency)
- Discussion forums
- Review/feedback system

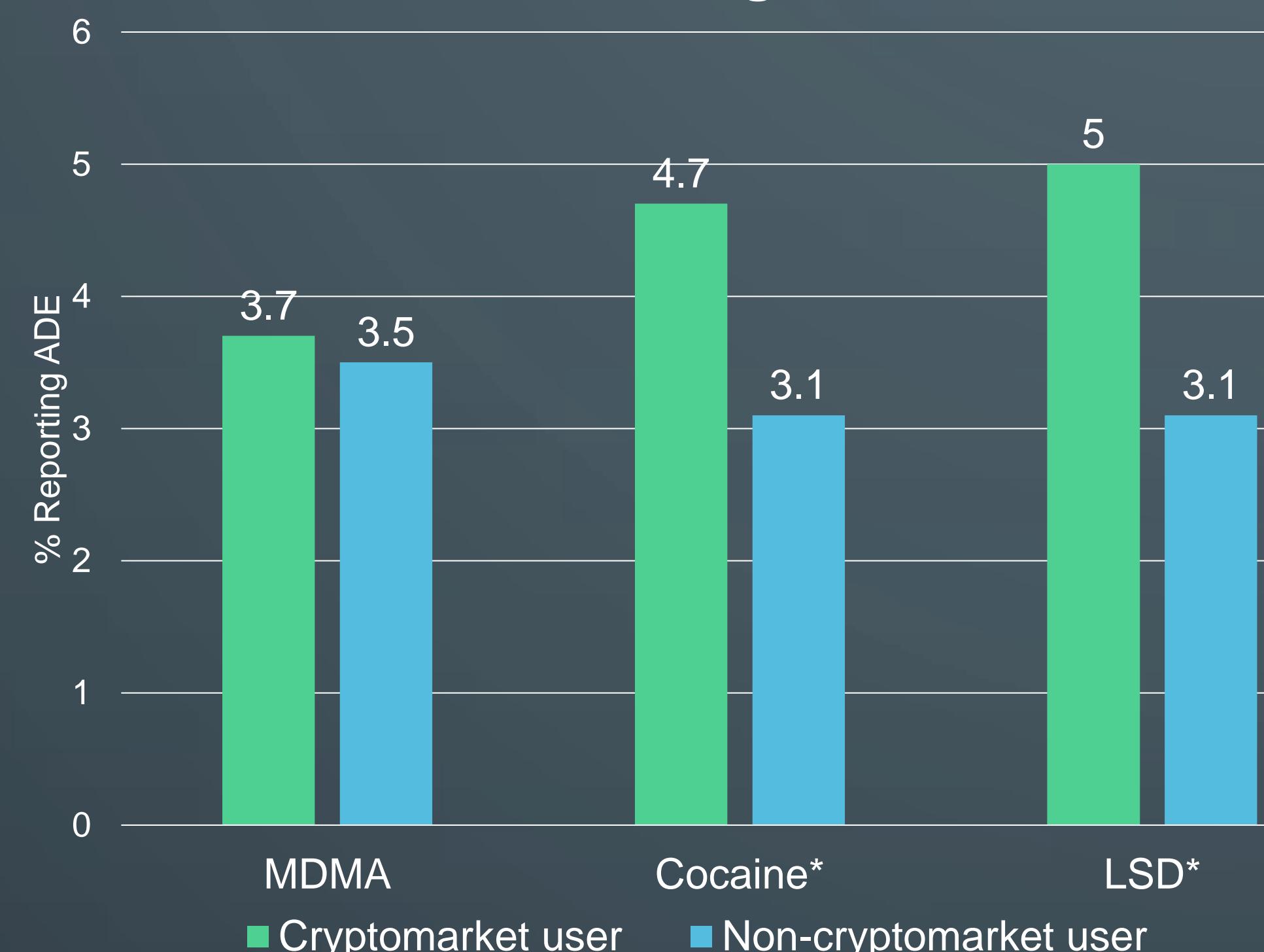
1d 18h ★★★★★	different products. Replies to messages quickly and is very helpful. Will update when I've tried the order but based on other reviews I won't be disappointed	b...n ~ AUD 626
2d 4h ★★★★★	Always overweight on all of my orders, reliable for a long time, knows how to keep his customers satisfied and returning Absolute fast delivery, always top notch stuff, if any problems occur he is pretty fast in solving the problem, thanks for being here	u...l ~ AUD 1578
1d 3h ★★★★★	Patiently waiting on arrival. This vendor is actually the real deal by the way he handle things with the good service :b	p...r ~ AUD 1295
1d 17h ★★★★★	Super Nice Customer service and fast response. Will update on arrival :D	M...2 ~ AUD 61
1d 17h ★★★★★		M...2 ~ AUD 265

## Contactless Transactions

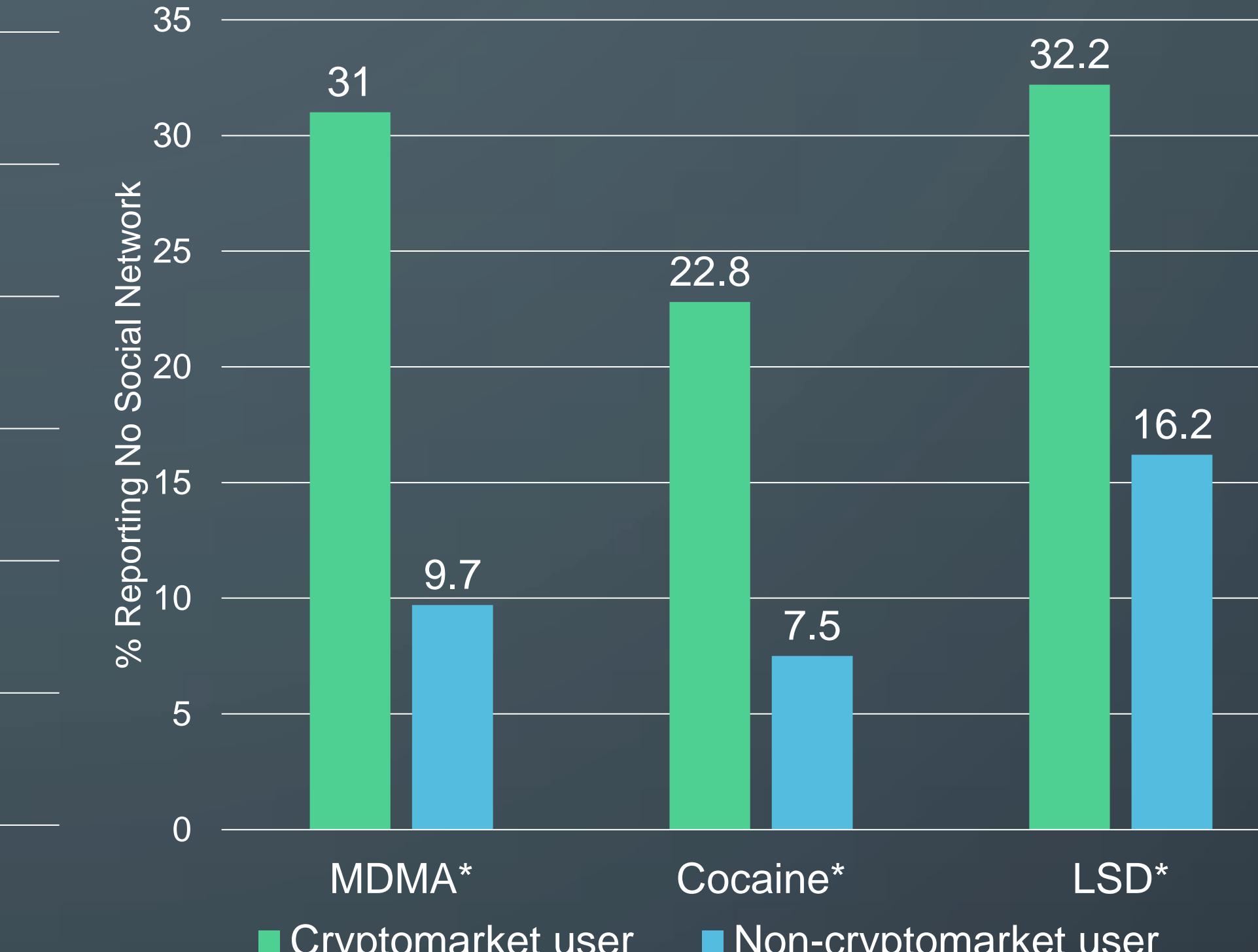


## Results

### Adverse Drug Events



### No Social Network



### Reasons For Not Seeking EMT



## The Difference is Research

### Are they harmful or not?

#### Harmful?

- People who use cryptomarkets could be more prone to drug-related harm if they are using drugs alone, given the nature of the cryptomarkets removing the need for social networks to source drugs.

#### Not harmful?

- People who use cryptomarkets may be less prone to drug-related harm because of the feedback system.
- The feedback system holds sellers accountable for their products, and reported negative experiences would be available for other consumers to consider.

## Results

- People who use cryptomarkets were significantly more likely to:
- Experience adverse drug events following cocaine or LSD use.
  - Use MDMA, cocaine or LSD with no other people.
  - Not be able to seek EMT due to being alone following MDMA and LSD.
  - Not seek EMT due to friends telling them not following LSD use.

## Conclusion

- Results suggest possible increased risk of adverse drug events for people who use cryptomarkets.
- However, other variables may be at play – people who use cryptomarkets and reporting adverse drug events were significantly younger than their counterparts.
- Social networks require further investigation – one interesting reason why participants did not seek EMT was due to their friends advising against it.
- Social networks need to account for the possible negative influences in order to see a more comprehensive picture of adverse drug events, social networks and cryptomarket use.

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