

DRUG TRENDS

Trends in the availability and types of drugs sold on the internet via cryptomarkets, June 2021 - May 2022

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27 cryptomarkets monitored



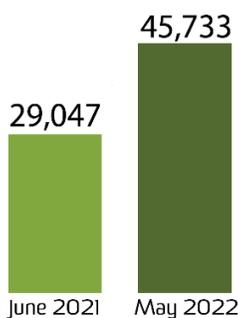
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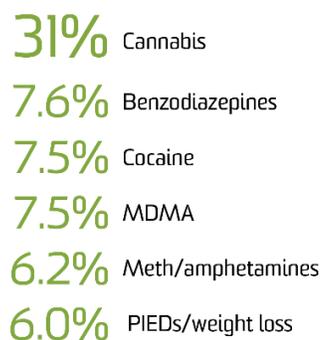
11 markets closed and 14 new markets were monitored during the period June 2021 to May 2022.

DarkFox
AlphaBay
ASAP
Versus
Bohemia

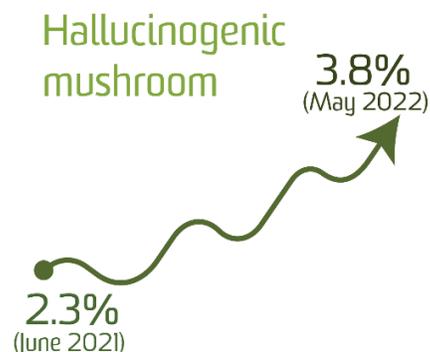
The largest cryptomarkets in the final month of monitoring.



The average number of listings per weekly scrape increased by 57% from 29,047 in June 2021 to 45,733 in May 2022.



Top 6 drugs across drug cryptomarket listings from June 2021 to May 2022.



The market share of hallucinogenic mushroom had the biggest increase from 2.3% in June 2021 to 3.8% in May 2022.

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Key Findings

- From 1st June 2021 to 31st May 2022, 27 cryptomarkets were monitored weekly, of which 11 closed before the end of the reporting period. We began monitoring 14 new cryptomarkets during this period.
- In the final month of reporting, DarkFox, AlphaBay, ASAP, Versus and Bohemia were the largest cryptomarkets.
- The number of drug listings across all monitored cryptomarkets increased by 65% in May 2022 (n= 45,733) as compared to June 2021 (n= 29,047), with increases noted across all drug classes. More recently, a 16% decline in total drug listings was observed from April to May 2022.
- The largest percentage of listings from June 2021 to May 2022 were for cannabis (31%), followed by benzodiazepines (7.6%), cocaine (7.5%), MDMA (7.5%), meth/amphetamine (illicit) (6.2%), and PIEDs/weight loss (6.0%).
- The market share of the different drug classes (i.e., percentage of total drug listings) remained relatively stable over the monitoring period.
- The biggest increase was observed in the percentage of listings selling hallucinogenic mushrooms, which increased by 1.4% from 2.3% of all drug listings in June 2021 to 3.8% in May 2022. The greatest percentage decrease was observed for other medicines (4.5% of all drug listings in June 2021 to 3.6% in May 2022).



Table of Contents

Background.....	4
Panel A. Terminology	4
Findings	6
Profile of Cryptomarkets	6
Which markets were monitored during this period?.....	6
Which markets closed during this period?	8
What markets were monitored for the first time during this period?	11
Which markets from this period have been monitored for the longest?	11
Which markets from this period were the largest based on number of drug listings?.....	11
Did the total number of drug listings in the overall market change over this period?.....	13
Did the number of drug listings for individual markets change over this period?.....	15
Main Drugs Sold via Cryptomarkets	15
What were the main drugs sold via cryptomarkets during this period?	15
Did the main drugs sold via cryptomarkets change during this period?	16
Has there been a change in the number of listings for certain drugs over this period?	18
What drugs did the different markets sell over this period?	19

Background

This bulletin series reports on trends in the availability and types of drugs sold on the internet via cryptomarkets over the last 12 months (a new bulletin is released typically every 4 months). The current bulletin focuses on analysis of drug listings on cryptomarkets from 1st June 2021 to 31st May 2022.

[Drug Trends](#) have identified, crawled (or ‘scraped’), extracted, categorised and analysed drug listings on cryptomarkets on a weekly basis since 1st January 2014, formerly using VBA programming processes, and since 9th August 2018 using a range of programmed automated processes in Python that operate with minimal manual input. Following extraction of common text features across each listing (e.g., drug listing name, vendor name), individual listings are categorised according to a pre-specified classification structure using a rules-based approach through text-matching in the first instance, followed by a long short-term memory (LSTM) artificial neural network (target predictive percentage 90%) that has been trained on historically categorised listings for those not matched through the former process. Further background and information regarding the methods are available for [download](#).

Panel A. Terminology

- **Cryptomarkets** (‘darknet markets’) are anonymous online trading platforms that facilitate the purchasing of illicit goods and services via multiple sellers. Licit products (e.g., alcohol) may occasionally be traded on these platforms.
- **Number of listings** is the sum of listings per single scrape each week belonging to a specific market and/or drug class. For this measure, duplicate listings (defined as listings with identical names and same quantity of drug by a single vendor on a single market) within the same week are removed.
- **Market size** is defined as the number of drug listings per weekly scrape, overall, by market or by drug class.
- **Market share** is defined as the percentage of total drug listings by drug class.

Our reporting focuses only on identified English language cryptomarkets selling drugs from/to multiple countries or are an Australian market and which have had ≥ 100 drug listings and > 1 vendor. Ongoing monitoring of smaller markets is undertaken to determine whether they meet the number of listings threshold with market growth over time. In addition, some markets may meet the listing threshold criteria during at least one weekly scrape and thus are included, but experience period(s) of market decline where the number of drug listings is < 100 . For a historical record of marketplaces monitored by Drug Trends, we refer the reader to our [interactive timeline](#).

Analyses are concentrated on listings on these marketplaces advertising the sale of illicit drugs (e.g., heroin), key licit drugs (e.g., alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes) and pharmaceutical medicines, as well as drug-related paraphernalia (e.g., needles and syringes, colorimetric reagent kits). The process of categorising listings into drug classes is available [here](#).

An accompanying public [online interactive data visualisation](#) is available, allowing viewers to interact with data collected since February 2014. Data presented here comprise number of listings observed in a single scrape in a given week (see **Panel A**).

In this bulletin, we provide estimates of change over the 12-month reporting period by comparing the final month of monitoring (i.e. May 2022) with the first month (June 2021) and the previous month (April 2022) of monitoring to capture both longer-term and emerging trends. While these data can be considered reasonable estimates for trends in drug availability, we cannot guarantee exhaustive and/or immediate identification and capture of cryptomarkets once they emerge. As a result, there are some cryptomarkets which have existed for periods of time before our first scrape, resulting in a lack of data availability for these periods. In this bulletin, we have shown the date of the first post on a subDread¹ for the market to give another indication of when the market may have started. There can also be challenges in a certain week (e.g., distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks on sites) that prevent a routine scrape of an identified market.

¹ Dread is a forum on the darkweb that is analogous to Reddit. A subDread is a forum group on Dread. The administrators of a cryptomarket often open a subDread for their cryptomarket. However, the market may not yet be fully functional as there can be several months of web development, beta testing and onboarding of vendors before a market becomes fully operational. Thus, it is likely that the cryptomarket reached the criteria for our monitoring sometime between the first post on the subDread of the cryptomarket and our first scrape.

Since our findings do not reflect the total of all cryptomarkets existing in the reporting period, the analysis and estimates in this bulletin should be treated with caution. These estimates should not be used to infer the number of drug listings across all cryptomarkets. Further, they should only be considered a proxy indicator of drug availability: we have not provided any metric that reflects sales or purchasing of drugs via cryptomarkets. See [here](#) for further discussion of caveats to interpretation.

There are various approaches to collecting, collating, categorising and analysing cryptomarket data, and inherent challenges in these processes. Our monitoring is an ongoing process. We welcome feedback and suggestions so that we can continue to improve utility of these data and our reporting on them (contact us at drugtrends@unsw.edu.au).

Findings

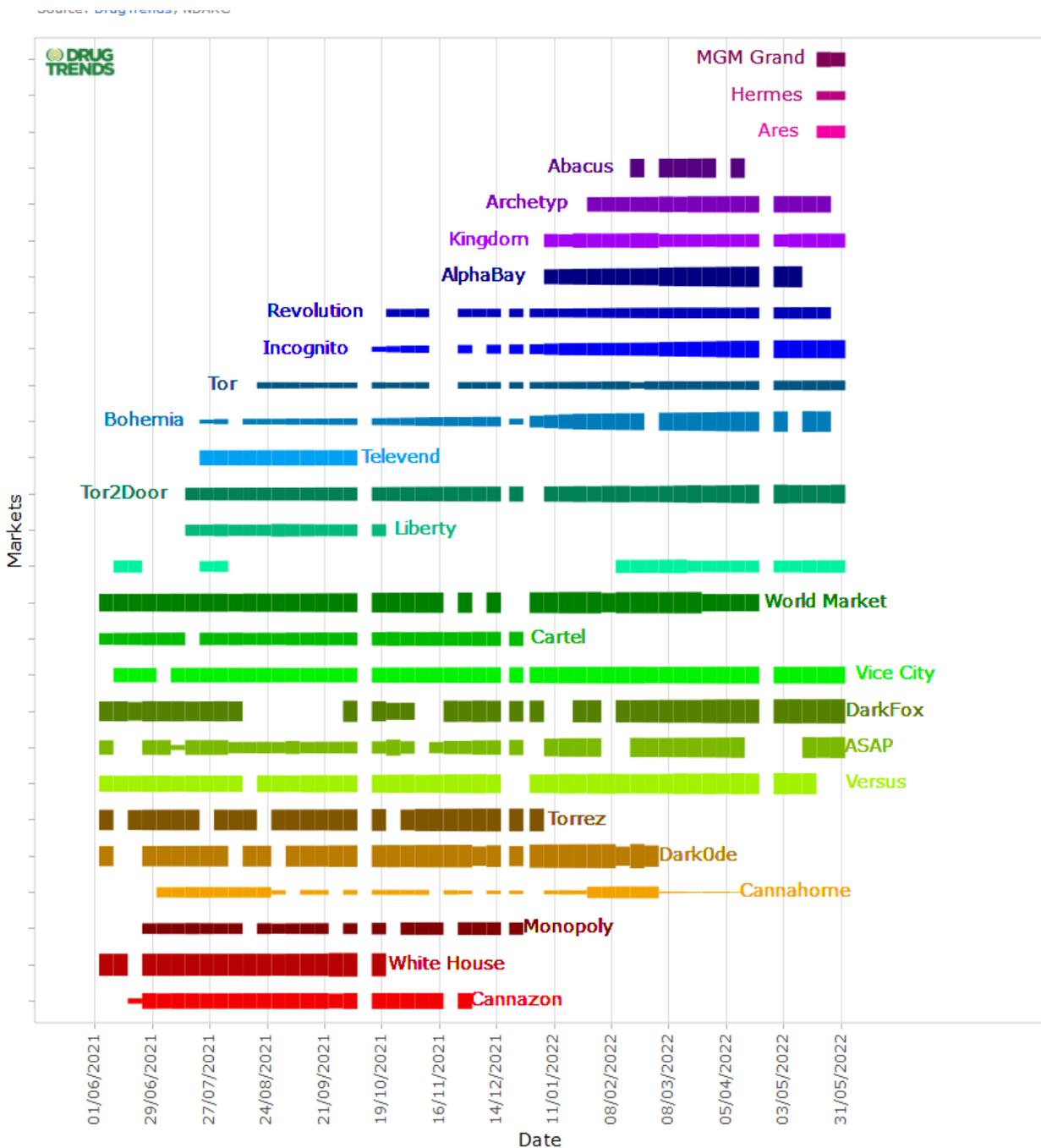
Profile of Cryptomarkets

Which markets were monitored during this period?

The current bulletin reports findings for the time period 1st June 2021 to 31st May 2022. In that period, 27 cryptomarkets were monitored ([Figure 1](#)). See our [interactive timeline](#) for a historical record of the cryptomarkets monitored since February 2014. [Table 1](#) shows the characteristics of these cryptomarkets since the date of our first scrape, noting that some cryptomarkets may have existed for some time before we started scraping them.

DRUG TRENDS

Figure 1. Markets monitored from 1st June 2021 to 31st May 2022.



Note: Breaks indicate period where market crawling was not achievable or incomplete. The width of the bar is proportional to the log of the number of drug listings observed in each week for each market.

Which markets closed during this period?

Of the 27 markets monitored in this bulletin, 11 markets (41% of monitored markets) closed within the reporting period for the following purported reasons (**Table 1**).

- Televend was last scraped on 30th September 2021. Due to a [possible exit scam](#), the market was shut down in October 2021.
- White House was last scraped on 14th October 2021. Market administrators officially announced its retirement on 1st October, 2021, claiming that they had reached their goal, suggesting they made a [voluntary exit](#) but there were also speculations that they were involved in [law enforcement investigations](#).
- Liberty was last scraped on 14th October 2021. Although there was no clear evidence of it being officially shutdown, the subDread discussion reported a possible exit scam.
- Cannazon was last scraped on 25th November 2021. Due to an extended and [massive Denial-of-service \(DDoS\) attack](#), the market announced they were officially retiring on 23rd November, 2021 and closed shortly after.
- Both Monopoly and Cartel were last scraped on 20th December 2021. Monopoly and Cartel closed [without apparent explanation](#) at a similar time.
- Torrez was last scraped on 30th December 2021. The market officially claimed that they decided to [close Torrez for good](#), with indications that they were making a voluntary exit.
- Dark0de was last scraped on 24th February 2022. Due to an [exit scam](#), the market closed on 24th February 2022 without warning.
- Cannahome was last scraped on 7th April 2022. In early April 2022, Cannahome started closing down, with an [official announcement](#) claiming that it was time for them to move onto the next phase of their lives, suggesting a possible voluntary exit.
- World Market was last scraped on 14th April 2022, with online sources suggesting an [exit scam](#).
- Versus was last scraped on 23rd May 2022. A [source](#) indicated that it was hacked and a security flaw was exposed on 25th May 2022. The market has been inaccessible since that time and its subDread has been archived.

Fourteen markets remained active and were monitored at the end of the reporting period, comprising: ASAP, DarkFox, Vice City, Tor2Door, Bohemia, Tor, Incognito, AlphaBay, Kingdom, Archetyp, Cypher, Ares, Hermes and MGM Grand (**Table 1**). The remaining two markets were either inaccessible from mid-May (Revolution) or too challenging to scrape regularly given market design (Abacus).

Table 1. Characteristics of markets reported on in this bulletin.

Market	Status at end of period (reported reason ^a)	Earliest subDread post ^b	Start date of scrape	End date of scrape	Duration in weeks ^c	Maximum number of listings ^d
Cannazon	<u>Closed</u> (DDoS)	14 th Mar 2018	26 th Apr 2018	25 th Nov 2021	188	2,177
Monopoly	<u>Closed</u> (unknown)	14 th Jul 2019	9 th Jan 2020	20 th Dec 2021	103	1,009
White House	<u>Closed</u> (voluntary exit)	24 th Aug 2019	9 th Jan 2020	14 th Oct 2021	93	13,556
Cannahome	<u>Closed</u> (voluntary exit)	15 th Sep 2019	4 th Feb 2021	7 th Apr 2022	62	825
Dark0de	<u>Closed</u> (exit scam)	25 th May 2020	22 nd Apr 2021 ^e	24 th Feb 2022	45	15,479
ASAP	Open	9 th Apr 2020	13 th May 2021 ^e	Ongoing ^f	55*	7,465
DarkFox	Open	24 th Feb 2020	13 th May 2021 ^e	Ongoing ^f	55*	15,632
Torrez	<u>Closed</u> (voluntary exit)	14 th Apr 2020	13 th May 2021 ^e	30 th Dec 2021	34	11,417
Versus	<u>Closed</u> (hacked / security flaw)	6 th Aug 2019	13 th May 2021 ^e	25 th May 2022	53	7,971
Vice City	Open	26 th Aug 2020	13 th May 2021 ^e	Ongoing ^f	55*	2,854
Cartel	<u>Closed</u> (unknown)	15 th Jun 2020	27 th May 2021 ^e	20 th Dec 2021	31	1,486
World Market	<u>Closed</u> (exit scam)	14 th Nov 2020	27 th May 2021 ^e	14 th Apr 2022	47	7,930
Cypher	Open	8 th Feb 2020	10 th Jun 2021	Ongoing ^f	51*	1,235
Liberty	Closed (possible exit scam)	12 th Dec 2020	15 th Jul 2021	14 th Oct 2021	14	1,007
Tor2Door	Open	3 rd Jul 2020	15 th Jul 2021	Ongoing ^f	46*	4,245

Market	Status at end of period (reported reason ^a)	Earliest subDread post ^b	Start date of scrape	End date of scrape	Duration in weeks ^c	Maximum number of listings ^d
Bohemia	Open	23 rd May 2021	22 nd Jul 2021	Ongoing ^f	44*	6,776
Televend	<u>Closed</u> (exit scam)	9 th Jun 2020	22 nd Jul 2021	30 th Sep 2021	11	1,928
Tor	Open	Not on Dread	19 th Aug 2021	Ongoing ^f	41*	513
Incognito	Open	19 th Oct 2020	14 th Oct 2021	Ongoing ^f	33*	3,658
Revolution	Status unknown ^g	4 th Jun 2020	21 st Oct 2021	19 th May 2022	31 ^g	771
AlphaBay	Open	8 th Aug 2020	6 th Jan 2022	Ongoing ^f	21*	7,257
Kingdom	Open	3 rd May 2021	6 th Jan 2022	Ongoing ^f	21*	1,646
Archetyp	Open	19 th Apr 2020	27 th Jan 2022	Ongoing ^f	17*	2,463
Abacus	Ceased data collection ^h	27 th Sep 2020	17 th Feb 2022	7 th Apr 2022	8 ^h	5,208
Ares	Open	26 th Aug 2021	19 th May 2022	Ongoing ^f	2*	944
Hermes	Open	15 th Apr 2020	19 th May 2022	Ongoing ^f	2*	403
MGM Grand	Open	26 th Apr 2021	19 th May 2022	Ongoing ^f	2*	1,713

Note: ^a Most probable reason for closure is given. ^b Duration is the number of weeks between the start and end date of scraping, including weeks where data could not be scraped. Where the cryptomarket was active as of 31st May 2022 (indicated by *), duration is computed as the number of weeks between the start date and 31st May 2022. ^c Mean number of listings per weekly scrape is computed as total number of drug listings over the weekly scrapes in the period divided by number of weeks of scraped data in the reporting period. ^d Maximum number of listings in a scrape is computed from the weekly scrapes over the reporting period. ^e Markets were operational since February-July 2020 based on analysis of posts on Dread but we have not monitored them before May 2021. ^f Market was active as of 31st May 2022. ^g The status of Revolution could not be confirmed at the time of publication. It was last scraped on 19th May 2022. ^h We stopped scraping Abacus on 7th April 2022 because of the intensive manual effort required for scraping.

What markets were monitored for the first time during this period?

We began monitoring 14 cryptomarkets in this period. These were Liberty, Tor2Door, Bohemia, Televend, Tor, Incognito, Revolution, AlphaBay², Archetyp, Cypher, Abacus, Ares, Hermes and MGM Grand ([Figure 1](#) and [Table 1](#)). Notably, Televend was a ‘hybrid’ cryptomarket and messaging app, which used Telegram bots that allowed customers to communicate with vendors selling on the darknet ([Barratt et al., 2022](#)). As noted above, most of these markets were still active at the end of the monitoring period (except for Liberty and Televend which closed, and Revolution which was inaccessible).

Which markets from this period have been monitored for the longest?

Of the 27 markets in this reporting period, Cannazon is the market we have been monitoring for the longest ([Table 1](#)). First reports of Cannazon on Dread appeared in March 2018, and scraping began in April 2018 (total duration of monitoring: 188 weeks). Cannazon is a cannabis-specific cryptomarket reaching a maximum of 2,177 listings in a scrape within the current reporting period ([Figure 2](#)).

The second and third longest-lasting markets monitored within this reporting period were Monopoly (103 weeks) and White House (93 weeks) ([Table 1](#)). First reports of these markets on Dread appeared in July and August 2019, respectively, and scraping of both markets began in January 2020 until they closed in late 2021.

Which markets from this period were the largest based on number of drug listings?

The cryptomarkets whose mean number of drug listings per week was higher than the average (of 4,381 listings) across the total reporting period were ([Table 2](#)):

- White House with an average of 10,085 listings per scrape over 18 weeks;
- DarkFox with an average of 9,022 listings per scrape over 37 weeks;
- Dark0de with an average of 8,973 listings per scrape over 33 weeks;
- Torrez with an average of 8,035 listings per scrape over 25 weeks;
- World Market with an average of 5,034 listings per scrape over 41 weeks; and
- Abacus with an average of 4,535 listings per scrape over 6 weeks.

² We had scraped a cryptomarket with the name AlphaBay between 14th February 2015 and 1st July 2017. The subDread of the new AlphaBay we are now scraping started on 8th Aug 2020. The administrators of the new AlphaBay claimed that they are based on the original AlphaBay.

Table 2. Number of drug listings on the markets monitored from 1st June 2021 to 31st May 2022.

Market	Mean number of listings per weekly scrape ^a (number of weeks monitored ^b)				Relative % change in size ^c	
	Jun 2021 - May 2022	Jun 2021 ^d	Apr 2022 ^e	May 2022 ^f	Jun 2021 to May 2022	Apr 2022 to May 2022
White House	10,085 (18)	9,420 (3)	–	–	–	–
DarkFox	9,022 (37)	5,162 (4)	14,289 (3)	15,264 (4)	196	7
Dark0de	8,973 (33)	5,943 (2)	–	–	–	–
Torrez	8,035 (25)	6,010 (3)	–	–	–	–
World Market	5,034 (41)	3,236 (4)	2,946 (2)	–	–	–
Abacus	4,535 (6)	–	5,208 (1)	–	–	–
Versus	4,218 (45)	2,227 (4)	7,353 (3)	6,992 (2)	214	-5
AlphaBay	3,970 (17)	–	6,313 (3)	7,257 (1) ^g	–	15
ASAP	2,706 (40)	1,558 (2)	6,648 (1)	7,053 (3)	353	6
Vice City	2,114 (47)	1,457 (3)	2,792 (3)	2,745 (4)	88	-2
Archetyp	2,087 (16)	–	2,431 (3)	2,412 (3)	–	-0.8
Tor2Door	2,052 (42)	–	3,949 (3)	3,739 (4)	–	-5
Cannazon	1,940 (22)	1,092 (2)	–	–	–	–
Bohemia	1,864 (38)	–	5,540 (3)	6,546 (2)	–	18
Televend	1,847 (11)	–	–	–	–	–
MGM Grand	1,573 (2)	–	–	1,573 (2)	–	–
Incognito	1,512 (28)	–	2,898 (3)	3,495 (4)	–	21
Kingdom	1,238 (20)	–	1,029 (3)	1,354 (4)	–	32
Cartel	1,088 (27)	862 (4)	–	–	–	–
Ares	928 (2)	–	–	928 (2)	–	–
Cypher	917 (19)	899 (2)	841 (3)	936 (4)	4	11
Liberty	818 (13)	–	–	–	–	–
Monopoly	742 (21)	600 (1)	–	–	–	–
Revolution	525 (27)	–	672 (3)	764 (3)	–	14
Hermes	400 (2)	–	–	400 (2)	–	–
Cannahome	329 (34)	NA (0)	60 (1)	–	–	–
Tor	301 (36)	–	424 (3)	494 (4)	–	16
Overall^h	43,803 (49)	29,047 (4)	54,466 (3)	45,733 (4)	57	-16

Note: ^a The mean number of listings per weekly scrape is computed as the total number of listings in the period divided by the number of weeks when the market was monitored (shown in brackets) in the stated period. ^b A market is monitored from the date we had started scraping it until the last scrape before it closed or before the end of the reporting period, whichever is earlier. Those weeks with missed scrapes were not included in the count of the number of weeks monitored. ^c Relative % change in market size is computed as % change in mean number of weekly listings observed in the stated months. ^d The markets with a '–' had not yet started in June 2021. ^e The markets with a '–' had closed before April 2022 or had not yet started in April 2022. ^f The markets with a '–' had closed before May 2022. ^g The last 3 weeks of scrapes for AlphaBay were removed because they were incomplete (scripting error). ^h Note that the estimates in the 'Overall' row is derived from total number of listings in the overall market in the period. As such, the estimated mean or relative % change in market size for individual markets do not add up or average to the overall in each column.

All of these markets except DarkFox were no longer being scraped by the end of the reporting period, largely due to market closures.

In the final month of the reporting period (May 2022), there were 15 markets which were scraped. The markets whose mean number of drug listings per week was above the average (of 3,873 listings) in May 2022 were (**Table 2**):

- DarkFox with an average of 15,264 listings per scrape;
- AlphaBay with an average of 7,257 listings per scrape.
- ASAP with an average of 7,053 listings per scrape;
- Versus with an average of 6,992 listings per scrape (closed May 2022); and
- Bohemia with an average of 6,546 listings per scrape.

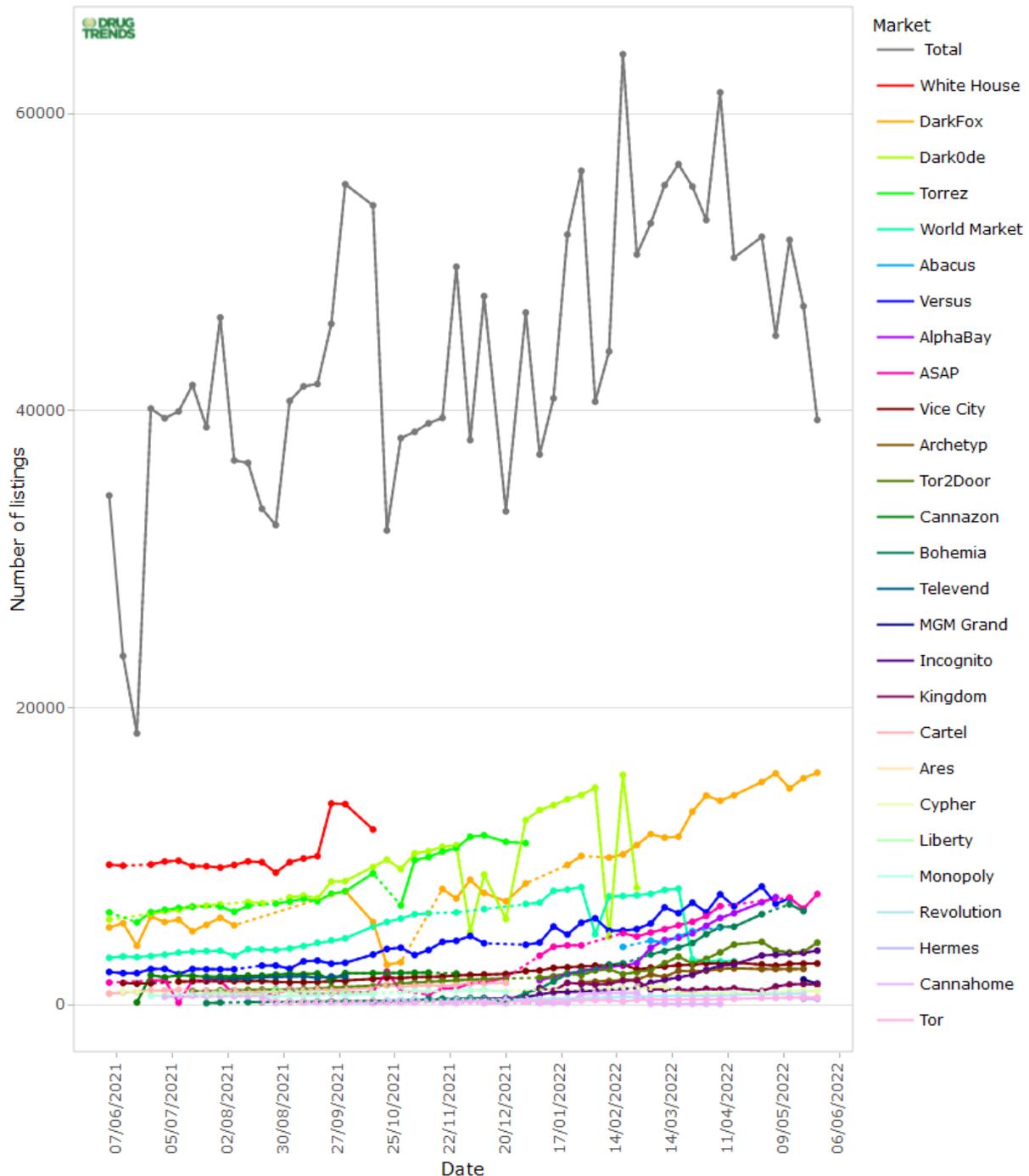
The smallest cryptomarkets in May 2022 with an average of less than 1,000 drug listings per scrape in the month were Hermes, Tor, Revolution, Ares and Cypher (**Table 2**).

Did the total number of drug listings in the overall market change over this period?

The number of listings generally increased over the reporting period (**Figure 2**). This finding is supported when comparing the final month to the first month within the monitoring period. Specifically, there was a 65% increase in mean number of listings per weekly scrape from June 2021 to May 2021 (**Table 2**).

Smaller-scale month to month variability in number of listings should be noted. Study of the two most recent months showed a -16% decrease in the mean number of listings per weekly scrape from 54,466 drug listings per weekly scrape in April 2022 to 45,733 drug listings in May 2022 (**Table 2**). Future study of data from June 2022 onwards will clarify if this finding reflects typical month-to-month variation or is an early indicator of a more sustained decline in listings.

Figure 2. Number of drug listings by marketplace from 1st June 2021 to 31st May 2022.



Note: Dashed lines indicate missing scrapes over periods where a market could not be monitored. The dark grey line shows the total number of drug listing across all markets monitored at a given time (including the smaller markets not individually shown). The markets are ordered by average number of listings per weekly scrape over the 12-month period as shown in [Table 2](#).

Did the number of drug listings for individual markets change over this period?

Only 5 markets (i.e. ASAP, Versus, DarkFox, Vice City and Cypher) were scraped in both the first and latest month of the reporting period. They all increased in size over the period, with ASAP having the greatest increase of 353% from 1,558 drug listings in June 2021 to 7,056 drug listings in May 2022 (**Table 2**).

Looking at the beginning of the reporting period, White House was the largest market. Following its closure in October 2021, Torrez and Dark0de became the largest markets, continuing to increase in size. Following their closure in late December 2021 and February 2022, respectively, DarkFox became the largest market, continuing to grow until the end of the monitoring. Several new markets (e.g., AlphaBay, Abacus, Archetype, Kingdom) also emerged in early 2022 after the closure of Torrez and Dark0de and have continued to grow (see **Table 1** and **Figure 1**).

The small decrease in total number of listings from April to May 2022 noted earlier seems driven in part by the closure of two larger markets, namely World Market in April 2022 and Versus in May 2022 (see **Table 1**). In saying this, several markets evidenced particular growth from April to May 2022, including Incognito (21% increase in listings), Bohemia (18% increase), Tor (16% increase) and Revolution (14%).

Main Drugs Sold via Cryptomarkets

What were the main drugs sold via cryptomarkets during this period?

Cannabis comprised the bulk of the listings identified across all markets over the total period of reporting (31%) (see **Table 3** and **Figure 5**). This was followed by:

- Benzodiazepines, with 7.6% of listings;
- Cocaine, with 7.5% of listings;
- MDMA, with 7.5% of listings;
- Meth/amphetamine (illicit), with 6.2% of listings;
- PIEDs/weight loss, with 6.0% of listings; and
- Opioids (excluding heroin), with 5.7% of listings.

New psychoactive substances comprised 3.9% of listings, although challenges in their categorisation must be noted (see [methods](#) for further detail).

Table 3. Breakdown of percentage and mean number of listings by drug class in May 2022, and change in market share and market size from June 2021 and April 2022 to May 2022.

Drug	Market share (% of listings) ^a	Difference in market share % ^b		Market size (average listings per weekly scrape)	Relative % change in market size ^c	
	May 2022	Jun 2021 to May 2022	Apr 2022 to May 2022	May 2022	Jun 2021 to May 2022	Apr 2022 to May 2022
Cannabis	29	0	0.6	13,275	57	-14
Benzodiazepines	8.3	-0.1	0.5	3,806	56	-11
Cocaine	7.4	0	-0.4	3,387	57	-20
MDMA	7.8	0.5	-0.2	3,572	68	-18
Meth/amphetamine (illicit)	5.7	-0.8	-0.6	2,610	39	-24
PIEDs/weight loss	5.8	-0.5	0	2,675	45	-17
Opioids (excluding heroin)	7.1	0.8	0.8	3,269	77	-5.4
Other medicines	3.6	-0.9	0.1	1,665	27	-14
NPS	4	0.1	-0.2	1,816	62	-20
Ketamine	3.8	-0.3	-0.4	1,738	47	-24
LSD	3.3	-0.3	-0.2	1,509	43	-20
Hallucinogenic mushroom	3.8	1.4	-0.1	1,721	156	-17
Other psychostim. & nootropics	3	0	0	1,358	59	-16
Heroin	2.7	-0.1	0	1,240	50	-17
Other drugs	2	0	0	934	56	-17
DMT	1.6	0.1	0	723	70	-17
GHB/GBL/1,4-BD	0.7	0.1	0.1	310	70	-7.2
Overall	100	--	--	45,733	57	-16

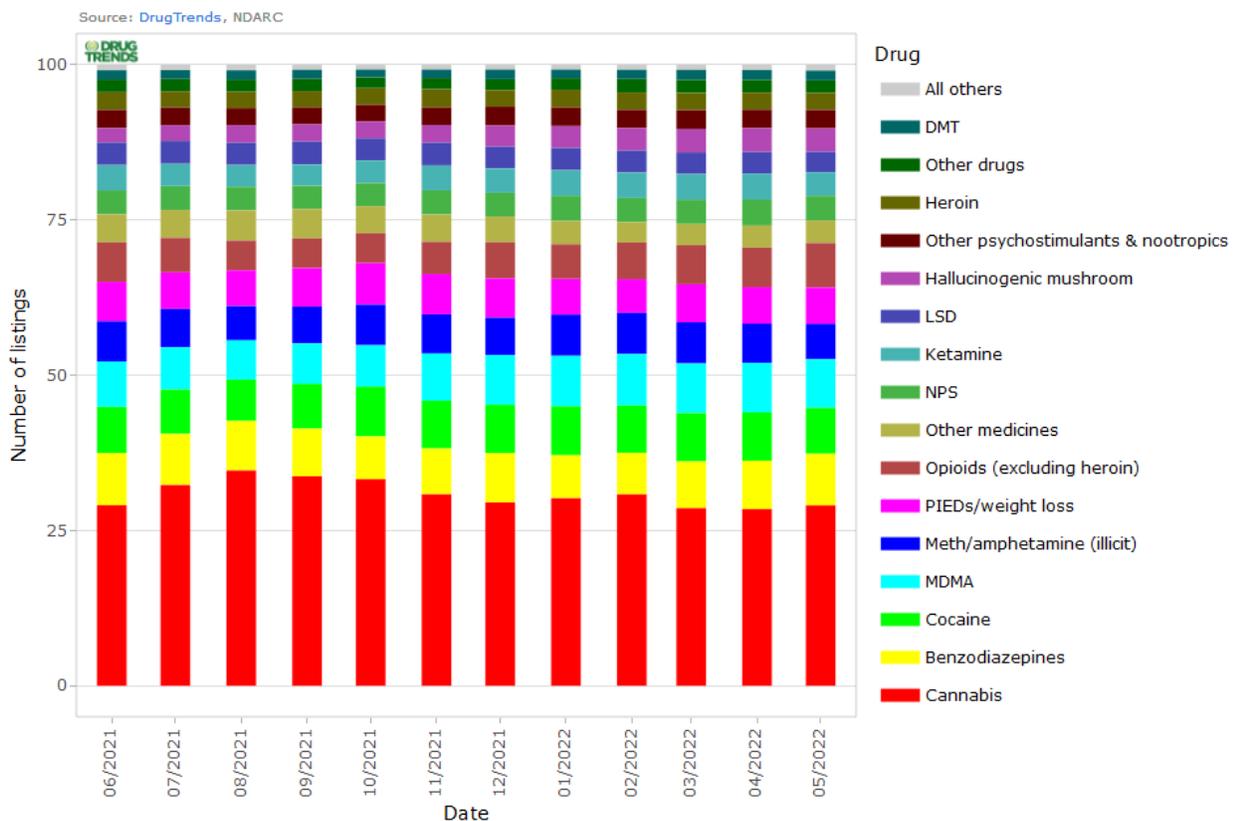
Note: Each column is colour coded to highlight the lowest numbers in green, the mid-range numbers in yellow and highest numbers in purple, following the colour scale range. ^a This shows the percentage of mean number of listings across all marketplaces observed in the stated period. ^b These show the change in percentage of mean number of listings attributed to each drug class across all marketplaces in the stated months. ^c This shows the mean number of weekly listings observed across all marketplaces in the month of May 2022. ^d These show the relative change in the mean number of weekly listings observed in the stated months. ^e PIEDs: performance and image enhancing drugs. ^f The overall row includes all drug listings presented including those not shown in this table. Paraphernalia, MDA, PCP, tobacco, alcohol, e-cigarettes and inhalants are not shown in this table due to small values. Each of their percentage contribution over the reporting period was <0.5%.

Did the main drugs sold via cryptomarkets change during this period?

The percentage of total drug listings that each drug class held was relatively stable over time. Indeed, comparing the first month (June 2021) to the latest month (May 2022) of the

reporting period, the change was minimal (<2%) for all drug classes. Hallucinogenic mushrooms had the greatest increase in market share when comparing June 2021 to May 2022 (1.4%; 2.3% to 3.8% of all drug listings, respectively), and other medicines had the greatest decrease (-0.9%; 4.5% to 3.6% of all drug listings, respectively) (**Table 3** and **Figure 3**).

Figure 3. Percentage breakdown of listings by month and drug class over time from June 2021 to May 2022.



Note: "All others" comprise of drugs or related products that each make up <0.5% of listings over the reporting period. These are paraphernalia, MDA, PCP, tobacco, alcohol, e-cigarette and inhalants.

Looking to more recent trends, the magnitude of change in market share between the last two months of the monitoring period (i.e., April and May 2022) was also minimal at <2%. The greatest changes observed was a 0.8% increase in market share for opioids (excluding heroin; from 6.3% to 7.1% of all drug listings), and a -0.6% decrease in market share for meth/amphetamine (illicit; from 6.3% to 5.7% of all drug listings) (**Table 3** and **Figure 3**).

Has there been a change in the number of listings for certain drugs over this period?

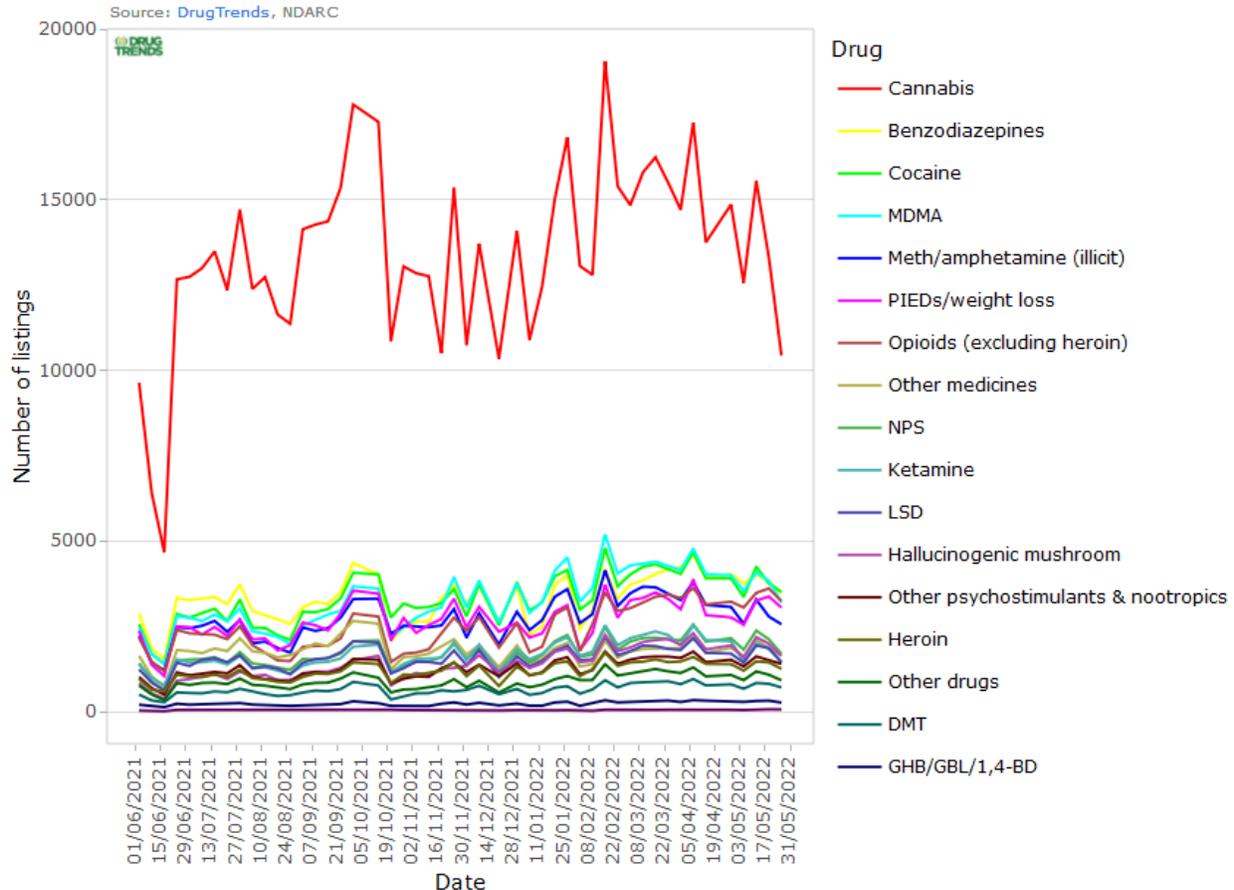
As noted earlier, there was a relative increase of 57% in overall market size from June 2021 to May 2022. In terms of change in the absolute number of listings per drug class across all monitored markets, all classes saw an increase (**Table 3** and **Figure 4**). Those drug classes which had the greatest increase in mean number of listings per scrape were (**Table 3** and **Figure 4**):

- Hallucinogenic mushrooms with a relative increase of 156% (from 673 to 1,721 listings per scrape between June 2021 and May 2022);
- Opioids (excluding heroin) with a relative increase of 77% (from 1,847 to 3,269 listings per scrape between June 2021 and May 2022);
- GHB/GBL/1,4-BD with a relative increase of 70% (from 182 to 310 listings per scrape between June 2021 and May 2022);
- DMT with a relative increase of 70% (from 426 to 723 listings per scrape between June 2021 and May 2022); and
- MDMA with a relative increase of 68% (from 2,124 to 3,572 listings per scrape between June 2021 and May 2022).

There was a relative decrease of -16% in overall market size from April 2022 to May 2022. All drug classes except opioids (excluding heroin) decreased in market size. Those drug classes which had the greatest decrease in mean number of listings per scrape were (**Table 3** and **Figure 4**):

- Ketamine with a relative decrease of -24% (from 2,275 to 1,738 listings per scrape in April 2022 in May 2022);
- Meth/amphetamine (illicit) with a relative decrease of -24% (from 3,441 to 2,610 listings per scrape between April 2022 and May 2022);
- LSD with a relative decrease of -20% (from 1,895 to 1,509 listings per scrape between April 2022 and May 2022);
- NPS with a relative decrease of -20% (from 2,281 to 1,816 listings per scrape between April 2022 and May 2022); and
- Cocaine with a relative decrease of -20% (from 4,237 to 3,387 listings per scrape between April 2022 and May 2022).

Figure 4. Number of listings disaggregated by drug class for all markets from 1st June 2021 to 31st May 2022.

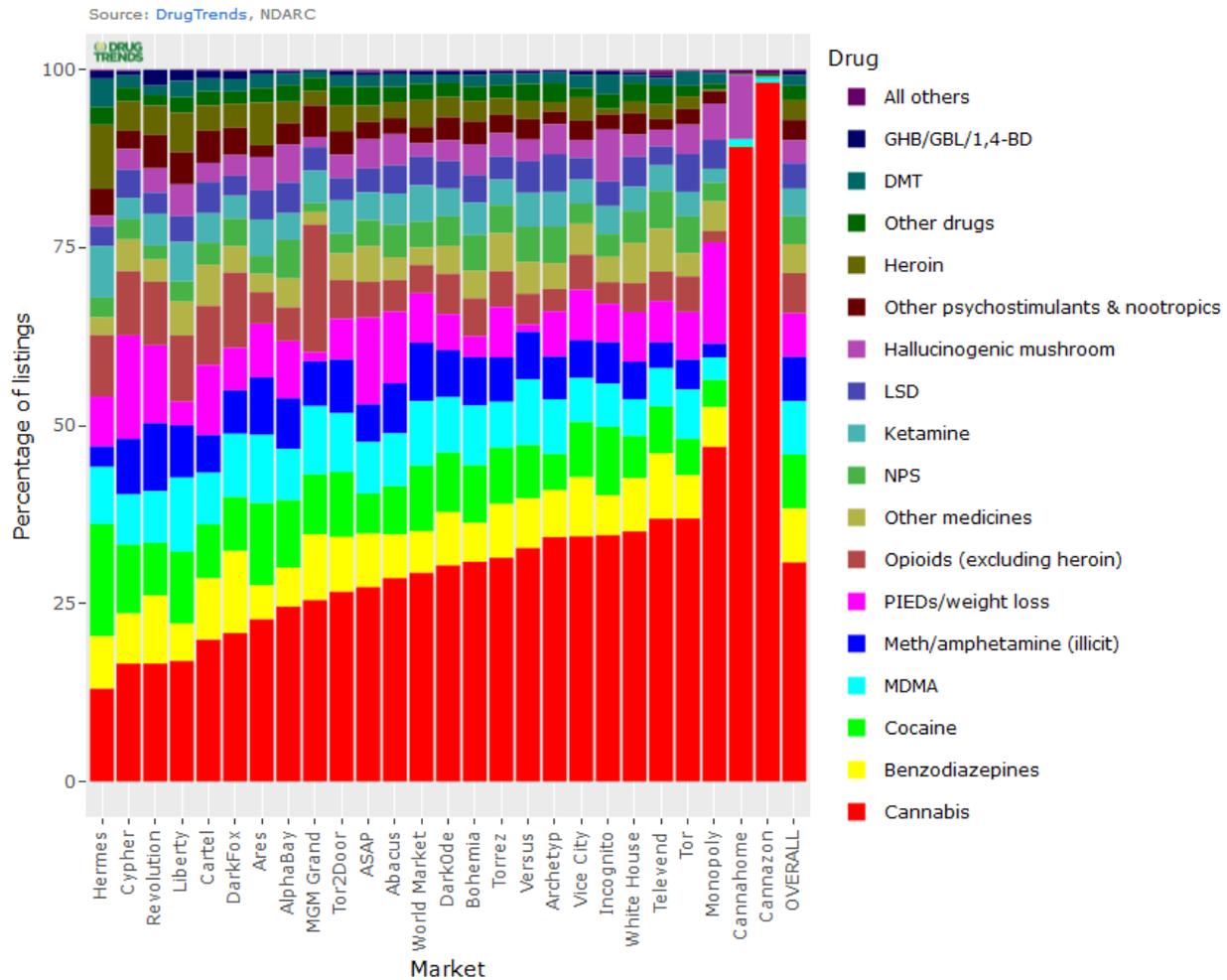


Note: Drug classes that each make up <0.5% of listings over the reporting period are excluded in this figure. These are paraphernalia, MDA, PCP, tobacco, alcohol, e-cigarette and inhalants.

What drugs did the different markets sell over this period?

Figure 5 shows the breakdown of listings by drug class per market during the 12-month reporting period. The analysis shows that most markets monitored listed an array of different drugs, although listings for two markets (Cannahome and Cannazon) comprised >90% cannabis. Outside of these two cannabis-specific markets, the market share of cannabis varied between 13% for Hermes and 47% for Monopoly.

Figure 5. Drug composition of markets monitored from 1st June 2021 to 31st May 2022 (in ascending order by proportion of cannabis listings, and overall market in last column).



Note: This figure displays drug class percentage of all listings observed from 1st June 2021 to 31st May 2022) for each marketplace monitored. "All others" comprise of drugs or related products that each make up <0.5% of listings over the reporting period. These are paraphernalia, MDA, PCP, tobacco, alcohol, e-cigarette and inhalants.

DarkFox, which was one of the largest markets in the reporting period, had the highest proportion of benzodiazepines in its listings (12%, compared with 7.6% in the overall market). Compared with other markets, Hermes, Ares and Liberty had the highest proportion of cocaine listings on their markets (16%, 12% and 10%, respectively, compared with 7.5% in the overall market), and MGM Grand had the highest proportion of listings for opioids (excluding heroin) (18%, compared with 5.6% in the overall market). Hermes also had the highest proportion of ketamine listings (7.2%), as compared with the proportion of 3.8% in the overall market. Note, however, that Hermes, Ares and MGM

Grand only had two weeks of data, with their first scrape occurring in the middle of May 2022.

Monopoly and Cypher had the highest percentages of PIEDS/weight loss drugs listings (14% and 13%, respectively), followed by ASAP (12%, compared with 6.0% of the overall market). Cannahome had the largest proportion of hallucinogenic mushroom listings (9.0%), followed by Incognito (7.3%, compared with 3.2% in the overall market) (**Table 3**).

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Related Links:

Data visualisations: <https://drugtrends.shinyapps.io/cryptomarkets>

For more research from the Drug Trends program go to:
<https://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/program/drug-trends>

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