



DRUG CHECKING AND COUNSELLING: tools to increase people awareness and protect the health

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Main facts that brought to BAONPS (IT)

- Neutavel workers noticed “strange effects” of traditional drugs
- Neutavel was involved in the N.E.W.S. but reports were not “scientifically based” (ex: the partygoers said he took NBOMe)
- Partygoers were asking for drug checking since they were noticing strange effects from traditional drugs too
- EMCDDA: NPS from 41 in 2010 to 101 in 2014;
- Eurobarometer: the 65% of people using NPS did it in party settings (bought from the web or from friends)
- Research (Energy Control) : NPS used as adulterants



RESULTS – OUTREACH & DRUG CHECKING

- **33** outreach interventions - **27** with a drug checking facility
- **11.100** persons contacted, **3.164** focus on **NSP** (specific information by flyers and/or outreach workers), **577** partygoers asked specific info on **drug checking** (they did not know the service);
- **948 consultations** focused on NSP (298) and drug checking (648)
- **472 analysis** performed on-the-field: **1 substance in 3** turned out to be **something not expected** (1 in 3 was a prescription drug, 1 in 3 was a fake, 1 in 3 was an NPS)

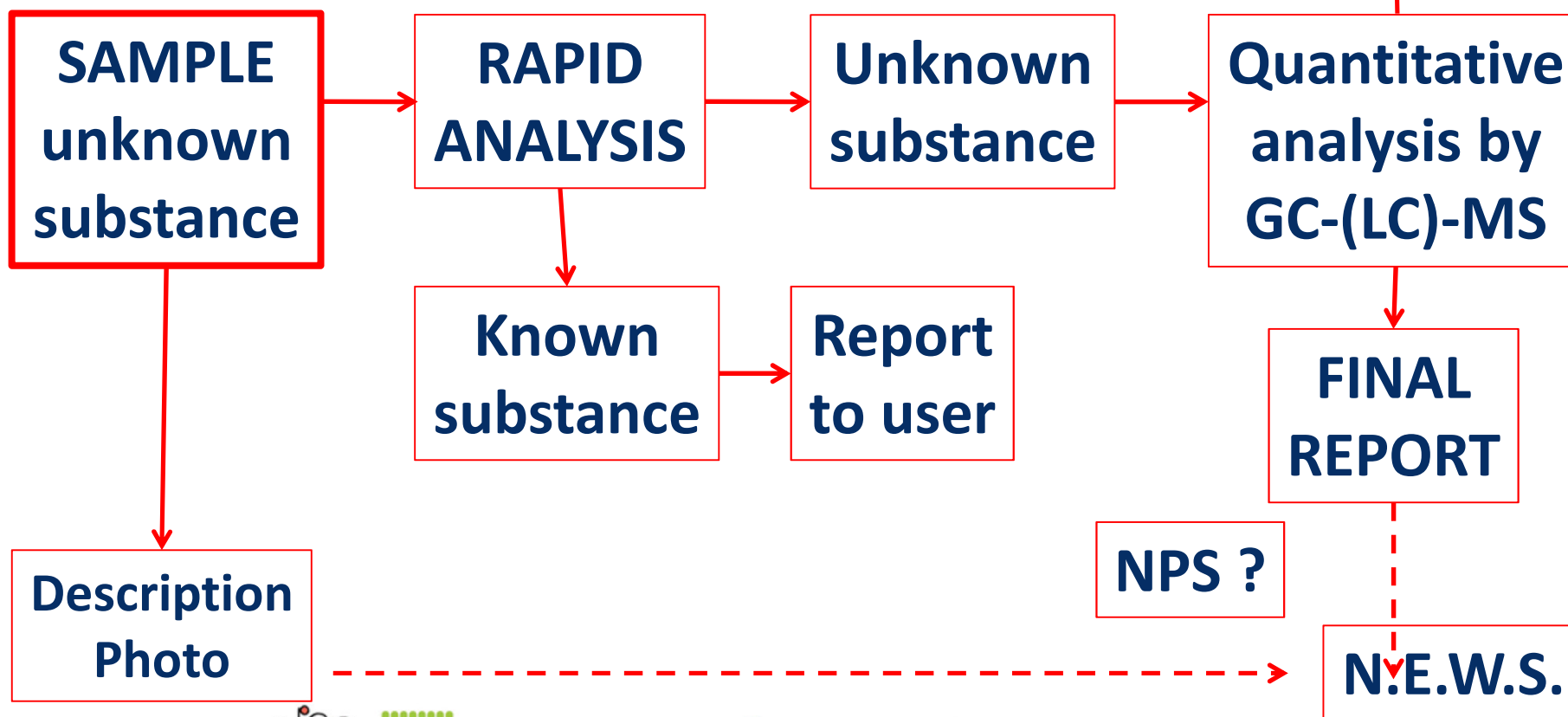
NEUTRAVEL PROJECT

- National Institute of Health interested in developing drug checking in other regions of Italy
- Drug checking funded by public health system (Regional Council of the Piedmont Region, via ASL TO4)
- Drug Checking inserted in the Basic Level of Assistance of the Piedmont Region





DRUG CHECKING STRATEGY





DRUG CHECKING: COUNSELLING





OBJECTIVES:

- Informative/motivational interview;
- Identification of and link to problematic drug users but also empowerment of partygoers

COUNSELLING PHASES (Check!n and DrogArt):

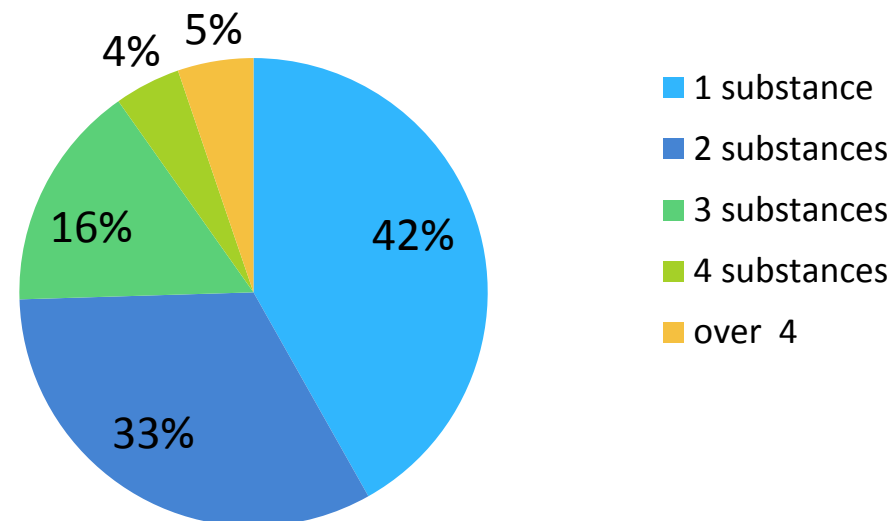
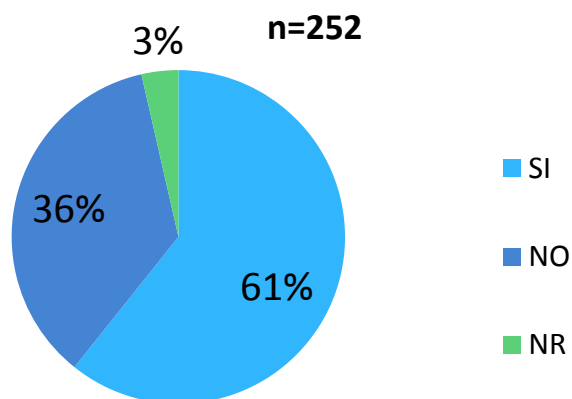
- PRE-TEST
- POST-TEST



- 252 FORMS FILLED-IN
- 66% M ; 18% F ; 16% NA
- The majority of the sample has already used the drug being tested (67%)

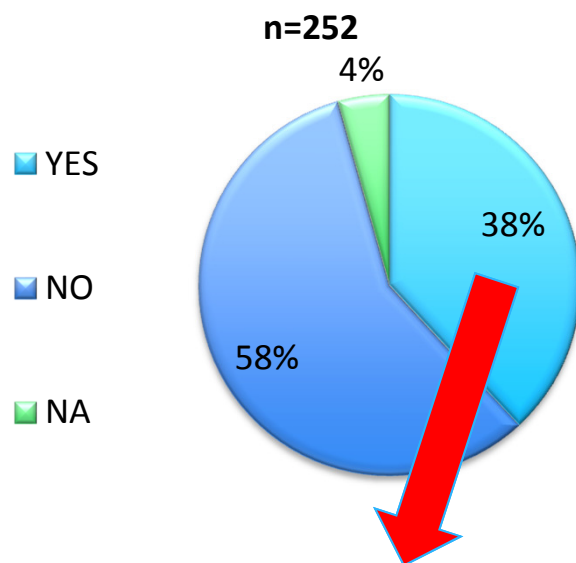
MIX n=153

Did you mixed the drug?



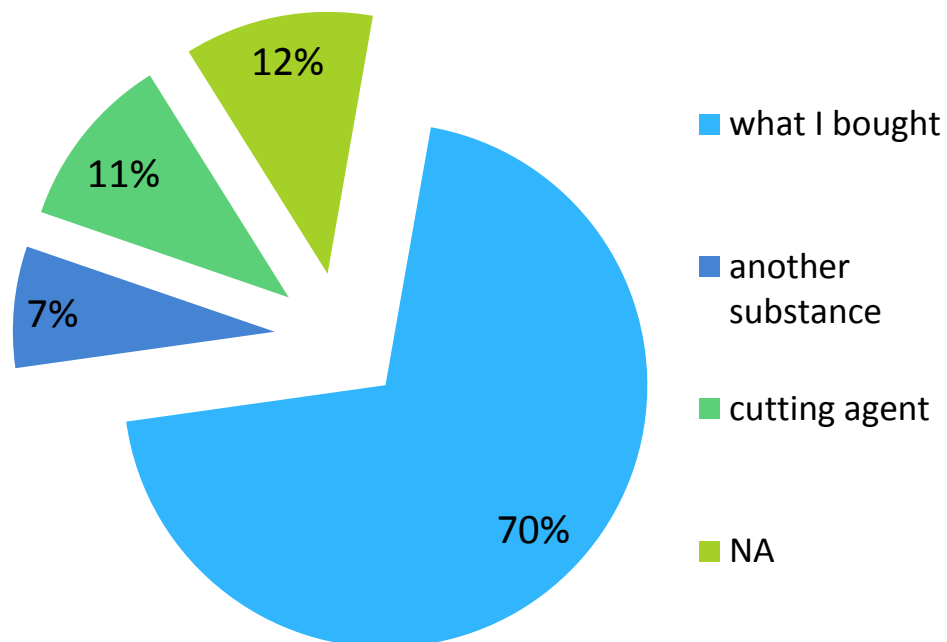


Side/unwanted effects?



REFLECT!!!

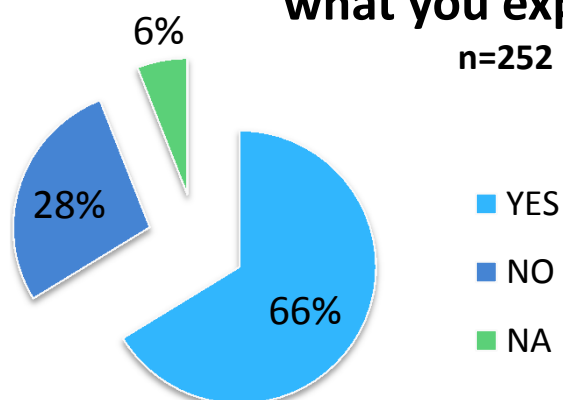
What result do you expect from the test? n=252



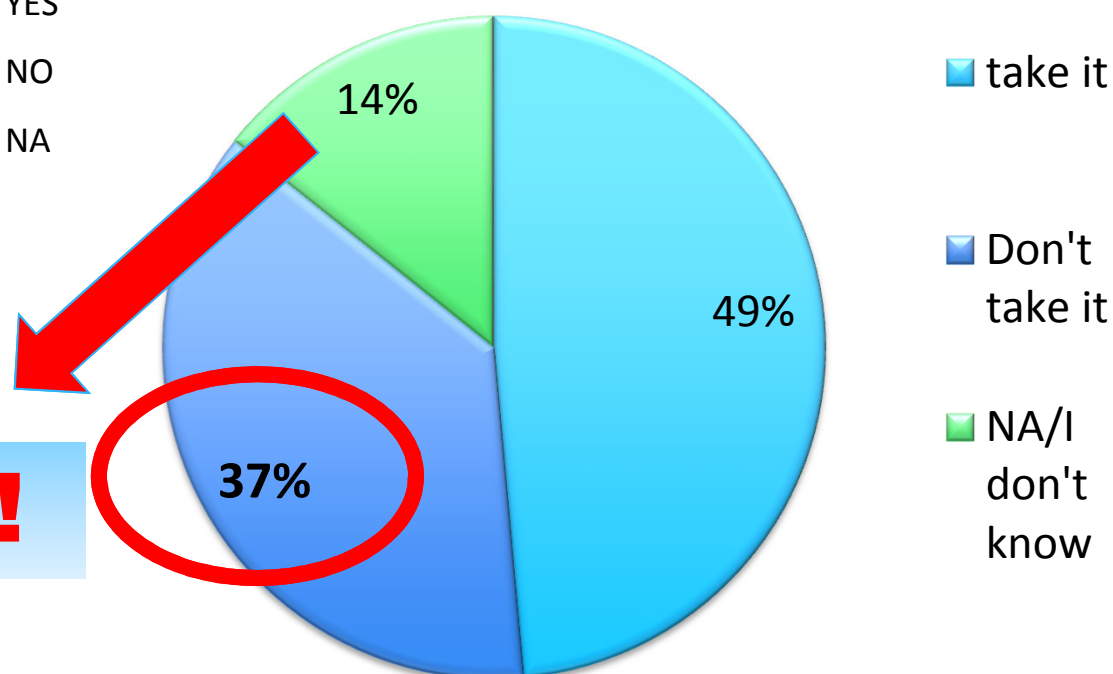


Does the result confirm
what you expected?

n=252



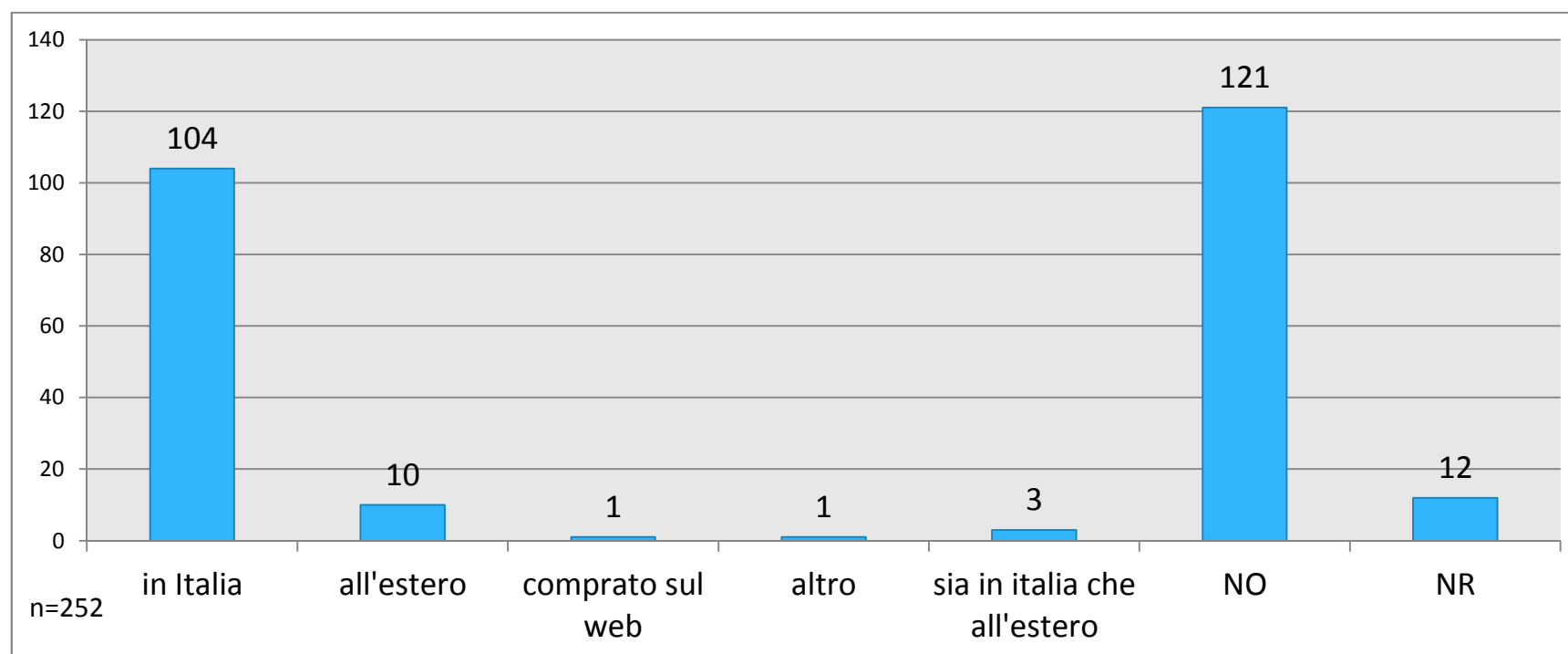
RESULT NOT EXPECTED: what
intentions? n=70



REFLECT!!!

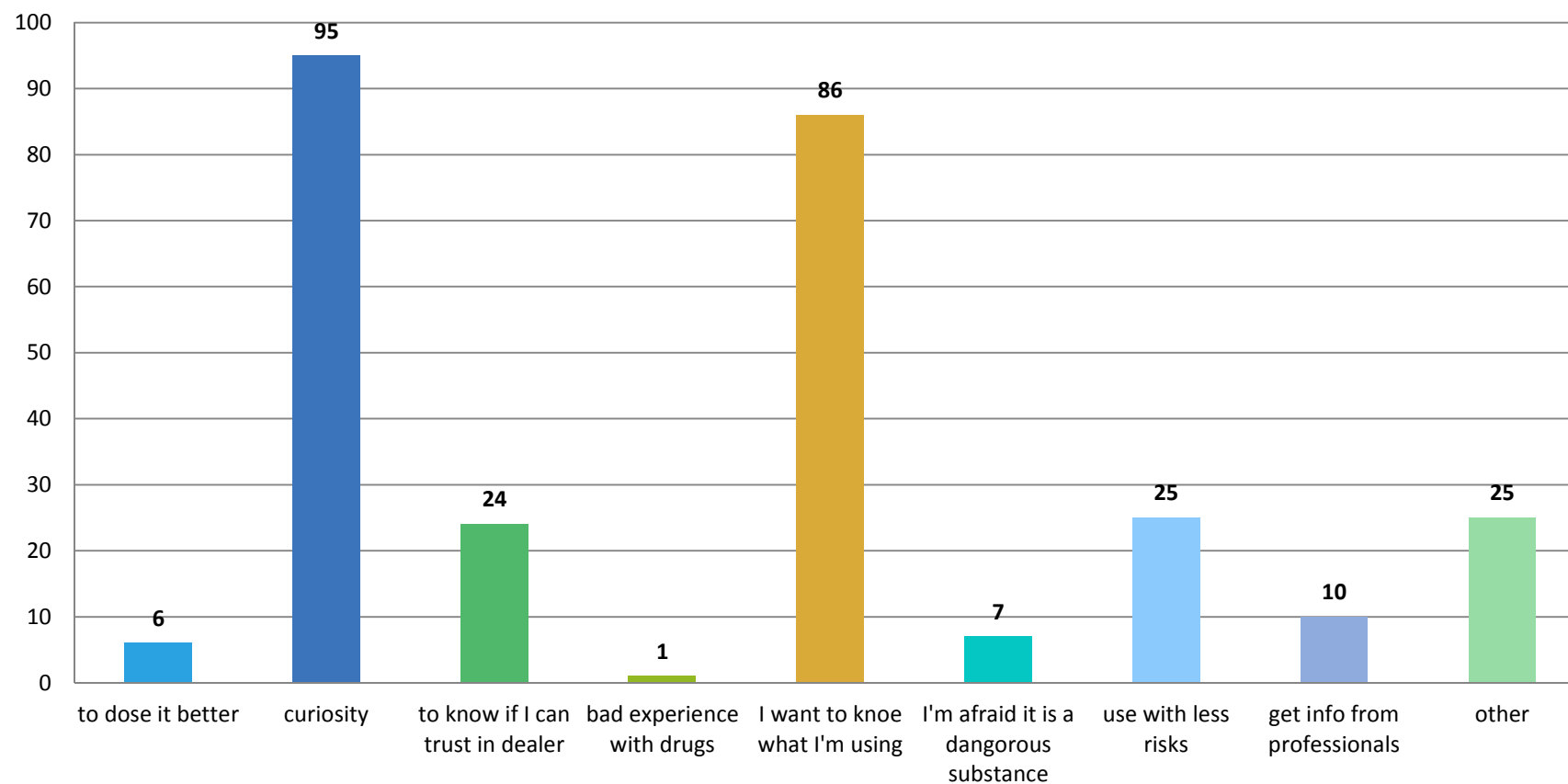


Have you ever used a drug checking service?





Why did you test the substance? n=279

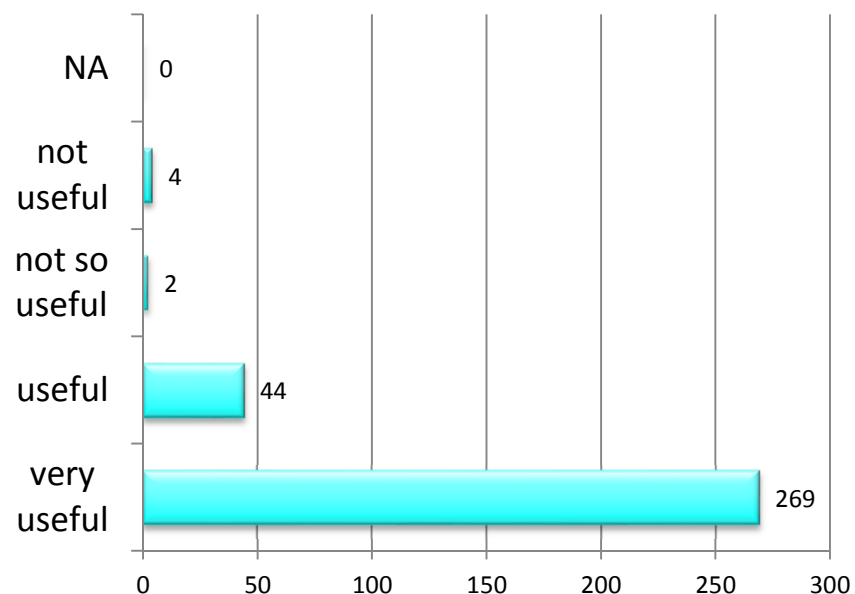




HOW PARTYGOERS EVALUATE THE SERVICE

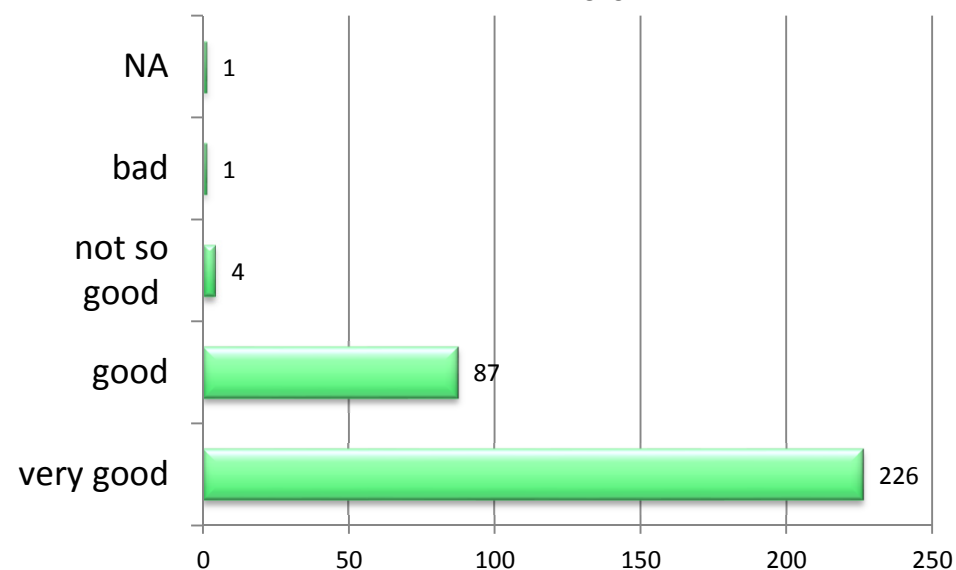
Usefulness

n=319



Quality of information

n=319

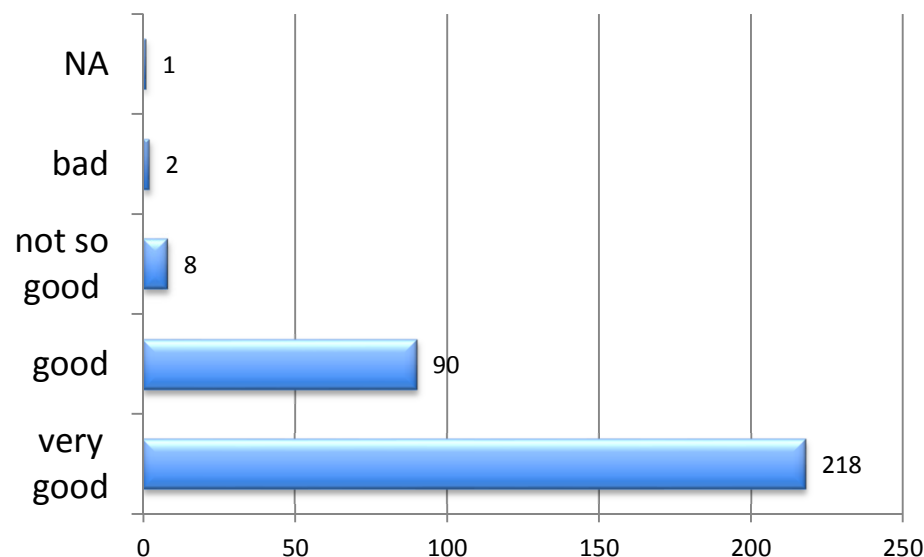




HOW PARTYGOERS EVALUATE THE SERVICE

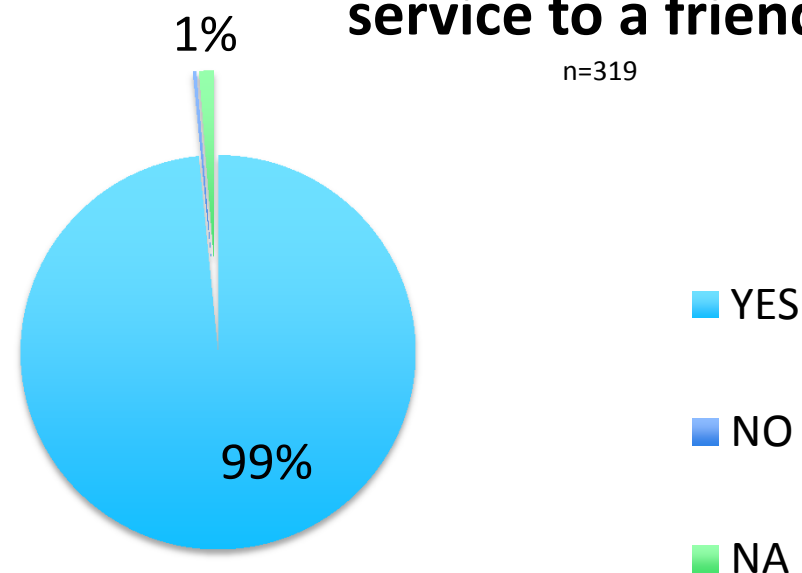
Time to wait for the service

n=319



Would you recommend the service to a friend?

n=319





ITALIAN DRUG (ADDICTION) SERVICE PROVIDERS





What a user said about drug service providers:

“I wanted to take the occasion to discuss with a professional about the NPS I was using, namely 25 something NBOMe [...] he never heard that name! [...] I understood that I had not to stop using drugs to renovate my driving license...”



CONCLUSIONS

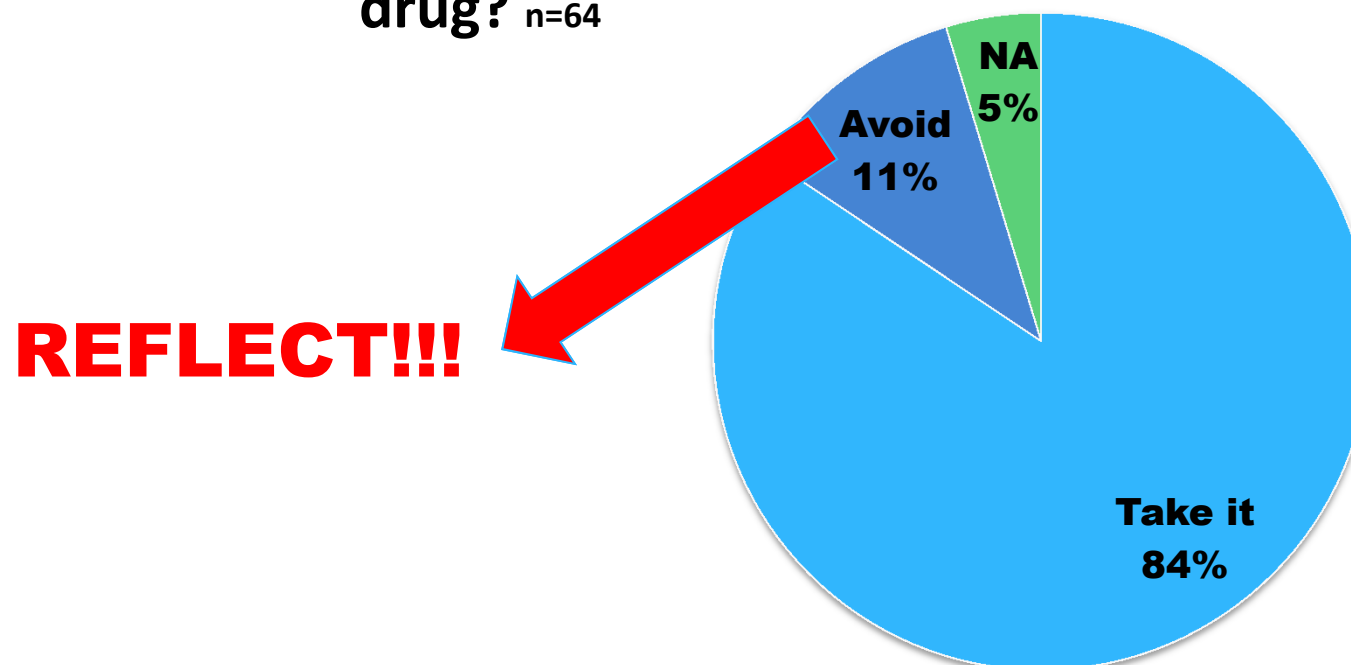
Drug checking is a **powerful tool** that :

- ALLOWS THE WORKER TO RAPIDLY GET IN TOUCH WITH THE TARGET (AND BE TRUSTED FROM THE TARGET!!)
- EARLY IDENTIFIES (RISKY) DRUG CONSUMPTION BEHAVIOURS
- GIVES PERSONALIZED HARM AND RISK REDUCTION INFORMATION



HELPS PUD TO REFLECT ABOUT THEIR (RISKY) BEHAVIOUR...

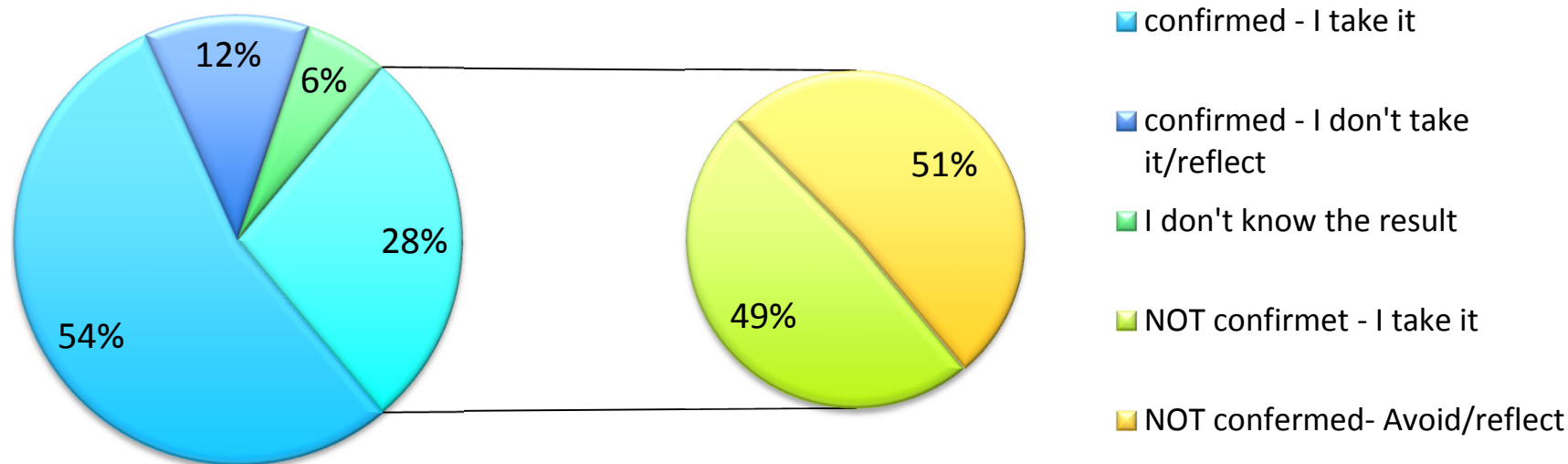
Side effects and result confirmed: do you take the drug? n=64





...INCREASES PROTECTION FACTORS AND PREVENTS THE UNAWARE INTAKE...

WHAT DO YOU DO NOW THAT YOU KNOW THE RESULT? $n=252$





**...AND HELP THE
ELEPHANT TO EXIT
FROM THE MUD!**

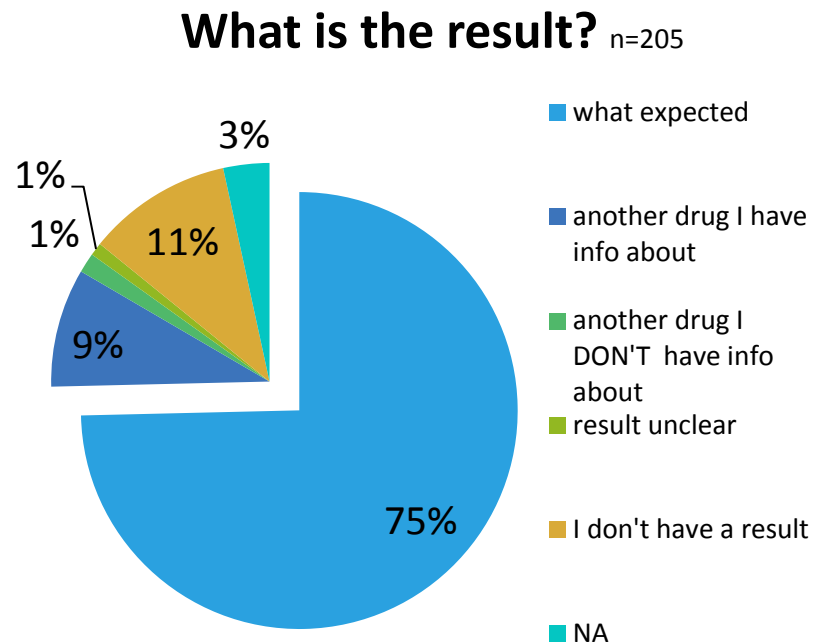


NTV FIRST RESULTS FROM DRUG CHECKING

- 205 counselling performed (from january to june)
- 81% M ; 19% F
- 57% of the people already took the drug

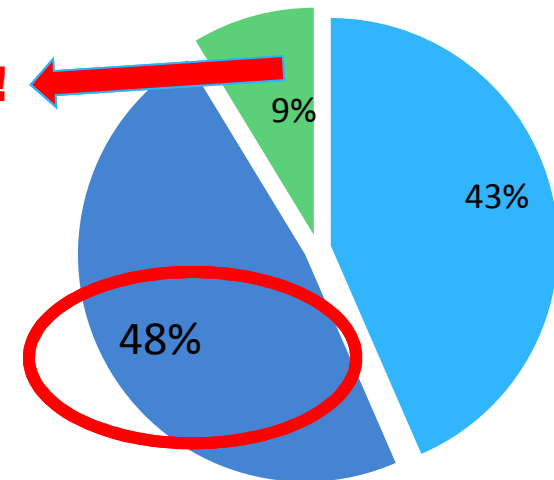
57% of the people don't take the substance or reflect :

substance not expected: what do you do? n=45



REFLECT!!!

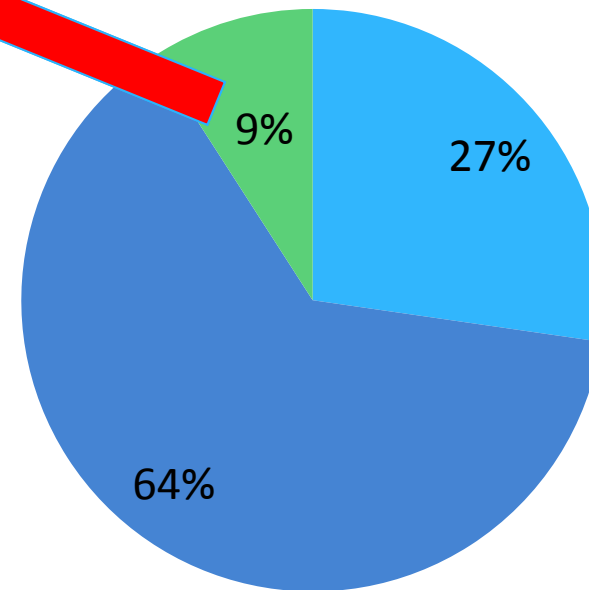
- I take it
- I don't take it
- NA



REFLECT!!!

inconclusive result: what do you do?

n=22

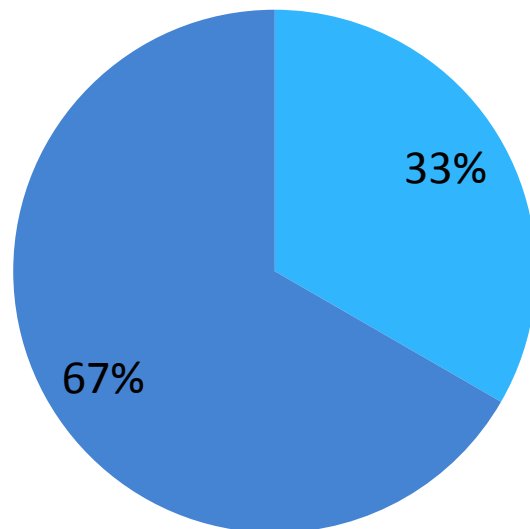


I take it

I don't take it

NA

I expected what I had bought -
not confirmed n=25



I take it

I don't take it

NEUTRAVEL
NTV
PROJECT



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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