

1. The UGDP recently published its detailed report of the results of the phenformin study (Diabetes, 24 (suppl 1): 65-184, 1975). In addition to reporting that cardiovascular mortality and total mortality were greater in the phenformin-treated group than in the other treatment groups, the report presented evidence that phenformin therapy resulted in increased blood pressure and heart rate, thus suggesting possible mechanisms by which this drug might influence cardiovascular mortality.
2. At hearings before this Subcommittee on January 31, 1975, Dr. P. J. Palumbo reported that a retrospective study of diabetic patients treated at the Mayo Clinic suggests that survival was lower in those patients treated with oral hypoglycemic agents, compared to those patients treated with insulin or diet. Dr. Palumbo's full study has not yet been published.
3. A retrospective study of diabetic patients treated at the Joslin Clinic, reported in a doctoral thesis by P. Kanarek, can be interpreted as providing results that are consistent with those of the UGDP. Although we have seen this study, it has not yet been subjected to full review by statistical and epidemiologic experts. At this point, we can say that certain subgroups of insulin-treated patients appear to have better survival rates than tolbutamide-treated patients with comparable glucose abnormalities. Studies of this type, however, always present difficulties in interpretation because of doubts