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TELEPHONE SURVEY

The Compliance Program Manager at each of the Domestic Regional Offices was contacted on Wednesday, October 6, 1976, and he was requested to supply ECI with any available information concerning the street availability of Ionamin (or of the product Ionamina, the brand name for the same product marketed in Mexico by Laboratorios Strassenburgh de Mexico). This data was to be collected from such sources as in-depth compliance investigations, theft reports, seizures, street intelligence, and local enforcement agencies.

During the past twenty months, the total number of dosage units of both strengths of Ionamin which have been reported to DEA as having been stolen or lost intransit is about 153,000 (or about 7,650 d.u. per month). This figure does not include the intransit losses reported by Pennwalt before January 1976.

In reviewing the audit portions of those in-depth compliance investigations which included Ionamin as one of the drugs which were selected for audit, only five Regions reported any cases in which there was a deviation of more than +5%. The largest single deviation was reported in a case in Region 6 (115-74-0043, dated February 18, 1975) in which a shortage of 36,300 d.u. of Ionamin (30 mg.) was uncovered. The total number of such investigations was twenty-seven.

The most significant Compliance case to date is an ongoing investigation in Region 5 (G3-76-2020) in which a pharmacist in a small town in Georgia is believed to have diverted approximately 96,000 dosage units of Ionamin since January 1975 (all of which were the 30 mg. strength).

In their conversations with the criminal groups within each Region, the Compliance Program Managers found that there is little demand for Ionamin on the street. Indications are that current street prices range from a low of twenty cents a capsule in Georgia, to a high of seventy cents and \$1.10 per capsule in Texas.

The only significant seizures involving Ionamin (or Ionamina) occurred in Texas where approximately 90% of the 104,155 dosage units of anorectic drugs seized between July 1973 and September 1976 were the Pennwalt products.