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STRIDE/Ballistics

During Fiscal Year 1976, DEA Laboratories analyzed a total of 68 exhibits of phentermine that could be identified to presumptive manufacturers or distributors. Of this total 85% (or 58 exhibits) were presumed to have been manufactured by Pennwalt.

DAWN

Of the five anorectics analyzed (Preludin, Tenuate, Ionamin, Tepanil and Pondamin), Ionamin ranks third in frequency. Of the 110 episodes purported to have involved Ionamin taken for psychic effect or dependence, during July 1973 to July 1976, 70% of the reports showed legal prescriptions as the source.

DIVERSION INVESTIGATIVE UNITS

On October 6, 7, and 8, 1976, a limited survey of abuse of Ionamin and its generic equivalents was conducted by contacting each of the nine operating Diversion Investigative Units. The following comments reflect the recent experience of each of the nine DIU states.

New Jersey DIU reports general, if somewhat limited abuse of Ionamin, Phentercot, and Fastin, in that order, but far less than the problem with Phenmetrazine (Preludin) and Phendimetrazine.

Massachusetts DIU reports very limited minor abuse, probably because Massachusetts' law classified phentermine as "an isomer of Methamphetamine" (leaving out the word "optical" in the definition); and so Ionamin is already classified by the state in Schedule "B", the highest available schedule for legitimately manufactured drugs for penalty purposes.

Michigan DIU reports no instances of Ionamin use or availability in the state. This of course also applies to generic equivalents of Ionamin/phentermine as well. DIU officials report heavy abuse of similar drugs, Phenmetrazine and Phendimetrazine.

Illinois DIU reports very limited minor abuse and availability of Ionamin; however Preludin (Phenmetrazine) and Ritalin (Methylphenidate) are heavily abused there and readily available.