

14610 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

Page Five

California DIU reports a complete absence of traffic in Ionamin and in Ionamina (the Mexican version of the same product) in both Northern and Southern California. The stimulant drugs of choice in that state are Desoxyn, Preludin and Eskatrol, in that order.

North Carolina DIU reports moderate abuse of both Ionamin and Fastin (a generic). DIU cases related to these drugs tend to be confined to prescription writing doctors "who feel more comfortable" writing for these rather than for more well known stimulants.

Pennsylvania DIU reports heavy abuse of both Ionamin and Fastin, probably because phentermine was not controlled under state law until August 21, 1976. DIU officials predict a gradual falling off in the popularity of these two drugs since they are now controlled.

Texas DIU reports heavy trafficking and abuse of Ionamina, the Mexican equivalent of Ionamin, in all areas of the state adjacent to the Mexican border, and relatively common abuse elsewhere in the state. Except in the border areas, other stimulant drugs still lead in terms of abuse. Since July, 1973 and through at least April 1976, over 25 cases have been made involving Ionamina, with seizures and purchases totaling over 104,000 dosage units.

Alabama DIU reports exceptionally heavy trafficking and abuse in both Ionamin of U.S. manufacture and Fastin. In calendar year 1975, 99% of all drugs purchased or seized by the DIU were Ionamin. This phenomenal figure can be traced to a single DEA cooperation case (J4-75-0016) where 500,000 dosage units were seized. In a related case (same source) the Georgia Bureau of Investigation seized 100,000 more. The responsible distributor (in Miami) surrendered his registration in lieu of prosecution.

When the above case is removed from the figures, Ionamin still accounts for 35% of the total drugs obtained by the DIU that year.

During calendar year 1976 (to date), 22% of the drugs obtained by the DIU were phentermine, which broke down further to 73% Ionamin and 27% Fastin (a generic).

The Alabama DIU considers phentermine to be readily available and heavily abused, although amphetamine (when available) is still the drug of choice for abusers.