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period 31 of 60 convicted murderers had some connection with the misuse of amphetamines; Rylander (1969) reports that there had been three murders, one manslaughter, and 21 assault and battery crimes committed by the 146 stimulant addicts admitted to his Swedish Forensic Psychiatry Clinic. There had been 109 crimes committed against property; some of these crimes were associated with aggression. In his original monograph on amphetamine psychosis, Connell (1958) states that hostile aggressive behavior was observed in 22% of the subjects included in his series from England.

In a recent study by the Kalants (1976) examining deaths reported by the Coroner in the Province of Ontario in 1972 and 1973 which were related to amphetamine use, they found that 17 of 26 were deaths of a violent nature. Seven were due to accidental violence (usually, due to poor judgment); 7 to suicide; and 3 to homicide. Among the suicides, there was a high incidence of self-inflicted fatal gunshot wounds. Two suicides followed the killing of a police officer with subsequent impending capture by the police. One male was shot by a policeman after attacking him with a knife.

From perusal of both the reported homicide cases and those of assault, it is apparent that many drug users move through three fairly distinct phases leading to the violent act. The three phases consist of: 1) chronic amphetamine abuse, 2) an acute change in the individual's state of emotional arousal, 3) a situation that triggers the specific events leading to the act of violence (Ellinwood, 1971a).

The phase of chronic abuse often sets the stage; it includes changes in the individual's frame of mind involving suspiciousness, paranoid thinking, and fearful regard of his environment. It is during this period that he obtains and begins to carry a concealed