

the manufacturer of Ritalin warns against loss of appetite in children leading to "weight loss during prolonged therapy."

Between July 1, 1973, and July 31, 1976, there were more Ritalin related abuse episodes reported in DAWN than any one of the ten brand name amphetamines or non-amphetamine anti-obesity products surveyed. The profile of Ritalin abuse is unlike the others. The great majority of the amphetamine and non-amphetamine anorectic reports come from crisis centers, the usual haven for street abusers in various phases of illness. Two thirds of the Ritalin episodes were reported from hospital emergency rooms to which the more seriously ill are most often taken. Illicit sources such as street buys, forged prescriptions, stolen dosage units or gifts were listed in over half the episodes.

Mr. Chairman, before summarizing the information on the non-amphetamine anorectics let me say that one of them, fenfluramine (Pondimin), may possibly be improperly described as a stimulant. Since coming on the market in 1973 fenfluramine has been reported as showing the indicia of a depressant causing some of the responses of an hallucinogen such as PCP.