

Unexpected reactions showed a transient rise early in 1974, dropped to a low early in 1975 after which it too began a steady upward climb. When these raw data are converted to percent of each quarter's total, as in Figure 3, it may be seen that while relative changes in overdose and unexpected results portions complement each other, there has been a small but steady increase in the relative frequency of chronic effects as a cause--indications that an increasing portion of amphetamine abuse is accounted for by individuals with access to a continuing supply of the drug.

The major motive for taking amphetamine is its psychic effect as shown in Figure 4, and since the first quarter of 1974, this motive has been increasing in terms of both absolute number of mentions and its share of all other identified motives. Although dependency and self-destruction have continuously increased in number during this period, after the first quarter of 1975, they slowly but steadily diminished in relative importance.

Street buys are consistently the major source of amphetamines leading to emergency room mentions (Figure 5), and a peak in both absolute and relative importance occurred early in 1974, coincident with the peak in unexpected reactions to the drug. This diminished by the beginning of 1975, at which time the number of street buy mentions increased, although its relative importance remained constant. The only other significant source of amphetamine was from legal prescriptions. Its importance, both absolutely and relatively, bottomed out during the middle of 1974, after which it has been continuously