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increasing in terms of absolute numbers (an increase of about 40%), and in its share of all sources.

As street buys as well as legal prescriptions abuse sources can originate from prescribed drugs taken from home medicine chest supplies, an attempt was made to estimate what portion of street available amphetamine is of illicit origin, what portion was stolen or diverted from legal distribution systems, and what portion can be assumed to come from legally dispensed home supplies.

The data available in DEA's STRIDE system can be useful in determining the sources of abused amphetamines. Because the d-isomer of amphetamine is pharmacologically three to four times as potent a stimulant as the l-isomer, commercial manufacturers tend to separate the two isomers and market them separately. On the other hand, the manufacturers of illicit amphetamines do not do so, and their product is usually a 50-50 mixture (dl-amphetamine). Thus, a comparison of the relative amounts of d-amphetamine and of dl-amphetamine exhibits processed by DEA laboratories and entered into the STRIDE system can serve as a crude indicator of changes in the portion of legally manufactured and illicitly manufactured amphetamines made available to street abuse.*

An earlier analysis of such data for the 18-month period from July 1971 to December 1973, determined that 53% of the exhibits were

*Minichiello, L.P., Lawson, J.B., Gardner, K.A., & Seekamp, L.N. The Supply, Distribution and Usage Patterns of Drugs of Abuse. Drug Enforcement Administration, STS-TR-13, October 1974.