

number of reported deaths, since all 1978 records are not completed and sent to DEA until well into 1979.

Although there has been an apparent but slight decrease in emergency room visits involving Darvon, this is not accompanied by any evidence yet of a decrease in fatalities.

Now, as far as codeine is concerned, the various studies or pharmacology books described it as being half or two-thirds as effective as codeine.

Senator NELSON. Dr. Wolfe, when you make reference to Darvon in the first sentence, are you talking about just propoxyphene, or are you talking about Darvon combinations?

Dr. WOLFE. I am talking about propoxyphene alone in comparison with aspirin or acetaminophen.

Darvon compound also has aspirin in it, and I think the preponderance of studies failed to show that Darvon plus aspirin is more effective than aspirin alone, aspirin alone being a very effective painkiller.

Senator NELSON. What studies do you rely upon for this statement relative to the effectiveness of propoxyphene?

Dr. WOLFE. I can provide a list of the studies.

They are listed in our petition to the Justice Department which we submitted to you, on the effectiveness of the drug.

[The list follows:]