

16582 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

RECENT DPX DEATH DATA

From April 1975 to June 1977, DPX remained the second most commonly mentioned drug in DAWN coroners' reports after a combined category of heroin (Schedule I) and morphine (Schedule II).⁵¹

Most recently, as heroin has become somewhat better controlled-- at least as reflected by a reduction in deaths from its use--DPX-related deaths have surpassed heroin(and morphine) related deaths in many cities. According to the latest DAWN report published by the Drug Enforcement Agency,⁵² in 14 of the 23 cities (61%) for which data comparing DPX-associated deaths with heroin/morphine deaths were available, DPX was associated with more deaths than heroin/morphine in the first half of 1977.*

These cities were: BOSTON, BUFFALO, CLEVELAND, DALLAS, DENVER, INDIANAPOLIS, MIAMI, MINNEAPOLIS, NEW YORK, OKLAHOMA CITY, PHILADELPHIA, PHOENIX, SAN ANTONIO, SEATTLE.

The DAWN statistics also demonstrate that DPX has been abused much more frequently than several Schedule II drugs. The following table shows the number of mentions that DPX, methaqualone (Quaalude), amphetamines, and secobarbital received in the total DAWN system during the last full year for which comparative data were available.

TABLE I

PROPOXYPHENE(DPX) RELATED DEATHS (JULY 1976 - JUNE 1977) CORONERS' REPORTS

<u>DRUG</u>	<u># CORONERS' REPORTS</u>	
Dextropropoxyphene(DPX)	491	
Diazepam(Valium)	388	
Meprobamate(Miltown)	316	SCHEDULE IV
Chlordiazepoxide(Librium)	70	
Flurazepam(Dalmane)	66	
Amphetamines	27	
Methaqualone(Quaaludes)	57	SCHEDULE II
Secobarbital(Seconal)	222	

Similarly, as also shown in the table, the DAWN statistics show that DPX is more frequently abused than the reported Schedule IV drugs.

* The most recent time period for which data are available.