

16584 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

However, by the time DPX was added to Schedule IV (March 1977), these drug-related deaths were once again on the increase. The total number of DPX-related deaths in the U.S. for the last 4 years is 2,154. Recent reports of DPX-related deaths from abroad indicate that this crescendo of abuse is not limited to the United States.⁵⁵⁻⁵⁹

DPX-RELATED-DEATHS

As mentioned previously, in about 2/3 of cases, DPX is mentioned on the death certificates as "cause of death" whereas in 1/3 of cases the death is attributed to "something other than DPX alone."⁶⁰

In this Lilly-sponsored study⁶¹ in 24% of the DPX-related deaths, DPX was the only drug involved and in an additional 18% DPX and alcohol were involved. In other cases, even though additional drugs were involved, DPX was mentioned on the death certificate in the "cause of death" statement.

More recent data show an increase in the percentage of cases in which DPX was the only drug involved. By 1977 (See Figure 1A) there were 589 DPX-related deaths of which 190 or 32% involved only DPX. (Up from 24% in the Lilly study and 23.8% in 1976.)

DPX DEATH RATES IN U.S. CITIES

In order to compare various U.S. metropolitan areas in terms of DPX-related deaths, the number of such deaths for each area between July 1973 and December 1977 was divided by population (in millions) of that area. These results can be seen in Table 2.