

16702 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

Although it is seldom publicized, an important responsibility of the Drug Enforcement Administration is regulating the distribution of legitimate drugs and substances handled by legal drug importers, manufacturers and pharmacies, and prescribed by doctors. In conjunction with this aspect of our mission, DEA needs to be able to identify and evaluate the scope and extent of drug abuse in the United States. The Drug Abuse Warning Network--DAWN--has proven to be one of the major indicators in this area.

DAWN is a program that collects and analyzes data from hospital emergency rooms (DAWN ER's) and medical examiners (DAWN ME's) nationwide on a monthly basis in order to:

1. Identify drugs currently abused.
2. Determine existing patterns of abuse in a selected sample of Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA).
3. Monitor systemwide abuse trends including the detection of new abuse entities and new polydrug combinations.
4. Provide current data for the assessment of the relative hazards to health, both physiological and psychological for drug substances.
5. Provide data needed for rational control and scheduling of drugs of abuse.