

16704 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

1975	502
1976	429
1977	528*

Thus far, for 1978, 315 propoxyphene-related deaths have been reported by the above-mentioned panel of medical examiners. (Because there is considerable variation in the time which elapses between the date of death and the filing of the report, it will be six to nine months before statistically useful 1978 data is available.) Based on the 1975 through 1977 data, no consistent increase or decrease in the number of deaths is evident.**

* All DAWN data was extracted from the DAWN system computer tapes identified as the "November 1978 System Tape". Comparisons across time are based on data received from the medical examiners who report to DAWN throughout the time period being studied. Collectively, these are referred to as a consistently reporting panel. Between January 1975 and November 1978, 1774 propoxyphene-related deaths were reported to DAWN from such a panel. Medical examiners who reported to DAWN but not throughout the entire period reported an additional 190 propoxyphene-related deaths. At various times, data from either panel has been released to the general public. As a result, there may be variations in the absolute numbers for the same time period.

** See pages 15 - 18 for the complete monthly data.