

16706 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

population size nationally, blacks are reported less frequently than are whites. It is noted that, for both ER episodes and ME mentions, white females over age 50 have a disproportionate number of mentions.*

Where do these individuals obtain propoxyphene? Based on DAWN ER data, legitimate prescriptions are used at least 58 percent of the time. This contrasts sharply with the one (1) percent reported as obtained through a street buy or the four (4) percent obtained via other illegal activity such as theft and forged prescriptions. No source is recorded for approximately a third, 37 percent, of all incidents. There is no known clandestine manufacture of propoxyphene.

Prior to comparing the DAWN data regarding propoxyphene to other controlled substances, I believe it is important to digress for a moment to discuss scheduling -- that mechanism by which controlled substances are classified into one of five categories or schedules.

Procedures for the control of dangerous drugs were established under the Controlled Substances Act of 1970 (CSA). It is very important to bear in mind that drug scheduling actions are not solely the responsibility of the DEA; we work very closely with HEW, and at the Staff level with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA).

* See pages 19 and 20 for complete data.