

COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY 16717

Propoxyphene-Related Injuries Reported by a Consistent Panel of Emergency Rooms Associated with the Drug Abuse Warning Network

	1975	1976	1977	1978
January	306	305	250	239
February	286	254	243	230
March	281	274	315	278
April	306	270	266	261
May	259	316	294	202
June	283	285	282	198
July	309	289	245	212
August	303	319	256	219
September	262	269	251	247
October	327	295	259	210
November	289	310	249	206
December	253	288	251	

Source: DEA DAWN November 1978 System Tape Printout:
January 16, 1979, pg. 17-20, captioned D-propoxyphene
vs. all other drugs/substances.

A standard nonparametric test procedure known as the Mann-Whitney U test was used to test the levels of propoxyphene mentions for significant differences between the time periods before and after CSA controls (March 14, 1977) were instituted, i.e., January 1975 - February 1977, and April 1977 - November 1978, respectively. This test was chosen for its generality and particularly for its freedom from the normality assumptions required for most comparable test procedures. According to the results of this test at the 95% confidence level, the number of propoxyphene mentions reported by consistently reporting DAWN emergency rooms was significantly lower during the time period following the institution of CSA controls.

Reference for Mann-Whitney U test: Nonparametric and Shortcut Statistics in Social, Biological, and Medical Sciences by Merle W. Tate and Richard C. Clelland, pages 89-91 and 137; published by Interstate Printers and Publishers, Inc., Danville, Illinois (1959).