

16810 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

For many years propoxyphene-containing products have been among the most frequently prescribed prescription drugs in the United States. Appendix A (attached) shows the number of outpatient prescriptions written by year since 1964. Products containing propoxyphene peaked in popularity from 1973 to 1975 with retail prescriptions totaling over 39 million annually in those years. While the total number of prescriptions has dropped to some 31 million for 1978 (based on the projection of 9 months data), propoxyphene products are still very popular. The following table shows the rank of each among the 200 most prescribed drugs for the years 1972 through 1977:

Rank Among the Top 200 Most Prescribed Drugs

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
Darvocet-N	-	87	24	20	18	12*
Darvon 32 mg & 65 mg	35	47	68	71	78	93
Darvon Compound-65 APC	2	3	3	6	15	20

*Darvocet-N was divided into two groups (50 and 100) for the year 1977 only. The 1977 rank for Darvocet-N 100 was 18; for Darvocet-N 50 was 169.