

bearing on the magnitude, trend, and character of propoxyphene abuse.

We obtained the basic data tapes from which the published DAWN reports are derived and, after consultations with DEA and NIDA and the system's operational intermediary, IMS America, Ltd., we prepared independent analyses of the data (see Blue Book, Tab D).

As will be described in more detail shortly, our independent analyses compare closely with comparable data in the last two DAWN quarterlies.

#### Magnitude of Propoxyphene Abuse

Although propoxyphene is third (after alcohol in combination with other drugs and heroin/morphine) in absolute numbers of medical examiner mentions in DAWN-VI, covering the period May, 1977-April, 1978, it ranks sixth in absolute numbers of emergency room mentions in the same report. Diazepam, alcohol in combination, heroin/morphine, aspirin, and flurazepam precede propoxyphene in the descending-order list of emergency room mentions.

Scaled in proportion to the number of people exposed to the drug, propoxyphene ranks eleventh or twelfth, depending