

16926 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

consistent reporters' records on the DAWN data tape. Since our Blue Book was sent to you, DEA has published the newest DAWN Quarterly (April/June, 1978); an analysis of its relevant contents is presented in Exhibits D and E, attached. Our analysis (Blue Book, Tab D) very closely matches these newly published data. Both sources confirm the downward trend in propoxyphene medical examiner mentions beginning in the first quarter of 1977.

The number of medical examiner mentions for all drugs combined also appears to be trending downward. This downward trend in total mentions is due to the remarkable decrease in heroin and methadone mentions more than to any other single factor. There was a decrease of 692 total medical examiner mentions in the period from the first quarter of 1976 through the first quarter of 1978. Heroin and methadone alone accounted for a decrease of 461, i.e., two-thirds of the decrease.

There is a lag in the filing of medical examiner reports because of the time required for their preparation. To resolve any question regarding the reliability of the 1978 DAWN medical examiner data used in these analyses, we checked medical examiner reports to DAWN (both the date of death and the date reported to DAWN are shown in the computer records) for all drugs, all periods back to the beginning of DAWN.