

The results for all drugs closely matched the results for propoxyphene alone, in a parallel analysis. Medical examiner reports were 93 percent complete within six months of the date of death and 95 percent complete within nine months. Since it is now ten months after the end of the first quarter of 1978 and seven months after the end of the second quarter, we feel it is appropriate to use first-quarter, 1978, data in these trending studies--as does DEA in its latest quarterly report. We have included second-quarter data with the understanding that the downward trend may not prove to be as steep as it now appears.

Emergency room trends are detailed in Exhibit E. Propoxyphene mentions exhibit a downward trend that is relatively greater than that for all nonnarcotic analgesics or for all drugs combined.

The downward trend in propoxyphene abuse is confirmed by data from other sources. Doctors Hudson and McBay, chief medical examiner and toxicologist, respectively, state of North Carolina, reconfirmed the downward trend in North Carolina in their testimony during the recent Senate hearings. (For the North Carolina figures see the Blue Book, Tab F, Table 1.) These figures indicate nearly a 40-percent decline in propoxyphene deaths since 1975.