

suicide. Dr. Lawrence V. Lewman, of the Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office, testified during the recent Senate hearings that 60 percent of the propoxyphene-associated cases in his state were accidents. With Dr. Lewman's cooperation we obtained and reviewed the twenty-two Oregon cases attributed to propoxyphene during the period January 1, 1978, through May 31, 1978. See Exhibit F, attached.

Analysis of the laboratory data in these twenty-two cases fails to disclose a single case that can reasonably be called accidental. Of the twenty-two, only three cases reported blood propoxyphene levels within therapeutic range. All the others had much higher concentrations. With respect to the three cases involving the relatively lower blood propoxyphene levels:

- One involved a lethal level of methadone.
- In another, alcohol was present at nearly twice the legal drunk-driving limit.
- A third had ingested enough diazepam to achieve thirteen times the recommended therapeutic concentration and enough amitriptyline to achieve fifty-four times the therapeutic concentration of that drug.