

COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY 16933

		<u>California</u> <u>(LA, SF, SD)</u>	<u>DAWN</u> <u>Total+</u>	<u>California</u> <u>vs. National</u>
Propoxy- phene	ER:	1.34%*	2.2%**	-39%
	ME:	6.54***	7.0****	-6.6%
Codeine	ER:	1.78*	0.6**	+197%
	ME:	7.48***	4.8****	+56%

*Percent of total California SMSA ER mentions (6,556)

**Percent of total national DAWN ER mentions (44,355)

***Percent of total California SMSA ME mentions (642)

****Percent of total national DAWN ME mentions (1,746)

+Including California

As can be seen, codeine accounted for a much larger percent of medical examiner mentions in the California SMSAs than is true for the United States. The very slight difference in propoxyphene medical examiner mentions in California in comparison with the national DAWN average indicates that limiting the availability of propoxyphene has had little impact on the abuse of propoxyphene, usually with suicidal intent.

Norpropoxyphene: A Factor in Propoxyphene Overdose?

Propoxyphene is an opioid possessing a pharmacological and toxicological profile qualitatively similar to that of the chemically related methadone. It is well absorbed orally and rapidly metabolized by N-demethylation in the liver to norpropoxyphene, the major plasma metabolite, both in man and in the dog.