

January 29, 1979

DPX ranks sixth in frequency of occurrence in toxicology cases, behind alcohol, carbon monoxide, narcotics, tricyclic antidepressants and barbiturates. The greatest current increase is in TAD's, flurazepam and cocaine.

DPX continues to occur principally in multiple drug intoxications.

(ii) OAKLAND - ALAMEDA County

In 1974 there were 11 DPX associated cases, at 10.0/10<sup>6</sup> population.

There has been little change in the past 4 years with 7-10 cases per year.

Opiate narcotic deaths have decreased; and greatest increase in TAD cases.

(iii) ORANGE COUNTY - California

In 1974 experienced 15 DPX associated cases at 10.0/10<sup>6</sup> population. Since then cases have remained relatively constant each year at about 15-20 per year.

The drug still ranks in the top five in frequency of occurrence, usually in multiple drug deaths. No information available on narcotics deaths, but TAD, flurazepam, diazepam increasing and a surprising reappearance of chloral hydrate.

(iv) N. CAROLINA STATE

There were 32 DPX cases in 1974 at 6.4/10<sup>6</sup> population. The cases reached a peak in 1975 at 50 cases and have since decreased steadily, 1976-34, 1977-36, 1978-32. This experience is best summarized in a report to the Southern Medical Journal, V. 70, No. 8:938, Aug. 1977 by Page Hudson, et al.

There is evidence of an "improving situation" re DPX. Opiate narcotics have never been a major fatality problem in this state at less than 15 cases/year during the past eight years.

There has been a major increase in amitriptyline cases. The character of the DPX cases, i.e., multiple drugs, accidental and suicide cases remains unchanged since 1975.