

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD - 3 -

January 29, 1979

(v) STATE OF MARYLAND

This site was not included in the 1975 Finkle study. However, cases reached a maximum in 1975 as the following table shows:

	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>
PROPOXYPHENE	19	45	32	43	40
OPIATE NARCOTICS	-	54	44	17	-
BARBITURATES	-	42	39	43	-
TOTAL DRUG DEATHS	-	118	103	140	-

There has been a significant decrease in Heroin deaths, whereas propoxyphene associated cases have decreased only slightly. DPX's role remains essentially in multiple drug fatalities.

B. SAN DIEGO SITE VISIT

- (i) The geographical area and population base used for the DAWN reporting system and the 1975 Finkle study are the same at this site.
- (ii) The population has increased; 1975 - 1.4, 1977 - 1.6, 1978 - 1.7×10^6 . Wolfe's population base is accurate but it is important to note that the DPX cases per million population on P. 12 of his letter is for a 3 year period which obviously inflates the DPX case frequency. The rate per year matches closely the Finkle study (BF: 92 cases 1974-77 = $57.8/10^6/3$ YR = 19.3/YR. SW: 95 cases 1974-77 = $59.8/10^6/3$ YR = 19.9/YR)
- (iii) At this site the DPX involved cases which are reported to DAWN and those included in a Finkle type study are the same because no "Drug Related" cases are reported to DAWN on the 1977 OMB 43-R-0545 form. This is because there is considerable danger of misinterpretation of these cases. (Drug Related cases have been reported since November 1978). A "Drug Related" case does not necessarily mean that the drug was in any way contributory to the death; e.g., in deaths from Gun Shot Wounds, Motor Vehicle Accidents, a paraplegic who might die from non-drug related causes. The case merely indicates that DPX or its metabolites were present in the blood or tissue at any concentration.

The Finkle case criteria and DAWN "Drug Induced" cases match much more closely, but even here there is a problem for DAWN because most of the DPX cases involve multiple drugs and the