

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD - 5 -

January 29, 1979

DPX is almost constant since 1975 whereas Heroin has decreased - the ratio then quite erroneously indicates an apparent increase in DPX cases.

There are NOT more DPX deaths in San Diego (even currently) than Heroin fatalities. By selection of site and time, and use of the DPX/ Heroin ratio, it is possible to show that DPX is a major problem compared to Heroin, but it is quite misleading and a futile exercise in assessing the toxicity of propoxyphene (cf DALLAS).

(vi) DPX does rank as a drug frequently encountered in forensic toxicology. For 1977 the ranking (detected in blood and tissues by analysis) is:

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|---|--------------------|
| 1. Alcohol 490 | 5. Propoxyphene 31 |
| 2. Barbiturates 86 | 6. Diazepam 31 |
| 3. Morphine (Heroin) 83 | 7. Codeine 17 |
| 4. Tricyclic Antidepressants 46 | 8. Doxepin 13 |
| (Amitriptyline 36, Imipramine 4, Desipramine 6) | |

The TADS, codeine, Doxepin, PCP, and Chloral Hydrate are all increasing significantly each year. DPX is not. Comparing two analgesics: Codeine occurs at about half the frequency of DPX, but is increasing. This does raise the question, if DPX were to be removed, what would fill the void. Today codeine and acetaminophen are the likely toxicological candidates.

DALLAS CITY AND COUNTY SITE VISIT

The geographical area and population served by this site is not the same as the DAWN reporting area, but it does represent the major portion of the DAWN area and the Medical Examiner's office does make DAWN reports. [M. Examiner 1.3, DAWN 1.7×10^6].

All of the criticisms of the DAWN reporting system especially the lack of discrimination between cases, and in toxic significance, noted at the San Diego site were also found in Dallas. This site does report "Drug Related" cases which undoubtedly explains the larger case numbers seen in the Wolfe letter versus those in the 1975 Finkle survey.