

16984 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD - 8 -

January 29, 1979

It should be noted that at this site Heroin fatalities still out number propoxyphene associated cases. There has been no significant decrease in narcotic deaths which is contrary to the general U.S. experience since 1976. DPX is principally a multiple drug case problem in a population dominated by suicides.

DETROIT - WAYNE COUNTY SITE VISIT

The jurisdictional population at this site is 2.7 million, and matches the DAWN reporting area.

All sections of the DAWN, Medical Examiner report form are completed routinely. DAWN case numbers are greater than those in the Finkle study because only cases in which DPX was significant were included in the latter whereas DAWN records all cases in which the drug was detected.

The following table gives the relevant case data:

	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>
Total Toxic Cases	3539	3289	3371	2747	3116
Total Drug Cases	--	423	287	151	123
Total DPX Cases	24	32	17	14	16
DPX Alone	6	8	7	6	6
DPX & Alcohol Only	4	6	3	2	0
DPX in Multiple Drug Cases	14	19	7	6	10

The DPX case numbers are decreasing and the main involvement is in multiple drug deaths. Suicides are predominant. This office is very conservative in designating a death as suicide, preferring "Not determinable" if there is any doubt at all.

	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>
Total DPX Cases	24	32	17	14	16
Suicides	8	13	4	7	10
Accidents	1	2	1	0	1
Undeterminable	15	18	11	7	5

Until 1975 Detroit has a national lead for the annual number of Heroin deaths. Those deaths have dropped largely since 1976 but still outnumber DPX involved cases by a wide margin.