

8870 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

TABLE VII.—NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS, NUMBER OF ELIGIBLES AND AVERAGE PRESCRIPTIONS PER ELIGIBLE BY RACE AND PROGRAM CATEGORY, JANUARY–MAY 1971

Program	Prescriptions		Eligibles		Average per eligible	
	Whites	Nonwhites	Whites	Nonwhites	Whites	Nonwhites
Total.....	618,431	510,242	53,858	158,494	11.5	3.2
OAA.....	454,514	292,371	32,042	46,110	14.2	6.3
AB.....	6,631	8,554	691	1,468	9.6	5.8
APTD.....	142,824	127,114	9,290	15,157	15.4	8.4
ADC.....	14,462	82,203	11,835	95,759	1.2	.9

SUMMARY

Patterns and rates for prescribed drug usage under a relatively unrestricted Medicaid drug program are presented. Utilization rates are described for categories of Program eligibles and by a "top 50" drug usage listing. In addition, usage rates are detailed by race and sex groupings.

The relatively high usage of several drugs listed as "possibly ineffective" by the FDA or as "not recommended" or as "irrational mixtures" by AMA Drug Evaluations—1971 suggests a need for professional education on drug usage.

The higher usage rate for white eligibles is probably due to a number of factors, including long-standing differences in the accessibility and usage of health services between whites and blacks.