

test emphasized the need for training in its use. The nystagmus scores from the trained and experienced officers correctly classified 100 percent of the impaired drivers, compared to 89 percent of the officers with less training. NHTSA recommended that police officers complete the NHTSA "Improved Sobriety Testing" course or its equivalent before using the nystagmus test.

A Technical Report providing a more detailed description of the evaluation study and results is in preparation. Those interested in receiving a copy of the more detailed Report should request copies from the Office of Driver and Pedestrian Research (NRD-42), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20590.

(J. Yates)

#### 4. Senate Subcommittee Holds Hearing on Designer Drug Problem

A recent hearing conducted by the Senate Subcommittee on Children, Family, Drugs and Alcoholism focused on the problem of synthetic drugs of abuse and efforts by the Administration to combat what could rapidly become a national problem. Senator Paula Hawkins (R-FL), Chairman of the Subcommittee, presided over the July 25th hearing. Testimony was given by John Lawn, Acting Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); Dr. Donald Ian Macdonald, Administrator of the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration (ADAMHA); and Robert J. Robertson, Chief of Drug Programs, California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs.

Synthetic drugs, or "designer drugs" as they are often referred to, are surreptitiously produced substances whose molecular structures have been altered by sophisticated chemists just enough that they are not subject to the provisions of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA). While chemically these analogs are distinct from controlled substances, they nevertheless produce the same high, the same addiction and the same side effects. However, the health risks associated with the various narcotic analogs are far greater than those of traditional narcotics (e.g., heroin, morphine, methadone, etc.). Their high potency creates a greater risk of a fatal overdose and lack of quality control at production sites result in the presence of contaminants and other hazardous impurities.

The illegal production and distribution of narcotic analogs is not a new phenomenon. Hallucinogenic amphetamine analogs of mescaline first appeared in the late 1960s. Mr. Lawn informed the Subcommittee that enactment of the CSA in 1970 was, in part, a response to the synthetic drug phenomenon. Since then chemical variants of methaqualone, PCP and amphetamine have been placed under CSA as they surfaced.

The new synthetic drugs have increasingly enjoyed a more prominent role among heroin addicts as they are very potent analogs of synthetic narcotics which have been substituted for heroin. In California, according to Mr. Robertson, fentanyl analogs are sold on the streets as "China White" (a name commonly associated with very pure Southeast Asian heroin) and "Synthetic Heroin".

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Sophisticated chemists spend less than \$100 on materials used to produce these analogs and create 100 million doses of synthetic narcotics at a substantial profit. Availability and inexpensive cost make the drugs attractive to addicts who frequently request them by name, often times unaware of their toxicity.

In California over 100 people have died since 1979 from ingesting these new narcotic analogs. An additional 500 people have been identified as having been exposed to a highly toxic compound known as MPTP which causes an incurable, neuro-degenerative affliction similar to Parkinson's disease. While only 20 Californians have been permanently crippled by the Parkinson's-like symptoms, recent evidence strongly suggests that those who have been exposed to MPTP but have not experienced the crippling side effects will more than likely develop symptoms in the near future.

While the bulk of the synthetic drug problem appears to be confined primarily to portions of California, the fact that use of one "designer drug", MDMA (also known by the street name "Ecstasy"), has spread to many sections of the country substantiates the fear that this problem is rapidly becoming a national one.

In an effort to combat this "serious threat to public safety" the DEA requested, and was granted under "The Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984", a provision for an emergency scheduling procedure, Mr. Lawn told the Subcommittee. This provision allows DEA the authority to temporarily place a substance into Schedule I of the CSA if the substance affects an imminent hazard to the public safety. Thus far DEA has used this authority to expeditiously place 3-methylfentanyl, MDMA and MPPP and PEPAP (both of which have also been linked to the development of Parkinson's disease in their abusers) into Schedule I of the CSA. However, Mr. Lawn expressed concern that unless Congress enacts legislation more specific to the designer drug phenomenon there still remains a short time-lag between production of new designer drugs and their subsequent control under CSA. A bill currently before the Congress, S. 1437, would address this gap in time, Mr. Lawn told the Subcommittee, without imposing burdens on those involved in the legitimate production of new drugs.

(S. 1437 was introduced by Senator Strom Thurmond (R-SC) on July 16, 1985. The bill would add a new section to the CSA that would make it unlawful to manufacture and distribute "designer drugs intended for human consumption, unless the action is in conformance" with a section of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act regarding new drug approval. The bill makes violation of this law a crime punishable by imprisonment for up to 15 years and a fine of up to \$250,000. S. 1437 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. Its companion bill in the House of Representatives, H.R. 2977, was introduced July 11, 1985 by Representative Daniel E. Lungren (R-CA) and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on the Judiciary. At this writing no action has been taken on either bill.)

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Dr. Macdonald informed the Subcommittee that the Public Health Service in an effort to assist in combatting the "designer drug" problem has conducted epidemiology and research studies and instituted an ongoing awareness campaign for physicians, drug users and the general public. Mr. Robertson stated that the California Department of Drug Programs has also instituted an education program which is used in particular in drug treatment programs in California.

(J. Yates)

#### 5. Update on State and Local Narcotics Control Assistance Act of 1985

House and Senate versions of "the State and Local Narcotics Control Assistance Act of 1985" are pending in Committees in both Houses. H.R. 526 was reintroduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Charles Rangel (D-NY) on January 7, 1985. Its companion bill in the Senate, S. 15, was reintroduced by Senator Patrick Moynihan (D-NY) on January 3, 1985. Both bills were initially introduced in the second session of the 98th Congress.

H.R. 526 would authorize \$625 million to "the Attorney General to make grants to States for the purpose of increasing the level of State and local enforcement of State laws relating to production, illegal possession and transfer of controlled substances." The bill would also authorize \$125 million to "the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to States for the purpose of increasing the ability of States to provide drug abuse prevention, education, treatment and rehabilitation; and for other purposes". S. 15 provides for somewhat similar programs but proposes a lower authorization level for the enforcement grants -- \$125 million. At this writing H.R. 526 is pending in the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health and the Environment and the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime. S. 15 has been referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources. Hearings have not yet been scheduled for either bill.

Since publication of an earlier NASADAD Special Report (February and March, 1985), which provided detailed information on H.R. 526 and S. 15, both pieces of legislation have acquired additional co-sponsors. There are now 111 co-sponsors of H.R. 526 and 17 co-sponsors of S. 15. As was stated in that earlier article each additional co-sponsor strengthens the likelihood of positive Congressional action on this legislation. Following are the House co-sponsors for H.R. 526 and the Senate co-sponsors for S. 15. We urge you to encourage your Senators and Congressmen to become co-sponsors of these important pieces of legislation if they have not already done so.

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#### House Co-Sponsors of H.R. 526

Fofo I. F. Sunia (D-AS), Howard Berman (D-CA), Sala Burton (D-CA), Gene Chappie (R-CA), Ronald V. Dellums (D-CA), Julian Dixon (D-CA), Vic Fazio (D-CA), Augustus F. Hawkins (D-CA), Meldon Levine (D-CA), Matthew Martinez (D-CA), Robert T. Matsui (D-CA), Fortney H. (Pete) Stark (D-CA), Henry Waxman (D-CA), Michael L. Strles (R-CO), Sam Gejdene (D-CA), Walter E. Fauntroy (D-DC), Charles Bennett (D-FL), Dante B. Fascell (D-FL), Don Fuqua (D-FL), Earl Hutto (D-FL), William Lehman (D-FL), Tom Lewis (R-FL), Dan Mica (D-FL), Claude Pepper (D-FL), Clay Shaw (R-FL), Lawrence J. Smith (D-FL), C. W. Bill Young (R-FL), George Darden (D-GA), Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI), Cecil Heftel (D-HI), Cardiss Collins (D-IL), Richard J. Durbin (D-IL), Kenneth Gray (D-IL), Charles Hayes (D-IL), Melvin Price (D-IL), Lindy (Mrs. Hale) Boggs (D-LA), Barney Frank (D-MA), Michael Barnes (D-MD), Helen Delich Bentley (R-MD), Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD), Parren J. Mitchell (D-MD), David E. Bonior (D-MI), John Conyers (D-MI), George W. Crockett (D-MI), William D. Ford (D-MI), Dennis Hertel (D-MI), Dale Kildee (D-MI), Howard Wolpe (D-MI), Bruce F. Vento (D-MN), Robert A. Young (D-MO), Patrick Williams (D-MT), Walter B. Jones (D-NC), Charles Rose (D-NC), James J. Florio (D-NJ), Frank J. Guarini (D-NJ), James J. Howard (D-NJ), Peter W. Rodino Jr. (D-NJ), Robert Roe (D-NJ), Robert Torricelli (D-NJ), Bill Richardson (D-NM), Barbara F. Vucanovich (R-NV), Gary Ackerman (D-NY), Joseph Addabbo (D-NY), Mario Biaggi (D-NY), Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY), Joseph J. DioGuardi (R-NY), Thomas J. Downey (D-NY), Hamilton Fish, Jr. (R-NY), Robert Garcia (D-NY), Benjamin A. Gilman (R-NY), Frank Horton (D-NY), David J. LaFalce (D-NY), Norman Lent (R-NY), Thomas Manton (D-NY), David O'B. Martin (R-NY), Raymond J. McGrath (R-NY), Guy V. Molinari (R-NY), Robert Mrazek (D-NY), Henry Nowak (D-NY), Major Owens (D-NY), James H. Scheuer (D-NY), Charles E. Schumer (D-NY), Samuel S. Stratton (D-NY), Edolphus "Ed" Towns (D-NY), Edward F. Feighan (D-OH), Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), Louis Stokes (D-OH), James Traficant, Jr. (D-OH), Glenn English (D-OK), William F. Clinger, Jr. (R-PA), Lawrence Coughlin (R-PA), Bob Edgar (D-PA), Thomas M. Foglietta (D-PA), Joe Kolter (D-PA), Peter Kostmayer (D-PA), Austin J. Murphy (D-PA), Jaime B. Fuster (D-PR), Fernand J. St Germain (D-RI), Marilyn Lloyd (D-TN), Albert G. Bustamante (D-TX), E de la Garza (D-TX), Sam B. Hall, Jr. (D-TX), Mickey Leland (D-TX), Solomon P. Ortiz (D-TX), Jim Wright (D-TX), James M. Jeffords (R-VT), Ron de Lugo (D-VI), Al Swift (D-WA), Nick Joe Rahall, II (D-WV),

#### Senate Co-Sponsors of S. 15

Dennis DeConcini (D-AZ), David H. Pryor (D-AR), Paula Hawkins (R-FL), Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI), Spark M. Matsunaga (D-HI), J. Bennett Johnston (D-LA), Russell B. Long (D-LA), Mark Andrews (R-ND), Quentin N. Burdick (D-ND), Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Alfonso M. D'Amato (R-NY), Howard Metzenbaum (D-OH), John Heinz (R-PA), Arlen Specter (R-PA), Ernest F. Hollings (D-SC), Lloyd Bentsen (D-TX) and Patrick J. Leahy (D-VT).

(J. Yates)