

The Commission is headed by Gerald Siegel, a Baltimore attorney and former member of the House of Delegates. Its executive secretary is David Nurco, assistant director of planning for the Maryland Department of Mental Hygiene.

The Commission was established in 1965 by Governor Tawes to determine the exact scope and nature of Maryland's narcotics problem and to propose legislative measures and recommend administrative programs to combat drug abuse and addiction.

In its original study, financed through a \$76,000 Federal grant, the Commission has worked with State and local human service, police and education agencies to collect data on the incidence of drug abuse. More than 130 separate agencies in Baltimore City and seven counties were contacted.

Mr. Siegel said experts have assembled and analyzed these data, and a report is now in preparation for the Governor and General Assembly.

In addition to the actual number of addicts and forms of addiction — narcotics, barbituates, amphetamines — the study will attempt to isolate characteristics of the addict population.

"To date the only thing we know that they have in common is the use of drugs," Mr. Siegel said. "We hope to assess what other common psychological or physiological problems they have and also, where known criminals are involved, to determine whether drug abuse or antisocial behavior comes first."

Data presently in hand will be clarified and refined through in-depth studies under the continuation of the program. In addition to continuing to work with State agencies, the Commission will attempt to enlist the aid of general hospitals, Mr. Siegel said.

Governor Agnew called the additional grant "a significant expression of confidence by the Federal government in the important work being done in Maryland in this field."

"The study will serve as a pilot for the rest of the country," he added. "No one has done this type of intensive research or developed the degree of cooperation and coordination with numerous service agencies. Each state will learn from Maryland's experimentation how to collect data of the addict population and administratively coordinate the narcotics control effort.

"Mr. Siegel and the other members of the Commission are to be commended highly for their dedicated efforts to arrive at solutions