

The epidemiology of psychiatric disorders among repeat DUI offenders accepting a treatment-sentencing option

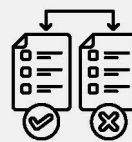
Repeat driving under the influence (DUI) offenders are disproportionately responsible for DUI crashes and related harms compared to first-time offenders.

Mental health and substance use issues likely contribute to DUI behavior, particularly among those who reoffend.

The Study



729 repeat offenders enrolled in a 2-week inpatient DUI treatment program in Massachusetts completed the Composite International Diagnostic Interview (CIDI), an assessment of mental health and substance use disorders.



Compared the rates of psychiatric disorders for repeat DUI offenders with gender-adjusted rates from the National Comorbidity Survey Replication, a large general population survey.

Key Findings



43.8% of DUI reoffenders qualified for a lifetime diagnosis of one or more mental health disorders in addition to substance use-related disorders.



Repeat DUI offenders had a higher prevalence of alcohol, drug, and several psychiatric disorders compared to the general population.



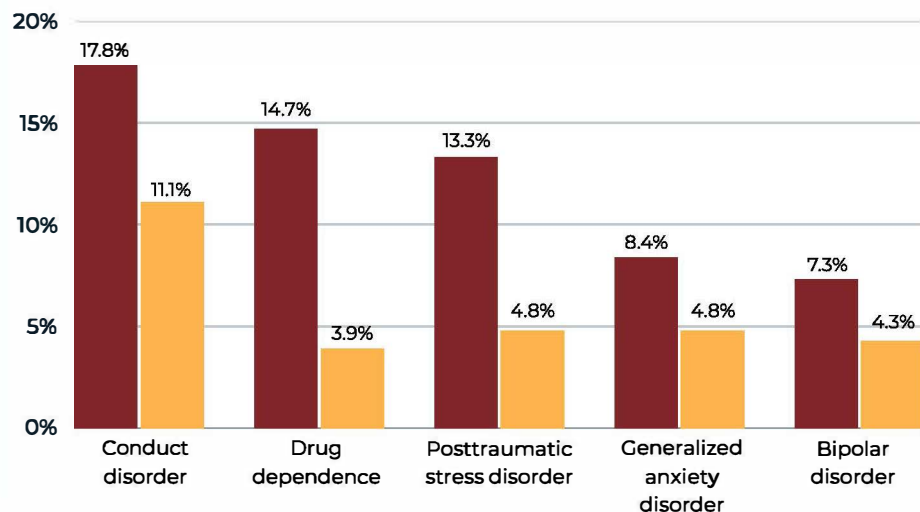
There were no differences between samples for rates of major depressive disorder, dysthymia, intermittent explosive disorder, and attention-deficit disorder.



The lifetime prevalence of alcohol dependence among DUI reoffenders was high (**40.7%**) and significantly higher than the general population (**7.1%**).

Lifetime prevalence of disorders:

● Repeat DUI offenders ● General population



Key Takeaways

DUI programs should not only focus on education about drinking, but also provide comprehensive mental health screening and refer clients to appropriate resources that can address their mental health needs.

Future research should examine the relationship between psychiatric disorders and DUI behavior, as well as differences in the mental health profiles between one-time and repeat offenders.