

## Substance and psychiatric disorders among men and women repeat driving under the influence offenders who accept a treatment-sentencing option

Research has identified substance use and mental health issues as key contributors to driving under the influence (DUI) behavior.

Little is known about how substance use and mental health profiles differ between men and women DUI offenders.

### The Study

Explored how substance use and mental health profiles differed between men and women enrolled in a treatment program for repeat DUI offenders.

As a part of their intake process, 729 DUI offenders completed a comprehensive mental health and substance use assessment.

**Comorbidity:** The co-occurrence of two or more diseases and/or disorders in a single individual.

This sample included:

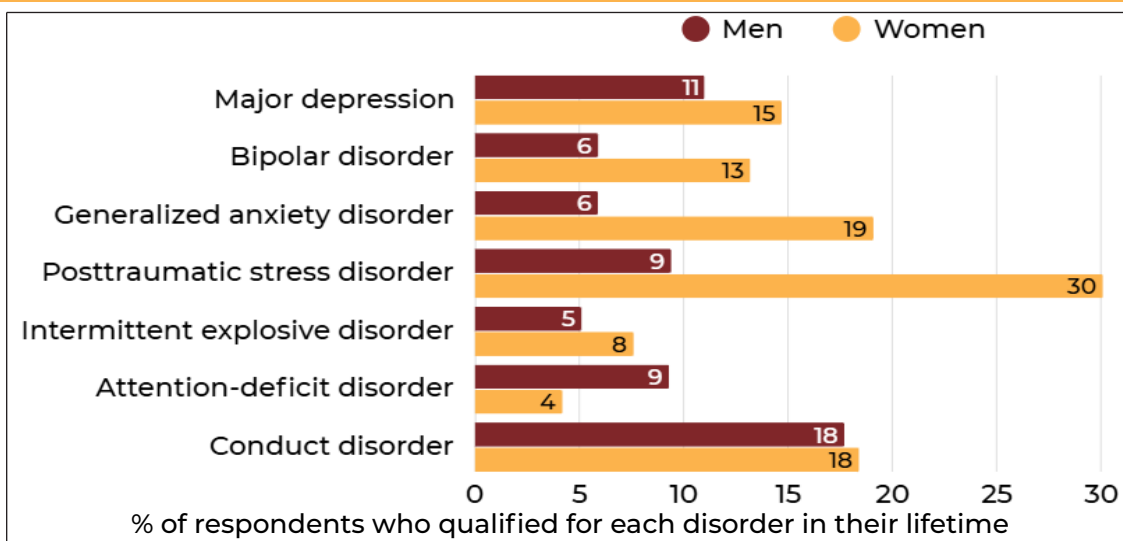


136 women



593 men

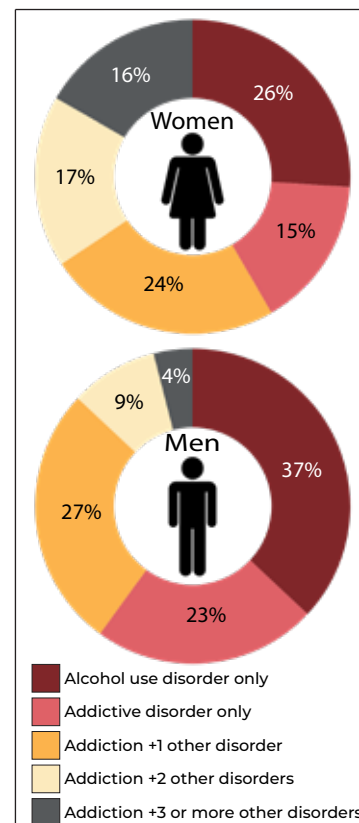
### Key Findings



Over their lifetime, women were significantly more likely to report:

- Bipolar disorder
- Generalized anxiety disorder
- Posttraumatic stress disorder

Women were equally likely to report conduct disorder and intermittent explosive disorder, despite those disorders occurring more frequently among men in the general population.



**⚠** Additionally, comorbidity was more extensive among women compared to men.

### Key Takeaways

Women who engage in DUI tend to have more severe mental health and substance use profiles compared to men.

Given that more women are engaging in impaired driving behaviors in recent years, research is needed to explore how mental health and substance use issues contribute to DUI behavior among women to better target treatment to this population.