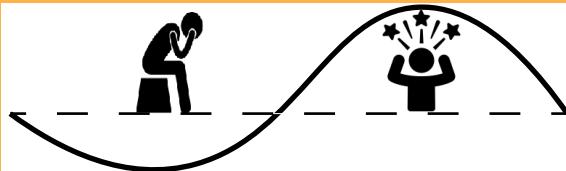


Bipolar disorder as a risk factor for repeat DUI behavior

Driving under the influence (DUI) offenders, especially repeat DUI offenders, are at a high risk of experiencing both mental health and substance use disorders.

For example, rates of bipolar disorder (BD) are higher among repeat DUI offenders compared to the general population.

BD is characterized by periods of elevated mood, increased energy, and impulsivity/risk-taking that can occur with or without periods of depression.

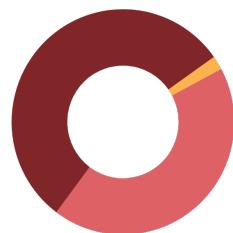


729 repeat offenders attending a residential DUI program in Massachusetts completed the Composite International Diagnostic Interview (CIDI), an instrument that assesses mental health and substance use disorders.

The researchers assessed:

1. Lifetime rates of BD among repeat DUI offenders.
2. Lifetime rates of other psychiatric disorders among repeat DUI offenders with BD.
3. Treatment experiences among DUI offenders with BD.

1. **7.3%** of repeat DUI offenders qualified for a lifetime diagnosis of BD. Of those with BD:

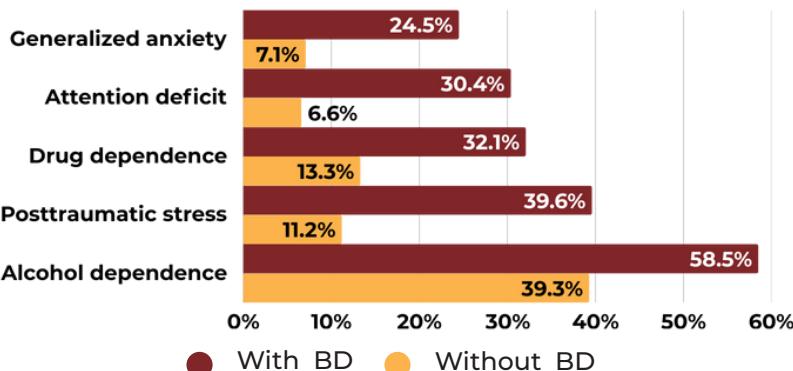


43% had bipolar I (the presence of mania) and at least one depressive episode.

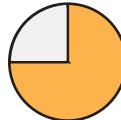
55% had bipolar I with no history of depressive episodes.

2% had bipolar II (the presence of hypomania, a less severe form of mania, with at least one depressive episode).

2. DUI offenders with BD had significantly higher lifetime rates of the following disorders than DUI offenders without BD



3. About **75%** of DUI offenders with BD had discussed their BD with a professional.



Only **49%** of DUI offenders with BD reported receiving treatment for BD during the past year. **55%** reported having had effective treatment for BD during their lifetime.



Bipolar disorder is associated with a significantly higher lifetime prevalence of alcohol, drug, and other mental health disorders among repeat DUI offenders.

Many DUI offenders with bipolar disorder are either not in active treatment or do not report effective treatment. DUI programs should screen for mental health disorders and provide referral and access to mental health professionals for those who need further assessment.