

## PTSD among a treatment sample of repeat DUI offenders

Mental health and substance use problems are key predictors of DUI re-offense. Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD)\* is of the most common mental health issues experienced by DUI offenders.



\*PTSD occurs in response to a traumatic experience and can involve debilitating distress, anxiety, and intrusive thoughts and emotions.

### The Study

729 repeat DUI offenders completed a comprehensive mental health and substance use assessment.

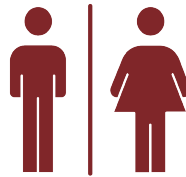
Two thirds of the sample (484) also completed an interview one year after their original assessment.



The researchers explored associations between PTSD, other mental health concerns, and re-offense.

More than 80% of repeat DUI offenders had experienced a traumatic event. The type of trauma varied by gender:

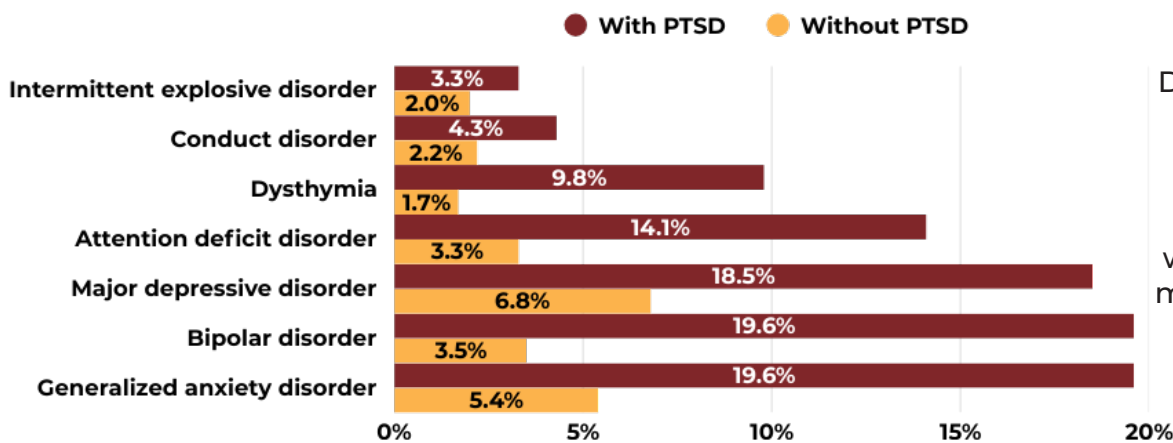
Men were more likely to report trauma related to violent crime or combat.



Women were more likely to report trauma related to domestic violence and sexual abuse.

12% of the sample qualified for posttraumatic stress disorder within the past year.

### Key Findings



DUI offenders with PTSD experienced more co-occurring mental health disorders in the past year than those without PTSD, and were more likely to experience the specific disorders displayed in the chart.

Compared to those without PTSD, DUI offenders with PTSD had more than **five times** the odds of self-reporting impaired driving at the 1 year follow-up.

Repeat DUI offenders with PTSD not only experience more co-occurring disorders but are also more likely to re-offend.

This suggests that DUI programs should pay particular attention to clients' past history of trauma and their experiences related to that trauma as a risk for relapse and re-offense.



### Key Takeaways