

Hard Core Drinking Driver Profile Checklist

There are a number of problem assessment instruments that have been used to evaluate DUI offenders both regarding the nature and extent of AOD-related problems, the degree of need for treatment and the level of care of such treatment. Most of these instruments assume that as problem severity goes up, risk for DUI recidivism rises proportionally. Recent research, however, has suggested that there are a cluster of factors that predict risk of DUI recidivism that are unrelated to the simple index of AOD problem severity. The checklist below was constructed from this recent literature and is intended to help prosecutors, judges, probation officers, treatment personnel and Secretary of State hearing officers determine risk of future involvement in DUI arrests and alcohol-related crashes. The items in bold are those most consistently noted in the majority of studies. A complete discussion of this instrument and the studies upon which it is based can be found in the following: White, W. & Gasperin, D. (2007). The “hard core drinking driver”: Identification, treatment and community management. *Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly*, 25(3), 113-132.

Hard Core Drinking Driver Profile Checklist

- ___ *Demographic/Social Profile (8)*
 - ___ **Male (90-95% of recidivists)**
 - ___ **Age 25-45 (75% of recidivists under age 40)**
 - ___ Education (half of recidivists have less than 12 years)
 - ___ Non-white-collar employment
 - ___ Occupational instability
 - ___ Lower socioeconomic status (annual income less than \$25,000)
 - ___ **Impaired intimate relationships (75-80% single, divorced, widowed)**
 - ___ **Social network containing other heavy drinkers and drinking drivers**

- ___ *Substance Use/Treatment History (10)*
 - ___ **Family history of AOD problems**
 - ___ **Exposure to drinking and driving by parent and peer models**
 - ___ **Early age of onset of regular drinking (age 14 or earlier)**
 - ___ **Frequent, heavy drinking at venues accessible by car**
 - ___ History of drinking in automobiles
 - ___ **Past year consumption of drugs other than alcohol**
 - ___ **Early onset of smoking, heavy smoking, no effort or failed efforts to stop smoking**
 - ___ **Meets DSM-IV criteria for substance abuse or substance dependence**
 - ___ Prior addiction treatment or involvement in addiction recovery mutual aid group
 - ___ **Prior failure to comply with terms of sentencing (e.g., failure to complete mandated treatment, community service, etc.)**

- ___ *Driving & Criminal Justice History (6)*
 - ___ **Prior (often AOD-related) criminal arrests predating first DUI arrest**
 - ___ Prior crimes against persons
 - ___ **Prior DUIs (Risk of recidivism rises with number of prior DUIs)**
 - ___ **High-risk driving record (moving violations, prior crashes, prior loss of driving privileges, or high risk insurance or lack of insurance)**
 - ___ Prior aggravated driving without a valid license (e.g., high speed/recklessness, DUI, crash)
 - ___ Prior DUI arrests in which consequences were avoided, delayed, or minimized

- ___ *Drinking/Driving Beliefs (6)*
 - ___ **Believes he or she can drive safely after consuming large amounts of alcohol**
 - ___ **Underestimates his/her level of intoxication**
 - ___ Makes no alternative transportation arrangements before drinking
 - ___ Expresses likelihood of drinking and driving in the future

- ___ Believes penalties for impaired driving should be less severe
- ___ Perceives DUI arrest as product of bad luck or targeting by police

___ *Arrest Event (5)*

- ___ **BAC greater than .15**
- ___ **High BAC without gross signs of intoxication**
- ___ Collateral charges with DUI
- ___ Current or past history of refusal of Breathalyzer test
- ___ Not wearing a seat belt at time of arrest; does not generally use seat belts

___ *Broader Clinical Profile (3)*

- ___ **Symptoms of, and/or prior treatment of, psychiatric illness (depression, PTSD)**
- ___ **Medical/criminal history reflecting injury to self and others**
- ___ **Personality characteristics that include diminished capacity for empathy, guilt and remorse; failure to take personal responsibility (e.g., projection of blame); impulsivity, risk-taking, and aggression**

Total Factor Score ___ (of possible 38)
Demographic ___ (of possible 8)
Substance Use ___ (of possible 10)
Driving & CJ ___ (of possible 6)
DUI Beliefs ___ (of possible 6)
Arrest Event ___ (of possible 5)
Clinical Profile ___ (of possible 3)

Adapted from White, W. & Gasperin, D. (2007). The “hard core drinking driver”: Identification, treatment and community management. *Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly*, 25(3), 113-132.