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

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___ 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 DUls (Risk of recidivism rises with number of prior DUls)
___ 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)