The DWI Offender vs. the Drug Offender

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Frequency of use by High School Seniors – CSAT 2002

- Children under 21 25% of Alcohol 27 billion 5 million or 31% binge 1 x month
- Drinking 80%
- Smoking 70%
- Marijauna 47%
- Other Drugs 29%
- Huffing 2 million age 12-17 tried
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Percentage moving from use to Alcoholism

• If you consume more than 4 drinks once a month then you have a 20% risk.

• If you consume more than 4 drinks once a week then you have a 33% risk.

• If you consume more than 4 drinks twice a week then you have a 50% risk.
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Gender Differences

• Abuse of Alcohol:
  – Female 7%  Male 20%

However – Females develop dependence quicker, brain atrophy & liver damage more quickly
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Gender Differences

- Why women
  - Tend to weigh less
  - Have less water & more fatty tissue
  - Fat retains alcohol and water dilutes it
  - Also have lower levels of alcohol dehydrogenase and aldehyde dehydrogenase that breakdown alcohol in liver and stomach thus more absorbed in bloodstream.
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Substance Abuse and APD

• 2.8% of Population Dependent on Drugs
• 7.2% of Population Dependent on Alcohol
• Overlap: The bulk of substance dependent persons are also diagnosable as having APD. While about half of alcoholics who enter treatment also have APD, less than half of all alcoholics have APD. Almost all APDs who enter institutions or programs show some form of chemical abuse.

Kessler, et. Al. Archives of General Psychiatry. 1994 Rates of Alcoholism and Substance Dependence Over Previous 12 Months
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College Kids Blame it on Alcohol

- Alcohol caused them to:
  - Vomit 64%
  - Black out 50%
  - Miss Class 31%
  - Unwanted Sex 23%
  - Police arrest 21%
  - Damaged Property 15%
  - Ticket or citation 10%

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Blame it on Drinking

• Psychology of Addictive Behaviors May 2011
• Findings:
  – Social Benefits of Drinking Are:
    • Boost in courage
    • Increased chattiness
    • Excitement
    • These outweigh fights, hangovers, and unwanted hook-ups.
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Education & Drinking

What Does Your Schooling Have To Do With How Much You Drink?

Past Alcohol Use

Recent Alcohol Use

*Source: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (1997)*
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The Bad News

Every 48 minutes
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Brain Damage From Heavy Social Drinking

• Heavy drinking – defined as follows:
  – 100 drinks for males
  – 80 for females a month
• Brain damage detectable in scans even those not in treatment – enough to impair day to day functioning (reading, balance, etc.)

Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research April 2004 Meyerhoff et al.
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Healthy Brain

Daily Drinker
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Alcohol makes the alcoholic brain ‘normal’

control  alcoholic  intoxicated alcoholic
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Non-alcoholic children of alcoholics show naturally low dopamine levels

No family history of alcoholism

With family history of alcoholism
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Functional neuroimaging of Alcoholics

• PET and SPECT neuroimaging studies have shown reduced blood flow, perfusion or metabolism in alcohol dependence, with the frontal lobe being particularly susceptible.

• Improvement in cerebral activity is seen during early abstinence. It has been reported that increased metabolism, particularly in frontal regions and more recently frontal lobe rCBF was found to increase progressively with abstinence and return to pre-morbid levels within 4 years.

• Notably, multiple detoxifications were associated with greater levels of hypoperfusion. This emphasizes the need to optimize the treatment program to encourage abstinence rather than repeated detoxifications.”
I. Locus of care: Primary health care settings

II. Locus of care: Mental health system

III. Locus of care: Substance abuse system

IV. Locus of care: State hospitals, jails/prisons, emergency rooms, etc.

Mental Illness

Alcohol and other drug abuse

High Severity

Low Severity
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Alcohol Dependence and Illegal Drug Use

• Adults aged 18 and older who are Alcohol Dependent approximately 400% greater likelihood of illegal drug and prescription drug abuse compared to general population.

• In addition, 70% of alcohol dependent people had never received treatment.

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Alcohol Impairs Cognitive Skills Longer than Motor Skills

- Found that rising BAC effects cognitive skills & motor skills.
- Motor skills improve as BAC decreases whereas cognitive skill impairment lingers.
- This creates illusion of sobriety even when impairment continues.

Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research (April 2004) Schweizer et al.
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Services

1. Urine screens
2. Alcohol Monitoring
3. Ignition Interlock
4. Medical Intervention
5. Levels of Care
6. Treatment
7. Pharmacological Intervention
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An MRT®-Based Cognitive-Behavioral Treatment for First-Time DUI Offenders

• 203 DUI offenders were assessed for two and three-year post treatment recidivism after completing a cognitive-behavioral DUI school using the Driving The Right Way curriculum. The results were compared to two-year recidivism in a cohort of 1900 similar offenders treated in the Davidson County Prime For Life Program.

• Two-year DUI recidivism in the Driving The Right Way group was 4.93% as compared to 5.51% for the Prime For Life group. Statistical analysis showed that the results were not statistically different.

• In addition, two-year recidivism for any drug/alcohol rearrests in the Driving The Right Way group was 10.84% as compared to 9.36% in the Prime For Life group. Statistical analysis revealed that the results were not statistically different. Results show that the two programs lead to equivalent outcomes.

REFERENCE: An MRT®-Based Cognitive-Behavioral Treatment for First-Time DUI Offenders: Two and Three-Year Recidivism in a Cohort of Davidson County, Tennessee Offenders With a Comparison to the Prime For Life Program
By Gregory L. Little, Kenneth Baker, Deanna McCarthy, Michael Davison, & Julie Urbaniak
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA WELLNESS COURT

83% of the comparison group had a previous DUI (average 1 per person) while 92% of the treated group had previous DUIs (average 4 DUIs per person). The comparison group has a significantly great rate of recidivism than the 2001 and 2002 Wellness court groups. Nationally, in 2000, 67% of all released individuals are re-arrested within 3 years of release.

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Are there differences?

Does it require different ‘tracks’ on the “Road to Recovery”? 
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The GOAL: The Road to RECOVERY!
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EXPERIENCE

“A man (or woman) who carries a cat by the tail learns something he can learn in no other way.”

Mark Twain
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DENIAL

What it is NOT

A River
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DRUNK DRIVING

Between 1982 and 2009: More than 251,000 people died in crashes involving hardcore drinking drivers.
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High BAC Drunk Drivers

More than one-half of all impaired driving fatalities had BAC at or above .15

Drivers at .15 > are 20 times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than a non-drinking driver.
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Hard Core Drunk Drivers

Term Hard Core includes Repeat Offenders and High BAC Offenders.

Hard Core drinking drivers (.15 >) are involved in more than 70% of the alcohol-impaired fatalities (in 2009, this represented 7,607 deaths) and 22% of the total highway deaths.
Denial: What is it?

By the time a chronic addictive process such as alcoholism has become frankly problematic it has invariably acquired a complex and sophisticated array of psychological defense mechanisms aimed at protecting its continued existence by minimizing the cognitive dissonance the addict experiences as a result of his progressively irrational self, and usually other, harmful behavior.
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Legal Orientation

Driving

Drinking
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How is the DWI Offender Different?

• Offender Attitude
• Community Attitude
• Offenders’ Demographics
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Other Characteristics of DWI Offenders

- Often score low to moderate on risk assessment tools
- Often don’t view themselves as “outlaws” or criminals
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“Alcoholism nearly always refuses to see itself.”
P. 33 “Be aware that hard core drunken drivers often look and behave differently in court from their irresponsible behavior on the road.”
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DWI Court Participants
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The High-Functioning Alcoholic

• Double Life – skilled at compartmentalizing life
• Have difficulty seeing themselves as alcoholic
• Denial shared by loved ones/social set
• Increased levels of Tolerance/Cravings
• Employed (May excel)
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The High-Functioning Alcoholic

- Financially sound
- Sustain relationships/friendships
- Functional – lives still manageable
- Lives depart from their personal standards
- Drive DWI, rarely caught, have attorneys
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p. 32. ...specific alcohol-only treatment services focused on “motivation-building” may be needed if DWI courts are to realize their potential for success..."
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The Courtroom as a “Theater”
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Motivational Interviewing
For ALL of you who have Carried the “Cat by The Tail”

Thank You!
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