The Driver Risk Inventory-II or DRI-II is a brief, easily administered and automated (computer scored and interpreted on-site) DUI/DWI offender screening instrument or test. The DRI-II contains six scales that measure client truthfulness, driver risk, stress coping abilities, alcohol abuse severity and drug abuse severity while concurrently classifying offenders as substance abusers or substance dependent in accordance with DSM-IV criteria.
Six Scales (Measures)
The DRI-II contains 6 separate scales (or measures) that are standardized on the DUI/DWI population. These include:

1. **Truthfulness Scale**: measures how truthful the offender was while completing the DRI-II. It detects denial and identifies faking.

2. **Alcohol Scale**: measures alcohol (beer, wine and other liquor) use and abuse. This scale measures the severity of alcohol abuse while identifying alcohol-related problems.

3. **Drugs Scale**: measures the severity of illicit drug (marijuana, crack, cocaine, ecstasy, amphetamines, barbiturates and heroin) use and abuse while identifying drug-related problems.

4. **Substance Abuse / Dependency Scale**: utilizes DSM-IV criteria to classify substance abuse or substance dependency. Substance (alcohol and other drugs) users are classified with DSM-IV criteria.

5. **Driver Risk Scale**: measures driver risk independent of substance (alcohol or other drugs) use or abuse. Some people are simply dangerous drivers.

6. **Stress Coping Abilities Scale**: measures one’s ability to cope effectively with stress. Stress exacerbates symptoms of emotional and mental health problems.

The DRI-II assesses attitudes and behaviors yielding a DUI/DWI offender profile. Paper-pencil or on-screen testing format takes 25 minutes to complete and tests are computer scored with reports printed on-site within 2 ½ minutes.

The DRI-II was developed specifically for DUI/DWI offender evaluation. It is much more than just another alcohol or drug test, consequently the DRI-II measures important behaviors often missed by other tests.

**SCALE INTERPRETATION**

1. **Truthfulness Scale**: measures how truthful the DUI/DWI offender was while completing the test. It identifies guarded and defensive people who attempt to fake good. Truthfulness Scale scores at or below the 89th percentile mean that all DRI-II scale scores are accurate. When the DRI-II Truthfulness Scale score is in the 70 to 89th percentile range other DRI-II scale scores are accurate because they have been Truth-Corrected. In contrast, when the Truthfulness Scale score is at or above the 90th percentile this means that all DRI-II scales are inaccurate (invalid) because the DUI/DWI offender or respondent was overly guarded, read things into test items that aren’t there, was minimizing problems, or was caught faking answers. If not consciously deceptive, offenders with elevated Truthfulness Scale scores are uncooperative (likely in a passive-aggressive manner), fail to understand test items or have a need to appear in a good light. **Truthfulness Scale scores at or below the 89th percentile mean that all other DRI-II scale scores are accurate.** One of the first things to check when reviewing a DRI-II report is the Truthfulness Scale score.

2. **Alcohol Scale**: measures alcohol use and the severity of abuse. Alcohol refers to beer, wine and other liquors. An elevated (70 to 89th percentile) Alcohol Scale is indicative of an emerging drinking problem. An Alcohol Scale score in the severe problem (90 to 100th percentile) range
identifies established and serious drinking problems. Elevated Alcohol Scale scores do not occur by chance.

A history of alcohol problems (e.g., alcohol-related arrests, DUI/DWI convictions, etc.) could result in an abstainer (current non-drinker) attaining a low to medium risk scale score. Consequently safeguards have been built into the DRI-II to identify “recovering alcoholics.” For example, the offender’s self-reported court history is summarized on the first page of the DRI-II report. And on page 3 of the report the DUI/DWI offender’s structured interview (items 119 to 140) answers are printed for easy reference. The DUI/DWI offender’s answer to the “recovering alcoholic” question (item 138) is printed on page 3 of the DRI-II report. In addition elevated Alcohol Scale paragraphs caution staff to establish if the offender is a recovering alcoholic. If recovering, how long? Obviously the DUI/DWI offender was arrested for a DUI or DWI.

Severely elevated Alcohol and Drugs Scale scores indicate polysubstance abuse and the highest score usually identifies the offender’s substance of choice.

Scores in the severe problem (90 to 100th percentile) range are a malignant prognostic sign. Elevated Alcohol Scale, Drugs Scale and Driver Risk Scale scores identify a particularly dangerous driver. Here you have a person with poor driving skills who is even further impaired when drinking or using drugs.

In intervention and treatment settings the offender’s DRI-II Alcohol Scale score can help staff work through offender denial. More people accept objective standardized assessment results as opposed to someone’s subjective opinion. This is especially true when it is explained that the DRI-II has been given to over one million DUI/DWI offenders and that elevated scores do not occur by chance. The Alcohol Scale can be interpreted independently or in combination with other DRI-II scales.

3. Drugs Scale: measures drug use and severity of drug abuse. Drugs refer to marijuana, ice, crack, cocaine, ecstasy, amphetamines, barbiturates and heroin. An elevated (70 to 89th percentile) Drugs Scale score identifies emerging drug problems. A Drugs Scale score in the severe problem (90 to 100th percentile) range identifies established drug problems and drug abuse.

A history of drug-related problems (e.g., drug-related arrests, prior DUI/DWI convictions, drug treatment, etc.) could result in an abstainer (current non-user) attaining a low to medium risk Drug Scale score. For this reason precautions have been built into the DRI-II to insure correct identification of “recovering” drug abusers. Many of these precautions are similar to those discussed in the above Alcohol Scale description. And the DUI/DWI offender’s answer to the “recovering drug abuser” question (item 138) is printed on page 3 of the DRI-II report.

Concurrently elevated Drugs and Alcohol Scale scores are indications of polysubstance abuse, and the highest score reflects the offender’s substance of choice. Very dangerous drivers are identified when both the Drugs Scale and the Driver Risk Scale are elevated. Any Drugs Scale score in the severe problem (90 to 100th percentile) range should be taken seriously. The Drugs Scale can be interpreted independently or in combination with other DRI-II scales.


The DRI-II Substance Abuse/Dependency Scale is entirely based on DSM-IV classification criteria for substance abuse and dependency. When a DUI/DWI offender admits to one of the four
DSM-IV abuse symptoms (criteria) that offender is classified in the substance abuse category. When an offender admits to three of the seven DSM-IV dependency symptoms (criteria) that offender is classified in the substance dependency category. When an offender does not meet DSM-IV criteria for abuse or dependency they are non-pathological substance users (if they use alcohol or drugs).

There is an important difference between the DRI-II Substance Abuse/Dependency Scale and the Alcohol and Drugs Scales. The Substance Abuse/Dependency Scale classifies people as abusers, dependent or non-pathological substance users (if they use alcohol or drugs). The Alcohol Scale and Drugs Scale measure the severity of alcohol and drug use or abuse.

The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) states there can be exceptions to DSM-IV classification — and these exceptions are made according to the severity of a person’s substance abuse. The severity of a person’s substance abuse determines their recommended level of intervention and/or treatment.

In summary, the Alcohol and Drugs Scales measure severity of substance (alcohol and other drugs) abuse, whereas the Substance Abuse/Dependency Scale classifies people as substance abusers or substance dependent. The Substance Abuse/Dependency Scale can be interpreted independently or in combination with DRI-II Alcohol and Drugs Scales.

5. **Driver Risk Scale:** measures driving risk, e.g., aggressive, irresponsible or careless drivers. This scale is independent of the Alcohol, Drugs and Substance Abuse/Dependency Scales. Some people are simply poor drivers. Elevated (70 to 89th percentile) Driver Risk Scale scores identify problem prone drivers that would benefit from a driver improvement program. **Severe problem (90 to 100th percentile) scorers are simply dangerous drivers.** These are high probability accident prone drivers. When the Driver Risk Scale and the Alcohol Scale and/or Drugs Scale are elevated a person’s poor driving abilities are further impaired by substance use or abuse. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), which is the highest federal authority in the DUI/DWI field - the DRI is the only major DUI/DWI test that measures driver risk. Consequently, other tests do not identify abstaining (non-drinking and non-drug use) dangerous drivers.

The Driver Risk Scale provides considerable insight into offender driving behavior and it is overlooked by other DUI/DWI tests. The Driver Risk Scale can be interpreted independently or in combination with the DRI-II Alcohol Scale, Drugs Scale and Stress Coping Abilities Scale.

6. **Stress Coping Abilities Scale:** measures the DUI/DWI offender’s ability to cope effectively with stress, tension and pressure. How well a person manages stress effects their driving safety. A Stress Coping Abilities Scale score in the elevated (e.g., problem risk) range provides considerable insight into co-determinants while suggesting possible intervention programs like stress management. An offender scoring in the severe problem (90 to 100th percentile) range should be referred to a mental health specialist for further evaluation, diagnosis and a treatment plan.

We know that stress exacerbates emotional and mental health problems. The Stress Coping Abilities Scale is a non-introductive way to screen for established (diagnosable) mental health problems. Stress coping problems can have a direct impact on a person’s driving.

A particularly unstable and perilous driving situation involves an elevated Stress Coping Abilities Scale with an elevated Alcohol Scale, Drugs Scale or Driver Risk Scale. Poor driving abilities along with substance abuse in an emotionally reactive person who doesn’t handle stress well operationally defines a dangerous driver. **The higher the elevation of these scales -- the worse the...**
**prognosis.** The Stress Coping Abilities Scale can be interpreted independently or in combination with other DRI-II scales.

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In conclusion, it was noted that several levels of DRI-II interpretation are possible. They range from viewing the DRI-II as a self-report to interpreting scale elevations and inter-relationships. Staff can then put a DUI/DWI offender’s DRI-II findings within the context of the offenders driving situation.

**Unique DRI-II Features**

**Truthfulness Scale:** Identifies denial, problem minimization and faking. It is now known that most DUI/DWI offenders attempt to minimize their problems. A Truthfulness Scale is a necessary component in contemporary tests. The DRI-II Truthfulness Scale has been validated with the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI), polygraph exams, other tests, truthfulness studies and experienced staff judgment. The DRI-II Truthfulness Scale has been demonstrated to be reliable, valid and accurate. In some respects the DRI-II Truthfulness Scale is similar to the MMPI’s L and F-Scales. It consists of a number of items that most people agree or disagree with.

**Truth-Corrected Scores:** Have proven to be very important for assessment accuracy. This proprietary truth-correction process is comparable to the MMPI K-Scale correction. The DRI-II Truthfulness Scale has been correlated with the other 5 scales. The Truth-Correction equation then converts raw scores to Truth-Corrected scores. Truth-Corrected scores are more accurate than raw scores. Raw scores reflect what the DUI/DWI offender wants you to know. Truth-Corrected scores reveal what the offender is attempting to hide.

**The Substance Abuse / Dependency Scale:** Categorizes DUI/DWI offenders as substance abusers or substance dependent in accordance with DSM-IV criteria. Other DUI/DWI tests without this scale can not classify DUI/DWI offenders according to DSM-IV criteria. Such classification augments the Alcohol Scale and Drugs Scale severity of abuse measures. The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) notes there are exceptions to DSM-IV classification -- and these exceptions are made according to the severity of the client’s substance abuse. In other words, exceptions to DSM-IV substance (alcohol and other drugs) abuse/ dependency classification can be determined by “severity” of abuse. The severity of a client’s substance abuse determines their recommended levels of intervention or treatment.

**Driver Risk Scale:** Measures driving risk independent of substance (alcohol and other drugs) use or abuse. Some people are simply dangerous drivers. These individuals would benefit from driver education and training. To adequately understand a DUI/DWI offender’s driving risk it is important to know their driver attitude and aggressiveness. It sounds obvious, yet NHTSA noted that no other major DUI/DWI offender test has a Driver Risk Scale.

**Stress Coping Abilities Scale:** Measures how well the DUI/DWI offender handles stress, tension and pressure. How a person handles stress can directly affect their driving safety. And we now know that stress exacerbates emotional and mental health symptomatology. This scale is a non-introversive way to screen for established (diagnosable) mental health problems. A person scoring at or above the 90th percentile on the Stress Coping Abilities Scale should be referred to a certified mental health professional for a more comprehensive evaluation, diagnoses and treatment plan. This important area of inquiry is missed by many other DUI/DWI tests.
More than just another alcohol or drug test. In addition to alcohol and drugs the DRI-II assesses other important areas of inquiry like truthfulness, denial and faking, driving safety and emotional/mental health problems. The DRI-II is specifically designed for DUI/DWI offender assessment. It provides the information needed for comprehensive DUI/ DWI offender screening.

Confidentiality: Professional Online Testing Solutions, Inc. encourages test users to delete DUI/DWI offender names from diskettes. Once client names are deleted they are gone and cannot be retrieved. Deleting client names does not delete demographics or test data which is downloaded into the DRI-II database for subsequent analysis. This proprietary name deletion procedure involves a few keystrokes and insures client confidentiality and HIPAA (federal regulation 45 C.F.R. 164.501) requirement compliance.

Test Data Input Verification: Allows the person that inputs test data from the answer sheet into the computer to verify the accuracy of their data input. In brief, test data is input twice and any inconsistencies between the first and second data entry are highlighted until corrected. When the first and second data entry match or are the same the staff person can continue. This proprietary Data Input Verification procedure is optional, yet strongly recommended by Professional Online Testing Solutions, Inc.

Database
The DRI-II system contains a proprietary built-in database. All DRI-II test data is downloaded into its database. This expanding database allows ongoing research and test program summary features that were not readily available before. Ongoing research insures quality control. Testing program summaries provide for program self-evaluation.

Built-in database. The DRI-II database permits ongoing research and annual program summary -- at no additional cost. Advantages of this proprietary database are many and include database (research) analysis and annual testing program summary reports. Annual summary reports provide information that permit testing program review.

For more information

Some evaluator’s want more test-related information than others. If you want more in depth DRI-II information visit www.bdsltd.com. Upon entering this site there are navigational links in the left margin. Click on “Tests Alphabetically Listed” and scroll down to the Driver Risk Inventory-II. Click on the tests name and you will go directly to its webpage, which contains a lot of test-related (description, unique features, research, example report and more) information.

For more in-depth Driver Risk Inventory-II information visit www.bdsltd.com