

# HIGH RISK OFFENDERS AND THEIR CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL & DRUGS WHILE DRIVING: IT IS STILL THE PROBLEM?

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## Aims

This study seeks to identify the factors that predict an offender driver profile, analysing not only drivers' general use of alcohol and/or drugs, but also their ability to dissociate the use of alcohol and other substances from driving and sociodemographic questions.

## Method

**Participants:** A total of 315 drivers — 97 offenders (95.9% men) and 218 non-offenders (47.2% men) responded to a battery of self-report evaluation questionnaires on:

### Instruments

- Alcohol use habits (measured with the AUDIT);
- Drug use (measured with the DAST-20); the ability of dissociating alcohol and substance use from driving;
- Self-reported traffic violations, errors and lapses (measured with the DBQ, Driver Behaviour Questionnaire)
- Sociodemographic questions

**Procedure:** On-line questionnaire using LimeSurvey. Participant recruitment was done by a contracted online.

## Results

- Logistic regression model was used to explore the ability of the study's different variables to predict offender status.
- The resulting model (See Table ) includes: the DBQ Lapses factor; item 4 of the ability to dissociate variables ("Driving a little after drinking 5 or more spirit drinks in a period of approximately-two hours"); the Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) diagnosis from the AUDIT; the addiction to drugs diagnosis from the DAST; and Educational Level

	$\beta$	SE	Wald	Df	p-value	Exp ( $\beta$ )	95% C.I. for Exp( $\beta$ )	
							Lower	Higher
Constant	1.26	.80	2.50	1	.114	3.53		
DBQ Lapses <sup>1</sup>	-2.51	.65	14.88	1	<.001	.081	.023	.291
Capability of dissociating Item 4	2.58	.64	16.12	1	<.001	13.17	3.74	46.35
DAST Diagnosis	2.11	.68	9.67	1	.002	8.24	2.18	31.15
AUDIT Diagnosis <sup>2</sup>			18.78	2	<.001			
Risk Consumption (Moderate Risk)	3	1.06	8	1	.005	20.16	2.52	161.40
Possible AUD (Alcohol Use Disorder)	2.26	.62	13.14	1	<.001	9.60	2.83	32.61
Educational Level <sup>3</sup>			54.37	3	<.001			
Secondary Studies	.75	1.10	.47	1	.49	2.12	.25	18.22
High School Studies	-3.40	.95	12.73	1	<.001	.033	.005	.22
Superior studies	-5.42	1	29.45	1	<.001	.004	.001	.031

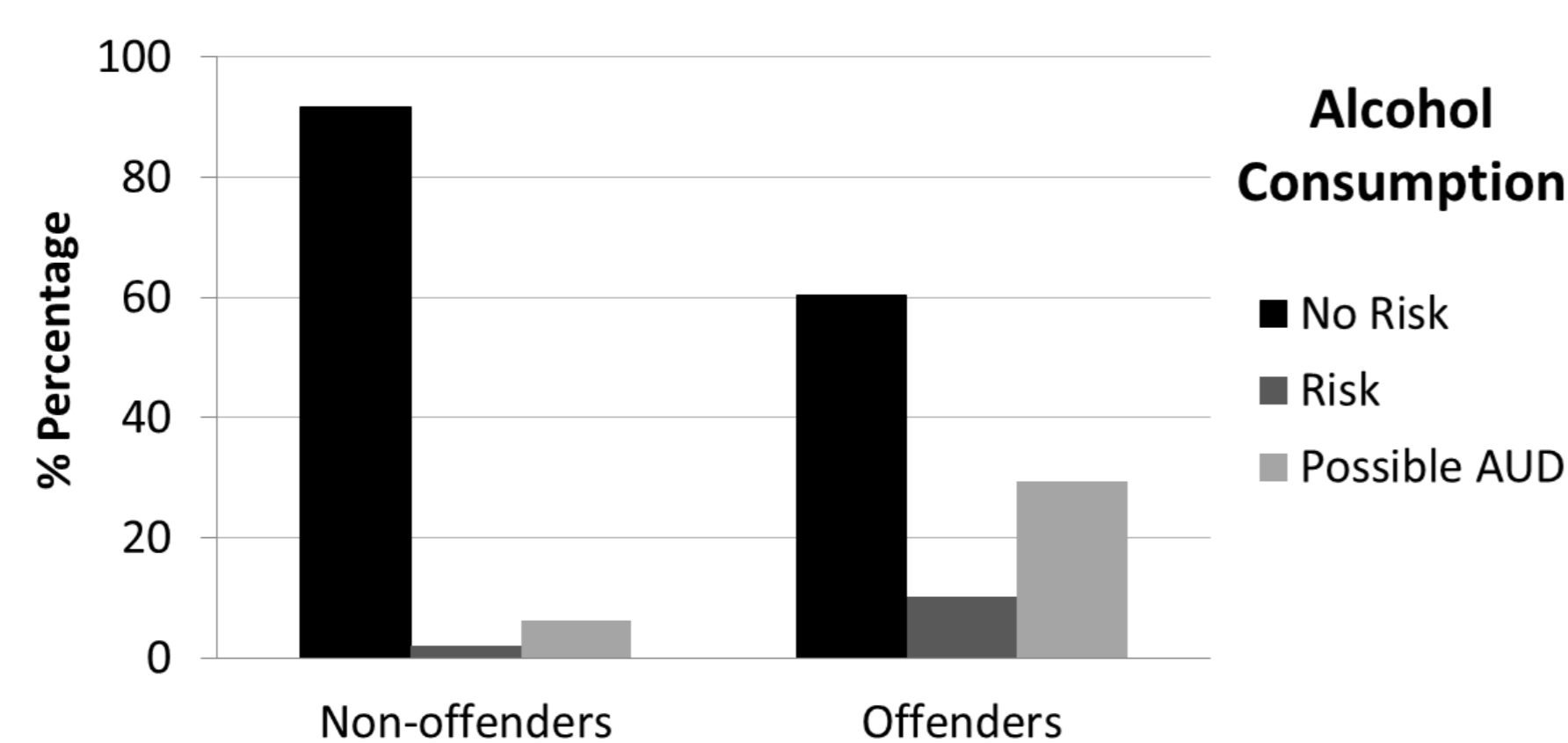
<sup>1</sup> Scores centered on the median of each variable

<sup>2</sup> "No Risk" is the reference category

<sup>3</sup> "Primary or inferior" is the reference category

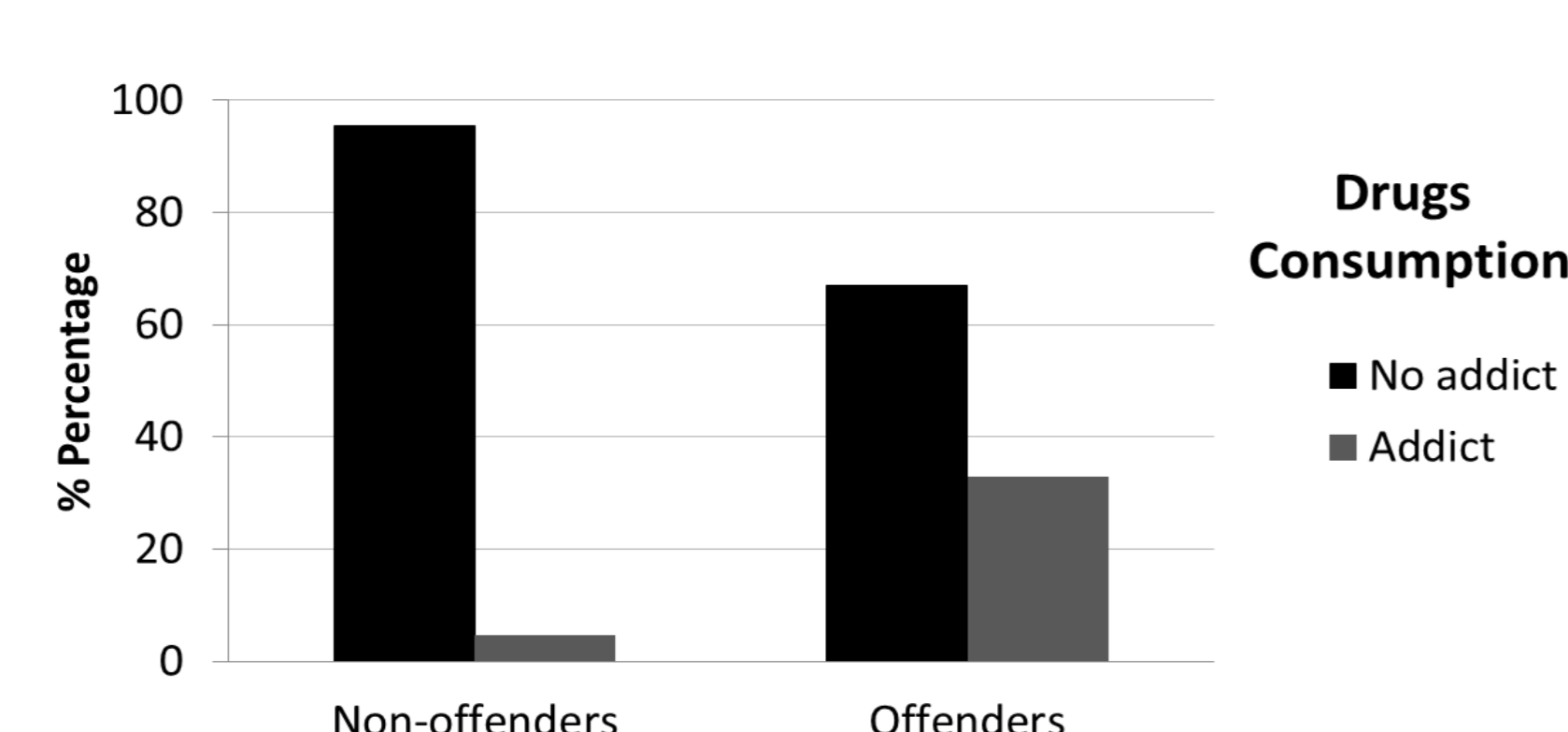
This model was fitted according to the Hosmer and Lemeshow test [ $\chi^2(8) = 5.57, p = .695$ ], and reduced the unfitting of the nullmodel by 74 % ( $R^2$  de Nagelkerke = 0.74). It correctly classified 91.1 % of the subjects in their correct offender status, attaining a sensitivity of 88.5 % and a specificity of 92.1 %.

## Alcohol Consumption



**Figure 1.** Alcohol consumption distribution for the non-offender and offender groups, as measured with AUDIT (Contel-Guillamón et al., 1999): a.) No Risk, b.) Risk (Moderate Alcohol Consumption scores of 9 or below) and c.) Alcohol Use Disorders (AUD; scores of 10 or above).

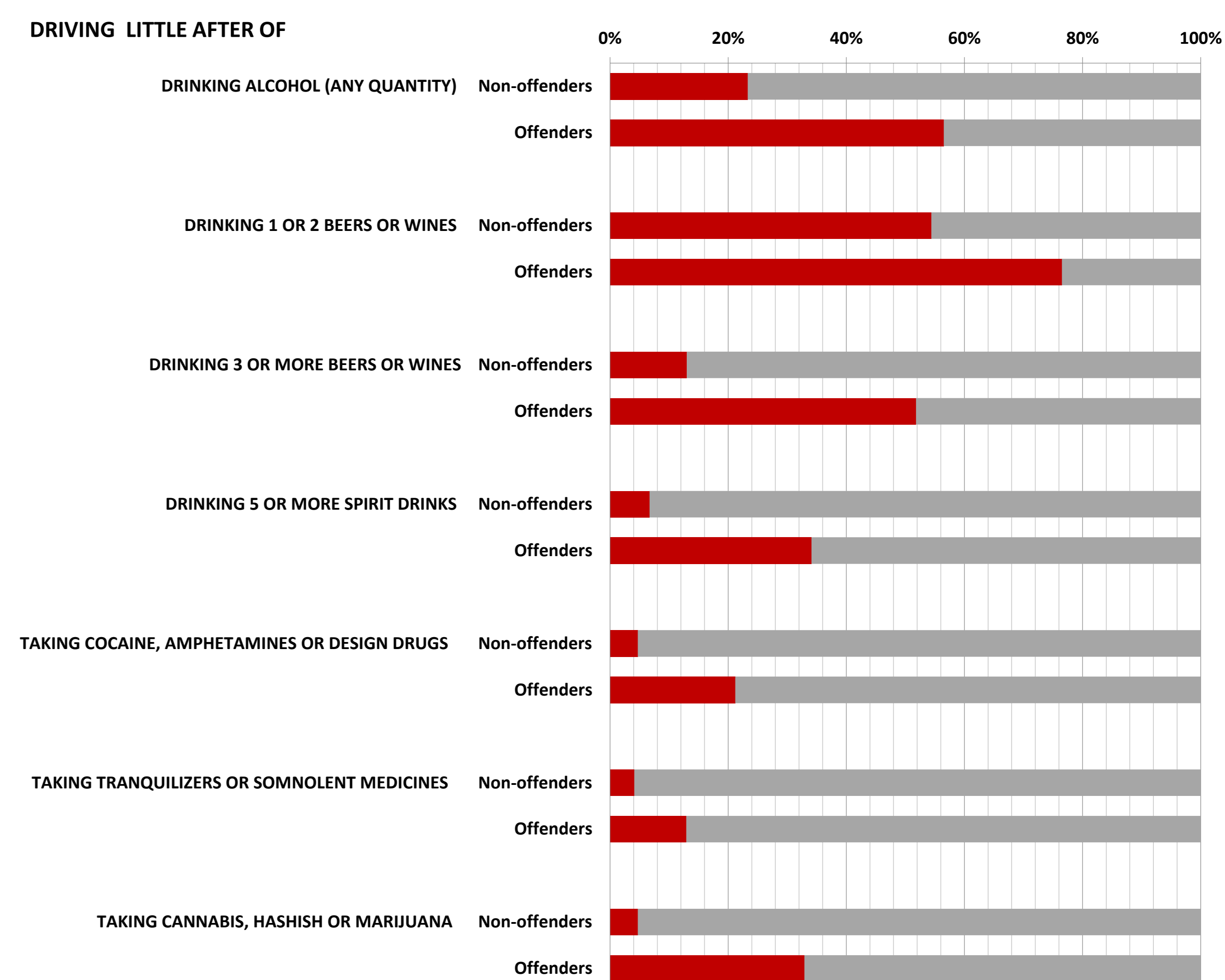
## Drugs Consumption



**Figure 2.** Drug consumption distribution for the non-offender and offender groups, as measured by the DAST-20 (Drug Abuse Screening Test, as adapted by Pérez-Gálvez et al. (2010)): a.) No drug addiction (scores below 5), and b.) Drug addiction (scores of 5 or above).

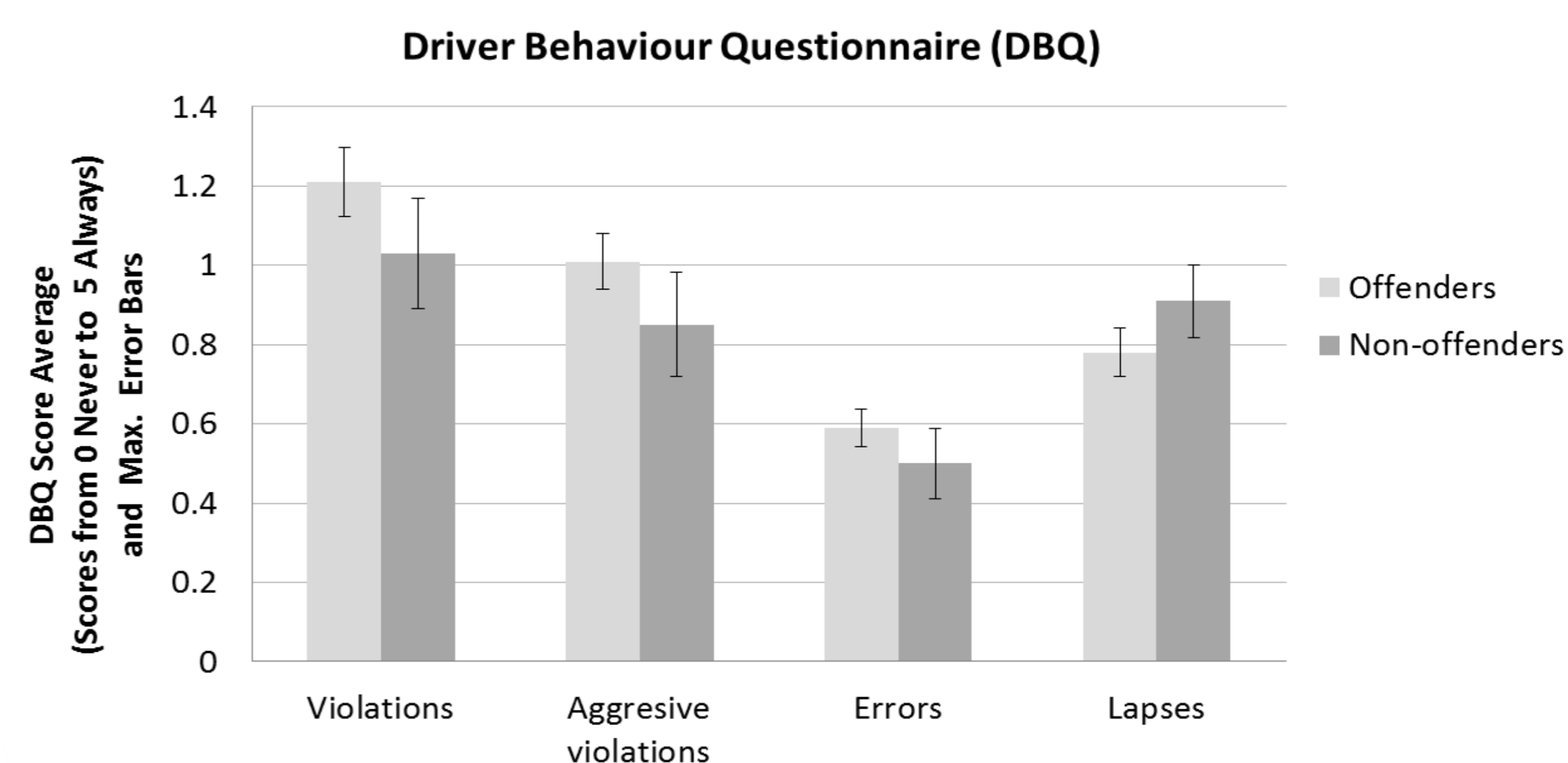
## Dissociating substances consumption from driving

■ YES = LACK OF CAPABILITY OF DISSOCIATING ALCOHOL OR SUBSTANCES CONSUMPTION FROM DRIVING  
 ■ NO = CAPABILITY OF DISSOCIATING ALCOHOL OR SUBSTANCES CONSUMPTION FROM DRIVING



**Figure 3.** Ability to dissociate alcohol or drug consumption from driving by offenders and non-offender status.

## Driver Behaviour Questionnaire & Offender Status



**Figure 4.** DBQ Score Averages and Max Errors bars (DBQ, Gras et al. 2006): Violation, Aggressive violations, Errors and Lapses as self-reported by Non-offender and Offender drivers.

## Conclusion

- Alcohol and drug use are key predictors of offender driver behaviour.
- Offenders are systematically less likely than non-offenders to dissociate the consumption of alcohol and substances from driving.
- Offender drivers believe they commit fewer lapses than non-offenders.
- Few women and individuals with advanced education are offender drivers.

## References



Strong predictors of offender drivers: Drug and alcohol addiction and the inability to dissociate binge alcohol or drug consumption from driving. Revoking their driver's licence may not be enough  
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Castro, C., Doncel, P., Dinu, A.I. & Padilla, F. (2023). Strong predictors of offender drivers: drug and alcohol addiction and the inability to dissociate binge alcohol or drug consumption from driving. Revoking their driver's licence may not be enough. *Transportation Research Part F: Traffic Psychology & Behaviour*, 92, 337-352. DOI: 10.1016/j.trf.2022.12.002

Human Factors and Ergonomics Society EUROPE CHAPTER



Liverpool, 26-30 April, 2023