

# Drug Use Disorders Identification Test (DUDIT): description, strengths and knowledge gaps<sup>[1]</sup>

## Purpose

The ten item Drug Use Disorders Identification Test (DUDIT) screens for various drug-related problems (excluding alcohol).<sup>[2]</sup>

## Drug(s) of Concern

- Any drug except alcohol

## Time-frame(s) of Interest

- Recent (last 12 months)

## Populations Tested

- Males & females<sup>[2,3]</sup>
- Young people<sup>[4]</sup>
- Adults<sup>[2,5]</sup>
- General population<sup>[5]</sup>
- Incarcerated populations<sup>[2,5]</sup>

## Settings Tested

- AOD specialist services<sup>[2,3,5]</sup>
- General hospital<sup>[6]</sup>
- General population<sup>[2,5]</sup>
- Research<sup>[2]</sup>
- Prisons<sup>[2,5]</sup>

## Diagnostics

### Utility:

- ✓ Developed to complement the AUDIT<sup>[3]</sup>
- ✓ Brief
- ✓ Easy to administer and score
- ✓ Can be used in various populations and settings<sup>[2]</sup>

### Psychometric properties:

- In a Swedish general population study, the DUDIT predicted drug dependence with a sensitivity of 90% for both DSM-4 and ICD-10 and a respective specificity of 78% and 88%; reliability according to Cronbach's  $\alpha$  was 0.80
- Has been found to screen effectively for drug-related problems in clinically selected groups and may also be useful in the context of public health surveys
- A review has found satisfactory reliability and validity for use as a clinical or research measure. Cronbach's  $\alpha$  was 0.90, with favourable sensitivity (0.85 – 1.0) and specificity (0.75-0.92) in various populations<sup>[2]</sup>

## Drug Use Disorders Identification Test (DUDIT)

Please tick (✓) one box for each question

Q1. How often do you use drugs other than alcohol?

Never	Once a month or less	2-4 times a month	2-3 times a week	4 times or more a week
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4

Q2. Do you use more than one type of drug on the same occasion?

Never	Once a month or less	2-4 times a month	2-3 times a week	4 times or more a week
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4

Q3. How many times do you take drugs on a typical day when you use drugs?

0	1-2	3-4	5-6	7 or more
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4

Q4. How often are you influenced heavily by drugs?

Never	Less than once a month	Every month	Every week	Daily or almost daily
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4

Q5. Over the past year, have you felt that your longing for drugs was so strong that you could not resist it?

Never	Less than once a month	Every month	Every week	Daily or almost daily
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4

Q6. Has it happened, over the past year, that you have not been able to stop taking drugs once you started?

Never	Less than once a month	Every month	Every week	Daily or almost daily
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4

Q7. How often over the past year have you taken drugs and then neglected to do something you should have done?

Never	Less than once a month	Every month	Every week	Daily or almost daily
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4

Q8. How often over the past year have you needed to take a drug the morning after heavy drug use the day before?

Never	Less than once a month	Every month	Every week	Daily or almost daily
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4

Q9. How often over the past year have you had guilty feelings or a bad conscience because you used drugs?

Never	Less than once a month	Every month	Every week	Daily or almost daily
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4

Q10. Have you or anyone else been hurt (mentally or physically) because you used drugs?

No	Yes, but not in the past year	Yes, during the past year
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3

Q11. Has a relative or a friend, a doctor or a nurse, or anyone else, been worried about your drug use or said to you that you should stop using drugs?

No	Yes, but not in the past year	Yes, during the past year
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3

**Total Score**

## Administrator, Rater, Scoring and Interpretation

Administrator: Clinician/Worker  
Client self-complete  
Online

Rater: Client

Scoring & interpretation: The DUDIT comprises 11 questions.

Score the first nine questions 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4. The last two questions are scored 0, 2, or 4.

A total score is calculated by summing the points obtained for each question. The minimum total score possible is 0, and the maximum total score possible is 44 (i.e. total score range: 0-44).

Higher scores reflect higher drug dependence.

### DUDIT Recommended general population cut-off scores<sup>[5]</sup>

Sex	Cutoff Score
Males	6
Females	2

## Resources

Tool citation: Bergman, A.H., Bergman, H., Palmstierna, T., et al. *DUDIT: The Drug Use Disorders Identification Test: manual*. 2003, Stockholm, Sweden: Karolinska Institute.<sup>[5]</sup>

Copyright: Tool items are in the public domain; but the layout is copyrighted.

Training/manual: Manual available (<https://paihdelinkki.fi/sites/default/files/duditmanual.pdf>)

Brief intervention: If a problem is detected, then administering the DUDIT-E is recommended for problem assessment.<sup>[4, 5]</sup>

Other: Bergman, A.H., Bergman, H., Palmstierna, T., et al. *DUDIT: The Drug Use Disorders Identification Test: manual*. 2003, Stockholm, Sweden: Karolinska Institute.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Knowledge Gaps

The ten item DUDIT was developed to complement the AUDIT. In terms of implementation fidelity and clinician/worker familiarity the DUDIT may therefore have administration advantages over other instruments.

A review of DUDIT psychometric properties has found that additional research is required to determine its long term test-retest reliability, particularly heterogeneity and item factor structure.<sup>[2]</sup>

Within the Australian context, few studies have examined:

- Content and construct validity
- Tool acceptance by administrators and raters.

## References

1. Fischer, J.A., Roche, A.M., and Duraisingam, V. *Drug Use Disorders Identification Test (DUDIT): description, strengths and knowledge gaps*. 2021, National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA), Flinders University: Adelaide, South Australia. (overview citation)
2. Hildebrand, M. *The psychometric properties of the drug use disorders identification test (DUDIT): a review of recent research*. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, 2015. 53: 52–59.
3. Voluse, A.C., Gioia, C.J., Sobell, L.C., et al. *Psychometric properties of the Drug Use Disorders Identification Test (DUDIT) with substance abusers in outpatient and residential treatment*. *Addictive Behaviors*, 2012. 37(1): 36–41.
4. Matuszka, B., Bácskai, E., Berman, A.H., et al. *Psychometric characteristics of the drug use disorders identification test (DUDIT) and the Drug Use Disorders Identification Test-Extended (DUDIT-E) among young drug users in Hungary*. *International Journal of Behavioral Medicine*, 2014. 21(3): 547–555.
5. Bergman, A.H., Bergman, H., Palmstierna, T., and Schlyter, F., *DUDIT: The Drug Use Disorders Identification Test: manual*. 2003, Stockholm, Sweden: Karolinska Institute.
6. Mdege, N.D. and Lang, J. *Screening instruments for detecting illicit drug use/abuse that could be useful in general hospital wards: a systematic review*. *Addictive Behaviors*, 2011. 36(12): 1111–1119.