

# BMC Psychiatry

## A systematic review of evidence for fitness-to-drive among people with the mental health conditions of schizophrenia, stress/anxiety disorder, depression, personality disorder and obsessive compulsive disorder.

--Manuscript Draft--

<b>Manuscript Number:</b>	BPSY-D-17-00225R2
<b>Full Title:</b>	A systematic review of evidence for fitness-to-drive among people with the mental health conditions of schizophrenia, stress/anxiety disorder, depression, personality disorder and obsessive compulsive disorder.
<b>Article Type:</b>	Research article
<b>Section/Category:</b>	Social psychiatry, therapy and provision of mental health care
<b>Funding Information:</b>	
<b>Abstract:</b>	<p><b>Background:</b> Limited evidence exists regarding fitness-to-drive for people with the mental health conditions of schizophrenia, stress/anxiety disorder, depression, personality disorder and obsessive compulsive disorder (herein simply referred to as 'mental health conditions'). The aim of this paper was to systematically search and classify all published studies regarding driving for this population, and then critically appraise papers addressing assessment of fitness-to-drive where the focus was not on the impact of medication on driving.</p> <p><b>Methods:</b> A systematic search of three databases (CINAHL, PSYCHINFO, EMBASE) was completed from inception to May 2016 to identify all articles on driving and mental health conditions. Papers meeting the eligibility criteria of including data relating to assessment of fitness-to-drive were critically appraised using the American Academy of Neurology and Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine protocols.</p> <p><b>Results:</b> A total of 58 articles met the inclusion criteria of driving among people with mental health conditions studied, and of these, 16 contained data and an explicit focus on assessment of fitness-to-drive. Assessment of fitness-to-drive was reported in three ways: 1) factors impacting on the ability to drive safely among people with mental health conditions, 2) capability and perception of health professionals assessing fitness-to-drive of people with mental health conditions, and 3) crash rates. The level of evidence of the published studies was low due to the absence of controls, and the inability to pool data from different diagnostic groups. Evidence supporting fitness-to-drive is conflicting.</p> <p><b>Conclusions:</b> There is a relatively small literature in the area of driving with mental health conditions, and the overall quality of studies examining fitness-to-drive is low. Large-scale longitudinal studies with age-matched controls are urgently needed in order to determine the effects of different conditions on fitness-to-drive.</p>
<b>Corresponding Author:</b>	Priscilla Harries, PhD Brunel University Uxbridge, UNITED KINGDOM
<b>Corresponding Author Secondary Information:</b>	
<b>Corresponding Author's Institution:</b>	Brunel University
<b>Corresponding Author's Secondary Institution:</b>	
<b>First Author:</b>	Carolyn Anne Unsworth, PhD
<b>First Author Secondary Information:</b>	
<b>Order of Authors:</b>	<p>Carolyn Anne Unsworth, PhD</p> <p>Anne Baker, PhD, BOccTher</p> <p>Man H So, MAOT(Prac)</p> <p>Priscilla Harries, PhD</p>

	Desmond O'Neill, MA MD FRCPI AGSF FRCP
<b>Order of Authors Secondary Information:</b>	
<b>Response to Reviewers:</b>	<p>The following 5 requirements have been addressed in the final submission:</p> <p>Please remove any figure titles and captions from the figure files as these files should contain the image graphics only. Upon doing this, please place the titles/captions at the end of the main manuscript after the References section under a newly created "Figure legend" heading.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Please remove the response to reviewers from the file inventory, as it is no longer needed at this stage of the editorial process.</li> <li>3. Please upload Appendix I. as a supplementary file.</li> <li>4. Please add a "Supplementary files" section where you list the following information about your supplementary material: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- File name</li> <li>- Title of data</li> <li>- Description of data</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. When submitting your revised manuscript please ensure you do so as a single clean copy without any tracked changes, colored or highlighted text, as these are no longer required at this stage of the editorial process.</li> </ol>

1

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

65

2 **A systematic review of evidence for fitness-to-drive among people with the mental**  
3 **health conditions of schizophrenia, stress/anxiety disorder, depression, personality**  
4 **disorder and obsessive compulsive disorder.**

5

6 **Carolyn A Unsworth** OTR, PhD, FAOTA, Central Queensland University,  
7 [c.unsworth@cqu.edu.au](mailto:c.unsworth@cqu.edu.au)

8

9 **Anne M Baker** DClSci(OccTher), **Australian Catholic University**,  
10 [Anne.Baker@acu.edu.au](mailto:Anne.Baker@acu.edu.au)

11

12 **Man H So** MAOT(Prac), Central Queensland University, [heysh1121@gmail.com](mailto:heysh1121@gmail.com)

13

14 **Priscilla Harries** PhD, Brunel University London, [priscilla.harries@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:priscilla.harries@brunel.ac.uk)  
15 **Corresponding author**

16

17 **Desmond O'Neill** MA, MD, FRCPI, AGSF, FRCP (Glasg), Trinity College,  
18 [Desmond.ONeill@amnch.ie](mailto:Desmond.ONeill@amnch.ie)

19

20

## Abstract

21

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

**Background:** Limited evidence exists regarding fitness-to-drive for people with the mental health conditions of schizophrenia, stress/anxiety disorder, depression, personality disorder and obsessive compulsive disorder (herein simply referred to as ‘mental health conditions’). The aim of this paper was to systematically search and classify all published studies regarding driving for this population, and then critically appraise papers addressing assessment of fitness-to-drive where the focus was not on the impact of medication on driving.

**Methods:** A systematic search of three databases (CINAHL, PSYCHINFO, EMBASE) was completed from inception to May 2016 to identify all articles on driving and mental health conditions. Papers meeting the eligibility criteria of including data relating to assessment of fitness-to-drive were critically appraised using the American Academy of Neurology and Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine protocols.

**Results:** A total of 58 articles met the inclusion criteria of driving among people with mental health conditions studied, and of these, 16 contained data and an explicit focus on assessment of fitness-to-drive. Assessment of fitness-to-drive was reported in three ways: 1) factors impacting on the ability to drive safely among people with mental health conditions, 2) capability and perception of health professionals assessing fitness-to-drive of people with mental health conditions, and 3) crash rates. The level of evidence of the published studies was low due to the absence of controls, and the inability to pool data from different diagnostic groups. Evidence supporting fitness-to-drive is conflicting.

**Conclusions:** There is a relatively small literature in the area of driving with mental health conditions, and the overall quality of studies examining fitness-to-drive is low. Large-scale longitudinal studies with age-matched controls are urgently needed in order to determine the effects of different conditions on fitness-to-drive.

46 **Keywords:** fitness-to-drive, mental health, systematic review

47

48

## Introduction

49 The ability to drive enables access to the community, services, friends and family, and  
50 therefore promotes autonomy and social connectivity [1,2]. Driving is a complex task that  
51 demands a wide range of skills, abilities and behaviours [3]. Driving involves physical,  
52 cognitive, and perceptual skills, along with the ability to respond to the external environment.  
53 Driving can be influenced by extent of past experience and personality characteristics [4].  
54 There is considerable debate about the driving ability of people with mental health conditions.  
55 The fitness-to-drive of people with mental health conditions may vary within individuals due  
56 to both the effects of the illness itself, as well as the impact of psychiatric drugs on driving  
57 performance. Individuals diagnosed with mental health conditions may experience reduced  
58 attention, visual spatial functioning, impulse control, judgement, as well as alterations in  
59 information processing ability and slowed psychomotor reaction times [5,6,7]. These  
60 difficulties can all impair driving abilities [8,9] and may lead to a recommendation not to  
61 drive, a restricted driving licence, driving suspension or licence cancellation [10]. It is  
62 important that any restriction is based on evidence to the greatest extent possible, and reflects  
63 a due balance between mobility and safety [11] as driving cessation is associated with  
64 increased levels of depression [12].

65

66 The proportion of individuals with mental health conditions who drive is unknown. However,  
67 it is believed that a significant proportion of people are driving, and able to do so safely. For  
68 example, 44% of people with mental health conditions from regional and 35% from  
69 metropolitan areas in Australia were reported as active drivers [13]. Some studies [14,15,16]  
70 suggest that drivers with mental health conditions have a higher risk of being involved in a

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

71 crash. However, assessment to determine fitness-to-drive of individuals with mental health  
72 conditions is difficult because of the fluctuating nature of impairments, skills and behaviours  
73 [17,18,19]. Currently, there is no single assessment that can be used to accurately predict  
74 driving ability of people with mental health conditions [20]. Instead, medical and  
75 occupational therapy assessments, neuropsychological tests, and performance based  
76 assessments such as on-road assessment and car driving simulator tests are commonly used to  
77 determine if a person is fit-to-drive. However, medical guidelines have been developed  
78 internationally, and are regularly updated, to assist health professionals in determining  
79 fitness-to-drive. These medical guidelines can be used to provide recommendations on  
80 licence renewal, suspension or cancellation for clients with mental health conditions. Existing  
81 guidelines include those produced by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) in  
82 the UK [21], the New Zealand Transport Agency [22], the Irish Road Safety Authority [23],  
83 Austroads in Australia [10], Driver Fitness medical Guidelines in the USA [24] and the  
84 Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators [25]. While all these provide general  
85 information on health conditions as well as guidance and recommendations on assessing  
86 fitness-to-drive, only the DVLA [21] guidelines provide clear and detailed recommendations  
87 on minimum stand-down periods from driving relating to various psychiatric conditions  
88 although the evidence base for these recommendations is unknown, as is the extent to which  
89 clinicians comply with them.

90  
91 The driving literature is dominated by research investigating the impact of physical and  
92 cognitive problems arising from dementia and acquired disorders such as brain injury  
93 (including stroke), on driving. While there is a growing literature on the impact of attention  
94 deficit hyperactivity disorder on driving, evidenced by several systematic review [26-30],  
95 only two literature reviews summarising evidence of fitness-to-drive and the mental health

96 conditions of schizophrenia, stress/anxiety disorder, depression, personality disorder and  
97 obsessive compulsive disorder have been published [31, 32]. Tsuang, Boor, and Fleming  
98 (1985) [31] reviewed the literature in order to identify risk factors related to psychopathology  
99 and personality for crashes. The authors suggested that the studies reviewed were  
100 insufficiently homogenous to understand these relationships. A subsequent systematic  
101 review conducted by Menard and Korner-Bitensky (2008) [32] sought to identify and  
102 appraise published studies on fitness-to-drive amongst people with mental health conditions  
103 and the effect of psychotropic medications on driving performance. This review included 14  
104 studies, all published before 1990. The authors concluded that there was no consistent  
105 evidence to support the hypothesis of an increased crash rate amongst drivers with severe  
106 mental health conditions. For those with milder or better controlled mental health conditions,  
107 conclusions were more difficult to draw given contradictory evidence about fitness-to-drive.  
108 Since it was assumed that many new studies would have been published on the topic of  
109 mental health and driving since 1990, it was timely to review this literature and appraise  
110 current evidence regarding the fitness-to-drive with this population.

111  
112 We specifically aimed to critically appraise literature on driving among people with the  
113 mental health conditions of schizophrenia, stress/anxiety disorder, depression, personality  
114 disorder and obsessive compulsive disorder, as anecdotally clinicians most frequently ask us  
115 questions about these groups. However, we also made the decision to exclude driving  
116 literature with these populations when the focus was specifically on the impact of medication  
117 on driving given the estimated size of this literature would require a separate review and our  
118 primary interest was in how the medical conditions impact on driving, regardless of  
119 pharmacological interventions. We were particularly influenced by the fact that many clients  
120 are stable on medication when driving is reviewed, and also the growing literature which

121 suggests that skills for driving may be impaired in people with mental health conditions, and  
122 this decrement is not related to the effects of medications [6,17]. In addition, we did not  
123 include literature that examined the driving of people with attention deficit hyperactivity  
124 disorder (ADHD). Although many of the mental health conditions included in this review  
125 such as anxiety, depression, or personality disorder, are commonly comorbid to ADHD, we  
126 chose to exclude this literature based again on its size and that five systematic reviews have  
127 already summarised this literature [26-30]. However, it is important to note that many of the  
128 problems experienced by people with mental health conditions that may impair driving, such  
129 as impulsivity, reduced response inhibition, reduced situational awareness, and the  
130 fluctuating nature of the condition, are also experienced by people with ADHD [27].  
131 Therefore, the Discussion section does make reference to this literature.

132

### 133 **Aim**

134 The broad aim of this systematic review was to identify what is known about driving for  
135 people with mental health conditions, and critically appraise studies that empirically  
136 investigated assessment of fitness-to-drive among people with mental health conditions.  
137 Specifically the review aimed to answer the questions:

- 138 1. What is the scope of published literature on the topic of mental health and driving  
139 (excluding drivers with ADHD), and
- 140 2. What is the scope and quality of empirical studies addressing assessment of fitness-to-  
141 drive among people with mental health conditions, where the focus is not on the  
142 impact of medication on driving.

143

144

### **Methods**



145 This systematic review followed PRISMA guidelines [33], and the protocol for this review is  
146 available from the corresponding author.

147

### 148 **Search Strategy**

149 Three electronic databases (CINAHL, PSYCHINFO, EMBASE) were used to identify  
150 articles from inception to 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2016. Extensive search terms were identified and used to  
151 reduce the risk of missing relevant studies. Search terms included: automobile driv\*, driv\*  
152 ability, driv\* competence, driv\* perform\*, driv\* skill, fit\*to driv\*, AND affective, alcohol  
153 abus\*, alcohol dependence, alcohol misuse\*, alcohol use\*, anxiet\*, anxious, bipolar disorder,  
154 delusion, depress\*, drug abus\*, drug dependence, drug misuse, drug use\*, mania, manic,  
155 mental disab\*, mental disorder\*, mental health, mental ill\* disab\*, mental ill\*, mental\*  
156 health disorder, mood, neuroses, neurosis, neurotic, obsessive\* compulsive, OCD, panic,  
157 personality disorder\*, phobia, psychiatric, psychiatry, psychology\*, psychos\*, psychotic,  
158 schizophreni\*, schizotyp\*, somatic, somatoform, stress, substance abus\*, substance  
159 dependence, substance misuse, substance related disorder\*, substance use\*, and suicid\*. The  
160 Search terms ‘antidepressant’, ‘anxiolytic’, ‘antipsychotic’ and ‘mood-stabilizer’ were also  
161 exploded and used to search for relevant studies. Citations of retrieved studies were exported  
162 into EndNote version x7, and duplicate studies deleted. Reference lists of included articles  
163 were subsequently checked for additional articles of interest, and keywords searched on  
164 journal articles to obtain relevant studies.

165

### 166 **Inclusion / Exclusion Criteria**

167 Inclusion / exclusion criteria for identification of all articles on driving with a mental health  
168 condition are presented in Table 1. The primary interest of this review focussed on people  
169 diagnosed with schizophrenia, stress/anxiety disorder, depression, personality disorder and

170 obsessive compulsive disorder. Studies on sleep disorders, drugs and alcohol misuse and  
171 dependence, attention deficit and hyperactivity syndrome and mood/anger/aggression where a  
172 specific mental health condition was not identified, were excluded.

173

174 [Insert Table 1 Here]

175

176 Two authors (CU and MS) independently screened titles and abstracts of all identified studies,  
177 and excluded ineligible studies against the inclusion/exclusion criteria. Disagreements among  
178 authors were resolved by discussion and achieving consensus. Full copies of studies were  
179 obtained to determine eligibility of articles that were hard to identify solely based on titles  
180 and abstracts.

181

### 182 **Quality Assessment / Evidence Based Ratings**

183 The classification criteria developed by the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) [34]  
184 and by the Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (CEBM) [35] were used to assign the class  
185 or level to rate the strength of evidence, and to assess the quality of the included studies.  
186 According to the CEBM, there are five levels of evidence, ranging from I to V (indicating  
187 highest to lowest). The AAN presents a system of rating an article by class. The highest  
188 evidence is represented by class I and the lowest is represented by class IV (presented in  
189 Table 2). Following these criteria, two authors (CU and MS) independently assessed the  
190 quality of articles. Again, disagreements were resolved by discussion and achieving  
191 consensus.

192

193 [Insert Table 2 Here]

194

## 195 **Data Extraction**

1  
2 196 Data were synthesised qualitatively, by using a narrative analysis. This method of analysis  
3  
4 197 involved coding information from within individual studies and grouping them into like  
5  
6  
7 198 categories, based on the data provided and the findings of the analysis. Where there was  
8  
9  
10 199 over-lap in information and a study could potentially have been included under more than one  
11  
12 200 of the categories, the study was allocated to the category for which the most data had been  
13  
14 201 provided. Two authors (CU and MS) independently completed data extraction. Publication  
15  
16 202 details, aims of the study, participant details, study design and findings related to the  
17  
18  
19 203 assessment of fitness-to-drive were extracted, summarised and presented in a table format.  
20  
21

22 204

## 24 205 **Results**

26 206 A total of 94 studies were identified after the removal of duplicates (see Figure 1), and initial  
27  
28  
29 207 screening process. For Aim 1 identifying peer-reviewed, published literature on the topic of  
30  
31 208 mental health and driving, 58 studies were identified and categorised into six subgroups:  
32  
33  
34 209 1) role of psychotropic drugs on driving ability (n=24), 2) guidelines/editorials/discussion  
35  
36 210 pieces on the current status of drivers with mental health conditions (n=11), 3) driving  
37  
38  
39 211 phobia/anxiety and veterans with PTSD (n=7), 4) fitness-to-drive of people with mental  
40  
41 212 health conditions (n=14), 5) subjective experiences of driving (and fitness-to-drive  
42  
43  
44 213 assessment) with a mental health condition (n=1), and 6) health professionals' role in  
45  
46 214 assessment of fitness-to-drive (n=1). Further analyses of data from subgroups 1, 2, and 3  
47  
48  
49 215 were not completed beyond categorising the scope and volume of the literature in this area.  
50  
51 216 The citations for these studies can be viewed in Appendix I.

53 217

56 218 **Figure 1.** *Number of studies identified and screened for inclusion or exclusion.*

58 219

59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

220 For Aim 2 the authors' critically appraised studies that included data related to assessing  
1 fitness-to-drive. Research that primarily focussed on the role of psychotropic drugs, driving  
2  
3 221 phobia/anxiety and veterans with PTSD, and guidelines/editorials/discussion pieces were  
4  
5 222 excluded. While literature focussing on the role of psychotropic drugs is very valuable to  
6  
7 223 understanding fitness to drive, this is a large literature that requires a separate review and  
8  
9 224 detailed background on the medications and their actions and effects in a typical populations  
10  
11 225 as well as populations with mental health problems. The other areas of driving  
12  
13 226 phobia/anxiety and veterans with PTSD, and guidelines/editorials/discussion pieces were  
14  
15 227 excluded as these subgroups did not meet the aim of containing sufficient data related to  
16  
17 228 assessing fitness-to-drive among people with mental health conditions. Fifteen studies were  
18  
19 229 retained for review in Aim 2. As presented in Table 3, three of the 16 included studies were  
20  
21 230 classified as Class III, 12 were classified as Class IV, and one was unclassified since it was  
22  
23 231 secondary analysis of medical records. Under the CEBM classification criteria, the review  
24  
25 232 yielded seven level 4 studies and eight level 5 studies, with the same paper again as  
26  
27 233 unclassified. Among these studies, the majority (n=5) were conducted in Canada. Other  
28  
29 234 studies were conducted in Germany, Ireland, Switzerland, Spain, Denmark and America.  
30  
31 235  
32 236  
33  
34 237 The 16 studies were re-classified based on the data each study provided about assessing  
35  
36 238 fitness-to-drive as follows: 1) factors impacting on the ability to drive safely among people  
37  
38 239 with mental health conditions (n=7) [8, 36-41] capability and perception of health  
39  
40 240 professionals assessing fitness-to-drive of people with mental health conditions (n=5) [42- 46]  
41  
42 241 and 3) crash rates (n=4) [47-50].  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

243 [Insert Table 3 Here]

245 1) *Factors impacting on the ability to drive safely among people with mental health*  
246 *conditions.*

247 For those with major depressive disorder, Bulmash et al.[8] found that people with depression,  
248 even when not on anti-depression medication, experienced higher levels of sleepiness when  
249 driving. This was found to impact their capacity to maintain appropriate speed when driving  
250 in a simulator. In addition, it was found that people with depression showed a significantly  
251 slower steering reaction time, and a greater number of crashes, as compared to controls. The  
252 level of slowed reaction time was not related to the level of severity of symptoms. When not  
253 sleepy, road position, speed and speed deviation were no different to those of controls. The  
254 association with depression was therefore apparent, even when participants were not on  
255 medication, and seemed to manifest itself when sleepiness was experienced in this study.

256  
257 For those with bi-polar disorder who had committed driving offences, Zingg, Puelschen, and  
258 Soyka [41] found that drivers had impairments in problem solving and cognitive flexibility,  
259 alertness, and visual scanning/reaction time. It was noted that these signs and symptoms may  
260 have been caused by the clinical condition itself, or by medication taken for the condition in  
261 this study. Additionally, although information processing ability was found to be impaired in  
262 those with bi-polar disorder, this was no more so than in those who had committed driving  
263 offences, and who did not have a psychiatric condition. From this study it was suggested that  
264 a bi-polar disorder did not appear to have impaired information processing ability specifically.  
265 Decrements in psychomotor skill were also reported among people with schizophrenia by  
266 Segmiller et al. [40]. However, they demonstrated that reduced skill was not related to  
267 medication side effects.

268

269 For those in manic and hypomanic states, McNamara and Buckley [38] found that some  
1  
2 270 participants reported speeding, making poor decisions, losing the feeling of control,  
3  
4  
5 271 decreased concentration and judgement, and impulsivity. As some participants reported that  
6  
7 272 they felt their medical condition did not impair their driving ability, as compared with the  
8  
9  
10 273 general population, lack of insight among participants was also apparent in this study.  
11  
12 274 Although participants reported that having an open communication with health professionals  
13  
14 275 about their driving was helpful, they perceived fitness-to-drive guidelines as discriminatory.  
15  
16  
17 276 The underlying signs of grandeur and lack of insight characteristic of hypomanic and manic  
18  
19 277 states among these participants would fit with this lack of capacity to recognise the gravity of  
20  
21  
22 278 risk to themselves and others, and the potential to feel the guidelines were not respectful of  
23  
24 279 their standing.

280

281 In the most recent study by Brunnauer et al. [36], the authors explored the impact of mental  
282 illness on driving licence possession and driving restrictions. Higher educational status and  
283 being partnered or in a relationship was a key predictor for having a driving licence. People  
284 with mental health conditions were also found to be less likely to hold a driving licence or to  
285 be currently driving, as compared with controls, particularly for those with organic mental  
286 and psychotic disorders.

287

288 *2) Capability and perception of health professionals assessing fitness-to-drive of people*  
289 *with mental health conditions.*

290 As can be seen in Table 3, Subgroup 2, the majority of studies examining health professionals'  
291 assessment of fitness-to-drive were conducted in Canada, with the remaining few studies  
292 being conducted in the Republic of Ireland. The studies examined attention to the mental  
293 health condition and its impact on fitness-to-drive, and the nature and occurrence of recording

294 of such factors in the medical notes. Variations in differing health professionals' foci of  
295 interest were also investigated with all studies being exploratory and qualitative in nature.

296

297 *3) Crash rates.*

298 Crancer and Quiring [47] conducted the earliest studies examining the link between mental  
299 illness and limitations in driving capacity. They identified that those with psychotic disorders,  
300 personality disorders and psychoneurotic disorders had higher rates of reckless driving,  
301 negligent driving and driving with defective equipment. Other studies undertaking  
302 epidemiological secondary data analysis showed that crashes were more prevalent among  
303 people with mental health conditions and that the injuries sustained are more serious, with  
304 someone with a mental health condition being more likely to be hospitalised than those  
305 without [49]. With regards to the diagnostic groups in these studies, in the second stage  
306 analysis of the study conducted by Kastrup, Dupont, Bille, and Lund [50], the most common  
307 diagnostic group was found to be personality disorder. The drivers with psychiatric diagnosis  
308 were found to be characterised by women, aged 25–54 years. They were more frequently  
309 alcohol intoxicated, and with a higher blood alcohol level. They were found to be more likely  
310 to be driving a stolen vehicle, without a valid licence, and were found not to have used safety  
311 belts at the time of the crash. From this study it appears that those with personality disorders  
312 are having crashes due to the behavioural manifestations of their condition; that is, they  
313 undertake risky behaviours that impact on their ability to drive safely. Elkema, Brosseau,  
314 Koshnick, and McGee [48] also reported the highest crash rate of those with mental health  
315 conditions was those with personality disorders. In this study, it was noted that the  
316 behavioural traits demonstrated by those with personality disorders were very different in  
317 substance to those with significant mental illness due to depression and bi-polar disorders,  
318 associated with an impairment of executive level function.

319

320

## Discussion

321 The discussion presents an overview of the findings in relation to the two aims, as well as  
322 considering limitations of this systematic review and directions for further research. Initially,  
323 this systematic review sought to identify and categorise all peer-reviewed, published  
324 literature on the topic of mental health and driving. A relatively small literature was  
325 identified, with the largest category related to the impact of psychotropic drugs on driving  
326 ability. The second largest category of papers related to assessment of fitness-to-drive, and  
327 this topic was further explored in relation to ‘impact of specific mental health conditions on  
328 the ability to drive safely’, ‘health professionals’ role in assessing fitness-to-drive’, and ‘crash  
329 statistics’.

330

### *Impact of specific mental health conditions on the ability to drive safely*

331 Research to date appears to suggest that the behavioural, cognitive and psychomotor  
332 impairments that reduce fitness-to-drive may differ between different diagnostic groups.  
333 Crancer and Quiring [47] conducted one of the earliest studies on the link between mental  
334 health conditions and driving capacity, associating psychotic disorders, personality disorders  
335 and psychoneurotic disorders with impaired fitness-to-drive. Due to the age of this study,  
336 these findings may need to be reinvestigated as improvements in medication and healthcare  
337 for people with these conditions may alter the findings. However, in a recent study Segmillar  
338 et al [40], also found patients with schizophrenia had impaired psychomotor function that  
339 could not be attributed to side effects of psychopharmacological treatment, although no  
340 chronological decline was found in the early stages of the disease. Similarly, Brunbauer and  
341 Laux [51] concluded that even when stabilised with antipsychotic medication, a great  
342 proportion of schizophrenic patients are not fit to drive.

343



344

1  
2 345 For those with major depressive disorder, Bulmash et al.[8] reported higher levels of  
3  
4 346 sleepiness when driving, irrespective of medication use. Similarly, Wingen et al [9] also  
5  
6  
7 347 concluded that impaired driving performance in this population is probably not due to  
8  
9  
10 348 antidepressant medications. This finding of a high level of sleepiness suggests that  
11  
12 349 behavioural approaches to keep alertness levels higher may need to be considered, such as  
13  
14 350 shortening routes, not eating a heavy meal before driving, and having a caffeine drink half an  
15  
16  
17 351 hour before driving. These interventions could be tested in a simulator experiment to see  
18  
19 352 which elements are most effective for people with major depressive disorders. When  
20  
21  
22 353 comparing the results from Bulmash et al. [8] and Zingg, Puelschen, and Soyka [41], it  
23  
24 354 appears that major depressive disorder is associated with a more widespread impact on the  
25  
26 355 skills needed for driving than those with bi-polar disorder. Zingg, Puelschen, and Soyka [41]  
27  
28  
29 356 found that bi-polar disorder did not impair information processing and driving ability  
30  
31 357 specifically; but rather that poor information processing maybe an underlying weakness of  
32  
33  
34 358 those who commit driving offences. This hypothesis could be researched by introducing  
35  
36 359 information processing testing as part of a standard driving test, and then conducting  
37  
38  
39 360 prospective research to determine the threshold that relates to safe driving.

41 361

42  
43 362 Another issue raised for drivers with bi-polar disorder relates to self-insight, which resonates  
44  
45  
46 363 with the view of those with bi-polar disorder feeling that the fitness-to-drive guidelines are  
47  
48  
49 364 discriminatory. Reduced self-insight is of real concern for drivers in hypomanic and manic  
50  
51 365 states, who may have ideas of grandeur and reduced self-regulation. Reduced self-insight  
52  
53 366 and self-regulation may be an issue for those with bi-polar disorder requiring further attention  
54  
55  
56 367 in this population specifically, as these capacities do not appear to be impaired by all mental  
57  
58 368 health conditions. The self-report of symptoms affecting capacity to drive identified by  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

369 Rouleau, Mazer, Menard, and Maryse [45] matched some of those factors measured in a  
1  
2 370 driving simulator, in that people with mental health conditions (predominantly mood  
3  
4 371 disorders) recognised that their condition and medication caused them to have poor  
5  
6  
7 372 concentration, fatigue, dizziness, and sometimes feelings of aggression and nervousness.  
8  
9  
10 373 They reported being more careful when driving or not driving at all when experiencing these  
11  
12 374 symptoms. For those individuals with a mental health condition currently not driving, even  
13  
14 375 though they possess a licence, this suggests a component of self-regulation. The evidence  
15  
16  
17 376 presented by De Las Cuevas and Sanz [37] supported the fact that some drivers with mental  
18  
19 377 health conditions do self-regulate, but only up to a point, since none of the drivers reported  
20  
21 378 their mental health condition to licensing authorities. The issue of non-reporting may be  
22  
23  
24 379 linked with reduced insight about the need to do so or with the associated fear of licence  
25  
26  
27 380 suspension or cancellation.

28  
29 381

### 31 382 *Health professionals' role in assessing fitness-to-drive*

32  
33  
34 383

35  
36 384 Alongside licensing authorities, medical professionals, occupational therapists and  
37  
38  
39 385 psychologists are involved in licensing decisions for drivers with mental health conditions.  
40  
41 386 Menard et al. [43] found that only one quarter of psychiatrists felt skilled in making fitness-  
42  
43 387 to-drive decisions. Half of these psychiatrists felt that people with mental health conditions  
44  
45  
46 388 were more likely to be involved in a crash. Studies have examined the rate of recording of  
47  
48  
49 389 assessment of fitness-to-drive by these professionals, as well as the documentation of advice  
50  
51 390 on managing medication and its impact on driving. In one study, only half of those patients  
52  
53 391 needing advice on the impacts of medication on their ability to drive, had this noted in their  
54  
55  
56 392 medical records. Additionally, there was minimal recording of how the mental health  
57  
58  
59 393 condition itself would impact on the patient's driving capacity [42]. Over half of these  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

1 394 psychiatrists said that they had advised on this issue, but it was not evident in the medical  
2 395 notes. Similar results were found by Menard et al. [43], who noted that psychiatrists were  
3  
4 396 only aware of whether their patient was an active driver in a quarter of cases, and for these  
5  
6  
7 397 patients, psychiatrists were more likely to advise on medication impacts than effects of the  
8  
9  
10 398 medical condition. Rouleau, Mazer, Menard, and Maryse [45] also noted that psychiatrists  
11  
12 399 paid attention to medication side effects on fitness-to-drive, alongside mood.  
13

14 400

16 401 While psychiatrists may focus on the impact of medication on fitness-to-drive, occupational  
17  
18  
19 402 therapists are able to take clients for on-road driving tests and have been noted to emphasise  
20  
21  
22 403 the driver's physical status, cognitive skills, impulsivity levels and driving history [44,46] to  
23  
24 404 assist determine fitness-to-drive. Focussing on impulsivity levels may be regarded as  
25  
26  
27 405 important, since impulsivity can be related to risk taking behaviours and difficulty self-  
28  
29 406 regulating; characteristics present in the profile of those drivers most likely to crash [38. 48.  
30  
31  
32 407 49]. Menard et al. [44] additionally found that occupational therapists paid attention to the  
33  
34 408 client's perception of their driving ability, factors impacting on their driving capabilities, and  
35  
36  
37 409 identifying goals related to driving. The emphasis was therefore on the person's meta-  
38  
39 410 cognitive functions related to self-regulation, risk taking behaviour and on-road driving  
40  
41  
42 411 ability, rather than on the effects of medication or the medical condition itself. Similar results  
43  
44 412 were reported by Vrkljan, Myers, Blanchard, Crizzle, and Marshall [46], with occupational  
45  
46  
47 413 therapists in the study also in favour of the use of an on-road assessment to inform decision  
48  
49 414 making in clients with a mental health conditions. The on-road assessment was used and seen  
50  
51 415 by most participants as the most valid means of making fitness-to-drive recommendations,  
52  
53  
54 416 over-riding clinic-based test results (including simulation), in cases where the clinic-based  
55  
56 417 test had indicated negative results. With clinic-based tests and simulation results lacking  
57  
58 418 predictive validity when used alone [8], on-road assessment is important to consider with  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

1 419 drivers with mental health conditions where there is a doubt about their capacity. As noted  
2  
3 420 above, although literature on ADHD was not included in this review, Jerome et al's., [26]  
4  
5 421 systematic review of the ADHD and driving literature also suggest that risk taking is an  
6  
7 422 important area for further investigation. In particular, driving anger and aggression have  
8  
9 423 been consistently associated with risky driving, and therefore health professionals can work  
10  
11 424 off-road with clients to develop flexible strategies to better manage these emotions.  
12  
13

14 425

16  
17 426 *Crash statistics*

18  
19 427 A number of studies examining the correlation between mental health conditions and risk of  
20  
21 428 crash have shown an association between significant mental illness and primarily higher level  
22  
23 429 cognitive functions, when drivers were tested in a simulator. For example, Bulmash et al.[8]  
24  
25 430 showed that those with major depressive disorders showed slower steering reaction times and  
26  
27 431 a greater number of car crashes when compared to controls using a driving simulator. Driving  
28  
29 432 simulation experiments appear to show that impaired executive functions impact on driving  
30  
31 433 capacity, yet this is not always borne out in crash data held by licensing authorities [39]. One  
32  
33 434 group that does seem to be over-represented in crash rate data, however, is those with  
34  
35 435 personality disorders. Crancer and Quiring [47] confirmed variation in impairment and crash  
36  
37 436 rates, due to diagnostic group. When compared to controls, statistically higher crash rates  
38  
39 437 were identified in both the personality disorder group (114% higher) and in the  
40  
41 438 psychoneurotic group (49% higher), whereas crash rates in the schizophrenic group were  
42  
43 439 similar to the control group. Of note are the findings of Eelkema, Brosseau, Koshnick, and  
44  
45 440 McGee [48] who showed that with treatment, crash rates decreased for all mental health  
46  
47 441 conditions, apart from those with personality disorders. This is an interesting finding to  
48  
49 442 compare against people with ADHD. While people with personality disorders and ADHD  
50  
51 443 demonstrate several of the same traits such as inattentiveness and impulsiveness, in drivers  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

1 444 with ADHD, the negative driving outcome are more focussed on driving violations and  
2 445 citations rather than crashes [26]. Approaches to improving safe driving behaviour in those  
3  
4 446 with personality disorders and ADHD require further investigation.  
5  
6

7 447

8  
9 448 Licensing authority actions concerning renewal, suspension, or cancellation of a person's  
10  
11 449 driving licence appear to be closely tied with evidence of crashes. Drivers who do not self-  
12  
13 450 report mental health condition/s may come to the attention of licensing authorities after being  
14  
15 451 involved in one or more crashes, and a relationship appears to exist between involvement in a  
16  
17 452 crash and having a driving licence revoked among people with mental health conditions.  
18  
19

20  
21 453 However, this relationship may not be warranted. For example, in a case control study by  
22  
23 454 Niveau and Kelley-Puskas [39], people reported to the authorities due to severity of  
24

25  
26 455 psychiatric disease, were actually more likely to have a clean driving record in relation to  
27  
28 456 crashes and violations than those who were not reported. Hence license revocation seemed to  
29  
30 457 be due to the perceived severity of psychiatric disease itself rather than capacity to drive  
31  
32

33  
34 458 safely. The judgment of fitness-to-drive in this study was based on clinical or medical  
35  
36 459 records, which is far less accurate than on-road assessments. As noted above, further studies  
37  
38 460 investigating how fitness-to-drive recommendations are made for people with mental health  
39

40  
41 461 conditions are warranted, and would reveal any inherent biases. Of course, licensing  
42

43 462 authority staff and health professional may always err on the side of caution, as although  
44

45 463 revoking a person's driving licence can limit quality of life and subsequent health of the  
46  
47

48 464 driver, this has to be balanced against allowing an unsafe driver to continue driving. The key  
49

50  
51 465 is determining whether the driver with a mental health condition is any more unsafe than  
52

53 466 other drivers, and there is currently insufficient evidence to guide this decision.  
54  
55

56 467

57  
58 468 *Limitations and directions for future research*  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

1 469 This systematic review was limited by the English language restriction imposed, as several  
2 470 studies published in other languages, such as German, could not be accessed. A meta  
3  
4 471 analysis was not possible since studies were generally of low quality and heterogeneous in  
5  
6 472 terms of aims and mental health conditions included. For example, while there is preliminary  
7  
8 473 evidence to suggest that psychomotor skill levels and crash rates are different for populations  
9  
10 474 of drivers with major depressive disorders, schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder and personality  
11  
12 475 disorders, too few studies exist to allow for analyses and recommendations to be made. In  
13  
14 476 contrast, such meta –analyses have been undertaken by pooling study data in the area of  
15  
16 477 drivers with ADHD [26]. Future studies also require larger populations of each diagnostic  
17  
18 478 group so that the impact of key variables on fitness-to-drive outcomes such as years of  
19  
20 479 driving experience, medication use, and severity of the condition, can also be investigated. A  
21  
22 480 systematic review of the 24 papers located that investigate the impact of medication use on  
23  
24 481 drivers with mental health conditions is also required. This new review could also compare  
25  
26 482 findings against comparable studies from the current review that did not specifically  
27  
28 483 investigate the impact of medication on driving. The quality of future studies could also be  
29  
30 484 increased by including age and sex-matched controls where possible, and the inclusion of  
31  
32 485 longitudinal follow-up of people with mental health conditions who both do and don't drive.  
33  
34 486 It is generally the driver's duty to report to the licensing authority any permanent or long-  
35  
36 487 term condition which may impact on their fitness-to-drive. With regards to mental health  
37  
38 488 conditions where a person's insight may be affected, drivers may not be able to detect a  
39  
40 489 problem and may continue to drive when they are not safe to do so. When individuals  
41  
42 490 continue to drive when they are not fit to do so, this creates legal and ethical issues for  
43  
44 491 treating health professionals, as well as the affected individual's family.  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

493 This review has demonstrated that a number of health professionals feel ill-equipped to make  
494 fitness-to-drive recommendations for people with mental health conditions. General medical  
495 practitioners are expected to conduct assessments to identify individuals who may be unfit to  
496 drive, as well as to provide information to the driver licensing authority on an individual's  
497 diagnosis, treatment and extent of impairment. Numerous studies have indicated that few  
498 general medical practitioners have any formal training, specific to fitness-to-drive [52-54],  
499 although a recent concerted national education programme on medical fitness to drive has  
500 proved effective for Irish general practitioners [55]. Furthermore, while specialist driver-  
501 assessor occupational therapists do play a role in assessing fitness-to-drive of a wide range of  
502 people with health concerns and age-related health declines [55], the literature provides  
503 limited information about their attitudes, practices and knowledge regarding fitness-to-drive  
504 among individuals with mental health conditions [44]. Finally, it may be the case that  
505 recommendations of fixed time limits for driving cessation imposed on people with mental  
506 health conditions may be unrealistic, lack an evidence base and are possibly ignored by  
507 health professionals. Whether to suspend, cancel, renew, or issue a person's driving licence  
508 has considerable impact on not only a person's health, but also on the subsequent health and  
509 well-being of all road users. Currently, insufficient evidence exists to support fair and  
510 equitable decision making for fitness-to-drive among people with mental health conditions,  
511 and further research is required to support health professionals in this area.

### 512 513 **Conclusions**

514 This systematic review has identified a small and disjointed literature in the area of mental  
515 health conditions and driving. A narrative appraisal of literature in the area of assessment of  
516 fitness-to-drive revealed only 16 studies, excluding those papers focusing on the impact of  
517 medication on driving, from which conclusions cannot be reliably drawn. Some of the major

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

518 limitations associated with these studies include small sample sizes with low numbers in  
519 specific diagnostic groups, and a lack of methodological control. Despite these shortcomings,  
520 the review indicated the main issues to be considered in relation to determining fitness-to-  
521 drive for people with mental health conditions are; the fluctuating nature of the condition and  
522 associated symptoms, driver level of insight, behaviour, increasing evidence suggesting a  
523 decrement of psychomotor and cognitive skills among people not related to medication use,  
524 and a lack of research evidence to support health professionals to make fitness-to-drive  
525 recommendations. In conclusion, this systematic review has identified some of the factors  
526 impacting on fitness-to-drive for individuals with mental health conditions as well as some  
527 predictors of crash. Further research is urgently required to longitudinally investigate skills  
528 among drivers from different diagnostic groups, determine strategies that can successfully  
529 assist drivers with mental health conditions to better self-regulate as their condition fluctuates,  
530 and support the capability of health professionals to assess fitness-to-drive of people with  
531 mental health conditions.



532

### Declarations

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

- 533 • Ethics approval and consent to participate: Not applicable as this is a systematic  
534 review
- 535 • Consent for publication: Not applicable as this is a systematic review
- 536 • Availability of data and material: All studies included in the review are listed in  
537 Appendix 1. All data included in analysis is appended in Table 3: Summary of key  
538 findings and quality appraisal of the 15 included papers, presented by sub-group. The  
539 review protocol is available from the first author.
- 540 • Competing interests: The authors declare that they have no competing interests
- 541 • Funding: No grant support was received from any funding agency in the public,  
542 commercial or not-for-profit sectors.
- 543 • Authors' contributions: Two authors (CU and MS) independently completed data  
544 extraction. Two authors (CU and MS) independently screened titles and abstracts of  
545 all identified studies, excluded ineligible studies against the inclusion/exclusion  
546 criteria and assessed the quality of the articles. AB, PH and DO reviewed the findings  
547 and drafted the results and discussion. All authors read and approved the final  
548 manuscript.
- 549 • Acknowledgements: None
- 550 • Authors' information:

551

552 Professor Carolyn Unsworth is Professor of Occupational Therapy at Central Queensland  
553 University, Australia, adjunct Professor at Jonkoping University Sweden, La Trobe  
554 University Australia, and Curtin University Australia.

555

1 556 Dr Anne Baker is a Lecturer in Occupational Therapy at Australian Catholic University,

2 557 Australia.

3  
4 558

5  
6  
7 559 Man Hei So is a research assistant at Central Queensland University, Australia.

8  
9 560

10  
11 561 Professor Priscilla Harries is Chair of the Royal College of Occupational Therapists' R&D

12  
13  
14 562 Committee, UK, and Head of Department of Clinical Sciences at Brunel University London,

15  
16  
17 563 England.

18  
19 564

20  
21  
22 565 Professor Desmond O'Neill is the Director of the Centre for Ageing, Neuroscience and the

23  
24 566 Humanities, Dublin, Ireland.

25  
26 567

27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

## References

568

569

570

571

572

573

574

575

576

577

578

579

580

581

582

583

584

585

586

587

588

589

590

1. Golisz K. (2014). Occupational therapy interventions to improve driving performance in older adults: A systematic review. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 68, 662-669.
2. Justiss, M. D. (2013). Occupational therapy interventions to promote driving and community mobility for older adults with low vision: A systematic review. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 67, 296-302.
3. Fuller, R. (2005). Towards a general theory of driver behaviour. *Accident Analysis and prevention*, 37: 461-72.
4. Anstey, K. J., Wood, J., Lord, S., & Walker, J. G. (2005). Cognitive, sensory and physical factors enabling driving safety in older adults. *Clinical Psychology Review*, 25, 45-65.
5. Hammar, A., Lund, A., & Hugdahl, K. (2003). Selective impairment in effortful information processing in major depression. *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society*, 65(2), 234-247.
6. Heinrichs, R. W., & Zakzanis, K. K. (1998). Neurocognitive deficit in schizophrenia: A quantitative review of the evidence. *Neuropsychology*, 12, 426-445.
7. Purcell, R., Maruff, P., Kyriou, M., & Pantelis, C. (1997). Neuropsychological function in young patients with unipolar major depression. *Psychological Medicine*, 27(6), 1277-1285.
8. Bulmash, E. L., Moller, H. J., Kayumov, L., Shen, J., Wang, X., & Shapiro, C. M. (2006). Psychomotor disturbance in depression: Assessment using a driving simulator paradigm. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 93(1-3), 213-218.

- 591 9. Wingen, M., Ramaekers, J. G., & Schmitt, J. A. (2006). Driving impairment in  
1  
2 592 depressed patients receiving long-term antidepressant treatment.  
3  
4 593 *Psychopharmacology*, *188*(1), 84-91.  
5  
6  
7 594 10. Austroads. (2016). *Assessing fitness to drive: For commercial and private vehicle*  
8  
9 595 *drivers*. Sydney, Australia.  
10  
11  
12 596 11. Oxley, J., & Whelan, M. (2008). It cannot be all about safety: The benefits of  
13  
14 597 prolonged mobility. *Traffic Injury Prevention*, *9*(4), 367-378.  
15  
16  
17 598 12. Chihuri, S., Mielenz, T. J., Dimaggio, C. J., Betz, M. E., DiGuseppi, C., Jones, V. C.,  
18  
19 599 & Li, G. (2016). Driving cessation and health outcomes in older adults. *Journal of the*  
20  
21 600 *American Geriatrics Society*, *64*(2), 332-341.  
22  
23  
24 601 13. Rowse J (2010). *Changing knowledge and practice: mental health service delivery*  
25  
26 602 *and consumer fitness to drive*. PhD thesis. La Trobe University, Australia.  
27  
28  
29 603 14. Lam, L. T., Norton, R., Connor, J., & Ameratunga, S. (2005). Suicidal ideation,  
30  
31 604 antidepressive medication and car crash injury. *Accident, Analysis and Prevention*,  
32  
33 605 *37*(2), 335-339.  
34  
35  
36 606 15. Sheridan, M. P. (2012). Assessing fitness to drive in dementia and other psychiatric  
37  
38 607 conditions: A higher training learning opportunity at a driver assessment centre. *The*  
39  
40 608 *Psychiatrist*, *36*, 113-116.  
41  
42  
43 609 16. Waller, J. A. (1965). Chronic medical conditions and traffic safety: A review of the  
44  
45 610 California experience. *New England Journal of Medicine*, *273*, 1413-1420.  
46  
47  
48 611 17. De las Cuevas, C., Ramallo, Y., & Sanz, E. J. (2010). Psychomotor performance and  
49  
50 612 fitness to drive: The influence of psychiatric disease and its pharmacological  
51  
52 613 treatment. *Psychiatry Research*, *176*(2-3), 236-241.  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

- 614 18. Dun, C., Baker, K., Swan, J., Vlachou, V., & Fossey, E. (2015). 'Drive safe' initiatives:  
1  
2 615 An analysis of improvements in mental health practices (2005-2013) to support safe  
3  
4 616 driving. *The British Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 78(6), 364-368.  
6
- 7 617 19. Unsworth, C. A. (2010). Issues surrounding driving and driver assessment for people  
8  
9 618 with mental health problems. *Mental Health Occupational Therapy*, 15(2), 41-44.  
11
- 12 619 20. Yale, S. H., Hansotia, P., Knapp, D., & Ehrfurth, J. (2003). Neurological conditions:  
13  
14 620 Assessing medical fitness to drive. *Clinical Medicine & Research*, 1(3), 177-188.  
16
- 17 621 21. Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) UK. (2016). *Assessing fitness-to-*  
18  
19 622 *drive- a guide for medical professional*. Retrieved 21/12/16 from:  
20  
21 623 [www.gov.uk/dvla/fitnesstodrive](http://www.gov.uk/dvla/fitnesstodrive)  
23
- 24 624 22. New Zealand Transport Agency. (2016). *Medical aspects of fitness to drive*. New  
25  
26 625 Zealand Transport Agency. Retrieved 21/12/16 from:  
27  
28 626 <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/medical-aspects/8.html>  
30
- 31 627 23. Road Safety Authority (2016). *Sláinte agus Tiomáint: Medical Fitness to Drive*  
32  
33 628 *Guidelines*. Irish Road Safety Authority. Retrieved 21/12/16 from:  
34  
35 629 [http://www.rsa.ie/Documents/Licensed%20Drivers/Medical\\_Issues/Sl%C3%A1inte\\_agus\\_Ti](http://www.rsa.ie/Documents/Licensed%20Drivers/Medical_Issues/Sl%C3%A1inte_agus_Tiom%C3%A1int_Medical_Fitness_to_Drive_Guidelines.pdf)  
37  
38 630 [om%C3%A1int\\_Medical\\_Fitness\\_to\\_Drive\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://www.rsa.ie/Documents/Licensed%20Drivers/Medical_Issues/Sl%C3%A1inte_agus_Tiom%C3%A1int_Medical_Fitness_to_Drive_Guidelines.pdf)  
40
- 41 631 24. NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) & AAMVA (American  
42  
43 632 Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators). (2009). *Driver Fitness Medical*  
44  
45 633 *Guidelines*. Retrieved 04/01/17 from:  
46  
47 634 <https://www.nhtsa.gov/DOT/NHTSA/Traffic%20Injury%20Control/.../811210.pdf>  
49
- 50 635 25. CCMTA. (2013). *Determining driving fitness in Canada: Part 1: A model for the*  
51  
52 636 *administration of driving fitness programs and Part 2: CCMTA Medical Standards*  
53  
54 637 *for Drivers*. Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators. Retrieved 21/12/16  
55  
56 638 from:  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

639 <https://www.transportation.alberta.ca/content/docType45/Production/CCMTADriver>  
1  
2  
3 640 [MedicalStandardsAugust2013.pdf](#)

- 4  
5 641 26. Jerome, L., Segal, A. & Habinski, L. (2006). What we know about ADHD and  
6  
7 642 driving risk: a literature review, meta-analysis and critique. *Journal of the Canadian*  
8  
9 643 *Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, 15(3):105-25.*
- 10  
11 644 27. Bruce, C., & Unsworth, C.A., Tay, R. (2014). A systematic review of the effectiveness of  
12  
13 645 behavioral interventions for improving driving outcomes in novice drivers with attention  
14  
15 646 deficit hyperactivity disorder. *British Journal of Occupational Therapy, 77 (7), 348- 357.*
- 16  
17 647 28. Gobbo, M.A., & Louza, M.R. (2014). Influence of stimulant and non-stimulant drug  
18  
19 648 treatment on driving performance in patients with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: a  
20  
21 649 systematic review. *European Neuropsychopharmacology. 24(9), 1425-43.*
- 22  
23 650 29. Classen, S., & Monahan, M. (2013). Evidence-based review on interventions and  
24  
25 651 determinants of driving performance in teens with attention deficit hyperactivity  
26  
27 652 disorder or autism spectrum disorder. *Traffic Injury Prevention. 14(2), 188-93.*
- 28  
29 653 30. Barkley RA & Cox, D. (2007). A review of driving risks and impairments associated  
30  
31 654 with attention deficit/ hyperactivity disorder and the effects of stimulant medication  
32  
33 655 on driving performance. *Journal of safety research, 38(1), 113- 128.*
- 34  
35 656 31. Tsuang, M. T., Boor, M., & Fleming, J. A. (1985). Psychiatric aspects of traffic  
36  
37 657 accidents. *American Journal of Psychiatry, 142(5), 538-546.*
- 38  
39 658 32. Menard, I., & Korner-Bitensky, N. (2008). Fitness to drive in persons with psychiatric  
40  
41 659 disorders and those using psychotropic medications. *Occupational Therapy in Mental*  
42  
43 660 *Health, 24(1), 47-64.*
- 44  
45 661 33. Moher D, Liberati A, Tetzlaff J, Altman DG, (2009) Preferred Reporting Items for  
46  
47 662 Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA): The PRISMA Statement. *PLoS*  
48  
49 663 *Medicine 6(6): e1000097. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed1000097.*
- 50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

- 664 34. Edlund, W., Gronseth, G., So, Y., & Franklin, G. (2004). *Clinical Practice Guideline*  
1  
2 665 *Process Manual*. Retrieved 21/12/16 from:  
3  
4 666 [https://www.aan.com/uploadedFiles/Website\\_Library\\_Assets/Documents/2.Clinical](https://www.aan.com/uploadedFiles/Website_Library_Assets/Documents/2.Clinical_Guidelines/4.About_Guidelines/1.How_Guidelines_Are_Developed/2004%20AAN%20Process%20Manual.pdf)  
6  
7 667 [Guidelines/4.About\\_Guidelines/1.How\\_Guidelines\\_Are\\_Developed/2004%20AAN%](https://www.aan.com/uploadedFiles/Website_Library_Assets/Documents/2.Clinical_Guidelines/4.About_Guidelines/1.How_Guidelines_Are_Developed/2004%20AAN%20Process%20Manual.pdf)  
8  
9 668 [20Process%20Manual.pdf](https://www.aan.com/uploadedFiles/Website_Library_Assets/Documents/2.Clinical_Guidelines/4.About_Guidelines/1.How_Guidelines_Are_Developed/2004%20AAN%20Process%20Manual.pdf)  
10  
11  
12 669 35. Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine. (2009). *Oxford Centre for Evidence-based*  
13  
14 670 *Medicine – Levels of Evidence*. Retrieved 21/12/16 from:  
15  
16 671 [http://www.cebm.net/oxford-centre-evidence-based-medicine-levels-evidence-march-](http://www.cebm.net/oxford-centre-evidence-based-medicine-levels-evidence-march-2009/)  
18  
19 672 [2009/](http://www.cebm.net/oxford-centre-evidence-based-medicine-levels-evidence-march-2009/)  
20  
21  
22 673 36. Brunnauer, A., Buschert, V., Segmiller, F., Zwick, S., Bufler, J., Schmauss, M., . . .  
23  
24 674 Laux, G. (2016). Mobility behaviour and driving status of patients with mental  
25  
26 675 disorders - An exploratory study. *International Journal of Psychiatry in Clinical*  
27  
28 676 *Practice, 20(1)*, 40-46.  
29  
30  
31 677 37. De Las Cuevas, C., & Sanz, E. J. (2008). Fitness to drive of psychiatric patients.  
32  
33 678 *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry, 10(5)*, 384-390.  
34  
35  
36 679 38. McNamara, C., & Buckley, S. E. (2015). The road to recovery: Experiences of driving  
37  
38 680 with bipolar disorder. *British Journal of Occupational Therapy, 78(6)*, 356-363.  
39  
40  
41 681 39. Niveau, G., & Kelley-Puskas, M. (2001). Psychiatric disorders and fitness to drive.  
42  
43 682 *Journal of Medical Ethics, 27(1)*, 36-39.  
44  
45  
46 683 40. Segmiller, F. M., Buschert, V., Laux, G., Nedopil, N., Palm, U., Furjanic, K., ... &  
47  
48 684 Brunnauer, A. (2015). Driving skills in unmedicated first-and recurrent-episode  
49  
50 685 schizophrenic patients. *European Archives of Psychiatry and Clinical Neuroscience,*  
51  
52 686 *1-6*.  
53  
54  
55 687 41. Zingg, C., Puelschen, D., & Soyka, M. (2009). Neuropsychological assessment of  
56  
57 688 driving ability and self-evaluation: A comparison between driving offenders and a  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

- 689 control group. *European Archives of Psychiatry and Clinical Neuroscience*, 259(8),  
1  
2 690 491-498.  
3  
4  
5 691 42. Langan, C. (2009). Psychiatric illness and driving: Irish psychiatrists' documentation  
6  
7 692 practices. *Irish Journal of Psychological Medicine*, 26(1), 16-19.  
8  
9  
10 693 43. Menard, I., Korner-Bitensky, N., Dobbs, B., Casacalenda, N., Beck, P. R., Gelinas,  
11  
12 694 I.,...Naglie, G. (2006). Canadian psychiatrists' current attitudes, practices, and  
13  
14 695 knowledge regarding fitness to drive in individuals with mental illness: A cross-  
16  
17 696 Canada survey. *The Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, 51(13), 836-846.  
18  
19 697 44. Menard, I., Benoit, M., Boule-Laghzali, N., Hebert, M.-C., Parent-Taillon, J., Perusse,  
20  
21  
22 698 J., . . . Korner-Bitensky, N. (2012). Occupational therapists' perceptions of their role  
23  
24 699 in the screening and assessment of the driving capacity of people with mental  
25  
26 700 illnesses. *Occupational Therapy in Mental Health*, 28(1), 36-50.  
28  
29 701 45. Rouleau, S., Mazer, B., Menard, I., & Maryse, G. (2010). A survey on driving in  
30  
31 702 clients with mental health disorders. *Occupational Therapy in Mental Health*, 26(1),  
32  
33 703 85-95.  
35  
36 704 46. Vrkljan, B. H., Myers, A. M., Blanchard, R. A., Crizzle, A. M., & Marshall, S. (2015).  
37  
38  
39 705 Practices used by occupational therapists and others in driving assessment centers for  
40  
41 706 determining fitness-to-drive: A case-based approach. *Physical & Occupational*  
42  
43 707 *Therapy in Geriatrics*, 33(2), 163-174 doi: 10.3109/02703181.2015.1016647.  
45  
46 708 47. Crancer Jr., A., & Quiring, D. L. (1969). The mentally ill as motor vehicle operators.  
47  
48 709 *American Journal of Psychiatry*, 126(6), 807-813.  
49  
50  
51 710 48. Eelkema, R. C., Brosseau, J., Koshnick, R., & McGee, C. (1970). A statistical study  
52  
53 711 on the relationship between mental illness and traffic accidents - A pilot study.  
54  
55 712 *American Journal of Public Health Nations Health*, 60(3), 459-469.  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65



- 713 49. Kastrup, M., Dupont, A., & Bille, M. (1977). Traffic accidents involving psychiatric  
1 patients. Description of the material and general results. *Acta Psychiatrica*  
2 714  
3  
4  
5 715 *Scandinavica*, 55(5), 355-368.
- 6  
7 716 50. Kastrup, M., Dupont, A., Bille, M., & Lund, H. (1978). Traffic accidents involving  
8  
9  
10 717 psychiatric patients: Characteristics of accidents involving drivers who have been  
11  
12 718 admitted to Danish psychiatric departments. *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica*, 58(1),  
13  
14 719 30-39.
- 16  
17 720 51. Brunnauer, A., & Laux, G. (2012). Driving ability under sertindole.  
18  
19 721 *Pharmacopsychiatry*, 67(11), 1776-1781.
- 22 722 52. Hawley, C. A., Galbraith, N. D., & De Souza, V. D. (2008). Medical education on  
23  
24 723 fitness to drive: A survey of all UK medical Schools. *Postgraduate Medical Journal*,  
25  
26 724 84, 635-638.
- 29 725 53. O'Neill, D., Crosby, T., Shaw, A., Haigh, R., & Hendra, T. J. (1994). Fitness to drive  
30  
31 726 and the older patient: Awareness among hospital physicians. *The Lancet*, 344, 1366-  
32  
33 727 1367.
- 36 728 54. Yale, S. H., Hansotia, P., Knapp, D., & Ehrfurth, J. (2003). Neurological conditions:  
37  
38  
39 729 Assessing medical fitness to drive. *Clinical Medicine & Research*, 1(3), 177-188.
- 41 730 55. Kahvedžic, A., Mcfadden, R., Cummins, G., Carr, D., O'Neill, D. (2015). Impact of  
42  
43  
44 731 new guidelines and educational programme on awareness of medical fitness to drive  
45  
46 732 among general practitioners in Ireland. *Traffic Injury Prevention*, 16 (6), 593-8.

733

734

735

736

737

60

61

62

63

64

65

738 Figure legend

1  
2 739 **Figure 1.** *Number of studies identified and screened for inclusion or exclusion.*  
3  
4 740  
5  
6 741  
7  
8 742  
9  
10 743  
11  
12 744  
13  
14 745  
15  
16 746  
17  
18 747  
19  
20 748  
21  
22 749  
23  
24 750  
25  
26 751  
27  
28 752  
29  
30 753  
31  
32 754  
33  
34 755  
35  
36 756  
37  
38 757  
39  
40 758  
41  
42 759  
43  
44 760  
45  
46 761  
47  
48 762  
49  
50 763  
51  
52 764  
53  
54 765  
55  
56 766  
57  
58 767  
59  
60 768  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

769 **Table 1.** *Inclusion / Exclusion Criteria for Identification of Articles.*


---

**Inclusion Criteria**


---

- All published literature using any research design, as well as commentaries and literature reviews or discussion pieces.
- Persons holding a driver's licence and diagnosed with a mental health condition/s, including: schizophrenia, stress/anxiety disorder, depression and obsessive compulsive disorder.
- Studies investigating medication/drugs tested on drivers with mental health conditions if the studies investigated the effects of the medication/drugs on driving ability.
- Publications in English and available in full text.

---

**Exclusion Criteria**


---

- Conference proceedings.
  - Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD).
  - Drivers diagnosed with sleep disorders/ insomnia, drugs or alcohol abuse, mood disorders such as anger or aggression, where a mental health condition was not specifically diagnosed.
  - Drivers experiencing stress or generalised anxiety with no diagnosis, or driving phobia or fear of driving.
  - Studies investigating medication/drugs for mental health conditions, tested on healthy adults to determine effect on fitness-to-drive.
- 

770

771

772

773

774

775

776

777

778

779

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

780 **Table 2.** AAN Criteria for Rating a Study by Class - Diagnostic Articles [34] - where the

781 *'diagnosis' is fitness-to-drive*

	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV
Rating article by class	Evidence provided by a prospective study in a broad spectrum of persons with the suspected condition, using a criterion standard for the case definition. Test should be applied in a blinded evaluation. All people undergoing the test have the presence or absence of the condition.	Evidence provided by a prospective study of a narrow spectrum of persons (N < 100) with the suspected condition, or a retrospective study of a broad spectrum of persons with an established condition by criterion standard, compared with a broad spectrum of controls.	Evidence provided by a retrospective study where either persons with the established condition or controls are of a narrow spectrum (N < 100). The reference standard, if not objective, is applied by someone other than the person performing the test.	Any design where the test is not applied in an independent evaluation OR evidence provided by the expert opinion alone or in descriptive case series (without controls).

782

**Table 3.** Summary of key findings and quality appraisal of the 16 included papers, presented by sub-group.

*Sub-group 1: Driving status and/ or factors impacting on the ability to drive safely among people with mental health conditions.*

Authors (year); location; funding (Y/N)	Aim related to mental health and assessing fitness-to-drive	Participants	Study design/ method/measures	Key findings	Level of evidence (CEBM/AA N)
Brunnauer (2016) [36] Germany; N	To explore the effect of mental illness on driving status in terms of driving licence possession and driving restrictions	N=1859 recruited from five hospitals (N=1546, psychiatric inpatients; N=313, neurological inpatients as control group)	Quantitative: Questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lower proportions of current drivers were found mainly in those with organic mental disorder and psychotic disorder.</li> <li>67% of psychiatric patients reported having a valid licence and 77% of this group reported using their cars regularly.</li> <li>More than 30% of patients with psychotic and organic mental health conditions do not have driving licence despite suitable age and employment status.</li> <li>The best predictors for having driving licence were education and being partnered or in a relationship, which both reflect psychosocial status.</li> <li>Female, older age, pension holders, patients with organic mental disease or schizophrenia are associated with increased rates of driving cessation.</li> </ul>	CEBM: level 4 AAN: Class IV
Bulmash (2006) [8] Canada; N	To examine the correlation between major depressive disorder (MDD) and driving performance using driving simulator	N= 47 (N=18, outpatients diagnosed with MDD, required to be free of antidepressants); N=29, control group)	Quantitative: Naturalistic group comparison  Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Epworth Sleepiness Scale (ESS)</li> <li>Beck Depression Inventory (DBI)</li> <li>York driving simulator</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The depressed group experienced higher levels of general, on task sleepiness.</li> <li>Level of sleepiness was statistically associated with driving variables of speed and speed deviation.</li> <li>The depressed group showed a significantly slower steering reaction time (RT) and greater number of car crashes when compared to controls, which were characterized by a medium effect size.</li> <li>Slowed RT or increased crash risk were not significantly associated with severity of depressive symptoms.</li> <li>No statistically significant differences for road position, speed or speed deviation were found when compared to controls.</li> </ul>	CEBM: Level 4 AAN: Class IV
De las Cuevas (2008) [37] Spain; N	To examine fitness-to-drive of people with mental health	N=208 with psychiatric illnesses	Quantitative: Naturalistic group comparison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only 33 out of 208 participants were compliant with the requirements of a driver's licence, and 84% failed at least</li> </ul>	CEBM: level 4 AAN: Class

	illness		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LNDETER 100 battery (cognitive functioning and psychomotor performance)</li> <li>• Clinical Global Impressions-Severity of Illness Scale</li> </ul>	<p>one of the tests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Driving patients showed better results than non-driving patients; however, 79.5% still scored too low to obtain or renew their driver's licence</li> <li>• Only 2 out of 10 professional drivers passed all the tests.</li> <li>• None of the driving patients informed the authority of their mental health status and none stopped driving, although 10% recognized their inability to drive.</li> <li>• In the 6 months prior to the research, only 3 of the 208 patients had been involved in a crash indicating a poor correlation between neuropsychological tests when predicting driving performance</li> </ul>	IV
McNamara (2015) [38]; Ireland; N	To explore the experience of driving of people diagnosed with bipolar disorder	N=18, diagnosed with bipolar disorder; holding driving licence; recruited via selective sampling	Qualitative: Thematic analysis of focus group data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrences of speeding, making poor decisions, losing feeling of control, decreased concentration and judgement, and impulsivity were identified by some participants when driving in manic or hypomanic states. They agreed "no driving" when unwell.</li> <li>• Some participants reported bipolar was unlikely to impede their driving capabilities, compared to the general population.</li> <li>• Every individual reported a unique experience on the effect of bipolar disorder on driving.</li> <li>• Participants reported having an open communication with health professional is useful regarding fitness-to-drive.</li> <li>• The fitness-to-drive guidelines were perceived as discriminatory by drivers with bipolar.</li> </ul>	CEBM: level 5 AAN: Class IV
Niveau (2001) [39]; Switzerland; N	To examine if psychiatric patients that were reported to authorities have a higher risk than those were not reported to the police	N=65 with psychiatric disorders (subjects: N=31, reported to authorities / Control: N=34) via purposive sampling	Quantitative: Case control design  Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reason for licence being revoked</li> <li>• Violations</li> <li>• Crashes</li> <li>• Severity of psychiatric disease</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More males and those with lower level of schooling were reported to authorities, than the participants in the control group.</li> <li>• A statistically higher rate of acute disorders was found among the reported cases than the controls. The reported subjects were found to show severe psychiatric antecedents; however, nearly half of them had a clean driving record.</li> <li>• Less than 10% of clean driving records were found in the control group.</li> <li>• Doctors basing their opinion about fitness-to-drive on their own professional criteria would underestimate other factors which could lead to bias in evaluating driving performance.</li> </ul>	CEBM: Level 4 AAN: Class III

<p>Segmiller (2015) [40]; Germany; N</p>	<p>To examine psychomotor driving skills of unmedicated first- and recurrent-episode people with schizophrenia, and skill decline with disease progression</p>	<p>N=46 (N=13 first episode and N=13 recurrent episode schizophrenia, and N=20 healthy controls)</p>	<p>Quantitative: Naturalistic group comparison</p> <p>Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale</li> <li>• Computerised Weiner Test System (WTS) (visual perception, reactivity and stress tolerance, concentration and vigilance)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 32% of untreated participants showed severe impairment in ability to complete the tests, which was interpreted as severe impairment in the ability to drive.</li> <li>• A greater percentage of first episode patients (38%), compared to recurrent episode patients (25%), showed pronounced impairments on the WTS.</li> <li>• The problems in psychomotor function seen in both groups could not be attributed to adverse effects of pharmacological treatments.</li> <li>• Both groups of patients with schizophrenia had lower results on the WTS than healthy controls.</li> <li>• Analyses did not reveal a chronological decline in psychomotor function over time (in the early stages of the disease).</li> </ul>	<p>CEBM: level 4 AAN: Class III</p>
<p>Zingg (2009) [41]; Switzerland; N</p>	<p>To investigate how performance of driving offenders with a psychiatric diagnosis relevant for driving, driving offenders without a psychiatric diagnosis, and control subjects differed on neuropsychological tests and self-performance on driving</p>	<p>N=219 patients (N=63 with diagnosis relevant to driving; N=111 with diagnosis not believed to affect driving; N=45 controls)</p>	<p>Quantitative: Naturalistic group comparison</p> <p>Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance test system or Wechsler Intelligence Test</li> <li>• Number connection test</li> <li>• Modified card sorting test (computerized)</li> <li>• Battery for attentional performance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants who were offenders (with and without psychiatric diagnosis) scored significantly lower than the control group on tests of information processing, but only those with a psychiatric disorder also scored significantly lower on problem solving and cognitive flexibility, alertness, and visual scanning/reaction time.</li> <li>• There were no significant differences between the groups on their self-assessment.</li> </ul>	<p>CEBM: level 4 AAN: Class IV</p>

*Sub-group 2: Capability and perception of health professionals assessing fitness-to-drive of people with mental health conditions.*

Authors (year); location; funding (Y/N)	Aim related to mental health and assessing fitness-to-drive	Participants	Study design/ method/measures	Key findings	Level of evidence (CEBM/AA N)
Langan (2009) [42]; Ireland; N	To investigate the level of documentation relating to fitness-to-drive in psychiatrists' clinical notes	N= 44 outpatients record, N= 48 discharge records; diagnosed with psychiatric illnesses  N=11 psychiatrists recruited from acute psychiatric unit	Quantitative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secondary data analysis of medical records</li> <li>• Questionnaire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimal documentation on possible effect of illness on driving performance was found in outpatient records and discharged records, 0% and 2% respectively.</li> <li>• More than half of both outpatient (57%) and discharged records (54%) contained documented advice on the importance of compliance with prescribed medication.</li> <li>• 34% of outpatient records and 44% of discharged records contained documentation on the side effects of prescribed medication on driving ability.</li> <li>• No advice regarding medication usage and operation of machinery or driving was found in both sets of records.</li> <li>• Over 50% of psychiatrists indicated they advised patients on the adverse effect of illness or medication on driving performance but few documented this.</li> </ul>	CEBM: not applicable AAN: Not applicable
Menard (2006) [43]; Canada; Y	To examine Canadian psychiatrists' attitudes, practices and knowledge on fitness-to-drive of people with mental health illness	N=248 psychiatrists recruited via random sampling	Quantitative: National cross sectional survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 64.1% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed on the importance of addressing fitness-to-drive.</li> <li>• Only 18% of respondents recognised if their patients were active drivers.</li> <li>• One-fourth of respondents strongly agreed or agreed they were capable in assessing fitness-to-drive.</li> <li>• One-half of respondents believed that people with mental illness have a higher risk of a car collision.</li> <li>• Psychiatrists were more likely to advise on the adverse effect of medication on driving, rather than the potential impact of the mental illness itself on driving.</li> </ul>	CEBM: level 5 AAN: Class IV
Menard (2012) [44]; Canada; N	To understand the role of occupational therapists in determining fitness-to-drive of people with mental health illness, with a focus	N= 20 occupational therapists working in adult mental health recruited via purposive sampling	Qualitative: Phenomenological analysis of focus group data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An important role for occupational therapists was perceived, with regards to assessing driving ability and raising issues of driving with healthcare team and client.</li> <li>• Limited evidence was found to exist to support practice.</li> <li>• Some participants suggested discussing driving history and habit with their clients; understanding client's perception of driving abilities and factors impacting on their driving</li> </ul>	CEBM: Level 5 AAN: Class IV



	on screening, assessment, intervention, perceived barriers and facilitators to undertaking this role			capabilities; and identifying goals related to driving can ensure driving safety.	
Rouleau (2010) [45]; Canada; N	To explore factors that health professionals and clients considered in relation to their fitness-to-drive and recommendations psychiatrists provided after the assessment	N= 72 (N=48, drivers, N=24, non-drivers), with a mental health diagnosis recruited via purposive sampling	Quantitative: Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 27.7% of participants indicated illness and medications affect driving performance due to lower concentration (43.9%) and fatigue (29.4%).</li> <li>• 28% of participants indicated illness was related to nervousness, 14.2% reported feeling unstable, 9.5% reported being more careful on the road, and 14.2% reported being more aggressive.</li> <li>• Participants indicated that side effects of medication can cause dizziness (10%), nervousness (5%) and other general negative effect (15%).</li> <li>• Psychiatrists focused on the impact of mood on driving and overall clinical assessment to determine a person's fitness-to-drive, while occupational therapists focused more on physical status, impulsivity levels, and driving history. Both professionals also considered medication side effects, psychiatric symptoms, cognition and judgement when assessing fitness-to-drive</li> <li>• Occupational therapists administered pen and paper test when assessing driving ability with people with mental health issues; however, the finding was not significant in predicting road performance due to small numbers.</li> </ul>	CEBM: Level 5 AAN: Class IV
Vrkljan (2015) [46]; Canada; Y	To identify assessment tools and procedures used by assessors to determine fitness-to-drive, outcomes and recommendations using four case scenarios inclusive of one scenario of a 33 year old woman with	N= 46 assessors in Canada	Quantitative: National Questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 33 assessors (71.7%) would assess driving ability for a client with schizophrenia.</li> <li>• Cognition was identified as a primary issue by 71% of the respondents for a client with schizophrenia.</li> <li>• 17.6% of assessors stated that medication needed to be taken into consideration.</li> <li>• 87.1% of assessors indicated using at least one observational test, followed by a physical (80.6%), perceptual motor (77.4%), or cognitive test (67.7%).</li> <li>• 81.3% of respondents would conduct an on-road assessment.</li> </ul>	CEBM: Level 5 AAN: Class IV

	schizophrenia (case#4)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than half of the respondents would proceed with licence reinstatement with ongoing monitoring if the client did well on both the off and on-road assessment.</li> <li>• If the client passed the on-road assessment but failed the off road assessment, 19 respondents would recommend return to driving, with 8 would consider reassessment in 6 months.</li> </ul>	
--	------------------------	--	--	--	--

*Sub-group 3: Crash rates.*

<b>Authors (year); location; funding (Y/N)</b>	<b>Aim related to mental health and assessing fitness-to-drive</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Study design/method/measures</b>	<b>Key findings</b>	<b>Level of evidence (CEBM/AAN)</b>
Crancer (1969) [47]; USA; N	To examine the possible link between particular mental health illnesses (psychotic disorders, personality disorders, and psychoneurotic disorders) and driving performance	N=271 psychiatric patients with valid driver licence (N=97 with psychotic disorders, N=79 with personality disorders; N=95 with psychoneurotic disorders) compared to a N=687,228 control group	Quantitative: Epidemiological analysis of secondary data  Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crashes</li> <li>• Violations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statistically higher crash rates were identified in both the personality (114% higher) and psychoneurotic groups (49% higher), than the control group.</li> <li>• Crash rates in the schizophrenic group were similar to the control group.</li> <li>• Each of the mental illness groups showed a statistically higher violation rates than the control group, particularly in reckless driving, negligent driving and driving with defective equipment.</li> </ul>	CEBM: level 4 AAN: Class III
Eelkema (1970) [48]; USA; N	To examine the correlation between mental illness and crashes	N=238, driving records from a hospital (1960); with matched comparison group (n=290)	Quantitative: Epidemiological analysis of secondary data  Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crashes</li> <li>• Violations pre and post hospitalisation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patients discharged from the hospital showed higher crash and violation rates per year.</li> <li>• Greater crash ratio (&gt;1) was found in people with psychosis and psychoneurosis; however, these groups had better records compared to the matched comparison group post discharge (crash ratio &lt;1).</li> <li>• The highest crash rate was identified in personality disorders, with minimal improvement post discharge. With treatment, crash rates decreased in all categories except for personality disorders.</li> <li>• Males with psychosis and psychoneurosis, and personality disorders showed a rising trend in violations.</li> </ul>	CEBM: level 5 AAN: Class IV

<p>Kastrup (1977) [49]; Denmark; N</p> <p>Kastrup (1978) [50]; Denmark; N</p>	<p>Both studies used the same data set:</p> <p>Part 1 (1977): to examine characteristics of psychiatric patients that were involved in crashes</p> <p>Part 2 (1978): To investigate crashes psychiatric patients were involved in and its casualty severity</p>	<p>N=2076 psychiatric patients involved in crashes, compared to N=40232 involved in all crashes</p>	<p>Quantitative: Epidemiological analysis of secondary data</p> <p>Measures for both: Crashes</p>	<p>Part 1 (1977):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a group, people with psychiatric disorders accounted for 11% of the crashes in Denmark, and this included pedestrian and vehicle crashes.</li> <li>Approximately 6% of people who were killed or injured in 1973 in car or pedestrian crash had a psychiatric diagnosis.</li> </ul> <p>Part 2 (1978):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drivers with a psychiatric disorder, who were involved in crashes, including pedestrian and vehicles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>were over-represented by women; and</li> <li>were more frequently in the age group of 25-54 years.</li> </ul> </li> <li>When compared to the normal population, greater proportions drove stolen vehicles without a valid licence and without seat belt at the time of crash, and were more frequently intoxicated.</li> </ul>	<p>CEBM: level 5</p> <p>AAN: Class IV</p>
---	---	---	---	--	---

*Note.*

Author: Only the first author is included in the table for ease of reading.

Location: Country for data collection.

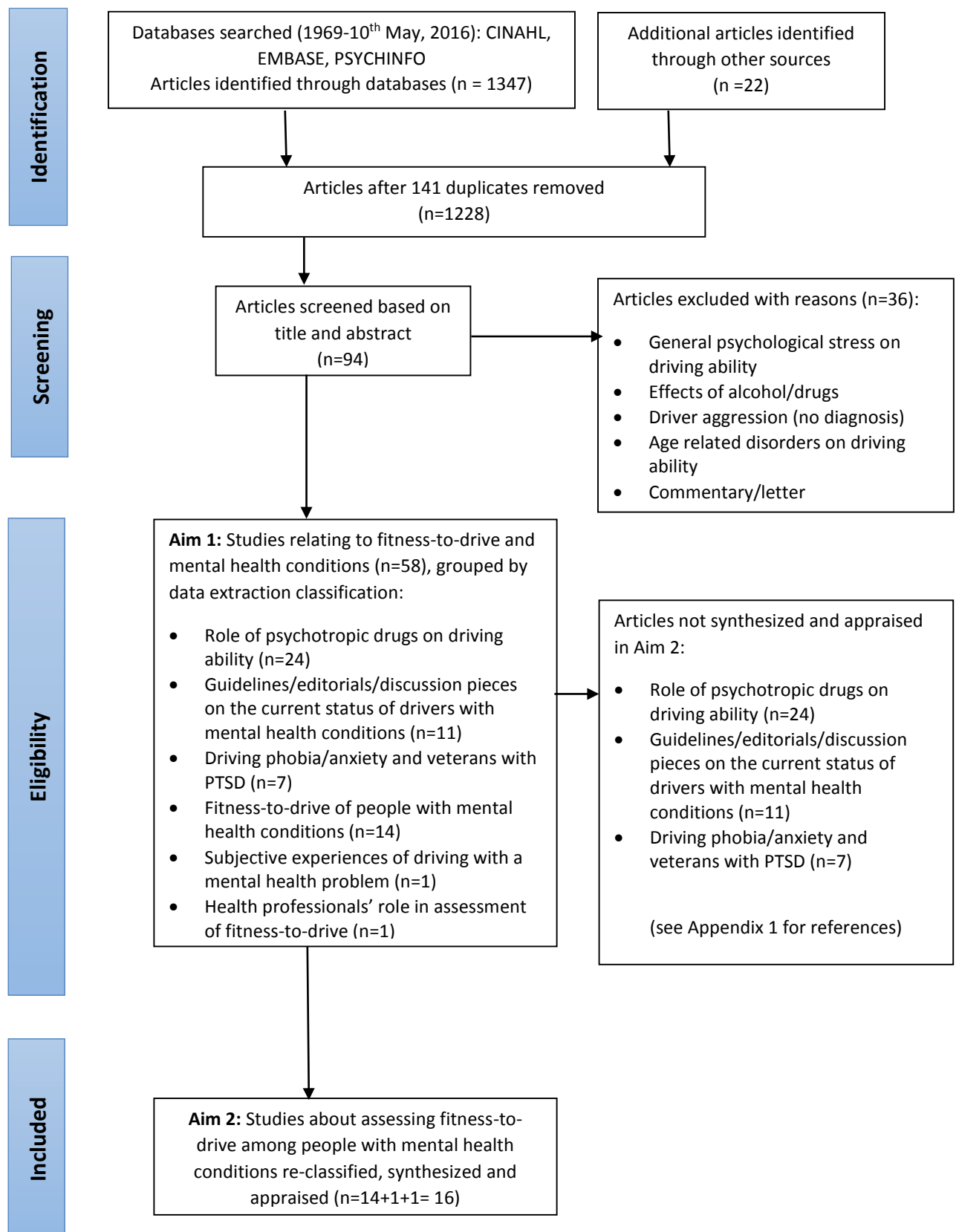
Funding: Direct funding received for the study, any personal funding received by the authors was not considered.

AAN: American Academy of Neurology [34].

CEBM: Centre for Evidence-based Medicine, developed by Oxford CEBM Levels of Evidence working group [35].

WTS: Weiner Test System

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65





Click here to access/download  
**Supplementary Material**  
Supplementary file.docx