

Risk Assessment

Hilary Weinberg, Chief DV Unit, Maricopa County, AZ
Michelle Kaminsky, Chief DV Unit, Kings County, NYC
Jeanine Launay, Dep. Chief DV Unit, New York County, NYC

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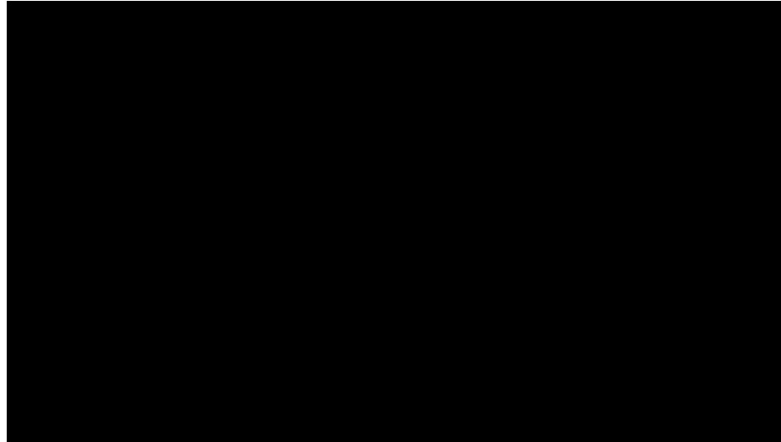
Defining Risk – Assessing Lethality

- Jacquelyn Campbell, PhD, RN-Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing
- *Danger Assessment*, 20 questions
- Tool to predict risk of homicide to women by male intimate partner
- Developed in consultation with battered women, shelter providers, law enforcement and clinical experts on battering



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Jacquelyn Campbell Talking about Risk Assessment



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Jacquelyn Campbell's Risk Assessment Tool

DANGER ASSESSMENT

Jacquelyn C. Campbell, Ph.D., R.N., Copyright, 2003, update 2018, www.dangerassessment.com

Several risk factors have been associated with increased risk of homicides (murders) of women and men in violent relationships. We cannot predict what will happen in your case, but we would like you to be aware of the danger of homicide in situations of abuse and for you to see how many of the risk factors apply to your situation. Using the calendar, please mark the approximate dates during the past year when you were abused by your partner or ex partner. Write on that date how bad the incident was according to the following scale:

1. Slapping, pushing, no injuries and/or lasting pain
2. Punching, kicking, bruises, cuts, and/or continuing pain
3. "Beating up"; severe confusion, burns, broken bones
4. Threat to use weapon; head injury, internal injury, permanent injury, miscarriage or choking* (use a 0 in the date to indicate choking/strangulation/cut off your breathing - example 4/0)
5. Use of weapons wounds from weapon

(If any of the descriptions for the higher number apply, use the higher number.)

Mark Yes or No for each of the following. ("He" refers to your husband, partner, ex-husband, ex-partner, or whoever is currently physically hurting you)

- ___ 1. Has the physical violence increased in severity or frequency over the past year?
- ___ 2. Does he own a gun?
- ___ 3. Have you left him after living together during the past year?
 - 3a. (If have never lived with him, check here ___)
- ___ 4. Is he unemployed?
- ___ 5. Has he ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a lethal weapon?
 - (If yes, was the weapon a gun? ___)
- ___ 6. Does he threaten to kill you?
- ___ 7. Has he avoided being arrested for domestic violence?
- ___ 8. Do you have a child that is not his?
- ___ 9. Has he ever forced you to have sex when you did not wish to do so?
- ___ 10. Does he ever try to choke/strangle you or cut off your breathing? (If yes, has he done it more than once, or did it make you pass out or black out or make you dizzy? ___)
- ___ 11. Does he use illegal drugs? (By drugs, I mean "upper" or amphetamines, "meth", "speed, angel dust, cocaine, "crack", street drugs or mixtures.
- ___ 12. Is he an alcoholic or problem drinker?
- ___ 13. Does he control most or all of your daily activities? For instance: does he tell you who you can be friends with, when you can see your family, how much money you can use, or when you can take the car? (If he tries, but you do not let him, check here: ___)
- ___ 14. Is he violently and constantly jealous of you? (For instance, does he say "I can't have you, no one can.")
- ___ 15. Have you ever been beaten by him while you were pregnant? (If you have never been pregnant by him, check here: ___)
- ___ 16. Has he ever threatened or tried to commit suicide?
- ___ 17. Does he threaten to harm your children?
- ___ 18. Do you believe he is capable of killing you?
- ___ 19. Does he follow or spy on you, leave threatening notes or messages, destroy your property, or call you when you don't want him to?
- ___ 20. Have you ever threatened or tried to commit suicide?

Total "Yes" Answers _____

Thank you. Please talk to your nurse, advocate or counselor about what the Danger Assessment means in your situation.

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Danger Assessment

- Dangerassessment.org
- Formal training/certification
- Answers come from victim/survivor
- Scored/questions weighted
- Assessment informs work of Prosecutors, but also looking at offender information and case facts

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Applying the Assessment Tool to assess the case

Two jurisdictions look at risk
assessment

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Who we are

Hilary

Michelle

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Applying the tools to real life

- To help assess release conditions
- To determine a fair bond
- To gather evidence
- To give insight into DV history
- To determine how to allocate resources amongst cases
- To obtain a sworn affirmation of the facts (Forfeiture by wrongdoing)
- To determine appropriate plea and conditions
- To determine risk for future homicide

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The police and the assessment tool

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Maricopa County

- Compliance Check Program:
 - A supervisor at the police department may use the Risk Assessment to determine if police should do a follow-up check on the victim.
 - Police will confirm release conditions
 - If the Defendant is in violation of his release conditions, he will be arrested.
 - Programs has led to increased safety and cooperation by victims

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NYPD

- Domestic Incident Report (DIR)
- Fill out at scene or police precinct by police with victim
- Risk questions on DIR
- Victim fills out factual narrative and signs
- DA's Offices have access to NYPD DIR database
- Amended form 2015 created with input from DA's Offices

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NYPD

- Top Offender Prioritization Tool
- Prioritize Open DV Complaints
- Collect Intelligence from multiple NYPD databases
- Score Metrics
- Rank DV Offenders
- Home visits
- List Sent to DA's Offices Weekly
- DA Arrest Alert System

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Prosecutors' Offices and Risk Assessment

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- ## Maricopa County
- Who is this form issued to?
 - When does the form get filled out?
 - Who fills it out?
 - Who gets a copy?
 - Given to Judge
 - Has to consider it under statute for determining bail conditions
 - Used by Prosecution later

Form 4
Release Questionnaire Addendum
Intimate Partner Risk Assessment*

Law Enforcement Agency _____ Report No. _____

Question	Yes	No	Decline
1. Has the physical violence increased in frequency or severity over the past six months? <i>a. Alternate wording: Is the pushing, grabbing, hitting, or other violence happening more often?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Is he/she violently and constantly jealous of you?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Do you believe he/she is capable of killing you?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Have you ever been beaten by NAME/SUSPECT while you were pregnant ? (e.g. hit, kicked, shoved, pushed, thrown, or physically hurt with a weapon or object)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Has he/she ever used a weapon or object to hurt or threaten you?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Has he/she ever tried to kill you?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. Has he/she ever choked/strangled/suffocated you? <i>If this has happened more than once, check here</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> More than Once?			
Tier 2: Ask on scene or during follow up.			
8. Does he/she control most or all of your daily activities?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. Is he/she known to carry or possess a gun ?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10. Has he/she ever forced you to have sex when you did not wish to do so?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11. Does he/she use illegal drugs or misuse prescription drugs ? (e.g. meth, cocaine, painkillers)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12. Has he/she threatened to harm people you care about ?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13. Did you end your relationship with him/her within the past six months? Does he/she know or sense you are planning on ending your relationship with him/her?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14. Has he/she experienced significant financial loss in the last six months?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15. Is he/she unemployed ?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16. Has he/she ever threatened or tried to commit suicide ?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Yes to 2 or 3 questions = "Elevated Risk"
Yes to 4 or more questions = "High Risk"

*Elevated Risk and "High Risk" scores trigger law enforcement officers to offer follow up responses in the form of providing or connecting victims to supportive resources or resource information.
Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence – 800-792-6400
National Domestic Violence Hotline – 800-799-7233

Victim referred for follow up based on responses to the tool
 Victim referred for follow up based on the officer's professional judgment
 No referral

*Otherwise known as Domestic Partner Lethality Assessment

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Maricopa County

- At scene police fill out form with victim and sometimes with help of victim advocate
- Hybrid tool
- Defendant is arrested – go to court initial appearance
- 48 hours to bring the case for charging

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Maricopa County

- ADA is assigned for charging according to experience and case complexity
- If case filed, determine if case goes to Preliminary hearing/Grand Jury
- Charging attorney prepares a plea offer – will attempt to notify the victim
- Sometimes defer plea negotiations to comply with notification to victim
- If goes to GJ – if true bill – case goes back to charging bureau and gets assigned for trial or further plea negotiations

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Kings County

- Police-Domestic Incident Report (DIR-NY State Statute)
- DA's Office-general intake bureau writes up case
- Arraignment –Bail argument-Risk factors on DIR
- Early Victim Engagement (EVE)-telephone victim from court and ask questions about risk

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Kings County

- Domestic Violence Bureau for assignment
- Daily initial screen by Supervising Social Worker for high risk cases
- Assignment to Misdemeanor, Grand Jury, Felony ADA
- DV Intake Form/Risk Factors
- ADA reviews with Supervisor - DIR, Intake Form, Facts of Case, Criminal record
- Referrals for other services (VSU/FJC)

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Using the risk assessment to talk to a victim about risk

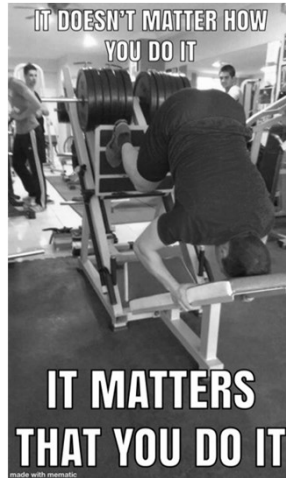
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Commonalities

- Building the cases
- Assigning senior/specialized prosecutors
- Talking to victims about risk
- Safety Planning
- Relocation/Shelter/Phones
- Counseling
- Civil service referrals

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Doesn't matter how you do it



And you do it often