

DANGER ASSESSMENT FOR IMMIGRANT WOMEN (DA-I)¹

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Several risk factors have been associated with increased risk of homicides (murders) of immigrant women 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 contusions, burns, broken bones
 4. Threat to use weapon; head injury, internal injury, permanent injury, miscarriage or choking* (use a © in the date to indicate choking/strangulation/cut off your breathing- example 4©)
 5. Use of weapon; 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. Do you prefer to answer these questions in English?
- _____ 2. Has the physical violence increased in severity or frequency over the past year?
- _____ 3. Does he own a gun?
- _____ 4. Does he threaten to kill you?
- _____ 5. Is he violently and constantly jealous of you?
For instance, does he say, "If I can't have you, no one can."
- _____ 6. Do you feel ashamed of the things he does to you?
- _____ 7. Have you left him after living together during the past year?
If you have never lived with him, check here: _____
- _____ 8. Does he prevent you from going to school, or getting job training, or learning English?
- _____ 9. Are you married to him?
- _____ 10. Was your partner born in the United States?
- _____ 11. Has he threatened to report you to child protective services, immigration, or other authorities?
- _____ 12. Has he ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a lethal weapon?
If yes, was the weapon a gun?; check here: _____
- _____ 13. Do you have a child that is not his?
- _____ 14. Has he ever forced you to have sex when you did not wish to do so?
- _____ 15. Does he ever try to choke/strangle you or cut off your breathing?
15a. If yes, has he done it more than once, or did it make you pass out or black out or make you dizzy?; check here: _____
- _____ 16. Is he an alcoholic or problem drinker?
- _____ 17. Does he threaten to harm your children?
- _____ 18. Are you unemployed?
- _____ 19. Have you attended college, vocational school and/or graduate school?
- _____ 20. Has he avoided being arrested for domestic violence?
- _____ 21. Have you ever been beaten by him while you were pregnant?
If you have never been pregnant by him; check here: _____
- _____ 22. Has he ever threatened or tried to commit suicide?
- _____ 23. Do you believe he is capable of killing you?
- _____ 24. Does he follow or spy on you, leave threatening notes or messages on voicemail, destroy your property, or call you when you don't want him to?
- _____ 25. Do you hide the truth from others because you are afraid of him?
- _____ *26. Do you have any children living with you in your home?
- _____ *27. Do you have any children with him?
- _____ 28. 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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SCORING INSTRUCTIONS

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Use of this DA-I scoring system is restricted to DA certified users.



- Add 1 point for each “yes” to questions 1-25 _____
- Add 2 points for each “yes” to questions 2, 7, and 15a _____
- Add 3 points for each “yes” to questions 4-6 _____
- Add 1 point for each “yes” to main questions 8-17 _____
- Add 4 points for a “no” to question 26 _____
- Add 5 points for a “no” to question 27 _____
- Subtract** 2 points for “yes” to 7a _____

*questions 12a and 28 do not contribute to the score –
use for safety planning

Sum all of the weighted scores for the DA-I Total Score _____

DA-I Total Score	Level of Danger	Interpretation of Danger Levels
0 – 14	Variable	Routine safety planning and monitoring. Inform victim that the level of risk can change quickly and to trust their instincts and to watch for additional signs of danger.
15 – 25	Increased	Safety planning and increased monitoring are important. Advise victim of increased risk and to watch for other signs of danger.
26 – 35	Severe	Advise victim that danger is severe. Be assertive with safety planning; consult with judges, high level of supervision recommendations, taking into account immigration status.
36 or more	Extreme	Advise victim of serious danger. Take assertive actions to protect victim – perhaps call for criminal justice or other professional help, taking into account immigration status; recommend highest bail, highest sentencing, highest probation supervision.

¹Messing, J. T., Amanor-Boadu, Y., Cavanaugh, C. E., Glass, N. E., & Campbell, J. C. (2013). Culturally competent intimate partner violence risk assessment: Adapting the danger assessment for immigrant women. *Social Work Research, 37*(3), 263-275.