Matching Response to Risk: The Idaho Risk Assessment of Dangerousness (IRAD)

Idaho Safety & Resilience Conference
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Matching Response to Risk: IRAD

Why use a risk assessment?

Usefulness of Risk Assessments

- Victim
  - Powerful indicators of dangerousness
- Provider
  - Organize case information and assess the likelihood of escalation
  - Aid in triaging services based on risk
  - Improve consistency of decisions
  - Improve agency accountability
- Systems
  - Educate everyone along the continuum
  - Encourage a shared language of risk

Matching Response to Risk: IRAD

What's in a risk assessment?

Most Prominent Antecedents

- Relationship variables, such as:
  - Prior history of domestic violence or police contact
  - ***Obsessive-possessiveness***; morbid jealousy
  - Use of weapon in prior abusive incidents
  - Threats with weapons, threats of suicide, and threats to kill the victim and/or children
  - Serious injury in prior abusive incidents
  - ***Forced sex of partner***
  - ***Attempted strangulation***
  - Abusive incidents while victim is/was pregnant
  - Violence increases in severity and frequency
  - Stalking behaviors

Most Prominent Antecedents (Continued)

- Offender variables, such as:
  - Perpetrator is familiar with the use of violence, has access to guns, and sometimes has a prior criminal history of violence
  - Drug or alcohol use
  - ***Access to/ownership of guns***
- Victim variables, such as:
  - Victim has a civil protection order
  - Victim has ***separated*** or attempted to separate from the relationship or filed for divorce
  - Victim is afraid that she might die

Threat Assessment Tools

Among others…

- Spousal Risk Assessment Guide (SARA)
- Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA)
- Violence Risk Assessment Guide (VRAG)
- Level of Service Inventory – Revised (LSI-R)
- The Classification of Violence Risk (COVR)
- Danger Assessment - dangerassessment.org
- Mosaic - mosaicmethod.com

Matching Response to Risk: IRAD

What is IRAD?

IRAD Development

- Idaho Coordinated Response to Domestic & Sexual Violence
  - Review of research
  - Idaho IPV homicide cases
  - Case law on IPV homicide cases
  - Focus groups of police officers
- Why not use an existing assessment?
  - Focus on either dangerousness *or* lethality
  - High gun ownership results in false positives
  - Desired multiple agency use
  - Open to any user

IRAD Use

- Used across multiple points in the system.
- Most frequent use by law enforcement officers.
  - Outline for interview with victim
  - Guide response decision
  - Assess need for victim services
  - Ground work for investigative services
- Current use
  - Within and outside Idaho

Seven Dangerousness Risk Factors

1. History of Domestic Violence
2. Threats to Kill Victim or Children
3. Threats of Suicide
4. Separation
5. Coercive/Controlling Behavior
6. Prior Police Contact
7. Alcohol or Drug Abuse

Four Lethality Factors

1. Forced sex of partner
2. Attempted strangulation
3. Recent separation
4. Extreme possessiveness

New Supplement Form

- Includes questions on each of the seven areas of risk
- Takes into account same sex relationships
- Provides more information for prosecutors, judges, and DV evaluators
  - Assist with conditions of release and Criminal No Contact Order or corresponding Civil Protection Order
  - Use in DV evaluations for the court

Idaho Domestic Violence Supplement

Case # _____

Risk Assessment of Dangerousness (add # of factors that have at least 1 box marked) SAFE emergency contact number for victim/s:
1-3 Different Factors __ **4-5 Different Factors** __ **6-7 Different Factors** __ **Italicized Lethality Factor/s** __

Appearance/Emotional State

	Victim	Suspect		Victim	Suspect
Angry	☐	☐	Excited	☐	☐
Threatening	☐	☐	Nervous	☐	☐
Apologetic	☐	☐	Calm	☐	☐
Upset	☐	☐	Intoxicated	☐	☐
Crying	☐	☐	Fled Scene	☐	☐
Fearful	☐	☐	Agitated	☐	☐
Unable to talk	☐	☐			

Medical

	Victim	Suspect
Refused Medical Assistance	☐	☐
First Aid EMT	☐	☐
Emergency Room	☐	☐
Pregnant	☐	☐
Vulnerable Adult	☐	☐

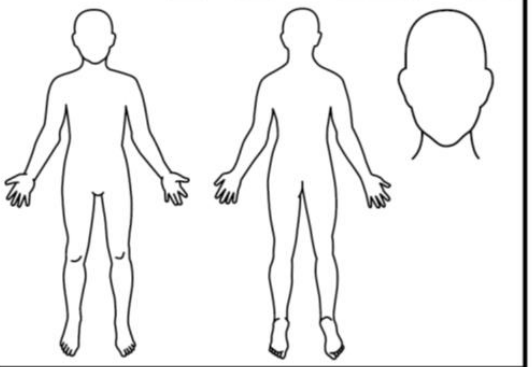
Location of treatment _____

Children

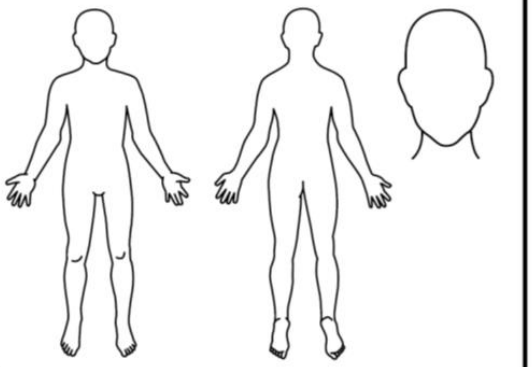
- ☐ Children present during incident
- ☐ Prior reported child abuse
- ☐ Allegation of current child abuse

By whom _____

Name _____ Age ____ Victim ○ Suspect ○
Male ○ Female ○ Ht. ____ Wt. ____ Hair color_____ Eye Color_____



Name _____ Age ____ Victim ○ Suspect ○
Male ○ Female ○ Ht. ____ Wt. ____ Hair color_____ Eye Color_____



Factor 1: History of Domestic Violence

Provided by: Victim ○ Suspect ○ Other: _____

- [A] Current Civil Protection Order
- [B] Current Criminal No Contact Order
- [C] No Contact Order or Protection Order violation today
  If so, by whom_____
- [D] Recent escalation of violence
- [E] Prior unwanted physical contact
- [F] Does victim report threat of future harm
- [G] Caused serious injury to another in prior incident
- [H] Stalking behaviors. Provide specific details in narrative.
- [I] *HAS FORCED PARTNER TO HAVE SEX*
- [J] Previous attempt(s) of strangulation
- [K] Threatened abuse or allegation of abuse of animals

Victim perception of future risk: Low ○ Medium ○ High ○

Weapons

- [L] Access to weapons
- [M] Prior use of weapons to injure or threaten
- [N] Weapon moved
  Type: _____
- [O] Seized

- [P] *ATTEMPTED STRANGULATION*
- [Q] Breathing difficulty
- [R] Voice change
- [S] Swallowing changes
- [T] Behavioral changes
- [U] Loss of consciousness

Factor 2: Threat to Kill

- [A] Specific threats to kill victim
- [B] Specific threats to kill children or _____
- [C] Displaying weapon at time of threat

Factor 3: Threats of Suicide

- [A] Suspect suicidal. Number of attempts & date of most recent_____
- [B] Depression or other mental illness
- [C] Other stressors _____

Factor 4: Separation

- [A] *RECENT SEPARATION*
- [B] Recent or imminent court action
- [C] Loss of employment

Factor 5: Coercive/Controlling Behavior

- [A] Threats and intimidation
- [B] Destruction of property or pets
- [C] Monitoring by suspect (GPS, cell phone)
- [D] Isolating of victim
- [E] *EXTREME POSSESSIVENESS*

Factor 6: Prior Police Contact

- [A] Prior Civil Protection Order
- [B] Prior Criminal No Contact Order
- [C] Other prior police contact
- [D] Violation
- [E] Violation

Factor 7: Alcohol or Drug Abuse by Suspect

- [A] Drug and/or alcohol abuse
- [B] Under the influence when current altercation started
  If so, what type and quantity: _____

Information/Assistance and Community Referral

Victim

- ☐ Provided domestic violence Information per Idaho Code 39-6316
- ☐ Asked if accommodation needed
- ☐ DV Packet Other: _____

Referrals (if necessary)

- ☐ Adult Protective Services
- ☐ Child Protective Services
- ☐ Humane Society

Notified by: ☐ 911 Call ☐ Non-Emergency Dispatch ☐ Officer Initiated ☐ Other _____

Officer completing form _____

Date _____ Time_____ Submit

The Domestic Violence Supplement does not take the place of a narrative. Domestic violence cases are complex. If there are additional observations or if a victim is unable or unwilling to respond to the questions, indicate such in the narrative. The seven risk factors are numbered and are in red (color copies) boxes or darker gray boxes. Some studies indicate that the italicized observations may be significant predictors of lethality. Form date: November 2012.

Identifying Risk Factors

- **Factor 1 - History of Domestic Violence**
  - After these questions you should have information about:
    - History and pattern of violence or abuse in relationship, including frequency, severity, and changes in types or patterns of abuse
    - Impact of the abuse and victim's general level of fear
    - Risk of ongoing or future harm to victim and children

Identifying Risk Factors

- Focus of specific questions
  - Range of abuse and controlling behaviors
    - Frequency and severity of prior incidents
    - Changes in pattern of abuse
    - Worst incident, first incident, most recent incident
    - Impact on victim, offender, children, and others
    - Level of fear (discuss again at end of interview)
  - Physical abuse
    - Attempted strangulation by suspect?
    - Has the suspect previously hit, punched or thrown things at the victim?

Identifying Risk Factors

- Use of weapons
  - Access to and prior use of weapons (to injure or threaten)?
  - Recent movement of where the weapon is located?
- Sexual abuse
  - Has the offender pressured the victim to have sex?
  - Has the offender threatened the victim or others (including children) sexually?
  - Has the offender forced the victim to view pornographic picture or videos against her will?

Identifying Risk Factors

- **Factor 2 - Prior police contact**
  - History of criminal violence against a prior partner or other family member?
    - Arrested for violent acts?
  - Has victim ever obtained a protection order?
    - Has offender every violated the order?
    - What were the nature of the violations?
  - Is the offender currently on probation/parole?
    - What are the terms of supervision?

Identifying Risk Factors

- **Factor 3 - Separation or divorce**
  - Are the victim and offender separated, divorced, or no longer in a relationship?
    - What was the nature of their relationship (e.g., married, cohabitating, dating)
    - How long was their relationship?
    - When did the relationship end?
    - Has offender indicated they want to renew the relationship?

Identifying Risk Factors

- **Factor 4 - Obsessive, isolating, or controlling behavior**
  - Isolation
    - Has the offender:
      - Kept victim from going to a job, church, school, etc.?
      - Made it difficult for victim to contact/see family, friends, coworkers, etc.?
      - Not allowed victim to learn English or threatening deportation?
      - Monitored phone calls and mail, following victim via GPS?

Identifying Risk Factors

- **Factor 4 - Obsessive, isolating, or controlling behavior**
  - Economic abuse and financial control
    - Denied access to money or information on finances?
    - Forced victim to beg for money/not allowed victim to work?
  - Emotional abuse
    - Called the victim names or make the victim feel stupid or embarrassed?
    - Threatened to take away the children from the victim, if victim left?
    - Threatened to or actually killed a pet or animal to cause fear or to retaliate?

Identifying Risk Factors

- **Factor 5 - Threats to kill victim and/or children**
  - Has the offender:
    - Made specific threats to kill the victim, children, family members, coworkers, or friends?
    - Displayed a weapon while making a threat?
    - Displayed a weapon as a way to threaten?

Identifying Risk Factors

- **Factor 6 - Threats of suicide**
  - Has the offender threatened or attempted suicide in the past?
    - General threats, or specific plans?
    - Blames victim for wanting to commit suicide?
  - Does the offender have (or has had) major depression or other mental illness?
  - Recent stressors
    - Has the offender suffered a financial stressor?
    - Recent death of a friend or family member?
    - Does victim think recent stress has influenced abuse?

Identifying Risk Factors

- **Factor 7 - Alcohol or drug abuse**
  - Does the offender use drugs and/or alcohol?
    - Frequency of use?
    - Does offender use to the point of intoxication?
    - Was offender using prior to or during the current incident?
    - Does abuse behavior change when offender uses?

Identifying Lethality Markers

- **Marker 1 – Forced sex**
  - Has the offender *forced* the victim to:
    - Have sexual contact with the offender?
    - Have sexual contact with someone else?
    - Perform other sexual acts?
      - Frequency of forced sex?
      - Is there additional physical violence during the forced sex?
      - Has offender ever physically abused the victim because the victim refused to have sexual contact (at any time) with the offender?

Identifying Lethality Markers

- **Marker 2 – Attempted strangulation during current incident**
  - During the current incident, did the offender:
    - Attempt to strangle the victim during the current incident?
    - Squeeze the victim's neck using hands or an object during the current incident?
    - Attempt to stop the victim from breathing in any way (e.g., suffocation with pillow or sofa cushion or object)?
    - If so, did the victim experience:
      - Difficulty breathing?
      - Difficulty talking during or after?
      - Difficulty swallowing?
      - Loss of consciousness?

Identifying Lethality Markers

- **Marker 3 – Recent separation**
  - Did the offender and victim *recently* separated, divorced, or otherwise ended their relationship?
  - Still living together, but victim *recently* told offender they want to end relationship?
  - Have the victim and offender had any *recent* court action regarding the relationship during the past year?

Identifying Lethality Markers

- **Marker 4 – Extreme possessiveness**
  - Does the offender display jealousy?
    - In what situations?
    - How often?
    - What does the offender do when jealous?
    - Has the offender made statements about the victim *belonging to* the offender or that no one else *can have* the victim?
  - Has the offender engaged in stalking behaviors?
    - Placed a tracking device on the victim's car or forced them to add a tracking app to their phone?
    - Hacked into their social media account(s) or posted disturbing content on their account(s)?

Calculating Risk of Dangerousness

- Risk of increasing dangerousness
  - Each red heading box indicates *one (1)* risk factor.
    - Multiple items within each box
  - Count the number of red heading boxes (risk factors) with *at least one (1) item checked*.
    - Total cannot exceed *seven (7)* factors.
  - Mark the corresponding box at the top of the form to indicate the total number of risk factors present at current point of contact.

Calculating Risk of Lethality

- Risk of lethality
  - Some red heading boxes (risk factors) have red italicized items that indicate a marker for potential lethality.
  - Determine if *any* red italicized items (lethality factors) are checked.
  - If *at least one (1) red italicized item (*lethality factor) is checked, mark the lethality box at the top of the form.

Matching Response to Risk: IRAD

How do you use IRAD?

When To Use IRAD

- IRAD was created for use:
  - In intimate partner violence cases (not in family, acquaintance, or stranger violence)
  - When a victim can be interviewed (not from information primarily provided by the offender, child, or other person)
  - When new risk or lethality factors can be introduced due to the dynamic nature of the relationship:
    - Every time there is a new incident
    - At every change in the relationship
    - At every change in system response

Matching Response to Risk: IRAD

Rate the Risk

Jack & Amanda

Amanda arrives at the emergency room with injuries related to an assault. ER records indicate that this is the second time that Amanda has been seen at the hospital for similar injuries.

On this occasion, Amanda is accompanied by her children who provide additional details regarding the fights Amanda and their father have had over the years. Amanda's oldest daughter tells the nurse that usually her father will just hit and shove her Mom, occasionally causing bruising.

Amanda's daughter says that on this particular occasion she awoke to the sounds of fighting and then the arguing stopped all of a sudden. When she went to the living room she found Amanda unconscious on the floor with her dad hovering over her. The kids all helped carry their mom to the car to take her to the hospital.

Jack & Amanda

What if later in the examination you found out:

- Amanda's husband was laid off from work about six months ago and ever since he has been going out to the bars regularly by himself?
- He comes home really drunk and takes everything out on Amanda?
- While Amanda demanded that she was fine and that she had just fainted while she was at the hospital, at a follow-up visit the next day bruising around her neck has begun to appear and it is obvious that she had been strangled?
- WHAT IS THE RISK FACTOR NOW?

Matching Response to Risk: IRAD

What's the Risk?

Maria & Ernesto

Law enforcement was called to a house after a neighbor reported hearing glass breaking – Ernesto had broken a glass coffee table in the living room.

Maria told the officer that Ernesto has become increasingly abusive and threatening towards her. He constantly tells her she is dumb and ugly and that if she ever left him she would always be alone because nobody else could ever want her. Sometimes when he gets really angry about something he shoves her. He once purposely tripped her when she was trying to walk away from a confrontation.

Maria told the officer that she really doesn't have much say in the relationship, that Ernesto manages the finances and will not allow her to spend or access any of the couple's finances.

Maria states that she is scared to tell Ernesto that she wants to leave the relationship for fear he will harm her.

Maria & Ernesto

- What if at the follow-up interview you found out that:
  - Amanda told the officer that when Jack broke the coffee table Jack actually threw it against the wall and stated that this is what he was going to do to her?
  - Last week one of Jack and Amanda's neighbors accused Jack of shooting their dog? Although Jack denies he did it, Amanda knows Jack owns a gun and that he recently moved the gun from the gun safe to the top drawer of their dresser.
  - WHAT IS THE RISK FACTOR NOW?

Matching Risk To Response

ICRDSV Recommended Policy or Guideline

- **1-3 Risk Factors** Cases where at least one *item* is checked across 1-3 different factors require standard follow-up procedures with an IPV victim.
- **4-5 Risk Factors** Cases where at least one *item* is checked across 4-5 different factors require following up with the victim within 72 hours.
- **6 -7 Risk Factors** Cases where at least one *item* is checked across 6-7 different factors require following up with the victim within 48 hours.
- **Lethality Markers** For these cases, it is recommended that, *no matter how many risk factors contain a checked item, contact with the victim should be made within 24 hours.*

Matching Response to Risk: IRAD

Who Needs to Know about Risk?

Criminal Justice Continuum

911 Dispatch Law Enforcement Prosecutor/Public Defender Judiciary/Criminal Court Judge/Court Staff

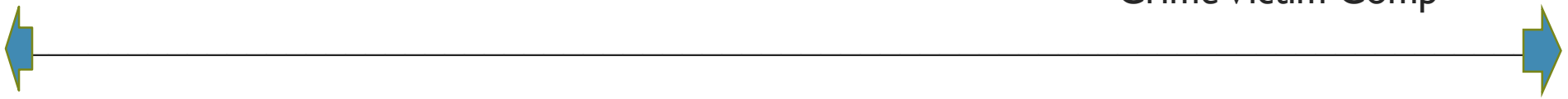
Domestic Violence Coordinators

Domestic Violence Evaluators

Drug & Alcohol or Batterer Treatment

Jail Corrections Probation/ Parole

Crime Victim Comp



Non Criminal Justice Continuum

Family Physician/ ER DV Shelter Program DV Advocate

Friends Daycare/Headstart Neighbors

Preschool/Elementary/Secondary Schools Higher Education Social Service Agencies

H&W/Disability Advocacy /Child Protective Services/ APS

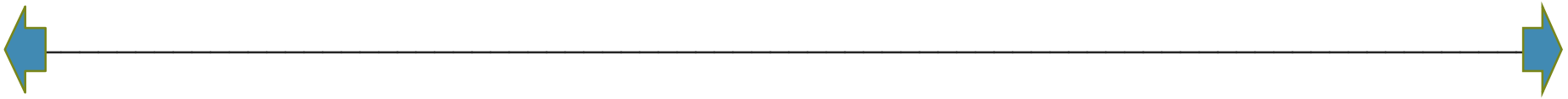
Faith-based MH Counselor DV Shelter Counselor/Group

Drug & Alcohol Treatment Batterer Treatment

Civil Attorneys– Protection Order/Divorce Offender Attorney Custody/DV Evaluators

Judiciary - Civil Court (ILAS, IVLP, Attorneys, Pro Bono/ISC Court Assistance Office)

Employers Disability or Specialized Advocacy Organizations Landlords



Issues in Implementation

- Intricacy and complexity of dynamics of domestic violence
- Who along the criminal justice and non-criminal justice response should be conducting risk of dangerousness assessments?
  - How in-depth? How is the information shared? Why is it valuable along the continuum?
  - How do we protect confidentiality?
  - How do we ensure the judicial system is aware of risk?
- Importance of interviewing skills and training

Matching Response to Risk: IRAD

What was done for the evaluation?

Methodology: Hypotheses

- Research questions/hypotheses
  - Overall IRAD score is a significant predictor of IPV recidivism three years post-reported incident.
  - Overall IRAD score is not a significant predictor of non-IPV recidivism three years post-reported incident.

Methodology: Sample

- Sample of cases
  - One jurisdiction using IRAD
  - Census of IPV cases over six months (n=197)
  - Removal of mutual combatant, cases with no IRAD, cases with IRAD info from non-victim (n=17)
  - Removal of cases with incomplete IRAD (n=22)
  - Researchers completed overall IRAD score (n=28)
  - Final sample size=158*

*Totals vary across analyses

Methodology: Data

- Data
  - Two research assistants
  - Two databases; two codebooks
  - Substantial variability across reports
  - Inter rater reliability testing
  - Collected follow up data
  - Five months creating & coding; three months reliability testing & correcting coding errors

Methodology: Analysis

- Analysis
  - Descriptives
    - Describes the data across all variables
  - Correlations
    - Tests for relationships between variables
  - Regressions
    - Determines if predictors exist between related variables

Matching Response to Risk: IRAD

Results

Results: People

PEOPLE

- Victims
  - 78% women
  - 72% Caucasian
  - Average age=32
- Offenders
  - 82% men
  - 60% Caucasian
  - Average age=33

RELATIONSHIP

- Status
  - 41% cohabitating, not married
- Child in common
  - 57% had a child in common
- Sexual orientation
  - 100% reported heterosexual
- Victim Pregnant
  - 4% victims were pregnant

Results: Cases

- Injuries=61.9%; of those, ~50% had multiple
  - Scratches/Bleeding
  - Bruising
  - Abrasions
  - Redness
- Children present=61%
  - Most often 1 child
  - Average age=5

Results: Risk

- Overall risk
  - 1-3 factors=54%
  - 4-5 factors=38%
  - 6-7 factors=10%
- Lethality factors=54%
- History of DV=76%
- Threats to kill=26%
- Threats of suicide=39%
- Separation=35%
- Coercive/Controlling behavior=58%
- Prior police contact=34%
- Substance abuse=58%
- Presence of lethality factor=54%
- Of those, 42% had more than 1 lethality factor.
- Most often extreme possessiveness=57%

Results: Outcomes

- Any new charges=54%
- Most frequent number of new charges=1, 3
- Of those with new charges=60% had between one and four new charges three years later
- Overall IRAD score and lethality markers do NOT predict any new charges nor number of new charges.

- Any new IPV charges=18% of sample; 34% of those with new charges
- Average number of new IPV charges=1
- New misdemeanor IPV charges=56%
- New felony IPV charges=44%
- Only higher IRAD score & presence of lethality marker predict new IPV charges
- Attempted strangulation only predictor of number of new IPV charges.

Overall Findings

- Officers correctly calculated IRAD score 90% of the time.
- Overall risk is distributed in an expected way with most cases at the lower end.
- Case level information is not a replacement for the IRAD score.
- Higher risk and lethality marker are related to only new IPV charges (so is having a lethality factor).
- Overall IRAD score predicted increased likelihood of new IPV charges three years later.
- Individual risk factors are not a replacement for the IRAD score.

Disclaimer

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