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ODARA

Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment

The ODARA is a tool for assessing the risk of intimate partner violence (IPV) recidivism. A higher ODARA score means that the person is more likely than others to use IPV again, and to do so sooner, and to use more severe violence in their new offenses. The ODARA was developed from actuarial research and is validated in studies by the ODARA team and by other researchers*.

WHAT DOES IT DO?

The ODARA identifies the risk that a person who has assaulted their partner will do so again, and how their risk compares with others. It aids risk management, safety planning, & policy development.

WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

13 items are scored with a 1 for yes, and a 0 for no. It takes about 10 minutes to complete after gathering information on offense history, most recent IPV, children, and victims' situation.

WHO SHOULD USE IT?

Any professional working with IPV cases can use the ODARA. It is easy to use and aids communication among agencies.

WHEN SHOULD IT BE USED?

It can be used whenever decisions are being made about IPV risk management and safety planning. The ODARA can be used in multiple settings and at all stages of the process.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The ODARA is a tool to aid decision-making, so that higher risk cases can be prioritized for the most intensive criminal justice intervention, offender treatment, or victim support.

IS TRAINING NEEDED?

Training is recommended. Available online through ODARA 101 (approx. 4-6 hours) or by arrangement for live or customized training. Using the full scoring instructions is strongly advised**.

CAN IT BE USED WITH DIVERSE INDIVIDUALS, COMMUNITIES, AND RELATIONSHIP TYPES?

The ODARA is a valid assessment of risk of IPV recidivism and other offenses by adult men who assault female partners. A few small studies of women as the assaulting partner have mixed findings. It has been validated in men who have been accused of IPV and identify as Indigenous in Canada, and with a racially diverse U.S. sample, with some differences between gender and racial groups.

*17 studies as of February, 2022. **<https://www.apa.org/pubs/books/domestic-violence-risk-assessment-second-edition> (disclosure: Dr. Hilton receives royalties from the sale of this book)

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