

DVRNA: Domestic Violence Risk and Needs Assessment (Colorado)

The DVRNA is a structured actuarial assessment that classifies someone's risk and treatment level of A, B, or C. Development of the DVRNA was based on the principles of risk, need, and responsivity and informed by the DVSI, the LSI, the SARA, the ODARA, and the DA.

The DVRNA has face validity and is undergoing an additional validation study.

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What does it do?

Each level of treatment increases in intensity and duration of treatment based on the initial level of risk. It focuses on both offender attitudes, behaviors, and characteristics as well as victim safety.

What does it involve?

The DVRNA is a structured actuarial assessment comprised of 14 static and dynamic risk factors. The DVRNA is scored as part of a comprehensive evaluation which can take 60 to 120 minutes to complete.

Who should use it?

Clinicians trained in mental health, substance abuse, and who are credentialed in anti-domestic violence programming score the DVRNA as part of an evaluation before treatment.

When should it be used?

The DVRNA may be used after charges have been filed at either the pre- or post-sentence stage. It is scored as part of the comprehensive evaluation within 30 days before the start of treatment.

How does it work?

The treatment level identified by the DVRNA determines the dosage, length, and intensity of treatment. Dynamic risk factors in the DVRNA can be used to measure progress or change during treatment.

Is training needed?

Yes, a seven-hour training by a DVRNA certified trainer is required along with follow-up technical assistance. Training also involves pre-planning to determine suitability of use of the DVRNA.

Can it be used with diverse communities and relationship types?

When using the DVRNA with populations who do not identify as white male ages 18 or over, the person scoring the instrument must disclose the limitation and acknowledge that the tool is being used for informational purposes only. The tool can be used for informational purposes with these populations for gathering data.