

By Kelly Dunne, Geiger Institute

DA-LE

Danger Assessment for Law Enforcement

The DA-LE is an evidence-based risk assessment instrument that identifies victims at highest risk of intimate partner homicide (IPH) and near-lethal assault. It was developed through a partnership with the Geiger Institute, Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell and Dr. Jill Messing. The DA-LE is a derivative of the Danger Assessment. Two data sources were used from previously conducted studies to create and test the DA-LE.

WHAT DOES IT DO?

The DA-LE is administered by law enforcement officers. High-risk victims are connected to services through a customized protocol and the DA-LE is provided to the court to inform criminal proceedings.

WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

The DA-LE consists of 11 questions. It has a built-in threshold to identify victims at high-risk based on the number of positive responses. The DA-LE takes approximately five minutes to complete.

WHO SHOULD USE IT?

Responding law enforcement officers who then connect high-risk victims to services at a partnering domestic violence organization.

WHEN SHOULD IT BE USED?

Administered on scene when the call for service involves IPV. Used regardless of charges filed and done when the call involves violence, threats of violence, protection order violations, or fears for one's safety.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The DA-LE is shared with the DV agency and provided to prosecutors as a supplement to the police report. If the community has a DVHRT, the DA-LE is also used to identify cases for ongoing monitoring.

IS TRAINING NEEDED?

Yes. There are three steps to implement the DA-LE instrument: 1) policy and protocol development 2) customized training, and 3) data collection and analysis.

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

We recommend using the DA-LE with all adult victims of IPV. Questions on the DA-LE are about the history of violence. The sample used to derive the DA-LE was a diverse set of female victims and male perpetrators. Testing showed that the DA-LE has considerable predictive validity with no significant differences across race or ethnicity.