

BIRAM: Batterer Intervention Risk Assessment and Management

The BIRAM is a tool and protocol for assessing and managing the risk of lethal intimate partner violence and serious re-assaults, within the context of a Batterer Intervention Program (BIP). It is not intended as a tool to score or to rate the level of risk for program participants, but rather, as a system for identifying and managing risk posed by BIP participants over time.

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What does it do?

The BIRAM tool is administered 3-4 times during BIP participation to assesses increases or decreases in 44 risk factors. Findings inform completion of the Risk Management Worksheet to guide strategies

What does it involve?

The risk factors are marked as 'present' or 'unknown at this time' based on the client's reports, information from referral sources, and group leader observations of the client's reports and demeanor over time.

Who should use it?

Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) staff. BIP staff partner with referral sources (e.g. probation, child welfare agencies) to create and implement risk management strategies informed by the BIRAM.

When should it be used?

The BIRAM is designed to be administered within a week of BIP intake, between sessions 4-10, between sessions 15-30, and session 35 or after, if needed.

How does it work?

The Risk Management Strategies Inventory gives recommendations for 11 high risk scenarios. The Risk Management Record lists steps taken with the client, referral sources and other service providers.

Is training needed?

A two-day training is required. This includes the use of 7 videos that demonstrate steps in filling out the BIRAM tool and implementing risk management strategies.

Can it be used with diverse communities and relationship types?

The BIRAM was tested and data-analyzed on racially diverse male adult BIP participants who abused female partners in the USA. The BIRAM was not tested with LGBTQ populations. Data analysis by the MA Department of Public Health found suitable content validity-- meaning the tool as a whole and its individual components measure what they are designed to measure.