

B-SAFER: Brief Spousal Assault Form for the Evaluation of Risk

The B-SAFER is a set of evidence-based practice guidelines for assessing and managing risk for intimate partner violence (IPV). It is a simplified version of the SARA-V3. It is used by diverse professionals working in criminal justice settings. It is used around the world and has been translated into more than a dozen languages.

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What does it do?

Provides a systematic, standardized, and practical framework for gathering and analyzing information about spousal assault risk. It can be used in perpetrator-focused risk assessments or victim-focused safety planning.

What does it involve?

The B-SAFER comprises of 10 risk factors reflecting the perpetrator's history of IPV and psychosocial adjustment, and 5 factors on the victim's capacity to engage in self-protective actions.

Who should use it?

Police, corrections, mental health, and victim serving professionals with basic expertise in assessment and intimate partner violence.

When should it be used?

Use of the B-SAFER is appropriate for perpetrator risk assessment or victim safety planning at any stage of criminal proceedings.

How does it work?

It is a decision support aid that helps evaluators consider the presence and relevance of perpetrator risk factors and victim vulnerability factors for the purpose of guiding risk management planning.

Is training needed?

Training can be accomplished by self-study, supervised use, attendance at lectures or workshops, or completion of computerized training programs.

Can it be used with diverse communities and relationship types?

The B-SAFER is intended for use with people aged 18 and older who have a known, alleged, or suspected history of IPV. It can be used regardless of the gender, sexual orientation, marital status, culture, and physical or mental health problems of the perpetrator or victim.