

DVRISC DVSI-R: Domestic Violence Screening Instrument - Revised

The DVSI-R is a risk assessment instrument designed to estimate the likelihood that perpetrators will persist in domestic violence in the future. It was empirically evaluated in several studies published in peer-review journals, using different samples and outcome measures in the state of Connecticut.

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What does it do?

The instrument is used to inform decisions about the placement and management of DV perpetrators. Family Relations Counselors in Connecticut use it to inform recommendations at arraignment. It informs victim safety through survivor interviews and perpetrator accountability through interviews with those administering the tool.

What does it involve?

The instrument includes 11 items, with seven addressing behavioral history (*i.e.* - *prior family assaults, convictions, etc.*) and four addressing substance abuse, objects used as weapons, children present at the incident, and employment status. Each item estimates the intensity of the risk factor and the possible range of the risk score is 0 to 28.

Who should use it?

The DVSI-R is used in Connecticut by Family Relations Counselors to inform their recommendations at arraignment (pre-adjudication). Probation uses it to inform decisions about case management, such as assigned levels of supervision (post-adjudication). Probation in other jurisdictions beyond Connecticut use it similarly; post-adjudication

When should it be used?

It is used pre-adjudication. It is used post-adjudication by probation in Connecticut and other states. In either case, it is designed specifically for assessing risk involving DV perpetrators.

How does it work?

The details of the assessment, such as risk scores, are not shared with others outside the agency conducting the assessments. Those details are kept internally for decision-making about managing DV perpetrators.

Is training needed?

If agencies are experienced with risk assessments, training can be conducted through Q&A, usually involving an iterative, short-term process. For inexperienced agencies, more comprehensive training is recommended.

Who is the DVSI-R Validated for?

The instrument has been validated for the general population as well as population subgroups, such as by age, gender, race, ethnicity, or same-sex relationships. For more information, see: Williams, K.R. (2012). "Family violence risk assessment: A predictive validation study of the Domestic Violence Screening Instrument (DVSI-R)." *Law and Human Behavior* 36: 120-129. DOI 10.1007/s10979-011-9272-6; and Gerstenberger, C., R. Stansfield, and K.R. Williams (2019). "Intimate partner violence in same-sex relationships." *Criminal Justice and Behavior* DOI: 1177/0093854819871984.