

Assessing Lethality & Dangerousness of Batterers

There is no tool that can accurately predict when or if a batterer will attempt or succeed in committing murder. Research suggests that the following characteristics were often present prior to domestic homicide and should be considered as antecedents to such. This assessment should be used as a tool to provide victims and victim services with a rational depiction of the batterer's dangerousness. The absence of one or most of the characteristics, however, does not indicate a lack of dangerousness. Taking into consideration the information collected by the assessment, a victim safety plan should be created to maximize their safety. Note that all batterers should be considered dangerous and potential perpetrators of homicide regardless of the number of characteristics they exhibit.

The batterer has threatened or attempted homicide or suicide. Details: _____

The batterer has fantasized about homicide or suicide (who, how, when, where). Details:

The batterer has access to weapons. Details: _____

The batterer has used weapons during prior assaults. Details: _____

The batterer is obsessive about their partner, expressing ownership and the need to control them. Details: _____

The batterer is isolated from friends and family and depends heavily on their partner. Details:

The batterer experiences bouts of rage and depression. Details: _____

The batterer consumes drugs and/or alcohol. Details: _____

The batterer has access to the victim. Details: _____

The batterer has a prior history of domestic violence. Details: _____

The victim has made prior contact with law enforcement. Details: _____

The batterer has a criminal record. Details: _____

The victim has a restraining order placed against the batterer. Details: _____

The nature of battering has escalated. Details: _____

The batterer has entrapped victim, taken hostages, or used barricades to gain control. Details:

The victim is in the process of leaving or has recently left. Details: _____

The batterer has harmed pets or animals. Details: _____

The batterer has engaged in stalking behavior. Details: _____
