



Checklist of Risk Factors

Dynamic Risk Factors

Actual or pending separation

Child custody or access disputes

Escalation of violence

Perpetrator is unemployed

Perpetrator uses excessive alcohol and/or drugs

Perpetrator is depressed – in the opinion of family/friend/acquaintance or professionally diagnosed

Perpetrator has other mental health or psychiatric problems

Perpetrator displays obsessive behaviour, including stalking and/or possessive jealousy

Perpetrator has access to or possession of any firearms

Perpetrator shows sexual jealousy

Perpetrator has misogynistic attitudes

Perpetrator minimizes and/or denies spousal assault history to extreme degree

Perpetrator is going through significant life changes

Youth of couple (may be more like a static factor as age status changes very slowly)

Victim and perpetrator living common-law (maybe more like a static factor if common-law relationship is long term)

New partner in victim's life

Static Risk Factors

(Static risk factors relate to the perpetrator)

History of domestic violence with current partner or ex-partner

History of domestic violence in other relationships

History of violence outside of the family by perpetrator

Prior threats to kill victim

Prior assault with a weapon

Prior threats or attempts to commit suicide by perpetrator

Prior attempts to isolate the victim

Controlled most or all of victim's daily activities



Prior hostage-taking and/or forcible confinement
Prior forced sexual acts and/or assaults during sex
Prior destruction or deprivation of victim's property
Prior violence against family pets
Prior assault on victim while pregnant
Choked victim in the past
Was abused and/or witnessed domestic violence as a child
Experienced other forms of maltreatment as a child
Exposed to/witnessed suicidal behaviour in family of origin
Presence of stepchildren in the home
Failure to comply with authority
Threatened and/or harmed children
Significantly older or younger than partner
History of employment instability

Victim Focused Risk Factors

Extreme fear of perpetrator
Inconsistent attitude or behaviour (i.e. ambivalence)
Inadequate support or resources
Unsafe living situation
Health problems
Mental health problems
Substance Abuse/Addictions (alcohol and/or drugs)
Disability
Language and/or cultural barriers (e.g., new immigrant or isolated cultural community)
Economic dependence
Living in rural or remote locations
Fear or distrust of legal authorities
Lack of awareness or distrust of mainstream services