

The Distribution of Risk in Intimate
Partner Violence Cases:
The Idaho Risk Assessment of
Dangerousness
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Introduction

Intimate partner violence continues to be a societal problem in the United States. In 2015, 806,050 intimate partner violence victimizations occurred in the United States at a rate of 3.0 victimizations per 1,000 persons 12 years of age or older (Truman & Morgan, 2016). In 41% of those intimate partner violence victimizations, victims suffered serious injuries (Truman & Morgan, 2016). In 2007, 14% (or 2,340 victims) of all homicides involved intimate partners (Catalano & Snyder, 2009). As our understanding of intimate partner violence has increased over the years, certain characteristics of intimate partner violence relationships have been identified as predictors of increased dangerousness or lethality¹.

For 2015, 54% of nonfatal intimate partner violence incidents nationally were reported to the police (Truman & Morgan, 2016). The police often serve as the first contact with victims of intimate partner violence and have a unique opportunity to identify these risk factors for increasingly dangerous or potentially lethal levels of intimate partner violence. Early identification is seen as one pathway to connect the victim to supportive services and intervene with the offender and possibly prevent future severe harm or death. In order to assist in early identification, risk assessments have been developed specifically for cases of intimate partner violence and some of these tools were created with police officer use in mind. One such risk assessment is the Idaho Risk Assessment of Dangerousness (IRAD), developed by the Idaho Coordinated Response to Domestic & Sexual Violence and funded under the Grants to Encourage Arrests program².

¹ For further information on these risks, see the proposal submitted for this grant or Growette Bostaph (2009) for a review of relevant literature.

² See the proposal submitted for this grant for further information on the development process for IRAD.

Purpose of the Study

IRAD was originally developed as a tool for officers to assess both dangerousness and lethality on the scene of an intimate partner violence incident and, subsequently, serve as a ‘rolling’ risk assessment as an intimate partner violence case progressed through the criminal justice system. Under the original grant, agencies interested in using IRAD received on-site training provided by the Idaho Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence. In order to facilitate its use by officers, the instrument was incorporated into the Idaho Domestic Violence Supplement which is required for all intimate partner violence cases involving policing agencies.

Based on existing research of significant predictors of intimate partner violence (IPV) recidivism, increasing dangerousness of assaults, and lethality, IRAD includes seven primary risk factors (Factors):

- Factor 1: History of Domestic Violence
- Factor 2: Threat(s) to Kill
- Factor 3: Threat(s) of Suicide
- Factor 4: Separation
- Factor 5: Coercive/Controlling Behavior
- Factor 6: Prior Police Contact
- Factor 7: Alcohol or Drug Abuse by Suspect (see Appendix for actual instrument).

Within each of these risk factors, sub-items are listed that represent various potential measures of that specific risk factor. For example, Factor 1 (History of Domestic Violence) has 23 sub-items, such as current civil protection order, prior unwanted physical contact, and prior attempted strangulations. Some sub-items within the Factors are in red font and italicized; these represent

the markers for potential lethality (i.e., the italicized lethality factors). Officers check off sub-items within each Factor that are reported as present in the victim-offender relationship.

At the top of the form, the various levels of risk are indicated: 1-3 different factors, 4-5 different factors, 6-7 different factors (overall IRAD risk score). These different categories correspond to an increasing risk level of dangerousness: standard, elevated, and high³. When all of the information is gathered, the officer tallies the number of Factors with at least one sub-item that is checked and marks the risk level that corresponds to that tallied sum. Also located at the top of the form is a check box for any italicized marker (presence of italicized lethality factor[s]) and officers mark this box if any of the red, italicized sub-items are reported. This serves as notice of the presence of potential lethality within the relationship. Agencies are encouraged to create policies that provide for differing follow-up responses by officers and victim service providers based on the overall IRAD risk score and the presence of italicized lethality factors.

Methodology

Research Hypothesis

The purpose of the current study was to conduct a preliminary analysis of the overall IRAD risk score's ability to predict future dangerousness. Thus, the hypothesis of this study was that the overall IRAD score would predict new IPV charges three years after the initial incident for which IRAD was completed. Furthermore, as IRAD was developed as a risk assessment for intimate partner violence as opposed to any criminal behavior, a secondary hypothesis was that the overall IRAD risk score would not predict new criminal offenses other than those related to intimate partner violence.

³ In focus groups during the development phase, officers and victim service providers objected to having the risk categories labeled on the form out of concern that some officers and/or providers would default to the 'high' category to avoid perceived liability issues.

Data Collection

This study utilized all IPV cases reported to a police department situated within the Treasure Valley during the period of June 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013. This site was selected because the police agency was one of the first adopters of IRAD on a department-wide basis and had received more training than any other agency on its use. The time period of June-December 2013 was chosen for two primary reasons. First, the police agency was also part of an ongoing, long-term evaluation of the community's response to intimate partner violence. In order to avoid creating an additional burden on agency employees in terms of gathering and scanning police reports, we agreed to use the same June-December time of year as the long term evaluation. Second, 2013 was chosen in order to allow for a recidivism measure at the three year mark from the time of the initial incident.

Agency employees scanned the police reports onto a CD for the researchers. Separate codebooks and databases were created for the police reports and the associated IRAD's. IRAD is a standardized form and thus the creation of its codebook was fairly straight forward. However, while the police reports had a standard 'face sheet', the format and sequencing of information in the narrative section varied greatly and, consequently, codebook creation for the police reports was time intensive and required multiple revisions.

All of the data provided by the agency were in PDF format and therefore had to be coded and entered by hand. Coding was done in a way that would satisfy the collection of the majority of the common elements across the police standard report forms and the report narratives. All data points on the IRAD were coded and entered into an SPSS database. As this study was first and foremost concerned with assessing the IRAD, the coding of the IRAD data were completed prior to the narrative section of the police reports. Due to the great variability across individual police reports, all the researchers involved in coding police report data attended monthly

meetings to review changes made to the codebook in order to understand the nature of the variables, where to find content required for the variables, and discuss how to code abnormal scenarios from the police reports. If data were missing from the standard portion of the police report, researchers were instructed to search the narrative portion of the report for the missing information.

Data entry was divided across the researchers according to timeframe, such that, one researcher coded all police reports from June 1st, 2013 to August 31st, 2013 into one database as another researcher coded all police reports from September 1st, 2013 to December 31st, 2013 into a separate database. Prior to the beginning of data entry, the first interrater reliability check was completed to identify coding or variable issues and ensure data entry consistency. Each researcher entered the first ten cases in their time period into the assigned database and, once completed, the researchers switched databases and re-coded the same ten police reports in each time period database. The research team then addressed coding differences and made any necessary changes in the police report codebook. Data entry for the IRAD database was completed in December 2016 and the police report databases were completed in March 2017.

Beginning in April 2017, a second interrater reliability test was conducted on a randomly selected sample of ten percent of the police reports from each timeframe in a third police report database. The interrater reliability test in every database yielded promising results as the monthly meetings allowed researchers to adopt each other's logic, retroactively apply it in already coded cases, and utilize it in coding future cases. Minor changes in coding came as a result of this stage.

Once interrater reliability checks were complete, one researcher merged both police report databases (June to August 2013 and September to December 2013). Variable frequencies

were reviewed to further identify any repeated cases, typographical errors in string variables, and identify patterns in missing data. Then, the master police report database was merged with the IRAD database using the case number as the linking variable. A similar data cleaning procedure was conducted again for the police report/IRAD merged database with no additional issues. After the database was in working order, two different researchers gathered the three year recidivism data from the state's two online repositories of criminal cases.

A total of 197 police reports were received from the partnering agency for the study. The IRAD database included 183 risk assessments as IRAD's were missing from some police reports (n=14). The initial merged police report/IRAD database contained 207 cases as the change in unit of analysis (IRAD) required duplication of police reports for mutual combatant cases. Prior to data analysis, all cases involving mutual combatants were removed from the final police report/IRAD merged database due to officer inconsistencies in completing one combined or separate IRAD's for each involved party. Also, cases where IRAD information was provided by someone other than the victim were removed due to concerns about accuracy of the data. The initial sample used in the subsequent descriptive analysis included 180 cases (87% of all reported cases). Of those 180 cases, 132 had an overall risk score completed by the officer (64% of all reported cases, 73% of the initial sample). In approximately half of those missing IRAD cases, (14% of all reported cases, 16% of the initial sample), officers completed the IRAD form but did not indicate an overall risk score. In order to maintain the largest sample size possible and offer an opportunity to gauge officer accuracy in using the IRAD, researchers completed the overall risk score based on the officers' calculations. This increased the final sample size for this

analysis to 158 cases (76% of all reported cases, 88% of the initial sample) with an overall risk score⁴, although sample size varies according to each analysis.

Results

Sample Descriptives

Four main categories of variables were included in the analyses: demographic, case-level, risk, and outcomes.

Demographic variable descriptives. The demographic variables were those describing the individuals in the initial sample (See Table 4.0). Most victims were Caucasian (72%) with an average age of 32 years and were overwhelmingly women (78%). While still the majority, suspects in the initial sample were more racially diverse with 61% Caucasian individuals. Hispanics were over-represented as both victims (26%) and suspects (35%) in the initial sample compared to the jurisdiction (22.9% city population). Suspects were also overwhelmingly men (80%) with an average age of 33 years. The most frequent victim-offender relationship status was cohabitating, but not married (40%) with married couples comprising 33% of the sample. Thus, 73% of couples in the initial sample were residing together at the time of the incident. Finally, 59% of the couples had a child in common. All couples were reported to be heterosexual and 4% of the victims were pregnant at the time of the incident⁵.

⁴ The remaining missing cases (12% of the remaining sample) were comprised of reports without any attached IRAD (11% overall, 91% of missing cases) and cases where the victim refused to provide any information (1% overall, 9% of missing cases).

⁵ Due to the lack of variation in these variables, they were not included in any further analyses.

Table 4.0. Descriptives: Demographic Variables

Variable	N	%
Sex of Victim		
Female	141	78.3
Male	39	21.7
Total	180	100.0
Relationship		
Spouse	59	33.1
Former spouse	6	3.4
Cohabitants	72	40.4
Former cohabitants	8	4.5
Dating/Engaged	16	9.0
Former dates/engaged	10	5.6
Separated	7	3.9
Total	178	100.0
Child In Common		
Yes	98	58.7
No	69	41.3
Total	167	100.0
Victim/Offender is Pregnant		
No	171	95
Offender Pregnant	1	.6
Victim Pregnant	8	4.4
Total	180	100.0
Race of Victim		
White	126	72.4
Black	2	1.1
Hispanic	46	26.4
Total	174	100.0

Table 4.0. Descriptives: Demographic Variable

Variable	N	%
Age of Victim		
16-17	3	1.7
18-22	25	13.9
23-27	39	21.7
28-32	49	27.2
33-37	26	14.4
38-42	16	8.9
43-47	8	4.4
48-52	8	4.4
53-57	2	1.1
58-62	3	1.7
63-older	1	.6
Total	180	100.0
Race of suspect		
White	108	61.4
Black	6	3.4
Hispanic	62	35.2
Total	176	100.0
Age of suspect		
18-22	29	16.1
23-27	33	18.3
28-32	36	20.0
33-37	31	17.2
38-42	19	10.6
43-47	13	7.2
48-52	10	5.6
53-57	5	2.8
58-62	3	1.7
63 and older	1	.6
Total	180	100.0

Table 4.0. Descriptives: Demographic Variables

Variable	N	%
Sex of suspect		
Female	36	20.0
Male	144	80.0
Total	180	100.0

Case variable descriptives. The case-level variables are those describing the context of the IPV incident. While many case-level variables were collected during this study, only those relevant to the research question were included in this analysis. In 61% of the cases in the initial sample, injuries were present upon officer arrival. The most frequent injuries were scratches/bleeding (28%), bruising (24%), abrasions not requiring stitches (15%), and redness (14%). In 29% of all initial sample cases (47% of those with injuries present), the victim had multiple injuries. Children were present during the incident in 61% of cases with an average age of 5 years (See Table 4.01).

Table 4.01. Descriptives: Case Variables

Variable	N	%
Presence of Most Severe Injury		
Non-evident	68	39.1
Soft Tissue Injury (Bruising)	31	17.8
Scratches or Bleeding	30	17.2
Broken Bones or Internal Injuries	2	1.1
Goose Egg/Knot	3	1.7
Redness	18	10.3
Abrasion Requiring Stitches	1	.6
Swollen	1	.6
Abrasion Not Requiring Stitches	15	8.6
Bite Marks	4	2.3
Hair Pulled Out	1	.6
Total	174	100.0

Table 4.01 (continued)
Descriptives: Case Variables

Variable	N	%
Presence of 2nd Most Severe Injury		
Soft Tissue Injury (Bruising)	10	20.0
Scratches or Bleeding	15	30.0
Redness	7	14.0
Abrasion Requiring Stitches	1	2.0
Swollen	10	20.0
Abrasion Not Requiring Stitches	4	8.0
Concussion	1	2.0
Bite Marks	2	4.0
Total	50	100.0
Presence of 3rd Most Severe Injury		
Soft Tissue Injury (Bruising)	1	4.3
Scratches or Bleeding	4	17.4
Redness	7	30.4
Swollen	2	8.7
Abrasion Not Requiring Stitches	4	17.4
Bite Marks	1	4.3
Teeth Knocked Out	1	4.3
Att. Strangulation Related Injuries	3	8.7
Total	23	100.0
Age of first child		
1-3	29	39.7
4-6	13	17.8
7-9	13	17.8
10-12	2	2.7
13-15	4	5.5
16 and older	1	1.4
Total	73	100.0

Table 4.01 (continued)
Descriptives: Case Variables

Variable	N	%
Age of second child		
1-3	11	36.7
4-6	7	23.3
7-9	7	23.3
10-12	2	6.7
13-15	2	6.7
16 and older	1	3.3
Total	30	100.0
Age of third child		
0-2	3	23.1
3-5	4	30.8
6-8	2	15.4
9-11	2	15.4
12-14	2	15.4
Total	13	100.0
Age of fourth child		
4	1	100.0
Total	1	100.0
Children were present during the incident		
No	71	39.4
Yes	109	60.6
Total	180	100.0

Table 4.01 (continued)
Descriptives: Case Variables

Variable	N	%
Number of children present during incident		
1	55	51.4
2	29	27.1
3	14	13.1
4	5	4.7
5	3	2.8
20	1	.9
Total	107	100.0

IRAD variable descriptives. The IRAD variables were those describing the components of the Idaho Risk Assessment of Dangerousness. Since IRAD is imbedded in the Idaho Domestic Violence Supplement, there were additional data points concerning suspect/victim demeanor, use of auxiliary services (e.g., EMT), visual diagrams of injury location, suspect/victim height and weight, and victim services. Although this data was collected, it was not deemed relevant to the current study, was not included in any of the analyses, and will not be reported here. As previously explained, IRAD has an overall risk score, seven factors, multiple sub-items within each factor, and italicized lethality factors. These were considered the IRAD variables.

Overall risk. The distribution of the overall risk score for officer completed cases was: 1-3 different factors (standard level of risk, 57%), 4-5 different factors (elevated level of risk, 39%), and 6-7 different factors (high level of risk, 8.3%). Italicized lethality factors were present in 31% of the cases where officers indicated an overall risk score.

The adjusted distribution of the overall IRAD risk score, which includes those overall scores completed by researchers, was: 1-3 different factors (standard level of risk, 52%), 4-5 different factors (elevated level of risk, 38%), and 6-7 different factors (high level of risk, 10%)

with 54% containing at least one italicized lethality factor (See Table 4.02 for comparison of officer completed and researcher adjusted risk scores). The adjusted risk scores and lethality counts were used in subsequent analyses.

Table 4.02. Descriptives: IRAD Variables-Overall Risk

Variable	N	%
The risk level completed by police officers.		
1 to 3 Different Factors	75	56.8
4 to 5 Different factors	46	38.4
6 to 7 Different Factors	11	8.3
Total	132	100.0
The risk level originally identified by police officer included italicized factors.		
No	91	68.9
Yes	41	31.1
Total	132	100.0
The risk level, adjusted by researchers, according to numbers of factors present on the IRAD		
1 to 3 Different Factors	82	51.9
4 to 5 Different factors	60	38.0
6 to 7 Different Factors	16	10.1
Total	158	100.0
The risk level identified by researchers included italicized factors.		
No	73	46.2
Yes	85	53.8
Total	158	100.0
Standard Risk Level vs. all other risk levels as assessed by researchers		
0-3 Different Factors	82	51.9
All other risk levels	76	48.1
Total	158	100.0

Table 4.02. Descriptives: IRAD Variables-Overall Risk (continued)

Variable	N	%
Elevated Risk Level vs. all other risk levels as assessed by researchers		
4-5 Different Factors	60	38.0
All other risk levels	98	62.0
Total	158	100.0
High Risk Level vs. all other risk levels as assessed by researchers		
6-7 Different Factors	16	10.1
All other risk levels	142	89.9
Total	158	100.0

Risk Factor 1: History of domestic violence. Factor 1 on the IRAD concerns a history of domestic violence which was reported in 76% of cases in the final sample. Within Factor 1, the most frequently reported sub-items were prior unwanted physical contact by the suspect (54% of final sample, 70% of Factor 1 cases), victim reported a threat of future harm by the suspect (36% of final sample, 47% of Factor 1 cases), recent escalation of violence (33% of final sample, 43% of Factor 1 cases), weapons can be accessed in home (22% of final sample, 29% of Factor 1 cases), and prior attempted strangulation by suspect (22% of final sample, 28% of Factor 1 cases). Twenty percent of victims in the sample reported an attempted strangulation in the current IPV incident (23% of Factor 1 cases). This will be discussed further with the other italicized lethality factors. Finally, victims were fairly split on their perception of future risk of harm by the suspect (low risk [39%], medium risk [25%], and high risk [36%]) (see Table 4.03).

Table 4.03. Descriptives: IRAD Variables-History of Domestic Violence Risk Factors

Variable	N	%
History of domestic violence risk factor(s)		
No	38	24.1
Yes	120	76.0
Total	158	100.0
Current Civil Protection Order (CPO)		
No	150	96.7
Yes	5	3.2
Total	155	100.0
Current Criminal No Contact Order (NCO)		
No	152	98.1
Yes	3	1.9
Total	155	100.0
Incident was a violation of the current CPO or NCO		
No	152	98.1
Yes	3	1.9
Total	155	100.0
Recent escalation of violence		
No	104	67.1
Yes	51	32.9
Total	155	100.0
Prior unwanted physical contact between suspect and victim		
No	71	45.8
Yes	84	54.2
Total	155	100.0

Table 4.03. Descriptives: IRAD Variables-History of Domestic Violence Risk Factors (cont'd)

Variable	N	%
Victim reports a threat of future harm.		
No	99	63.9
Yes	56	36.1
Total	158	100.0
The suspect caused serious injury to another party in a prior incident.		
No	141	91.0
Yes	14	9.0
Total	155	100.0
The suspect has demonstrated stalking behaviors toward the victim		
No	126	81.3
Yes	29	18.7
Total	155	100.0
The suspect has forced the victim to have sex with them.		
No	145	93.5
Yes	10	6.5
Total	155	100.0
The suspect has previously attempted to strangle the victim.		
No	121	78.1
Yes	34	21.9
Total	155	100.0
The suspect has threatened abuse or has allegedly abused animals.		
No	146	94.2
Yes	9	5.8
Total	155	100.0
The victim's perception of their future risk of harm by the suspect.		
High	52	36.4
Medium	35	24.5
Low	56	39.2
Total	143	100.0

Table 4.03. Descriptives: IRAD Variables-History of Domestic Violence Risk Factors (cont'd)

Variable	N	%
Weapons can be accessed in the home.		
No	121	77.6
Yes	35	22.4
Total	156	100.0
The suspect has previously used weapons to injure or threaten to injure another individual.		
No	145	92.9
Yes	11	7.1
Total	156	100.0
The location where weapons in the home are kept has recently changed.		
No	151	96.8
Yes	5	3.2
Total	156	100.0
The type of weapon that was recently moved.		
20g Shotgun	1	33.3
Knife	1	33.3
Knives	1	33.3
Total	3	100.0
Reported weapon was seized by police/sheriff.		
No	3	100.0
Total	3	100.0
The suspect attempted to strangle the victim during the most recent incident.		
No	126	80.3
Yes	31	19.7
Total	157	100.0
The victim reported difficulty breathing as a result of the attempted strangulation by the suspect.		
No	143	91.1
Yes	14	8.9
Total	157	100.0

Table 4.03. Descriptives: IRAD Variables-History of Domestic Violence Risk Factors (cont'd)

Variable	N	%
The victim reported a change in their voice as a result of the attempted strangulation by the suspect.		
No	151	96.2
Yes	6	3.8
Total	157	100.0
The victim reported swallowing changes as a result of the attempted strangulation by the suspect.		
No	151	96.2
Yes	6	3.8
Total	157	100.0
The victim reported behavioral changes as a result of the attempted strangulation by the suspect.		
No	156	99.4
Yes	1	.6
Total	157	100.0
The victim reported a loss of consciousness as a result of the attempted strangulation by the suspect.		
No	151	96.2
Yes	6	3.8
Total	157	100.0

Risk Factor 2: Threat(s) to kill. Factor 2 on the IRAD (Threat(s) to kill) was reported in 26% of cases in the final sample. Within Factor 2, the most frequently reported sub-indicator of threats to kill was a specific threat to kill the victim (22% of final sample, 76% of Factor 2 cases) (See Table 4.04).

Table 4.04. Descriptives: IRAD Variables-Threat(s) to Kill

Variable	N	%
Threat(s) to kill risk factor(s) were present in the IRAD.		
No	117	74.1
Yes	41	26.1
Total	158	100.0
The suspect has made specific threats to kill the victim.		
No	123	78.3
Yes	34	21.7
Total	157	100.0
The suspect has made specific threats to kill children.		
No	155	98.7
Yes	2	1.3
Total	157	100.0
The suspect has made specific threats to kill others who are not the victim nor the children.		
No	150	95.5
Yes	4	2.5
Total	157	100.0
The suspect displayed their weapon at a time that was threatening to the victim.		
No	151	96.2
Yes	6	3.8
Total	157	100.0

Risk Factor 3: Threat(s) of suicide. Factor 3 addresses Threat(s) of suicide which was present in 39% of the final sample. In the final sample, reports of the suspect having a mental health issue occurred in 24% of cases (62% of Factor 3 cases), while the suspect was considered

by the victim to be suicidal in 19% of reports (48% of Factor 3 cases). Fifty-nine percent of those considered suicidal had one prior suicide attempt (see Table 4.05).

Table 4.05. Descriptives: IRAD Variables-Threat(s) of Suicide

Variable	N	%
Threats of suicide risk factor(s) were present in the IRAD.		
No	97	61.4
Yes	61	38.6
Total	158	100.0
The suspect is suicidal.		
No	128	81.5
Yes	29	18.5
Total	157	100.0
The number of times the suspect has attempted suicide.		
1	13	100.0
Total	13	100.0
The suspect has depression and/or other mental illnesses.		
No	119	75.8
Yes	38	24.2
Total	157	100.0
Type of mental illness identified for suspect		
Depression	7	36.8
Bipolar	8	42.1
Anxiety	2	10.5
Schizophrenia	1	5.3
PTSD	1	5.3
Total	19	100.0

Risk Factor 4: Separation. Factor 4 on the IRAD covers separation which was present in 35% of cases. The recent separation of the victim and suspect was the most frequently reported form of separation (25% of final sample, 70% of Factor 4 cases).

Risk Factor 5: Coercive or controlling behavior by the suspect. Coercive or controlling behavior by the suspect is included in Factor 5 and was present in 58% of the final sample. The most frequently reported sub-items were using threats and intimidation to coerce or control (31% of final sample, 54% of Factor 5 cases), destroyed property or pets to coerce or control (24% of final sample, 42% of Factor 5 cases), isolation of victim (24% of final sample, 41% of Factor 5 cases), and GPS monitoring of the victim (19% of final sample, 33% of Factor 5 cases). Thirty-one percent of the final sample involved extreme possessiveness (53% of Factor 5 cases) which is an italicized lethality factor (See Table 4.06).

Table 4.06. Descriptives: IRAD Variables-Coercive/Controlling Behaviors

Variable	N	%
Coercive or controlling behavior risk factor(s) were present in the IRAD.		
No	67	42.4
Yes	91	57.6
Total	158	100.0
The suspect has utilized threats and intimidation to coerce or control the victim.		
No	108	68.8
Yes	49	31.2
Total	157	100.0
The suspect has destroyed property or pets to coerce or control the victim.		
No	119	75.8
Yes	38	24.2
Total	157	100.0
The suspect has monitored the victim by GPS or cell phone for purposes of coercion or controlling their behavior.		
No	127	80.9
Yes	30	19.1
Total	157	100.0
The suspect has isolated the victim for purposes of coercion or controlling their behavior.		

No	120	76.4
Yes	37	23.6
Total	157	100.0

Table 4.06. Descriptives: IRAD Variables-Coercive/Controlling Behaviors (continued)

Variable	N	%
The suspect has demonstrated extreme possessiveness over the victim for purposes of coercion or controlling their behavior.		
No	108	69.2
Yes	48	30.8
Total	156	100.0

The final two factors concern prior police contact and substance abuse.

Risk Factor 6: Prior police contact. Factor 6 (Prior police contact) was reported in 34% of the final sample. Other prior police contact concerning suspect/victim (22% of final sample, 63% of Factor 6 cases) and prior no contact orders between suspect/victim (15% of final sample, 44% of Factor 6 cases) were the most frequently reported sub-items for Factor 6 (see Table 4.07).

Risk Factor 7: Substance abuse by the suspect. Factor 7 (Substance Abuse by Suspect) existed in 58% of the final sample, with alcohol *or* drugs (24% of final sample, 40% of Factor 7 cases) and alcohol only (18% final sample, 30% of Factor 7 cases) reported most frequently. In 89% of Factor 7 cases, suspects were under the influence of alcohol at the start of the altercation (34% of final sample) (see Table 4.07).

Table 4.07. Descriptives: IRAD Variables-Prior Police Contact/Substance Abuse

Variable	N	%
Prior police contact risk factor(s) were present in the IRAD.		
No	104	65.8
Yes	54	34.2
Total	158	100.0

Prior Civil Protection Order(s) has existed between the suspect and the victim.

No	143	91.7
Yes	13	8.3
Total	156	100.0

Prior Civil Protection Order(s) were violated between the suspect and the victim.

No	151	96.8
Yes	5	3.2
Total	156	100.0

Prior No Contact Order(s) exist between the suspect and the victim.

No	132	84.6
Yes	24	15.4
Total	156	100.0

Prior No Contact Order(s) were violated between the suspect and the victim.

No	150	96.2
Yes	6	3.8
Total	156	100.0

Other prior police contact exists between the suspect and the victim.

No	122	78.2
Yes	34	21.8
Total	156	100.0

Type of police contact with suspect

Prior DV incident	5	62.5
DUI	1	12.5
Resisting	1	12.5
Theft	1	12.5
Total	8	100.0

Table 4.07. Descriptives: IRAD Variables-Prior Police Contact/Substance Abuse (cont'd)

Variable	N	%
Alcohol or drug abuse by suspect risk factor(s) was present in the IRAD.		
No	67	42.1
Yes	92	57.9
Total	159	100.0
The suspect abuses drugs and/or alcohol.		
None	84	53.5
Drugs	5	3.2
Alcohol	28	17.8
Drugs and Alcohol	3	1.9
Drugs or Alcohol	37	23.6
Total	157	100.0
The suspect was under the influence when the current altercation started.		
No	104	66.2
Yes	53	33.8
Total	157	100.0
The type of substance the suspect was under at the start of the altercation.		
Alcohol	54	88.5
Marjuana	2	3.3
Methamphetimine	5	8.2
Total	61	100.0
The second type of substance the suspect was under at the start of the altercation.		
Marjuana	1	33.3
Methamphetimine	2	66.7
Total	3	100.0
The third type of substance the suspect was under at the start of the altercation.		
Marjuana	1	100.0
Total	180	100.0

Presence of italicized lethality factors. There are a total of four italicized lethality factors which also serve as sub-items within the seven risk Factors on IRAD. As mentioned earlier, in IRADs where officers calculated the final risk score, 23% of all cases and 31% of those with a completed IRAD included at least one italicized factor. However, IRADs where officers completed the form but not the overall risk score, researchers' adjustments show 47% of all cases and 54% of those with a completed IRAD included at least one italicized lethality factor. As with the prior analyses, the remaining statistics were derived from the final sample of IRADs adjusted by researchers (N=158). Most of the IRAD's with an italicized lethality factor had only one (27% of all cases, 31% of the final sample, and 58% of those with at least one lethality marker) (see Table 4.08 for distribution).

Table 4.08. Descriptives for Lethal Cases: Presence of Italicized Lethality Factors

Variable	N	%
Number of italicized factors identified by the researcher if italicized factors were determined to be present.		
One	49	57.6
Two	30	35.3
Three	6	7.1
Total	85	100.0

Individual italicized lethality factors. The first individual italicized lethality factor, suspect has forced victim to have sex (within Factor 1), was present in 6% of the final sample, but 12% of cases with an italicized lethality factor. Factor 1 also contains the second italicized lethality factor, attempted strangulation in the most recent incident, which appeared in 20% of the final sample and 38% of all cases with at least one italicized lethality factor. Recent separation of the victim and suspect is the third italicized lethality factor (within Factor 4). This lethality factor was identified in 25% of the final sample and 47% of cases with an italicized lethality factor. The last italicized lethality factor, suspect is extremely possessive towards the

victim, exists within Factor 5. Extreme possessiveness was the most frequently reported italicized lethality factor: 30% of the final sample and 57% of all italicized lethality factor cases (see Table 4.09).

Table 4.09. Descriptives for Lethal Cases: Individual Italicized Lethality Factors

Variable	N	%
The victim has been forced to have sex with the suspect.		
No	75	88.2
Yes	10	11.8
Total	85	100.0
The suspect attempted to strangle the victim in the most recent incident.		
No	53	62.4
Yes	32	37.6
Total	85	100.0
The victim and suspect have been recently separated.		
No	45	52.9
Yes	40	47.1
Total	85	100.0
The suspect is extremely possessive over the victim.		
No	37	43.5
Yes	48	56.5
Total	85	100.0

Outcome variable descriptives. Outcome variables are those measuring the results of the IPV incident three years later. One of the stated purposes of IRAD is to serve as a predictor of dangerousness and lethality. Those outcomes can be measured in multiple ways; however, due to the limitations of this study, they can only be measured through official reports of recidivism.

Over three years later, 57% of suspects in the final sample had been charged with a new offense. Sixty percent of those with new charges had between one and four new charges (32% of

the final sample). And, of those with new charges, 34% had new IPV related charges⁶ (18% of the final sample). The number of new IPV related charges ranged from 1-5 across these suspects with an average of one new IPV related charge. Finally, of those with new IPV related charges, 56% were misdemeanor (10% of final sample) and 44% were felony level charges (8% of final sample) (see Table 4.10).

⁶ This includes violations of no contact orders and/or civil protection orders.

Table 4.10. Outcome Variables for Offenders

Variable	N	%
Any new charges since this offense		
No	63	42.6
Yes	85	57.4
Total	148	100.0
Number of any new charges since this offense		
1	16	18.8
2-4	35	41.2
5-9	19	22.4
10-15	11	13.0
16-19	1	1.1
20-22	2	2.4
23 and higher	1	1.1
Total	85	100.0
Any new intimate partner violence related charges including no contact order violations		
No	56	65.9
Yes	29	34.1
Total	85	100.0
Number of any new intimate partner violence related charges including no contact order violations		
1	13	48.1
2	5	18.5
3	8	29.6
5	1	3.7
Total	27	100.0
Level of the most serious new intimate partner violence related charges including no contact order violations		
Misdemeanor	15	55.6
Felony	12	44.4
Total	27	100.0

Bivariate Correlations for Outcome Variables

Before discussing the predictive ability of IRAD in terms of outcomes, there was a need to establish what variables were significantly related to each other.

Demographic variable-outcome variable bivariate. The first pairing was with demographic and outcome variables. The outcome, any new charges, was significantly related to two demographic variables: suspect age and child in common, with younger suspects ($r=-.199$, $p=.015$) and having a child in common ($r=.184$, $sig=.029$) suggesting new charges. No demographic variables were significantly related to the number of new charges held by suspects in the sample, any new IPV charges, or the number of new IPV charges. The age of the victim and of the suspect were both significantly related to the final outcome variable, level of new IPV charge, with younger victims ($r=-.450$, $sig=.018$) and younger suspects ($r=-.425$, $p=.027$) both associated with felony charges (see Table 4.11).

Case variable-outcome variable bivariate. There were no case level variables that achieved a significant relationship with any of the outcome variables.

IRAD variable-outcome variable bivariate. *Overall risk and presence of italicized lethality factor.* The first grouping of IRAD variables run with outcome variables were the overall risk scores. For the purposes of this (and the predictive analysis), the author created a series of dummy variables which allowed an examination of the relationship between each risk level in isolation and outcome variables.

None of the overall risk variables were significantly related to any new charges or the number of new charges. However, as hypothesized, the overall IRAD risk level ($r=.251$, $sig=.02$), the presence of italicized lethality factors ($r=.233$, $sig=.032$), standard level of risk

($r=.265$, $\text{sig}=.014$), and elevated level of risk ($r=-.219$, $\text{sig}=.044$) all achieved significant relationships with new IPV charges. The overall IRAD risk score was positively associated with new IPV charges, meaning that higher IRAD risk scores were related to new IPV charges. The presence of italicized lethality factors was also positively related, indicating the presence of italicized factors was related to new IPV charges. While still a positive association, standard level of risk (compared to all other risk levels) was related to no new IPV charges and elevated level of risk (compared to all other risk levels) was negatively associated, meaning an elevated risk was related to new IPV charges. None of the overall risk variables were significantly associated with the number of new IPV charges three years later (see Table 4.11).

Individual risk Factors. The second group of bivariate correlations concerned possible relationships between the seven individual risk factors and outcomes. There were no significant relationships between the seven individual risk factors and outcome variables (any new charges, number of new charges, new IPV charges, number of new IPV charges) (see Table 4.11).

Individual italicized lethality factors. The final group of bivariate relationships included individual lethality factors and the outcome variables. The only significant relationship with individual lethality factors and outcome variables occurred with attempted strangulation in the most recent incident and number of new IPV charges ($r=.561$, $\text{sig}=.010$). Three years later, the presence of attempted strangulation in the original incident was associated with a higher number of new IPV charges (see Table 4.11).

Table 4.11. Bivariate Correlations with Outcomes

Variable	Significant Bivariate Correlation
Suspect Age and Any New Charges	Yes (younger suspect=any new charges)
Child in Common and Any New Charges	Yes (child in common=any new charges)
Age of Victim and Level of New IPV Charges	Yes (younger victim=new felony IPV charges)
Age of Suspect and Level of New IPV Charges	Yes (younger suspect=new felony IPV charges)
IRAD Risk Level and New IPV Charges	Yes (higher IRAD risk level=new IPV charges)
Presence of Italicized Lethality Factors and New IPV Charges	Yes (presence of italicized risk factors=new IPV charges)
Standard Level of risk and New IPV Charges	Yes (standard level of risk=no new IPV charges)
Elevated Level of Risk and New IPV Charges	Yes (elevated level of risk=new IPV charges)
Strangulation in the Most Recent Incident and Number of New IPV Charges	Yes (presence of attempted strangulation factor=multiple new IPV charges)

Prediction of Outcomes

Bivariate correlations indicate a *relationship* or *association* between two variables. However, the stated research hypotheses reference the ability of the overall IRAD risk score to *predict* future dangerousness. In order to examine possible predictors of outcomes, logistic regression⁷ was used. Variables that achieve significance in bivariate correlations are used as possible predictors in the logistic regression models.

Any new charges and number of new charges. The first outcome of interest is the prediction of the suspect in the initial incident receiving any type of new charge three years later. The only variables of significance in the bivariate correlations were suspect age and having a

⁷ Logistic regression is used when the dependent variable, or outcome, is measured as 0 (no) or 1 (yes).

child in common. Since the focus of this study was the predictive ability of IRAD and no IRAD-related variables were significantly related to any new charges or number of new charges, no further analyses were conducted with these outcomes.

New intimate partner violence (IPV) charges. The overall IRAD risk score, presence of a lethality marker, standard level of risk versus all others, and elevated level of risk versus all others were significantly related to new IPV charges in the bivariate analyses and comprised the model for this outcome. At the bivariate level, the overall IRAD risk score and standard level of risk versus all others were highly related (multicollinearity) and both cannot be included in the same model. The same issue exists between standard level of risk and elevated level of risk, therefore elevated level of risk versus all others was used in this model as there was no multicollinearity issue with the overall IRAD risk score. The logistic model was not significant ($X^2=7.660$, $df=3$, $sig=.054$) and none of the variables in the model were significant predictors of new IPV charges.

Further analysis involved the removal of elevated risk level versus all others as this variable was created to examine each risk level in isolation rather than the predictive ability of the overall IRAD risk score. That new model only included the overall IRAD risk score and the presence of an italicized lethality factor. This new model was significant ($X^2=7.069$, $df=2$, $sig=.029$) and yet neither the overall IRAD risk score nor the presence of a lethality marker attained significance in predicting new IPV charges. Given that each of these variables was a significant predictor of new IPV charges in bivariate⁸ logistic regression analyses (overall IRAD risk score: $b=.860$, $sig=.025$, $\exp(\beta)=2.364$; presence of an italicized lethality factor: $b=1.074$,

⁸ Bivariate means one independent variable, or predictor (either overall IRAD risk score or presence of a lethality marker), and the dependent variable, or outcome (new IPV charges) were included in each analysis.

sig=.035, $\exp(\beta)=2.926$), a crosstab of the two variables demonstrated very small sample sizes for high risk and presence of an italicized lethality factor ($n=3$, $n=13$). Thus, it was likely that the small sample size of this study was responsible for the lack of significance in predicting new IPV charges when combined in a model (see Table 4.12).

Number of IPV charges. In bivariate correlation analyses, the only significant correlate for new IPV charges was attempted strangulation in the current incident. Thus, a bivariate OLS regression⁹ analysis was conducted to examine the ability of attempted strangulation in the current incident to predict the number of new IPV charges. Attempted strangulation in the current incident was a significant predictor of the number of new IPV charges ($b=.949$, $\beta=.561$, sig=.010) in the OLS regression. This was confirmed in a multivariate¹⁰ OLS regression containing all of the italicized lethality factors, plus the number of italicized lethality factors present. Only attempted strangulation in the current incident was a significant predictor of the number of new IPV charges ($b=1.038$, $\beta=.613$, sig=.017), even though the model itself was insignificant. The presence of attempted strangulation in the current incident predicted a higher number of new IPV charges three years later (see Table 4.2).

Level of most serious new IPV charge. The only variables of significance at the bivariate level were victim age and suspect age. Since the focus of this study was the predictive ability of IRAD and no IRAD-related variables were significant correlates of the level of most serious new IPV charge, no further analysis was conducted with this outcome.

⁹ Ordinary least squares (OLS) regression is used when the dependent variable, number of new IPV charges, is continuous ($0-\infty$).

¹⁰ Multivariate means that more than one independent variable, or predictor, is included in the model.

Table 4.12. Logistic Regression for Outcomes

Variables	Significant Predictor in Logistic Regression
Elevated Level of Risk and New IPV Charges	No
Strangulation in the Most Recent Incident and Number of New IPV Charges	Yes

Discussion

Interpretation of Results

While the sheer number of analyses of this data may seem overwhelming, they were necessary in order to begin parsing out the various relationships between the multitude of data points on the IRAD form and long term outcomes. Here is what we now know about IRAD.

Finding #1: Officer Use of IRAD

Before analyzing the data from IRAD, it was important to determine if officers were using the form appropriately; that is, how valid was officers' use of IRAD? Not surprisingly, one of the reasons for the selection of this jurisdiction was that it was one of the first adopters of IRAD and one of the most trained departments in the use of IRAD. Our review of each IRAD in the sample demonstrated that in 83.5% of the cases, officers accurately calculated the overall IRAD score and the presence of italicized lethality factors. For a first analysis of officer accuracy in the use of IRAD, these results were better than expected by the research team. This review also allowed the research team to correctly calculate the IRAD score and lethality presence in the 16.5% of cases with errors, thus increasing our sample size for later examination of predictive relationships. Other agencies that are more recent adopters or have had less training in its use may have higher miscalculation rates. Also of some concern, was that, in the 16.5% of

miscalculated cases, the miscalculation *decreased* the risk level and/or presence of lethality factors. This is discussed further in the recommendations portion of this report.

Finding #2: Distribution of Risk

Similar to the previous discussion of officers' accuracy in using IRAD, another indicator of possible inaccuracy, or potential misuse, of IRAD use would be a skewed distribution of risk across cases. We would expect, among a sample of cases, some representation of standard, elevated, and high risk levels. Cases concentrated within only one risk level would indicate a possible misrepresentation of risk; for example, if officers were concerned about liability issues in designating a IPV incident at a standard or elevated level, if a more serious event were to occur, they may 'err' on the side of caution and rank all cases, accurately or not, as high risk. The frequency distribution of each risk level, in this sample, demonstrated that this scenario is unlikely in the jurisdiction under study. As research would indicate, the majority of cases fell in the standard level of risk with decreasing proportions in the elevated and high risk categories. The one surprise in the descriptive statistics was with the presence of an italicized lethality factor. Over half of the adjusted cases exhibited at least one italicized lethality factor, much higher than anticipated, and those cases existed at every risk level. This finding is addressed later in the report.

Finding #3: No Redundancy of IRAD with Case Variables

A third concern in this preliminary examination of IRAD was that case-level variables would have similar or stronger relationships with outcomes than IRAD. If that occurred, it would call into question the current information comprising the overall IRAD risk score. However, that was not the finding from these analyses. None of the case-level variables collected for this study

were significantly related to any of the outcomes, suggesting that it was possibly information not routinely collected (prior to IRAD) as part of an IPV response that was most instructive in terms of determining risk.

Finding #4: Relationship between IRAD Risk Level and Outcomes

Before determining if there is a predictive relationship between IRAD and outcomes, a significant relationship (or correlation) must be established. Thus, one of the concerns was that IRAD would not even be associated with any of the outcomes. This concern was unfounded. The lack of a significant relationship between IRAD variables and any new charges and the number of any new charges supported the secondary hypothesis. As expected, a higher overall IRAD risk score, the presence of italicized lethality factors, and elevated level of risk were all significantly related to new IPV charges three years later, while a standard level of risk (compared to elevated and high risk) was related to no new IPV charges. And, the italicized lethality factor, attempted strangulation in the current incident, was significantly associated with the number of new IPV charges which could potentially be seen as a proxy for the severity of new intimate partner violence behavior.

Finding #5: Predictive Relationship between IRAD Risk Level and Outcomes

One of the primary purposes of risk assessments in IPV cases, including IRAD, is to aid in determining the level of risk of increased dangerousness and/or lethality in a given intimate partner relationship. Demonstrating the predictive ability of IRAD in terms of outcomes is one method of assessing its validity as a risk assessment tool. The overall IRAD score significantly increased the likelihood of new IPV charges three years later, such that, a one level increase in IRAD risk level (e.g., standard to elevated or elevated to high risk) raised the likelihood of new

IPV charges by 2.36 times. A similar predictive relationship existed between the presence of a lethality marker and new IPV charges where the presence of at least one italicized lethality factor resulted in a 2.92 times greater likelihood of new IPV charges three years later. However, these relationships are preliminary as a large decrease in sample size occurred when examining only cases involving new IPV charges, the number of new IPV charges, and the level of the most serious new IPV charge. An additional interesting result was the predictive ability of individual italicized lethality factors, especially attempted strangulation in the most recent incident, for the number of new IPV charges. Additional research is needed to ferret out the impact of individual italicized lethality factors on increased dangerousness.

Finding #6: No Redundancy of IRAD Risk Level with Individual Factors

A final question was whether or not the individual seven risk factors would be just as or even more predictive of outcomes than the overall IRAD risk score. Should that occur, the value, or necessity, of an overall risk score would have been debatable. However, the findings did not support that concern. None of the individual risk factors were significantly related to, or more importantly predictive of, future outcomes, such as new IPV charges, number of new IPV charges, and level of new IPV charges. Yet, overall IRAD risk level variables were significantly associated with and predictive of new IPV charges. While this was a good indication that there was something about the accumulation of a number of risk factors that was more predictive of new IPV charges three years later than the individual factors on their own, given the limitations of this study, further study is warranted.

The overall finding of this study provides initial support for the hypothesis that the overall IRAD risk score is predictive of future dangerousness. Yet, as with every study, there are

limitations on that conclusion and areas for future research that are necessary before a definitive conclusion can be reached.

Limitations

A number of limitations existed within this study. Data were collected from only one agency using IRAD, thus the findings can only be generalized to this location. In addition, as agencies experience turnover, no information exists on the type or extent of training new officers received on IRAD or its use. The effect of untrained officers' potential inaccurate use of IRAD is unknown. While large enough to conduct preliminary analyses, the sample size of 180 cases, with decreasing sizes for the important three-year IPV recidivism outcome, is small and further limits the generalizability of the findings. Finally, this study relied upon official data to measure IPV recidivism three years later. Given the nature of intimate partner violence and the current national reporting rate for IPV incidents, some victims in the sample may not have contacted the police for future incidents of violence in their relationships. Thus, the current measure of new IPV charges likely under-represents the actual recidivism rate for the sample¹¹.

Recommendations

Based on the data collection, coding, and analyses in this study, a number of recommendations can be made concerning both the actual IRAD instrument and future areas of research that would broaden the knowledge of IRAD's most effective use within IPV cases and the criminal justice system.

¹¹ Limitations of a more technical nature were excluded from this report but can be obtained from the report's authors upon request.

IRAD. The following recommendations are made concerning both the instrument and its use.

- *Reformat the overall IRAD risk score portion of the instrument.* The 10% incongruence between the original risk score reported by officers and the adjusted risk score reported by the researchers suggests that the format of the boxes (in front/behind the indicated number of factors) is not user-friendly.
- *Change ‘italicized lethality factors’ to ‘italicized lethality indicators’.* In our analyses, it became clear that having the seven risk factors and the four italicized lethality factors could become confusing. We recommend changing the italicized lethality factors to ‘italicized lethality indicators’ to differentiate the italicized lethality factors from the risk factors of dangerousness.
- *Include the number of italicized lethality factors present in a given relationship.* Given some of the findings concerning italicized lethality factors, including the *number* of italicized lethality factors, as well as the *presence* of italicized lethality factors, in the current relationship may hold value as an indicator of the magnitude of lethality risk.
- *Improve information on intoxication.* The IRAD section concerning substance use and amount of use is too vague. Indicating that a suspect was under the influence and the number of drinks they consumed does not actually help identify the *level* of intoxication displayed by a suspect.
- *Maintain individual perspective.* A few cases with a mutual combatant scenario included only one IRAD, suggesting that the perception information for each party regarding threats of future victimization is the same. One IRAD form should be

completed per party with answers relevant to that party's experience as it is likely that each person in a mutual combatant scenario perceives the relationship differently than the other partner. Thus, the risk level in that situation could vary depending on the more long term perspective from each partner.

Continued research on IRAD. The current study is a very preliminary examination of IRAD and its predictive ability concerning future intimate partner violence behavior. Thus, further research is needed to fully validate IRAD's use in assessing risk of dangerousness and lethality in IPV incidents.

- *Larger sample sizes.* A significant limitation of the current study is the small sample size. Given the lower overall crime rate of Idaho, a six-month period of time at one agency, even one in a 'higher' crime area of the state, did not produce an exceptionally large sample size. In order to obtain larger sample sizes (which allow for greater statistical power and internal validity of the findings) for the validation process, future research should either incorporate a longer period of time from which to collect data or involve multiple agencies within one study (see next bullet point).
- *Multi-site design.* While the current study collected data from only one agency using IRAD, this risk assessment is being used in multiple agencies both inside and outside Idaho. Anecdotal information from the Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault suggests that roughly 45% of counties in the state currently use IRAD. Agencies from Washington State; San Diego, CA; New Orleans, LA; and some jurisdictions in the southern U.S. are also employing IRAD in IPV cases. A multi-site study provides greater ability to both increase sample size (positively impacting statistical power and internal

validity [or accuracy]) and the generalizability of the findings (meaning the conclusions apply across locations and populations).

- *Victim reports of recidivism.* Given that, at most, half of IPV incidents are reported to the police, including victim reports of IPV recidivism at the three year mark is important. Future studies examining IRAD should use both official (police reports or court repositories) and unofficial (victim surveys) measures of IPV recidivism.
- *Lethality prediction.* The sample for this study did not include any IPV homicides. While obviously this is a good outcome, it limits the ability to examine the validity of both the overall IRAD risk score and the italicized lethality factors in predicting potentially lethal relationships. Future research studies with longer data collection periods, multiple sites, and larger sample sizes should allow for a test of this lethality hypothesis.
- *Prediction of both proximal and distal outcomes.* IRAD's primary purpose is to predict future IPV incidents, increasing levels of dangerousness, and potential lethality within IPV relationships. However, it is unknown whether the overall IRAD score is influencing and potentially predictive of more proximal outcomes (outcomes closer in time to the actual incident), such as officer arrest, charging decisions, convictions, granting protection orders/no contact order, or sentencing for the initial incident. Although some of this data was available in the sample, it was beyond the scope of this report.
- *Analysis of sub-items within each risk factor.* Each of the seven risk factors included on IRAD has multiple sub-items that guide officers in collecting important information regarding the IPV incident. It is unknown whether any, some, or all of these sub-items are significantly related to and/or necessary in determining whether the individual risk factor they are associated with exists in the relationship being scrutinized. Risk Factor 1

(History of domestic violence) has 23 sub-items. Future research should examine the statistical association of each sub-item to ascertain which ones provide the strongest indicator of each individual risk factor (in this case, History of domestic violence). A more parsimonious instrument may allow for less user error and a more valid predictive ability.

- *Comparison between gun ownership and gun movement.* Access to weapons and weapon movement are both included on IRAD. As discussed in the proposal for this grant, one differentiation between IRAD and other intimate partner violence risk assessments is the suggestion that it may be the movement of weapons in order to be more accessible to the offender rather than simply gun ownership that is an indicator of increasing dangerousness or lethality. It is one of the reasons why agencies outside of Idaho with higher percentages of gun ownership have been interested in using IRAD. However, that supposition was derived from a post-hoc analysis of IPV homicides in Idaho; it has not been tested. The sample for the current study had only 35 cases where weapons were accessible in the home and less than five where weapons had been moved, making it difficult to conduct any meaningful statistical comparison of gun ownership versus movement.
- *Comparison to other existing risk assessments.* All of the preceding recommendations form the basis for conducting a comparison of the predictive ability of the various existing risk assessments for IPV cases. If policing agencies are going to undertake assessing risk of dangerousness and lethality in IPV cases, they should have the information necessary to determine which assessment is predictive of what outcomes, at

what level of statistical accuracy, is best suited for the needs of their jurisdiction, and for what purposes.

- *Dynamic nature of risk over time.* Intimate partner violence within relationships is not static; type, frequency, and severity of violence vary across the life of the relationship and depend on a number of factors. Again, one of the proposed uses for IRAD, and difference from other risk assessments, is as a ‘rolling’ risk assessment. Since intimate partner violence relationships are very dynamic (meaning they are constantly changing), one could expect the level of risk to also change over the course of a relationship, thus IRAD’s completed on the same relationship, with information from the same victim, over time could demonstrate acute and chronic levels of risk. This would allow for services that are more tailored to the current risk level of the relationship and able to change as risk does. Future research is needed on the utility of multiple IRAD’s being completed over the course of contact with a victim of intimate partner violence.
- *IRAD use across the criminal justice system.* In this same vein, there are jurisdictions where IRAD is used across the various components of the criminal justice system as the case progresses. Again, anecdotally, jurisdictions have reported judges asking for an IRAD before setting bail and/or conditions of release and requesting the completion of an IRAD for civil protection order hearings. Using IRAD in this manner is an attempt to understand the changing dynamics of an IPV relationship and create a criminal justice system response commensurate with a current risk level. The impact of IRAD on multiple decision points within the criminal justice system’s response to intimate partner violence is a needed avenue for future study.

Conclusion

Initial conclusions about IRAD

Based on the findings of this initial study of the Idaho Risk Assessment of Dangerousness (IRAD), the overall IRAD risk score appears to be a significant predictor of future intimate partner violence behavior. Continued use of IRAD by policing agencies for on-scene assessment of future dangerousness is warranted, pending further research studies.

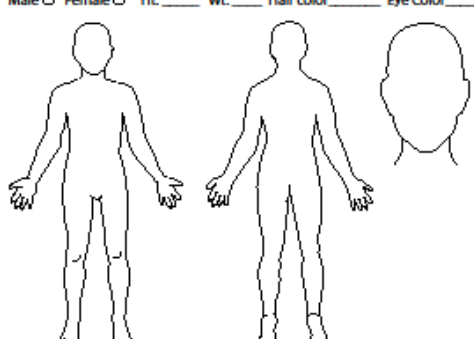
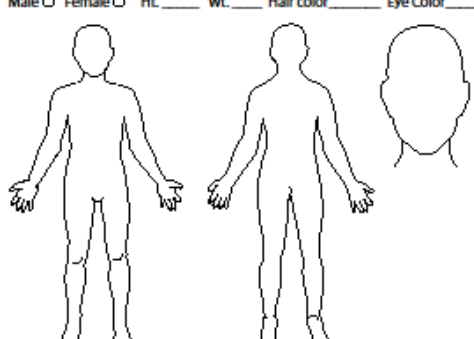
References

- Catalano, S., Smith, E., Snyder, H., & Rand, M. (2009). Female victims of violence. *Bureau of Justice Statistics: Selected Findings*. Washington, D.C.: United States Department of Justice (NCJ 228356).
- Growette Bostaph, L.M. (2009). *Significant predictors of dangerousness in domestic violence cases*. Boise, ID: Idaho Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault.
- Truman, J.L. & Morgan, R.E. (2016). Criminal victimization, 2015. *Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin* (October 2016). Washington, D.C.: United States Department of Justice (NCJ 250180).

Appendix

Idaho Domestic Violence Supplement Case # _____

Risk Assessment of Dangerousness (add # of factors that have at least 1 box marked) SAFE emergency contact number for victim/s: _____
1-3 Different Factors ___ **4-5 Different Factors** ___ **6-7 Different Factors** ___ **Italicized Factor/s** ___

<p>Appearance/Emotional State</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Victim</td> <td>Suspect</td> <td></td> <td>Victim</td> <td>Suspect</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Angry <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Excited <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Threatening <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Nervous <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apologetic <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Calm <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Upset <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Intoxicated <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Crying <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Fled Scene <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fearful <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Agitated <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unable to talk <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>				Victim	Suspect		Victim	Suspect	Angry <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Excited <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Threatening <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nervous <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Apologetic <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calm <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Upset <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Intoxicated <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Crying <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fled Scene <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fearful <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Agitated <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unable to talk <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				<p>Name _____ Age _____ Victim <input type="checkbox"/> Suspect <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Ht. _____ Wt. _____ Hair color _____ Eye Color _____</p> 	
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<p>Factor 1: History of Domestic Violence</p> <p>Provided by: Victim <input type="checkbox"/> Suspect <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Current Civil Protection Order <input type="checkbox"/> Current Criminal No Contact Order <input type="checkbox"/> No Contact Order or Protection Order violation today If so, by whom _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Recent escalation of violence <input type="checkbox"/> Prior unwanted physical contact <input type="checkbox"/> Does victim report threat of future harm <input type="checkbox"/> Caused serious injury to another in prior incident <input type="checkbox"/> Stalking behaviors. Provide specific details in narrative. <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Has forced partner to have sex</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Previous attempt(s) of strangulation <input type="checkbox"/> Threatened abuse or allegation of abuse of animals</p> <p>Victim perception of future risk: Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Weapons</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Access to weapons</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Attempted Strangulation</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Prior use of weapons to injure or threaten</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Breathing difficulty</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Weapon moved</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Voice change</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Type: _____</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Swallowing changes</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Seized</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Behavioral changes</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Loss of consciousness</td> </tr> </table>				<input type="checkbox"/> Access to weapons	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempted Strangulation	<input type="checkbox"/> Prior use of weapons to injure or threaten	<input type="checkbox"/> Breathing difficulty	<input type="checkbox"/> Weapon moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Voice change	Type: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Swallowing changes	<input type="checkbox"/> Seized	<input type="checkbox"/> Behavioral changes		<input type="checkbox"/> Loss of consciousness	<p>Name _____ Age _____ Victim <input type="checkbox"/> Suspect <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Ht. _____ Wt. _____ Hair color _____ Eye Color _____</p> 																													
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<p>Factor 2: Threat to Kill</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Specific threats to kill victim <input type="checkbox"/> Specific threats to kill children or _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Displaying weapon at time of threat</p>	<p>Factor 3: Threats of Suicide</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Suspect suicidal. Number of attempts & date of most recent _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Depression or other mental illness <input type="checkbox"/> Other stressors _____</p>	<p>Factor 4: Separation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Recent separation</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Recent or imminent court action <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of employment</p>	<p>Factor 5: Coercive/Controlling Behavior</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Threats and intimidation <input type="checkbox"/> Destruction of property or pets <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring by suspect (GPS, cell phone) <input type="checkbox"/> Isolating of victim <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Extreme possessiveness</i></p>																																										
<p>Factor 6: Prior Police Contact</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Prior Civil Protection Order</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Violation</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Prior Criminal No Contact Order</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Violation</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other prior police contact</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		<input type="checkbox"/> Prior Civil Protection Order	<input type="checkbox"/> Violation	<input type="checkbox"/> Prior Criminal No Contact Order	<input type="checkbox"/> Violation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other prior police contact		<p>Information/Assistance and Community Referral</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Victim</td> <td>Referrals (if necessary)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Provided domestic violence information per Idaho Code 39-6316</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Adult Protective Services</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Asked if accommodation needed</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Child Protective Services</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> DV Packet</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Humane Society</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other: _____</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Victim	Referrals (if necessary)	<input type="checkbox"/> Provided domestic violence information per Idaho Code 39-6316	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Protective Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Asked if accommodation needed	<input type="checkbox"/> Child Protective Services	<input type="checkbox"/> DV Packet	<input type="checkbox"/> Humane Society	Other: _____																											
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<p>Factor 7: Alcohol or Drug Abuse by Suspect</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Drug and/or alcohol abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Under the influence when current altercation started If so, what type and quantity: _____</p>		<p>Notified by: <input type="checkbox"/> 911 Call <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Emergency Dispatch <input type="checkbox"/> Officer Initiated <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p> <p>Officer completing form _____ Date _____ Time _____</p>																																											

The Domestic Violence Supplement does not take the place of a narrative. Domestic violence cases are complex. If there are additional observations or if a victim is unable or unwilling to respond to the questions, indicate such in the narrative. The seven risk factors are numbered and are in red (color copies) boxes or darker gray boxes. Some studies indicate that the italicized observations may be significant predictors of lethality. Form date: September 2009.