

DANGER ASSESSMENT

Jacquelyn C. Campbell, PhD, RN, FAAN

Copyright 2004 Johns Hopkins University, School of Nursing

Several risk factors have been associated with increased risk of homicides (murders) of women and men in violent relationships. We cannot predict what will happen in your case, but we would like you to be aware of the danger of homicide in situations of abuse and for you to see how many of the risk factors apply to your situation.

Using the calendar, please mark the approximate dates during the past year when you were abused by your partner or ex partner. Write on that date how bad the incident was according to the following scale:

1. Slapping, pushing; no injuries and/or lasting pain
2. Punching, kicking; bruises, cuts, and/or continuing pain
3. "Beating up"; severe contusions, burns, broken bones, miscarriage
4. Threat to use weapon; head injury, internal injury, permanent injury, miscarriage
5. Use of weapon; wounds from weapon

(If **any** of the descriptions for the higher number apply, use the higher number.)

Mark **Yes** or **No** for each of the following.

("He" refers to your husband, partner, ex-husband, ex-partner, or whoever is currently physically hurting you.)

Yes	No	
_____	_____	1. Has the physical violence increased in severity or frequency over the past year?
_____	_____	2. Does he own a gun?
_____	_____	3. Have you left him after living together during the past year?
_____	_____	3a. (If have <i>never</i> lived with him, check here____)
_____	_____	4. Is he unemployed?
_____	_____	5. Has he ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a lethal weapon?
_____	_____	5a. (If yes, was the weapon a gun?____)
_____	_____	6. Does he threaten to kill you?
_____	_____	7. Has he avoided being arrested for domestic violence?
_____	_____	8. Do you have a child that is not his?
_____	_____	9. Has he ever forced you to have sex when you did not wish to do so?
_____	_____	10. Does he ever try to choke you?
_____	_____	11. Does he use illegal drugs? By drugs, I mean "uppers" or amphetamines, speed, angel dust, cocaine, "crack", street drugs or mixtures.
_____	_____	12. Is he an alcoholic or problem drinker?
_____	_____	13. Does he control most or all of your daily activities? (For instance: does he tell you who you can be friends with, when you can see your family, how much money you can use, or when you can take the car? (If he tries, but you do not let him, check here: ____)
_____	_____	14. Is he violently and constantly jealous of you? (For instance, does he say "If I can't have you, no one can.")
_____	_____	15. Have you ever been beaten by him while you were pregnant? (If you have never been pregnant by him, check here: ____)
_____	_____	16. Has he ever threatened or tried to commit suicide?
_____	_____	17. Does he threaten to harm your children?
_____	_____	18. Do you believe he is capable of killing you?
_____	_____	19. Does he follow or spy on you, leave threatening notes or messages on answering machine, destroy your property, or call you when you don't want him to?
_____	_____	20. Have you ever threatened or tried to commit suicide?
_____	_____	Total "Yes" Answers

Thank you. Please talk to your nurse, advocate or counselor about what the Danger Assessment means in terms of your situation.