

Arizona Intimate Partner Risk Assessment (APRAIS)

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APRAIS Goals

- Produce standardized & evidence-based RA tool and protocols
- Create a shared language of risk to inform CJS decisions regarding bail, conditions of release, supervision, sanctions, & treatment and possibly the civil arena (e.g., Family Court, Custody, Divorce)
- Provide education to inform case handling and public awareness on a broader scale, e.g., public health screening



Questions are asked on the scene; Victim participation is voluntary		Yes	No	Decline
Tier 1				
1.	Has physical violence increased in frequency or severity over the past six months? Alternate wording: Is the pushing, grabbing, hitting, or other violence happening more often	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Is he/she violently and constantly jealous of you?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Do you believe he/she is capable of killing you?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Have he/she ever beaten you while you were pregnant? (e.g. hit, kicked, shoved, pushed, thrown, or physically hurt with a weapon or object)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	Has he/she ever used a weapon or object to hurt or threaten you?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	Has he/she ever tried to kill you?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	Has he/she ever choked/strangled/suffocated you?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7a.	Has this happened more than once? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Decline			
Yes to 2 or 3 Tier 1 questions = "Elevated Risk" Yes to 4 or more Tier 1 questions = "High Risk"		Total Yes: _____ Elevated <input type="checkbox"/> High <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Tier 2				
8.	Does he/she control most or all of your daily activities?	✓		
9.	Is he/she known to carry or possess a gun ?	✓		
10.	Has he/she ever forced you to have sex when you did not wish to do so?		✓	
11.	Does he/she use illegal drugs or misuse prescription drugs ? (e.g. meth, cocaine, painkillers)		✓	
12.	Has he/she threatened to harm people you care about ?	✓		
13.	Did you end your relationship with him/her within the past six months? Does he/she know or sense you are planning on ending your relationship?		✓	
14.	Has he/she experienced significant financial loss in the last six months?	✓		
15.	Is he/she unemployed ?	✓		
16.	Has he/she ever threatened or tried to commit suicide ?		✓	
17.	Has he/she threatened to kill you?	✓		
18.	Has he/she threatened or abused your pets ?	✓		

Yes to 2 or 3 Tier 1 questions = “Elevated Risk” Yes to 4 or more Tier 1 questions = “High Risk”

“Elevated Risk” and “High Risk” scores trigger law enforcement officers to offer follow up responses in the form of providing or connecting victims to supportive resources or resource information.

- Victim referred for follow up based on responses to the tool
- Victim referred for follow up based on the officer’s professional judgment
- No referral

* To be considered at Initial Appearance. See A.R.S. § 13–3967(B).

Current Status

- December 13, 2017, AZ Supreme Court Chief Justice Bales signed off on the changing of the rules of criminal procedure to add the Form 4(C) (Effective April 2, 2018)
- Total number of Law enforcement agencies that have adopted the APRAIS Form 4C - 73
- Total number of target agencies overall - 127
- Target agencies defined as agencies which respond to domestic violence calls on a routine basis
- Examples of excluded agencies: Lottery, Liquor, Corporation Commission etc.



APRAIS Training

- We instruct / teach a policing philosophy not a form
- Everything is in the context of good policing – what is it like to be policed by you
- This is a human interaction when dealing with victims of domestic violence situations
- Victim trauma, active listening, being present with victims and treating victims as one would want their family member treated are the fundamentals of APRAIS training
- We would like to think APRAIS trained officers carry this behavior over to all the calls and citizens they encounter when serving their communities



APRAIS Highlights

- In 2022 the APRAIS protocols and policing philosophy became part of the AZPOST mandated domestic violence training at all police academies – we are the only state to have accomplished this
- States with agencies that have adopted APRAIS include Montana, Minnesota, Michigan and Kansas
- The State of Montana is moving toward all agencies adopting APRAIS to meet a goal of having one uniform risk assessment use by all LE agencies
- APRAIS is part of a domestic violence training program for personnel of the Office of Law Enforcement and Security US Department of the interior



APRAIS Highlights

- APRAIS is part of developing Community Informed Risk Assessment (CIRA) in El Salvador as part of a US State Department US aid project
- APRAIS on-line learning modules are accredited by the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (IADLEST) (No other risk tool is nationally accredited)
- APRAIS has been highlighted in Police Chief magazine, the Prosecutor publication and several national news articles



APRAIS Highlights

- In a series of articles entitled “**Free to Kill,**” investigative reporter Valerie Cavazos linked the failure to administer the APRAIS to DV homicides and severe assaults
- She looked at several troubling intimate partner violence (IPV) cases and examined law enforcement use of APRAIS in Pima County
- Cavazos examined whether Judges were considering the results of the risk assessment when submitted to the court



APRAIS Challenges

- Agencies that have rejected using the APRAIS for IPV cases:
 - Mohave County Sheriff's Office
 - Pinal County Sheriff's Office
 - Cochise County Sheriff's Office
- Growing trend of agencies that do not respond to inquires on the use of APRAIS



APRAIS Challenges

- In July 2023 working with AZPOST Director Matt Giordano we authored a letter to be sent by him to the leadership of every law enforcement agency in Arizona requesting that they respond to the question of their agencies use or non-use of the APRAIS risk tool for intimate partner violence (IPV) cases.
- Even with the email containing the letter sent directly from the AZPOST director to the leadership of all agencies in the state most Arizona law enforcement agencies failed to respond to the request
- Total of 27 responses out of 174 agencies = **14.94%** response rate



APRAIS Challenges

- This trend is concerning as it appears there may be law enforcement agencies in Arizona that do not see IPV as a serious issue and they lack interest in learning about or adopting interventions recommended by their own Supreme Court, to include conducting an APRAIS risk assessment with IPV victims, triaging cases and connecting them with victim services
- Most troubling is the lack of response by Arizona law enforcement leadership even when the request came directly from the AZPOST Director



APRAIS Challenges

- It is significant that there are still law enforcement agencies across the state that do not use the APRAIS questionnaire even after the Arizona Supreme Court decision accepting the recommendation of APAAC in December 2017 adopting the Form IV APRAIS questionnaire for implementation statewide for law enforcement agencies to use in IPV cases

