

Name of Tool	Domestic Violence Inventory (DVI)
Category	Intimate Partner Violence and Stalking (Awaiting Validation)
Author / Publisher	Lindeman
Year	2006

Description

- The DVI is a 155-item self-report actuarial assessment intended for use with persons accused or convicted of domestic violence or related offences.
- The DVI scales measure the criminogenic needs that contribute to IPV ([Lindeman and Khandaker, 2011](#)).
- The items are spread across six scales: (1) truthfulness, (2) violence (lethality), (3) control, (4) alcohol, (5) drugs and (6) stress coping abilities. DVI areas of inquiry were established after extensive review of domestic violence literature (DVI.com).
- The DVI generates a percentile score for each of the scales to inform subsequent treatment interventions (Karca, personal communication, January 2012).
- Risk of the client is categorized as either 'low' (0-39%), 'medium' (40-69%), 'problem' (70-89%) or 'severe problem' (90-100%). A problem is not identified until a scale score is at the 70th percentile or higher. Severe problems represent 11% of those evaluated with the DVI.
- Paper-pencil administration takes on average 30 minutes and tests are scored electronically. Tests are all computer-scored since that is said to be "objective, accurate and fair" ([DVI.com](#)).

Age Appropriateness

Adult males and females.

Derivatives of the assessment (i.e. DVI-Juvenile) can assess risk from the age of 12 upwards.

Assessor Qualifications

No specific user qualifications stated in relation to use of the tool; although users are not typically clinicians or diagnosticians.

Tool Development

- An unpublished thesis (Herndon, 2014) found that although DVI percentile scores did not significantly predict reoffending status, other variables like probation outcome, sentence served and educational attainment did.
- [Lindeman and Khandaker \(2011\)](#) used a large-scale sample of 18, 770 individuals who had committed IPV offences and found that all DVI scores substantially exceeded the reliability coefficient. Males scored higher than females on the following scales: control, alcohol, drugs, stress coping abilities and truthfulness. Those with multiple IPV offences scored significantly higher than those with first-time offences on all subscales apart from the 'truthfulness' scale.

- A study by [Bouffard and Muftić \(2007\)](#) found that lower scores on DVI sub-scales were linked to a lower potential for IPV reoffending. Males recommended for treatment received higher scores on the alcohol, control, violence and stress coping scales.
- Small to large correlations were found for the six subscales in relation to domestic violence arrests (Lindeman, 2006).
- [Pike and Buttell \(2003\)](#) carried out a 12-month follow-up using a sample of 100 males attending a batterer intervention program. Significant differences were observed between the DVI pre and post-treatment scores on psychological variables related to domestic violence. No significant differences in scores were found between African-American and Caucasian males.
- Unpublished studies have collated data on the validity of the subscales (see '[Online Testing](#)' website).

General Notes

- There are three derivatives of this instrument which include:
 - DVI-Juvenile is designed for use with individuals aged between 12 and 17 years in court, probation and treatment settings. It consists of 149 true-false and multiple-choice items and takes around 25-30 minutes to complete. The tool has been standardised on both male and female juveniles. More information available at: <http://domestic-violence-inventory-juvenile.com/index.html>
 - DVI Pre-Post is a tool consisting of 147 items and is designed to examine pre and post-treatment changes in the attitudes and behaviour of the individual in relation to domestic violence by administering it before and after treatment and comparing scores. Further information is available from: www.dvi-pre-post.com.
 - DVI-Short Form is a brief (76 items) version of the DVI designed for use with those who are reading impaired. It takes about 15-20 minutes to complete <http://www.dvi-short-form.com/DVISF.html>
- For further information, please visit the following website: <http://www.domestic-violence-inventory.com/>