

Name of Tool	Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA)
Category	Intimate Partner Violence and Stalking (Awaiting Validation)
Author / Publisher	Hilton and Colleagues
Year	2004

### Description

- The ODARA is a 13-item actuarial risk assessment instrument designed to assess the likelihood of domestic violence recidivism in males.
- Higher scores on the ODARA also indicate that a suspect accused of assault will be more likely to commit more assaults, commit them within a short space of time, and cause more injury than a suspect with a lower score.
- Criminal justice case file information is required to use the tool for criminal justice purposes; information only from a victim interview may be used to provide feedback to the victim
- The ODARA is appropriate for use with males aged 18 years and older and has also been validated with females.
- It has been used in Canada, Austria, New Zealand, the UK and the US ([Messing and Thaller, 2015](#)).

### Age Appropriateness

18+

### Assessor Qualifications

Initially designed for use within the police service.

No professional assessor qualifications required; training to standard level of scoring reliability is encouraged.

### Tool Development

- The tool was constructed from risk factors that were found to be statistically significant in predicting assault recidivism. These risk factors were identified via statistical analyses of follow-up data from police and criminal justice datasets relating to men who had assaulted their female partner.
- The ODARA was created in collaboration with the Ontario Provincial Police. Its purpose is for frontline use by police officers at the scene of an IPV incident or a follow-up investigation ([Rice, Harris and Hilton, 2010](#)). The tool was developed to assist police decisions about detaining suspects and offering additional support to victims, and to assist court decisions about conditional release ([Bowen, 2011](#)).
- [Olver and Jung \(2017\)](#) carried out survival analyses and found that the ODARA predicted IPV recidivism amongst both males and females. The tool also predicted general criminal and violent recidivism.

- [Jung and Buro \(2017\)](#) tested the ODARA on 246 male perpetrators charged with IPV offences. It was found that this largely predicted reoffending, with AUCs of .75, .71 and .70 for general, violent and IPV recidivism respectively. An inter-rater reliability of .91 was found when the ODARA was scored.
- [Hilton and Eke \(2016\)](#) used the ODARA on 93 men who had committed an IPV offence against a female partner (marital, cohabiting or dating). Recidivism was tested after seven and a half years, with an AUC of .67 being found for post-index IPV reoffending. The ODARA also predicted post-index stalking with an AUC of .78
- [Hilton et al. \(2014\)](#) tested the ODARA on 30 female perpetrators of IPV against a current or former marital, common law or dating partner over a decade follow-up period. They found that the measure predicted recidivism, with an ROC of .724.
- A meta-analysis by [Messing and Thaller \(2013\)](#) discovered that the ODARA had an average AUC of .666.
- [Rettenberger and Eher \(2013\)](#) report good predictive accuracy for domestic violence recidivism using the ODARA (AUC = .71). For general criminal and general violent recidivism, the AUC was between .66 and .71.
- [Rice, Harris and Hilton \(2010\)](#) found high ICC values of .95 following the selection of 10 cases and .94 during the follow-up period. The ODARA also demonstrated moderate accuracy in predicting domestic violence recidivism in follow-up periods as short as 6 months (ROC area = .64).
- [Hilton and Harris \(2009\)](#) - in a 5-year follow-up, the ODARA attained moderate accuracy in distinguishing between recidivists and non-recidivists (ROC Area = .74) when ambiguous cases of violent recidivism were removed from analyses.
- [Hilton et al. \(2008\)](#) found moderate predictive accuracy (ROC area = .67) in sample of individuals assessed as high risk of reoffending.
- A study by [Lauria et al. \(2017\)](#) found that the ODARA predicted intimate partner violence physical assault and predicting the outcome of any further police contact for nonphysical intimate partner abuse, generating AUCs of .68 and .72 respectively. Moreover, total scores on the ODARA were able to differentiate between those who reoffended with a further physical assault and those who did not (AUC of .68), as well as individuals with and without any further non-physical abuse (AUC=.72).
- [Seewald and colleagues \(2017\)](#) compared the predictive accuracy of the ODARA compared to forensic psychiatrists using unstructured clinical judgment: AUCs were generated of 0.78 and 0.44 respectively.
- Physical violence recidivism was found to be predicted by risk factors related to physical violent and antisociality (incarceration for more than 30 days). By contrast, risk factors for nonphysical abuse recidivism were more victim-specific (e.g. victim concern, fear and threats to kill) and related to other criminogenic needs (e.g. substance abuse). ([Lauria et al., 2017](#)).

### General Notes

- Radatz and Hilton (2019) utilised the original ODARA construction and validation data of men with criminal charges for IPV offences (n=970) in order to test whether the ODARA can be used to guide treatment intensity decisions for those who have committed IPV offences. Results indicate that the low, medium and high categories of the ODARA can be used to inform a three-tiered categorical system to advise on intervention programmes.
- The ODARA was developed and tested only for 'male-to-female' assault ([Rice, Harris and Hilton, 2010](#)). A number of studies have looked at female to male assault and dating violence. Further details of studies relating to the ODARA can be found here: [http://odara.waypointcentre.ca/Content/Resources/ODARA\\_101\\_Bibliography\\_pdf.pdf](http://odara.waypointcentre.ca/Content/Resources/ODARA_101_Bibliography_pdf.pdf)

- A scientific and authorised translation of the ODARA into German was completed by [Gerth et al. \(2014\)](#).
- The manual for the ODARA system is contained in the book: Hilton, N.Z., Harris, G.T., and Rice, M.E. (2010). *Risk assessment for domestically violent men: Tools for criminal justice, offender intervention, and victim services*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association ([Access Here](#)). A second edition is currently in progress.
- ODARA training is available through an online, restricted access training programme: ODARA 101: The Electronic Training Program: <http://odara.waypointcentre.ca/>. This is estimated to take between 4 and 6 hours to complete. For further details, please e-mail: [odara@waypointcentre.ca](mailto:odara@waypointcentre.ca)