

Rob Veale Ltd

Tauranga Ripple Effect Conference
(March 2019)

Topical Family Violence Issues

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My Background

- Police family violence background
 - Risk assessment and safety planning
 - International experience with Pacific nations
 - Partnerships and information sharing initiatives
 - Developed the Family Safety Team initiative
- Inaugural member of the FVDRC in 2008
- Provided advice to the NZ Law Commission with their recommendations for the Family & Whanau Violence Bill relating to non-fatal strangulation
- Conducted numerous community workshops relating to non-fatal strangulation and other related topics

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Today's session

- This session intends to raise issues to enhance how practitioners use risk assessment tools.
- This session is not intended as a comprehensive review of literature relating to risk assessment and safety planning.
- Comments are a personal view and not intended as criticism of any current policies or practice.
- If you get one idea to apply to your practice, to make someone or someone's family safer, then my objective has been achieved.

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Session structure

- Considering some high risk factors in the context of IPV
 - Non-fatal strangulation
 - Victims with brain injury
 - Asking about sexual violence
 - Interpreting threats to kill
 - What about separation
- Risk assessment
 - Definitions and context
 - Implications for practice
- Summing up

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Family & Whanau Violence Bill

189A Strangulation or suffocation

Everyone is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 7 years who intentionally or recklessly impedes another person's normal breathing, blood circulation, or both, by doing (manually, or using any aid) all or any of the following:

(a) blocking that other person's nose, mouth, or both;
(b) applying pressure on, or to, that other person's throat, neck, or both

194A Assault on person in family relationship

New section 194A inserted (Assault on person in family relationship)
(1) After section 194, insert:

194A Assault on person in family relationship
(1) Everyone is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years who—
(a) assaults another person; and
(b) is, or has been, in a family relationship with that other person.

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Current situation

More attention has been given to TBI is recent years particularly in:


- Warfare
- Professional sports (eg. NFL, NPHL, NVE)
- Motor vehicle crashes
- Falls
- Shaken baby syndrome

What about victims of Intimate Partner Violence?

Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA)

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Question



“If a partner is controlling, abusive, and violent in the kitchen, in the living room, and in public, why would he stop the abuse at the bedroom door?”

-Hon. Jeffrey Kremers, Chief Judge
First Judicial Administrative District, Milwaukee, WI.

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Risk Factors for Homicide and Serious Abuse

- A. Past threats to kill
- B. Past threats of suicide
- C. Access to a gun
- D. History of serious domestic violence
- E. Sexual Violence
- F. Stalking
- G. Substance Abuse
- H. Separation
- I. Strangulation

Assessing and Responding to Men who Pose High Risk to their Intimate Partners

June 15, 2018

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Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment

DV-MOSAIC 2000 Danger Assessment

Spousal Assault Risk Assessment DASH

ASAP B-SAFER Dynamic Risk Assessment for Offender Re-entry (DRAOR)


Stalking Assessment Management

‘Danger Assessment is a **process not a product**’ and that it can consist of two parallel processes – a brief re-offending risk assessment for criminal justice cases and a danger (lethality) process which is a longer process carried out with the victim for safety planning.

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Table 1: Examples of types of risk assessed by NZ government agencies (not intended to be comprehensive)

Government agency	Types of risk assessed
New Zealand Police	Future harm Re-assault Risk to children living in a family violence context Repeat victimisation
Work & Income	Immediate danger of violence experience
Ministry of Justice	Lethality Risk of harm to victims
Corrections	Re-offending Further sexual offending
Ministry of Health	Identification of intimate partner violence Identification of elder abuse Identification of child abuse or maltreatment
Child, Youth and Family	Whether a child or young person is in need of care and protection



 Risk assessment: What is it and how can it be applied in family violence?
 Authors: Gillian, PhD & Janet Franklin, PhD

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Figure 2: Possible risks as perceived by different stakeholders in a family violence episode

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Using Jacquelyn Campbell's Danger Assessment Tool – example only

Sexual violence X 7.6
Strangulation X 10
Access to weapons X 6.0
Threats to kill X 15

How risk factors compound ...

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Summing Up

- Consider the specific purpose of your risk assessment.
- Risk assessment is not an end in itself, it should be completed for the purpose of safety planning.
- Risk is not static, so an assessment should be completed or reviewed at every opportunity.
- Ensure the 'voice' of the victim (their experiences) is included in your risk assessment and safety planning process.

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Summing Up

- Using a conversation style, ensure all the risk assessment questions are covered.
- Remember the relationship is key.
- Consider how you could ask direct behaviourally-based questions about high risk factors such as: -
 - Strangulation
 - Sexual violence
 - Threats to kill
 - Separation
 - Access to weapons (particularly firearms)

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Remembering the children

Breaking the inter-generational cycle of violence may be addressed by limiting the exposure of children to ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences)

- ACEs may include exposure to:
 - Intimate Partner Violence
 - Alcohol and drug addiction
 - Untreated mental illness
 - Loss of a parent through separation, death, incarceration
 - Child abuse and neglect
- Do our assessments include ACEs? If not, why not?



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Further contact

- Thank you for your time today.
- If you would like any further information following the session or follow-up training, please feel free to contact me on robveale@xtra.co.nz

Strangulation & Intimate Partner Violence

What's an ACE Score?

Strangulation brochure

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Questions / Discussion