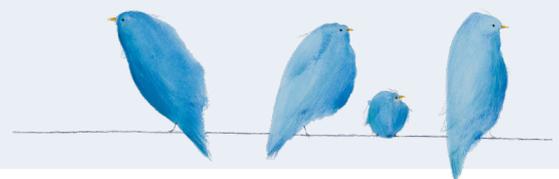


Evidence-based risk factors

The family violence evidence-based risk factors provide a consistent approach to family violence risk assessment.

Risk factors in **bold blue** with * indicate an increased risk of the victim being killed or almost killed (serious risk factor).

Risk factors relevant to adult victim survivor circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical assault while pregnant/following new birth*• Self-assessed level of risk• Planning to leave or recent separation*• Escalation - increase in severity and/or frequency of violence*• Financial abuse/difficulties (including property damage)• Imminence
Risk factors specific to children caused by perpetrator behaviours	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exposure to family violence• Sexualised behaviours towards a child by the perpetrator• Child intervention in violence• Behaviour indicating non-return of child• Undermining the child-parent relationship• Professional and statutory intervention
Risk factors specific to children's circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• History of professional involvement and/or statutory intervention• Change in behaviour not explained by other causes• Child as victim in other forms of harm
Risk factors for adult or child victim survivors caused by perpetrator behaviours	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Controlling behaviours*• Access to weapons*• Use of weapon in most recent event*• Has ever harmed or threatened to harm victim or family members• Has ever tried to strangle or choke the victim*• Has ever threatened to kill victim*• Has ever harmed or threatened to harm or kill pets or other animals*• Has ever threatened or tried to self-harm or commit suicide*• Stalking of victim*• Sexual assault of victim*• Previous or current breach of court orders/intervention order• History of family violence• History of violent behaviour (not family violence)• Obsession/jealous behaviour towards victim*• Unemployed/disengaged from education*• Drug and/or alcohol misuse/abuse*• Mental illness/depression• Isolation• Physical harm• Emotional abuse• Property damage



Family Safety Victoria (FSV). (2021). *MARAM victim survivor practice guides*. Retrieved from vic.gov.au/maram-victim-survivor-practice-guides

More information

For more information and resources, visit [Respectful Relationships and Family Violence](#) on the Monash Health COVID-19 website.