

Simple Violence Risk Screening

There are formal violence risk screening tools available for different settings. Incorporating violence risk screening in clinical settings can be done as part of a general clinical interaction. Look for the following items in the context of your regular clinical interview or interaction. Potential probes are included to aid in further exploration of violence risk.

These questions are not a substitute for clinical judgement. They are meant to help guide a clinician as they screen for violence risk.

Concern is higher when any combination of items 1–5 is present.



1. What specifically are the **behaviors of concern**?

» Why are the concerns arising now?



2. Has the person of concern **expressed/leaked violent thoughts or intentions**?

» Describe leakage content, to whom and how it was leaked.



3. Is there evidence of a **Grievance**?

» Who or what do you think is responsible for the way you feel?

» Look for how personal the grievance is and who or what is to blame for the issue.



4. Does the person describe a **Justification for violence**?

» What could you do to solve the problems/issues you are concerned about?

» Explore subjects reasoning that violence is an option to solve their problem.



5. Is there evidence for increasing **Intensity of Effort**?

» Describe what you have been doing to solve these problems/issues.

» Look for increased focus or energy directed toward the target.

Consider a more formal violence risk assessment if items 6 or 7 are present with 1–5.



6. Is the subject impacted by **Mental Health Challenges**?

» What types of mental health problems have you had?

» Look for evidence of depression, paranoia, and disturbed thinking.



7. Does the subject have **Access to Weapons**?

» Do you have firearms/knives in your household? Are they accessible to you?

» Explore access to firearms, knives, or other weapons.