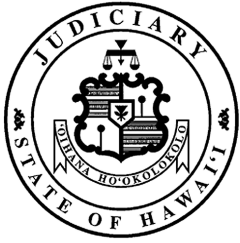


## Interagency Council on Intermediate Sanctions



HAWAII STATE  
DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH

October 2011

Timothy Wong, ICIS Research Analyst  
Maria Sadaya, Judiciary Research Aide

## Hawaii State Validation Report on the Domestic Violence Screening Instrument (DVSI) and Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA)

### Introduction

This report presents analyses of data on probationers in the State of Hawaii who received the Domestic Violence Screening Instrument (DVSI) and Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA) in Fiscal Years 2004-2007. It is a companion report that supplements a recently published descriptive study of domestic violence probationers in Hawaii.<sup>1</sup> It also is a follow-up report to a previous study on the DVSI and SARA, published in October 2008.<sup>2</sup> The State of Hawaii Judiciary utilizes the DVSI for risk screening, classification, and case supervision purposes, while the SARA provides a critical assessment for the case planning of high risk probationers.

This report provides the information needed to evaluate the DVSI and SARA as risk assessment and classification instruments. This includes evaluating the instruments' capacity to identify and match criminogenic risks and needs; and in particular, the utility of the SARA as an offender management and case planning tool.

The major findings in this report come from an analysis of 1,470 DVSI's from July 2004 through June 2007, and 198 SARAs administered to probationers who scored six and above on the DVSI from February 2005 through May 2007. A 36-month recidivism analysis was the primary method used to evaluate the accuracy and predictive validity of the DVSI and SARA as risk classification instruments. This study defines recidivism as new domestic violence (DV) arrests, which include the abuse of a household member, violation of protective orders, or terroristic threatening offenses; and Non-DV arrests, such as possession of controlled substances, criminal property damage, motor vehicle violations, or probation revocations.

This report contains the following sub-sections:

1. Demographic profile of probationers assessed using the DVSI, which includes gender, age, ethnicity, and judicial unit;
2. Descriptive statistical analyses of probationers who were administered the DVSI and SARA, such as frequency distributions, and cross-tabulations of selected variables;
3. DVSI and SARA recidivism analysis; and
4. Validation analyses of the DVSI and SARA instruments.

<sup>1</sup> *FYs 2008 and 2009 Domestic Violence Descriptive Study and Profile Analysis.*  
<http://www.hawaii.gov/icis>

<sup>2</sup> *2003 – 2007 Domestic Violence Exploratory Study on the DVSI and SARA.*  
<http://www.hawaii.gov/icis>

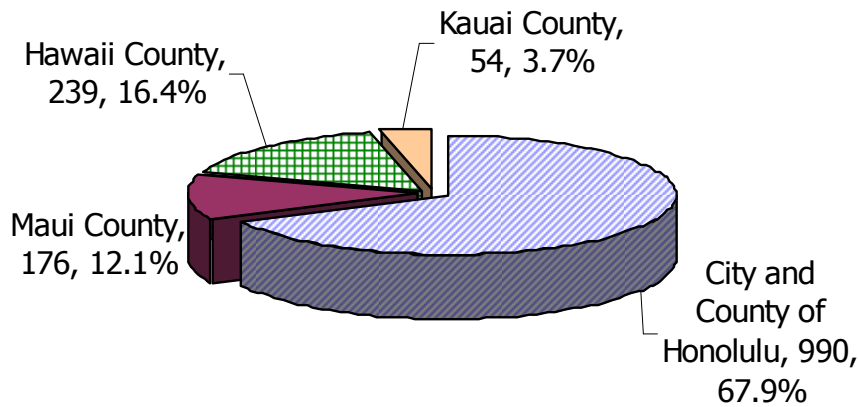
## Demographics

Table 1: Selected Demographic Characteristics of Probationers with Administered DVSI and SARAs

	DVSI		SARA	
	Frequency	Pct.	Frequency	Pct.
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	817	90.4%	126	94.0%
Female	86	9.5%	8	6.0%
<b>Age Range</b>				
<20 years old	13	0.9%	4	3.4%
18 – 29 years old	234	16.4%	12	10.2%
30 – 39 years old	477	33.4%	39	33.1%
40 – 49 years old	444	31.0%	37	31.4%
50+ years	262	18.3%	26	22.0%
<b>Ethnicity</b>				
Caucasian	188	20.5%	34	20.6%
Hawn/Pt. Hawn	293	31.9%	62	37.6%
Filipino	141	15.3%	25	15.2%
Samoan	55	6.0%	9	5.5%
All Others	242	26.3%	35	21.1%

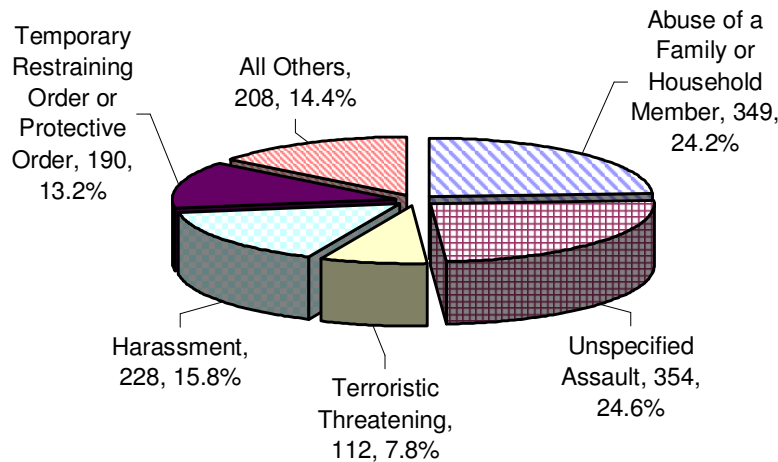
The demographic profile of DV probationers is primarily male, belongs to an older age group, and comes from diverse racial/ethnic groups. The demographic difference between probationers with DVSI or with SARAs did not differ proportionately, by gender, age, or ethnicity.

Figure 1: Probationer Residence, by County (DVSI only)



## Descriptive Statistics

Figure 2: Types of Offense Committed (DVSI only)



Nearly 50 percent of the adjudicated offenses involve unspecified assault, or abuse of a family or household member.

In Table 2 (below), the estimated range in the Mean Total Score (see confidence interval) for the DVSI is within the Administrative risk level, while the SARA mean range is at the Low risk level. With respect to internal, item-by-item consistency (Cronbach's  $\alpha$ ), the DVSI ( $\alpha=.58$ ) and SARA ( $\alpha=.63$ ) are at the low to questionable end of the reliability scale. Additionally, the DVSI and SARA have similar domestic violence risk factors, although these factors appear to be at the low end of the relatedness scale, based on their weak statistical association with each other (Pearson's  $r = .155$ ,  $p < .05$ ).

Table 2: DVSI and SARA Mean Scores by Risk Class

Mean Total Score	DVSI (N=1470)		SARA (N=198)	
	Raw Score	Conf. Interval	Raw Score	Conf. Interval
	4.54	4.3-4.7	10.03	9.2-10.9
<b>Risk Class</b>	Cut-off scores	% Distrib.	Cut-off scores	% Distrib.
Surveillance	>17	3.5%	-	-
High	9-17	8.6%	>19	12.6%
Medium	7-8	9.4%	-	-
Low	6	4.9%	<20	87.4%
Administrative	<6	73.7%	-	-
Total		100.0%		100.0%
Cronbach's $\alpha$	0.577		0.632	
Pearson's $r$	.155, $p < .05$ (1-tailed)			

The DVSI and SARA have questionable inter-item rater reliability ( $\alpha=.577$ ,  $.632$ ) within each individual instrument, and marginally associated DV risk factors between the two instruments ( $r = .155$ ).

**Technical Notes:** The five risk classification cut-off scores in the DVSI and the two cut-off scores in the SARA add statistical meaning to a normally distributed DV population. The DVSI cut-offs come from Hawaii's validated norms, while the SARA cut-offs are from national norms. Additionally, the Mean Total Scores are only estimates of the mean, since the true values fall within a specified confidence range after considering for possible errors in the distribution. The instrument's internal consistency (Cronbach's  $\alpha$ ) is an important measure of reliability in determining whether the question items consistently measure domestic violence or spousal assault risk. A low Cronbach's  $\alpha$  ( $< .70$ ) lacks instrument reliability to adequately measure factors of intimate partner risk. Furthermore, Hawaii's Judiciary uses the DVSI in conjunction with the SARA for high risk offender identification and for case planning. As a result, it is critical for the DVSI and SARA to have similar risk factors associated with intimate partner violence. The Pearson's  $r$  is a correlation coefficient that is between (+1 and -1). This number represents the strength and direction of relatedness between two factors of risk. If the correlation is zero or very close to zero, there is no association between the two variables. A correlation of one has perfect association between variables.

Figure 3: Probationers with SARA Recommended

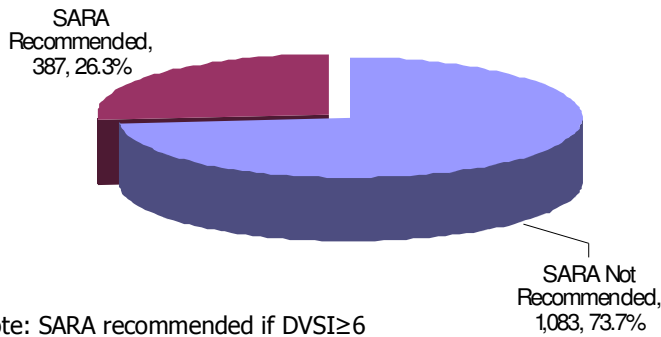


Figure 3 depicts the proportion of DV probationers who have DVSI scores ≥ 6 (SARA Recommended), or a DVSI scores ≤ 5 (SARA Not Recommended). According to the sampled DVSI data, only 387 (26%) probationers have elevated scores that require SARAs (DVSI ≥ 6). However, based on the number of probationers who have elevated DVSI scores (SARA Recommended), just over half (52%), or 198 probationers received a SARA.

Table 3: Recidivism Rates for SARA-Recommended Probationers, by Type of Recidivism

DV Recidivism	DVSI (N=1,470)	
	Re-arrests	Recidivism Rate
SARA Recommended (DVSI ≥ 6)	94	24.3%
SARA Not Recommended (DVSI ≤ 5)	207	19.1%
<i>Total</i>	<i>301</i>	<i>20.5%</i>
<i>Statistical Significance</i> $\chi^2=4.7, p<.05$		
Non-DV Recidivism	DVSI (N=1,470)	
	Re-arrests	Recidivism Rate
SARA Recommended (DVSI ≥ 6)	162	41.9%
SARA Not Recommended (DVSI ≤ 5)	327	30.2%
<i>Total</i>	<i>489</i>	<i>33.3%</i>
<i>Statistical Significance</i> $\chi^2=17.5, p<.001$		
Total Recidivism	DVSI (N=1,470)	
	Re-arrests	Recidivism Rate
SARA Recommended (DVSI ≥ 6)	256	66.1%
SARA Not Recommended (DVS I ≤ 5)	534	49.3%
<i>Total</i>	<i>790</i>	<i>53.7%</i>
<i>Statistical Significance</i> $\chi^2=32.5, p<.001$		

Probationers who are recommended to receive a SARA (DVSI ≥ 6) have statistically significant higher recidivism rates, as compared to those who are not recommended to receive a SARA (DVSI ≤ 5) for DV, Non-DV, and Total re-arrests.

Table 3 reveals that probationers with higher DVSI scores recidivate at a higher rate than those with lower scores. For DV Recidivism, there is a +5.2 percentage point difference in recidivism for probationers with DVSI ≥ 6 (24.3%), as compared to those with DVSI ≤ 5 (19.1%). This pattern is also consistent with Non-DV recidivism (+11.7 percentage point difference), and Total Recidivism or combined DV and Non-DV recidivism (+16.8 percentage point difference).

**Table 4: Total Recidivism Rates for SARA-Recommended Offenders, by LSI-R Risk Levels**

<b>LSI-R Risk Levels for Probationers with DVSI</b>				
<b>Risk Categories</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Freq. Distribution</b>	<b>Proportion of Probationers w/DVSI ≥ 6</b>	<b>Total Recidivism Rate</b>
Surveillance (LSI-R>35)	23	4.4%	56.5%	91.3%
High (LSI-R:26-35)	86	16.4%	38.4%	91.9%
Medium (LSI-R:21-25)	92	17.5%	45.7%	60.2%
Low (LSI-R:19-20)	54	10.3%	38.9%	79.6%
Administrative (LSI-R<19)	270	51.4%	31.9%	69.6%
<i>Total</i>	<i>525</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>37.1%</i>	<i>78.9%</i>
<i>Statistical Significance</i>			$\chi^2(525)=9.92, p<.05$ $\chi^2(525)=131.79, p<.001$	

Table 4 examines the distribution of probationers with DVSI, the proportion of probationers with elevated DVSI scores (DVSI ≥6), and total recidivism rate, by LSI-R risk levels. The data show that 51.4% of the probationers with DVSI are at the Administrative (LSI-R<19) risk level, as compared to only 4.4% at the Surveillance level. With respect to the proportion of probationers with elevated DVSI (≥6), 56.5% of Surveillance level probationers have elevated DVSI, as compared to 31.9% at the Administrative level. With respect to recidivism, Administrative level probationers with DVSI had the lowest total recidivism rate (69.6%), as compared to Surveillance level probationers (91.3%).

4.4% of Probationers are at the Surveillance level of risk, of which over half (56.5%) have elevated DVSI of six and above (SARA recommended).

The total recidivism rate for Surveillance level probationers is 91.3%, as compared to the average recidivism rate (78.9%).

**Table 5: DVSI and SARA Risk Classifications, by DV, Non-DV, and Total Recidivism Rates**

<b>Domestic Violence Risk Instruments</b>							
<b>DVSI (N=1,473)</b>				<b>SARA (N=198)</b>			
<b>DV Recidivism</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Re-arrests</b>	<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	<b>DV Recidivism</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Re-arrests</b>	<b>Recidivism Rate</b>
Surveillance (DVSI >18)	51	8	15.7%	High (SARA >20)	25	7	28.0%
High (DVSI 9 - 17)	126	36	28.6%				
Medium (DVSI 7 - 8)	138	33	23.9%				
Low (DVSI=6)	72	17	23.6%				
Administrative (DVSI<6)	1,086	207	19.1%				
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,473</i>	<i>301</i>	<i>20.4%</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>198</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>28.8%</i>
<i>Statistical Significance</i>				Not Significant			
<b>Non-DV Recidivism</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Re-arrests</b>	<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	<b>Non-DV Recidivism</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Re-arrests</b>	<b>Recidivism Rate</b>
Surveillance (DVSI >18)	51	14	27.5%	High (SARA >20)	25	15	60.0%
High (DVSI 9 - 17)	126	50	39.7%				
Medium (DVSI 7 - 8)	138	65	47.1%				
Low (DVSI=6)	72	33	45.8%				
Administrative (DVSI<6)	1,086	329	30.2%				
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,473</i>	<i>491</i>	<i>33.3%</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>198</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>40.4%</i>
<i>Statistical Significance</i>				$\chi^2=24.43, p<.001$			
<b>Total Recidivism</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Re-arrests</b>	<b>Recidivism Rate</b>	<b>Total Recidivism</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Re-arrests</b>	<b>Recidivism Rate</b>
Surveillance (DVSI >18)	51	22	43.1%	High (SARA >20)	25	22	88.0%
High (DVSI 9 - 17)	126	86	68.3%				
Medium (DVSI 7 - 8)	138	98	71.0%				
Low (DVSI=6)	72	50	69.4%				
Administrative (DVSI<6)	1,086	536	49.4%				
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,473</i>	<i>792</i>	<i>53.8%</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>198</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>69.2%</i>
<i>Statistical Significance</i>				$\chi^2=45.1, p<.001$			
				$\chi^2=4.56, p<.05$			
				$\chi^2=4.7, p<.05$			

The DVSI has predictive validity (p<.001) over multiple risk levels for Non-DV and Total (combined) new re-arrests. The SARA also has predictive validity (p<.05) for Non-DV and Total new re-arrests.

Table 5 shows the recidivism rates for DV, Non-DV, and Total (combined) re-arrests, by DVSI and SARA risk levels. The DVSI's five risk levels come from locally defined cut-off scores, while the SARA's two risk levels (High and Low) are nationally normed cut-offs. The differences in recidivism rates for both the DVSI and SARA risk levels are statistically insignificant for DV recidivism. However, the risk levels for Non-DV and Total (combined) recidivism are statistically significant and predictive for both the DVSI ( $p < .001$ ) and SARA ( $p < .05$ ).

**Table 6: Average Elapsed Time to Recidivism (Months)**

DVSI			SARA		
Risk Levels	DV Recidivism (N=301)	Non-DV Recidivism (N=489)	Risk Levels	DV Recidivism (N=57)	*Non-DV Recidivism (N=80)
Surveillance (DVSI >18)	16.0	12.1		-	-
High (DVSI 9 - 17)	17.5	20.5	High (SARA >19)	18.3	12.5
Medium (DVSI 7 - 8)	17.2	19.8		-	-
Low (DVSI=6)	26.7	20.2	Low (SARA <20)	19.5	21.2
Administrative (DVSI<6)	21.0	21.5		-	-
<i>Average</i>	<i>20.4</i>	<i>20.8</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>19.4</i>	<i>19.5</i>

With respect to elapsed time to recidivism, the risk levels for probationers with SARAs differ significantly from each other for Non-DV re-arrests.

\* $p < .05$

Table 6 depicts the average elapsed time (months) to recidivism for DV Probationers at various DVSI risk levels. The elapsed time to recidivism within each DVSI risk level does not statistically differ from each other for both DV and Non-DV offenses. However, with SARA-administered probationers who recidivated for Non-DV offenses, the difference in time-to-recidivism is statistically significant ( $p < .05$ ) for high risk probationers (12.5 months), as compared to low risk probationers (21.2 months).

**Table 7: Risk Items Most Sensitive to DV Recidivism**

Instrument	Instrument Items	DV Offense Recidivism Rates		
		Risk Item Present	Risk Item Absent	Point Difference
DVSI	Any history of violation(s) of domestic violence restraining orders?	50.0%	19.5%	30.5**
	Prior DV Treatment	31.0%	18.8%	12.2*
	Prior Arrests for Assaults, Harassment, menancing	27.4%	17.9%	9.5*
	Prior Drug or Alcohol Treatment Supervision	27.9%	19.3%	8.6**
	Prior Non-domestic Violence Convictions?	25.5%	18.2%	7.3**
	SARA	Recent Escalation in Frequency or Severity of Assault	50.0%	26.1%
Past violation of "No contract" orders		32.2%	27.3%	4.9
Past Assault of Strangers or Acquaintances		32.4%	28.0%	4.4
Recent Relationship Problems		30.6%	27.0%	3.6
Past Sexual Assault/Sexual Jealousy		31.6%	28.5%	3.1

\* $p < .001$ ; \*\* $p < .01$ ; \*\*\* $p < .05$

Table 7 rank orders (from high to low) the DV recidivism rates of probationers with the presence versus absence of specific DVSI and SARA risk items. The data also show the percentage point difference in recidivism between present and absent risk items.

The DVSI item "Any History of Violation(s) of Domestic Violence Restraining Orders" has the highest recidivism rate for a risk item present (50.0%), but a 19.5% recidivism rate when the risk item was absent (30.5 percentage point difference). The SARA risk item, "Recent Escalation in Frequency or Severity of Assault" recorded the highest recidivism rate (50.0%) and the greatest percentage point change (23.9) difference when the risk item is present versus absent).

**Table 8: Risk Items Most Sensitive to Non-DV Recidivism**

Instrument	Instrument Items	Non-DV Offense Recidivism Rates		
		Risk Item Present	Risk Item Absent	Point Difference
DVSI	Prior Non-domestic Violence Convictions	43.2%	28.4%	14.8*
	Prior Arrests for Assaults, harrassment, Menacing	42.5%	29.5%	13*
	Prior Drug or Alcohol Treatment Supervision	42.5%	31.6%	10.9**
	Did Victim Have a Restraining Order Against Deffendant at Time of Offense	39.9%	31.6%	8.3**
	Prior DV Treatment	38.0%	32.4%	5.6
	SARA	Victim of or Witness to Family Violence as a Child	62.5%	39.5%
Recent Psychotic and/or Manic Symptoms		52.0%	36.5%	15.5
Extreme Minimization or Denial of Spousal Assault		50.0%	35.2%	14.8***
Recent Escalation in Frequency or Severity of Assault		49.3%	35.7%	13.6
Use of Weapons and/or Credible Threats of Death		52.2%	38.9%	13.3

\*p<.001; \*\*p<.01; \*\*\*p<.05

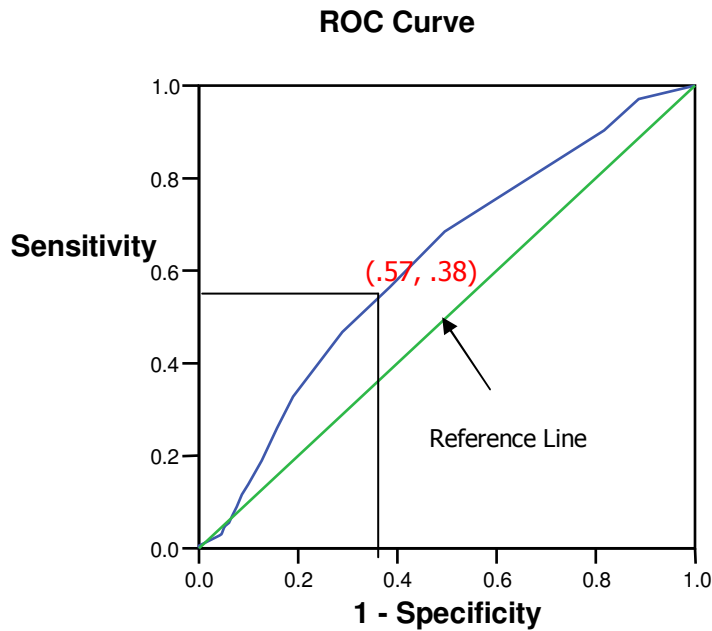
Table 8 rank orders (from high to low) the Non-DV recidivism rates for risk items present in the DVSI and SARA, including the percentage point difference in recidivism rates for risk items that are either present or absent. The DVSI item "Prior Non-domestic Violence Convictions" has the highest recidivism rate for a risk item present (43.2%), and the largest point difference in the recidivism rate (14.8 percentage points) when the risk item is absent. The SARA risk item, "Victim of or Witness to Family Violence as a Child," recorded the highest recidivism rate (62.5%) and the greatest percentage point change (23.0) difference when the risk item is present versus absent).

## Validation

Figures 4 and 5 are graphical depictions of Responder Operating Characteristics (ROC). The ROC measures the predictive accuracy of the instrument based on recidivism risk. The higher the ROC curve is from the diagonal reference line, the greater is the predictive value of the instrument in measuring recidivism risk (ROC>.50). Conversely, an ROC that is well below the reference line (ROC<.50) means that the instrument has no predictive value in classifying probationers by recidivism risk. The Sensitivity coefficient measures the instrument's power to classify high risk probationers, while the Specificity coefficient measures the instrument's ability to correctly classify low risk probationers.

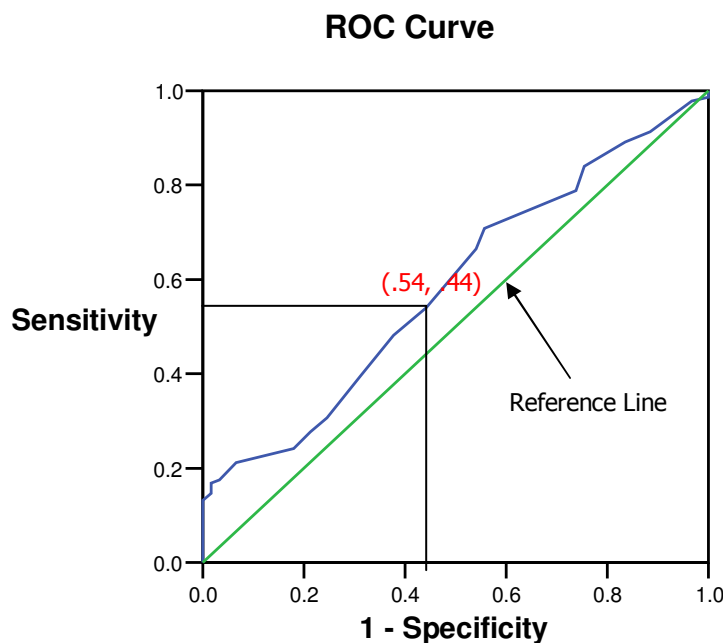
Figure 4: Validity of the DVSI  
a Risk Classification Instrument

as



- The DVSI has adequate validity in predicting DV and Non DV recidivism (ROC=.617,  $p < .001$ ; C.I. .588 to .645)
- There is a 43% chance that the DVSI will make a classification error by misclassifying a probationer as high risk, when in reality the individual is at low risk for recidivism; or a 38% chance of wrongly classifying a low risk probationer, who in reality is at high risk for recidivism.

Figure 5: Validity of the SARA as a  
Risk Classification Instrument



- The SARA has undetermined validity (no statistical significance) in predicting DV and Non DV recidivism (ROC=.584).
- There is 46% chance that the SARA will make a classification error by misclassifying a probationer as high risk, when in reality the individual is at low risk for recidivism, or a 44% chance of wrongly classifying a low risk probationer who in reality is at high risk for recidivism.



**Table 9: DVSI Probability Analysis**

DVSI Risk Level (n=1499)	Recidivism "Odds" Ratio (Exp B)	Relative Recidivism Risk (1 – Exp B)*100	Predictive Validity (ROCs)
<b>DV Recidivism</b>			Not Significant
Administrative (<6)	<i>(reference)</i>	<i>(reference)</i>	
Low (6)	1.49	49%	
Medium (7-8)	1.32	32%	
High (9-17)	***1.71	71%	
Surveillance (>=18)	0.79	21%	
<b>Non-DV Recidivism</b>			<b>.547*</b>
Administrative (<6)	<i>(reference)</i>	<i>(reference)</i>	
Low (6)	**1.95	95%	
Medium (7-8)	*2.05	105%	
High (9-17)	***1.51	51%	
Surveillance (>=18)	0.87	13%	

\*p<.001; \*\*p<.01;  
 \*\*\*p<.05

The DVSI has adequate predictive ability (ROC=.547) to classify correctly probationers who commit a Non-DV offense; however, it has no predictive validity to correctly classify those who commit a DV offense.

Table 9 shows the recidivism odds and relative recidivism risk for DV and Non-DV recidivism, by DVSI risk levels. For DV recidivism, only high risk probationers have statistically significant odds of re-arrest (1.71:1), or a relative recidivism rate of 71%, i.e., a 71% increase in relative risk as compared to those who are at even odds (1:1) of re-arrest. For Non-DV recidivism, the odds ratio is statistically significant for Low, Medium, and High risk probationers. For medium risk probationers, the odds ratio is (2.05:1), or 105% the relative risk of re-arrest (double the odds risk), as compared to those who are at even odds of re-arrest.

**Table 10: SARA Probability Analysis**

SARA Risk Level (n=198)	Recidivism "Odds" Ratio (Exp B)	Relative Recidivism Risk (1 – Exp B)*100	Predictive Validity (ROCs)
<b>DV-Recidivism</b>			Not Significant
Low-Med.<20)	<i>(reference)</i>	<i>(reference)</i>	
High (>19)	0.96	4%	
<b>Non-DV Recidivism</b>			Not Significant
Low-Med.<20)	<i>(reference)</i>	<i>(reference)</i>	
High (>19)	**2.49	149%	

\*\*p<.05

The SARA has no predictive validity (ROC<.50) in correctly classifying probationers who recidivate.

Table 10 reveals the recidivism odds and relative risk for DV and Non-DV recidivism, based on SARA risk levels. For Non-DV recidivism, only high risk probationers have statistically significant odds ratio of 2.49 or 149% the relative risk of re-arrest, as compared to those who are at even odds of re-arrest.

**Technical Notes:** The odds ratio refers to the odds of a re-arrest occurrence in relation to relative recidivism risk. We define relative recidivism as the risk or re-arrest occurrence in relationship to a hypothetical reference person who is at even (1:1) odds of re-arrest. Similarly, the odds of re-arrest occurrence from the perspective of a risk group is relative to a hypothetical reference group (Administrative group for the DVSI, and Low-Medium group for the SARA), which is at even (1:1) odds of re-arrest.

## Conclusion

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The demographic distribution of DV-probationers in this study is comparable to previous Interagency Council on Intermediate Sanctions (ICIS) studies published on probationers. DV probationers are primarily male (>90%), older (half are age 40 and above), and come from various racial and ethnic groups (Table 1). The results of this study (Table 2) provide weak evidence of internal consistency (reliability) for both the DVSI ( $\alpha=.58$ ) and SARA ( $\alpha=.63$ ). The findings also show that the DVSI and SARA have low statistical strength of association ( $r=.155$ ,  $p<.05$ ) between individual factors of DV risk, such as violations or assault, substance abuse, and history of criminal arrests. An example of low statistical strength of association is the relatively frequent occurrence of probationers scoring high for "Prior Drug or Alcohol Treatment" on the DVSI, but low for "Recent Substance Abuse Dependence" on the SARA.

The DVSI and SARA have marginal value for predicting DV recidivism.

The difference in Non-DV and total recidivism rates (DV and Non-DV Recidivism) at various risk levels for both the DVSI and SARA are statistically significant, and are consistent with the findings of previous studies (Table 5). In Table 7, the affirmative presence of the DVSI risk item, "Any History of Violations of Domestic Violence Restraining Orders" significantly relates, statistically ( $p<.01$ ), to an increase in the average recidivism rate (19.5% to 50.0%). Likewise, the affirmative presence of the SARA risk item, "Recent Escalation in Frequency or Increase in Severity of Assault" is statistically associated with a significant ( $p<.05$ ) change in the average recidivism rate (26.1% to 50.0%).

As actuarial risk instruments, the predictive validity of both the DVSI and SARA decreased for DV offenses, as compared to the results of previous studies (see footnotes 1 and 2). Neither instrument achieved statistical significance in differentiating recidivism rates across the various risk groups (Table 9, Table 10). The SARA had no predictive validity in accurately classifying probationers based on the ROCs for both DV and Non-DV recidivism. Additionally, there was high probability of making classification errors for both the DVSI (approximately 40 percent chance of error) and SARA (approximately 45 percent chance of error).

## Recommendations

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The results of this report demonstrate that the instruments' reliability and predictive validity have decreased in comparison to the findings of previous national and local studies, based on lower Cronbach's  $\alpha$  and Pearson's  $r$ . Although recidivism rates for DV probationers remain relatively unchanged, there are uneven trends in instrument reliability and validity, resulting in risk misclassification and poor predictive validity for DV recidivism. This is a concern, considering that the DVSI and SARA are nationally validated instruments that have undergone rigorous scrutiny from both the author and independent researchers.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, neither the DVSI nor the SARA could adequately classify probationers by DV risk levels in the current study.

Adherence to current Judiciary policies and procedures and increased quality assurance efforts may help to increase the predictive validity and instrument reliability of the DVSI and SARA.

ICIS needs to continue to evaluate the SARA as a risk classification instrument, and search for risk level cut-off scores that possess greater predictive validity for DV and Non-DV recidivism. Probation officers must also remain vigilant in administering both the DVSI and SARA according to policies and procedures set forth by the Judiciary. Adherence to new policies and procedures, such as the need for regular reassessments, may help with the case planning of high risk probationers, increase their readiness to change, and improve the rate of successful treatment referrals. Also, administering SARA reassessments will provide current updates on the probationers' risk for intimate partner violence, and enable officers to either increase or reduce the need for intensive probation services, or mandatory DV treatment. Additionally, a larger SARA sample would allow for more stringent and definitive statistical analyses. Finally, quality assurance oversight by administrators and supervisors may improve the SARA's accuracy in distinguishing low risk from high risk probationers.

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<sup>3</sup> 2010 Rud, J., Skilling, N., and Nonemaker, D. DOCCR Validation of Two Domestic Violence Risk Instruments: Domestic Violence Risk Instrument (DVSI) and Spousal Abuse Risk Assessment. Hennepin County Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation Office of Planning, Policy, and Evaluation.