



Domestic Violence Inventory



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Domestic Violence Inventory Pre-Post

The Domestic Violence Inventory Pre-Post or DVI Pre-Post is an objective and standardized test for domestic violence offender pretreatment (intake) and posttest (treatment completion) comparison. In other words the DVI Pre-Post is designed for pretreatment and post treatment comparison. It is a “treatment effectiveness” or treatment outcome test.

The same test is given twice. The pretest and posttest comparison results in a “comparison report.” Client history is minimized so that test results reflect the here and now. It is, the patient opinion with all its biases that is relevant for initiation, treatment, and completion of treatment.

The DVI Pre-Post contains 147 items and takes 25 minutes to complete. It is a computer scored self-report test that is administered, scored and reports are printed on-site. Computer generated reports are available within 2 ½ minutes of data entry.

The DVI Pre-Post has six (6) scales (measures):

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Truthfulness Scale | 4. Alcohol Scale |
| 2. Violence (Lethality) Scale | 5. Drugs Scale |
| 3. Control Scale | 6. Stress Coping Abilities |

The Domestic Violence Inventory Pre-Post has become a popular domestic violence treatment (counseling) effectiveness test. This has coincided with domestic violence awareness. Today, many third parties such as courts, probation departments, corrections, mental health professionals, treatment providers, victims, and families are interested in domestic violence offender treatment effectiveness. In brief, they want to know if the domestic violence offender has benefited from counseling or treatment. The DVI Pre-Post is an objective and standardized treatment effectiveness or outcome measure.

WHY DEVELOP THE DVI PRE-POST?

Because most tests that measure the severity of domestic violence perpetrators incorporate offenders court history. And the time reference for these tests is anywhere from the last five years or even their lifetime. To assess counseling and treatment effectiveness, a tests scale scores must be able to reflect the improvement as well as deterioration. Court history can set levels below which the test scores can't go. And very long time referents introduce error variance. Counseling and treatment outcome tests must focus on the here-and-now. Scale scores must be able to increase, stay the same, or decrease in concert with the offenders' attitude, motivation, and behavior.

Why Include Six Scales (Measures)

Each DVI Pre-Post measure (scale) represents an important area of inquiry. Each scale defines an offender's criminogenic needs. Each of these six measures (scales) establishes problem severity so the evaluator can match program intensity. Appropriately matching problem severity with treatment program intensity is very important for treatment effectiveness. DVI Pre-Post scales (measures) include: 1. Truthfulness Scale, 2. Violence (Lethality) Scale, 3. Control Scale, 4. Alcohol Scale, 5. Drugs Scale and 6. Stress Coping Abilities Scale.

More Specifically

1. Truthfulness Scale: measures how truthful the client was at both the pretest and posttest settings. This scale identifies denial, guardedness, problem minimization, and attempts to fake good. Comparing pretest truthfulness to posttest truthfulness can provide considerable insight into a domestic violence offenders' recovery.

2. Violence (Lethality) Scale: identifies people that are a danger to themselves and others. This scale measures the use of force to injure damage or destroy. Comparison of pretest and posttest Violence (Lethality) Scale scores focuses on an important factor in violent crimes. Within the context of DVI Pre-Post assessment, the terms "violence" and "domestic violence" are used interchangeably.

3. Control Scale: measures a persons' need to control others. In social psychology, control is often a synonym for power and influence. Control refers to the process of regulating and restraining others. Control has emerged as an important criminogenic factor in domestic violence.

4. Alcohol Scale: measures offenders use and the severity of alcohol abuse. Alcohol refers to beer, wine and other liquors. Alcohol is all too often involved in domestic violence settings.

5. Drugs Scale: measures illicit drug use and the severity of abuse. Drugs refer to marijuana, crack, cocaine, amphetamines, barbiturates, ecstasy, and heroin. Illicit drugs have a growing presence in domestic violence settings.

6. Stress Coping Abilities Scale: measures the offenders' ability to cope with stress, anxiety, and pressure. In addition, stress exasperates emotional and mental health symptomatology. This scale is a non-introversive screen for established emotional and mental health problems.

Reports: There are three DVI Pre-Post reports: 1. Pretest (1st test administration, 2. Posttest (2nd and subsequent test administrations), and 3. Comparison report. The comparison report compares Pretest and Posttest findings and reports differences. The posttest is automatically (by computer comparison) compared to the pretest to generate the comparison report. The pretest is the baseline against which the posttest is compared. Within 2 ½ minutes of data entry, the DVI comparison report is printed on site. Comparison reports summarize a lot of information in an easily understood format.

DVI Pre-Post Test Booklets

There is only one DVI Pre-Post test booklet. The same test booklet is used for Pretest and Posttest testing. The Pretest serves as a baseline against which the posttest is compared to produce the comparison report.

Reliability and Validity: The DVI Pre-Post has a built in database that insures inclusion of administered tests are included in a confidential (no names) manner. Originally the DVI Pre-Post was compared to other tests that reportedly assessed the same factors. Then annual database analysis has demonstrated high reliability coefficients. For example, internal consistencies. (Coefficients alpha) for DVI Pre-Post scales are reported in the following table for domestic violence offenders evaluated in the year 2002 with the DVI Pre-Post. More recent research can be provided upon request.

Reliability: DVI Pre-Post (N=3,250, 2002)	
DVI Scales	Coefficient Alpha
Truthfulness Scale	.89
Alcohol Scale	.91
Control Scale	.89
Drugs Scale	.87
Violence Scale	.91
Stress Coping Abilities	.93

All DVI Pre-Post scales have alpha coefficients well above the professionally accepted standard of .75 and are highly reliable. All coefficients alphas are significant at the $p < .001$ level.

Early DVI Pre-Post studies used criterion measures and were validated with other tests, e.g., Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) L-scale and F-scale. 16PF, Taylor Manifest Anxiety Scale, Treatment Intervention Inventory, Defendant Questionnaire, etc.

DVI Pre-Post reliability is also based on the administration of the DVI Pre-Post as the pretest and posttest settings. Information on retest intervals was not provided by users, however we were told the minimum interval was eight weeks. Upon follow-up, it was determined that the retest intervals varied between two months and nine months. These Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficients are reported in the following table.

Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficients N=344, 2002	
Pretest - Posttest	Correlation Coefficient
Truthfulness Scale	.54
Alcohol Scale	.68
Control Scale	.41
Drugs Scale	.61
Violence Scale	.54
Stress Coping Abilities	.51

The above table demonstrates that pretest and posttest scores are significantly correlated. All correlation coefficients are significant as the $p < .001$ level. Differences between pretest and posttest scores reflect treatment effectiveness. Clients that scored higher than others at pretest, tended to score higher at posttest. Rank order was maintained.

Comparisons Between Pretest and Posttest Scale Scores (N = 344)					
DVI Pre-Post Scales	Pretest		Posttest		T-value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Truthfulness Scale	8.27	5.90	4.07	4.36	t = 8.43*
Alcohol Scale	6.38	9.19	4.50	6.65	t = 5.18*
Control Scale	7.85	7.85	4.89	5.52	t = 5.18*
Drugs Scale	4.98	7.14	3.62	5.40	t = 4.40**
Violence Scale	21.10	12.42	14.08	8.70	t = 12.20*
Stress Coping Abilities Scale	104.17	43.29	125.78	45.87	t = 9.08*

*Significant at $p < .001$ Level. **Significant at $p < .01$ Level

Note the Stress Coping Abilities Scale score is reversed in that the higher the score, the better that one copes with stress.

The above table shows that on average, DVI Pretest scale scores are lower than DVI Posttest scale scores. Lower scores at Posttest mean the client's benefited from having been in treatment. Furthermore, longer pre-post intervals result in larger differences between Pretest and Posttest scores.

Much of the DVI Pre-Post research is summarized in the document "DVI Pre-Post: Inventory of Scientific Findings" which can be provided upon request.

Database:

The DVI Pre-Post system contains a proprietary built-in database. This expanding database allows ongoing research and test program summaries. Database analysis permits ongoing cost efficient research that includes, scale alpha coefficients, ANOVA, frequency distributions, correlations, cross-tab statistics along with reliability and validity determinations.

Staff Member Input:

The DVI Pre-Post is used in conjunction with the experienced staff judgment. When available, court records should be reviewed as they may contain information not provided or incorrectly provided by the offender, for these reasons, the following statement is contained in each DVI Pre-Post report: "DVI Pre-Post results are confidential and are considered working hypothesis. No diagnosis or decision should be based solely upon these results. The DVI Pre-Post is to be used in conjunction with experienced staff judgment."

Confidentiality: Professional Online Testing Solutions, Inc. encourages test users to delete respondent names. Online-Testing has provided a proprietary name deletion procedure so that test users can be in full compliance with HIPAA (Federal Regulation 45 C.F.R. 164.501). This proprietary name deletion procedure involves a few keystrokes. Once respondent names are deleted, they are gone and cannot be

retrieved. Deleting names does not delete demographics or test data which is incorporated in subsequent research analysis.

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DVI Pre-Post

The DVI Pre-Post evolved from the DVI. It has 147 items and takes 30 minutes to complete. DVI Pre-Post scores reflect the here-and-now. Scale score comparisons can improve, stay the same or get worse. The DVI Pre-Post is an objective and standardized outcome test. It provides empirically based scales and objectively based outcome measures.

DVI Pre-Post Interpretation

Several DVI Pre-Post items are printed in the "Significant Items" section of the DVI Pre-Post report for quick reference. The alcohol items include the following: admits drinking is a problem (item #27), indicates drinking problem (item #86), "recovering alcoholic" (item #146), describes seriousness of own drinking (item #132) and states own desire for alcohol treatment (item #136). In addition, the Alcohol Scale risk range paragraphs (printed for elevated scores) clearly state that the respondent may be a "recovering alcoholic."

In intervention and treatment settings, the respondent's Alcohol Scale score helps staff work through the respondent's denial. Most people accept the objective and standardized Alcohol Scale score as accurate and relevant in comparison to a person's subjective opinion. This is particularly true when it is explained that elevated scores don't occur by chance. The respondent must answer a definite pattern of alcohol-related admissions for elevated scores to occur. And, scale scores are based on thousands of respondents who have completed the DVI Pre-Post.

[An elevated Alcohol Scale score in conjunction with other elevated scores magnifies the severity of the other elevated scores.](#) For example, if you have a respondent with an elevated Violence Scale who also has an elevated Alcohol Scale score, that person is even more dangerous when drinking. In summary, the Alcohol Scale can be interpreted independently or in conjunction with other elevated scores.

Drugs Scale: Measures illicit drug use and the severity of abuse. Drugs refer to marijuana, cocaine, crack, ice, amphetamines, barbiturates and heroin. These are illicit substances. An elevated (70th to 89th percentile) Drugs Scale score is indicative of an emerging drug problem. A Drugs Scale score in the Severe Problem (90th to 100th percentile) range identifies serious illicit drug abusers.

A history of drug-related problems could result in an abstainer (drug history, but not presently using drugs) attaining a Low to Medium Risk score. Precautions have been built into the DVI Pre-Post to correctly identify "recovering drug abusers." Several DVI Pre-Post items are printed in the "Significant Items" section of the DVI Pre-Post report for easy reference. These items include: used within last 30 days (item #25), admits using non-prescription drugs (item #35), rates severity of own drug use (item #133) and states desire for drug treatment (item #137). In addition, the elevated Drugs Scale paragraphs clearly state the respondent may be a "recovering" (item #146) drug abuser.

In intervention and treatment settings, the respondent's Drugs Scale score helps staff work through client denial. [And, an elevated Drugs Scale score in conjunction with other elevated scale scores magnifies the severity of the other elevated scores.](#) For example, an elevated Violence Scale in conjunction with an

elevated Drugs Scale score increases the severity and risk associated with the Violence Scale. In summary, the Drugs Scale can be interpreted independently or in conjunction with other elevated scales.

Stress Coping Abilities Scale: Measures how well the respondent copes with stress. It is now known that stress exacerbates symptoms of mental and emotional problems. Thus, an elevated Stress Coping Abilities Scale score in conjunction with other elevated DVI Pre-Post scale scores help explain the respondent's situation. For example, when a person doesn't handle stress well, other existing problems are exacerbated. This problem augmentation applies to substance (alcohol and other drugs) abuse, violence (lethality), control issues and stress-related problems.

An elevated Stress Coping Abilities Scale score can also exacerbate emotional and mental health symptomatology. When a Stress Coping Abilities Scale score is in the Severe Problem (90th to 100th percentile) range, it is likely that the respondent has a diagnosable mental health problem. In these instances, referral to a certified/licensed mental health professional is warranted to obtain a diagnosis, prognosis and treatment plan. Lower elevated scores suggest less intensive referral alternatives like a stress management program. In summary, the Stress Coping Abilities Scale can be interpreted independently or in conjunction with other elevated scales.

In conclusion, it was noted that there are several levels of DVI Pre-Post interpretation ranging from viewing the DVI Pre-Post as a self-report to interpreting scale elevations and interrelationships. Scale scores can also be interpreted individually. Staff can then put DVI Pre-Post findings within the context of the respondent's life and domestic violence situation.

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