

**PUERTO RICO
INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS**

**REPORT ON FINDINGS FROM DANGER ASSESSMENT
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JANUARY – JUNE 2024**

2024

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Disclaimer

The information presented in this document is shared to highlight the preliminary results of the Danger Assessment to familiarize prosecutors with the data and identify risk factors related to the danger posed to victims of domestic violence. It is relevant to mention that the Department of Justice and the Puerto Rico Institute of Statistics (PRIS) established a Collaborative Agreement that covers the period from July to November 2024. As part of this collaboration, completed danger Assessments were shared with PRIS by the prosecutors' offices to develop a pilot project between January and June 2024, which would serve as a guide for implementing the instrument. Although these sheets were incomplete, the data obtained proved helpful to initiate the process of strengthening the use of this instrument.

During the development of the study, an orientation meeting was held with Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell, the author of the instrument, who provided guidelines on the interpretation and analysis of the results. The preliminary results of the analysis have revealed significant findings. However, it is essential to note that the implementation process has experienced delays in some regions. The pilot study sample covers the period from January 1 to June 30, 2024, to identify issues and concerns that may affect the implementation of the Danger Assessment. This study is considered a validation process before starting the entire study, which began on July 1, 2024.



Summary of findings

This report examines the levels of danger in domestic violence cases in Puerto Rico, assessed through the Danger Assessment during the first half of 2024 across the 13 regions of the Department of Justice. Based on 2,021 cases analyzed, risk factors and levels of danger requiring priority attention are identified, particularly for the prevention of lethal violence.

The main findings are as follows:

- The injured party have an average age of 36.3, with the 20- —to 39-year-old group being the most represented (62.1% of the cases). Notably, 14.5% of them are 50 years old or older.
- It is observed that 50.2% of the cases were formally filed.
- About 25.5% of the women assessed for domestic violence exhibit severe or extreme danger levels.
- Generally, the most common risk factors for domestic violence include the partner or ex-partner's violent jealousy, having children that are not from the partner or ex-partner, and having left the relationship in the past year, among others.
- There are differences in the principal risk factors and their magnitude according to the level of danger. In the group of women with severe or extreme danger, the belief that the partner or ex-partner is capable of killing them stands out among the main risk factors.
- 18.2% of the women indicated that their partner or ex-partner has ever asphyxiated, strangled, or cut off their breathing.
- Adjuntas, Guayama, and Patillas are the municipalities with adjusted rates where there is a higher risk of women being victims of domestic violence.
- The municipalities with adjusted rates with a higher risk of women being victims of domestic violence and having a severe or extreme level of danger are Barranquitas, Salinas, and Patillas.
- The data reveal that women at severe or extreme levels of danger have a significantly higher risk in certain factors. For example, the risk of being threatened or attacked with weapons is up to 13 times greater in this group compared to women at variable or increasing levels of danger. Other elevated risks include threats to harm the children and death threats.

This report reveals critical patterns in the levels of domestic violence danger in Puerto Rico, identifying risk factors that require priority attention for the prevention of lethal violence. Based on the cases preliminarily analyzed in the first half of 2024, critical data is highlighted



that reflects a high-risk situation in specific populations and localities. These findings emphasize the need for interventions tailored to the reality of each region and municipality, along with the strengthening of monitoring and data collection systems to make informed and effective decisions.



Introduction

On January 25, 2021, the Governor of Puerto Rico declared a state of emergency in response to the increase in cases of gender violence through the publication of Administrative Bulletin No. 2021-03. As part of this policy, priority was given to the prevention and addressing of gender violence in all its manifestations. The Department of Justice, through Administrative Order No. 2023-08, incorporated the Danger Assessment (see Appendix), which is completed by prosecutors for victims of domestic violence to assess the risk of death they face, regardless of the decision to file charges. The information in the hands of the victim is vital when making decisions related to their safety. Regardless of the level of danger indicated by this assessment, every victim of domestic violence will be offered services and resources available through the Office of Compensation for Victims and any that apply according to existing laws. For prosecutors, it is a working tool that facilitates decision-making in each case. The outcome can vary because the victim's circumstances may change over time. It is for this purpose that the Danger Assessment, created by Dr. Jacquelyn C. Campbell and Dr. Nancy Glass, is used.

The Danger Assessment is a structured and validated tool used to evaluate the risk of severe or lethal violence in intimate relationships. One of its main components is a questionnaire that addresses risk factors, consisting of a series of questions related to elements associated with homicide in contexts of domestic violence. These questions cover topics such as threats with weapons, non-fatal strangulation, extreme jealousy, substance abuse, and controlling behaviors, among others. A study by Campbell, Webster, and Glass (2009)¹ indicates that the Danger Assessment is effective in distinguishing between high-risk and lower-risk intimate partner violence cases, showing a strong ability to identify those at risk of lethal outcomes. The sensitivity values for identifying femicide attempts range from 0.545 for the extreme danger level to 0.987 when the increased danger level was used to designate the high-risk status. Sensitivity was maximized at 0.750 when the severe danger level was employed as the threshold for the high-risk designation. On the other hand, the specificity values also varied according to the level of danger used: 0.531 for the increased danger level, 0.863 for the severe danger level, and 0.965 for the extreme danger level.²

¹ Campbell, J. C. Webster, D. W & Glass, N. (2009). The Danger Assessment: Validation of a Lethality Risk Assessment Instrument for Intimate Partner Femicide. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 24. Doi: 10.1177/0886260508317180

² Sensitivity and specificity are two statistical measures related to a test's ability to correctly classify individuals into two groups: those with a condition (for example, a disease) and those without a condition. Sensitivity is the ability of a test to accurately identify those individuals who have the condition being evaluated, while specificity is the ability of a test to accurately identify those individuals who do not have the condition.



For this pilot study, Cronbach 's alpha was calculated.³The Cronbach's alpha value obtained was 0.75. This means that the items included in the study have good internal consistency, suggesting that they coherently measure the same construct or phenomenon. Therefore, an alpha of 0.75 indicates that the questionnaire is reliable and that its results can be considered valid and representative of the evaluated construct.

The main objective of the Danger Assessment is to identify individuals at the highest risk of experiencing severe or lethal violence, to provide them with the necessary assistance, and to take preventive measures. This document is used for all women who have a complaint regarding domestic violence. The complaint is how a person informs the police about an incident they believe should be investigated.

Between January and June 2024, data was collected and analyzed from domestic violence victims and their Danger Assessments in the 13 Department of Justice of Puerto Rico regions. A total of 2,021 cases were entered into the database. Most of the cases were concentrated in the following regions (Specific data can be found in Table 1).:

- Aguadilla: 235 cases
- Arecibo: 216 cases
- San Juan: 204 cases

³ Cronbach's alpha measures the internal reliability of a set of items or questions that make up a scale or questionnaire. Its value ranges from 0 to 1, with higher values indicating greater internal consistency among the items. Generally, a Cronbach's alpha above 0.70 is considered acceptable.



Table 1. Cases entered by Region, January to June 2024

Region	Cases entered
San Juan	204
Arecibo	216
Ponce	181
Humacao	37
Mayagüez	193
Caguas	135
Bayamón	145
Carolina	164
Guayama	139
Aguadilla	235
Utua	120
Fajardo	104
Aibonito	148
Total	2,021

It is important to mention that the data for January in the Caguas region and 14 additional records from February and March could not be entered into the database due to the absence of the necessary sociodemographic sheet. This prevented the establishment of a link between the Danger Assessment and the sociodemographic sheet. Additionally, in the first quarter, the Bayamón region primarily submitted cases that had already been formally filed, which limits data analysis in that area. Furthermore, the San Juan Region did not provide data for April for administrative reasons.

Descriptive analyses of the complete dataset were conducted. Adjusted rates by municipality of residence were calculated for women evaluated for domestic violence aged 15 and older. These rates were calculated for the total number of women and those classified as having severe or extreme risk levels. Additionally, the relative risk for each question of the Danger Assessment was calculated, comparing women with severe and extreme risk levels to those with variable and increasing risk levels for the entire population.



All regions

The average age of the injured party was 36.30. 62.1% of the cases were in the 20-to-39-year age range, and 14.5% were 50 or older. Table 2 shows the age distribution of these women.

Table 2. *Percentage distribution by age group, All regions, January – June 2024*

Age group	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Under 20 years	63	3.2
20 to 29 years	647	32.6
30 to 39 years	586	29.5
40 to 49 years	403	20.3
50 to 59 years	181	9.1
60 years or older	107	5.4

Note. Thirty-four cases have no identified age.

The region with the highest average age was Humacao, at 38.92, while the youngest was Utuado, at 33.54 (see Table 3).

Each risk factor included in the Danger Assessment instrument has a variable score of 1 to 4 points in the case of an affirmative response, which means that a higher average score indicates a greater level of danger. The average of affirmative responses in the Danger Assessment was 5.08. The region with the lowest average score was Aguadilla, with 3.85, and the highest was the region of Ponce, with 6.24 (see Table 3). The average score of the Danger Assessment was 9.27. The Aguadilla region had an average score of 7.05, while the Ponce region had an average of 11.19 (see Table 3).



Table 3. Average of some variables of interest of the injured party by Region, January – June 2024

Region	Age of the injured party	Affirmative responses	Score
All regions	36.30	5.08	9.27
San Juan	35.05	4.87	8.92
Arecibo	36.57	5.90	10.94
Ponce	37.99	6.24	11.19
Humacao	38.92	4.62	9.0
Mayagüez	38.53	4.46	7.97
Caguas	36.85	5.35	9.75
Bayamón	34.61	6.07	10.84
Carolina	35.31	4.73	8.93
Guayama	36.20	5.25	10.02
Aguadilla	37.12	3.85	7.05
Utuado	33.54	4.77	8.80
Aibonito	35.61	5.54	9.74

Of the complaints submitted, 50.2% were filed (See Table 4). Of the Danger Assessment sheets, 25.5% had a severe or extreme level of danger (See Table 5).

Table 4. Percentage distribution of complaint resolutions, All regions, January – June 2024

Determination	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Not filed	979	49.8
Filed	988	50.2

Note: There are 54 cases where the determination is unknown.



Table 5. *Percentage distribution of the level of risk of the Danger Assessment, All regions, January - June 2024*

Level of danger	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Variable	933	46.8
Increasing	552	27.7
Severe	257	12.9
Extreme	253	12.6

Note: There are 26 cases without a danger level.

Table 6 and the Appendix present the percentage of responses to the risk factors of the Danger Assessment for "All regions." The risk factors with the highest percentage of affirmative responses were as follows:

- Is that person violently and constantly jealous of you: 50.3%
- Do you have a child that is not from that person: 48.3%
- Have you left (abandoned) that person after living together during the past year: 42.0%
- Does that person control most or all of your daily activities: 40.4%
- Does that person follow or spy on you, leave threatening notes or messages, destroy your property, or call you when you have told him not to: 39.9%

It is noteworthy that 18.2% of the assessed women indicated that their partner or ex-partner has at some point tried to choke, asphyxiate/strangle, or cut off their breathing, and 9.6% of the complainants indicated that they have ever threatened to commit suicide or have attempted it.

For "All regions," the percentage of affirmative responses to the risk factors of the Danger Assessment for women with a variable and increasing level of danger was higher in the following situations.:

- Do you have a child that is not from that person: 44.7%
- Is that person violently and constantly jealous of you: 38.5%
- Have you left (abandoned) that person after living together during the past year: 30.9%
- Does that person control most or all of your daily activities: 30.1%
- Does that person follow or spy on you, leave threatening notes or messages, destroy your property, or call you when you have told him not to: 28.6%

For "All regions," the highest percentage of affirmative responses in the Danger Assessment for women with a severe and extreme level of danger was as follows.:



- Is that person violently and constantly jealous of you: 82.6%
- Do you believe that person is capable of killing you: 79.1%
- Have you left (abandoned) that person after living together during the past year: 72.4%
- Does that person follow or spy on you, leave threatening notes or messages, destroy your property, or call you when you have told him not to: 70.8%
- Does that person control most or all of your daily activities: 68.7%

It is noteworthy that 9.7% of the women with a variable and increasing level of danger and 44.2% with a severe and extreme level of danger indicated that their partner or ex-partner has at some point tried to choke, asphyxiate/strangle or cut off their breathing. Seven percent of women with variable and increasing levels of danger and 16.7% with severe and extreme levels of danger indicated that they have ever threatened to commit suicide or have attempted it.

When comparing the responses of the Danger Assessment based on levels of risk, it is observed that the risk factors answered affirmatively vary significantly between women who present a variable and increasing level of danger and those who find themselves at a severe or extreme level (see Table 5 and Appendix). Moreover, the percentage of affirmative responses in the group of women with severe or extreme danger is considerably higher than in those with a variable and increasing level of danger, suggesting a recognition of risk factors in more critical situations. The most marked differences occur in critical factors such as the escalation of violence severity, weapon possession, control over daily activities, violent jealousy, and direct death threats, elements that cannot be overlooked in risk assessment. There is also a significant difference in the frequency of non-fatal strangulation, underscoring the danger of these situations and emphasizing the need for appropriate and timely intervention to ensure the safety of victims. This in-depth analysis helps to understand the risk dynamics involved and highlights the importance of designing more effective and specific prevention strategies based on the identified levels of danger.



Table 6. Summary of affirmative responses by level of danger, All regions, January – June 2024.

	All women Percentage (%)	Variable or increasing Percentage (%)	Severe or extreme Percentage (%)
Has the physical violence increased in severity or frequency during the past year	25.9	16.2	52.4
Does that person own a gun	15.1	9.3	31.0
Have you left (abandoned) that person after living together during the past year	42.0	30.9	72.4
Is that person unemployed or without work	32.7	25.6	52.5
Has that person ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon	12.0	2.9	37.3
Has that person ever threatened to kill you	28.1	12.3	7.3
Has that person avoided being arrested for domestic violence	13.1	6.0	32.5
Do you have a child that is not from that persons	48.3	44.7	58.3
Has that person ever forced you to have sex when you did not wish to do so	9.5	4.5	23.1



	All women Percentage (%)	Variable or increasing Percentage (%)	Severe or extreme Percentage (%)
Has that person ever tried to choke, asphyxiate/strangle you or cut off your breathing	18.9	9.7	44.2
Does that person consume illegal drugs	24.0	16.6	44.4
Is that person an alcoholic or problem drinker	26.7	23.6	35.0
Does that person control most or all of your daily activities	40.4	30.1	68.7
Is that person violently and constantly jealous of you	50.3	38.5	82.6
Have you ever been beaten by that person while you were pregnant	6.3	3.8	13.0
Has that person ever threatened or tried to commit suicide	28.3	19.9	51.5
Has that person threatened to harm your children	8.8	3.8	22.9
Do you believe that person is capable of killing you	39.4	25.0	79.1
Does that person follow or spy on you, leave threatening notes or messages, destroy your property, or call you when you have told him not to	39.9	28.6	70.8



	All women Percentage (%)	Variable or increasing Percentage (%)	Severe or extreme Percentage (%)
Have you ever threatened or tried to commit suicide	9.6	7.0	16.7

When evaluating the frequency distribution of the municipality of residence of the assessed women, it is observed that the percentages are higher in (Specific data can be found in the Appendix and Figure 1.):

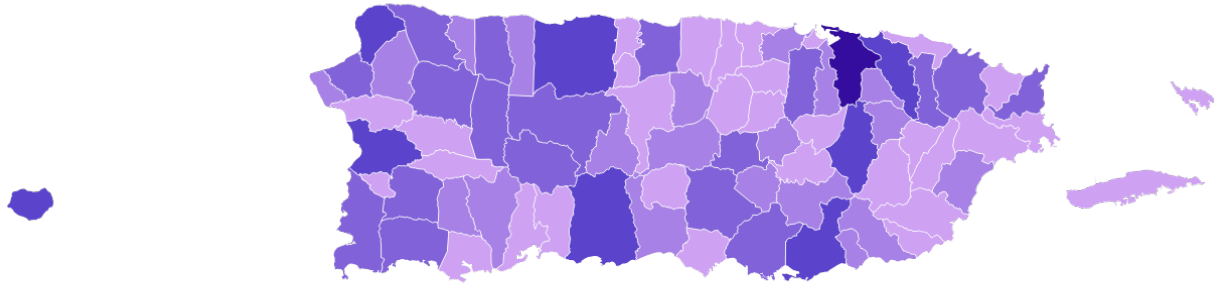
- San Juan: 9.0%
- Ponce: 4.6%
- Carolina: 4.1%

When analyzing the frequency distribution of the municipality where the incident occurred, it is observed that the percentages are higher in (specific data can be consulted in the Appendix and Figure 2):

- San Juan: 9.9%
- Ponce: 4.5%
- Carolina: 4.3%

Figure 1. Percentage distribution of the women's municipality of residence, January – June 2024

< 0.8%
 0.8%–1.5%
 1.5%–2.7%
 2.7%–9.0%
 ≥ 9.0%

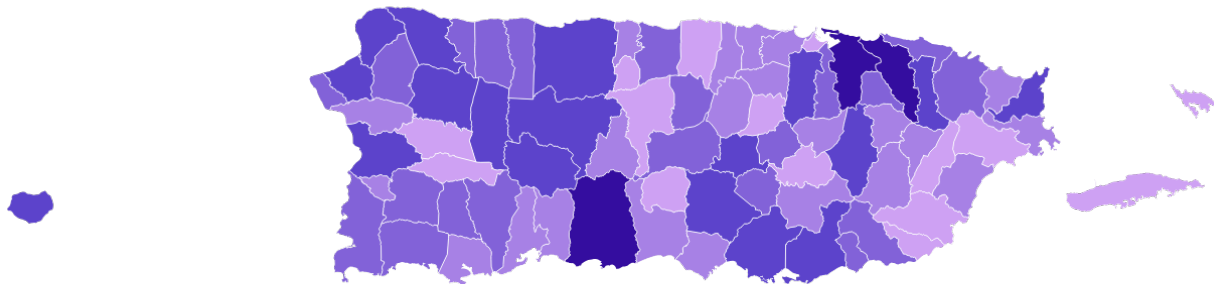


Map: Instituto de Estadísticas de Puerto Rico • Created with Datawrapper

Note: The lower and upper limits of the scales are not mutually exclusive.

Figure 2. Percentage distribution of the municipality where the incident occurred, January – June 2024

< 0.5%
 0.5%–0.9%
 0.9%–1.7%
 1.7%–4.3%
 ≥ 4.3%



Map: Instituto de Estadísticas de Puerto Rico • Created with Datawrapper

Note: The lower and upper limits of the scales are not mutually exclusive.

As part of the analyses conducted with the data from the Danger Assessment, age-adjusted rates were calculated to identify the municipalities with the highest risk of having women with complaints and those with a severe or extreme level of danger. This analysis is essential for understanding the distribution of risk across the different municipalities in Puerto Rico.

When discussing age-adjusted rates, how the risk of women being victims of domestic violence may vary according to their age and place of residence is examined. For example, one municipality may have a large population of young women, while another may have a predominance of older women. If only the total number of reports is considered, one could



incorrectly conclude that one municipality is more dangerous than another without considering that the population's age composition influences this data.

For this reason, an age adjustment is made, which involves calculating the reporting rates to compare towns with different age structures. This way, it is identified which municipalities have a higher risk of complaints filed despite the differences in the ages of their populations.

This approach is crucial because it identifies areas with more significant problems and where more support or resources are needed. For example, if it is detected that young women in a municipality are at higher risk of being victims of violence, specific programs can be implemented to assist this group. In summary, this analysis helps to see and better understand the risk situation of women in different municipalities of Puerto Rico, highlighting where there is a greater need for attention and support.

Since the larger municipalities tend to have a greater number of complaints, adjusted rates were calculated to identify which municipalities have a higher risk of complaints filed for domestic violence. This calculation is made per 100,000 women aged 15 and older. Below are the municipalities with the highest adjusted rates:

- Adjuntas: 415.1 per 100,000 women aged 15 and older
- Guayama: 357.6 per 100,000 women aged 15 and older
- Patillas: 329.7 per 100,000 women aged 15 and older
- Utuado: 302.8 per 100,000 women aged 15 and older
- Lajas: 297.8 per 100,000 women aged 15 and older

These specific data can be found in the Appendix and in Figure 3 of the Report.

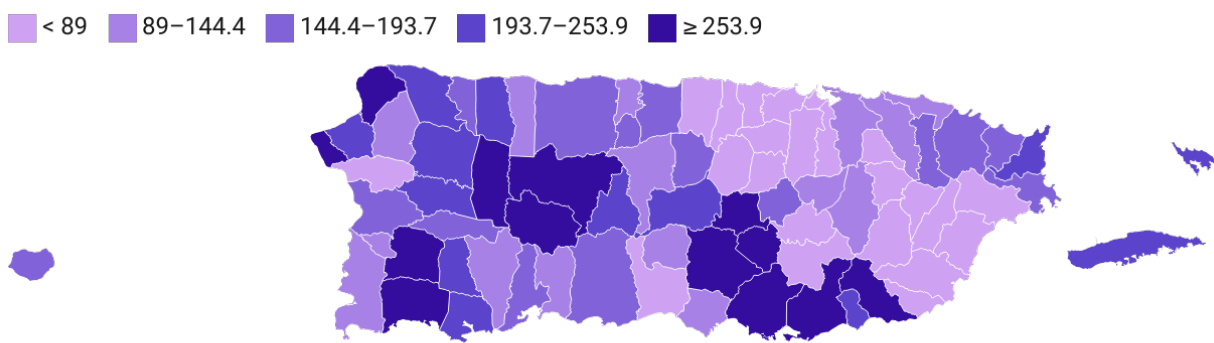
Adjusted rates were calculated to identify the municipalities where residents face the highest risk of having women with severe or extreme dangerousness per 100,000 women aged 15 or older. The municipalities with the highest adjusted rates in this category are as follows:

- Barranquitas: 109.1 per 100,000 women aged 15 or older
- Salinas: 98.7 per 100,000 women aged 15 or older
- Patillas: 95.6 per 100,000 women aged 15 or older
- Manatí: 85.0 per 100,000 women aged 15 or older
- Utuado: 84.9 per 100,000 women aged 15 or older

The specific details of these rates can be found in the Appendix and in Figure 4 of the Report.

Calculating age-adjusted rates is essential for identifying high-risk areas and allocating resources and efforts more efficiently. This analysis helps better understand the distribution of cases of women who file complaints, as well as those with a severe or extreme level of risk, across different municipalities. In this way, more specific preventive and support measures can be implemented.

Figure 3. *Adjusted rates* of women assessed for domestic violence aged 15 and older for each municipality, January – June 2024.*

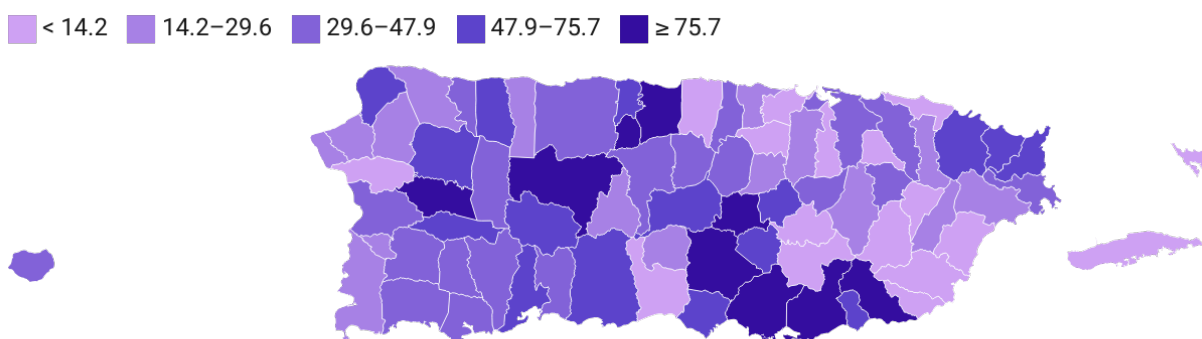


Map: Instituto de Estadísticas de Puerto Rico • Created with Datawrapper

*For every 100,000 women aged 15 years or older

Note: The lower and upper limits of the scales are not mutually exclusive.

Figure 4. Adjusted rates* of women assessed for domestic violence aged 15 and older with severe or extreme danger, for each municipality, January – June 2024



Map: Instituto de Estadísticas de Puerto Rico • Created with Datawrapper

* For every 100,000 women aged 15 years or older

Note: The lower and upper limits of the scales are not mutually exclusive.

The Danger Assessment consists of 20 risk factors that must be answered with a “Yes” or a “No.” This study examined two groups of women: one with a severe and extreme level of danger and the other with variable and increasing danger.

The relative risk was calculated by comparing a group of women with severe and extreme danger levels to another group exhibiting variable and increasing danger among the 20 risk factors of the Danger Assessment. Each risk factor on this sheet represents a form of exposure, and through the analysis of relative risk, we can assess the impact of each exposure factor on the level of danger.

By comparing the likelihood of responding “Yes” to each risk factor between the group of women with a variable or increasing level of danger (control group) and the group of women with a severe and extreme level of danger (experimental group), we can determine if the exposure factor has an impact on the outcome. In other words, the relative risk helps us assess whether certain behaviors or situations (exposure factors) are associated with a higher level of danger in the evaluated women.

This analysis is fundamental, as it allows us to better understand the factors that increase the danger for women who file a complaint. By identifying these elements, we can develop more effective strategies to intervene and reduce the risk of dangerous situations. The relative risk assessment in the Danger Assessment helps us compare and better understand the factors



affecting women with different levels of danger. This information is key to improving interventions and protecting women in situations of risk. Figure 5 presents the main factors that increase risk. The relative risks and their confidence intervals for each question can be found in the Appendix.

Figure 5. Main relative risks in women with severe and extreme danger compared to women with variable and increasing danger, January – June 2024.

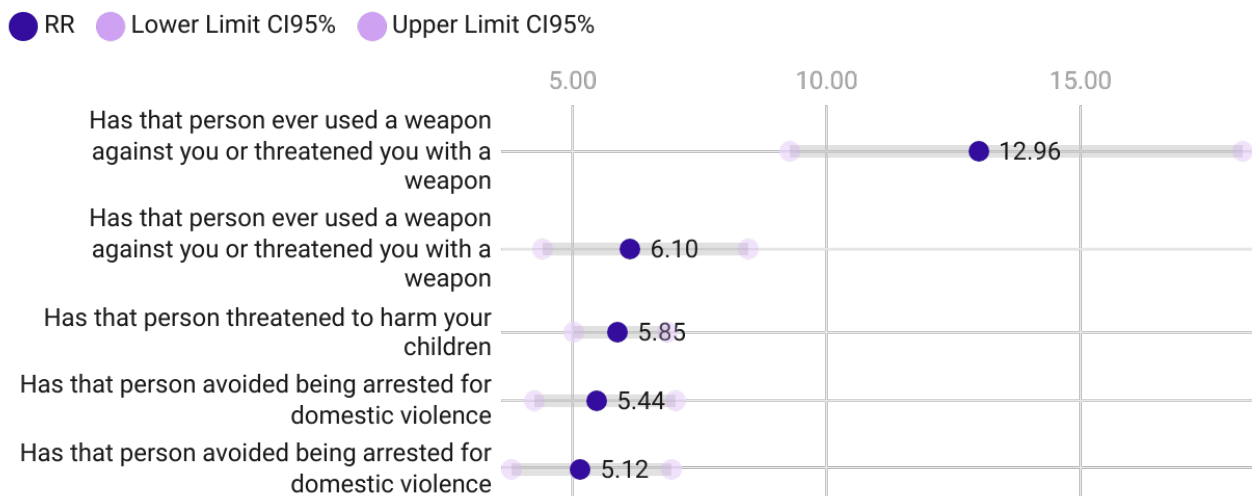


Chart: Instituto de Estadísticas de Puerto Rico • Created with Datawrapper

Note: RR=1 (Women with variable and increasing risk).

The interpretation of the relative risks for "All regions" is as follows:

Women with a severe or extreme level of danger are almost 13 times more likely to have been attacked or threatened with a weapon compared to those with a variable or increasing level of danger.

Furthermore, these women are 6 times more likely to have received threats of harm towards their children compared to those in variable or increasing danger situations. Additionally, they have a 5.85 times greater likelihood of having been threatened with death.

Women with a severe or extreme level of danger have a 5.44 times greater likelihood of having a partner or ex-partner who has avoided jail for domestic violence. Finally, they are 5.12 times more likely to have been forced to have sexual relations against their will compared to women in variable or increasing-danger situations.



These results suggest that women with a severe or extreme level of danger are in a situation of greater vulnerability and risk compared to women whose level of danger is variable or increasing. This fact indicates the need to pay special attention to these women, as their exposure to violent scenarios can have devastating physical and emotional consequences. In each of the identified behaviors or threats, the risk is significantly higher for those in severe or extreme danger situations.

Furthermore, it is essential to consider that women's perceptions of danger may vary, making each case unique and requiring an individualized approach. These factors may be critical determinants when identifying high-risk situations that require urgent intervention. Additionally, it is fundamental that the authorities and organizations responsible for the protection and support of these women implement appropriate and effective measures to address this issue comprehensively.



Discussion

The analysis of data on domestic violence in Puerto Rico in the first half of 2024 provides a comprehensive view of the danger levels for women. It allows for identifying risk factors that require urgent intervention, particularly in cases classified as severe or extreme. This study shows that 25.5% of cases exhibit elevated danger levels, which represents a significant risk of lethal violence.

Risk factors such as death threats, violent jealousy, coercive control, and the use of weapons are notably associated with severe or extreme danger levels. Specifically, the relative risk (RR) of being threatened or attacked with weapons is up to 13 times higher in women with elevated danger, followed by the risk of receiving threats towards children (RR = 6.1) and death threats (RR = 5.85). These risks reflect behaviors that not only increase the probability of lethal violence but also contribute to a highly detrimental cycle of psychological and physical control over victims.

Compared to women with variable or increasing danger levels, women at severe or extreme levels also face a higher incidence of other critical risk factors, such as non-fatal strangulation (RR = 4.55) and sexual coercion (RR = 5.12). These high-risk factors not only represent direct physical harm but also exacerbate the emotional and mental impact of violence, leading to a situation of extreme vulnerability.

The high prevalence of serious risk factors in women assessed for domestic violence with severe or extreme danger underscores the need to strengthen intervention and protection strategies. Furthermore, training for personnel who interact with victims is essential to recognize early signs of elevated risks and provide an adequate response that prevents potentially lethal situations.

In conclusion, these findings highlight the urgency of strengthening institutional responses to domestic violence, promoting a comprehensive approach that combines prevention, intervention, and support for victims, especially in high-risk cases. Implementing more robust protection policies and improvements in data collection will allow for informed and effective decisions to address this social issue in Puerto Rico.



Conclusion

Data analysis from the first half of 2024 shows a high incidence of severe or extreme danger cases, with 25.5% of the 2,021 reviewed cases presenting critical risk factors. The findings indicate that factors such as death threats, use of weapons, coercive control, and violent jealousy are particularly prevalent in women with the highest levels of danger, representing a considerably elevated risk of lethal violence. This risk is even more alarming when it is observed that the relative risk for threats with weapons is up to 13 times higher in these cases and that other factors, such as sexual violence and non-fatal strangulation, also stand out with high relative risk indices.

This report underscores the importance of continuing to implement the Danger Assessment tool in all prosecutorial offices in Puerto Rico. It also highlights the urgent need to strengthen prevention and institutional response systems. Implementing monitoring and early warning programs, along with specialized training for the professionals intervening in these cases, will allow for faster identification of critical risks and timely intervention.

However, the study faces some limitations, including data underreporting in some municipalities and variability in sample sizes by region, factors that could influence the interpretation and application of these results. Additionally, regional sociocultural differences could affect the perception and reporting of violence, suggesting the need for an intervention strategy tailored to each region's specific characteristics.

In conclusion, the data obtained provide a solid foundation from the public health and criminal justice perspectives for the implementation of protection policies focused mainly on regions with the highest levels of danger to reduce the risk of femicides and improve the safety of women in situations of domestic violence. The recommendations in this report aim to guide authorities towards a more effective response centered on preventing lethal violence and fostering inter-institutional coordination to enhance protection efforts throughout Puerto Rico.



Appendix

Figure A 1. Danger Assessment

DANGER ASSESSMENT

Jacquelyn C. Campbell, Ph.D., R.N. Copyright, 2003; update 2019;

www.dangerassessment.com

Nothing justifies violence and everybody has a right to live in peace. But should this occur, it is important you know that there are several risk factors that have been associated with increased risk of homicides (murders) of women and men in violent relationships. We cannot predict what will happen in your case, but we would like to support you so you can identify the risks in situations where there is abuse, so you can determine which and how many risk factors apply to your situation.

With the help of a calendar, mark the approximate dates during the past year when you were in an abusive situation by your partner or ex-partner. Qualify the events according to the next scale:

1. Slapping, pushing; no injuries and/or lasting pain.
 2. Punching, kicking; bruises, cuts, and/or continuing pain.
 3. "Beating up"; severe contusions, burns, broken bones.
 4. Threat to use weapon; head injury, internal injury, permanent injury, miscarriage or choking* (use a © in the date to indicate choking/strangulation/cut off your breathing, for example 4©).
 5. Use of weapons; wounds from weapons like a firearm or knife.
- (If any of the descriptions described correspond to your situation for a determined date, select the higher number.)

Answer **Yes** or **No** for each of the following. ("That person" refers to your husband, spouse, companion, partner, ex-husband, ex-wife, ex-spouse, ex-partner, that has maltreated you.)

- _____ 1. Has the physical violence increased in severity or frequency during the past year?
 - _____ 2. Does that person own a gun?
 - _____ 3. Have you left (abandoned) that person after living together during the past year?
3a. (If you have never lived with that person, check here: _____)
 - _____ 4. Is that person unemployed or without work?
 - _____ 5. Has that person ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon? (If yes, was the weapon a gun? check here: _____)
 - _____ 6. Has that person ever threatened to kill you?
 - _____ 7. Has that person avoided being arrested for domestic violence?
 - _____ 8. Do you have a child that is not from that person?
 - _____ 9. Has that person ever forced you to have sex when you did not wish to do so?
 - _____ 10. Has that person ever tried to choke, asphyxiate/strangle you or cut off your breathing?
10a. (If yes, has he done it more than once, or did it make you pass out or black out or make you dizzy? check here: _____)
 - _____ 11. Does that person consume illegal drugs? By drugs, I mean "uppers" or amphetamines, "meth", speed, angel dust, cocaine, "crack", street drugs or mixtures.
 - _____ 12. Is that person an alcoholic or problem drinker?
 - _____ 13. Does that person control most or all of your daily activities? For instance, does he tell you who you can be friends with, when you can see your family, how much money you can use, or when you can take the car? (If he tries, but you do not let him, check here: _____)
 - _____ 14. Is that person violently and constantly jealous of you? (For example, does he say: "If I can't have you, no one can.")
 - _____ 15. Have you ever been beaten by that person while you were pregnant? (If you have never been pregnant by that person, check here: _____)
 - _____ 16. Has that person ever threatened or tried to commit suicide?
 - _____ 17. Has that person threatened to harm your children?
 - _____ 18. Do you believe that person is capable of killing you?
 - _____ 19. Does that person follow or spy on you, leave threatening notes or messages, destroy your property, or call you when you have told him not to?
 - _____ 20. Have you ever threatened or tried to commit suicide?
- _____ Total "Yes" Answers.

Thank you. You will be referred to the Office of Victim and Witness Services and Compensation for an orientation, by a Victim Assistant, regarding available services, considering the results of this evaluation, your personal circumstances and those of your case.

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Table A 1. *Distribution of the municipality of residence of the injured party, January - June 2024*

Municipality	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Adjuntas	32	1.6
Aguada	40	2.0
Aguadilla	71	3.6
Aguas Buenas	12	0.6
Aibonito	25	1.3
Añasco	10	0.5
Arecibo	59	3.0
Arroyo	16	0.8
Barceloneta	14	0.7
Barranquitas	33	1.7
Bayamón	43	2.2
Cabo Rojo	31	1.6
Caguas	60	3.0
Camuy	30	1.5
Canóvanas	35	1.8
Carolina	81	4.1
Cataño	6	0.3
Cayey	15	0.8
Ceiba	11	0.6
Ciales	7	0.4
Cidra	8	0.4
Coamo	43	2.2
Comerío	17	0.9
Corozal	12	0.6
Culebra	2	0.1
Dorado	9	0.5
Fajardo	35	1.8
Florida	11	0.6
Guánica	12	0.6
Guayama	61	3.1
Guayanilla	11	0.6
Guaynabo	20	1.0
Gurabo	16	0.8
Hatillo	23	1.2



Municipality	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Hormigueros	8	0.4
Humacao	18	0.9
Isabela	38	1.9
Jayuya	16	0.8
Juana Díaz	16	0.8
Juncos	11	0.6
Lajas	30	1.5
Lares	33	1.7
Las Marías	7	0.4
Las Piedras	11	0.6
Loíza	10	0.5
Luquillo	12	0.6
Manatí	29	1.5
Maricao	3	0.2
Maunabo	3	0.2
Mayagüez	53	2.7
Moca	23	1.2
Morovis	22	1.1
Naguabo	7	0.4
Naranjito	10	0.5
Orocovis	22	1.1
Patillas	22	1.1
Peñuelas	10	0.5
Ponce	91	4.6
Quebradillas	19	1.0
Rincón	16	0.8
Río Grande	34	1.7
Sabana Grande	22	1.1
Salinas	33	1.7
San Germán	33	1.7
San Juan	179	9.0
San Lorenzo	9	0.5
San Sebastián	36	1.8
Santa Isabel	14	0.7
Toa Alta	13	0.7
Toa Baja	20	1.0



Municipality	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trujillo Alto	26	1.3
Utuaado	38	1.9
Vega Alta	14	0.7
Vega Baja	10	0.5
Vieques	6	0.3
Villalba	10	0.5
Yabucoa	9	0.5
Yauco	15	0.8



Table A 2. *Distribution of the municipality where the incident occurred, January – June 2024*

Municipality	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Adjuntas	37	1.8
Aguada	46	2.3
Aguadilla	76	3.8
Aguas Buenas	13	0.6
Aibonito	27	1.3
Añasco	12	0.6
Arecibo	61	3.0
Arroyo	18	0.9
Barceloneta	16	0.8
Barranquitas	34	1.7
Bayamón	38	1.9
Cabo Rojo	27	1.3
Caguas	57	2.8
Camuy	27	1.3
Canóvanas	36	1.8
Carolina	86	4.3
Cataño	6	0.3
Cayey	14	0.7
Ceiba	13	0.6
Ciales	7	0.3
Cidra	9	0.4
Coamo	44	2.2
Comerío	18	0.9
Corozal	10	0.5
Culebra	3	0.1
Dorado	12	0.6
Fajardo	36	1.8
Florida	9	0.4
Guánica	13	0.6
Guayama	59	2.9
Guayanilla	10	0.5
Guaynabo	19	0.9
Gurabo	12	0.6
Hatillo	25	1.2



Municipality	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Hormigueros	10	0.5
Humacao	15	0.7
Isabela	37	1.8
Jayuya	16	0.8
Juana Díaz	17	0.8
Juncos	11	0.5
Lajas	30	1.5
Lares	34	1.7
Las Marías	5	0.2
Las Piedras	9	0.4
Loíza	19	0.9
Luquillo	15	0.7
Manatí	26	1.3
Maricao	4	0.2
Maunabo	2	0.1
Mayagüez	53	2.6
Moca	24	1.2
Morovis	21	1.0
Naguabo	5	0.2
Naranjito	7	0.3
Orocovis	23	1.1
Patillas	26	1.3
Peñuelas	11	0.5
Ponce	90	4.5
Quebradillas	20	1.0
Rincón	18	0.9
Río Grande	32	1.6
Sabana Grande	19	0.9
Salinas	36	1.8
San Germán	31	1.5
San Juan	198	9.9
San Lorenzo	12	0.6
San Sebastián	35	1.7
Santa Isabel	14	0.7
Toa Alta	12	0.6
Toa Baja	17	0.8



Municipality	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trujillo Alto	19	0.9
Utado	36	1.8
Vega Alta	15	0.7
Vega Baja	9	0.4
Vieques	6	0.3
Villalba	8	0.4
Yabucoa	6	0.3
Yauco	18	0.9

Table A 3. Cases and adjusted rates per 100,000 women aged 15 years and older by municipality of residence of the women assessed for domestic violence, January – June 2024

Municipality	Women aged 15 years or older	Total number of women	Total number of women with severe and extreme dangerousness	Adjusted rate for all women	Adjusted rates for women with severe and extreme dangerousness
Adjuntas	8,028	32	5	415.1	64.5
Aguada	17,136	38	4	218.1	24.5
Aguadilla	24,604	70	16	278.6	71.6
Aguas Buenas	10,765	12	4	119.9	36.5
Aibonito	11,455	25	7	254.9	70.4
Añasco	11,481	10	1	81.0	8.6
Arecibo	40,112	59	14	147.9	32.5
Arroyo	7,186	16	4	203.5	54.0
Barceloneta	10,535	14	7	110.1	57.7
Barranquitas	12,698	33	14	254.4	109.1
Bayamón	86,210	41	14	49.1	16.4
Cabo Rojo	22,134	30	4	136.0	16.8
Caguas	59,976	60	13	97.6	22.7
Camuy	15,288	30	10	193.7	69.5
Canóvanas	19,228	35	3	175.1	14.2
Carolina	73,612	81	23	113.0	31.9
Cataño	10,419	6	4	54.3	36.4
Cayey	18,789	14	1	72.9	6.6
Ceiba	5,236	9	2	169.1	36.8
Ciales	7,545	7	3	89.0	39.9
Cidra	17,993	7	2	41.3	11.9
Coamo	15,414	43	12	288.9	79.0
Comerio	8,297	16	4	178.8	47.9
Corozal	15,603	11	6	73.0	39.3
Culebra	787	2	0	226.0	0.0
Dorado	16,523	9	4	49.4	17.4
Fajardo	14,767	35	8	228.0	51.3
Florida	5,386	10	5	161.9	75.7



Municipality	Women aged 15 years or older	Total number of women	Total number of women with severe and extreme dangerousness	Adjusted rate for all women	Adjusted rates for women with severe and extreme dangerousness
Guánica	5,668	12	3	197.6	43.8
Guayama	15,387	60	13	357.6	81.0
Guayanilla	7,819	11	4	159.2	59.4
Guaynabo	42,816	20	4	50.2	10.1
Gurabo	18,901	16	7	73.1	32.1
Hatillo	17,891	22	4	120.2	25.8
Hormigueros	7,587	8	1	131.2	23.1
Humacao	23,373	18	2	80.8	9.6
Isabela	19,616	38	3	199.0	14.5
Jayuya	6,354	16	2	233.0	22.7
Juana Díaz	21,205	16	2	70.4	8.3
Juncos	16,954	11	2	55.3	9.3
Lajas	10,588	30	3	297.8	29.6
Lares	12,454	33	4	265.9	34.1
Las Marías	3,795	7	3	194.1	80.4
Las Piedras	16,153	11	3	57.6	16.4
Loíza	10,638	10	1	90.6	7.8
Luquillo	8,292	12	4	144.4	48.7
Manatí	18,351	29	15	155.8	85.0
Maricao	1,995	3	1	174.7	59.1
Maunabo	4,606	3	0	58.9	0.0
Mayagüez	32,528	52	11	176.7	41.3
Moca	16,781	23	3	128.0	19.0
Morovis	12,445	22	6	153.6	39.3
Naguabo	10,804	7	3	53.5	22.4
Naranjito	13,128	10	2	81.0	16.2
Orocovis	9,205	22	6	231.6	61.1
Patillas	7,089	21	6	329.7	95.6
Peñuelas	8,741	10	3	106.7	33.8
Ponce	60,154	91	31	155.5	57.2
Quebradillas	10,663	18	4	170.9	36.5
Rincón	7,295	16	1	253.9	20.9



Municipality	Women aged 15 years or older	Total number of women	Total number of women with severe and extreme dangerousness	Adjusted rate for all women	Adjusted rates for women with severe and extreme dangerousness
Río Grande	21,270	34	15	161.6	68.2
Sabana Grande	10,549	22	3	212.4	29.8
Salinas	11,249	33	11	286.9	98.7
San Germán	14,064	32	4	255.5	32.8
San Juan	162,128	177	53	110.1	33.5
San Lorenzo	17,005	9	1	49.0	5.2
San Sebastián	17,702	36	9	211.5	52.5
Santa Isabel	8,962	13	6	120.5	54.6
Toa Alta	30,545	13	2	42.0	5.6
Toa Baja	34,484	20	3	54.8	8.2
Trujillo Alto	31,934	25	2	78.5	5.8
Utua	12,527	38	11	302.8	84.9
Vega Alta	15,759	14	6	80.7	32.7
Vega Baja	24,872	10	3	37.8	11.9
Vieques	3,412	6	0	196.4	0.0
Villalba	9,611	10	2	108.9	24.4
Yabucoa	13,467	9	1	69.9	4.4
Yauco	15,223	15	6	103.3	41.1



Table A 4. *Relative risks of the risk factors from the Danger Assessment, All regions, January – June 2024*

	RR	Lower limit CI95%	Upper Limit CI95% superior
Has the physical violence increased in severity or frequency during the past year	3.22	2.77	3.75
Does that person own a gun	3.33	2.68	4.14
Have you left (abandoned) that person after living together during the past year	2.34	2.12	2.59
Is that person unemployed or without work	2.05	1.81	2.33
Has that person ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon	12.96	9.24	18.18
Has that person ever threatened to kill you	5.85	5.0	6.84
Has that person avoided being arrested for domestic violence	5.44	4.22	7.01
Do you have a child that is not from that person	1.3	1.18	1.44
Has that person ever forced you to have sex when you did not wish to do so	5.12	3.79	6.91
Has that person ever tried to choke, asphyxiate/strangle you or cut off your breathing	4.55	3.74	5.53
Does that person consume illegal drugs	2.67	2.28	3.13
Is that person an alcoholic or problem drinker	1.48	1.27	1.74
Does that person control most or all of your daily activities	2.28	2.06	2.53



	RR	Lower limit CI95%	Upper Limit CI95% superior
Is that person violently and constantly jealous of you	2.14	1.98	2.32
Have you ever been beaten by that person while you were pregnant	3.38	2.35	4.85
Has that person ever threatened or tried to commit suicide	2.59	2.25	2.98
Has that person threatened to harm your children	6.1	4.41	8.43
Do you believe that person is capable of killing you	3.17	2.85	3.52
Does that person follow or spy on you, leave threatening notes or messages, destroy your property, or call you when you have told him not to	2.47	2.23	2.74
Have you ever threatened or tried to commit suicide	2.40	1.81	3.20

Note:

RR – relative risk

Lower Limit CI95% – lower limit of the 95% confidence interval

Upper Limit CI95% – upper limit of the 95% confidence interval