

<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> V-RISK YP </div>		Violence Risk Assessment Checklist - Youth Protection (aged 12-18)			
Name	Date of birth	Girl (circle)	Boy	Other	Behavior problems Needs for care (circle)

The time frame for V-RISK-YP is from hours to a few weeks, but risk can change quickly and must be assessed continuously. The checklist should be coded by a multidisciplinary team (if possible), e.g. after an intake interview, but *without* the youth or parents/guardians present.

Circle the applicable code: **N**= No = not present, **M**= Moderate = present to a moderate to severe extent, **J**=Yes = present, **Dk**= Don't know = insufficient information, would be particularly appropriate for the first contact

1. Prior and/or current acts of violence <u>Serious violence:</u> Physical attacks (including the use of different weapons, fire) for the purpose of inflicting serious physical harm on another person. Moderate: Acts of aggression including kicking, hitting and pushing that do not inflict harm on the victim Yes: Must have performed 3 moderate or 1 serious act of violence. <u>Definition of violence:</u> Actions intended to injure, violate, or inflict physical pain on another person	N	M	Y	Dk
2. Prior and/or current threats of violence <u>A verbal threat of violence:</u> Shouts, statements or in writing (including social media) that threaten to use violence against another human being. <u>A physical threat of violence</u> is to show attack-preparatory behavior, e.g. threatening with a fist, or other physical behavior that signals physical attack. Destroying objects is not violent behavior, but can in some situations be perceived as a threat (a physical threat will often result in a higher risk than a verbal threat). It can be difficult to assess the content of threats which must be characterized at best judgment as real threats (Moderate or Yes), or as "just talk" (No).	N	M	Y	Dk
3. Prior and/or current alcohol or substance abuse Moderate: The youth has a history of abusing alcohol, medication, narcotic drugs, anabolic steroids or solvents. Yes: The youth has or has had an extensive abuse/addiction problem, with impaired health or function at school, work or leisure activities.	N	M	Y	Dk
4. Prior and/or current severe symptoms of mental health disorders This item focuses on a failing understanding of reality. The youth has strange or inappropriate behavior or expresses ideas that do not match their developmental age. This can be an expression of anxiety disorders, depression, autism spectrum disorders, disorders/symptoms with a lack of reality, or similar, and can also occur without any evidence of mental illness or diagnosis. Moderate: Behavior or thoughts that give rise to suspicion of abnormality Yes: Clear and obvious aberrant behavior or thoughts	N	M	Y	Dk
5. Disruptive, impulsive behavior/Behavioral disorder Moderate: Impulsive, disruptive behavior that does not cause serious harm or distress; such as ADHD, oppositional behavior or poor emotional regulation (e.g. self-harm). Yes: Behavioral disorders causing serious harm or distress, antisocial behavior	N	M	Y	Dk
6. Suspicion The youth expresses suspicion towards other people, either verbally or nonverbally, or appears to be "on guard" against the surroundings	N	M	Y	Dk
7. The youth's and parents/guardians' own perception of violence risk The extent to which the youth or their parents/guardians perceive the risk of violence: Moderate: The youth or their parents/guardians perceive a slightly elevated risk of violence. Yes: The youth or their parents/guardians perceive either a moderate or high risk of violence, or do not wish to answer	N	M	Y	Dk

TOTAL ASSESSMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES

The assessment is based on the scores from V-RISK-YP and other available information at the time, and is an individual assessment of the young person (NB: "Don't know" score indicates higher risk than the "No" score)

How great do you believe the risk of violence is for this youth? (circle)	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH
Immediate implementation of preventive measures (circle), if Yes: which measures.	NO	YES e.g. shielding, permanent guard, extra staff, frequent supervision	
Suggestions for additional violence risk assessments: (circle), if Yes: which measures.	NONE	YES e.g. mapping/investigation, further violence risk investigation at the institution, referral to second opinion use of instruments (such as BVC, ERM, START AV, SAVRY), etc.	

Completed by: Date Department staff :..... Department staff.....

Information about V-RISK-YP

This checklist has been developed as aid to staff in child welfare to assess the risk of violence or threats of violence in young people when they come to an institution, and to be an aid for decisions of implementing immediate preventive measures to avoid violence, if necessary.

The time perspective for the V-RISK-YP is from when the risk assessment is made and a few weeks in the future. However, risk can change quickly depending on the circumstances, and this must always be kept in mind.

The checklist is self-instructive and all information needed to score the items is described on the sheet. The checklist can be used by both experienced and inexperienced employees, and without prior courses or training, although training is always an advantage. The scoring of the individual items must emphasize what you observe and what you have of information.

No account shall be taken of mitigating or aggravating circumstances. This can be included in the "overall assessment" at the end of the form.

Finally, after scoring the items, an "Overall assessment" of the risk of violent behavior for this young person must be carried out; Low, Moderate or High risk. This assessment is based on the scoring of V-RISK-YP and all other available information there and then.

Many items scored as Yes or Moderate/Maybe may indicate a higher violence risk. Yes or Moderate score of one single item or few items can also be of great importance for the final risk assessment (for example item 1. Violence). It is important to note that "Don't know" expresses a higher risk than "No» and should be considered a risk factor.

The basis for V-RISK-YP is a 12-point checklist V-RISK-Y^{1, 2, 3, 4} which was originally developed for acute adolescence psychiatry and acute child welfare based on a Norwegian multicenter project with four adolescent psychiatric and four child welfare institutions. Results showed good predictive results for V-RISK - Y in adolescent psychiatry but not in child welfare¹. A revised edition, V-RISK-YP, was therefore developed based on data from the four child welfare institutions.

References (development of V-RISK-Y)

1. Roaldset et al 2023. Validation of a violence screening for youth in psychiatric inpatient care – a pilot study of V-RISK-Y. *Front. Psychiatry* 14:1210871. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsy.2023.1210871>
2. Roaldset et al 2024. Comparison of V-RISK-Y and V-RISK-10 for risk of violence: A one-year study from a psychiatric emergency department for adolescents. *Asian Journal of Psychiatry* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajp.2024.104044>
3. Laake et al 2024. Interrater reliability of the violence risk assessment checklist for youth: a case vignette study. *BMC Psychiatry*, 24(1), 303. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12888-024-05746-8>
4. Laake et al 2025. Predictive accuracy of the Violence Risk Assessment Checklist for Youth in acute institutions – A prospective naturalistic multicenter study. *European Psychiatry* (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1192/j.eurpsy.2025.3>
5. Laake et al 2025. Assessing the predictive validity of the 12 V-RISK-Y items: A prospective naturalistic study in acute institutions for youth. *Psychiatry Res Communications* 5 (2025) 100224, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psycom.2025.100224>
6. Laake et al 2025. Don't know" scores should be considered when assessing violence risk for youth in acute institutions. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 16, 1705810

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