SAFETY AND RISK DECISIONS AND TOOLS

This practice idea is a result of the work by teams in the BSC on Safety and Risk Assessments. These are practice ideas that you can start doing today that may improve your work with families in conducting effective safety and risk assessments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENHANCED RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overview</strong></td>
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<td>A risk assessment tool was revised by adding new questions to gather information that is relevant to a specific population served by the agency. Two jurisdictions tried this change to elicit information that could be relevant to safety assessments for children in military families.</td>
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<td><strong>Why Try This?</strong></td>
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<td>Safety and risk assessment tools developed to determine issues commonly seen in the general population may not include questions that provide valuable information regarding specific groups, such as military families dealing with multiple deployments or returning soldiers with post-traumatic stress syndrome.</td>
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<td><strong>How Can I Try This?</strong></td>
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| • Use the Texas Enhanced Risk Assessment Tool to elicit information specific to military families.  
• Develop a question you think is relevant to a population in your area, and test it on your next assessment visit. |
| **Success in the BSC**        |
| “We began with one worker and five questions and as a result of all the hard work and constant communication, we have expanded our Advanced Risk Assessment to all investigators within our region….all our workers have a better understanding of the military culture and can navigate both systems with ease and confidence.” |
| **Things to Think about**     |
| • Know why you are asking each question. Do you believe the answer may impact the safety of children?  
• Test each question. What do the answers tell you? Do they lead to another question? |
| **Tools and Links**           |
| Texas Enhanced Risk Assessment Tool |
| **Originally Tried**          |
| Texas |
Texas Enhanced Risk Assessment

Is any caregiver currently deployed?
- YES
- NO

If yes, when did the caregiver deploy?
- 1-3 Months
- 4-6 Months
- 7-9 Months
- 9-12 Months
- Over 12 Months

Has any caregiver returned from deployment recently?
- YES
- NO

If yes, when did the caregiver return?
- 1-3 Months
- 4-6 Months
- 7-9 Months
- Over 12 Months

Has any caregiver been diagnosed with PTSD or is any caregiver suspected of having PTSD?
- Diagnosed
- YES
- NO
- Suspected
- YES
- NO

Has any caregiver been subject to adverse action by his unit to include negative counseling statements?
- YES
- NO

What is the soldier’s rank?
- E1-E4
- E5-E6
- E7-E8
- E9
- O1-O2
- O3-O4
- O5-O6
- O7-UP

How many army installations have you and your family been stationed at?
- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4 and over

Do you own any weapons?
- YES
- NO

Where are they stored and are they registered?