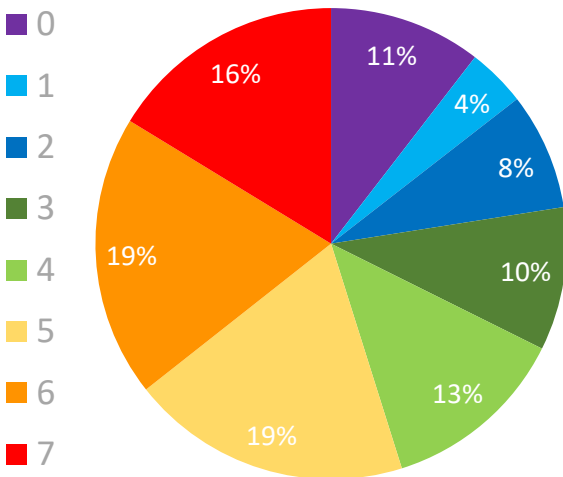


**What is a danger & lethality assessment?**

A danger & lethality assessment helps to inform the level of danger a victim of intimate partner violence is experiencing. Each Artemis Center client works with a skilled advocate who assesses them for over 30 evidence-based risk factors. Once the assessment is completed, advocates score the client's risk level on a scale of 0 to 7. This assessment plays a key role in informing client-centered safety planning.

Scale Guide for Danger & Lethality Score	
0	No risk for future physical/sexual abuse
1	Low risk for future physical/sexual abuse
2	Moderate risk for future physical/sexual abuse
3	Probably future physical/sexual abuse
4	Escalating physical/sexual abuse
5	Possible serious injury or homicide
6	High risk for serious injury, possible homicide
7	High risk for homicide

Distribution of Danger/Lethality Scores for 2022



Artemis advocates conducted **946 danger & lethality assessments in 2022**. This is almost a 30% increase from 2021, when 730 assessments were conducted. In 2022, **54% of clients were rated at a 5-7, indicating a risk of homicide**. 19% of all clients assessed in 2022 were scored at a 6 (high risk for serious injury, possible homicide) and 19% were scored at a 5 (possible serious injury or homicide). The next most common score, 16% of clients, were scored at a 7 (high risk for homicide).

**High lethality risk factors**

Of those who answered when asked to describe their experiences with these factors...

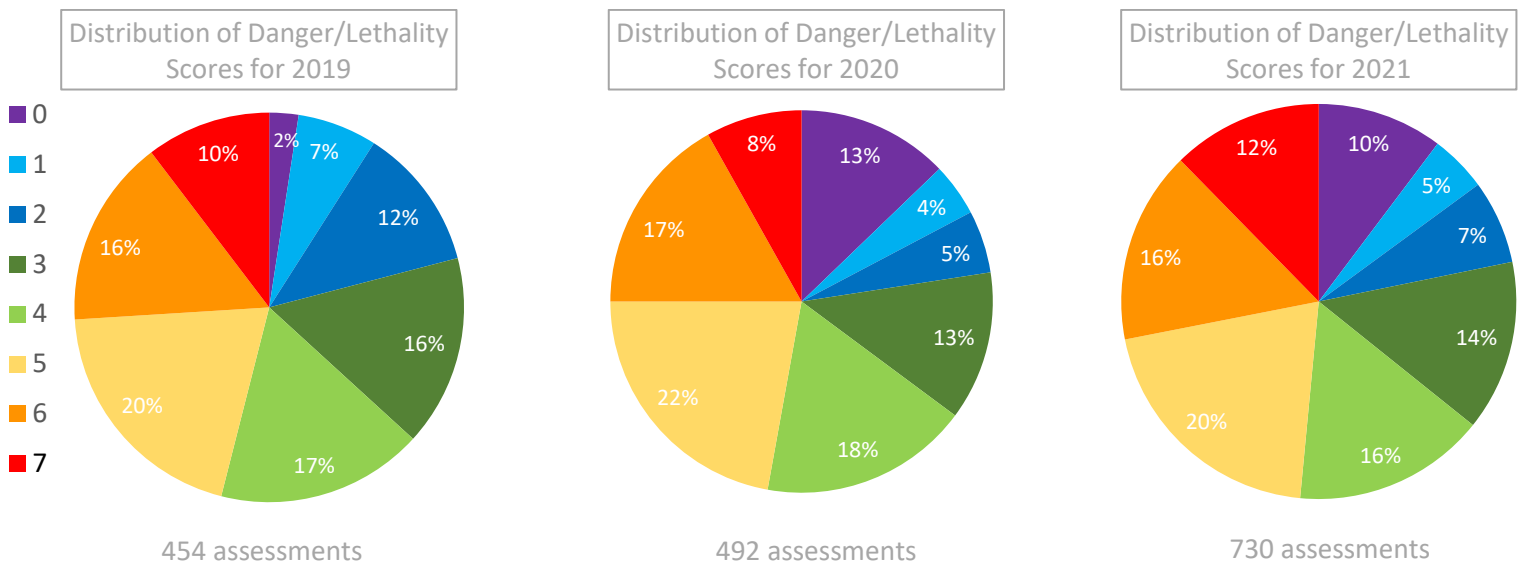
- 60.5%** stated their batterer threatened to kill them.
  - 60%** reported their batterers have access to weapons.
  - 57.7%** of survivors experienced separation violence.
  - 53.2%** reported their batterer had threatened or attempted suicide.
  - 52.3%** described being strangled or suffocated.
  - 43.2%** of survivors were assaulted while pregnant.
  - 41.2%** of survivors had been shown a weapon in a threatening way.
- Of the survivors scored at a 5-7 for danger & lethality, **21.6%** had been threatened, intimidated, or harmed by their abuser with a gun.



### How have things changed?

When looking at assessments conducted from 2019 through 2022 it becomes clear that the **risk for homicide and the overall danger victims face has been increasing**. In 2019, 46% of clients were assessed at a 5-7 score. Furthermore, the percentage of victims rated at a 7 (high risk for homicide) has doubled from 2020 to 2022.

Artemis Center has also experienced a dramatic increase in assessment volume due to the influx of new clients seeking services.



### Changes in high lethality risk factors from 2019 to 2022

Of the assessments in which victims answered when asked to describe their experiences with these factors...

- Batterers' access to weapons has been increasing annually. From 2019 to 2022 there was an **8.3% increase** in victims reporting their batterer having access to weapons.
- Similarly, from 2019 to 2022, there has been a **3.5% increase** in victims reporting their batterer threatening to kill them and a **3.5% increase** in victims reporting they were shown a weapon in a threatening way.
- Reports of victims having been strangled or suffocated have fluctuated over this period with the highest rates of **62% in 2020** and the lowest at **52.3% in 2022**.
- Reports of batterer threats or attempts at suicide have also fluctuated, ranging from **60.1% in 2020** to **52.5% in 2021**. While the threat of batterer suicide may be used as a control tactic, batterer risk of suicide increases the danger for the victim due to the possibility of a murder-suicide being committed.
- Victims who were pregnant during their relationship & reported being assaulted during their pregnancy remained around **43-44%**.
- Victims reporting separation violence steadily **decreased 11.9%** from 2019 to 2022.