

CHARACTERISTICS OF BATTERER

- Batterers are found in all socioeconomic, educational, ethnic, racial, and age groups.
- Use psychological, verbal, and physical abuse including sexual abuse.
- Engage in excessive minimization and denial.
- Has poor impulse control—limited tolerance for frustration, explosive temper. Constantly demonstrating, but often successfully masking anger.
- Emotionally dependent.
- Subject to secret depression known only to family.
- Limited capacity for delayed reinforcement—very “NOW” oriented.
- Insatiable ego needs and qualities of childlike narcissism (not generally detectable to people outside family group).
- Low self-esteem--perceived unachieved ideals and goals for self, disappointment in career, even if successful by others’ standards.
- Qualities which suggest potential for change and improvement; i.e., makes frequent “promises” for the future.
- Perception of self as having poor social skills; describing relationship with mate as closest ever known; remains in contact with his own family.
- Makes accusations against mate, jealousy, voices great fear of abandonment or “being cheated on”, possessive, controlling, hovering.
- Fearfulness that partner and/or children will abandon, fear of being alone.
- Containment of mate and employment of espionage tactics against mate (e.g. checks mileage, times errands); cleverness depends on level of sophistication.
- Violating others’ personal boundaries; accepts no blame for failures (marital, familial, occupational) or for violent acts.
- Belief that forcible behavior is aimed at securing the family nucleus.
- Absence of guilt on an emotional level even after intellectual recognition.
- Generational history of abuse.
- Frequently participating in peck order battering.
- Assaultive skills, which improve with age and experience (increase in danger potential and lethality risks to family members over time.)
- Demanding and oftentimes assaultive role in sexual activities: sometimes punishes with abstinence, at times experiences impotence.
- Increasingly assaultive behavior when mate is pregnant—pregnancy often marks the first assault.
- Exerting control over mate by threatening homicide and/or suicide.... Often attempts one or both when partners separate—known to complete either or both.

CHARACTERISTICS OF BATTERER

- Frequently using children as “pawns” and exerting power and control through custody issues. May kidnap children or hold children from mother.
- Feels the victim deserves abuse.
- Blames victim for problems in household.
- Maintains total control over finances.
- Feels spouse or victim is crazy, out of control.
- Has unrealistic expectations and makes continuous unrealistic demands.
- Lacks verbal/social skills.
- May have lower level of occupational attainment than perceived or actual level of spouse.
- Relinquishes responsibility for family functioning and blames spouse for problems in the household.
- Believes he cannot live up to his nor his wife’s expectations.
- Usually jealous and almost always possessive.
- Has a rigid personality--tends to see things as right/wrong, black/white.
- Has an overwhelming need to be right.
- Alcohol or drugs are often involved.
- Views the woman as threatening or stronger than he is in some respects. Feels he needs to keep her beneath him.
- There is little distinction between a feeling and an action.
- Has usually either been abused as a child or has seen adult models interacting in a violent manner.
- Has learned that violence is a suitable and appropriate outlet for frustration and anger.
- Views the woman as his property, possession and chattel.
- Has learned that violence is a way of dealing with stress. Often the anger involved is displaced.
- May also abuse the children.
- Have traditional values and expectations in the home, believing in male supremacy and the stereotypical masculine sex role in the family.
- Presents a dual personality—Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.
- Uses sex as an act of aggression frequently
- Does not believe that their violent behavior should have negative consequences.
- Believe all myths about battering relationships.