



## Characteristics of a Batterer

### **Male**

It is estimated that 90-95% of batterers are males. The vast majority of victims are female.

### **Demographics**

They can be of any age, race, ethnicity, educational level, or occupation. The 3 leading professions of batterers are police, doctors, and lawyers, but they are certainly not limited to these 3.

### **Disrespect for women**

Men who batter don't respect women. They generally believe in traditional sex roles (men are head of the house and women are subservient to them). They see women as weak and easy targets that they can manipulate through fear and intimidation.

### **Dependent on women**

Even though abusers don't respect women, they remain dependent on them. They fear being alone and try to control their partners through fear, intimidation, and loss of self-esteem.

### **Bullies**

Abusers usually only abuse those they consider weaker than themselves, that is: women, children, and pets. They rarely go after anyone who can fight back in a fair fight.

### **Blames others for his behavior and his problems**

The abuser has a hard time ever accepting responsibility for his behavior or admitting he is wrong. He sees this as a weakness and thus projects blame onto others, especially you.

### **Immature**

Abusive men often react to their wives and girlfriends as a "mother" to rebel against. This can create in women a sense that he is vulnerable and she may find herself worrying about him when she considers leaving him.

### **Abusive Fathers**

Abusive men frequently were raised by abusive fathers. They may have been abused themselves and almost always have observed their mothers being abused, either emotionally or physically or both. Their home is where they learned that one can either be the victim and weak, or the abuser and strong. Their home is also where they learned to disrespect women.

### **A sense of male entitlement**

He usually has an unrealistic sense of personal entitlement based on his status as a man.

### **Passive/aggressive**

He can at times be quite passive, has difficulty with verbal expression, and tends to be passive/aggressive. That is he may repeatedly fail to do what you have asked him to, or "forget" important things as a way to "get even" with you.



### **Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde**

He changes moods quickly and unpredictably. One moment he may be very charming and romantic and the next change into an angry bully. This keeps a woman off balance.

### **Hyper-sensitive to perceived insults**

Overly sensitive, frequently misinterprets things as insults to him. Takes things personally. Women report feeling like they are "walking on egg shells."

### **Can't let go of an argument**

Always has to be right, hard to admit when wrong and will carry argument to extremes. Can't seem to ever "agree to disagree." He may even keep you awake at night when you have to work the next day to continue the argument.

### **Excessively jealous**

Has a tendency to be very jealous. This usually starts out as mild and may be interpreted early on as "love." It latter develops into pathological jealousy with constant accusations and intrusive behavior (such as following her around).

### **Sulking**

Sometimes will not talk and may sulk pout for hours or days.

### **Excessive**

Tends to be excessive: excessively romantic and generous/excessively critical and angry.

### **Public "mask"**

Usually doesn't let others see his abusive side. It can add to the confusion when people comment on what a "great guy" he is.

### **Controlling**

At the heart of the abuser's behaviors is his need to control. He controls through fear, manipulation, creating confusion, and destroying self-esteem.

### **Threatens suicide or homicide**

This is the ultimate method of control: either through guilt and worry that he may harm himself, or fear that he may kill you or someone else.

### **Intentionally makes his partner jealous to keep her off balance**

He may talk about other women, compare you to other women, flirt with women in front of you or actually have affairs and let you know about it. He uses this to make you feel insecure and afraid of "losing" him. It's all about control.