

Why Do Men Batter?

Men batter to gain and maintain power and control over their partner. It is their chosen method to get what they want from their partner. Research demonstrates that abuse crosses all lines of economic status, age, geography, race, religion, gender, and sexual orientation; with male to female abuse accounting for as much as 95% of the total battering incidents. (*Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1983*).

Who are Batterers?

Men who batter come from all socio-economic backgrounds, races, religions, and walks of life. They are preachers, senators, deacons, public officials, corporate CEO's, construction workers, deliverymen, etc.

The majority of batterers are only violent with their wives or female partners. One study found that 90% of abusers do not have criminal records, and that batterers are generally law abiding outside of the home. It is estimated that only 5% to 10% of batterers commit acts of physical and sexual assault against other people as well as their partners.

What do Batterers Have in Common?

- They deny the existence or minimize the seriousness of the violence and its effect on the victim and other family members.
- They show extreme jealousy and possessiveness, which often leads to isolation of the victim from other family and friends.
- They refuse to take responsibility for the abuse, blaming it on a loss of control due to the effects of alcohol or drugs, frustration, stress or the victim's behavior.
- They hold rigid, traditional views of sex roles and parenting or negative attitudes towards women in general.