



Profile of a Male Abuser

Abusers come from all social, educational, and cultural backgrounds. They aren't born abusive – they develop abusive personalities in response to their circumstances. Abusers can be either male or female but the factors that create female abusers are different than those that create male abusers.

Some Canadian researchers have found that the biggest childhood contributors for a man to become an abuser are the following:

- Feeling rejected by his father
- Feeling a lack of warmth from his father
- Being physically abused by his father
- Being verbally abused by his father
- Feeling rejected by his mother

However, not all male children who live through those conditions grow up to be abusive. For instance, studies have shown that with the supportiveness of a close male relationship, men are less likely to develop abusive personalities and less likely to hold negative beliefs and hostile attitudes towards women.

And while their backgrounds may differ, abusive men do tend to have many characteristics in common.

An abusive partner will often:

- Blame others for their problems
- Be jealous and imagine his partner is having affairs
- Try to isolate his partner
- Try to control his partner
- Have a “Jekyll and Hyde” personality
- Have other problems with the law
- Have an explosive temper and fly into a rage without provocation
- Use insults, put downs or slanderous names to abuse his partner in addition to physical assault
- Come from a family where family violence is practised
- Be more violent when his partner is pregnant or soon after she gives birth
- Deny the violence or its severity or seemingly not remember it
- Be skilled at manipulating others

Sources:

Dutton, Donald G. (1995). *The Batterer – A Psychological Profile*, New York: Harper & Collins
Transition House Association, Prince Edward Island, 2000