

Continuum of Aggression and Abuse

Exacerbating Factors:

Family of Origin Issues
 Substance Abuse
 Age (Younger)
 Previous Abusive Relationships
 Psychological Issues

⇒ Continuum from 'Common Couple Aggression' to 'Batterer' and 'Terrorism' ⇒

Common Couple Aggression

- Aberrant Act
- Remorse
- Does not cause fear, oppression or control
- No injury
- Comes from escalating arguments
- Could happen in any family
- Balance of power in a relationship

High Conflict

- Does not solve problems well
- Anger is an issue in family
- May have remorse
- May have sporadic physical aggression and/or destruction of property
- Can have emotional abuse
- No fear
- Balance of power in relationship

Separation or Loss Specific Aggression

- Isolated act(s) of aggression
- No prior context of domestic violence
- Aggression fueled by stress of loss/grieving
- May engender fear, particularly in women, based on vicarious trauma

Abuse

- Sporadic physical aggression
- Name calling, but not character assassination
- Verbal abuse, but not psychological
- May be remorseful
- Threats of abandonment
- Aggression takes place without witnesses

Battering

- Monopolization of perception
- Generally more regular physical abuse, but may occur without physical
- Threats to victim's support system
- Jealousy
- Putting down friends and family
- Destruction of property
- Self-absorbed
- Sexual abuse
- Change in victim's personality
- More generally violent

Terrorism

- Stalking
- Monopolization of perception
- Insidious psychological abuse
- Well thought-out threat to kill
- Torturing pets
- Extreme isolation
- Generally more regular physical abuse, but may occur without physical
- Sexual humiliation and degradation

Mediating Factors:

Connection to community
 Job that has meaning
 Age (Older)
 Participation in abuse intervention program
 Participation in recovery program