

Distinct Issues about Batteries by Jim Grace
“Representing Victims of Domestic Violence” Conference Presentation
June 27, 2001
 Elizabethtown, Kentucky

Distinct Issues About Batterers

The behavior is monstrous, but they are not monsters.

People are not abusive all the time.

There are acute instances with months in between.

How to know if domestic violence is likely to occur again?—The behavior increases in severity over time. If the victim believes treatment will be effective, be very cautious on her behalf.

30% are reactive offenders—Need Anger management

Low Impulse Control

Cannot control their actions

May be more physically or sexually violent

70% are Instrumental Offenders

Planning and contemplating their actions to hide their abuse
Stalk for months and years; emotionally invested with
victim

Seem very powerful, independent

The small percentage of female perpetrators do so as a defense. Only a miniscule # are charged.

We have in Kentucky a separate certification program for mental health providers for batterer treatment. There are 125 certified providers listed on the website. Court ordered work requires certification.

The best treatment is ineffective unless there is a threat of incarceration hanging over the offender’s head. NO voluntary treatment works.

There is a 50% success rate; i.e., no recidivism for six months to a year, when there is a threat of incarceration along with treatment.

About 30% of perpetrators were abused as children. It is far from absolute that they will automatically become batterers as adults.