

## Common characteristics of battered women

What are the characteristics that make women likely victims of battering?

"The huge pile of data about battered women which the victim blamers have amassed reveals one critical fact: one battered woman is as different from the next as night is from day. Taken all in all, the studies show that all battered women have only one significant characteristic in common--they are all female.

Some battered women were abused as children; others were not. Some battered women never got past grade school; others hold advanced degrees. Some battered women have never held a job; others have worked all their lives. Some battered women were married very young, others in middle age, others not at all. Many battered women are very poor; many are well-to-do. Many battered women have 'too many' children, others none at all. Many battered women are passive introverts; others are active extroverts. Some battered women drink too much or use drugs; others never touch the stuff. Many battered women are Catholic; many others are Protestant, Jewish, Hindu, Muslim, agnostic, atheist, Buddhist, Mormon. In short, there is no typical battered woman. Or to put in another way, any girl or woman might be battered." from *Next Time She'll Be Dead* by Ann Jones, p. 162-3.