

Are dispositional factors explanations for external attributions of responsibility and minimization among male batterers?

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Men arrested and condemned for intimate partner violence assaults tend to use external attributions to justify their behavior and tend to minimize the severity of their violent acts. Some studies suggest that dispositional factors, such as narcissism, antisocial tendencies, and self-esteem, may explain the attribution of responsibility biases (e.g., low levels of self-attribution of blame, victim blaming, and self-defense) and the high levels of minimization observed among male batterers. In order to test this hypothesis, in the present study, we first use two-step cluster analyses to classify batterers based on their levels of minimization and their attributions of responsibility and, second, we analyze the differences between these groups in three dispositional factors (Narcissism, Antisocial tendencies, and Self-esteem). Participants were 110 male batterers attending to the first assessment session of a court mandated batterer intervention program in the community. Analyses allowed us to identify two groups of batterers based on their different levels of self-attribution of blame, victim blaming, self-defense, and minimization. ANOVA's results yielded no differences between the two groups of batterers in the dispositional factors analyzed. Alternative explanation for attribution of responsibility biases and minimization among male batterers are discussed.