

Expressions of love

Did the individual you were involved with verbally express love or caring to you?

Yes	85%
No	12%
n/a	3%

If the person verbally expressed love or caring to you, how often?

Daily	44%
Weekly	15%
From time to time	25%
Rarely	16%

Narrative descriptions

“She was initially flattering and generous with gifts and sex. Prepared meals and made drinks. Offered to help wherever possible. All of these were gradually withdrawn and replaced with theft, gaslighting, manipulation and bullying.”

“Would say I love you almost robotically like he was saying good morning but his actions never matched his words. He would do something so cruel and then say I love you as if nothing ever happened.”

“He was very loving when he needed something or was locked up in jail.”

“Initially with dates, flowers, gifts and little thoughtfulness. After I married him, he said, on the Honeymoon, ‘I can stop acting now.’ I thought that he was joking. I later learned he did not do jokes.”

“Her words were like deftly painted plastic flowers.”

“Praised my talents continually, spoke of her luck in knowing me and then turned on me like a Rottweiler on crack!! Belittling, degrading, extremely rude and projected severe rejection toward me.”

“He was always very affectionate and loving, it never changed until he was arrested and turned out he was a bigamist with 13 children by 6 women, using all for financial gain.”

Conclusions

1. Informants who have known subjects well for a long time are useful sources of information about those subjects and the antisocial personality pattern.
2. Antisocial individuals do maintain social connections, often for extended periods of time.
3. Respondents rated putative antisocial individuals as quite manipulative, deceitful, callous and narcissistic (in that order). The subjects were also judged to be hostile, aggressive, irresponsible, impulsive and reckless, though overall less so.
4. Males were described as more deceitful, irresponsible and reckless than were females.
5. Respondents often required a year or more of interactions with the putative antisocial individual before discerning the traits assessed by the DSM 5 criteria.
6. Contrary to the proposed DSM 5 language, most respondents indicated that these very antisocial individuals do “articulate love” in the service of their social and material needs. Only 12% were described as not verbally expressing love.
7. Many dimensions of this disorder may not be readily observed in a diagnostic interview. Clinicians, therefore, must rely on collateral sources, including informants, when assessing these traits.

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Donna Andersen
donna@lovefraud.com
609-945-1384

Liane J. Leedom, M.D.
drleedom@lovefraud.com

WHEN PSYCHOPATHS SAY “I LOVE YOU”

A study examining
the construct of DSM 5
antisocial/psychopathic type
through reports of
romantic partners,
family members
and associates

Liane J. Leedom, M.D.
Donna Andersen, B.A.

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Research design

Antisocial Personality: What do romantic partners, family members and associates report?

Educated informants who have known antisocial individuals for a long time have important information to share regarding their behavior. In this survey, respondents were accessed through Lovefraud.com, a public education website, from February 12–March 3, 2010.

Results

Responses

Total surveys 1,378
Entirely completed surveys 1,188

Sex of survey respondent

Female 87%
Male 13%

Sex of the putative antisocial person

Male 81%
Female 19%

Respondent relationship to index person

Romantic partner 46.5%
Spouse 33%
Child or stepchild of index person 5%
Parent or stepparent of index person 2%
Sibling or other relative 5%
Work colleague or business associate 3%
Social acquaintance or other 5%

Respondent age when completed the survey

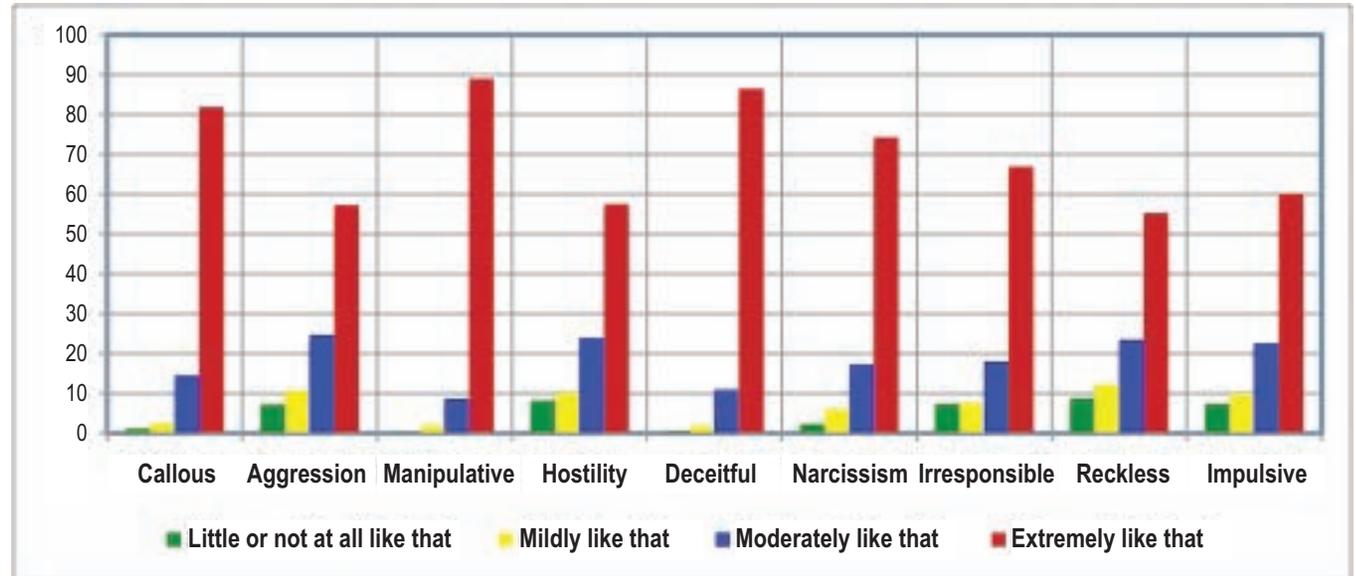
Under age 20 0.5%
Age 21-30 4.5%
Age 31-40 18%
Age 41-50 36.5%
Age 51-60 33%
Over age 60 7.5%

Length of time involved with index person

Under 1 year 10%
1 to 4 years 31%
5 to 9 years 22%
10 to 19 years 17%
20 years or more 19%

Identifying antisocial traits

Survey respondents rated subjects according to the 9 DSM 5 dimensions



Seeing the behaviors

Length of time required to observe antisocial traits

