



Many men victims of abuse as well

11:56 PM, Oct. 30, 2011 |

As an organization that works with male victims of domestic violence, we would like to respond to the article, "Men called to fight abuse" (Oct. 21). The article incorrectly states that 95 percent of domestic violence is committed by men.

That figure is not supported by any current, reliable source. Even crime data from the Department of Justice, which is unreliable because men report it less than women, now shows about 25-30 percent of the victims are men.

And almost 300 randomized surveys now confirm "women are as physically aggressive, or more aggressive, than men in their relationships with their spouses or male partners," as California State University Professor Martin Fiebert shows in his online bibliography at <http://www.csulb.edu/~mfiebert/assault.htm>

For example, a 32-nation study by the University of New Hampshire found women are as violent and controlling as men in dating relationships worldwide.

The Centers for Disease Control recently funded a major study of heterosexual relationships throughout the U.S. and found: "Almost 24 percent of all relationships had some violence, and half (49.7 percent) of those were reciprocally violent. In nonreciprocally violent relationships, women were the perpetrators in more than 70 percent of the cases," and both sexes suffered significant injuries.

The same study also found: "More women than men (25 percent versus 11 percent) were responsible. In fact, 71 percent of the instigators in nonreciprocal partner violence were women" and "while injury was more likely when violence was perpetrated by men, in relationships with reciprocal violence it was the men who were injured more often (25 percent of the time) than were women (20 percent of the time)."

Sweeping male victims and their children under the rug does nothing to solve the problem. Domestic violence is an intergenerational cycle, and we can't break that cycle by ignoring half of it out of political correctness.

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