PEACE AND JUSTICE NETWORK

MALE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE- efocus 3/15/24

Introduction: On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States, with 1 in 9 men and 1 in 5 women experiencing physical violence, sexual violence and/or stalking. More than 20,000 phone calls are placed daily to DV hotlines nationwide. IPV (intimate partner violence) accounts for 15% of all violent crime. See more…

Male Victims: 1 in 4 men have been physically abused (slapped, pushed, shoved) by an intimate partner. 1 in 7 men have been severely abused physically (hit with a fist or hard object, kicked, slammed against something, choked, burned, etc.) by a partner at some point in their lifetime. Male rape victims reported predominantly male perpetrators, and nearly half of stalkings were committed by male partners.

LGBTQIA+ victims of IPV have historically kept silent out of fear, and there have been few studies and little public discussion. The available studies highlight that the phenomenon occurs at a rate that is comparable or even higher than in the heterosexual population. According to a study in 2018, 26% of gay men retorted experiencing IPV, compared to 29% if heterosexual men. Bisexuals, both men and women experience violence in higher numbers than either gay men or lesbians, while transgender persons have faced violence at even higher rates.

Male victims, and those in the LGBTQIA+ community, face unique obstacles to finding safety as they deal with shame, fear and a lack of training and sensitivity within the agencies from whom they might seek help. As an example, domestic shelters are typically set up to serve only females, and transgender women may be refused admittance.

Men and women in violent relationships: In the National Survey of Families and Households, of injuries reported, 73% were female. Men are more likely to injure their partners through low-level violence, such as slapping or pushing, and women are more likely to require medical attention than male victims. Many abusive women are not the sole perpetrators of violence, but are battered women who fought back. In mutually violent relationships, women are more likely than men to experience severe and coercive forms of partner violence, and women are injured more often and more severely.

To conclude, men experiencing abuse and violence in their relationships face complicated situations. There are difficulties and obstacles to reporting and to receiving help, and historically men have hidden their problems. There are some legal changes being made to assist men and the LGBTQIA+ community. We continue to seek health and safety for all of God’s beloved children.

**Resources include**: the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ncadv.org) National Domestic Violence Hotline 800-799-7233, Sexual Assault Hotline 800-656-4673, Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (acasdv.org) 602-279-2900 or 800-782-6400. **Contact Joan Fenton** rjfenton5@gmail.com for workshops.