

Marac data – Key findings

October 2021 - September 2022

About the data

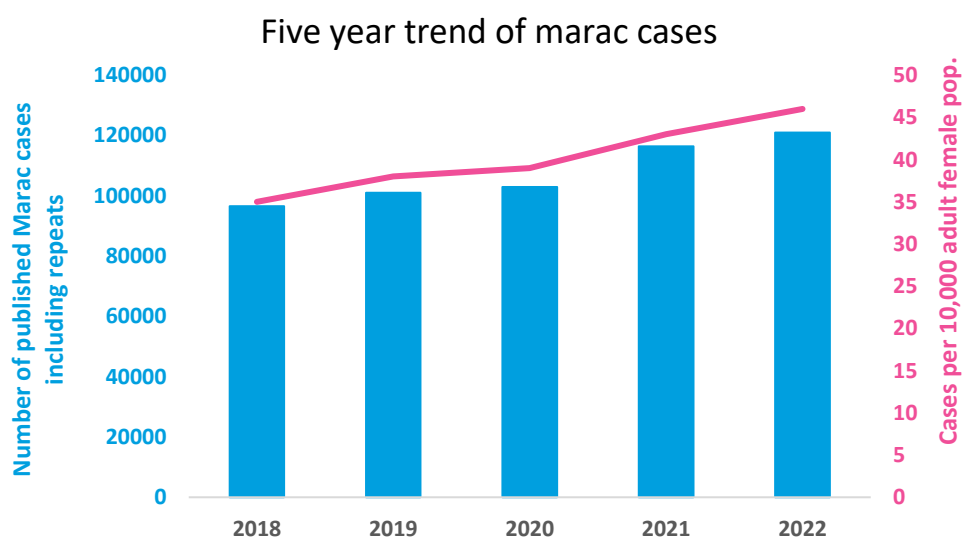
A Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (Marac) is a meeting where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between representatives of local police, health, child protection, adult social care, housing practitioners, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (Idvas - Idaas in Scotland), probation and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors. Data is collected from all Maracs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and most Maracs in Scotland. It is collected at meeting level which means we have information about the cohort of cases discussed at each meeting but not data on individual cases. The data presented here represents cases heard at 293 Maracs between 1st October 2021 and 30th September 2022. An annual summary of Marac data by Police Force Area in England and Wales is available on our [website](#).

The 12-month figures below are based on the published data at the time. Sometimes Maracs fail to send us their data for a quarter, in which case we use their last quarter's data as a proxy. If a Marac does not send us data for two quarters in a row, then they are removed from the dataset. Occasionally, Maracs make corrections to the data after it is published; these corrections are not represented in this dataset.

One of the ways in which we publish the data is as an annual number of cases per 10,000 adult (16+) women. We produce this figure by dividing the number of cases (including repeats) by the adult women population covered by the Marac, as based on the 2011 census, and multiplying that figure by 10,000. There are sometimes differences in which Maracs are included in the dataset each year, for instance a Marac may not be able to send us their data one quarter. Therefore, when looking at trends in cases, it is more accurate to use the 'Cases per 10,000' figure, instead of the number of cases, as it takes into account Maracs not included by removing their population figures from the calculation.

Please note that 'number of cases' includes repeats, therefore **cases do not represent the total number of individuals** as a person may be referred into Marac more than once and would be counted as more than one case.

What trends are we seeing in Maracs across the UK?



The average number of cases is significantly above our expected rate:

In the 12 months to September 2022, 293 Maracs discussed 120,956 cases (includes repeats), **which is a 4% increase from the same time period the previous year and a 25% increase compared to the same time period five years ago (2018)**¹. The total number of cases discussed per 10,000 adult women is 47, up from 46 a year ago and up from 35 five years ago (34% increase). This is above the rate of cases Safelives expect to see (40 cases per 10,000) based on our estimate of the prevalence of high-risk domestic abuse. However, this figure is an average, with some Maracs seeing much lower and some much higher rates.

The rate of repeat cases has remained consistent from this time last year:

Domestic abuse is a pattern of behaviour, and as such cases are often referred to Marac more than once. For an established Marac the expected percentage of repeat cases would be in the range of 28-40%. The UK-wide repeat rate is currently 33%, the same as this time last year (33%).

The rate of police referrals has slightly increased from this time last year:

In the 12 months to September 2022, 67.2% of Marac referrals were made by the police, which is slightly higher than last year (66%). Expected figures are between 60-75%. A full breakdown of the changes in the last 12 months for all referral agencies can be found below in Table 3.

There is a slight increase in the percentage of victims recorded as having a disability:








The proportion of cases involving victims with a disability in the 12 months to September 2022 was 8.5%, compared to 8.2% in 2021. However, this remains lower than the estimated population of 21%, based on the Family Resources Survey 2020-2021, which identifies that around 1 in 5 of the working age population (16-64 years) is disabled. More information about the need to improve the response to disabled survivors of abuse can be found in our ‘Spotlight’ on disabled victims in 2016² or through [Stay Safe East](#) and [SignHealth](#).

There has been a decrease in the percentage of cases where the victim is Black, Asian or racially minoritised:

The proportion of cases where the victim is Black, Asian or racially minoritised in the 12 months to September 2022 was 15.4%, compared to 16.4% in 2021. This remains lower than the national population rate of 17.9%.

Table 1: Changes in the last 12 months: volume of cases

Table 1 below shows changes in key indicators in the last 12 months, comparing the time periods July 2021 to June 2022 and July 2020 to June 2021. All percentage changes are displayed as a change in percentage points (pp).

	Number of Maracs	No. of Cases	No. of Repeats	No. of Children	Cases per 10,000	% Repeats	% Police Referrals
October 21 to September 22	293	120,956	39,770	153,197	47	33%	67%
Change in last 12 months	 -4	 4,573	 1,094	 8,697	 +1	 0 pp	 +1 pp
Recommendation	-	-	-	-	40	28-40%	60-75%

¹ Since 2018, the number of Maracs in Scotland submitting data has increased by more than 25% and we now have data for most of Scotland.

² <https://safelives.org.uk/knowledge-hub/spotlights/spotlight-2-disabled-people-and-domestic-abuse>

Table 2: Changes in the last 12 months: 'hidden' victims or those with unmet need

Table 2 below shows changes in key indicators in the last 12 months, comparing the time periods October 2021 to September 2022 and October 2020 to September 2021. All percentage changes are displayed as a change in percentage points (pp).






















	% Black, Asian and racially minoritised people	% LGBT+	% Disability	% Males	Victims aged 16-17	% Victims aged 16-17	Number harming others aged 17 or below
October 21 to September 22	15.4%	1.4%	8.5%	6.0%	1,597	1.3%	1,165
Change in last 12 months							
	-1.0 pp	-0.1 pp	+0.3 pp	-0.2 pp	+227	+0.1 pp	+76
Recommendation	18.3%	2.5%-5.8%	19%	5-10%	-	-	-

Table 3: Changes in the last 12 months: referral agencies

Referral agency	October 2020 to September 2021	October 2021 to September 2022	Change in last 12 months	Direction of change
Police	65.9%	67.2%	+2.0pp	
Idva/Idaa	11.9%	11.9%	0.0pp	
Children's Social Care	3.1%	2.8%	-0.3pp	
Primary Care	2.1%	1.8%	-0.3pp	
Secondary Care/ Acute trust	2.2%	2.3%	+0.1pp	
Education	0.1%	0.1%	0.0pp	
Housing	1.9%	1.7%	-0.2pp	
Mental Health	1.2%	1.3%	+0.1pp	
Probation	1.9%	1.7%	-0.2pp	
Voluntary Sector	3.2%	2.9%	-0.3pp	
Substance abuse	0.5%	0.5%	0.0pp	
Adult Social Care	0.9%	0.8%	-0.1pp	
Mash	0.4%	0.5%	+0.1pp	
Other	4.7%	4.3%	-0.4pp	

How do these trends vary across regions and countries?

Cases per 10,000 range from 20 to 76; with the lowest of 21 in Northern Ireland, and the highest of 76 in North West and Wales. Scotland has 28 cases per 10,000 adult women.

Despite the overall increase in cases, there was a decrease in six regions/countries: The biggest decrease was seen in the Channel Islands region, at -22% compared to the same time period the year before. There were also decreases in Yorkshire and Humber (-9%), the North East (-5%), Eastern (-3%), Scotland (-2%), and the South West (-1%). The highest increase in cases was in Wales with a 28% increase in cases, followed by Northern Ireland at 18%.

London remains the only region/country with more than half of referrals coming from non-police agencies: As per previous quarters, London had by far the lowest rate of police referrals, at 39%. This is however an increase from last year of 35%, and we know this reflects different referral practice in London than in other parts of the UK. The next lowest rate of police referrals was the East Midlands at 60% and then South East at 61%. Wales, West Midlands and Yorkshire and Humber all had the highest percentage of police referrals at 77%.

The percentage of repeat cases ranges from 26% to 39%: The lowest repeat rate is in London at 26%, followed by Eastern and North East at 27%. The highest rate is in West Midlands at 39% followed by Yorkshire and Humber and North West at 37%. The repeat rate in Wales is 33%, while in Scotland it is 28%. Our recommended range for repeat cases is between 28% and 40%.

The proportion of referrals for male victims varies across regions/countries: The lowest rate is in Scotland at 2.6%, followed by the Eastern at 4.0%. The highest is in Wales at 8.6%, followed by Yorkshire and Humber and London at 7.0%. SafeLives' recommended rate is between 5% - 10%.

The rate of cases where the victim is Black, Asian or racially minoritised widely varies across regions/countries: The lowest rate is in Wales at 3.8%, followed by 4.9% in Northern Ireland. The highest rate is in London 44.3%, followed by West Midlands at 18.2%

The table below shows a summary of key data by region:

Country or Region	No. of Maracs	Number of cases	Cases per 10,000 population	Year on year change (%)	% Repeat cases	% Police referrals
Channel Islands	2	269	35	-22%	28%	71%
East Midlands	14	7,361	39	6%	36%	60%
Eastern	21	8,394	35	-3%	27%	75%
London	32	16,587	52	1%	26%	39%
North East	12	4,468	41	-5%	27%	76%
North West	34	22,323	76	3%	37%	75%
Northern Ireland	11	1,496	21	18%	34%	64%
Scotland	32	5,309	28	-2%	29%	61%
South East	48	12,183	34	0%	30%	61%
South West	23	6,527	29	-1%	33%	68%
Wales	22	9,839	76	28%	33%	77%
West Midlands	24	12,926	56	16%	39%	77%
Yorkshire & Humber	18	13,274	60	-9%	37%	77%

