

Marac data – Key findings

July 2020 - June 2021

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), 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 297¹ Maracs between 1st July 2020 and 30th June 2021. An annual summary of Marac data by Police Force Area in England and Wales is available on our [website](#).

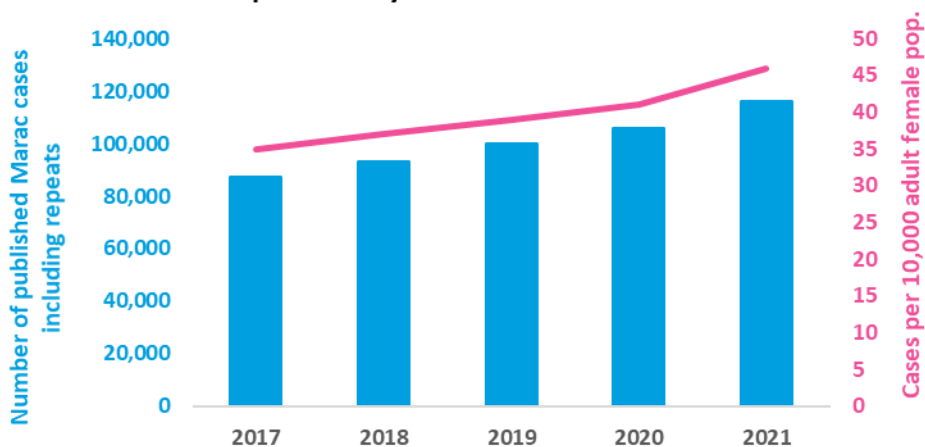
The 12-month figures below are based on the published data at the time. Sometimes Maracs fail to send us their data for a quarter, in which case we use their last quarter's data as a proxy. If a Marac does not send us data for two quarters in a row then they are removed from the dataset. Occasionally, 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 population of adult women 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?

Graph 1: Five year trend of Marac cases



The average number of cases is above our expected rate:

¹ The number of Maracs held in Essex has gone from seven to four. Data from both old and new Maracs are included so the number of Essex Maracs is overrepresented in the total number of Maracs

In the 12 months to June 2021, 297 Maracs discussed 116,059 cases (includes repeats), **which is an 8.5% increase from the same time period the previous year** and a **33% increase compared to the same time period five years ago (2017)**. The total number of cases discussed per 10,000 adult women is 46, up from 41 a year ago and from 35 five years ago (31% 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, meaning we need to understand more about variations in practice and recording to fully understand the implications of the higher than expected rate.

The rate of repeat cases has remained similar to this time last year:

We know that repeat incidents of domestic abuse are likely, so for an established Marac the expected percentage of repeat cases would be in the range of 28-40%. The UK-wide repeat rate is now 33% compared to 31% this time last year.

The rate of police referrals remains steady:

In the 12 months to June 2021, 65% of Marac referrals were made by the police, which remains the same as the previous year. 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 an increase in the percent of victims recorded as having a disability:

The proportion of cases involving victims with a disability in the 12 months to June 2021 was 7.9%, compared to 6.9% in 2020. However, this remains lower than the estimated population of 19%, based on the Family Resources Survey 2018-19 which identifies that almost 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.

There has also been an increase 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 June 2021 was 16.6%, compared to 15.6% in 2020. However, this remains lower than the national population rate of 18.1%.

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 2020 to June 2021 and July 2019 to June 2020. 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
July 20 to June 21	297	116,059	37,876	143,673	46	33%	65%
Change in last 12 months	 6	 10,176	 4,781	 10,981	 5	 +2 pp	 -
Recommendation	-	-	-	-	40	28-40%	60-75%

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 July 2020 to June 2021 and July 2019 to June 2020. 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	No. 17 or below perpetrating abuse
July 20 to June 21	16.6%	1.4%	7.9%	6.2%	1,356	1.2%	1,042
Change in last 12 months	 +1pp	 +0.1pp	 +1pp	 +0.9pp	 -18	 -0.1pp	 -61
Recommendation	18.2%	2.5%-5.8%	19%	5-10%	-	-	-

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

Referral agency	July 2019 to June 2020	July 2020 to June 2021	Change in last 12 months	Direction of change
Police	64.9%	65.4%	+0.5pp	
Idva/Idaa	11.8%	11.9%	+0.1pp	
Children's Social Care	3.4%	3.2%	-0.2pp	
Primary Care	2.4%	2.1%	-0.3pp	
Secondary Care/ Acute trust	2.2%	2.3%	+0.1pp	
Education	0.1%	0.1%	0.0pp	
Housing	2.3%	1.9%	-0.4pp	
Mental Health	1.1%	1.2%	+0.1pp	
Probation	1.9%	2.0%	+0.1pp	
Voluntary Sector	3.7%	3.4%	-0.3pp	
Substance abuse	0.5%	0.5%	0.0pp	
Adult Social Care	0.8%	0.9%	+0.1pp	
Mash	0.4%	0.4%	0.0pp	
Other	4.4%	4.7%	+0.3pp	



Focus on: Ethnicity

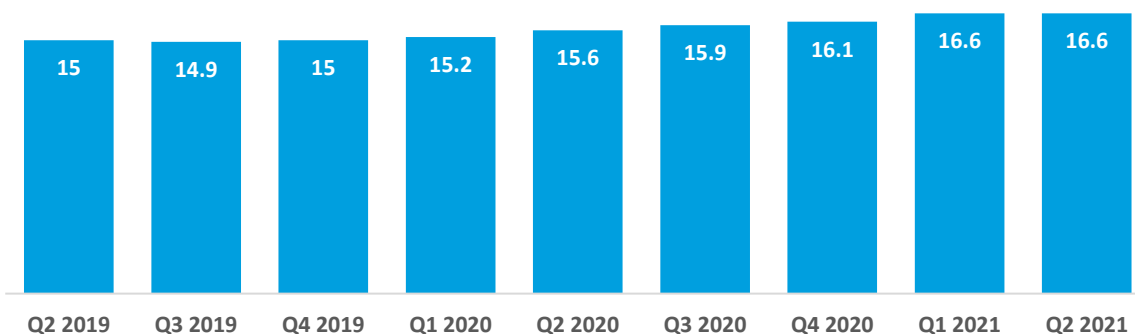
What we collect: We collect data on the number and percentage of cases involving a victim/survivor who is from a Black, Asian, or racially minoritised background. For the purpose of our analysis, any victim/survivor discussed at Marac who is not White British is defined as being from a minority ethnic group. However, within Northern Ireland victim/survivors discussed at Marac who are White Irish are **not** defined as Black, Asian, or racially minoritised.

What the data tells us:

- In July 2020 to June 2021, 16.6% of Marac cases involved a victim/survivor from a Black, Asian, or racially minoritised group. This is lower than the rate in the national population, which is 18.2% for the combined areas covered by the Maracs in our analysis.
- In the last 12 months, 18 Maracs recorded no cases involving a Black, Asian, or racially minoritised victim/survivor, while a further 26 Maracs (9% of all Maracs) saw a rate of cases that was less than one third of the percentage of Black, Asian, or racially minoritised people in the local population.
- Around a third of Maracs (104) were seeing a rate of cases involving a Black, Asian, or racially minoritised victim/survivor which was as high or higher than the local population rate.

Trends in the data: The overall rate of cases involving a Black, Asian, or racially minoritised victim/survivor is 1.0% higher than the same time last year. The chart below shows the change over the past two years, over which time there has been a gradual increase from 15.0% to the current 16.6%.

Proportion of cases involving Black, Asian and racially minoritised victim/survivors



Interpreting the data: It is encouraging to see the proportion of cases involving Black, Asian and racially minoritised victim/survivors increasing over the past two years. We know from population data of the areas covered by Maracs in our analysis that we would expect the proportion of such cases to be greater than the current figure of 16.6%, and in the past it has reached a high point of 16.9% in mid-2018. Though this recent steady increase is the case nationally, there are some areas identifying a very low number of Black, Asian and racially minoritised victims at high risk. This is not explained by the demographic of that local area in every case, so all Maracs should check their performance relative to the latest data on their local populations.

In some cases, it's possible that the low rates of cases involving Black, Asian and racially minoritised victims/survivors are due to missing data or poor data collection. Black, Asian and racially minoritised people have historically formed part of a 'hidden group,' by which we mean communities who are less well served by the domestic abuse response available in the UK and are less 'visible' to statutory

agencies and some services. It is crucial that the data recorded are as complete and accurate as possible. This would help to ensure safe and appropriate specialist services are commissioned and readily available to survivors from marginalised groups, to respond to the specific dynamics of domestic abuse which present in different communities, to reduce the extra barriers Black, Asian and racially minoritised survivors face in disclosing and help-seeking, and to fulfil currently unmet needs.

There is additional guidance on sharing information in relation to immigration status [here](#).

Contact Marac@SafeLives.org.uk if you are a Marac Chair or Coordinator and would like help accessing your data.