

Marac data – Key findings

July 2019 - June 2020

About the data

Marac data is collected from all Maracs in England¹, Wales and Northern Ireland, and some of the Maracs in Scotland. It is collected at meeting level which means we have information about the cohort of cases discussed at each meeting but we do not hold data on individual cases. The data presented here represents cases heard at Maracs between July 2019 and June 2020.

What trends are we seeing in Maracs across the UK?

The average number of cases remains above our expected rate: In the 12 months to June 2020, 291 Maracs discussed 105,883 cases, which is a 6% increase from the previous year. The total number of cases discussed per 10,000 adult females is 41, up from 39 a year ago. This is above the rate of cases we expect to see (40 cases per 10,000) based on what we know about 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 continues to slowly increase: 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 31%, which is an increase from the same time period last year (30%).

The rate of police referrals remains steady: In the 12 months to June 2020, 65% of Marac referrals were made by the police, the same rate as the previous year. A high rate of police referrals may reflect a lack of engagement from other agencies with the Marac referral process; expected figures are between 60-75%.

The rate of disability referrals has been slowly increasing: The proportion of cases involving victims with a disability in the 12 months to June 2020 was 6.9%, up from 6.4% in the previous year. This remains lower than the expected rate of 19% (or above) 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.

Changes in the last 12 months: volume of cases








The table below shows changes in key indicators in the last 12 months, comparing the time periods July 2019 – June 2020 and July 2018 – June 2019. 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 19 to June 20	291	105,883	33,095	132,692	41.4	31.3%	64.9%
Change in last 12 months	 +7	 +5,938	 +3,482	 +5,756	 +2	 +1.6pp	 -0.4pp
Recommendation	-	102,400	-	-	40	28 – 40%	60 – 75%

¹ One Marac (Wigan) is missing from this release because they failed to submit data for more than one quarter.

Changes in the last 12 months: 'hidden' groups

The table below shows changes in key indicators in the last 12 months, comparing the time periods July 2019 – June 2020 and July 2018 – June 2019. All percentage changes are displayed as a change in percentage points (pp).

	% B & ME	% LGBT	% Disability	% Males	Victims aged 16-17	% Victims aged 16-17	No. 17 or below perpetrating abuse
July 19 to June 20	15.6%	1.3%	6.9%	5.3%	1,374	1.3%	1,103
Change in last 12 months	 +0.6%	 +0.2pp	 +0.5pp	 +0.1pp	 -189	 -0.3pp	 +214
Recommendation	18.1%	2.5% – 5.8%	19%	5 – 10%	-	-	-

How do these trends vary across regions?

- **Cases per 10,000 range from 16 to 63**; with the lowest of 16 in Northern Ireland, and the highest of 63 in the North West.
- **Despite the overall increase in cases, there was a decrease in four regions.** The biggest decrease in cases was in the Channel Islands, at -17% compared to the previous year, although this is a relatively small area so larger fluctuations in data are expected. Eastern and Northern Ireland saw a -10% decrease, and North East saw a -1% decrease.
- **London remains the only region 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 28%. The next lowest rate was Scotland at 56%. The Channel Islands had the highest percentage of police referrals at 83%, followed by Yorkshire and Humber and Wales, both at 77%.
- **The percentage of repeat cases ranges from 23% to 39%:** the lowest rate is in London and the highest rate is in Yorkshire and Humber. Our recommended range for repeat cases is between 28% and 40%.
- **The proportion of disability referrals widely varies across regions:** The lowest rate is in the North East with only 1.5%. The highest is in the East Midlands at 19.9%, which is the only region whose rate falls above the SafeLives' expected rate of 19%.

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

Region	No. of Maracs	Number of cases	Cases per 10,000 population	Year on year change (%)	% Repeat cases	% Police referrals
Channel Islands	2	336	44	-17%	37%	83%
East Midlands	15	7,212	38	9%	32%	59%
Eastern	24	9,063	37	-10%	33%	73%
London	33	13,592	41	7%	23%	28%
North East	12	5,124	47	-1%	29%	73%
North West	33	17,634	63	6%	32%	68%
Northern Ireland	10	1,127	16	-10%	25%	68%
Scotland	27	3,607	22	7%	25%	56%

Region	No. of Maracs	Number of cases	Cases per 10,000 population	Year on year change (%)	% Repeat cases	% Police referrals
South East	47	11,379	32	17%	29%	64%
South West	25	6,513	29	9%	31%	71%
Wales	22	7,854	61	2%	33%	77%
West Midlands	23	8,980	40	1%	34%	76%
Yorkshire & Humber	18	13,462	61	11%	39%	77%

How do these trends vary across Police Force Areas?

- **Cases per 10,000 varies from 16 to 83:** with 16 in Northern Ireland to 83 in both Merseyside and South Wales.
- **Almost two thirds of Police Force Areas are seeing an increase in cases:** 29 of the 47 areas saw an increase in cases since the previous year, 18 saw a decrease. The highest increase was 61% in North Yorkshire. The largest decrease was in Dyfed Powys at -36%.
- **In almost a third of areas the proportion of police referrals is higher than our expected range:** Of the 47 Police Force areas, 13 saw more than 75% of their referrals coming from the police, the highest being in Suffolk at 86%. For 23 areas the police referral rate was within our expected range of 60 to 75%. 11 areas were below the expected range, the lowest being the Metropolitan Police at 28%.
- **The percentage of repeat cases ranges from 14% to 51%** with the lowest rate in Durham and highest repeat rate in Leicestershire, which is above our expected rate of 28% - 40%. 6 areas were above the expected rate, 26 were within, and 15 below.
- **Over half of police force areas have a lower rate of BME victims than their local BME population:** 28 of the 46 police force areas² have a lower rate of BME victims than their local BME population, the lowest difference being in Surrey with a BME referral rate of only 0.2% compared to the local BME population of 16.5%. Whereas the highest difference was in Lincolnshire, with a BME rate of 12.6% compared to the local population of 7.0%.



Focus on: Lockdown Quarterly Case Changes

What we collect and publish: We collect data on the number of cases discussed at each Marac. Maracs submit data for each separate Marac meeting. We usually report the number of cases as a rolling 12-month figure. However, for this analysis we have looked at the *quarterly* difference in cases in order to establish trends during the lockdown months.

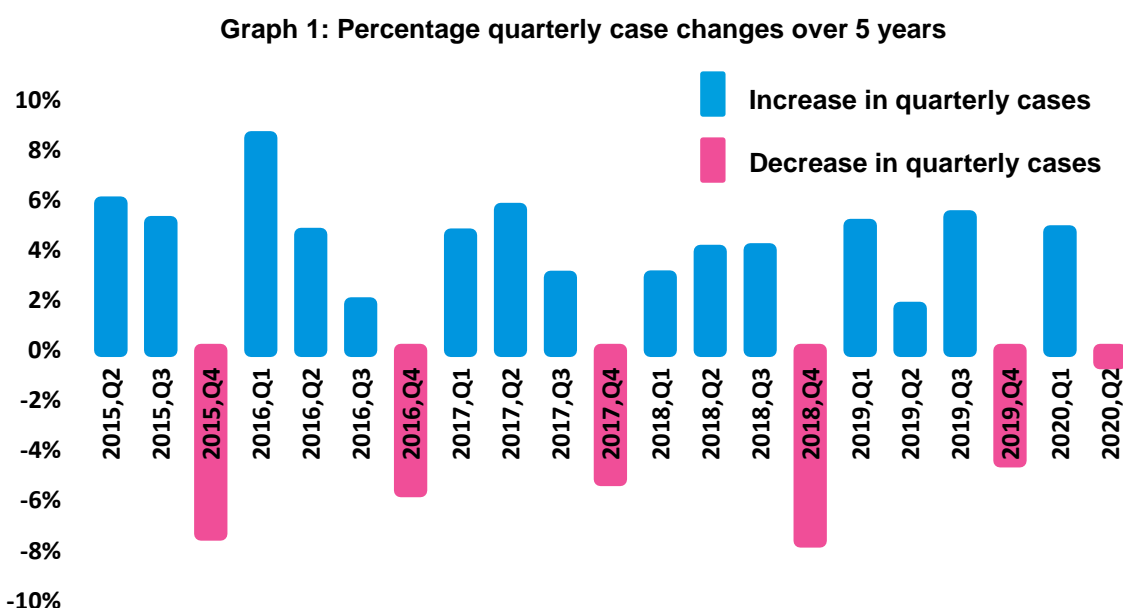
Quarterly case change calculation: Quarterly case changes are calculated by subtracting each quarterly number of cases from the previous quarterly cases, then dividing this number by the previous quarterly cases to get a percentage difference (%). If the percentage is above 0% this means cases have

² Local BME population for Guernsey police force area is unknown, thus 1 fewer police force area is reported.

increased from the previous quarter, if the percentage is below 0% then cases have decreased from the previous quarter.

What the data tells us

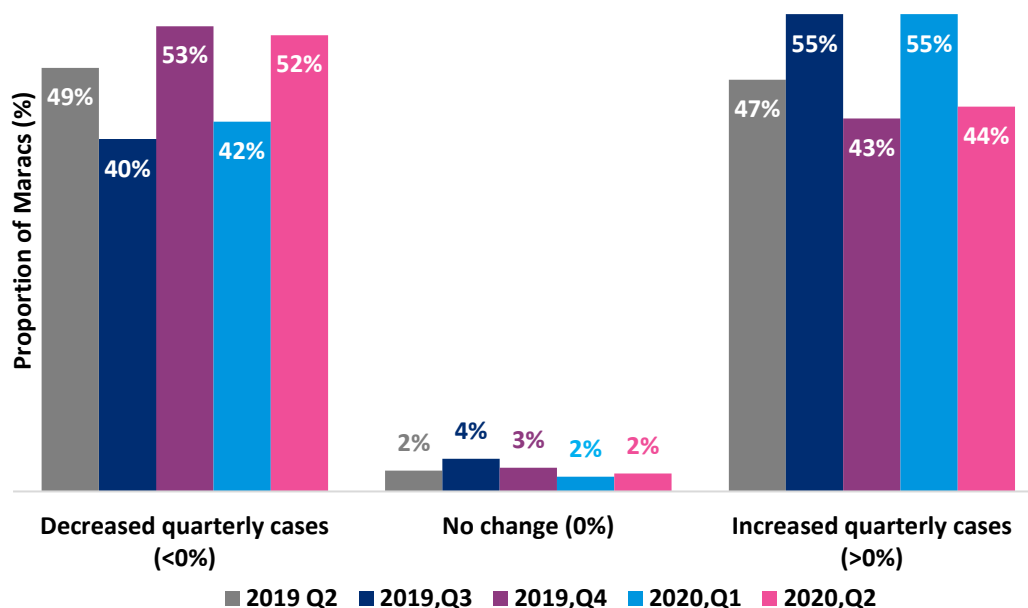
National trends: Looking at data over the last five years, the trend has been that the number of cases each quarter increases compared to the previous quarter, apart from in quarter 4 (Q4: October to December) where cases always decrease - likely due fewer meetings over the festive period. However, this quarter (April to June 2020) saw a **decrease** (-0.5%) in overall cases compared to the previous quarter. This is the **first time the data has shown a quarterly decrease in cases that is not a Q4** (see graph 1 below).



Individual Maracs: Looking at quarterly case changes over the last 5 quarters across individual Maracs, overall more Maracs this quarter (April to June 2020) showed a decrease in quarterly cases compared to what we would expect given previous trends for Q2s:

- Over **half (52%) of Marac saw a decrease** in cases this quarter compared to last quarter, this is just 1% point lower than Q4 2019, and higher than the other quarters.
- Over one in four (44%) Maracs saw an increase in quarterly cases, which is lower than all other quarters apart from Q4 which is expectedly low due to the festive period.
- This quarter also saw a **greater number of Maracs (21%) with a 'large decrease'** (less than or equal to -20% decrease) in cases compared to all the previous four quarters, including Q4 2019 at 20%.
- This quarter and Q4 2019 had the joint lowest proportion of Maracs with a 'large increase' (greater than or equal to +20% increase) in cases this quarter at 21%, all other quarters had a greater proportion of Maracs showing a large quarterly case increase.

Graph 2: Quarterly case changes over previous five quarters



Expected cases vs. actual cases: Using the average quarterly case changes from Q1 to Q2 for the last five years (average = 4.4%), we estimated the expected number of cases for Q2 2020 to be 27,977. This is 1,298 fewer than the actual number of cases recorded for the quarter, which equates to 4.6% lower than expected.

Expected cases vs. actual cases for Q2 2020	
Expected increase in cases for Q2 2020 (average quarterly % change of the last five Q2s)	4.4%
Expected cases increase for Q2 2020	+1,168
Expected total N cases for Q2 2020	27,977
Difference of actual data vs. expected N cases	-1,298
% difference of actual data of expected N cases	-4.6%

Interpreting the data

The data suggests an overall trend during April to June 2020 of fewer cases than expected being referred into Maracs. This is supported by our **Covid-19 Marac survey** (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) which showed that **37% of Maracs thought their referrals were lower** than usual, compared to only 17% who thought they were higher than usual, and 38% who had not identified any change. The **Covid-19 Marac survey**, and anecdotal evidence from Maracs, suggest that the drop in cases during lockdown was in part due to a decrease in referrals from agencies who would usually have face to face contact with individuals during home visits or within the community (e.g. social care, health services, housing, education etc.). It may also reflect the fact that some police forces have reported a drop in the number of victims at the highest risk being in contact with police forces, who are the main referring agency into Maracs.

However, it is worth noting that changes to quarterly cases are likely due to a combination of factors. For instance based on a survey of 59% of all Maracs within the UK, conducted in September 2019, more than one in ten (12%) ran a Marac model which deviated from the traditional model. We know that some Maracs have introduced triaging processes to reduce Marac caseloads, which may also have contributed to the overall trend of decreased cases this quarter. It is also important to highlight that we are reporting on national trends, with quarterly case changes varying widely across individual Police Force Areas (PFAs) and individual Maracs. For instance quarterly case changes across PFAs ranged from -71% to +29% this quarter. Despite the complex picture, this is the first time the data has shown an overall quarterly decrease in cases in a quarter that is not quarter 4, thus suggests that fewer cases than usual were referred into Marac during lockdown. The 12-month rolling figure does not yet show a decrease in cases; we will continue to monitor the data over the coming months to see if the trend continues.

Recommendations for Maracs around Covid-19 can be found at the end of our **Covid-19 Marac survey report**. Please contact Marac@SafeLives.org.uk if you are a Marac Chair or Coordinator and would like help accessing your Marac data.