

Marac data – Key findings

April 2021 - March 2022

About the data

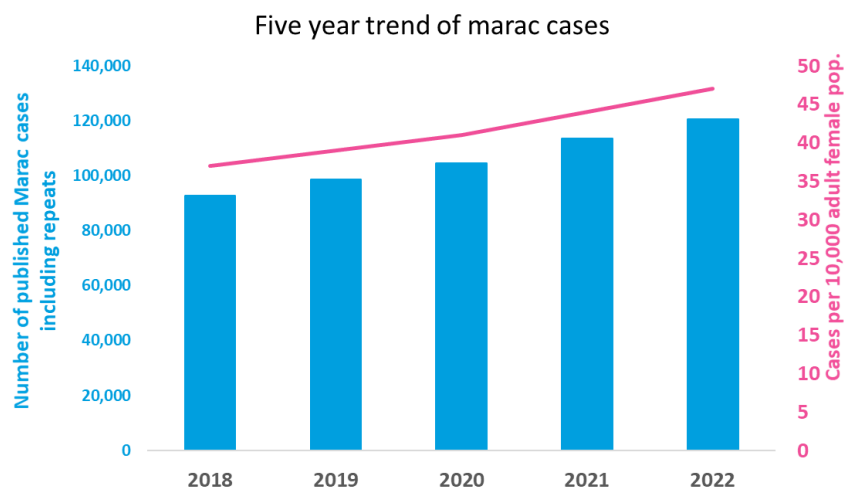
A Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (Marac) is a meeting where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between representatives of local police, health, child protection, adult social care, housing practitioners, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (Idvas - Idaas in Scotland), 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 290¹ Maracs between 1st April 2021 and 31st March 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?



¹ The number of Maracs held in Essex has gone from seven to four. Data from only the new Maracs are included meaning the total number of Maracs had decreased.

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

In the 12 months to March 2022, 290 Maracs discussed 120,495 cases (includes repeats), **which is a 6% increase from the same time period the previous year** and a **30% increase compared to the same time period four years ago (2018)**. The total number of cases discussed per 10,000 adult women is 47, up from 44 a year ago and from 37 four years ago (27% 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 remains steady:

In the 12 months to March 2022, 67% of Marac referrals were made by the police, which is slightly higher than last year (65%). 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 percentage of victims recorded as having a disability:








The proportion of cases involving victims with a disability in the 12 months to March 2022 was 8.5%, compared to 7.5% in 2021. 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 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 December 2021 was 15.3%, compared to 16.6% in 2021. 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 April 2021 to March 2022 and April 2020 to March 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
April '21 to March 22	290	120,495	39,694	151,207	47	33%	67%
Change in last 12 months	 -3	 6,957	 2,560	 10,183	 3	 0 pp	 +2 pp
Recommended	-	-	-	-	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 needs

Table 2 below shows changes in key indicators in the last 12 months, comparing the time periods April 2021 to March 2022 and April 2020 to March 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
April '21 to March '22	15.3%	1.4%	8.5%	6.1%	1,501	1.2%	1,153
Change in last 12 months							
	-1.3pp	0pp	+1pp	+0.2pp	181	0 pp	77
Recommended	18.2%	2.5%-5.8%	19%	5-10%	-	-	-

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

Referral agency	April 2020 to March 2021	April 2021 to March 2022	Change in last 12 months	Direction of change
Police	65.5%	67.1%	+1.6pp	
Idva/Idaa	11.8%	11.8%	0.0pp	
Children's Social Care	3.3%	3.0%	-0.3pp	
Primary Care	2.1%	1.8%	-0.3pp	
Secondary Care/ Acute trust	2.1%	2.3%	+0.2pp	
Education	0.1%	0.1%	0.0pp	
Housing	1.8%	1.8%	0.0pp	
Mental Health	1.2%	1.3%	+0.1pp	
Probation	2.1%	1.7%	-0.4pp	
Voluntary Sector	3.4%	2.9%	-0.5pp	
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	



Focus on:

Every quarter, SafeLives collects data from Maracs across the UK. This data is published annually at Police Force level by the **Office for National Statistics**. Key national figures are also reported quarterly on the **SafeLives website**, and every quarter Maracs can access more detailed data for their own Marac, Police Force, region and Most Similar Force group.

To help spread the word about what information is available, each quarter we produce a short brief focusing on one area of the data we collect.

Marac data Q1 2022: Children in the household

What we collect: Maracs provide us with a figure for the total number of children associated with all cases discussed at each meeting. This means we have information about the number of children linked to discussions at Marac, but do not know how many clients have children.

As of January 2022, through the DA Act those under who see, witness, or experience domestic abuse in the household, will now be seen as victims in their own right.

The number of children in the household is counted as the number of children normally expected to be in the house on a regular basis and who would therefore be affected by domestic abuse. Those in long-term care would be excluded, and short term included. A child is defined as anyone aged 17 or under who is not themselves referred as a victim or the person causing harm. If a woman is pregnant, this would not be recorded as an additional child. Children from both new and repeat cases should be counted.

What the data tells us:

- In the 12 months from April 2021 to March 2022, there were a total of 151,207 children associated with the 120,495 cases discussed at Maracs.
- Although it is not possible to know how many children are associated with repeat cases (and therefore counted twice), removing the adult repeat rate (33%) allows us to estimate that there were more than 100,000 individual children associated with Marac cases over the year.
- The ratio of children to cases is 13 children to every ten cases. While we cannot know how this breaks down into the number of cases with children or number of children per client, we can compare to our [Insights Idva dataset](#). Here the ratio is similar at twelve children to every ten cases. In the Insights dataset, 63% of clients had children, with an average of two children each.
- The ratio of children to cases varied across Maracs, with only three children to every ten cases at the lowest end, and 23 children to every ten cases at the highest.

Trends in the data: The rate of children to cases has remained very consistent as the number of cases has increased over the years. Since Q1 2017, the ratio has been 13 children to every ten cases each year, except for Q1 2021, when it went down slightly to 12 children to every ten cases.