



## Ending domestic abuse

Every quarter SafeLives collects data from Maracs across the UK. This data is published annually at Police Force level, with the latest annual release available on [our website](#). 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 will be producing a short brief focusing on one area of the data we collect.

### Marac data Q2 2020: Lockdown quarterly case changes

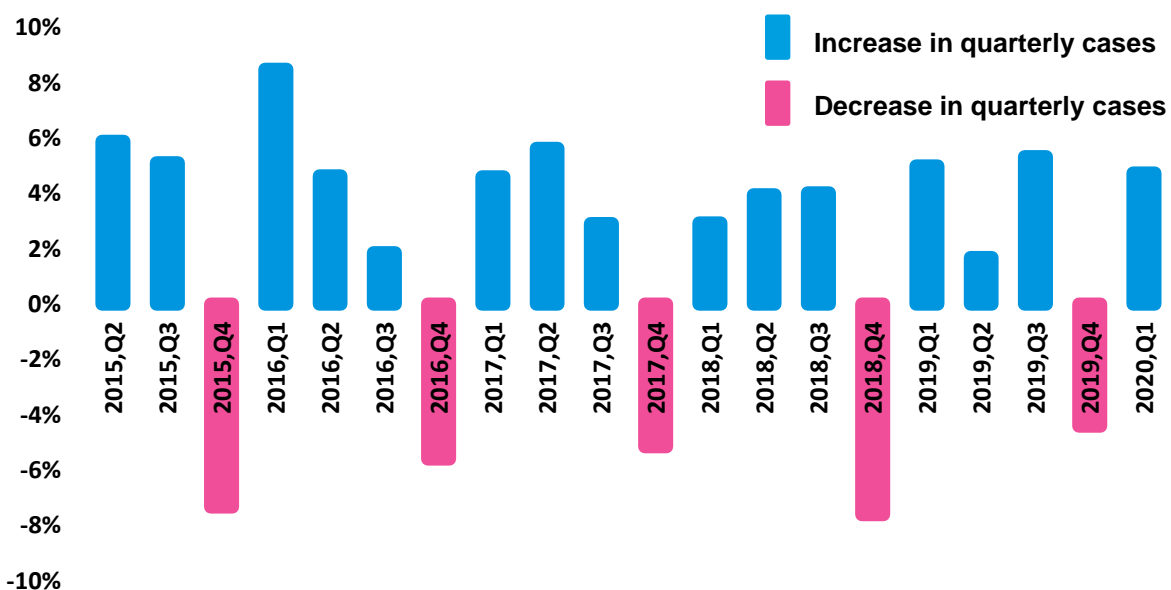
**What we collect and publish:** We collect data on the number of cases discussed at each Marac. Maracs submit data for each separate Marac meeting. We usually report the number of cases as a rolling 12-month figure. However, for this analysis we have looked at the *quarterly* difference in cases in 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 *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. This is likely due to 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).

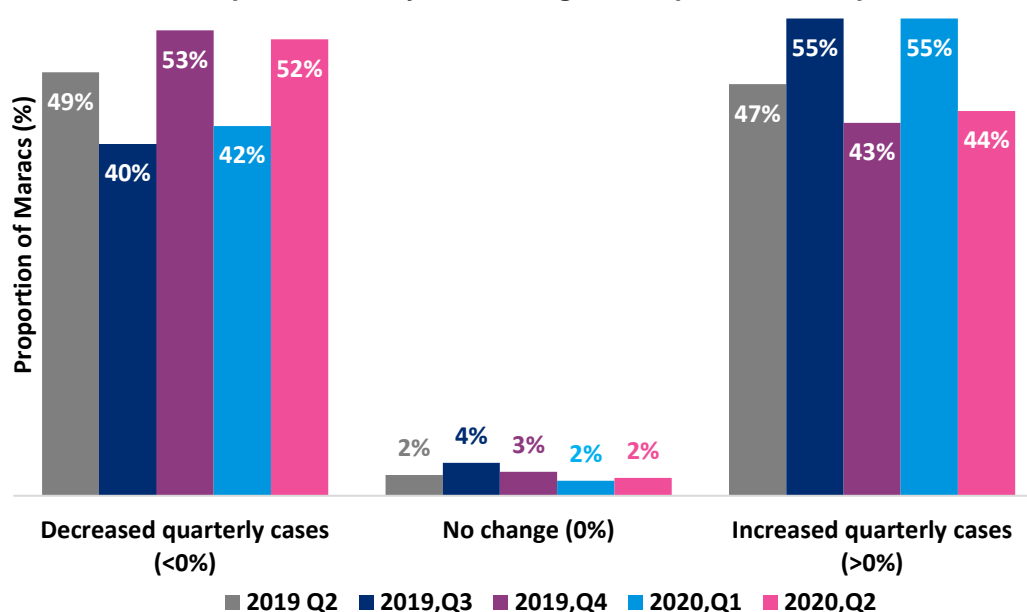
Graph 1: Percentage quarterly case changes over 5 years



**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](mailto:Marac@SafeLives.org.uk) if you are a Marac Chair or Coordinator and would like help accessing your Marac data.