

Marac data – Key findings

October 2020 - September 2021

About the data

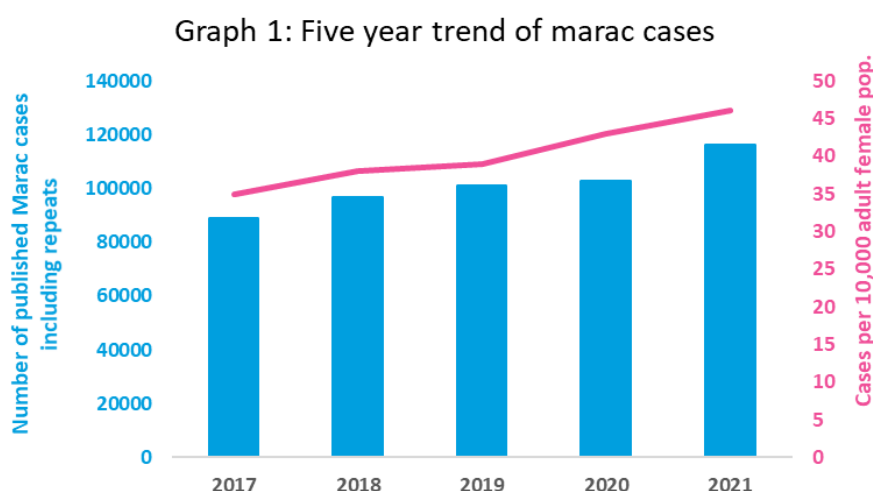
A Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (Marac) is a meeting where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between representatives of local police, health, child protection, adult social care, housing practitioners, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (Idvas - Idaas in Scotland), 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 297¹ Maracs between 1st October 2020 and 30th September 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 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 both old and new Maracs are included so the number of Essex Maracs is overrepresented in the total number of Maracs

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

In the 12 months to September 2021, 297 Maracs discussed 116,383 cases (includes repeats), **which is a 6% increase from the same time period the previous year and a 31% increase compared to the same time period four years ago (2017)**. The total number of cases discussed per 10,000 adult women is 46, up from 43 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 September 2021, 66% of Marac referrals were made by the police, which remains similar to 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 percent of victims recorded as having a disability:

The proportion of cases involving victims with a disability in the 12 months to September 2021 was 8.2%, compared to 7.0% 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 September 2021 was 16.4%, compared to 15.9% 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 October 2020 to September 2021 and October 2019 to September 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
October 20 to September 21	297	116,383	38,676	144,500	46	33%	66%
Change in last 12 months	 6	 6,807	 4,390	 7,886	 3	 +2 pp	 +1 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 October 2020 to September 2021 and October 2019 to September 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
October 20 to September 21	16.4%	1.5%	8.2%	6.2%	1,370	1.2%	1,089
Change in last 12 months	 +0.5pp	 +0.2pp	 +1.2pp	 +0.6pp	 -15	 -0.1pp	 -8
Recommendation	18.2%	2.5%-5.8%	19%	5-10%	-	-	-

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

Referral agency	October 2019 to September 2020	October 2020 to September 2021	Change in last 12 months	Direction of change
Police	65.4%	65.9%	+0.5pp	
Idva/Idaa	11.7%	11.9%	+0.2pp	
Children's Social Care	3.4%	3.1%	-0.3pp	
Primary Care	2.2%	2.1%	-0.1pp	
Secondary Care/ Acute trust	2.2%	2.2%	0.0pp	
Education	0.1%	0.1%	0.0pp	
Housing	2.1%	1.9%	-0.2pp	
Mental Health	1.1%	1.2%	+0.1pp	
Probation	2.0%	1.9%	-0.1pp	
Voluntary Sector	3.6%	3.2%	-0.4pp	
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: Disability

What we collect: We collect data on the number and percentage of cases involving a victim/survivor who has a disability. The SafeLives definition of a disability is in line with the Equalities Act 2010, which defines a person as having a disability if 'he or she has a physical or mental impairment and the impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.'

This means that in general:

- The person must have an impairment that is either physical or mental
- The impairment must have adverse effects which are substantial
- The substantial adverse effects must be long-term
- The long-term substantial adverse effects must be effects on normal day-to-day activities

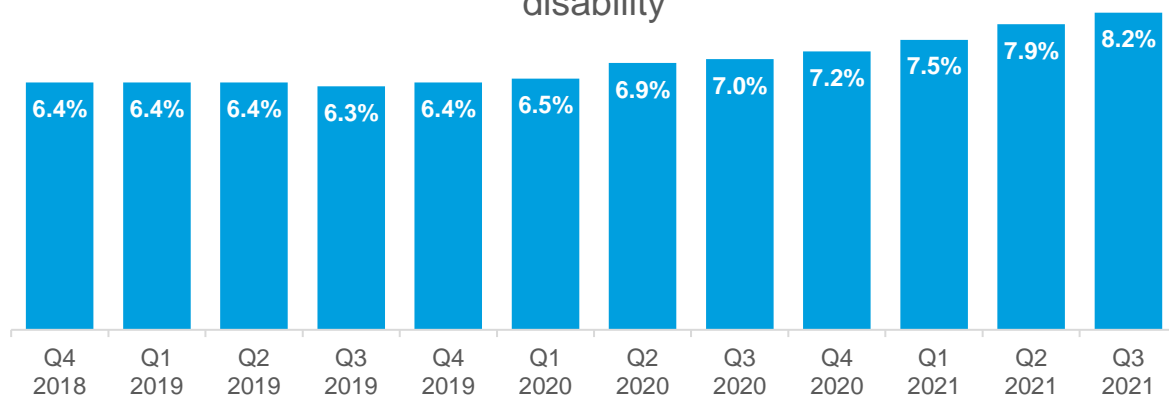
This can be identified by either the victim/survivor themselves or a professional who has met/ worked with them. More details on SafeLives' definition of disability can be [found here](#).

What the data tells us:

- In October 2020 to September 2021, 8.2% of Marac cases involved a victim/survivor with a disability. This is lower than the expected 19% (or above). The expected figure is based on the [Family Resources Survey 2018-19](#) which identifies that almost one in five of the working population (16-64 years) is disabled.
- Around a fifth of Maracs (56) recorded no cases involving a victim/survivor between October 2020 and September 2021, with a further 177 Maracs recording less than 10% of cases as involving a victim/survivor with a disability.
- Only 33 Maracs had a proportion of cases that involved a victim/survivor with a disability that was meeting the expected figure of 19% or above.

Trends in the data: Nationally the rate of cases involving a /survivor with a disability is 1.2% higher than the same time last year. The chart below shows the change over the past three years. From Q4 2018 to Q1 2020 the rate was consistent at around 6.4%, however since then the rate has gradually increased to the current 8.2%.

Proportion of cases involving victim/survivors with a disability



Interpreting the data: Studies have shown that disabled women are twice as likely to experience domestic abuse and are also twice as likely to suffer assault and rape. It is encouraging to see the proportion of cases involving victim/survivors with a disability increasing over the last 18 months and is currently the highest it has ever been. However we know from the [Family Resources Survey 2018-19](#) that we would expect the proportion of such cases to be greater than the current figure of 8.2%, and be closer to 19% or above.

There may be a number of reasons why disabled people are not being identified at Marac. In some cases, it's possible that the low rates of cases involving victims/survivors with a disability are due to missing data or poor data collection. Another explanation could be the issue of 'hidden impairments' that mean a person's condition may not be visible, or the victim/survivor may not realise their condition is covered under the Equality Act 2010.

Disabled 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 mainstream services. It can be harder for disabled victim/survivors to get away from an abuser, and refuges are not always accessible or able to meet certain needs. It's also possible for the acts of abuse to be linked to their disability, for example refusing to assist with care needs, or taking advantage of the increased opportunity to use power and control over the victim.

It is crucial that the data recorded are as complete and accurate as possible. This would help to ensure safe and appropriate services are commissioned and readily available to survivors from marginalised groups, to respond to the specific dynamics of domestic abuse which present when the victim/survivor has a disability, to reduce the extra barriers disabled victim/survivors face in disclosing and help-seeking, and to fulfil currently unmet needs.

For more guidance on cases involving victims of domestic abuse with a disability, please see the SafeLives' guidance for referrals with limiting long-term illness (LLTI) and disability [here](#) or visit our Spotlight page on disabled people experiencing domestic abuse [here](#).

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