



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 Q4 2019: Repeat rates

What we collect: Maracs send us data on the number of repeat cases at each meeting. We add up all of the repeat cases for the previous 12 months and divide this by the total number of cases for the same time period which gives us the 'Repeat rate' percentage.

Repeat definition: In 2018, we were asked to review the [definition](#) of a 'repeat' in light of a [domestic homicide review](#). This led to the repeat definition changing to the following:

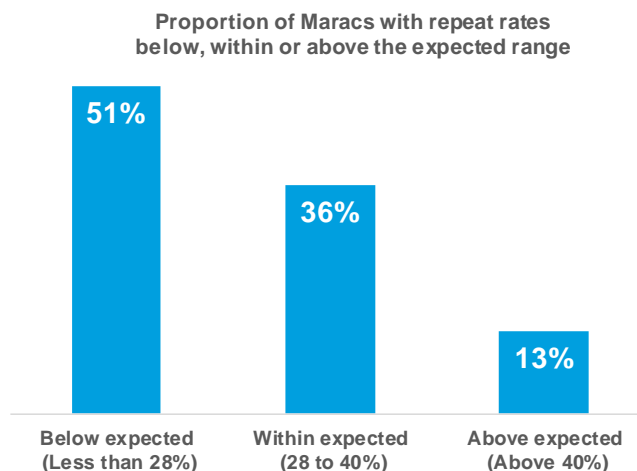
"SafeLives defines a 'repeat' as ANY instance of abuse between the same victim and perpetrator(s), within 12 months of the last referral to Marac. The individual act of abuse does not need to be 'criminal', violent or threatening but should be viewed within the context of a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour."

For further detail about the definition and the reason for the change, please read our briefing paper - found [here](#). The [SafeLives Community Platform](#) also contains a blog post with guidance on using the new definition - found [here](#).

For an established Marac the expected level for repeat rate would be in the range of **28-40%**.

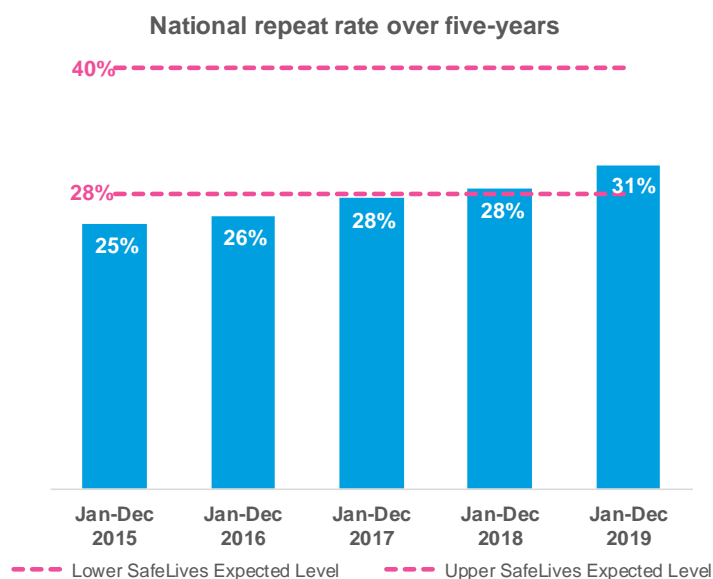
What the data tells us:

- In January 2019 to December 2019, of the 102,694 cases there was a total of 31,507 repeat cases, this equates to a repeat rate of 31%.
- There was a wide range of repeat rates across individual Maracs; from the lowest of 6% to the highest of 52%¹.
- Half of Maracs (51%) are operating *below* the SafeLives' expected range of 28-40%, just over a third (36%) are operating *within* the expected range, and 13% are operating *above* the expected range:



¹ Excluding those Maracs that had less than 12 months of data or/and less than 30 cases within the 12 months.

Trends in the data: The national repeat rate has been steadily increasing each year. Since 2015 there has been a 22% increase in the repeat rate; from 25% in 2015 to 31% in 2019. The largest annual increase was in 2019 which saw an 8% increase; from 28% in 2018 to 31% in 2019. This increase may be partly due to the 2018 [definition change](#) of a 'repeat' (as described above). However, it is worth noting that 51% of Maracs are still operating *below* the expected range.



Interpreting repeat rates: A lower than expected repeat rate may indicate lower levels of repeat incidents. However, it could also be due to repeat incidents not being picked up. Evidence from the effectiveness of Maracs tells us that around 60% of those victims who receive independent specialist support through the Marac process experience a cessation of abuse, which means around 40% experience on going abuse from the perpetrator. Simply holding a Marac meeting is unlikely to immediately stop the abuse. Maracs with a lower than expected repeat rate should consider whether this is due to an actual lower level of repeat incidents, or due to incidents not being picked up.

It is important that we continue to provide a multi-agency response to those victims for whom the Marac process, so far, has not been effective in reducing the risk of abuse. We can only do that if we identify when that abuse is continuing and work collaboratively to reduce or eliminate that risk.

For questions about how to use the new definition of a 'repeat' in your Marac, please contact KnowledgeHub@safelives.org.uk or/and post a question in The [SafeLives Community Platform](#).

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