

Marac cases – Five year trend

Increasing cases over five years

About the data

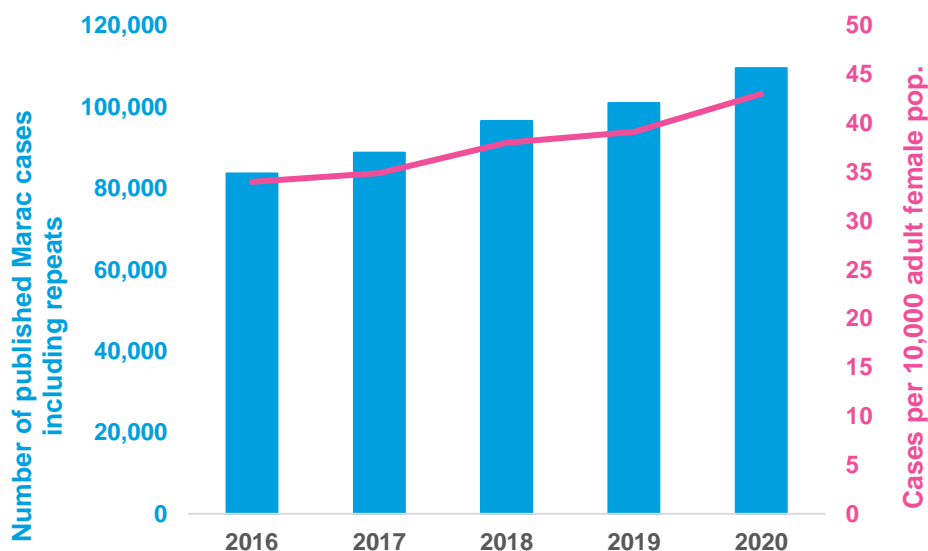
Marac data is collected from Maracs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and some of the Maracs in Scotland. It is collected at meeting level which means we have information about the cohort of cases discussed at each meeting but we do not hold data on individual cases. The data presented here represents cases heard at Maracs between the months of October to September over a 5 year time period, where the year 2020 is 1st October 2019 to 30th September 2020.

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. Also, 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+) females. We produce this figure by dividing the number of cases (including repeats) by the adult female 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 this 'Cases per 10,000' figure, instead of the number of cases, because it takes into account Maracs not being included by removing their population figures from the calculation.

Please note that number of cases includes repeats, therefore these numbers **do not represent the total number of individuals** as a person may be referred into Marac more than once so then they would be counted as more than one case.

- Marac cases **have increased every year** over the past 5 years.
- Between October 2019 to September 2020, 109,576 cases (including repeats) were reported
- There has been a **31% increase** in the number of cases in 2020 (October 2019 - September 2020) compared to 2016 (October 2015 - September 2016).
- There has been a **26% increase** in the cases per 10,000 adult female population in 2020 (October 2019 - September 2020) compared to 2016 (October 2015 - September 2016). From 34 cases per 10,000 adult female population in 2016, up to 43 in 2020.



Lockdown quarterly case changes

Quarterly data: We usually report the number of cases (including repeats) as a rolling 12-month figure. However, for this analysis we have looked at the *quarterly* difference in cases (including repeats) in order to establish trends during and after the lockdown months.

Data inclusion: For data quality purposes, the quarterly five year national trend analysis (graph 1) only includes current Maracs in the dataset who have submitted data for at least five years. This equates to 88% of the Maracs in the current national dataset. The data therefore **should not be taken as the exact case change in all Maracs across the UK**. Instead the purpose of this analysis is to represent the likely national trends in quarterly Marac referrals since the first national Covid-19 lockdown.

Quarterly case change calculation: Quarterly case changes are calculated by subtracting each quarterly number of cases from the previous quarterly cases, then dividing this 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.

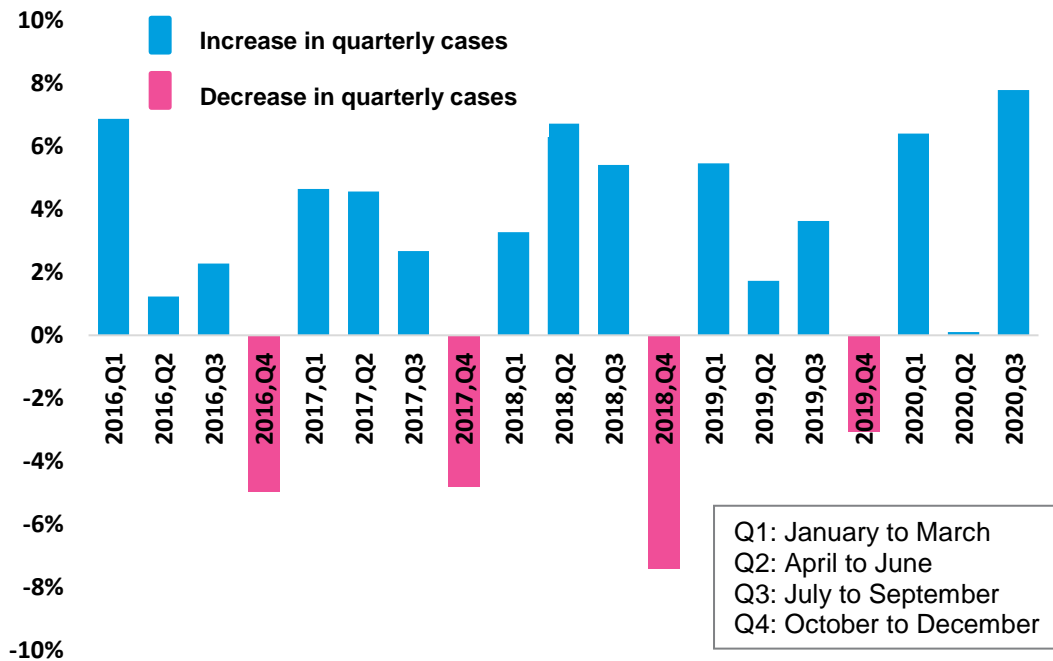
What the data tells us

National trends over five years: Looking at the quarterly data over the last five years (graph 1) the usual trend is for the overall national number of cases each quarter to increase compared to the previous quarter, apart from in quarter four (October to December) where cases usually decrease (this is likely due to fewer meetings over the festive period). Key findings from the last two quarters:

- **The previous quarter (Q2: April to June 2020) saw a lower than expected case change (+0.1%)¹** - this is lower than what we would usually expect for a Q2 (ranging from +1.2% to +6.7% for the past four Q2s).
- **The current quarter (Q3: July to September 2020), has seen a large increase in quarterly cases (+7.8%)** - the largest quarterly increase across the five year time period (see below graph 1).
- However **the average case change across the last two quarters was in line with previous years** - average case increase across the two quarters was 4.0%.

¹ In the previous quarterly analysis we reported that cases in Q2 2020 had seen a small decrease, this has now changed to a small increase. Differences in the data are due to some Maracs submitting data corrections for previous meetings. This quarterly analysis also included an additional inclusion criteria for data quality purposes (explained above).

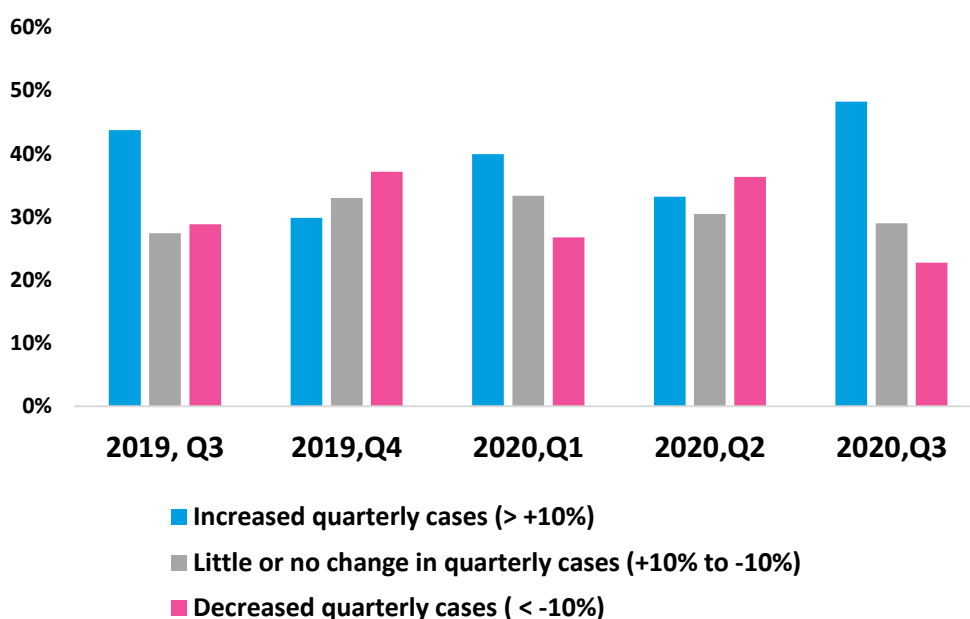
Graph 1: Quarterly percentage case change over five years



Individual Maracs: Looking at quarterly case changes over the last five quarters across individual Maracs, overall more Maracs this quarter (July to September 2020) showed an increase (> +10% change) in quarterly cases compared to the previous five quarters.

- **Almost half of Maracs (48%) saw an increase in cases (> +10% increase)** this quarter (July to Sept); a higher proportion than the previous four quarters.
- **This quarter (July to Sept) was the highest quarterly case increase for one in four Maracs (26%)** across the five quarters.
- **Only one in five Maracs (23%) saw a decrease in quarterly cases (< -10% decrease)** this quarter; lower than the previous four quarters.
- In comparison, **more Maracs last quarter (April to June) saw a decrease in cases (36%)** than those that saw an increase (33%) - only Q4 also saw this pattern which is expected for the that quarter.

Graph 2: Proportion of Maracs with an increase, decrease or no change in quarterly cases over five quarters



Interpreting the quarterly data

The data suggests the case increase between April and September 2020 was in line with previous years. But this year it was more concentrated between July and September. The case increase this quarter was not an isolated incident of a few Maracs as almost half saw an increase (graph 2). This suggests many Maracs were dealing with a high rise in cases between July and September. The data indicates that lockdown led to delays in some cases being referred into Maracs. Delays mean victims and families are being left in increasingly unsafe situations for longer. Anecdotal evidence from Maracs support lockdown being a key factor in referral increases:

“I believe it’s due to the consequence of Covid lockdown that we have had a significant increase in referrals.” – Anonymous Marac Coordinator

It is worth noting that changes to quarterly cases are likely due to a combination of factors in each Marac. For instance, some Maracs thought case increases were due to changes to their process. It is also important to highlight that we are reporting national trends, with quarterly case changes varying widely across individual Police Force Areas and individual Maracs. In Q3 2020 (July to September) this ranged from +140% to -67% across individual Maracs. We will continue to track the data over the coming months to see how the trends continue.