

Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs): providing care and support for people following exposure to rape, sexual assault and abuse.

SARCs offer one option for survivors of sexual offences in England.

Find your local SARC services here

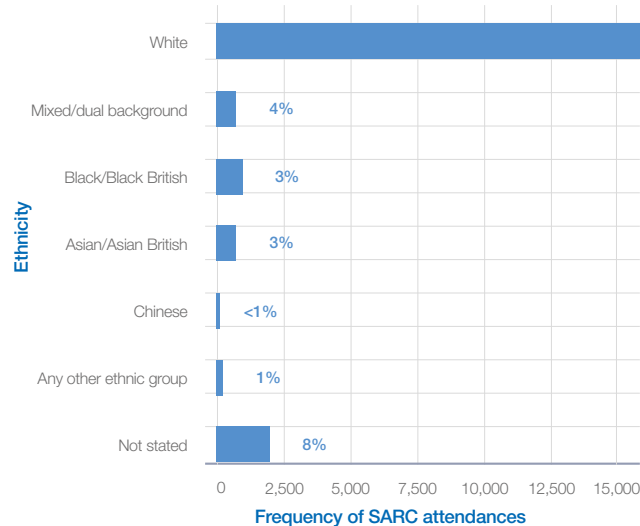
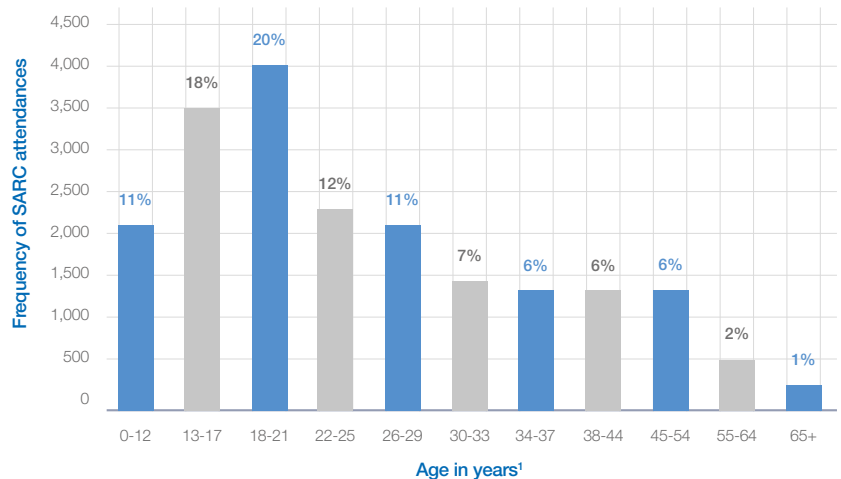
23,888 people used SARC services in 2018/19.³

Use your postcode or town to find local SARC services.



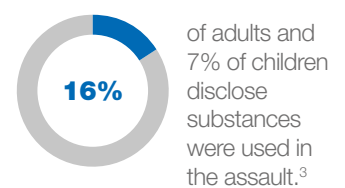
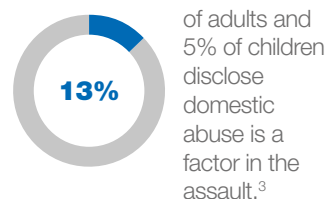
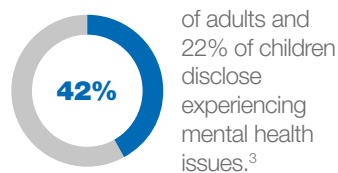
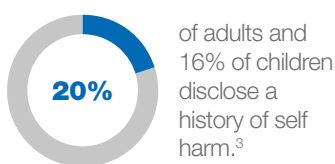
Nine out of 10 service users over 18 are women.

Male victims are under-represented in SARCs relative to best estimates of the prevalence of sexual violence and abuse.²

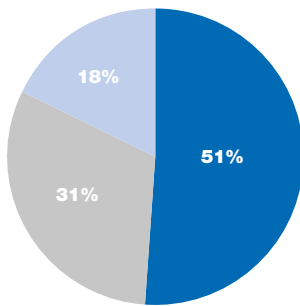
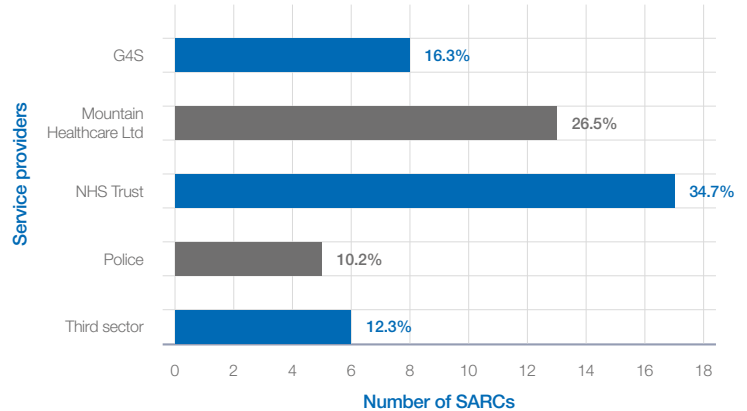
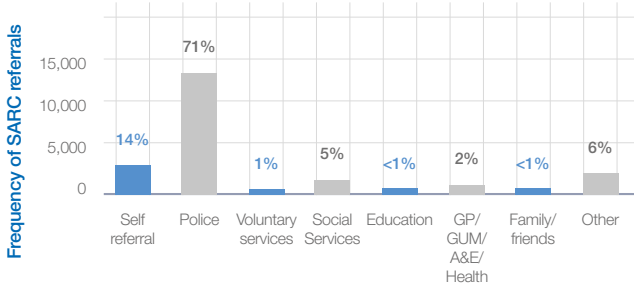


>75% of children and adults attending SARCs are White British.

The mix of ethnicities is broadly in line with the national prevalence of sexual violence and abuse², although household surveys are subject to bias.



Five out of six victims do not report to the police², however most referrals into SARCs are through the police.³



Over half of SARCs offer services to both children and adults⁴. NHSEI⁵ co-commissions services for children and young people and recognises that these clients are not 'mini-adults' and require specific services to meet their needs.

■ Paediatric ■ Paediatric and adults ■ Adults

Age groups for service provision

Medical services available⁴

- 14% offer emergency treatment for physical trauma
- 33% offer baseline STI testing (blood for blood borne viruses and swabs for STIs) for health purposes
- 27% offer baseline STI testing for evidence for court
- 23% offer STI testing after the incubation period for the infections
- 97% offer post-exposure prophylaxis (less than 28 day supply)
- 3% offer post-exposure prophylaxis (full 28 days supply)
- No SARCs offer an IUD as emergency contraception, however all offer an oral pill
- 17% offer antibiotics

NHSEI co-commissions SARCs with OPCCs, with NHS Trusts being the dominant service provider.⁴

Based on our survey of SARCs:⁴

- all SARCs provide a 24/7 service for police referrals.
- all SARCs provide a 24/7 response for self-referrals, including out-of-hours care according to client need.

Other services available⁴

- Hepatitis A and B vaccinations
- Pain relief drugs
- Pregnancy testing
- Salbutamol (used to reduce breathlessness/help with asthma)
- NHS prescriptions
- Additional blood testing (e.g. liver function tests)
- Counselling and psychological services
- Naloxone (used to block effect of opioids)
- STI screening for those under 13 years old
- Rooms where Independent Sexual Violence Advisors can meet their clients
- Achieving Best Evidence interviews
- Crown Court link
- Informal discussions with the rape investigation team
- Anonymous sampling of forensic swabs for self-referrals
- Anonymous police intelligence

Authors: Sleath, E., Hughes, E., Brooker, C., Musto, A., Tek Kalsi, P., Tocque, K., and O'Doherty, L.

¹ 1% of ages were unknown and are not included on the graph

² Source: ONS (2018) Sexual offences in England and Wales: year ending March 2017

³ NHS England data from SARCs 2018/19

⁴ Source: MESARCH and MIMOS SARC manager survey 2019

⁵ Commissioning Framework for Adult and Paediatric Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC) Services.

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