

MARAC

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference

The Finnish experiences since 2010



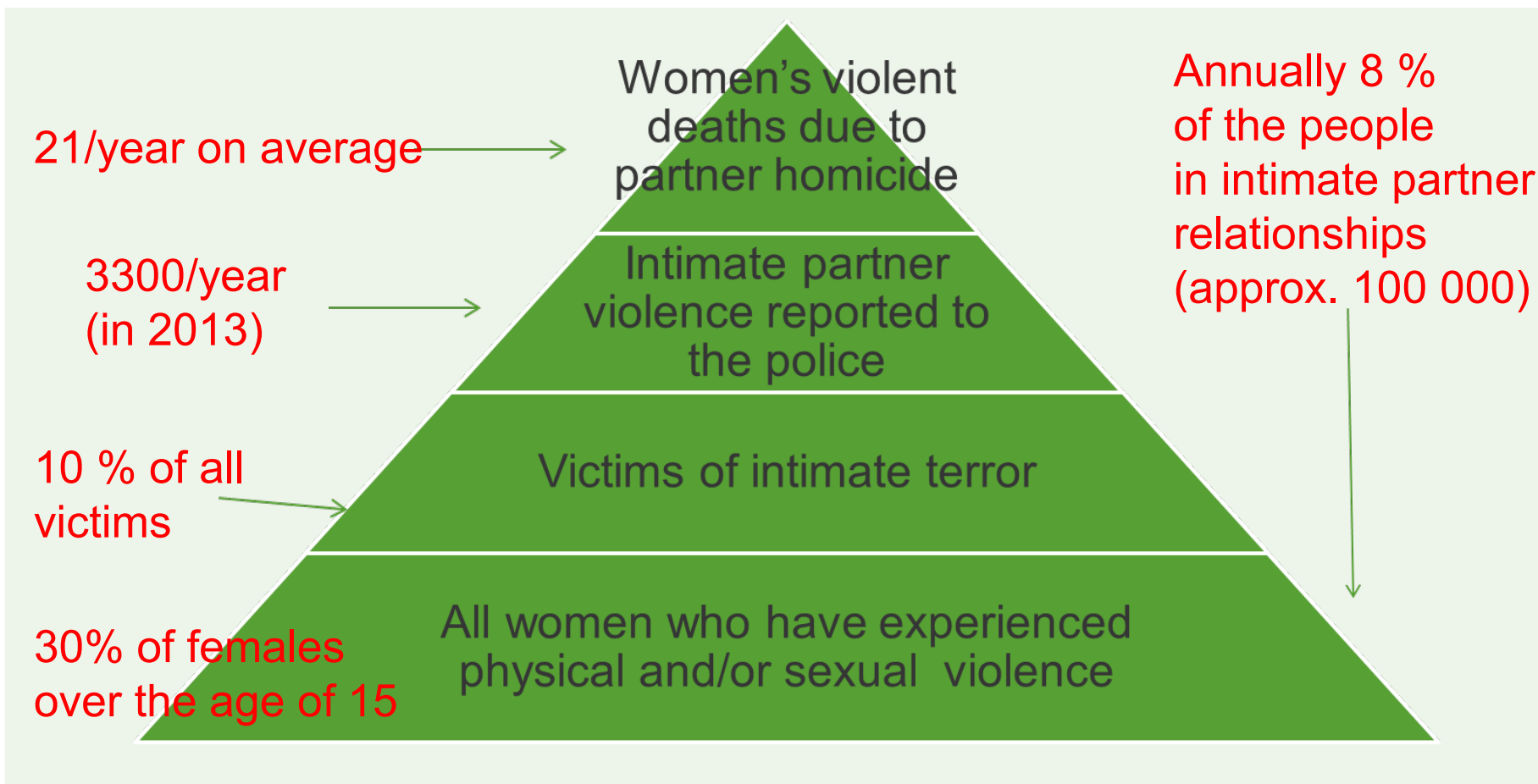
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, FINLAND



Structure of the presentation

- **What** is MARAC
- **How** MARAC works
- **&** our experiences of its effectivity

Violence against women in intimate partner relations – the Finnish picture





What is MARAC?

- MARAC is a local, multi agency victim-focused meeting
- The risk assessment process is for **adult victims** of **serious** domestic violence/abuse

Process contains two stages:

- 1) Risk is assessed (form)
- 2) If risk is elevated, multi-agency conference handles the case

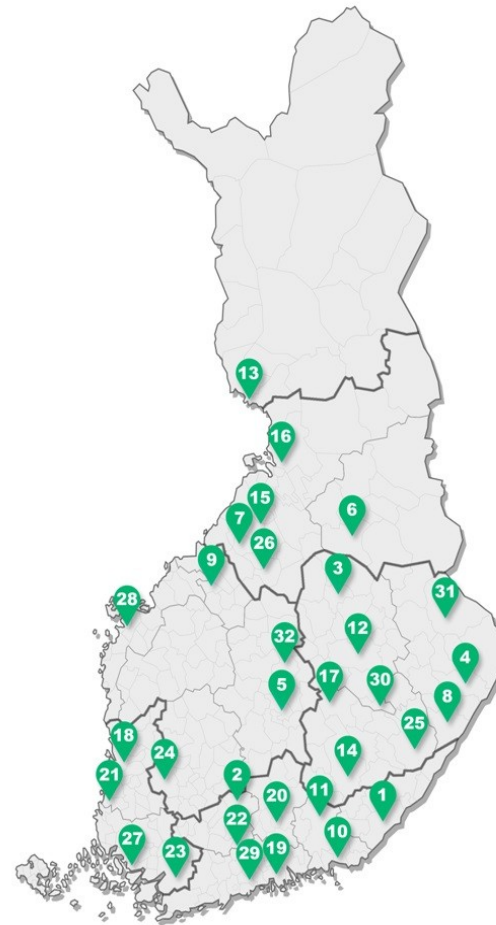
MARAC

- In the meetings information is shared (with consent) on the highest risk cases of domestic violence and abuse between different statutory and voluntary sector agencies
- In Finland, MARAC procedures and standards for operating the meetings are coordinated by THL (National Institute for Health and Welfare)
- [Video:](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=alje4zJOHlw)

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MARACs in Finland in 2018

- Covers roughly over 3 million inhabitants (population of 5,4 million)
- 34 MARAC teams functioning
- Over 100 municipalities, 1-3 in each County



1. EKSOTE
2. Hämeenlinna
3. Iisalmi
4. Joensuun seutu ja Heinävesi
5. Jyväskylä
6. Kainuu
7. Kallion alue
8. Keski-Karjala
9. Keski-Pohjanmaa
10. Kotka ja Hamina
11. Kouvola
12. Kuopio
13. Länsi-Pohja
14. Mikkelin seutu
15. Ouluinen
16. Oulu
17. Pieksämäki
18. Pori
19. Porvoo
20. Päijät-Häme
21. Rauma
22. Riihimäki
23. Salo
24. Sastamala
25. Savonlinna
26. Selänteen alue
27. Turku
28. Vaasa
29. Vantaa
30. Varkaus
31. Ylä-Karjala
32. Äänekoski

Aims of MARAC

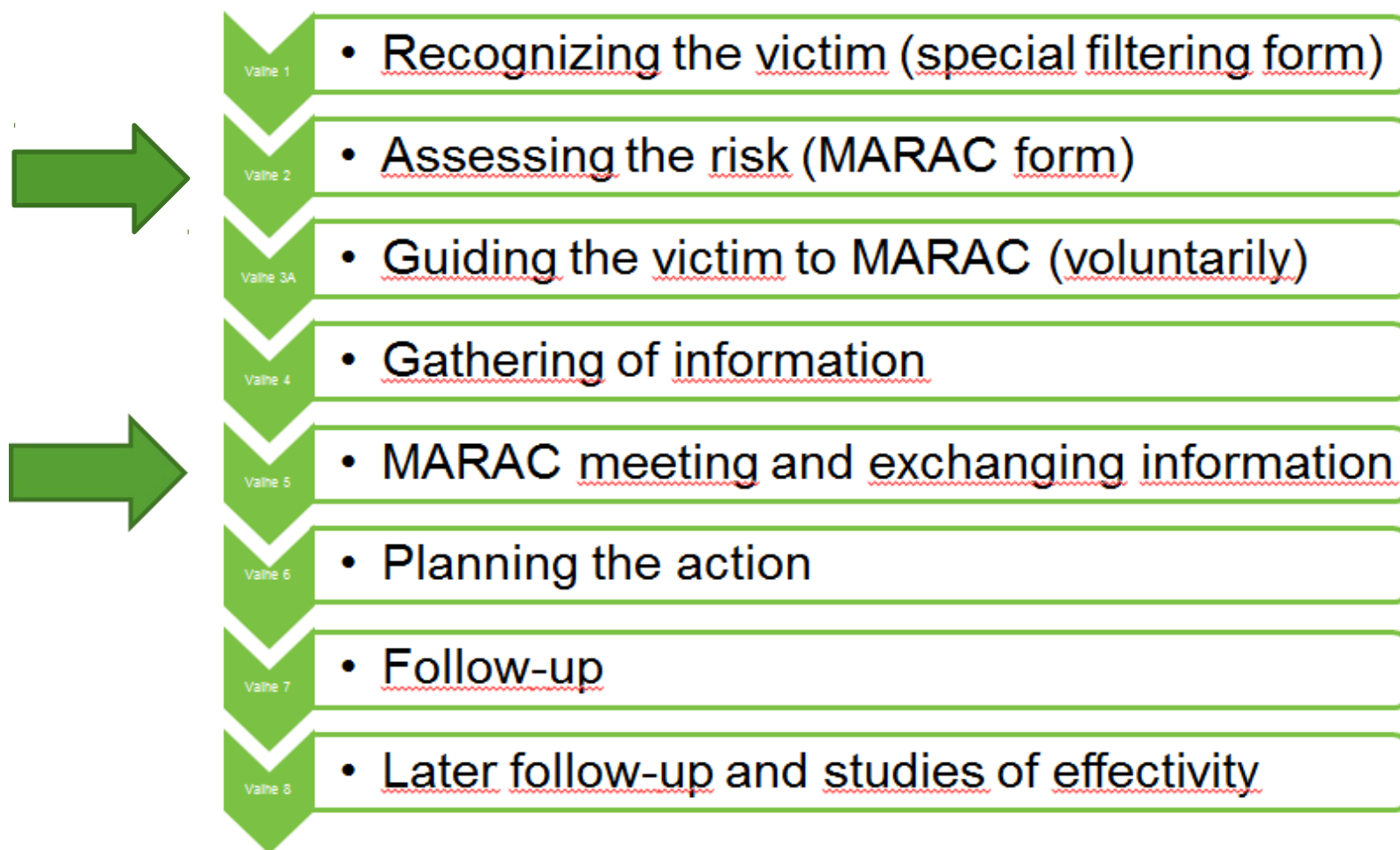
For the authorities/agencies:

- Share information between authorities to increase the safety, health and well-being of victims and their children
- **Reduce the risk of harm**, cut costs of violence, decrease unnecessary work, improve follow-up

For the victim:

- Reduce repeat victimization/reoccurrence of violence, **Improve the safety** of the victim

The MARAC process



The risk assessment form is a tool for mapping violence:

Name of victim: [REDACTED]

Date: [REDACTED]

Register number: [REDACTED]



<p>Explain to the client, that these questions are being asked for his/her safety.</p> <p>Mark with a tick, when the asked requirements are met. Use the comment space for further commenting if necessary, for example if the information originates from somewhere else besides the victim.</p>	Yes	No	Don't know	Comments
<p>1. Has the current incident resulted in injury? (Please state what and whether this is the <u>first</u> injury.)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	[REDACTED]
<p>2. Are you very frightened?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	[REDACTED]
<p>3. What are you afraid of? Is it further injury or violence? (Please give an indication of what you think (name of abuser(s)...) might do and to whom, including children).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	[REDACTED]
<p>4. Do you feel isolated from family/friends, for example, does (name of abuser(s) ...) try to stop you from seeing friends/ family/ doctor or others?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	[REDACTED]
<p>5. Are you feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	[REDACTED]
<p>6. Have you separated or tried to separate from (name of abuser(s)...) within the past year?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	[REDACTED]
<p>7. Is there conflict over child contact?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	[REDACTED]

Risk Indicators which are checked

- Assailants criminal record
- Use of weapons
- Injuries inflicted
- Financial problems
- Assailant's problems with alcohol, drugs, or mental health
- Victim is pregnant
- Assailant expressing/behaving in a jealous or controlling way
- Previous/ongoing separation

- Conflict over child contact



THL

Threats made to kill

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Results of the model

- **UK police:** MARAC decreased reoccurring of domestic violence cases by 2/3 (2004)
- **In Cardiff:** 60 % of victims handled by MARAC did not face reoccurrence of violence in the following 6 months (2004, 2009)
- **In Finland,** after 6 months of entering MARAC, 15 % of victims had faced reoccurrence of domestic violence (when 6 months prior to entering, the likelihood of reoccurrence was at 60% level), thus, MARAC reduced reoccurring crime by over 70 % (2015)

THL study of the effectivity (2010-2015)

- Data collection: Police records, victim interviews
- **382** cases were referred to MARACs in Finland during 1.10.2010-30.3.2015, who also gave consent to use data in the study (95 % of victims are women)
- Police files were scanned six months after the MARAC was held (N= **365**)
- Interviews (n=70)

Age of the victim referred to MARAC

Age	Frequency	%
18-24	49	13
25-34	119	31
35-44	112	29
45-54	58	15
55-64	28	7
Not specified	16	4
TOTAL	382	100

- Most often victims are 25-44 years old

Reoccurrence of violence and abuse (recorded before and 6 months after)

1.10.2010- 30.3.2015	N = 365	%
Crime reported to police prior to MARAC	232	64
Crime reported to police 6 months after MARAC	64	18

- Re-victimisation was reduced in more than 70 per cent of the cases

Recent legal developments in Finland with regard to MARAC

- Finland ratified the **Istanbul Convention** (CoE Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence) in 1.8.2015
 - Obligates the state to fully address Violence against Women in all its forms and to take measures to **prevent** violence against women, **protect** its victims and **prosecute** the perpetrators.
 - Art. 18 is about **effective multi-agency collaboration**
 - Art. 51 is about **risk assessment** and risk management

Thank you!



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www.thl.fi/marak (mostly in Finnish)

www.safelives.org.uk (MARAC info/UK)