

3/Migrant population overview

3.1 Background

With an increasing world population, globalisation of the world's economy, climate change and other socio-political factors, more people migrate today than at any other time.⁽¹⁾ This movement has implications for the health of both the individual and the population. It has been documented in the *2009 United Nations Human Development Report* that migration benefits people in terms of increased educational and economic opportunities.⁽²⁾ However, people who move country can also face challenges when accessing local health and social services.

Migrants are a diverse group with varying health needs. Many are healthy, young adults from countries with low prevalence of infectious diseases who travel to work or study.⁽³⁾ Others come from regions with a high burden of infections and continue to be at risk of these diseases due to return visits to their country of origin or due to adverse conditions such as overcrowding in their country of arrival.⁽³⁾ These migrants may have more extensive health needs. When assessing their health needs the following broad questions are helpful to consider:

- What were their life experiences before migration, for example, their family life, education, employment and healthcare access?
- What were the circumstances of their migration? This may have been a voluntary choice for education or economic purposes or the person may be more vulnerable, for example, if they have been trafficked.
- What was their experience during the process of migration?
- What are their current living circumstances in Ireland? How are they integrating into their new community? What are the social structures that they have in place?

Healthcare professionals also need to be aware of specific diseases that are more prevalent in certain ethnic or migrant groups.

3.2 Migrant population and demography

Overall, the size of the Irish population is increasing. Data from Census 2011 suggest that the annual average growth since the 2006 census was 1.6%.⁽⁴⁾ The number of non-Irish nationals in Ireland in April 2011 was recorded as 544,357*.⁽³⁾ In 2011, the percentage of residents who were non-Irish nationals was 12% compared with 5.8% in 2002.⁽³⁾

Between 2006 and 2011 there has been an increase of 124,624 in non-Irish nationals living in Ireland.⁽³⁾ Table 3.1 compares the numbers of non-Irish nationals living in Ireland in 2002, 2006 and 2011. The nationality with the largest increase between 2006 and 2011 was the Polish nationality.⁽³⁾ Of note, the migrant population in Ireland in 2011 showed a peak single year of age of 30 years with an average age of 32.6 years. Sixty percent of all non-Irish nationals were in the 22-44 age range compared with 32 per cent of Irish nationals.⁽³⁾

In non-Irish nationals living in Ireland in April 2011, a remarkable diversity of nationalities existed, representing 199 different nations. Figure 3.1 and Table 3.2 show the country of origin of non-Irish nationals living in Ireland in April 2011.

*The committee is aware that census data may not capture the full extent of the migrant population in Ireland, particularly in terms of vulnerable migrants such as undocumented migrants, those who were trafficked or unaccompanied minors.

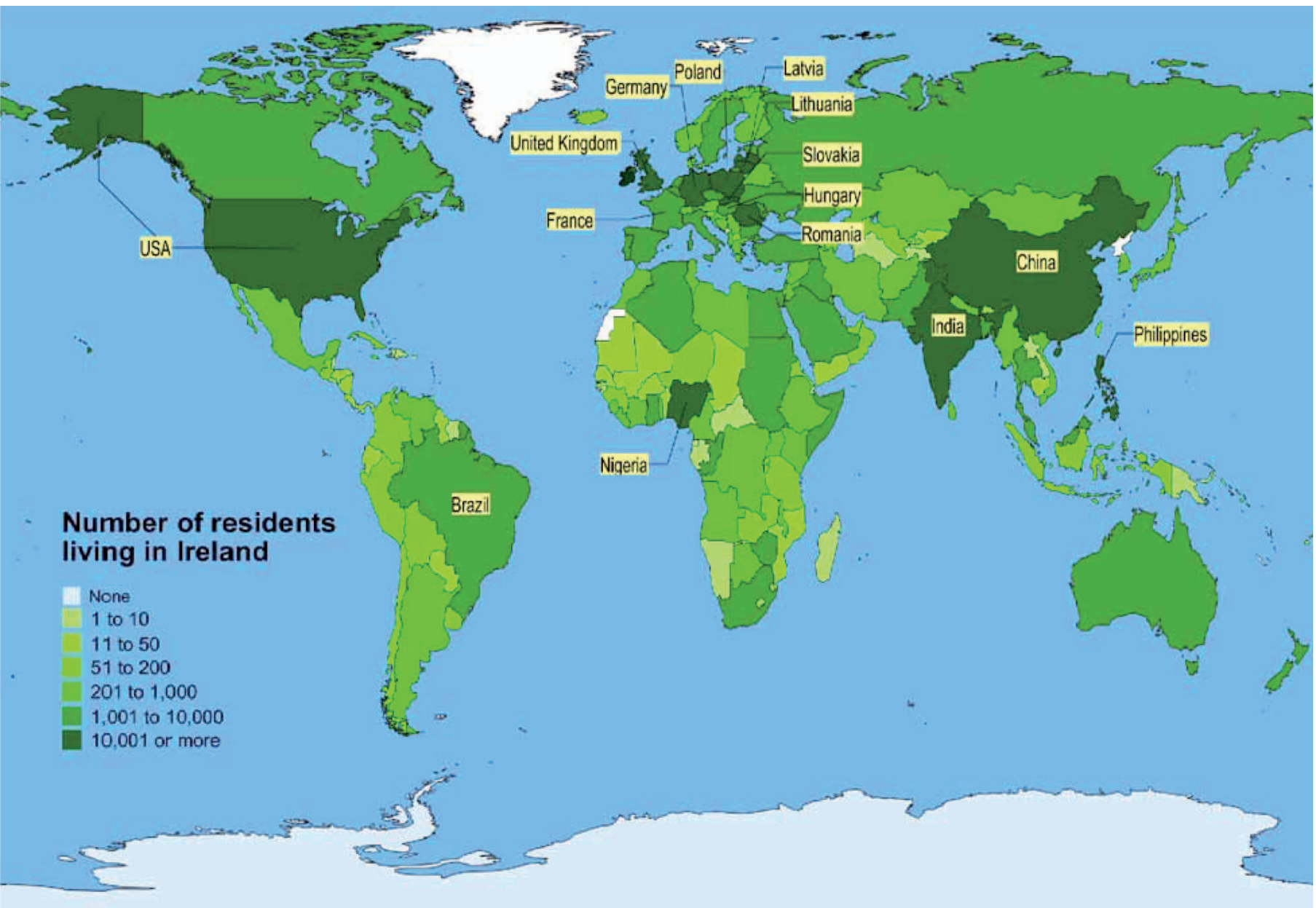
Table 3.1 Census population results compared for 2002, 2006 and 2011

Nationality	2002	2006	2011	Change 2002-2011	% change
Poland	2,124	63,276	122,585	120,461	5,671.4
UK	103,476	112,548	112,259	8,783	8.5
Lithuania	2,104	24,628	36,683	34,579	1,643.5
Latvia	1,797	13,319	20,593	18,796	1,046.0
Nigeria	8,969	16,300	17,642	8,673	96.7
Romania	4,978	7,696	17,304	12,326	247.6
India	2,534	8,460	16,986	14,452	570.3
Philippines	3,900	9,548	12,791	8,891	228.0
Germany	7,216	10,289	11,305	4,089	56.7
USA	11,384	12,475	11,015	-369	-3.2
China	5,842	11,161	10,896	5,054	86.5
Slovakia	297	8,111	10,801	10,504	3,536.7
France	6,363	9,046	9,749	3,386	53.2
Brazil	1,087	4,388	8,704	7,617	700.7
Hungary	409	3,440	8,034	7,625	1,864.3
Italy	3,770	6,190	7,656	3,886	103.1
Pakistan	2,939	4,998	6,847	3,908	133.0
Spain	4,436	6,052	6,794	2,358	53.2
Czech Republic	1,103	5,159	5,451	4,348	394.2
South Africa	4,185	5,432	4,872	687	16.4
Other non-Irish	45,348	77,217	85,390	40,042	88.3
Total non-Irish	224,261	419,733	544,357	320,096	142.7

Source

<http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/census/documents/census2011profile6/Profile,6,Migration,and,Diversity,Commentary.pdf>

Figure 3.1 Non-Irish nationals living in Ireland by country of origin, 2011



Source
http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/census/documents/census2011/profile6/Profile_6_Migration_and_Diversity_Commentary.pdf

Table 3.2 Non-Irish Nationals Living in Ireland Census 2011

Number of nationals					
1 – 10	11 – 50	51 – 200	201 – 1,000	1,001 – 10,000	Over 10,000
Andorra	Bahrain	Armenia	Afghanistan	Algeria	China
Anguilla	Benin	Azerbaijan	Albania	Australia	Germany
Antigua and Barbuda	Bhutan	Bolivia	Angola	Bangladesh	India
Aruba	Burkina Faso	Burundi	Argentina	Belgium	Latvia
Bahamas	Cambodia	Chechnya	Austria	Brazil	Lithuania
Barbados	Chad	Chile	Belarus	Bulgaria	Nigeria
Belize	Costa Rica	Colombia	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Canada	Philippines
Bermuda	Dominica	Cuba	Botswana	Congo	Poland
Brunei	Ecuador	Cyprus	Cameroon	Czech Republic	Romania
Cape Verde	El Salvador	Eritrea	Croatia	Egypt	Slovakia
Cayman Islands	Fiji	Gambia	Democratic Republic of Congo	Estonia	United Kingdom
Central African Republic	Guyana	Guatemala	Denmark	France	USA
Comoros	Honduras	Guinea	Ethiopia	Ghana	
Djibouti	Kyrgyzstan	Hong Kong	Finland	Hungary	
Dominican Republic	Lesotho	Iceland	Georgia	Iraq	
East Timor	Luxembourg	Indonesia	Greece	Italy	
Equatorial Guinea	Mali	Jamaica	Iran	Malaysia	
Faroe Islands	Mauritania	Lebanon	Israel	Mauritius	
Gabon	Mozambique	Macedonia	Ivory Coast	Moldova	
Gibraltar	Nicaragua	Malta	Japan	Netherlands	
Grenada	Panama	Niger	Jordan	New Zealand	
Guam	Paraguay	Oman	Kazakhstan	Pakistan	
Guinea-Bissau	Qatar	Palestine	Kenya	Portugal	
Haiti	Senegal	Peru	Kuwait	Russia	
Laos	Seychelles	Rwanda	Liberia	Saudi Arabia	
Liechtenstein	Swaziland	Singapore	Libya	Somalia	
Madagascar	Tonga	Slovenia	Malawi	South Africa	
Maldives	Yemen	Taiwan	Mexico	Spain	
Marshall Islands		Tanzania	Mongolia	Sudan	
Martinique		Trinidad and Tobago	Morocco	Sweden	
Micronesia		United Arab Emirates	Myanmar Burma	Thailand	
Monaco		Uruguay	Nepal	Turkey	
Montenegro		Uzbekistan	Norway	Ukraine	
Namibia		Zambia	Serbia	Zimbabwe	
Netherlands Antilles			Sierra Leone		
Papua New Guinea			South Korea		
Puerto Rico			Sri Lanka		
Samoa			Switzerland		
San Marino			Syria		
Solomon Islands			Togo		
St Helena			Tunisia		
St Kitts and Nevis			Uganda		
St Lucia			Venezuela		
St Vincent			Vietnam		
Surinam					
Tajikistan					
Turkmenistan					

Source

<http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/census/documents/census2011profile6/Profile,6,Migration,and,Diversity,Commentary.pdf>

3.3 Profile of recent immigrants

The migrant population continues to be a diverse group with changing needs. They are a growing and economically important segment of Irish society.⁽³⁾ There were 268,180 non-Irish nationals at work in Ireland in April 2011 accounting for 15.1 per cent of the workforce.⁽³⁾

Polish and UK nationals dominated the migrant work force; however, there were 187 different nationalities at work in Ireland in April 2011.⁽³⁾

Of the 33,340 non-Irish nationals who arrived in Ireland in the year prior to April 2011, over a third of those were aged between 25 and 34 years and most were single (59.7%). Students accounted for 23.4 per cent of those who arrived in the year prior to April 2011.⁽³⁾

3.4 Vulnerable migrants

Because of adverse experiences before, during or after migration, certain migrant groups are classified as vulnerable migrants. Vulnerable migrants include:⁽⁵⁾

- Asylum seekers and refugees
- Low paid migrants
- Undocumented migrants
- Unaccompanied children
- People who have been trafficked
- Members of the Roma community (estimated population 3,000). (Source: Presentation to the British Irish Parliamentary Assembly. Inquiry into the Traveller and Roma population. January 2014. Personal communication Diane Nurse, Social Inclusion, HSE)

Applications for asylum

The number of non-Irish nationals entering the country seeking asylum has declined significantly in recent years. The number peaked in 2003 with 11,634 applications. (Figure 3.2) The number of applicants in 2013 was 946.⁽⁶⁾

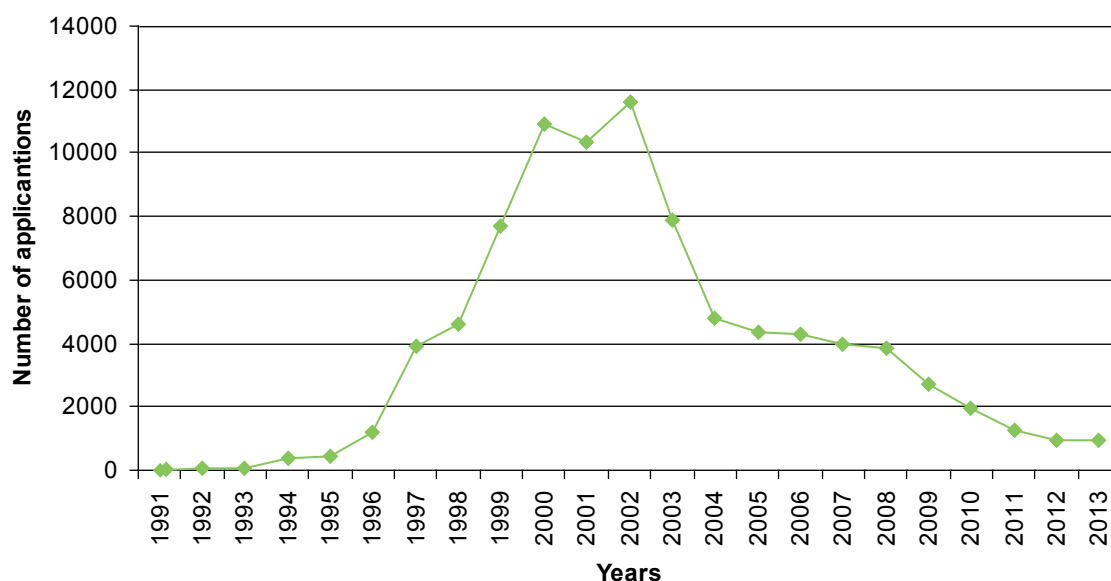


Figure 3.2 Applications for declaration as a refugee, 1991 to end of December 2013

Adapted from: **Reception & Integration agency Annual Report 2013**

Further information on refugees and asylum seekers can be found in Appendix F

3.5 Mapping of current asylum seeker services

In 2010, the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) carried out a mapping study to ascertain the structures and processes in asylum seeker assessment services in Ireland.⁽⁷⁾ It found that an infectious diseases assessment service for asylum seekers was in place in 53.9% (14/26) of local health offices (LHO) with Reception and Integration Agency (RIA) dispersal accommodation. The study also identified that there was a significant degree of heterogeneity in service provision throughout the LHO regions with a lack of assessment services most notable in Dublin (with the exception of Baleskin), Galway and the South East. The author of the study also noted that in areas with no dedicated assessment programme, the work would fall to primary care services that may be under-resourced to manage some of the more complex health needs of the migrant population.⁽⁷⁾

3.6 References

- (1) The world migration report 2008: managing labour mobility in the evolving global economy. Geneva: International Organization for Migration; 2008.
- (2) United National Development Program. Human development report. Overcoming barriers: human mobility and development. New York: Human Development Report Office; 2009.
- (3) CSO Ireland. Census 2011 Profile 6 Migration and Diversity – A profile of diversity in Ireland [Internet]. 2011 [cited 2013 Jun 12]. Available from: <http://www.cso.ie/en/census/census2011reports/census2011profile6migrationanddiversity-aprofileofdiversityinireland/>
- (4) CSO. Census 2011 Reports [Internet]. 2011. Available from: <http://www.cso.ie/en/census/census2011reports/>
- (5) Public Health England. Migrant Health Guide. [Internet]. UK: Public Health England. 2013 May 30th. Available from: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140714084352/http://www.hpa.org.uk/migranthealthguide>
- (6) Reception and Integration Agency. Annual Report. 2013. Available from: www.ria.gov.ie
- (7) Smith G. Communicable disease screening for asylum seekers and refugees in Ireland. A mapping study. Dublin: Royal College of Surgeons; 2010.

Appendix G. Refugees and asylum seekers

In 2013, 44.1% of asylum seekers originated from Nigeria, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe and Malawi. The remaining 55.9% originated from a wide range of countries.⁽⁶⁾

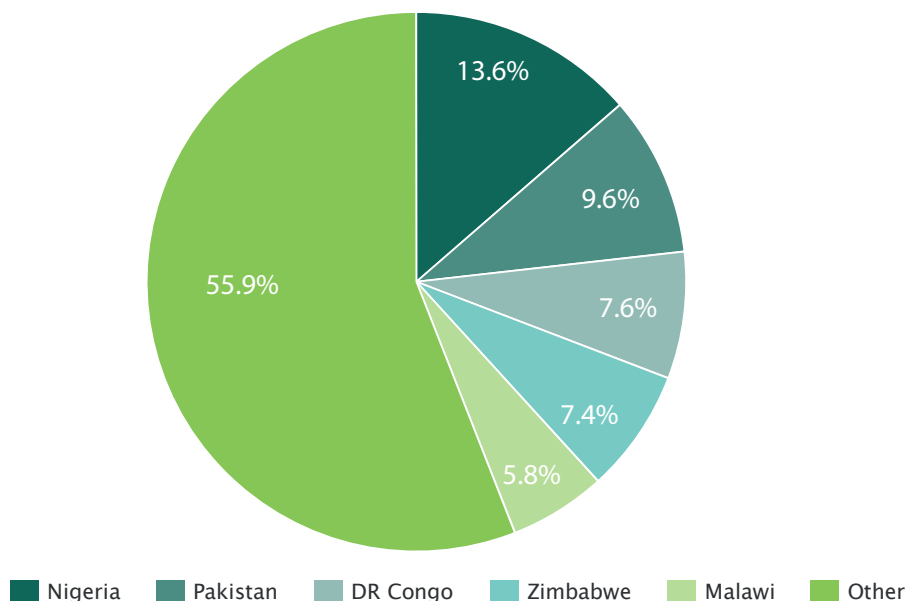


Figure 1 Applications for declaration as a refugee; top 5 countries of origin, to end of December 2013

Adapted from: Reception & Integration Agency Annual Report 2013

Provision for asylum seekers

The Reception and Integration Agency (RIA) is a functional unit of the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS), a division of the Department of Justice and Equality. RIA is responsible for providing asylum seeker residents with full board accommodation free of utility and other costs.

Although the number of applications to the Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner (ORAC) has declined significantly in recent years, a significant number of applicants are reliant on the directly provided services offered by RIA. In 2013, 4,360 were resident in the 34 RIA accommodation sites located in 17 counties.⁽⁶⁾

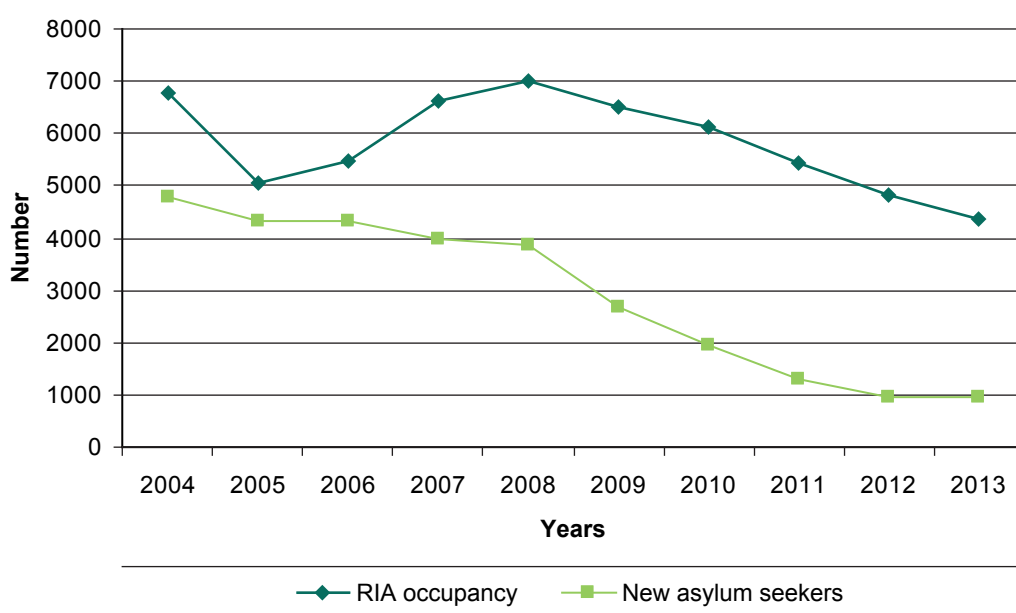


Figure 2 Trends in Asylum applications and RIA Occupancy 2004-2013

Adapted from: Reception & Integration Agency Annual Report 2013

The nationality of RIA residents is outlined below. Of the total number of residents, (n=4,360), over 70% of residents originate from the continent of Africa.⁽⁶⁾

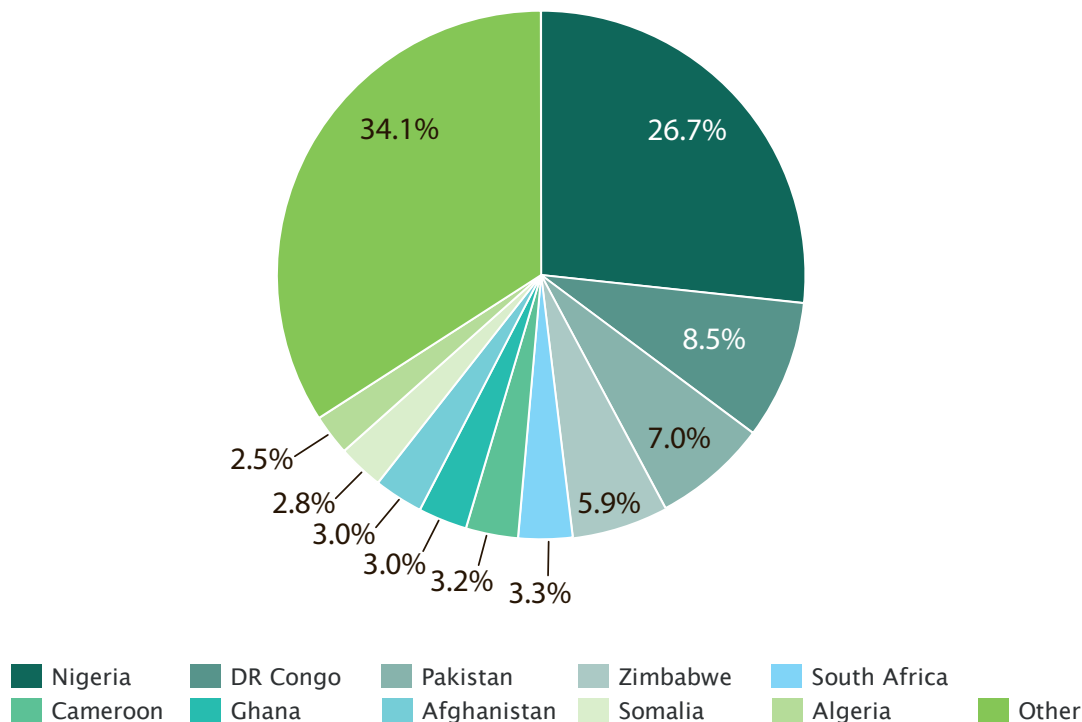


Figure 3 Nationality of RIA residents, end of December 2013

Adapted from: Reception & Integration Agency Annual Report 2013

RIA residents are mainly young, single adults aged 26-35 years. However there is also a significant number of children (male and female) under the age of 12 years (n=1,523).⁽⁶⁾

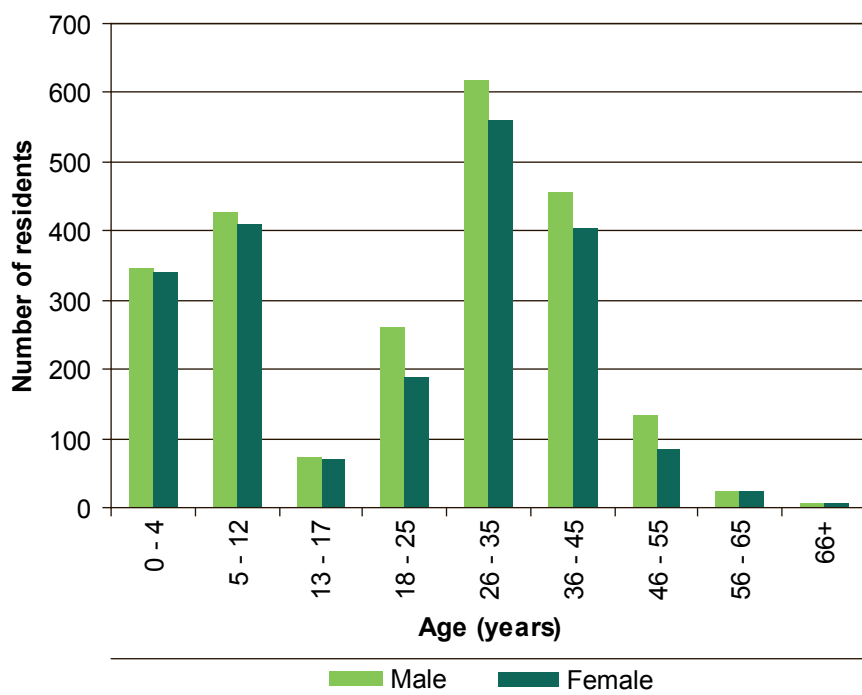


Figure 4 Gender and Age profile of RIA residents, December 2013

Adapted from: Reception & Integration Agency Annual Report 2013