



## Gender and age of illegal boat crossers

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Illegal Immigration: MW 505

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1. Over 41,300 people have come to the UK illicitly in boats since the start of 2018. 16,500 of these came in the period January 2018 and to the end of June 2021<sup>1</sup>. Data from a [Freedom of Information release](#) show that nearly 90% of those crossing during this period were male<sup>2</sup>.

2. 87.4% of the 16,500 people were recorded as men, while 12.4% were recorded as female. The gender of 21 additional people was not recorded. See tables 1 and 2 below.

Table 1: Arrivals by small boat January 2018 to June 2021, broken down by gender.

Gender	Arrivals	Share of total whose gender was recorded
Male	14412	87.4%
Female	2086	12.6%
Total whose gender was recorded	16498	100%

Table 2: Arrivals by small boat January 2018 to June 2021, broken down by year and gender.

Period	Male	Female	Not recorded	Grand total
2018	273	26		299
2019	1554	289		1843
2020	7377	1083		8460
2021 (January to June)	5208	688	21	5917

3. The data also showed that 75% of those whose age was recorded were between the ages of 18 and 39, totalling just under 12,400 of the 16,500 people who arrived during the period.

Table 3: Arrivals by small boat, 2018 to June 2021, broken down by age group.

Age group	Arrivals	Share of those whose age recorded
Under 18 years	2609	16%
18-39 years	12398	75%
40+ years	1493	9%
Total	16500	100%

Table 4: Arrivals by boat, January 2018 to June 2021, broken down by year and age group.

<b>2018</b>	<b>299</b>
Under 18 years	25
18-39 years	240
40+ years	34
<b>2019</b>	<b>1843</b>
Under 18 years	308
18-39 years	1332
40+ years	203
<b>2020</b>	<b>8460</b>
Under 18 years	1445
18-39 years	6191
40+ years	824
<b>2021</b>	<b>5898</b>
Under 18 years	831
18-39 years	4635
40+ years	432
Not recorded	19

9 March 2022

## Notes

1. See our Channel Tracking Station to stay on top of the numbers coming in boats, URL: <https://www.migrationwatchuk.org/news/2020/05/11/arrivals-via-deadly-and-illegal-channel-crossing-from-safe-countries>
2. Freedom of Information release by Immigration Enforcement, to Migration Watch UK Chairman Alp Mehmet, February 2022, URL: [https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/803749/response/1974619/attach/3/66921%20Mehmet.pdf?cookie\\_passthrough=1](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/803749/response/1974619/attach/3/66921%20Mehmet.pdf?cookie_passthrough=1)