Refugee & Asylum Seeker Health

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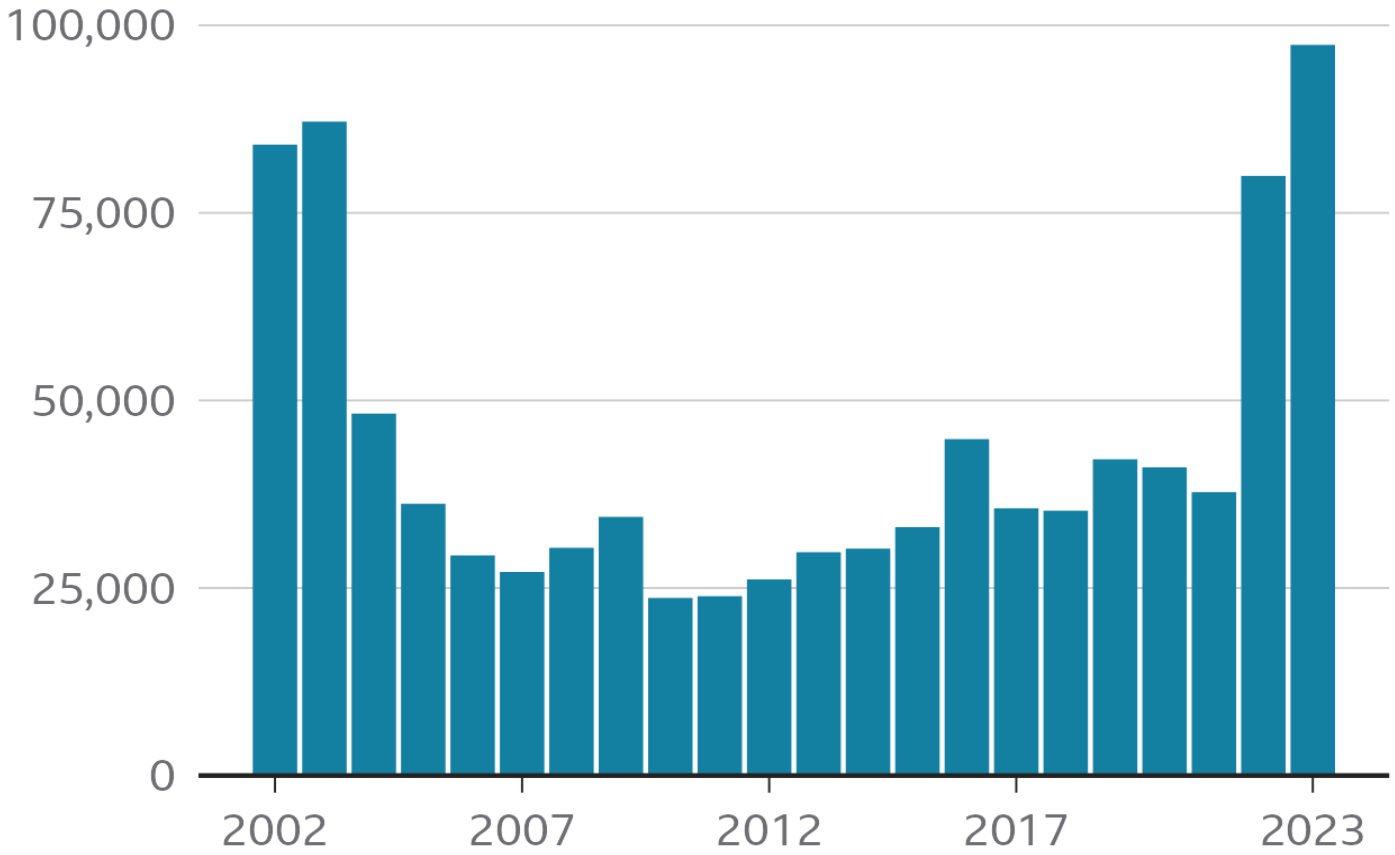
Hope Citadel Healthcare

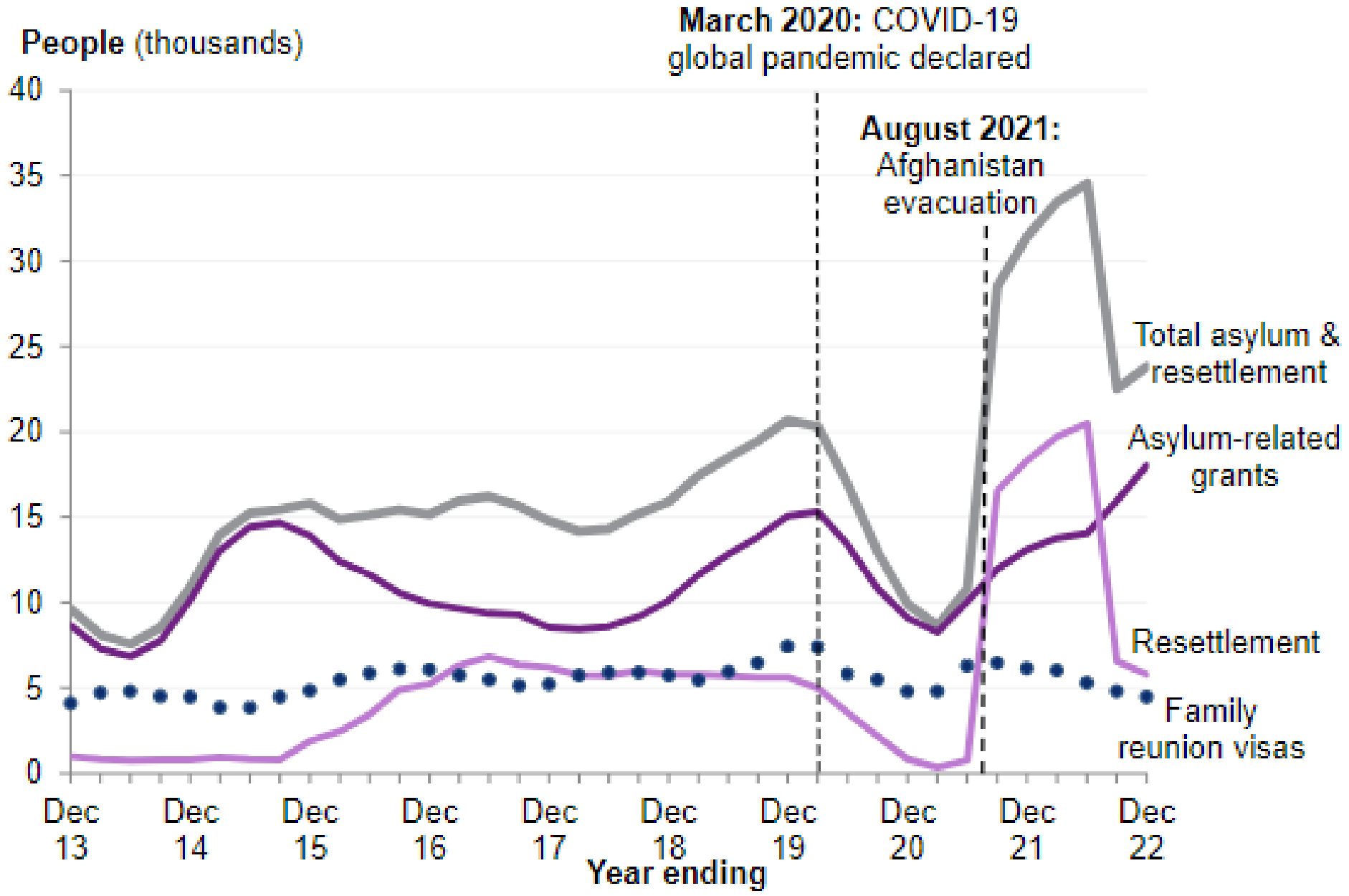
Highest number of asylum claims

People applying for asylum in the UK (including dependants) each year to end of June, 2002 to 2023

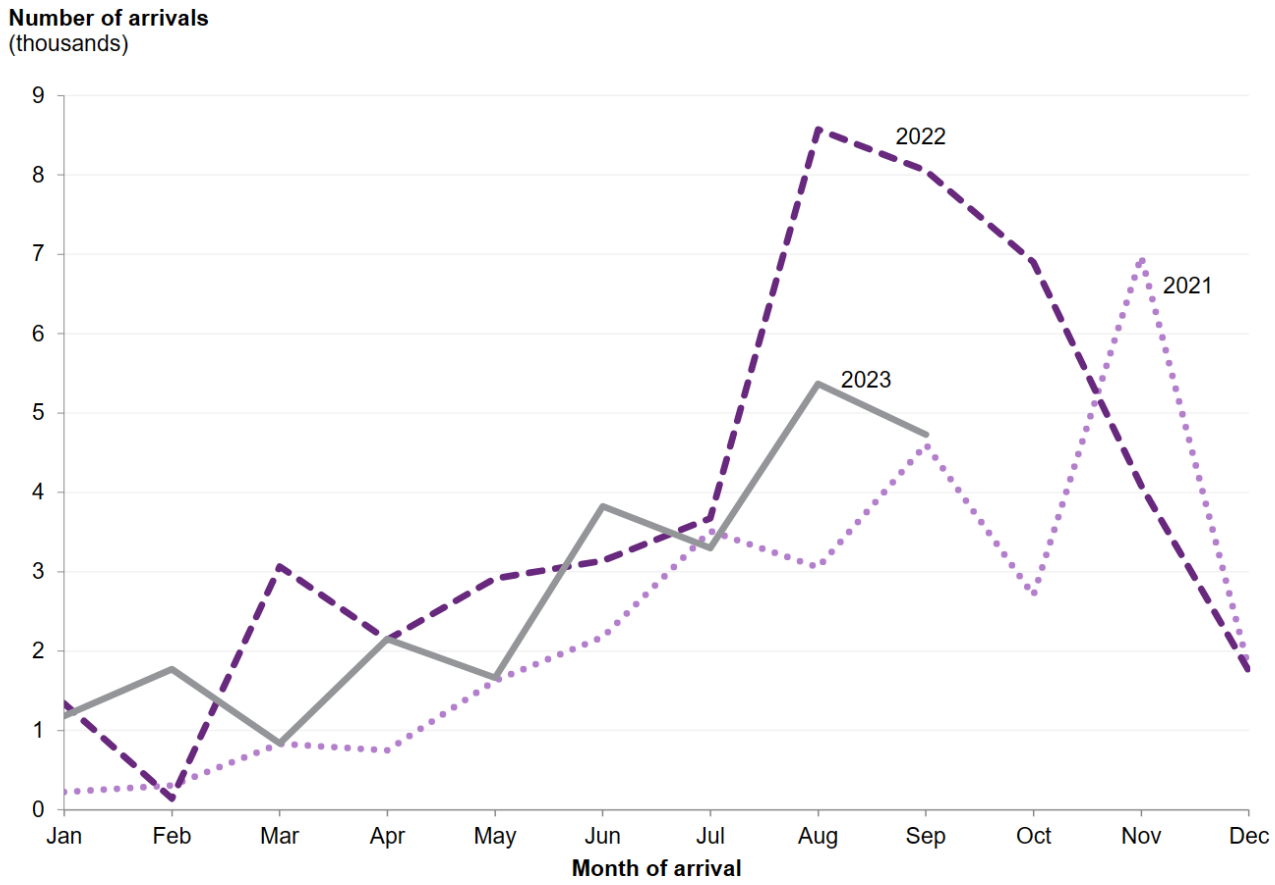


Source: Home Office

BBC

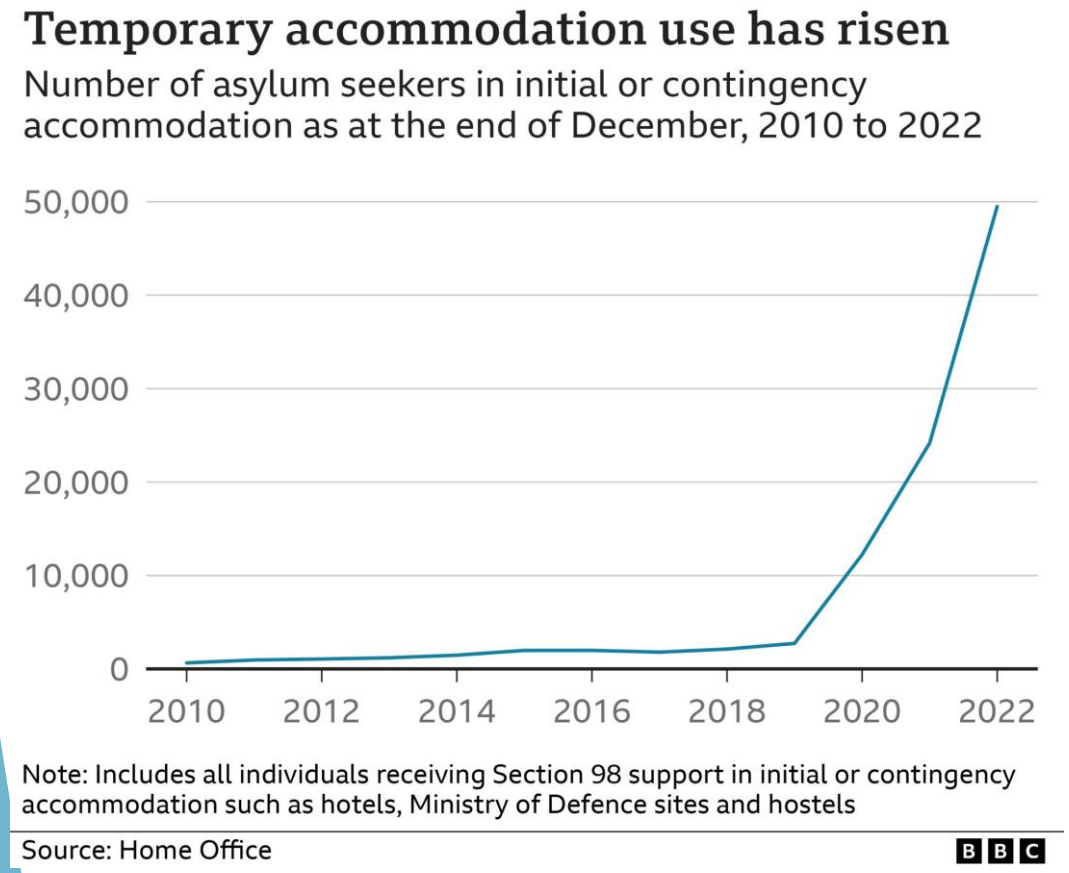

People (thousands)
March 2020: COVID-19 global pandemic declared
August 2021: Afghanistan evacuation
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
Total asylum & resettlement
Asylum-related grants
Resettlement
Family reunion visas
Dec 13
Dec 14
Dec 15
Dec 16
Dec 17
Dec 18
Dec 19
Dec 20
Dec 21
Dec 22
Year ending

‘Irregular migration’ to the UK



Source: www.gov.uk

Seeking asylum today



Recent demographic shifts

- Countries of origin (year ending Sept 2023)

Afghanistan	25%
Iran	19%
Iraq	
Turkey	8%
Eritrea	8%
Syria	<8%

- Gender 88% male
- Age profile 17% under 18s

Current Challenges in Migrant Health

- Infection Control
- Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Safeguarding
- Administrative / Communication issues
- Integration & Continuity of Care

INFECTION CONTROL

- Timely screening & treatment
  - TB, Blood Borne Viruses, skin infections….
- Offering catch-up immunisations
- Sexual Health Services

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

- Identifying significant mental illness (e.g. PTSD)
- Mental health support service (Lingua GM)
- Consistent trauma-informed approach – whole team
- Signposting to local community services

SAFEGUARDING

- Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children
- Mental Health risk within hotel setting
- Risk of exploitation / adverse experiences

ADMINISTRATION & COMMUNICATION

- Interpreter services
- Access to medication and services
- Making appointments & navigating complexity
- Medicolegal aspects

INTEGRATION & CONTINUITY OF CARE

- Orientation to NHS
- Empowering patients to access care for themselves
- Impact of dispersal on healthcare access
- Managing expectation

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