

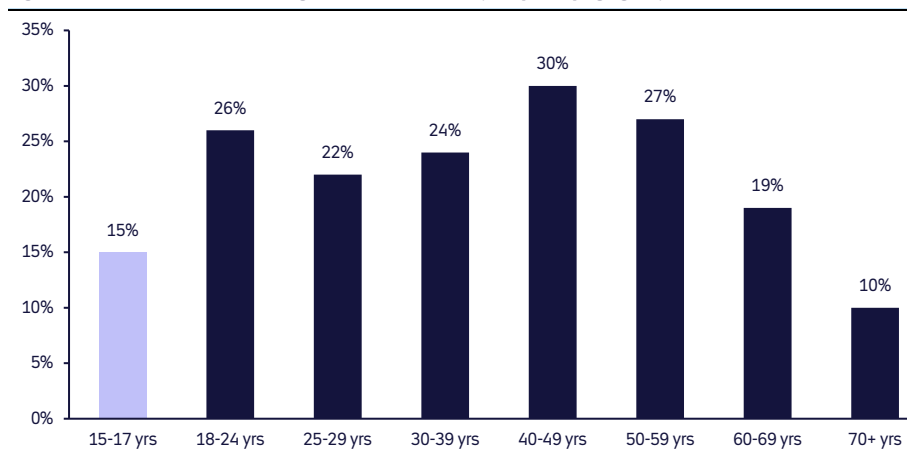
November 2023

Many young people under the age of 18 gamble online

Figures from a new study show that approximately 32,000 young people between the ages of 15 and 17 have gambled online in the past year. More young people are also using skins from video games as stakes in games (gambling).

In Denmark, the age limit for online gambling is 18 years. Nevertheless, figures from a new study from the Danish Gambling Authority on Danes' gambling habits show that 15% of young people between the ages of 15 and 17 have gambled on the internet within the past year, see *figure 1*. This equates to approximately 32,000 young people.

Figure 1. Share of Danes who have gambled online in the past year by age group



Source: Data is collected and aggregated to population by DST Survey, Statistics Denmark for the Danish Gambling Authority.

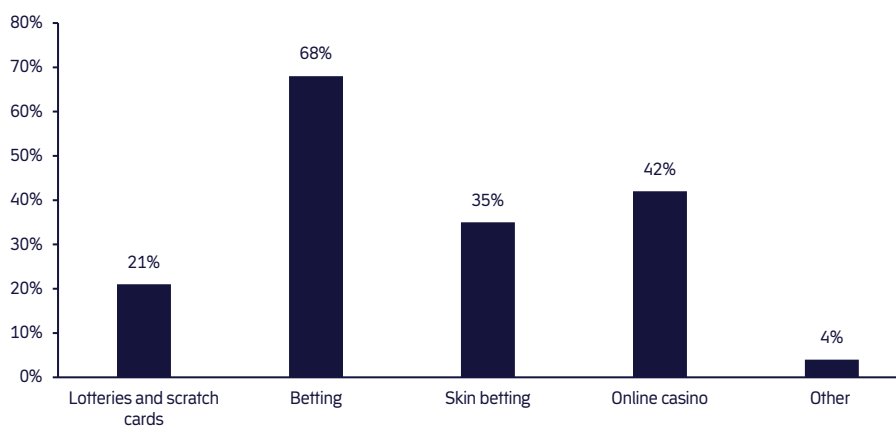
For example, young people may have gambled on sites without a Danish licence, where the player's age is not necessarily verified. The Danish Gambling Authority has a strong focus on gambling sites without a Danish licence and has since 2012 blocked 276 sites that have illegally offered gambling activities and services aimed at Denmark. Blocking websites is an important tool in the Danish Gambling Authority's work to ensure that gambling is conducted fairly and responsibly.

Young people gamble with video game skins

In the survey, 15 to 17-year-old gamblers were asked about the types of games they have participated in in the past year. 68% of young players have bet on sports and other events, and 42% have gambled at online casinos, see *figure 2*.

Another type of gambling that is particularly popular among young people is skin betting. 35% of young players have gambled on websites that offer skin betting. A skin is a virtual item that can be purchased or earned in many video games. This could be a decoration for a weapon or a character in a video game. Skin betting is thus different types of gambling, such as betting, casino games and lotteries, that have in common that the deposit and/or winnings are a skin. There are no gambling operators with a Danish licence that offer skin betting. Skin betting can only take place in the illegal gambling market.

Figure 2. Share of 15–17-year-old players who have played different types of gambling online in the past year



Note: 1) As respondents could indicate that they participate in multiple types of gambling activities, the percentages add up to more than 100. 2) The age limit for land-based lottery and scratch cards in Denmark is 16 years, while it is 18 years for online lottery and scratch cards. Source: Data is collected and aggregated to population by DST Survey, Statistics Denmark for the Danish Gambling Authority.

Young players turn to StopSpillet

StopSpillet is a helpline run by the Danish Gambling Authority where players, relatives and professionals can call or chat for advice and guidance on responsible gambling and compulsive gambling.

Half of the players who have contacted StopSpillet state that they made their gambling debut before the age of 18. 4% of the players who have contacted us have also been under the age of 18. The inquiries to StopSpillet show that young people are already at risk of developing a problematic relationship with gambling at an early age.

Survey on Danes' gambling habits

The figures in this publication come from a larger survey on the gambling habits of Danes. The results are based on a questionnaire survey with data collected by DST Survey, Statistics Denmark for the Danish Gambling Authority. The questionnaire was sent to a randomly selected sample of Danes aged 15 and over. Responses were collected online between 24 November 2022 and 15 January 2023. The answers are weighted based on various background information about the respondents, which ensures that the results are representative of the Danish population.

The report with all the results from the survey is expected to be published later in 2023.