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More than 30,000 Danes have self-excluded from gambling

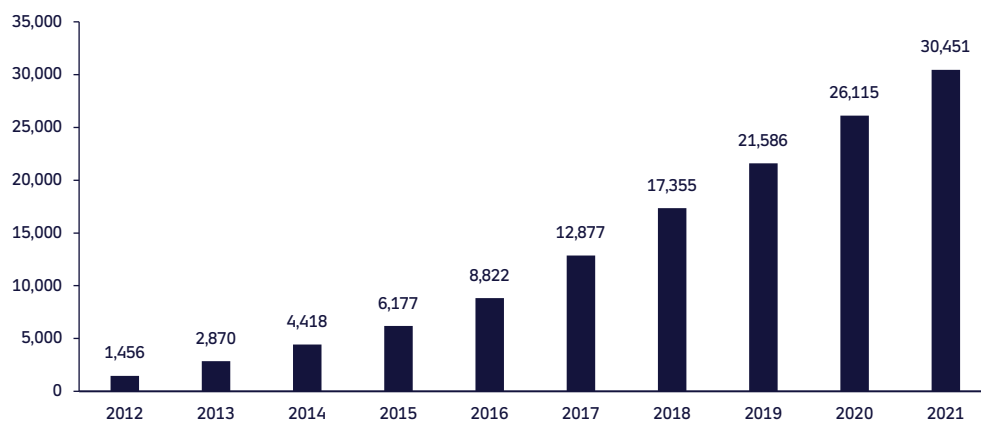
A continuously increasing number of Danes register with the Danish Gambling Authority's register of self-excluded players (ROFUS). The most recent figures show that 30,451 players have registered with ROFUS. They also show that young men are strongly overrepresented among the registered.

Almost 10 years ago, Danish players were some of the first players, who had the opportunity to self-exclude from all online gambling and gambling at land-based casinos with a few clicks on a computer or smartphone. In 2021, the Danish Gambling Authority established the register of self-excluded players (ROFUS), which was one of more political initiatives to combat compulsive gambling. With ROFUS, players can choose to self-exclude either temporarily (24 hours, or one, three or six months) or permanently.

Constant increase in self-excluded players

Every year, an increasing number of players have made use of the opportunity to self-exclude since the register opened in 2012. By the end of 2012, just under 1,500 Danes had registered with ROFUS, while on the 31st of December 2021, the number is more than 30,000 persons, *cf. figure 1*.

Figure 1. Number of registered players with ROFUS, temporarily and permanently, January 2012 - December 2021



Source: The Danish Gambling Authority

Note: The figure includes both temporarily and permanently excluded players. For 2012-2019, the data is gathered on the 1st of January in the following year. For 2020 and 2021, the data is gathered on the 31st of December. Thus, the figure stated how many were registered on the day when the data was gathered. The category of temporary exclusion for 24 hours is not included in the figure, since there are relatively large variations in this group from day to day.

In addition to the general increase in the number of players registered with ROFUS, the increase is significant especially after 2016 when there were more than 4,000 additional registrations a year, *cf. figure 1*. The rise may be due to an increased focus at the Danish Gambling Authority to market and refer to ROFUS. More gambling operators have also started referring to the register in a more prominent place on their websites. Moreover, from 1 January 2020, it became compulsory for gambling operators to refer to ROFUS in their marketing.

Especially young men self-exclude from gambling

Particularly men want to exclude themselves from gambling. In fact, 76 percent of the registered players are men, and this tendency has been almost constant since the establishment of ROFUS.

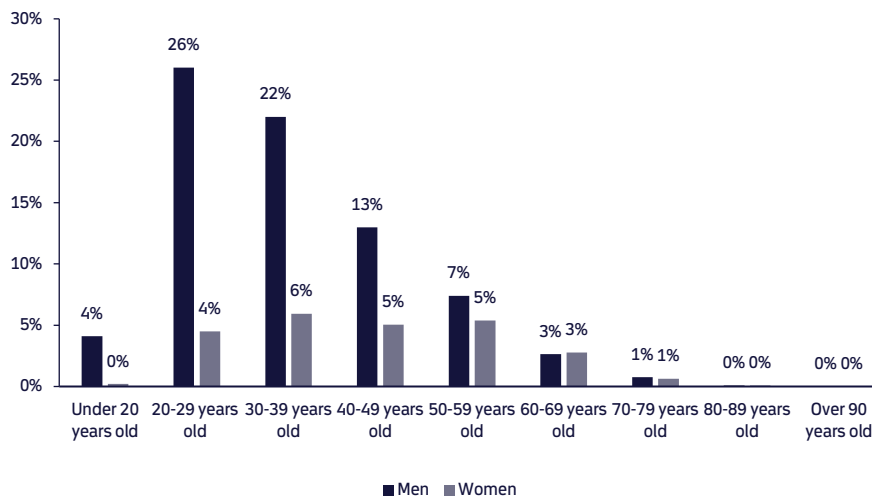
76%

Of the registered players with ROFUS are men

The number has remained at the same level since ROFUS was established in 2012.

At the same time, it is especially the young men, who want to self-exclude. The age groups 20-29 years and 30-39 years are the two largest groups and constitute a total of 58 percent of the registered players, *cf. figure 2*. In the two age groups, men are clearly overrepresented and make up 26 percent and 22 percent, respectively, of the total number of players registered with ROFUS.

Figure 2. Share of registered players with ROFUS categorised by sex and age, 2021



Source: The Danish Gambling Authority

Note: The category of temporary exclusion for 24 hours is not included in the figure, since there are relatively large variations in this group from day to day. The data is gathered on the 30th of November 2021.

The protection of players is a high priority for the Danish Gambling Authority

The Danish Gambling Authority work to ensure a fair and well-regulated gambling market in Denmark, where gambling takes place responsibly. The protection of players is one of the Danish Gambling Authority's most important tasks, which is why the authority has a division dedicated to working with responsible gambling. The division is responsible for the administration of both ROFUS and StopSpillet (StopGambling), the Danish Gambling Authority's helpline about compulsive gambling.