

March 2021

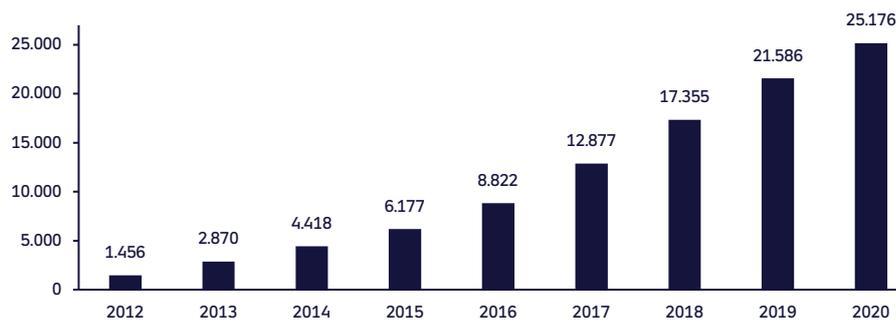
# Still more Danes self-exclude from gambling

Since the Danish Gambling Authority's register of self-excluded players (ROFUS) was established in 2012, an increasing number of Danes have chosen to self-exclude from gambling. The most recent figures show that, at present, about 25,000 players are registered in ROFUS. Men constitute 76 % of the self-excluded players.

As some of the first in the world, Danish players have the option of self-excluding from all online gambling and gambling at land-based casinos with a few clicks on a computer or smartphone via the Danish Gambling Authority's register of self-excluded players (ROFUS), cf. box 1 and 2.

Since the register was introduced in 2012, an increasing number of players each year have wanted to self-exclude from gambling. By the end of 2012, just under 1,500 Danes were registered with ROFUS, and in 2020, this number had increased to about 25,000, cf. figure 1. In just eight years, the register has thereby increased by more than 23,000 Danes.

**Figure 1. Number of players registered with ROFUS, both temporarily and permanently, 2012 - 2020**



Source: the Danish Gambling Authority.

NB: The data set includes both players who are temporarily and permanently excluded. For 2012-2019, the numbers are stated on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January the subsequent year, and for 2020, the numbers are stated on 1 November 2020. Therefore, the figure only provides an overview of how many players were registered on the day in question.

## Box 1. What is ROFUS?

The Danish Gambling Authority's register of self-excluded players (ROFUS) was established in 2012 as a part of the political agreement on a partial liberalisation of the Danish gambling market. The register was one of more political measures with the purpose of combatting compulsive gambling.

To register with ROFUS, the players must use their NemID (common login solution) after which they are excluded from gambling at all online gambling operators with a licence in Denmark as well as land-based casinos. Players can choose between a temporary exclusion (24 hours or 1, 3, or 6 months) and a permanent exclusion period. If players choose to self-exclude permanently, they can opt out of the register after a year.

In addition to the general increase in registered players with ROFUS since 2012, it is especially after 2016 that there has been a significant increase of about 4,000 more players a year, cf. figure 2.

The increase may be due to a greater focus in the Danish Gambling Authority to market and refer to ROFUS. Moreover, more gambling operators have started referring to the register on a more prominent place on their websites, and finally, since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2020, gambling operators are required by law to refer to ROFUS in their advertisements and marketing material. Thereby more players have probably become aware of the register.

#### Box 2. "No thanks to advertisements"

When a player has registered with ROFUS, the player automatically joins the arrangement "No thanks to advertisements". Upon registration, the player agrees to let the gambling operator check which players are registered with ROFUS before they send out marketing material. In this way, they avoid sending advertisements to players registered with ROFUS.

The arrangement was introduced to protect the players registered with ROFUS so that they are not unnecessarily exposed to gambling options while they have chosen to self-exclude from gambling.

#### Especially young men self-exclude from gambling

It is mostly men, who choose to self-exclude from gambling. 76 % of the players registered with ROFUS are men, cf. figure 2, and this number has been more or less constant since the register was established in 2012.

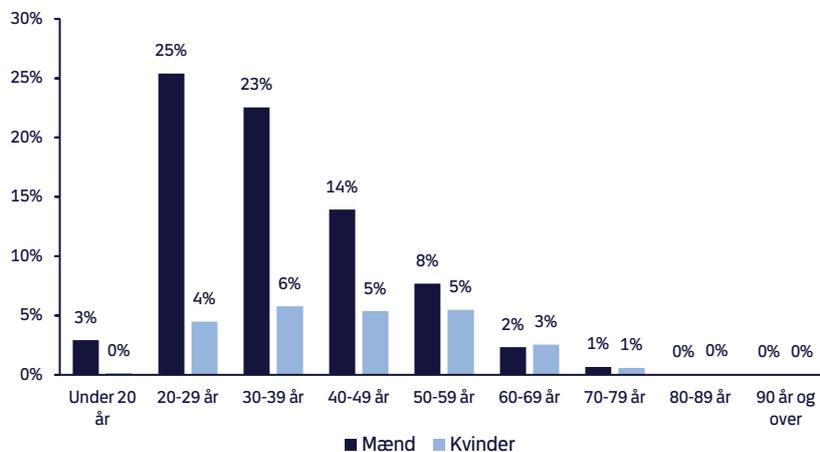
At the same time, figures show that especially young men want to self-exclude from gambling. The age groups 20-29 and 30-39 constitute the two largest groups with a total of 58 % of the registered. In the two age groups, men are clearly over-represented and constitute 25 % and 23 % of all players registered in ROFUS, respectively, cf. figure 2.

# 76%

#### Of the registered in ROFUS are men

The figure has been almost constant since the introduction of ROFUS in 2012.

Figure 2. Sex and age of the players registered with ROFUS, 1 September 2020



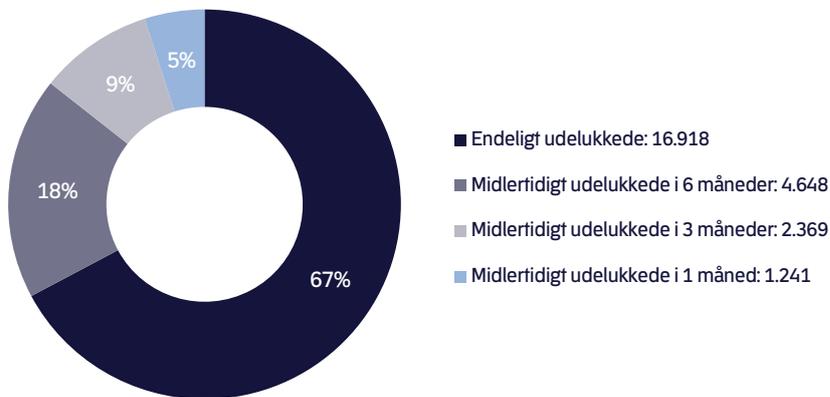
Source: the Danish Gambling Authority.

### Most players permanently self-exclude

When players register with ROFUS, they can choose between a temporary and a permanent exclusion, *cf. box 1*. Of the approximately 25,000 persons, who were registered with ROFUS on 1 November 2020, about 16,900 chose to self-exclude permanently. This equals 67 %, *cf. figure 3*.

The remaining 33 % have self-excluded from gambling temporarily. Out of these, 18 % have self-excluded for six months, 9 % for three months and 5 % have self-excluded for a single month, *cf. figure 3*.

**Figure 3. Players who have self-excluded temporarily and permanently on 1 November 2020**



Source: the Danish Gambling Authority.

NB: The 24 hours exclusion category is not included in the figure, as the numbers vary relatively much from day to day in this category. The percentages sum up to 99, which is due to rounding of the numbers.

### Player protection is high priority – focus on young men

The Danish Gambling Authority work to ensure a fair and well-regulated gambling market in Denmark, where gambling takes place responsibly. Protection of players is one of the Danish Gambling Authority's most important tasks, and the authority has a division dedicated to working with responsible gambling. The Danish Gambling Authority is especially aware of the group of young men, as experience shows that the younger the players are when they begin gambling, the higher the risk of developing an addiction to gambling later.