

Important figures on asylum seekers in Denmark

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 Sources: Danish Immigration Service + Danish Refugee Council + EU Commission Green Book

How many people are seeking asylum in Denmark?

	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007
New applications	-	4.390	2.280	1.795	-
Total decisions	12.512	3.430	1.325	985	1.028
Positive decisions*	-	765	230	190	318
= positive percentage	-	22%	17%	18%	31%**

*) On top of this number comes up to 500 UN resettlement refugees every year (Denmark selects the ones considered easy to integrate)

***) 375 Iraqi interpreters for the Danish Army, of which nearly all have been granted asylum, are extracted

– compared to Sweden:

	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007
New applications	-	33.015	23.200	24.320	-
Total decisions	-	31.005	23.920	18.838	32.492
Positive decisions	-	4.320	5.355	7.940	15.639
= positive percentage	-	14%	22%	42%	48%

How many are living as asylum seekers in Denmark – and for how long?

2007	
Total	1.813
Children	466
Rejected	1.078
On Motivation Programme	740
- stayed up to 2 years	196
- stayed up to 4 years	211
- stayed up to 6 years	454
- stayed up to 8 years	164
- stayed up to 10 years	26
- stayed more than 10 years	8

The average time spent in the asylum system:

- for children 2.4 years
- for adults 3.5 years

Unaccompanied minors

2007	
Applications	93

Nearly all come from Afghanistan and Iraq

Where do the rejected come from?

2007	
Iraq	557
Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro	125
Somalia	70
Iran	66
Palestine	49

Asylum seekers in detention (Ellebæk)

February 2008	
Total	83
In Dublin phase	21
Ongoing asylum / humanitarian case	22
In deportation position	40

The Ministry has not answered our questions about how long each person has spent in detention.

However, at least 4 people have spent about a year in Ellebæk at present.

2 young women (sisters) have just been released after 9 months, one of them was 17 when taken into custody.

Denmark's recognition of Iraqi asylum seekers compared to the rest of Europe

Recognition in percentage	2006	Remarks:
Sweden	80%	Convention/subsidiary protection to everyone coming from southern/central Iraq
Holland	25%	From April 2007 protection to everyone coming from southern/central Iraq
Ireland	81%	Convention/subsidiary protection to everyone coming from southern/central Iraq
Switzerland	16%	Subsidiary protection to almost everyone coming from southern/central Iraq
Finland	100%	Only subsidiary protection
Austria	74%	Mostly subsidiary protection
Cyprus	80%	Mostly subsidiary protection
Belgium	13%	55% in 2007, subsidiary protection to everyone coming from southern/central Iraq
Norway	55%	Subsidiary protection to everyone coming from southern/central Iraq
France	23%	Subsidiary protection to most of the other ones
Slovakia	-	First third of 2007: 39% subsidiary protection
United Kingdom	15%	Rejected asylum seekers live on similar conditions to Denmark's
Germany	11%	20.000 have had their refugee status from before the war withdrawn, 14.000 are rejected
Denmark	7%	The rejected ones have no right to work, take education or marry, most of them have stayed for 5-7 years
Greece	0%	No effective asylum process is functioning

Other figures on asylum seekers in Denmark:

Suicide:

The number of suicide attempts have risen by 300% from 2001 to 2007
– which is now 6 times more than the figures for Danish citizens
– 43 asylum children saw their mother or father try to commit suicide

Health:

The average cost of health care per asylum seeker has risen by 300% from 2003 to 2006

Mental illness:

From August 2006 to February 2008, 306 rejected asylum seekers have been granted permit to stay on humanitarian grounds – out of these, 245 have been given because of mental diagnoses like psychosis, paranoia and schizofrenia. PTSD in any degree is **not** accepted as a reason.

Most of the 245 have been staying for more than 3 years, and **half** of them are children.

35% of asylum children age 4-16 show signs of mental illness
58% of asylum children age 11-16 show signs of mental illness

An interview with 20 families from 2007 showed that out of these, 14 had been well functioning at arrival, but after 2 years 13 of them were depending on psychiatric medicine and painkillers.

Moving families around:

On average, asylum families have been moved 6.3 times during their stay in Denmark
– this has serious impact on the children in particular, who cease to build up new friendships

Conclusion:

- Compared to similar countries Denmark get very few asylum seekers AND very few out of these are recognized as refugees – Denmark does not follow recommendations from UNHCR. The refugees who have a choice, will not choose Denmark.
- Rejected asylum seekers that cannot be deported stay under very bad conditions on purpose, as a means to force them to voluntary return (which is not working, even the police agrees).
- The long stay results in mental illness (documented by several reports). Some of the worst cases get residence on humanitarian grounds after many years, i.e. most of the Roma families from Kosovo who came 8-9 years ago. This permit is only given for one year and has to be renewed – rejected if the person's condition gets better.
- We can conclude that Denmark does not take our part of the refugees in Europe, and that the Danish asylum system turns normal people into mental patients.