

# NEW YORK STATE FACT SHEET ON YOUNG DRIVERS AGES 16-17

PREPARED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH

**TABLE 1  
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17  
SEVERITY OF CRASH, FATALITIES & PERSONS INJURED, AND DRIVERS INVOLVED**

	2016	2017	2018
<b>Crashes (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>9,037 (3.0%)</b>	<b>9,165 (3.0%)</b>	<b>11,070 (2.5%)</b>
Fatal (% of total NYS)	25 (2.6%)	14 (1.5%)	29 (3.3%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	3,374 (2.7%)	3,471 (2.8%)	3,172 (2.6%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	5,638 (3.2%)	5,680 (3.1%)	7,869* (2.5%)
<b>Fatalities (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>28 (2.7%)</b>	<b>18 (1.8%)</b>	<b>30 (3.2%)</b>
Driver Fatalities Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	9 (1.7%)	5 (1.0%)	10 (2.0%)
<b>Persons Injured (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>5,112 (3.0%)</b>	<b>5,284 (3.1%)</b>	<b>4,707 (2.8%)</b>
<b>Drivers Involved Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>9,240 (1.9%)</b>	<b>9,357 (1.8%)</b>	<b>11,349 (1.6%)</b>
Male Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	5,095 (1.8%)	5,106 (1.7%)	5,989 (1.5%)
Female Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	4,145 (2.2%)	4,251 (2.2%)	5,360 (2.1%)
<b>Licensed Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>87,012 (0.7%)</b>	<b>92,284 (0.8%)</b>	<b>88,205 (0.7%)</b>

- 3% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2016-2018 involved drivers ages 16-17; the number of fatal crashes decreased from 25 in 2016 to 14 in 2017, but then rose to 29 in 2018; in comparison, the number of personal injury crashes fell steadily from 3,374 in 2016 to 3,172 in 2018.
- 2%-3% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2016-2018 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17.
- The number of persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 decreased 8%, dropping from 5,112 in 2016 to 4,707 in 2018.
- Drivers ages 16-17 are overrepresented in crashes; 2% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2016-2018 were ages 16-17, compared to less than 1% of all licensed drivers.

*\*NOTE: The sizeable increase in the number of property damage crashes in 2018 is due to recent changes made to the Police Accident Report form with regard to the capture and reporting of property damage crashes.*

**TABLE 2**  
**NYS Fatal & Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17**  
**VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS INVOLVED**

	2016	2017	2018	NYS F&PI 2018
<b>Fatal &amp; Personal Injury Crashes</b>	<b>3,399</b>	<b>3,485</b>	<b>3,201</b>	<b>122,871</b>
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	22.4%	21.3%	20.8%	29.4%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	77.6%	78.7%	79.2%	70.6%
<b>Drivers Ages 16-17 in F&amp;PI Crashes</b>	<b>3,457</b>	<b>3,549</b>	<b>3,260</b>	<b>215,045</b>
With No Passengers*	58.7%	57.7%	58.2%	71.2%
With Passengers	41.3%	42.3%	41.8%	28.8%

\*Note: As mandated by NYS DMV regulations, drivers holding permits or junior licenses must have a "qualifying" adult in the vehicle.

- F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 were more likely to involve multiple vehicles than all F&PI crashes (79% vs. 71% in 2018).
- Drivers ages 16-17 involved in F&PI crashes were more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (42% vs. 29% in 2018).

**TABLE 3**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17**  
**TIME OF DAY: 2018**

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=29)	Involving All Drivers (N=882)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=3,172)	Involving All Drivers (N=121,989)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=7,869)	Involving All Drivers (N=311,725)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=11,070)	Involving All Drivers (N=434,596)
9pm-Mid	20.7%	16.1%	8.2%	8.7%	7.4%	8.1%	7.6%	8.3%
Mid-5am	10.3%	15.4%	2.9%	5.9%	2.3%	6.1%	2.5%	6.1%
5am-9am	6.9%	11.5%	12.0%	13.7%	12.4%	15.2%	12.3%	14.8%
9am-Noon	3.4%	9.1%	9.0%	13.8%	10.1%	14.4%	9.8%	14.2%
Noon-3pm	20.7%	14.6%	20.6%	18.0%	21.2%	17.7%	21.0%	17.8%
3pm-6pm	17.2%	15.8%	29.0%	23.4%	29.6%	22.1%	29.4%	22.4%
6pm-9pm	20.7%	17.6%	17.8%	15.3%	16.4%	14.3%	16.8%	14.6%
Unknown	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	1.2%	0.7%	2.1%	0.6%	1.9%

- Crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 were most likely to occur between 3pm and 6pm (29%); the largest proportion of crashes involving all drivers (22%) also occurred during this time period.
- The largest proportion (21%) of fatal crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 occurred during the 9pm-midnight, noon-3pm, and 6pm-9pm time periods. The largest proportion of personal injury and property damage crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 both occurred during the 3pm-6pm time period (29% and 30%, respectively).

**TABLE 4**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17**  
**FATALITIES AND PERSONS INJURED**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>NYS Total 2018</b>
<b>Total Fatalities</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>936</b>
Drivers	17 (60.7%)	10 (55.6%)	17 (56.7%)	54.7%
Passengers	10 (35.7%)	7 (38.9%)	8 (26.7%)	13.0%
Pedestrians	1 (3.6%)	1 (5.6%)	5 (16.7%)	29.1%
Bicyclists	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	3.2%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.0%
<b>Total Persons Injured</b>	<b>5,112</b>	<b>5,284</b>	<b>4,707</b>	<b>168,304</b>
Drivers	3,312 (64.8%)	3,426 (64.8%)	3,109 (66.1%)	59.6%
Passengers	1,680 (32.9%)	1,745 (33.0%)	1,485 (31.5%)	27.2%
Pedestrians	86 (1.7%)	75 (1.4%)	75 (1.6%)	9.4%
Bicyclists	28 (0.5%)	31 (0.6%)	31 (0.7%)	3.3%
Other	6 (0.1%)	7 (0.1%)	7 (0.1%)	0.5%

- Compared to fatalities in all crashes, fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 were more than twice as likely to be passengers (27% vs. 13% in 2018).
- Passengers also accounted for a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 than in all crashes (32% vs. 27% in 2018).
- Pedestrians comprised much smaller proportions of the fatalities and persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 than in all crashes (17% vs. 29%, and 2% vs. 9%, respectively, in 2018).

**TABLE 5**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17**  
**AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED**  
**IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 16-17: 2018**

	<b>Killed or Injured</b>	<b>NYS Total</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>796</b>	<b>45,863</b>
Under Age 4	1 0.1%	3.8%
Ages 4-6	3 0.4%	3.7%
Ages 7-15	171 21.5%	12.0%
Ages 16-17	341 42.8%	3.9%
Ages 18-20	122 15.3%	6.5%
Ages 21-24	22 2.8%	8.9%
Ages 25-29	7 0.9%	10.5%
Age 30 and Over	116 14.6%	47.5%
Unknown Age	13 1.6%	3.1%

- The largest proportion of passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-17 were ages 16-17 (43%).
- Passengers ages 16-20 accounted for 58% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-17, compared to 10% of the passengers riding with all drivers.
- Approximately 15% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-17 were age 30 and over, compared to 48% of the passengers riding with all drivers.

**TABLE 6**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes**  
**RESTRAINT USE FOR VEHICLE OCCUPANTS AGES 16-17\*: 2018**

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
<b>Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 16-17</b>	<b>22,484</b>	<b>20,293</b>	<b>90.3%</b>	
Drivers Ages 16-17	11,006	10,444	94.9%	<b>655,790 (86.6%)</b>
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	2,593	2,402	92.6%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	8,885	7,447	83.8%	
<b>Total Killed</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>53.3%</b>	
Drivers Ages 16-17	9	5	55.6%	<b>370 (58.4%)</b>
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	4	2	50.0%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	2	1	50.0%	
<b>Total Injured</b>	<b>3,227</b>	<b>2,829</b>	<b>87.7%</b>	
Drivers Ages 16-17	1,494	1,410	94.4%	<b>91,358 (90.9%)</b>
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	331	284	85.8%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	1,402	1,135	81.0%	
<b>Total Uninjured</b>	<b>19,242</b>	<b>17,456</b>	<b>90.7%</b>	
Drivers Ages 16-17	9,503	9,029	95.0%	<b>564,062 (85.9%)</b>
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	2,258	2,116	93.7%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	7,481	6,311	84.4%	

\*Note: Police-reported crashes only; excludes motorcycles.

- The overall restraint use for drivers ages 16-17 was higher than the restraint use for passengers ages 16-17. Restraint use for drivers was 95%, compared to 93% for passengers ages 16-17 in vehicles with drivers ages 16-17 and 84% for passengers ages 16-17 in vehicles with drivers of other ages.
- Overall, drivers ages 16-17 involved in crashes were more likely to be restrained than drivers of all ages (95% vs. 87%).
- 94% of the drivers ages 16-17 injured in crashes were restrained; passengers ages 16-17 injured in crashes had lower use rates whether riding with drivers of the same age or with drivers of any age (86% and 81%, respectively).

**TABLE 7**  
**NYS Fatal and Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17\***  
**SELECT CONTRIBUTING FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DRIVERS**

	Drivers Ages 16-17			Total NYS 2018
	2016	2017	2018	
<b>Total Drivers</b>	<b>3,355</b>	<b>3,479</b>	<b>3,204</b>	<b>202,845</b>
<b>Select Factors</b>				
Driver Inattention/Distraction	15.9%	14.9%	14.7%	14.9%
Driver Inexperience	13.0%	14.0%	13.9%	1.5%
Failure to Yield R.O.W.	18.6%	19.2%	20.3%	11.2%
Following Too Closely	15.2%	16.0%	15.0%	12.3%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	4.2%	4.1%	4.7%	3.4%
Unsafe Speed	14.7%	13.8%	12.1%	5.7%
Cell Phone	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%
Texting	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	<0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	0.7%	0.5%	0.5%	1.6%

\*Note: Police-reported crashes only; multiple factors may be reported.

- In 2018, the top three contributing factors for drivers ages 16-17 in F&PI crashes were “failure to yield R.O.W.” (20%), “following too closely” (15%) and “driver inattention/distraction” (15%).
- Drivers ages 16-17 in F&PI crashes were much more likely than all drivers in F&PI crashes to have “failure to yield R.O.W.” (20% vs. 11% in 2018) reported as a contributing factor and twice as likely to have “unsafe speed” reported (12% vs. 6% in 2018).
- As would be expected, drivers ages 16-17 were much more likely than all drivers to have “driver inexperience” reported as a contributing factor in F&PI crashes (14% vs. 2% in 2018).

**TABLE 8**  
**NYS Traffic Tickets Issued to Drivers Ages 16-17**  
**SELECT VIOLATIONS**

	Drivers Ages 16-17			NYS Total 2018
	2016	2017	2018	
<b>Total Tickets Issued</b>	<b>41,734</b>	<b>42,132</b>	<b>38,816</b>	<b>3,639,413</b>
Speeding	24.9%	23.9%	24.0%	18.6%
License	13.7%	14.3%	14.0%	7.0%
Traffic Device/ Stop Sign	9.6%	9.4%	9.9%	13.7%
Seat Belts	2.9%	2.6%	2.9%	4.4%
Cell Phone	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%	2.4%
Texting	0.8%	1.0%	1.2%	3.1%
<b>Total TSLED Tickets Issued</b>	<b>39,276</b>	<b>39,771</b>	<b>34,724</b>	<b>2,475,442</b>
Impaired Driving	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%	2.4%

Note: Total tickets issued include data from the TSLED and Administrative Adjudication (AA) systems; however, no tickets issued for impaired driving are included in AA. All tickets issued for impaired driving are captured in TSLED, with the exception of those issued in New York City.

- The largest proportion of tickets issued to drivers each year was for speeding violations. In 2018, 24% of the tickets issued to drivers ages 16-17 were for speeding violations, compared to 19% of the tickets issued to all drivers.

- Drivers ages 16-17 were twice as likely as all drivers to be issued tickets for license violations in 2018 (14% vs. 7%) and far less likely to be issued tickets for cell phone and texting violations (2% vs. 6%).
- In 2018, less than 1% of the TSLED tickets issued to drivers ages 16-17 were for impaired driving, compared to 2% of the TSLED tickets issued to all drivers.

**TABLE 9**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Fatal and Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17**  
**SEVERITY OF CRASH, FATALITIES & PERSONS INJURED, AND DRIVERS INVOLVED**  
**BY REGION OF THE STATE: 2018**

	UPSTATE		NYC		LONG ISLAND		NYS F&PI Involving Drivers Ages 16-17	
<b>F&amp;PI Crashes (% of total)</b>	<b>1,950</b>	<b>(60.9%)</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>(10.7%)</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>(28.4%)</b>	<b>3,201</b>	
Fatal (% of total)	24	(82.8%)	0	(0.0%)	5	(17.2%)	29	
Personal Injury (% of total)	1,926	(60.7%)	341	(10.8%)	905	(28.5%)	3,172	
<b>Fatalities (% of total)</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>(83.3%)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(0.0%)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>(16.7%)</b>	<b>30</b>	
<b>Persons Injured (% of total)</b>	<b>2,771</b>	<b>(58.9%)</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>(11.6%)</b>	<b>1,388</b>	<b>(29.5%)</b>	<b>4,707</b>	
<b>Drivers Involved Ages 16-17 (% of total)</b>	<b>1,994</b>	<b>(61.2%)</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>(10.5%)</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>(28.3%)</b>	<b>3,260</b>	
Male Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	960	(57.3%)	233	(13.9%)	482	(28.8%)	1,675	
Female Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	1,034	(65.2%)	109	(6.9%)	442	(27.9%)	1,585	
<b>Licensed Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total)</b>	<b>61,171</b>	<b>(69.4%)</b>	<b>7,092</b>	<b>(8.0%)</b>	<b>19,942</b>	<b>(22.6%)</b>	<b>88,205</b>	

- 61% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 in 2018 occurred in the Upstate region, 28% were on Long Island and 11% occurred in New York City.
- 83% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 in 2018 occurred in the Upstate region, while 17% occurred on Long Island; no fatalities occurred in the five boroughs comprising New York City.
- In 2018, drivers ages 16-17 were underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region and overrepresented in crashes in the NYC and Long Island regions when compared to all licensed drivers in each region.