

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**

	2017	2018	2019
Crashes (% of total NYS)	9,165 (3.0%)	11,070 (2.5%)	11,479 (2.6%)
Fatal (% of total NYS)	14 (1.5%)	29 (3.3%)	13 (1.5%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	3,471 (2.8%)	3,172 (2.6%)	3,091 (2.6%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	5,680 (3.1%)	7,869* (2.5%)	8,375* (2.6%)
Fatalities (% of total NYS)	18 (1.8%)	30 (3.2%)	19 (2.0%)
Driver Fatalities Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	5 (1.0%)	10 (2.0%)	3 (0.6%)
Persons Injured (% of total NYS)	5,284 (3.1%)	4,707 (2.8%)	4,677 (2.8%)
Drivers Involved Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	9,357 (1.8%)	11,349 (1.6%)	11,769 (1.6%)
Male Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	5,106 (1.7%)	5,989 (1.5%)	6,279 (1.5%)
Female Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	4,251 (2.2%)	5,360 (2.1%)	5,490 (2.1%)
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	92,284 (0.8%)	88,205 (0.7%)	88,511 (0.7%)

- 3% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2017-2019 involved drivers ages 16-17; the number of fatal crashes increased from 14 in 2017 to 29 in 2018, but then decreased to 13 in 2019; in comparison, the number of personal injury crashes fell steadily from 3,471 in 2017 to 3,091 in 2019.
- 2%-3% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2017-2019 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17.
- The number of persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 decreased 11%, dropping from 5,284 in 2017 to 4,677 in 2019.
- Drivers ages 16-17 are overrepresented in crashes; 2-3% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2017-2019 were ages 16-17, compared to less than 1% of all licensed drivers.

**NOTE: The sizeable increase in the number of property damage crashes beginning 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

	2017	2018	2019	NYS F&PI 2019
Fatal & Personal Injury Crashes	3,485	3,201	3,104	121,949
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	21.3%	20.8%	19.7%	29.5%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	78.7%	79.2%	80.3%	70.5%
Drivers Ages 16-17 in F&PI Crashes	3,549	3,260	3,174	212,888
With No Passengers*	57.7%	58.2%	56.4%	71.6%
With Passengers	42.3%	41.8%	43.6%	28.4%

*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 (80% vs. 71% in 2019).
- Drivers ages 16-17 involved in F&PI crashes were more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (44% vs. 28% in 2019).

TABLE 3
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17
TIME OF DAY: 2019

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=13)	Involving All Drivers (N=881)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=3,091)	Involving All Drivers (N=121,068)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=8,375)	Involving All Drivers (N=325,072)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=11,479)	Involving All Drivers (N=447,021)
9pm-Mid	30.8%	15.2%	9.2%	8.9%	7.5%	7.9%	8.0%	8.2%
Mid-5am	23.1%	14.5%	2.6%	6.0%	2.2%	6.0%	2.3%	6.0%
5am-9am	15.4%	13.4%	12.1%	13.5%	12.3%	15.5%	12.2%	14.9%
9am-Noon	0.0%	11.0%	8.8%	13.7%	10.6%	14.3%	10.1%	14.1%
Noon-3pm	7.7%	13.6%	21.0%	18.1%	20.8%	18.0%	20.9%	18.0%
3pm-6pm	15.4%	16.6%	27.6%	23.4%	28.8%	22.1%	28.4%	22.5%
6pm-9pm	7.7%	15.4%	18.6%	15.2%	17.2%	14.2%	17.5%	14.4%
Unknown	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	1.2%	0.7%	2.0%	0.5%	1.8%

- Crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 were most likely to occur between 3pm and 6pm (28%); the largest proportion of crashes involving all drivers (23%) also occurred during this time period.
- The largest proportion (31%) of fatal crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 occurred during the 9pm-midnight. The largest proportion of personal injury and property damage crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 both occurred during the 3pm-6pm time period (28% and 29%, respectively).

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

	2017	2018	2019	NYS Total 2019
Total Fatalities	18	30	19	938
Drivers	10 (55.6%)	17 (56.7%)	5 (26.3%)	50.6%
Passengers	7 (38.9%)	8 (26.7%)	11 (57.9%)	13.5%
Pedestrians	1 (5.6%)	5 (16.7%)	3 (15.8%)	30.5%
Bicyclists	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	5.2%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.1%
Total Persons Injured	5,284	4,707	4,677	166,988
Drivers	3,426 (64.8%)	3,109 (66.1%)	3,028 (64.7%)	59.3%
Passengers	1,745 (33.0%)	1,485 (31.5%)	1,531 (32.7%)	27.3%
Pedestrians	75 (1.4%)	75 (1.6%)	82 (1.8%)	9.3%
Bicyclists	31 (0.6%)	31 (0.7%)	28 (0.6%)	3.5%
Other	7 (0.1%)	7 (0.1%)	8 (0.2%)	0.6%

- Compared to fatalities in all crashes, fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 were much more likely to be passengers (58% vs. 14% in 2019).
- Passengers also accounted for a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 than in all crashes (33% vs. 27% in 2019).
- Pedestrians comprised much smaller proportions of the fatalities and persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 than in all crashes (16% vs. 31%, and 2% vs. 9%, respectively, in 2019).

TABLE 5
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17
AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED
IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 16-17: 2019

	Killed or Injured		NYS Total
Total	861		45,707
Under Age 4	3	0.3%	3.9%
Ages 4-6	4	0.5%	3.6%
Ages 7-15	158	18.4%	12.5%
Ages 16-17	377	43.8%	4.0%
Ages 18-20	147	17.1%	6.8%
Ages 21-24	20	2.3%	8.7%
Ages 25-29	7	0.8%	10.4%
Age 30 and Over	124	14.4%	47.2%
Unknown Age	21	2.4%	3.0%

- The largest proportion of passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-17 were ages 16-17 (44%).
- Passengers ages 16-20 accounted for 61% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-17, compared to 10% of the passengers riding with all drivers.
- Approximately 14% 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*: 2019

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 16-17	23,138	20,989	90.7%	
Drivers Ages 16-17	11,478	10,917	95.1%	677,494 (86.4%)
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	2,765	2,540	91.9%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	8,895	7,532	84.7%	
Total Killed	7	2	28.6%	
Drivers Ages 16-17	3	2	66.7%	350 (58.6%)
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	2	0	0.0%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	2	0	0.0%	
Total Injured	3,165	2,769	87.5%	
Drivers Ages 16-17	1,413	1,328	94.0%	90,371 (90.4%)
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	374	315	84.2%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	1,378	1,126	81.7%	
Total Uninjured	19,966	18,218	91.2%	
Drivers Ages 16-17	10,062	9,587	95.3%	586,773 (85.8%)
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	2,389	2,225	93.1%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	7,515	6,406	85.2%	

*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 85% 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. 86%).
- 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 (84% and 82%, 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 2019 201,411
	2017	2018	2019	
Total Drivers	3,479	3,204	3,134	
Select Factors				
Driver Inattention/Distracted	14.9%	14.7%	15.3%	15.2%
Driver Inexperience	14.0%	13.9%	13.0%	1.4%
Failure to Yield R.O.W.	19.2%	20.3%	20.7%	11.2%
Following Too Closely	16.0%	15.0%	15.8%	12.1%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	4.1%	4.7%	4.9%	3.3%
Unsafe Speed	13.8%	12.1%	12.8%	5.6%
Cell Phone	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.2%
Texting	0.0%	0.0%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	1.6%

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

- In 2019, the top three contributing factors for drivers ages 16-17 in F&PI crashes were “failure to yield R.O.W.” (21%), “following too closely” (16%) and “driver inattention/distracted” (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.” (21% vs. 11% in 2019) reported as a contributing factor and twice as likely to have “unsafe speed” reported (13% vs. 6% in 2019).
- 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 (13% vs. 1% in 2019).

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

	Drivers Ages 16-17			NYS Total 2019 3,502,973
	2017	2018	2019	
Total Tickets Issued	42,132	38,816	36,961	
Speeding	23.9%	24.0%	25.1%	19.2%
License	14.3%	14.0%	14.2%	7.0%
Traffic Device/ Stop Sign	9.4%	9.9%	10.0%	13.7%
Seat Belts	2.6%	2.9%	2.6%	4.2%
Cell Phone	0.9%	1.0%	0.8%	2.0%
Texting	1.0%	1.2%	1.3%	3.1%
Total TSLED Tickets Issued	39,771	34,724	32,951	2,429,598
Impaired Driving	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	2.3%

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 2019, 25% 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 2019 (14% vs. 7%) and less likely to be issued tickets for cell phone and texting violations (2% vs. 5%).
- In 2019, 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: 2019

	UPSTATE	NYC	LONG ISLAND	NYS F&PI Involving Drivers Ages 16-17
F&PI Crashes (% of total)	1,937 (62.4%)	328 (10.6%)	839 (27.0%)	3,104
Fatal (% of total)	8 (61.5%)	1 (7.7%)	4 (30.8%)	13
Personal Injury (% of total)	1,929 (62.4%)	327 (10.6%)	835 (27.0%)	3,091
Fatalities (% of total)	12 (63.2%)	1 (5.3%)	6 (31.6%)	19
Persons Injured (% of total)	2,847 (60.9%)	541 (11.6%)	1,289 (27.6%)	4,677
Drivers Involved Ages 16-17 (% of total)	1,988 (62.6%)	330 (10.4%)	856 (27.0%)	3,174
Male Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	998 (59.7%)	230 (13.8%)	444 (26.6%)	1,672
Female Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	990 (65.9%)	100 (6.7%)	412 (27.4%)	1,502
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total)	60,959 (68.9%)	7,101 (8.0%)	20,445 (23.1%)	88,205

- 62% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 in 2019 occurred in the Upstate region, 27% were on Long Island and 11% occurred in New York City.
- 63% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 in 2019 occurred in the Upstate region, while 32% occurred on Long Island and 5% occurred in New York City.
- Drivers ages 16-17 were underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region (62% of the crashes vs. 69% of the licensed drivers) and overrepresented in crashes in the Long Island region (27% of the crashes vs. 23% of the licensed drivers) and in NYC (11% of the crashes vs. 8% of the licensed drivers).