

# 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**

	2018	2019	2020
<b>Crashes (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>11,070 (2.5%)</b>	<b>11,479 (2.6%)</b>	<b>7,969 (2.4%)</b>
Fatal (% of total NYS)	29 (3.3%)	13 (1.5%)	20 (2.1%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	3,172 (2.6%)	3,091 (2.6%)	2,118 (2.3%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	7,869 (2.5%)	8,375 (2.6%)	5,831 (2.6%)
<b>Fatalities (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>30 (3.2%)</b>	<b>19 (2.0%)</b>	<b>21 (2.0%)</b>
Driver Fatalities Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	10 (2.0%)	3 (0.6%)	5 (0.9%)
<b>Persons Injured (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>4,707 (2.8%)</b>	<b>4,677 (2.8%)</b>	<b>3,309 (2.7%)</b>
<b>Drivers Involved Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>11,350 (1.6%)</b>	<b>11,769 (1.6%)</b>	<b>8,099 (1.6%)</b>
Male Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	5,989 (1.5%)	6,279 (1.5%)	4,575 (1.5%)
Female Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	5,360 (2.1%)	5,490 (2.1%)	3,523 (2.0%)
<b>Licensed Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>88,205 (0.7%)</b>	<b>88,511 (0.7%)</b>	<b>73,726 (0.6%)</b>

- 2%-3% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2018-2020 involved drivers ages 16-17; the number of fatal crashes decreased from 29 in 2018 to 13 in 2019, but then increased to 20 in 2020; in comparison, the number of personal injury crashes fell steadily from 3,172 in 2018 to 2,118 in 2020.
- 2%-3% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2018-2020 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17.
- The number of persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 decreased from 4,707 in 2018 to 3,309 in 2020.
- Drivers ages 16-17 are overrepresented in crashes; 2-3% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2018-2020 were ages 16-17, compared to less than 1% of all licensed drivers.

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

	2018	2019	2020	NYS F&PI 2020
<b>Fatal &amp; Personal Injury Crashes</b>	<b>3,201</b>	<b>3,104</b>	<b>2,138</b>	<b>91,272</b>
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	20.8%	19.7%	21.7%	32.1%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	79.2%	80.3%	78.3%	67.9%
<b>Drivers Ages 16-17 in F&amp;PI Crashes</b>	<b>3,260</b>	<b>3,174</b>	<b>2,175</b>	<b>154,532</b>
With No Passengers*	58.2%	56.4%	56.8%	72.7%
With Passengers	41.8%	43.6%	43.2%	27.3%

\*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 (78% vs. 68% in 2020).
- Drivers ages 16-17 involved in F&PI crashes were more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (43% vs. 27% in 2020).

**TABLE 3**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17**  
**TIME OF DAY: 2020**

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=20)	Involving All Drivers (N=945)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=2,118)	Involving All Drivers (N=90,327)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=5,831)	Involving All Drivers (N=236,118)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=7,969)	Involving All Drivers (N=327,390)
9pm-Mid	15.0%	13.3%	10.4%	9.5%	8.1%	8.6%	8.7%	8.9%
Mid-5am	10.0%	16.3%	3.9%	6.7%	3.2%	6.7%	3.4%	6.7%
5am-9am	0.0%	13.2%	7.7%	11.1%	8.2%	13.9%	8.0%	13.2%
9am-Noon	0.0%	9.3%	9.6%	12.9%	10.8%	13.5%	10.4%	13.3%
Noon-3pm	15.0%	12.6%	22.8%	19.2%	22.5%	18.5%	22.6%	18.7%
3pm-6pm	25.0%	17.6%	25.5%	23.1%	28.3%	21.8%	27.5%	22.1%
6pm-9pm	35.0%	17.7%	19.5%	16.3%	18.5%	14.9%	18.8%	15.3%
Unknown	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	1.3%	0.4%	2.1%	0.4%	1.9%

- Crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 were most likely to occur between 3pm and 6pm (28%); the largest proportion of crashes involving all drivers (22%) also occurred during this time period.
- The largest proportion (35%) of fatal crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 occurred during the 6pm-9pm. The largest proportion of personal injury and property damage crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 both occurred during the 3pm-6pm time period (26% and 28%, respectively).

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

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>NYS Total 2020</b>
<b>Total Fatalities</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1,032</b>
Drivers	17 (56.7%)	5 (26.3%)	13 (61.9%)	54.7%
Passengers	8 (26.7%)	11 (57.9%)	5 (23.8%)	16.6%
Pedestrians	5 (16.7%)	3 (15.8%)	3 (14.3%)	23.4%
Bicyclists	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	5.3%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.0%
<b>Total Persons Injured</b>	<b>4,707</b>	<b>4,677</b>	<b>3,309</b>	<b>124,172</b>
Drivers	3,109 (66.1%)	3,028 (64.7%)	2,063 (62.3%)	59.4%
Passengers	1,485 (31.5%)	1,531 (32.7%)	1,123 (33.9%)	26.5%
Pedestrians	75 (1.6%)	82 (1.8%)	76 (2.3%)	8.6%
Bicyclists	31 (0.7%)	28 (0.6%)	41 (1.2%)	4.9%
Other	7 (0.1%)	8 (0.2%)	6 (0.2%)	0.6%

- Passengers comprised a higher proportion of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 16-17 years of age than in all crashes (24% vs 17% in 2020).
- Passengers also accounted for a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 than in all crashes (34% vs. 27% in 2020).
- Pedestrians comprised smaller proportions of the fatalities and persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 than in all crashes (14% vs. 23%, and 2% vs. 9%, respectively, in 2020).

**TABLE 5**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17**  
**AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED**  
**IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 16-17: 2020**

	<b>Killed or Injured</b>		<b>NYS Total</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>645</b>		<b>33,113</b>
Under Age 4	4	0.6%	3.1%
Ages 4-6	5	0.8%	3.3%
Ages 7-15	118	18.3%	10.4%
Ages 16-17	285	44.2%	4.1%
Ages 18-20	105	16.3%	8.3%
Ages 21-24	22	3.4%	10.4%
Ages 25-29	7	1.1%	11.2%
Age 30 and Over	88	13.6%	45.8%
Unknown Age	11	1.7%	3.4%

- 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 12% 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 46% of the passengers riding with all drivers.

**TABLE 6**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes**  
**RESTRAINT USE FOR VEHICLE OCCUPANTS AGES 16-17\*: 2020**

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
<b>Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 16-17</b>	<b>15,627</b>	<b>14,267</b>	<b>91.3%</b>	
Drivers Ages 16-17	7,881	7,467	94.7%	<b>461,930 (85.5%)</b>
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	1,791	1,630	91.0%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	5,955	5,170	86.8%	
<b>Total Killed</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>54.5%</b>	
Drivers Ages 16-17	4	2	50.0%	<b>390 (55.4%)</b>
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	1	1	100.0%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	6	3	50.0%	
<b>Total Injured</b>	<b>2,293</b>	<b>1,956</b>	<b>85.3%</b>	
Drivers Ages 16-17	995	907	91.2%	<b>64,658 (89.4%)</b>
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	281	230	81.9%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	1,017	819	80.5%	
<b>Total Uninjured</b>	<b>13,323</b>	<b>12,305</b>	<b>92.4%</b>	
Drivers Ages 16-17	6,882	6,558	95.3%	<b>396,882 (84.8%)</b>
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	1,509	1,399	92.7%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	4,932	4,348	88.2%	

\*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 91% for passengers ages 16-17 in vehicles with drivers ages 16-17 and 87% 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%).
- 91% 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 (82% 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 2020
	2018	2019	2020	
<b>Total Drivers</b>	<b>3,204</b>	<b>3,134</b>	<b>2,132</b>	<b>142,341</b>
<b>Select Factors</b>				
Driver Inattention/Distraction	14.7%	15.3%	15.8%	15.1%
Driver Inexperience	13.9%	13.0%	13.5%	1.9%
Failure to Yield R.O.W.	20.3%	20.7%	20.4%	11.2%
Following Too Closely	15.0%	15.8%	11.8%	10.2%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	4.7%	4.9%	5.0%	3.9%
Unsafe Speed	12.1%	12.8%	15.3%	6.8%
Cell Phone	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%
Texting	0.0%	<0.1%	0.0%	<0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	0.2%	0.5%	0.5%	1.9%

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

- In 2020, the top three contributing factors for drivers ages 16-17 in F&PI crashes were “failure to yield R.O.W.” (20%), “driver inattention/distraction” (16%) and “unsafe speed” (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 2020) and “unsafe speed” (15% vs. 7% in 2020) reported as contributing factors.
- 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 2020).

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

	Drivers Ages 16-17			NYS Total 2020
	2018	2019	2020	
<b>Total Tickets Issued</b>	<b>38,816</b>	<b>36,961</b>	<b>28,854</b>	<b>2,274,612</b>
Speeding	24.0%	25.1%	30.4%	24.9%
License	14.0%	14.2%	14.3%	7.8%
Traffic Device/ Stop Sign	9.9%	10.0%	8.5%	10.6%
Seat Belts	2.9%	2.6%	2.7%	3.8%
Cell Phone	1.0%	0.8%	0.5%	1.6%
Texting	1.2%	1.3%	1.0%	2.6%
<b>Total TSLED Tickets Issued</b>	<b>34,724</b>	<b>32,951</b>	<b>25,787</b>	<b>1,712,701</b>
Impaired Driving	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	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 2020, 30% of the tickets issued to drivers ages 16-17 were for speeding violations, compared to 25% of the tickets issued to all drivers.

- Drivers ages 16-17 were nearly twice as likely as all drivers to be issued tickets for license violations in 2020 (14% vs. 8%) and less likely to be issued tickets for cell phone and texting violations (2% vs. 4%).
- In 2020, 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: 2020**

	<b>UPSTATE</b>	<b>NYC</b>	<b>LONG ISLAND</b>	<b>NYS F&amp;PI Involving Drivers Ages 16-17</b>
<b>F&amp;PI Crashes (% of total)</b>	<b>1,289 (60.3%)</b>	<b>276 (12.9%)</b>	<b>573 (26.8%)</b>	<b>2,138</b>
Fatal (% of total)	13 (65.0%)	2 (10.0%)	5 (25.0%)	20
Personal Injury (% of total)	1,276 (60.2%)	274 (12.9%)	568 (26.8%)	2,118
<b>Fatalities (% of total)</b>	<b>14 (66.7%)</b>	<b>2 (9.5%)</b>	<b>5 (23.8%)</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Persons Injured (% of total)</b>	<b>1,880 (56.8%)</b>	<b>490 (14.8%)</b>	<b>939 (28.4%)</b>	<b>3,309</b>
<b>Drivers Involved Ages 16-17 (% of total)</b>	<b>1,312 (60.3%)</b>	<b>279 (12.8%)</b>	<b>584 (26.9%)</b>	<b>2,175</b>
Male Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	688 (55.7%)	217 (17.6%)	331 (26.8%)	1,236
Female Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	623 (66.4%)	62 (6.6%)	253 (27.0%)	938
<b>Licensed Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total)</b>	<b>51,892 (70.4%)</b>	<b>5,865 (8.0%)</b>	<b>15,966 (21.7%)</b>	<b>73,726</b>

- 60% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 in 2020 occurred in the Upstate region, 27% were on Long Island and 13% occurred in New York City.
- 67% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 in 2020 occurred in the Upstate region, while 24% occurred on Long Island and 10% occurred in New York City.
- Drivers ages 16-17 were underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region (60% of the crashes vs. 70% of the licensed drivers) and overrepresented in crashes in the Long Island region (27% of the crashes vs. 22% of the licensed drivers) and in NYC (13% of the crashes vs. 8% of the licensed drivers).