

NEW YORK STATE FACT SHEET ON YOUNG DRIVERS AGES 16-24

PREPARED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH

TABLE 1
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-24
SEVERITY OF CRASH, FATALITIES & PERSONS INJURED, AND DRIVERS INVOLVED

	2017	2018	2019
Crashes (% of total NYS)	80,940 (26.2%)	104,108 (24.0%)	106,177 (23.8%)
Fatal (% of total NYS)	203 (21.8%)	202 (22.9%)	172 (19.5%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	32,739 (26.7%)	30,998 (25.4%)	30,429 (25.1%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	47,998 (25.8%)	72,908* (23.4%)	75,576* (23.2%)
Fatalities (% of total NYS)	228 (22.8%)	217 (23.2%)	195 (20.8%)
Driver Fatalities Ages 16-24 (% of total NYS)	80 (15.4%)	91 (17.8%)	73 (15.4%)
Persons Injured (% of total NYS)	48,406 (28.5%)	45,329 (26.9%)	44,842 (26.9%)
Drivers Involved Ages 16-24 (% of total NYS)	87,952 (17.3%)	112,640 (15.9%)	114,798 (15.8%)
Male Drivers Ages 16-24 (% of total NYS)	51,356 (17.5%)	66,157 (16.1%)	67,315 (16.1%)
Female Drivers Ages 16-24 (% of total NYS)	36,596 (19.3%)	46,483 (18.4%)	47,476 (18.1%)
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-24 (% of total NYS)	1,173,613 (9.6%)	1,157,609 (9.5%)	1,145,397 (9.5%)

- 24%-26% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2017-2019 involved drivers ages 16-24.
- 21%-23% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2017-2019 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 16-24.
- The number of fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-24 dropped from 228 in 2017 to 195 in 2019, a decrease of 15%.
- The number of persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-24 decreased from 48,406 in 2017 to 44,842 in 2019, a decrease of 7%.
- Drivers ages 16-24 are overrepresented in crashes; 16-17% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2017-2019 were ages 16-24, compared to 10% 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 16-24
VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS INVOLVED

	2017	2018	2019	NYS F&PI 2019
Fatal & Personal Injury Crashes	32,942	31,200	30,601	121,949
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	19.0%	18.1%	17.9%	29.5%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	81.0%	81.9%	82.1%	70.5%
Drivers Ages 16-24 in F&PI Crashes	35,965	33,962	33,372	212,888
With No Passengers*	68.0%	68.1%	68.0%	71.6%
With Passengers	32.0%	31.9%	32.0%	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 16-24 were more likely to involve multiple vehicles than all F&PI crashes (82% vs. 71% in 2019).
- Drivers ages 16-24 involved in F&PI crashes were more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (32% vs. 28% in 2019).

TABLE 3
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-24
TIME OF DAY: 2019

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 16-24 (N=172)	Involving All Drivers (N=881)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-24 (N=30,429)	Involving All Drivers (N=121,068)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-24 (N=75,576)	Involving All Drivers (N=325,072)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-24 (N=106,177)	Involving All Drivers (N=447,021)
9pm-Mid	19.8%	15.2%	10.2%	8.9%	9.0%	7.9%	9.3%	8.2%
Mid-5am	19.8%	14.5%	6.9%	6.0%	5.7%	6.0%	6.1%	6.0%
5am-9am	13.4%	13.4%	12.1%	13.5%	13.1%	15.5%	12.8%	14.9%
9am-Noon	9.3%	11.0%	11.9%	13.7%	12.8%	14.3%	12.5%	14.1%
Noon-3pm	11.0%	13.6%	18.1%	18.1%	18.9%	18.0%	18.6%	18.0%
3pm-6pm	16.3%	16.6%	24.2%	23.4%	24.8%	22.1%	24.6%	22.5%
6pm-9pm	10.5%	15.4%	15.8%	15.2%	14.8%	14.2%	15.1%	14.4%
Unknown	0.0%	0.2%	0.7%	1.2%	1.0%	2.0%	0.9%	1.8%

- Crashes involving drivers ages 16-24 were most likely to occur between 3pm and 6pm (25%); the largest proportion of crashes involving all drivers (23%) also occurred during this time period.
- The largest proportions of fatal crashes involving drivers ages 16-24 occurred 9pm-midnight and midnight-5am (20%). Personal injury crashes (24%) and property damage crashes (25%) involving drivers in this age group were most likely to occur during the 3pm-6pm time period.

TABLE 4
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-24
FATALITIES AND PERSONS INJURED

	2017	2018	2019	NYS Total 2019
Total Fatalities	228	217	195	938
Drivers	124 (54.4%)	136 (62.7%)	109 (55.9%)	50.6%
Passengers	64 (28.1%)	33 (15.2%)	45 (23.1%)	13.5%
Pedestrians	34 (14.9%)	46 (21.2%)	34 (17.4%)	30.5%
Bicyclists	6 (2.6%)	2 (0.9%)	7 (3.6%)	5.2%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.1%
Total Persons Injured	48,406	45,329	44,842	166,988
Drivers	31,788 (65.7%)	30,128 (66.5%)	29,500 (65.8%)	59.3%
Passengers	14,587 (30.1%)	13,385 (29.5%)	13,431 (30.0%)	27.3%
Pedestrians	1,395 (2.9%)	1,280 (2.8%)	1,303 (2.9%)	9.3%
Bicyclists	546 (1.1%)	461 (1.0%)	489 (1.1%)	3.5%
Other	90 (0.2%)	75 (0.2%)	119 (0.3%)	0.6%

- In 2019, drivers accounted for the majority of fatalities in both crashes involving drivers 16-24 years of age and crashes involving drivers of all ages (56% and 51%, respectively).
- Compared to fatalities in all crashes, fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-24 were slightly more likely to be passengers (23% vs. 14% in 2019).
- Passengers also accounted for a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-24 than in all crashes (30% vs. 27% in 2019).
- Pedestrians comprised much smaller proportions of the fatalities and persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-24 than in all crashes (17% vs. 31% and 3% vs. 9%, respectively, in 2019).

TABLE 5
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-24
AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED
IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 16-24: 2019

	Killed or Injured		NYS Total
Total	7,167		45,707
Under Age 4	237	3.3%	3.9%
Ages 4-6	111	1.5%	3.6%
Ages 7-15	546	7.6%	12.5%
Ages 16-17	836	11.7%	4.0%
Ages 18-20	1,728	24.1%	6.8%
Ages 21-24	1,576	22.0%	8.7%
Ages 25-29	688	9.6%	10.4%
Age 30 and Over	1,260	17.6%	47.2%
Unknown Age	185	2.6%	3.0%

- The largest proportion of passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-24 were ages 18-20 (24%).
- Passengers ages 16-24 accounted for 58% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-24.
- Only 18% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-24 were age 30 or over, compared to 47% of the passengers riding with all drivers.

TABLE 6
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes
RESTRAINT USE FOR VEHICLE OCCUPANTS AGES 16-24*: 2019

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 16-24	159,403	144,176	90.4%	
Drivers Ages 16-24	110,191	102,131	92.7%	677,494 (86.4%)
Passengers Ages 16-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-24	24,595	21,914	89.1%	
Passengers Ages 16-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	24,617	20,131	81.8%	
Total Killed	91	42	46.2%	
Drivers Ages 16-24	58	33	56.9%	350 (58.6%)
Passengers Ages 16-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-24	21	7	33.3%	
Passengers Ages 16-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	12	2	16.7%	
Total Injured	23,567	20,379	86.5%	
Drivers Ages 16-24	14,998	13,574	90.5%	90,371 (90.4%)
Passengers Ages 16-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-24	4,036	3,327	82.4%	
Passengers Ages 16-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	4,533	3,478	76.7%	
Total Uninjured	135,745	123,755	91.2%	
Drivers Ages 16-24	95,135	88,524	93.1%	586,773 (85.8%)
Passengers Ages 16-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-24	20,538	18,580	90.5%	
Passengers Ages 16-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	20,072	16,651	83.0%	

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

- The overall restraint use for drivers ages 16-24 involved in crashes in 2019 was higher than the restraint use for passengers ages 16-24. Restraint use for drivers was 93%, compared to 89% for passengers ages 16-24 in vehicles with drivers ages 16-24 and 82% for passengers ages 16-24 in vehicles with drivers of other ages.
- Overall, drivers ages 16-24 were more likely to be restrained than drivers of all ages (93% vs. 87%, respectively); however, for drivers killed, similar proportions of the drivers ages 16-24 and all drivers were restrained (57% vs. 59%, respectively).
- 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 77%, respectively).

TABLE 7
NYS Fatal and Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-24*
SELECT CONTRIBUTING FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DRIVERS

	Drivers Ages 16-24			Total NYS
	2017	2018	2019	2019
Total Drivers	34,152	32,822	32,271	201,411
Select Factors				
Driver Inattention/Distracted	16.0%	15.7%	16.1%	15.2%
Driver Inexperience	4.5%	4.4%	4.2%	1.4%
Failure to Yield R.O.W.	13.1%	13.1%	13.1%	11.2%
Following Too Closely	16.3%	15.9%	15.6%	12.1%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	4.1%	4.1%	4.1%	3.3%
Unsafe Speed	11.1%	10.6%	10.7%	5.6%
Cell Phone	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Texting	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	1.9%	1.7%	1.5%	1.6%

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

- In 2019, “driver inattention/distracted” and “following too closely” were the two most frequently reported contributing factors for both drivers ages 16-24 (both 16%) and for all drivers (15% and 12%, respectively) in F&PI crashes.
- Drivers ages 16-24 in F&PI crashes were more likely than all drivers in F&PI crashes to have “unsafe speed” reported as a contributing factor (11% vs. 6% in 2019).
- As would be expected, drivers ages 16-24 were also more likely to have “driver inexperience” reported as a contributing factor in F&PI crashes (4% vs. 1% in 2019).

TABLE 8
NYS Traffic Tickets Issued to Drivers Ages 16-24
SELECT VIOLATIONS

	Drivers Ages 16-24			NYS Total
	2017	2018	2019	2019
Total Tickets Issued	791,504	726,044	691,809	3,502,973
Speeding	23.4%	23.8%	24.7%	19.2%
License	8.7%	8.6%	8.5%	7.0%
Traffic Device/Stop Sign	10.5%	10.6%	10.7%	13.7%
Seat Belts	3.6%	3.4%	3.4%	4.2%
Cell Phone	1.6%	1.3%	1.2%	2.0%
Texting	2.2%	2.2%	2.4%	3.1%
Total TSLED Tickets Issued	624,905	582,374	546,934	2,429,598
Impaired Driving	1.9%	1.8%	1.7%	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 being 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 16-24 were for speeding violations, compared to 19% of the tickets issued to all drivers.
- Drivers ages 16-24 were less likely than all drivers to be issued tickets for cell phone and texting violations in 2019 (4% vs. 5%).

TABLE 9
NYS Motor Vehicle Fatal and Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-24
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 16-24
F&PI Crashes (% of total)	14,281 (46.7%)	9,277 (30.3%)	7,043 (23.0%)	31,601
Fatal (% of total)	101 (58.7%)	31 (18.0%)	40 (23.3%)	172
Personal Injury (% of total)	14,180 (46.6%)	9,246 (30.4%)	7,003 (23.0%)	30,429
Fatalities (% of total)	114 (58.5%)	34 (17.4%)	47 (24.1%)	195
Persons Injured (% of total)	20,042 (44.7%)	14,441 (32.2%)	10,359 (23.1%)	44,842
Drivers Involved Ages 16-24 (% of total)	15,625 (46.8%)	9,931 (29.8%)	7,816 (23.4%)	33,372
Male Drivers Ages 16-24 (% of total NYS)	8,175 (41.5%)	7,202 (36.6%)	4,326 (22.0%)	19,703
Female Drivers Ages 16-24 (% of total NYS)	7,449 (54.5%)	2,728 (20.0%)	3,490 (25.5%)	13,667
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-24 (% of total)	619,980 (54.1%)	270,939 (23.7%)	252,248 (22.0%)	1,145,397

- 47% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 16-24 occurred in the Upstate region, 30% in New York City and 23% on Long Island.
- 59% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 16-24 occurred on roadways in the Upstate region, while 17% happened on roadways in New York City and 24% occurred on Long Island highways.
- Drivers ages 16-24 were underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region (47% of the crashes vs. 54% of the licensed drivers) and overrepresented in crashes in the Long Island region (23% of the crashes vs. 22% of the licensed drivers) and in NYC (30% of the crashes vs. 24% of the licensed drivers).