

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

	2015	2016	2017
Crashes (% of total NYS)	8,773 (3.0%)	9,037 (3.0%)	9,165 (3.0%)
Fatal (% of total NYS)	18 (1.7%)	25 (2.6%)	14 (1.5%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	3,253 (2.9%)	3,374 (2.7%)	3,471 (2.8%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	5,502 (3.1%)	5,638 (3.2%)	5,680 (3.1%)
Fatalities (% of total NYS)	23 (2.1%)	28 (2.7%)	18 (1.8%)
Driver Fatalities Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	5 (0.9%)	9 (1.7%)	5 (1.0%)
Persons Injured (% of total NYS)	4,958 (3.1%)	5,112 (3.0%)	5,284 (3.1%)
Drivers Involved Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	9,014 (1.9%)	9,240 (1.9%)	9,357 (1.8%)
Male Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	4,881 (1.8%)	5,095 (1.8%)	5,106 (1.7%)
Female Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	4,133 (2.2%)	4,145 (2.2%)	4,251 (2.2%)
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	83,713 (0.7%)	87,012 (0.7%)	92,284 (0.8%)

- 3% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2015-2017 involved drivers ages 16-17; the number of crashes rose from 8,773 in 2015 to 9,165 in 2017, an increase of 4%.
- The number of fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 increased from 23 in 2015 to 28 in 2016, then dropped to 18 in 2017. Five drivers ages 16-17 were killed in crashes in 2017, compared to 9 in 2016 and 5 in 2015.
- The number of persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 increased 7%, rising from 4,958 in 2015 to 5,284 in 2017.
- Drivers ages 16-17 are overrepresented in crashes; 3% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2015-2017 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

	2015	2016	2017	NYS F&PI 2017
Fatal & Personal Injury Crashes	3,271	3,399	3,485	123,484
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	22.9%	22.4%	21.3%	29.8%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	77.1%	77.6%	78.7%	70.2%
Drivers Ages 16-17 in F&PI Crashes	3,351	3,457	3,549	216,380
With No Passengers*	58.0%	58.7%	57.7%	71.3%
With Passengers	42.0%	41.3%	42.3%	28.7%

*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. 70% in 2017).
- 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 2017).

TABLE 3
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17
TIME OF DAY: 2017

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=14)	Involving All Drivers (N=933)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=3,471)	Involving All Drivers (N=122,551)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=5,680)	Involving All Drivers (N=185,887)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=9,165)	Involving All Drivers (N=309,371)
9pm-Mid	14.3%	15.1%	8.0%	8.6%	7.7%	7.6%	7.8%	8.0%
Mid-5am	7.1%	15.0%	3.3%	6.1%	2.6%	6.6%	2.9%	6.4%
5am-9am	14.3%	12.5%	11.5%	13.4%	12.8%	16.0%	12.3%	15.0%
9am-Noon	0.0%	10.3%	8.6%	13.8%	9.9%	14.0%	9.4%	13.9%
Noon-3pm	7.1%	13.1%	20.4%	18.1%	22.0%	17.0%	21.3%	17.4%
3pm-6pm	35.7%	17.7%	29.5%	23.5%	27.0%	21.6%	28.0%	22.4%
6pm-9pm	21.4%	16.2%	18.4%	15.3%	16.6%	13.9%	17.3%	14.4%
Unknown	0.0%	0.1%	0.4%	1.3%	1.4%	3.3%	1.0%	2.5%

- 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 proportions of fatal crashes (36%), personal injury crashes (30%) and property damage crashes (27%) involving drivers ages 16-17 all occurred during the 3pm-6pm time period.

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

	2015	2016	2017	NYS Total 2017
Total Fatalities	23	28	18	1,000
Drivers	10 (43.5%)	17 (60.7%)	10 (55.6%)	51.8%
Passengers	10 (43.5%)	10 (35.7%)	7 (38.9%)	18.1%
Pedestrians	3 (13.0%)	1 (3.6%)	1 (5.6%)	25.2%
Bicyclists	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	4.8%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.1%
Total Persons Injured	4,958	5,112	5,284	169,752
Drivers	3,231 (65.2%)	3,312 (64.8%)	3,426 (64.8%)	59.3%
Passengers	1,608 (32.4%)	1,680 (32.9%)	1,745 (33.0%)	27.6%
Pedestrians	79 (1.6%)	86 (1.7%)	75 (1.4%)	9.2%
Bicyclists	31 (0.6%)	28 (0.5%)	31 (0.6%)	3.5%
Other	9 (0.2%)	6 (0.1%)	7 (0.1%)	0.4%

- Compared to fatalities in all crashes, fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 were more than twice as likely to be passengers (39% vs. 18% in 2017).
- Passengers also accounted for a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 than in all crashes (33% vs. 28% in 2017).
- Pedestrians comprised much smaller proportions of the fatalities and persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 than in all crashes (6% vs. 25%, and 1% vs. 9%, respectively, in 2017).

TABLE 5
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17
AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED
IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 16-17: 2017

	Killed or Injured		NYS Total
Total	956		46,991
Under Age 4	3	0.3%	4.3%
Ages 4-6	1	0.1%	3.9%
Ages 7-15	193	20.2%	12.5%
Ages 16-17	430	45.0%	4.1%
Ages 18-20	143	15.0%	6.9%
Ages 21-24	19	2.0%	9.0%
Ages 25-29	14	1.5%	10.2%
Age 30 and Over	139	14.5%	45.6%
Unknown Age	14	1.5%	3.5%

- The largest proportion of passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-17 were ages 16-17 (45%).
- Passengers ages 16-20 accounted for 60% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-17, compared to 11% 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 46% of the passengers riding with all drivers.

TABLE 6
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes
RESTRAINT USE FOR VEHICLE OCCUPANTS AGES 16-17*: 2017

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 16-17	18,630	16,756	89.9%	
Drivers Ages 16-17	8,944	8,499	95.0%	447,160 (89.1%)
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	2,354	2,178	92.5%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	7,332	6,079	82.9%	
Total Killed	18	7	38.9%	
Drivers Ages 16-17	5	3	60.0%	384 (56.0%)
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	5	2	40.0%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	8	2	25.0%	
Total Injured	3,492	3,038	87.0%	
Drivers Ages 16-17	1,618	1,498	92.6%	89,127 (91.1%)
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	423	355	83.9%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	1,451	1,185	81.7%	
Total Uninjured	15,120	13,711	90.7%	
Drivers Ages 16-17	7,321	6,998	95.6%	357,649 (88.6%)
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	1,926	1,821	94.5%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	5,873	4,892	83.3%	

*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 83% 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. 89%).
- 93% 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 2017
	2015	2016	2017	
Total Drivers	3,266	3,355	3,479	199,435
Select Factors				
Driver Inattention/Distracted	15.1%	15.9%	14.9%	14.8%
Driver Inexperience	13.4%	13.0%	14.0%	1.6%
Failure to Yield R.O.W.	18.3%	18.6%	19.2%	11.1%
Following Too Closely	15.4%	15.2%	16.0%	12.5%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	3.8%	4.2%	4.1%	3.4%
Cell Phone	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Texting	<0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	<0.1%
Unsafe Speed	14.5%	14.7%	13.8%	5.9%
Alcohol Involvement	0.5%	0.7%	0.5%	1.7%

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

- In 2017, the top three contributing factors for drivers ages 16-17 in F&PI crashes were “failure to yield R.O.W.” (19%), “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.” (19% vs. 11% in 2017) reported as a contributing factor and more than twice as likely to have “unsafe speed” reported (14% vs. 6% in 2017).
- 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 2017).

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

	Drivers Ages 16-17			NYS Total 2017
	2015	2016	2017	
Total Tickets Issued	40,374	41,734	42,132	3,724,952
Speeding	24.4%	24.9%	23.9%	18.6%
License	13.3%	13.7%	14.3%	7.2%
Traffic Device/ Stop Sign	9.8%	9.6%	9.4%	13.4%
Seat Belts	3.4%	2.9%	2.6%	4.4%
Cell Phone	1.0%	0.9%	0.9%	2.8%
Texting	1.0%	0.8%	1.0%	3.0%
Total TSLED Tickets Issued	36,659	39,276	39,771	2,506,390
Impaired Driving	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%	2.5%

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 2017, 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 2017 (14% vs. 7%) and far less likely to be issued tickets for cell phone and texting violations (2% vs. 6%).
- In 2017, less than 1% of the TSLED tickets issued to drivers ages 16-17 were for impaired driving, compared to almost 3% 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*: 2017

	UPSTATE	NYC	LONG ISLAND	NYS F&PI Involving Drivers Ages 16-17
F&PI Crashes (% of total)	2,198 (63.1%)	330 (9.5%)	956 (27.4%)	3,485
Fatal (% of total)	11 (78.6%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (21.4%)	14
Personal Injury (% of total)	2,187 (63.0%)	330 (9.5%)	953 (27.5%)	3,471
Fatalities (% of total)	13 (72.2%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (27.8%)	18
Persons Injured (% of total)	3,203 (60.6%)	551 (10.4%)	1,528 (28.9%)	5,284
Drivers Involved Ages 16-17 (% of total)	2,238 (63.1%)	332 (9.4%)	978 (27.6%)	3,549
Male Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	1,170 (60.9%)	228 (11.9%)	521 (27.1%)	1,920
Female Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	1,068 (65.6%)	104 (6.4%)	457 (28.1%)	1,629
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total)	63,846 (69.2%)	7,476 (8.1%)	20,962 (22.7%)	92,284

*Note: Regional data may not sum to statewide due to missing data.

- 63% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 in 2017 occurred in the Upstate region, 27% were on Long Island and 10% occurred in New York City.
- 72% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 in 2017 occurred in the Upstate region, while 28% occurred on Long Island; no fatalities occurred in the five boroughs comprising New York City.
- In 2017, drivers ages 16-17 were underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region and overrepresented in crashes in the Long Island region. Crash involvement for drivers ages 16-17 in the New York City region was fairly consistent with the proportion of licensed drivers in this age group.