

NEW YORK STATE FACT SHEET ON YOUNG DRIVERS AGES 21-24

PREPARED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH

TABLE 1
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 21-24
SEVERITY OF CRASH, FATALITIES & PERSONS INJURED, AND DRIVERS INVOLVED

	2017	2018	2019
Crashes (% of total NYS)	45,667 (14.8%)	60,293 (13.9%)	60,578 (13.6%)
Fatal (% of total NYS)	110 (11.8%)	123 (13.9%)	97 (11.0%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	18,950 (15.5%)	18,225 (14.9%)	17,862 (14.8%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	26,607 (14.3%)	41,945* (13.5%)	42,619* (13.1%)
Fatalities (% of total NYS)	121 (12.1%)	133 (14.2%)	108 (11.5%)
Driver Fatalities Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)	37 (7.1%)	61 (11.9%)	41 (8.6%)
Persons Injured (% of total NYS)	28,052 (16.5%)	26,764 (15.9%)	26,257 (15.7%)
Drivers Involved Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)	47,838 (9.4%)	62,926 (8.9%)	63,199 (8.7%)
Male Drivers Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)	28,292 (9.6%)	37,668 (9.2%)	37,621 (9.0%)
Female Drivers Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)	19,546 (10.3%)	25,258 (10.0%)	25,574 (9.7%)
Licensed Drivers Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)	691,618 (5.7%)	681,891 (5.6%)	673,247 (5.6%)

- 14%-15% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2017-2019 involved drivers ages 21-24.
- 12%-14% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2017-2019 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 21-24.
- The number of fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 went up from 121 in 2017 to 133 in 2018, then dropped to 108 in 2019. The number of driver fatalities ages 21-24 went up from 37 in 2017 to 61 in 2018, then dropped to 41 in 2019.
- The number of persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 decreased from 28,052 in 2017 to 26,257 in 2019, representing a drop of 6%.
- Drivers ages 21-24 are overrepresented in crashes; 9% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2017-2019 were ages 21-24, compared to 6% 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 21-24
VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS INVOLVED

	2017	2018	2019	NYS F&PI 2019
Fatal & Personal Injury Crashes	19,060	18,348	17,959	121,949
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	17.1%	16.3%	16.2%	29.5%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	82.9%	83.7%	83.8%	70.5%
Drivers Ages 21-24 in F&PI Crashes	20,046	19,242	18,887	212,888
With No Passengers*	70.2%	69.9%	70.7%	71.6%
With Passengers	29.8%	30.1%	29.3%	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 21-24 were more likely to involve multiple vehicles than all F&PI crashes (84% vs. 71% in 2019).
- The proportion of drivers ages 21-24 involved in F&PI crashes who drive with passengers was similar to the proportion of all drivers in F&PI crashes (29% vs. 28%, respectively in 2019).

TABLE 3
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 21-24
TIME OF DAY: 2019

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 21-24 (N=97)	Involving All Drivers (N=881)	Involving Drivers Ages 21-24 (N=17,862)	Involving All Drivers (N=121,989)	Involving Drivers Ages 21-24 (N=42,619)	Involving All Drivers (N=325,072)	Involving Drivers Ages 21-24 (N=60,578)	Involving All Drivers (N=447,021)
9pm-Mid	17.5%	15.2%	10.4%	8.7%	9.0%	7.9%	9.4%	8.2%
Mid-5am	26.8%	14.5%	7.7%	5.9%	6.5%	6.0%	6.9%	6.0%
5am-9am	10.3%	13.4%	13.0%	13.7%	14.2%	15.5%	13.8%	14.9%
9am-Noon	10.3%	11.0%	12.2%	13.8%	13.0%	14.3%	12.8%	14.1%
Noon-3pm	11.3%	13.6%	16.9%	18.0%	17.8%	18.0%	17.5%	18.0%
3pm-6pm	13.4%	16.6%	23.3%	23.4%	24.1%	22.1%	23.9%	22.5%
6pm-9pm	10.3%	15.4%	15.5%	15.3%	14.4%	14.2%	14.7%	14.4%
Unknown	0.0%	0.2%	0.9%	1.2%	1.1%	2.0%	1.0%	1.8%

- Crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 were most likely to occur between 3pm and 6pm (24%); the largest proportion of crashes involving all drivers (23%) also occurred during this time period.
- The largest proportion of fatal crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 occurred between midnight and 5am (27%). Personal injury crashes (23%) and property damage crashes (24%) 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 21-24
FATALITIES AND PERSONS INJURED

	2017	2018	2019	NYS Total 2019
Total Fatalities	121	133	108	938
Drivers	66 (54.5%)	86 (64.7%)	63 (58.3%)	50.6%
Passengers	36 (29.8%)	15 (11.3%)	22 (20.4%)	13.5%
Pedestrians	17 (14.0%)	30 (22.6%)	21 (19.4%)	30.5%
Bicyclists	2 (1.7%)	2 (1.5%)	2 (1.9%)	5.2%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.1%
Total Persons Injured	28,052	26,764	26,257	166,988
Drivers	18,328 (65.3%)	17,700 (66.1%)	17,350 (66.1%)	59.3%
Passengers	8,404 (30.0%)	7,914 (29.6%)	7,715 (29.4%)	27.3%
Pedestrians	890 (3.2%)	806 (3.0%)	817 (3.1%)	9.3%
Bicyclists	375 (1.3%)	292 (1.1%)	302 (1.2%)	3.5%
Other	55 (0.2%)	52 (0.2%)	73 (0.3%)	0.6%

- In 2019, drivers accounted for 58% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 21-24 years of age, compared to 51% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers of all ages.
- Passengers were a larger portion of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 than in all crashes (20% vs. 14% in 2019).
- Passengers accounted for a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 than in all crashes (29% vs. 27% in 2019).
- Pedestrians comprised much smaller proportions of the fatalities and persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 than in all crashes (19% vs. 31% and 3% vs. 9%, respectively, in 2019).

TABLE 5
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 21-24
AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED
IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 21-24: 2019

	Killed or Injured		NYS Total
Total	3,833		45,707
Under Age 4	188	4.9%	3.9%
Ages 4-6	95	2.5%	3.6%
Ages 7-15	185	4.8%	12.5%
Ages 16-17	101	2.6%	4.0%
Ages 18-20	563	14.7%	6.8%
Ages 21-24	1,234	32.2%	8.7%
Ages 25-29	564	14.7%	10.4%
Age 30 and Over	790	20.6%	47.2%
Unknown Age	113	2.9%	3.0%

- The largest proportion of passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 21-24 were ages 21-24 (32%).
- Passengers ages 18-24 accounted for 47% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 21-24.
- Only 21% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 21-24 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 21-24*: 2019

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 21-24	80,284	72,181	89.9%	
Drivers Ages 21-24	60,227	55,275	91.8%	677,494 (86.4%)
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 21-24	6,671	5,879	88.1%	
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	13,386	11,027	82.4%	
Total Killed	53	23	43.4%	
Drivers Ages 21-24	33	17	51.5%	350 (58.6%)
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 21-24	7	4	57.1%	
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	13	2	15.4%	
Total Injured	12,313	10,580	85.9%	
Drivers Ages 21-24	8,488	7,601	89.5%	90,371 (90.4%)
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 21-24	1,188	992	83.5%	
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	2,637	1,987	75.4%	
Total Uninjured	67,918	61,578	90.7%	
Drivers Ages 21-24	51,706	47,657	92.2%	586,773 (85.8%)
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 21-24	5,476	4,883	89.2%	
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	10,736	9,038	84.2%	

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

- The overall restraint use for drivers ages 21-24 was higher than the restraint use for passengers ages 21-24. Restraint use for drivers was 92%, compared to 88% for passengers ages 21-24 in vehicles with drivers ages 21-24 and 82% for passengers ages 21-24 in vehicles with drivers of other ages.
- For drivers killed, drivers ages 21-24 were less likely to be restrained than drivers of all ages (52% vs. 59%, respectively).
- 90% of the drivers ages 21-24 injured in crashes were restrained; passengers ages 21-24 injured in crashes had lower use rates whether riding with drivers of the same age or with drivers of any age (84% and 75%, respectively).

TABLE 7
NYS Fatal and Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 21-24*
SELECT CONTRIBUTING FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DRIVERS

	Drivers Ages 21-24			Total NYS
	2017	2018	2019	2019
Total Drivers	18,811	18,493	18,121	201,411
Select Factors				
Driver Inattention/Distraction	16.0%	15.5%	15.9%	15.2%
Driver Inexperience	2.4%	2.3%	2.2%	1.4%
Failure to Yield ROW	11.0%	11.1%	11.2%	11.2%
Following Too Closely	15.8%	15.5%	15.0%	12.1%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	4.0%	3.8%	3.9%	3.6%
Unsafe Speed	9.8%	9.6%	9.5%	5.6%
Cell Phone	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Texting	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	2.5%	2.4%	2.1%	1.6%

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

- In 2019, “driver inattention/distraction” and “following too closely” were the two most frequently reported contributing factors for drivers ages 21-24 (16% and 15%, respectively) and for all drivers (15% and 12%, respectively) in F&PI crashes.
- Drivers ages 21-24 in F&PI crashes were more likely than all drivers in F&PI crashes to have “unsafe speed” reported as a contributing factor (10% vs. 6% in 2019).

TABLE 8
NYS Traffic Tickets Issued to Drivers Ages 21-24
SELECT VIOLATIONS

	Drivers Ages 21-24			NYS Total
	2017	2018	2019	2019
Total Tickets Issued	488,855	455,245	423,332	3,502,973
Speeding	21.7%	21.9%	22.9%	19.2%
License	8.7%	8.5%	8.5%	7.0%
Traffic Device/Stop Sign	10.8%	11.1%	11.0%	13.7%
Seat Belts	3.8%	3.6%	3.6%	4.2%
Cell Phone	1.8%	1.5%	1.3%	2.0%
Texting	2.5%	2.5%	2.7%	3.1%
Total TSLED Tickets Issued	365,588	344,582	321,915	2,429,598
Impaired Driving	2.5%	2.4%	2.3%	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, 23% of the tickets issued to drivers ages 21-24 were for speeding violations, compared to 19% of the tickets issued to all drivers.
- Drivers ages 21-24 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 21-24
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 21-24
F&PI Crashes (% of total)	7,581 (42.2%)	6,505 (36.2%)	3,873 (21.6%)	17,959
Fatal (% of total)	53 (54.6%)	21 (21.6%)	23 (23.7%)	97
Personal Injury (% of total)	7,528 (42.1%)	6,484 (36.3%)	3,850 (21.6%)	17,862
Fatalities (% of total)	58 (53.7%)	24 (22.2%)	26 (24.1%)	108
Persons Injured (% of total)	10,465 (39.9%)	10,087 (38.4%)	5,705 (21.7%)	26,257
Drivers Involved Ages 21-24 (% of total)	7,951 (42.1%)	6,824 (36.1%)	4,112 (21.8%)	18,887
Male Drivers Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)	4,178 (36.7%)	4,920 (43.2%)	2,284 (20.1%)	11,382
Female Drivers Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)	3,772 (50.3%)	1,903 (25.4%)	1,828 (24.4%)	7,503
Licensed Drivers Ages 21-24 (% of total)	340,975 (50.6%)	189,664 (28.2%)	140,671 (20.9%)	673,247

- In 2019, 42% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 occurred in the Upstate region, 36% took place in New York City and 22% on Long Island.
- 55% of the fatalities that occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 occurred in the Upstate region, 22% in New York City and 24% on Long Island.
- Drivers ages 21-24 are underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region and overrepresented in crashes in the New York City and Long Island regions when compared to the number of licensed drivers in each region.