

NEW YORK STATE

FACT SHEET ON YOUNG DRIVERS AGES 16-20

PREPARED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH

TABLE 1
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-20
SEVERITY OF CRASH, FATALITIES & PERSONS INJURED, AND DRIVERS INVOLVED

	2018	2019	2020
Crashes (% of total NYS)	47,649 (11.0%)	49,378 (11.0%)	36,646 (11.2%)
Fatal (% of total NYS)	81 (9.2%)	80 (9.1%)	98 (10.4%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	14,042 (11.5%)	13,782 (11.4%)	10,606 (11.7%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	33,526 (10.8%)	35,516 (10.9%)	25,942 (11.0%)
Fatalities (% of total NYS)	86 (9.2%)	93 (9.9%)	107 (10.4%)
Driver Fatalities Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	30 (5.9%)	32 (6.7%)	35 (6.2%)
Persons Injured (% of total NYS)	20,553 (12.2%)	20,516 (12.3%)	16,089 (13.0%)
Drivers Involved Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	49,717 (7.0%)	51,599 (7.1%)	38,185 (7.5%)
Male Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	28,489 (6.9%)	29,694 (7.1%)	22,686 (7.6%)
Female Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	21,225 (8.4%)	21,902 (8.3%)	15,497 (8.9%)
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	475,718 (3.9%)	472,150 (3.9%)	438,609 (3.6%)

- 9%-10% of all fatal motor vehicle crashes in 2018-2020 and 11%-12% of all personal injury crashes involved drivers ages 16-20; the number of fatal crashes went up from 81 in 2018 to 98 in 2020, while the number of personal injury crashes fell from 14,042 in 2018 to 10,606 in 2020.
- 9%-10% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2018-2020 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20.
- 107 fatalities occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 in 2020, up from 86 in 2018, representing an increase of 24%; 35 drivers ages 16-20 were killed in crashes in 2020, up from 30 in 2018.
- 16,089 persons were injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 in 2020, down from 20,553 in 2018, representing a drop of 22%.
- Drivers ages 16-20 are overrepresented in crashes; 7%-8% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2018-2020 were ages 16-20, compared to 4% of all licensed drivers.

TABLE 2
NYS Fatal & Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-20
VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS INVOLVED

	2018	2019	2020	NYS F&PI 2020
Fatal & Personal Injury Crashes	14,123	13,862	10,704	91,272
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	18.7%	18.6%	20.4%	32.1%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	81.3%	81.4%	79.6%	67.9%
Drivers Ages 16-20 in F&PI Crashes	14,720	14,485	11,175	154,532
With No Passengers*	65.6%	64.4%	62.3%	72.7%
With Passengers	34.4%	35.6%	37.7%	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 16-20 were more likely to involve multiple vehicles than all F&PI crashes (80% vs. 68% in 2020).
- Drivers ages 16-20 involved in F&PI crashes were more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (38% vs. 27% in 2020).

TABLE 3
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-20
TIME OF DAY: 2020

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 16-20 (N=98)	Involving All Drivers (N=945)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-20 (N=10,606)	Involving All Drivers (N=90,327)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-20 (N=25,942)	Involving All Drivers (N=236,118)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-20 (N=36,646)	Involving All Drivers (N=327,390)
9pm-Mid	13.3%	13.3%	11.3%	9.5%	10.1%	8.6%	10.4%	8.9%
Mid-5am	21.4%	16.3%	6.3%	6.7%	5.7%	6.7%	6.0%	6.7%
5am-9am	7.1%	13.2%	7.6%	11.1%	8.6%	13.9%	8.3%	13.2%
9am-Noon	3.1%	9.3%	10.4%	12.9%	11.4%	13.5%	11.1%	13.3%
Noon-3pm	13.3%	12.6%	20.6%	19.2%	20.7%	18.5%	20.7%	18.7%
3pm-6pm	20.4%	17.6%	24.4%	23.1%	25.6%	21.8%	25.3%	22.1%
6pm-9pm	21.4%	17.7%	18.5%	16.3%	17.2%	14.9%	17.6%	15.3%
Unknown	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	1.3%	0.8%	2.1%	0.8%	1.9%

- Crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 were most likely to occur between 3pm and 6pm (25%); the largest proportion of crashes involving all drivers (22%) also occurred during this time period.
- The largest proportions of personal injury crashes (24%) and property damage crashes (26%) involving drivers ages 16-20 occurred during the 3pm-6pm time period.
- The largest proportions of fatal crashes (21%) involving drivers ages 16-20 occurred between midnight and 5am and 6pm and 9pm.

TABLE 4
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-20
FATALITIES AND PERSONS INJURED

	2018	2019	2020	NYS Total 2020
Total Fatalities	86	93	107	1,032
Drivers	52 (60.5%)	50 (53.8%)	59 (55.1%)	54.7%
Passengers	18 (20.9%)	25 (26.9%)	30 (28.0%)	16.6%
Pedestrians	16(18.6%)	13 (14.0%)	16 (15.0%)	23.4%
Bicyclists	0 (0.0%)	5 (5.4%)	2 (1.9%)	5.3%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.0%
Total Persons Injured	20,553	20,516	16,089	124,172
Drivers	13,805 (67.2%)	13,510 (65.9%)	10,325 (64.2%)	59.4%
Passengers	6,080 (29.6%)	6,284 (30.6%)	5,122 (31.8%)	26.5%
Pedestrians	475 (2.3%)	489 (2.4%)	391 (2.4%)	8.6%
Bicyclists	170 (0.8%)	187 (0.9%)	220 (1.4%)	4.9%
Other	23 (0.1%)	46 (0.2%)	31 (0.2%)	0.6%

- In 2020, drivers accounted for 55% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 16-20 years of age and 55% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers of all ages.
- Passengers comprised a much higher proportion of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 16-20 years of age than in all crashes (28% vs 17% in 2020).
- Passengers also accounted for a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 than in all crashes (32% vs. 27% in 2020).
- Pedestrians comprised much smaller proportions of the fatalities and persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 than in all crashes (15% vs. 23% and 2% vs. 9%, respectively, in 2019).

TABLE 5
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-20
AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED
IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 16-20: 2020

	Killed or Injured		NYS Total
Total	2,964		33,113
Under Age 4	33	1.1%	3.1%
Ages 4-6	17	0.6%	3.3%
Ages 7-15	304	10.3%	10.4%
Ages 16-17	608	20.5%	4.1%
Ages 18-20	1,121	37.8%	8.3%
Ages 21-24	368	12.4%	10.4%
Ages 25-29	96	3.2%	11.2%
Age 30 and Over	365	12.3%	45.8%
Unknown Age	52	1.8%	3.4%

- The largest proportion of passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-20 were ages 18-20 (38%).
- Passengers ages 16-20 accounted for 58% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-20, compared to 12% of the passengers killed or injured riding with all drivers.
- Only 12% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-20 were age 30 or over, compared to 46% of the passengers riding with all drivers.

TABLE 6
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes
RESTRAINT USE FOR VEHICLE OCCUPANTS AGES 16-20*: 2020

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 16-20	57,745	52,665	91.2%	
Drivers Ages 16-20	36,593	34,274	93.7%	461,930 (85.5%)
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-20	9,674	8,636	89.3%	
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	11,478	9,755	85.0%	
Total Killed	55	27	49.1%	
Drivers Ages 16-20	27	16	59.3%	390 (55.4%)
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-20	13	6	46.2%	
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	15	5	33.3%	
Total Injured	9,061	7,728	85.3%	
Drivers Ages 16-20	5,155	4,656	90.3%	64,658 (89.4%)
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-20	1,679	1,359	80.9%	
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	2,227	1,713	76.9%	
Total Uninjured	48,629	44,910	92.4%	
Drivers Ages 16-20	31,411	29,602	94.2%	396,882 (84.8%)
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-20	7,982	7,271	91.1%	
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	9,236	8,037	87.0%	

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

- The overall restraint use for drivers ages 16-20 involved in crashes in 2020 was higher than the restraint use for passengers ages 16-20. Restraint use for drivers was 94%, compared to 86% for passengers ages 16-20 in vehicles with drivers ages 16-20 and 85% for passengers ages 16-20 in vehicles with drivers of other ages.
- Among the drivers killed in crashes, drivers ages 16-20 were more likely to be restrained than all drivers (59% vs. 55%, respectively).
- 94% of the drivers ages 16-20 uninjured in crashes were restrained; passengers ages 16-20 uninjured in crashes had lower use rates whether riding with drivers of the same age or with drivers of any age (91% and 87%, respectively).

TABLE 7
NYS Fatal and Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-20*
SELECT CONTRIBUTING FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DRIVERS

	Drivers Ages 16-20			Total NYS
	2018	2019	2020	2020
Total Drivers	14,329	14,150	10,794	142,341
Select Factors				
Driver Inattention/Distracted	16.0%	16.2%	16.0%	15.1%
Driver Inexperience	7.0%	6.8%	7.5%	1.9%
Failure to Yield R.O.W.	15.6%	15.4%	15.5%	11.2%
Following Too Closely	16.4%	16.3%	13.1%	10.2%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	4.6%	4.4%	5.1%	3.9%
Unsafe Speed	11.9%	12.2%	13.5%	6.8%
Cell Phone	0.3%	0.3%	0.6%	0.2%
Texting	<0.1%	<0.1%	0.0%	<0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%	1.9%

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

- In 2020, “driver inattention/distracted”, “failure to yield R.O.W.” and “Unsafe Speed” were the most frequently reported contributing factors for both drivers ages 16-20 (16%, 16% and 14%, respectively). The most frequently reported for drivers of all ages were “driver inattention/distracted”, “following too closely” and “failure to yield R.O.W (15%, 10% and 11%, respectively) in F&PI crashes.
- Drivers ages 16-20 in F&PI crashes were twice as likely as all drivers in F&PI crashes to have “unsafe speed” reported as a contributing factor (14% vs. 7% in 2020).
- As would be expected, drivers ages 16-20 were also much more likely than all drivers to have “driver inexperience” reported as a contributing factor in F&PI crashes (8% vs. 2% in 2020).

TABLE 8
NYS Traffic Tickets Issued to Drivers Ages 16-20
SELECT VIOLATIONS

	Drivers Ages 16-20			NYS Total
	2018	2019	2020	2020
Total Tickets Issued	270,799	268,477	209,688	2,274,612
Speeding	26.8%	27.5%	34.0%	24.9%
License	8.7%	8.7%	9.0%	7.8%
Traffic Device/Stop Sign	9.8%	10.3%	8.3%	10.6%
Seat Belts	3.0%	3.0%	2.8%	3.8%
Cell Phone	1.1%	1.0%	0.7%	1.6%
Texting	1.6%	1.8%	1.4%	2.6%
Total TSLED Tickets Issued	237,792	225,019	178,605	1,712,701
Impaired Driving	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	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, 34% of the tickets issued to drivers ages 16-20 were for speeding violations, compared to 25% of the tickets issued to all drivers.
- Drivers ages 16-20 were slightly less likely than all drivers to be issued tickets for impaired driving under TSLED in 2020 (1% vs. 2%).

TABLE 9
NYS Motor Vehicle Fatal and Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-20
SEVERITY OF CRASH, FATALITIES & PERSONS INJURED, AND DRIVERS INVOLVED
BY REGION OF THE STATE: 2020

	UPSTATE	NYC	LONG ISLAND	NYS F&PI Involving Drivers Ages 16-20
F&PI Crashes (% of total)	5,454 (51.0%)	2,625 (24.5%)	2,625 (24.5%)	10,704
Fatal (% of total)	58 (59.2%)	18 (18.4%)	22 (22.4%)	98
Personal Injury (% of total)	5,396 (50.9%)	2,607 (24.6%)	2,603 (24.5%)	10,606
Fatalities (% of total)	64 (59.8%)	20 (18.7%)	23 (21.5%)	107
Persons Injured (% of total)	7,848 (48.8%)	4,231 (26.3%)	4,010 (24.9%)	16,089
Drivers Involved Ages 16-20 (% of total)	5,717 (51.2%)	2,706 (24.2%)	2,752 (24.6%)	11,175
Male Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	3,086 (45.9%)	2,032 (30.2%)	1,611 (23.9%)	6,729
Female Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	2,629 (59.2%)	674 (15.2%)	1,141 (25.7%)	4,444
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total)	260,953 (59.5%)	74,755 (17.0%)	102,812 (23.4%)	438,520

- 51% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 occurred in the Upstate region, 25% occurred in Nassau and Suffolk counties on Long Island and 25% occurred in the five New York City counties.
- 60% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 occurred in the Upstate region, 22% occurred in the Long Island region and 19% in New York City.
- Drivers ages 16-20 were underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region (51% of the crashes vs. 60% of the licensed drivers) and overrepresented in crashes in the Long Island region (25% of the crashes vs. 23% of the licensed drivers) and in NYC (25% of the crashes vs. 17% of the licensed drivers).