

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

	2018	2019	2020
Crashes (% of total NYS)	104,108 (24.0%)	106,177 (23.8%)	77,888 (23.8%)
Fatal (% of total NYS)	202 (22.9%)	172 (19.5%)	227 (24.0%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	30,998 (25.4%)	30,429 (25.1%)	23,207 (25.7%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	72,908 (23.4%)	75,576 (23.2%)	54,454 (23.1%)
Fatalities (% of total NYS)	217 (23.2%)	195 (20.8%)	255 (24.7%)
Driver Fatalities Ages 16-24 (% of total NYS)	91 (17.8%)	73 (15.4%)	95 (16.8%)
Persons Injured (% of total NYS)	45,329 (26.9%)	44,842 (26.9%)	34,631 (27.9%)
Drivers Involved Ages 16-24 (% of total NYS)	112,646 (15.9%)	114,798 (15.8%)	83,983 (16.5%)
Male Drivers Ages 16-24 (% of total NYS)	66,157 (16.1%)	67,315 (16.1%)	50,916 (17.2%)
Female Drivers Ages 16-24 (% of total NYS)	46,483 (18.4%)	47,476 (18.1%)	33,064 (19.0%)
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-24 (% of total NYS)	1,157,609 (9.5%)	1,145,397 (9.5%)	1,110,080 (9.0%)

- 24% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2018-2020 involved drivers ages 16-24.
- 21%-25% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2018-2020 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 16-24.
- The number of fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-24 rose from 217 in 2018 to 255 in 2019, an increase of 18%.
- The number of persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-24 decreased from 45,329 in 2018 to 34,631 in 2020, a decrease of 24%.
- 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 9-10% of all licensed drivers.

TABLE 2
NYS Fatal & Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-24
VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS INVOLVED

	2018	2019	2020	NYS F&PI 2020
Fatal & Personal Injury Crashes	31,200	30,601	23,434	91,272
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	18.1%	17.9%	19.8%	32.1%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	81.9%	82.1%	80.2%	67.9%
Drivers Ages 16-24 in F&PI Crashes	33,962	33,372	25,513	154,532
With No Passengers*	68.1%	68.0%	66.0%	72.7%
With Passengers	31.9%	32.0%	34.0%	27.3%

*Note: As mandated by NYSDMV 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 (80% vs. 68% in 2020).
- Drivers ages 16-24 involved in F&PI crashes were more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (34% vs. 27% in 2020).

TABLE 3
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-24
TIME OF DAY: 2020

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 16-24 (N=227)	Involving All Drivers (N=945)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-24 (N=23,207)	Involving All Drivers (N=90,327)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-24 (N=54,454)	Involving All Drivers (N=236,118)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-24 (N=77,888)	Involving All Drivers (N=327,390)
9pm-Mid	15.0%	13.3%	11.2%	9.5%	9.9%	8.6%	10.3%	8.9%
Mid-5am	22.9%	16.3%	7.4%	6.7%	6.5%	6.7%	6.8%	6.7%
5am-9am	10.1%	13.2%	8.9%	11.1%	10.7%	13.9%	10.2%	13.2%
9am-Noon	5.7%	9.3%	10.6%	12.9%	11.6%	13.5%	11.3%	13.3%
Noon-3pm	10.1%	12.6%	19.3%	19.2%	19.3%	18.5%	19.3%	18.7%
3pm-6pm	18.1%	17.6%	23.8%	23.1%	24.7%	21.8%	24.4%	22.1%
6pm-9pm	18.1%	17.7%	17.7%	16.3%	16.3%	14.9%	16.7%	15.3%
Unknown	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	1.3%	1.0%	2.1%	1.0%	1.9%

- Crashes involving drivers ages 16-24 were most likely to occur between 3pm and 6pm (24%); the largest proportion of crashes involving all drivers (22%) also occurred during this time period.
- The largest proportions of fatal crashes involving drivers ages 16-24 occurred midnight-5am (23%). 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

	2018	2019	2020	NYS Total 2020
Total Fatalities	217	195	255	1,032
Drivers	136 (62.7%)	109 (55.9%)	148 (58.0%)	54.7%
Passengers	33 (15.2%)	45 (23.1%)	62 (24.3%)	16.6%
Pedestrians	46 (21.2%)	34 (17.4%)	38 (14.9%)	23.4%
Bicyclists	2 (0.9%)	7 (3.6%)	7 (2.7%)	5.3%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.0%
Total Persons Injured	45,329	44,842	34,631	124,172
Drivers	30,128 (66.5%)	29,500 (65.8%)	22,407 (64.7%)	59.4%
Passengers	13,385 (29.5%)	13,431 (30.0%)	10,586 (30.6%)	26.5%
Pedestrians	1,280 (2.8%)	1,303 (2.9%)	998 (2.9%)	8.6%
Bicyclists	461 (1.0%)	489 (1.1%)	546 (1.6%)	4.9%
Other	75 (0.2%)	119 (0.3%)	94 (0.3%)	0.6%

- In 2020, drivers accounted for the majority of fatalities in both crashes involving drivers 16-24 years of age and crashes involving drivers of all ages (58% and 55%, respectively).
- Passengers comprised a higher proportion of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 16-24 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 16-24 than in all crashes (31% vs. 27% in 2020).
- Pedestrians comprised much smaller proportions of the fatalities and persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-24 than in all crashes (15% vs. 23% and 3% vs. 9%, respectively, in 2020).

TABLE 5
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-24
AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED
IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 16-24: 2020

	Killed or Injured		NYS Total
Total	6,128		33,113
Under Age 4	163	2.7%	3.1%
Ages 4-6	75	1.2%	3.3%
Ages 7-15	435	7.1%	10.4%
Ages 16-17	709	11.6%	4.1%
Ages 18-20	1,627	26.6%	8.3%
Ages 21-24	1,455	23.7%	10.4%
Ages 25-29	565	9.2%	11.2%
Age 30 and Over	962	15.7%	45.8%
Unknown Age	137	2.2%	3.4%

- The largest proportion of passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-24 were ages 18-20 (27%).
- Passengers ages 16-24 accounted for 62% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-24.
- Only 16% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-24 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 16-24*: 2020

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 16-24	114,799	103,950	90.5%	
Drivers Ages 16-24	79,258	73,375	92.6%	461,930 (85.5%)
Passengers Ages 16-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-24	19,223	16,949	88.2%	
Passengers Ages 16-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	16,318	13,626	83.5%	
Total Killed	123	55	44.7%	
Drivers Ages 16-24	66	38	57.6%	390 (55.4%)
Passengers Ages 16-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-24	35	12	34.3%	
Passengers Ages 16-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	22	5	22.7%	
Total Injured	18,752	15,920	84.9%	
Drivers Ages 16-24	11,651	10,398	89.2%	64,658 (89.4%)
Passengers Ages 16-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-24	3,620	2,911	80.4%	
Passengers Ages 16-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	3,481	2,611	75.0%	
Total Uninjured	95,924	87,975	91.7%	
Drivers Ages 16-24	67,541	62,939	93.2%	396,882 (84.8%)
Passengers Ages 16-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-24	15,568	14,026	90.1%	
Passengers Ages 16-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	12,815	11,010	85.9%	

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

- The overall restraint use for drivers ages 16-24 involved in crashes in 2020 was higher than the restraint use for passengers ages 16-24. Restraint use for drivers was 93%, compared to 88% for passengers ages 16-24 in vehicles with drivers ages 16-24 and 84% 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. 86%, respectively); drivers killed, higher proportions of the drivers ages 16-24 compared to all drivers were restrained (58% vs. 55%, respectively).
- 89% of the drivers ages 16-24 injured in crashes were restrained; passengers ages 16-24 injured in crashes had lower use rates whether riding with drivers of the same age or with drivers of any age (80% and 75%, 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
	2018	2019	2020	2020
Total Drivers	32,822	32,271	24,279	142,341
Select Factors				
Driver Inattention/Distracted	15.7%	16.1%	15.7%	15.1%
Driver Inexperience	4.4%	4.2%	5.1%	1.9%
Failure to Yield R.O.W.	13.1%	13.1%	13.1%	11.2%
Following Too Closely	15.9%	15.6%	12.7%	10.2%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	4.1%	4.1%	4.8%	3.9%
Unsafe Speed	10.6%	10.7%	12.3%	6.8%
Cell Phone	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%
Texting	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	1.7%	1.5%	1.7%	1.9%

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

- In 2020, “driver inattention/distracted”, “failure to yield ROW” and “following too closely” were the most frequently reported contributing factors for both drivers ages 16-24 (16%, 13%, and 13% respectively) and for all drivers (15%, 11% and 10%, 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 (12% vs. 7% in 2020).
- 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 (5% vs. 2% in 2020).

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

	Drivers Ages 16-24			NYS Total
	2018	2019	2020	2020
Total Tickets Issued	726,044	691,809	518,683	2,274,612
Speeding	23.8%	24.7%	31.5%	24.9%
License	8.6%	8.5%	9.3%	7.8%
Traffic Device/Stop Sign	10.6%	10.7%	8.5%	10.6%
Seat Belts	3.4%	3.4%	3.1%	3.8%
Cell Phone	1.3%	1.2%	0.8%	1.6%
Texting	2.2%	2.4%	1.8%	2.6%
Total TSLED Tickets Issued	582,374	546,934	424,783	1,712,701
Impaired Driving	1.8%	1.7%	1.5%	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 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 2020, 32% of the tickets issued to drivers ages 16-24 were for speeding violations, compared to 25% of the tickets issued to all drivers.
- Drivers ages 16-24 were slightly less likely than all drivers to be issued tickets for cell phone and texting violations in 2020 (3% vs. 4%).

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: 2020

	UPSTATE	NYC	LONG ISLAND	NYS F&PI Involving Drivers Ages 16-24
F&PI Crashes (% of total)	10,691 (45.6%)	7,561 (32.3%)	5,182 (22.1%)	23,434
Fatal (% of total)	136 (59.9%)	43 (18.9%)	48 (21.1%)	227
Personal Injury (% of total)	10,555 (45.5%)	7,518 (32.4%)	5,134 (22.1%)	23,207
Fatalities (% of total)	157 (61.6%)	47 (18.4%)	51 (20.0%)	255
Persons Injured (% of total)	15,096 (43.6%)	11,801 (34.1%)	7,734 (22.3%)	34,631
Drivers Involved Ages 16-24 (% of total)	11,649 (45.7%)	8,128 (31.9%)	5,736 (22.5%)	25,513
Male Drivers Ages 16-24 (% of total NYS)	6,435 (40.8%)	5,977 (37.9%)	3,378 (21.4%)	15,790
Female Drivers Ages 16-24 (% of total NYS)	5,212 (53.6%)	2,151 (22.1%)	2,358 (24.3%)	9,721
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-24 (% of total)	603,897 (54.4%)	261,493 (23.6%)	244,517 (22.0%)	1,110,080

- 46% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 16-24 occurred in the Upstate region, 32% in New York City and 22% on Long Island.
- 62% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 16-24 occurred on roadways in the Upstate region, while 18% happened on roadways in New York City and 20% occurred on Long Island highways.
- Drivers ages 16-24 were underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region (46% of the crashes vs. 54% of the licensed drivers), overrepresented in crashes in NYC (32% of the crashes vs. 24% of the licensed drivers) and equally represented in the Long Island region (22% of the crashes vs. 22% of the licensed drivers).