

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

	2018	2019	2020
Crashes (% of total NYS)	60,293 (13.9%)	60,578 (13.6%)	43,998 (13.4%)
Fatal (% of total NYS)	123 (13.9%)	97 (11.0%)	135 (14.3%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	18,225 (14.9%)	17,862 (14.8%)	13,536 (15.0%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	41,945 (13.5%)	42,619 (13.1%)	30,327 (12.8%)
Fatalities (% of total NYS)	133 (14.2%)	108 (11.5%)	154 (14.9%)
Driver Fatalities Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)	61 (11.9%)	41 (8.6%)	60 (10.6%)
Persons Injured (% of total NYS)	26,764 (15.9%)	26,257 (15.7%)	20,101 (16.2%)
Drivers Involved Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)	62,926 (8.9%)	63,199 (8.7%)	45,798 (9.0%)
Male Drivers Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)	37,668 (9.2%)	37,621 (9.0%)	28,230 (9.5%)
Female Drivers Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)	25,258 (10.0%)	25,574 (9.7%)	17,567 (10.1%)
Licensed Drivers Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)	681,891 (5.6%)	673,247 (5.6%)	671,471 (5.5%)

- 13%-14% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2018-2020 involved drivers ages 21-24.
- 12%-15% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2018-2020 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 21-24.
- The number of fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 went up from 133 in 2018 to 154 in 2020. The number of driver fatalities ages 21-24 went down from 61 in 2018 to 41 in 2019, then went back up to 60 in 2020.
- The number of persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 decreased from 26,674 in 2018 to 20,101 in 2020, representing a drop of 25%.
- Drivers ages 21-24 are overrepresented in crashes; 9% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2018-2020 were ages 21-24, compared to 6% of all licensed drivers.

TABLE 2
NYS Fatal & Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 21-24
VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS INVOLVED

	2018	2019	2020	NYS F&PI 2020
Fatal & Personal Injury Crashes	18,348	17,959	13,671	91,272
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	16.3%	16.2%	18.1%	32.1%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	83.7%	83.8%	81.9%	67.9%
Drivers Ages 21-24 in F&PI Crashes	19,242	18,887	14,338	154,532
With No Passengers*	69.9%	70.7%	68.9%	72.7%
With Passengers	30.1%	29.3%	31.1%	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 21-24 were more likely to involve multiple vehicles than all F&PI crashes (82% vs. 68% in 2020).
- The proportion of drivers ages 21-24 involved in F&PI crashes who drive with passengers was greater than the proportion of all drivers in F&PI crashes (31% vs. 27%, respectively in 2020).

TABLE 3
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 21-24
TIME OF DAY: 2020

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 21-24 (N=135)	Involving All Drivers (N=945)	Involving Drivers Ages 21-24 (N=13,536)	Involving All Drivers (N=90,327)	Involving Drivers Ages 21-24 (N=30,327)	Involving All Drivers (N=236,118)	Involving Drivers Ages 21-24 (N=43,998)	Involving All Drivers (N=327,390)
9pm-Mid	17.0%	13.3%	11.4%	9.5%	9.8%	8.6%	10.3%	8.9%
Mid-5am	23.7%	16.3%	8.2%	6.7%	6.9%	6.7%	7.4%	6.7%
5am-9am	11.9%	13.2%	9.8%	11.1%	12.2%	13.9%	11.5%	13.2%
9am-Noon	7.4%	9.3%	10.5%	12.9%	11.7%	13.5%	11.3%	13.3%
Noon-3pm	7.4%	12.6%	18.4%	19.2%	18.3%	18.5%	18.3%	18.7%
3pm-6pm	16.3%	17.6%	23.2%	23.1%	24.1%	21.8%	23.8%	22.1%
6pm-9pm	16.3%	17.7%	17.2%	16.3%	15.8%	14.9%	16.2%	15.3%
Unknown	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	1.3%	1.2%	2.1%	1.2%	1.9%

- Crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 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 proportion of fatal crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 occurred between midnight and 5am (24%). 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

	2018	2019	2020	NYS Total 2020
Total Fatalities	133	108	154	1,032
Drivers	86 (64.7%)	63 (58.3%)	93 (60.4%)	54.7%
Passengers	15 (11.3%)	22 (20.4%)	33 (21.4%)	16.6%
Pedestrians	30 (22.6%)	21 (19.4%)	22 (14.3%)	23.4%
Bicyclists	2 (1.5%)	2 (1.9%)	6 (3.9%)	5.3%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.0%
Total Persons Injured	26,764	26,257	20,101	124,172
Drivers	17,700 (66.1%)	17,350 (66.1%)	13,106 (65.2%)	59.4%
Passengers	7,914 (29.6%)	7,715 (29.4%)	5,994 (29.8%)	26.5%
Pedestrians	806 (3.0%)	817 (3.1%)	612 (3.0%)	8.6%
Bicyclists	292 (1.1%)	302 (1.2%)	326 (1.6%)	4.9%
Other	52 (0.2%)	73 (0.3%)	63 (0.3%)	0.6%

- In 2020, drivers accounted for 60% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 21-24 years of age, compared to 55% 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 (21% vs. 17% in 2020).
- Passengers accounted for a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 than in all crashes (30% vs. 27% in 2020).
- Pedestrians comprised much smaller proportions of the fatalities and persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 than in all crashes (14% vs. 23% and 3% vs. 9%, respectively, in 2020).

TABLE 5
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 21-24
AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED
IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 21-24: 2020

	Killed or Injured		NYS Total
Total	3,164		33,113
Under Age 4	130	4.1%	3.1%
Ages 4-6	58	1.8%	3.3%
Ages 7-15	131	4.1%	10.4%
Ages 16-17	101	3.2%	4.1%
Ages 18-20	506	16.0%	8.3%
Ages 21-24	1,087	34.4%	10.4%
Ages 25-29	469	14.8%	11.2%
Age 30 and Over	597	18.9%	45.8%
Unknown Age	85	2.7%	3.4%

- The largest proportion of passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 21-24 were ages 21-24 (34%).
- Passengers ages 18-24 accounted for 50% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 21-24.
- Only 19% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 21-24 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 21-24*: 2020

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 21-24	57,054	51,285	89.9%	
Drivers Ages 21-24	42,665	39,101	91.6%	461,930 (85.5%)
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 21-24	4,910	4,285	87.3%	
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	9,479	7,899	83.3%	
Total Killed	68	28	41.2%	
Drivers Ages 21-24	39	22	56.4%	390 (55.4%)
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 21-24	9	2	22.2%	
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	20	4	20.0%	
Total Injured	9,691	8,192	84.5%	
Drivers Ages 21-24	6,496	5,742	88.4%	64,658 (89.4%)
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 21-24	1,012	795	78.6%	
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	2,183	1,655	75.8%	
Total Uninjured	47,295	43,065	91.1%	
Drivers Ages 21-24	36,130	33,337	92.3%	396,882 (84.8%)
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 21-24	3,889	3,488	89.7%	
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	7,276	6,240	85.8%	

*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 87% for passengers ages 21-24 in vehicles with drivers ages 21-24 and 83% for passengers ages 21-24 in vehicles with drivers of other ages.
- For drivers killed, drivers ages 21-24 were slightly more likely to be restrained than drivers of all ages (56% vs. 55%, respectively).
- 88% 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 (79% and 76%, 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
	2018	2019	2020	2020
Total Drivers	18,493	18,121	13,485	142,341
Select Factors				
Driver Inattention/Distracted	15.5%	15.9%	15.5%	15.1%
Driver Inexperience	2.3%	2.2%	3.1%	1.9%
Failure to Yield ROW	11.1%	11.2%	11.1%	11.2%
Following Too Closely	15.5%	15.0%	12.4%	10.2%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	3.8%	3.9%	4.6%	3.9%
Unsafe Speed	9.6%	9.5%	11.2%	6.8%
Cell Phone	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Texting	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	2.4%	2.1%	2.3%	1.9%

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

- In 2020, “driver inattention/distracted” and “following too closely” were the two most frequently reported contributing factors for drivers ages 21-24 (16% and 12%, respectively); “driver inattention/distracted” and “failure to yield ROW” were the two most frequently reported contributing factors for all drivers (15% and 11%, 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 (11% vs. 7% in 2020).

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

	Drivers Ages 21-24			NYS Total
	2018	2019	2020	2020
Total Tickets Issued	455,245	423,332	308,995	2,274,612
Speeding	21.9%	22.9%	29.8%	24.9%
License	8.5%	8.5%	9.4%	7.8%
Traffic Device/Stop Sign	11.1%	11.0%	8.6%	10.6%
Seat Belts	3.6%	3.6%	3.2%	3.8%
Cell Phone	1.5%	1.3%	0.8%	1.6%
Texting	2.5%	2.7%	2.0%	2.6%
Total TSLED Tickets Issued	344,582	321,915	246,178	1,712,701
Impaired Driving	2.4%	2.3%	2.0%	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, 30% of the tickets issued to drivers ages 21-24 were for speeding violations, compared to 25% of the tickets issued to all drivers.
- Drivers ages 21-24 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 21-24
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 21-24
F&PI Crashes (% of total)	5,668 (41.5%)	5,177 (37.9%)	2,826 (20.7%)	13,671
Fatal (% of total)	79 (58.5%)	27 (20.0%)	29 (21.5%)	135
Personal Injury (% of total)	5,589 (41.3%)	5,150 (38.0%)	2,797 (20.7%)	13,536
Fatalities (% of total)	94 (61.0%)	29 (18.8%)	31 (20.1%)	154
Persons Injured (% of total)	7,900 (39.3%)	8,028 (39.9%)	4,173 (20.8%)	20,101
Drivers Involved Ages 21-24 (% of total)	5,932 (41.4%)	5,422 (37.8%)	2,984 (20.8%)	14,338
Male Drivers Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)	3,349 (37.0%)	3,945 (43.5%)	1,767 (19.5%)	9,061
Female Drivers Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)	2,583 (48.9%)	1,477 (28.0%)	1,217 (23.1%)	5,277
Licensed Drivers Ages 21-24 (% of total)	343,028 (51.1%)	186,738 (27.8%)	141,705 (21.1%)	671,471

- In 2020, 41% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 occurred in the Upstate region, 38% took place in New York City and 21% on Long Island.
- 61% of the fatalities that occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 occurred in the Upstate region, 19% in New York City and 20% on Long Island.
- Drivers ages 21-24 are underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region and overrepresented in crashes in New York City and equally represented in Long Island when compared to the number of licensed drivers in each region.