

# NEW YORK STATE FACT SHEET ON YOUNG DRIVERS AGES 16-18

PREPARED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH

**TABLE 1  
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-18  
SEVERITY OF CRASH, FATALITIES & INJURIES, AND DRIVERS INVOLVED**

	2017	2018	2019
<b>Crashes (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>18,221 (5.9%)</b>	<b>22,123 (5.1%)</b>	<b>23,066 (5.2%)</b>
Fatal (% of total NYS)	35 (3.8%)	44 (5.0%)	28 (3.2%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	7,022 (5.7%)	6,423 (5.3%)	6,284 (5.2%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	11,164 (6.0%)	15,656* (5.0%)	16,754* (5.2%)
<b>Fatalities (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>39 (3.9%)</b>	<b>46 (4.9%)</b>	<b>37 (3.9%)</b>
Driver Fatalities Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)	13 (2.5%)	16 (3.1%)	9 (1.9%)
<b>Persons Injured (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>10,513 (6.2%)</b>	<b>9,462 (5.6%)</b>	<b>9,417 (5.6%)</b>
<b>Drivers Involved Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>18,763 (3.7%)</b>	<b>22,785 (3.2%)</b>	<b>23,759 (3.3%)</b>
Male Drivers Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)	10,600 (3.6%)	12,637 (3.1%)	13,263 (3.2%)
Female Drivers Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)	8,162 (4.3%)	10,148 (4.0%)	10,494 (4.0%)
<b>Licensed Drivers Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>202,774 (1.7%)</b>	<b>198,591 (1.6%)</b>	<b>198,591 (1.6%)</b>

- 5%-6% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2017-2019 involved drivers ages 16-18.
- 3%-5% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2017-2019 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 16-18.
- The number of persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 decreased 10%, dropping from 10,513 in 2017 to 9,417 in 2019.
- Drivers ages 16-18 are overrepresented in crashes; 3-4% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2017-2019 were ages 16-18, compared to approximately 2% 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 16-18**  
**VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS INVOLVED**

	2017	2018	2019	NYS F&PI 2019
<b>Fatal &amp; Personal Injury Crashes</b>	<b>7,057</b>	<b>6,467</b>	<b>6,312</b>	<b>121,949</b>
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	20.7%	19.9%	19.4%	29.5%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	79.3%	80.1%	80.6%	70.5%
<b>Drivers Ages 16-18 in F&amp;PI Crashes</b>	<b>7,251</b>	<b>6,625</b>	<b>6,485</b>	<b>212,888</b>
With No Passengers*	61.3%	61.4%	60.4%	71.6%
With Passengers	38.7%	38.6%	39.6%	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 16-18 are more likely to involve multiple vehicles than all F&PI crashes (81% vs. 71% in 2019).
- Drivers ages 16-18 involved in F&PI crashes are more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (40% vs. 28% in 2019).

**TABLE 3**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-18**  
**TIME OF DAY: 2019**

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 16-18 (N=28)	Involving All Drivers (N=881)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-18 (N=6,284)	Involving All Drivers (N=121,068)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-18 (N=16,754)	Involving All Drivers (N=325,072)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-18 (N=23,066)	Involving All Drivers (N=447,021)
9pm-Mid	25.0%	15.2%	10.1%	8.9%	8.3%	7.9%	8.8%	8.2%
Mid-5am	14.3%	14.5%	4.2%	6.0%	3.4%	6.0%	3.6%	6.0%
5am-9am	17.9%	13.4%	10.9%	13.5%	11.5%	15.5%	11.3%	14.9%
9am-Noon	3.6%	11.0%	10.1%	13.7%	11.7%	14.3%	11.2%	14.1%
Noon-3pm	14.3%	13.6%	20.7%	18.1%	21.1%	18.0%	21.0%	18.0%
3pm-6pm	17.9%	16.6%	26.1%	23.4%	27.2%	22.1%	26.9%	22.5%
6pm-9pm	7.1%	15.4%	17.4%	15.2%	16.2%	14.2%	16.5%	14.4%
Unknown	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	1.2%	0.7%	2.0%	0.6%	1.8%

- Regardless of injury level, the proportion of crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 was larger than the proportion for crashes involving all drivers during the 9pm-Mid, Noon-3pm, 3pm-6pm and 6pm-9pm time periods.
- The largest proportions of fatal crashes (25%) involving drivers ages 16-18 occurred during the 9pm-midnight time period. The largest proportion of personal injury and property damage crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 occurred during the 3pm-6pm time period (26% and 27%, respectively).

**TABLE 4**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-18**  
**FATALITIES AND INJURIES**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>NYS Total 2019</b>
<b>Total Fatalities</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>938</b>
Drivers	21 (53.8%)	28 (60.9%)	17 (45.9%)	50.6%
Passengers	11 (28.2%)	12 (26.1%)	15 (40.5%)	13.5%
Pedestrians	5 (12.8%)	6 (13.0%)	4 (10.8%)	30.5%
Bicyclists	2 (5.1%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (2.7%)	5.2%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.1%
<b>Total Persons Injured</b>	<b>10,513</b>	<b>9,462</b>	<b>9,417</b>	<b>166,988</b>
Drivers	6,886 (65.5%)	6,305 (66.6%)	6,165 (65.5%)	59.3%
Passengers	3,340 (31.8%)	2,908 (30.7%)	2,994 (31.8%)	27.3%
Pedestrians	200 (1.9%)	171 (1.8%)	164 (1.7%)	9.3%
Bicyclists	70 (0.7%)	69 (0.7%)	77 (0.8%)	3.5%
Other	17 (0.2%)	9 (0.1%)	17 (0.2%)	0.6%

- In 2019, drivers accounted for the largest proportion of fatalities in both crashes involving drivers 16-18 years of age and crashes involving drivers of all ages (46% and 51%, respectively).
- Compared to fatalities in all crashes, fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 are much more likely to be passengers (41% vs. 14% in 2019).
- Pedestrians comprise a far smaller proportion of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 than in all crashes (11% vs. 31% in 2019).
- Drivers comprise a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 than in all crashes (66% vs. 59% in 2019).

**TABLE 5**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-18**  
**AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED**  
**IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 16-18: 2019**

	<b>Killed or Injured</b>		<b>NYS Total</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,626</b>		<b>45,707</b>
Under Age 4	10	0.6%	3.9%
Ages 4-6	5	0.3%	3.6%
Ages 7-15	252	15.5%	12.5%
Ages 16-18	849	52.2%	6.3%
Ages 19-20	174	10.7%	4.4%
Ages 21-24	66	4.1%	8.7%
Ages 25-29	28	1.7%	10.4%
Age 30 and Over	208	12.8%	47.2%
Unknown Age	34	2.1%	3.0%

- More than half (52%) of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-18 were also ages 16-18.

- Only 13% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-18 were age 30 or over compared to 47% of the passengers riding with drivers of all ages.

**TABLE 6**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes**  
**RESTRAINT USE FOR VEHICLE OCCUPANTS AGES 16-18\*: 2019**

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
<b>Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 16-18</b>	<b>40,907</b>	<b>37,229</b>	<b>91.0%</b>	
Drivers Ages 16-18	23,120	21,842	94.4%	<b>677,494 (86.4%)</b>
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-18	5,842	5,344	91.5%	
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	11,935	10,043	84.1%	
<b>Total Killed</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>35.3%</b>	
Drivers Ages 16-18	9	5	55.6%	<b>350 (58.6%)</b>
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-18	5	0	0.0%	
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	3	1	33.3%	
<b>Total Injured</b>	<b>5,697</b>	<b>4,986</b>	<b>87.5%</b>	
Drivers Ages 16-18	2,913	2,689	92.3%	<b>90,371 (90.4%)</b>
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-18	847	710	84.8%	
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	1,947	1,587	81.5%	
<b>Total Uninjured</b>	<b>35,193</b>	<b>32,237</b>	<b>91.6%</b>	
Drivers Ages 16-18	20,208	19,148	94.8%	<b>586,773 (85.8%)</b>
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-18	5,000	4,634	92.7%	
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	9,985	8,455	84.7%	

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

- The overall restraint use for drivers ages 16-18 was higher than the restraint use for passengers ages 16-18. Restraint use for drivers was 94%, compared to 92% for passengers ages 16-18 in vehicles with drivers ages 16-18 and 84% for passengers ages 16-18 in vehicles with drivers of other ages.
- Restraint use for all occupants ages 16-18 killed in crashes was lower than restraint use for all occupants in general who were killed 35% vs. 59%).
- Restraint use for all occupants ages 16-18 injured in crashes was slightly less than that for all occupants in general who were injured (88% vs. 90%).

**TABLE 7**  
**NYS Fatal and Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-18\***  
**SELECT CONTRIBUTING FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DRIVERS**

	Drivers Ages 16-18			Total NYS 2019
	2017	2018	2019	
<b>Total Drivers</b>	<b>7,067</b>	<b>6,498</b>	<b>6,378</b>	<b>201,411</b>
<b>Select Factors</b>				
Driver Inattention/Distraction	15.5%	15.1%	16.3%	15.2%
Driver Inexperience	10.2%	10.0%	9.7%	1.4%
Failure to Yield R.O.W.	17.9%	18.1%	18.3%	11.2%
Following Too Closely	16.7%	15.7%	15.4%	12.1%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	4.3%	4.4%	4.8%	3.3%
Unsafe Speed	13.4%	12.3%	13.0%	5.6%
Cell Phone	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%
Texting	0%	0%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	0.7%	0.3%	0.5%	1.6%

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

- “Failure to Yield R.O.W”, “Following Too Closely” and “Driver Inattention/Distraction”, were the most frequently reported contributing factors for drivers ages 16-18 in F&PI crashes (18%, 15% and 16%, respectively in 2019).
- “Driver Inattention/Distraction” was the most frequently reported contributing factor for all drivers in F&PI crashes (15%) followed by “Following Too Closely” (12%).
- With the exception of “Alcohol Involvement” and “Texting”, drivers ages 16-18 in F&PI crashes were more likely than all drivers in F&PI crashes to have each of the selected factors reported.
- Drivers ages 16-18 were more than twice as likely to have “Unsafe Speed” reported as a contributing factor (13% vs. 6% in 2019).
- As would be expected, drivers ages 16-18 were also much more likely than all drivers to have “Driver Inexperience” reported as a contributing factor in F&PI crashes (10% vs. 1% in 2019).

**TABLE 8**  
**NYS Traffic Tickets Issued to Drivers Ages 16-18**  
**SELECT VIOLATIONS**

	Drivers Ages 16-18			NYS Total 2019
	2017	2018	2019	
<b>Total Tickets Issued</b>	<b>106,572</b>	<b>95,402</b>	<b>95,863</b>	<b>3,502,973</b>
Speeding	26.7%	27.3%	27.8%	19.2%
License	10.3%	10.3%	10.4%	7.0%
Traffic Device/Stop Sign	9.6%	9.8%	10.3%	13.7%
Seat Belts	2.9%	2.8%	2.8%	4.2%
Cell Phone	1.0%	1.0%	0.9%	2.0%
Texting	1.2%	1.3%	1.5%	3.1%
<b>Total TSLED Tickets Issued</b>	<b>98,479</b>	<b>87,890</b>	<b>83,062</b>	<b>2,429,598</b>
Impaired Driving	0.8%	0.6%	0.6%	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 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 2019, 28% of the tickets issued to drivers ages 16-18 were for speeding violations, compared to 19% of the tickets issued to all drivers.
- Drivers ages 16-18 were less likely than all drivers to be issued tickets for cell phone and texting violations in 2019 (2% vs. 5%).
- Drivers ages 16-18 were slightly less likely than all drivers to be issued tickets for impaired driving under TSLED in 2019 (1% vs. 2%).

**TABLE 9**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Fatal and Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-18**  
**SEVERITY OF CRASH, FATALITIES & INJURIES, AND DRIVERS INVOLVED**  
**BY REGION OF THE STATE: 2019**

	<b>UPSTATE</b>	<b>NYC</b>	<b>LONG ISLAND</b>	<b>NYS F&amp;PI Involving Drivers Ages 16-18</b>
<b>F&amp;PI Crashes (% of total)</b>	<b>3,633 (57.6%)</b>	<b>964 (15.3%)</b>	<b>1,715 (27.2%)</b>	<b>6,312</b>
Fatal (% of total)	19 (67.9%)	2 (7.1%)	7 (25.0%)	28
Personal Injury (% of total)	3,614 (57.5%)	962 (15.3%)	1,708 (27.2%)	6,284
<b>Fatalities (% of total)</b>	<b>24 (64.9%)</b>	<b>2 (5.4%)</b>	<b>11 (29.7%)</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Persons Injured (% of total)</b>	<b>5,304 (56.3%)</b>	<b>1,537 (16.3%)</b>	<b>2,576 (27.4%)</b>	<b>9,417</b>
<b>Drivers Involved Ages 16-18 (% of total)</b>	<b>3,750 (57.8%)</b>	<b>978 (15.1%)</b>	<b>1,757 (27.1%)</b>	<b>6,485</b>
Male Drivers Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)	1,926 (53.7%)	711 (19.8%)	950 (26.5%)	3,587
Female Drivers Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)	1,824 (62.9%)	267 (9.2%)	807 (27.8%)	2,898
<b>Licensed Drivers Ages 16-18 (% of total)</b>	<b>125,146 (64.0%)</b>	<b>23,313 (11.9%)</b>	<b>47,133 (24.1%)</b>	<b>195,640</b>

- 58% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 in 2019 occurred in the Upstate region, 27% were on Long Island and 15% in New York City.
- 65% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 in 2019 occurred in the Upstate region, while 30% occurred on Long Island and 5% were in the five boroughs comprising New York City.
- Drivers ages 16-18 were underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region (58% of the crashes vs. 64% of the licensed drivers) and overrepresented in crashes in the Long Island region (27% of the crashes vs. 24% of the licensed drivers) and in NYC (15% of the crashes vs. 12% of the licensed drivers).