

# 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**

	2018	2019	2020
<b>Crashes (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>22,123 (5.1%)</b>	<b>23,066 (5.2%)</b>	<b>16,681 (5.1%)</b>
Fatal (% of total NYS)	44 (5.0%)	28 (3.2%)	34 (3.6%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	6,423 (5.3%)	6,284 (5.2%)	4,643 (5.1%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	15,656 (5.0%)	16,754 (5.2%)	12,004 (5.1%)
<b>Fatalities (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>46 (4.9%)</b>	<b>37 (3.9%)</b>	<b>36 (3.5%)</b>
Driver Fatalities Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)	16 (3.1%)	9 (1.9%)	14 (2.5%)
<b>Persons Injured (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>9,462 (5.6%)</b>	<b>9,417 (5.6%)</b>	<b>7,037 (5.7%)</b>
<b>Drivers Involved Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>22,785 (3.2%)</b>	<b>23,759 (3.3%)</b>	<b>17,078 (3.4%)</b>
Male Drivers Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)	12,637 (3.1%)	13,263 (3.2%)	9,946 (3.4%)
Female Drivers Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)	10,148 (4.0%)	10,494 (4.0%)	7,131 (4.1%)
<b>Licensed Drivers Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>198,591 (1.6%)</b>	<b>198,591 (1.6%)</b>	<b>173,053 (1.4%)</b>

- 5% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2018-2020 involved drivers ages 16-18.
- 3%-5% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2018-2020 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 16-18.
- The number of persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 decreased 26%, dropping from 9,462 in 2018 to 7,037 in 2020.
- Drivers ages 16-18 are overrepresented in crashes; 5% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2018-2020 were ages 16-18, compared to approximately 2% of all licensed drivers.

**TABLE 2**  
**NYS Fatal & Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-18**  
**VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS INVOLVED**

	2018	2019	2020	NYS F&PI 2020
<b>Fatal &amp; Personal Injury Crashes</b>	<b>6,467</b>	<b>6,312</b>	<b>4,677</b>	<b>91,272</b>
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	19.9%	19.4%	21.4%	32.1%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	80.1%	80.6%	78.6%	67.9%
<b>Drivers Ages 16-18 in F&amp;PI Crashes</b>	<b>6,625</b>	<b>6,485</b>	<b>4,804</b>	<b>154,532</b>
With No Passengers*	61.4%	60.4%	59.8%	72.7%
With Passengers	38.6%	39.6%	40.2%	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 16-18 are more likely to involve multiple vehicles than all F&PI crashes (79% vs. 68% in 2020).
- 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 2020).

**TABLE 3**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-18**  
**TIME OF DAY: 2020**

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 16-18 (N=34)	Involving All Drivers (N=945)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-18 (N=4,643)	Involving All Drivers (N=90,327)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-18 (N=12,004)	Involving All Drivers (N=236,118)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-18 (N=16,681)	Involving All Drivers (N=327,390)
9pm-Mid	17.6%	13.3%	11.0%	9.5%	9.7%	8.6%	10.1%	8.9%
Mid-5am	20.6%	16.3%	5.3%	6.7%	4.4%	6.7%	4.7%	6.7%
5am-9am	2.9%	13.2%	7.3%	11.1%	7.8%	13.9%	7.7%	13.2%
9am-Noon	0.0%	9.3%	9.6%	12.9%	11.1%	13.5%	10.7%	13.3%
Noon-3pm	14.7%	12.6%	22.3%	19.2%	21.4%	18.5%	21.7%	18.7%
3pm-6pm	17.6%	17.6%	24.8%	23.1%	27.2%	21.8%	26.5%	22.1%
6pm-9pm	26.5%	17.7%	19.0%	16.3%	17.9%	14.9%	18.2%	15.3%
Unknown	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	1.3%	0.5%	2.1%	0.5%	1.9%

- 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 Noon-Midnight time periods.
- The largest proportions of fatal crashes (26%) involving drivers ages 16-18 occurred during the 6pm-9pm time period. The largest proportion of personal injury and property damage crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 occurred during the 3pm-6pm time period (25% and 27%, respectively).

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

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>NYS Total 2020</b>
<b>Total Fatalities</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1,032</b>
Drivers	28 (60.9%)	17 (45.9%)	23 (63.9%)	54.7%
Passengers	12 (26.1%)	15 (40.5%)	8 (22.2%)	16.6%
Pedestrians	6 (13.0%)	4 (10.8%)	5 (13.9%)	23.4%
Bicyclists	0 (0.0%)	1 (2.7%)	0 (0.0%)	5.3%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.0%
<b>Total Persons Injured</b>	<b>9,462</b>	<b>9,417</b>	<b>7,037</b>	<b>124,172</b>
Drivers	6,305 (66.6%)	6,165 (65.5%)	4,451 (63.3%)	59.4%
Passengers	2,908 (30.7%)	2,994 (31.8%)	2,339 (33.2%)	26.5%
Pedestrians	171 (1.8%)	164 (1.7%)	155 (2.2%)	8.6%
Bicyclists	69 (0.7%)	77 (0.8%)	84 (1.2%)	4.9%
Other	9 (0.1%)	17 (0.2%)	8 (0.1%)	0.6%

- In 2020, 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 (64% and 55%, respectively).
- Pedestrians comprise a far smaller proportion of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 than in all crashes (14% vs. 23% in 2020).
- Drivers comprise a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 than in all crashes (63% vs. 59% in 2020).

**TABLE 5**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-18**  
**AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED**  
**IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 16-18: 2020**

	<b>Killed or Injured</b>		<b>NYS Total</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,352</b>		<b>33,113</b>
Under Age 4	9	0.7%	3.1%
Ages 4-6	7	0.5%	3.3%
Ages 7-15	199	14.7%	10.4%
Ages 16-18	695	51.4%	6.8%
Ages 19-20	170	12.6%	5.6%
Ages 21-24	74	5.5%	10.4%
Ages 25-29	16	1.2%	11.2%
Age 30 and Over	163	12.1%	45.8%
Unknown Age	19	1.4%	3.4%

- More than half (51%) of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-18 were also ages 16-18.
- Only 12% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-18 were age 30 or over compared to 46% of the passengers riding with drivers of all ages.

**TABLE 6**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes**  
**RESTRAINT USE FOR VEHICLE OCCUPANTS AGES 16-18\*: 2020**

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
<b>Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 16-18</b>	<b>28,768</b>	<b>26,300</b>	<b>91.4%</b>	
Drivers Ages 16-18	16,535	15,624	94.5%	<b>461,930 (85.5%)</b>
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-18	4,170	3,768	90.4%	
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	8,063	6,908	85.7%	
<b>Total Killed</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>37.9%</b>	
Drivers Ages 16-18	12	5	41.7%	<b>390 (55.4%)</b>
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-18	4	1	25.0%	
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	13	5	38.5%	
<b>Total Injured</b>	<b>4,305</b>	<b>3,677</b>	<b>85.4%</b>	
Drivers Ages 16-18	2,169	1,978	91.2%	<b>64,658 (89.4%)</b>
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-18	680	556	81.8%	
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	1,456	1,143	78.5%	
<b>Total Uninjured</b>	<b>24,434</b>	<b>22,612</b>	<b>92.5%</b>	
Drivers Ages 16-18	14,354	13,641	95.0%	<b>396,882 (84.8%)</b>
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-18	3,486	3,211	92.1%	
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	6,594	5,760	87.4%	

\*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 95%, compared to 90% for passengers ages 16-18 in vehicles with drivers ages 16-18 and 86% for passengers ages 16-18 in vehicles with drivers of other ages.
- Restraint use for all drivers ages 16-18 killed in crashes was lower than restraint use for all drivers in general who were killed (42% vs. 55%).
- Restraint use for all drivers ages 16-18 injured in crashes was slightly more than that for all drivers in general who were injured (91% vs. 89%).

**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 2020
	2018	2019	2020	
<b>Total Drivers</b>	<b>6,498</b>	<b>6,378</b>	<b>4,680</b>	<b>142,341</b>
<b>Select Factors</b>				
Driver Inattention/Distraction	15.1%	16.3%	15.8%	15.1%
Driver Inexperience	10.0%	9.7%	10.1%	1.9%
Failure to Yield R.O.W.	18.1%	18.3%	18.4%	11.2%
Following Too Closely	15.7%	15.4%	13.2%	10.2%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	4.4%	4.8%	5.2%	3.9%
Unsafe Speed	12.3%	13.0%	15.1%	6.8%
Cell Phone	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.2%
Texting	0.0%	<0.1%	0.0%	<0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	0.3%	0.5%	0.6%	1.9%

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

- “Failure to Yield R.O.W”, “Driver Inattention/Distraction”, and “Unsafe Speed” were the most frequently reported contributing factors for drivers ages 16-18 in F&PI crashes (18%, 16% and 15%, respectively in 2020).
- “Driver Inattention/Distraction” was the most frequently reported contributing factor for all drivers in F&PI crashes (15%) followed by “Failure to Yield R.O.W” (11%).
- With the exception of “Alcohol Involvement”, 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 (15% vs. 7% in 2020).
- 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. 2% in 2020).

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

	Drivers Ages 16-18			NYS Total 2020
	2018	2019	2020	
<b>Total Tickets Issued</b>	<b>95,402</b>	<b>95,863</b>	<b>74,460</b>	<b>2,274,612</b>
Speeding	27.3%	27.8%	33.4%	24.9%
License	10.3%	10.4%	10.5%	7.8%
Traffic Device/Stop Sign	9.8%	10.3%	8.5%	10.6%
Seat Belts	2.8%	2.8%	2.7%	3.8%
Cell Phone	1.0%	0.9%	0.6%	1.6%
Texting	1.3%	1.5%	1.2%	2.6%
<b>Total TSLED Tickets Issued</b>	<b>87,890</b>	<b>83,062</b>	<b>65,450</b>	<b>1,712,701</b>
Impaired Driving	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%	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, 33% of the tickets issued to drivers ages 16-18 were for speeding violations, compared to 25% 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 2020 (2% vs. 4%).
- Drivers ages 16-18 were slightly less likely than all drivers to be issued tickets for impaired driving under TSLED in 2020 (1% vs. 3%).

**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: 2020**

	<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>2,628 (56.2%)</b>	<b>799 (17.1%)</b>	<b>1,250 (26.7%)</b>	<b>4,677</b>
Fatal (% of total)	22 (64.7%)	6 (17.6%)	6 (17.6%)	34
Personal Injury (% of total)	2,606 (56.1%)	793 (17.1%)	1,244 (26.8%)	4,643
<b>Fatalities (% of total)</b>	<b>23 (63.9%)</b>	<b>7 (19.4%)</b>	<b>6 (16.7%)</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Persons Injured (% of total)</b>	<b>3,774 (53.6%)</b>	<b>1,318 (18.7%)</b>	<b>1,945 (27.6%)</b>	<b>7,037</b>
<b>Drivers Involved Ages 16-18 (% of total)</b>	<b>2,711 (56.4%)</b>	<b>810 (16.9%)</b>	<b>1,283 (26.7%)</b>	<b>4,804</b>
Male Drivers Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)	1,448 (51.5%)	620 (22.1%)	743 (26.4%)	2,811
Female Drivers Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)	1,262 (63.4%)	190 (9.5%)	540 (27.1%)	1,992
<b>Licensed Drivers Ages 16-18 (% of total)</b>	<b>112,183 (64.8%)</b>	<b>19,982 (11.5%)</b>	<b>40,853 (23.6%)</b>	<b>173,053</b>

- 56% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 in 2020 occurred in the Upstate region, 27% were on Long Island and 17% in New York City.
- 64% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 in 2020 occurred in the Upstate region, while 17% occurred on Long Island and 19% were in the five boroughs comprising New York City.
- Drivers ages 16-18 were underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region (56% of the crashes vs. 65% 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 (17% of the crashes vs. 12% of the licensed drivers).