

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

	2016	2017	2018
Crashes (% of total NYS)	38,938 (12.9%)	38,376 (12.4%)	47,649 (11.0%)
Fatal (% of total NYS)	99 (10.2%)	99 (10.6%)	81 (9.2%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	15,582 (12.7%)	15,135 (12.3%)	14,042 (11.5%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	23,257 (13.1%)	23,142 (12.4%)	33,526* (10.8%)
Fatalities (% of total NYS)	108 (10.5%)	113 (11.3%)	86 (9.2%)
Driver Fatalities Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	41 (7.7%)	43 (8.3%)	30 (5.9%)
Persons Injured (% of total NYS)	22,979 (13.5%)	22,485 (13.2%)	20,553 (12.2%)
Drivers Involved Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	40,801 (8.2%)	40,114 (7.9%)	49,714 (7.0%)
Male Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	23,379 (8.3%)	23,064 (7.9%)	28,489 (6.9%)
Female Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	17,422 (9.3%)	17,050 (9.0%)	21,225 (8.4%)
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	473,581 (3.9%)	481,995 (4.0%)	475,718 (3.9%)

- 9%-10% of all fatal motor vehicle crashes in 2016-2018 and 12%-13% of all personal injury crashes involved drivers ages 16-20; the number of fatal crashes dropped from 99 in 2016 and 2017 to 81 in 2018, while the number of personal injury crashes fell from 15,582 in 2016 to 14,042 in 2018.
- 9%-11% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2016-2018 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20.
- 86 fatalities occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 in 2018, down dramatically from 108 in 2016, representing a decline of 20%; 30 drivers ages 16-20 were killed in crashes in 2018, down from 41 in 2016, representing a decrease of 27%.
- 20,553 persons were injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 in 2018, down from 22,979 in 2016, representing a drop of 11%.
- Drivers ages 16-20 are overrepresented in crashes; 7%-8% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2016-2018 were ages 16-20, compared to 4% of all licensed drivers.

*NOTE: The sizeable increase in the number of property damage crashes 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 16-20
VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS INVOLVED

	2016	2017	2018	NYS F&PI 2018
Fatal & Personal Injury Crashes	15,681	15,234	14,123	122,871
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	21.0%	19.8%	18.7%	29.4%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	79.0%	80.2%	81.3%	70.6%
Drivers Ages 16-20 in F&PI Crashes	16,413	15,919	14,720	215,045
With No Passengers*	65.4%	65.2%	65.6%	71.2%
With Passengers	34.6%	34.8%	34.4%	28.8%

*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 (81% vs. 71% in 2018).
- Drivers ages 16-20 involved in F&PI crashes were more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (34% vs. 29% in 2018).

TABLE 3
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-20
TIME OF DAY: 2018

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 16-20 (N=81)	Involving All Drivers (N=882)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-20 (N=14,042)	Involving All Drivers (N=121,989)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-20 (N=33,526)	Involving All Drivers (N=311,725)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-20 (N=47,649)	Involving All Drivers (N=434,596)
9pm-Mid	24.7%	16.1%	10.0%	8.7%	9.0%	8.1%	9.3%	8.3%
Mid-5am	16.0%	15.4%	5.3%	5.9%	4.9%	6.1%	5.1%	6.1%
5am-9am	8.6%	11.5%	10.7%	13.7%	11.3%	15.2%	11.1%	14.8%
9am-Noon	3.7%	9.1%	11.7%	13.8%	12.3%	14.4%	12.1%	14.2%
Noon-3pm	13.6%	14.6%	19.6%	18.0%	19.2%	17.7%	19.3%	17.8%
3pm-6pm	17.3%	15.8%	26.6%	23.4%	26.7%	22.1%	26.3%	22.4%
6pm-9pm	16.0%	17.6%	16.5%	15.3%	15.8%	14.3%	16.0%	14.6%
Unknown	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	1.2%	0.8%	2.1%	0.8%	1.9%

- Crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 were most likely to occur between 3pm and 6pm (26%); the largest proportion of crashes involving all drivers (22%) also occurred during this time period.
- The largest proportions of personal injury crashes (27%) and property damage crashes (27%) involving drivers ages 16-20 occurred during the 3pm-6pm time period.
- The largest proportion of fatal crashes (25%) involving drivers ages 16-20 occurred between 9pm and Midnight.

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

	2016	2017	2018	NYS Total 2018
Total Fatalities	108	113	86	936
Drivers	61 (56.5%)	62 (54.9%)	52 (60.5%)	54.7%
Passengers	27 (25.0%)	29 (25.7%)	18 (20.9%)	13.0%
Pedestrians	18 (16.7%)	18 (15.9%)	16 (18.6%)	29.1%
Bicyclists	2 (1.9%)	4 (3.5%)	0 (0.0%)	3.2%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.0%
Total Persons Injured	22,979	22,485	20,553	168,304
Drivers	15,306 (66.6%)	14,930 (66.4%)	13,805 (67.2%)	59.6%
Passengers	6,939 (30.2%)	6,831 (30.4%)	6,080 (29.6%)	27.2%
Pedestrians	507 (2.2%)	517 (2.3%)	475 (2.3%)	9.4%
Bicyclists	196 (0.9%)	171 (0.8%)	170 (0.8%)	3.3%
Other	31 (0.1%)	36 (0.2%)	23 (0.1%)	0.5%

- In 2018, drivers accounted for 61% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 16-20 years of age and 55% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers of all ages.
- Compared to fatalities in all crashes, fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 were much more likely to be passengers (21% vs. 13% in 2018).
- Passengers also accounted for a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 than in all crashes (30% vs. 27% in 2018).
- Pedestrians comprised much smaller proportions of the fatalities and persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 than in all crashes (19% vs. 29% and 2% vs. 9%, respectively, in 2018).

TABLE 5
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-20
AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED
IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 16-20: 2018

	Killed or Injured		NYS Total
Total	3,130		45,863
Under Age 4	48	1.5%	3.8%
Ages 4-6	25	0.8%	3.7%
Ages 7-15	346	11.1%	12.0%
Ages 16-17	669	21.4%	3.9%
Ages 18-20	1,046	33.4%	6.5%
Ages 21-24	361	11.5%	8.9%
Ages 25-29	115	3.7%	10.5%
Age 30 and Over	458	14.6%	47.5%
Unknown Age	62	2.0%	3.1%

- The largest proportion of passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-20 were ages 18-20 (33%).
- Passengers ages 16-20 accounted for 55% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-20, compared to 10% of the passengers killed or injured riding with all drivers.
- Only 15% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-20 were age 30 or over, compared to 48% of the passengers riding with all drivers.

TABLE 6
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes
RESTRAINT USE FOR VEHICLE OCCUPANTS AGES 16-20*: 2018

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 16-20	76,372	69,569	91.1%	
Drivers Ages 16-20	47,880	44,965	93.9%	655,790 (86.6%)
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-20	11,658	10,598	90.9%	
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	16,834	14,006	83.2%	
Total Killed	37	23	62.2%	
Drivers Ages 16-20	24	16	66.7%	370 (58.4%)
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-20	8	6	75.0%	
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	5	1	20.0%	
Total Injured	11,299	9,897	87.6%	
Drivers Ages 16-20	6,693	6,173	92.2%	91,358 (90.9%)
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-20	1,677	1,422	84.8%	
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	2,929	2,302	78.6%	
Total Uninjured	65,036	59,649	91.7%	
Drivers Ages 16-20	41,163	38,776	94.2%	564,062 (85.9%)
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-20	9,973	9,170	91.9%	
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	13,900	11,703	84.2%	

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

- The overall restraint use for drivers ages 16-20 involved in crashes in 2018 was higher than the restraint use for passengers ages 16-20. Restraint use for drivers was 94%, compared to 91% for passengers ages 16-20 in vehicles with drivers ages 16-20 and 83% for passengers ages 16-20 in vehicles with drivers of other ages.
- Overall, drivers ages 16-20 involved in crashes were more likely to be restrained than drivers of all ages (94% vs. 87%). Among the drivers killed in crashes, drivers ages 16-20 were more likely to be restrained than all drivers (67% vs. 58%, respectively).
- 92% of the drivers ages 16-20 injured in crashes were restrained; passengers ages 16-20 injured in crashes had lower use rates whether riding with drivers of the same age or with drivers of any age (85% and 79%, 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
	2016	2017	2018	2018
Total Drivers	15,738	15,341	14,329	202,845
Select Factors				
Driver Inattention/Distracted	15.7%	15.9%	16.0%	14.9%
Driver Inexperience	6.5%	7.1%	7.0%	1.5%
Failure to Yield R.O.W.	13.6%	15.6%	15.6%	11.2%
Following Too Closely	16.4%	16.9%	16.4%	12.3%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	4.0%	4.2%	4.6%	3.4%
Unsafe Speed	13.4%	12.8%	11.9%	5.7%
Cell Phone	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%
Texting	<0.1%	0%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	1.3%	1.1%	0.8%	1.6%

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

- In 2018, “driver inattention/distracted” and “following too closely” were the two most frequently reported contributing factors for both drivers ages 16-20 (both 16%) and for all drivers (15% and 12%, respectively) in F&PI crashes.
- Drivers ages 16-20 in F&PI crashes were more than twice as likely as all drivers in F&PI crashes to have “unsafe speed” reported as a contributing factor (12% vs. 6% in 2018).
- 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 (7% vs. 2% in 2018).

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

	Drivers Ages 16-20			NYS Total
	2016	2017	2018	2018
Total Tickets Issued	306,808	302,649	270,799	3,639,413
Speeding	27.2%	26.2%	26.8%	18.6%
License	8.6%	8.7%	8.7%	7.0%
Traffic Device/Stop Sign	10.1%	10.0%	9.8%	13.7%
Seat Belts	3.4%	3.2%	3.0%	4.4%
Cell Phone	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	2.4%
Texting	1.4%	1.6%	1.6%	3.1%
Total TSLED Tickets Issued	262,366	259,317	237,792	2,475,442
Impaired Driving	1.3%	1.1%	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 2018, 27% of the tickets issued to drivers ages 16-20 were for speeding violations, compared to 19% of the tickets issued to all drivers.

- Drivers ages 16-20 were less likely than all drivers to be issued tickets for cell phone and texting violations in 2018 (3% vs. 6%).
- Drivers ages 16-20 were slightly less likely than all drivers to be issued tickets for impaired driving under TSLED in 2018 (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: 2018

	UPSTATE	NYC	LONG ISLAND	NYS F&PI Involving Drivers Ages 16-20
F&PI Crashes (% of total)	7,434 (52.6%)	2,945 (20.9%)	3,744 (26.5%)	14,123
Fatal (% of total)	55 (67.9%)	10 (12.3%)	16 (19.8%)	81
Personal Injury (% of total)	7,379 (52.5%)	2,935 (20.9%)	3,728 (26.5%)	14,042
Fatalities (% of total)	60 (69.8%)	10 (11.6%)	16 (18.6%)	86
Persons Injured (% of total)	10,353 (50.4%)	4,649 (22.6%)	5,551 (27.0%)	20,553
Drivers Involved Ages 16-20 (% of total)	7,764 (52.7%)	3,016 (20.5%)	3,940 (26.8%)	14,720
Male Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	4,001 (47.9%)	2,201 (26.3%)	2,151 (25.8%)	8,353
Female Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	3,763 (59.1%)	815 (12.8%)	1,789 (28.1%)	6,367
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total)	283,000 (59.5%)	80,527 (16.9%)	112,191 (23.6%)	475,718

- 53% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 occurred in the Upstate region, 26% occurred in Nassau and Suffolk counties on Long Island and 21% occurred in the five New York City counties.
- 70% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 occurred in the Upstate region, 19% occurred in the Long Island region and 12% in New York City.
- Drivers ages 16-20 were underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region and overrepresented in F&PI crashes in the New York City and Long Island regions when compared to the number of licensed drivers in each region.