

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

	2017	2018	2019
Crashes (% of total NYS)	38,376 (12.4%)	47,649 (11.0%)	49,378 (11.0%)
Fatal (% of total NYS)	99 (10.6%)	81 (9.2%)	80 (9.1%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	15,135 (12.3%)	14,042 (11.5%)	13,782 (11.4%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	23,142 (12.4%)	33,526* (10.8%)	35,516* (10.9%)
Fatalities (% of total NYS)	113 (11.3%)	86 (9.2%)	93 (9.9%)
Driver Fatalities Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	43 (8.3%)	30 (5.9%)	32 (6.7%)
Persons Injured (% of total NYS)	22,485 (13.2%)	20,553 (12.2%)	20,516 (12.3%)
Drivers Involved Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	40,114 (7.9%)	49,714 (7.0%)	51,599 (7.1%)
Male Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	23,064 (7.9%)	28,489 (6.9%)	29,694 (7.1%)
Female Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	17,050 (9.0%)	21,225 (8.4%)	21,902 (8.3%)
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	481,995 (4.0%)	475,718 (3.9%)	472,150 (3.9%)

- 9%-11% of all fatal motor vehicle crashes in 2017-2019 and 11%-12% of all personal injury crashes involved drivers ages 16-20; the number of fatal crashes dropped from 99 in 2017 to 80 in 2019, while the number of personal injury crashes fell from 15,135 in 2017 to 13,782 in 2019.
- 9%-11% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2017-2019 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20.
- 93 fatalities occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 in 2019, down from 113 in 2017, representing a decline of 18%; 32 drivers ages 16-20 were killed in crashes in 2019, down from 43 in 2017, representing a decrease of 26%.
- 20,516 persons were injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 in 2019, down from 22,485 in 2017, representing a drop of 10%.
- Drivers ages 16-20 are overrepresented in crashes; 7%-8% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2017-2019 were ages 16-20, compared to 4% 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 16-20
VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS INVOLVED

	2017	2018	2019	NYS F&PI 2019
Fatal & Personal Injury Crashes	15,234	14,123	13,862	121,949
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	19.8%	18.7%	18.6%	29.45
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	80.2%	81.3%	81.4%	70.5%
Drivers Ages 16-20 in F&PI Crashes	15,919	14,720	14,485	212,888
With No Passengers*	65.2%	65.6%	64.4%	71.6%
With Passengers	34.8%	34.4%	35.6%	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 16-20 were more likely to involve multiple vehicles than all F&PI crashes (81% vs. 71% in 2019).
- Drivers ages 16-20 involved in F&PI crashes were more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (36% vs. 28% in 2019).

TABLE 3
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-20
TIME OF DAY: 2019

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 16-20 (N=80)	Involving All Drivers (N=881)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-20 (N=13,782)	Involving All Drivers (N=121,068)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-20 (N=35,516)	Involving All Drivers (N=325,072)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-20 (N=49,378)	Involving All Drivers (N=447,021)
9pm-Mid	22.5%	15.2%	10.3%	8.9%	8.9%	7.9%	9.3%	8.2%
Mid-5am	12.5%	14.5%	5.7%	6.0%	4.6%	6.0%	4.9%	6.0%
5am-9am	17.5%	13.4%	10.6%	13.5%	11.5%	15.5%	11.3%	14.9%
9am-Noon	7.5%	11.0%	11.4%	13.7%	12.3%	14.3%	12.0%	14.1%
Noon-3pm	10.0%	13.6%	19.6%	18.1%	20.4%	18.0%	20.1%	18.0%
3pm-6pm	18.8%	16.6%	25.5%	23.4%	25.9%	22.1%	25.8%	22.5%
6pm-9pm	11.3%	15.4%	16.4%	15.2%	15.5%	14.2%	15.7%	14.4%
Unknown	0.0%	0.2%	0.6%	1.2%	0.9%	2.0%	0.8%	1.8%

- Crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 were most likely to occur between 3pm and 6pm (26%); the largest proportion of crashes involving all drivers (23%) also occurred during this time period.
- The largest proportions of personal injury crashes (26%) and property damage crashes (26%) involving drivers ages 16-20 occurred during the 3pm-6pm time period.
- The largest proportion of fatal crashes (23%) 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

	2017	2018	2019	NYS Total 2019
Total Fatalities	113	86	93	938
Drivers	62 (54.9%)	52 (60.5%)	50 (53.8%)	50.6%
Passengers	29 (25.7%)	18 (20.9%)	25 (26.9%)	13.5%
Pedestrians	18 (15.9%)	13 (18.6%)	16 (14.0%)	30.5%
Bicyclists	4 (3.5%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (5.4%)	5.2%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.1%
Total Persons Injured	22,485	20,553	20,516	166,988
Drivers	14,930 (66.4%)	13,805 (67.2%)	13,510 (65.9%)	59.3%
Passengers	6,831 (30.4%)	6,080 (29.6%)	6,284 (30.6%)	27.3%
Pedestrians	517 (2.3%)	475 (2.3%)	489 (2.4%)	9.3%
Bicyclists	171 (0.8%)	170 (0.8%)	187 (0.9%)	3.5%
Other	36 (0.2%)	23 (0.1%)	46 (0.2%)	0.6%

- In 2019, drivers accounted for 54% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 16-20 years of age and 51% 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 (27% vs. 14% in 2019).
- Passengers also accounted for a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 than in all crashes (31% vs. 27% in 2019).
- Pedestrians comprised much smaller proportions of the fatalities and persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 than in all crashes (14% vs. 31% and 2% vs. 9%, respectively, in 2019).

TABLE 5
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-20
AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED
IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 16-20: 2019

	Killed or Injured		NYS Total
Total	3,334		45,707
Under Age 4	49	1.5%	3.9%
Ages 4-6	16	0.5%	3.6%
Ages 7-15	361	10.8%	12.5%
Ages 16-17	735	22.0%	4.0%
Ages 18-20	1,165	34.9%	6.8%
Ages 21-24	342	10.3%	8.7%
Ages 25-29	124	3.7%	10.4%
Age 30 and Over	470	14.1%	47.2%
Unknown Age	72	2.2%	3.0%

- The largest proportion of passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-20 were ages 18-20 (35%).
- Passengers ages 16-20 accounted for 57% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-20, compared to 11% of the passengers killed or injured riding with all drivers.
- Only 14% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-20 were age 30 or over, compared to 47% of the passengers riding with all drivers.

TABLE 6
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes
RESTRAINT USE FOR VEHICLE OCCUPANTS AGES 16-20*: 2019

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 16-20	79,119	71,995	91.0%	
Drivers Ages 16-20	49,964	46,856	93.8%	677,494 (86.4%)
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-20	12,226	11,041	90.3%	
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	16,929	14,098	83.3%	
Total Killed	38	19	50.0%	
Drivers Ages 16-20	25	16	64.0%	350 (58.6%)
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-20	9	1	11.1%	
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	4	2	50.0%	
Total Injured	11,254	9,799	87.1%	
Drivers Ages 16-20	6,510	5,973	91.8%	90,371 (90.4%)
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-20	1,867	1,559	83.5%	
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	2,877	2,267	78.8%	
Total Uninjured	67,827	62,177	91.7%	
Drivers Ages 16-20	43,429	40,867	94.1%	586,773 (85.8%)
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-20	10,350	9,481	91.6%	
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	14,048	11,829	84.2%	

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

- The overall restraint use for drivers ages 16-20 involved in crashes in 2019 was higher than the restraint use for passengers ages 16-20. Restraint use for drivers was 94%, compared to 90% 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 (92% vs. 84%). Among the drivers killed in crashes, drivers ages 16-20 were more likely to be restrained than all drivers (64% vs. 59%, respectively).
- 94% 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 (92% and 84%, 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
	2017	2018	2019	2019
Total Drivers	15,341	14,329	14,150	201,411
Select Factors				
Driver Inattention/Distracted	15.9%	16.0%	16.2%	15.2%
Driver Inexperience	7.1%	7.0%	6.8%	1.4%
Failure to Yield R.O.W.	15.6%	15.6%	15.4%	11.2%
Following Too Closely	16.9%	16.4%	16.3%	12.1%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	4.2%	4.6%	4.4%	3.3%
Unsafe Speed	12.8%	11.9%	12.2%	5.6%
Cell Phone	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Texting	0%	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	1.1%	0.8%	0.9%	1.6%

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

- In 2019, “driver inattention/distracted”, “following too closely” and “failure to yield R.O.W.” were the most frequently reported contributing factors for both drivers ages 16-20 (16%, 16% and 15%, respectively) and for all drivers (15%, 12% and 11%, 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 2019).
- 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. 1% in 2019).

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

	Drivers Ages 16-20			NYS Total
	2017	2018	2019	2019
Total Tickets Issued	302,649	270,799	268,477	3,502,973
Speeding	26.2%	26.8%	27.5%	19.2%
License	8.7%	8.7%	8.7%	7.0%
Traffic Device/Stop Sign	10.0%	9.8%	10.3%	13.7%
Seat Belts	3.2%	3.0%	3.0%	4.2%
Cell Phone	1.2%	1.1%	1.0%	2.0%
Texting	1.6%	1.6%	1.8%	3.1%
Total TSLED Tickets Issued	259,317	237,792	225,019	2,429,598
Impaired Driving	1.1%	0.9%	0.9%	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 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 16-20 were for speeding violations, compared to 19% of the tickets issued to all drivers.

- Drivers ages 16-20 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 16-20
SEVERITY OF CRASH, FATALITIES & PERSONS INJURED, AND DRIVERS INVOLVED
BY REGION OF THE STATE: 2019

	UPSTATE	NYC	LONG ISLAND	NYS F&PI Involving Drivers Ages 16-20
F&PI Crashes (% of total)	7,309 (52.7%)	3,030 (21.9%)	3,523 (25.4%)	13,862
Fatal (% of total)	50 (62.5%)	10 (12.5%)	20 (25.0%)	80
Personal Injury (% of total)	7,259 (52.7%)	3,020 (21.9%)	3,503 (25.4%)	13,782
Fatalities (% of total)	58 (62.4%)	10 (10.8%)	25 (26.9%)	93
Persons Injured (% of total)	10,467 (51.0%)	4,821 (23.5%)	5,228 (25.5%)	20,516
Drivers Involved Ages 16-20 (% of total)	7,674 (53.0%)	3,107 (21.4%)	3,704 (25.6%)	14,485
Male Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	3,997 (48.0%)	2,282 (27.4%)	2,042 (24.5%)	8,321
Female Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	3,677 (59.7%)	825 (13.4%)	1,662 (27.0%)	6,164
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total)	279,005 (59.1%)	81,275 (17.2%)	111,577 (23.6%)	472,150

- 53% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 occurred in the Upstate region, 25% occurred in Nassau and Suffolk counties on Long Island and 22% occurred in the five New York City counties.
- 62% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 occurred in the Upstate region, 27% occurred in the Long Island region and 11% in New York City.
- Drivers ages 16-20 were underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region (53% of the crashes vs. 59% of the licensed drivers) and overrepresented in crashes in the Long Island region (25% of the crashes vs. 24% of the licensed drivers) and in NYC (22% of the crashes vs. 17% of the licensed drivers).