

NEW YORK STATE FACT SHEET ON YOUNG DRIVERS AGES 18-20

PREPARED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH

TABLE 1
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 18-20
SEVERITY OF CRASH, FATALITIES & PERSONS INJURED, AND DRIVERS INVOLVED

	2016	2017	2018
Crashes (% of total NYS)	30,406 (10.1%)	29,754 (9.6%)	37,171 (8.6%)
Fatal (% of total NYS)	75 (7.7%)	85 (9.1%)	52 (5.9%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	12,413 (10.1%)	11,870 (9.7%)	11,040 (9.0%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	17,918 (10.1%)	17,799 (9.6%)	26,079* (8.4%)
Fatalities (% of total NYS)	81 (7.9%)	95 (9.5%)	56 (6.0%)
Driver Fatalities Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)	32 (6.0%)	38 (7.3%)	20 (3.9%)
Persons Injured (% of total NYS)	18,204 (10.7%)	17,542 (10.3%)	16,109 (9.6%)
Drivers Involved Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)	31,561 (6.4%)	30,757 (6.0%)	38,365 (5.4%)
Male Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)	18,284 (6.5%)	17,958 (6.1%)	22,500 (5.5%)
Female Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)	13,277 (7.1%)	12,799 (6.8%)	15,865 (6.3%)
Licensed Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)	386,569 (3.2%)	389,711 (3.2%)	387,513 (3.2%)

- 9%-10% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2016-2018 involved drivers ages 18-20.
- 6%-10% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2016-2018 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 18-20.
- 56 fatalities occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 in 2018, a dramatic decrease from 95 fatalities in 2017.
- The number of persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 decreased from 18,204 to 16,109 in 2018, a decrease of 12%.
- Drivers ages 18-20 are overrepresented in crashes; 5%-6% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2016-2018 were ages 18-20, compared to 3% 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 18-20
VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS INVOLVED

	2016	2017	2018	NYS F&PI 2018
Fatal & Personal Injury Crashes	12,488	11,955	11,092	122,871
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	20.3%	19.1%	17.9%	29.4%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	79.7%	80.9%	82.1%	70.6%
Drivers Ages 18-20 in F&PI Crashes	12,956	12,370	11,460	215,045
With No Passengers*	67.2%	67.3%	67.7%	71.2%
With Passengers	32.8%	32.7%	32.3%	28.8%

*Note: As mandated by NYSDMV regulations, drivers holding permits or junior licenses must have a "qualifying" adult in the vehicle.

- F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 were more likely to involve multiple vehicles than all F&PI crashes (82% vs. 71% in 2018).
- Drivers ages 18-20 involved in F&PI crashes were more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (32% vs. 29% in 2018).

TABLE 3
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 18-20
TIME OF DAY: 2018

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 18-20 (N=52)	Involving All Drivers (N=882)	Involving Drivers Ages 18-20 (N=11,040)	Involving All Drivers (N=121,989)	Involving Drivers Ages 18-20 (N=26,079)	Involving All Drivers (N=311,725)	Involving Drivers Ages 18-20 (N=37,171)	Involving All Drivers (N=434,596)
9pm-Mid	26.9%	16.1%	10.5%	8.7%	9.5%	8.1%	9.8%	8.3%
Mid-5am	19.2%	15.4%	5.9%	5.9%	5.7%	6.1%	5.8%	6.1%
5am-9am	9.6%	11.5%	10.2%	13.7%	11.0%	15.2%	10.7%	14.8%
9am-Noon	3.8%	9.1%	12.4%	13.8%	12.8%	14.4%	12.7%	14.2%
Noon-3pm	9.6%	14.6%	19.2%	18.0%	18.7%	17.7%	18.8%	17.8%
3pm-6pm	17.3%	15.8%	24.9%	23.4%	25.8%	21.1%	25.5%	22.4%
6pm-9pm	13.5%	17.6%	16.2%	15.3%	15.6%	14.3%	15.8%	14.6%
Unknown	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	1.2%	0.9%	2.1%	0.8%	1.9%

- Crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 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 fatal crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 occurred 9pm and midnight (27%). Personal injury crashes (25%) and property damage crashes (26%) 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 18-20
FATALITIES AND PERSONS INJURED

	2016	2017	2018	NYS Total 2018
Total Fatalities	81	95	56	936
Drivers	44 (54.3%)	52 (54.7%)	35 (62.5%)	54.7%
Passengers	18 (22.2%)	22 (23.2%)	10 (17.9%)	13.0%
Pedestrians	17 (21.0%)	17 (17.9%)	11 (19.6%)	29.1%
Bicyclists	2 (2.5%)	4 (4.2%)	0 (0.0%)	3.2%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.0%
Total Persons Injured	18,204	17,542	16,109	168,304
Drivers	12,211 (67.1%)	11,736 (66.9%)	10,873 (67.5%)	59.6%
Passengers	5,377 (29.5%)	5,195 (29.6%)	4,681 (29.1%)	27.2%
Pedestrians	422 (2.3%)	442 (2.5%)	400 (2.5%)	9.4%
Bicyclists	169 (0.9%)	140 (0.8%)	139 (0.9%)	3.3%
Other	25 (0.1%)	29 (0.2%)	16 (0.1%)	0.5%

- In 2018, drivers accounted for 63% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 18-20 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 18-20 were more likely to be passengers (18% vs. 13% in 2018).
- Passengers also accounted for a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 than in all crashes (29% vs. 27% in 2018).
- Pedestrians comprised much smaller proportions of the fatalities and persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 than in all crashes (20% vs. 29% and 3% vs. 9%, respectively, in 2018).

TABLE 5
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 18-20
AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED
IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 18-20: 2018

	Killed or Injured		NYS Total
Total	2,334		45,863
Under Age 4	47	2.0%	3.8%
Ages 4-6	22	0.9%	3.7%
Ages 7-15	175	7.5%	12.0%
Ages 16-17	328	14.1%	3.9%
Ages 18-20	924	39.6%	6.5%
Ages 21-24	339	14.5%	8.9%
Ages 25-29	108	4.6%	10.5%
Age 30 and Over	342	14.7%	47.5%
Unknown Age	49	2.1%	3.1%

- The largest proportion of passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 18-20 were ages 18-20 (40%).
- Passengers ages 16-20 accounted for 54% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 18-20, compared to 10% of the passengers riding with all drivers.
- Only 15% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 18-20 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 18-20*: 2018

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 18-20	53,888	49,276	91.4%	
Drivers Ages 18-20	36,874	34,521	93.6%	655,790 (86.6%)
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-20	6,072	5,502	90.6%	
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	10,942	9,253	84.6%	
Total Killed	22	15	68.2%	
Drivers Ages 18-20	15	11	73.3%	370 (58.4%)
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-20	3	3	100%	
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	4	1	25.0%	
Total Injured	8,072	7,068	87.6%	
Drivers Ages 18-20	5,199	4,763	91.6%	91,358 (90.9%)
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-20	903	766	84.8%	
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	1,970	1,539	78.1%	
Total Uninjured	45,794	42,193	92.1%	
Drivers Ages 18-20	31,660	29,747	94.0%	564,062 (85.9%)
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-20	5,166	4,733	91.6%	
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	8,968	7,713	86.0%	

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

- The overall restraint use for drivers ages 18-20 was higher than the restraint use for passengers ages 18-20. Restraint use for drivers was 94%, compared to 91% for passengers ages 18-20 in vehicles with drivers ages 18-20 and 85% for passengers ages 18-20 in vehicles with drivers of other ages.
- For drivers killed, drivers ages 18-20 were more likely to be restrained than drivers of all ages (73% vs. 58%).
- 92% of the drivers ages 18-20 injured in crashes were restrained; passengers ages 18-20 injured in crashes had lower use rates whether riding with drivers of the same age (85%) or with drivers of any age (78%).

TABLE 7
NYS Fatal and Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 18-20*
SELECT CONTRIBUTING FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DRIVERS

	Drivers Ages 18-20			Total NYS
	2016	2017	2018	2018
Total Drivers	12,383	11,862	11,125	202,845
Select Factors				
Driver Inattention/Distraction	15.7%	16.2%	16.4%	14.9%
Driver Inexperience	4.8%	5.0%	5.0%	1.5%
Failure to Yield ROW	12.3%	14.6%	14.3%	11.2%
Following Too Closely	16.7%	17.1%	16.7%	12.3%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	4.0%	4.2%	4.5%	3.4%
Unsafe Speed	13.0%	12.5%	11.8%	5.7%
Cell Phone	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%
Texting	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	1.5%	1.3%	1.0%	1.6%

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

- In 2018, “driver inattention/distraction” and “following too closely” were the two most frequently reported contributing factors for both drivers ages 18-20 (16% and 17%, respectively) and for all drivers (15% and 12%, respectively) in F&PI crashes.
- Drivers ages 18-20 in F&PI crashes were 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 18-20 were also more likely than all drivers to have “driver inexperience” reported as a contributing factor in F&PI crashes (5% vs. 2% in 2018).

TABLE 8
NYS Traffic Tickets Issued to Drivers Ages 18-20
SELECT VIOLATIONS

	Drivers Ages 18-20			NYS Total
	2016	2017	2018	2018
Total Tickets Issued	265,074	260,517	231,983	3,639,413
Speeding	27.5%	26.6%	27.3%	18.6%
License	7.8%	7.8%	7.8%	7.0%
Traffic Device/Stop Sign	10.2%	10.1%	9.8%	13.7%
Seat Belts	3.5%	3.4%	3.1%	4.4%
Cell Phone	1.3%	1.3%	1.1%	2.4%
Texting	1.5%	1.7%	1.7%	3.1%
Total TSLED Tickets Issued	223,090	219,546	203,068	2,475,442
Impaired Driving	1.4%	1.2%	1.0%	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 2018, 27% of the tickets issued to drivers ages 18-20 were for speeding violations, compared to 19% of the tickets issued to all drivers.

- Drivers ages 18-20 were less likely than all drivers to be issued tickets for cell phone and texting violations in 2018 (3% vs. 6%).
- Drivers ages 18-20 were also 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 18-20
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 18-20
F&PI Crashes (% of total)	5,576 (50.3%)	2,619 (23.6%)	2,897 (26.1%)	11,092
Fatal (% of total)	31 (59.6%)	10 (19.2%)	11 (21.2%)	52
Personal Injury (% of total)	5,545 (50.2%)	2,609 (23.6%)	2,886 (26.1%)	11,040
Fatalities (% of total)	35 (62.5%)	10 (17.9%)	11 (19.6%)	56
Persons Injured (% of total)	7,719 (47.9%)	4,126 (25.6%)	4,264 (26.5%)	16,109
Drivers Involved Ages 18-20 (% of total)	5,770 (50.3%)	2,674 (23.3%)	3,016 (26.3%)	11,460
Male Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)	3,041 (45.5%)	1,968 (29.5%)	1,669 (25.0%)	6,678
Female Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)	2,729 (57.1%)	706 (14.8%)	1,347 (28.2%)	4,782
Licensed Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total)	221,829 (57.2%)	73,435 (19.0%)	92,249 (23.8%)	387,513

- 50% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 in 2018 took place in the Upstate region, 26% occurred on Long Island and 24% in New York City.
- 63% of the fatalities in crashes with drivers ages 18-20 were in the Upstate region, while 18% and 20% of the fatalities occurred in the New York City and Long Island regions, respectively.
- Drivers ages 18-20 are underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region and overrepresented in crashes in the New York City and Long Island regions when compared to the number of licensed drivers in each region.