

# 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**

	2017	2018	2019
<b>Crashes (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>29,754 (9.6%)</b>	<b>37,171 (8.6%)</b>	<b>38,521 (8.6%)</b>
Fatal (% of total NYS)	85 (9.1%)	52 (5.9%)	67 (7.6%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	11,870 (9.7%)	11,040 (9.0%)	10,858 (9.0%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	17,799 (9.6%)	26,079* (8.4%)	27,596* (8.5%)
<b>Fatalities (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>95 (9.5%)</b>	<b>56 (6.0%)</b>	<b>74 (7.9%)</b>
Driver Fatalities Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)	38 (7.3%)	20 (3.9%)	29 (6.1%)
<b>Persons Injured (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>17,542 (10.3%)</b>	<b>16,109 (9.6%)</b>	<b>16,129 (9.7%)</b>
<b>Drivers Involved Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>30,757 (6.0%)</b>	<b>38,365 (5.4%)</b>	<b>39,830 (5.5%)</b>
Male Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)	17,958 (6.1%)	22,500 (5.5%)	23,415 (5.6%)
Female Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)	12,799 (6.8%)	15,865 (6.3%)	16,412 (6.3%)
<b>Licensed Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>389,711 (3.2%)</b>	<b>387,513 (3.2%)</b>	<b>383,639 (3.2%)</b>

- 9%-10% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2017-2019 involved drivers ages 18-20.
- 6%-10% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2017-2019 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 18-20.
- 74 fatalities occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 in 2019, a decrease from 95 fatalities in 2017, representing a decrease of 22%.
- The number of persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 decreased from 17,542 to 16,129 in 2019, a decrease of 8%.
- Drivers ages 18-20 are overrepresented in crashes; 5%-6% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2017-2019 were ages 18-20, compared to 3% 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 18-20**  
**VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS INVOLVED**

	2017	2018	2019	NYS F&PI 2019
<b>Fatal &amp; Personal Injury Crashes</b>	<b>11,955</b>	<b>11,092</b>	<b>10,925</b>	<b>121,949</b>
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	19.1%	17.9%	18.0%	29.5%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	80.9%	82.1%	82.0%	70.5%
<b>Drivers Ages 18-20 in F&amp;PI Crashes</b>	<b>12,370</b>	<b>11,460</b>	<b>11,311</b>	<b>212,888</b>
With No Passengers*	67.3%	67.7%	66.7%	71.6%
With Passengers	32.7%	32.3%	33.3%	28.4%

\*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 2019).
- Drivers ages 18-20 involved in F&PI crashes were more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (33% vs. 28% in 2019).

**TABLE 3**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 18-20**  
**TIME OF DAY: 2019**

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 18-20 (N=67)	Involving All Drivers (N=881)	Involving Drivers Ages 18-20 (N=10,858)	Involving All Drivers (N=121,068)	Involving Drivers Ages 18-20 (N=27,596)	Involving All Drivers (N=325,072)	Involving Drivers Ages 18-20 (N=38,521)	Involving All Drivers (N=447,021)
9pm-Mid	20.9%	15.2%	10.6%	8.9%	9.3%	7.9%	9.7%	8.2%
Mid-5am	10.4%	14.5%	6.5%	6.0%	5.3%	6.0%	5.6%	6.0%
5am-9am	17.9%	13.4%	10.1%	13.5%	11.3%	15.5%	11.0%	14.9%
9am-Noon	9.0%	11.0%	12.1%	13.7%	12.7%	14.3%	12.6%	14.1%
Noon-3pm	10.4%	13.6%	19.2%	18.1%	20.3%	18.0%	20.0%	18.0%
3pm-6pm	19.4%	16.6%	25.0%	23.4%	25.1%	22.1%	25.1%	22.5%
6pm-9pm	11.9%	15.4%	15.9%	15.2%	15.0%	14.2%	15.2%	14.4%
Unknown	0.0%	0.2%	0.6%	1.2%	0.9%	2.0%	0.8%	1.8%

- Crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 were most likely to occur between 3pm and 6pm (25%); 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 (21%). Personal injury crashes (25%) and property damage crashes (25%) 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**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>NYS Total 2019</b>
<b>Total Fatalities</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>938</b>
Drivers	52 (54.7%)	35 (62.5%)	45 (60.8%)	50.6%
Passengers	22 (23.2%)	10 (17.9%)	14 (18.9%)	13.5%
Pedestrians	17 (17.9%)	11 (19.6%)	10 (13.5%)	30.5%
Bicyclists	4 (4.2%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (6.8%)	5.2%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.1%
<b>Total Persons Injured</b>	<b>17,542</b>	<b>16,109</b>	<b>16,129</b>	<b>166,988</b>
Drivers	11,736 (66.9%)	10,873 (67.5%)	10,662 (66.1%)	59.3%
Passengers	5,195 (29.6%)	4,681 (29.1%)	4,863 (30.2%)	27.3%
Pedestrians	442 (2.5%)	400 (2.5%)	407 (2.5%)	9.3%
Bicyclists	140 (0.8%)	139 (0.9%)	159 (1.0%)	3.5%
Other	29 (0.2%)	16 (0.1%)	38 (0.2%)	0.6%

- In 2019, drivers accounted for 61% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 18-20 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 18-20 were more likely to be passengers (19% vs. 14% in 2019).
- Passengers also accounted for a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 than in all crashes (30% vs. 27% in 2019).
- Pedestrians comprised much smaller proportions of the fatalities and persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 than in all crashes (14% vs. 31% and 3% vs. 9%, respectively, in 2019).

**TABLE 5**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 18-20**  
**AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED**  
**IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 18-20: 2019**

	<b>Killed or Injured</b>		<b>NYS Total</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,473</b>		<b>45,707</b>
Under Age 4	46	1.9%	3.9%
Ages 4-6	12	0.5%	3.6%
Ages 7-15	203	8.2%	12.5%
Ages 16-17	358	14.5%	4.0%
Ages 18-20	1,018	41.2%	6.8%
Ages 21-24	322	13.0%	8.7%
Ages 25-29	117	4.7%	10.4%
Age 30 and Over	346	14.0%	47.2%
Unknown Age	51	2.1%	3.0%

- The largest proportion of passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 18-20 were ages 18-20 (41%).
- Passengers ages 16-20 accounted for 56% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 18-20, compared to 11% of the passengers riding with all drivers.
- Only 14% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 18-20 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 18-20\*: 2019**

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
<b>Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 18-20</b>	<b>55,981</b>	<b>51,006</b>	<b>91.1%</b>	
Drivers Ages 18-20	38,486	35,939	93.4%	<b>677,494 (86.4%)</b>
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-20	6,436	5,775	89.7%	
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	11,059	9,292	84.0%	
<b>Total Killed</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>54.8%</b>	
Drivers Ages 18-20	22	14	63.6%	<b>350 (58.6%)</b>
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-20	2	1	50.0%	
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	7	2	28.6%	
<b>Total Injured</b>	<b>8,089</b>	<b>7,030</b>	<b>86.9%</b>	
Drivers Ages 18-20	5,097	4,645	91.1%	<b>90,371 (90.4%)</b>
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-20	1,002	826	82.4%	
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	1,990	1,559	78.3%	
<b>Total Uninjured</b>	<b>47,861</b>	<b>43,959</b>	<b>91.8%</b>	
Drivers Ages 18-20	33,367	31,280	93.7%	<b>586,773 (85.8%)</b>
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-20	5,432	4,948	91.1%	
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	9,062	7,731	85.3%	

\*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 93%, compared to 90% for passengers ages 18-20 in vehicles with drivers ages 18-20 and 84% 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 (64% vs. 59%).
- 91% 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 (82%) 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
	2017	2018	2019	2019
<b>Total Drivers</b>	<b>11,862</b>	<b>11,125</b>	<b>11,016</b>	<b>201,411</b>
<b>Select Factors</b>				
Driver Inattention/Distraction	16.2%	16.4%	16.5%	15.2%
Driver Inexperience	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	1.4%
Failure to Yield ROW	14.6%	14.3%	13.9%	11.2%
Following Too Closely	17.1%	16.7%	16.4%	12.1%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	4.2%	4.5%	4.2%	3.3%
Unsafe Speed	12.5%	11.8%	12.0%	5.6%
Cell Phone	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Texting	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	1.3%	1.0%	1.0%	1.6%

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

- In 2019, “driver inattention/distraction”, “following too closely” and “failure to yield R.O.W.” were the most frequently reported contributing factors for both drivers ages 18-20 (17%, 16% and 14%, respectively) and for all drivers (15%, 12% and 11%, 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 2019).
- 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. 1% in 2019).

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

	Drivers Ages 18-20			NYS Total
	2017	2018	2019	2019
<b>Total Tickets Issued</b>	<b>260,517</b>	<b>231,983</b>	<b>231,516</b>	<b>3,502,973</b>
Speeding	26.6%	27.3%	27.8%	19.2%
License	7.8%	7.8%	7.8%	7.0%
Traffic Device/Stop Sign	10.1%	9.8%	10.3%	13.7%
Seat Belts	3.4%	3.1%	3.1%	4.2%
Cell Phone	1.3%	1.1%	1.0%	2.0%
Texting	1.7%	1.7%	1.9%	3.1%
<b>Total TSLED Tickets Issued</b>	<b>219,546</b>	<b>203,068</b>	<b>192,068</b>	<b>2,429,598</b>
Impaired Driving	1.2%	1.0%	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 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 2019 (3% vs. 5%).
- Drivers ages 18-20 were also 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 18-20**  
**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 18-20
<b>F&amp;PI Crashes (% of total)</b>	<b>5,475 (50.1%)</b>	<b>2,717 (24.9%)</b>	<b>2,733 (25.0%)</b>	<b>10,925</b>
Fatal (% of total)	42 (62.7%)	9 (13.4%)	16 (23.9%)	67
Personal Injury (% of total)	5,533 (50.0%)	2,708 (24.9%)	2,717 (25.0%)	10,858
<b>Fatalities (% of total)</b>	<b>46 (62.2%)</b>	<b>9 (12.2%)</b>	<b>19 (25.7%)</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Persons Injured (% of total)</b>	<b>7,789 (48.3%)</b>	<b>4,302 (26.7%)</b>	<b>4,038 (25.0%)</b>	<b>16,129</b>
<b>Drivers Involved Ages 18-20 (% of total)</b>	<b>5,686 (50.3%)</b>	<b>2,777 (24.6%)</b>	<b>2,848 (25.2%)</b>	<b>11,311</b>
Male Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)	2,999 (45.1%)	2,052 (30.9%)	1,598 (24.0%)	6,649
Female Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)	2,687 (57.6%)	725 (15.6%)	1,250 (26.8%)	4,662
<b>Licensed Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total)</b>	<b>218,046 (56.8%)</b>	<b>74,174 (19.3%)</b>	<b>91,132 (23.8%)</b>	<b>387,513</b>

- 50% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 in 2019 took place in the Upstate region, 25% occurred on Long Island and 25% in New York City.
- 62% of the fatalities in crashes with drivers ages 18-20 were in the Upstate region, while 12% and 26% of the fatalities occurred in the New York City and Long Island regions, respectively.
- Drivers ages 18-20 were underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region (50% of the crashes vs. 57% 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 (25% of the crashes vs. 19% of the licensed drivers).