

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

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Crashes (% of total NYS) | 37,171 (8.6%) | 38,521 (8.6%) | 29,140 (8.9%) |
| Fatal (% of total NYS) | 52 (5.9%) | 67 (7.6%) | 78 (8.3%) |
| Personal Injury (% of total NYS) | 11,040 (9.0%) | 10,858 (9.0%) | 8,624 (9.5%) |
| Property Damage Only (% of total NYS) | 26,079 (8.4%) | 27,596 (8.5%) | 20,438 (8.7%) |
| Fatalities (% of total NYS) | 56 (6.0%) | 74 (7.9%) | 86 (8.3%) |
| Driver Fatalities Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS) | 20 (3.9%) | 29 (6.1%) | 30 (5.3%) |
| Persons Injured (% of total NYS) | 16,109 (9.6%) | 16,129 (9.7%) | 13,032 (10.5%) |
| Drivers Involved Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS) | 38,367 (5.4%) | 39,830 (5.5%) | 30,086 (5.9%) |
| Male Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS) | 22,500 (5.5%) | 23,415 (5.6%) | 18,111 (6.1%) |
| Female Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS) | 15,865 (6.3%) | 16,412 (6.3%) | 11,974 (6.9%) |
| Licensed Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS) | 387,513 (3.2%) | 383,639 (3.2%) | 364,883 (3.0%) |

- 9% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2018-2020 involved drivers ages 18-20.
- 6%-8% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2018-2020 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 18-20.
- 86 fatalities occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 in 2020, an increase from 56 fatalities in 2018, representing an increase of 54%.
- The number of persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 decreased from 16,109 to 13,032 in 2020.
- Drivers ages 18-20 are overrepresented in crashes; 5%-6% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2018-2020 were ages 18-20, compared to 3% of all licensed drivers.

TABLE 2
NYS Fatal & Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 18-20
VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS INVOLVED

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | NYS F&PI 2020 |
|---|---------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| Fatal & Personal Injury Crashes | 11,092 | 10,925 | 8,702 | 91,272 |
| Crashes Involving Single Vehicle | 17.9% | 18.0% | 19.7% | 32.1% |
| Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles | 82.1% | 82.0% | 80.3% | 67.9% |
| Drivers Ages 18-20 in F&PI Crashes | 11,460 | 11,311 | 9,000 | 154,532 |
| With No Passengers* | 67.7% | 66.7% | 63.6% | 72.7% |
| With Passengers | 32.3% | 33.3% | 36.4% | 27.3% |

*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 (80% vs. 68% in 2020).
- Drivers ages 18-20 involved in F&PI crashes were more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (36% vs. 27% in 2020).

TABLE 3
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 18-20
TIME OF DAY: 2020

| Time of Day | Fatal | | Personal Injury | | Property Damage Only | | Total Crashes | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| | Involving Drivers Ages 18-20 (N=78) | Involving All Drivers (N=945) | Involving Drivers Ages 18-20 (N=8,624) | Involving All Drivers (N=90,327) | Involving Drivers Ages 18-20 (N=20,438) | Involving All Drivers (N=236,118) | Involving Drivers Ages 18-20 (N=29,140) | Involving All Drivers (N=327,390) |
| 9pm-Mid | 12.8% | 13.3% | 11.5% | 9.5% | 10.6% | 8.6% | 10.9% | 8.9% |
| Mid-5am | 24.4% | 16.3% | 6.9% | 6.7% | 6.4% | 6.7% | 6.6% | 6.7% |
| 5am-9am | 9.0% | 13.2% | 7.5% | 11.1% | 8.6% | 13.9% | 8.2% | 13.2% |
| 9am-Noon | 3.8% | 9.3% | 10.6% | 12.9% | 11.5% | 13.5% | 11.2% | 13.3% |
| Noon-3pm | 12.8% | 12.6% | 20.2% | 19.2% | 20.2% | 18.5% | 20.2% | 18.7% |
| 3pm-6pm | 19.2% | 17.6% | 24.2% | 23.1% | 24.9% | 21.8% | 24.7% | 22.1% |
| 6pm-9pm | 17.9% | 17.7% | 18.3% | 16.3% | 16.9% | 14.9% | 17.3% | 15.3% |
| Unknown | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.8% | 1.3% | 0.9% | 2.1% | 0.9% | 1.9% |

- 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 between midnight and 5am (24%). 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

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | NYS Total 2020 |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Total Fatalities | 56 | 74 | 86 | 1,032 |
| Drivers | 35 (62.5%) | 45 (60.8%) | 46 (53.5%) | 54.7% |
| Passengers | 10 (17.9%) | 14 (18.9%) | 25 (29.1%) | 16.6% |
| Pedestrians | 11 (19.6%) | 10 (13.5%) | 13 (15.1%) | 23.4% |
| Bicyclists | 0 (0.0%) | 5 (6.8%) | 2 (2.3%) | 5.3% |
| Other | 0 (0.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | 0.0% |
| Total Persons Injured | 16,109 | 16,129 | 13,032 | 124,172 |
| Drivers | 10,873 (67.5%) | 10,662 (66.1%) | 8,416 (64.6%) | 59.4% |
| Passengers | 4,681 (29.1%) | 4,863 (30.2%) | 4,097 (31.4%) | 26.5% |
| Pedestrians | 400 (2.5%) | 407 (2.5%) | 315 (2.4%) | 8.6% |
| Bicyclists | 139 (0.9%) | 159 (1.0%) | 179 (1.4%) | 4.9% |
| Other | 16 (0.1%) | 38 (0.2%) | 25 (0.2%) | 0.6% |

- In 2020, drivers accounted for 54% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 18-20 years of age and 55% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers of all ages.
- Passengers comprised a much higher proportion of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 18-20 years of age than in all crashes (29% vs 17% in 2020).
- Passengers also accounted for a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 than in all crashes (31% vs. 27% in 2020).
- Pedestrians comprised much smaller proportions of the fatalities and persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 than in all crashes (15% vs. 23% and 2% vs. 9%, respectively, in 2020).

TABLE 5
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 18-20
AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED
IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 18-20: 2020

| | Killed or Injured | | NYS Total |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------|------------------|
| Total | 2,319 | | 33,113 |
| Under Age 4 | 29 | 1.3% | 3.1% |
| Ages 4-6 | 12 | 0.5% | 3.3% |
| Ages 7-15 | 186 | 8.0% | 10.4% |
| Ages 16-17 | 323 | 13.9% | 4.1% |
| Ages 18-20 | 1,016 | 43.8% | 8.3% |
| Ages 21-24 | 346 | 14.9% | 10.4% |
| Ages 25-29 | 89 | 3.8% | 11.2% |
| Age 30 and Over | 277 | 11.9% | 45.8% |
| Unknown Age | 41 | 1.8% | 3.4% |

- The largest proportion of passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 18-20 were ages 18-20 (44%).
- Passengers ages 16-20 accounted for 58% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 18-20, compared to 12% of the passengers riding with all drivers.
- Only 12% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 18-20 were age 30 or over, compared to 46% of the passengers riding with all drivers.

TABLE 6
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes
RESTRAINT USE FOR VEHICLE OCCUPANTS AGES 18-20*: 2020

| | Total | Restrained | % Restrained | NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained) |
|--|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 18-20 | 42,118 | 38,398 | 91.2% | |
| Drivers Ages 18-20 | 28,712 | 26,807 | 93.4% | 461,930 (85.5%) |
| Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-20 | 5,519 | 4,897 | 88.7% | |
| Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages | 7,887 | 6,694 | 84.9% | |
| Total Killed | 44 | 21 | 47.7% | |
| Drivers Ages 18-20 | 23 | 14 | 60.9% | 390 (55.4%) |
| Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-20 | 8 | 4 | 50.0% | |
| Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages | 13 | 3 | 23.1% | |
| Total Injured | 6,768 | 5,772 | 85.3% | |
| Drivers Ages 18-20 | 4,160 | 3,749 | 90.1% | 64,658 (89.4%) |
| Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-20 | 982 | 791 | 80.5% | |
| Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages | 1,626 | 1,232 | 75.8% | |
| Total Uninjured | 35,306 | 32,605 | 92.3% | |
| Drivers Ages 18-20 | 24,529 | 23,044 | 93.9% | 396,882 (84.8%) |
| Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-20 | 4,529 | 4,102 | 90.6% | |
| Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages | 6,248 | 5,459 | 87.4% | |

*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 88% 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 (61% vs. 55%).
- 90% 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 (81%) or with drivers of any age (76%).

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 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2020 |
| Total Drivers | 11,125 | 11,016 | 8,662 | 142,341 |
| Select Factors | | | | |
| Driver Inattention/Distraction | 16.4% | 16.5% | 16.1% | 15.1% |
| Driver Inexperience | 5.0% | 5.0% | 6.0% | 1.9% |
| Failure to Yield ROW | 14.3% | 13.9% | 14.3% | 11.2% |
| Following Too Closely | 16.7% | 16.4% | 13.4% | 10.2% |
| Traffic Control Device Disregarded | 4.5% | 4.2% | 5.2% | 3.9% |
| Unsafe Speed | 11.8% | 12.0% | 13.1% | 6.8% |
| Cell Phone | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.6% | 0.2% |
| Texting | <0.1% | <0.1% | 0.0% | <0.1% |
| Alcohol Involvement | 1.0% | 1.0% | 1.0% | 1.9% |

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

- In 2020, “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 (16%, 13% and 14%, respectively) and for all drivers (15%, 10% and 11%, respectively) in F&PI crashes.
- Drivers ages 18-20 in F&PI crashes were nearly twice as likely as all drivers in F&PI crashes to have “unsafe speed” reported as a contributing factor (13% vs. 7% in 2020).
- 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 (6% vs. 2% in 2020).

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

| | Drivers Ages 18-20 | | | NYS Total |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2020 |
| Total Tickets Issued | 231,983 | 231,516 | 180,834 | 2,274,612 |
| Speeding | 27.3% | 27.8% | 34.6% | 24.9% |
| License | 7.8% | 7.8% | 8.1% | 7.8% |
| Traffic Device/Stop Sign | 9.8% | 10.3% | 8.3% | 10.6% |
| Seat Belts | 3.1% | 3.1% | 2.8% | 3.8% |
| Cell Phone | 1.1% | 1.0% | 0.7% | 1.6% |
| Texting | 1.7% | 1.9% | 1.5% | 2.6% |
| Total TSLED Tickets Issued | 203,068 | 192,068 | 152,818 | 1,712,701 |
| Impaired Driving | 1.0% | 0.9% | 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 2020, 35% of the tickets issued to drivers ages 18-20 were for speeding violations, compared to 25% 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 2020 (2% vs. 4%).
- Drivers ages 18-20 were also less likely than all drivers to be issued tickets for impaired driving under TSLED in 2020 (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: 2020

| | UPSTATE | NYC | LONG ISLAND | NYS F&PI Involving Drivers Ages 18-20 |
|---|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| F&PI Crashes (% of total) | 4,249 (48.8%) | 2,370 (27.2%) | 2,083 (23.9%) | 8,702 |
| Fatal (% of total) | 45 (57.7%) | 16 (20.5%) | 17 (21.8%) | 78 |
| Personal Injury (% of total) | 4,204 (48.7%) | 2,354 (27.3%) | 2,066 (24.0%) | 8,624 |
| Fatalities (% of total) | 50 (58.1%) | 18 (20.9%) | 18 (20.9%) | 86 |
| Persons Injured (% of total) | 6,110 (46.9%) | 3,786 (29.1%) | 3,136 (24.1%) | 13,032 |
| Drivers Involved Ages 18-20 (% of total) | 4,405 (48.9%) | 2,427 (27.0%) | 2,168 (24.1%) | 9,000 |
| Male Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS) | 2,398 (43.7%) | 1,815 (33.0%) | 1,280 (23.3%) | 5,493 |
| Female Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS) | 2,006 (57.2%) | 612 (17.5%) | 888 (25.3%) | 3,506 |
| Licensed Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total) | 209,147 (57.3%) | 68,890 (18.9%) | 86,846 (23.8%) | 364,883 |

- 49% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 in 2020 took place in the Upstate region, 24% occurred on Long Island and 27% in New York City.
- 58% of the fatalities in crashes with drivers ages 18-20 were in the Upstate region, while 21% of the fatalities occurred in both the New York City and Long Island regions.
- Drivers ages 18-20 were underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region (49% of the crashes vs. 57% of the licensed drivers) and overrepresented in crashes in NYC (27% of the crashes vs. 19% of the licensed drivers) and equally represented in the Long Island region (24% of the crashes and 24% of the licensed drivers).