

NEW YORK STATE FACT SHEET ON YOUNG DRIVERS AGES 18-24

PREPARED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH

TABLE 1
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 18-24
SEVERITY OF CRASH, FATALITIES & PERSONS INJURED, AND DRIVERS INVOLVED

	2017	2018	2019
Crashes (% of total NYS)	72,959 (23.6%)	94,378 (21.7%)	96,033 (21.5%)
Fatal (% of total NYS)	190 (20.4%)	173 (19.6%)	159 (18.0%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	29,748 (24.3%)	28,234 (23.1%)	27,719 (22.9%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	43,021 (23.1%)	65,971* (21.2%)	68,155* (21.0%)
Fatalities (% of total NYS)	211 (21.1%)	187 (20.0%)	176 (18.8%)
Driver Fatalities Ages 18-24 (% of total NYS)	75 (14.5%)	81 (15.8%)	70 (14.7%)
Persons Injured (% of total NYS)	43,886 (25.9%)	41,257 (24.5%)	40,811 (24.4%)
Drivers Involved Ages 18-24 (% of total NYS)	78,595 (15.4%)	101,291 (14.3%)	103,029 (14.2%)
Male Drivers Ages 18-24 (% of total NYS)	46,250 (15.8%)	60,168 (14.6%)	61,036 (14.6%)
Female Drivers Ages 18-24 (% of total NYS)	32,345 (17.1%)	41,123 (16.2%)	41,983 (16.0%)
Licensed Drivers Ages 18-24 (% of total NYS)	1,081,329 (8.9%)	1,069,404 (8.8%)	1,056,886 (8.8%)

- 22%-24% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2017-2019 involved drivers ages 18-24.
- 19%-21% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2017-2019 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 18-24.
- The number of fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 18-24 dropped from 211 in 2017 to 176 in 2019, representing a decrease of 17%.
- The number of persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 18-24 decreased from 43,886 in 2017 to 40,811 in 2019, a decrease of 7%.
- Drivers ages 18-24 are overrepresented in crashes; 14%-15% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2017-2019 were ages 18-24, compared to 9% of all licensed drivers each year.

**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 18-24
VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS INVOLVED

	2017	2018	2019	NYS F&PI 2019
Fatal & Personal Injury Crashes	29,938	28,407	27,878	121,949
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	18.5%	17.5%	17.5%	29.5%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	81.5%	82.5%	82.5%	70.5%
Drivers Ages 18-24 in F&PI Crashes	32,416	30,702	30,198	212,888
With No Passengers*	69.1%	69.1%	69.2%	71.6%
With Passengers	30.9%	30.9%	30.8%	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 18-24 were more likely to involve multiple vehicles than all F&PI crashes (83% vs. 71% in 2019).
- Drivers ages 18-24 involved in F&PI crashes were slightly more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (31% vs. 28% in 2019).

TABLE 3
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 18-24
TIME OF DAY: 2019

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 18-24 (N=159)	Involving All Drivers (N=881)	Involving Drivers Ages 18-24 (N=27,719)	Involving All Drivers (N=121,068)	Involving Drivers Ages 18-24 (N=68,155)	Involving All Drivers (N=325,072)	Involving Drivers Ages 18-24 (N=96,033)	Involving All Drivers (N=447,021)
9pm-Mid	18.9%	15.2%	10.4%	8.9%	9.1%	7.9%	9.5%	8.2%
Mid-5am	19.5%	14.5%	7.3%	6.0%	6.1%	6.0%	6.5%	6.0%
5am-9am	13.2%	13.4%	12.1%	13.5%	13.1%	15.5%	12.8%	14.9%
9am-Noon	10.1%	11.0%	12.2%	13.7%	13.0%	14.3%	12.7%	14.1%
Noon-3pm	11.3%	13.6%	17.8%	18.1%	18.7%	18.0%	18.4%	18.0%
3pm-6pm	16.4%	16.6%	23.9%	23.4%	24.3%	22.1%	24.2%	22.5%
6pm-9pm	10.7%	15.4%	15.6%	15.2%	14.6%	14.2%	14.9%	14.4%
Unknown	0.0%	0.2%	0.8%	1.2%	1.0%	2.0%	0.9%	1.8%

- Crashes involving drivers ages 18-24 were most likely to occur between 3pm and 6pm (24%); the largest proportion of crashes involving all drivers (23%) also occurred during this time period.
- The largest proportion of fatal crashes involving drivers ages 18-24 occurred midnight-5am (20%). Personal injury crashes and property damage crashes involving drivers in this age group were most likely to occur 3pm-6pm (both 24%).

TABLE 4
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 18-24
FATALITIES AND PERSONS INJURED

	2017	2018	2019	NYS Total 2019
Total Fatalities	211	187	176	938
Drivers	115 (54.5%)	119 (63.6%)	104 (59.1%)	50.6%
Passengers	57 (27.0%)	25 (13.4%)	34 (19.3%)	13.5%
Pedestrians	33 (15.6%)	41 (21.9%)	31 (17.6%)	30.5%
Bicyclists	6 (2.8%)	2 (1.1%)	7 (4.0%)	5.2%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.1%
Total Persons Injured	43,886	41,257	40,811	166,988
Drivers	28,886 (65.8%)	27,450 (66.5%)	26,892 (65.9%)	59.3%
Passengers	13,078 (29.8%)	12,103 (29.3%)	12,126 (29.7%)	27.3%
Pedestrians	1,324 (3.0%)	1,206 (2.9%)	1,221 (3.0%)	9.3%
Bicyclists	515 (1.2%)	430 (1.0%)	461 (1.1%)	3.5%
Other	83 (0.2%)	68 (0.2%)	111 (0.3%)	0.6%

- In 2019, drivers accounted for 59% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 18-24 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 18-24 were more likely to be passengers (19% vs. 14% in 2019).
- Drivers also accounted for a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 18-24 than in all crashes (66% vs. 59% in 2019).
- Pedestrians comprised much smaller proportions of the fatalities and persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 18-24 than in all crashes (18% vs. 31% and 3% vs. 9%, respectively, in 2019).

TABLE 5
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 18-24
AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED
IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 18-24: 2019

	Killed or Injured		NYS Total
Total	6,306		45,707
Under Age 4	234	3.7%	3.9%
Ages 4-6	107	1.7%	3.6%
Ages 7-15	388	6.2%	12.5%
Ages 16-17	459	7.3%	4.0%
Ages 18-20	1,581	25.1%	6.8%
Ages 21-24	1,556	24.7%	8.7%
Ages 25-29	681	10.8%	10.4%
Age 30 and Over	1,136	18.0%	47.2%
Unknown Age	164	%	3.0%

- The largest proportion of passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 18-24 were ages 18-20 and 21-24 (both 25%).
- Passengers ages 18-24 accounted for 50% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 18-24, compared to 16% of the passengers riding with all drivers.
- Only 18% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 18-24 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 18-24*: 2019

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 18-24	136,265	123,187	90.4%	
Drivers Ages 18-24	98,713	91,214	92.4%	677,494 (86.4%)
Passengers Ages 18-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-24	18,057	15,984	88.5%	
Passengers Ages 18-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	19,495	15,989	82.0%	
Total Killed	84	40	47.6%	
Drivers Ages 18-24	55	31	56.4%	350 (58.6%)
Passengers Ages 18-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-24	12	7	58.3%	
Passengers Ages 18-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	17	2	11.8%	
Total Injured	20,402	17,610	86.3%	
Drivers Ages 18-24	13,585	12,246	90.1%	90,371 (90.4%)
Passengers Ages 18-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-24	3,054	2,499	81.8%	
Passengers Ages 18-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	3,763	2,865	76.1%	
Total Uninjured	115,779	105,537	91.2%	
Drivers Ages 18-24	85,073	78,937	92.8%	586,773 (85.8%)
Passengers Ages 18-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-24	14,991	13,478	89.9%	
Passengers Ages 18-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	15,715	13,122	83.5%	

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

- The overall restraint use for drivers ages 18-24 was higher than the restraint use for passengers ages 18-24. Restraint use for drivers was 92%, compared to 89% for passengers ages 18-24 in vehicles with drivers ages 18-24 and 82% for passengers ages 18-24 in vehicles with drivers of other ages.
- For drivers killed, drivers ages 18-24 were less likely to be restrained than drivers of all ages (56% vs. 59%).
- 90% of the drivers ages 18-24 injured in crashes were restrained; passengers ages 18-24 injured in crashes had lower use rates whether riding with drivers of the same age (82%) or with drivers of any age (76%).

TABLE 7
NYS Fatal and Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 18-24*
SELECT CONTRIBUTING FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DRIVERS

	Drivers Ages 18-24			Total NYS
	2017	2018	2019	2019
Total Drivers	30,673	29,618	29,137	201,411
Select Factors				
Driver Inattention/Distraction	16.1%	15.9%	16.2%	15.2%
Driver Inexperience	3.4%	3.3%	3.2%	1.4%
Failure to Yield ROW	12.4%	12.3%	12.2%	11.2%
Following Too Closely	16.3%	16.0%	15.6%	12.1%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	4.1%	4.1%	4.0%	3.3%
Unsafe Speed	10.8%	10.4%	10.5%	5.6%
Cell Phone	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Texting	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	2.1%	1.9%	1.7%	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 18-24 (16%, 16% and 12%, respectively) and for all drivers (15%, 12% and 11%, respectively) in F&PI crashes.
- Drivers ages 18-24 in F&PI crashes were more likely than all drivers in F&PI crashes to have “unsafe speed” reported as a contributing factor (11% vs. 6% in 2019).
- As would be expected, drivers ages 18-24 were also more likely than all drivers to have “driver inexperience” reported as a contributing factor in F&PI crashes (3% vs. 1% in 2019).

TABLE 8
NYS Traffic Tickets Issued to Drivers Ages 18-24
SELECT VIOLATIONS

	Drivers Ages 18-24			NYS Total
	2017	2018	2019	2019
Total Tickets Issued	749,372	687,228	654,848	3,502,973
Speeding	23.4%	23.8%	24.7%	19.2%
License	8.4%	8.3%	8.2%	7.0%
Traffic Device/Stop Sign	10.6%	10.7%	10.8%	13.7%
Seat Belts	3.7%	3.4%	3.5%	4.2%
Cell Phone	1.6%	1.3%	1.2%	2.0%
Texting	2.2%	2.2%	2.4%	3.1%
Total TSLED Tickets Issued	585,134	547,650	513,983	2,429,598
Impaired Driving	2.0%	1.9%	1.8%	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, 25% of the tickets issued to drivers ages 18-24 were for speeding violations, compared to 19% of the tickets issued to all drivers.

- Drivers ages 18-24 were less likely than all drivers to be issued tickets for cell phone and texting violations in 2019 (4% vs. 5%).
- Drivers ages 18-24 were equally likely as all drivers to be issued tickets for impaired driving under TSLED in 2019 (both 2%).

TABLE 9
NYS Motor Vehicle Fatal and Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 18-24
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 18-24
F&PI Crashes (% of total)	12,571 (45.1%)	8,986 (32.2%)	6,321 (22.7%)	27,878
Fatal (% of total)	93 (58.5%)	30 (18.9%)	36 (22.6%)	159
Personal Injury (% of total)	12,478 (45.0%)	8,956 (32.3%)	6,285 (22.7%)	27,719
Fatalities (% of total)	102 (58.0%)	33 (18.8%)	41 (23.3%)	176
Persons Injured (% of total)	17,551 (43.0%)	13,965 (34.2%)	9,295 (22.8%)	40,811
Drivers Involved Ages 18-24 (% of total)	13,637 (45.2%)	9,601 (31.8%)	6,960 (23.0%)	30,198
Male Drivers Ages 18-24 (% of total NYS)	7,177 (39.8%)	6,972 (38.7%)	3,882 (21.5%)	18,031
Female Drivers Ages 18-24 (% of total NYS)	6,459 (53.1%)	2,628 (21.6%)	3,078 (25.3%)	12,165
Licensed Drivers Ages 18-24 (% of total)	559,021 (52.9%)	263,838 (25.0%)	231,803 (21.9%)	1,069,404

- 45% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 18-24 in 2019 took place in the Upstate region, 32% occurred in New York City and 23% on Long Island.
- 58% of the fatalities in crashes with drivers ages 18-24 were in the Upstate region, while 19% and 23% of the fatalities occurred in the New York City and Long Island regions, respectively.
- Drivers ages 18-24 were underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region (45% of the crashes vs. 53% of the licensed drivers) and overrepresented in crashes in the Long Island region (23% of the crashes vs. 22% of the licensed drivers) and in NYC (32% of the crashes vs. 25% of the licensed drivers).