

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

	2018	2019	2020
Crashes (% of total NYS)	94,378 (21.7%)	96,033 (21.5%)	70,920 (21.7%)
Fatal (% of total NYS)	173 (19.6%)	159 (18.0%)	208 (22.0%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	28,234 (23.1%)	27,719 (22.9%)	21,387 (23.7%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	65,971 (21.2%)	68,155 (21.0%)	49,325 (20.9%)
Fatalities (% of total NYS)	187 (20.0%)	176 (18.8%)	235 (22.8%)
Driver Fatalities Ages 18-24 (% of total NYS)	81 (15.8%)	70 (14.7%)	90 (15.9%)
Persons Injured (% of total NYS)	41,257 (24.5%)	40,811 (24.4%)	31,842 (25.6%)
Drivers Involved Ages 18-24 (% of total NYS)	101,296 (14.3%)	103,029 (14.2%)	75,884 (14.9%)
Male Drivers Ages 18-24 (% of total NYS)	60,168 (14.6%)	61,036 (14.6%)	46,341 (15.6%)
Female Drivers Ages 18-24 (% of total NYS)	41,123 (16.2%)	41,986 (16.0%)	29,541 (17.0%)
Licensed Drivers Ages 18-24 (% of total NYS)	1,069,404 (8.8%)	1,056,886 (8.8%)	1,036,354 (8.4%)

- 22% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2018-2020 involved drivers ages 18-24.
- 18%-22% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2018-2020 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 18-24.
- The number of fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 18-24 increased from 187 in 2018 to 235 in 2020, representing an increase of 26%.
- The number of persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 18-24 decreased from 41,257 in 2018 to 31,842 in 2020, a decrease of 23%.
- Drivers ages 18-24 are overrepresented in crashes; 14%-15% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2018-2020 were ages 18-24, compared to 8%-9% of all licensed drivers each year.

TABLE 2
NYS Fatal & Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 18-24
VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS INVOLVED

	2018	2019	2020	NYS F&PI 2020
Fatal & Personal Injury Crashes	28,407	27,878	21,595	91,272
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	17.5%	17.5%	19.4%	32.1%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	82.5%	82.5%	80.6%	67.9%
Drivers Ages 18-24 in F&PI Crashes	30,702	30,198	23,338	154,532
With No Passengers*	69.1%	69.2%	66.9%	72.7%
With Passengers	30.9%	30.8%	33.1%	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 18-24 were more likely to involve multiple vehicles than all F&PI crashes (81% vs. 68% in 2020).
- Drivers ages 18-24 involved in F&PI crashes were more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (33% vs. 27% in 2020).

TABLE 3
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 18-24
TIME OF DAY: 2020

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 18-24 (N=208)	Involving All Drivers (N=945)	Involving Drivers Ages 18-24 (N=21,387)	Involving All Drivers (N=90,327)	Involving Drivers Ages 18-24 (N=49,325)	Involving All Drivers (N=236,118)	Involving Drivers Ages 18-24 (N=70,920)	Involving All Drivers (N=327,390)
9pm-Mid	15.4%	13.3%	11.4%	9.5%	10.1%	8.6%	10.5%	8.9%
Mid-5am	24.0%	16.3%	7.7%	6.7%	6.8%	6.7%	7.1%	6.7%
5am-9am	11.1%	13.2%	9.0%	11.1%	10.9%	13.9%	10.3%	13.2%
9am-Noon	6.3%	9.3%	10.6%	12.9%	11.7%	13.5%	11.3%	13.3%
Noon-3pm	9.6%	12.6%	19.0%	19.2%	19.0%	18.5%	19.0%	18.7%
3pm-6pm	17.3%	17.6%	23.7%	23.1%	24.3%	21.8%	24.1%	22.1%
6pm-9pm	16.3%	17.7%	17.5%	16.3%	16.1%	14.9%	16.6%	15.3%
Unknown	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	1.3%	1.1%	2.1%	1.1%	1.9%

- Crashes involving drivers ages 18-24 were most likely to occur between 3pm and 6pm (24%); the largest proportion of crashes involving all drivers (22%) also occurred during this time period.
- The largest proportion of fatal crashes involving drivers ages 18-24 occurred midnight-5am (24%). 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

	2018	2019	2020	NYS Total 2020
Total Fatalities	187	176	235	1,032
Drivers	119 (63.6%)	104 (59.1%)	136 (57.9%)	54.7%
Passengers	25 (13.4%)	34 (19.3%)	57 (24.3%)	16.6%
Pedestrians	41 (21.9%)	31 (17.6%)	35 (14.9%)	23.4%
Bicyclists	2 (1.1%)	7 (4.0%)	7 (3.0%)	5.3%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.0%
Total Persons Injured	41,257	40,811	31,842	124,172
Drivers	27,450 (66.5%)	26,892 (65.9%)	20,665 (64.9%)	59.4%
Passengers	12,103 (29.3%)	12,126 (29.7%)	9,662 (30.3%)	26.5%
Pedestrians	1,206 (2.9%)	1,221 (3.0%)	922 (2.9%)	8.6%
Bicyclists	430 (1.0%)	461 (1.1%)	505 (1.6%)	4.9%
Other	68 (0.2%)	111 (0.3%)	88 (0.3%)	0.6%

- In 2020, drivers accounted for 58% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 18-24 years of age and 55% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers of all ages.
- Passengers comprised a higher proportion of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 18-24 years of age than in all crashes (24% vs 17% in 2020).
- Drivers also accounted for a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 18-24 than in all crashes (65% vs. 59% in 2020).
- Pedestrians comprised much smaller proportions of the fatalities and persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 18-24 than in all crashes (15% vs. 23% and 3% vs. 9%, respectively, in 2020).

TABLE 5
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 18-24
AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED
IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 18-24: 2020

	Killed or Injured		NYS Total
Total	5,483		33,113
Under Age 4	159	2.9%	3.1%
Ages 4-6	70	1.3%	3.3%
Ages 7-15	317	5.8%	10.4%
Ages 16-17	424	7.7%	4.1%
Ages 18-20	1,522	27.8%	8.3%
Ages 21-24	1,433	26.1%	10.4%
Ages 25-29	558	10.2%	11.2%
Age 30 and Over	874	15.9%	45.8%
Unknown Age	126	2.3%	3.4%

- The largest proportion of passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 18-24 were ages 18-20 and 21-24 (28% and 26%, respectively).
- Passengers ages 18-24 accounted for 54% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 18-24, compared to 19% of the passengers riding with all drivers.
- Only 16% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 18-24 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 18-24*: 2020

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 18-24	99,172	89,683	90.4%	
Drivers Ages 18-24	71,377	65,908	92.3%	461,930 (85.5%)
Passengers Ages 18-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-24	14,460	12,682	87.7%	
Passengers Ages 18-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	13,335	11,093	83.2%	
Total Killed	112	49	43.8%	
Drivers Ages 18-24	62	36	58.1%	390 (55.4%)
Passengers Ages 18-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-24	27	8	29.6%	
Passengers Ages 18-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	23	5	21.7%	
Total Injured	16,459	13,694	84.8%	
Drivers Ages 18-24	10,656	9,491	89.1%	64,658 (89.4%)
Passengers Ages 18-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-24	2,805	2,250	80.2%	
Passengers Ages 18-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	2,998	2,223	74.1%	
Total Uninjured	82,601	75,670	91.6%	
Drivers Ages 18-24	60,659	56,381	92.9%	396,882 (84.8%)
Passengers Ages 18-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-24	11,628	10,424	89.6%	
Passengers Ages 18-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	10,314	8,865	86.0%	

*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 88% for passengers ages 18-24 in vehicles with drivers ages 18-24 and 83% for passengers ages 18-24 in vehicles with drivers of other ages.
- For drivers killed, drivers ages 18-24 were more likely to be restrained than drivers of all ages (58% vs. 55%).
- 89% 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 (80%) or with drivers of any age (74%).

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
	2018	2019	2020	2020
Total Drivers	29,618	29,137	22,147	142,341
Select Factors				
Driver Inattention/Distraction	15.9%	16.2%	15.7%	15.1%
Driver Inexperience	3.3%	3.2%	4.3%	1.9%
Failure to Yield ROW	12.3%	12.2%	12.3%	11.2%
Following Too Closely	16.0%	15.6%	12.8%	10.2%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	4.1%	4.0%	4.8%	3.9%
Unsafe Speed	10.4%	10.5%	12.0%	6.8%
Cell Phone	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%
Texting	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	1.9%	1.7%	1.8%	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 18-24 (16%, 13% and 12%, respectively) and for all drivers (15%, 10% 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 (12% vs. 7% in 2020).
- 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 (4% vs. 2% in 2020).

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

	Drivers Ages 18-24			NYS Total
	2018	2019	2020	2020
Total Tickets Issued	687,228	654,848	489,829	2,274,612
Speeding	23.8%	24.7%	31.6%	24.9%
License	8.3%	8.2%	9.0%	7.8%
Traffic Device/Stop Sign	10.7%	10.8%	8.5%	10.6%
Seat Belts	3.4%	3.5%	3.1%	3.8%
Cell Phone	1.3%	1.2%	0.8%	1.6%
Texting	2.2%	2.4%	1.8%	2.6%
Total TSLED Tickets Issued	547,650	513,983	398,996	1,712,701
Impaired Driving	1.9%	1.8%	1.6%	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, 32% of the tickets issued to drivers ages 18-24 were for speeding violations, compared to 25% of the tickets issued to all drivers.

- Drivers ages 18-24 were slightly less likely than all drivers to be issued tickets for cell phone and texting violations in 2020 (3% vs. 4%).
- Drivers ages 18-24 were equally likely as all drivers to be issued tickets for impaired driving under TSLED in 2020 (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: 2020

	UPSTATE	NYC	LONG ISLAND	NYS F&PI Involving Drivers Ages 18-24
F&PI Crashes (% of total)	9,572 (44.3%)	7,333 (34.0%)	4,690 (21.7%)	21,595
Fatal (% of total)	123 (59.1%)	41 (19.7%)	44 (21.2%)	208
Personal Injury (% of total)	9,449 (44.2%)	7,292 (34.1%)	4,646 (21.7%)	21,387
Fatalities (% of total)	143 (60.9%)	45 (19.1%)	47 (20.0%)	235
Persons Injured (% of total)	13,480 (42.3%)	11,417 (35.9%)	6,945 (21.8%)	31,842
Drivers Involved Ages 18-24 (% of total)	10,337 (44.3%)	7,849 (33.6%)	5,152 (22.1%)	23,338
Male Drivers Ages 18-24 (% of total NYS)	5,747 (39.5%)	5,760 (39.6%)	3,047 (20.9%)	14,554
Female Drivers Ages 18-24 (% of total NYS)	4,589 (52.2%)	2,089 (23.8%)	2105 (24.0%)	8,783
Licensed Drivers Ages 18-24 (% of total)	552,175 (53.3%)	255,628 (24.7%)	228,521 (22.1%)	1,036,354

- 44% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 18-24 in 2020 took place in the Upstate region, 34% occurred in New York City and 22% on Long Island.
- 61% of the fatalities in crashes with drivers ages 18-24 were in the Upstate region, while 19% and 20% 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 (44% of the crashes vs. 53% of the licensed drivers) and overrepresented in crashes in NYC (34% of the crashes vs. 25% of the licensed drivers) and equally represented in crashes in the Long Island region (22% of the crashes and 22% of the licensed drivers).