

NEW YORK STATE
FACT SHEET ON YOUNG DRIVERS AGES 16-18
 PREPARED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH

TABLE 1
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-18
SEVERITY OF CRASH, FATALITIES & INJURIES, AND DRIVERS INVOLVED

	2019	2020	2021
Crashes (% of total NYS)	23,066 (5.2%)	16,681 (5.1%)	20,384 (5.5%)
Fatal (% of total NYS)	28 (3.2%)	34 (3.6%)	47 (4.4%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	6,284 (5.2%)	4,643 (5.1%)	5,535 (5.2%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	16,754 (5.2%)	12,004 (5.1%)	14,802 (5.6%)
Fatalities (% of total NYS)	37 (3.9%)	36 (3.5%)	53 (4.7%)
Driver Fatalities Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)	9 (1.9%)	14 (2.5%)	19 (3.0%)
Persons Injured (% of total NYS)	9,417 (5.6%)	7,037 (5.7%)	8,441 (5.8%)
Drivers Involved Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)	23,759 (3.3%)	17,078 (3.4%)	20,960 (3.6%)
Male Drivers Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)	13,263 (3.2%)	9,946 (3.4%)	11,917 (3.5%)
Female Drivers Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)	10,494 (4.0%)	7,131 (4.1%)	9,043 (4.4%)
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)	198,591 (1.6%)	173,053 (1.4%)	183,956 (1.5%)

- 5% - 6% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2019-2021 involved drivers ages 16-18.
- 4%-5% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2019-2021 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 16-18.
- The number of persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 decreased 25% from 9,417 in 2019 to 7,037 in 2020 and then increased 20% to 8,441 in 2021.
- Drivers ages 16-18 are overrepresented in crashes; 3%-4% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2019-2021 were ages 16-18, compared to approximately 2% of all licensed drivers.

TABLE 2
NYS Fatal & Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-18
VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS INVOLVED

	2019	2020	2021	NYS F&PI 2021
Fatal & Personal Injury Crashes	6,312	4,677	5,582	106,950
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	19.4%	21.4%	18.5%	30.0%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	80.6%	78.6%	81.5%	70%
Drivers Ages 16-18 in F&PI Crashes	6,485	4,804	5,706	182,718
With No Passengers*	60.4%	59.8%	61.2%	73.1%
With Passengers	39.6%	40.2%	38.8%	26.9%

*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 16-18 are more likely to involve multiple vehicles than all F&PI crashes (82% vs. 70% in 2021).
- Drivers ages 16-18 involved in F&PI crashes are more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (39% vs. 27% in 2021).

TABLE 3
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-18
TIME OF DAY: 2021

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 16-18 (N=47)	Involving All Drivers (N=1,068)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-18 (N=5,535)	Involving All Drivers (N=105,882)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-18 (N=14,802)	Involving All Drivers (N=265,209)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-18 (N=20,384)	Involving All Drivers (N=372,159)
9pm-Mid	27.7%	17.9%	11.2%	10.0%	9.5%	8.6%	10.0%	9.0%
Mid-5am	17.0%	16.9%	5.8%	7.0%	4.3%	6.9%	4.7%	6.9%
5am-9am	10.6%	10.7%	7.3%	11.5%	8.9%	14.1%	8.5%	13.3%
9am-Noon	8.5%	8.3%	11.4%	12.7%	11.3%	13.7%	11.3%	13.4%
Noon-3pm	14.9%	14.4%	20.1%	18.6%	21.2%	18.2%	20.9%	18.3%
3pm-6pm	14.9%	14.5%	25.8%	23.1%	27.0%	22.0%	26.6%	22.3%
6pm-9pm	6.4%	16.8%	17.9%	15.6%	17.2%	14.7%	17.3%	15.0%
Unknown	0.0%	0.5%	0.6%	1.5%	0.6%	1.8%	0.6%	1.7%

- Regardless of injury level, the proportion of crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 was larger than the proportion for crashes involving all drivers during the Noon-Midnight time periods.
- The largest proportions of fatal crashes (28%) involving drivers ages 16-18 occurred during the 9pm-Midnight time period. The largest proportion of personal injury and property damage crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 occurred during the 3pm-6pm time period (26% and 27%, respectively).

TABLE 4
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-18
FATALITIES AND INJURIES

	2019	2020	2021	NYS Total 2021
Total Fatalities	37	36	53	1,126
Drivers	17 (45.9%)	23 (63.9%)	26 (49.1%)	57.1%
Passengers	15 (40.5%)	8 (22.2%)	19 (35.8%)	11.9%
Pedestrians	4 (10.8%)	5 (13.9%)	5 (9.4%)	27.0%
Bicyclists	1 (2.7%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (5.7%)	4.0%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.0%
Total Persons Injured	9,417	7,037	8,441	145,968
Drivers	6,165 (65.5%)	4,451 (63.3%)	5,538 (65.6%)	59.6%
Passengers	2,994 (31.8%)	2,339 (33.2%)	2,630 (31.2%)	26.3%
Pedestrians	164 (1.7%)	155 (2.2%)	178 (2.1%)	8.5%
Bicyclists	77 (0.8%)	84 (1.2%)	78 (0.9%)	4.8%
Other	17 (0.2%)	8 (0.1%)	17 (0.2%)	0.7%

- In 2021, drivers accounted for the largest proportion of fatalities in both crashes involving drivers 16-18 years of age and crashes involving drivers of all ages (49% and 57%, respectively).
- Pedestrians comprise a far smaller proportion of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 than in all crashes (9% vs. 27% in 2021).
- Drivers comprise a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 than in all crashes (66% vs. 60% in 2021).

TABLE 5
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-18
AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED
IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 16-18: 2021

	Killed or Injured		NYS Total
Total	1,414		38,477
Under Age 4	4	0.3%	3.4%
Ages 4-6	16	1.1%	3.2%
Ages 7-15	198	14.0%	10.7%
Ages 16-17	731	51.7%	6.5%
Ages 18-20	190	13.4%	5.1%
Ages 21-24	84	5.9%	9.5%
Ages 25-29	17	1.2%	10.7%
Age 30 and Over	152	10.7%	46.8%
Unknown Age	22	1.6%	4.1%

- More than half (52%) of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-18 were also ages 16-18.
- Only 11% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-18 were age 30 or over compared to 47% of the passengers riding with drivers of all ages.

TABLE 6
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes
RESTRAINT USE FOR VEHICLE OCCUPANTS AGES 16-18*: 2021

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 16-18	34,618	31,721	91.6%	
Drivers Ages 16-18	20,208	19,044	94.2%	529,211 (85.5%)
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-18	4,935	4,508	91.3%	
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	9,475	8,169	86.2%	
Total Killed	34	12	35.3%	
Drivers Ages 16-18	18	9	50.0%	449 (55.9%)
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-18	11	3	27.3%	
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	5	0	0.0%	
Total Injured	4,948	4,274	86.4%	
Drivers Ages 16-18	2,586	2,351	90.9%	75,088 (88.9%)
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-18	710	593	83.5%	
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	1,652	1,330	80.5%	
Total Uninjured	29,636	27,435	92.6%	
Drivers Ages 16-18	17,604	16,684	94.8%	453,674 (85.0%)
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-18	4,214	3,912	92.8%	
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	7,818	6,839	87.5%	

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

- The overall restraint use for drivers ages 16-18 was higher than the restraint use for passengers ages 16-18. Restraint use for drivers was 94%, compared to 91% for passengers ages 16-18 in vehicles with drivers ages 16-18 and 86% for passengers ages 16-18 in vehicles with drivers of other ages.
- Restraint use for all drivers ages 16-18 killed in crashes was lower than restraint use for all drivers in general who were killed (50% vs. 56%).
- Restraint use for all drivers ages 16-18 injured in crashes was slightly more than that for all drivers in general who were injured (91% vs. 89%).

TABLE 7
NYS Fatal and Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-18*
SELECT CONTRIBUTING FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DRIVERS

	Drivers Ages 16-18			Total NYS 2021
	2019	2020	2021	
Total Drivers	6,378	4,680	5,540	165,086
Select Factors				
Driver Inattention/Distraction	16.3%	15.8%	14.7%	14.5%
Driver Inexperience	9.7%	10.1%	11.0%	1.9%
Failure to Yield R.O.W.	18.3%	18.4%	19.3%	11.7%
Following Too Closely	15.4%	13.2%	14.1%	10.4%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	4.8%	5.2%	5.9%	4.1%
Unsafe Speed	13.0%	15.1%	13.3%	6.6%
Cell Phone	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	0.2%
Texting	<0.1%	0.0%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	0.5%	0.6%	0.8%	1.8%

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

- “Failure to yield R.O.W”, “driver inattention/distraction”, and “following too closely” were the most frequently reported contributing factors for drivers ages 16-18 in F&PI crashes (19%, 15% and 14%, respectively in 2021).
- “Driver inattention/distraction” was the most frequently reported contributing factor for all drivers in F&PI crashes (15%) followed by “failure to yield R.O.W” (12%).
- With the exception of “alcohol involvement”, drivers ages 16-18 in F&PI crashes were more likely than all drivers in F&PI crashes to have each of the selected factors reported.
- As would be expected, drivers ages 16-18 were also much more likely than all drivers to have “Driver Inexperience” reported as a contributing factor in F&PI crashes (11% vs. 2% in 2021).

TABLE 8
NYS Traffic Tickets Issued to Drivers Ages 16-18
SELECT VIOLATIONS

	Drivers Ages 16-18			NYS Total 2021
	2019	2020	2021	
Total Tickets Issued	95,863	74,460	87,263	2,447,148
Speeding	27.8%	33.4%	30.5%	22.9%
License	10.4%	10.5%	11.3%	8.0%
Traffic Device/ Stop Sign	10.3%	8.5%	8.8%	10.3%
Seat Belts	2.8%	2.7%	3.4%	4.2%
Cell Phone	0.9%	0.6%	0.6%	1.4%
Texting	1.5%	1.2%	1.2%	2.6%
Total TSLED Tickets Issued	83,062	65,450	75,382	1,881,720
Impaired Driving	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%	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 being 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 2021, 31% of the tickets issued to drivers ages 16-18 were for speeding violations, compared to 23% of the tickets issued to all drivers.
- Drivers ages 16-18 were less likely than all drivers to be issued tickets for cell phone and texting violations in 2021 (2% vs. 4%).
- Drivers ages 16-18 were slightly less likely than all drivers to be issued tickets for impaired driving under TSLED in 2021 (1% vs. 2%).

TABLE 9
NYS Motor Vehicle Fatal and Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-18
SEVERITY OF CRASH, FATALITIES & INJURIES, AND DRIVERS INVOLVED
BY REGION OF THE STATE: 2021

	UPSTATE		NYC		LONG ISLAND		NYS F&PI Involving Drivers Ages 16-18
F&PI Crashes (% of total)	3,039	(54.4%)	942	(16.9%)	1,601	(28.7%)	5,582
Fatal (% of total)	27	(57.4%)	7	(14.9%)	13	(27.7%)	47
Personal Injury (% of total)	3,012	(54.4%)	935	(16.9%)	1,588	(28.7%)	5,535
Fatalities (% of total)	30	(56.6%)	7	(13.2%)	16	(30.2%)	53
Persons Injured (% of total)	4,383	(51.9%)	1,542	(18.3%)	2,516	(29.8%)	8,441
Drivers Involved Ages 16-18 (% of total)	3,112	(54.5%)	951	(16.7%)	1,643	(28.8%)	5,706
Male Drivers Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)	1,653	(50.4%)	714	(21.8%)	914	(27.9%)	3,281
Female Drivers Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)	1,459	(60.2%)	237	(9.8%)	729	(30.1%)	2,425
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-18 (% of total)	115,843	(63.0%)	24,052	(13.1%)	44,030	(23.9%)	183,956

- 54% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 in 2021 occurred in the Upstate region, 29% were on Long Island and 17% in New York City.
- 57% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 in 2021 occurred in the Upstate region, while 30% occurred on Long Island and 13% were in the five boroughs comprising New York City.
- Drivers ages 16-18 were underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region (55% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 63% of the licensed drivers) and overrepresented in crashes in the Long Island region (29% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 24% of the licensed drivers) and in NYC (17% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 13% of the licensed drivers).