

NEW YORK STATE

FACT SHEET ON YOUNG DRIVERS AGES 16-20

PREPARED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH

TABLE 1
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-20
SEVERITY OF CRASH, FATALITIES & PERSONS INJURED, AND DRIVERS INVOLVED

	2019	2020	2021
Crashes (% of total NYS)	49,378 (11.0%)	36,646 (11.2%)	43,901 (11.8%)
Fatal (% of total NYS)	80 (9.1%)	98 (10.4%)	106 (9.9%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	13,782 (11.4%)	10,606 (11.7%)	12,500 (11.8%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	35,516 (10.9%)	25,942 (11.0%)	31,295 (11.8%)
Fatalities (% of total NYS)	93 (9.9%)	107 (10.4%)	112 (9.9%)
Driver Fatalities Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	32 (6.7%)	35 (6.2%)	31 (4.8%)
Persons Injured (% of total NYS)	20,516 (12.3%)	16,089 (13.0%)	18,961 (13.0%)
Drivers Involved Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	51,599 (7.1%)	38,185 (7.5%)	45,790 (7.8%)
Male Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	29,694 (7.1%)	22,686 (7.6%)	26,894 (8.0%)
Female Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	21,902 (8.3%)	15,497 (8.9%)	18,896 (9.2%)
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	472,150 (3.9%)	438,609 (3.6%)	447,454 (3.7%)

- 9%-10% of all fatal motor vehicle crashes in 2019-2021 and 11%-12% of all personal injury crashes involved drivers ages 16-20; the number of fatal crashes went up from 80 in 2019 to 106 in 2021, while the number of personal injury crashes fell from 13,782 in 2019 to 10,606 in 2020 and then rose to 12,500 in 2021.
- 10% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2019-2021 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20.
- 112 fatalities occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 in 2021, up from 93 in 2019, representing an increase of 20%; driver fatalities ages 16-20 went up from 32 in 2019 to 35 in 2020 and then went down to 31 in 2021.
- 12% -13% of all persons injured in 2019-2021 were in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20.
- Drivers ages 16-20 are overrepresented in crashes; 7%-8% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2019-2021 were ages 16-20, compared to 4% of all licensed drivers.

TABLE 2
NYS Fatal & Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-20
VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS INVOLVED

	2019	2020	2021	NYS F&PI 2021
Fatal & Personal Injury Crashes	13,862	10,704	12,606	106,950
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	18.6%	20.4%	18.2%	30.0%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	81.4%	79.6%	81.8%	70.0%
Drivers Ages 16-20 in F&PI Crashes	14,485	11,175	13,147	182,718
With No Passengers*	64.4%	62.3%	64.7%	73.1%
With Passengers	35.6%	37.7%	35.3%	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 16-20 were more likely to involve multiple vehicles than all F&PI crashes (82% vs. 70% in 2021).
- Drivers ages 16-20 involved in F&PI crashes were more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (35% vs. 27% in 2021).

TABLE 3
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-20
TIME OF DAY: 2021

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 16-20 (N=106)	Involving All Drivers (N=1,068)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-20 (N=12,500)	Involving All Drivers (N=105,882)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-20 (N=31,295)	Involving All Drivers (N=265,209)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-20 (N=43,901)	Involving All Drivers (N=327,159)
9pm-Mid	24.5%	17.9%	11.6%	10.0%	10.0%	8.6%	10.5%	9.0%
Mid-5am	18.9%	16.9%	7.0%	7.0%	5.5%	6.9%	6.0%	6.9%
5am-9am	10.4%	10.7%	8.2%	11.5%	9.3%	14.1%	9.0%	13.3%
9am-Noon	10.4%	8.3%	11.0%	12.7%	11.7%	13.7%	11.5%	13.4%
Noon-3pm	10.4%	14.4%	19.4%	18.6%	20.4%	18.2%	20.0%	18.3%
3pm-6pm	13.2%	14.5%	25.1%	23.1%	25.7%	22.0%	25.5%	22.3%
6pm-9pm	12.3%	16.8%	17.0%	15.6%	16.6%	14.7%	16.7%	15.0%
Unknown	0.0%	0.5%	0.7%	1.5%	0.7%	1.8%	0.7%	1.7%

- Crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 were most likely to occur between 3pm and 6pm (26%); the largest proportion of crashes involving all drivers (22%) also occurred during this time period.
- The largest proportions of personal injury crashes (25%) and property damage crashes (26%) involving drivers ages 16-20 occurred during the 3pm-6pm time period.
- The largest proportions of fatal crashes (25%) involving drivers ages 16-20 occurred between 9pm - midnight.

TABLE 4
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-20
FATALITIES AND PERSONS INJURED

	2019	2020	2021	NYS Total 2021
Total Fatalities	93	107	112	1,126
Drivers	50 (53.8%)	59 (55.1%)	52 (46.4%)	57.1%
Passengers	25 (26.9%)	30 (28.0%)	32 (28.6%)	11.9%
Pedestrians	13 (14.0%)	16 (15.0%)	24 (21.4%)	27.0%
Bicyclists	5 (5.4%)	2 (1.9%)	4 (3.6%)	4.0%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.0%
Total Persons Injured	20,516	16,089	18,961	145,968
Drivers	13,510 (65.9%)	10,325 (64.2%)	12,463 (65.7%)	59.6%
Passengers	6,284 (30.6%)	5,122 (31.8%)	5,779 (30.5%)	26.3%
Pedestrians	489 (2.4%)	391 (2.4%)	452 (2.4%)	8.5%
Bicyclists	187 (0.9%)	220 (1.4%)	222 (1.2%)	4.8%
Other	46 (0.2%)	31 (0.2%)	45 (0.2%)	0.7%

- In 2021, drivers accounted for 46% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 16-20 years of age and 57% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers of all ages.
- Passengers comprised a much higher proportion of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 16-20 years of age than in all crashes (28% vs 12% in 2021).
- Passengers also accounted for a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 than in all crashes (31% vs. 26% in 2021).
- Pedestrians comprised much smaller proportions of the fatalities and persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 than in all crashes (21% vs. 27% and 2% vs. 9%, respectively, in 2021).

TABLE 5
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-20
AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED
IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 16-20: 2021

	Killed or Injured		NYS Total
Total	3,049		38,477
Under Age 4	35	1.1%	3.4%
Ages 4-6	33	1.1%	3.2%
Ages 7-15	295	9.7%	10.7%
Ages 16-17	640	21.0%	4.1%
Ages 18-20	1,160	38.0%	7.5%
Ages 21-24	375	12.3%	9.5%
Ages 25-29	88	2.9%	10.7%
Age 30 and Over	358	11.7%	46.8%
Unknown Age	65	2.1%	4.1%

- The largest proportion of passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-20 were ages 18-20 (38%).

- Passengers ages 16-20 accounted for 59% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-20, compared to 12% of the passengers killed or injured riding with all drivers.
- Only 12% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-20 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 16-20*: 2021

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 16-20	67,503	61,900	91.7%	
Drivers Ages 16-20	43,766	41,015	93.7%	529,211 (85.5%)
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-20	10,773	9,727	90.3%	
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	12,964	11,158	86.1%	
Total Killed	51	18	35.3%	
Drivers Ages 16-20	26	12	46.2%	449 (55.9%)
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-20	18	3	16.7%	
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	7	3	42.9%	
Total Injured	10,223	8,800	86.1%	
Drivers Ages 16-20	6,022	5,411	89.9%	75,088 (88.9%)
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-20	1,738	1,418	81.6%	
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	2,468	1,971	80.0%	
Total Uninjured	57,229	53,082	92.8%	
Drivers Ages 16-20	37,718	35,592	94.4%	453,674 (85.0%)
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-20	9,017	8,306	92.1%	
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	10,494	9,184	87.5%	

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

- The overall restraint use for drivers ages 16-20 involved in crashes in 2021 was higher than the restraint use for passengers ages 16-20. Restraint use for drivers was 94%, compared to 90% for passengers ages 16-20 in vehicles with drivers ages 16-20 and 86% for passengers ages 16-20 in vehicles with drivers of other ages.
- Among the drivers killed in crashes, drivers ages 16-20 were less likely to be restrained than all drivers (46% vs. 56%, respectively).
- 94% of the drivers ages 16-20 uninjured in crashes were restrained; passengers ages 16-20 uninjured in crashes had lower use rates whether riding with drivers of the same age or with drivers of any age (92% and 87%, respectively).

TABLE 7
NYS Fatal and Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-20*
SELECT CONTRIBUTING FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DRIVERS

	Drivers Ages 16-20			Total NYS 2021
	2019	2020	2021	
Total Drivers	14,150	10,794	12,615	165,086
Select Factors				
Driver Inattention/Distracted	16.2%	16.0%	14.8%	14.5%
Driver Inexperience	6.8%	7.5%	7.5%	1.9%
Failure to Yield R.O.W.	15.4%	15.5%	16.2%	11.7%
Following Too Closely	16.3%	13.1%	14.2%	10.4%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	4.4%	5.1%	5.6%	4.1%
Unsafe Speed	12.2%	13.5%	12.8%	6.6%
Cell Phone	0.3%	0.6%	0.5%	0.2%
Texting	<0.1%	0.0%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	0.9%	0.9%	1.1%	1.8%

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

- In 2021, “driver inattention/distracted”, “failure to yield R.O.W.” and “following too closely” were the most frequently reported contributing factors for both drivers ages 16-20 (15%, 16% and 14%, respectively) and drivers of all ages (15%, 10% and 11%, respectively) in F&PI crashes.
- Drivers ages 16-20 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 2021).
- As would be expected, drivers ages 16-20 were also much more likely than all drivers to have “driver inexperience” reported as a contributing factor in F&PI crashes (8% vs. 2% in 2021).

TABLE 8
NYS Traffic Tickets Issued to Drivers Ages 16-20
SELECT VIOLATIONS

	Drivers Ages 16-20			NYS Total 2021
	2019	2020	2021	
Total Tickets Issued	268,477	209,688	240,232	2,447,148
Speeding	27.5%	34.0%	30.6%	22.9%
License	8.7%	9.0%	9.5%	8.0%
Traffic Device/Stop Sign	10.3%	8.3%	8.5%	10.3%
Seat Belts	3.0%	2.8%	3.3%	4.2%
Cell Phone	1.0%	0.7%	0.6%	1.4%
Texting	1.8%	1.4%	1.4%	2.6%
Total TSLED Tickets Issued	225,019	178,605	201,767	1,881,720
Impaired Driving	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	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 2021, 31% of the tickets issued to drivers ages 16-20 were for speeding violations, compared to 23% of the tickets issued to all drivers.
- Drivers ages 16-20 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 16-20
SEVERITY OF CRASH, FATALITIES & PERSONS INJURED, AND DRIVERS INVOLVED
BY REGION OF THE STATE: 2021

	UPSTATE		NYC		LONG ISLAND		NYS F&PI Involving Drivers Ages 16-20
F&PI Crashes (% of total)	6,289	(49.9%)	3,013	(23.9%)	3,304	(26.2%)	12,606
Fatal (% of total)	64	(60.4%)	18	(17.0%)	24	(22.6%)	106
Personal Injury (% of total)	6,225	(49.8%)	2,995	(24.0%)	3,280	(26.2%)	12,500
Fatalities (% of total)							
	67	(59.8%)	18	(16.1%)	27	(24.1%)	112
Persons Injured (% of total)							
	9,012	(47.5%)	4,879	(25.7%)	5,070	(26.7%)	18,961
Drivers Involved Ages 16-20 (% of total)							
	6,567	(50.0%)	3,082	(23.4%)	3,498	(26.6%)	13,147
Male Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	3,548	(45.1%)	2,310	(29.4%)	2,008	(25.5%)	7,866
Female Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	3,019	(57.2%)	772	(14.6%)	1,490	(28.2%)	5,281
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total)							
	260,003	(58.1%)	82,131	(18.4%)	105,079	(23.5%)	447,454

- 50% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 occurred in the Upstate region, 24% occurred in Nassau and Suffolk counties on Long Island and 26% occurred in the five New York City counties.
- 60% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 occurred in the Upstate region, 24% occurred in the Long Island region and 16% in New York City.
- Drivers ages 16-20 were underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region (50% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 58% of the licensed drivers) and overrepresented in crashes in the Long Island region (27% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 24% of the licensed drivers) and in NYC (23% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 18% of the licensed drivers).