

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

	2019	2020	2021
Crashes (% of total NYS)	38,521 (8.6%)	29,140 (8.9%)	34,429 (9.3%)
Fatal (% of total NYS)	67 (7.6%)	78 (8.3%)	96 (9.0%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	10,858 (9.0%)	8,624 (9.5%)	9,950 (9.4%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	27,596 (8.5%)	20,438 (8.7%)	24,383 (9.2%)
Fatalities (% of total NYS)	74 (7.9%)	86 (8.3%)	101 (9.0%)
Driver Fatalities Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)	29 (6.1%)	30 (5.3%)	25 (3.9%)
Persons Injured (% of total NYS)	16,129 (9.7%)	13,032 (10.5%)	15,099 (10.3%)
Drivers Involved Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)	39,830 (5.5%)	30,086 (5.9%)	35,517 (6.0%)
Male Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)	23,415 (5.6%)	18,111 (6.1%)	21,257 (6.3%)
Female Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)	16,412 (6.3%)	11,974 (6.9%)	14,260 (6.9%)
Licensed Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)	383,639 (3.2%)	364,883 (3.0%)	365,924 (3.0%)

- 9% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2019-2021 involved drivers ages 18-20.
- 8%-9% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2019-2021 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 18-20.
- 101 fatalities occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 in 2021, an increase from 74 fatalities in 2019, representing an increase of 36%.
- The number of persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 decreased from 16,129 to 13,032 in 2020 and then increased to 15,099 in 2021.
- Drivers ages 18-20 are overrepresented in crashes; 6% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2019-2021 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

	2019	2020	2021	NYS F&PI 2021
Fatal & Personal Injury Crashes	10,925	8,702	10,046	106,950
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	18.0%	19.7%	18.1%	30.0%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	82.0%	80.3%	81.9%	70.0%
Drivers Ages 18-20 in F&PI Crashes	11,311	9,000	10,390	182,718
With No Passengers*	66.7%	63.6%	66.4%	73.1%
With Passengers	33.3%	36.4%	33.6%	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 18-20 were more likely to involve multiple vehicles than all F&PI crashes (82% vs. 70% in 2021).
- Drivers ages 18-20 involved in F&PI crashes were more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (34% vs. 27% in 2021).

TABLE 3
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 18-20
TIME OF DAY: 2021

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 18-20 (N=96)	Involving All Drivers (N=1,068)	Involving Drivers Ages 18-20 (N=9,950)	Involving All Drivers (N=105,882)	Involving Drivers Ages 18-20 (N=24,383)	Involving All Drivers (N=265,209)	Involving Drivers Ages 18-20 (N=34,429)	Involving All Drivers (N=372,159)
9pm-Mid	26.0%	17.9%	12.1%	10.0%	10.5%	8.6%	11.0%	9.0%
Mid-5am	18.8%	16.9%	7.7%	7.0%	6.2%	6.9%	6.7%	6.9%
5am-9am	11.5%	10.7%	8.3%	11.5%	9.2%	14.1%	8.9%	13.3%
9am-Noon	10.4%	8.3%	10.7%	12.7%	11.8%	13.7%	11.5%	13.4%
Noon-3pm	8.3%	14.4%	19.1%	18.6%	20.0%	18.2%	19.7%	18.3%
3pm-6pm	13.5%	14.5%	24.8%	23.1%	25.2%	22.0%	25.1%	22.3%
6pm-9pm	11.5%	16.8%	16.5%	15.6%	16.4%	14.7%	16.4%	15.0%
Unknown	0.0%	0.5%	0.8%	1.5%	0.8%	1.8%	0.8%	1.7%

- 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 9pm and midnight (26%). 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

	2019	2020	2021	NYS Total 2021
Total Fatalities	74	86	101	1,126
Drivers	45 (60.8%)	46 (53.5%)	46 (45.5%)	57.1%
Passengers	14 (18.9%)	25 (29.1%)	27 (26.7%)	11.9%
Pedestrians	10 (13.5%)	13 (15.1%)	24 (23.8%)	27.0%
Bicyclists	5 (6.8%)	2 (2.3%)	4 (4.0%)	4.0%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	57.1%
Total Persons Injured	16,129	13,032	15,099	145,968
Drivers	10,662 (66.1%)	8,416 (64.6%)	9,933 (65.8%)	59.6%
Passengers	4,863 (30.2%)	4,097 (31.4%)	4,561 (30.2%)	26.3%
Pedestrians	407 (2.5%)	315 (2.4%)	369 (2.4%)	8.5%
Bicyclists	159 (1.0%)	179 (1.4%)	197 (1.3%)	4.8%
Other	38 (0.2%)	25 (0.2%)	39 (0.3%)	0.7%

- In 2021, drivers accounted for 46% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 18-20 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 18-20 years of age than in all crashes (27% vs 12% in 2021).
- Passengers also accounted for a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 than in all crashes (30% vs. 26% in 2021).
- Pedestrians comprised smaller proportions of the fatalities and persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 than in all crashes (24% vs. 27% and 2% vs. 9%, respectively, in 2021).

TABLE 5
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 18-20
AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED
IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 18-20: 2021

	Killed or Injured		NYS Total
Total	2,365		38,477
Under Age 4	33	1.4%	3.4%
Ages 4-6	25	1.1%	3.2%
Ages 7-15	172	7.3%	10.7%
Ages 16-17	349	14.8%	4.1%
Ages 18-20	1,026	43.4%	7.5%
Ages 21-24	349	14.8%	9.5%
Ages 25-29	82	3.5%	10.7%
Age 30 and Over	274	11.6%	46.8%
Unknown Age	55	2.3%	4.1%

- The largest proportion of passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 18-20 were ages 18-20 (43%).

- 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 47% of the passengers riding with all drivers.

TABLE 6
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes
RESTRAINT USE FOR VEHICLE OCCUPANTS AGES 18-20*: 2021

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 18-20	48,248	44,320	91.9%	
Drivers Ages 18-20	33,836	31,617	93.4%	529,211 (85.5%)
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-20	5,823	5,256	90.3%	
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	8,589	7,447	86.7%	
Total Killed	36	12	33.3%	
Drivers Ages 18-20	20	8	40.0%	449 (55.9%)
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-20	10	1	10.0%	
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	6	3	50.0%	
Total Injured	7,532	6,465	85.8%	
Drivers Ages 18-20	4,802	4,289	89.3%	75,088 (88.9%)
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-20	988	803	81.3%	
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	1,742	1,373	78.8%	
Total Uninjured	40,680	37,843	93.0%	
Drivers Ages 18-20	29,014	27,320	94.2%	453,674 (85.0%)
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-20	4,825	4,452	92.3%	
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	6,841	6,071	88.7%	

*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 90% for passengers ages 18-20 in vehicles with drivers ages 18-20 and 87% for passengers ages 18-20 in vehicles with drivers of other ages.
- For drivers killed, drivers ages 18-20 were less likely to be restrained than drivers of all ages (40% vs. 56%).
- 89% 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 (79%).

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 2021
	2019	2020	2021	
Total Drivers	11,016	8,662	9,917	165,086
Select Factors				
Driver Inattention/Distraction	16.5%	16.1%	14.9%	14.5%
Driver Inexperience	5.0%	6.0%	5.5%	1.9%
Failure to Yield ROW	13.9%	14.3%	14.8%	11.7%
Following Too Closely	16.4%	13.4%	14.4%	10.4%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	4.2%	5.2%	5.5%	4.1%
Unsafe Speed	12.0%	13.1%	12.5%	6.6%
Cell Phone	0.3%	0.6%	0.4%	0.2%
Texting	<0.1%	0.0%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	1.0%	1.0%	1.3%	1.8%

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

- In 2021, “driver inattention/distraction”, “failure to yield R.O.W.” and “following too closely” were the most frequently reported contributing factors for both drivers ages 18-20 (15%, 15% and 14%, respectively) and for all drivers (15%, 12% and 10%, 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 2021).
- 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 2021).

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

	Drivers Ages 18-20			NYS Total 2021
	2019	2020	2021	
Total Tickets Issued	231,516	180,834	206,508	2,447,148
Speeding	27.8%	34.6%	31.0%	22.9%
License	7.8%	8.1%	8.5%	8.0%
Traffic Device/Stop Sign	10.3%	8.3%	8.4%	10.3%
Seat Belts	3.1%	2.8%	3.3%	4.2%
Cell Phone	1.0%	0.7%	0.7%	1.4%
Texting	1.9%	1.5%	1.5%	2.6%
Total TSLED Tickets Issued	192,068	152,818	172,411	1,881,720
Impaired Driving	0.9%	1.0%	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 18-20 were for speeding violations, compared to 23% 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 2021 (2% vs. 4%).
- Drivers ages 18-20 were also 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 18-20
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 18-20
F&PI Crashes (% of total)	4,779 (47.6%)	2,676 (26.6%)	2,591 (25.8%)	10,046
Fatal (% of total)	58 (60.4%)	17 (17.7%)	21 (21.9%)	96
Personal Injury (% of total)	4,721 (47.4%)	2,659 (26.7%)	2,570 (25.8%)	9,950
Fatalities (% of total)	61 (60.4%)	17 (16.8%)	23 (22.8%)	101
Persons Injured (% of total)	6,826 (45.2%)	4,329 (28.7%)	3,944 (26.1%)	15,099
Drivers Involved Ages 18-20 (% of total)	4,947 (47.6%)	2,728 (26.3%)	2,715 (26.1%)	10,390
Male Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)	2,694 (42.7%)	2,035 (32.2%)	1,586 (25.1%)	6,315
Female Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)	2,253 (55.3%)	693 (17.0%)	1,129 (27.7%)	4,075
Licensed Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total)	204,574 (55.9%)	74,825 (20.4%)	86,288 (23.6%)	365,924

- 48% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 in 2021 took place in the Upstate region, 26% occurred on Long Island and 27% in New York City.
- 60% of the fatalities in crashes with drivers ages 18-20 were in the Upstate region, while 23% of the fatalities occurred on Long Island and 17% in New York City.
- Drivers ages 18-20 were underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region (48% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 56% of the licensed drivers) and overrepresented in crashes in NYC (27% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 20% of the licensed drivers) and in the Long Island region (26% of the drivers involved in crashes and 24% of the licensed drivers).