

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

	2019	2020	2021
Crashes (% of total NYS)	96,033 (21.5%)	70,920 (21.7%)	82,741 (22.2%)
Fatal (% of total NYS)	159 (18.0%)	208 (22.0%)	228 (21.3%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	27,719 (22.9%)	21,387 (23.7%)	24,976 (23.6%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	68,155 (21.0%)	49,325 (20.9%)	57,537 (21.7%)
Fatalities (% of total NYS)	176 (18.8%)	235 (22.8%)	243 (21.6%)
Driver Fatalities Ages 18-24 (% of total NYS)	70 (14.7%)	90 (15.9%)	87 (13.5%)
Persons Injured (% of total NYS)	40,811 (24.4%)	31,842 (25.6%)	37,344 (25.6%)
Drivers Involved Ages 18-24 (% of total NYS)	103,029 (14.2%)	75,884 (14.9%)	88,856 (15.1%)
Male Drivers Ages 18-24 (% of total NYS)	61,036 (14.6%)	46,341 (15.6%)	53,353 (15.9%)
Female Drivers Ages 18-24 (% of total NYS)	41,986 (16.0%)	29,541 (17.0%)	35,500 (17.2%)
Licensed Drivers Ages 18-24 (% of total NYS)	1,056,886 (8.8%)	1,036,354 (8.4%)	1,026,854 (8.5%)

- 22% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2019-2021 involved drivers ages 18-24.
- 19%-23% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2019-2021 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 18-24.
- The number of fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 18-24 increased from 176 in 2019 to 243 in 2021, representing an increase of 38%.
- The number of persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 18-24 decreased from 40,811 in 2019 to 31,842 in 2020, a decrease of 22% and then increased to 37,344 in 2021, an increase of 17%.
- Drivers ages 18-24 are overrepresented in crashes; 14%-15% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2019-2021 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

	2019	2020	2021	NYS F&PI 2021
Fatal & Personal Injury Crashes	27,878	21,595	25,204	106,950
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	17.5%	19.4%	17.9%	30.0%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	82.5%	80.6%	82.1%	70.0%
Drivers Ages 18-24 in F&PI Crashes	30,198	23,338	27,285	182,718
With No Passengers*	69.2%	66.9%	68.7%	73.1%
With Passengers	30.8%	33.1%	31.3%	26.9%

*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 (82% vs. 70% in 2021).
- Drivers ages 18-24 involved in F&PI crashes were more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (31% vs. 27% in 2021).

TABLE 3
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 18-24
TIME OF DAY: 2021

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 18-24 (N=228)	Involving All Drivers (N=1,068)	Involving Drivers Ages 18-24 (N=24,976)	Involving All Drivers (N=105,882)	Involving Drivers Ages 18-24 (N=57,537)	Involving All Drivers (N=265,209)	Involving Drivers Ages 18-24 (N=82,741)	Involving All Drivers (N=372,159)
9pm-Mid	21.5%	17.9%	11.8%	10.0%	9.7%	8.6%	10.4%	9.0%
Mid-5am	22.4%	16.9%	8.0%	7.0%	6.9%	6.9%	7.3%	6.9%
5am-9am	9.2%	10.7%	9.8%	11.5%	11.3%	14.1%	10.9%	13.3%
9am-Noon	7.0%	8.3%	11.2%	12.7%	12.1%	13.7%	11.8%	13.4%
Noon-3pm	9.6%	14.4%	18.0%	18.6%	18.8%	18.2%	18.5%	18.3%
3pm-6pm	14.0%	14.5%	23.8%	23.1%	24.5%	22.0%	24.3%	22.3%
6pm-9pm	15.4%	16.8%	16.3%	15.6%	15.8%	14.7%	15.9%	15.0%
Unknown	0.9%	0.5%	1.1%	1.5%	0.9%	1.8%	1.0%	1.7%

- 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 (22%). Personal injury crashes (24%) and property damage crashes (25%) involving drivers in this age group were most likely to occur 3pm-6pm.

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

	2019	2020	2021	NYS Total 2021
Total Fatalities	176	235	243	1,126
Drivers	104 (59.1%)	136 (57.9%)	132 (54.3%)	57.1%
Passengers	34 (19.3%)	57 (24.3%)	53 (21.8%)	11.9%
Pedestrians	31 (17.6%)	35 (14.9%)	48 (19.8%)	27.0%
Bicyclists	7 (4.0%)	7 (3.0%)	10 (4.1%)	4.0%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.0%
Total Persons Injured	40,811	31,842	37,344	145,968
Drivers	26,892 (65.9%)	20,665 (64.9%)	24,649 (66.0%)	59.6%
Passengers	12,126 (29.7%)	9,662 (30.3%)	10,877 (29.2%)	26.3%
Pedestrians	1,221 (3.0%)	922 (2.9%)	1,106 (3.0%)	8.5%
Bicyclists	461 (1.1%)	505 (1.6%)	574 (1.5%)	4.8%
Other	111 (0.3%)	88 (0.3%)	128 (0.3%)	0.7%

- In 2021, drivers accounted for 54% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 18-24 years of age and 57% 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 (22% vs 12% in 2021).
- Drivers also accounted for a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 18-24 than in all crashes (66% vs. 60% in 2021).
- Pedestrians comprised much smaller proportions of the fatalities and persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 18-24 than in all crashes (20% vs. 27% and 3% vs. 9%, respectively, in 2021).

TABLE 5
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 18-24
AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED
IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 18-24: 2021

	Killed or Injured		NYS Total
Total	5,870		38,477
Under Age 4	179	3.0%	3.4%
Ages 4-6	102	1.7%	3.2%
Ages 7-15	322	5.5%	10.7%
Ages 16-17	463	7.9%	4.1%
Ages 18-20	1,567	26.7%	7.5%
Ages 21-24	1,543	26.3%	9.5%
Ages 25-29	523	8.9%	10.7%
Age 30 and Over	974	16.6%	46.8%
Unknown Age	197	3.4%	4.1%

- The largest proportion of passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 18-24 were ages 18-20 and 21-24 (27% and 26%, respectively).

- Passengers ages 18-24 accounted for 53% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 18-24, compared to 17% of the passengers riding with all drivers.
- Only 17% 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*: 2021

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 18-24	113,318	103,403	91.3%	
Drivers Ages 18-24	83,151	77,004	92.6%	529,211 (85.5%)
Passengers Ages 18-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-24	15,772	14,157	89.8%	
Passengers Ages 18-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	14,395	12,242	85.0%	
Total Killed	92	36	39.1%	
Drivers Ages 18-24	58	27	46.6%	449 (55.9%)
Passengers Ages 18-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-24	29	7	24.1%	
Passengers Ages 18-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	5	2	40.0%	
Total Injured	18,625	15,898	85.4%	
Drivers Ages 18-24	12,510	11,054	88.4%	75,088 (88.9%)
Passengers Ages 18-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-24	2,942	2,418	82.2%	
Passengers Ages 18-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	3,173	2,426	76.5%	
Total Uninjured	94,601	87,469	92.5%	
Drivers Ages 18-24	70,583	65,923	93.4%	453,674 (85.0%)
Passengers Ages 18-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-24	12,801	11,732	91.6%	
Passengers Ages 18-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	11,217	9,814	87.5%	

*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 93%, compared to 90% for passengers ages 18-24 in vehicles with drivers ages 18-24 and 85% 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 (47% vs. 56%).
- 88% 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 (77%).

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 2021
	2019	2020	2021	
Total Drivers	29,137	22,147	25,570	165,086
Select Factors				
Driver Inattention/Distraction	16.2%	15.7%	14.7%	14.5%
Driver Inexperience	3.2%	4.3%	4.0%	1.9%
Failure to Yield ROW	12.2%	12.3%	13.0%	11.7%
Following Too Closely	15.6%	12.8%	13.5%	10.4%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	4.0%	4.8%	5.0%	4.1%
Unsafe Speed	10.5%	12.0%	11.4%	6.6%
Cell Phone	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.2%
Texting	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	1.7%	1.8%	2.0%	1.8%

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

- In 2021, “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 (15%, 14% and 13%, respectively) and for all drivers (15%, 10% and 12%, 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. 7% in 2021).
- 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 2021).

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

	Drivers Ages 18-24			Total NYS 2021
	2019	2020	2021	
Total Tickets Issued	654,848	489,829	553,552	2,447,148
Speeding	24.7%	31.6%	28.3%	22.9%
License	8.2%	9.0%	9.1%	8.0%
Traffic Device/Stop Sign	10.8%	8.5%	8.5%	10.3%
Seat Belts	3.5%	3.1%	3.5%	4.2%
Cell Phone	1.2%	0.8%	0.8%	1.4%
Texting	2.4%	1.8%	1.9%	2.6%
Total TSLED Tickets Issued	513,983	398,996	447,079	1,881,720
Impaired Driving	1.8%	1.6%	1.5%	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, 28% of the tickets issued to drivers ages 18-24 were for speeding violations, compared to 23% 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 2021 (3% vs. 4%).
- Drivers ages 18-24 were equally likely as all drivers to be issued tickets for impaired driving under TSLED in 2021 (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: 2021

	UPSTATE		NYC		LONG ISLAND		NYS F&PI Involving Drivers Ages 18-24
F&PI Crashes (% of total)	10,895	(43.2%)	8,481	(33.6%)	5,828	(23.1%)	25,204
Fatal (% of total)	128	(56.1%)	46	(20.2%)	54	(23.7%)	228
Personal Injury (% of total)	10,767	(43.1%)	8,435	(33.8%)	5,774	(23.1%)	24,976
Fatalities (% of total)	134	(55.1%)	47	(19.3%)	62	(25.5%)	243
Persons Injured (% of total)	15,425	(41.3%)	13,297	(35.6%)	8,622	(23.1%)	37,344
Drivers Involved Ages 18-24 (% of total)	11,780	(43.2%)	9,077	(33.3%)	6,428	(23.6%)	27,285
Male Drivers Ages 18-24 (% of total NYS)	6,497	(38.7%)	6,516	(38.9%)	3,757	(22.4%)	16,770
Female Drivers Ages 18-24 (% of total NYS)	5,283	(50.2%)	2,561	(24.4%)	2,671	(25.4%)	10,515
Licensed Drivers Ages 18-24 (% of total)	536,337	(52.2%)	262,657	(25.6%)	225,451	(22.0%)	1,026,854

- 43% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 18-24 in 2021 took place in the Upstate region, 34% occurred in New York City and 23% on Long Island.
- 55% of the fatalities in crashes with drivers ages 18-24 were in the Upstate region, while 19% and 25% 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 (43% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 52% of the licensed drivers) and overrepresented in crashes in NYC (34% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 26% of the licensed drivers) and in the Long Island region (23% of the drivers involved in crashes and 22% of the licensed drivers).