

NEW YORK STATE FACT SHEET ON YOUNG DRIVERS AGED 16-18

TABLE 1
SEVERITY OF CRASH, FATALITIES & PERSONS INJURED, AND DRIVERS IN CRASHES
INVOLVING DRIVERS AGED 16-18

	2021		2022		2023	
	Count	% of NYS Total	Count	% of NYS Total	Count	% of NYS Total
Crashes	20,384	5.5%	21,023	5.4%	20,724	5.4%
Fatal	47	4.4%	43	3.9%	60	5.9%
Personal Injury	5,535	5.2%	5,537	5.0%	5,596	4.9%
Property Damage Only	14,802	5.6%	15,443	5.5%	15,068	5.6%
Fatalities	53	4.7%	55	4.7%	76	6.9%
Persons Injured	8,441	5.8%	8,308	5.5%	8,382	5.3%
Drivers Involved Aged 16-18	20,960	3.6%	21,666	3.5%	21,318	3.5%
Male Drivers Involved Aged 16-18	11,917	3.5%	12,499	3.6%	12,610	3.7%
Female Drivers Involved Aged 16-18	9,043	4.4%	9,165	4.2%	8,701	4.1%
Licensed Drivers Aged 16-18	183,956	1.5%	186,750	1.5%	184,452	1.5%

- Over the 2021-2023 period, 5.4 - 5.5% of all motor vehicle crashes and 4.7 - 6.9% of all fatalities involved drivers aged 16-18.
- During 2023, drivers aged 16-18 were overrepresented in crashes; drivers of this age group constituted 3.5% of all drivers involved in crashes but only 1.5% of all licensed drivers.

TABLE 2
VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS ASSOCIATED WITH F&PI CRASHES INVOLVING DRIVERS AGED 16-18

	2021	2022	2023	NYS Total 2023
Fatal and Personal Injury Crashes	5,582	5,580	5,656	114,598
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	18.5%	18.7%	19.7%	30.7%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	81.5%	81.3%	80.3%	69.3%
Drivers Aged 16-18 in F&PI Crashes	5,706	5,721	5,801	193,909
With No Passengers*	61.2%	65.0%	63.5%	74.4%
With Passengers	38.8%	35.0%	36.5%	25.6%

*Note: As mandated by NYS DMV regulations, drivers holding junior learner permits must have a “qualifying” adult in the vehicle. Depending on the region, a junior driver license holder may drive unsupervised in certain situations.

- F&PI crashes involving drivers aged 16-18 were more likely to involve multiple vehicles than all F&PI crashes (80.3% versus 69.3% in 2023).
- Drivers aged 16-18 involved in F&PI crashes were more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (36.5% versus 25.6% in 2023).

TABLE 3
TIME OF DAY OF F&PI CRASHES INVOLVING DRIVERS AGED 16-18: 2023

	Fatal		Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Aged 16-18	Involving All Drivers	Involving Drivers Aged 16-18	Involving All Drivers	Involving Drivers Aged 16-18	Involving All Drivers	Involving Drivers Aged 16-18	Involving All Drivers
Crashes	60	1,022	5,596	113,576	15,068	266,708	20,724	381,306
Time of Day								
9pm-12am	26.7%	15.8%	11.2%	9.5%	9.1%	8.3%	9.7%	8.7%
12am-5am	16.7%	18.2%	4.9%	6.6%	3.8%	6.6%	4.2%	6.6%
5am-9am	6.7%	11.4%	9.3%	13.2%	11.2%	15.5%	10.6%	14.8%
9am-12pm	8.3%	10.3%	10.6%	13.1%	11.0%	13.6%	10.9%	13.4%
12pm-3pm	6.7%	12.0%	19.5%	17.8%	20.6%	17.5%	20.3%	17.6%
3pm-6pm	20.0%	13.4%	27.1%	22.7%	27.1%	22.3%	27.1%	22.4%
6pm-9pm	15.0%	18.8%	16.7%	15.6%	16.8%	14.5%	16.7%	14.9%
Unknown	0.0%	0.2%	0.7%	1.5%	0.5%	1.6%	0.6%	1.6%

Note: In New York City and Long Island, junior learner permit holders can drive between 5 AM and 9 PM only. In Upstate NY, a junior learner permit holder can drive 5 AM to 9 PM under specific conditions.

- In 2023, crashes involving drivers aged 16-18 were most likely to occur between 3pm-6pm (27.1%) which is the same as the time period for the most crashes involving all drivers.
- In 2023, the largest proportion of fatal crashes involving drivers aged 16-18 occurred 9pm-12am (26.7%). Personal injury and property damage crashes involving this age group were most likely during the 3pm-6pm period.

TABLE 4
SELECT F&PI CRASH CONTRIBUTING FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DRIVERS AGED 16-18:
2023

	Drivers Aged 16-18	All Drivers in NYS
Total Drivers	5,557	169,815
Select Factors		
Failure to Yield Right-of-Way	18.6%	12.0%
Driver Inattention/Distraction	14.9%	14.4%
Unsafe Speed	14.7%	6.7%
Following Too Closely	13.8%	10.2%
Driver Inexperience	10.0%	1.9%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	5.6%	4.3%
Cell Phone (hand held and free)	0.5%	0.2%
Texting	< 0.1%	< 0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	0.9%	1.8%

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

- In 2023, the top three contributing factors for drivers aged 16-18 in F&PI crashes were Failure to Yield Right-of-Way (18.6%), Driver Inattention/Distraction (14.9%), and Unsafe Speed (14.7%).
- In 2023, drivers aged 16-18 in F&PI crashes were more likely than all drivers in F&PI crashes to have Driver Inexperience and Unsafe Speed reported as contributing factors (10.0% versus 1.9% and 14.7% versus 6.7%, respectively).

TABLE 5
TRAFFIC TICKETS (SELECT VIOLATIONS) ISSUED TO DRIVERS AGED 16-18: 2023

	Drivers Aged 16-18	All Drivers in NYS
Total Tickets Issued	87,265	2,834,035
Speeding	26.6%	18.9%
License	10.7%	7.7%
Traffic Device / Stop Sign	9.6%	11.8%
Seat Belts	3.5%	3.9%
Texting	1.3%	2.6%
Cell Phone	0.6%	1.3%
Total TSLED Tickets Issued	75,215	2,112,787
Impaired Driving	0.7%	2.2%

Note: Total tickets issued include data from the TSLED and Administrative Adjudication (AA) systems. TSLED covers all areas of the state, except New York City. AA includes all traffic tickets issued in New York City except impairment tickets.

- In 2023, speeding violations were the most common ticket category issued to drivers aged 16-18. 26.6% of the tickets issued to drivers aged 16-18 were for speeding violations, compared to 18.9% of the tickets issued to all drivers.
- In 2023, 0.7% of the TSLED tickets issued to drivers aged 16-18 were for impaired driving versus 2.2% of the TSLED tickets issued to all drivers.

TABLE 6
CRASH SEVERITY, FATALITIES & PERSONS INJURED, AND DRIVERS ASSOCIATED WITH F&PI
CRASHES INVOLVING DRIVERS AGED 16-18 BY REGION OF THE STATE: 2023

	Upstate		New York City		Long Island		NYS F&PI Involving Drivers Aged 16-18
	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total	
F&PI Crashes	3,068	54.2%	1,010	17.9%	1,578	27.9%	5,656
Fatal	37	61.7%	12	20.0%	11	18.3%	60
Personal Injury	3,031	54.2%	998	17.8%	1,567	28.0%	5,596
Fatalities	51	67.1%	13	17.1%	12	15.8%	76
Persons Injured	4,451	53.1%	1,519	18.1%	2,412	28.8%	8,382
Drivers Involved Aged 16-18	3,157	54.4%	1,016	17.5%	1,628	28.1%	5,801
Male Drivers Involved Aged 16-18	1,826	51.1%	806	22.5%	943	26.4%	3,575
Female Drivers Involved Aged 16-18	1,329	59.8%	210	9.4%	685	30.8%	2,224
Licensed Drivers Aged 16-18	115,620	62.7%	24,024	13.0%	44,796	24.3%	184,452

- In 2023, 54.2% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers aged 16-18 occurred in the Upstate region, 27.9% were on Long Island and 17.9% in New York City.
- In 2023, 67.1% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers aged 16-18 occurred in the Upstate region, while 15.8% occurred on Long Island and 17.1% were in the five boroughs of New York City.
- During 2023, drivers aged 16-18 were underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region (54.4% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 62.7% of the licensed drivers), overrepresented in crashes in the Long Island region (28.1% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 24.3% of the licensed drivers), and overrepresented in NYC (17.5% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 13.0% of the licensed drivers).

Data Sources

- NYS DMV's Traffic Safety Law Enforcement & Disposition (TSLED) and Administrative Adjudication (AA) Ticket Systems
- NYS DMV's Accident Information System (AIS)

