

NEW YORK STATE FACT SHEET ON YOUNG DRIVERS AGED 18-20

TABLE 1
SEVERITY OF CRASH, FATALITIES & PERSONS INJURED, AND DRIVERS IN CRASHES
INVOLVING DRIVERS AGED 18-20

	2021		2022		2023	
	Count	% of NYS Total	Count	% of NYS Total	Count	% of NYS Total
Crashes	34,429	9.3%	33,323	8.5%	32,271	8.5%
Fatal	96	9.0%	84	7.7%	93	9.1%
Personal Injury	9,950	9.4%	9,413	8.5%	9,372	8.3%
Property Damage Only	24,383	9.2%	23,826	8.5%	22,806	8.6%
Fatalities	101	9.0%	93	8.0%	99	9.0%
Persons Injured	15,099	10.3%	14,160	9.4%	14,156	9.0%
Drivers Involved Aged 18-20	35,517	6.0%	34,457	5.6%	33,268	5.5%
Male Drivers Involved Aged 18-20	21,257	6.3%	20,656	5.9%	20,309	5.9%
Female Drivers Involved Aged 18-20	14,260	6.9%	13,795	6.3%	12,956	6.1%
Licensed Drivers Aged 18-20	365,924	3.0%	372,212	3.0%	368,917	3.0%

- Over the 2021-2023 period, 8.5 - 9.3% of all motor vehicle crashes and 8.0 – 9.0% of all fatalities involved drivers aged 18-20.
- During 2023, drivers aged 18-20 were overrepresented in crashes; drivers of this age group constituted 5.5% of all drivers involved in crashes but only 3.0% of all licensed drivers.

TABLE 2
VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS ASSOCIATED WITH F&PI CRASHES INVOLVING DRIVERS AGED 18-20

	2021	2022	2023	NYS Total 2023
Fatal and Personal Injury Crashes	10,046	9,497	9,465	114,598
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	18.1%	18%	17.9%	30.7%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	81.9%	82%	82.1%	69.3%
Drivers Aged 18-20 in F&PI Crashes	10,390	9,844	9,753	193,909
With No Passengers*	66.4%	68.0%	68.8%	74.4%
With Passengers	33.6%	32.0%	31.2%	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 18-20 were more likely to involve multiple vehicles than all F&PI crashes (82.1% versus 69.3% in 2023).
- Drivers aged 18-20 involved in F&PI crashes were more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (31.2% versus 25.6% in 2023).

TABLE 3
TIME OF DAY OF F&PI CRASHES INVOLVING DRIVERS AGED 18-20: 2023

	Fatal		Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Aged 18-20	Involving All Drivers	Involving Drivers Aged 18-20	Involving All Drivers	Involving Drivers Aged 18-20	Involving All Drivers	Involving Drivers Aged 18-20	Involving All Drivers
Crashes	93	1,022	9,372	113,576	22,806	266,708	32,271	381,306
Time of Day								
9pm-12am	23.7%	15.8%	11.5%	9.5%	9.9%	8.3%	10.4%	8.7%
12am-5am	16.1%	18.2%	6.6%	6.6%	5.6%	6.6%	5.9%	6.6%
5am-9am	11.8%	11.4%	10.1%	13.2%	11.2%	15.5%	10.9%	14.8%
9am-12pm	5.4%	10.3%	11.4%	13.1%	11.8%	13.6%	11.6%	13.4%
12pm-3pm	9.7%	12.0%	17.8%	17.8%	18.9%	17.5%	18.6%	17.6%
3pm-6pm	11.8%	13.4%	24.6%	22.7%	25.7%	22.3%	25.4%	22.4%
6pm-9pm	21.5%	18.8%	17.0%	15.6%	16.3%	14.5%	16.5%	14.9%
Unknown	0.0%	0.2%	0.9%	1.5%	0.6%	1.6%	0.7%	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 18-20 were most likely to occur between 3pm-6pm (25.4%) 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 18-20 occurred 9pm-12am (23.7%). 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 18-20:
2023

	Drivers Aged 18-20	All Drivers in NYS
Total Drivers	9,133	169,815
Select Factors		
Failure to Yield Right-of-Way	14.6%	12.0%
Following Too Closely	14.5%	10.2%
Driver Inattention/Distracted	14.3%	14.4%
Unsafe Speed	13.0%	6.7%
Driver Inexperience	5.9%	1.9%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	5.2%	4.3%
Cell Phone (hand held and free)	0.4%	0.2%
Texting	< 0.1%	< 0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	1.3%	1.8%

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

- In 2023, the top three contributing factors for drivers aged 18-20 in F&PI crashes were Failure to Yield Right-of-Way (14.6%), Following Too Closely (14.5%), and Driver Inattention/Distracted (14.3%).
- In 2023, drivers aged 18-20 in F&PI crashes were more likely than all drivers in F&PI crashes to have Unsafe Speed and Following Too Closely reported as contributing factors (13.0% versus 6.7% and 14.5% versus 10.2%, respectively).

TABLE 5
TRAFFIC TICKETS (SELECT VIOLATIONS) ISSUED TO DRIVERS AGED 18-20: 2023

	Drivers Aged 18-20	All Drivers in NYS
Total Tickets Issued	202,408	2,834,035
Speeding	26.6%	18.9%
Traffic Device / Stop Sign	9.4%	11.8%
License	7.9%	7.7%
Seat Belts	3.3%	3.9%
Texting	1.6%	2.6%
Cell Phone	0.7%	1.3%
Total TSLED Tickets Issued	167,936	2,112,787
Impaired Driving	1.0%	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 18-20. 26.6% of the tickets issued to drivers aged 18-20 were for speeding violations, compared to 18.9% of the tickets issued to all drivers.
- In 2023, 1.0% of the TSLED tickets issued to drivers aged 18-20 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 18-20 BY REGION OF THE STATE: 2023

	Upstate		New York City		Long Island		NYS F&PI Involving Drivers Aged 18-20
	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total	
F&PI Crashes	4,430	46.8%	2,542	26.9%	2,493	26.3%	9,465
Fatal	45	48.4%	20	21.5%	28	30.1%	93
Personal Injury	4,385	46.8%	2,522	26.9%	2,465	26.3%	9,372
Fatalities	50	50.5%	21	21.2%	28	28.3%	99
Persons Injured	6,340	44.8%	4,029	28.5%	3,787	26.8%	14,156
Drivers Involved Aged 18-20	4,552	46.7%	2,593	26.6%	2,608	26.7%	9,753
Male Drivers Involved Aged 18-20	2,648	42.8%	1,979	32.0%	1,560	25.2%	6,187
Female Drivers Involved Aged 18-20	1,904	53.4%	614	17.2%	1,048	29.4%	3,566
Licensed Drivers Aged 18-20	201,519	54.6%	79,100	21.4%	88,200	23.9%	368,917

- In 2023, 46.8% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers aged 18-20 occurred in the Upstate region, 26.3% were on Long Island and 26.9% in New York City.
- In 2023, 50.5% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers aged 18-20 occurred in the Upstate region, while 28.3% occurred on Long Island and 21.2% were in the five boroughs of New York City.
- During 2023, drivers aged 18-20 were underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region (46.7% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 54.6% of the licensed drivers), overrepresented in crashes in the Long Island region (26.7% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 23.9% of the licensed drivers), and overrepresented in NYC (26.6% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 21.4% 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)

