

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

	2022		2023		2024	
	Count	% of NYS Total	Count	% of NYS Total	Count	% of NYS Total
Crashes	33,323	8.5%	32,271	8.5%	31,742	8.3%
Fatal	84	7.7%	93	9.1%	76	7.4%
Personal Injury	9,413	8.5%	9,372	8.3%	9,355	8.1%
Property Damage Only	23,826	8.5%	22,806	8.6%	22,311	8.4%
Fatalities	93	8.0%	99	9.0%	86	7.9%
Persons Injured	14,160	9.4%	14,156	9.0%	13,779	8.7%
Drivers Involved Aged 18-20	34,457	5.6%	33,268	5.5%	32,690	5.4%
Male Drivers Involved Aged 18-20	20,656	5.9%	20,309	5.9%	20,515	5.9%
Female Drivers Involved Aged 18-20	13,795	6.3%	12,956	6.1%	12,167	5.8%
Licensed Drivers Aged 18-20	372,212	3.0%	368,917	3.0%	360,794	2.9%

- Over the 2022-2024 period, 8.3% - 8.5% of all motor vehicle crashes and 7.9% - 9.0% of all fatalities involved drivers aged 18-20.
- During 2024, drivers aged 18-20 were overrepresented in crashes; drivers of this age group constituted 5.4% of all drivers involved in crashes but only 2.9% of all licensed drivers.

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

	2022	2023	2024	NYS Total 2024
Fatal and Personal Injury Crashes	9,497	9,465	9,431	116,262
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	18.0%	17.9%	18.5%	30.3%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	82.0%	82.1%	81.5%	69.7%
Drivers Aged 18-20 in F&PI Crashes	9,844	9,753	9,691	196,548
With No Passengers*	68.0%	68.8%	70.1%	74.6%
With Passengers	32.0%	31.2%	29.9%	25.4%

*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 (81.5% versus 69.7% in 2024).
- Drivers aged 18-20 involved in F&PI crashes were more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (29.9% versus 25.4% in 2024).

TABLE 3
TIME OF DAY OF F&PI CRASHES INVOLVING DRIVERS AGED 18-20: 2024

	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	76	1,026	9,355	115,236	22,311	264,563	31,742	380,825
Time of Day								
9pm-12am	14.5%	15.1%	11.7%	9.4%	10.1%	8.3%	10.6%	8.6%
12am-5am	21.1%	13.9%	6.5%	6.5%	5.9%	6.7%	6.1%	6.6%
5am-9am	10.5%	13.7%	10.2%	13.3%	10.8%	15.7%	10.6%	14.9%
9am-12pm	3.9%	9.9%	11.7%	13.6%	12.2%	13.8%	12.0%	13.7%
12pm-3pm	11.8%	14.0%	18.4%	18.0%	18.8%	17.5%	18.7%	17.7%
3pm-6pm	19.7%	16.9%	24.3%	22.6%	26.0%	22.2%	25.5%	22.3%
6pm-9pm	18.4%	16.3%	16.3%	15.4%	15.7%	14.5%	15.9%	14.8%
Unknown	0.0%	< 0.1%	0.8%	1.4%	0.5%	1.3%	0.6%	1.3%

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 2024, crashes involving drivers aged 18-20 were most likely to occur between 3pm-6pm (25.5%) which is the same as the time period for the most crashes involving all drivers.
- In 2024, the largest proportion of fatal crashes involving drivers aged 18-20 occurred 12am-5am (21.1%). 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:
2024

	Drivers Aged 18-20	All Drivers in NYS
Total Drivers	9,102	170,791
Select Factors		
Failure to Yield Right-of-Way	14.5%	12.0%
Following Too Closely	14.3%	10.1%
Driver Inattention/Distracted	13.9%	13.9%
Unsafe Speed	13.5%	6.7%
Driver Inexperience	5.8%	2.0%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	4.8%	4.0%
Cell Phone (hand held and free)	0.3%	0.2%
Texting	< 0.1%	< 0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	1.3%	1.7%

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

- In 2024, the top three contributing factors for drivers aged 18-20 in F&PI crashes were Failure to Yield Right-of-Way (14.5%), Following Too Closely (14.3%), and Driver Inattention/Distracted (13.9%).
- In 2024, 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 (13.5% versus 6.7% and 14.3% versus 10.1%, respectively).

TABLE 5
TRAFFIC TICKETS (SELECT VIOLATIONS) ISSUED TO DRIVERS AGED 18-20: 2024

	Drivers Aged 18-20	All Drivers in NYS
Total Tickets Issued	197,548	2,893,404
Speeding	26.8%	18.3%
Traffic Device / Stop Sign	9.6%	11.8%
License	8.0%	8.0%
Seat Belts	3.4%	3.9%
Texting	1.7%	2.6%
Cell Phone	0.7%	1.3%
Total TSLED Tickets Issued	164,285	2,167,337
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 2024, speeding violations were the most common ticket category issued to drivers aged 18-20. 26.8% of the tickets issued to drivers aged 18-20 were for speeding violations, compared to 18.3% of the tickets issued to all drivers.
- In 2024, 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: 2024**

	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	4,438	47.1%	2,469	26.2%	2,524	26.8%	9,431
Fatal	53	69.7%	8	10.5%	15	19.7%	76
Personal Injury	4,385	46.9%	2,461	26.3%	2,509	26.8%	9,355
Fatalities	58	67.4%	9	10.5%	19	22.1%	86
Persons Injured	6,153	44.7%	3,819	27.7%	3,807	27.6%	13,779
Drivers Involved Aged 18-20	4,553	47.0%	2,523	26.0%	2,615	27.0%	9,691
Male Drivers Involved Aged 18-20	2,715	42.5%	2,033	31.8%	1,647	25.8%	6,395
Female Drivers Involved Aged 18-20	1,837	55.8%	490	14.9%	968	29.4%	3,295
Licensed Drivers Aged 18-20	198,407	55.0%	74,922	20.8%	87,200	24.2%	360,794

- In 2024, 47.1% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers aged 18-20 occurred in the Upstate region, 26.8% were on Long Island and 26.2% in New York City.
- In 2024, 67.4% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers aged 18-20 occurred in the Upstate region, while 22.1% occurred on Long Island and 10.5% were in the five boroughs of New York City.
- During 2024, drivers aged 18-20 were underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region (47.0% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 55.0% of the licensed drivers), overrepresented in crashes in the Long Island region (27.0% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 24.2% of the licensed drivers), and overrepresented in NYC (26.0% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 20.8% 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)



Prepared by the Institute for Traffic Safety Management & Research; December 2025