

NEW YORK STATE

FACT SHEET ON YOUNG DRIVERS AGES 16-17

PREPARED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH

TABLE 1
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17
SEVERITY OF CRASH, FATALITIES & PERSONS INJURED, AND DRIVERS INVOLVED

	2019	2020	2021
Crashes (% of total NYS)	11,479 (2.6%)	7,969 (2.4%)	10,037 (2.7%)
Fatal (% of total NYS)	13 (1.5%)	20 (2.1%)	11 (1.0%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	3,091 (2.6%)	2,118 (2.3%)	2,704 (2.6%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	8,375 (2.6%)	5,831 (2.6%)	7,322 (2.8%)
Fatalities (% of total NYS)	19 (2.0%)	21 (2.0%)	12 (1.1%)
Driver Fatalities Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	3 (0.6%)	5 (0.9%)	6 (0.9%)
Persons Injured (% of total NYS)	4,677 (2.8%)	3,309 (2.7%)	4,126 (2.8%)
Drivers Involved Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	11,769 (1.6%)	8,099 (1.6%)	10,273 (1.7%)
Male Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	6,279 (1.5%)	4,575 (1.5%)	5,637 (1.7%)
Female Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	5,490 (2.1%)	3,523 (2.0%)	4,636 (2.2%)
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	88,511 (0.7%)	73,726 (0.6%)	81,530 (0.7%)

- 2%-3% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2019-2021 involved drivers ages 16-17; the number of fatal crashes increased from 13 in 2019 to 20 in 2020, but then decreased to 11 in 2021; in comparison, the number of personal injury crashes decreased from 3,091 in 2019 to 2,118 in 2020, and then increased to 2,704 in 2021.
- 1%-2% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2019-2021 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17.
- The number of persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 decreased from 4,677 in 2019 to 3,309 in 2020 and then increased to 4,126 in 2021.
- Drivers ages 16-17 are overrepresented in crashes; 2% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2019-2021 were of ages 16-17, compared to less than 1% of all licensed drivers.

TABLE 2
NYS Fatal & Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17
VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS INVOLVED

	2019	2020	2021	NYS F&PI 2021
Fatal & Personal Injury Crashes	3,104	2,138	2,715	106,950
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	19.7%	21.7%	17.6%	30.0%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	80.3%	78.3%	82.4%	70.0%
Drivers Ages 16-17 in F&PI Crashes	3,174	2,175	2,757	182,718
With No Passengers*	56.4%	56.8%	58.3%	73.1%
With Passengers	43.6%	43.2%	41.7%	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 16-17 were more likely to involve multiple vehicles than all F&PI crashes (82% vs. 70% in 2021).
- Drivers ages 16-17 involved in F&PI crashes were more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (42% vs. 27% in 2021).

TABLE 3
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17
TIME OF DAY: 2021

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=11)	Involving All Drivers (N=1,068)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=2,704)	Involving All Drivers (N=105,882)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=7,322)	Involving All Drivers (N=265,209)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=10,037)	Involving All Drivers (N=372,159)
9pm-Mid	18.2%	17.9%	9.8%	10.0%	8.5%	8.6%	8.9%	9.0%
Mid-5am	18.2%	16.9%	4.3%	7.0%	3.0%	6.9%	3.4%	6.9%
5am-9am	0.0%	10.7%	7.6%	11.5%	9.6%	14.1%	9.1%	13.3%
9am-Noon	9.1%	8.3%	12.2%	12.7%	11.1%	13.7%	11.4%	13.4%
Noon-3pm	27.3%	14.4%	20.6%	18.6%	22.0%	18.2%	21.6%	18.3%
3pm-6pm	9.1%	14.5%	26.0%	23.1%	27.6%	22.0%	27.1%	22.3%
6pm-9pm	18.2%	16.8%	19.3%	15.6%	17.5%	14.7%	18.0%	15.0%
Unknown	0.0%	0.5%	0.3%	1.5%	0.6%	1.8%	0.5%	1.7%

- Crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 were most likely to occur between 3pm and 6pm (27%); the largest proportion of crashes involving all drivers (22%) also occurred during this time period.
- The largest proportion (27%) of fatal crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 occurred during Noon-3pm. The largest proportion of personal injury and property damage crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 both occurred during 3pm-6pm (26% and 28%, respectively).

TABLE 4
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17
FATALITIES AND PERSONS INJURED

	2019	2020	2021	NYS Total 2021
Total Fatalities	19	21	12	1,126
Drivers	5 (26.3%)	13 (61.9%)	7 (58.3%)	57.1%
Passengers	11 (57.9%)	5 (23.8%)	5 (41.7%)	11.9%
Pedestrians	3 (15.8%)	3 (14.3%)	0 (0.0%)	27.0%
Bicyclists	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	4.0%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.0%
Total Persons Injured	4,677	3,309	4,126	145,968
Drivers	3,028 (64.7%)	2,063 (62.3%)	2,711 (65.7%)	59.6%
Passengers	1,531 (32.7%)	1,123 (33.9%)	1,301 (31.5%)	26.3%
Pedestrians	82 (1.8%)	76 (2.3%)	83 (2.0%)	8.5%
Bicyclists	28 (0.6%)	41 (1.2%)	25 (0.6%)	4.8%
Other	8 (0.2%)	6 (0.2%)	6 (0.1%)	0.7%

- Passengers comprised a higher proportion of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 16-17 years of age than in all crashes (42% vs 12% in 2021).
- Passengers also accounted for a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 than in all crashes (32% vs. 26% in 2021).
- Pedestrians comprised smaller proportions of the fatalities and persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 than in all crashes (0% vs. 27%, and 2% vs. 9%, respectively, in 2021).

TABLE 5
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17
AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED
IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 16-17: 2021

	Killed or Injured		NYS Total
Total	684		38,477
Under Age 4	2	0.3%	3.4%
Ages 4-6	8	1.2%	3.2%
Ages 7-15	123	18.0%	10.7%
Ages 16-17	291	42.5%	4.1%
Ages 18-20	134	19.6%	7.5%
Ages 21-24	26	3.8%	9.5%
Ages 25-29	6	0.9%	10.7%
Age 30 and Over	84	12.3%	46.8%
Unknown Age	10	1.5%	4.1%

- The largest proportion of passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-17 were ages 16-17 (43%).
- Passengers ages 16-20 accounted for 62% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-17, compared to 12% of the passengers riding with all drivers.
- Approximately 12% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-17 were age 30 and over, compared to 47% of the passengers riding with all drivers.

TABLE 6
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes
RESTRAINT USE FOR VEHICLE OCCUPANTS AGES 16-17*: 2021

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 16-17	19,255	17,580	91.3%	
Drivers Ages 16-17	9,930	9,398	94.6%	529,211 (85.5%)
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	2,199	2,019	91.8%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	7,126	6,163	86.5%	
Total Killed	15	6	40.0%	
Drivers Ages 16-17	6	4	66.7%	449 (55.9%)
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	2	1	50.0%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	7	1	14.3%	
Total Injured	2,691	2,335	86.8%	
Drivers Ages 16-17	1,220	1,122	92.0%	75,088 (88.9%)
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	285	235	82.5%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	1,186	978	82.5%	
Total Uninjured	16,549	15,239	92.1%	
Drivers Ages 16-17	8,704	8,272	95.0%	453,674 (85.0%)
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	1,912	1,783	93.3%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	5,933	5,184	87.4%	

*Note: Police-reported crashes only; excludes motorcycles.

- The overall restraint use for drivers ages 16-17 was higher than the restraint use for passengers ages 16-17. Restraint use for drivers was 95%, compared to 92% for passengers ages 16-17 in vehicles with drivers ages 16-17 and 87% for passengers ages 16-17 in vehicles with drivers of other ages.
- Overall, drivers ages 16-17 involved in crashes were more likely to be restrained than drivers of all ages (95% vs. 86%).
- 92% of the drivers ages 16-17 injured in crashes were restrained, compared to 83% of passengers ages 16-17 injured in crashes whether riding with drivers of the same age or with drivers of any age.

TABLE 7
NYS Fatal and Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17*
SELECT CONTRIBUTING FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DRIVERS

	Drivers Ages 16-17			Total NYS 2021
	2019	2020	2021	
Total Drivers	3,134	2,132	2,698	165,086
Select Factors				
Driver Inattention/Distraction	15.3%	15.8%	14.3%	14.5%
Driver Inexperience	13.0%	13.5%	15.0%	1.9%
Failure to Yield R.O.W.	20.7%	20.4%	21.6%	11.7%
Following Too Closely	15.8%	11.8%	13.4%	10.4%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	4.9%	5.0%	5.8%	4.1%
Unsafe Speed	12.8%	15.3%	13.8%	6.6%
Cell Phone	0.4%	0.3%	0.6%	0.2%
Texting	<0.1%	0.0%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	1.8%

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

- In 2021, the top three contributing factors for drivers ages 16-17 in F&PI crashes were “failure to yield R.O.W.” (22%), “driver inexperience (15%) and “driver inattention/distraction” (14%).
- Drivers ages 16-17 in F&PI crashes were much more likely than all drivers in F&PI crashes to have “failure to yield R.O.W.” (22% vs. 12% in 2021) and “unsafe speed” (14% vs. 7% in 2021) reported as contributing factors.
- As would be expected, drivers ages 16-17 were much more likely than all drivers to have “driver inexperience” reported as a contributing factor in F&PI crashes (15% vs. 2% in 2021).

TABLE 8
NYS Traffic Tickets Issued to Drivers Ages 16-17
SELECT VIOLATIONS

	Drivers Ages 16-17			NYS Total 2021
	2019	2020	2021	
Total Tickets Issued	36,961	28,854	33,724	2,447,148
Speeding	25.1%	30.4%	27.7%	22.9%
License	14.2%	14.3%	15.1%	8.0%
Traffic Device/ Stop Sign	10.0%	8.5%	8.8%	10.3%
Seat Belts	2.6%	2.7%	3.5%	4.2%
Cell Phone	0.8%	0.5%	0.5%	1.4%
Texting	1.3%	1.0%	1.0%	2.6%
Total TSLED Tickets Issued	32,951	25,787	29,356	1,881,720
Impaired Driving	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	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 16-17 were for speeding violations, compared to 23% of the tickets issued to all drivers.
- Drivers ages 16-17 were nearly twice as likely as all drivers to be issued tickets for license violations in 2021 (15% vs. 8%) and half as likely to be issued tickets for cell phone and texting violations (2% vs. 4%).
- In 2021, less than 1% of the TSLED tickets issued to drivers ages 16-17 were for impaired driving, compared to 2% of the TSLED tickets issued to all drivers.

TABLE 9
NYS Motor Vehicle Fatal and Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17
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 16-17
F&PI Crashes (% of total)	1,595 (58.7%)	350 (12.9%)	770 (28.4%)	2,715
Fatal (% of total)	6 (54.5%)	2 (18.2%)	3 (27.3%)	11
Personal Injury (% of total)	1,589 (58.8%)	348 (12.9%)	767 (28.4%)	2,704
Fatalities (% of total)	6 (50.0%)	2 (16.7%)	4 (33.3%)	12
Persons Injured (% of total)	2,334 (56.6%)	576 (14.0%)	1,216 (29.5%)	4,126
Drivers Involved Ages 16-17 (% of total)	1,620 (58.8%)	354 (12.8%)	783 (28.4%)	2,757
Male Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	854 (55.1%)	275 (17.7%)	422 (27.2%)	1,551
Female Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	766 (63.5%)	79 (6.6%)	361 (29.9%)	1,206
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total)	55,429 (67.9%)	7,306 (9.0%)	18,791 (23.0%)	81,530

- 59% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 in 2021 occurred in the Upstate region, 28% were on Long Island and 13% occurred in New York City.
- 50% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 in 2021 occurred in the Upstate region, while 33% occurred on Long Island and 17% occurred in New York City.
- Drivers ages 16-17 were underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region (59% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 68% of the licensed drivers) and overrepresented in crashes in the Long Island region (28% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 23% of the licensed drivers) and in NYC (13% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 9% of the licensed drivers).