

NEW YORK STATE

FACT SHEET ON YOUNG DRIVERS AGES 16-24

PREPARED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH

TABLE 1
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-24
SEVERITY OF CRASH, FATALITIES & PERSONS INJURED, AND DRIVERS INVOLVED

	2019	2020	2021
Crashes (% of total NYS)	106,177 (23.8%)	77,888 (23.8%)	91,525 (24.6%)
Fatal (% of total NYS)	172 (19.5%)	227 (24.0%)	238 (22.3%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	30,429 (25.1%)	23,207 (25.7%)	27,321 (25.8%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	75,576 (23.2%)	54,454 (23.1%)	63,966 (24.1%)
Fatalities (% of total NYS)	195 (20.8%)	255 (24.7%)	254 (22.6%)
Driver Fatalities Ages 16-24 (% of total NYS)	73 (15.4%)	95 (16.8%)	93 (14.5%)
Persons Injured (% of total NYS)	44,842 (26.9%)	34,631 (27.9%)	40,888 (28.0%)
Drivers Involved Ages 16-24 (% of total NYS)	114,798 (15.8%)	83,983 (16.5%)	99,129 (16.9%)
Male Drivers Ages 16-24 (% of total NYS)	67,315 (16.1%)	50,916 (17.2%)	58,990 (17.5%)
Female Drivers Ages 16-24 (% of total NYS)	47,476 (18.1%)	33,064 (19.0%)	40,136 (19.4%)
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-24 (% of total NYS)	1,145,397 (9.5%)	1,110,080 (9.0%)	1,108,384 (9.2%)

- 24%- 25% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2019-2021 involved drivers ages 16-24.
- 21%-25% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2019-2021 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 16-24.
- The number of fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-24 rose from 195 in 2019 to 255 in 2020, an increase of 30% but then stayed almost same at 254 in 2021.
- The number of persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-24 decreased from 44,842 in 2019 to 34,631 in 2020, a decrease of 23% and then increased to 40,888 in 2021, an increase of 18%.
- Drivers ages 16-24 are overrepresented in crashes; 16%-17% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2019-2021 were ages 16-24, compared to 9%-10% of all licensed drivers.

TABLE 2
NYS Fatal & Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-24
VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS INVOLVED

	2019	2020	2021	NYS F&PI 2021
Fatal & Personal Injury Crashes	30,601	23,434	27,559	106,950
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	17.9%	19.8%	18.1%	30.0%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	82.1%	80.2%	81.9%	70.0%
Drivers Ages 16-24 in F&PI Crashes	33,372	25,513	30,042	182,718
With No Passengers*	68.0%	66.0%	67.8%	73.1%
With Passengers	32.0%	34.0%	32.2%	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 16-24 were more likely to involve multiple vehicles than all F&PI crashes (82% vs. 70% in 2021).
- Drivers ages 16-24 involved in F&PI crashes were more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (32% vs. 27% in 2021).

TABLE 3
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-24
TIME OF DAY: 2021

	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
Time of Day	Involving Drivers Ages 16-24	Involving All Drivers	Involving Drivers Ages 16-24	Involving All Drivers	Involving Drivers Ages 16-24	Involving All Drivers	Involving Drivers Ages 16-24	Involving All Drivers
	(N=238)	(N=1,068)	(N=27,321)	(N=105,882)	(N=63,966)	(N=265,209)	(N=91,525)	(N=372,159)
9pm-Mid	21.0%	17.9%	11.5%	10.0%	9.6%	8.6%	10.2%	9.0%
Mid-5am	22.3%	16.9%	7.7%	7.0%	6.5%	6.9%	6.9%	6.9%
5am-9am	8.8%	10.7%	9.7%	11.5%	11.2%	14.1%	10.8%	13.3%
9am-Noon	7.1%	8.3%	11.3%	12.7%	12.0%	13.7%	11.8%	13.4%
Noon-3pm	10.5%	14.4%	18.2%	18.6%	19.1%	18.2%	18.8%	18.3%
3pm-6pm	13.9%	14.5%	24.0%	23.1%	24.8%	22.0%	24.5%	22.3%
6pm-9pm	15.5%	16.8%	16.5%	15.6%	15.9%	14.7%	16.1%	15.0%
Unknown	0.8%	0.5%	1.1%	1.5%	0.9%	1.8%	0.9%	1.7%

- Crashes involving drivers ages 16-24 were most likely to occur between 3pm and 6pm (25%); the largest proportion of crashes involving all drivers (22%) also occurred during this time period.
- The largest proportions of fatal crashes involving drivers ages 16-24 occurred midnight-5am (22%). Personal injury crashes (24%) and property damage crashes (25%) involving drivers in this age group were most likely to occur during the 3pm-6pm time period.

TABLE 4
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-24
FATALITIES AND PERSONS INJURED

	2019	2020	2021	NYS Total 2021
Total Fatalities	195	255	254	1,126
Drivers	109 (55.9%)	148 (58.0%)	138 (54.3%)	57.1%
Passengers	45 (23.1%)	62 (24.3%)	58 (22.8%)	11.9%
Pedestrians	34 (17.4%)	38 (14.9%)	48 (18.9%)	27.0%
Bicyclists	7 (3.6%)	7 (2.7%)	10 (3.9%)	4.0%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.0%
Total Persons Injured	44,842	34,631	40,888	145,968
Drivers	29,500 (65.8%)	22,407 (64.7%)	26,951 (65.9%)	59.6%
Passengers	13,431 (30.0%)	10,586 (30.6%)	12,015 (29.4%)	26.3%
Pedestrians	1,303 (2.9%)	998 (2.9%)	1,189 (2.9%)	8.5%
Bicyclists	489 (1.1%)	546 (1.6%)	599 (1.5%)	4.8%
Other	119 (0.3%)	94 (0.3%)	134 (0.3%)	0.7%

- In 2021, drivers accounted for the majority of fatalities in both crashes involving drivers 16-24 years of age and crashes involving drivers of all ages (54% and 57%, respectively).
- Passengers comprised a higher proportion of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 16-24 years of age than in all crashes (23% vs 12% in 2021).
- Passengers also accounted for a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-24 than in all crashes (29% vs. 26% in 2021).
- Pedestrians comprised much smaller proportions of the fatalities and persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-24 than in all crashes (19% vs. 27% and 3% vs. 9%, respectively, in 2021).

TABLE 5
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-24
AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED
IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 16-24: 2021

	Killed or Injured		NYS Total
Total	6,554		38,477
Under Age 4	181	2.8%	3.4%
Ages 4-6	110	1.7%	3.2%
Ages 7-15	445	6.8%	10.7%
Ages 16-17	754	11.5%	4.1%
Ages 18-20	1,701	26.0%	7.5%
Ages 21-24	1,569	23.9%	9.5%
Ages 25-29	529	8.1%	10.7%
Age 30 and Over	1,058	16.1%	46.8%
Unknown Age	207	3.2%	4.1%

- The largest proportion of passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-24 were ages 18-20 (26%).
- Passengers ages 16-24 accounted for 61% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-24.
- Only 16% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-24 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 16-24*: 2021

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 16-24	132,573	120,983	91.3%	
Drivers Ages 16-24	93,081	86,402	92.8%	529,211 (85.5%)
Passengers Ages 16-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-24	21,421	19,254	89.9%	
Passengers Ages 16-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	18,071	15,327	84.8%	
Total Killed	107	42	39.3%	
Drivers Ages 16-24	64	31	48.4%	449 (55.9%)
Passengers Ages 16-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-24	38	9	23.7%	
Passengers Ages 16-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	5	2	40.0%	
Total Injured	21,316	18,233	85.5%	
Drivers Ages 16-24	13,730	12,176	88.7%	75,088 (88.9 %)
Passengers Ages 16-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-24	3,824	3,142	82.2%	
Passengers Ages 16-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	3,762	2,915	77.5%	
Total Uninjured	111,150	102,708	92.4%	
Drivers Ages 16-24	79,287	74,195	93.6%	453,674 (85.0%)
Passengers Ages 16-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-24	17,559	16,103	91.7%	
Passengers Ages 16-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	14,304	12,410	86.8%	

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

- The overall restraint use for drivers ages 16-24 involved in crashes in 2021 was higher than the restraint use for passengers ages 16-24. Restraint use for drivers was 93%, compared to 90% for passengers ages 16-24 in vehicles with drivers ages 16-24 and 85% for passengers ages 16-24 in vehicles with drivers of other ages.
- Overall, drivers ages 16-24 were more likely to be restrained than drivers of all ages (93% vs. 86%, respectively); of the drivers killed, restraint use for the drivers ages 16-24 was lower than all drivers (48% vs. 56%, respectively).
- 89% of the drivers ages 16-24 injured in crashes were restrained; passengers ages 16-24 injured in crashes had lower use rates whether riding with drivers of the same age or with drivers of any age (82% and 78%, respectively)

TABLE 7
NYS Fatal and Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-24*
SELECT CONTRIBUTING FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DRIVERS

	Drivers Ages 16-24			Total NYS 2021
	2019	2020	2021	
Total Drivers	32,271	24,279	28,268	165,086
Select Factors				
Driver Inattention/Distracted	16.1%	15.7%	14.7%	14.5%
Driver Inexperience	4.2%	5.1%	5.1%	1.9%
Failure to Yield R.O.W.	13.1%	13.1%	13.8%	11.7%
Following Too Closely	15.6%	12.7%	13.5%	10.4%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	4.1%	4.8%	5.0%	4.1%
Unsafe Speed	10.7%	12.3%	11.7%	6.6%
Cell Phone	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.2%
Texting	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	1.5%	1.7%	1.9%	1.8%

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

- In 2021, “driver inattention/distracted”, “failure to yield R.O.W” and “following too closely” were the most frequently reported contributing factors for both drivers ages 16-24 (15%, 14%, and 14% respectively) and for all drivers (15%, 12% and 10%, respectively) in F&PI crashes.
- Drivers ages 16-24 in F&PI crashes were more likely than all drivers in F&PI crashes to have “unsafe speed” reported as a contributing factor (12% vs. 7% in 2021).
- As would be expected, drivers ages 16-24 were also more likely than all drivers to have “driver inexperience” reported as a contributing factor in F&PI crashes (5% vs. 2% in 2021).

TABLE 8
NYS Traffic Tickets Issued to Drivers Ages 16-24
SELECT VIOLATIONS

	Drivers Ages 16-24			NYS Total 2021
	2019	2020	2021	
Total Tickets Issued	691,809	518,683	587,276	2,447,148
Speeding	24.7%	31.5%	28.3%	22.9%
License	8.5%	9.3%	9.4%	8.0%
Traffic Device/Stop Sign	10.7%	8.5%	8.5%	10.3%
Seat Belts	3.4%	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	546,934	424,783	476,435	1,881,720
Impaired Driving	1.7%	1.5%	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 being 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 16-24 were for speeding violations, compared to 23% of the tickets issued to all drivers.
- Drivers ages 16-24 were slightly less likely than all drivers to be issued tickets for cell phone and texting violations in 2021 (3% vs. 4%).

TABLE 9
NYS Motor Vehicle Fatal and Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-24
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 16-24
F&PI Crashes (% of total)	12,285	(44.6%)	8,788	(31.9%)	6,486	(23.5%)	27,559
Fatal (% of total)	134	(56.3%)	47	(19.7%)	57	(23.9%)	238
Personal Injury (% of total)	12,151	(44.5%)	8,741	(32.0%)	6,429	(23.5%)	27,321
Fatalities (% of total)	140	(55.1%)	48	(18.9%)	66	(26.0%)	254
Persons Injured (% of total)	17,431	(42.6%)	13,793	(33.7%)	9,664	(23.6%)	40,888
Drivers Involved Ages 16-24 (% of total)	13,400	(44.6%)	9,431	(31.4%)	7,211	(24.0%)	30,042
Male Drivers Ages 16-24 (% of total NYS)	7,351	(40.1%)	6,791	(37.1%)	4,179	(22.8%)	18,321
Female Drivers Ages 16-24 (% of total NYS)	6,049	(51.6%)	2,640	(22.5%)	3,032	(25.9%)	11,721
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-24 (% of total)	591,766	(53.4%)	269,963	(24.4%)	244,242	(22.0%)	1,108,384

- 45% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 16-24 occurred in the Upstate region, 32% in New York City and 24% on Long Island.
- 55% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 16-24 occurred on roadways in the Upstate region, while 19% happened on roadways in New York City and 26% occurred on Long Island highways.
- Drivers ages 16-24 were underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region (45% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 53% of the licensed drivers), overrepresented in crashes in NYC (31% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 24% of the licensed drivers) and in the Long Island region (24% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 22% of the licensed drivers).