

NEW YORK STATE

FACT SHEET ON YOUNG DRIVERS AGES 21-24

PREPARED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH

TABLE 1
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 21-24
SEVERITY OF CRASH, FATALITIES & PERSONS INJURED, AND DRIVERS INVOLVED

	2019	2020	2021
Crashes (% of total NYS)	60,578 (13.6%)	43,998 (13.4%)	51,148 (13.7%)
Fatal (% of total NYS)	97 (11.0%)	135 (14.3%)	136 (12.7%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	17,862 (14.8%)	13,536 (15.0%)	15,956 (15.1%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	42,619 (13.1%)	30,327 (12.8%)	35,056 (13.2%)
Fatalities (% of total NYS)	108 (11.5%)	154 (14.9%)	147 (13.1%)
Driver Fatalities Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)	41 (8.6%)	60 (10.6%)	62 (9.6%)
Persons Injured (% of total NYS)	26,257 (15.7%)	20,101 (16.2%)	23,855 (16.3%)
Drivers Involved Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)	63,199 (8.7%)	45,798 (9.0%)	53,339 (9.1%)
Male Drivers Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)	37,621 (9.0%)	28,230 (9.5%)	32,096 (9.5%)
Female Drivers Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)	25,574 (9.7%)	17,567 (10.1%)	21,240 (10.3%)
Licensed Drivers Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)	673,247 (5.6%)	671,471 (5.5%)	660,930 (5.5%)

- 13%-14% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2019-2021 involved drivers ages 21-24.
- 12%-15% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2019-2021 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 21-24.
- The number of driver fatalities ages 21-24 went up from 41 in 2019 to 62 in 2021.
- The number of persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 decreased from 26,257 in 2019 to 20,101 in 2020, representing a drop of 23% and then increased to 23,855 in 2021, a rise of 19%.
- Drivers ages 21-24 are overrepresented in crashes; 9% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2019-2021 were ages 21-24, compared to 6% of all licensed drivers.

TABLE 2
NYS Fatal & Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 21-24
VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS INVOLVED

	2019	2020	2021	NYS F&PI 2021
Fatal & Personal Injury Crashes	17,959	13,671	16,092	106,950
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	16.2%	18.1%	16.8%	30.0%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	83.8%	81.9%	83.2%	70.0%
Drivers Ages 21-24 in F&PI Crashes	18,887	14,338	16,895	182,718
With No Passengers*	70.7%	68.9%	70.2%	73.1%
With Passengers	29.3%	31.1%	29.8%	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 21-24 were more likely to involve multiple vehicles than all F&PI crashes (83% vs. 70% in 2021).
- The proportion of drivers ages 21-24 involved in F&PI crashes who drive with passengers was greater than the proportion of all drivers in F&PI crashes (30% vs. 27%, respectively in 2021).

TABLE 3
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 21-24
TIME OF DAY: 2021

	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
Time of Day	Involving Drivers Ages 21-24	Involving All Drivers	Involving Drivers Ages 21-24	Involving All Drivers	Involving Drivers Ages 21-24	Involving All Drivers	Involving Drivers Ages 21-24	Involving All Drivers
	(N=136)	(N=1,068)	(N=15,956)	(N=105,882)	(N=35,056)	(N=265,209)	(N=51,148)	(N=372,159)
9pm-Mid	19.1%	17.9%	11.7%	10.0%	9.3%	8.6%	10.0%	9.0%
Mid-5am	24.3%	16.9%	8.1%	7.0%	7.2%	6.9%	7.5%	6.9%
5am-9am	7.4%	10.7%	10.5%	11.5%	12.6%	14.1%	11.9%	13.3%
9am-Noon	5.1%	8.3%	11.4%	12.7%	12.1%	13.7%	11.9%	13.4%
Noon-3pm	10.3%	14.4%	17.3%	18.6%	18.2%	18.2%	17.9%	18.3%
3pm-6pm	14.7%	14.5%	23.5%	23.1%	24.3%	22.0%	24.0%	22.3%
6pm-9pm	17.6%	16.8%	16.2%	15.6%	15.4%	14.7%	15.7%	15.0%
Unknown	1.5%	0.5%	1.3%	1.5%	0.9%	1.8%	1.1%	1.7%

- Crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 were most likely to occur between 3pm and 6pm (24%); the largest proportion of crashes involving all drivers (22%) also occurred during this time period.
- The largest proportion of fatal crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 occurred between midnight and 5am (24%). Personal injury crashes (24%) and property damage crashes (24%) 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 21-24
FATALITIES AND PERSONS INJURED

	2019	2020	2021	NYS Total 2021
Total Fatalities	108	154	147	1,126
Drivers	63 (58.3%)	93 (60.4%)	88 (59.9%)	57.1%
Passengers	22 (20.4%)	33 (21.4%)	29 (19.7%)	11.9%
Pedestrians	21 (19.4%)	22 (14.3%)	24 (16.3%)	27.0%
Bicyclists	2 (1.9%)	6 (3.9%)	6 (4.1%)	4.0%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.0%
Total Persons Injured	26,257	20,101	23,855	145,968
Drivers	17,350 (66.1%)	13,106 (65.2%)	15,801 (66.2%)	59.6%
Passengers	7,715 (29.4%)	5,994 (29.8%)	6,843 (28.7%)	26.3%
Pedestrians	817 (3.1%)	612 (3.0%)	741 (3.1%)	8.5%
Bicyclists	302 (1.2%)	326 (1.6%)	377 (1.6%)	4.8%
Other	73 (0.3%)	63 (0.3%)	93 (0.4%)	0.7%

- In 2021, drivers accounted for 60% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 21-24 years of age, compared to 57% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers of all ages.
- Passengers accounted for a larger portion of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 than in all crashes (20% vs. 12% in 2021).
- Passengers accounted for a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 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 21-24 than in all crashes (16% vs. 27% and 3% vs. 9%, respectively, in 2021).

TABLE 5
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 21-24
AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED
IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 21-24: 2021

	Killed or Injured		NYS Total
Total	3,505		38,477
Under Age 4	146	4.2%	3.4%
Ages 4-6	77	2.2%	3.2%
Ages 7-15	150	4.3%	10.7%
Ages 16-17	114	3.3%	4.1%
Ages 18-20	541	15.4%	7.5%
Ages 21-24	1,194	34.1%	9.5%
Ages 25-29	441	12.6%	10.7%
Age 30 and Over	700	20.0%	46.8%
Unknown Age	142	4.1%	4.1%

- The largest proportion of passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 21-24 were ages 21-24 (34%).

- Passengers ages 18-24 accounted for 50% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 21-24.
- Only 20% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 21-24 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 21-24*: 2021

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 21-24	65,070	59,083	90.8%	
Drivers Ages 21-24	49,315	45,387	92.0%	529,211 (85.5%)
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 21-24	5,682	5,112	90.0%	
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	10,073	8,584	85.2%	
Total Killed	56	24	42.9%	
Drivers Ages 21-24	38	19	50.0%	449 (55.9%)
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 21-24	9	2	22.2%	
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	9	3	33.3%	
Total Injured	11,093	9,433	85.0%	
Drivers Ages 21-24	7,708	6,765	87.8%	75,088 (88.9%)
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 21-24	1,120	942	84.1%	
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	2,265	1,726	76.2%	
Total Uninjured	53,921	49,626	92.0%	
Drivers Ages 21-24	41,569	38,603	92.9%	453,674 (85.0%)
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 21-24	4,553	4,168	91.5%	
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	7,799	6,855	87.9%	

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

- The overall restraint use for drivers ages 21-24 was higher than the restraint use for passengers ages 21-24. Restraint use for drivers was 92%, compared to 90% for passengers ages 21-24 in vehicles with drivers ages 21-24 and 86% for passengers ages 21-24 in vehicles with drivers of other ages.
- For drivers killed, drivers ages 21-24 were less likely to be restrained than drivers of all ages (43% vs. 56%, respectively).
- 88% of the drivers ages 21-24 injured in crashes were restrained; passengers ages 21-24 injured in crashes had lower use rates whether riding with drivers of the same age or with drivers of any age (84% and 76%, respectively).

TABLE 7
NYS Fatal and Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 21-24*
SELECT CONTRIBUTING FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DRIVERS

	Drivers Ages 21-24			Total NYS 2021
	2019	2020	2021	
Total Drivers	18,121	13,485	15,653	165,086
Select Factors				
Driver Inattention/Distracted	15.9%	15.5%	14.6%	14.5%
Driver Inexperience	2.2%	3.1%	3.1%	1.9%
Failure to Yield ROW	11.2%	11.1%	11.9%	11.7%
Following Too Closely	15.0%	12.4%	12.9%	10.4%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	3.9%	4.6%	4.6%	4.1%
Unsafe Speed	9.5%	11.2%	10.8%	6.6%
Cell Phone	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Texting	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	2.1%	2.3%	2.4%	1.8%

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

- In 2021, “driver inattention/distracted” and “following too closely” were the two most frequently reported contributing factors for drivers ages 21-24 (15% and 13%, respectively); “driver inattention/distracted” and “failure to yield ROW” were the two most frequently reported contributing factors for all drivers (15% and 12%, respectively) in F&PI crashes.
- Drivers ages 21-24 in F&PI crashes were more likely than all drivers in F&PI crashes to have “unsafe speed” reported as a contributing factor (11% vs. 7% in 2021).

TABLE 8
NYS Traffic Tickets Issued to Drivers Ages 21-24
SELECT VIOLATIONS

	Drivers Ages 21-24			NYS Total 2021
	2019	2020	2021	
Total Tickets Issued	423,332	308,995	347,044	2,447,148
Speeding	22.9%	29.8%	26.6%	22.9%
License	8.5%	9.4%	9.4%	8.0%
Traffic Device/Stop Sign	11.0%	8.6%	8.5%	10.3%
Seat Belts	3.6%	3.2%	3.6%	4.2%
Cell Phone	1.3%	0.8%	0.9%	1.4%
Texting	2.7%	2.0%	2.2%	2.6%
Total TSLED Tickets Issued	321,915	246,178	274,668	1,881,720
Impaired Driving	2.3%	2.0%	1.9%	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, 27% of the tickets issued to drivers ages 21-24 were for speeding violations, compared to 23% of the tickets issued to all drivers.

- Drivers ages 21-24 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 21-24
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 21-24
F&PI Crashes (% of total)	6,499 (40.4%)	6,068 (37.7%)	3,525 (21.9%)	16,092
Fatal (% of total)	72 (52.9%)	29 (21.3%)	35 (25.7%)	136
Personal Injury (% of total)	6,427 (40.3%)	6,039 (37.8%)	3,490 (21.9%)	15,956
Fatalities (% of total)	75 (51.0%)	30 (20.4%)	42 (28.6%)	147
Persons Injured (% of total)	9,191 (38.5%)	9,523 (39.9%)	5,141 (21.6%)	23,855
Drivers Involved Ages 21-24 (% of total)	6,833 (40.4%)	6,349 (37.6%)	3,713 (22.0%)	16,895
Male Drivers Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)	3,803 (36.4%)	4,481 (42.9%)	2,171 (20.8%)	10,455
Female Drivers Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)	3,030 (47.0%)	1,868 (29.0%)	1,542 (23.9%)	6,440
Licensed Drivers Ages 21-24 (% of total)	331,763 (50.2%)	187,832 (28.4%)	139,163 (21.1%)	660,930

- In 2021, 40% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 occurred in the Upstate region, 38% took place in New York City and 22% on Long Island.
- 51% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 were in the Upstate region, 20% in New York City and 29% on Long Island.
- Drivers ages 21-24 are underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region (40% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 50% of the licensed drivers) and overrepresented in crashes in New York City (38% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 28% of the licensed drivers) and Long Island (22% of the drivers involved in crashes vs. 21% of the licensed drivers).