

NEW YORK STATE FACT SHEET ON YOUNG DRIVERS AGES 16-20

PREPARED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH

**TABLE 1
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-20
SEVERITY OF CRASH, FATALITIES & PERSONS INJURED, AND DRIVERS INVOLVED**

	2015	2016	2017
Crashes (% of total NYS)	38,121 (12.9%)	38,938 (12.9%)	38,376 (12.4%)
Fatal (% of total NYS)	97 (9.3%)	99 (10.2%)	99 (10.6%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	14,633 (12.9%)	15,582 (12.7%)	15,135 (12.3%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	23,391 (13.0%)	23,257 (13.1%)	23,142 (12.4%)
Fatalities (% of total NYS)	107 (9.6%)	108 (10.5%)	113 (11.3%)
Driver Fatalities Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	34 (5.9%)	41 (7.7%)	43 (8.3%)
Persons Injured (% of total NYS)	21,805 (13.7%)	22,979 (13.5%)	22,485 (13.2%)
Drivers Involved Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	40,049 (8.3%)	40,801 (8.2%)	40,115 (7.9%)
Male Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	23,008 (8.4%)	23,379 (8.3%)	23,064 (7.9%)
Female Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	17,041 (9.3%)	17,422 (9.3%)	17,050 (9.0%)
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	469,280 (4.0%)	473,581 (3.9%)	481,995 (4.0%)

- 12%-13% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2015-2017 involved drivers ages 16-20; the number of crashes rose slightly from 38,121 in 2015 to 38,938 in 2016 and then declined to 38,376 in 2017.
- 10%-11% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2015-2017 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20.
- The number of fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 increased slightly from 107 in 2015 to 113 in 2017, an increase of 6%. Forty-three drivers ages 16-20 were killed in crashes in 2017, up from 34 in 2015, representing an increase of 26%.
- The number of persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 increased from 21,805 in 2015 to 22,979 in 2016 then decreased slightly to 22,485 in 2017.
- Drivers ages 16-20 are overrepresented in crashes; 8% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2015-2017 were ages 16-20, compared to 4% of all licensed drivers.

TABLE 2
NYS Fatal & Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-20
VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS INVOLVED

	2015	2016	2017	NYS F&PI 2017
Fatal & Personal Injury Crashes	14,730	15,681	15,234	123,484
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	21.1%	21.0%	19.8%	29.8%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	78.9%	79.0%	80.2%	70.2%
Drivers Ages 16-20 in F&PI Crashes	15,450	16,413	15,919	216,380
With No Passengers*	65.2%	65.4%	65.2%	71.3%
With Passengers	34.8%	34.6%	34.8%	28.7%

*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 16-20 were more likely to involve multiple vehicles than all F&PI crashes (80% vs. 70% in 2017).
- Drivers ages 16-20 involved in F&PI crashes were more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (35% vs. 29% in 2017).

TABLE 3
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-20
TIME OF DAY: 2017

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 16-20 (N=99)	Involving All Drivers (N=933)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-20 (N=15,135)	Involving All Drivers (N=122,551)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-20 (N=23,142)	Involving All Drivers (N=185,887)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-20 (N=38,376)	Involving All Drivers (N=309,371)
9pm-Mid	14.1%	15.1%	9.4%	8.6%	9.0%	7.6%	9.2%	8.0%
Mid-5am	12.1%	15.0%	5.6%	6.1%	5.4%	6.6%	5.5%	6.4%
5am-9am	9.1%	12.5%	10.6%	13.4%	11.9%	16.0%	11.4%	15.0%
9am-Noon	12.1%	10.3%	11.1%	13.8%	12.5%	14.0%	12.0%	13.9%
Noon-3pm	12.1%	13.1%	19.3%	18.1%	19.5%	17.0%	19.4%	17.4%
3pm-6pm	19.2%	17.7%	26.7%	23.5%	25.5%	21.6%	26.0%	22.4%
6pm-9pm	21.2%	16.2%	16.6%	15.3%	14.7%	13.9%	15.5%	14.4%
Unknown	0.0%	0.1%	0.6%	1.3%	1.4%	3.3%	1.1%	2.5%

- Crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 were most likely to occur between 3pm and 6pm (26%); the largest proportion of crashes involving all drivers (22%) also occurred during this time period.
- The largest proportions of personal injury crashes (27%) and property damage crashes (26%) involving drivers ages 16-20 occurred during the 3pm-6pm time period
- The largest proportion of fatal crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 occurred between 6pm and 9pm.

TABLE 4
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-20
FATALITIES AND PERSONS INJURED

	2015	2016	2017	NYS Total 2017
Total Fatalities	107	108	113	1,000
Drivers	58 (54.2%)	61 (56.5%)	62 (54.9%)	51.8%
Passengers	30 (28.0%)	27 (25.0%)	29 (25.7%)	18.1%
Pedestrians	16 (15.0%)	18 (16.7%)	18 (15.9%)	25.2%
Bicyclists	3 (2.8%)	2 (1.9%)	4 (3.5%)	4.8%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.1%
Total Persons Injured	21,805	22,979	22,485	169,752
Drivers	14,475 (66.4%)	15,306 (66.6%)	14,930 (66.4%)	59.3%
Passengers	6,695 (30.7%)	6,939 (30.2%)	6,831 (30.4%)	27.6%
Pedestrians	449 (2.1%)	507 (2.2%)	517 (2.3%)	9.2%
Bicyclists	165 (0.8%)	196 (0.9%)	171 (0.8%)	3.5%
Other	21 (0.1%)	31 (0.1%)	36 (0.2%)	0.4%

- In 2017, drivers accounted for 55% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 16-20 years of age and 52% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers of all ages.
- Compared to fatalities in all crashes, fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 were much more likely to be passengers (18% vs. 26% in 2017).
- Passengers also accounted for a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 than in all crashes (30% vs. 28% in 2017).
- Pedestrians comprised much smaller proportions of the fatalities and persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 than in all crashes (16% vs. 25% and 2% vs. 9%, respectively, in 2017).

TABLE 5
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-20
AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED
IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 16-20: 2017

	Killed or Injured		NYS Total
Total	3,538		46,991
Under Age 4	69	2.0%	4.3%
Ages 4-6	28	0.8%	3.9%
Ages 7-15	391	11.1%	12.5%
Ages 16-17	812	23.0%	4.1%
Ages 18-20	1,156	32.7%	6.9%
Ages 21-24	434	12.3%	9.0%
Ages 25-29	131	3.7%	10.2%
Age 30 and Over	447	12.6%	45.6%
Unknown Age	70	2.0%	3.5%

- The largest proportion of passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-20 were ages 18-20 (33%).
- Passengers ages 16-20 accounted for 56% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-20, compared to 11% of the passengers killed or injured riding with all drivers.
- Only 13% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-20 were age 30 or over, compared to 46% of the passengers riding with all drivers.

TABLE 6
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes
RESTRAINT USE FOR VEHICLE OCCUPANTS AGES 16-20*: 2017

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 16-20	61,547	56,090	91.1%	
Drivers Ages 16-20	37,868	35,729	94.4%	447,160 (89.1%)
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-20	10,203	9,246	90.6%	
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	13,476	11,115	82.5%	
Total Killed	58	28	48.3%	
Drivers Ages 16-20	34	20	58.8%	384 (56.0%)
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-20	18	6	33.3%	
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	6	2	33.3%	
Total Injured	12,129	10,588	87.3%	
Drivers Ages 16-20	7,143	6,608	92.5%	89,127 (91.1%)
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-20	1,902	1,559	82.0%	
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	3,084	2,421	78.5%	
Total Uninjured	49,360	45,474	92.1%	
Drivers Ages 16-20	30,691	29,101	94.8%	357,649 (88.6%)
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-20	8,283	7,681	92.7%	
Passengers Ages 16-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	10,386	8,692	83.7%	

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

- The overall restraint use for drivers ages 16-20 involved in crashes in 2017 was higher than the restraint use for passengers ages 16-20. Restraint use for drivers was 94%, compared to 91% for passengers ages 16-20 in vehicles with drivers ages 16-20 and 83% for passengers ages 16-20 in vehicles with drivers of other ages.
- Overall, drivers ages 16-20 involved in crashes were more likely to be restrained than drivers of all ages (94% vs. 89%). Among the drivers killed in crashes, drivers ages 16-20 were more likely to be restrained than all drivers (59% vs. 56%, respectively).
- 93% of the drivers ages 16-20 injured in crashes were restrained; passengers ages 16-20 injured in crashes had lower use rates whether riding with drivers of the same age or with drivers of any age (82% and 79%, respectively).

TABLE 7
NYS Fatal and Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-20*
SELECT CONTRIBUTING FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DRIVERS

	Drivers Ages 16-20			Total NYS
	2015	2016	2017	2017
Total Drivers	14,759	15,738	15,341	199,435
Select Factors				
Driver Inattention/Distracted	15.4%	15.7%	15.9%	14.8%
Driver Inexperience	6.9%	6.5%	7.1%	1.6%
Failure to Yield R.O.W.	14.5%	13.6%	15.6%	11.1%
Following Too Closely	16.5%	16.4%	16.9%	12.5%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	4.1%	4.0%	4.2%	3.4%
Unsafe Speed	13.3%	13.4%	12.8%	5.9%
Cell Phone	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%
Texting	<0.1%	<0.1%	0%	<0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	1.3%	1.3%	1.1%	1.7%

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

- In 2017, “driver inattention/distracted” and “following too closely” were the two most frequently reported contributing factors for both drivers ages 16-20 (16% and 17%, respectively) and for all drivers (15% and 13%, respectively) in F&PI crashes.
- Drivers ages 16-20 in F&PI crashes were more than twice as likely as all drivers in F&PI crashes to have “unsafe speed” reported as a contributing factor (13% vs. 6% in 2017).
- As would be expected, drivers ages 16-20 were also much more likely than all drivers to have “driver inexperience” reported as a contributing factor in F&PI crashes (7% vs. 2% in 2017).

TABLE 8
NYS Traffic Tickets Issued to Drivers Ages 16-20
SELECT VIOLATIONS

	Drivers Ages 16-20			NYS Total
	2015	2016	2017	2017
Total Tickets Issued	293,034	306,808	302,649	3,724,952
Speeding	27.2%	27.2%	26.2%	18.6%
License	8.0%	8.6%	8.7%	7.2%
Traffic Device/Stop Sign	9.8%	10.1%	10.0%	13.4%
Seat Belts	3.8%	3.4%	3.2%	4.4%
Cell Phone	1.5%	1.3%	1.2%	2.8%
Texting	1.3%	1.4%	1.6%	3.0%
Total TSLED Tickets Issued	249,482	262,366	259,317	2,506,390
Impaired Driving	1.3%	1.3%	1.1%	2.5%

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 2017, 26% of the tickets issued to drivers ages 16-20 were for speeding violations, compared to 19% of the tickets issued to all drivers.

- Drivers ages 16-20 were less likely than all drivers to be issued tickets for cell phone and texting violations in 2017 (3% vs. 6%).
- Drivers ages 16-20 were slightly less likely than all drivers to be issued tickets for impaired driving under TSLED in 2017 (1% vs. 3%).

TABLE 9
NYS Motor Vehicle Fatal and Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-20
SEVERITY OF CRASH, FATALITIES & PERSONS INJURED, AND DRIVERS INVOLVED
BY REGION OF THE STATE*: 2017

	UPSTATE	NYC	LONG ISLAND	NYS F&PI Involving Drivers Ages 16-20
F&PI Crashes (% of total)	8,290 (54.4%)	2,952 (19.4%)	3,988 (26.2%)	15,234
Fatal (% of total)	65 (65.7%)	10 (10.1%)	24 (24.2%)	99
Personal Injury (% of total)	8,225 (54.3%)	2,942 (19.4%)	3,964 (26.2%)	15,135
Fatalities (% of total)	73 (64.6%)	11 (9.7%)	29 (25.7%)	113
Persons Injured (% of total)	11,760 (52.3%)	4,662 (20.7%)	6,056 (26.9%)	22,485
Drivers Involved Ages 16-20 (% of total)	8,673 (54.5%)	3,018 (19.0%)	4,224 (26.5%)	15,919
Male Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	4,591 (50.3%)	2,195 (24.0%)	2,338 (25.6%)	9,128
Female Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total NYS)	4,082 (60.1%)	822 (12.1%)	1,886 (27.8%)	6,790
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-20 (% of total)	287,509 (59.7%)	80,850 (16.8%)	113,636 (23.6%)	481,995

*Note: Regional data may not sum to statewide due to missing data.

- 54% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 occurred in the Upstate region, 26% occurred in Nassau and Suffolk counties on Long Island and 19% occurred in the five New York City counties.
- 65% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 occurred in the Upstate region, 26% occurred in the Long Island region and 10% in New York City.
- Drivers ages 16-20 were underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region and overrepresented in F&PI crashes in the New York City and Long Island regions.