

# NEW YORK STATE FACT SHEET ON YOUNG DRIVERS AGES 18-20

PREPARED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH

**TABLE 1**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 18-20**  
**SEVERITY OF CRASH, FATALITIES & PERSONS INJURED, AND DRIVERS INVOLVED**

	2015	2016	2017
<b>Crashes (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>29,931 (10.2%)</b>	<b>30,406 (10.1%)</b>	<b>29,754 (9.6%)</b>
Fatal (% of total NYS)	80 (7.7%)	75 (7.7%)	85 (9.1%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	11,592 (10.2%)	12,413 (10.1%)	11,870 (9.7%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	18,259 (10.1%)	17,918 (10.1%)	17,799 (9.6%)
<b>Fatalities (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>85 (7.6%)</b>	<b>81 (7.9%)</b>	<b>95 (9.5%)</b>
Driver Fatalities Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)	29 (5.0%)	32 (6.0%)	38 (7.3%)
<b>Persons Injured (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>17,179 (10.8%)</b>	<b>18,204 (10.7%)</b>	<b>17,542 (10.3%)</b>
<b>Drivers Involved Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>31,035 (6.4%)</b>	<b>31,561 (6.4%)</b>	<b>30,758 (6.0%)</b>
Male Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)	18,127 (6.6%)	18,284 (6.5%)	17,958 (6.1%)
Female Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)	12,908 (7.0%)	13,277 (7.1%)	12,799 (6.8%)
<b>Licensed Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>385,567 (3.2%)</b>	<b>386,569 (3.2%)</b>	<b>389,711 (3.2%)</b>

- 10% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2015-2017 involved drivers ages 18-20; the number of crashes increased slightly from 29,931 in 2015 to 30,406 in 2016 then decreased to 29,754 in 2017.
- 8%-10% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2015-2017 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 18-20.
- The number of fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 declined from 85 in 2015 to 81 in 2016 then increased to 95 in 2017. In 2017, 38 drivers ages 18-20 were killed in crashes, up from the 29 fatalities in 2015, an increase of 12%.
- The number of persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 increased from 17,179 in 2015 to 18,204 in 2016 then decreased to 17,542 in 2017.
- Drivers ages 18-20 are overrepresented in crashes; 6% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2015-2017 were ages 18-20, compared to 3% of all licensed drivers.

**TABLE 2**  
**NYS Fatal & Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 18-20**  
**VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS INVOLVED**

	2015	2016	2017	NYS F&PI 2017
<b>Fatal &amp; Personal Injury Crashes</b>	<b>11,672</b>	<b>12,488</b>	<b>11,955</b>	<b>123,484</b>
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	20.3%	20.3%	19.1%	29.8%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	79.7%	79.7%	80.9%	70.2%
<b>Drivers Ages 18-20 in F&amp;PI Crashes</b>	<b>12,099</b>	<b>12,956</b>	<b>12,370</b>	<b>216,380</b>
With No Passengers*	67.2%	67.2%	67.3%	71.3%
With Passengers	32.8%	32.8%	32.7%	28.7%

\*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 18-20 were more likely to involve multiple vehicles than all F&PI crashes (81% vs. 70% in 2017).
- Drivers ages 18-20 involved in F&PI crashes were more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (33% vs. 29% in 2017).

**TABLE 3**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 18-20**  
**TIME OF DAY: 2017**

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 18-20 (N=85)	Involving All Drivers (N=933)	Involving Drivers Ages 18-20 (N=11,870)	Involving All Drivers (N=122,551)	Involving Drivers Ages 18-20 (N=17,799)	Involving All Drivers (N=185,887)	Involving Drivers Ages 18-20 (N=29,754)	Involving All Drivers (N=309,371)
9pm-Mid	14.1%	15.1%	9.9%	8.6%	9.5%	7.6%	9.6%	8.0%
Mid-5am	12.9%	15.0%	6.2%	6.1%	6.2%	6.6%	6.2%	6.4%
5am-9am	8.2%	12.5%	10.3%	13.4%	11.6%	16.0%	11.1%	15.0%
9am-Noon	14.1%	10.3%	11.8%	13.8%	13.3%	14.0%	12.7%	13.9%
Noon-3pm	12.9%	13.1%	19.1%	18.1%	18.8%	17.0%	18.9%	17.4%
3pm-6pm	16.5%	17.7%	25.9%	23.5%	25.1%	21.6%	25.4%	22.4%
6pm-9pm	21.2%	16.2%	16.1%	15.3%	14.1%	13.9%	15.0%	14.4%
Unknown	0.0%	0.1%	0.7%	1.3%	1.4%	3.3%	1.1%	2.5%

- Crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 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 18-20 occurred 6pm-9pm (21%). Personal injury crashes (26%) 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 18-20**  
**FATALITIES AND PERSONS INJURED**

	2015	2016	2017	NYS Total 2017
<b>Total Fatalities</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>1,000</b>
Drivers	48 (56.5%)	44 (54.3%)	52 (54.7%)	51.8%
Passengers	21 (24.7%)	18 (22.2%)	22 (23.2%)	18.1%
Pedestrians	13 (15.3%)	17 (21.0%)	17 (17.9%)	25.2%
Bicyclists	3 (3.5%)	2 (2.5%)	4 (4.2%)	4.8%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.1%
<b>Total Persons Injured</b>	<b>17,179</b>	<b>18,204</b>	<b>17,542</b>	<b>169,752</b>
Drivers	11,466 (66.7%)	12,211 (67.1%)	11,736 (66.9%)	59.3%
Passengers	5,197 (30.3%)	5,377 (29.5%)	5,195 (29.6%)	27.6%
Pedestrians	370 (2.2%)	422 (2.3%)	442 (2.5%)	9.2%
Bicyclists	134 (0.8%)	169 (0.9%)	140 (0.8%)	3.5%
Other	12 (0.1%)	25 (0.1%)	29 (0.2%)	0.4%

- In 2017, drivers accounted for 55% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 18-20 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 18-20 were much more likely to be passengers (18% vs. 23% in 2017).
- Passengers also accounted for a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 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 18-20 than in all crashes (18% vs. 25% and 3% vs. 9%, respectively, in 2017).

**TABLE 5**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 18-20**  
**AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED**  
**IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 18-20: 2017**

	Killed or Injured		NYS Total
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,582</b>		<b>46,991</b>
Under Age 4	66	2.6%	4.3%
Ages 4-6	27	1.0%	3.9%
Ages 7-15	198	7.7%	12.5%
Ages 16-17	382	14.8%	4.1%
Ages 18-20	1,013	39.2%	6.9%
Ages 21-24	415	16.1%	9.0%
Ages 25-29	117	4.5%	10.2%
Age 30 and Over	308	11.9%	45.6%
Unknown Age	56	2.2%	3.5%

- The largest proportion of passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 18-20 were ages 18-20 (39%).
- Passengers ages 16-20 accounted for 54% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 18-20, compared to 11% of the passengers riding with all drivers.
- Only 12% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 18-20 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 18-20\*: 2017**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Restrained</b>	<b>% Restrained</b>	<b>NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)</b>
<b>Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 18-20</b>	<b>42,917</b>	<b>39,334</b>	<b>91.7%</b>	
Drivers Ages 18-20	28,924	27,230	94.1%	<b>447,160 (89.1%)</b>
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-20	5,273	4,775	90.6%	
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	8,720	7,329	84.0%	
<b>Total Killed</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>52.5%</b>	
Drivers Ages 18-20	29	17	58.6%	<b>384 (56.0%)</b>
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-20	7	2	28.6%	
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	4	2	50.0%	
<b>Total Injured</b>	<b>8,637</b>	<b>7,550</b>	<b>87.4%</b>	
Drivers Ages 18-20	5,525	5,110	92.5%	<b>89,127 (91.1%)</b>
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-20	969	800	82.6%	
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	2,143	1,640	76.5%	
<b>Total Uninjured</b>	<b>34,240</b>	<b>31,763</b>	<b>92.8%</b>	
Drivers Ages 18-20	23,370	22,103	94.6%	<b>357,649 (88.6%)</b>
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 18-20	4,297	3,973	92.5%	
Passengers Ages 18-20 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	6,573	5,687	86.5%	

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

- The overall restraint use for drivers ages 18-20 was higher than the restraint use for passengers ages 18-20. Restraint use for drivers was 94%, compared to 91% for passengers ages 18-20 in vehicles with drivers ages 18-20 and 84% for passengers ages 18-20 in vehicles with drivers of other ages.
- For drivers killed, drivers ages 18-20 were more likely to be restrained than drivers of all ages (59% vs. 56%).
- 93% of the drivers ages 18-20 injured in crashes were restrained; passengers ages 18-20 injured in crashes had lower use rates whether riding with drivers of the same age (83%) or with drivers of any age (77%).

**TABLE 7**  
**NYS Fatal and Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 18-20\***  
**SELECT CONTRIBUTING FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DRIVERS**

	Drivers Ages 18-20			Total NYS
	2015	2016	2017	2017
<b>Total Drivers</b>	<b>11,493</b>	<b>12,383</b>	<b>11,862</b>	<b>199,435</b>
<b>Select Factors</b>				
Driver Inattention/Distracted	15.5%	15.7%	16.2%	14.8%
Driver Inexperience	5.1%	4.8%	5.0%	1.6%
Failure to Yield ROW	13.4%	12.3%	14.6%	11.1%
Following Too Closely	16.8%	16.7%	17.1%	12.5%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	4.2%	4.0%	4.2%	3.4%
Unsafe Speed	13.0%	13.0%	12.5%	5.9%
Cell Phone	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.2%
Texting	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	1.5%	1.5%	1.3%	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 18-20 (16% and 17%, respectively) and for all drivers (15% and 13%, respectively) in F&PI crashes.
- Drivers ages 18-20 in F&PI crashes were 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 18-20 were also more likely than all drivers to have “driver inexperience” reported as a contributing factor in F&PI crashes (5% vs. 2% in 2017).

**TABLE 8**  
**NYS Traffic Tickets Issued to Drivers Ages 18-20**  
**SELECT VIOLATIONS**

	Drivers Ages 18-20			NYS Total
	2015	2016	2017	2015
<b>Total Tickets Issued</b>	<b>252,660</b>	<b>265,074</b>	<b>260,517</b>	<b>3,724,952</b>
Speeding	27.6%	27.5%	26.6%	18.6%
License	7.1%	7.8%	7.8%	7.2%
Traffic Device/Stop Sign	9.8%	10.2%	10.1%	13.4%
Seat Belts	3.9%	3.5%	3.4%	4.4%
Cell Phone	1.5%	1.3%	1.3%	2.8%
Texting	1.3%	1.5%	1.7%	3.0%
<b>Total TSLED Tickets Issued</b>	<b>212,823</b>	<b>223,090</b>	<b>219,546</b>	<b>2,506,390</b>
Impaired Driving	1.4%	1.4%	1.2%	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, 27% of the tickets issued to drivers ages 18-20 were for speeding violations, compared to 19% of the tickets issued to all drivers.

- Drivers ages 18-20 were less likely than all drivers to be issued tickets for cell phone and texting violations in 2017 (3% vs. 6%).
- Drivers ages 18-20 were also 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 18-20**  
**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 18-20
<b>F&amp;PI Crashes (% of total)</b>	<b>6,214 (52.0%)</b>	<b>2,635 (22.0%)</b>	<b>3,103 (26.0%)</b>	<b>11,955</b>
Fatal (% of total)	54 (63.5%)	10 (11.8%)	21 (24.7%)	85
Personal Injury (% of total)	6,160 (51.9%)	2,625 (22.1%)	3,082 (26.0%)	11,870
<b>Fatalities (% of total)</b>	<b>60 (63.2%)</b>	<b>11 (11.6%)</b>	<b>24 (25.3%)</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Persons Injured (% of total)</b>	<b>8,742 (49.8%)</b>	<b>4,144 (23.6%)</b>	<b>4,651 (26.5%)</b>	<b>17,542</b>
<b>Drivers Involved Ages 18-20 (% of total)</b>	<b>6,435 (52.0%)</b>	<b>2,686 (21.7%)</b>	<b>3,246 (26.2%)</b>	<b>12,370</b>
Male Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)	3,421 (47.5%)	1,967 (27.3%)	1,817 (25.2%)	7,208
Female Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total NYS)	3,014 (58.4%)	718 (13.9%)	1,429 (27.7%)	5,161
<b>Licensed Drivers Ages 18-20 (% of total)</b>	<b>223,663 (57.4%)</b>	<b>73,374 (18.8%)</b>	<b>92,674 (23.8%)</b>	<b>385,567</b>

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

- 52% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 18-20 in 2017 took place in the Upstate region, 26% occurred on Long Island and 22% in New York City.
- 63% of the fatalities in crashes with drivers ages 18-20 were in the Upstate region, while 12% and 25% of the fatalities occurred in the New York City and Long Island regions, respectively.
- Drivers ages 18-20 are underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region and overrepresented in crashes in the New York City and Long Island regions.