

NEW YORK STATE

FACT SHEET ON YOUNG DRIVERS AGES 16-18

PREPARED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH

TABLE 1
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-18
SEVERITY OF CRASH, FATALITIES & INJURIES, AND DRIVERS INVOLVED

	2015	2016	2017
Crashes (% of total NYS)	17,953 (6.1%)	18,440 (6.1%)	18,221 (5.9%)
Fatal (% of total NYS)	42 (4.0%)	45 (4.6%)	35 (3.8%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	6,742 (5.9%)	7,112 (5.8%)	7,022 (5.7%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	11,169 (6.2%)	11,283 (6.3%)	11,164 (6.0%)
Fatalities (% of total NYS)	48 (4.3%)	49 (4.8%)	39 (3.9%)
Driver Fatalities Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)	10 (1.7%)	17 (3.2%)	13 (2.5%)
Persons Injured (% of total NYS)	10,145 (6.4%)	10,553 (6.2%)	10,513 (6.2%)
Drivers Involved Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)	18,567 (3.8%)	19,000 (3.8%)	18,763 (3.7%)
Male Drivers Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)	10,388 (3.8%)	10,721 (3.8%)	10,600 (3.6%)
Female Drivers Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)	8,179 (4.4%)	8,279 (4.4%)	8,162 (4.3%)
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)	190,900 (1.6%)	196,182 (1.6%)	202,774 (1.7%)

- 6% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2015-2017 involved drivers ages 16-18.
- During 2015-2017, 4%-5% of all motor vehicle fatalities occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 16-18. The number of fatalities from crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 decreased from 49 in 2016 to 39.
- In 2017, the number of drivers ages 16-18 killed in crashes dropped to 13, after increasing from 10 to 17 between 2015 and 2017.
- The number of crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 and the number of fatalities and persons injured in these crashes declined in 2017.
- Drivers ages 16-18 are overrepresented in crashes; about 4% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2014-2016 were ages 16-18, compared to approximately 2% of all licensed drivers.

TABLE 2
NYS Fatal & Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-18
VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS INVOLVED

	2015	2016	2017	NYS F&PI 2017
Fatal & Personal Injury Crashes	6,784	7,157	7,057	123,484
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	22.4%	22.0%	20.7%	29.8%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	77.6%	78.0%	79.3%	70.2%
Drivers Ages 16-18 in F&PI Crashes	6,979	7,347	7,251	216,380
With No Passengers*	61.2%	62.0%	61.3%	71.3%
With Passengers	38.8%	38.0%	38.7%	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 16-18 are more likely to involve multiple vehicles than all F&PI crashes (79% vs. 70% in 2017).
- Drivers ages 16-18 involved in F&PI crashes are more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (39% vs. 29% in 2017).

TABLE 3
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-18
TIME OF DAY: 2017

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 16-18 (N=35)	Involving All Drivers (N=933)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-18 (N=7,022)	Involving All Drivers (N=122,551)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-18 (N=11,164)	Involving All Drivers (N=185,887)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-18 (N=18,221)	Involving All Drivers (N=309,371)
9pm-Mid	17.1%	15.1%	9.0%	8.6%	8.4%	7.6%	8.7%	8.0%
Mid-5am	14.3%	15.0%	4.2%	6.1%	4.0%	6.6%	4.1%	6.4%
5am-9am	11.4%	12.5%	11.3%	13.4%	12.0%	16.0%	11.7%	15.0%
9am-Noon	5.7%	10.3%	10.2%	13.8%	11.2%	14.0%	10.8%	13.9%
Noon-3pm	11.4%	13.1%	19.6%	18.1%	20.9%	17.0%	20.4%	17.4%
3pm-6pm	20.0%	17.7%	28.0%	23.5%	26.8%	21.6%	27.2%	22.4%
6pm-9pm	20.0%	16.2%	17.2%	15.3%	15.4%	13.9%	16.1%	14.4%
Unknown	0.0%	0.1%	0.5%	1.3%	1.3%	3.3%	1.0%	2.5%

- Regardless of injury level, the proportion of crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 was larger than the proportion for crashes involving all drivers during the 3pm-6pm and 6pm-9pm time periods.
- The largest proportion of fatal crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 as well as all drivers occurred between 3pm and 9pm (40% and 34%, respectively).

TABLE 4
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-18
FATALITIES AND INJURIES

	2015	2016	2017	2017
Total Fatalities	48	49	39	1,000
Drivers	22 (45.8%)	27 (55.1%)	21 (53.8%)	51.8%
Passengers	14 (29.2%)	16 (32.7%)	11 (28.2%)	18.1%
Pedestrians	10 (20.8%)	5 (10.2%)	5 (12.8%)	25.2%
Bicyclists	2 (4.2%)	1 (2.0%)	2 (5.1%)	4.8%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.1%
Total Persons Injured	10,145	10,553	10,513	169,752
Drivers	6,667 (65.7%)	6,997 (66.3%)	6,886 (65.5%)	59.3%
Passengers	3,222 (31.8%)	3,255 (30.8%)	3,340 (31.8%)	27.6%
Pedestrians	180 (1.8%)	210 (2.0%)	200 (1.9%)	9.2%
Bicyclists	63 (0.6%)	78 (0.7%)	70 (0.7%)	3.5%
Other	13 (0.1%)	13 (0.1%)	17 (0.2%)	0.4%

- In 2017, drivers accounted for the largest proportion of fatalities in both crashes involving drivers 16-18 years of age and crashes involving drivers of all ages (54% and 52%, respectively).
- Compared to fatalities in all crashes, fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 are more likely to be passengers (28% vs. 18% in 2017).
- Pedestrians comprise a far smaller proportion of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 than in all crashes (13% vs. 25% in 2017).
- Drivers comprise a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 than in all crashes (66% vs. 59% in 2017).

TABLE 5
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-18
AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED
IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 16-18: 2017

	Killed or Injured		NYS Total
Total	1,782		46,991
Under Age 4	14	0.8%	4.3%
Ages 4-6	7	0.4%	3.9%
Ages 7-15	265	14.9%	12.5%
Ages 16-18	908	51.0%	6.4%
Ages 19-20	206	11.6%	4.7%
Ages 21-24	85	4.8%	9.0%
Ages 25-29	34	1.9%	10.2%
Age 30 and Over	232	13.0%	45.6%
Unknown Age	31	1.7%	3.5%

- Over half (51%) of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-18 were also ages 16-18.
- Only 13% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-18 were age 30 or over compared to 46% of the passengers riding with drivers of all ages.

TABLE 6
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes
RESTRAINT USE FOR VEHICLE OCCUPANTS AGES 16-18*: 2017

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Occupants (% Restrained)
Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 16-18	32,442	29,369	90.5%	447,160 (89.1%)
Drivers Ages 16-18	17,874	16,923	94.7%	
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-18	4,890	4,450	91.0%	
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	9,678	7,996	82.6%	
Total Killed	30	13	43.3%	384 (56.0%)
Drivers Ages 16-18	13	7	53.8%	
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-18	8	4	50.0%	
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	9	2	22.2%	
Total Injured	6,148	5,351	87.0%	89,127 (91.1%)
Drivers Ages 16-18	3,245	2,997	92.4%	
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-18	888	730	82.2%	
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	2,015	1,624	80.6%	
Total Uninjured	26,264	24,005	91.4%	357,649 (88.6%)
Drivers Ages 16-18	14,616	13,919	95.2%	
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-18	3,994	3,716	93.0%	
Passengers Ages 16-18 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	7,654	6,370	83.2%	

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

- The overall restraint use for drivers ages 16-18 was higher than the restraint use for passengers ages 16-18. Restraint use for drivers was 95%, compared to 91% for passengers ages 16-18 in vehicles with drivers ages 16-18 and 83% for passengers ages 16-18 in vehicles with drivers of other ages.
- Restraint use for all occupants ages 16-18 killed in crashes was lower than restraint use for all occupants in general who were killed (43% vs. 56%).
- Restraint use for all occupants ages 16-18 injured in crashes was comparable to that for all occupants in general who were injured (87% vs. 88%).

TABLE 7
NYS Fatal and Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-18*
SELECT CONTRIBUTING FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DRIVERS

	Drivers Ages 16-18			Total NYS 2017
	2015	2016	2017	
Total Drivers	6,979	7,113	7,067	199,435
Select Factors				
Driver Inattention/Distracted	15.7%	16.0%	15.5%	14.8%
Driver Inexperience	9.6%	9.3%	10.2%	1.6%
Failure to Yield R.O.W.	16.3%	15.6%	17.9%	11.1%
Following Too Closely	15.1%	16.0%	16.7%	12.5%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	4.0%	4.0%	4.3%	3.4%
Unsafe Speed	13.5%	14.6%	13.4%	5.9%
Alcohol Involvement	0.7%	0.8%	0.7%	1.7%
Cell Phone	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%
Texting	<0.1%	<0.1%	0%	<0.1%

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

- “Failure to Yield R.O.W”, “Following Too Closely” and “Driver Inattention/Distracted”, were the most frequently reported contributing factors for drivers ages 16-18 in F&PI crashes (18%, 17% and 16%, respectively in 2017).
- “Driver Inattention/Distracted” was the most frequently reported contributing factor for all drivers in F&PI crashes (15%) followed by “Following Too Closely” (13%).
- With the exception of “Alcohol Involvement”, drivers ages 16-18 in F&PI crashes were more likely than all drivers in F&PI crashes to have each of the selected factors reported.
- Drivers ages 16-18 were more than two times as likely to have “Unsafe Speed” reported as a contributing factor (13% vs. 6% in 2017).
- As would be expected, drivers ages 16-18 were also much more likely than all drivers to have “Driver Inexperience” reported as a contributing factor in F&PI crashes (10% vs. 2% in 2017).

TABLE 8
NYS Traffic Tickets Issued to Drivers Ages 16-18
SELECT VIOLATIONS

	Drivers Ages 16-18			NYS Total 2017
	2015	2016	2017	
Total Tickets Issued	105,303	110,003	106,572	3,724,952
Speeding	27.3%	27.5%	26.7%	18.6%
License	9.5%	10.1%	10.3%	7.2%
Traffic Device/Stop Sign	9.9%	9.9%	9.6%	13.4%
Seat Belts	3.6%	3.1%	2.9%	4.4%
Cell Phone	1.2%	1.1%	1.0%	2.8%
Texting	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%	3.0%
Total TSLED Tickets Issued	93,575	98,926	98,479	2,506,390
Impaired Driving	.09%	0.9%	0.8%	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 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 2017, 27% of the tickets issued to drivers ages 16-18 were for speeding violations, compared to 19% of the tickets issued to all drivers.
- Drivers ages 16-18 were far less likely than all drivers to be issued tickets for cell phone and texting violations in 2017 (2% vs. 6%).
- Drivers ages 16-18 were slightly less likely than all drivers to be issued tickets for impaired driving under TSLED in 2015 (1% vs. 3%).

TABLE 9
NYS Motor Vehicle Fatal and Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-18
SEVERITY OF CRASH, FATALITIES & INJURIES, AND DRIVERS INVOLVED
BY REGION OF THE STATE*: 2017

	UPSTATE	NYC	LONG ISLAND	NYS F&PI Involving Drivers Ages 16-18
F&PI Crashes (% of total)	4,147 (58.8%)	960 (13.6%)	1,949 (27.6%)	7,057
Fatal (% of total)	25 (71.4%)	3 (8.6%)	7 (20.0%)	35
Personal Injury (% of total)	4,122 (58.7%)	957 (13.6%)	1,942 (27.7%)	7,022
Fatalities (% of total)	27 (69.2%)	3 (7.7%)	9 (23.1%)	39
Persons Injured (% of total)	5,937 (56.5%)	1,559 (14.8%)	3,015 (28.7%)	10,513
Drivers Involved Ages 16-18 (% of total)	4,265 (58.8%)	968 (13.3%)	2,017 (27.8%)	7,251
Male Drivers Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)	2,242 (55.1%)	716 (17.6%)	1,111 (27.3%)	4,070
Female Drivers Ages 16-18 (% of total NYS)	2,023 (63.6%)	251 (7.9%)	906 (28.5%)	3,180
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-18 (% of total)	130,721 (64.5%)	23,560 (11.6%)	48,491 (23.9%)	202,774

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

- 59% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 in 2017 occurred in the Upstate region, 28% were on Long Island and 13% in New York City.
- 69% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-18 in 2017 occurred in the Upstate region, while 23% occurred on Long Island and 8% were in the five boroughs comprising New York City.
- Drivers ages 16-18 were underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region (59% of the crashes vs. 65% of the licensed drivers) and overrepresented in crashes in the Long Island region (28% of the crashes vs. 24% of the licensed drivers).