

# 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**

	2013	2014	2015
<b>Crashes (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>46,712 (15.3%)</b>	<b>44,778 (15.0%)</b>	<b>44,793 (15.2%)</b>
Fatal (% of total NYS)	154 (13.9%)	127 (13.1%)	154 (14.7%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	19,959 (16.0%)	18,700 (15.8%)	18,215 (16.1%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	26,599 (14.8%)	25,951 (14.4%)	26,424 (14.7%)
<b>Fatalities (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>173 (14.6%)</b>	<b>136 (13.3%)</b>	<b>163 (14.6%)</b>
Driver Fatalities Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)	71 (11.4%)	52 (9.1%)	66 (11.4%)
<b>Persons Injured (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>29,069 (17.2%)</b>	<b>27,102 (16.9%)</b>	<b>27,243 (17.1%)</b>
<b>Drivers Involved Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>48,850 (9.8%)</b>	<b>46,832 (9.6%)</b>	<b>46,897 (9.7%)</b>
Male Drivers Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)	28,140 (10.1%)	26,992 (9.8%)	27,218 (9.9%)
Female Drivers Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)	20,709 (10.9%)	19,839 (10.7%)	19,677 (10.7%)
<b>Licensed Drivers Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>694,750 (6.1%)</b>	<b>699,057 (6.0%)</b>	<b>692,750 (5.8%)</b>

- 15% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2013-2015 involved drivers ages 21-24; the number of crashes dropped from 46,712 in 2013 to 44,793 in 2015, a decrease of 4%.
- 13%-15% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2013-2015 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 21-24.
- The number of fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 fluctuated over the three years, dropping from 173 in 2013 to 136 in 2014, followed by an increase to 163 in 2015. The number of driver fatalities ages 21-24 followed a similar pattern, decreasing from 71 in 2013 to 52 in 2014, then increasing to 66 in 2015.
- The number of persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 declined from 29,069 in 2013 to 27,243 in 2015, a decrease of 6%.
- Drivers ages 21-24 are overrepresented in crashes; 10% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2013-2015 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**

	2013	2014	2015	NYS F&PI 2015
<b>Fatal &amp; Personal Injury Crashes</b>	<b>20,113</b>	<b>18,827</b>	<b>18,369</b>	<b>114,441</b>
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	20.2%	19.4%	18.5%	30.4%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	79.8%	80.6%	81.5%	69.6%
<b>Drivers Ages 21-24 in F&amp;PI Crashes</b>	<b>21,110</b>	<b>19,787</b>	<b>19,305</b>	<b>200,558</b>
With No Passengers*	69.5%	69.9%	70.2%	71.5%
With Passengers	30.5%	30.1%	29.8%	28.5%

\*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 (82% vs. 70% in 2015).
- The proportion of drivers ages 21-24 involved in F&PI crashes who drive with passengers was similar to the proportion of all drivers in F&PI crashes (30% vs. 29%, respectively in 2015).

**TABLE 3**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 21-24**  
**TIME OF DAY: 2015**

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 21-24 (N=154)	Involving All Drivers (N=1,045)	Involving Drivers Ages 21-24 (N=18,215)	Involving All Drivers (N=113,396)	Involving Drivers Ages 21-24 (N=26,424)	Involving All Drivers (N=180,115)	Involving Drivers Ages 21-24 (N=44,793)	Involving All Drivers (N=294,556)
9pm-Mid	13.0%	13.9%	9.6%	8.2%	8.5%	7.3%	8.9%	7.7%
Mid-5am	22.1%	14.9%	7.4%	5.9%	7.4%	6.0%	7.4%	6.0%
5am-9am	16.2%	13.4%	12.6%	13.2%	14.2%	15.3%	13.6%	14.5%
9am-Noon	8.4%	12.0%	12.8%	14.2%	12.8%	14.4%	12.8%	14.3%
Noon-3pm	8.4%	12.0%	17.6%	18.3%	17.1%	17.1%	17.3%	17.5%
3pm-6pm	17.5%	17.0%	23.9%	23.8%	23.8%	21.6%	23.8%	22.4%
6pm-9pm	14.3%	16.4%	15.3%	15.3%	14.1%	13.6%	14.6%	14.3%
Unknown	0.0%	0.5%	0.9%	1.1%	2.1%	4.7%	1.6%	3.3%

- 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 midnight-5am (22%). 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**

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>NYS Total 2015</b>
<b>Total Fatalities</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>1,116</b>
Drivers	106 (61.3%)	83 (61.0%)	97 (59.5%)	51.7%
Passengers	35 (20.2%)	29 (21.3%)	24 (14.7%)	16.2%
Pedestrians	29 (16.8%)	21 (15.4%)	38 (23.3%)	28.8%
Bicyclists	3 (1.7%)	3 (2.2%)	4 (2.5%)	3.2%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.1%
<b>Total Persons Injured</b>	<b>29,069</b>	<b>27,102</b>	<b>27,243</b>	<b>159,025</b>
Drivers	19,308 (66.4%)	18,037 (66.6%)	17,916 (65.8%)	60.4%
Passengers	8,402 (28.9%)	7,873 (29.0%)	8,174 (30.0%)	27.6%
Pedestrians	971 (3.3%)	842 (3.1%)	778 (2.9%)	8.4%
Bicyclists	346 (1.2%)	314 (1.2%)	346 (1.3%)	3.3%
Other	42 (0.1%)	36 (0.1%)	29 (0.1%)	0.2%

- In 2015, drivers accounted for 60% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers 21-24 years of age, compared to 52% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers of all ages.
- Passengers were a slightly smaller portion of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 than in all crashes (15% vs. 16% in 2015).
- Passengers accounted for a slightly larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 than in all crashes (30% vs. 28% in 2015).
- Pedestrians comprised much smaller proportions of the fatalities and persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 than in all crashes (23% vs. 29% and 3% vs. 8%, respectively, in 2015).

**TABLE 5**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 21-24**  
**AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED**  
**IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 21-24: 2015**

	<b>Killed or Injured</b>		<b>NYS Total</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,056</b>		<b>44,112</b>
Under Age 4	228	5.6%	4.7%
Ages 4-6	106	2.6%	3.9%
Ages 7-15	182	4.5%	12.9%
Ages 16-17	145	3.6%	4.2%
Ages 18-20	611	15.1%	6.8%
Ages 21-24	1,261	31.1%	9.0%
Ages 25-29	528	13.0%	9.3%
Age 30 and Over	737	18.2%	41.9%
Unknown Age	258	6.4%	7.3%

- The largest proportion of passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 21-24 were ages 21-24 (31%).
- Passengers ages 18-24 accounted for 46% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 21-24.
- Only 18% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 21-24 were age 30 or over, compared to 42% of the passengers riding with all drivers.

**TABLE 6**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes**  
**RESTRAINT USE FOR VEHICLE OCCUPANTS AGES 21-24\*: 2015**

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
<b>Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 21-24</b>	<b>57,201</b>	<b>52,433</b>	<b>91.7%</b>	
Drivers Ages 21-24	42,227	39,486	93.5%	<b>411,009 (90.1%)</b>
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 21-24	5,411	4,881	90.2%	
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	9,563	8,066	84.3%	
<b>Total Killed</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>51.5%</b>	
Drivers Ages 21-24	45	24	53.3%	<b>432 (57.6%)</b>
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 21-24	6	3	50.0%	
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	17	8	47.1%	
<b>Total Injured</b>	<b>12,201</b>	<b>10,660</b>	<b>87.4%</b>	
Drivers Ages 21-24	8,514	7,714	90.6%	<b>83,134 (91.6%)</b>
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 21-24	1,176	979	83.2%	
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	2,511	1,967	78.3%	
<b>Total Uninjured</b>	<b>44,932</b>	<b>41,738</b>	<b>92.9%</b>	
Drivers Ages 21-24	33,668	31,748	94.3%	<b>327,443 (89.8%)</b>
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 21-24	4,229	3,899	92.2%	
Passengers Ages 21-24 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	7,035	6,091	86.6%	

\*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 94%, compared to 90% for passengers ages 21-24 in vehicles with drivers ages 21-24 and 84% 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 (53% vs. 58%, respectively).
- 91% 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 (83% and 78%, 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
	2013	2014	2015	2015
<b>Total Drivers</b>	<b>19,831</b>	<b>18,517</b>	<b>17,902</b>	<b>180,905</b>
<b>Select Factors</b>				
Driver Inattention/Distracted	14.2%	14.5%	14.4%	13.2%
Driver Inexperience	2.3%	2.2%	2.3%	1.5%
Failure to Yield ROW	10.4%	10.7%	10.8%	10.7%
Following Too Closely	14.0%	14.7%	14.7%	11.9%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	3.7%	3.6%	3.9%	3.3%
Unsafe Speed	10.9%	10.5%	11.0%	6.6%
Cell Phone	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Texting	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Alcohol Involvement	3.4%	3.2%	2.8%	1.8%

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

- In 2015, “driver inattention/distracted” and “following too closely” were the two most frequently reported contributing factors for both drivers ages 21-24 (14% and 15%, respectively) and for all drivers (13% 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 2015).
- Drivers ages 21-24 were slightly more likely than all drivers to have “alcohol involvement” reported as a contributing factor in F&PI crashes (3% vs. 2% in 2015).

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

	Drivers Ages 21-24			NYS Total
	2013	2014	2015	2015
<b>Total Tickets Issued</b>	<b>501,878</b>	<b>486,979</b>	<b>478,123</b>	<b>3,509,818</b>
Speeding	19.4%	20.9%	22.3%	19.8%
License	8.1%	7.8%	8.0%	6.5%
Traffic Device/Stop Sign	9.7%	10.2%	10.4%	12.7%
Seat Belts	5.5%	4.8%	4.4%	5.0%
Cell Phone	3.5%	2.7%	2.2%	3.8%
Texting	1.5%	1.9%	2.0%	2.4%
<b>Total TSLED Tickets Issued</b>	<b>366,994</b>	<b>361,329</b>	<b>363,857</b>	<b>2,402,235</b>
Impaired Driving	3.2%	3.1%	2.9%	2.6%

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. It should also be noted that TSLED did not begin capturing all tickets issued for impaired driving in Suffolk County until 2014.

- The largest proportion of tickets issued to drivers each year was for speeding violations. In 2015, 22% of the tickets issued to drivers ages 21-24 were for speeding violations, compared to 20% of the tickets issued to all drivers.
- Drivers ages 21-24 were less likely than all drivers to be issued tickets for cell phone and texting violations in 2015 (4% vs. 6%).

**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\*: 2015**

	UPSTATE	NYC	LONG ISLAND	NYS F&PI Involving Drivers Ages 21-24
<b>F&amp;PI Crashes (% of total)</b>	<b>8,632 (47.0%)</b>	<b>5,279 (28.7%)</b>	<b>4,452 (24.2%)</b>	<b>18,369</b>
Fatal (% of total)	82 (53.2%)	37 (24.0%)	35 (22.7%)	154
Personal Injury (% of total)	8,550 (46.9%)	5,242 (28.8%)	4,417 (24.2%)	18,215
<b>Fatalities (% of total)</b>	<b>87 (53.4%)</b>	<b>38 (23.3%)</b>	<b>38 (23.3%)</b>	<b>163</b>
<b>Persons Injured (% of total)</b>	<b>11,935 (43.8%)</b>	<b>8,615 (31.6%)</b>	<b>6,686 (24.5%)</b>	<b>27,243</b>
<b>Drivers Involved Ages 21-24 (% of total)</b>	<b>9,053 (46.9%)</b>	<b>5,533 (28.7%)</b>	<b>4,712 (24.4%)</b>	<b>19,305</b>
Male Drivers Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)	4,892 (43.2%)	3,827 (33.8%)	2,603 (23.0%)	11,327
Female Drivers Ages 21-24 (% of total NYS)	4,160 (52.1%)	1,706 (21.4%)	2,109 (26.4%)	7,977
<b>Licensed Drivers Ages 21-24 (% of total)</b>	<b>363,547 (52.6%)</b>	<b>186,473 (27.0%)</b>	<b>140,553 (20.4%)</b>	<b>692,750</b>

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

- In 2015, 47% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 occurred in the Upstate region, 29% took place in New York City and 24% on Long Island.
- 53% of the fatalities that occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 21-24 occurred in the Upstate region; 23% in New York City and 23% on Long Island.
- Drivers ages 21-24 are underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region and overrepresented in crashes in the New York City and Long Island regions.