

NEW YORK STATE FACT SHEET ON YOUNG DRIVERS AGES 16-17

PREPARED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH

TABLE 1
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17
SEVERITY OF CRASH, FATALITIES & INJURIES, AND DRIVERS INVOLVED

	2007	2008	2009
Crashes (% of total NYS)	15,075 (4.7%)	13,516 (4.3%)	12,647 (4.0%)
Fatal (% of total NYS)	53 (4.3%)	34 (2.9%)	41 (3.9%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	6,295 (4.5%)	5,539 (4.1%)	5,080 (3.8%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	8,727 (4.8%)	7,943 (4.4%)	7,526 (4.2%)
Fatalities (% of total NYS)	73 (5.5%)	42 (3.4%)	49 (4.3%)
Driver Fatalities Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	23 (3.0%)	10 (1.5%)	15 (2.5%)
Persons Injured (% of total NYS)	9,625 (5.0%)	8,442 (4.5%)	7,817 (4.2%)
Drivers Involved Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	15,536 (2.9%)	13,948 (2.7%)	13,027 (2.5%)
Male Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	8,665 (2.8%)	7,663 (2.6%)	7,169 (2.5%)
Female Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	6,871 (3.4%)	6,285 (3.2%)	5,858 (3.0%)
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	NA	103,372 (0.9%)	103,702 (0.9%)

NA - Methodology used to count the number of licensed drivers was modified in 2008.

- 4%-5% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2007-2009 involved drivers ages 16-17.
- 3%-6% of total fatalities that occurred in crashes during 2007-2009 involved drivers ages 16-17.
- Drivers ages 16-17 are overrepresented in crashes; 3% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2008-2009 were ages 16-17, compared to 1% of all licensed drivers.

TABLE 2
NYS Fatal & Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17
VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS INVOLVED

	2007	2008	2009	NYS F&PI 2009
Fatal & Personal Injury Crashes	6,348	5,573	5,121	134,948
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	26.4%	27.3%	24.4%	31.6%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	73.6%	72.7%	75.6%	68.4%
Drivers Ages 16-17 in F&PI Crashes	6,520	5,725	5,239	235,880
With No Passengers*	54.6%	55.0%	53.6%	69.5%
With Passengers	45.4%	45.0%	46.4%	30.5%

*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 16-17 are more likely to involve multiple vehicles than all F&PI crashes (76% vs. 68% in 2009).
- Drivers ages 16-17 involved in F&PI crashes are more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (46% vs. 31% in 2009).

TABLE 3
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17
TIME OF DAY: 2009

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=41)	Involving All Drivers (N=1,060)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=5,080)	Involving All Drivers (N=133,888)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=7,526)	Involving All Drivers (N=180,026)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=12,647)	Involving All Drivers (N=314,974)
9pm-Mid	22.0%	13.3%	9.9%	8.9%	8.5%	8.3%	9.1%	8.6%
Mid-5am	12.2%	19.2%	4.1%	6.7%	3.1%	6.7%	3.5%	6.7%
5am-9am	2.4%	10.8%	9.8%	12.4%	10.2%	14.3%	10.0%	13.5%
9am-Noon	7.3%	10.3%	8.8%	13.7%	9.5%	13.1%	9.2%	13.4%
Noon-3pm	17.1%	12.9%	19.8%	18.5%	20.4%	16.6%	20.1%	17.4%
3pm-6pm	19.5%	16.8%	28.6%	23.4%	27.9%	21.0%	28.1%	22.0%
6pm-9pm	17.1%	15.8%	18.2%	15.0%	18.0%	14.0%	18.1%	14.5%
Unknown	2.4%	0.8%	0.7%	1.3%	2.5%	6.0%	1.8%	4.0%

- Regardless of the injury level, the proportion of crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 was larger than the proportion for crashes involving all drivers during the 12-hour period noon to midnight.
- For fatal crashes, the largest proportion of crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 occurred 9pm-midnight (22%), while the largest proportion of crashes involving all drivers occurred between midnight and 5am (19%).

TABLE 4
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17
FATALITIES AND INJURIES

	2007	2008	2009	NYS Total 2009
Total Fatalities	73	42	49	1,148
Drivers	34 (46.6%)	21 (50.0%)	20 (40.8%)	52.5%
Passengers	36 (49.3%)	16 (38.1%)	24 (49.0%)	18.2%
Pedestrians	3 (4.1%)	5 (11.9%)	5 (10.2%)	26.7%
Bicyclists	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2.5%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.0%
Total Persons Injured	9,625	8,442	7,817	186,034
Drivers	6,241 (64.8%)	5,414 (64.1%)	4,943 (63.2%)	60.7%
Passengers	3,130 (32.5%)	2,816 (33.4%)	2,655 (34.0%)	27.7%
Pedestrians	181 (1.9%)	146 (1.7%)	154 (2.0%)	8.2%
Bicyclists	65 (0.7%)	56 (0.7%)	55 (0.7%)	2.9%
Other	8 (0.1%)	10 (0.1%)	10 (0.1%)	0.5%

- Fatalities are more likely to be drivers and passengers in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 than drivers and passengers in all crashes (90% vs. 71% in 2009).
- Pedestrians comprise a much smaller proportion of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 than in all crashes (10% vs. 27% in 2009).
- Passengers comprise a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 than in all crashes (34% vs. 28% in 2009).

TABLE 5
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17
AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED
IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 16-17: 2009

	Killed or Injured		NYS Total
Total	1,538		51,708
Under Age 4	6	0.4%	2.9%
Ages 4-6	11	0.7%	3.1%
Ages 7-15	281	18.3%	12.7%
Ages 16-17	692	45.0%	5.4%
Ages 18-20	293	19.1%	9.6%
Ages 21-24	41	2.7%	10.1%
Ages 25-29	18	1.2%	9.6%
Age 30 and Over	150	9.8%	39.9%
Unknown Age	46	3.0%	6.8%

- The largest proportion of passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-17 were ages 16-17 (45%), followed by passengers ages 18-20 (19%) and passengers ages 7-15 (18%).
- Passengers ages 16-20 account for 64% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-17, despite being only a five-year age spread.

TABLE 6
NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes
RESTRAINT USE FOR VEHICLE OCCUPANTS AGES 16-17*: 2009

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 16-17	24,474	22,009	89.9%	
Drivers Ages 16-17	11,775	11,043	93.8%	419,466 (88.1%)
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	3,963	3,551	89.6%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	8,736	7,415	84.9%	
Total Killed	29	14	48.3%	
Drivers Ages 16-17	15	9	60.0%	457 (53.2%)
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	7	3	42.9%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	7	2	28.6%	
Total Injured	4,980	4,259	85.5%	
Drivers Ages 16-17	2,365	2,152	91.0%	96,751 (90.1%)
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	668	539	80.7%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	1,947	1,568	80.5%	
Total Uninjured	19,465	17,736	91.1%	
Drivers Ages 16-17	9,395	8,882	94.5%	322,258 (87.6%)
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	3,288	3,009	91.5%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	6,782	5,845	86.2%	

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

- The overall restraint use for drivers ages 16-17 was higher than the restraint use for passengers ages 16-17. Restraint use for drivers was 94%, compared to 90% for passengers ages 16-17 in vehicles with drivers ages 16-17 and 85% for passengers ages 16-17 in vehicles with drivers of other ages.
- Regardless of injury status, drivers ages 16-17 were more likely to be restrained than passengers ages 16-17.
- Drivers ages 16-17 were also more likely to be restrained than drivers of all ages, in general and for all injury levels.

TABLE 7
NYS Fatal and Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17*
SELECT CONTRIBUTING FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DRIVERS

	Drivers Ages 16-17			Total NYS
	2007	2008	2009	2009
Total Drivers	6,171	5,439	4,976	210,038
Select Factors				
Driver Inattention/Distraction	15.4%	14.5%	16.0%	11.6%
Driver Inexperience	14.2%	14.6%	14.0%	1.5%
Failure to Yield R.O.W.	16.0%	16.1%	17.8%	9.0%
Following Too Closely	12.1%	12.0%	13.4%	9.2%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	4.2%	3.9%	4.0%	3.0%
Unsafe Speed	16.0%	17.5%	15.2%	6.2%
Alcohol Involvement	1.5%	1.1%	0.8%	2.1%

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

- Drivers ages 16-17 in F&PI crashes were much more likely than all drivers in F&PI crashes to have “unsafe speed” reported as a contributing factor (15% vs. 6% in 2009).
- As would be expected, drivers ages 16-17 were also much more likely than all drivers to have “driver inexperience” reported as a contributing factor in F&PI crashes (14% vs. 2% in 2009).

TABLE 8
NYS Traffic Tickets Issued to Drivers Ages 16-17
SELECT VIOLATIONS

	Drivers Ages 16-17			NYS Total
	2007	2008	2009	2009
Total Tickets Issued	84,625	75,493	68,678	4,080,449
Speeding	22.1%	22.6%	22.2%	17.3%
License	13.3%	13.0%	13.0%	5.6%
Traffic Device/Stop Sign	7.8%	8.0%	8.4%	10.5%
Seat Belts	7.2%	7.0%	7.4%	10.0%
Cell Phone	2.5%	2.3%	2.1%	8.4%
Total TSLED Tickets Issued	70,879	63,731	58,665	2,600,264
Impaired Driving	1.3%	1.1%	1.0%	3.2%

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. Beginning in mid-2009, 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 ages 16-17 each year was for speeding violations, which was larger than the proportion of tickets issued to all drivers for speeding in 2009 (22% vs. 17%).
- For license violations, the proportion of the tickets issued to drivers ages 16-17 was twice the proportion of tickets issued to all drivers (13% vs. 6% in 2009), but tickets issued for cell phone violations were much less likely to be issued to drivers ages 16-17 (2% vs. 8% in 2009).
- 1% of the TSLED tickets issued to drivers ages 16-17 were for impaired driving, compared to 3% of the tickets issued to all drivers.

TABLE 9
NYS Motor Vehicle Fatal and Personal Injury (F&PI) Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17
SEVERITY OF CRASH, FATALITIES & INJURIES, AND DRIVERS INVOLVED
BY REGION OF THE STATE: 2009

	UPSTATE	NYC	LONG ISLAND	NYS F&PI Involving Drivers Ages 16-17
F&PI Crashes (% of total)	3,321 (65%)	483 (9%)	1,305 (26%)	5,121
Fatal (% of total)	30 (73%)	7 (17%)	4 (10%)	41
Personal Injury (% of total)	3,291 (65%)	476 (9%)	1,301 (26%)	5,080
Fatalities (% of total)	37 (76%)	8 (16%)	4 (8%)	49
Persons Injured (% of total)	4,908 (63%)	827 (11%)	2,061 (26%)	7,817
Drivers Involved Ages 16-17 (% of total)	3,402 (65%)	491 (9%)	1,334 (26%)	5,239
Male Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total)	1,738 (62%)	331 (12%)	729 (26%)	2,804
Female Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total)	1,664 (68%)	160 (7%)	605 (25%)	2,435
Licensed Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total)	72,830 (70%)	9,033 (9%)	21,839 (21%)	103,702

- 65% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 in 2009 occurred in the Upstate region, 26% were on Long Island and 9% in New York City.
- 76% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 in 2009 occurred in the Upstate region, while 16% were within the five counties comprising New York City and 8% occurred in Nassau and Suffolk counties on Long Island.