

# 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 & PERSONS INJURED, AND DRIVERS INVOLVED**

	2012	2013	2014
<b>Crashes (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>9,662 (3.3%)</b>	<b>9,349 (3.1%)</b>	<b>8,610 (2.9%)</b>
Fatal (% of total NYS)	25 (2.3%)	23 (2.1%)	11 (1.1%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	3,804 (3.1%)	3,593 (2.9%)	3,172 (2.7%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	5,833 (3.4%)	5,733 (3.2%)	5,427 (3.0%)
<b>Fatalities (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>33 (2.8%)</b>	<b>24 (2.0%)</b>	<b>16 (1.6%)</b>
Driver Fatalities Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	12 (2.0%)	6 (1.0%)	4 (0.7%)
<b>Persons Injured (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>5,884 (3.5%)</b>	<b>5,490 (3.2%)</b>	<b>4,702 (2.9%)</b>
<b>Drivers Involved Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>9,901 (2.0%)</b>	<b>9,574 (1.9%)</b>	<b>8,839 (1.8%)</b>
Male Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	5,432 (2.0%)	5,155 (1.8%)	4,687 (1.7%)
Female Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	4,469 (2.4%)	4,419 (2.3%)	4,152 (2.2%)
<b>Licensed Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>84,832 (0.8%)</b>	<b>82,619 (0.7%)</b>	<b>82,619 (0.7%)</b>

\*Note: The number of NYS licensed drivers by age was not available for 2014 at the time this report was produced; 2013 data was substituted.

- 3% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2012-2014 involved drivers ages 16-17; the number of crashes dropped from 9,662 in 2012 to 8,610 in 2014, a decrease of 11%.
- 2%-3% of all motor vehicle fatalities in 2012-2014 occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17.
- The number of fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 dropped from 33 in 2012 to 16 in 2014, a decrease of 52%. Four drivers ages 16-17 were killed in crashes in 2014, down from 12 in 2012.
- The number of persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 declined 20%, dropping from 5,884 in 2012 to 4,702 in 2014.
- Drivers ages 16-17 are overrepresented in crashes; 2% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2012-2014 were ages 16-17, compared to less than 1% of all licensed drivers.

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

	2012	2013	2014	NYS F&PI 2014
<b>Fatal &amp; Personal Injury Crashes</b>	<b>3,829</b>	<b>3,616</b>	<b>3,183</b>	<b>119,431</b>
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	24.7%	24.4%	22.3%	31.9%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	75.3%	75.6%	77.7%	68.1%
<b>Drivers Ages 16-17 in F&amp;PI Crashes</b>	<b>3,891</b>	<b>3,694</b>	<b>3,249</b>	<b>207,351</b>
With No Passengers*	55.2%	56.1%	57.1%	71.0%
With Passengers	44.8%	43.9%	42.9%	29.0%

\*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 were more likely to involve multiple vehicles than all F&PI crashes (78% vs. 68% in 2014).
- Drivers ages 16-17 involved in F&PI crashes were more likely to be driving with passengers than drivers in all F&PI crashes (43% vs. 29% in 2014).

**TABLE 3**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17**  
**TIME OF DAY: 2014**

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=11)	Involving All Drivers (N=966)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=3,172)	Involving All Drivers (N=118,465)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=5,427)	Involving All Drivers (N=180,021)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=8,610)	Involving All Drivers (N=299,452)
9pm-Mid	18.2%	13.0%	9.1%	8.6%	8.1%	8.1%	8.5%	8.3%
Mid-5am	9.1%	17.6%	3.2%	6.1%	2.9%	6.1%	3.0%	6.1%
5am-9am	0.0%	14.3%	11.2%	13.2%	11.2%	15.2%	11.2%	14.4%
9am-Noon	18.2%	11.0%	9.4%	14.3%	10.8%	14.0%	10.3%	14.1%
Noon-3pm	0.0%	14.1%	19.0%	18.3%	21.3%	16.9%	20.4%	17.4%
3pm-6pm	18.2%	16.0%	29.4%	23.2%	27.5%	21.0%	28.1%	21.9%
6pm-9pm	36.4%	13.9%	18.2%	15.3%	16.5%	13.9%	17.2%	14.4%
Unknown	0.0%	0.1%	0.6%	1.0%	1.7%	4.8%	1.3%	3.3%

- Crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 were most likely to occur between 3pm and 6pm (28%).
- The largest proportion of fatal crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 occurred 6pm-9pm (36%). The largest proportion of personal injury and property damage crashes occurred 3pm-6pm (29% and 28%, respectively).

**TABLE 4**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17**  
**FATALITIES AND PERSONS INJURED**

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>NYS Total 2014</b>
<b>Total Fatalities</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1,026</b>
Drivers	18 (54.5%)	13 (54.2%)	7 (43.8%)	55.7%
Passengers	12 (36.4%)	7 (29.2%)	6 (37.5%)	13.6%
Pedestrians	3 (9.1%)	3 (12.5%)	3 (18.8%)	26.1%
Bicyclists	0 (0.0%)	1 (4.2%)	0 (0.0%)	4.6%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.0%
<b>Total Persons Injured</b>	<b>5,884</b>	<b>5,490</b>	<b>4,702</b>	<b>160,497</b>
Drivers	3,710 (63.1%)	3,510 (63.9%)	3,120 (66.4%)	60.2%
Passengers	2,014 (34.2%)	1,849 (33.7%)	1,473 (31.3%)	26.8%
Pedestrians	119 (2.0%)	82 (1.5%)	81 (1.7%)	9.3%
Bicyclists	33 (0.6%)	43 (0.8%)	27 (0.6%)	3.5%
Other	8 (0.1%)	6 (0.1%)	1 (<0.1%)	0.3%

- In 2014, drivers accounted for the largest proportion of fatalities in both crashes involving drivers 16-17 years of age and crashes involving drivers of all ages (44% and 56%, respectively).
- Compared to fatalities in all crashes, fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 were more than twice as likely to be passengers (14% vs. 38% in 2014).
- Passengers also accounted for a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 than in all crashes (31% vs. 27% in 2014).
- Pedestrians comprised much smaller proportions of the fatalities and persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 than in all crashes (19% vs. 26%, and 2% vs. 9%, respectively, in 2014).

**TABLE 5**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17**  
**AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED**  
**IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 16-17: 2014**

	<b>Killed or Injured</b>	<b>NYS Total</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>43,119</b>
Under Age 4	7 0.9%	3.1%
Ages 4-6	0 0.0%	3.5%
Ages 7-15	154 19.0%	12.6%
Ages 16-17	341 42.1%	4.1%
Ages 18-20	118 14.6%	6.9%
Ages 21-24	25 3.1%	9.4%
Ages 25-29	13 1.6%	9.4%
Age 30 and Over	125 15.4%	43.8%
Unknown Age	27 3.3%	7.2%

- The largest proportion of passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-17 were ages 16-17 (42%).

- Passengers ages 16-20 accounted for 57% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-17, compared to 11% of the passengers riding with all drivers.
- Only 15% of the passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 18-20 were age 30 or over, compared to 44% of the passengers riding with all drivers.

**TABLE 6**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes**  
**RESTRAINT USE FOR VEHICLE OCCUPANTS AGES 16-17\*: 2014**

	Total	Restrained	% Restrained	NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)
<b>Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 16-17</b>	<b>17,279</b>	<b>15,636</b>	<b>90.5%</b>	
Drivers Ages 16-17	8,306	7,935	95.5%	<b>414,199 (89.4%)</b>
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	2,188	2,033	92.9%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	6,785	5,668	83.5%	
<b>Total Killed</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	
Drivers Ages 16-17	3	3	100.0%	<b>436 (61.5%)</b>
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	0	0	0.0%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	1	1	100.0%	
<b>Total Injured</b>	<b>3,126</b>	<b>2,692</b>	<b>86.1%</b>	
Drivers Ages 16-17	1,430	1,333	93.2%	<b>84,492 (91.3%)</b>
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	341	295	86.5%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	1,355	1,064	78.5%	
<b>Total Uninjured</b>	<b>14,149</b>	<b>12,940</b>	<b>91.5%</b>	
Drivers Ages 16-17	6,873	6,599	96.0%	<b>329,271 (89.0%)</b>
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	1,847	1,738	94.1%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	5,429	4,603	84.8%	

\*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 96%, compared to 93% for passengers ages 16-17 in vehicles with drivers ages 16-17 and 84% for passengers ages 16-17 in vehicles with drivers of other ages.
- Overall, drivers ages 16-17 involved in crashes were more likely to be restrained than drivers of all ages (96% vs. 89%).
- 93% of the drivers ages 16-17 injured in crashes were restrained; passengers ages 16-17 injured in crashes had lower use rates whether riding with drivers of the same age or with drivers of any age (87% and 79%, respectively).

**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 2013
	2012	2013	2014	
<b>Total Drivers</b>	<b>3,759</b>	<b>3,579</b>	<b>3,160</b>	<b>189,531</b>
<b>Select Factors</b>				
Driver Inattention/Distracted	17.1%	15.5%	16.3%	13.2%
Driver Inexperience	13.3%	13.8%	13.5%	1.5%
Failure to Yield R.O.W.	19.1%	19.3%	19.3%	10.5%
Following Too Closely	13.8%	13.9%	15.3%	11.4%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	3.7%	3.3%	3.4%	3.2%
Cell Phone	0.3%	0.2%	0.4%	0.2%
Texting	<0.1%	0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Unsafe Speed	14.2%	14.3%	13.7%	6.4%
Alcohol Involvement	1.0%	0.6%	0.6%	1.9%

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

- Drivers ages 16-17 in F&PI crashes were more likely than all drivers in F&PI crashes to have “failure to yield R.O.W.” (19% vs. 11% in 2014) and more than twice as likely to have “unsafe speed” reported as a contributing factor (14% vs. 6% in 2014).
- “Driver inattention/distracted” was the second most frequently reported contributing factor for drivers ages 16-17 and the most frequently reported for all drivers in F&PI crashes (16% and 13%, respectively in 2014).
- As would be expected, drivers ages 16-17 were much more likely than all drivers to have “driver inexperience” reported as a contributing factor in F&PI crashes (14% vs. 2% in 2014).

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

	Drivers Ages 16-17			NYS Total 2014
	2012	2013	2014	
<b>Total Tickets Issued</b>	<b>44,537</b>	<b>41,086</b>	<b>39,894</b>	<b>3,584,382</b>
Speeding	22.1%	22.8%	23.4%	18.5%
License	14.0%	13.4%	13.0%	6.2%
Traffic Device/ Stop Sign	8.7%	9.6%	9.5%	12.6%
Seat Belts	5.3%	4.6%	4.0%	5.5%
Cell Phone	1.5%	1.5%	1.1%	4.6%
Texting	0.4%	0.6%	0.8%	2.1%
<b>Total TSLED Tickets Issued</b>	<b>38,031</b>	<b>36,536</b>	<b>35,887</b>	<b>2,369,463</b>
Impaired Driving	1.1%	1.0%	0.7%	2.7%

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 2014, 23% of the tickets issued to drivers ages 16-17 were for speeding violations, compared to 19% of the tickets issued to all drivers.

- Drivers ages 16-17 were twice as likely as all drivers to be issued tickets for license violations in 2014 (13% vs. 6%) and far less likely to be issued tickets for cell phone and texting violations (2% vs. 7%).
- In 2014, less than 1% of the TSLED tickets issued to drivers ages 16-17 was for impaired driving, compared to almost 3% of the TSLED 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 & PERSONS INJURED, AND DRIVERS INVOLVED**  
**BY REGION OF THE STATE\*: 2014**

	<b>UPSTATE</b>	<b>NYC</b>	<b>LONG ISLAND</b>	<b>NYS F&amp;PI Involving Drivers Ages 16-17</b>
<b>F&amp;PI Crashes (% of total)</b>	<b>1,946 (61.1%)</b>	<b>274 (8.6%)</b>	<b>957 (30.1%)</b>	<b>3,183</b>
Fatal (% of total)	6 (54.5%)	2 (18.2%)	3 (27.3%)	11
Personal Injury (% of total)	1,940 (61.2%)	272 (8.6%)	954 (30.1%)	3,172
<b>Fatalities (% of total)</b>	<b>6 (37.5%)</b>	<b>2 (12.5%)</b>	<b>8 (50.0%)</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Persons Injured (% of total)</b>	<b>2,816 (59.9%)</b>	<b>433 (9.2%)</b>	<b>1,447 (30.8%)</b>	<b>4,702</b>
<b>Drivers Involved Ages 16-17 (% of total)</b>	<b>1,996 (61.4%)</b>	<b>274 (8.4%)</b>	<b>973 (29.9%)</b>	<b>3,249</b>
Male Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	984 (58.4%)	191 (11.3%)	508 (30.2%)	1,684
Female Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	1,012 (64.7%)	83 (5.3%)	465 (29.7%)	1,565
<b>** Licensed Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total)</b>	<b>57,702 (69.8%)</b>	<b>5,910 (7.2%)</b>	<b>1,899 (23.0%)</b>	<b>82,619</b>

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

\*\*Note: The number of NYS licensed drivers by age and county was not available for 2014 at the time this report was produced; 2013 data was substituted.

- 61% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 in 2014 occurred in the Upstate region, 30% were on Long Island and 9% occurred in New York City.
- 38% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 in 2014 occurred in the Upstate region, while 50% occurred on Long Island and 13% were in the five boroughs comprising New York City.
- Drivers ages 16-17 are underrepresented in F&PI crashes in the Upstate region and overrepresented in crashes in the New York City and Long Island regions.