

# 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**

	2009	2010	2011
<b>Crashes (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>12,647 (4.0%)</b>	<b>11,145 (3.5%)</b>	<b>9,967 (3.2%)</b>
Fatal (% of total NYS)	41 (3.9%)	31 (2.8%)	27 (2.5%)
Personal Injury (% of total NYS)	5,080 (3.8%)	4,438 (3.3%)	3,924 (3.1%)
Property Damage Only (% of total NYS)	7,526 (4.2%)	6,676 (3.7%)	6,016 (3.4%)
<b>Fatalities (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>49 (4.3%)</b>	<b>33 (2.8%)</b>	<b>31 (2.7%)</b>
Driver Fatalities Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	15 (2.5%)	11 (1.7%)	10 (1.7%)
<b>Persons Injured (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>7,817 (4.2%)</b>	<b>6,805 (3.6%)</b>	<b>5,959 (3.4%)</b>
<b>Drivers Involved Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>13,027 (2.5%)</b>	<b>11,471 (2.2%)</b>	<b>10,222 (2.0%)</b>
Male Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	7,169 (2.5%)	6,328 (2.2%)	5,617 (2.0%)
Female Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)	5,858 (3.0%)	5,143 (2.6%)	4,605 (2.4%)
<b>Licensed Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total NYS)</b>	<b>103,702 (0.9%)</b>	<b>87,721 (0.8%)</b>	<b>84,377 (0.8%)</b>

- 3%-4% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2009-2011 involved drivers ages 16-17.
- During 2009-2011, 3%-4% of all motor vehicle fatalities occurred in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17.
- The number of crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 and the number of fatalities and injuries in these crashes steadily declined between 2009 and 2011.
- The total number of crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 decreased by 21% (from 12,647 to 9,967) and fatalities and injuries decreased by 24% (from 7,866 to 5,990).
- The number of drivers ages 16-17 killed in crashes declined from 15 to 10 between 2009 and 2011.
- Drivers ages 16-17 are overrepresented in crashes; 2%-3% of the drivers involved in crashes in 2009-2011 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**

	2009	2010	2011	NYS F&PI 2011
<b>Fatal &amp; Personal Injury Crashes</b>	<b>5,121</b>	<b>4,469</b>	<b>3,951</b>	<b>129,113</b>
Crashes Involving Single Vehicle	24.4%	24.6%	23.1%	32.2%
Crashes Involving Multiple Vehicles	75.6%	75.4%	76.9%	67.8%
<b>Drivers Ages 16-17 in F&amp;PI Crashes</b>	<b>5,239</b>	<b>4,568</b>	<b>4,025</b>	<b>224,320</b>
With No Passengers*	53.6%	53.4%	54.1%	70.1%
With Passengers	46.4%	46.6%	45.9%	29.9%

\*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 (77% vs. 68% in 2011).
- 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. 30% in 2011).

**TABLE 3**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17**  
**TIME OF DAY: 2011**

Time of Day	Fatal		Personal Injury		Property Damage Only		Total Crashes	
	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=27)	Involving All Drivers (N=1,077)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=3,924)	Involving All Drivers (N=128,036)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=6,016)	Involving All Drivers (N=178,437)	Involving Drivers Ages 16-17 (N=9,967)	Involving All Drivers (N=307,550)
9pm-Mid	14.8%	13.0%	9.7%	8.8%	7.5%	8.2%	8.4%	8.5%
Mid-5am	11.1%	17.2%	3.5%	6.6%	3.0%	6.5%	3.2%	6.6%
5am-9am	11.1%	13.3%	9.8%	12.7%	11.6%	14.6%	10.9%	13.8%
9am-Noon	3.7%	9.3%	8.7%	13.7%	9.4%	13.6%	9.1%	13.6%
Noon-3pm	18.5%	15.3%	19.4%	18.2%	20.2%	16.6%	19.9%	17.2%
3pm-6pm	25.9%	17.0%	29.8%	23.4%	29.2%	21.1%	29.5%	22.1%
6pm-9pm	14.8%	14.8%	18.5%	15.5%	16.8%	13.8%	17.5%	14.5%
Unknown	0.0%	0.2%	0.6%	1.1%	2.4%	5.5%	1.7%	3.7%

- 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 noon-3pm and 3pm-6pm time periods.
- For fatal crashes, the largest proportion of crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 occurred 3pm-6pm (26%), while the largest proportion of crashes involving all drivers occurred between midnight-5am and 3pm-6pm (both 17%).

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

	2009	2010	2011	NYS Total 2011
<b>Total Fatalities</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1,153</b>
Drivers	20 (40.8%)	21 (63.6%)	15 (48.4%)	51.8%
Passengers	24 (49.0%)	6 (18.2%)	11 (35.5%)	17.6%
Pedestrians	5 (10.2%)	4 (12.1%)	3 (9.7%)	25.7%
Bicyclists	0 (0.0%)	2 (6.1%)	2 (6.5%)	4.9%
Other	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.0%
<b>Total Persons Injured</b>	<b>7,817</b>	<b>6,805</b>	<b>5,959</b>	<b>177,445</b>
Drivers	4,943 (63.2%)	4,337 (63.7%)	3,828 (64.2%)	59.9%
Passengers	2,655 (34.0%)	2,293 (33.7%)	1,984 (33.3%)	27.4%
Pedestrians	154 (2.0%)	118 (1.7%)	99 (1.7%)	8.8%
Bicyclists	55 (0.7%)	44 (0.7%)	41 (0.7%)	3.3%
Other	10 (0.1%)	13 (0.2%)	7 (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 (84% vs. 69% in 2011).
- Pedestrians comprise a much smaller proportion of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 than in all crashes (10% vs. 26% in 2011).
- Passengers comprise a larger proportion of the persons injured in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 than in all crashes (33% vs. 27% in 2011).

**TABLE 5**  
**NYS Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Drivers Ages 16-17**  
**AGE OF PASSENGERS KILLED OR INJURED**  
**IN VEHICLES WITH DRIVERS AGES 16-17: 2011**

	Killed or Injured		NYS Total
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,110</b>		<b>48,880</b>
Under Age 4	4	0.4%	3.4%
Ages 4-6	5	0.5%	3.6%
Ages 7-15	221	19.9%	12.7%
Ages 16-17	511	46.0%	4.7%
Ages 18-20	150	13.5%	8.4%
Ages 21-24	26	2.3%	10.3%
Ages 25-29	10	0.9%	9.3%
Age 30 and Over	129	11.6%	40.7%
Unknown Age	54	4.9%	7.0%

- The largest proportion of passengers killed or injured in vehicles with drivers ages 16-17 were ages 16-17 (46%), followed by passengers ages 7-15 (20%) and passengers ages 18-20 (14%).
- Passengers ages 16-20 account for 60% 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\*: 2011**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Restrained</b>	<b>% Restrained</b>	<b>NYS Total Drivers (% Restrained)</b>
<b>Total Vehicle Occupants Ages 16-17</b>	<b>19,998</b>	<b>18,072</b>	<b>90.4%</b>	
Drivers Ages 16-17	9,405	8,937	95.0%	<b>419,503 (88.7%)</b>
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	2,807	2,559	91.2%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	7,786	6,576	84.5%	
<b>Total Killed</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>55.0%</b>	
Drivers Ages 16-17	10	6	60.0%	<b>435 (58.9%)</b>
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	6	4	66.7%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	4	1	25.0%	
<b>Total Injured</b>	<b>3,952</b>	<b>3,448</b>	<b>87.3%</b>	
Drivers Ages 16-17	1,813	1,693	93.4%	<b>92,275 (90.5%)</b>
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	492	416	84.6%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	1,647	1,339	81.3%	
<b>Total Uninjured</b>	<b>16,026</b>	<b>14,613</b>	<b>91.2%</b>	
Drivers Ages 16-17	7,582	7,238	95.5%	<b>326,793 (88.2%)</b>
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers Ages 16-17	2,309	2,139	92.6%	
Passengers Ages 16-17 in Vehicles with Drivers of Other Ages	6,135	5,236	85.4%	

\*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 95%, compared to 91% 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.
- Restraint use for drivers ages 16-17 killed was similar to the restraint use for all drivers killed (60% and 59%, 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
	2009	2010	2011	2011
<b>Total Drivers</b>	<b>4,976</b>	<b>4,356</b>	<b>3,870</b>	<b>202,917</b>
<b>Select Factors</b>				
Driver Inattention/Distraction	16.0%	16.1%	17.1%	12.8%
Driver Inexperience	14.0%	12.7%	12.1%	1.5%
Failure to Yield R.O.W.	17.8%	17.4%	19.7%	9.9%
Following Too Closely	13.4%	13.7%	14.6%	10.7%
Traffic Control Device Disregarded	4.0%	3.6%	4.2%	3.1%
Unsafe Speed	15.2%	15.6%	15.2%	6.3%
Alcohol Involvement	0.8%	1.1%	1.1%	1.9%

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

- Drivers ages 16-17 in F&PI crashes were more than twice as likely as all drivers in F&PI crashes to have “unsafe speed” reported as a contributing factor (15% vs. 6% in 2011).
- 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 (12% vs. 2% in 2011).

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

	Drivers Ages 16-17			NYS Total
	2009	2010	2011	2011
<b>Total Tickets Issued</b>	<b>68,678</b>	<b>60,310</b>	<b>48,161</b>	<b>3,663,118</b>
Speeding	22.2%	22.4%	21.6%	17.4%
License	13.0%	13.5%	13.5%	6.1%
Traffic Device/Stop Sign	8.4%	8.6%	9.1%	11.2%
Seat Belts	7.4%	7.3%	6.2%	8.4%
Cell Phone	2.1%	1.9%	1.5%	6.8%
<b>Total TSLED Tickets Issued</b>	<b>58,665</b>	<b>51,517</b>	<b>41,261</b>	<b>2,376,815</b>
Impaired Driving	1.0%	1.0%	1.2%	3.1%

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 and a portion of those issued in Suffolk County.

- 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 2011 (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 (14% vs. 6% in 2011), but tickets issued to drivers ages 16-17 were much less likely to be issued tickets for cell phone violations than for all drivers (2% vs. 7% in 2011).
- 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: 2011**

	UPSTATE	NYC	LONG ISLAND	NYS F&PI Involving Drivers Ages 16-17
<b>F&amp;PI Crashes (% of total)</b>	<b>2,533 (64.1%)</b>	<b>365 (9.2%)</b>	<b>1,045 (26.5%)</b>	<b>3,951</b>
Fatal (% of total)	20 (74.1%)	1 (3.7%)	6 (22.2%)	27
Personal Injury (% of total)	2,513 (64.0%)	364 (9.3%)	1,039 (26.5%)	3,924
<b>Fatalities (% of total)</b>	<b>24 (77.4%)</b>	<b>1 (3.2%)</b>	<b>6 (19.4%)</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Persons Injured (% of total)</b>	<b>3,686 (61.9%)</b>	<b>609 (10.2%)</b>	<b>1,652 (27.7%)</b>	<b>5,959</b>
<b>Drivers Involved Ages 16-17 (% of total)</b>	<b>2,583 (64.2%)</b>	<b>367 (9.1%)</b>	<b>1,067 (26.5%)</b>	<b>4,025</b>
Male Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total)	1,379 (62.0%)	259 (11.6%)	584 (26.2%)	2,226
Female Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total)	1,204 (66.9%)	108 (6.0%)	483 (26.9%)	1,799
<b>Licensed Drivers Ages 16-17 (% of total)</b>	<b>58,296 (69.1%)</b>	<b>6,394 (7.6%)</b>	<b>19,672 (23.3%)</b>	<b>84,377</b>

- 64% of the F&PI crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 in 2011 occurred in the Upstate region, 27% were on Long Island and 9% in New York City.
- 77% of the fatalities in crashes involving drivers ages 16-17 in 2011 occurred in the Upstate region, while 19% occurred on Long Island and 3% were in the five boroughs comprising New York City.