



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Unrestrained Fatalities on Alabama Highways Rise in June
More Lives Could Be Saved IF People Would Buckle Up

MONTGOMERY – Crash activity reports from the Alabama Department of Public Safety (DPS) show the number of people who died in vehicle crashes where seat belts were available and were not wearing seat belts increased from last month.

According to preliminary traffic crash data, there were 57 people killed in vehicle crashes investigated by state troopers in Alabama in June 2013 compared to 33 in May. Of that number, 51 were in vehicles where seat belts were available, and 26 victims were not wearing seat belts, up from 15 in May. That’s 10 more deaths.

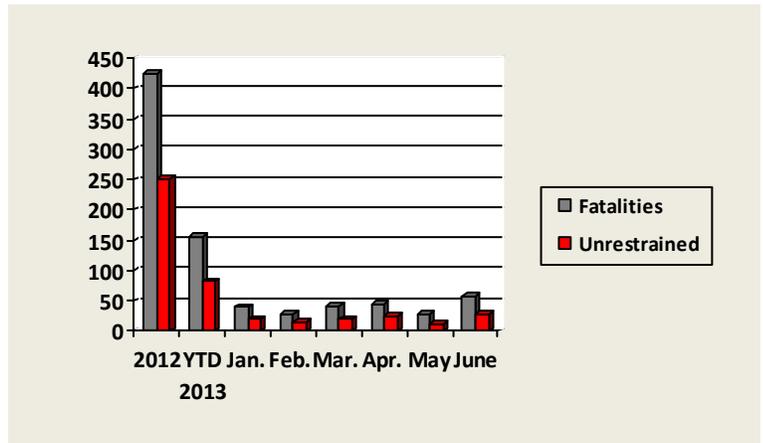
“As we move into this Fourth of July travel period, people need to be reminded that using seat belts and proper child restraints are key factors that help save lives on our highways,” said Transportation Director John Cooper. “Drivers and passengers should always be properly restrained whether they are traveling locally or taking a longer trip, especially during this peak summer travel time.”

The latest information from the DPS shows 248 people have been killed thus far in 2013, a decrease of seven from the same time period in 2012. However, of the 248 crash victims this year, 210 were in vehicles where seat belts were available, but 124 victims were not restrained. That’s almost half.

Preliminary data from crashes investigated by Alabama State Troopers indicates 59 percent of all traffic fatalities in 2012 were not wearing seat belts at the time of their deaths. Crash data from crashes investigated by local law enforcement won’t be compiled until later this year.

DPS and ALDOT jointly release to the public each month the number of unrestrained fatalities in crashes investigated by troopers in an effort to improve seat belt use and decrease deaths on Alabama highways.

For additional information, visit www.dot.state.al.us.



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