



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Unrestrained Fatalities on Alabama Highways Lower in August

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 decreased for the second straight month.

According to preliminary traffic crash data, there were 29 people killed in vehicle crashes investigated by state troopers in Alabama in August 2013 compared to 47 in July and 58 in June. Of the August number, 21 were in vehicles where seat belts were available, and 15 victims were not wearing seat belts, down from 24 in July.

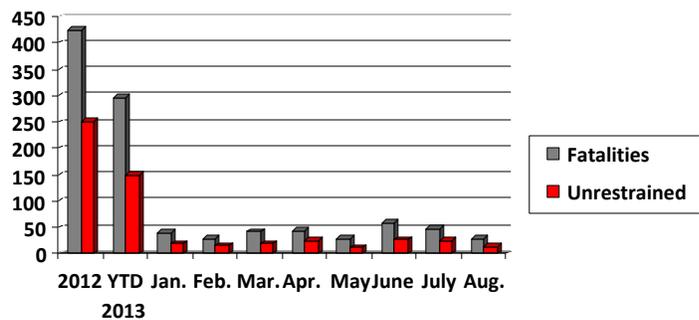
The latest information from the DPS shows 325 people have been killed thus far in 2013, a decrease of 14 from the same time period in 2012. However, of the 325 crash victims this year, 269 were in vehicles where seat belts were available, but 164 victims were not restrained.

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.

Alabama law requires front seat passengers and children between the ages of 6 and 15 to wear seat belts. Additionally, children younger than age 6 must be properly restrained in a federal motor vehicle safety standards-approved child safety seat.

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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