



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 6, 2014

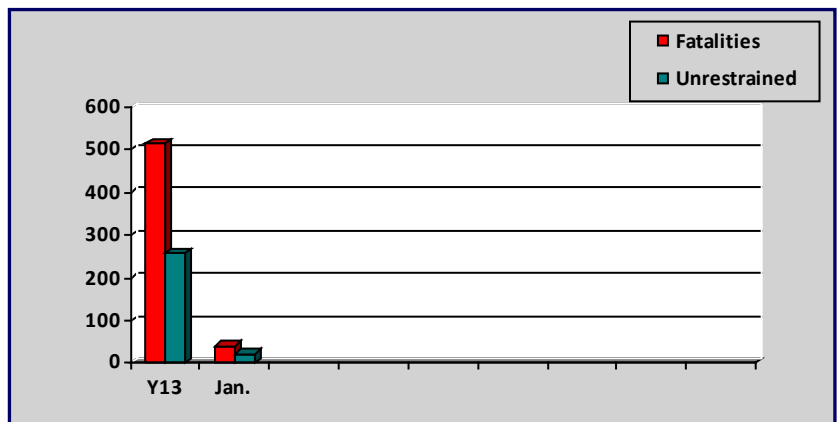
NEW YEAR BEGINS WITH 42 DEATHS ON ALABAMA HIGHWAYS

Trooper Investigated Crash Reports Also Indicate 23 Victims Were Not Restrained

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

According to preliminary traffic crash data, there were 42 victims killed in vehicle crashes investigated by Alabama State Troopers in January 2014, up from 41 in December and up from 40 in January 2013. Of the January 2014 number, 38 were in vehicles where seat belts were available, and 23 victims were not wearing seat belts, up from 20 in December.

“We must be more proactive in ensuring everyone buckles up every time they travel on the roadways,” said Transportation Director John Cooper. “Our goal for this year is to decrease the number of crashes and fatalities, continue to promote more seat belt use and work **Toward Zero Deaths** on Alabama’s highways.”



Data from traffic crashes investigated by state troopers indicates over 59 percent of all victims killed in 2013 were not wearing seat belts at the time of their deaths, about the same in 2012 (59 percent).

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 or www.dps.alabama.gov.

###

ALDOT MEDIA CONTACT

Rebecca Leigh White

Media & Community Relations Bureau

334-353-6534 Office

whitere@dot.state.al.us

DPS MEDIA CONTACT

Sgt. Steve Jarrett

Public Information/Education Unit

334-242-4445 Office

steve.jarrett@dps.alabama.gov