



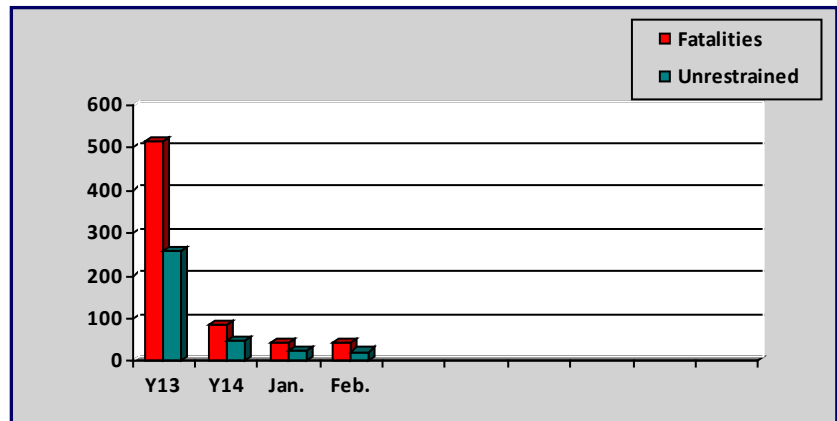
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Crash Fatalities Continue to Rise in 2014

Trooper Investigated Crash Reports Also Indicate 22 Victims in February 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 decreased from January. However, the total crash fatalities from January and February 2014 rose to 86, an increase of 16 victims from the same timeframe in 2013.

According to preliminary traffic crash data, there were 43 victims killed in vehicle crashes investigated by Alabama State Troopers in February 2014 - the same as in January and up from 30 in February 2013. Of the February 2014 number, 36 crash victims were in vehicles where seat belts were available, and 22 victims were not wearing seat belts, down from 26 in January.



State Troopers see far too many lives needlessly lost when something as simple as using proper restraints can mean a difference between life and death. “It only takes a second to put on your seat belt - but doing nothing could take your life in a second.” Sgt. Steve Jarrett, Alabama Department of Public Safety.

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.

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