

# **Alabama Deaths Due to Injuries**

**2006-2011**

Efforts to provide emergency care to the injured and other prevention efforts have been effective in reducing the rate of motor vehicle accident fatalities in Alabama, but an even better trauma system is needed to further reduce preventable injuries and deaths.

The rate of deaths due to motor vehicle crashes has shown steady improvement from 27.64 per 100,000 in 2006 to 18.05 in 2011. The improved capacity of emergency medical services in managing trauma care has contributed to this significant decrease. During 2010 and 2011, EMS handled almost 45 percent more accidents involving traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries, with a lower death rate than in prior years.

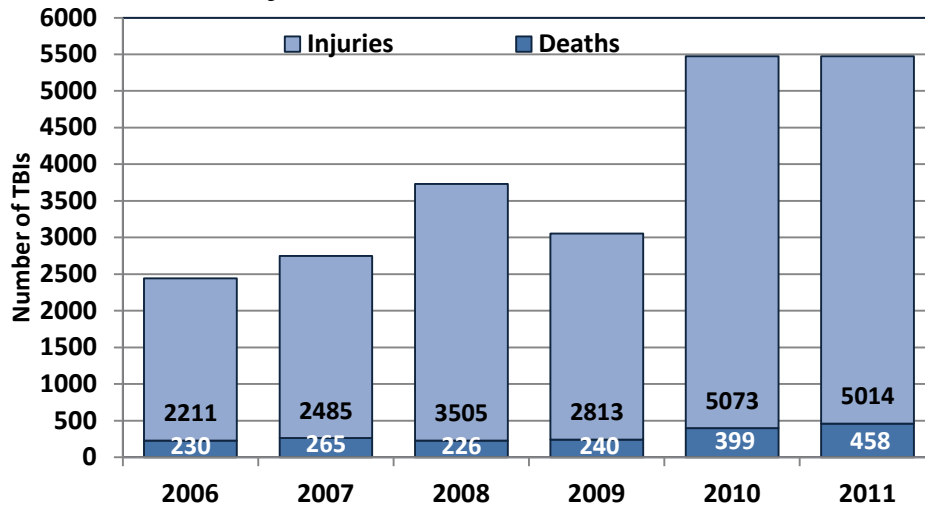
Alabama established a statewide trauma system in March 2007. A trauma system is a coordinated system of care that includes emergency medical technicians, a trauma communications system, hospital emergency department staff, trauma surgeons and other physicians who provide needed surgical and other care. These providers work together to determine the best possible course of action for the injured persons reported through the 911 system.

An examination of traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries from 2006 to 2011 shows that although the numbers of injuries handled through the emergency medical services have more than doubled, the number of deaths have not increased proportionately. These data indicate that Alabama's capacity to handle such accidents has greatly increased.

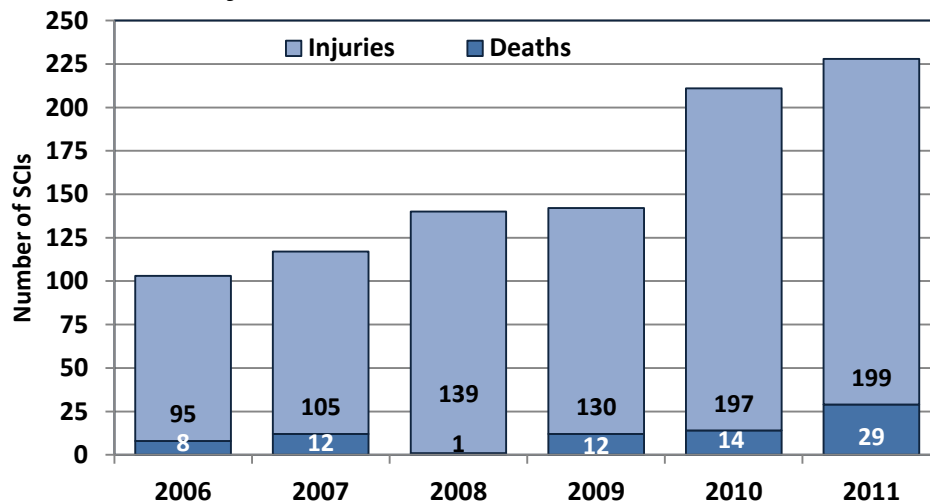
Suicide is the second leading cause of injury deaths during this time period with a current rate of 13.41 per 100,000, followed by homicide. Homicide rates have declined steadily from 9.70 to 7.83 per 100,000 since 2006. In Alabama injury by falling at 3.54 per 100,000 is well below the 2010 U.S. rate of 8.42 per 100,000. Other injuries including suffocation, fire and burning fatalities, drowning, and firearms deaths are above the U.S. averages.

- During 2010 and 2011, EMS handled almost 45% more accidents involving traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries with a lower death rate than in prior years.

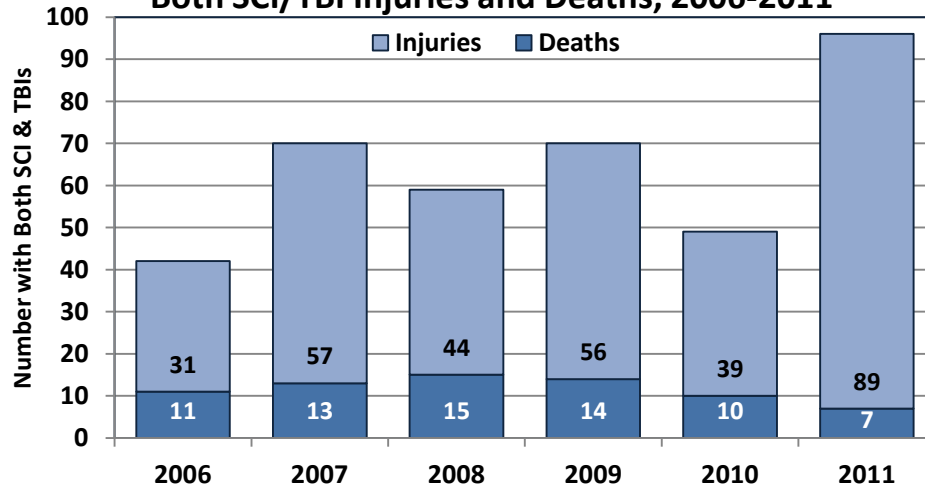
**TBI Injuries and Deaths, 2006-2011**



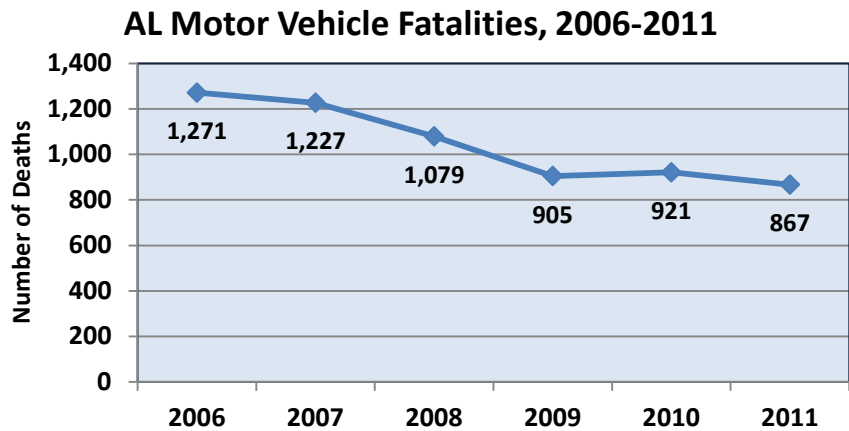
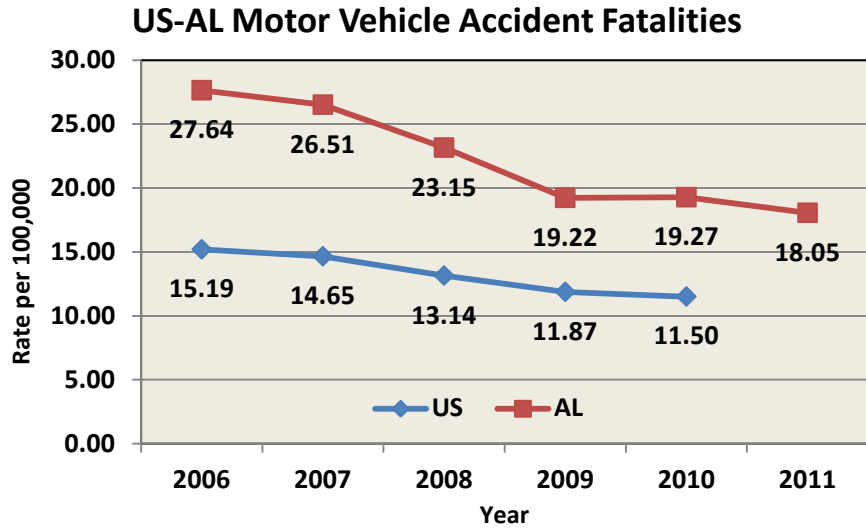
**SCI Injuries and Deaths, 2006-2011**



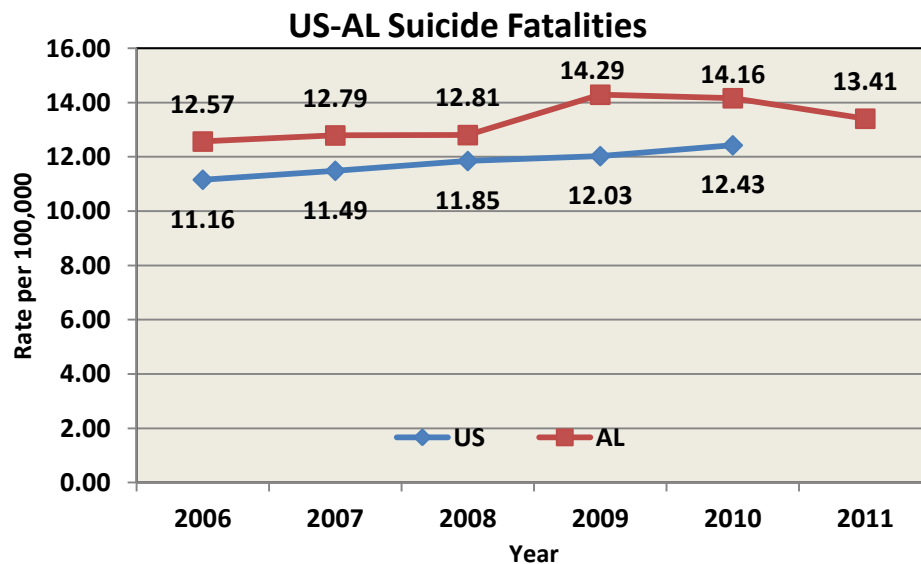
**Both SCI/TBI Injuries and Deaths, 2006-2011**



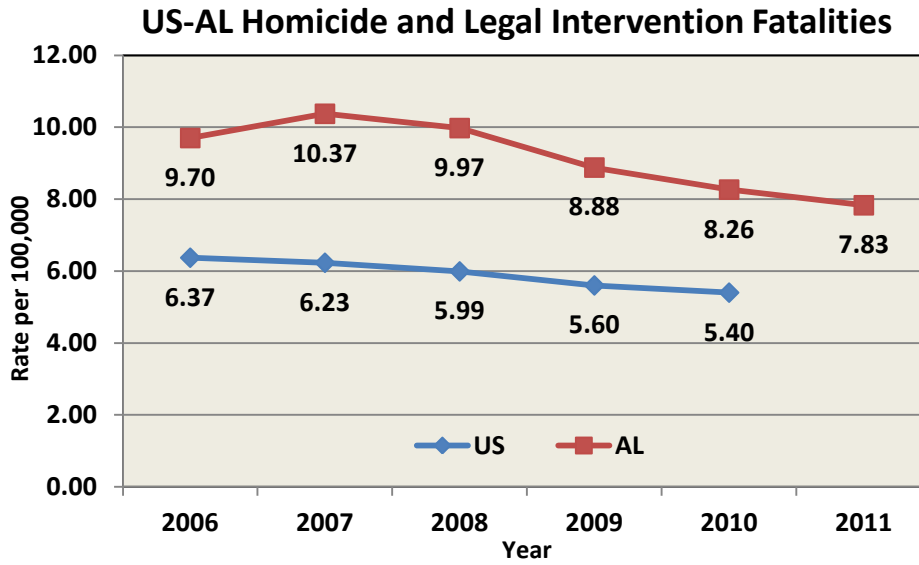
- Motor vehicle fatalities cause the highest number of accidental deaths. The rate has shown steady improvement over the past 6 years, but is still higher than the national average.



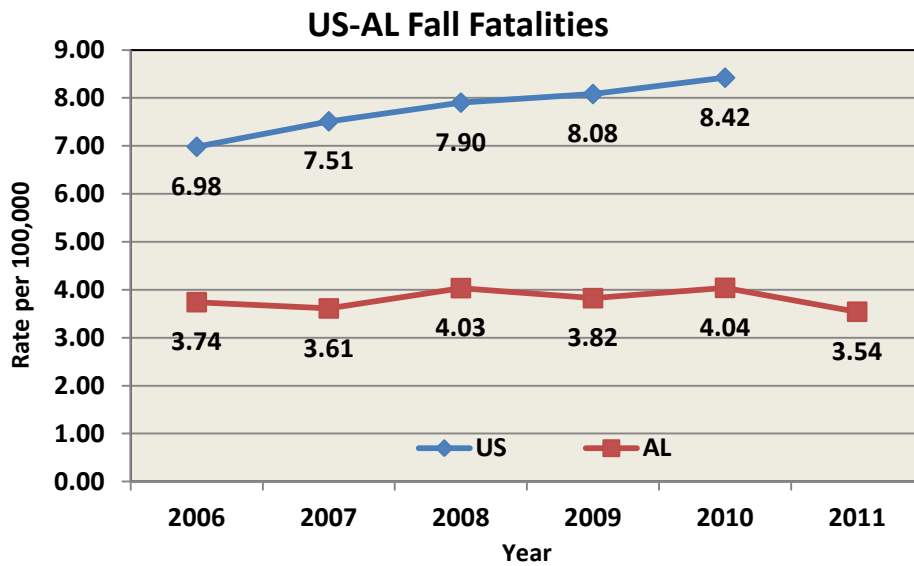
- Suicides are the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest cause of injury deaths and the rates have increased steadily over the past 6 years.



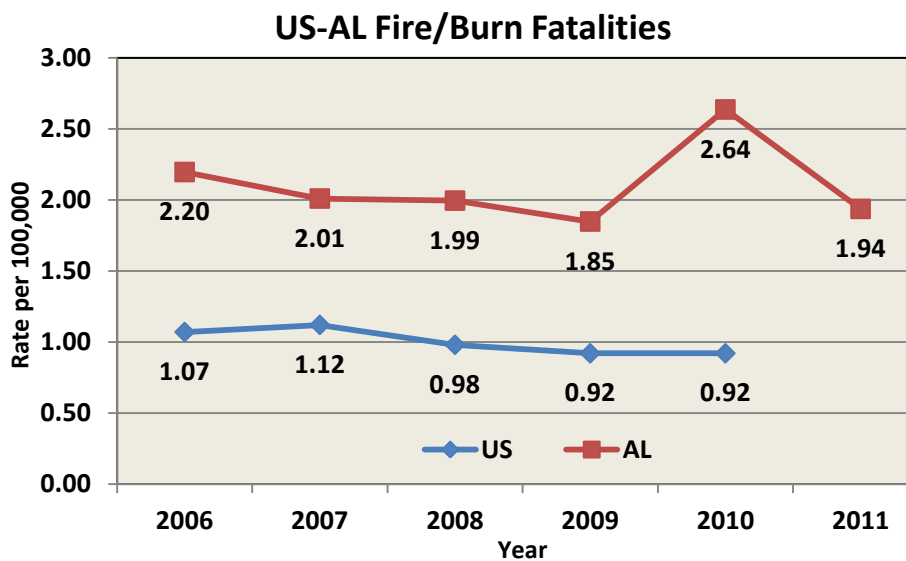
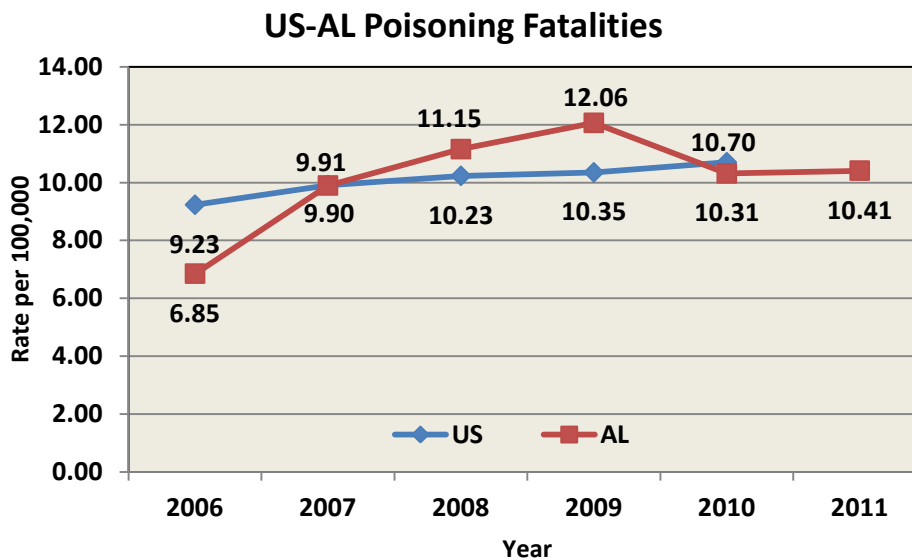
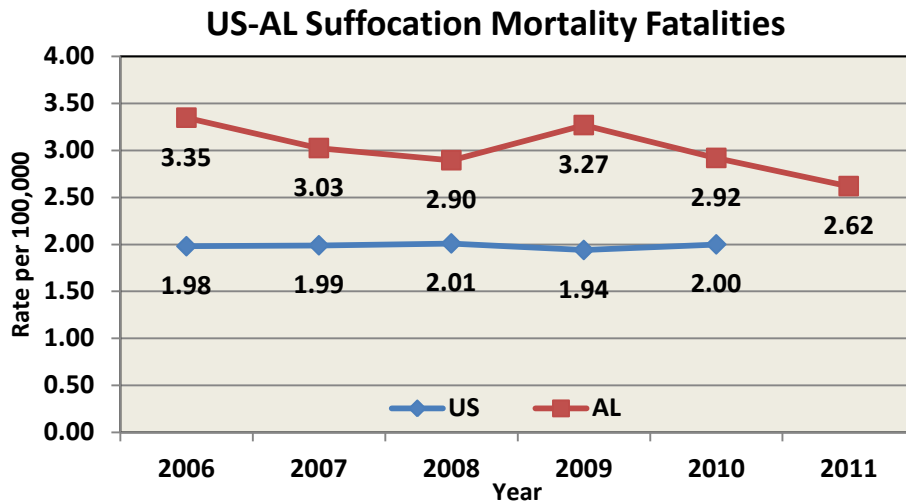
- Homicides have decreased markedly since 2007, but are still higher than the national average.



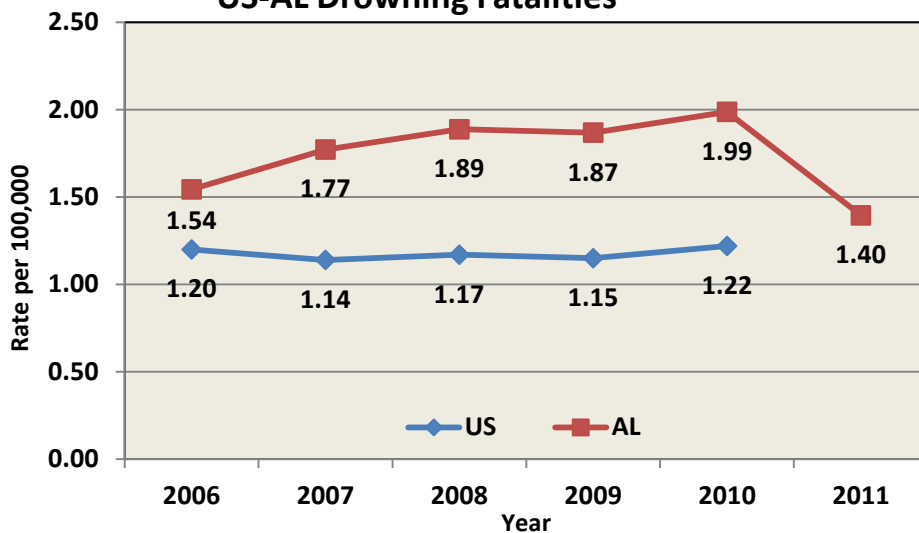
- Deaths due to falls are well below the national average in Alabama.



- Accidental deaths due to fires, suffocation, drowning, and firearms are all slightly higher than the national average.



### US-AL Drowning Fatalities



### US-AL Firearms Fatalities

