

To RWN

Atlanta Traffic and Safety Council
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Fatal traffic accidents in metropolitan Atlanta during January were reduced to half the number of January, 1966. The total number of people killed in traffic in the area was down 30 per cent.

Metropolitan area figures compiled by the Atlanta Traffic and Safety Council show that 26 fatal accidents occurred in the five-county area during the first month of last year, compared to 13 during January of this year. However, the number of multiple-death accidents this year has been higher than usual, so that 21 died this year in the 13 accidents, compared to 30 last year in 26 accidents.

Council President George Goodwin credited a substantial part of the reduction to efforts made by law enforcement officers and officials in the five-county area to strike at the causes of accidents. The governments have been following an accident reduction program outlined by the Council at the end of the record death year, 1966.

"Police over the whole area are concentrating their enforcement on violations which have been causing the most serious accidents," Mr. Goodwin said. "I am confident that this substantial decrease in the number of deaths and fatal accidents is reflecting the increase in the quantity and quality of enforcement."

He pointed out that in the City of Atlanta during January there were 3,723 speeding arrests made, compared to 2,708 during January of last year. Speeding was cited in the Council report as the factor most often involved in the 1966 increased traffic deaths. In the city proper there were 196 fewer accidents during this January than last January.

30% decrease

The deaths this year included a head-on collision in DeKalb County which killed four, a three-car smash-up in Fulton which killed four and an expressway bridge abutment accident in Atlanta in which three died.

Only Fulton County showed an increase in the number of deaths so far this year. In Fulton 11 people were killed in six accidents this January, compared to eight killed in seven accidents last year.

The accompanying chart shows the five-county traffic death breakdown including a separate listing for the City of Atlanta. Six of the Atlanta deaths appear in Fulton County totals and one in DeKalb figures.

	<u>1967</u>		<u>1966</u>	
	Deaths	Fatal Accidents	Deaths	Fatal Accidents
Clayton County	0	0	0	0
Cobb County	3	3	9	8
DeKalb County	6	3	9	8
Fulton County	11	6	8	7
Gwinnett	1	1	4	3
Total	21	13	30	26
City of Atlanta	7	5	7	6