Press Release

Greene County Public Health
A Safe Communities Grantee of Ohio Department of Public Safety
Ohio State Highway Patrol-Traffic Safety Division
360 Wilson Drive, Xenia, OH 45385

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NHTSA & GCPH Remind Drivers: Fasten Seat Belts for Safer Roads

XENIA, OH — The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Greene County Public Health (GCPH) are working to keep everyone safe on the roads throughout the long Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Whether driving 'over the river and through the woods', or just across town, everyone in a vehicle should ***'Buckle Up. Every Trip. Every Time.'*** Beyond the law, buckling up is the best defense against injury or death in a crash.

During the Thanksgiving holiday weekend in 2024 (6 p.m. on Wednesday, November 27, to 5:59 a.m. on Monday, December 2), there were 286 passenger vehicle occupants killed in traffic crashes across the nation, and 45% (128) were unrestrained. Not wearing a seat belt proved to be deadly at any time of the day during the holiday weekend: 50% of those killed in nighttime crashes were unbuckled, and 36% of those killed in daytime crashes also were unbuckled. These deaths represent needless tragedies for families across America and may have been prevented with the simple click of a seat belt.

Riding without a seat belt is dangerous. In 2024, nearly 50% of all people killed in a vehicle crash were unbuckled. Drivers are urged to check that all passengers are buckled before the vehicle ever leaves its parking spot. Buckling the seat belt is the single most effective thing anyone can do to stay safe in a crash.

"The Thanksgiving holiday is the start of a special time of year for so many people," said Kaci Warren, health educator at GCPH and coordinator of the Greene County Safe Communities Coalition. "No matter how long or short your drive, it's critical that drivers and passengers ***Buckle Up. Every Trip. Every Time.*** We want everyone to have a safe and happy Thanksgiving. Please, make sure everyone in your vehicle is buckled before you ever turn on the car — and that includes children being in the correct car seats, too," she said.

For more information about traveling safely this Thanksgiving, please visit NHTSA.gov/SeatBelts.

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For more information about traveling safely this Thanksgiving, please visit www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/seat-belts. For more information about Greene County Safe Communities, please call Kaci Warren at 937-374-5673 or email kwarren@greenecophoh.gov.

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