

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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Greene County Safe Communities Coalition Reminds Drivers That Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving

XENIA, OH — As the nation celebrates Independence Day, the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Greene County Public Health's Safe Communities Coalition are warning drivers about the dangers of drinking and driving. Help NHTSA and Greene County Safe Communities share this message: *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*.

Every year, the Fourth of July holiday ranks as one of the deadliest periods on the nation's roads. Between 2019 and 2023, there were 2,653 traffic fatalities during the holiday period, with 1,679 of the fatalities involving the driver. Thirty-eight percent (643) of those drivers were drunk. Of the 1,679 drivers killed, the 21-34 age group had the highest percentage (48%) of drunk drivers.

Your commitment to safety in Greene County is making a real difference. Thanks to your vigilance, there was only one traffic fatality during the July 4th holiday in 2023—and none in 2024. Let's keep up the great work and continue driving responsibly to protect lives on our roadways. Your choices matter!

"Impaired driving is never acceptable. For some people, even one drink is too many to drive safely. While everyone is making plans with friends and family for Fourth of July festivities, it is crucial to also make plans for a sober ride home and completely rule out drinking and driving," said Loressa Gonyer, Greene County Safe Communities Coordinator. "We're partnering with NHTSA and our local law enforcement agencies to remind drivers that Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving. Celebrating our nation's independence safely is our biggest responsibility."

Drivers should plan ahead to stay safe during the Independence Day holiday if they intend to consume alcohol. They shouldn't wait until after drinking to plan how to get somewhere. Impairment clouds a person's judgment. Drivers should arrange for a designated sober driver or call a taxi or rideshare service for a safe ride home.

If a driver finds they are unable to drive, they should give their keys to a sober driver so that person can get them home safely. When a friend has been drinking and is considering driving, friends should be proactive —

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take away the keys and help them get a sober ride home. If you spot a drunk driver, contact local law enforcement immediately.

Drive 100% sober, because *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*. For more information on impaired driving, visit www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving. For more information about Greene County Public Health, please call 937-374-5600 or visit the website at www.greenecophoh.gov.

Contact Loressa Gonyer at lgonyer@greenecophoh.gov or call 937-374-5655 if you are interested in learning more about or getting involved with the Greene County Safe Communities Coalition.

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