

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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Click It or Ticket – Seat Belts Save Lives Buckle Up May 18 – May 31, and Every Day Kickoff Press Conference Set for May 21 in Xenia

GREENE COUNTY, OH – The U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Greene County Safe Communities Coalition, part of Greene County Public Health (GCPH), is urging drivers to buckle up ahead of the Click It or Ticket seat belt safety campaign. The national high-visibility seat belt enforcement effort, which coincides with the Memorial Day holiday, runs May 18-31, 2026.

“Seat belt use should be an automatic habit for drivers and passengers alike,” said Kaci Warren, Health Educator for GCPH, and Coordinator of Greene County Safe Communities. “During the Click It or Ticket campaign, we’ll be working with local law enforcement officers across local and state lines to ensure the message gets out to drivers and passengers. Not buckling up could mean a ticket, or worse, risking a life.” In 2023, there were 10,484 unbuckled passenger vehicle occupants killed in traffic crashes. The national seat belt use rate in 2024 was 91.2%, which is good — but it can be better. The other 8.8% still need to be reminded that seat belts save lives. Participating law enforcement agencies will take a no-excuses approach to seat belt enforcement, writing citations day and night.

One of the focuses of the Click It or Ticket seat belt campaign is nighttime enforcement. NHTSA data shows a higher number of unrestrained occupant fatalities happen at night (56% between the hours of 6 p.m. and 5:59 a.m.). Of the males killed in crashes in 2023, more than half (53%) were unrestrained. For females killed in crashes, 41% were not buckled up.

Buckle Up the Right Way

- Place the shoulder belt across the middle of the chest and away from the neck.
- Lay the lap belt across the hips and not the stomach.
- NEVER place the seat belt behind the back or under the arms. “We are asking friends and family to remind each other to buckle up in the front and back seats and to consider changing their habits if they don’t,” said Lt. Joseph Weeks, Post Commander, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Xenia Post. “Seat belts save lives, and everyone — front seat and back, child and adult — needs to remember to buckle up.”

The public and members of the local media are invited to attend a kickoff event for the Click It or Ticket annual campaign on **Thursday, May 21, from 10:00-10:30 a.m. at the Greene County Public Health office, located at 360 Wilson Drive in Xenia.** Local law enforcement officials, along with members of the Safe Communities Coalition, will hold a press conference and be available for questions.

For more information on the Greene County Safe Communities Coalition or the kickoff event, please contact Kaci Warren at 937-374-5673 or email kwarren@greenecophoh.gov.

For more information on the Click It or Ticket seat belt high-visibility enforcement campaign, please visit NHTSA.gov/ClickIt.

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