

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
August 3, 2026

Contact: Laurie Fox, Public Information Officer
937-374-5669 office | 937-283-5178 cell
publicinformation@greenecophoh.gov

Ride and Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over This Labor Day

[XENIA, OH] — As people prepare to celebrate Labor Day, Greene County Public Health's Safe Communities Coalition and the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) are reminding everyone to make safe choices when traveling. From **August 19 through September 7, 2026**, GCPH will share safety messages while local law enforcement will work with NHTSA on our Greene County roadways to help prevent crashes and save lives.

The message is simple: **Drive Sober and Ride Sober or Get Pulled Over.**

The public is invited to attend the **kickoff of the Drive/Ride Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign** with a press conference on **Wednesday, August 12, at 9:00 a.m.**, at Greene County Public Health, located at 360 Wilson Drive in Xenia. Local law enforcement officers will share brief comments and answer questions about the upcoming enforcement period.

During the 2024 Labor Day holiday, there were 505 traffic crash deaths across the country. Of those deaths, 170 involved a drunk driver. Motorcyclists also faced serious risks. Of the 113 motorcyclists killed in crashes during the holiday period, 31 were killed in drunk-driving crashes. ***From September 1-30, 2024, in Greene County, there were a total of 344 crashes, two of which were fatal. Twenty-one of these crashes were alcohol-related, while 24 of them were listed as OVI-related (operating a vehicle impaired).** *Source: Ohio State Patrol Crash Dashboard.

Young adults are also at high risk. Among drivers ages 18 to 34 who were killed in crashes during the 2024 Labor Day holiday, 40% had a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher. ***In 2024 in Greene County, 177 of the 344 crashes were teen- or youth-related.** *Source: Ohio State Patrol Crash Dashboard.

If you plan to drink, make a plan before you go out. Choose a sober driver, call a taxi or rideshare, or use another safe way to get home. If you are riding a motorcycle, leave your bike at home and arrange

-cont'd-

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 a sober ride. Make a plan for where you can safely leave your motorcycle if needed. Never drive or ride after drinking. Alcohol can affect your judgment and make it harder to safely control a car or motorcycle.

If you are unable to drive or ride safely, give your keys to a sober person who can help you get home. If a friend has been drinking and is thinking about driving or riding, step in and help them find a safe ride. If you see someone who appears to be driving or riding drunk, contact local law enforcement when it is safe to do so.

“We want everyone to enjoy the Labor Day holiday and make it home safely,” said Kaci Warren, Health Educator and Coordinator of the Safe Communities Coalition. “Planning ahead can prevent a tragedy. If you plan to drink, make sure you have a safe ride home. Help us keep our roads safe by never driving or riding impaired.”

For more information about impaired driving, visit [NHTSA.gov/DrunkDriving](https://www.nhtsa.gov/DrunkDriving).

For more information about the kickoff or the enforcement period, contact Kaci Warren at 937-374-5673 or email kwarren@greenecophoh.gov.

Greene County Public Health...
Your Accredited and Trusted Local Public Health Authority Since 1920

###