

# 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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#### **Contact Person:**

Laurie Fox, Public Information Officer  
937-374-5669 office / 937-283-5178 cell / [lfox@greenecophoh.gov](mailto:lfox@greenecophoh.gov)

## **NHTSA Calls on Drivers to Keep the Winter Holiday Season Safe from Drug-Impaired Driving**

**XENIA, OH** —Leading into the winter holiday season, a time of frequent celebrations and round-the-clock traffic, the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) urges drivers to make safe choices even before getting behind the wheel and to keep this message in mind: *If You Feel Different, You Drive Different*. It is never okay to drive impaired, so planning to drive sober or to get a sober ride is key to keeping the winter holiday season safe for everyone on the roads. "Drugs impair the skills needed to drive safely. Marijuana is an impairing drug, making it dangerous and illegal to drive under its influence. No individual, family, or community deserves to have their holiday season ruined by impaired driving," said Kaci Warren, coordinator for the Greene County Safe Communities Coalition at Greene County Public Health. "We call on drivers to keep the holiday season safe and joyful for everyone by staying sober behind the wheel or planning for a sober ride. Driving under the influence of drugs puts the impaired driver and road users around them at risk of serious injuries and even death. Drivers must always remember that *If You Feel Different, You Drive Different*," she said. Violating Ohio's drug-impaired driving laws can be costly.

Many people believe that being high doesn't affect driving abilities, but they are wrong. It has been proven that marijuana can slow reaction times, impair cognitive performance, and make it more difficult for drivers to keep a steady position in their lane.

Those who plan to use drugs should not drive. Even over-the-counter and prescription medications can have impairing effects. Drivers should secure a designated sober driver or call a taxi or rideshare for a sober 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 using drugs and is considering driving, friends should be proactive — take away the keys and help them get a sober ride home. If anyone spots an impaired driver, contact local law enforcement. For more information on impaired driving, visit [www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drug-impaired-driving](http://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drug-impaired-driving).

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For more information about Greene County Safe Communities, please call Kaci Warren at 937-374-5673 or email [kwarren@greenecophoh.gov](mailto:kwarren@greenecophoh.gov).

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