

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 & Greene County Safe Communities Coalition Urge Drivers to Stay Sober on Halloween

XENIA, OH — As families get ready for Halloween, the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Greene County Public Health's Safe Communities Coalition want to remind everyone: **Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving.**

If you plan to drive, it's your job to keep yourself, your passengers, and others on the road safe by staying sober behind the wheel.

In 2023, someone was killed in a drunk-driving crash every **42 minutes** in the U.S. Between 2019 and 2023, **198 people** were killed in alcohol-related crashes on Halloween night. Of those, **176 deaths** were caused by drunk drivers with a blood alcohol level of .08 or higher. Most of the victims were between ages **21–34**. Victims included 30 pedestrians, and 145 drivers and passengers.

"Part of celebrating Halloween safely is planning ahead," said Loressa Gonyer, Safe Communities Coalition Coordinator. "If you plan to drink, make sure you also plan for a sober ride home. If you feel even a little buzzed, do not get behind the wheel."

Safety Tips for Drivers and Friends

- Plan your sober ride before you start drinking. Don't wait until after.
- Use a designated driver, taxi, or rideshare service.
- If you've been drinking, give your keys to a sober driver.
- If a friend tries to drive after drinking, take their keys and help them find a safe ride.
- If you see a drunk driver on the road, call local law enforcement.

This Halloween, stay safe by making the choice to drive **100% sober**.

For more information about impaired driving, visit www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving.
To learn more about Greene County Safe Communities, contact Loressa Gonyer at
lgonyer@greenecophoh.gov or call 937-374-5655.

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