

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

Thursday, October 22, 2026

Contact Person:

Laurie Fox, Public Information Officer
937-374-5669 office / 937-283-5178 cell / lfox@greenecophoh.gov

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

XENIA, OH — As communities nationwide prepare for Halloween celebrations, the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reminds all drivers that Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving. Drivers responsibly committing to sober driving will keep themselves, passengers, pedestrians, and other road users safe. In 2024, one person was killed every 44 minutes in a drunk-driving crash on our nation's roads. Alcohol-impaired driving is deadly and continues to be a factor in fatal traffic crashes in the United States, including on Halloween night (6 p.m. October 31-5:59 a.m. November 1). From 2020 to 2024, 201 people were killed in alcohol-related crashes, which involve at least one driver who had a blood alcohol level of .01 or higher, on the night of Halloween. Of those killed in alcohol-related crashes, 176 were in crashes that involved a drunk driver, with BACs of .08 or higher. More than half (54%) of people aged 21–34 killed in traffic crashes during that same five-year period were in drunk-driving crashes. Victims in those drunk-driving crashes included 31 pedestrians and 144 drivers and passengers.

"An important part of celebrating Halloween is planning to get to your destinations and back home safely. Those who are going out and intend to drink should ensure they have a designated sober driver or plan a sober ride home," said Kaci Warren, Health Educator at Greene County Public Health and Coordinator for the Greene County Safe Communities Coalition. "We're partnering with NHTSA to share the reminder that Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving. If you feel any buzz, you should stay away from the driver's seat."

Drivers should be safe during Halloween by planning ahead if they intend to drink. Waiting until after drinking to plan transportation leads to clouded judgment. 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 drinking and is considering driving, proactively taking away the keys helps them get a sober ride home. If anyone spots a drunk driver, contact local law enforcement.

-cont'd-

360 Wilson Drive, Xenia, Ohio 45385 | (937) 374-5600 | Fax (937) 374-5675 | www.greenecophoh.gov

Drive 100% sober, because ***Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving***. For more information on impaired driving, visit NHTSA.gov/DrunkDriving.

To learn more about Greene County Safe Communities, contact Kaci Warren at kwarren@greenecophoh.gov or call **937-374-5673**.

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

###