

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 Reminds Drivers of the Dangers of Driving High: *If You Feel Different, You Drive Different*

XENIA, OH — The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is reminding drivers about the deadly consequences of drug-impaired driving. For a safe Halloween night, drivers should arrange for a sober driver to get home safely. Remember: ***If You Feel Different, You Drive Different.***

"It's a common and dangerous misconception that people drive better when they are high," said Kaci Warren, Health Educator for Greene County Public Health and the Coordinator for the Greene County Safe Communities Coalition. "This message is simple: Impaired driving is always dangerous, and it's always illegal. Our goal is to ensure that drug-impaired driving and its deadly consequences do not rob anyone of their life and their chance to enjoy a safe Halloween night. Our children and community members deserve to celebrate a night free from the risks posed by drug-impaired drivers. ***If You Feel Different, You Drive Different.*** If you are high, do not drive." 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 drinking and is considering driving, proactively taking away the keys helps them get a sober ride home. If anyone spots an impaired driver, contact local law enforcement.

Join NHTSA in sharing the lifesaving message: ***If You Feel Different, You Drive Different.*** For more information on impaired driving, visit [NHTSA.gov/Impaired-Driving](https://www.nhtsa.gov/Impaired-Driving).

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

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