

Press Release



Public Health
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Greene County Public Health

*A Safe Communities Grantee of Ohio Department of Public Safety
Ohio State Highway Patrol-Traffic Safety Division*
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-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-
Monday, April 27, 2026

NHTSA Reminds Drivers and Riders: Share the Road, Save Lives

XENIA, OH — The U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Greene County Public Health’s (GCPH) Safe Communities Coalition call on drivers and riders to commit to sharing the road through safe driving and riding practices and by recognizing that Motorcyclists’ Safety Is Everyone’s Safety during Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month in May.

Motorcycle ownership and miles traveled have shown steady growth over time, and motorcycle rider fatalities have gone up. “Road safety for motorcyclists should be a concern and priority for every road user. Every year, a disproportionate number of motorcyclists are involved in traffic fatalities,” said Kaci Warren, GCPH Health Educator and Safe Communities Coalition Coordinator. “These fatalities can be prevented through consistent safe behavior from both drivers and riders,” she said.

According to the latest NHTSA data, in 2024, there were 6,228 motorcyclists killed — 15% of all traffic fatalities. NHTSA data show that this is one of the highest number of motorcyclists killed since at least 1975. Speed and alcohol impairment are the leading contributors to fatalities among motorcycle riders. Per vehicle miles traveled fatality rate in 2024, motorcyclists were almost 27 times more likely than passenger car occupants to die in a motor vehicle crash and were almost 5 times more likely to be injured. Thirty-six percent of motorcycle riders involved in fatal crashes were speeding, compared to 22% of all passenger car drivers. Of the motorcycle riders who died in single-vehicle crashes, 41% were alcohol-impaired.

Motorcycle riders practicing these easy safety steps can potentially save lives:

- Ride sober.
- Observe all traffic laws.
- Obey the speed limit.
- Ride defensively.
- Avoid distractions while driving.
- Wear protective clothing and DOT-compliant motorcycle helmets.

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For motorcyclists, hands-on motorcycle rider education provides dynamic riding skills and builds rider confidence. Completing such training is essential and may provide insurance discounts while easing the path to obtaining a motorcycle license. Motorcyclists can contact their state motor vehicle administration to get licensed and find a motorcycle rider training course near them.

NHTSA leads efforts to increase helmet use nationwide and estimates that DOT-compliant motorcycle helmet use among motorcycle riders increased to 73.8% in 2023, up from 66.5% in 2022. Motorcycle riders can learn how to identify a safe, DOT-compliant helmet at [NHTSA.gov/Motorcycles](https://www.nhtsa.gov/Motorcycles).

For more information about the Greene County Safe Communities Coalition, please contact Kaci Warren, Coordinator, at 937-374-5673 or via email at kwarren@greenecophoh.gov.

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