

Press Release



Greene County Public Health

A Safe Communities Grantee of the Ohio Department of Public Safety
Ohio State Highway Patrol-Traffic Safety Division
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-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

Monday, April 21, 2025

Greene County Career Center Wins Spring Seat Belt Challenge

XENIA, OH — In April, the Greene County Safe Communities Coalition, part of Greene County Public Health, completed its annual Spring AAA Seat Belt Challenge for 2025! **The Coalition is proud to announce that the winner of this year's challenge is the Greene County Career Center!** We congratulate them and, especially, their students! The career center took the lead with 95.5% of their students being buckled! In second place, 92.1% of students at Bellbrook High School were buckled. Finally, in 3rd place, Xenia High School had 91.2% of their students buckled. Our Fall 2024 winner was Bellbrook High School. The Greene County Career Center will be awarded \$250 to improve safety at the school.

The Safe Communities Coalition continues to work with local law enforcement officers across the county to ensure the message gets out to drivers and passengers. Buckling up is the simplest thing you can do to limit injury and or save your life during a crash. The national seat belt use rate in 2024 was 91.2%, which is good, but it can be better. The other 8.8% still need to be reminded that seat belts save lives. During 2024 in Greene County, there were 464 crashes where the driver and/or the passenger(s) were unbelted. However, the seat belt use rate was 95.7%. We encourage our local school districts to continue to push the important messages of safe driving, buckling up, and putting down the phone.

As we draw near to the 100 Deadliest Days of Summer, we want to see the students return safely to school this fall! The period of 100 days between Memorial Day and Labor Day is referred to as the "100 Deadliest Days of Summer" for teens in the United States. Our local law enforcement agencies are taking a no-excuses approach to seat belt law enforcement, writing citations both day and night.

For more information about the Greene County Safe Communities Coalition, contact Loressa Gonyer at lgonyer@greenecophoh.gov or 937-374-5655.

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