

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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Talk to Teens About the Importance of Driving Safety During National Teen Driver Safety Week

XENIA, OH — The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is working with Greene County Public Health's Safe Communities Coalition to support **National Teen Driver Safety Week**, October 19–25, 2025.

While it's important to talk with teens about safe driving all year long, this week gives parents and guardians a chance to focus on those conversations. Teen drivers need to know the **Rules of the Road** before parents hand over the car keys — and parents are the ones in charge.

Car crashes are one of the top causes of death for teens ages 15–20. In 2023:

- **2,611 people** were killed in crashes involving teen drivers ages 15–18.
- **822 of those deaths** were the teen drivers themselves.
- **604 deaths** were passengers of teen drivers — and 62% of those passengers were also teens.

“Parents play a big role in teaching their teens safe driving habits,” said Loressa Gonyer, Safe Communities Coordinator. “New drivers are still learning, which can put them and others on the road at risk. That’s why it’s so important for parents to set a good example and talk about safe choices behind the wheel.”

NHTSA gives parents tools and tips to help guide these talks. Some of the most important topics to discuss with teens include:

- Always wearing a **seat belt**
- Avoiding **alcohol and drugs**
- Not using a phone while driving (**distracted driving**)
- Watching their **speed**
- Limiting **passengers** in the car

Studies show that teens whose parents set clear rules for driving are less likely to take risks and are involved in fewer crashes.

Parents should also make sure teens understand Ohio's graduated driver licensing laws and the serious consequences of unsafe driving.

For more information about teen driver safety, visit www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/teen-driving.

To learn more about Greene County Safe Communities or how to get involved, contact Loressa at **937-374-5655** or lgonyer@greenecophoh.gov. For more information about Greene County Public Health, call **937-374-5600** or visit www.greenecophoh.gov.

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