

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, November 21, 2024

Contact Person:

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

NHTSA Warns of the Dangers of Drug-Impaired Driving... *If You Feel Different, You Drive Different.*

XENIA, OH — As communities and families across the country get ready for Thanksgiving festivities, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Greene County Public Health’s Safe Communities Coalition calls on drivers to reflect on the deadly drug-impaired-driving tragedies seen on our nation’s roads during past Thanksgiving holidays and remember this Thanksgiving that impaired driving is deadly. Protecting the safety of all road users, including passengers of all ages, starts with the commitment to drive sober, designate a sober driver, or get a sober ride. Remember: *If You Feel Different, You Drive Different.*

“The consequences of drug-impaired driving are devastating. Precious lives are lost, and the friends and families of those affected endure lasting grief. These tragedies are preventable,” said Loressa Gonyer, Health Educator and Safe Communities Coordinator. “Everyone can make a difference by avoiding driving after using drugs. Impairment is impairment—*If You Feel Different, You Drive Different.* There is no excuse for getting behind the wheel impaired. Let’s ensure everyone arrives safely to share in the feast and give thanks together. Your decision to drive sober or to plan for a sober ride keeps our holiday tables filled with those we love.”

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, friends should be proactive —

take away the keys and help them get a sober ride home. If anyone spots a drunk 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 www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drug-impaired-driving.

For more information about Greene County Safe Communities, please call Loressa Gonyer at 937-374-5655 or email lgonyer@gcph.info.

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

###