

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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Xenia Community Schools Wins Spring Seat Belt Challenge

XENIA, OH — In April, the Greene County Safe Communities Coalition, part of Greene County Public Health, held its annual Spring AAA Seat Belt Challenge for 2024! **The Coalition is proud to announce that the winner of this year’s challenge is Xenia High School!** Congratulations to Xenia High School and, especially, their students! Xenia took the lead with 89.7% of their students buckled. In second place was the Greene County Career Center who had 86.7% of students buckled, while 3rd place was secured by Beavercreek High School who had 85.1% of their students buckled. Xenia High School will be awarded \$250 to go towards improving safety at the school.

Fairborn, Greeneview, Xenia, and Yellow Springs High School all increased their scores from the seat belt challenge held in the Fall of 2023.

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 2023 was 91.9%, which is good — but it can be better. The other 8.1% still need to be reminded that seat belts save lives. During 2023 in Greene County, there were a total of 408 crashes where the driver and or the passenger(s) were unbelted, however the seat belt use rate was 91.4%. 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@gcph.info or by phone at 937-374-5655.

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