



For Immediate Release

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December 16, 2020 (Lima, Ohio) – CHOOSE to drive sober this holiday season. To prevent fatal, as well as, serious injury crashes this holiday season, **law enforcement agencies in Allen County will be out in full force, from now through January 1 - looking for and cracking down on impaired drivers.** Law enforcement will show zero tolerance for drunk driving.

On average across the nation, more than 10,000 people are killed each year in drunk-driving crashes. **In the past decade in Allen County, 101 people died in traffic crashes, 33 of those who died were killed in an impaired driving crash. This holiday season, families all across Allen County will be mourning the loss of a loved one to a traffic crash. These deaths can be prevented.**

The underlying reasons for many of these deaths include impaired driving, distracted driving, and failure to use seat belts. We all want to stop this unnecessary loss of life. The Lima-Allen County Safe Community Coalition is reminding everyone in Allen County to CHOOSE not to drink and drive. Impaired driving is not acceptable behavior. Evelyn Smith, Project Director for the Coalition added: “We can prevent even one more person from dying, or being seriously injured, in an impaired driving crash. It is up to us to CHOOSE to make our roads safer. If you CHOOSE to drink . . . CHOOSE not to drive.”

- CHOOSE to be responsible and don't risk it ... you will be caught.
- If you plan to drink, CHOOSE a non-drinking designated driver before going out.
- CHOOSE to take transit, a taxicab, or ask a sober friend to drive you home.
- CHOOSE to spend the night where the activity is being held.
- CHOOSE to take the keys away from a friend who is about to drink and drive.
- CHOOSE to report impaired drivers to law enforcement.
- CHOOSE to always buckle up – it's your best defense against an impaired driver.



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