

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 19, 2007

CONTACT: Allison Davis, Safe Communities Coordinator

(740) 349 – 6535 adavis@lickingcohealth.org



Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving This Holiday Season

Licking County, Ohio— The holiday season can be one of the deadliest and most dangerous times of the year due to an increase in impaired driving. In December of 2006, 1,076 people were killed in traffic crashes that involved at least one driver or motorcyclists with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher.

That's why Licking County Health Department and Safe Communities is joining with National, State and local highway safety officials to remind everyone who will be celebrating during the Holidays that *Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving* and to never forget to plan a safe way home before the festivities begin.

"The consumption of alcohol, drugs and driving just don't mix," said Allison Davis, Safe Communities Coordinator. "Whether you've had way too many or just one too many, it's not worth the risk of killing yourself or someone else. Don't ever get behind a wheel of a vehicle when you have had anything to drink."

There are a few key steps to ensure that everyone will get home safe. Start early, plan a safe way home before going out. If you are going to drive yourself to a party and then drink, give your keys up as soon as you get there. If your safe ride home falls through, call a taxi, a sober friend, or use public transportation, but no matter what, don't drive!

As a citizen, you can also help crack down on impaired drivers. If you suspect a vehicle being operated by an impaired driver, call 1-800-GRAB-DUI. From a cell phone you can dial *DUI, airtime free!

"Saving lives on our roads is a top priority and we need everyone's help to do it," said Davis. "This holiday season; don't let your year end in an arrest—or even worse, death. Make smart decisions. Plan ahead, so you can assure a safe way home."

Whether you've had way too many or just one too many, it's not worth the risk. Remember buzzed driving, is drunk driving.

For more information, please visit www.StopImpairedDriving.org.