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Tuscarawas County  
Health Department

News Release- For immediate release  
01/30/2023

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### **Safe Communities of Tuscarawas County Shares 2022 Traffic Fatality Report**

DOVER--From January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022, the Ohio State Highway Patrol reported a total of 2,410 vehicle crashes investigated in Tuscarawas County. Of the 2,410 crashes investigated, Tuscarawas County experienced 10 fatal crashes with 11 crash fatalities. The highest crash routes in Tuscarawas County in 2022 were State Route 39, Interstate 77, US Route 250, State Route 416, and State Route 800.

“The top two traffic safety priorities in Tuscarawas County continue to be educating the public on the importance of seatbelt usage and the dangers of driving impaired,” explained Abbie Benton, Safe Communities Program Coordinator for the Tuscarawas County Health Department. “Of the passenger vehicle occupants killed in Tuscarawas County crashes during 2022, 89% were not buckled at the time of the crash and 55% of the total fatal crashes involved some type of impairment. Other contributing factors in the fatal crashes were mature and youthful drivers along with speed and motorcycle related crashes.”

To help prevent fatal traffic crashes and injuries from occurring in Tuscarawas County, the local Safe Communities Coalition conducts traffic safety media campaigns, coordinates events and activities, and distributes educational materials year-round. Led by the Tuscarawas County Health Department, the Coalition is comprised of partners from various county agencies and organizations. “Our partners are essential to the success of the Safe Communities traffic safety efforts,” said Benton. “We are grateful for their continued support and commitment to improving traffic safety in Tuscarawas County.”

The Safe Communities Coalition is excited to bring back the Teen Roadeo event this year, where they will be working with teens from local high schools to educate youth about the importance of safe driving. The group also spends time educating the driving population of Tuscarawas County on impaired driving, seatbelt use, distracted driving, and motorcycle awareness.

On February 15th, 2023, members of the Safe Communities Coalition will be meeting to review the traffic fatalities from the fourth quarter of 2022 to identify any trends or measures that can be taken to prevent future traffic fatalities. If you would like to know more about the Safe Communities project, please email [healthed@tchdnow.org](mailto:healthed@tchdnow.org) or visit [www.tchdnow.org/safe-communities.html](http://www.tchdnow.org/safe-communities.html).

Efforts of The Safe Communities Coalition are funded through a grant from the Ohio Traffic Safety Office (OTSO). For more information about OTSO and statewide efforts to improve safety on Ohio’s roadways, visit <http://ohiohighwaysafetyoffice.ohio.gov/index.stm>

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