



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Criminal Justice Services

Ohio Criminal Justice Services • Karhlton F. Moore, Executive Director  
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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### Ohio Law Enforcement is Cracking Down – Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over

*ODPS Kicks Off National Enforcement Crackdown and OVI Checkpoint Weekend*

(COLUMBUS) – This year, Ohio law enforcement agencies will join thousands of other highway safety partners throughout the nation to take part in the *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* crackdown on impaired driving. The enforcement blitz begins tomorrow, Aug. 19, and will last through Labor Day.

During the enforcement period, law enforcement partners have planned more than 6,100 enforcement hours and more than 2,200 hours of saturation patrols around the state.

“Impaired driving is a serious matter, and law enforcement partners across the state will be out in full force to ensure people are making the right decisions on our roads,” said Ohio Department of Public Safety Director Tom Charles. “The message is clear – drive sober or get pulled over.”

An Ohio OVI Checkpoint Weekend also will begin tomorrow. Law enforcement from all jurisdictions have joined together to hold more than 40 checkpoints all over the state between Aug. 19 and 21. The checkpoints are planned for those areas with the highest numbers of alcohol-related deaths, injuries and arrests. They are designed to not only deter impaired driving, but to remove these dangerous drivers from our roadways.

Agencies participating in OVI Checkpoint Weekend include: Aurora Police Department; Berea Police Department; Blue Ash Police Department; Cincinnati Police Department; Dayton Police Department; Garfield Heights Police Department; Miami Twp. Police Department; Ohio State Highway Patrol; Parma Police Department; Stark County Sheriff’s Office; Sylvania Twp. Police Department; Trotwood Police Department; Warren Police Department; and West Chester Police Department. The Clark County OVI Task Force and Franklin County DUI Task Force will also be participating.

According to provisional data, 432 people died in 394 alcohol-related fatal crashes on Ohio’s roads in 2010. Alcohol-impaired drivers were involved in 40 percent of all traffic fatalities.

The national *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* crackdown is a program organized by the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) that focuses on combining high-visibility enforcement with heightened public awareness through advertising and publicity. It is locally administered by the Ohio Department of Public Safety’s Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS), which funds a majority of the enforcement hours through federal funds from NHTSA.

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*ODPS works to reduce alcohol-related deaths and injuries and keep Ohio’s roads safe through the efforts of the Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) which enforces liquor, tobacco and food stamp laws in liquor permit premises and the Ohio State Highway Patrol which enforces traffic laws on the road. OCJS serves a wide variety of agencies committed to reducing and preventing crime across Ohio through research, technology and grants. OCJS coordinates and funds the efforts of DUI Task Forces and grants for local law enforcement and safety partners to combat impaired and unsafe driving and promotes educational programs, coalition-building efforts and campaigns focused on highway safety.*