



SAFER OHIO

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Safest Year Ever

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There were less than 1,000 Ohio traffic fatalities in 2013. OVI and safety belt enforcement, as well as public safety partnerships, are saving lives.

Ohio Traffic Fatalities in 2013: Less than 1,000



Public safety officials believe factors including partnerships, enforcement, emergency care, education and engineering resulted in fewer than 1,000 people losing their lives on Ohio's roadways in 2013. This is the lowest number since the state began keeping records in 1936, when 2,389 people died. Roadway deaths have significantly declined since then and reached the previous lowest point in 2011 when 1,016 people died.

Within the Ohio Department of Public Safety, the Ohio State Highway Patrol's efforts to curb impaired driving definitely made an impact and Ohio's 84.5 percent safety belt compliance rate also meant fewer fatalities. During 2013, Highway Patrol troopers made more than 1.5 million contacts with the public, with 62 percent for non-enforcement reasons such as assisting motorists (nearly 300,000) or investigating crashes (more than 65,000). Officers also removed more than 24,000 impaired drivers from our roadways, which contributed to significant reductions in OVI-related fatal crashes. Law enforcement agency partnerships and a "one team" contribution from Ohio's law enforcement officers prevented countless crashes and tragedies.

"There are people alive today – people not suffering from debilitating injuries – because a trooper removed a dangerous impaired driver from the roadway," explained Colonel Paul A. Pride, Patrol superintendent. "Our troopers are slowing down during traffic stops to spend additional time with traffic violators. They do this so that they are able to look beyond the initial reason for the traffic stop to identify possible clues of illegal activity or impairment."

Beginning in 2011, the Patrol established a goal to Contribute to a Safer Ohio by reducing traffic-related fatalities and increasing criminal patrol efforts through high-visibility enforcement. Through the Trooper Shield initiative, all Patrol employees were challenged to measure progress one day at a time, with one less fatality than the day before and by removing one more dangerous driver from Ohio roadways.

Other strategies to further improve traffic safety continue to evolve.

Continued on next page.



Data Analysis

The Patrol's Statistical Analysis Unit maps each fatal traffic crash in Ohio and analyzes the data to ensure troopers target known problem areas. Because Ohio's larger metropolitan counties account for a significant number of fatal traffic crashes, new Patrol posts in Cuyahoga, Franklin and Hamilton counties seek to reduce urban traffic fatalities. In 2013, the first full year of operation for these "metro posts," fatalities in Hamilton and Franklin counties decreased significantly.

DRE Program

The Patrol's Ohio Traffic Safety Office (OTSO) is the statewide coordinator of the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program, which is an enhanced OVI enforcement program that focuses on the detection, apprehension and adjudication of drug-impaired drivers. As part of this program, law enforcement officers known as Drug Recognition Experts (DRE) are trained to recognize the signs of drug impairment.

"Ohio is fortunate to have the DRE program," explained Director John Born, Ohio Department of Public Safety. "There is no doubt in my mind that these DREs across the state impacted the 2013 fatal crash picture in a positive way."

By the end of the June 2014, 112 Ohio officers will be certified DRE officers. Training and expenses associated with the DRE program are paid for through grants, so no costs are incurred by local law enforcement agencies.

Regional Traffic Safety Meetings

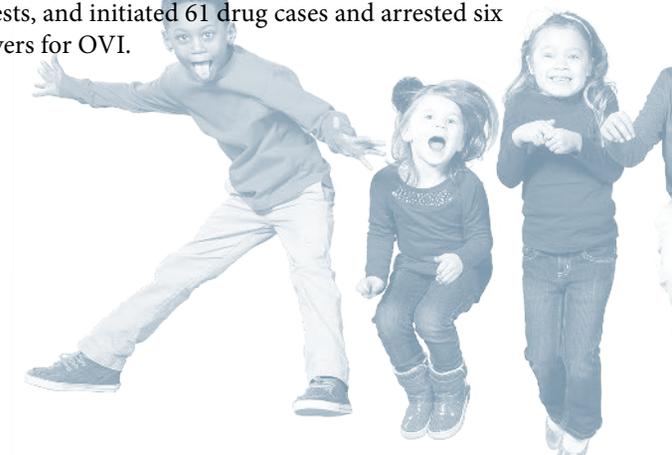
The OTSO also administers the Section 402 State and Community grants, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)-related awards and initiatives and contracts for traffic safety activities. Funds are awarded to traffic safety projects projected to have the greatest impact on reducing fatal crashes or improving traffic safety systems.

In 2013, the Patrol began hosting quarterly grant recipient information-sharing meetings with local law enforcement and safety partners to identify problem areas, open lines of communication and ensure grant dollars are spent effectively and efficiently.

Shield Details

In addition to the regional safety meetings, the Patrol partnered with other law enforcement agencies in very successful "Shield" details that deployed resources and personnel to address traffic safety and criminal activity in predetermined areas.

In one such detail in Hamilton County during August 2013, the Patrol joined forces with the Ohio Investigative Unit and the Hamilton Police Department for a sustained enforcement initiative to address violent criminal drug activity and aggressive driving behaviors through coordinated high-visibility traffic enforcement. During the effort, officers made 72 criminal arrests, including 32 felony arrests, and initiated 61 drug cases and arrested six drivers for OVI.





Ohio Strategic Highway Safety Plan

Ohio's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) addresses Ohio's most problematic traffic-safety issues and relies on a collaborative approach by the state's many safety partners to implement effective programs that impact motor vehicle crashes on Ohio's roadways. The SHSP was developed in conjunction with various safety agencies and focuses on safety for all road users, including cars, trucks, trains, motorcycles, pedestrians and bikes. The SHSP committee includes representatives from various local, state and federal safety agencies. The committee meets quarterly to review crash trends and discuss key strategies being implemented across agencies to reduce crashes.

Partnerships Key to Success

From Oct. 1, 2013, through Sept. 30, 2014, Ohio will fund 46 county-wide Safe Communities programs, which will involve more than 1,370 communities and reach nearly 80 percent of Ohio's population. These coordinated communities will play an active role in addressing traffic-safety issues. Each program must include strategies focusing on seat belt use, impaired driving and motorcycle safety.

Ohio's Safe Communities network uses local coalitions to deliver traffic safety messages and programs throughout the year at the local level. Safe Communities provides the education/earned media portion of the enforcement campaigns while law enforcement agencies conduct the enforcement portion. Since Safe Communities are multi-jurisdictional coalitions comprised of many different agencies and organizations within the county, traffic safety is addressed through partnerships with local businesses, law enforcement, engineering, hospitals, health care providers, schools, faith-based organizations, ethnic/non-English speaking communities, community groups and others that have a vested interest in traffic safety.

Looking to the Future

One thing is sure – crashes are preventable, and with continued focus on enforcement, emergency care, education, engineering and partnerships – Ohio can realize even lower traffic fatalities. In 2014, the Patrol plans to continue to drive down fatal crash numbers through high-visibility enforcement and working with local law enforcement, as well as by removing impaired drivers and maintaining a zero-tolerance policy regarding safety belt usage.



For more information on the safest year ever, watch the latest episode of *Contributing to a Safer Ohio* at www.youtube.com/user/OhioPublicSafety

Be a Hero!

Register as an organ, eye and tissue donor today at the BMV

In 2012, only 297 Ohioans actually donated organs at the time of their death. Yet, their gifts of life resulted in 958 life-saving transplants. You can possibly save a life too by saying “yes” to becoming an organ, eye and tissue donor when you receive or renew your driver license or state identification card at the BMV. Registering is critical because the opportunity to donate is so rare.

You can also help increase awareness of the need for organ and tissue donation and provide hope to thousands of Ohioans waiting for life-saving transplants by purchasing a Donate Life license plate. From each plate sold, \$5 benefits the Ohio Department of Health’s Second Chance Trust Fund (SCTF). The SCTF educates Ohioans about the difference one individual can make by signing up as an organ and tissue donor on the Ohio Donor Registry. Purchasing a Donate Life license plate will spread awareness of the need to give the Gift of Life and honor those Ohio heroes who have shared life through donations.

Save a life. Register today.



What inspired Amber Fosler to obtain her Donate Life license plate:

Despite being a few weeks early, my husband and I were overjoyed when we welcomed our first child in July. He was jaundiced, like many premature infants, but we were sent home to start our journey as a family of three. Our amazing pediatrician kept a close eye on the jaundice, but she wasn’t too concerned since it typically is gone within four weeks. At five weeks though, our son’s jaundice was getting worse. Our pediatrician quickly referred us to the Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition Clinic at Nationwide Children’s Hospital.

After several days of testing, our son was diagnosed with a rare liver disease, biliary atresia. It basically means our son was born without a common bile duct, which is how bile passes through the liver. When bile backs up in the liver, it causes the liver to fail. In September, when Elias was just shy of eight weeks old, he had major abdominal surgery to create a passageway for the bile using a section of his intestines. So far, the surgery appears to have worked, but the procedure was not a cure. It was only a measure to buy Elias more time — time to grow and get stronger. The only cure for biliary atresia is a liver transplant. Up to 75 percent of kids with biliary atresia will need a new liver before they reach adulthood. About half require a new liver before they reach kindergarten.

As his mom, I would give anything to “fix” my son’s liver. But I can’t. What I can do is advocate for the one thing that will save his life someday, an organ transplant. Because of this, I chose a Donate Life license plate to raise awareness about organ donation. I’ve been a registered donor for years, but other than that, I didn’t think much about organ donation until our son was diagnosed with liver disease. Now, I want to yell from the rooftops that everyone should be a registered organ donor. Because there will most likely be a day when my son will be added to the transplant list, and if that day comes, I hope that there is match for him. It might be a small thing, sharing an important message through a license plate, but that small thing just might save my son’s life someday.

-Amber Fosler, Hilliard, Ohio

Public Private Partnership Aligns Businesses with Ohio Emergency Management Agency

In a crisis, the State of Ohio Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) is the central location from which state government provides coordination and teamwork that supports incident response and recovery.

On Jan. 9, Ohio Department of Public Safety Director John Born and Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Executive Director Nancy Dragani expanded the team to include the private sector, as community recovery and resiliency have long been on the list of important factors.

The kick-off meeting was one of many that will bring together the interested group of private businesses designed to share current information

and situational awareness on disaster response and recovery efforts. During the meeting, FEMA Region V Administrator Andrew Velasquez III applauded Ohio's efforts in building relationships at every level to support disaster response.

Members received a briefing on the many types of information available to the business community to include: incident situation reports; weather forecasts; state EOC activation levels; event summaries; and emergency planning information for employers and employees.

During an SEOC activation, Ohio EMA will provide relevant information to help the business community make decisions about allocating the resources a community may need during an incident, which may improve short and long-term community impacts.

“There’s no way government can solve the challenges of a disaster with a government centric approach. It takes the whole team.”

–Craig Fugate, FEMA Administrator

Participation in the Ohio Public Private Partnership is voluntary and open to all members of the private sector, including large and small businesses. Organizations interested in joining or sharing ideas can join at www.ema.ohio.gov/PublicPrivatePartnership.aspx

Joplin, Mo., June 7, 2011 – FEMA News Photo





Upgrade to the Ohio Trauma Registry Creates a Safer Ohio by Advancing Care for Trauma Patients

When a person becomes seriously ill or injured, a main concern is the level of care he or she will receive. People are usually not aware that when a paramedic arrives on a scene to treat and transport patients to a hospital for care, personal information and the type of care received is entered into a state database for the purpose of evaluating the continuum of care. Everyone involved actually has the same goal in mind — creating the best outcome for the patient.

The Ohio Trauma Registry (OTR) and the Emergency Medical Services Incident-Reporting System (EMSIRS) that are housed within the Division of EMS are receiving a systems upgrade designed to link pre-hospital records and trauma hospital records to provide a unique opportunity for researchers to analyze the type of care Ohio's trauma patients receive from pre-hospital scene to discharge.

The data system is being upgraded through a contract with Digital Innovation as a result of a \$600,000 Map 21 grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Ten million records have been collected in the OTR and EMSIRS since the inception of the systems in 1999 and 2002, respectively. These records give the state an opportunity to search health trends, assess patient outcome and set new standards of care for specific injuries or illnesses.

One example of this is the adoption of Ohio's Geriatric Trauma Triage. Older people have a higher risk of dying from an injury than younger people with the same injury. Despite this, there were no protocols in place when determining if a patient should be transported to a trauma center.

In 2005, a geriatric trauma task force evaluated data in the OTR to determine if elderly patients had special needs. The task force had two goals — to find at what age a person should be considered a geriatric trauma patient and to develop triage criteria that EMS and emergency department personnel should follow before transporting an elderly patient.

Through scientific and statistical analysis of the OTR data, the task force found that, for the purposes of trauma care, age 70 is when a trauma patient should be treated as a geriatric trauma patient. The task force also found several indicators for EMS and emergency department personnel to use in deciding if the injured geriatric patient should be sent to a trauma center for treatment.

These types of advances in care show the value of data collection and the positive impact for patients.

Acceptance of hospital data on trauma patients to the new OTR system began Jan. 1. More than 180 hospitals in the state received training to ensure the smooth transition to the new system. Educational roll-out sessions for the new EMSIRS system are being planned for late spring 2014 with implementation planned for mid-2014.

Awareness Campaign Launched to Stop Human Trafficking

On Jan. 9, Gov. John Kasich kicked off a new public awareness campaign to ramp-up Ohio's ongoing fight against human trafficking — the illegal trade of people for commercial sex or forced labor exploitation that enslaves approximately 1,000 Ohioans every year. The new campaign, led by the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, gives Ohioans new resources for how they can personally help combat the problem by reporting suspicious activity.

Materials and messaging for Ohio's anti-human trafficking campaign, including ads, billboards and posters, are available to the public for free download at humantrafficking.ohio.gov. The campaign's goals are:

- To educate the public on how to recognize the signs of human trafficking;
- To promote the appropriate method for reporting human trafficking situations;
- To direct victims of human trafficking to available services and treatment, helping them to regain control of their lives.

“Our task force and statewide partners are working hard to convey a clear message — exploiting a child or adult for commercial or personal profit is not acceptable in any way or anywhere, and we must do everything we can to fight this crime,” said Elizabeth Ranade Janis, Anti-Trafficking Coordinator. “While there is much work to be done, all Ohioans can join the fight against human trafficking by partnering in our campaign.”

The campaign is also aimed at connecting with trafficking victims themselves, with outreach materials in places where they are likely to see them, such as public transit sites, highway rest areas and courtrooms. During the message development process, a focus group of trafficking survivors provided messaging to help reach victims based on their own experiences.

More than 60 state agencies, boards and commissions have already committed to use the materials to help get the word out that trafficking happens in Ohio. In addition, the Ohio Department of Public Safety and the Greater Cleveland Regional

Transit Authority (RTA) announced a partnership on Jan. 27 in which the RTA will be using the materials throughout its transit centers to reach riders and potential victims.

Throughout the next year, the task force will continue to forge new partnerships with key community stakeholders to get the word out that human trafficking is a tragic reality in Ohio.

Learn more about Ohio's efforts in the fight against human trafficking — be sure to “like” the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force on Facebook, follow the task force on Twitter and watch the latest episode of *Contributing to a Safer Ohio* on YouTube.

 facebook.com/ohioantiHT

 [@OhioAntiHTrk](https://twitter.com/OhioAntiHTrk)

 youtube.com/user/OhioPublicSafety

Ohio Dedicated to Fighting Scrap Metal Theft

Ohio is continuing its fight against the theft of metal across the state and region, taking a new approach to protecting its residential, commercial, industrial and governmental sectors, which are all impacted by this crime. As an extension of the state's new law, the Scrap Metal Program is currently undergoing testing with the assistance of both law enforcement and scrap metal dealers to further refine the program into a practical technological solution to scrap metal theft in Ohio.

There are currently 388 scrap metal dealers registered in Ohio. Many of these dealers are taking an active role in working with state and local law enforcement to define the problem and shape the solution through the testing and development of the final components of the state Scrap Metal Program. These components include the Searchable Electronic List, more commonly referred to as the Do Not Buy List, and the Dealer Daily Transaction Upload.

The Searchable Electronic List will include a list of individuals from across the state who have been convicted of theft or receiving stolen property, thereby making it illegal for them to sell scrap metal in Ohio. The Dealer Daily Transaction Upload will act as a database for business transaction records collected by the registered dealers. These records will be made available to law enforcement to assist with active metal theft and resale investigations.

The Ohio Department of Public Safety is proceeding with the legislative aspects of this initiative. The Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rules, articulating the processes for dealers and law enforcement to access and use the databases and remain compliant, have been submitted to The Common Sense Initiative Office. The expected effective date of the OAC is set for July 1, 2014.

Ohio is dedicated not only to the continued protection of its citizens and property, but also to the improvement of our communities. The Scrap Metal Program, once fully deployed, will support this initiative by aiding law enforcement in their identification of metal thefts, thieves and the businesses driving this crime by purchasing the stolen materials.

Trace-back Investigations Offer Additional Penalties for Alcohol-Related Incidents

Trace-back investigations involve tracing the source of alcohol, whether it is sold or provided to an underage or an already intoxicated individual, following a serious injury or fatal crash, or an alcohol-related incident.

In 2013, agents with the Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) investigated 131 trace-back cases. Of those, 122 were crash-related, including 66 fatal and 50 injury crashes. Nine of the 131 cases were other alcohol-related incidents. Agents filed criminal charges in 13 cases, administrative charges in eight cases, and both criminal and administrative charges in seven cases.

“Trace-back investigations are another tool for all of law enforcement to use when investigating crashes or other incidents involving underage alcohol consumption or someone who may have been over-served,” said Agent-in-Charge Eric Wolf.

The presence of alcohol in fatal crashes continues to be a significant problem in Ohio. Retailers and those over 21 are reminded to never provide or sell alcohol to an underage person. Doing so could result in criminal charges or result in administrative charges against the liquor permit.

Feb. 17, 2013

The Wood County Sheriff’s Office notified the OIU of a vehicle crash that occurred on Feb. 12, resulting in the death of a 29-year-old female. The deceased was a bartender at the Silver Dollar Steak House in Bowling Green. OIU’s investigation revealed the woman consumed alcohol throughout her shift and for approximately an hour after. Agents administratively cited the Silver Dollar Steak House with furnishing and sale of beer or intoxicating liquor to an intoxicated person.

The Ohio Liquor Control Commission ordered the Silver Dollar Steak House to serve a 30-day mandatory suspension and pay a \$10,000 financial forfeiture in lieu of an additional 60-day suspension.

Mar. 17, 2013

OIU agents were asked to conduct a trace-back investigation after a 20-year-old driver and three passengers, all 20 years old, crashed into a Niles Police Department cruiser and fled the scene. The driver was located a short distance away. The driver’s BAC was .177 — more than twice the legal limit.

The investigation revealed the driver and his friends were served alcohol at a local bar. Agents administratively cited the bar’s liquor permit with both furnishing and sale of beer to a person under 21. An arrest warrant was issued for the bartender for both sale and furnishing alcohol to a person under 21. The bartender pled guilty to furnishing alcohol to a minor and was fined \$500. The administrative case is pending before the Ohio Liquor Control Commission who may fine, suspend or revoke the liquor permit.

Apr. 15, 2013

State troopers contacted OIU agents to conduct a trace-back investigation after a 20-year-old driver crashed her vehicle and appeared to have consumed alcohol. Agents determined the driver purchased alcohol from Stop 22 Country Market in Mt. Perry. The sales clerk pled no contest to selling liquor to a minor and was given 60 days in jail, suspended; one year probation; and ordered to pay a \$250 fine, plus court costs. The driver pled guilty to underage consumption and received 30 days in jail suspended; two years probation; and ordered to pay a \$150 fine, plus court costs. The Ohio Liquor Control Commission ordered the liquor permit of Stop 22 Country Market to pay a \$450 fine.

May 3, 2013

Agents were asked to conduct a trace-back investigation in Belmont County after a 20-year-old, 18-year-old and a minor were involved in a rollover crash and appeared to be intoxicated. The driver’s BAC was 0.028 — more than three times the legal limit.

Through an investigation, agents determined the owner of the Hig Mart sold beer to the 20-year-old driver. The owner pled guilty to selling beer to an underage individual. He received a year’s probation, community service and a \$250 fine, including court costs. The 18-year-old pled guilty to underage alcohol consumption/possession. She was sentenced to 30 days in jail with 25 days suspended; community service; one year probation; and a \$250 fine, including court costs. The driver was cited by troopers. Hig Mart received orders from the Liquor Control Commission for a \$450 fine in lieu of a three-day suspension.



For more information on trace-back investigations, watch the latest episode of *Contributing to a Safer Ohio* at www.youtube.com/user/OhioPublicSafety

BMV Selects First “What’s on your Plate?” Winner

Did you know there are nearly a million Ohioans with special license plates and more than 240 varieties of special license plates available? With the continued popularity of special plates, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) recently launched a new contest, “What’s on Your Plate?” Kim Oxender was selected as the first winner.

This is her powerful story:

The importance of organ donation was instilled in me as a young girl by my parents. As I became a parent myself, I expressed the importance to my children as well. I never dreamed the bittersweet reality of organ donation would become a reality for us. Our son, Kaleb McLaughlin, was killed in an auto accident on June 24, 2013.

Kaleb may have only been 20 years old, but he touched lives of all ages! He would do anything for anybody. How appropriate for him to continue giving even after his death by being an organ donor!

After receiving a letter from the Community Tissue Services stating Kaleb gave the gift of sight to someone, then receiving another letter stating

a pro football player received Kaleb’s tissues to replace his knee, we were speechless. Kaleb would have been thrilled!

Knowing Kaleb’s choice to be an organ donor and believing in God’s miracles have brought us some peace through the pain. We want to remember Kaleb and promote organ donation at the same time, so we decided to order special logo plates with the Donate Life logo.

Many lives have been and will be forever changed because of Kaleb! Our prayer is not only for our continued healing, but that we may help others become an organ donor by telling Kaleb’s story. I pray some day we will meet the recipients of our Kaleb’s precious gifts!

-Kim Oxender

Motorists with unique, personalized license plates are encouraged to send the BMV a photo of themselves with their license plate and a summary of how they chose the plate’s message. Participants can email the photo and summary to Communications@dps.state.oh.us.



Food Stamp Fraud Phone Banks

The Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) recently took part in two food stamp fraud phone banks with members of the Ohio media.

On Feb. 3, OIU and ODJFS personnel took 97 calls during the 5, 5:30 and 6 p.m. newscasts for WBNS in Columbus. Most of the calls reported recipients and retailers that were believed to be taking advantage of the food stamp system.

On Feb. 4, OIU and ODJFS personnel and a Lucas County Job and Family Services representative answered took calls during the 5, 5:30 and 6 p.m. newscasts at WTOL in Toledo and during the 6:30 p.m. newscast on WUPW. During the two-hour news cycle, they answered 79 calls.

The calls were logged and distributed to the appropriate agencies for potential action.

State Employee Volunteer Program

The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS), in partnership with the American Red Cross, established the State Employee Volunteer Program to give state employees the chance to become Red Cross volunteers.

On Feb. 3, American Red Cross staff was on hand to explain the program, what volunteer opportunities are available, and how to sign-up. Volunteers will be able to choose a service path customized to their needs and availability, including assignments in: Damage Assessment; Disaster Health Services; Client Casework; Disaster Mental Health Services; and Mass Care.

Nearly 300 ODPS personnel attended the live informational orientation, with more than 160 volunteer commitments in the first two weeks. The recorded version of the session has been provided to all personnel so they too have an opportunity to participate in this worthwhile program.

“I am encouraged by the number of ODPS staff members who have committed to become Red Cross volunteers,” said Director John Born. “Our employees have always stepped up to help others, and this program demonstrates that they are willing to continue to do so.”



Ohio Consortium of Crime Science

The Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) is leveraging the state’s university partners to help bridge the gap between research, policy and practice. The office’s new Ohio Consortium of Crime Science (OCCS) is an association of researchers from academic institutions around the state, focused on providing evidence-based solutions to the real-world problems faced by local criminal justice agencies. Managed by OCJS and overseen by a 10-person advisory board, OCCS brings together social science researchers to conduct research, disseminate knowledge, and foster relationships between practitioners, policy makers and academics. With a bank of more than 30 researchers from across the state’s public and private universities, OCCS provides state and local agencies with assistance on research and evaluation, data collection and/or analysis, technical assistance, training, targeted problem-solving and assistance with translating research into practice. Unlike many technical assistance strategies, OCCS has chosen to provide applicants with a university partner that is part of their extended community or whenever possible at least from their quadrant within the state.

“By leveraging the tremendous expertise we have in our state, the practitioner-researcher partnerships created as a result of the OCCS will promote practical, evidence-based solutions to obstacles faced by communities,” said Karhlton Moore, OCJS Executive Director. “The OCCS will allow the state and communities across Ohio to better utilize limited resources, reduce implementation errors and further our mission of creating a safer Ohio.”



Ohio Consortium of Crime Science

Public Safety Partnerships



“This is both an exciting opportunity for the Department and the University, and I’m looking forward to the creative work that these highly-talented students will develop.”

The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) is tapping the social media generation in a partnership, *Communicating for a Safer Ohio*, with Ohio University’s nationally-recognized Scripps College of Communication, in an effort aimed at harnessing college students’ innovative communication ideas to contribute to a safer Ohio.

“While employing interns is not new to ODPS and other state agencies, this will mark the first time students will help develop strategy, methods, and implementation to reduce tragedy and life-degrading events that impact their generation the most,” said ODPS Director John Born. “This is both an exciting opportunity for the department and the university, and I’m looking forward to the creative work that these highly-talented students will develop.”

ODPS and the Scripps College of Communication have agreed to annually employ and rotate nine interns, through a highly selective process. Beginning this summer semester, ODPS will be employing a social media intern, a web video producer intern and a copy writer/editor intern. While the interns will be specializing in those three specific areas this semester, those areas may change during subsequent semesters, allowing for maximum experience and opportunities within ODPS.

“It is an honor and a privilege for Ohio University to partner with the Ohio Department of Public Safety with this very exciting project,” said Ohio University President Roderick J. McDavis. “Our students are among the finest communication students in the state, and this prestigious internship program will allow them to improve public safety through the use of new media, expanding the department’s reach, especially among the younger population.”



Watch the *Communicating for a Safer Ohio* video at www.youtube.com/user/OhioPublicSafety



The METRICH Enforcement Unit received \$112,500 in JAG program funding.



The Fairfield-Hocking Major Crimes Unit received \$53,109 in JAG program funding.



The Law Enforcement Homeland Security Grant Program Region 6 received \$235,269 in funding.

Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants

The Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) awarded nearly \$5 million in federal grant funding to law enforcement, prosecution, court, correction agencies and victim service providers throughout Ohio.

The Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program, administered by OCJS, allows local and state governments to support activities to prevent and control crime. Ohio projects support various components of the criminal justice system from multi-jurisdictional drug task forces to school resource officers, drug, veteran and mental health courts, correction projects to justice technology initiatives. JAG funds are designed as seed money to establish new and promising programs that improve the criminal justice systems. Projects began Jan. 1, 2014, and end Dec. 31, 2014.

OCJS also administers the JAG for Law Enforcement (JAG LE) grant program, which funds hiring, training, overtime, equipment and other personnel and items directly related to law enforcement functions, including the implementation of the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System. OCJS awarded more than \$570,000 in funds to agencies. Projects began Feb. 1, 2014, and end Aug. 31, 2014.

Violence Against Women Act Grants

OCJS announced \$4 million in federal grant funding for 2014 to improve the criminal justice system's response to violent crimes against women through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant program. OCJS works with local agencies to create awareness for domestic violence and strengthen law enforcement, prosecution and victim services strategies in cases involving violence against women. OCJS provides grants to support domestic violence shelters and to provide and enhance services to victims.

Ohio Homeland Security Grant Program

The Ohio Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) supports core capabilities across the five mission areas of prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery. Ohio's allocation of the HSGP is comprised of the State Homeland Security Program, the Law Enforcement State Homeland Security Program, and Operation Stonegarden. The grant is designed in part to provide local law enforcement with the tools and resources to prevent terrorist attacks. HSGP was recently expanded at the state level to include funding dedicated to supporting interoperable communications and funding for bomb squads.



What will you do today to contribute to a safer Ohio?