# Lake County
# General Health District

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*Ron H. Graham, RD/RDN, LD, MPH, Health Commissioner*
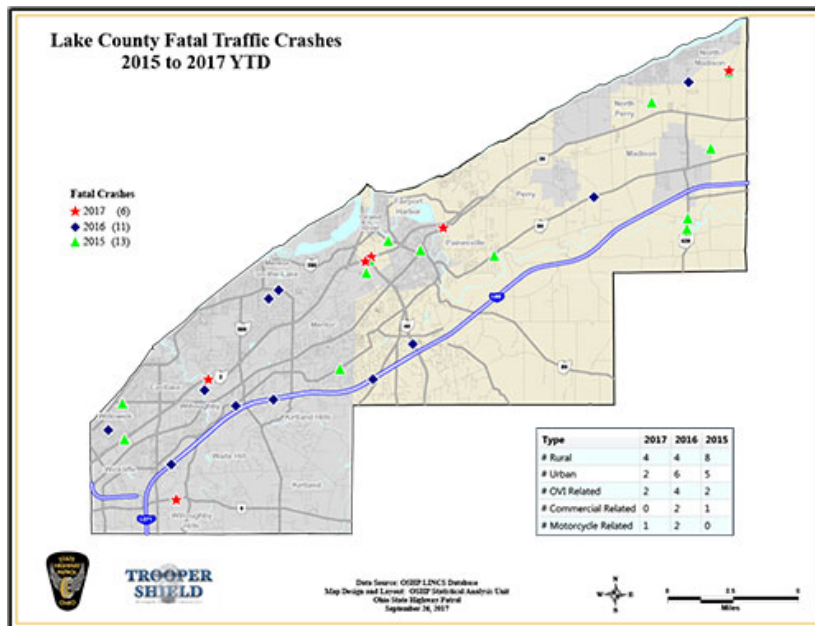**www.lcghd.org**

## LAKE COUNTY TRAFFIC FATALITY UPDATE

Lake County General Health District (LCGHD) has identified that improper seat belt use, impaired driving and distracted driving are impacting the safety and welfare of the citizens of Lake County. To combat this issue, LCGHD has received funding through the Ohio Traffic Safety Office from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to coordinate the Lake County Safe Communities Coalition (LCSCC). LCSCC is made up of the LCGHD staff and  representatives from local law enforcement, local fire safety, Crossroads, Great Lakes Mall,  Lake County Coroner's Office, Lake County Engineers Office,  Lake Metroparks, Lakeland Community College, Laketran, Mandovi Enterprises, Mothers Against Drunk Driving – Northeast Ohio Affiliate, Ohio Department of Transportation, Promedica and others. Health Commissioner Ron H. Graham added, "We value our partners and the collaboration that goes into this program.  When one considers motor vehicle injuries in the context of other preventable causes of death and disease, you realize that motor vehicle injuries are an important issue in public health."

LCSCC reports that as of September 30th, there have been six fatal crashes in 2017 in Lake County, six of which occurred in the 3rd quarter (July-September). The top leading causes of the crashes were:

- Failure to control (4)
- Left of Center (1)
- Improper Lane Change (1)

In 2016, ten fatal crashes were reported. Of those ten fatal crashes, four were alcohol-related. To date in 2017, two of the six fatal crashes had confirmed alcohol involvement and another is also suspected. With 28% of the fatal crashes this year being alcohol-related, LCSCC would like to remind you to drive sober! The Ohio State Highway Patrol is reminding drivers to be safe whenever they are behind the wheel.  All motorists can play a role in keeping the roadways safe by never driving impaired and designating sober drivers.

Lake County Fatal Traffic Crashes 2015 to 2017 YTD

According to the NHTSA, approximately one-third of all traffic crash fatalities in the United States involve drunk drivers with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher. In 2015, there were 10,265 people killed in drunk-driving crashes, an increase from the 9,967 people killed in 2014. Despite the fact that it is illegal to drive with a BAC of .08 or higher, one person is killed every 51 minutes by a drunk driver on our Nation's roadways.

The LCSCC and NHTSA recommend the following safe alternatives to drinking and driving:

- Remember that it is never okay to drink and drive. Even if you have had one alcoholic beverage, designate a sober driver or plan to use public transportation to get home safely.

- If you see a drunk driver on the road, contact your local police department

- Do you have a friend who is about to drink and drive? Take the keys away and make arrangements to get your friend home safely.

For more information about the *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* campaign, visit https://one.nhtsa.gov/drivesober/.

For more information about the LCSCC, visit https://www.lcghd.org/?page_id=4439.

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