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MIAMI COUNTY SAFE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM REPORTS ON FATAL CRASHES OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2015

TROY, OHIO (1/13/16)—Two fatal traffic accidents occurred in Miami County during the quarter of October 1-December 31, 2015. Miami County Public Health's Safe Communities Coalition tracks traffic fatalities in an effort to create programs to reduce these numbers. The coalition provides a quarterly update to county residents.

The coalition's mission is to educate the public about the consequences of dangerous driving behaviors such as drinking and driving, reckless driving, texting and driving, not wearing a seatbelt, and not wearing a helmet when operating a motorcycle. The purpose of this quarterly fatality update is to keep the public informed about common driving behaviors that cause fatal crashes, as well as educate the community to be safer drivers.

"All of us in the Miami County law enforcement community are extremely pleased to see the return of the Safe Communities Coalition through Miami County Public Health. This collaborative partnership between public and private entities is of great importance in getting educational programs and materials out to the public to increase traffic safety throughout Miami County. This coalition will be an important component in helping lower the injury and fatal crash rates in Miami County. We in the Sheriff's Office are proud to be members of the Safe Communities Coalition and look forward to assisting at safety events throughout the county." said Dave Duchak (Chief Deputy, Miami County Sheriff's Office).

In 2015, there were a total of 11 traffic fatalities in Miami County. Of these fatal crashes 55% of those involved were not wearing their seatbelts. Additionally, 36% of the crashes were due to alcohol use and 9% due to drug use.

Heading into the New Year, the Miami County Safe Communities Coalition encourages everyone to Buckle Up, Every Trip, Every Time. With winter weather fast approaching it's important to be alert and sober while driving. For more Information about the Safe Communities Coalition, please contact the Safe Communities Coordinator at kboyle@miamicountyhealth.net.

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