



PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.

*Timothy I. Ingram  
Health Commissioner*

*250 William Howard Taft Road, 2nd Floor  
Cincinnati, OH 45219*

*Phone 513.946.7800  
Fax 513.946.7890*

*hamiltoncountyhealth.org*

Contact: Megan Hummel, Public Affairs Specialist  
Phone: 513-946-7808  
E-mail: [megan.hummel@hamilton-co.org](mailto:megan.hummel@hamilton-co.org)  
For Immediate Release: June 18, 2010

## NEWS

### **Hamilton County ranks fifth in Ohio for reducing number of traffic fatalities**

**HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO** – The Ohio Department of Public Safety reports that Hamilton County experienced a decrease of 14 fatal traffic crashes in 2009 as compared to the 2008 results.

“Even one motor vehicle fatality is one too many,” said Lt. Robert Hungler, Cincinnati Police Department Traffic Unit. “However, we are encouraged to see such a large decrease in lives lost.”

In 2009, the County recorded 42 fatal crashes resulting in 43 deaths, down from 56 fatal crashes and deaths in 2008. The 2009 numbers include a 50% decrease in alcohol-related deaths, from 24 in 2008 to 12 in 2009. However, motorcycle fatalities remained constant at nine.

Although there are many factors involved in saving lives on the roads, highway safety studies indicate overwhelming links between seat belt usage and crash survival. Of the 2009 fatalities, only 40% were buckled.

“Using your seat belt is the number one way to save your life in a crash,” Hungler said. “Most of the crashes that we see where a life is lost involve the failure to take the time to fasten safety restraints.”

Throughout Ohio, there were 944 Fatal Crashes resulting in 1,021 deaths in 2009. These numbers represent more than a 14% reduction in both fatal crashes and deaths on Ohio’s roadways, down from 1,099 fatal crashes resulting in 1,191 deaths in 2008.

“We are optimistic that more people are choosing to buckle up and drive sober,” said Jennifer Bierer, Hamilton County Safe Communities coordinator. “Hamilton County Safe Communities is dedicated to decreasing the number of crashes and fatalities from impaired driving in Hamilton County.”

###

*Hamilton County Safe Communities is a traffic safety program coordinated by Hamilton County Public Health with a Coalition made up of individuals from area agencies, including law enforcement, fire/EMS, hospitals, healthcare, government, non-profit, businesses and community members/leaders. Their goal is to reduce and ultimately prevent motor vehicle crashes, injuries and deaths through education and awareness. Funding provided by: USDOT/NHTSA, ODPS, and GHSO.*