Mission

Safe Communities of Wood County was created in 2012 to establish a partnership of individuals from law enforcement, local governments, schools, businesses, health departments, and community organizations to collaborate. The goal of this collaboration is to create awareness and prevention of death and injuries caused by traffic crashes.

Safe Communities works to reduce the number of traffic related deaths and injuries in Wood County through analysis of problem areas, promotion, and education of proper safety.

Safe Communities works together with the community to promote traffic safety and program goals through activities including blitzes, fatal crash reviews, statistical analysis, and increasing traffic safety countermeasures.

Overview

Safe Communities of Wood County measures success in it's mission through the following goals:

1. Increase the Seat Belt Usage Rate in Wood County
2. Increase motorcycle safety awareness among motorcyclists and motorists
3. Increase public awareness of traffic safety related issues
4. Conduct a minimum of four coalition meetings per year
5. Conduct a Fatal Crash Review in every quarter that a fatality is reported
Safe Communities of Wood County’s Seat Belt Usage Goal is to increase Seat Belt Usage in Wood County to 85.4%.

At the beginning of the period, according to Miami University, the Seat Belt Usage Rate for Wood County was 81.4%

According to the latest survey, Wood County’s Seat Belt Usage rate is 98.5%!

Motorcycle Safety Awareness

Safe Communities of Wood County’s Motorcycle Safety Awareness Goal is to increase public awareness on motorcycle safety.

In 2015, 50,701 people were reached with the Motorcycle Safety Message

This year, Safe Communities of Wood County reached 67,003 citizens with the message of motorcycle safety.
Public Awareness

News Releases

In 2015, Safe Communities of Wood County issued 18 news releases and received 20 media coverage stories. This year, 25 new releases were published and received 25 media coverage stories.

Materials Distributed

In 2015, Safe Communities of Wood County distributed 10,063 materials relating to traffic safety. This year, a total of 11,303 items were distributed to the public.

Click it or Ticket (23.08%)  Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over (38.36%)
Distracted Driving (15.98%)  Motorcycle Safety (8.87%)
Misc. and Donated items (13.70%)

Total Citizens Reached

In 2015, Safe Communities of Wood County was able to reach 1,549,048 citizens with the message of traffic safety. This year, 3,209,926 citizens were reached. A 48.3% increase!
Events

This year, Safe Communities of Wood County participated in a total of 30 events in the community.

Six of those events included use of the Driving Simulator.

A total of 9671 people were reached directly through those events.

Below are the three events that reached the most community members.

**The Wood County Fair**

3,209 Reached

With Media Coverage

163,882 Reached

**Pemberville Fair**

1,503 Reached

With Media Coverage

1,686 Reached

**Distracted Driving Day at Otsego High School**

550 Reached

With Media Coverage

2,066 Reached
Six coalition meetings were held this past year with six new members added bringing the total active members to 39.

Members of the Safe Communities Coalition contribute to the success of the program in a number of different ways. Members help buy any needed materials, supplies, and signage for events while also providing other necessary resources for events and fundraising opportunities. Members that are a part of Safe Communities provide support and accountability to the coordinator and the coalition as a whole.

Active Members & Coalition Partners:

AAA Northwest Ohio
ABATE of Ohio
BG Chamber of Commerce
BG Fire Division
BG Police Division
BGSU College of Health and Human Services
BGSU Police Department
BGSU Recreation and Wellness
Buffalo Wild Wings
Chick Fil’A - Perrysburg
Farmers Insurance
Lance Wood - State Farm
Mercy Health

ProMedica
Safe Kids of Northwest Ohio
Thayer Family Dealerships
University of Toledo Medical Center
WBGU 88.1 The Morning Show
Wood County Educational Service Center
Wood County EMA
Wood County Health Department
Wood County Hospital
ODOT District 2
Ohio State Highway Patrol
Hannaman Funeral Home
Dunn Funeral Home
An established requirement for Safe Communities is to hold a Fatal Review Meeting in every quarter in which a fatal crash occurs.

This year there were four meetings held, four press releases issued, and 21 countermeasures recommended and implemented.

**Crashes by severity in Wood County:**
October 2016 to September 2017

This year, Safe Communities of Wood County had a total of 790 volunteer hours from community partners and Coalition members compared to 716.75 hours last year.

**Volunteer Hours**

This past year, Safe Communities of Wood County experienced a challenge in the form of a shortage of funds available for materials. This is, in part, due to the cost of attending the Lifesavers Conference earlier in the year.

A shortage of magnets was also a challenge for Safe Communities during the summer months. There were two large events held during this time with little to no materials to distribute.

These challenges were overcome with the help of Coalition partners. Without help from the Coalition, the Wood County and Pemberville Fairs would not have been as successful as they were.

Another challenge continually faced by Safe Communities of Wood County is that of participation at Press Events by the community and media.

One way Safe Communities of Wood County plans to combat this challenge is by advertising events on more platforms.
Safe Communities has experienced a drastic increase in requests for events this year due to the addition of our very own Driving Simulator. It is a very successful tool for education and community engagement.

The Lifesavers Conference was an huge opportunity for the Safe Communities of Wood County Coordinator, Sandy Wiechman, to attend. Safe Communities of Wood County has benefited greatly from the ideas and information provided during the conference.

The Coordinator of Safe Communities of Wood County has been asked to become a member of the Ohio Department of Transportation District #2 District Safety Team Review Meetings (DSRT). This has proven to be extremely beneficial in providing Safe Communities with knowledge of traffic safety issues and solutions.

The Wood County Safe Communities Coalition was selected as the winner of Ohio’s 2017 "Safetys" Regional Collaboration Award. Safe Communities of Wood County was chosen out of 20 nominees for it’s diverse partnerships, new approaches to distracted driving and motorcycle safety, and Sandy Wiechman’s enthusiasm and determination as the Coalition Coordinator.

Lieutenant Angel Burgos,
Ohio State Highway
Patrol (left)

Sandy Wiechman, Safe Communities of Wood County Coordinator (right)

Safe Communities of Wood County was able to grow in it’s relationship with AAA. AAA Northwest Ohio was bought out by AAA Allied Group and the new area GM, Edgar Avila, has become a very active partner with Safe Communities along with Bob Kazmierczak and Mike Brown. Safe Communities of Wood County looks forward to this new growing partnership.
Additional Funding

Safe Communities of Wood County received $7,300 in funds from the Dancing With the Stars Fundraiser, as well as an additional $2,800 was received from Rossford Police Department. These funds went toward the purchase of the Driving Simulator. Other donations made it possible to purchase extra materials and prizes for events. Woodhaven donated pill bottles, Chick-Fil-A and McDonald’s donated numerous free food coupons, Mercy Partners donated Band-Aid holders and BGSU Recreation and Wellness donated numerous child snacks. Safe Communities of Wood County owes much of it’s success to it’s community partners.

Conclusion

I respectfully present this annual report for the grant period 2016-2017 for your review. I am extremely happy with the results that you have seen presented in this report.

It was a wonderful year for Safe Communities with a few setbacks that were overcome with the help of coalition and community partners. Overall, our numbers showed increases in every area. The only negative was that our fatal crash numbers remain high and are as a result of the same driver behaviors of inattention and lack of seat belt usage.

Sincerely,
Sandy Wiechman
Safe Communities of Wood County Coordinator

In conclusion, this year was extremely successful and Safe Communities of Wood County owes this success to our community supporters and partnerships. Safe Communities of Wood County looks forward to another year of working to improve traffic safety in the community.