

# Ohio State Highway Patrol

## Media Release

General Headquarters • Columbus, Ohio



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### **Scioto County multi-agency drug enforcement saturation patrol nets 382 arrests, drugs, meth labs and apprehends felons**

PORTSMOUTH – The Ohio State Highway Patrol joined forces with state and local law enforcement agencies in Scioto County on February 24 – 25 and March 3 – 4, in an ongoing effort to combat the rising drug abuse problem that faces that county.

These successful enforcement saturation patrols netted 1,082 traffic stops and 382 arrests – of which 21 involved impaired driving – and initiated 87 cases, including 38 felony cases. The Scioto County Sheriff’s Office and the Patrol’s Special Response Team served a total of 18 high-profile warrants and officers conducting traffic stops apprehended an additional 34 wanted felons.

During one traffic stop, a trooper arrested a pharmacist who was in possession of 904 pills, along with crushed pills and liquid morphine. In total officers seized 1,376 illegal prescription pills – including oxycodone, vicodin and xanax – 30 grams of heroin, 14.2 grams of crack cocaine, 62 grams of marijuana, .25 grams of methamphetamine, \$1,704 in drug money, and two vehicles and closed down two meth-labs.

In addition the Ohio Investigative Unit assisted the first weekend working liquor permit establishments and made the following citations; four for underage possession/consumption; two for furnishing underage; one for drug paraphernalia; two for drug abuse; one open container and one disorderly conduct

“Successful multi-agency enforcement efforts, like the one in Scioto County, illustrate the collective power of removing drugs and wanted felons from our communities,” said Colonel John Born, Patrol superintendent. “Scioto County is in the midst of a prescription drug abuse epidemic and it is important that we work together to solve this problem.”

According to the Ohio Drug Abuse Task Force’s 2010 report, drug overdoses have topped car crashes as the leading cause of accidental death in Ohio since 2007. The most recent data shows more than 1,300 people in Ohio died from accidental drug overdoses in 2009. While the nation has seen an increase in unintentional drug poisoning deaths double between 1999 - 2006, the rate in Ohio has more than tripled.

The Scioto County Sheriff’s Office, Portsmouth Police Department, New Boston Police Department, Ohio Investigative Unit, Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, Scioto County Prosecutor’s Office and Scioto County Probation, N&S Railroad Police and Ohio’s High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Task Force (HIDTA) worked the saturation patrol.

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