



NEWSLETTER

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Creating Safer Spaces: The Impact of Safe Bar in Nashville

Nashville, renowned for its vibrant nightlife and music scene, is also becoming a beacon of safety and support, thanks to the flourishing Safe Bar program. This initiative, a collaborative effort between the Sexual Assault Center, the Metro Nashville Police Department (MNPd), and the Mayor's Office of Nightlife, has made significant strides in creating safer environments for patrons and staff alike.

The Mission

Safe Bar, a bystander intervention-based educational training program, is aimed at preventing sexual violence in alcohol-serving establishments. The mission of Safe Bar is to work with local bars & restaurants in raising awareness about alcohol's role in sexual assault, engaging bar owners and staff in bystander intervention, and working together to do our part to prevent sexual violence across Tennessee. With 79 certified Safe Bars across the state and 45 in the metro Nashville area, Sexual Assault Center is taking the lead in the effort for creating safer nightlife by working with the employees to better learn how to spot and respond to sexual violence.

A Collaborative Effort for Safety

The partnership between these organizations has been pivotal in expanding the Safe Bar program throughout Nashville. By offering specialized training to bar staff the program equips them with skills to identify and intervene in situations that could lead to sexual assault. This proactive approach not only helps prevent incidents but also cultivates a community of safety and respect within the nightlife scene.

Understanding the Risks: Alcohol and Sexual Assault

National statistics highlight the critical need for initiatives like Safe Bar. According to the National Institute on Alcohol and Alcoholism, alcohol is involved in approximately 50% of sexual assaults. This alarming statistic underscores the importance of addressing the intersection of alcohol consumption and sexual violence.

The Threat of Date Rape Drugs

In addition to alcohol, the presence of date rape drugs like Rohypnol, GHB, and ketamine poses a significant threat in nightlife settings. These substances are often colorless, tasteless, and odorless, making them difficult to detect. They can incapacitate individuals, leaving them vulnerable to assault. Awareness and vigilance are crucial in combating danger.

Safety Measures for a Night Out

While the Safe Bar program is making strides, personal vigilance remains essential. Here are some safety measures to consider:

1. **Stay Aware:** Always be mindful of your surroundings. If something feels off, trust your instincts.
2. **Buddy System:** Go out with friends and keep an eye on each other. Make a plan to check in periodically and leave together.

3. **Watch Your Drink:** Never leave your drink unattended and be cautious when accepting drinks from strangers. Consider using drink covers or test strips that can detect the presence of date rape drugs.
4. **Know Your Limits:** Drink responsibly and be aware of how alcohol affects your judgement and reactions.
5. **Plan Your Transportation:** Ensure you have a safe way to get home, whether is a designated driver, rideshare, or public transportation.

While the list of Safe Bars continues to change as more establishments join the program, here are some known participants in Nashville's Safe Bar initiative:

- Friends in Low Place
- Acme Feed and Seed
- Barrel Proof
- Brooklyn Bowl
- Cerveza Jack's
- Chief's on Broadway
- Dino's Bar & Grill
- Diskin Cider
- Fat Bottom
- Frankie J's
- AJ's Good Time Bar
- Honeytree Meadery
- Honky Tonk Central
- Kid Rock's Honky Tonk
- Lakeside Lounge
- Legend's Corner
- Jackalope Brewing Company
- Fait La Force Brewing Company
- Luigi's

- Pearl Diver
- Lukes 32 Bridge
- The Stage
- Noble's East Nashville
- Whiskey Bent Saloon
- Redneck Riviera
- Sandbar Nashville
- Second Fiddle
- Sun Diner
- Teddy's Tavern
- Tequila Cowboy
- Morgan Wallen's This Bar
- The Fox & Cocktail Club
- The Southern Steak & Oyster
- Miranda Lambert's Casa Rosa
- Tootsie's Orchid Lounge
- Sonny's Pub & Patio Lounge

These establishments have taken proactive steps to create safer environments through staff training and collaboration with local organizations. If you're planning a night out in Nashville, consider visiting one of these Safe Bars for a secure and enjoyable experience.

Looking Ahead

The success of the Safe Bar program in Nashville serves as a model for other cities aiming to enhance the safety of their nightlife scenes. By continuing to foster strong partnerships and educate both staff and patrons, we can work towards a future where everyone can enjoy a night out without fear. Together, we can make Nashville-and beyond-a safer place for all.

Learn more or sign up for a training at: <https://sacenter.org/resources/safe-bar-training-program.aspx>

Download the sexual assault centers new app called **"SAC Safe Bar"** to know which establishments are Safe Bar trained in the city.

Be sure to follow us on our social media platforms:

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The Office of Nightlife was created to act as a liaison between residents, business owners, employees, visitors, and Metro-Nashville government. We focus on issues of noise, cleanliness, public safety, and quality of life.