



Knox County Health Department

140 Dameron Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917

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Contact: Kaylee Coffman
865-215-5722 office
865-507-9797 cell

Safe Bar initiative has arrived in Knoxville

KCHD partners with local bars to keep community safe and promote violence prevention

Knoxville, Tenn.— The Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is partnering with the Sexual Assault Center of East Tennessee, the Title IX Office at University of Tennessee, and the Family Justice Center to bring the [Safe Bar TN](#) initiative to Knoxville. Safe Bar TN is a network of bars, restaurants, and community organizations working together to prevent sexual violence and create safe nightlife spaces.

“This initiative helps equip bar employees to recognize signs of potential assault or unwanted behaviors and how to safely intervene,” said Amy Rowling, KCHD violence prevention health educator. “We are grateful for the local bars participating in the initiative who are taking important steps to help create a safer community.”

Following certification, participating bars are given a flyer to display and access to drink coasters that can detect the presence of drugs in the beverage. Additionally, benefits for participating businesses include access to ambassadors and trainers for future guidance and promotion from Safe Bar TN’s website and social media platforms.

Training includes FREE, in-person education on bystander intervention and raising awareness about alcohol's role in sexual assault. According to the U.S. National Library of Medicine, alcohol is involved in about half of all sexual assault incidents. In these situations, alcohol could be consumed by the offender, victim, or often, both.

Following the launch of the Safe Bar initiative, KCHD has received a substantial response from businesses interested in becoming Safe Bar certified. For those who are interested in adding their names to a list to complete this training, please contact Amy Rowling at 865-215-5170 or email her at health@knoxcounty.org.

About Knox County Health Department

The first health department in Tennessee to achieve national voluntary accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board, the Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is dedicated to ensuring the conditions in which every resident can be healthy. As a chief health strategist for the community and with more than 240 team members, KCHD’s broad scope of work includes convening partners to improve community health, identifying community health threats, investigating disease outbreaks, conducting extensive outreach and education, preparing for public health emergencies, providing and connecting the public with medical care, enforcing food safety and air quality laws, and more. For more information, visit www.knoxcounty.org/health.

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