

Safer Bars

Safer Bars:

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) Program to Prevent Reduce Bar Related Aggression, Violence and Injuries.



Safer Bars

Safer Bars: Back Ground and Rationale

plus licensed commercial establishments (bars) in Ontario.

plus SOP events each year in

ing in these settings can lead to
e, injuries, vandalism, property
damage, mischief, intoxication, Driving while
intoxicated (DWI.)

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Safer Bars: Background and Rationale

Many incidents are:

alcohol related (e.g. intoxication, serving practices that promote intoxication,)

crowding related (e.g. crowding, customer jostling and bumping, reputation, cleanliness,)

aggression related to alcohol but “macho” attitude of customers and staff, sexual overtures, jealousy, game playing (e.g. billiards.)

Many bar staff lack skills to manage problem behaviour.

Aggressive individuals are attracted to security jobs



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Safer Bars: Program Goals

- Prevent bar violence and injuries
- Reduce the number and severity of violence incidents and injuries in bars
- Develop and implement bar staff policies and procedures to prevent and reduce violence and injuries
- Increase the capacity of bar staff to intervene early and to manager problem behaviour and violent outbursts
- Increase bar staff understanding of the negative framework from which bars operate



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Safer Bars: Program Components

“Preventing and Reducing Risks of Violence”

• Risk assessment checklist/workbook

• Policy and procedure changes

• “Training” on preventing and managing

aggressive and violent customers

• “You Know the Law”

• Brochure or booklet on related law and liability

• “Safer Bars: A Risky Business”

• Guide to writing bar policies for keeping

customers safe and reducing liability



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Safer Bars: Assessing and Reducing Risks of Violence”

An easy to self-administer checklist that allows a bar owner to determine how safe a bar is from a social and physical perspective.

The checklist examines amongst other things: the physical layout of the bar, customer traffic flow, staff training and house rules to keep customers safe.

The checklist also contains a section for planning and monitoring changes in areas identified for improvement.



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Safer Bars: Training

The purpose of the training is to increase bar staff's ability to work as a team to reduce the risk of customers becoming aggressive, violent, or injured.

The training is conducted by skillful, experienced trainers and is three hours long. Each participant receives a workbook and a certificate of completion. Up to 25 people can be trained at one time.



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Safer Bars: Training

Understanding Barroom Aggression
Assessing the Situation
Protecting Yourself and keeping your
verbal techniques
Responding to problem situations

6. Legal issues



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Safer Bars: “Do you Know the Law?”

Easy to read booklet describes the
and legislative environment that
in Ontario must comply with to
legal and financial grief of not
ing customers safe and out of
way. Specific liability cases
ate the legal reality bars operate

