

when party life is a THREAT

Although many don't talk about it, party culture is a prominent part of many high schooler's lives as they try to float through the social circles around them

as it's played out time and time again in movies, TV shows, and splattered across social media, the stereotypical "high school party" may not be far from what happens in real life. High school parties are common for most students to attend, although there are some negative connotations around the whole idea. At these parties, the presence of alcohol and various types of drugs is not uncommon. All of these aspects contribute to the party culture that is seen today. Junior Spencer Tarra believes that party culture is focused around just hanging out with friends and having a good time.

"It's basically just a group of people trying to have fun, I don't think pop culture or anything has an influence on it," Tarra said.

Tarra believes there isn't a stigma around the party culture, rather than stereotypes that reflect negativity. These negative reflections can be developed from the amount of illegal substances that underage students use at these parties. Fellow junior Bode Houchen sees the consumption of alcohol and use of drugs at parties all the time.

"It's around parties 100%, whether the person is using it or not, they're going to be around it because that's just how parties are," Houchen said.

The unfortunate reality about exposure to drugs and alcohol in social settings, is that they in some cases, may lead to or be a large catalyst to things like sexual assault or rape. Tarra and Houchen both say that they have

never witnessed these sorts of crimes themselves, but know they happen at parties.

"Personally, I've never witnessed anything like sexual harassment or anything, but I know it's a serious problem," Tarra said.

Just because people don't witness things like sexual abuse or rape at a party, doesn't mean it doesn't happen.

An anonymous senior says that at the end of 2018, she was sexually assaulted at one of her friends' houses after having a little to drink.

"I fell asleep before everyone and I wasn't very drunk, but I had a little bit to drink. I woke up in the middle of the night and the boy that was supposed to be sleeping on the couch had his hand in my pants while I was asleep, and was touching me while I was sleeping," an anonymous source said.

Situations like these can be detrimental to one's views of themselves and future relationships, and can be hard to navigate especially when things like drugs or alcohol are in the picture. Party culture is really nothing new, as it greatly impacts the current generation just as much as past generations.

Partying is a popular activity for high schoolers on the weekends because it is a way to escape the reality of their lives and just have a little fun, however it is important that students are staying safe and they have a support system to build them up in case anything ever happened to them.

a narrative:

from a victim of sexual assault from a high school party

"It happened at the end of 2018. I was at my friend's boyfriend's house with her and his friends.

We were all drinking, and I just wanted to go to bed. He had a mattress on the floor for me to sleep on, and the boys were going to go sleep on the couch. I fell asleep before everyone, but I wasn't that drunk. I woke up in the middle of the night and the boy that was supposed to be sleeping on the couch had his hand in my pants, and was touching me while I was sleeping. It happened again and I didn't say anything, I just kinda freaked out. I tried to move as if I was sleeping, but he kept pulling me back.

He told his friend that I'm a heavy sleeper and then it happened again with a different friend, and I woke up and his hands were under my shirt. They thought that I was asleep because I would move and then they would flinch, and freak out a little bit.

I had a boyfriend at the time, and so I told him, but wasn't mad 'as long as I didn't want it.' I couldn't really tell other people because then I tried to tell the boy whose house I stayed at, like 'Hey your friend did this to me,' and he was like 'No, I know him and he wouldn't do that.' Then everyone was trying to tell me that I made it up. Or they would be like, 'Why didn't you say anything?'

*And I was like, I don't know what to say to stop him. Even though it's really hard to say something, you should always try to stop them. Try your hardest to get out of it, and know that it isn't your fault. Make sure they know it's 'absolutely the f*** not okay. Don't keep it locked in and don't let them get away with it.'*



For additional help
and resources on
sexual assault, scan
the code shown.
www.rainn.org

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