

A Guide to Photovoice

It's More Than Taking Pictures...

What is Youth Photovoice?

Photovoice is a *process* by which youth capture and record their life experiences and community through photography and stories. These projects can be adapted to cover any issue that is of concern for a community. Photovoice includes group discussion about the photographs and what they mean. Finally, the photographs and stories are presented to the community in order to raise awareness and influence policy makers from the youth perspective.

Who is involved?

Community youth who are interested in expressing their concerns about their environment through photography. Photovoice generally has been used for marginalized groups of various ages that want their perspective seen and heard by those in power.

Photovoice example:



“Driving home from school, I saw this box on the side of the road. It made me think of how underage drinking just seems like a part of high school scenery. On a bigger scale, I thought of all the drinking advertisements I see everyday. It seems like alcohol, a dangerous drug, is a common element of the background of American society.”

Emily, Dexter High School Senior

For more information on how the Dexter & Pinckney Coalitions to Reduce Underage Drinking implemented Youth Photovoice contact:

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What does Photovoice include?

Group training:

- Trust building, defining photo subject matter, and Photovoice ethics.
- Training on photography techniques.

Photography and discussion:

- Select and discuss photos.
- Prepare for the exhibit, identify common themes, and receive training on facilitation.

Community exhibit & dialogue with leaders:

- Invite policy makers and influential community members.
- Include students in dialogue facilitation.

Where can I learn more?

Visit www.photovoice.com or www.ewashtenaw.org/stopunderagedrinking for more links.

Suggested Readings:

- Strack, R.W., Magill, C. & McDonagh, K. (2004). Engaging youth through photovoice. *Health Promotion Practice*, 5 (1), 49-58.
- Wang, C., Kun Yi, W., Wen Tao, Z., & Carovano, K. (1998). Photovoice as a participatory health strategy. *Health Promotion International*, 13(1), 75-86.
- Wang, C., & Redwood-Jones, Y. (2001). Photovoice ethics: perspectives from flint photovoice. *Health Education and Behavior*, 28(5), 560-572.