



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**EXPOSED: A CLOSER LOOK AT UNDERAGE DRINKING**  
**Take a look. Hear their voices. Join the conversation.**

YPSILANTI, Mich., December 1, 2008 — This past fall a group of Dexter High School students, in collaboration with the Dexter Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking (DCRUD) and the Washtenaw County Public Health Department, photographed aspects of community life that they feel influence youth drinking and related traffic crashes. The students will showcase their work at an exhibit called *Exposed: A Closer Look at Underage Drinking*, on Thursday December 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:30–8:30 p.m. in the Commons area of Dexter High School. Each photograph includes a short narrative explaining what the picture represents to the student photographer. Following an open time to view the photographs, students will facilitate conversations about their photography with community members. Light refreshments will be served. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

This event is one in a series of community activities sparked by DCRUD’s April 2008 town hall meeting that informed the community on the risks of underage drinking. In September, DCRUD and Washtenaw County Public Health staff launched this youth “Photovoice” project. The students at Dexter High School began working with Carissa Williams from Washtenaw County Public Health to capture in photos what they feel contributes to or prevents underage drinking and how underage drinking affects them and their community. Photovoice is an international public health strategy used to empower youth and promote dialogue and awareness about many issues. At Photovoice after-school sessions, the students learned about defining photo subject matter, the ethics of Photovoice, photography techniques, and training on group facilitation.

After the December 4th exhibit the youth will be working with local businesses to display the photographs in the community, and continue to spark dialogue about underage drinking.

Washtenaw County Public Health Department will also use these images to increase awareness about underage drinking and related traffic crashes.

For more information, please check the Dexter Coalition website at:

[http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/public\\_health/healthpromotion/dextercoalition.html](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/public_health/healthpromotion/dextercoalition.html)

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