

# Photovoice

This tool can be a powerful way for youth to represent their communities or express their points of view by photographing scenes that highlight themes related to your evaluation.

The photographs can then be discussed and/or interpreted as a group to outline the photos highlight a particular theme. Using digital photos allows the results to be instant and, as such, the discussions can occur immediately after the photos have been taken.

These narratives are used to better understand the program and experiences held by those who participated in the program. Such feedback can be used to adapt and improve the program in the future. Moreover, the photos taken can be used as a way to highlight or exhibit the captured program experiences. These can be displayed online, within the program location, or within an organization's newsletter.

For example, within your program, you want to know what the program experience means to youth. You ask youth participants to take photos during a session nearing the end of the program. Once the pictures are taken, youth then gather in small groups or in one large group to discuss their photos. These discussions can cover why they took the photo, what it means to them, etc. These discussions can be audio recorded. Both the audio recordings and photos can be used as data within your program evaluation.

Photovoice is a powerful tool to allow individuals' voices to be heard through the use of a different medium that may have otherwise been ignored (e.g., homeless people; members of racial, ethnic, or religious minorities; people with physical or psychological disabilities).

### WHO IS INVOLVED?

Individual or small groups of youth, program staff or research assistant

### WHAT DO I NEED?

- Digital Cameras or cellphones with cameras
- Audio recorders
- Chart paper and markers

### WHEN SHOULD THIS BE DONE?

At any time during the duration of the program depending on the purpose of the activity

**EXAMPLE 1:** To understand participants' experiences within the program, the activity can be done towards the end.

**EXAMPLE 2:** To attain participant perceptions of barriers within a community towards a certain issue, the activity could be done at any time during the program

### HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

30-60 minutes