

## Physical

- *Look at the age and conditions of the buildings, the density (apartments, houses on large lots), and materials used (bricks, ply-wood), and the zoning and maintenance of yards/empty lots. What clues does that give you about the community as a whole?*

I moved to the northeast side of Stockton when I began attending the nursing program. I live a walkable distance from St. Mary's Highschool. This north side of Stockton is divided by commercial areas where they have almost every popular store in California. For this assignment, I decided to tag along my friend who's also not from here and we drive down to the southern side of Stockton, starting from North El Dorado. The built and appearance of the houses progressively changed as we passed the short bridge over the Calaveras River, from the clean middle-class bungalows to old, narrow two-story houses and single-story houses in need of renovation (broken roofs and windows) and with unkempt lawns. Most of the houses are made of wood but some had bricks on their facade. When we went further down south along Lincoln, that's when we started seeing a lot of empty lots with tents of homeless people here and there.

As we span the length of Lincoln, we made a right on Sonora St. where we drove by the gates of St. Mary's dining room and Stockton Shelter for the Homeless. We did not get out of the car as there were a few bystanders and here and there and we did not feel safe. We quickly turned toward Church St. where we found tents of homeless people set up in empty lots and clothes and blankets on wire fences. There were heaps of trash scattered on the sides of the streets, broken motorboats and run-down houses, some of them with broken windows but boarded up with wood.

I come from Pittsburg, California which is not a rich city by any means, and like Stockton, we have our share of homeless people. However, Stockton is by far a bigger city, and they have a bigger percentage of homeless people. Further, there is a distinct geographical division among the wealthy, the middle-class, and the poor.

- *How similar are the houses (are some neighborhoods very rich, others very poor)? Are there abandoned vehicles, piles of excess trash, large numbers of stray animals/for sale signs, or vacant houses?*

The houses in the north and northeast side (Brookside, Sherwood, Bear Creek) are the rich areas, In between these rich neighborhoods are middle to low-income class (single-story houses, condo units, apartments). The south side is where the poor and homeless are mostly. Although once can also find a few homeless people roaming around the north side. As mentioned above, abandoned, run-down vehicles, vacant lots with piles of trash are mostly found in the upper west south side and then the low south side, there are what looks like old pre-manufactured or mobile homes made of wood.

	<p>•<i>Are there open spaces (parks, agricultural areas, public/private areas like golf courses) and are they being used; by whom?</i></p> <p>The 4 golf courses (Spanos Park, Swenson Park, Elkhorn and Oak Grove are in the northern community where the rich are). In the south side, they have Columbus Park and Eden Park which are mostly empty (most likely because of Covid) except for a couple of homeless-looking people sitting on the benches.</p> <p>•<i>Are there boundaries separating the community (e.g. natural boundaries like rivers, economic boundaries, commercial/residential boundaries)?</i></p> <p>I would say that the Mcleod Lake and San Joaquin River delineates the very poor communities from the middle and upper class. The south side is further divided between the poor (east) and the very poor (west). The poor communities are also where the trucking and construction factories and warehouses tend to be.</p> <p>•<i>What about air/water quality, signs of pollution?</i></p> <p>Because these poor communities are right under the freeways and because of the garbage everywhere, they are more exposed to air pollution. Tap water is not potable so most residents of Stockton need filtered water systems. Of course, I would imagine that the poor communities may have very limited access to these filter systems and so they may not even have water that is safe to drink.</p>
<b>Economic</b>	<p>•<i>Does the area look like it is a thriving community?</i></p> <p>The poor areas down south of Stockton does not look like a thriving community at all. They are pretty isolated, and although the resources are there (schools, soup kitchens, shelters) it will take a huge amount of revamp to make this a healthier, thriving community.</p> <p>•<i>Are there areas where homeless gather? Soup kitchens, etc.)</i></p> <p>Yes, the streets of Sonora, Harrison, and Church is where we found the most homeless. Sonora is where they have St. Mary's Dining Room and the Shelter for the Homeless. There are tents sent to make this a healthier, thriving community up around the gated area so I am guessing that the Shelter just does not have adequate space to accommodate all the homeless.</p> <p>•<i>Is there adequate shopping (e.g. grocery stores, shopping centers)?</i></p> <p>Not in this poor area down south, no. There are only about 3 small grocery stores or food marts. No big shopping centers like Wal-Mart.</p>

	<p>•<i>Does it appear that food stamps are accepted/welcome?</i></p> <p>Yes, Ben's market for example, has a sign outside that says food stamps are accepted.</p> <p>•<i>Are there businesses, industries, manufacturing, and adequate places for employment?</i></p> <p>Because Stockton has a plethora of still-open businesses despite the pandemic, there seems to be adequate employment opportunities, although these businesses are more concentrated around the middle to north Stockton. In the south, there are a few food stores (mostly mini Mexican markets), but plenty of construction and trucking businesses and factories.</p>
Services	<p>•<i>Are there schools (how many, in what condition)?</i></p> <p>There were 3 or 4 elementary schools about 1-3 miles from Lincoln and they seem to be in fair condition from the outside. The closest and biggest high school is Edison Senior HS on MLK Blvd, and it looks newly renovated. This is what I saw around the southeast side. The community college, San Joaquin Delta is somewhere north but it's only a 15-minute drive. However, for someone who lives in the southern area and does not own a private car, it looks like the bus is the only public transport going to college and takes about an hour to get there.</p> <p>•<i>Are there libraries? Are they well used?</i></p> <p>There are about 3 public libraries and they're all situated in the northern side where the commercial areas are. As far as I know, these libraries have opened but I have not had the chance to go in any one of them.</p> <p>•<i>Are there recreational facilities (e.g., gyms, playgrounds, soccer fields, baseball diamonds); are these being used and by whom?</i></p> <p>Edison High School on MLK has a big football arena and a couple of the parks do have little playgrounds.</p> <p>•<i>How many churches do you see; what denominations?</i></p> <p>There are 2 Baptist churches, a Presbyterian church and a Japanese Christian church in the southeast side of Stockton where the poorest are.</p> <p>•<i>Is there adequate health care? Does the community have a hospital? Are there adequate health care services (e.g., clinics, mental health/substance abuse facilities, PH department services, nursing homes, traditional health care providers)?</i></p> <p>Dameron Hospital, St. Joseph's Medical Center, and San Joaquin General Hospital are 3 of the closest hospitals to Stockton's poor communities down south. There's a Community</p>

	<p>Medical Center and Saint Joseph Behavioral Health Center are also within a 10-min drive from the poor neighborhoods.</p>
	<p><i>•What type of social services available (e.g., shelters, mental health counseling)? Do you see one main location for social services (e.g., government center) or are they dispersed around the community?</i></p> <p>St. Mary's Dining Room is closed during this Covid season, but they continue to serve to-go meals for the homeless. There's a shelter home for single men: Stockton Shelter for the Homeless- Single Men's Shelter on Harrison St. Less than a mile to the west of this is New Hope Family Shelter which offers shelter services for single women, women with children and those with substance abuse problems. For mental health counseling, there's San Joaquin Behavioral Health Services, which is a 5–7-minute drive from these shelters. SJ BHS offers comprehensive mental health services and substance abuse treatments for people of all ages with Medi-Cal.</p> <p><i>•What types of public /private transportation is available? Are highways and roads crowded with traffic? Are there bike paths/trails and adequate sidewalks? How is transportation access for the disabled?</i></p> <p>The only public transportation that I saw were the buses of San Joaquin RTD, which also offers services like wheelchair lifts or boarding assistance for the disabled. There aren't bike trails on most of the main streets but there are ample sidewalks.</p> <p><i>•Does the community "feel" safe to you? Is there adequate fire and police protection?</i></p> <p>Where I live up here in the northern side, I feel safe enough to walk alone during the day. However, I definitely will not be caught walking alone in the streets of the southern Stockton, even though there's a police and fire station within the 3 mile radius of homeless/poor areas.</p> <p><i>•Are there signs of political activity (e.g., posters, notices of meetings, predominant party affiliations)?</i></p> <p>I did not see any political posters nor were there signs of political activities.</p>
<b>Social</b>	<p><i>•Are there common "hangouts" (e.g., teen gathering sports, chess playing for older adults)? What about local newspapers, radio, TV (e.g., satellite dishes)?</i></p> <p>From this one time that I drove by the southern streets of Stockton, I did not really see people hanging out in groups (as is the case everywhere because of Covid) except for maybe 3 people standing outside the gates of St. Mary's Dining Room talking. I only really</p>

	<p>saw 3 or 4 houses with what looks like satellite dishes on their roofs, but I think a lot of them may have cable TV or subscriptions to online streaming for entertainment.</p> <p>•<i>Who do you see on the streets? Indications of homogeneity or diversity of ethnicities, socioeconomic status, occupations; how are people dressed?</i></p> <p>The southeast side of Stockton is predominantly African-American and Latinos. A lot of them are young to middle adults and are likely unemployed as I observed they are just on the streets hanging out. I do not know how it is at night although I hear that it can be dangerous as there are a lot of “gangs” and they mostly are out during the night. The people who I saw on the streets are usually unkempt, some were in old, tattered, very dirty-looking layers, others are in not-so-dirty baggy clothes.</p>
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#### Comparison of Stockton communities observed with Pittsburg (my hometown):

- Pittsburg has its share of homeless people, but they are more evenly dispersed than those of Stockton.
- There is no designated rich communities in Pittsburg; they’re spread out. In Stockton, there are demarcated rich areas, poor areas, and very poor areas. The middle class appears more dispersed.
- There are fewer resources available in Pittsburg as far as hospitals, health centers. Shelters, etc. This can be attributed to the much smaller population (76, 416 vs Stockton’s 320, 804 as of 2020, US Census Bureau).
- Both Stockton and Pittsburg’s poor communities consists largely of African-Americans. In Stockton however, it appears more mixed, with a lot of Hispanics residing in the poor areas as well.
- There are a lot more empty lots in Stockton where the homeless set up their tents, and those where you see heaps of trash on the lots and evidently dangerous streets where run-down houses and buildings are spaced out. Pittsburg has small areas like this as well but not nearly as bad, so it feels safer to live in.