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Pre-profile reflection

The Latino community we selected is the East Lake Neighborhood in Chattanooga, TN. It has a high Latino percentage of the population. We might examine the quality, presence, or lack of certain community necessities and amenities. These items include, but are not limited to, the number of trees planted, the planning of landscaping, and pothole maintenance. Our examination could include the upkeep of infrastructure such as lampposts, the condition of buildings and homes, and the quality/ quantity of grocery stores in the community. Finally, we want to look deeper into the presence and quality of sidewalks in relation to school locations.

Expectations and Comparisons

We are expecting to find some things prevalent in the community. First, we expect to find some areas of the community that are well-maintained and planned. On the other hand, we also expect to see some areas that have not been invested in and lack infrastructure compared to other areas. We also expect to see some art that community members have contributed. Along with the art, we may even have the opportunity to see or experience things that demonstrate the sense of community that the people have. Another thing we can look for is the presence or lack of a police presence and try to gauge police presence in the area.

Here are some additional comparisons we expect to make. This would include the things available to one neighborhood but not as local and present in another area. It also includes the prevalence of renting vs owning as well as the maintenance of the homes that are rented as opposed to owned. We expect to see a variety of vehicle sizes, number per house, and cost of each vehicle. In addition, there may be more resources in certain areas that have more money than in the poorer areas. There might be more libraries, recreational facilities, and grocery stores

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in one area. By comparing infrastructure such as public investment in roads, sidewalks, lampposts, school, hospital clinic, and grocery store locations with private asset ownership such as assessing the car and house ownership/upkeep we can make valuable observations about the community.

Language and Our Role

Another difference that may take us by surprise is the number of people that speak Spanish as a second language. Many of the community members could potentially be originally from the rural areas of Guatemala, where they speak Mayan languages. With this, English becomes their third language, making it an even greater challenge for them. As social workers, we must be culturally sensitive and understand that the transition is much more difficult than we could ever imagine, especially when not all community members speak the same first language. While working with the population, we will need to be confident in our skills of meeting new people and getting to know them and their backgrounds within the community. Without these abilities and making an active effort to assimilate with the population, we will only be contributing to an issue that social work is against; that is, not making the work personal and viewing people as statistics or casualties rather than humans with ideas and feelings. By getting to know the community members, we can figure out the most pressing issues and what is at the top of their list of needs instead of making assumptions about what the neighborhood may need.

Questions that we have are:
- Who would be the best person for us to get in contact with?
- Are there things we haven't listed that you think would be important for us to take note of in our community assessment?

https://theblvdproject.com/
https://www.chattadata.org/
https://www.point2homes.com/US/Neighborhood/TN/Hamilton-County/Chattanooga/East-Lake-Demographics.html