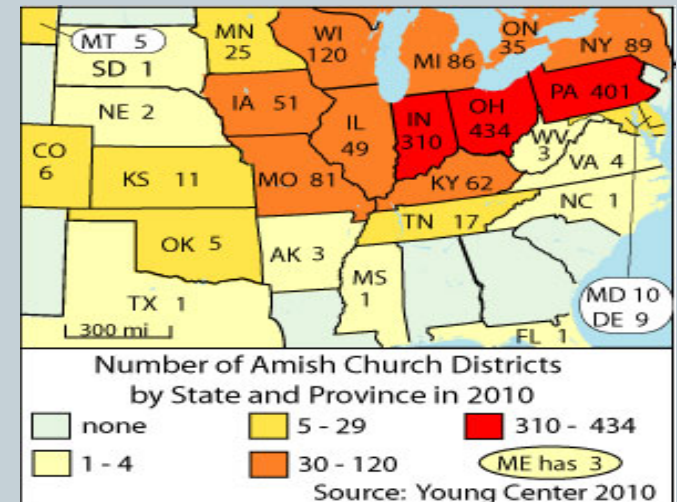




# ***The Amish Culture & Continuity of Care***

# Amish Structure

- The Geauga Settlement
- There are 25-40 families in each church district
- Churches are divided geographically:
  - Each church has one bishop, two ministers, and a deacon.
  - Strict churches v.s. more lenient churches



# Amish Culture & Concepts



- The Amish/Mennonites fled from Europe in the 1600's.
- **The Ordnung** – “Order”, set of oral laws regulated by the Amish community from religion to family life.
- Amish Hierarchy: (1: Most Important, 3: Least Important)
  1. **God**
  2. **Community** (Focus is on what you can do for your community).
  3. **Self**
- **Rumspringa**- Teenagers join a group:
  - Boys more than girls, experience greater freedom. They are no longer under the control of their parents on weekends and, because they are not baptized, they are not yet under the authority of the church.
- Baptized at ages ~16-20

# Amish Mental Health



- The Amish have similar social problems as other cultures, such as sexual abuse, alcoholism, etc.
  - **Anxiety and Depression are the most common, as well as Obsessive/Compulsive Disorders.**
- Amish prefer biomedical explanations and concepts of mental illness and are more likely to also use homeopathic remedies.
- They typically utilize psychiatric services *more* than counseling services.
- Counseling is often dependent on the Bishop's belief or recommendation.

# Amish in Crisis



- The church and community are at the forefront of every crisis.
- The Amish believe that crisis is "God's will" and something good will come of a bad thing.

# The Role of the Bishop During a crisis



- Accepting outside intervention may vary depending on the Bishop.
- The best practice is to speak and work with the Bishop during a crisis.
- Typically, only call if things are very bad.



# Listen for Key Phrases



**“They were not acting like themselves”**

**“They seem to be under a spell”**

**“They were acting different”**

- **Ask for more details or examples**
- **Can describe a mental health issue by focusing on medical symptoms (i.e., frequent headaches, dizzy spells, etc.)**

# Engagement with the Amish



- It is imperative to develop a working relationship with the Bishops and other church leaders.
  - Gain their trust by keeping confidentiality
  - Offer services and explain our services in detail
- Amish talk to each other. So, if you provide poor treatment to one; word travels quickly.



# Language Barriers



- The general language and speech patterns of Amish populations reflect Pennsylvania Dutch and German.
- Many of the children do not learn English until they are 6 years old and begin to start school.

# Amish Directory



- The 5-year census book
- “the Nosey Book”
- Much communication occurs through newsletters

# Amish “Yankee” Assimilation



- Cell phones
- Medicaid
- Working in non-agricultural jobs
- Public schools



## Amish boom

The latest estimate of the Amish population in North America is up 10 percent in two years. These are the largest Amish Communities:

Source: Elizabethtown College's Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies

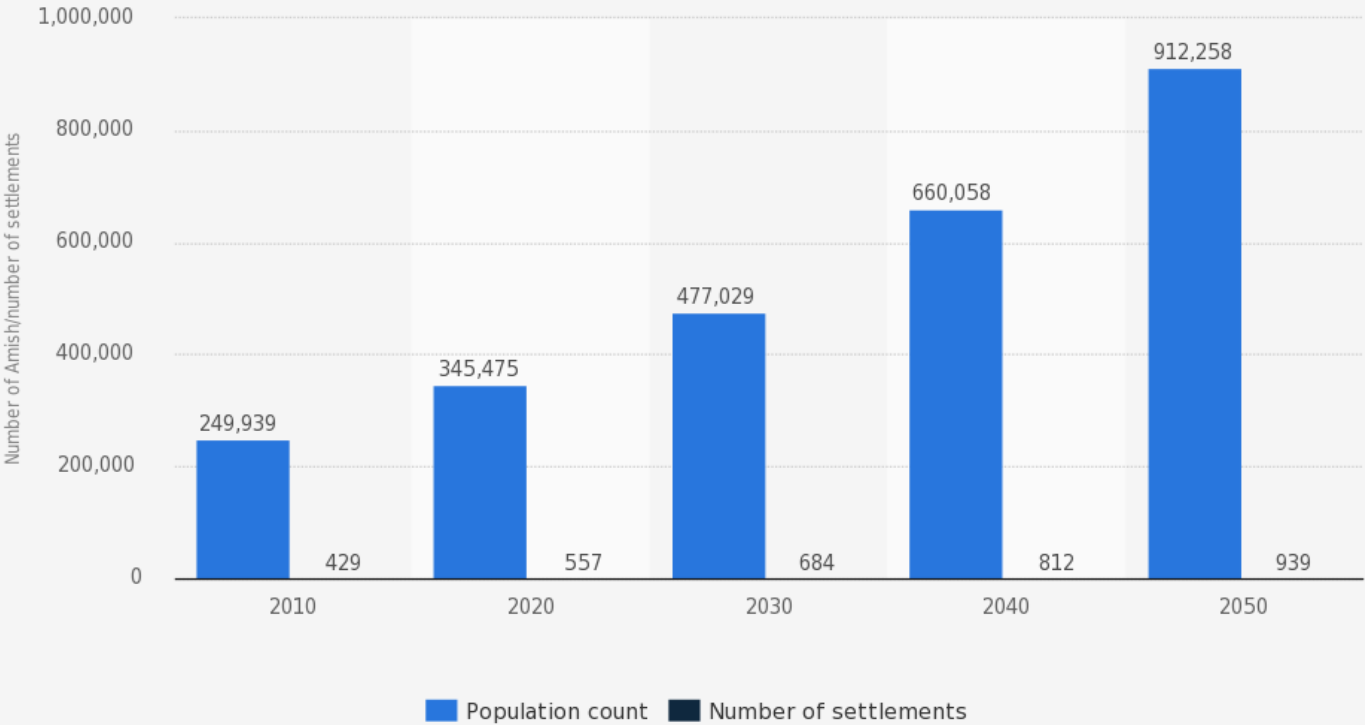
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

1. Lancaster County, Pa.	29,535
2. Holmes County, Ohio	29,510
3. Elkhart/LaGrange, Ind.	19,180
4. Geauga County, Ohio	12,410
5. Adams County, Ind.	7,200
6. Nappanee, Ind.	4,920
7. Arthur, Ill.	3,920
8. Daviess County, Ind.	3,665
9. Mifflin County, Pa.	2,760
10. Allen County, Ind.	2,735
11. Indiana County, Pa.	2,395
12. New Wilmington, Pa.	2,285

# Statistic on Anticipated Amish Population Growth



**Anticipated increase in the Amish population and number of settlements in the United States from 2010 to 2050**



Sources:  
Ohio University;ASARB  
© Statista 2014

Additional Information:  
United States; ASARB; Ohio University; 2012

# Resources for the Amish



- **Middlefield office**: Psychiatrist, Counselor, Case Manager
  - **Address**: 16030 E High St, Middlefield, OH 44062
  - **Phone**: (440) 632-5355

