

Amish Cultural Report

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The Amish culture is in the rural populations, and their culture is experiencing rapid growth. Here in Illinois, Amish is known for their Amish living, with approximately 4,500 population. They prefer to live independent lives and have firm values regarding their way of life. If you were to ask them about their culture, they would express their core values: faith, family, community, and simplicity. Amish culture bases healthcare decisions on the problem, cultural beliefs, and social patterns. The information highly influences them gathered from family, friends, church, and trusted practitioners. The culture may use modern medicine, but most of the time, they choose to use alternative health practitioners, folk medicine, and spiritual practice. The article states, "They tend to distrust the American medical and pharmaceutical industry as profit-oriented extensions of the government and large-scale corporations and out of place" (Anderson & Potts, 2020). If someone is in severe pain or critical, they will rely on support systems, usually immediate family, extended family, or church family. In the case of the ill, their support system will provide care in the sick person's home. This is the same for women who are pregnant. They do not seek prenatal or postnatal care. They will use their folk medicine. They feel that hospital care is unnecessary and that God will get them through it all. As far as communication, they do not use the technology most use. They are still writing letters, but some may use phones outside their home. They do not use the internet, so they are unfamiliar with modern healthcare systems, which contributes to not seeking help. Lastly, the Amish culture is known for its cooking. They all learn to cook young and consume meats and potatoes. Often, they will butcher their animals for meat, and women will grow the fruits and vegetables. Their

desire for fresh and homemade food may conflict in the hospital because hospital food is not farmed fresh like their food, nor is it homemade.

References

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