

# Barberton Community Assessment

Elder Monte Sahlin  
Director of Research & Special Projects  
Ohio Conference of SDAs  
June 8, 2013

## Purpose of this Report

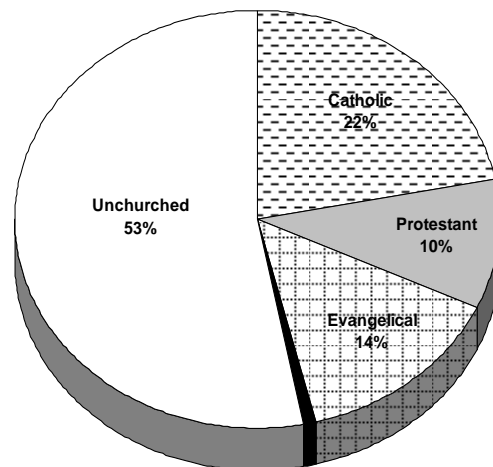
- To give you information about the “mission field” of the Barberton Church
- To focus particularly on the needs of children
- To review the options available to you as you plan an outreach to children and families in the community

## Barberton

- A suburb of Akron in Summit County
- Population 26,706
- Households – 11,054
  - 6,880 families and 3,954 singles living alone
    - 469 households of unrelated people living together
  - 30% of the households have children
  - 23.5% of the population is under age 18
- 74 Adventist members; one per 361 residents

Sources: 2010 U.S. Census,  
Church Records

## Religious Profile of Summit County



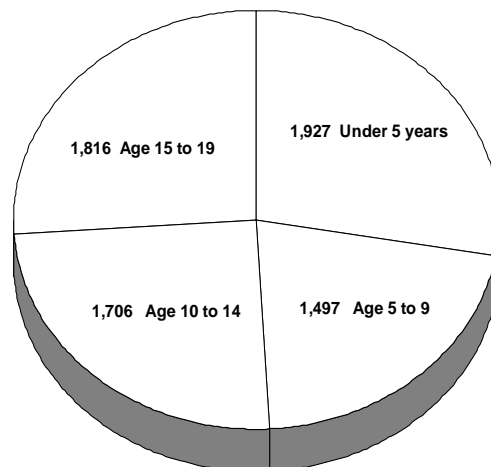
Source: U.S. Census of Religion

## Church Attendance on Any Given Weekend

- A total of 22.4% of the population of Summit County is in some church
  - That has declined by 11% in the last decade
- 10.8% of the population is in Evangelical churches (a decline of 17%)
- 3.7% of the population is in Protestant churches (a decline of 16%)
- 7.7% of the population is in Catholic churches (which grew by 2% in the last decade)

Source: David Olson, American Church Research Project

## Children in Barberton



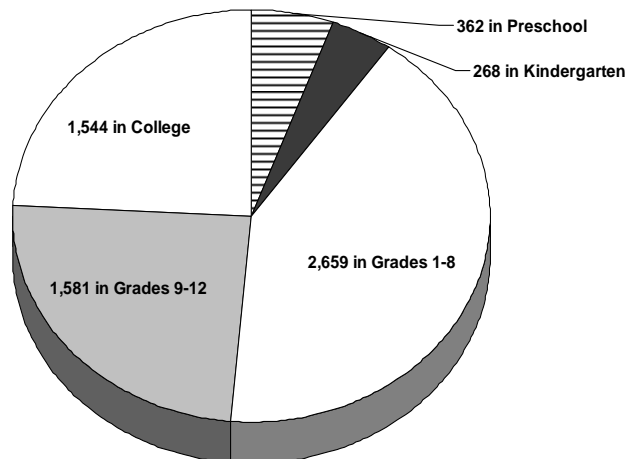
Source: 2011 American Community Survey

## Barberton Families

- 1,618 married couples with children
- 980 single mothers with children
- 214 single fathers with children
- 186 grandparents raising grandchildren

Source: 2011 American  
Community Survey

## Students Enrolled in School



Source: 2011 American  
Community Survey

## Babies Born in Barberton



312 women had a  
baby in the last year

68% were not  
married at the time

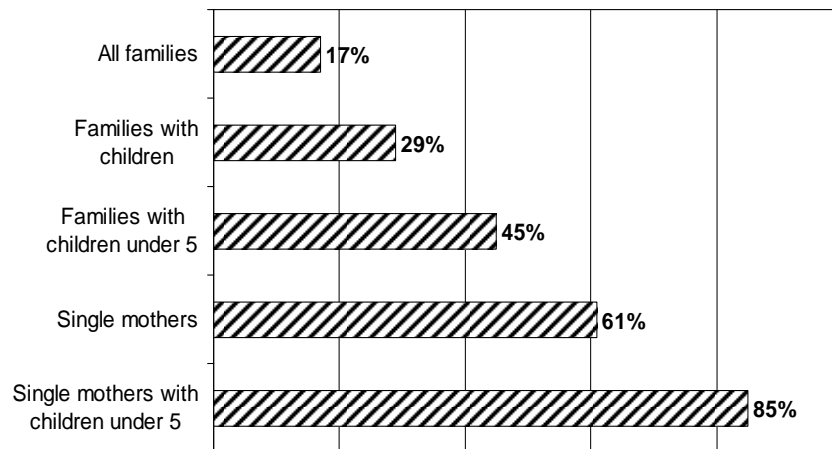
Source: 2011 American  
Community Survey

## Working Mothers

- Among mothers with children under six years of age:
  - 61% all parents are employed
- Among mothers with children six to 17 years of age:
  - 80% all parents are employed

Source: 2011 American  
Community Survey

## Families in Poverty



Source: 2011 American Community Survey

## Homeless Families with Children in Summit County

- 29 in homeless shelters with a total of 94 adults and children
- 54 in transitional housing with a total of 157 adults and children
- 10 on the streets with a total of 20 adults and children
  
- 93 families total with 271 individuals

Source: Continuum of Care Documentation

## Children's Health

- 66% received immunizations by their second birthday (down 5.7 from 2004)
- 6% involved in abuse or neglect cases (up by one percentage point from 2005)
- 3% have no health insurance coverage
  - Among low-income families it is 10%
  - Children without health insurance are 10 times as likely to not see a doctor regularly
  - Only 43% had a well-child check up in last year

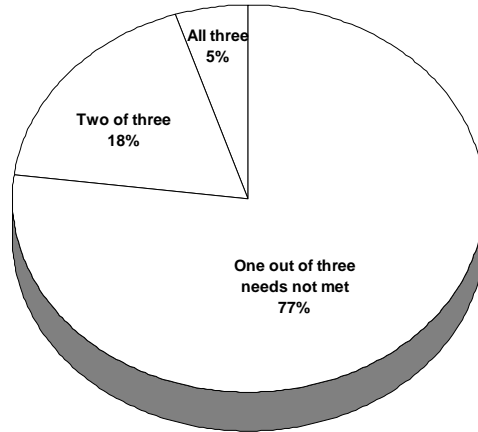
Source: Summit County Children's Services

## Children's Health

- 23% of Summit County Children's Services caseload is from Barberton
  - About 500 children on average
- 65% are single parents
- Average age of parents is 31
- 80% of abuse/neglect cases involve substance abuse by a parent
- 44% of abuse/neglect cases involve financial stress on the parents

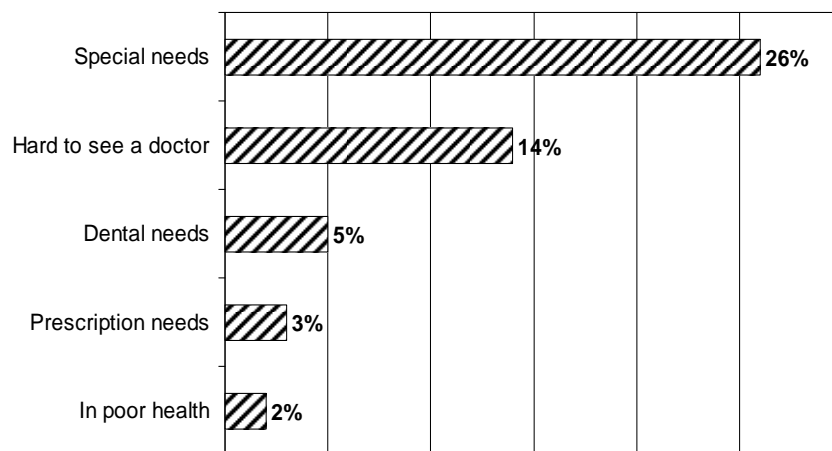
Source: Summit County Children's Services

## Children with Unmet Health Needs in Summit County



Source: Summit County Family Health Survey

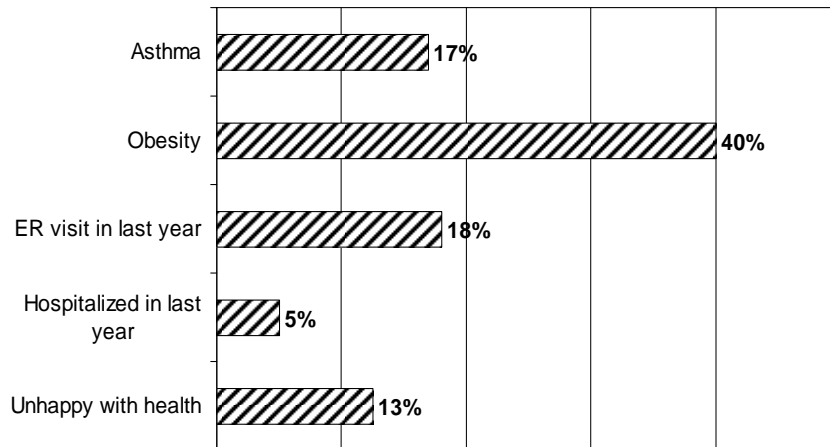
## Children in Summit County with Unmet Health Needs



Source: Summit County Family Health Survey



## Children in Summit County with Specific Conditions



Source: Summit County Family Health Survey

## Children's Health

- Residents express significant concern regarding the deteriorating physical and mental health status of our community's children. ...
- Many express a deep desire to empower families, educate and support parents to help their children transform their diets, increase physical activity.
- Healthy nutrition & cooking classes for adults and children are seen as a need.
- A more effective navigating system for children with developmental challenges is a priority.

Source: Summit County Health Assessment

## Children's Education

- 3,676 students enrolled in Barberton City School District grades K-8
  - 71% from low-income families
  - 17% have disabilities
  - 1% speak limited English
- 35% did not pass the 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading test in 2010

Source: Partnership for Success

## Children's Education

- 22% of Barberton High School students do not graduate
- 9.6% of juveniles have been involved in a criminal offense
  - 1.7% were involved in felony offenses
  - 3.3% were referred to juvenile court for school truancy, unruliness, etc.

Source: Partnership for Success

## Children's Education

- Nationwide:
  - Less than 40% of children enter school with the skills needed to succeed in Kindergarten
  - Less than a third of 4<sup>th</sup>-graders are proficient in reading
- Summit County:
  - 75% of children in Big Brother/Sister program improve their scores at school
  - 65% of children in Boys & Girls Clubs improved their grades
  - 54% of at-risk children in Urban League tutoring program improved test scores & graduated

Source: Summit County United Way

## Resources for Families

- 14 public parks, 9 with supervised recreation in the summers
- Nine child care centers licensed for 751 children (18 to 204 each)
- Barberton City Schools enrolls a total of 4,052 children in grades K-12

## Schools in Barberton

- Public Schools:
  - Barberton High School (1,167)
  - Highland Middle School (442)
  - Light Middle School (492)
  - Johnson Elementary School (287)
  - Memorial Elementary School (368)
  - Portage Elementary School (425)
  - Santrock Elementary School (358)
  - Woodford Elementary School (428)
- Parochial School:
  - St. Augustine Elementary School (257)

## What Catholic Charities of Summit County Provides:

- Counseling office provided 718 hours of professional counseling in 2012 to 85 clients
- Two “Successful Parenting” series of classes last year with a total enrollment of 30 (average of 15 per series)
- Four “Family Life Speakers” events with larger groups in attendance
- Trained staff at three Catholic schools in a Bullying Prevention Program
- Trained 50 teenage volunteers in the Bullying Prevention Program
- Recruited and trained volunteers to spend 1,005 hours mentoring 36 at-risk teens assigned by the court
- Summer day camp for 5,339 children

## Help Me Grow program

- Promotes the well-being of expectant mothers and children up to age three
- Connects families with needed community resources
- Developmental screenings and information
- Provides extra help for premature births, delayed developing and medical conditions
- Primarily through one-to-one visits, but also some group meetings

## Ministry Options for Barberton SDA Church

- Weekly or monthly program for children at a nearby public housing facility
  - Example at Akron First Church
- Vacation Bible School (one week)
  - “Kids in the Kitchen” emphasis on nutrition
- Day Camp in the summer (six to 10 weeks)
  - Resource manual from AdventSource
- Neighborhood Bible Club (continuing VBS)
  - Similar approach: A Pathfinder Club for community children
- After-school program with tutoring, other things
  - Resource: ADRA Tutoring Manual from AdventSource
- Youth drop-in center
  - Example at Walk of Faith Fellowship in Cleveland
- Preschool and/or Child Care Center
  - Examples at six churches in Ohio Conference

## More Ministry Options

- Parenting classes
  - AdventSource has curriculum resources
  - Curricula specifically for single parents
- Moms and Tots group
- Parents Support Group
- Parent Resource Center
  - Kay Kuzma has written a manual for this
- Mother's Morning Out

## Foundational Considerations

- What are you trying to accomplish?
  - Doing the mission of Christ vs attempting to recruit members
  - “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching people. He mingled with men as one who desired their good, showed sympathy for them and ministered to their needs. He won their confidence. Then, He bade them, ‘Follow me.’” – Ellen White, *The Ministry of Healing*, page 143
  - Research in the last decade has shown that Adventist church growth is correlated to this approach.

## Other Foundational Considerations

- Find partners in the community; don't try to do it as a "church program."
- Use the background checks provided by the conference on all volunteers without fail.
- Develop the program step by step
  - Take the time to build a strong program

## Your Questions

- Any more questions?
- Contact Monte Sahlin:
  - [msahlin@creativeministry.org](mailto:msahlin@creativeministry.org)
  - (800) 272-4664