Chapter 12

Marriage and Family
What is a Family?

- In U.S. - One Woman, Man, and Children
- Other Cultures Polygamy and Polyandry
- Approved Group into which a Child is Born?
- People who consider themselves related by blood, marriage, or adoption
Family Can Be…

• Nuclear
• Extended
• Family of Orientation
• Family of Procreation
What is Marriage?

• Until Recently…Taken for Granted
• Acceptance of Same-Sex Marriages
• Even sexual relationships don’t universally characterize marriage
• Must be Alive?
Common Cultural Themes

- Families Establish Patterns of...
  - Mate Selection
  - Descent
  - Inheritance
  - Authority
    - Patriarchy; Matriarchy; Egalitarian
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Traditional Societies</th>
<th>Industrial (and Postindustrial) Societies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is the structure of marriage?</td>
<td>Extended (marriage embeds spouses in a large kinship network of explicit obligations)</td>
<td>Nuclear (marriage brings fewer obligations toward the spouse’s relatives)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are the functions of marriage?</td>
<td>Encompassing (see the six functions listed on page 000)</td>
<td>More limited (many functions are fulfilled by other social institutions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who holds authority?</td>
<td>Patriarchal (authority is held by males)</td>
<td>Although some patriarchal features remain, authority is divided more equally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How many spouses at one time?</td>
<td>Most have one spouse (monogamy), while some have several (polygamy)</td>
<td>One spouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who selects the spouse?</td>
<td>Parents, usually the father, select the spouse</td>
<td>Individuals choose their own spouses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where does the couple live?</td>
<td>Couples usually reside with the groom’s family (patrilocal residence), less commonly with the bride’s family (matrilocal residence)</td>
<td>Couples establish a new home (neolocal residence)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How is descent figured?</td>
<td>Usually figured from male ancestors (patrilineal kinship), less commonly from female ancestors (matrilineal kinship)</td>
<td>Figured from male and female ancestors equally (bilineal kinship)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How is inheritance figured?</td>
<td>Rigid system of rules; usually patrilineal, but can be matrilineal</td>
<td>Highly individualistic; usually bilineal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: By the author.
Marriage and Family: Functionalist Perspective

• Why the Family Is Universal
  – Economic Production, Socialization of Children, Care of Sick and Aged, Recreation
  – Sexual control, Reproduction

• Functions of the Incest Taboo

• Isolation and Emotional Overload
Marriage and Family: Conflict Perspective

• Struggles between Wives and Husbands
  – Housework
  – Child Care
  – Money
  – Attention
  – Respect
  – Sex
Who Makes the Decisions at Home

- Wife makes more decisions: 43%
- Husband makes more decisions: 26%
- Couples divide decisions equally: 31%
In Two-Paycheck Marriages, How Do Husbands and Wives Divide Their Responsibilities?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Husbands</th>
<th>Wives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>60.1</td>
<td>58.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>59.2</td>
<td>55.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>61.4</td>
<td>59.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>60.8</td>
<td>24.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>64.0</td>
<td>23.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Housework**
- **Child care**
- **Other services**
- **Paid work**

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The Family Life Cycle

• Love and Courtship in Global Perspective
• Marriage
  – Social Channels of Love and Marriage
  – Homogamy
• Childbirth
  – Marital Satisfaction Decreases
  – Ideal Family Size
The Family Life Cycle

• Child Rearing
  – Married Couples and Single Mothers
  – Day Care
  – Social Class
Marriages between Whites and African Americans: The Race-Ethnicity of the Husbands and Wives

- White husband, African American wife
- African American husband, white wife

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total in Thousands</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>354</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Number of Children Americans Think Are Ideal

- Larger Families: Three or more children
- Smaller Families: Zero, one, or two children


Percentage:
- Larger Families: 64, 77, 71, 70, 61, 70, 48, 54, 60, 66, 63, 50, 55, 56, 58
- Smaller Families: 34, 23, 29, 17, 19, 23, 43, 36, 32, 35, 28, 29, 42, 37, 34, 33

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On the Way to Designer Babies

A woman’s eggs are fertilized with sperm in a lab, creating several embryos.

A single cell is removed from each embryo, and then tested for biomarkers associated with females, green eyes, and blond hair.

Only embryos with the biomarkers for the required traits are placed in the woman’s womb.

The procedure virtually guarantees that the child will be female and increases the probability it will have green eyes and blond hair.
The Family Life Cycle

• Family Transitions
  – “Adultolescents” and the Not-So-Empty Nest
  – Adolescents, especially the young men, used to leave home after finishing high school
  – Widowhood
    • Women are more likely than men to become widowed
Who Takes Care of Preschoolers while Their Mothers Are at Work?

**MARRIED COUPLES**
- Mother cares for child at work: 3%
- Father: 14%
- Grandparents: 12%
- Organized child care facility: 17%
- Other relatives: 3%
- Kindergarten and grade school: 42%
- Other nonrelatives: 10%

**SINGLE MOTHERS**
- Mother cares for child at work: 3%
- Father: 11%
- Grandparents: 18%
- Organized child care facility: 13%
- Other relatives: 8%
- Kindergarten and grade school: 40%
- Other nonrelatives: 9%
Diversity in U.S. Families

• African-American Families
• Latino Families
• Asian Families
• Native American Families
  – Whether to follow traditional values or to assimilate into the dominant culture
Diversity in U.S. Families

• One-Parent Families
• Couples Without Children
  – While most married women give birth, about one of five do not
• Blended Families
• Gay and Lesbian Families
  – Adoption by Gay and Lesbian Couples
The Decline of the Two-Parent Families

The percentage of children under 18 who live with both parents

- 1970: 85%
- 1980: 78%
- 1990: 72%
- 2000: 69%
- 2010: 70%
- 2020*: 67%
FIGURE 12.9 What Percentage of U.S. Married Women Ages 40–44 Have Never Given Birth?

By Race–Ethnicity

- White Americans: 20%
- African Americans: 17%
- Latinas: 17%
- Asian Americans: 16%

By Education

- High School Dropout: 15%
- High School: 17%
- Some College: 18%
- Bachelor’s Degree: 24%
- Master’s Degree: 25%
- Ph.D.: 23%

Source: By the author. Based on Livingston and Cohn 2010.
Trends in U.S. Families

• The Changing Timetable of Family Life: Marriage and Childbirth
  – Postponing Marriage and Childbirth

• Cohabitation
  – Does Cohabitation Make Marriage Stronger?
  – Children of Cohabiting Parents: A Surprising Finding
Why Do Americans Marry? The Changing Age at First Marriage

![Graph showing the changing age at first marriage for men and women over different years.](chart_url)
Americans Ages 20-24 Who Are Married

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage
Cohabitation in the United States

Number of Couples (in millions)

Year

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**TABLE 12.2** The Meaning of Cohabitation: What a Difference It Makes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Cohabitation Means</th>
<th>Percent of Couples</th>
<th>After 5 to 7 Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Split Up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substitute for Marriage</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step Toward Marriage</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trial Marriage</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coresidential Dating</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Divorce and Remarriage

• Ways of Measuring Divorce
• Children of Divorce
• Grandchildren of Divorce
• Fathers’ Contact with Children after Divorce
• The Ex-Spouses
• Remarriage
The “Where” of U.S. Divorce

Annual divorces per 1,000 people
- Lower than average: 2.2 to 3.1
- Average: 3.3 to 4.1
- Higher than average: 4.3 to 6.5

Lowest divorce rate
1. Massachusetts (2.2)
2. North Dakota (2.4)
3. Illinois (2.6)

Highest divorce rate
1. Nevada (6.5)
2. Arkansas (5.9)
3. Wyoming (5.5)
FIGURE 12.14 What Percentage of Americans Are Divorced?

Note: This figure shows the percentage who are divorced and have not remarried, not the percentage who have ever divorced. Only these racial-ethnic groups are listed in the source. The source only recently added data on Asian Americans.

Source: By the author. Based on Statistical Abstract of the United States 1995:Table 58; 2012:Table 56.
### TABLE 12.3
What Reduces the Risk of Divorce?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors That Reduce People’s Chances of Divorce</th>
<th>How Much Does This Decrease the Risk of Divorce?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Some college (vs. high-school dropout)</td>
<td>−13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affiliated with a religion (vs. none)</td>
<td>−14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents not divorced</td>
<td>−14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 25 or over at marriage (vs. under 18)</td>
<td>−24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a baby 7 months or longer after marriage (vs. before marriage)</td>
<td>−24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual income over $25,000 (vs. under $25,000)</td>
<td>−30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: These percentages apply to the first ten years of marriage.
# TABLE 12.4  Fathers’ Contact with Their Children after Divorce

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequent&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Minimal&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Decreased&lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Increased&lt;sup&gt;4&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>1</sup>Maintains contact once a week or more through the years

<sup>2</sup>Little contact after the divorce, maybe 2 to 6 times a year

<sup>3</sup>Frequent contact after the divorce but less through the years

<sup>4</sup>Has little contact after the divorce but increases it through the years. Sometimes called the “divorce activated” father.

Source: By the author: Based on Cheadle et al. 2010.
The Marital History of U.S. Brides and Grooms

The bar graph shows the percentages of different types of marriages among U.S. brides and grooms:

- **First marriage of bride and groom**: 54%
- **Remarriage of bride and groom**: 23%
- **First marriage of bride, remarriage of groom**: 11%
- **First marriage of groom, remarriage of bride**: 11%
Two Sides of Family Life

• The Dark Side
  – Spouse Battering
  – Child Abuse
  – Marital or Intimacy Rape
  – Incest
Two Sides of Family Life

• The Bright Side - Successful Marriages
  – Spouse is Best Friend
  – Like Spouse as Person
  – Think Marriage is Long-Term Commitment
  – Believe Marriage is Sacred
Two Sides of Family Life

– Agree with Spouse Aims and Goals
– Believe Spouse Grown More Interesting
– Want Relationship to Succeed
– Laugh Together
Happy Families

• Spend a Lot of Time Together
• Are Quick to Express Appreciation
• Committed to Promoting Mutual Welfare
• Talk and Listen a Lot
• Are Religious
• Deal with Crises Positively
Symbolic Interactionism and Misuse of Statistics

• Divorce Statistics Explained
  – Many students concerned divorce statistics mean they won’t have a successful marriage

• People are Individuals

• We Create our Own World
The Future of Marriage and Family

• No Danger of Becoming a Relic
• Cohabitation, Single Mothers, Age at Marriage, Grandparent as Parent Increase
• Continued Distorted Images of Marriage and Family
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>1970</th>
<th>NOW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Americans who want 3 or more children</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americans who want 0, 1, or 2 children</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of marriages with a white wife and an African American husband</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>354,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of marriages with an African American wife and a white husband</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>196,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of hours per week wives do housework</td>
<td>1965</td>
<td>19.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of hours per week husbands do housework</td>
<td>1965</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of cohabitating couples</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>7,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Americans divorced</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Americans divorced</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average age of first-time bride</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average age of first-time groom</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average age of first-time groom</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women ages 20–24 who are married</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men ages 20–24 who are married</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children who live with both parents</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>