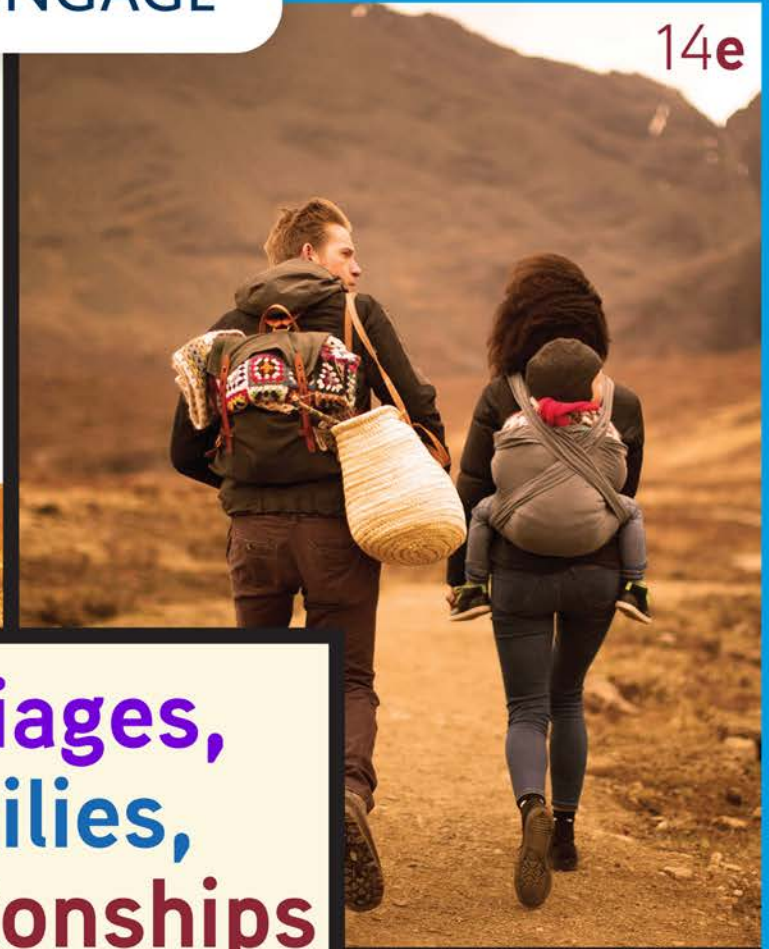


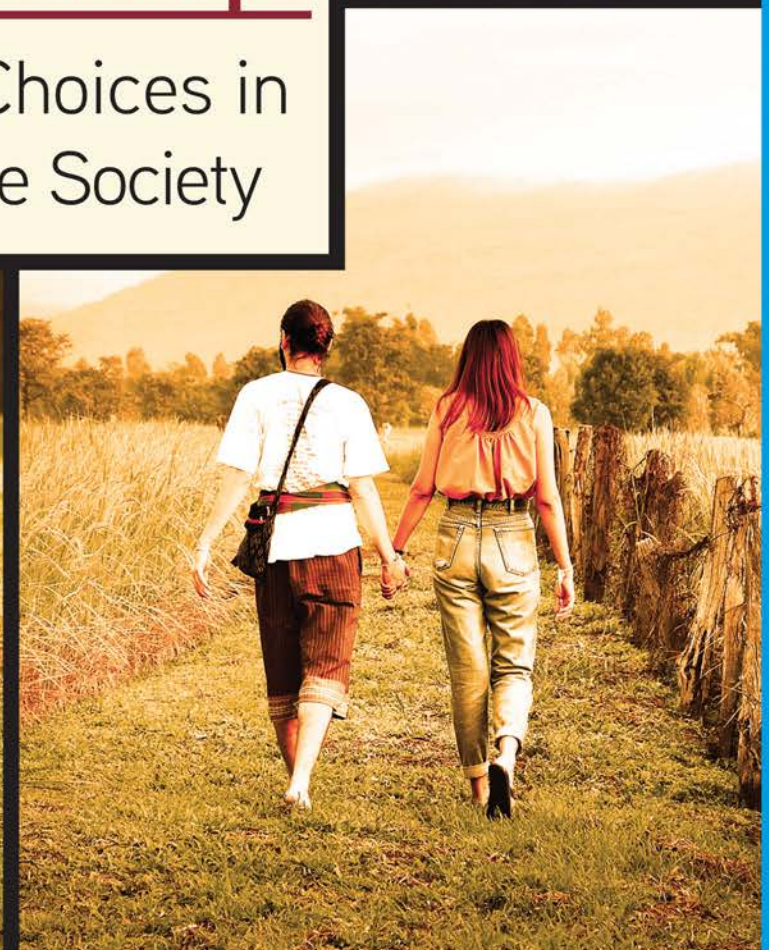
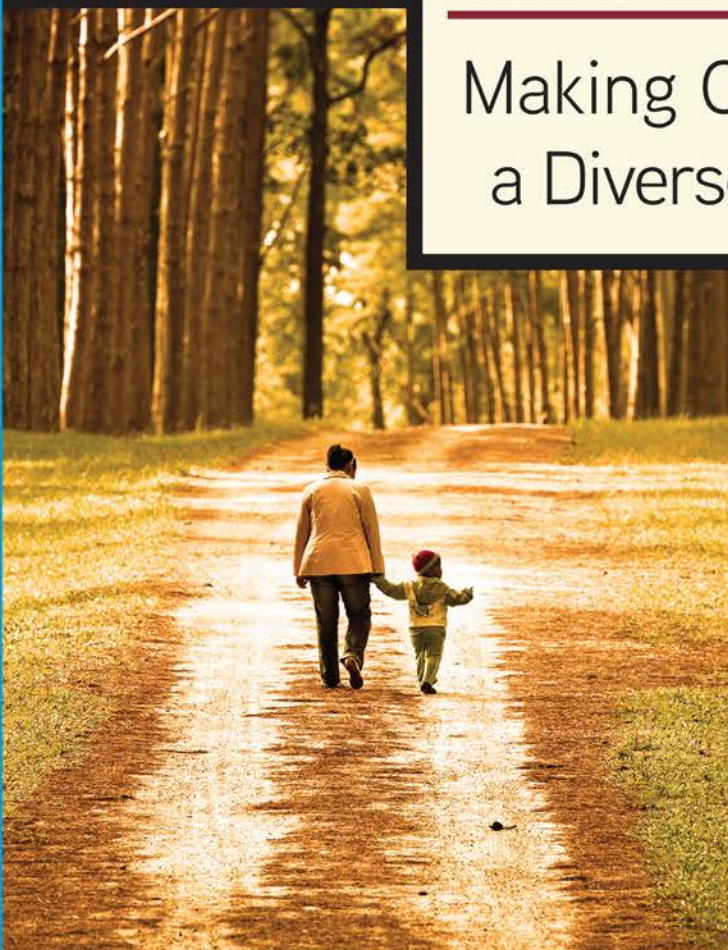
Mary Ann **Lamanna**
Agnes **Riedmann**
Susan D. **Stewart**

14e



Marriages, Families, & Relationships

Making Choices in
a Diverse Society



MARRIAGES, FAMILIES, and RELATIONSHIPS

Making Choices in a Diverse Society

Fourteenth Edition

Mary Ann Lamanna

University of Nebraska, Omaha

Agnes Riedmann

California State University, Stanislaus

Susan D. Stewart

Iowa State University



Australia • Brazil • Mexico • Singapore • United Kingdom • United States

Copyright 2021 Cengage Learning. All Rights Reserved. May not be copied, scanned, or duplicated, in whole or in part. WCN 02-200-322

Copyright 2021 Cengage Learning. All Rights Reserved. May not be copied, scanned, or duplicated, in whole or in part. Due to electronic rights, some third party content may be suppressed from the eBook and/or eChapter(s). Editorial review has deemed that any suppressed content does not materially affect the overall learning experience. Cengage Learning reserves the right to remove additional content at any time if subsequent rights restrictions require it.

This is an electronic version of the print textbook. Due to electronic rights restrictions, some third party content may be suppressed. Editorial review has deemed that any suppressed content does not materially affect the overall learning experience. The publisher reserves the right to remove content from this title at any time if subsequent rights restrictions require it. For valuable information on pricing, previous editions, changes to current editions, and alternate formats, please visit www.cengage.com/highered to search by ISBN#, author, title, or keyword for materials in your areas of interest.

Important Notice: Media content referenced within the product description or the product text may not be available in the eBook version.

***Marriages, Families, and Relationships:
Making Choices in a Diverse Society,
Fourteenth edition***

**Mary Ann Lamanna, Agnes Riedmann, and
Susan D. Stewart**

Vice President, Higher Education & Skills Product:
Erin Joyner

Product Director: Laura Ross

Product Manager: Kori Alexander

Learning Designer: Emma Guiton

Senior Content Manager: Tim Bailey

Marketing Manager: Tricia Salata

Product Assistant: Shelby Blakey

Digital Delivery Lead: Matt Altieri

Intellectual Property Analyst: Deanna Ettinger

Intellectual Property Project Manager: Carly Belcher

Designer, Creative Studio: Nadine Ballard

Production Service: MPS Limited

Cover Images: Jaromir Chalabala/Shutterstock.com
worradierek/Shutterstock.com

ROSSARINPHOTO/Shutterstock.com

Leon Harris/Cultura Creative (RF)/Alamy

© 2021, 2018 Cengage Learning, Inc.

Unless otherwise noted, all content is © Cengage.

WCN: 02-300

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. No part of this work covered by the copyright herein may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, except as permitted by U.S. copyright law, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

For product information and technology assistance, contact us at
Cengage Customer & Sales Support, 1-800-354-9706
or **support.cengage.com**.

For permission to use material from this text or product,
submit all requests online at **www.cengage.com/permissions**.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2020938334

Student Edition

ISBN: 978-0-357-36874-9

Loose-leaf Edition

ISBN: 978-0-357-36879-4

Cengage

200 Pier 4 Boulevard

Boston, MA 02210

USA

Cengage is a leading provider of customized learning solutions with employees residing in nearly 40 different countries and sales in more than 125 countries around the world. Find your local representative at **www.cengage.com**.

Cengage products are represented in Canada by Nelson Education, Ltd.

To learn more about Cengage platforms and services, register or access your online learning solution, or purchase materials for your course, visit **www.cengage.com**.



To our families, especially

Larry, Valerie, Sam, Janice, Simon, and Christie

Bill, Beth, Natalie, Alex, and Livia

Gwendolyn, Gene, Lee, Christine, Mom

and Dad

About the Authors

Mary Ann Lamanna is Professor Emerita of Sociology at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She received her bachelor's degree in political science Phi Beta Kappa from Washington University (St. Louis); master's degree in sociology (minor in psychology) from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; and doctorate in sociology from the University of Notre Dame.

Research and teaching interests include family, reproduction, and gender and law. She is the author of *Emile Durkheim on the Family* (Sage Publications, 2002) and coauthor of a book on Vietnamese refugees. She has articles in journals on law, sociology, and medical humanities. Current research concerns the sociology of literature, specifically “novels of terrorism” and a sociological analysis of Marcel Proust's novel *In Search of Lost Time*. Professor Lamanna has two adult children, Larry and Valerie.

Agnes Riedmann is Professor Emerita of Sociology at California State University, Stanislaus. She attended Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa. She received her bachelor's degree from Creighton University and her doctorate from the University of Nebraska. Her professional areas of interest are theory, family, and the sociology of body image. She is the author of *Science That Colonizes: A Critique of Fertility Studies in Africa* (Temple University Press, 1993). Dr. Riedmann spent the academic year 2008–09 as a Fulbright Professor at the Graduate School for Social Research, affiliated with the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, where she taught courses in family, social policy, and globalization. She has two children, Beth and Bill; two granddaughters, Natalie and Livia; and a grandson, Alex.

Susan D. Stewart is a Professor of Sociology at Iowa State University. She received her bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Fredonia and her doctorate from Bowling Green State University. Her professional areas of interest are gender, family, and demography and specifically how complex living arrangements affect the physical and emotional health of children, adults, and families. She is the author of *Brave New Stepfamilies* (Sage Publications, 2007), *Co-Sleeping in Families* (Rowan & Littlefield, 2016), and *Multicultural Stepfamilies*, with co-author Gordon Limb (Cognella, 2020). Amazingly, Dr. Stewart discovered she used the third edition of the Lamanna and Riedmann textbook in her undergraduate sociology of families class back in the 1980s! She lives in Ames, Iowa, with her sixteen-year-old daughter and husband and is a member of two generations of stepfamilies.

BRIEF CONTENTS

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| CHAPTER 1 | Making Family Choices in a Changing Society 3 |
| CHAPTER 2 | Exploring Relationships and Families 29 |
| CHAPTER 3 | Gender Identities and Families 55 |
| CHAPTER 4 | Our Sexual Selves 79 |
| CHAPTER 5 | Love and Choosing a Life Partner 109 |
| CHAPTER 6 | Nonmarital Lifestyles: Living Alone, Cohabiting, and Other Options 137 |
| CHAPTER 7 | Marriage: From Social Institution to Private Relationship 163 |
| CHAPTER 8 | Deciding about Parenthood 189 |
| CHAPTER 9 | Raising Children in a Diverse Society 219 |
| CHAPTER 10 | Work and Family 247 |
| CHAPTER 11 | Communication in Relationships, Marriages, and Families 275 |
| CHAPTER 12 | Power and Violence in Families 305 |
| CHAPTER 13 | Family Stress, Crisis, and Resilience 335 |
| CHAPTER 14 | Divorce and Relationship Dissolution 363 |
| CHAPTER 15 | Remarriages and Stepfamilies 397 |
| CHAPTER 16 | Aging and Multigenerational Families 429 |

CONTENTS



1

MAKING FAMILY CHOICES IN A CHANGING SOCIETY 3

DEFINING FAMILY 4

- Family Functions 5
- Structural Family Definitions 6
- Postmodern: There Is No Typical Family 7
- Adapting Family Definitions to the Postmodern Family 7

Facts about Families American Families Today 8

- Relaxed Institutional Control over Relationship Choices:
“Family Decline” or “Family Change”? 9

Facts about Families Focus on Children 11

A SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION: PERSONAL TROUBLES AND SOME SOCIAL CONDITIONS THAT IMPACT FAMILIES 12

- Ever-New Biological and Communication
Technologies 13
- Economic Conditions 14
- Historical Periods and Events 17
- Demographic Characteristics: Age Structure 17

Demographic Characteristics: Religion 18

Demographic Characteristics: Race and Ethnicity 19

A Closer Look at Diversity Immigration, Public Policy,
and Family Ties 20

Family Policy: A Family Impact Lens 21

THE FREEDOM AND PRESSURES OF CHOOSING 22

Making Informed Decisions 23

FAMILIES OF INDIVIDUALS 24

Families as a Place to Belong 24

Familistic (Communal) Values and Individualistic
(Self-Fulfillment) Values 24

People as Individuals
and Family Members 25

MARRIAGES AND FAMILIES: FOUR THEMES 26



2

EXPLORING RELATIONSHIPS AND FAMILIES 29

SCIENCE: TRANSCENDING PERSONAL EXPERIENCE 30

The Blinders of Personal Experience 30

Issues for Thought Studying Families and Ethnicity 31

Scientific Norms 31

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE FAMILY 32

The Family Ecology Perspective 32

The Family Life Course Development Framework 35

The Structure-Functional Perspective 37

The Interaction-Constructionist Perspective 37

A Closer Look at Diversity Hetero-Gay Families 39
Exchange Theory 39
Family Systems Theory 40
Conflict and Feminist Theory 41
The Biosocial Perspective 42
Attachment Theory 43

Facts about Families How Family Researchers Study Religion from Various Theoretical Perspectives 44
The Relationship between Theory and Research 44

DESIGNING A SCIENTIFIC STUDY: SOME BASIC PRINCIPLES 45
Cross-Sectional versus Longitudinal Data 46
Deductive versus Inductive Reasoning 46
Quantitative versus Qualitative Research 46
Defining Terms 47
Samples and Generalization 47
Data-Collection Techniques 48
The Ethics of Research on Families 51



3

GENDER IDENTITIES AND FAMILIES 55

OUR GENDER IDENTITIES 56
Gender Is Fluid 57
Gender and Culture 59
Doing Gender: To What Extent Do Individuals Follow Cultural Expectations? 61

A Closer Look at Diversity Racial and Ethnic Differences in Gender Roles 62

GENDER SOCIALIZATION 65
Gender Socialization Theories 65
Gender Socialization—The Process 66
Following Traditional Gender Expectations Can Be Costly 68

GENDER IDENTITIES IN SOCIAL CONTEXT 69
Religion 69
Government and Politics 70
Education 71
Economics 72

GENDER AND SOCIAL CHANGE 73
Feminism and Women's Rights 73
Gender Today and in the Future 75



4

OUR SEXUAL SELVES 79

SEXUAL DEVELOPMENT AND IDENTITY 80
Children's Sexual Development 80
Sexual Identity 80

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON HUMAN SEXUALITY 82
The Exchange Perspective: Rewards, Costs, and Equality in Sexual Relationships 83
The Interactionist Perspective: Negotiating Cultural Messages 83

CHANGING CULTURAL SCRIPTS 84
Early America: Patriarchal Sex 84
The Twentieth Century: The Emergence of Expressive Sexuality 84

Issues for Thought Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault in the Age of #MeToo 86

As We Make Choices Rethinking Virginity 88
The 1980s and 1990s: Challenges to Heterosexism 88
The Twenty-First Century: Risk, Caution—and Intimacy 90

Facts about Families How Do We Know What We Know? The Kinsey Institute and Conducting Sexuality Research 91

SEXUAL VALUES 92

Sex Outside Committed Relationships 92
The Sexual Double Standard 93
Sex within Committed Relationships 94

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES CONCERNING SEXUALITY 97

Sexual infidelity 97
Pornography 100
Sex Education 101
Sexual Health 103

SEXUAL RESPONSIBILITY 104



5

LOVE AND CHOOSING A LIFE PARTNER 109

LOVE AND COMMITMENT 110

Defining Love 111
Commitment 111
Gender Differences in Love 112
Sternberg's Triangle Theory of Love 113
Attachment Theory and Loving Relationships 113

Fact about Families Six Love Styles 114
Three Things Love Is Not 114

MATE SELECTION: THE PROCESS OF SELECTING A COMMITTED PARTNER 116

Arranged versus Free-Choice Marriages 116
Social Exchange 117

ASSORTATIVE MATING: A FILTERING-OUT PROCESS 118

As We Make Choices Looking for Love on the Internet 120

HETEROGAMY IN RELATIONSHIPS 123

Interracial and Inter-Ethnic Unions 123
Interfaith Relationships 125
Heterogamy and Relationship Quality and Stability 126
Minimizing Mate Selection Risk 126

MEANDERING TOWARD MARRIAGE: DEVELOPING THE RELATIONSHIP AND MOVING TOWARD COMMITMENT 127

Contemporary Dating 128
Dating versus "Nondating" 128
Technology and Dating 129
From Dating to Commitment 130

DATING VIOLENCE: A SERIOUS SIGN OF TROUBLE 132

THE POSSIBILITY OF BREAKING UP 133

NURTURING LOVING AND COMMITTED RELATIONSHIPS 134



6

NONMARITAL LIFESTYLES: LIVING ALONE, COHABITING, AND OTHER OPTIONS 137

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE SINGLE? 138

REASONS FOR MORE UNMARRIEDS 138

Demographic, Economic, and Technological Changes 140
Social and Cultural Changes 141

SINGLES: THEIR VARIOUS LIVING ARRANGEMENTS 142

Living Alone 142

Living Apart Together 143

Living with Parents 144

Group or Communal Living 146

COHABITATION AND FAMILY LIFE 147

A Closer Look at Diversity The Different Meanings of

Cohabitation for Various Race/Ethnic Groups 149

Characteristics of Cohabitators 150

Why Do People Cohabit? 150
 Cohabitation as an Alternative to Marriage 151
 The Cohabiting Relationship 153
As We Make Choices Some Things to Know about the
 Legal Side of Living Together 154

Cohabiting Parents and Outcomes for Children 154
 Cohabiting Same-Sex Couples 157

**MAINTAINING SUPPORTIVE
 SOCIAL NETWORKS AND LIFE
 SATISFACTION 158**



7

**MARRIAGE: FROM SOCIAL INSTITUTION
 TO PRIVATE RELATIONSHIP 163**

**MARITAL STATUS: THE CHANGING
 PICTURE 164**

Fewer Heterosexual Married Couples 164
 Legal Same-Sex Marriage 165

Facts about Families Legal Same-Sex Marriage as a
 Successful Social Movement 166

**THE TIME-HONORED MARRIAGE
 PREMISE: PERMANENCE AND SEXUAL
 EXCLUSIVITY 166**

The Expectation of Permanence 167
 The Expectation of Sexual Exclusivity 168

Issues for Thought Three Very Different Subcultures
 with Norms Contrary to Sexual Exclusivity 169

**FROM “YOKE MATES” TO “SOUL MATES”:
 A CHANGING MARRIAGE PREMISE 170**

Weakened Kinship Authority 170
 Finding A Spouse on One’s Own 171
 Love and Marriage 172

DEINSTITUTIONALIZED MARRIAGE 172

Institutional Marriage 172
 Companionate Marriage 172

Individualized Marriage 173
 Marriage and Cohabitation Begin to Look Alike 174

**DEINSTITUTIONALIZED MARRIAGE:
 EXAMINING THE CONSEQUENCES 175**

Health, Happiness, Finances, and Child Outcomes:
 Does Marriage Matter? 175
 Marital Status and Poverty 175

A Closer Look at Diversity African Americans and
 “Jumping the Broom” 176

Additional Influences on Outcomes 176
 Selection versus Experience Effects 178

**DEINSTITUTIONALIZED MARRIAGE:
 THE POLICY DEBATE 180**

Policies from the Family Decline Perspective 180

Facts about Families The War on Poverty 181

Policies from the Family Change Perspective 181
 Current Policy Measures: Take-Aways from Both the
 Decline and the Change Perspectives 181

**COUPLE SATISFACTION AND CHOICES
 THROUGHOUT LIFE 183**

Preparation for Marriage 183
 The First Years Together 183



8

DECIDING ABOUT PARENTHOOD 189

**FERTILITY TRENDS IN THE UNITED
 STATES 190**

Historical Patterns of Fertility and Family Size 191
 Differential Fertility Rates by Education, Income, Race,
 and Ethnicity 192

**THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN DECIDING
 ABOUT PARENTHOOD 193**

Issues for Thought The Medicalization of Childbirth
 and Caesarean Sections: Should a Delivery Be
 Planned for Convenience? 194

Rewards and Costs of Parenthood 196
 How Children Affect Couple Happiness 197
 Choosing to Be Childfree 198

HAVING CHILDREN: OPTIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES 199

Timing Parenthood: Earlier versus Later 200
 Having Only One Child 201
 Nonmarital Births 202
 Single Mothers by Choice 203

PREVENTING PREGNANCY 206

ABORTION 206

The Politics of Family Planning, Contraception, and Abortion 207
 Deciding about an Abortion 209

INVOLUNTARY INFERTILITY AND REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY 210

Reproductive Technology: Social and Ethical Issues 211
 Reproductive Technology: Making Personal Choices 212

ADOPTION 213

The Adoption Process 213

A Closer Look at Diversity Through the Lens of One Woman, Adopted Transracially in 1962 214

Transracial Adoption 215
 Adoption of Older Children and Children with Disabilities 215
 International Adoptions 216



9

RAISING CHILDREN IN A DIVERSE SOCIETY 219

PARENTING IN TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY AMERICA 220

Parenting Challenges and Resilience 221
 A Stress Model of Parental Effectiveness 222
 The Transition to Parenthood 223

GENDER AND PARENTING 224

Doing Motherhood 224
 Doing Fatherhood 225

WHAT DO CHILDREN NEED? 227

Infants 227
 Preschool and School-Age Children 227
 Teenagers 227

EXPERTS ADVISE AUTHORITATIVE PARENTING 228

A Closer Look at Diversity Straight Parents and LGBTQ+ Children 229

Is Spanking Ever Appropriate? 230

SOCIAL CLASS AND PARENTING 230

Middle- and Upper-Middle-Class Parents 230
 Working-Class Parents 232
 Low-Income and Poverty-Level Parents 233

PARENTING AND DIVERSITY: SEXUAL IDENTITY, RACIAL AND ETHNICITY AND RELIGION 234

Same-Sex Parents 234
 African American Parents 235

Issues for Thought Heteronormative Bias within the LGBTQ+ Community 236

Native American Parents 237
 Hispanic Parents 237
 Asian American Parents 238
 Parents of Multiracial Children 238
 Parents in Transnational Families 239
 Religious Minority Parents 239
 Raising Children of Minority Race, Ethnic, Religious, or Gender Identity in a Prejudicial and Discriminatory Society 239

GRANDPARENTS AS PARENTS 240

Facts about Families Foster Parenting 241

PARENTING YOUNG ADULT CHILDREN 242

TOWARD BETTER PARENTING 243



10

WORK AND FAMILY 247

THE INTERFACE OF WORK AND FAMILY LIFE 249

Gender and the Work–Family Interface 249

MEN’S WORK AND FAMILY ROLES 250

“Good Providers” and “Involved Fathers” 251

WOMEN’S WORK AND FAMILY ROLES 253

Women in the Labor Force 253

Women’s Occupations 253

The Female–Male Wage Gap 254

Stay-at-Home Moms 255

TWO-EARNER PARTNERSHIPS AND WORK–FAMILY OPTIONS 256

Two-Career Partnerships 256

Working Part-Time 256

Shift Work and Variations 256

Doing Paid Work at Home 257

UNPAID FAMILY WORK 257

Household Labor 258

Why Do Women Do More Household Labor? 259

Diversity and Household Labor 260

JUGGLING EMPLOYMENT AND FAMILY WORK 261

Two-Earner Families and Children’s Well-Being 261

Issues for Thought When One Woman’s Workplace Is Another’s Family 262

SOCIAL POLICY, WORK, AND FAMILY 263

What Are the Issues? 263

What’s Needed to Address the Issues? 264

Facts about Families Selecting a Childcare Facility—Ten Considerations *How to go about Choosing a Day Care Facility?* 267

As We Make Choices Self-Care (Home Alone) Kids 268

Who Will Provide What’s Needed to Meet the Challenges? 269

Family-Friendly Workplace Policies and Unintended Consequences 270

THE TWO-EARNER COUPLE’S RELATIONSHIP 270

Fairness and Couple Happiness 271



11

COMMUNICATION IN RELATIONSHIPS, MARRIAGES, AND FAMILIES 275

FAMILY COHESION AND CONFLICT 276

Characteristics of Cohesive Families 277

Children, Family Cohesion, and Unresolved Conflict 278

As We Make Choices Communicating with Children—How to Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk 280

COMMUNICATION AND RELATIONSHIP SATISFACTION 281

Affection and Antagonism 281

Communicate Positive Feelings 282

Facts about Families Ten Rules for Successful Relationships 283

STRESS, COPING, AND CONFLICT IN RELATIONSHIPS 284

Conflict among Happy Couples 284

Indirect Expressions of Anger 285

JOHN GOTTMAN’S RESEARCH ON COUPLE COMMUNICATION AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT 285

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse 286

Positive vs. Negative Affect 287

**GENDER DIFFERENCES
IN COMMUNICATION 287**

**WORKING THROUGH CONFLICTS IN
POSITIVE WAYS—TEN GUIDELINES 290**

- Guideline 1: Express Anger Directly and with Kindness 290
- Guideline 2: Check Out Your Interpretation of Others’ Behaviors 291

Issues for Thought Digital Communication and the Rise of Social Media 292

- Guideline 3: To Avoid Attacks, Use “I” Statements 294
- Guideline 4: Avoid Mixed, or Double, Messages 294
- Guideline 5: When You Can, Choose the Time and Place Carefully 294

- Guideline 6: Address a Specific Issue, Ask for a Specific Change, and Be Open to Compromise 295
- Guideline 7: Be Willing to Change Yourself 295
- Guideline 8: Don’t Try to Win 295
- Guideline 9: Practice Forgiveness 295
- Guideline 10: End the Argument 296
- Relationship and Family Counseling 296

**TALK TO A STRANGER:
THE IMPORTANCE
OF “OUTSIDE OTHERS” 297**

**IMPROVING COMMUNICATION, SETTING
BOUNDARIES, AND TAKING CARE OF
YOURSELF 299**

- When Is It Okay to Let Go? 300



12

**POWER AND VIOLENCE
IN FAMILIES 305**

WHAT IS POWER? 306

- Power Bases 306

**THE RESOURCE HYPOTHESIS: A CLASSICAL
PERSPECTIVE ON MARITAL POWER 308**

- Resources and Gender 308
- Resources in Cultural Context 308

**CURRENT RESEARCH ON COUPLE
POWER 308**

- Decision-making 308
- Division of Household Labor 309
- Money Allocation 309
- Ability to Influence the Other 310
- Diversity and Marital Power 310

A Closer Look at Diversity Mobile Phones, Migrant Mothers, and Conjugal Power 311

**POWER POLITICS VERSUS FREELY
COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIPS 312**

As We Make Choices Domination and Submission in Couple Communication Patterns 313

FAMILY VIOLENCE 314

- IPV Data Sources 314

Facts about Families Major Sources of Family-Violence Data 315

- The Incidence of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) 316
- Correlates of Family Violence 316

**GENDER AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE
(IPV) 317**

- Situational Couple Violence 318
- Coercive Controlling Violence 319

Facts about Families Signs of Coercive control 320

- Male Victims of Heterosexual Terrorism 323
- Abuse among Same-Gender, Bisexual, and Transgender Couples 324

**VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN—CHILD
MALTREATMENT 324**

- Neglect and Abuse 325
- How Extensive Is Child Maltreatment? 326

SIBLING VIOLENCE 327

CHILD-TO-PARENT VIOLENCE 328

STOPPING FAMILY VIOLENCE 328

- Separating Victim from Perpetrator 328

THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE 328

- The Therapeutic Approach 329
- Macro or Structural Approaches 330



13

FAMILY STRESS, CRISIS, AND RESILIENCE 335

DEFINING FAMILY STRESS, CRISIS, AND RESILIENCE 336

Individual Stress 336

Family Stress 337

Facts about Families Stress and Children 338

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON FAMILY STRESS AND CRISES 339

A Closer Look at Diversity Young Caregivers 340

WHAT PRECIPITATES A FAMILY CRISIS? 341

Types of Stressors 341

Issues for Thought Caring for Patients at Home—A Family Stressor 345

Facts about Families FADHD, Autism, Stigma, and Stress 346

Stressor Overload 348

THE COURSE OF A FAMILY CRISIS 348

THE PERIOD OF DISORGANIZATION 349

Recovery 350

FAMILY STRESS, CRISIS, ADJUSTMENT, AND ADAPTATION: A THEORETICAL MODEL 351

Stressor Pileup 351

Appraising the Situation 352

Crisis-Meeting Resources 353

MEETING CRISES CREATIVELY 354

A Positive Outlook 354

Spiritual Values and Support Groups 355

Open, Supportive Communication 355

Adaptability 355

Informal Social Support 355

An Extended Family 356

Community Resources 357

Issues for Thought When a Parent Is in Prison 358

CRISIS: DISASTER OR OPPORTUNITY? 359



14

DIVORCE AND RELATIONSHIP DISSOLUTION 363

TODAY'S DIVORCE RATE 364

The Divorce Divide 365

Starter Marriages and Silver Divorces 365

Divorce among Gay and Lesbian Couples 366

Redivorce 366

WHY DID THE DIVORCE RATE RISE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY? 367

Demographic Factors 367

Economic Factors 368

Weakening Social, Moral, and Legal Constraints 369

High Expectations for Marriage 369

Interpersonal Dynamics 370

WHY IS THE DIVORCE RATE DROPPING? 370

THINKING ABOUT DIVORCE: WEIGHING THE ALTERNATIVES 370

“What’s Stopping Me?” Barriers to Divorce 370

“Would I Be Happier?” Alternatives to the Marriage 371

“Can This Marriage Be Saved?” Rewards of the Current Marriage 371

Other Solutions to Marital Distress 372

GETTING THE DIVORCE 373

- The “Black Box” of Divorce 373
- Initiating a Divorce 373
- Legal Aspects of Divorce 373
- Divorce Mediation 373
- Divorce “Fallout” 374

THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF DIVORCE 376

- Consequences for Children: Single-Parent Families and Poverty 376
- Economic Losses for Women 377
- Economic Losses for Men 378
- Child Support 378

THE SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL CONSEQUENCES OF DIVORCE 380

- Consequences for Women and Men 380
- How Divorce Affects Children 381
- The “Child of Divorce” Perspective 381

CHILD-CUSTODY ISSUES 385

- The Residential Parent 386
- The Visiting Parent 386
- Joint Custody 388

STYLES OF PARENTAL RELATIONSHIPS AFTER DIVORCE 390

IMPROVING DIVORCE OUTCOMES 391

- As We Make Choices* Rules for Successful Co-Parenting 392



15

REMARRIAGES AND STEPFAMILIES 397

DEFINING AND MEASURING STEPFAMILIES 398

- What Makes a Stepfamily? 398
- Issues for Thought* What Makes a Stepfamily? 399
- Various Types of Stepfamilies 399
- Perceptions of Stepfamilies: Stereotypes and Stigmas 404

CHOOSING PARTNERS THE NEXT TIME 405

- Dating with Children 405
- What Kinds of People Become Stepparents? 406
- Second Weddings 406

HAPPINESS, SATISFACTION, AND STABILITY IN REMARRIAGE 407

DAY-TO-DAY LIVING IN STEPFAMILIES 409

- Challenges to Developing a Stepfamily Identity 409
- A Closer Look at Diversity* Do You Speak Stepfamily? 410
- The Stepfamily System 411
- Stepfamily Roles 413
- Stepfamily Relationships 416
- Financial and Legal Issues 418

WELL-BEING IN STEPFAMILIES 421

- The Well-Being of Parents and Stepparents 421
- The Well-Being of Children 422

CREATING SUPPORTIVE STEPFAMILIES 423



16

AGING AND MULTIGENERATIONAL FAMILIES 429

OUR AGING POPULATION 430

- Aging Baby Boomers 431
- Longer Life Expectancy 431
- Racial and Ethnic Composition of the Older American Population 432
- Older Americans and the Diversity of Family Forms 432

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF OLDER AMERICANS 433

- As We Make Choices* Want to Call or Visit an Isolated Senior? 434
- Racial and Ethnic Differences in Older Americans’ Living Arrangements 434

| | |
|---|--|
| Gender Differences in Older Americans' Living Arrangements 434 | As We Make Choices Tips for Step-Grandparents 444 |
| AGING IN TODAY'S ECONOMY 435 | Facts about Families Community Resources for Elder Care 445 |
| Retirement? 436 | Issues for Thought Filial Responsibility Laws 446 |
| Gender Issues and Older Women's Finances 437 | Adult Children as Elder Care Providers 446 |
| RELATIONSHIP SATISFACTION IN LATER LIFE 437 | Gender Differences in Providing Elder Care 447 |
| Sexuality in Later Life 437 | The Sandwich Generation 448 |
| LATER-LIFE DIVORCE, WIDOWHOOD, AND REPARTNERING 438 | Elder Care—Joy, Ambivalence, Reluctance, and Conflict 448 |
| Widowhood and Widowerhood 438 | Racial and Ethnic Diversity and Family Elder Care 450 |
| Aging and Repartnering 439 | ELDER ABUSE AND NEGLECT 450 |
| MULTIGENERATIONAL TIES: OLDER PARENTS, ADULT CHILDREN, AND GRANDCHILDREN 439 | Elder Maltreatment by Family Members 451 |
| Older Parents and Adult Children 439 | Two Models to Explain Elder Abuse 451 |
| Grandparenthood 441 | THE CHANGING AMERICAN FAMILY AND ELDER CARE IN THE FUTURE 452 |
| AGING FAMILIES AND CAREGIVING 443 | Same-Sex Families and Elder Care 453 |
| | TOWARD BETTER CAREGIVING 453 |
| | The Private Face of Family Caregiving 454 |
| | The Public Face of Family Caregiving 454 |

Glossary 458
References 468
Name Index 560
Subject Index 575

BOXES

A Closer Look at Diversity

- Immigration, Public Policy, and Family Ties 20
- Hetero-Gay Families 39
- Racial and Ethnic Differences in Gender Roles 62
- The Different Meanings of Cohabitation for Various Race/
Ethnic Groups 149
- African Americans and “Jumping the Broom” 176
- Through the Lens of One Woman, Adopted Transracially
in 1962 214
- Straight Parents and LGBTQ+ Children 229
- Mobile Phones, Migrant Mothers, and Conjugal Power 311
- Young Caregivers 340
- Do You Speak Stepfamily? 410

As We Make Choices

- Rethinking Virginity 88
- Looking for Love on the Internet 120
- Some Things to Know about the Legal Side of Living
Together 154
- Self-Care (Home Alone) Kids 268
- Communicating with Children—How to Talk So Kids Will
Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk 280
- Domination and Submission in Couple Communication
Patterns 313
- Rules for Successful Co-Parenting 392
- Want to Call or Visit an Isolated Senior? 434
- Tips for Step-Grandparents 444

Facts about Families

- American Families Today 8
- Focus on Children 11
- How Family Researchers Study Religion from Various
Theoretical Perspectives 44
- How Do We Know What We Know? The Kinsey Institute
and Conducting Sexuality Research 91
- Six Love Styles 114
- Legal Same-Sex Marriage as a Successful Social
Movement 166
- The War on Poverty 181
- Foster Parenting 241
- Selecting a Childcare Facility—Ten Considerations *How to
go about Choosing a Day Care Facility?* 267
- Ten Rules for Successful Relationships 283
- Major Sources of Family-Violence Data 315
- Signs of Coercive Control 320
- Stress and Children 338
- FADHD, Autism, Stigma, and Stress 346
- Community Resources for Elder Care 445

Issues for Thought

- Studying Families and Ethnicity 31
- Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault in the Age
of #MeToo 86
- Three Very Different Subcultures with Norms Contrary
to Sexual Exclusivity 169
- The Medicalization of Childbirth and Caesarean Sections:
Should a Delivery Be Planned for Convenience? 194
- Heteronormative Bias within the LGBTQ+ Community 236
- When One Woman’s Workplace Is Another’s Family 262
- Digital Communication and the Rise of Social Media 292
- Caring for Patients at Home—A Family Stressor 345
- When a Parent Is in Prison 358
- What Makes a Stepfamily? 399
- Filial Responsibility Laws 446

PREFACE

As we complete our work on the fourteenth edition of this text, we become aware of how suddenly society and family life can change. If ever there was a dramatic example of how the social environment affects personal and family life, the global pandemic Covid-19 has unfortunately provided it. We had finished revising much of this edition before Covid-19 changed life as we knew it. By the time we were finishing our revision of Chapter 16, however, the virus had quieted cities and overwhelmed hospitals. We recognize the pandemic in Chapter 16 with a new box, “As We Make Choices: Want to Call or Visit an Isolated Senior?”

So many questions and hypotheses come to mind regarding how Covid-19 is likely to impact families. We, your authors, are already beginning to think about how this monumental pandemic will impact the content of future editions. We imagine that Covid-19 will focus greater attention on what family means to us as well as on the critical importance of traditional family functions such as raising children and providing practical and social support to family members. How will Covid-19 impact families’ motivation and ability to perform these functions? In what ways might we expect family theory and research respond to Covid-19? Will this pandemic affect our choices about our preferred family forms? Will people be more likely to marry than to cohabit, for instance? Or will their decisions go in other directions? How might parenting concerns, issues, and behaviors change? What about the work–family interface? How do families fare when one or more family members suddenly begin working from home? Or later, when home-based workers return to work?

How will mandatory quarantines affect romantic relationships? It was only a matter of time before researchers would look into the impact of Covid-19 on sex. Only weeks after the virus, psychologist Jessica Zucker explored this in “Health, Sex and Coronavirus: How Does Sexual Intimacy Change During a Pandemic?” In an Instagram poll, whereas 50 percent of respondents said their sex life had improved, 50 percent said their sex life had worsened—the “six feet apart rule” would make sex difficult to achieve for those not already living with a partner. It’s important to point out, however, that the research on “baby booms” following natural disasters, such black-outs and hurricanes, is mostly mythology. In general, people avoid bringing children into the world when economic times are uncertain.

Then too, how might family power relations change? We’re seeing a divide between how older Americans view this pandemic and how a number of young adults perceive the danger and what it requires of them. We’ve all

seen the images of young people partying on the beach during Spring Break in the midst of social distancing.

Will this divide affect family life? And if so, in what ways? Moreover, unfortunately we’re hearing about domestic violence during quarantine. An example is Wendy Patrick’s (J.D., Ph.D.) article in the March 19, 2020, online *Psychology Today* blog, “Domestic Abuse During Quarantine: When the Threat is Inside, What Victims Trapped at Home with an Abuser Need to Know” (psychologytoday.com).

How might theory and research on family stress and crisis—which assuredly this pandemic causes!—help us to understand what’s going on in ourselves, our families, our communities, and our world? What can research findings tell us about what helps families to pull together during a crisis such as this? How might Covid-19 impact the divorce rate? On the one hand, stress puts added strain on couple relationships, and couples with poor relationship quality who are forced together for months may realize they should not stay together. On the other hand, couples under mandatory quarantine may rediscover what they love about each other and may count their blessings in an uncertain world. This remains to be seen. On another front, in what ways does Covid-19 impact aging families, their younger relatives, and caregivers? We were nearly finished revising Chapter 16 when this pandemic broke out and had time to write a box relating to this unprecedented Covid-19 outbreak: “As We Make Choices: Want to Call or Visit an Isolated Senior?”

Covid-19 aside, we authors look back with pride over thirteen earlier editions. Together, these represent more than forty years spent observing and rethinking American families. Not only have families dramatically changed since we began our first edition but also has social science’s interpretation of family life. It is gratifying to be a part of the enterprise dedicated to studying families and sharing this knowledge with students.

Our own perspective on families has developed and changed as well. Indeed, as marriages and families have evolved over the last four decades, so has this text. In the beginning, this text was titled *Marriages and Families*—a title that was the first to purposefully use plurals to recognize the diversity of family forms—a diversity that we noted as early as 1980. Now the text is titled *Marriages, Families, and Relationships*. We added the term *relationships* to recognize the increasing incidence of individuals forming commitments outside of legal marriage. At the same time, we continue to recognize and appreciate the fact that a large majority of Americans—now including same-sex couples—are married or will marry.

Hence, we consciously persist in giving due attention to the values and issues of married couples. Of course, the concept of marriage itself has changed appreciably. No longer necessarily heterosexual, marriage is now an institution to which same-sex couples across the United States and in a growing number of other nations have legal access.

Meanwhile, the book's subtitle, *Making Choices in a Diverse Society*, continues to speak about the significant changes that have taken place since our first edition. To help accomplish our goal of encouraging students to better appreciate the diversity of today's families, we present the latest research and statistical information on varied family forms (including those with lesbian, gay, transgender, and other non-cisgender family members) and families of diverse race and ethnicity, socioeconomic, and immigration status, among other variables.

We continue to take account not only of increasing racial and ethnic diversity but also of the fluidity of the concepts *race* and *ethnicity* themselves. We pay attention to the socially constructed nature of these concepts. We integrate these materials on family diversity throughout the textbook, always with an eye toward avoiding stereotypical and simplistic generalizations and instead explaining data in sociological and sociohistorical contexts. Interested from the beginning in the various ways that gender plays out in families, we have persistently focused on areas in which gender relations have changed and continue to change, as well as on areas in which there has been relatively little change.

In addition to our attention to gender, we have studied demography and history, and we have paid increasing attention to the impact of social structure on family life. We have highlighted the family ecology perspective in keeping with the importance of social context and public policy. We cannot help but be aware of the cultural and political tensions surrounding families today. At the same time, in recent editions and in response to our reviewers, we have given heightened attention to the contributions of biology and psychology and to a social psychological understanding of family interaction and its consequences.

We continue to affirm the power of families as they influence the courses of individual lives. Meanwhile, we give considerable attention to policies needed to provide support for today's families: working parents, families in financial stress, single-parent families, families of varied racial and ethnic backgrounds, stepfamilies, same-sex couples, and other nontraditional families—as well as the classic nuclear family.

We note that, despite changes, marriage and family values continue to be salient in contemporary American life. Our students come to a marriage and family course because family life is important to them. Our aim

now, as it has been from the first edition, is to help students question assumptions and reconcile conflicting ideas and values as they make choices throughout their lives. We enjoy and benefit from the contact we've had with faculty and students who have used this book. Their enthusiasm and criticism have stimulated many changes in the book's content. To know that a supportive audience is interested in our approach to the study of families has enabled us to continue our work over a long period.

THE BOOK'S THEMES

We developed the book's themes by looking at the interplay between findings in the social sciences and the experiences of the people around us. Ideas for topics continue to emerge, not only from current research and reliable journalism, but also from the needs and concerns we perceive among our own family members, students, and friends. The attitudes, behaviors, and relationships of real people have a complexity that we have tried to portray. Interwoven with these themes is the concept of the life course—the idea that adults may change by means of reevaluating and restructuring throughout their lives. This emphasis on the life course creates a comprehensive picture of marriages, families, and relationships and encourages us to continue to add topics that are new to family texts. Meanwhile, this book makes these points:

- People's personal problems and their interaction with the social environment change as they and their relationships and families grow older.
- People reexamine their relationships and their expectations for relationships as they and their marriages, relationships, and families mature.
- Because family forms are more flexible today, people may change the type or style of their relationships and families throughout their lives.

These themes appear throughout this text: People are influenced by the society around them as they make choices, social conditions change in ways that may impede or support family life, there is an interplay between individual families and the larger society, and individuals make family-related choices throughout adulthood.

The process of creating and maintaining marriages, families, and relationships requires many personal choices; people continue to make family-related decisions, both big and small, throughout their lives. Making decisions about family life begins in early adulthood and lasts into old age. People choose whether they will adhere to traditional beliefs, values, and attitudes about

gender roles or negotiate more flexible roles and relationships. They may rethink their values about sex and become more informed and comfortable with their sexual choices.

Women and men may choose to remain single, to form heterosexual or same-sex relationships outside of marriage, or to marry. They have the option today of staying single longer before marrying. Single people make choices about their lives ranging from decisions about living arrangements to those about whether to engage in sex only in marriage or committed relationships, to engage in sex for recreation, or to abstain from sex altogether. Many unmarried individuals live as cohabiting couples, often with children. Once individuals form couple relationships, they have to decide how they are going to structure their lives as committed partners. Will they have children? Will other family members live with them—siblings or parents, for example, or adult children later?

Couples will make these decisions not once, but over and over during their lifetimes. Within a committed relationship, partners also choose how they will deal with conflict. Will they try to ignore conflicts? Will they vent their anger in hostile, alienating, or physically violent ways? Or will they practice supportive ways of communicating, disagreeing, and negotiating—ways that emphasize sharing and can deepen intimacy?

How will the partners distribute power in the marriage? Will they work toward relationships in which each family member is more concerned with helping and supporting others than with gaining a power advantage? How will the partners allocate work responsibilities in the home? What value will they place on their sexual lives together? Throughout their experience, family members continually face decisions about how to balance each one's need for individuality with the need for togetherness.

Parents also have choices. In raising their children, they can choose the authoritative parenting style, for example, in which parents take an active role in responsibly guiding and monitoring their children. However, how much guidance is too much? At what point do involved parents become *over* involved parents—that is, “helicopter parents”?

Many partners face decisions about whether to separate or divorce. They weigh the pros and cons, asking themselves which is the better alternative: living together as they are or separating? Even when a couple decides to separate or divorce, there are further decisions to make: Will they cooperate as much as possible or insist on blame and revenge? What living and economic support arrangements will work best for themselves and their children? How will they handle the legal process? The majority of divorced individuals eventually face decisions about forming relationships with new

partners. In the absence of firm cultural models, they choose how they will define remarriage and stepfamily relationships.

When families encounter crises—and every family will face *some crises*—members must make additional decisions. Will they view each crisis as a challenge to be met, or will they blame one another? What resources can they use to handle the crisis? Then, too, as more and more Americans live longer, families will “age.” As a result, more and more Americans will have not only living grandparents but also great grandparents. And increasingly, we will face issues concerning giving—and receiving—family elder care.

In the past, people tended to emphasize the dutiful performance of social roles in marriages and families for others. Today, people view committed relationships as those in which they expect to find companionship, intimacy, and emotional support for themselves. From its first edition, this book has examined the implications of this shift and placed these implications within social scientific perspective. Individualism, economic pressure, time pressures, social diversity, and an awareness of committed relationships' potential impermanence are features of the social context in which personal decision making takes place. With each edition, we recognize again that, as fewer social guidelines remain fixed, personal decision making becomes both more open and perhaps more challenging.

An emphasis on knowledgeable decision making does not mean that individuals can completely control their lives. People can influence but never directly determine how those around them behave or feel about them. Partners cannot control one another's changes over time, and they cannot avoid all accidents, illnesses, unemployment, separations, or deaths. Society-wide conditions may create unavoidable crises for individual families. However, families can control how they respond to such crises. Their responses will meet their own needs better when they refuse to react automatically and choose instead to act as a consequence of knowledgeable decision making.

Tension frequently exists between individuals and their social environment. Many personal troubles result from societal influences, values, or assumptions; inadequate societal support for family goals; and conflict between family values and individual values. By understanding some of these possible sources of tension and conflict, individuals can perceive their personal troubles more clearly and work constructively toward solutions. They may choose to form or join groups to achieve family goals. They may become involved in the political process to develop state or federal social policy that is supportive of families. The accumulated decisions of individuals and families also shape the social environment.

KEY FEATURES

With its ongoing, thorough updating and inclusion of current research and its emphasis on students' being able to make choices in an increasingly diverse society, this book has become a principal resource for gaining insights into today's marriages, relationships, and families. Over the past twelve editions, we have had four goals in mind for student readers: first, to help them better understand themselves and their family situations; second, to make students more conscious of the personal decisions that they will make throughout their lives and of the societal influences that affect those decisions; third, to help students better appreciate the variety and diversity among families today; and fourth, to encourage them to recognize the need for structural, social policy support for families. To these ends, this text has become recognized for its accessible writing style, up-to-date research, well-written features, and useful chapter learning aids.

Up-to-Date Research and Statistics

As users have come to expect, we have thoroughly updated the text's research base and statistics, emphasizing cutting-edge research that addresses the diversity of marriages and families, as well as all other topics. In accordance with this approach, users will notice several new tables and figures. Revised tables and figures have been updated with the latest available statistics—data from the U.S. Census Bureau and other governmental agencies, as well as survey and other research data.

Box Features

The several themes described earlier are reflected in the special features.

Former users will recognize our box features. The following sections describe our four feature box categories:

As We Make Choices We highlight the theme of making choices with a group of boxes throughout the text—for example, “Rethinking Virginity,” “Ten Rules for a Successful Relationship,” “Disengaging from Power Struggles,” “Selecting a Childcare Facility—Ten Considerations,” “Rules for Successful Co-Parenting,” “Tips for Step-Grandparents, and” “Want to Call or Visit an Isolated Senior?”

These feature boxes emphasize human agency and are designed to help students through crucial decisions.

A Closer Look at Diversity In addition to integrating information on cultural and ethnic diversity throughout the text proper, we have a series of features that give focused attention to instances of family

diversity—for example, “African Americans and ‘Jumping the Broom,’” “Diversity and Childcare,” “Family Ties and Immigration,” “Straight Parents and LGBTQ+ Children,” and “Do You Speak Stepfamily?” among others.

Issues for Thought These features are designed to spark students' critical thinking and discussion. As an example, the Issues for Thought box in Chapter 16 explores “Filial Responsibility Laws” and encourages students to consider what might be the benefits and drawbacks of legally mandating filial responsibility. The box “When One Woman's Workplace Is Another's Family” invites students to consider how women's work differs across social class, race and ethnicity, and immigration status.

Facts about Families This feature presents demographic and other factual information on focused topics such as “How Family Researchers Study Religion from Various Theoretical Perspectives,” “The Changing Language of Gender,” on “Researching at the Kinsey Institute,” on “Legal Same-Sex Marriage as a Successful Social Movement,” and on “Foster Parenting,” among others.

Chapter Learning Aids

A series of chapter learning aids help students comprehend and retain the material.

- Each chapter begins with a list of **learning objectives** specifically formulated for that chapter.
- **Chapter Summaries** are presented in bulleted, point-by-point lists of the key material in the chapter.
- **Key Terms** alert students to the key concepts presented in the chapter. A full glossary is provided at the end of the text.
- **Questions for Review and Reflection** help students review the material. Thought questions encourage students to think critically and to integrate material from other chapters with that presented in the current one. In every chapter, one of these questions is a policy question. This practice is in line with our goal of moving students toward structural analyses regarding marriages, families, and relationships.

KEY CHANGES IN THIS EDITION

In addition to incorporating the latest available research and statistics—and in addition to carefully reviewing every word in the book—we note that this edition includes many key changes, some of which are outlined here. We have worked to make chapter length more uniform throughout the text.

We are streamlining the material presented whenever possible and to ensuring a good flow of ideas. In this edition, we continue to consolidate similar material that had previously been addressed in separate chapters. **Meanwhile, we have substantially revised each and every chapter.** Every chapter is updated with the latest statistics and research throughout. Now that same-sex marriage is legal throughout the United States, we continue to conscientiously revisit all our chapters to make sure we're in line with this major family change. We mention some (but not all!) specific and important changes here.

Chapter 1, Making Family Choices in a Changing Society, continues to present the choices and life course themes of the book, as well as points to the significance for the family of larger social forces. Figure 1.1 is new with data on where Americans find meaning. HINT: their families. Figure 1.3 is new as well. All the boxes have been reworked. We paid special attention to rethinking and reworking the Closer Look at Diversity box in Chapter 1, with updated treatment of immigration due to the immigration crisis at our southern border. As faculty users, students, and casual readers have come to expect, all research and statistics are conscientiously updated. This goes for the entire book.

Chapter 2, Exploring Relationships and Families, continues to portray the integral relationship between family theories and methods for researching families, with new examples designed to better drive home the theoretical perspectives. Examples in the research section of this chapter include more recognition that major surveys are conducted globally, not just in the United States.

Chapter 3, Gender Identities and Families, continues to reflect evolving and expanding understandings of gender and sexual identity as fluid and non-binary, driving by the more progressive attitudes of Millennials and Gen Z. We introduce and define a variety of new terms related to gender and sexuality and discuss, for example, how states are facing political pressure to provide more gender options on birth certificates. We note challenges to toxic masculinity and increased representation of women in politics.

Chapter 4, Our Sexual Selves, continues its exploration into the range of sexual attitudes and behavior that exists in American society with special focus on gender differences, culture, history, politics, and technology. Notable since the last edition is the #MeToo Movement and women increasingly challenging previously taken-for-granted behaviors of men, such as sexual harassment and even sexual assault. In this chapter we broaden our discussion of consent, bystander education, and dispel myths about sexual assault. With increased attention to fluidity in sexual identity and behavior, we discuss the question of what it means to be a virgin. We take a tour

of the famous Kinsey Institute and discuss the ethics of conducting sexuality research. Finally, we provide updated statistics on sexual behavior, infidelity, HIV/AIDS, and pornography use.

Chapter 5, Love and Choosing a Life Partner, increases attention to defining love in all its forms and, in particular, the limitations of American's Society's undue focus on romantic love. We continue to examine the changing nature of dating in the United States, not only in terms of new dating patterns, but also dating preferences, such as urban versus rural residence, political ideology, race, and religion. In addition, we draw increased attention to the heteronormative bias in love and dating and include more information on LGBTQ+ couples and gender inequality in relationships. We draw attention to arranged marriages, child marriage, and transnational marriages in the United States. We provide new information on what is known about the link between cohabitation, marital quality, and divorce.

Chapter 6, Nonmarital Lifestyles: Living Alone, Cohabiting, and Other Options, discusses demographic, economic, technological, and cultural reasons for the increasing proportion of unmarrieds, with updated statistics on unmarried men and women in America. New to this edition is a discussion of generational differences in attitudes about the advantages and disadvantages of being single, integrating the attitudes of the youngest generation of Americans, Gen Z, who are just now reaching young adulthood and who have a wide array of lifestyles available to them. We have expanded our discussion of the *transition to adulthood*, which in these tough economic times has continued to lengthen, and is responsible for part of the increase in multi-generational households we are seeing.

Chapter 7, Marriage: From Social Institution to Private Relationship, has been thoroughly updated in accordance with developments after the 2015 legalization of same-sex marriage and also with new statistics and research findings. This chapter explores the changing picture regarding marriage, noting that cohabitation may now be becoming more similar to marriage than it used to be as more couples choose to cohabit. We review the social science debate regarding whether this changing picture represents family change or decline. We thoroughly explore the selection hypothesis versus the experience hypothesis with regard to the benefits of marriage known from research.

Chapter 8, Deciding about Parenthood, continues its focus on the complex process through which couples have children and different infertility patterns by race, ethnicity, class, religion, sexual identity and other variables. We provide data on the rising costs of children with a special focus on childcare. We also have expanded our discussion of the social and emotional costs of children, which has led to an increased number of women

opting to remain childfree. New in this edition is attention to medicalization of childbirth in the United States and our high rate of caesarean sections relative to other industrialized societies. We continue to provide the latest information available on reproductive technologies, adoption, involuntary and nonmarital fertility, adolescent pregnancy and childbearing, multipartnered fertility, contraception, abortion, and the political debate surrounding these issues.

Chapter 9, Raising Children in a Diverse Society, like all the chapters in this edition, has been thoroughly updated with the most current research. As in recent editions, after describing the authoritative parenting style, we note its acceptance by mainstream experts in the parenting field. We then present a critique that questions whether this parenting style is universally appropriate or simply a white, middle-class pattern that may not be so suitable to other social contexts. We also discuss challenges faced by parents who are raising religious- or ethnic-minority children in potentially discriminatory environments.

We continue to emphasize the challenges that all parents face in contemporary America. We have expanded sections on single mothers, single fathers, and nonresident fathers. We have given more attention to relations with young-adult children as more and more of them have “boomeranged” home in this difficult economy.

New to this chapter are recognition and discussions of gender fluidity as related to parenting. For instance, the section “Gender and Parenting” includes discussion of parenting as a lesbian, gay male, or transgender parent. As just one example of something brand new, a fourteenth-edition Issues for Thought box explores the ironic phenomenon of heteronormative bias within the LGBTQ+ community.

Chapter 10, Work and Family. All research and statistics are updated. An example of now incorporating same-sex families into discussions throughout the text involves a study that examined work-home spillover specifically among dual-earner lesbian and gay parents. Concepts introduced for the first time or given considerably more attention due to their growing salience include the idea of the *greedy career*—one that expects 24/7 digital and other availability—coupled with the social development over the past two decades of increasingly intensive (some say relentless) expectations for parenting. These two phenomena, taken together, do much to explain how gender influences the workplace.

Chapter 11, Communication in Relationships, Marriages, and Families, continues its focus on positive communication strategies among couples and families. The mechanisms through which people communicate are rapidly changing and terminology is evolving in response. Since the last edition, research on digital communication and social media has exploded and

we know much more than we did about the positives (online support groups) and negatives (social laziness) of new forms of communication. We extend the implications of digital communication to Gen Z, who have never not known life without social media and truly sees it as an extension of their social identity. Meanwhile, a traditional venue for family communication has always been the evening meal—just make sure to put down your phone or you’ll be accused of *phubbing*. As always, John Gottman’s research remains a powerful force in understanding interpersonal communication between couples.

Chapter 12, Power and Violence in Families, maintains its ongoing emphasis on power relations within the context of growing family racial and ethnic diversity. This chapter now presents the latest research findings regarding power and decision-making issues among same-sex married couples. Domestic violence among same-sex couples is now explored in this chapter rather than elsewhere in the text. As an example of our keeping not only research findings and statistics up to date but also paying attention to evolving concepts and terminology, we note the development of the concept *coercive control*, formerly termed *intimate terrorism*, itself formerly termed *patriarchal terrorism*. All research and statistics have been thoroughly updated.

Chapter 13, Family Stress, Crisis, and Resilience, continues to emphasize and expand discussion of the growing body of research on resilience in relation to family stress and crises and has been updated with many new examples. As one instance, the chapter expands its exploration of family members’ stress related to discrimination against minority race or ethnic groups. Recognizing that family systems are comprised of individuals, this chapter now includes some exploration of individuals’ biological stress responses involving complex physiological reactions in the brain and hormonal system. This chapter also addresses what individuals can do to manage personal stress responses—a practice that impacts family responses to crises.

Chapter 14, Divorce and Relationship Dissolution, includes updated statistics on divorce rates, which have continued their decline since the Great Recession, and speculate why this is happening. We continue our discussion of the ever expanding divorce divide and add information on divorce among LGBTQ+ couples, especially those who married after 2015 when marriage became legal across the nation. We have updated all statistics related to divorce as well as information that has changed related to the determinants of divorce, such as cohabitation and women’s employment. This chapter continues to highlight the effects of divorce on adults and children and factors that can lessen the negative effects. The implications of different custody arrangements for children and families and child support are

also examined and we include a new section on potential ways of improving divorce outcomes, such as divorce mediation.

Chapter 15, Remarriages and Stepfamilies, continues to stress diversity within stepfamilies, reflecting continued growth of nonmarital childbearing, cohabitation, father custody, racial and ethnic diversity, and same-sex couples with stepchildren. We continue to provide the most up-to-date statistics on remarriage, stepfamilies, and living arrangements in the United States. We continue to pay attention to microlevel stepfamily dynamics such as dating with children, the process through which people become stepparents, and the challenges of day-to-day living in stepfamilies. We've enhanced our discussion of the rewards and challenges of relationships between step-grandparents and grandchildren. Finally, in an environment set up for first-married, biological parent families, we provide a comprehensive discussion of financial, legal, and policy issues stepfamilies must grapple with every day, from talking with teachers and doing their taxes to custody decisions and how to divide inheritances.

Chapter 16, Aging and Multigenerational Families, continues to place a thematic emphasis on multigenerational families, ties, and obligations in a cultural context of individualism and includes a discussion of caregiver ambivalence coupled with multigenerational families as safety nets for all generations. Like all the others, this chapter benefits from the most current statistics and research. By the time we reached this chapter in this fourteenth-edition revision process, the global pandemic, Covid-19 and its consequences had become consequential to American families in countless ways, some foreseen at this writing and others yet to be understood. We were able to address Covid-19 to some extent in this chapter and look forward to discussing impacts of this global pandemic thoroughly in our next, the fifteenth, edition.

MindTap for Marriages, Families, and Relationships, Fourteenth Edition

MindTap engages and empowers students to produce their best work—consistently. By seamlessly integrating course material with videos, activities, apps, and much more, MindTap creates a unique learning path that fosters increased comprehension and efficiency.

- MindTap delivers real-world relevance with activities and assignments that help students build critical thinking and analytical skills that will transfer to other courses and their professional lives.
- MindTap helps students stay organized and efficient with a single destination that reflects what's important to the instructor, along with the tools students

need to master the content. MindTap empowers and motivates students with information that shows where they stand at all times—both individually and compared with the highest performers in class.

In addition, MindTap allows instructors to:

- Control what content students see and when they see it with a learning path that can be used as is or matched to their syllabus exactly.
- Create a unique learning path of relevant readings and multimedia and activities that move students up the learning taxonomy from basic knowledge and comprehensions to analysis, application, and critical thinking.
- Integrate their own content into the MindTap Reader using their own documents or pulling from sources like YouTube videos, websites, Google Docs, and more.
- Use powerful analytics and reports that provide a snapshot of class progress, time in course, engagement, and completion.

Instructor Resources

Instructor's Resource Center Available online, the Instructor's Resource Center includes an instructor's manual, a test bank, and PowerPoint slides. The instructor's manual will help instructors organize the course and captivate students' attention. The manual includes key learning objectives, lecture outlines, in-class discussion questions, class activities, extensive lists of reading, video, and online resources, and suggested Internet sites and activities. The test bank includes multiple-choice, true/false, and essay questions, all with answers and text references, for each chapter of the text. The PowerPoints include chapter-specific presentations, including images, figures, and tables, to help instructors build their lectures.

Cengage Testing Powered by Cognero Cognero is a flexible, online system that allows instructors to:

- Import, edit, and manipulate test bank content from the Marriages, Families, and Relationships test bank or elsewhere, including their own favorite test questions.
- Create multiple test versions in an instant.
- Delivery tests from their LMS, classroom, or wherever they want.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book is a result of a joint effort on our part; we could not have conceptualized or written it alone. We want to thank some of the many people who helped us. Looking back on the long life of this book, we

acknowledge Steve Rutter for his original vision of the project and his faith in us. We also want to thank Sheryl Fullerton and Serina Beauparlant, who saw us through early editions as editors and friends and who had significant importance in shaping the text that you see today.

As has been true of our past editions, the people at Cengage Learning have been professionally competent. Huge thanks go to Elesha Hyde, who provided the constant consultation, encouragement, and feedback to the authors that enabled this edition to come to completion on schedule. We are also grateful to Kori Alexander, Product Manager, who guided this edition, and to Learning Designer Emma Guiton, who guided the development of the MindTap product that accompanies this text. Deanna Ettinger, Intellectual Property Analyst, made sure we were accountable to other authors and publishers when we used their work.

Shelley Ryan, Project Manager for MPS Limited, led a production team whose specialized competence and coordinated efforts have made the book a reality. She was excellent to work with, always available and responsive to our questions, flexible, and ever helpful. She managed a complex production process smoothly and effectively to ensure a timely completion of the project and a book whose look and presentation of content are very pleasing to us—and, we hope, to the reader.

The internal production efforts were managed by Tim Bailey, Content Manager. Copy Editor Richard Camp did an outstanding job of bringing our draft manuscript into conformity with style guidelines. Anjali Kambli, Photo Researcher (Lumina Datamatics), worked with us to find photos that captured the ideas we presented in words.

Nadine Ballard developed the overall design of the book, one we are very pleased with. Once it is completed, our textbook needs to find the faculty and students who will use it. Tricia Salata, Marketing Manager, captured the essence of our book in the various marketing materials that present our book to its prospective audience.

Closer to home, Agnes Riedmann wishes to acknowledge her late mother, Ann Langley Czerwinski, PhD, who helped her significantly with past editions. Agnes would also like to acknowledge family, friends, and professional colleagues who have supported her throughout the thirty-five years that she has worked on this book. Dear friends have helped as well. Agnes would like to specifically recognize Susan Goldstein and Victor Herbert, who often have sent her pertinent articles and engaged her in relevant and stimulating discussions.

Sam Walker has contributed to previous editions of this book through his enthusiasm and encouragement for Mary Ann Lamanna's work on the project. Larry and Valerie Lamanna and other family members have

enlarged their mother's perspective on the family by bringing her into personal contact with other family worlds—those beyond the everyday experience of family life among the social scientists!

Mary Ann Lamanna and Agnes Riedmann continue to acknowledge one another as coauthors for forty years. Each of us has brought somewhat different strengths to this process. We are not alike—a fact that has continuously made for a better book, in our opinion. At times, we have lengthy e-mail conversations back and forth over the inclusion of one phrase. Many times, we have disagreed over the course of the past thirty years—over how long to make a section, how much emphasis to give a particular topic, whether a certain citation is the best one to use, occasionally over the tone of an anxious or frustrated e-mail. But we have always agreed on the basic vision and character of this textbook. And we continue to grow in our mutual respect for one another as scholars, writers, and authors. We have now been joined by Susan Stewart as coauthor. She brings a fresh perspective to the book as well as a comprehensive knowledge of research in the field. Her patience and expertise have been especially important to this revision.

Susan Stewart would like to acknowledge Agnes Riedmann and Mary Ann Lamanna for their unwavering support, mentoring, and wisdom as she continues her journey learning the art and science of textbook writing. She would also like to acknowledge her daughter, Gwen, who continues to provide rich experiences that contribute to her understanding about parent-child relationships and adolescent concerns, especially given that she is now a full-fledged member of Gen Z! She acknowledges her parents and sisters, and her ex-spouse and in-laws, as well as her husband, Gene, and stepson, Cameron, and his wife, Anna, who taught her that no amount of reading can replace lived experience. She especially thanks the students in her *Sociology of Intimate Relationships* class who, each and every semester, read this book and act as an important sounding board for the content, both old and new. I thank Dr. David Wahl for his insights into gender and sexuality and his contributions to Chapter 4.

Reviewers gave us many helpful suggestions for revising the book. Although we may not have incorporated all suggestions from reviewers, we have considered them all carefully and used many. The review process makes a substantial, and indeed essential, contribution to each revision of the book.

Fourteenth Edition Reviewers

Amanda Burnam, OCCC; Amy M Smith, Florida State University; Anthony Walker, Indiana State University; Brandon Eddy, UNLV; Carol Campbell, McNese

State University; Cassidy Cooper, University of Mobile; Claudia Hall, Baton Rouge Community College; Darrell Frost, Northern Oklahoma College; David W. Wahl, Iowa State University; Elinor Behana, San Diego State University; Heather Griffiths, Fayetteville State University; Heather Jaffe, San Diego State University; Jacquelyn Benson, University of Missouri; Jennifer George, University of Georgia; Jennifer Valentine, Tidewater Community College; Judy Bohrer, Butler Community College; Julie Taren, California State University, Los Angeles; Kelly Warzinik, University of Missouri; Kevin Dingess, Blue Ridge Community College; Kimberly Michelle Murray, Texas A&M University-Texarkana; Kira Arthurs, Pearl River Community College; Lauren Lewis, Indiana State University; Lee Maria Chancler, University of Central Missouri; Marcia Seddon, Indian Hills Community College; Nicholle Liessmann, San Juan College; Olga Custer, Oregon State University; Rhonda Johnson, Holmes Community College; Yvonne Thai; Leslie Hurt; Linda Behrendt

Thirteenth Edition Reviewers

Cari Beecham-Bautista, Columbia College Chicago; Chris Caldeira, University of California, Davis; Lynda Dickson, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs; Rebecca S. Fahrlander, University of Nebraska at Omaha; Loyd R. Ganey, Jr., College of Southern Nevada; Jamie L. Gusrang, Community College of Philadelphia; Faye Jones, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College JC Campus; Nancy Reeves, Gloucester County College; Jewrell Rivers, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College; Chad W. Sexton, State University of New York at Fredonia; and Sharon Wiederstein, Blinn College.

Twelfth Edition Reviewers

Chuck Baker, Delaware County Community College; Adriana Bohm, Delaware County Community College; John Bowman, University of North Carolina at Pembroke; Jennifer Brougham, Arizona State University-Tempe; Shaheen Chowdhury, College of DuPage; Diana Cuchin, Virginia Commonwealth University; James Guinee, University of Central Arkansas; Amy Knudsen, Drake University; Wendy Pank, Bismarck State College; Rita Sakitt, Suffolk County Community College; Tomecia Sobers, Fayetteville Technical Community College; Richard States, Allegany College of Maryland; and Scott Tobias, Kent State University at Stark.

Eleventh Edition Reviewers

Rachel Hagewen, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; Marija Jurcevic, Triton College; Sheila Mehta-Green, Middlesex Community College; Margaret E. Preble, Thomas Nelson Community College; Teresa Rhodes, Walden University.

Of Special Importance

Students and faculty members who tell us of their interest in the book are a special inspiration. To all of the people who gave their time and gave of themselves—interviewees, students, our families and friends—many thanks. We see the fact that this book is going into a fourteenth edition as a result of a truly interactive process between ourselves and students who share their experiences and insights in our classrooms; reviewers who consistently give us good advice; editors and production experts whose input is invaluable; and our family, friends, and colleagues whose support is invaluable.



1

MAKING FAMILY CHOICES IN A CHANGING SOCIETY

DEFINING FAMILY

Family Functions

Structural Family Definitions

Postmodern: There Is No Typical Family

Facts about Families: American Families Today

Adapting Family Definitions to the Postmodern Family

Relaxed Institutional Control over Relationship Choices:
“Family Decline” or “Family Change”?

Facts about Families: Focus on Children

A SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION: PERSONAL TROUBLES AND SOME SOCIAL CONDITIONS THAT IMPACT FAMILIES

Ever-New Biological and Communication Technologies

Economic Conditions

Historical Periods and Events

Demographic Characteristics: Age Structure

Demographic Characteristics: Religion

Demographic Characteristics: Race and Ethnicity

A Closer Look at Diversity: Immigration, Public Policy,
and Family Ties

Family Policy: A Family Impact Lens

THE FREEDOM AND PRESSURES OF CHOOSING

Making Informed Decisions

FAMILIES OF INDIVIDUALS

Families as a Place to Belong

Familistic (Communal) Values and Individualistic
(Self-Fulfillment) Values

People as Individuals and Family Members

MARRIAGES AND FAMILIES: FOUR THEMES

Learning Objectives

- 1 Explain why researchers and policy makers need to define family.
- 2 Explain the ways that family structure or form is increasingly diverse.
- 3 Describe the various society-wide structural conditions that impact families.
- 4 Discuss why the best life course decisions are informed ones made consciously.
- 5 Explain how families provide individuals with a place to belong.
- 6 Demonstrate why there is a tension in our culture between familistic values and individualistic values.
- 7 Identify how global situations and events affect family life in the United States.

This text is different from others you will read. Although it could help you in a future career, this text has four other goals as well—to help you: (1) appreciate the variety and diversity among families today, (2) become more sensitive to family issues, (3) understand your past and present family situations and anticipate future possibilities, and (4) be more conscious of the personal decisions you make throughout your life and of the societal influences that affect those decisions.

About thirty years ago, stating that “the family constitutes the basic unit of society and therefore warrants special attention,” the United Nations designated 1994 as the International Year of the Family. Later, the U.N. proclaimed every May 15th the International Day of Families. Across the world, families are central both to society and to people’s everyday lives.

Families worldwide take on the pivotal tasks of raising children and providing family members with support, companionship, affection, and intimacy. As shown in Figure 1.1, national survey results show Americans are most likely to say *family* is what gives them meaning in life (Pew Research Center 2018a). Meanwhile, what many of us think of as family has changed dramatically in recent decades. This chapter explores *family* definitions and notes the varied structures or forms that families

take today. This chapter also describes society-wide conditions that impact families: ever-new biological and communication technologies, economic conditions, historical periods of events, and demographic characteristics such as age, religion, race, and ethnicity.

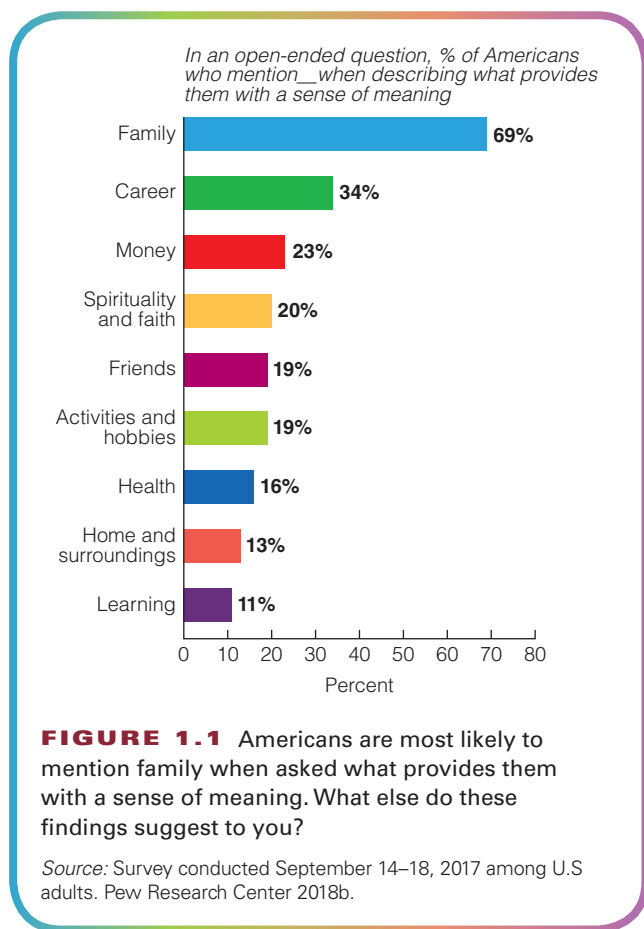
Later in this chapter, we’ll note that when maintaining committed relationships and families, people need to make informed decisions. We end this chapter by discussing four themes that characterize this text. You’ll see that these four themes comprise the text’s four learning goals, listed in the Preface. We begin with a definition of family—one to keep in mind throughout the course.

DEFINING FAMILY

People make a variety of assumptions about what families are and are not. We’ve noticed when teaching this course that many students, when asked to list their family members, include their pets. Are dogs, cats, or hamsters family members? On a different note, some individuals who were conceived by artificial insemination with donor sperm are tracking down their “donor siblings”—half brothers and sisters who were conceived using the same man’s sperm. They may define their “donor relatives” as family members, although others born under similar circumstances may not. Indeed, *family* has many definitions, not only among laypeople but also among family scientists.

We, your authors, have chosen to define **family** as follows: A family is any sexually expressive, parent–child, or other kin relationship in which people—usually related by ancestry, marriage, or adoption—(1) form an economic or otherwise practical unit and care for any children or other dependents, (2) consider their identity to be significantly attached to the group, and (3) commit to maintaining that group over time.

How did we come to this definition? First, caring for children or other dependents suggests a function that the family is expected to perform. Definitions of many things have both functional and structural components. Functional definitions point to the purpose(s) for which a thing exists—that is, what it does. For example, a functional definition of a smartphone would emphasize that it allows you to make and receive calls, take pictures, connect to the Internet, and access media. Structural definitions emphasize the *form* that a thing takes—what it actually is. To define a smartphone structurally, we might say that it is an electronic device, small enough to be handheld, with a multimedia screen and components that allow sophisticated satellite communication. Concepts of the family comprise both functional and structural aspects. We’ll look now at how the family can be recognized by its functions, and then we’ll discuss structural definitions of the family.



Family Functions

Social scientists usually list three major functions filled by today's families: raising children responsibly, providing members with economic and other practical support, and offering emotional security.

Family Function 1: Raising Children Responsibly

If a society is to persist beyond one generation, adults have to not only bear children but also feed, clothe, and shelter them during their long years of dependency. Furthermore, a society needs new members who are properly trained in the ways of the economy and culture and who will be dependable members of the group. These goals require children to be responsibly raised. Virtually every society assigns this essential task to families.

Traditionally, a related family function has been to control its members' (particularly women's) sexual activity, and this function persists in many parts of the world. Controlling sexuality was historically understood as necessary in order to guarantee responsible childrearing. "Throughout history, marriage has first and foremost been an institution for procreation and raising children. It has provided the cultural tie that seeks to connect the father to his children by binding him to the mother of his children" (Wilcox Marquardt, Popenoe, and Whitehead 2011). However, in the United States and other industrialized societies the child-raising function is more and more often performed by divorced, separated, never-married, or cohabiting parents, and sometimes by grandparents or other relatives. Today researchers talk about "the decoupling of marriage and parenthood" (Hayford, Guzzo, and Smock 2014). Nevertheless, the majority of U.S. births today (about 60 percent) take place within marriage (Martin, Hamilton, Osterman, Driscoll, and Drake 2018, p. 5).

Family Function 2: Providing Economic and Other Practical Support

A second family function involves providing economic support. Historically, the family was primarily a practical economic unit rather than an emotional one (Shorter 1975; Stone 1980). Although the modern family is no longer a self-sufficient economic unit, virtually every family engages in activities aimed



PK Studio/Shutterstock.com

We can define families by their functions—raising children, providing economic support for dependents, and offering emotional support for all family members. This father looks to be doing all that. But functional definitions of family aren't enough. We also need to consider the group's structure. This family consists of a heterosexual couple and their child. They may be married or cohabiting.

at providing for such practical needs as food, clothing, and shelter. Throughout this text, we'll see the varied ways that this function plays out.

Family economic functions now consist of earning a living outside the home, pooling resources, and making consumption decisions together. In assisting one another economically, family members create some sense of material security. For example, family members offer one another a kind of unemployment insurance. If one family member is laid off or can't find work, others may be counted on for help. Family members care for each other in additional practical ways too, such as nursing and transportation during an illness or lending an ear when someone needs to talk.

Family Function 3: Offering Emotional Security

Although historically the family was a pragmatic institution involving material maintenance, in today's world the family has grown increasingly important as a source of emotional security. Thinking of families globally, the United Nations has described the family as a place where "one finds warmth, caring, security, togetherness, tolerance and acceptance" ("International Day of the Family," n.d.). Not just partners or parents but also children, siblings, and extended kin can be important sources of emotional support (Henig 2014; Waite et al. 2011).

This is not to say that families can solve all our longings for affection, companionship, and intimacy. Sometimes, in fact, the family situation itself is a source of stress and pain—as in the case of parental conflict, alcoholism, drug abuse, or domestic violence. But families and committed relationships are expected to provide emotional support. Defining a family by its functions is informative and can be insightful: According to a Chicago Chief Executive Officer, for instance, “To me a family is whoever I can depend on for support, to laugh with, to play with, and to share the challenges and rewards of life with” (Wolf 2018, p. 4).

But defining a family only by its functions would be too vague and misleading. Neighbors or roommates might help with childcare, provide for economic and other practical needs, or offer emotional support, but we might not define them as family. An effective definition of family needs to incorporate structural elements as well.

Structural Family Definitions

Traditionally, both legal and social sciences have specified that the family consists of people related by blood, marriage, or adoption. In their classic work *The Family: From Institution to Companionship*, Ernest Burgess and Harvey Locke (1953 [1945]) specified that family members must “constitute a household,” or reside together. Some definitions of the family have gone even further to include economic interdependency and sexual-reproductive relations (Murdock 1949).

The U.S. Census Bureau defines a family as two or more people related by blood, marriage, or adoption and residing together in a household. The Census Bureau defines **household** as any group that resides together. Not all households are families; to be a *family household*, persons sharing a household must also be related by blood, marriage, or adoption. Now that same-sex marriages are legal nationwide, married same-sex couples living together are of course counted as family households. Before the June 26, 2015 U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage, lesbian and gay male couples living together were counted as *non-family* households. Cohabiting couples, whether heterosexual or same-sex, continue to be counted as nonfamily households.

Family structure—the form a family takes—varies according to the social environment in which it is embedded. In preindustrial or traditional societies, the family structure involved whole kinship groups. The **extended family** of parents, children, grandparents, and other relatives performed most societal functions, including economic production (e.g., the family farm), protecting family members, providing vocational training, and maintaining social order. In industrial or modern societies, the typical family structure often became the **nuclear family** (husband, wife, children), which was better suited to city life. Until about sixty years ago, social attitudes, religious beliefs, and law converged into a fairly common expectation about what form the American family should take: breadwinner husband, homemaker wife, and children living together in an independent household—the *nuclear-family ideal*.



Ariel Skelley/Getty Images

The extended family—grandparents, aunts, and uncles—can provide occasion for good times as well as an important source of security, its members helping each other, especially during crises.

Nevertheless, the extended family—including adult siblings, a family research topic often neglected—continues to play an important role in many cases, especially among recent immigrants and race and ethnic minorities. To cope with economic hardships more relatives of all races and ethnicities are moving in together to create more multigenerational or otherwise extended-family households. About one-fifth, or 20 percent of Americans live in multigenerational households—about the same percentage as in 1950, but an increase from a low of 12 percent in 1980 (Cohn and Passel 2018). “Accordion” family households that expand or contract with more or fewer family members, depending on family

need, perform important economic and often emotional social functions (Newman 2012).

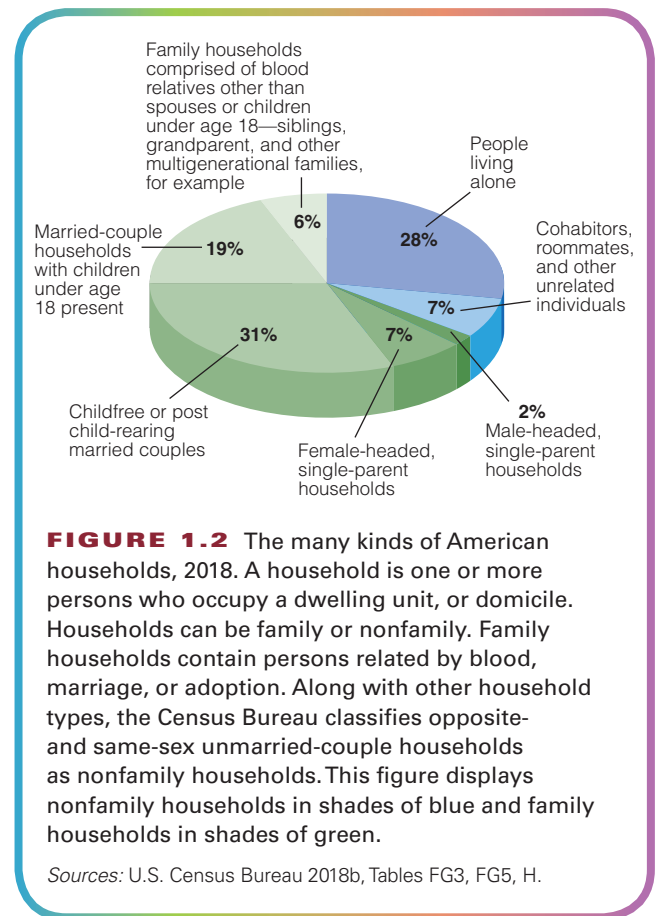
Meanwhile, today's families are not necessarily bound to one another by legal marriage, blood, or adoption. The term *family* can identify relationships in addition to spouses, parents, children, and extended kin. Individuals fashion and experience intimate relationships and families in many forms. As social scientists take into account this structural variability, it is not uncommon to find them referring to the family as *postmodern*.

Postmodern: There Is No Typical Family

Barely half of U.S. adults are married (U.S. Census Bureau 2019, Table A1). Only about 5 percent of families now resemble the 1950s nuclear family of married couple and children, with a husband-breadwinner and wife-homemaker (Vespa, Lewis, and Kreider 2013, Tables 4, 5). Prompting social scientists to remark on today's "revolution in intimate life relationships," the past several decades have witnessed a proliferation of relationship and family forms: single-parent families, stepfamilies, families with children of more than one father, two-earner couples, stay-at-home fathers, cohabitating heterosexual couples, gay and lesbian marriages and families, three-generation families, and communal households, among others. Individuals construct a myriad of social forms in order to address family functions. Social scientists have typically thought of the nuclear family as the "modern" family form. The more recent term **postmodern family** acknowledges the fact that today's families exhibit multiple of forms as new or altered family forms continue to emerge.

Figure 1.2 displays the types of households in which Americans live today. Only about two-thirds of households contain families. Just 19 percent of households are nuclear families of husband, wife, and children, compared with more than twice that (44 percent) in 1960 (U.S. Census Bureau 2015a, 2018a). The most common household type is married couples without children: Either the children have grown up and left or the couple has not yet had children or doesn't plan to. More households today (28 percent) are maintained by individuals living alone than by married couples with children. "Facts about Families: American Families Today" presents additional information about families. We now see unprecedented diversity in family composition, or form.

Due to this diversity, laws, government agencies, and private corporations such as insurance companies make decisions about what was once taken for granted—that is, what a family is. If rent policies, employee-benefit packages, and insurance policies cover families, decisions need to be made about what relationships or groups of people are to be defined as a family. The



September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 struggled with this issue in allocating compensation to victims' survivors. As a result, and New York state law was amended to allow awards to unmarried gay and heterosexual partners (Gross 2002). In 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that same-sex marriage is a nationwide right to be recognized in all fifty states.

Adapting Family Definitions to the Postmodern Family

As family forms have grown increasingly variable, social scientists have proposed—and often struggled with—new, more flexible definitions for the family. Legal definitions of family have become more flexible as well. The 2015 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that legalizes same-sex marriage comes to mind. As another example, a few state legislatures have provided that legal status and rights can be enjoyed by more than two—that is, by three or four—parents in one family. What would be an example of a family like this? Here's one: Two children spend three nights a week with their partnered gay fathers. The other nights they stay with their lesbian mothers, who live nearby (Lovett 2012).

Many employers have redefined family with respect to employee-benefit packages. Just more than half of

Facts About Families

American Families Today

What do U.S. families look like today? Statistics can't tell the whole story, but they are an important beginning. As you read these ten facts, remember that the data presented here are generalizations and do not consider differences among various sectors of society. We explore social diversity throughout this textbook, but for now let's look at some overall statistics.

- 1. Marriage is important to Americans—but not to the extent that it was sixty years ago during the “Golden Age of Marriage.”** Today about 58 percent of never-married adults say they want to marry someday. Twenty-seven percent are not sure. Another 14 percent don't want to get married (Parker and Stepler 2017). Ten years ago, 44 percent of 18- to 29-year-olds and 32 percent of Americans age 65 and older saw marriage becoming obsolete (Taylor et al. 2011).
- 2. About half of Americans are married.** Just about 50 percent of adults age 18 and older were married in 2018, compared to about three-quarters (72 percent) in 1960.

About 30 percent of Americans today have never married; 10 percent are divorced, and 6 percent widowed (U.S. Census Bureau 2018a, Table A1).

- 3. Young people are postponing marriage.** In 2018, the median age at first marriage was 27.8 for women and 29.8—nearly 30—for men, as compared with about 21 for women and 24 for men in 1970. Today's average age at marriage is the highest recorded since the 1890 census (U.S. Census Bureau 2018b, Table MS-2).
- 4. With some usually religion-based exceptions, cohabitation has become an acceptable family form (as well as a transitional lifestyle choice).** The number of opposite-sex cohabitating adults increased more than tenfold since 1970—and by 40 percent since 2000. About 40 percent of cohabiting couples live with children under age 18—either their own or those from a previous relationship or marriage. Unmarried-couple families are only about 7 percent of American adults at any one time, but more than

50 percent of first marriages are preceded by cohabitation. No longer a minority lifestyle choice, cohabitators are older now, as well as more racially and ethnically diverse, more highly educated, and higher earners (Gurrentz 2019). In fact, for adults ages 18 to 24, living with an unmarried partner is more common than living with a spouse (Gurrentz 2018).

- 5. Fertility has declined.** Although there's a slight increase in people who say three or more children would be ideal, fertility is down (Bialik 2018). At 1.77 in 2017, the total fertility rate (TFR)—the average number of births that a woman will have during her lifetime—had dropped by 3 percent from 2016 (Martin et al. 2015). After a high of 3.6 in 1957, the TFR has generally been below replacement level over the past thirty years (Martin, Hamilton, Osterman, Driscoll, and Drake 2018; Matthews, Brady, and Hamilton 2019). A society requires a TFR of at least 2.1 in order for the

the Fortune 500 companies, as well as many state and local governments, offer domestic partner benefits to persons in an unmarried couple who have registered their relationship with a civil authority (Appleby 2012). President Barack Obama signed an executive order granting federal employees and their domestic partners some of the rights (but neither health insurance nor retirement benefits) enjoyed by married couples (Miles 2010). If passed in the future, currently proposed federal legislation would extend domestic partner benefits to all federal civilian employees (“Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act” 2015). Meanwhile, federal practices permit low-income unmarried couples to qualify as families and live in public housing.

We, your authors, began this section with our definition of family. Our definition recognizes the diversity of

postmodern families while paying heed to the essential functions that families are expected to fill. Our definition combines some structural criteria with a more social-psychological sense of family identity. We include the commitment to maintaining a relationship or group over time as a component of our definition because we believe that such a commitment is necessary in fulfilling basic family functions. It also helps to differentiate the family from casual relationships, such as roommates, or groups that easily come and go.

We have worked to balance an appreciation for flexibility and diversity in family structure and relations with the concern that many policy makers and social scientists express about how well today's families perform their functional obligations. Ultimately, there is no one correct answer to the question, “What is a family?”

population numerically to replace itself, so the current TFR is below replacement level.

6. *Particularly among college-educated women, parenthood is often postponed.* The average age for a woman's first birth increased by about 6 years between 1970 and 2017—from age 21 to 27. But the statistics differ according to education with more highly educated women waiting longer to have children (Martin et al. 2018, p. 5). Married women today wait longer after their wedding to conceive than in the past (Hayford, Guzzo, and Smock 2014).
7. *Compared to 4 percent in 1950, the nonmarital birthrate is high* with 40 percent of all U.S. births today being to unmarried mothers. Unlike 1950, however, between one-quarter and one-half of nonmarital births today occur to cohabitating couples (Carter 2009; Martin et al. 2019, p. 6). Seeing marriage as obsolete (as noted in #1 above) may be an overstatement. However, the fact that today “nearly half of U.S. births happen outside marriage” certainly marks a “cultural shift” (Griffin 2018).

8. *Same-sex-couple households increased* by 80 percent between 2000 and 2010 (Homan and Bass 2012). Partly because an unknown number remain “closeted,” it is difficult to know how many same-sex-couple households really exist in the United States (Hoffman 2014). According to U.S. Census Bureau estimates, there were approximately 900,000 same-sex households in 2017 (U.S. Census Bureau 2019). Of these, about 500,000 were married, although married-couple same-sex couples comprise less than 1 percent of all U.S. married couples (Cohn 2014; Schwarz 2014). About 17 percent of same-sex households include children (U.S. Census Bureau 2014b, Table 1).
9. *The divorce rate is dropping.* After it doubled between 1965 and 1980, the U.S. divorce rate began to drop steadily, falling more than 30 percent from 1980 to 2010 (U.S. Census Bureau 2012a, Table 78). The divorce rate continued to decline through 2016, the year of our most current data. We used to say that about half of marriages end in divorce, but today that figure is closer

to one-third (National Center for Health Statistics 2017). This is good news. We need to be aware, though, that fewer and fewer Americans are getting married—and those who do tend to be more highly educated and have high incomes, a category that has traditionally evidenced lower divorce rates.

10. *The remarriage rate has declined in recent decades but remains significant.* About 60 percent of recent marriages are first-time marriages for both spouses. About 40 percent of today's marriages involve a remarriage for at least one spouse. Twenty percent of marriages today and remarriages for both partners. About 4 percent of marrieds wed three or more times. This number rises to 7 percent for those over age fifty (Geiger and Livingston 2019; Lewis and Kreider 2015).

Critical Thinking

What do these statistics tell you about the strengths and weaknesses of the contemporary American family and about family change?

Relaxed Institutional Control over Relationship Choices: “Family Decline” or “Family Change”?

According to public opinion polls, about 30 percent of Americans reject today's trend toward the postmodern family while about the same proportion accept new family forms. Another 37 percent accept some aspects of family change but are concerned about others (Morin 2011). In 2012, 59 percent of Americans found unmarried heterosexual sex to be morally acceptable, but 38 percent saw it as morally wrong. Those numbers had changed from 53 percent and 42 percent in 2001. Sixty-seven percent of Americans today see divorce as morally acceptable, whereas in 2001 that figure was 59 percent. Fifty-four percent of Americans believe having a baby

outside marriage is morally acceptable today, compared with 45 percent in 2002 (“Marriage” 2012). Americans are fairly evenly split regarding whether they support same-sex marriage as legally valid, although fewer than 40 percent favored legal same-sex marriage in 2001 (Pew Research Center 2015a). Figure 1.3 shows results of a 2015 national Pew Survey asking respondents what they think about some current trends in family life. As shown in Figure 1.3, about two-thirds of Americans believe that single women having children without a partner is bad for society. Meanwhile, just about half of us think that more unmarried couples raising children is bad for society (Pew Research Center 2018). Americans can be strongly opinionated about family change; we can better understand why if we understand that the family has historically been understood as a **social institution**.