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CORRECT ANSWERS ARE LOCATED IN THE 2ND HALF OF THIS DOC.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - Choose the one alternative that best completes the statement or answers the question.

1) Which of the following best describes the term "family"?
   A) a unit composed of a husband, a wife, and their immediate children
   B) a unit consisting of a husband, a wife, their biological children, and stepchildren
   C) a group united by marriage or cohabitation, blood, and/or adoption in order to satisfy intimacy needs and/or bear and socialize children
   D) None of these answers is correct.

2) In the context of the variability of family life, identify a true statement about the variability among societies.
   A) People everywhere are extremely different.
   B) People everywhere need intimate relations and form family units to fulfill some of their intimacy needs.
   C) People everywhere are naturally promiscuous.
   D) People everywhere must be married in order to be happy.

3) _____ is the marriage of a man to two or more wives.
   A) Monogamy
   B) Polyandry
   C) Polygyny
   D) Homogamy

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4) _____ is the marriage of a woman to two or more husbands.
   A) Monogamy
   B) Polyandry
   C) Polygyny
   D) Exogamy

5) Which of the following best describes monogamy?
   A) marriage of a woman to two or more women
   B) union of a man with two or more men
   C) marriage of one person to two or more people of the opposite sex
   D) union with one person at a time

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6) In the case of divorce, which of the following is true about single-parent families?
   A) The child has no contact with the other parent.
   B) The child lives primarily with one parent.
   C) The child primarily lives with their relatives.
   D) None of these answers is correct.

7) Single parents are likely to face three kinds of overload. Which of the following is not one of these?
   A) responsibility
   B) task
   C) emotional
   D) spiritual

8) Overall,_____ households have higher rates of poverty than any other group.
   A) single father
   B) single mother
   C) remarried female-headed
   D) remarried male-headed

9) In the context of challenges of single parents,_____ overload arises from the fact that one parent must do the work of two parents.
   A) task
   B) responsibility
   C) emotional
   D) spiritual

10) Donna is a single mother who spends her nonworking hours meeting the needs of her two children, Betty and Tom. She feels that she has no time for her friends, her hobbies, or for dating. In this scenario, Donna is most likely to experience_____ overload.
   A) responsibility
   B) task
   C) emotional
   D) spiritual

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11) According to Hildebrandt and Kelber (2005), single, employed mothers, who are likely to have less time for personal care and leisure activities than either the nonemployed single mother or the mother in a two-parent home,
A) report particularly high levels of distress.
B) are highly unlikely to have an intimacy deficit.
C) tend to avoid the closeness of an adult relationship.
D) are less likely to seek professional help for mental health problems.

12) Emotional overload tends to occur when a single parent
A) needs to divide time between a dating partner and the children.
B) is dating more than one person at the same time.
C) neglects their personal needs.
D) neglects their children's needs.

13) Nadine is a single parent who spends most of her time either working, doing household chores, or taking care of her children. She seldom socializes with friends or engages in recreation. This is likely to result in
A) a higher conflict rate in the family.
B) better mental health of Nadine.
C) negligence in the upbringing of her children.
D) Nadine facing an intimacy deficit.

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14) Who among the following is most likely to have high rates of antisocial behavior?
A) children of extended families
B) children of two-parent families
C) children of single-parent families
D) All of these answers are correct.

15) Children of single parents are more likely to be_____ than children of two-parent families.
A) affluent
B) depressed
C) creative
D) highly successful

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16) Which of the following terms is best described as the sense of emotional bonding that family members have toward each other?
A) integration
B) cohabitation
C) cohesion
D) fidelity

17) According to Caspi et al. (1998) and Brown (2002), identify a true statement about children in single-parent homes.
A) They are less likely to achieve higher levels of education, occupation, and income.
B) They tend to feel greater cohesion when the mother is unemployed than when she is working.
C) They report more support, control, and punishment from their fathers than do other children.
D) They are likely to have more material resources than children who live with both biological parents.

18) Most single-parent families are headed by
A) a supporting relative.
B) a mother.
C) a father.
D) a grandparent.

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19) According to Meadows (2009), which of the following statements is most likely true about single fathers?
A) They do not love and value their children.
B) They have more mental health problems than do married fathers.
C) They are less likely than single mothers to raise children who have high rates of substance abuse.
D) They spend significantly more time caring for their children than do single mothers.

20) Identify a reason why most people become single parents.
A) because of separation
B) because of divorce
C) because of the death of a spouse
D) All these answers are correct.

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21) According to the U.S. Census Bureau, who among the following has the highest proportion of people who are divorced or who have never married?
A) Whites
B) Hispanics
C) Asians
D) African Americans

22) Which of the following factors has most likely affected the "Black marriage crisis," the continuing decline in the rate and quality of Black marriages?
A) devaluation of family by the Blacks
B) high unemployment rates of Black males
C) aversion to children by Blacks
D) the higher mortality rates of Black females

23) Which of the following suggests that much of the segregation and discrimination experienced by African Americans is rooted in the competition between racial groups for economic and political advantage?
A) conflict theory
B) systems theory
C) exchange theory
D) symbolic interactionist theory

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24) Kamo and Cohen (1998) found that Black couples, compared with white couples,
A) are more uncertain that their children add satisfaction to their lives.
B) are less likely to exhibit a high degree of cooperation and shared decision making.
C) are less likely to expect mutual aid among extended family members.
D) are more egalitarian in the sharing of household tasks.

25) Unlike white women, Black women
A) have a more consistent history of being employed outside the home.
B) put less importance on a potential husband being able to offer good financial support.
C) are not allowed to work as their husbands do not approve of their wives working.
D) are less likely to work full-time.

26) Which of the following is NOT a factor that helps account for the strengths of Black single parents?
A) higher incomes than white single parents
B) greater extended family support among African Americans than white single parents
C) the way children are viewed by Black single parents compared to white single parents
D) a greater acceptance of single parenthood than white single parents

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27) Parenting in Hispanic families reflects four cultural values. Which of the following best describes the value "*personalismo*"?
A) It emphasizes family values and family well-being more than individual desires.
B) It is respect for, and responsibility toward, elders.
C) It refers to the value of harmony in relationships.
D) It is a value on individual character and inner qualities.

28) Identify a true statement about the Hispanic family.
A) Although fewer Hispanics than non-Hispanic whites are married, they are less likely to be divorced.
B) A higher proportion of Hispanics than any other group believe that children are very important for a successful marriage.
C) Hispanics are less geographically mobile than are non-Hispanic whites.
D) All these answers are correct.

29) According to the studies conducted by Zinn and Wells (2000) and Pinto and Coltrane (2009), identify a true statement about Hispanic families in the United States.
A) The families consist primarily of a dominating wife and mother.
B) Hispanic fathers become unquestioned authority figures, while wives and children are subservient and passive.
C) The studies of Hispanic families in the United States fail to show a pattern of male dominance.
D) None of these answers is correct.

30) In the context of the Asian American family,_____ emphasizes that the children of Chinese immigrants are struggling with how to establish their own identity while remaining a part of their family, a struggle that is more painful because of the contradiction between American and traditional Chinese values.
A) exchange theory
B) systems theory
C) symbolic interactionist theory
D) conflict theory

31) When one's lineage is traced through one's mother, grandmother, and so on, it reflects a_____ pattern of descent tracing.
A) matrilineal
B) patrilineal
C) bilinear
D) bilateral

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32) When one's lineage is traced through one's father, grandfather, and so on, it reflects a_____ pattern of descent tracing.
A) matrilineal
B) patrilineal
C) bilinear
D) bilateral

33) Marriage between people who are similar in social and demographic characteristics is known as
A) heterogamy.
B) monogamy.
C) polygamy.
D) homogamy.

34) Marriage between people who are dissimilar in social and demographic characteristics is known as
A) heterogamy.
B) bigamy.
C) polyandry.
D) homogamy.

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35) Same-sex couples
A) are more readily accepted than interracial families.
B) face entirely different adjustment issues than do heterosexual couples.
C) have to work through the same problems as heterosexual couples.
D) report more conflict over money management and income and less egalitarianism than other couples.

36) The irrational fear of homosexuality is called
A) homophobia.
B) hemophilia.
C) misogyny.
D) homogamy.

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37) Which of the following is a result of an interesting longitudinal study conducted by Tasker and Golombok (1997) to compare children raised by lesbian couples and single heterosexual mothers?
A) There were significant differences between the two groups in their acceptance of their family identity during adolescence.
B) The children reared by lesbian parents were traumatized by their family situation when they were adolescents.
C) Problems did arise for those who were stigmatized by their peers and those who felt that their mothers were too open about their lesbian identity in front of their friends.
D) All these answers are correct.

38) A survey of 55 gay or bisexual men found that
A) more than 90 percent of their sons were heterosexual.
B) most children raised in gay families identified themselves as homosexual.
C) children in homosexual families never fared better than those in heterosexual families.
D) children raised by same-sex parents were psychologically less healthy.

39) Many cultures have or had the practice of_____, in which the parents choose marital partners for their children.
A) arranged marriage
B) polygynous marriage
C) misogyny
D) monogamy

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Answer Key

Test name: Chapter 02

1) C
2) B
3) C
4) B
5) D
6) B
7) D
8) B
9) A
10) C
11) A
12) C
13) D
14) C
15) B
16) C
17) A
18) B
19) B
20) D
21) D
22) B
23) A
24) D
25) A
26) A
27) D
28) D
29) C
30) B
31) A
32) B
33) D
34) A
35) C
36) A
37) C

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38) A
39) A

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Chapter 2: Diversity in Families

Brief Chapter Outline

I. Learning Objectives

II. The Social Context of Family Life

III. The Variability of Family Life
- A. Variations Among Societies
- B. Variations Within Societies

IV. The Single-Parent Family
- A. Extent of Single-Parent Families
- B. Challenges of the Single-Parent Family
  - Challenges of Single Parents
    - Comparison: Single Parents in Iceland
  - Challenges of Children of Single Parents
  - Problems Between Parents and Children
- C. The Successful Single-Parent Family
  - Personal: "I Chose to Do It Alone"

V. Racial/Ethnic Families
- A. The African American Family
  - The Demographics of African American Families
  - Social Institutions and African American Family Life
  - Life in the African American Family
- B. The Hispanic Family
  - The Demographics of Hispanic Families
  - Life in the Hispanic Family
- C. The Asian American Family
- D. The Native American Family
- E. The Interracial Family

VI. Families With Same-Sex Parents
- A. Problems in Gay and Lesbian Families

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What Do You Think?

B. Intimacy in the Gay or Lesbian Family

C. Long-Term Gay and Lesbian Relationships

VII. Summary

Principles for Enhancing Intimacy

Chapter Summary

The text defines family as a group united by marriage or cohabitation, blood, and/or adoption in order to satisfy intimacy needs and/or bear and socialize children. Regardless of the social context, Americans want most of the same things: a satisfying and lasting marriage, healthy and happy children who grow up with both parents and do well in their lives, a family with strong and meaningful bonds, and so on. To understand family, one must be familiar with the rich diversity of family life. How people satisfy their intimacy needs in families varies from one society to another and within a given society. Anthropologists identify four functions: sexual relations, reproduction, socialization of children, and economic cooperation.

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Single-parent families have rapidly increased in recent decades; from 1970 to 2020, single-parent families increased from 3.5 million to 18.6 million. Although these families usually function adequately, single parents tend to suffer from overload problems (such as responsibility overload, task overload, and emotional overload) and the children may have problems with school, health, or relationships. Most single-parent families are headed by a mother. In spite of all the problems, there are some positive things to be said about the single-parent family. While it has higher rates of various kinds of problems, this type of family is neither intrinsically nor inevitably unhealthy or pathological.

Many of the possible differences between African American and white families may be because African Americans are far more likely to suffer from socioeconomic disadvantage. At every educational level, African Americans earn less than white people; higher educated African Americans are not as disadvantaged as those with less education, but the differences are substantial at all levels. The economic position of African Americans in the United States has changed little since the 1960s. African American families are more likely to be single parent and headed by a female. Children are accepted by family and community regardless of their mother's marital status at the time of their birth. There is a greater acceptance of single parenthood in the Black community, and African Americans are more likely than whites to believe that a single parent can provide a good family environment. Two-parent families tend to be egalitarian and

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most wives are employed.

Hispanics are the largest minority in the United States. Two-parent Hispanic families tend to be relatively stable. They are generally not characterized by extreme patriarchy, although it is often assumed so. Like African American and Native American families, Hispanic families have a wide network of supportive friends and relatives. Parenting in Hispanic families reflects four cultural values: *familismo*, *respeto*, *personalismo*, and *simpatía*.

Comparatively little research has been done on Asian American families, but Asian Americans are a rapidly growing minority in the United States, representing 5.9% of the population in 2019. Asian Americans have lower rates of divorce than other groups. Higher proportions of Asian Americans complete high school and college than do whites. Asian American parents are likely to instill values of education, obedience, loyalty, and self-control in their children, although the extent to which families are acculturated affects how similar or different they are from the rest of the population. The longer Asian American families are in the United States, the more likely they are to be acculturated.

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Family life among Native Americans is circumscribed by two important factors: a high poverty rate and tribal tradition. Native Americans have a high rate of intermarriage and are interdependent, with more emphasis placed on the extended family. Native American couples divorce in a less guilt-ridden and recriminating process than do whites. Interracial marriages are rare but increasing. Interracial couples may have unique problems with parenting because of conflicting value systems. The more accepting their social environment is, the easier it is to adjust to such problems.

Gays and lesbians are frequently faced with a hostile environment and have many stresses that are directly or indirectly related to it. Factors that enhance intimacy in homosexual couples tend to be the same as those in heterosexual couples, although gay males are more likely to define fidelity as commitment rather than sexual exclusivity. Gay and lesbian parents do not indicate a preference for their children to also be homosexual.

Detailed Chapter Outline

Introduction

Family is a group united by marriage or cohabitation, blood, and/or adoption in order to satisfy intimacy needs and/or bear and socialize children.

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I. The Social Context of Family Life

Does social context make any difference in the family life if the people are white or Hispanic or part of a non-white racial group, **heterosexual** or **homosexual**, a couple, or a single parent? In many ways, the answer is "no," because whatever the social context, Americans want most of the same things: a marriage that is satisfying and that lasts, children who grow up with both parents and who do well in their lives, a family with strong and meaningful bonds, and so on.

II. The Variability of Family Life

Families vary across time, among societies, and within societies.

A. Variations Among Societies

The variations among societies underscore the fact that some differ from what one may regard as normal, natural, right, or typical. Many cultures have or have had the practice of **arranged marriage**, in which the parents choose marital partners for their children.

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The ideal of most Americans is **monogamy**, union with one person at a time. **Polygamy** is the marriage of one person to two or more people of the opposite sex. **Polygyny** is the marriage of a man to two or more wives, while **polyandry** is the marriage of a woman to two or more husbands. Polygyny has been practiced by more human societies than any other form of marriage. Other variations are based not so much in ideals as in common practices.

B. Variations Within Societies

Within any particular society, family life varies over time. And in a complex, modern society, it varies among groups at any particular point in time as well. The American colonists generally believed that it was important for every individual to be a part of a household. Because of lack of birth control, marriage was likely to lead quickly to children, and families tended to be large. Sexual standards were strict. As in modern America, marriage did not always work out well in the colonies.

III. The Single-Parent Family

Single-parent families may occur in various ways, including divorce, death of a spouse, and the

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decision to have or adopt a child on one's own without getting married. In the case of divorce, *single-parent* does not mean that the child has no contact with the other parent but that the child lives primarily with one parent. In other cases, contact with the other parent or with the biological parents (in the case of adoption) may not be possible. *Single-parent* also does not mean a permanent arrangement.

A. Extent of Single-Parent Families

Single-parent families have increased considerably over the past decades. The Census Bureau reported that the number rose from 3.5 million in 1970 to 18.6 million in 2020, representing 20.4% of all families. The United States has the highest rate of children living in single-parent families in the world (Kramer, 2019). People may be single parents by default: those abandoned or divorced by spouses, those left alone because the other parents were incarcerated, those left alone because the other parents didn't want to marry them, and those widowed. Single parenting also may be a choice. Women who opt to be single parents have various motives.

B. Challenges of the Single-Parent Family

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The chapter discusses the various kinds of challenges that one is more likely to encounter if one is a single parent or a child in a single-parent family.

Challenges of Single Parents

A single parent is likely to face three kinds of overload: responsibility, task, and emotional. *Responsibility overload* may result from having too few financial resources. *Task overload* arises from the fact that one parent must do the work of two parents. *Emotional overload* can occur when the single parent neglects their own needs. Alone or in combination, the three kinds of overload can result in loneliness, a feeling of hopelessness, or various emotional problems.

Challenges of Children of Single Parents

Children of single parents generally do not have, from infancy on, the same level of social, emotional, relational, and financial care as children in two-parent homes (Aronson & Huston, 2004). It is not surprising, then, that these children are more likely to exhibit a variety of problematic behaviors (Barton, 2006; Berger, 2005; Bramlett & Blumberg,

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2007; Ellis et al., 2003; Holmes et al., 2009; Kroese et al., 2021; Magnuson & Berger, 2009; Wen, 2008); compared to those in two-parent families, the following can be observed among children growing with a single parent:

- They have higher rates of antisocial behavior, aggression, anxiety, depression, and school problems.
- They are less likely to complete high school.
- They are more likely to get involved in early sexual activity and adolescent pregnancy.
- They are more likely to be the victims of abuse.
- They are more likely to use illicit drugs.
- They are likely to have poorer mental and physical health.

But it is important to reiterate that these tendencies *do not mean that most children in single-parent families will suffer such consequences*. Higher rates do not mean a majority; they only mean that children in single-parent homes are more likely than those in two-parent homes to have such problems.

Problems Between Parents and Children

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Parenting is not an easy responsibility even when there are two in the home. When there is one, relationships with children present even more severe challenges. Boys seem to present even greater problems than girls (Hetherington, 2003). Most single-parent families are headed by a mother. The single mother, therefore, has been studied far more than the single father. The small amount of research performed on single fathers indicates that the problems are more severe than they are in single-mother homes. Dating can be a vexing problem. Single parents who perceive their children to be less positive about their dating agree that the children react with both anger and resentment toward the dates. The problem of dating is compounded by the fact that the children not only do not like the parent's dates, but the dates also may be less than enthusiastic about the children.

C. The Successful Single-Parent Family

The challenges and problems discussed earlier reflect the special circumstances of parenting without a partner. Again, these challenges and problems are *more* likely to face single-parent than two-parent families but are not experienced by all or even the majority of single-parent families. In spite of the greater likelihood of mental health problems, the majority of single parents and their children have fairly high levels of both physical and mental health.

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IV. Racial/Ethnic Families

Diversity in racial/ethnic families reflects a history of prejudice and discrimination, a greater proportion of families in the lower social classes, and, to some extent, differing cultural traditions.

A. The African American Family

Of all those who have struggled for acceptance in the larger society, none has had a more tortured journey than African Americans.

The Demographics of African American Families

Census Bureau estimates put the Black population at 42 million in 2019, representing nearly 13% of the total population. Black children are more likely than those of any other group to be living in a single-parent family.

Social Institutions and African American Family Life

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From slavery through segregation to present-day discrimination, African Americans have waged a long battle in the United States for justice and equality. *Conflict theory* helps one understand their long struggle and its consequences for family life, for much of the segregation and discrimination experienced by African Americans is rooted in the competition between racial groups for economic and political advantage. The higher rates of divorce and single-parent families among African Americans become more understandable when one realizes that for decades Black unemployment rates have been at least double those of whites, and the median income of Black families has been two thirds or less than that of whites. The fate of the Black family, like that of all families, is tied up with its position in the U.S. economy.

Life in the African American Family

African Americans are more likely than others to grow up in a family that is impoverished, that is disrupted by divorce, or that is headed by a mother who has never married. Black adolescents mature earlier and have their first sexual experience at earlier ages than others, putting them at greater risk for sexually transmitted disease and unwanted pregnancy

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(Ohalete, 2007).

There are many strengths and positive aspects of life in the Black family. In fact, in some areas Black families have advantages over white families. A study of 290 women from two-parent families found that while both whites and African Americans reported good childhood family environments, the Black women, compared to the white, rated their families of origin as more cohesive, organized, and expressive, and as lower in conflict (Clay et al., 2007). Moreover, compared to white families, Black families have a greater amount of equality.

B. The Hispanic Family

Like African Americans, Hispanics have also had to grapple with prejudice and discrimination and with lower social class positions. Cultural factors also play a strong role in Hispanic family life.

The Demographics of Hispanic Families

For 2019, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated the Hispanic population to be nearly 60.6 million or 18.5% of the total population. Hispanics are the largest minority in the United States. Hispanic culture emphasizes family.

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Life in the Hispanic Family

Evidence regarding the quality of Hispanic marriages is mixed. While machismo may be a characteristic of Latin American culture, studies of Hispanic families in the United States fail to show a pattern of male dominance (Pinto & Coltrane, 2009; Zinn & Wells, 2000). Parenting in Hispanic families reflects four cultural values: *familismo, respeto, personalismo,* and *simpatía* (Guilamo-Ramos et al., 2007). In general, Hispanics are more integrated into community and family life than are non-Hispanic whites.

C. The Asian American Family

Comparatively little research has been done on Asian American families. However, Asian Americans are a rapidly growing minority in the United States, numbering about 19.4 million, or 5.9% of the population in 2019. As a minority group, they fare extremely well in such things as income and education. Asian American families tend to be large, with 23% of

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married-couple families having five or more members (McKinnon & Grieco, 2001). Asian American parents instill a high value on education in their children (Asakawa, 2001). Traditional Asian culture elevates males over females. There are, of course, variations both among and within various Asian American groups in all matters, from educational attainment and financial status to adherence to family traditions (Paik et al., 2017). The longer Asian American families are in the United States, the more they are American rather than Asian.

D. The Native American Family

There are about 4.3 million American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts, accounting for 1.3% of the population. Like Asian Americans, Native Americans tend to cluster in the West. As in the case of the educational and economic status of African Americans, that of Native Americans must be understood in terms of a history of prejudice and discrimination by the larger society. The high poverty rate is one important factor that circumscribes family life among Native Americans.

The other important factor in Native American family life is tribal tradition. About 300 different tribes exist. As Staples (1988, p. 350) points out, one cannot talk about a Native American family: "There are only tribes and family systems, which vary from tribe to tribe." For example, some tribes are **patrilineal** (descent is traced through the male line), while others are **matrilineal** (descent is traced through the female line).

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E. The Interracial Family

The vast majority of Americans marry within their own racial group. But attitudes have changed, laws forbidding interracial marriage no longer exist, and the number of interracial marriages is increasing. Interracial marriages are more challenging and more fragile than marriages that are racially homogamous (Fu, 2001; Zhang & Van Hook, 2009). **Homogamy** is the marriage between people who are similar in social and demographic characteristics, whereas **heterogamy** is the marriage between people who are dissimilar in social and demographic characteristics, such as interracial marriages. A few of those in interracial marriages indicate that they are motivated by rebellion against the conventions of society or by an attraction to the opposite sex of another race. Even in a more accepting, multicultural setting, the marital relationship itself is problematic. Interracial families face the same problems as others plus some additional problems that are unique.

V. Families With Same-Sex Parents

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The Census Bureau reports that as of 2019 there were 543,000 same-sex married couples and 469,000 same-sex unmarried partners living together in the nation. Same-sex marriage is now legal and is, in fact, supported by two thirds of Americans (McCarthy, 2020). Before legalization, some gays and lesbians secretly formed stable unions, sometimes with a formal ceremony to mark the occasion. Many of those unions involved children.

A. Problems in Gay and Lesbian Families

Gay male couples have some unique sources of stress. **Homophobia**, the irrational fear of homosexuality, is a possible source of stress (Bartos et al., 2020). Also, there is the stress of **sexual dysfunctions**. The evidence of well-being in homosexual families led the American Academy of Pediatrics to support the right of gays and lesbians to adopt their partners' children (Perrin, 2002).

B. Intimacy in the Gay or Lesbian Family

Long-term homosexual relationships are indistinguishable from their heterosexual counterparts in most respects (Gottman et al., 2003). It is more difficult for a homosexual couple to fulfill its intimacy needs, however, because of the hostile environment. Other than a support system, the factors that add to the quality of a homosexual relationship are the same as those for a heterosexual union (Gottman et al., 2003; Mackey et al., 2004). There are, however, some differences. Heterosexual couples argue more frequently over politics and social issues, while homosexual couples argue more frequently over distrust or lying (about, e.g., previous lovers, which may be especially troublesome when the ex-lovers are still part of their social support network). Two additional differences that affect intimacy are the greater probability of equality among homosexuals and the way in which fidelity is defined by gays and lesbians.

C. Long-Term Gay and Lesbian Relationships

The likelihood of breakup for same-sex couples is greater when compared to couples who are raising children. Still, many gays and lesbians not only form families but remain in long-term, satisfying relationships (Dang & Frazer, 2005). In fact, the highest degree of psychological intimacy (defined as being open with the partner about matters not usually shared with others) was attained by the lesbian couples.

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Lecture Enrichments, Discussion Questions, Suggested Activities, and Class Exercises

1. Any definition of family needs to be able to include the growing number of nontraditional families. Ask your students to think about what family means to them. Pose the questions, "What is required to have a family? Should people be legally related in order to constitute a family? Do families have to include children?" By encouraging the class discussion along these lines, your students should come to appreciate the many different conceptions of the family in modern society.

2. In Sara C. Hare's article "Using E-Mail to Promote Cross-Cultural Understanding of Families" (*Teaching Sociology*, Vol. 27, January 1999, pp. 67–73), she suggests that students often have difficulty applying a sociological "lens" or perspective to topics. To avoid this problem, she proposes a strategy of using electronic mail to promote cross-cultural conversations and learning: Hare randomly matches her sociology students with international students on campus who have signed up for an email "pen pal." The article includes a summary of instructions for conducting this exercise.

3. An undercurrent theme of Chapter 2 is that the key to understanding family variation lies in the linkages that families have with their community and society. This helps account for the tremendous family diversity that we see today in American society. Encourage your students to think about how immigration created an almost infinite rainbow of values, customs, and lifestyles in America, and more importantly, how an appreciation of this diversity is essential to derive an accurate interpretation of modern family life.

4. Sociologist William Julius Wilson has made the controversial assertion that the plight of African Americans (and the members of other racial and ethnic minority groups) in the United States has less to do with race and more to do with class. Wilson argues that an "underclass" has been created as a consequence of the changes involved in America's shift from an industrial- to a service- or an information-based economy. In other words, African Americans who managed to make a living during the industrial era became unemployed as the economy changed. Have your students evaluate the thesis of the "underclass," with particular emphasis on how the changes in the American economy have affected minority families in our society.

5. The text discusses single-parent families, non-white families, and homosexual families in American society. All of these family forms have been the object of prejudice and

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discrimination. One interesting vehicle for highlighting prejudice and discrimination in the classroom is to encourage your students to think critically about how much discrimination takes place. Stephen Sweet and Kimberly Baker wrote a useful article titled "Who Has the Advantages in My Intended Career? Engaging Students in the Identification of Gender and Racial Inequalities" (*Teaching Sociology*, Vol. 39, January 2011, pp. 1–15) that would help students understand the practical consequences of discrimination. In the article, they discuss the two learning modules that will require students to do their own research and that will sensitize students to discrimination in their intended careers.

6. The topic of gay and lesbian families is sure to elicit many different reactions in your classroom. As pointed out in the text, gay or lesbian couples frequently face a hostile environment and have many stresses that are related to their sexual orientation. Encourage your students to role-play and imagine what it's like to be homosexual, have a sexual relationship, and still try to live within the predominantly heterosexual community. A number of videos listed in the "Film and Video List" for this chapter may be linked with this discussion. Another possibility is a "coming out" assignment for your students that is outlined by Kristine De Welde and Eleanor A. Hubbard in their article titled "'I'm Glad I'm Not Gay!': Heterosexual Students' Emotional Experience in the College Classroom with a 'Coming Out' Assignment" (*Teaching Sociology*, Vol. 31, January 2003, pp. 73–84).

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7. Kristine De Welde and Eleanor A. Hubbard offer an interesting "coming out" assignment to facilitate an understanding of homosexual identity and the problems that homosexuals face living in a predominantly heterosexual world ("'I'm Glad I'm Not Gay!': Heterosexual Students' Emotional Experience in the College Classroom with a 'Coming Out' Assignment," *Teaching Sociology*, Vol. 31, January 2003, pp. 73–84).

Film and Video List

1. *Polygamy* (2006, Films Media Group, 37 min)

   This ABC News film interviews women on the varied experiences in polygamist families. Some practitioners describe polygamy as a healthy institution that removes isolation and jealousy. It also shows a woman criticizing polygamy, narrating a bombardment of abuses from her polygamist past, and personifying the viewpoint of many victims who have escaped the culture.

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2. *On Values: The Family* (1994, Films Media Group, 60 min)

   This film analyzes the cultural forces that affect the family, the ever-changing structure of families in America, and its consequences on children.

3. *The Family* (1991, Insight Media, 30 min)

   The film reveals why and how family structures have changed over time. It examines a single-parent family, a nuclear family, a dysfunctional family, and a chosen family. Another discussion is how family structure relates to the fulfillment of emotional, physical, and social needs.

4. *Being a Single Parent* (2003, Films Media Group, 21 min)

   This film focuses on three different kinds of single parents: a divorced woman, a woman who chose to be a single parent, and a man who raised his two sons alone.

5. *African American Cultures in the U.S.A.* (1993, Insight Media, two-part series, 60 min each)

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   This film examines some possible causes of demographic differences between African Americans and other racial/ethnic groups. It also explores the portrayal of African Americans in the media and the way in which schools perpetuate African American stereotypes.

6. *Searching for a Native American Identity: Louise Erdrich and Michael Dorris* (1988, Films Media Group, 30 min)

   This film shows Bill Moyers and two Native American scholars—a husband and wife team—discussing the search for Native American identity in a pluralistic society.

7. *Journal of the First Americans* (1995, Films Media Group, five-part series, 60 min each)

   This film series explores the experiences of Native Americans in North America today, including some of the challenging issues they face as they fight to hold on to their lands, their spirituality, and their cultures. It also discusses a number of family-based issues.

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8. *Family Name* (2008, Docurama Films: New Video Group, 89 min)

   This film chronicles the life of Macky Alston as he traces the history of his family name. It also illustrates the ways in which students may find food for thought in their lives and their individual histories. It is, basically, a genealogical detective story.

9. *The Latino Family* (1993, Films Media Group, 30 min)

   The film illustrates both the changes in and the endurance of traditional Latino families. It examines the patterns of migration and cultural change. It also explains the tradition of *la familia* (Latino familism).

10. *Challenging Hispanic Stereotypes: Arturo Madrid* (1988, Films Media Group, 30 min)

    In this film with Bill Moyers, Arturo Madrid discusses the controversy surrounding the state of education and bilingual education, mainly, for Hispanic people. It examines the issue of stereotyping in detail and a variety of well-known stereotypes surrounding Latinos.

11. *Asian-American Cultures in the U.S.A.* (1993, Insight Media, 60 min)

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    This film describes the different ethnic groups that constitute the Asian American community, and it examines the differences and similarities between groups of Asians. It also explains why Asian Americans are known as the "model minority" and evaluates this stereotype.

12. *The Asianization of America* (1993, Films Media Group, 26 min)

    Asians are the fastest growing racial group in the United States. Stereotypes have been adjusted and condescension has given way to admiration and jealousy. This film examines the role of Asian Americans half a century after the abolition of the Chinese Exclusion Act, seeking to determine what accounts for Asians' successes in academia and to what degree they can, should, or want to blend into the American "melting pot."

13. *Conquering America: Bharati Mukherjee* (1990, Films Media Group, 30 min)

    In this film, writer Bharati Mukherjee discusses America's newest Asian immigrants and the building resentment and tensions between the various cultures in the United States.

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14. *Homosexuality: Nature vs. Nurture* (1988, Films for the Humanities and Sciences, 26 min)

    This film explores the beginnings of human sexuality and examines the genetic, biological, psychological, and cultural roots of sexual behavior. It also explores the basis of sexual orientation to such an extent as existing knowledge permits.

15. *On Being Gay: A Conversation With Brian McNaught* (2006, TRB Productions, 75 min)

    In this film, author, counselor, and lecturer Brian McNaught dismisses myths about homosexuality; he talks about growing up as a gay man in a straight world and discusses a variety of topics, including stereotypes about sexuality, transsexuality, transvestism, and bisexuality.

16. *Because This Is About Love* (1993, Filmakers Library, 28 min)

    This film chronicles the lives of five gay and lesbian couples from different cultural backgrounds who have made a lifelong commitment to each other by going through a marriage ceremony. It depicts, in a nonthreatening way, a revolutionary act that questions the very foundation of family structure.

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17. *We Are Family: Parenting and Foster Parenting in Gay Families* (1986, Filmakers Library, 59 min)

    This film shows what life is really like in homosexual families, focusing on parenting and the well-being of the children. By showing how much these parents have to offer their children, the video suggests that good parenting is independent of an individual's sexual orientation.

18. *Gay Couples: The Nature of Relationships* (1997, Films for the Humanities and Sciences, 50 min)

    This film features Dr. Pepper Schwartz as she documents the lives of two couples, one gay and another lesbian. This sensitive case study approach explores the nature of gay couples' relationships.

19. *From a Secret Place* (1993, Fanlight Productions, 40 min)

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In this film, six young people talk about "coming out" as lesbian or gay. It also shows the interviews of three supportive parents and a psychotherapist.

20. *Love Makes a Family: Gay Parents in the '90s* (1991, Fanlight Productions, 16 min)

This film explores the life of a lesbian single mother who shares parenting with the gay father of her son, a lesbian couple who cares for one's children from a previous marriage, and a gay couple with two adopted sons.

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