

BENOKRAITIS

SOC⁵

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY



12

Families and Aging



NOW WITH SOC ONLINE

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1 Describe how families are similar and different in the United States and worldwide
- 2 Describe how and explain why U.S. families are changing
- 3 Describe, illustrate, and explain why intimate partner violence, child maltreatment, and elder abuse occur
- 4 Describe, illustrate, and explain how the U.S. older population is changing, and its impact on our society
- 5 Compare and evaluate the theoretical explanations of families and aging

Family

- Intimate group in which two or more people
 - *Have a committed relationship*
 - *Care for one another and any children*
 - *Share close emotional ties and functions*
- Family structures vary across cultures but share similarities



Universal Functions of Family



Similarities in Families

Marriage

- Socially approved mating relationship that people expect to be stable and enduring

Endogamy

- Cultural practice of marrying within one's group

Exogamy

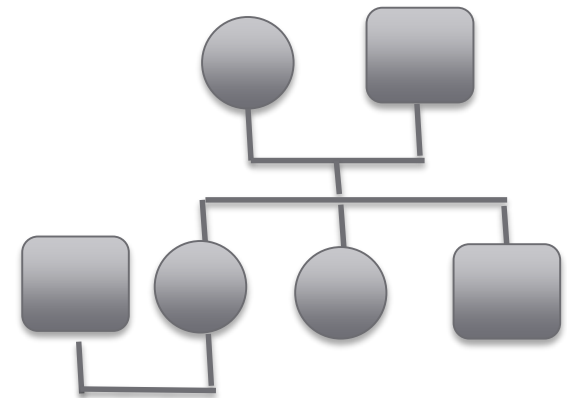
- Cultural practice of marrying outside one's group

Family: Application

- Is it endogamy or exogamy?
 - *In the United States, 24 states prohibit marriages between first cousins*
 - *Orthodox Jews require that individuals marry within the faith*
 - *Some states require that individuals marry someone of the opposite sex*
 - *In India, people are encouraged to marry within their caste*

Nuclear and Extended Families

- **Nuclear family:** Composed of married parents and their biological or adopted children
- **Extended family:** Composed of parents, children, and other kin
- **Exercise:** Draw a Genealogy



Residence Patterns

- Newly married couples can be:
 - *Patrilocal*: Live with the husband's family
 - *Matrilocal*: Reside with the wife's family
 - *Neolocal*: Set up their own residence
- **Boomerang generation**: Young adults who never leave their parents' home or move back later

Michael S Yamashita/Documentary Value/Corbis



Authority and Power

Matriarchal family system

- Oldest females control cultural, political, and economic resources, and have power over males

Patriarchal family system

- Oldest males control cultural, political, and economic resources, and have power over females

Egalitarian family

- Both partners share power and authority fairly equally

Courtship and Marriage

Marriage market

- Prospective spouses compare the assets and liabilities of eligible partners and select the best available mate (**What theory support this?**)

Love Marriage vs Arranged marriage

- Partners choose each other
- Parents or relatives choose the children's spouses
- Craig's List

Courtship and Marriage (Continued)

- **Monogamy:** One person is married exclusively to another person
- **Serial monogamy:** Individuals marry several people, but one at a time
- **Polygamy:** Man or woman has two or more spouses
 - *Polygyny - One man married to two or more women*
 - *Polyandry - One woman is married to two or more men*



Marriage and Divorce

Macro-level reasons for divorce

- *Changing values*
- *Economy*
- *Demographic variables*

Micro-level reasons for divorce

- *Infidelity*
- *Communication and financial problems*
- *Substance and spousal abuse*
- *Premarital doubts*
- *Issues regarding raising children*

Cohabitation

- Two unrelated/unmarried people who live together and are in a sexual relationship
- Women's cohabitation rates have increased
- **Dating cohabitation:** Couple that spends a great deal of time together decides to move in together
- **Premarital cohabitation**
 - *Couple lives together before getting married*



Tara Moore/Getty Images

Benefits and Costs of Cohabitation

	Benefits	Costs
Economic		
Psychological / Emotional		
Social /Cultural: Mores and Laws		

Nonmarital Childbearing

- Vary across racial-ethnic groups, social class, and education level
- Unmarried teenage births have declined
- Reasons for non-marital childbearing
 - *Premarital unprotected sex*
 - *Changing attitudes*
 - *Inadequate funding for sex education and family planning organizations*
 - *Demographic factors*



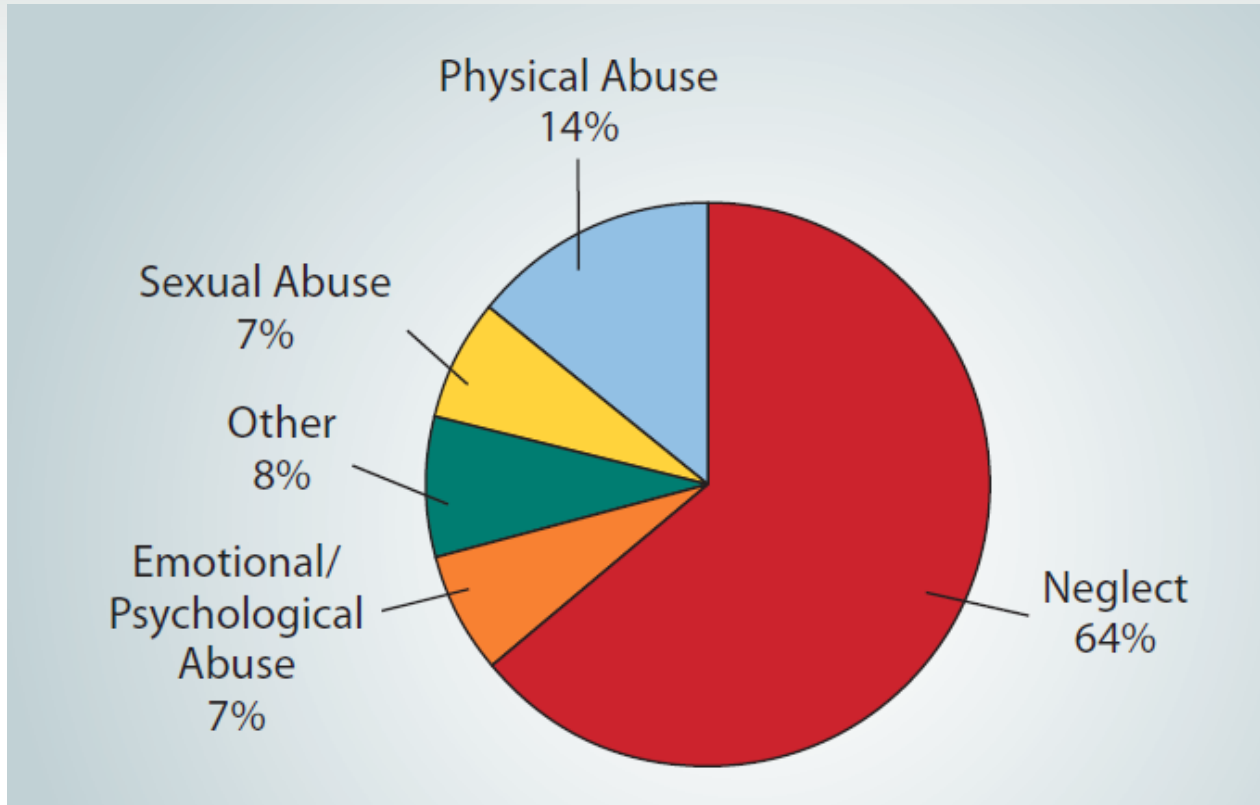
Denise Hager/Catchlight Visual Services/Alamy

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

- Abuse that occurs between people in a close relationship
- Shirley's story:
 - *Contributing factors*
 - Macro / Systems
 - Micro / Individual
 - *Options*
 - *Assistance*
 - *Relapse*

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

- Causes
 - *Heavy alcohol and drug use*
 - *Financial problems*
 - *Unemployment*
 - *Low self esteem*
 - *Controlling personality*
 - *History of either parent being exposed to a violent household*
 - *Demographic variables*

Figure 12.6**Types of Child Maltreatment, 2012**

Note: "Neglect" includes medical neglect (almost 2 percent of these cases). "Other" includes categories that some states report, such as a parent's drug/alcohol abuse.

Source: Based on U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2015, Table 3-9.

Elder Abuse

- Any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a caregiver that causes harm to people age 65 or older
 - *Physical, psychological, and sexual abuse*
 - *Isolation from family and friends*
 - *Deprivation of basic necessities*
 - *Financial exploitation*

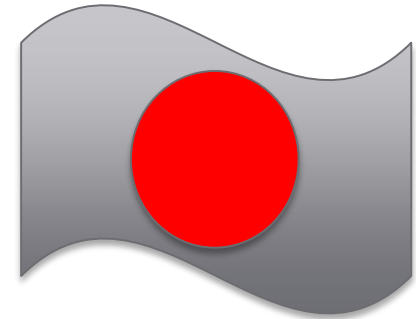
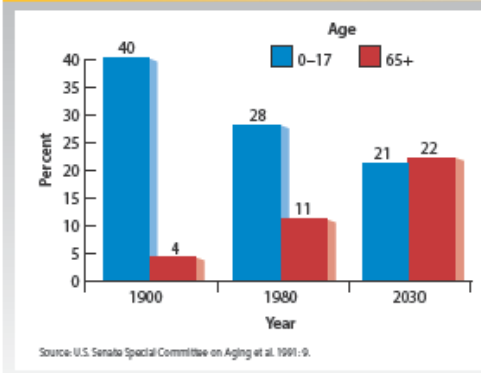
Aging

- **Age is a social construction**
 - *Individual experience (biography)*
 - *Societal experience (history)*
- **Life expectancy:** Average expected number of years of life remaining at a given age
 - *Varies by sex, social class, and race-ethnicity*
- Women live longer than men
- Latinas have the longest lifespans

Itsuo Inouye/AP Images

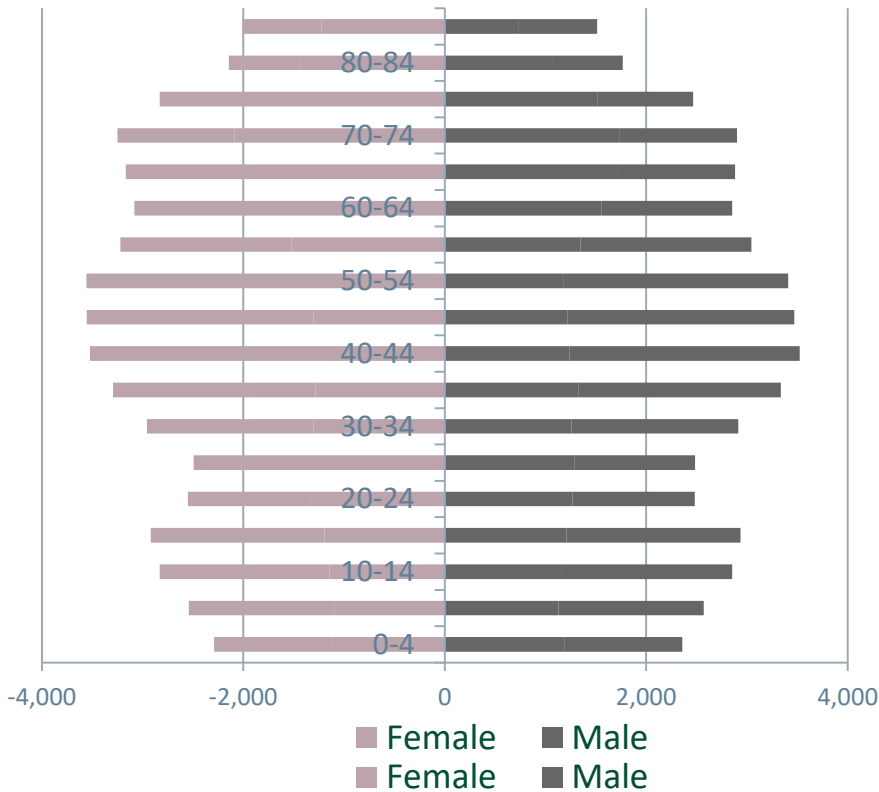


The Young and the Old in the United States, 1900-2030

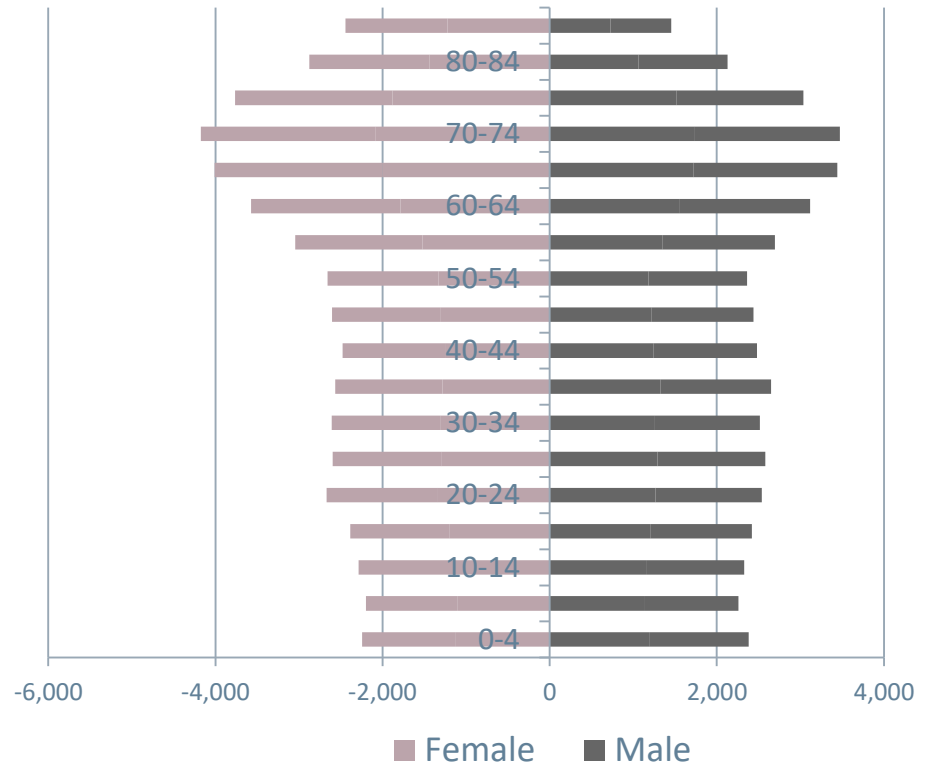


Japanese experience

Hancock County 2001



Hancock County 2030



Implications of the Aging Population

- **Old-age dependency ratio:** Number of older people who are not in the labor force relative to the number of working-age adults
- Maine 2000 2012 2016
4.2
- Increase in health care costs and services
- Rise in disability rates among **baby boomers**

Sandwich Generation and Grandparents as Parents

- Midlife women and men who care for their children and aging parents
 - *Experiences considerable stress*
 - *Rise of multigenerational households*
 - *Right-to-die*
 - *Competition for scarce resources*
- Grandparents' Role: Big Mama

<http://newsreel.org/video/BIG-MAMA>



Table 12.3**Sociological Perspectives on Families and Aging**

Theoretical Perspective	Level of Analysis	Key Points
Functionalist	Macro	Families are important in maintaining societal stability and meeting family members' needs. Older people who are active and engaged are more satisfied with life.
Conflict	Macro	Families promote social inequality because of social class differences. Many corporations view older workers as disposable.
Feminist	Macro and micro	Families both mirror and perpetuate patriarchy and gender inequality. Women have an unequal burden in caring for children as well as older family members and relatives.
Symbolic Interactionist	Micro	Families construct their everyday lives through interaction and subjective interpretations of family roles. Many older family members adapt to aging and often maintain previous activities.

Explanations: Application

- Identify the theoretical perspective
 - *Relationships are stable when they result in more rewards than costs*
 - *Families exist to meet the needs of the society*
 - *Domestic violence is a reflection of a patriarchal society*



Chapter Review

- What is a family? Why are families important?
- What are the different forms of relationships and families?
- How are U.S. families changing?
- Describe the diversity among American families.



Chapter Review (Continued)

- Describe the problem of family violence and abuse.
- Explain our aging society.
- Distinguish among the sociological explanations of family and aging.

KEY TERMS

- Family
- Incest taboo
- Marriage
- Endogamy
- Exogamy
- Nuclear family
- Extended family
- Patrilocal residence pattern
- Matrilocal residence pattern
- Neolocal residence pattern
- Boomerang generation
- Matriarchal family system
- Patriarchal family system
- Egalitarian family
- Marriage market
- Arranged marriage
- Monogamy
- Serial monogamy
- Polygamy
- Cohabitation
- Dating cohabitation
- Premarital cohabitation



KEY TERMS

- Fictive kin
- Intimate partner violence (IPV)
- Child maltreatment
- Elder abuse
- Life expectancy
- Baby boomers
- Old-age dependency ratio
- Activity theory
- Exchange theory
- Ageism
- Continuity theory

SUMMARY

- Family structures vary across cultures
- American families have changed considerably since the 1950s
- Intimate partner violence occurs between people in a close relationship
- People are deemed old at age 65, 66, or 67 as they can retire
- Sociological perspectives are useful in understanding families and aging

