

CHAPTER 14: FAMILIES, LIFESTYLES, AND PARENTING

Objective's for Today's Class:
Adult Lifestyles

Adults today choose many lifestyles
and form many types of families

- They live alone
- They cohabit
- They marry
- They divorce
- They remarry
- They live with someone of the same sex

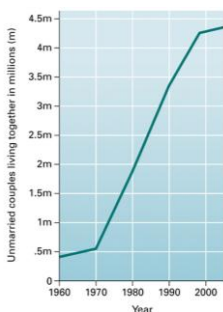
Single Adults

- There has been a dramatic rise in the percentage of single adults
- What are the advantages of being single?
- What are the disadvantages of being single?

Should You Get Married?

What are five reasons not to get married?
What are five reasons to get married?

Cohabitation: Living together in a sexual relationship without being married



- Researchers have found:
 - No differences in marital quality between individuals who cohabitated and those who did not
- OR
- That cohabitation is not good for a marriage

What Do You Really Know About Marriage?

Let's take the Marriage Quiz

Typical Marrying Age

- In France, the average groom is 30 and the average bride is 28
- In Canada, the average groom is 29 and the average bride is 27
- In the United States, the average age for grooms is 27 and for brides is 26

The First Year Of Marriage

- Husbands and wives gradually feel less "in love" and pleased with married life
- Why?
 - A sharp drop in time spent talking to one another
 - A sharp drop in doing things that brought each other pleasure (saying "I love you" or doing things to make each other laugh)
 - Leisure pursuits giving way to household tasks and chores

After the First Year

- Couples whose relationships endure generally report that they love each other more than they did earlier
 - Commitment may be the aspect of love that determines whether a relationship survives

Marital Satisfaction

- More men than women report being happily married
 - Simply being married is associated with gains in men's mental and physical health
- For women, relationship quality has a greater impact on mental health
 - As a result, women suffer more than men when a marriage has problems
 - Women feel particularly dissatisfied when the demands of husband, children, housework, and career are overwhelming
- Women are more willing to evaluate a relationship as unsatisfying and try to work on it
 - Men more often withdraw from conflict

Keeping Love Alive

1. Make time for your relationship
2. Tell your partner of your love
3. Be available to your partner in times of need
4. Communicate constructively and positively about relationship problems
5. Show an interest in important aspects of your partner's life
6. Confide in your partner
7. Forgive minor offenses, and try to understand major offenses

What Happens When the Marriage Doesn't Work?

Factors Related to Marital Satisfaction

Factor	Happy Marriage	Unhappy Marriage
Family backgrounds	Partners similar in SES, education, religion, and age	Partners very different in SES, education, religion, and age
Age at marriage	After age 23	Before age 23
Length of courtship	At least 6 months	Less than 6 months
Timing of first pregnancy	After first year of marriage	Before or within first year of marriage
Relationship to extended family	Warm and positive	Negative; wish to maintain distance
Marital patterns in extended family	Stable	Unstable; frequent separations and divorces
Financial and employment status	Secure	Insecure
Personality characteristics	Emotionally positive; good conflict-resolution skills	Emotionally negative and impulsive; poor conflict-resolution skills

Divorce Rates

- The United States has one of the highest rates in the world
 - In 2000 and 2001, there were about 4 divorces per 1000 people
- About 43% of first marriages end in separation or divorce within 15 years
- About 90% of separated couples go on to divorce within 5 years

What Couples are More Likely to End Their Marriage?

- Teenagers have high divorce rates
- Couples with less education and income
- Couples who live together prior to marriage
- Couples who have divorced parents
- Couples who become pregnant or bear a child before marriage
- Couples who have stepchildren in the home or have no children

Reasons for Divorce in Middle- and Late-Adulthood

- For Women:
 - Verbal, physical, or emotional abuse
 - Alcohol and drug abuse
 - Cheating
- For Men:
 - No obvious problems – just fell out of love
 - Cheating
 - Different values, lifestyles

Should You Get Divorced?

What impact does it have on the individuals involved?

Do Divorced Adults Get Remarried?

On average, divorced adults remarry within 4 years after their divorce (with men doing this sooner than women)

How do Homosexual Relationships Compare to Heterosexual Relationships?

Gay and Lesbian Couples...

- Are similar in their satisfactions, loves, joys, and conflicts to heterosexual couples
 - Just like heterosexual couples, gay and lesbian adults need to find the balance of romantic love, affection, autonomy, and equality
- Are creating families that include children
 - Researchers have found that children growing up in gay or lesbian families are just as popular with their peers and have no differences in adjustment or mental health as compared to children in heterosexual families

Next Class

- Chapter 14 – Families, Lifestyles, and Parenting Continued...
 - Please read about Parenting