




Adolescent Development

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Chapter 4: Families

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Second “Chunk” of the Course

- The Contexts of Adolescence
 - Families (Ch. 4)
 - Peer Groups (Ch. 5)
 - Schools (Ch. 6)
 - Work & Leisure (Ch. 7)

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Outline/Overview

- Parent-Teen Conflict: Generation Gap?
- Family Relationships
- Parenting styles
- Autonomy /attachment
- Siblings: Relationships & (Dis)Similarities
- Families and changes in society
 - Divorce & Poverty

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● ● ● | Parent-Teen Conflict

- Generation Gap?
 - Popular advice for parents of teens
 - Emphasizes non-normative development
 - Scientific writings
 - Focus on conflict
 - Research indicates
 - Very little emotional distance between teens and parents
 - Emotional relationship - examples
 - Intergenerational values

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● ● ● | Generation Gap Fact or Fiction?

- Exists in matters of personal taste
- Transitory preferences, not values shaped over time
- Parent-Child Disagreements (LS)
- Generally mundane issues
- Different perspectives on issues
- Parents - matters of right or wrong
- Teens - personal choice

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● ● ● | Family Relationships

- Reorganization & change
 - Adapting to substantial changes
- Parents at midlife meet adolescents
 - MH impact (primarily on parents)
- Transformations in family relations
 - More egalitarian parent – child relationships

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● ● ● | Family relationships and adolescent development

Parenting Styles

Critical dimensions of parental behavior

- Parental responsiveness
 - Degree to which parent responds to child's needs in an accepting, supportive manner
- Parental demandingness
 - Degree to which parent expects/demands mature, responsible behavior from the child

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● ● ● | Parenting Styles

- Authoritative parents are warm but firm
 - Use induction – the best parenting style
- Authoritarian parents place a high value on obedience and conformity
- Indulgent parents behave in an accepting, benign, and somewhat more passive way
- Indifferent parents try to minimize the time and energy that they must devote to interacting with their child

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● ● ● | Autonomy and Attachment in the Family

- Adolescents who are permitted to assert their own opinions within a family context that is secure and loving
 - Develop higher self-esteem
 - Develop more mature coping abilities
- Adolescents whose autonomy is squelched
 - at risk for developing feelings of depression
- Adolescents who do not feel connected
 - more likely than their peers to develop behavior problems

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● ● ● Family Relationships at Adolescence: Siblings

- Adolescent's relationships with siblings
 - Become more equal
 - Become more distant
 - Become less emotionally intense
- Quality of sibling relationships are affected by quality of parent-child relationship
- Quality of adolescent-sibling relationship affects adolescent's relationships with peers

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● ● ● Behavioral Genetics

- Whether and how much given traits are genetically vs. environmentally determined
- How do these two sets of factors interact?
- Two types of environmental influences
 - Shared environmental influences
 - Nonshared environmental influences

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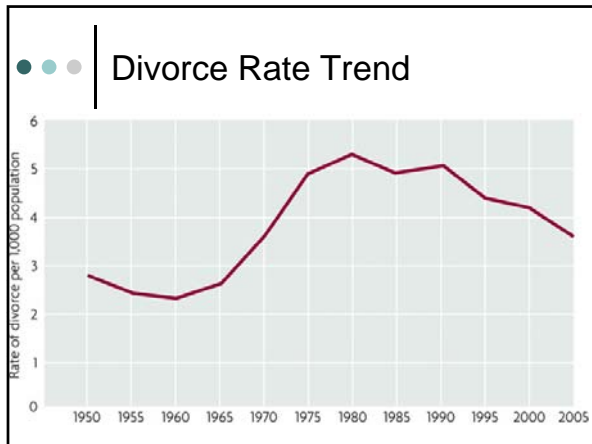
● ● ● Family in a Changing Society

Fewer than 15% of today's teens live with both biological parents in a household where the father is the only breadwinner.

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    graph TD
      D((DIVERSITY)) --- A((Age of Parents))
      D --- DC((Dual Career))
      D --- SHM((Stay-at-Home mom))
      D --- OC((Only Child))
      D --- NS((Number of Siblings))
      D --- FI((Family Income))
  
```

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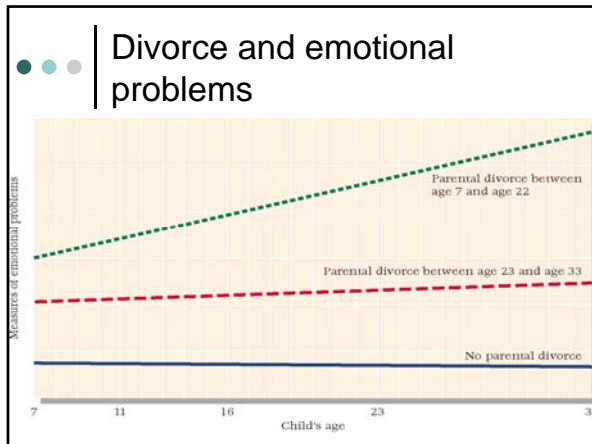


- ### Families in a Changing Society
- High rates of divorce
 - High rates of childbirth outside of marriage
 - Majority of American adolescents born during 1990s will spend some of childhood/adolescence in a single-parent household
 - Half of teens whose parents divorce will spend time in a stepfamily

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- ### Adolescents and Divorce
- Quality of relationships with the important adults in a teen's life is more important than the number of parents present in the house
 - *Process* of going through a divorce, not resulting family structure, matters most
 - Adverse consequences of divorce are linked to exposure to marital conflict and disorganized parenting
 - Some differences between teens whose parents have divorced and those from intact families are due to genetic factors

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- ### Economic Stress and Poverty
- Parents under financial stress are
 - Harsher, more inconsistent, less involved
 - This leads to problems for the teens
 - Adolescents in these conditions
 - Heightened risk for psychological difficulties
 - Heightened risk for problem behaviors
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