



Adolescence

Chapter 4: Families

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The Contexts of Adolescence

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

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Outline/Overview

- Models of Parent –Adolescent Relationships
- Generation Gap Fact/Fiction?
- Parenting styles
- Autonomy /attachment
- Siblings
- Families and changes in society
- Parenting class design

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● ● ● | **Rate yourself on the following statements...**

1=Strongly Agree 2=Agree 3=Not Sure
4=Disagree 5=Strongly Disagree

- ___ I consider myself fairly religious.
- ___ The drinking age should be lowered to 18.
- ___ Premarital sex is okay as long as the couple is in love.
- ___ Politically, I am a middle-of-the-roader.
- ___ I favor busing as a means of integrating schools.
- ___ One of the most important things in life is to have children.

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● ● ● | **Models of Parent – Adolescent Relationships**

- Older ideas – e.g Hall
- Psychoanalytic
- Evolutionary
- Cognitive – Maturational
- Social - Psychological

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● ● ● | **Generation Gap Fact or Fiction?**

- 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 [Click](#)
- 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
- Generally mundane issues
- Different perspectives on issues
- Parents - matters of right or wrong
- Teens - personal choice

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● ● ● | 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
- 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

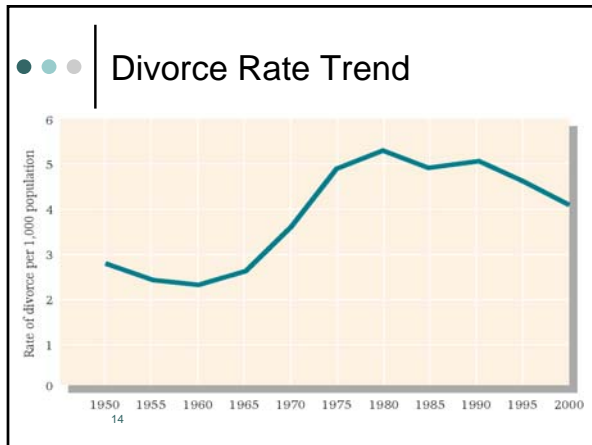
- Whether and how much given traits are genetically vs. environmentally determined
- How do these two sets of factors interact?
- Two types of environmental influences
 - Shared environmental influences
 - Nonshared environmental influences

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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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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

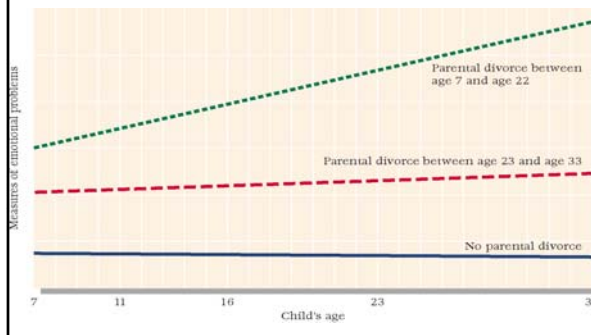
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Adolescents and Divorce

- 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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Divorce and emotional problems



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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