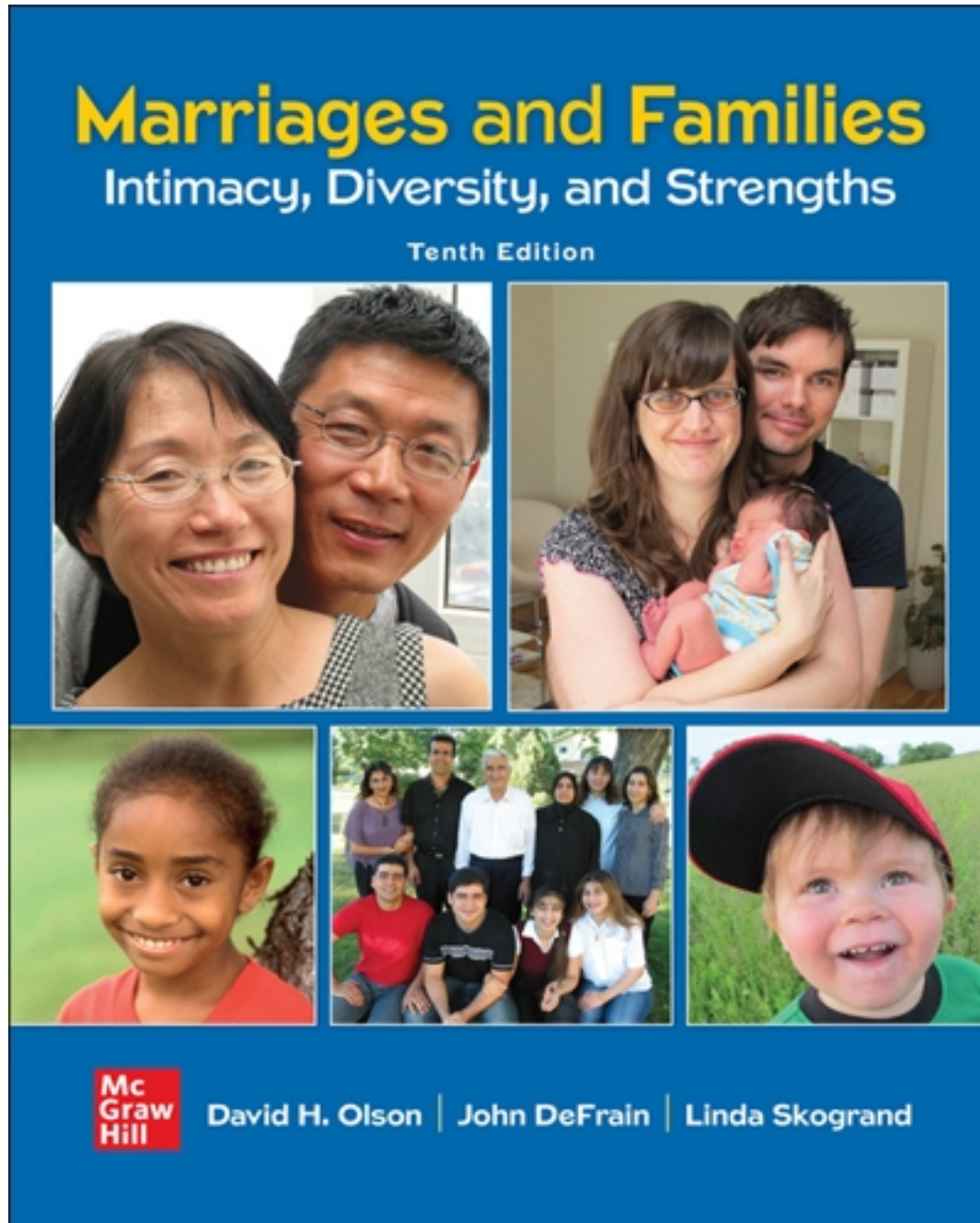


# Test Bank for Marriages and Families 10th Edition by Olson

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# Test Bank

# Marriages and Families Edition 10 by Olson

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

**TRUE/FALSE - Write 'T' if the statement is true and 'F' if the statement is false.**

- 1) Most often programs and policies focus on the values evident in mainstream society.  
☐ true  
☐ false
- 2) Race refers to the common physical characteristics of a group and generally describes skin color and hair texture.  
☐ true  
☐ false
- 3) Minority populations are estimated to grow faster than the white population by the year 2045.  
☐ true  
☐ false
- 4) Some U.S. states are known as "majority-minority" states, which means their total minority population exceeds 50 percent.  
☐ true  
☐ false
- 5) The median age of the Hispanic population is very young as compared to the U.S. population as a whole.  
☐ true  
☐ false
- 6) Because of increasing diversity in the Black population, we need to be more aware of the diverse cultural values and beliefs in what was once thought to be a relatively homogeneous cultural group.  
☐ true  
☐ false
- 7) The African American population is the largest ethnic group in the U.S., closely followed by the Hispanic population.  
☐ true  
☐ false
- 8) All cultures have norms and expectations that govern kinship behavior.  
☐ true  
☐ false

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- 9) American Indian parents are more likely to use social shame and verbal and emotional reprimands than physical punishment.
- ☐ true
  - ☐ false
- 10) Patriarchal family groups place the greatest emphasis on fathers.
- ☐ true
  - ☐ false
- 11) The great respect that Asian American families have for their elders is called filial piety.
- ☐ true
  - ☐ false
- 12) The process by which old cultural traits and values are replaced by those of the new dominant culture is known as acculturation.
- ☐ true
  - ☐ false
- 13) The view that your society or culture is "better" than others and using this view to measure other cultures is known as ethnocentrism.
- ☐ true
  - ☐ false
- 14) Children often develop into adults much like their own parents.
- ☐ true
  - ☐ false
- 15) When one looks at a society from the outside, or from an emic perspective, one sees its characteristics in isolation rather than as they relate to the structure of the society as a whole.
- ☐ true
  - ☐ false
- 16) Prejudice, which literally means prejudging, is also closely linked with stereotyping; both attitudes reinforce each other.
- ☐ true
  - ☐ false
- 17) Rural societies generally emphasize respect for the authority of the dominant males.
- ☐ true
  - ☐ false

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- 18) Divorce rates tend to be higher in less-developed, agrarian societies.
- Ⓐ true
  - Ⓑ false
- 19) The number of multicultural couples cohabiting in the United States has increased and is approximately twice as high as the number of multiracial marriages.
- Ⓐ true
  - Ⓑ false

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

- 20) Which of the following is a finding of the research done by Perrin and Siegel (2013) on children being raised by same-sex couples?
- A) The long-held conviction that children need both a mother and a father holds true.
  - B) There are significant differences in developmental outcomes between children raised by same-sex parents and those raised by heterosexual parents.
  - C) Children raised by heterosexual parents do slightly better than children raised by same-sex parents.
  - D) Sex or sexual orientation of the parents does not affect the well-being of children.
- 21) According to a survey on transgender individuals conducted by James et al. (2016, December), which of the following statements is true?
- A) There has been a decrease in the levels of mistreatment, harassment, and violence toward transgender individuals.
  - B) Fifty-four percent of transgender individuals reported experiencing some form of physical or verbal harassment in school (K-12).
  - C) There are no reports of transgender individuals being sexually assaulted in school (K-12).
  - D) Most transgender individuals reported acceptance and equal treatment at their workplace.
- 22) \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the common physical characteristics of a group and generally describes skin color and the texture of hair.
- A) Ethnicity
  - B) Culture
  - C) Race
  - D) Out-group

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- 23) According to the U.S. Census Bureau (2006a), \_\_\_\_\_ have become the largest minority group in the United States.
- A) Latinos
  - B) African Americans
  - C) Asian Americans
  - D) American Indians
- 24) As of 2019 there were \_\_\_\_\_ tribes that make up the American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) population in the United States (Bureau of Indian Affairs/Office of Indian Services, n.d.), with a wide range of tribal cultures.
- A) 250
  - B) 323
  - C) 577
  - D) 750
- 25) American Indian populations are unique because their tribes have their own
- A) form of governance.
  - B) culture.
  - C) history.
  - D) All of these answers are correct.
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- 26) The median age for the \_\_\_\_\_ is lower than other U.S. minority groups.
- A) American Indian and Alaska Native populations
  - B) Asian American population
  - C) African American population
  - D) Hispanic population
- 27) \_\_\_\_\_ have the highest income level of all the minority groups and higher than that of Whites.
- A) European Americans
  - B) African Americans
  - C) Asian Americans
  - D) American Indians
- 28) Certain Asian Americans have typically been in the United States, but more recent immigrants and refugees include people from
- A) Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.
  - B) China, Japan, and Korea.
  - C) Taiwan, the Philippines, and Malaysia.
  - D) All of these answers are correct.

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- 29) According to a classic article by Fowers and Davidov (2006), a person must begin with \_\_\_\_\_, which leads to self-awareness.
- A) knowledge
  - B) cultural competence
  - C) self-exploration
  - D) self-perception
- 30) \_\_\_\_\_ is defined as the ability to be effective in working with a variety of cultural groups. This ability involves awareness, knowledge, and skills.
- A) Cultural appropriation
  - B) Cultural competence
  - C) Cultural diffusion
  - D) Cultural acculturation
- 31) The nuclear family is an example of a
- A) conjugal family system.
  - B) matrilineal family system.
  - C) consanguineal family system.
  - D) patrilineal family system.
- 32) In the context of kin relationships across cultures, which of the following statements is true about nuclear families?
- A) They are large and long-lived compared to other families.
  - B) They emphasize the relationships formed through cohabitation.
  - C) They usually consist of two parents and their dependent children.
  - D) They are more likely than other families to develop traditions that are handed down through the generations.
- 33) "Kinship" refers to a culture's norms regarding all of the following *except*
- A) relatedness of individuals within the group.
  - B) marital forms.
  - C) family structure.
  - D) rites of passage.
- 34) Which of the following best exemplifies a pseudo-kin relationship?
- A) adoptive parents/adopted child
  - B) godparent/godchild
  - C) second cousins
  - D) day-care provider/child

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- 35) \_\_\_\_\_ is a marriage in which a woman has more than one husband.
- A) Monogamy
  - B) Polygyny
  - C) Polyandry
  - D) Bigamy
- 36) A typical "family tree" kind of genealogy reflects \_\_\_\_\_ norms for descent.
- A) matrilineal
  - B) patrilineal
  - C) bilateral
  - D) geometrical
- 37) If a man considers his sister, but not his sister's children, to be part of his family, he most likely lives in a \_\_\_\_\_ society.
- A) matrilineal
  - B) consanguineous
  - C) patrilineal
  - D) polyandrous
- 38) In a(n) \_\_\_\_\_, norms encourage newly married couples to establish a separate, autonomous residence, autonomous of either partner's kinship group.
- A) avunculocal society
  - B) patrilocal society
  - C) matrilocal society
  - D) neolocal society
- 39) Newly married couples in \_\_\_\_\_ are expected to live with or near the husband's kin, usually his father's kinship group.
- A) patrilocal societies
  - B) matrilocal societies
  - C) neolocal societies
  - D) ambilocal societies
- 40) The cultural, democratic ideals of the United States are most likely to lead to
- A) egalitarian kin groups.
  - B) matrilocal kin groups.
  - C) patrilineal kin groups.
  - D) pseudo-kin groups.

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- 41) In a patriarchal kin group, who among the following is likely to have the least power?
- A) the father
  - B) the mother
  - C) the adolescent son
  - D) the mother's grandfather
- 42) In a matrilineal society, a newly married couple is most likely to live near the
- A) husband's mother.
  - B) wife's mother.
  - C) wife's father's mother.
  - D) husband's father's mother.
- 43) You and your partner had a beautiful wedding in Wisconsin. Your family flew in from Texas, and your partner's family flew in from California. The two of you plan to move to New Hampshire after the wedding to look for work. The norms that have influenced this decision regarding your new home are most likely
- A) patrilocal norms.
  - B) neolocal norms.
  - C) matrilineal norms.
  - D) egalitarian norms.
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- 44) Which of the following is true of African American families?
- A) African American parents believe education is important, and many would like to see their children go to college.
  - B) The typical strong African American family is matriarchal in style.
  - C) African American families have a shorter tradition of egalitarian marriages than white families.
  - D) African American couples who have strong marriages do not incorporate their religious beliefs into all aspects of their lives.
- 45) In the United States, Latinos tend to
- A) favor maintaining and transmitting the Spanish language over English.
  - B) value both family and strong religious affiliation.
  - C) present a unified voting bloc.
  - D) lobby for increasingly liberal immigration policies.



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- 46) Which of the following statements is true about filial piety?
- A) It refers to shared religious beliefs and behaviors.
  - B) It refers to respect and honor for one's elders.
  - C) It refers to a lack of sibling rivalry.
  - D) All of these answers are correct.
- 47) Which of the following terms is defined as the assumption that one's own culture is the standard by which other cultures should be judged?
- A) racism
  - B) ethnocentrism
  - C) assimilation
  - D) emic
- 48) The family of a German-American Lutheran who is engaged to an Italian-American Catholic is convinced that the differences between their child and their child's partner do not matter and will not create conflict between the couple. This family is arguing from a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ perspective.
- A) emic
  - B) bilateral
  - C) etic
  - D) equalitarian
- 49) Which of the following terms is defined as the process in which old cultural traits and values are relinquished and replaced by those of the dominant culture?
- A) assimilation
  - B) acculturation
  - C) segregation
  - D) All of these answers are correct.
- 50) Which of the following terms is defined as the process in which an ethnic group isolates itself or is forced into isolation within the dominant culture?
- A) assimilation
  - B) acculturation
  - C) segregation
  - D) All of these answers are correct.

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- 51) Which of the following terms is defined as the process whereby cultural traits and values from one ethnic group become blended with the dominant culture?
- A) assimilation
  - B) acculturation
  - C) segregation
  - D) All of these answers are correct.
- 52) At the World Cup match, Renaldo cheers that Brazil's success is yet another example of Brazilian superiority. He believes that Brazilians are better at many things, smarter, and more attractive than other groups. This is an example of
- A) egocentrism.
  - B) ethnocentrism.
  - C) acculturation.
  - D) an emic perspective.
- 53) "Asians are good at math" is an example of
- A) a prejudice.
  - B) a stereotype.
  - C) segregation.
  - D) racism.
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- 54) Various "isms"—racism, sexism, and ethnocentrism—tend to create distance between individuals and groups of people by
- A) accentuating differences and ignoring basic similarities.
  - B) accentuating basic similarities and ignoring differences.
  - C) creating a mythology on both sides about the "other" group.
  - D) both accentuating differences and ignoring fundamental similarities, which in turn leads to tension and conflict.
- 55) In the context of the three family system characteristics, \_\_\_\_\_ is defined as the emotional closeness a person feels to other family members.
- A) family coping
  - B) family cohesion
  - C) family flexibility
  - D) family communication

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- 56) In the context of the three family system characteristics, \_\_\_\_\_ is defined as the ability to change and adapt when necessary.
- A) family coping
  - B) family communication
  - C) family flexibility
  - D) family power
- 57) Which of the following ethnic groups is least likely to be in multiracial marriages?
- A) African Americans
  - B) Asian Americans
  - C) Hispanics
  - D) European Americans
- 58) Which of the following is a finding of the research conducted by Whitton and Buzzela on existing relationship education for same-sex couples?
- A) Clinicians found that the relationship skills used in couple education of heterosexual couples, such as communication skills and conflict resolution skills were not useful for same-sex couples.
  - B) Clinicians who have provided couple education for same-sex couples found they did not need to modify the information presented during sessions.
  - C) Clinicians found that there were unique issues experienced by same-sex couples that were not addressed in curricula developed for heterosexual couples.
  - D) Clinicians found that same-sex couples did not feel that they could benefit from couple education in the same way heterosexual couples benefit from it.

**FILL IN THE BLANK. Write the word or phrase that best completes each statement or answers the question.**

- 59) \_\_\_\_\_ have often experienced trauma due to war or other kinds of oppression prior to their arrival in the United States.
- 60) In 2005, the \_\_\_\_\_ population became the largest ethnic group, surpassing the African American population for the first time in U.S. history.
- 61) The smallest, most elementary kinship unit is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 62) Awareness, knowledge, and skills are the three critical components of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 63) In patriarchal and matriarchal groups, the criterion of \_\_\_\_\_ is most important and it is seconded by \_\_\_\_\_.

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- 64) In the context of the three family system characteristics, \_\_\_\_\_ is defined as the sharing of information, ideas, and feelings with each other.
- 65) focus on how particular cultural contexts influence a wide variety of issues such as family values and behaviors, courtship patterns and weddings, marital and parent–child communication, and power and gender roles.
- 66) \_\_\_\_\_ develops when the most powerful group in a society creates an elaborate mythology (a set of beliefs that grossly distort reality) about a minority group.

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## Answer Key

Test name: Chapter 02

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

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- 38) D
- 39) A
- 40) A
- 41) B
- 42) B
- 43) B
- 44) A
- 45) B
- 46) B
- 47) B
- 48) A
- 49) A
- 50) C
- 51) B
- 52) B
- 53) B
- 54) D
- 55) B
- 56) C
- 57) A
- 58) C
- 59) Refugees
- 60) Hispanic
- 61) nuclear family
- 62) cultural competence
- 63) [gender, age]
- 64) family communication
- 65) Cross-cultural family studies
- 66) Racism

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Chapter 2: Cultural Diversity and Diversity in Family Structure:  
Family Strengths and Challenges

## Chapter 2

# Cultural Diversity and Diversity in Family Structure: Family Strengths and Challenges

### Chapter Outline

I. Diversity and Strengths in Family Structure and Cultural Context

II. Why Culture Matters

III. Intimacy and Diversity

IV. The Concepts of Race, Culture, and Ethnicity

V. U.S. Demographics and Future Trends

- A. The Hispanic Population
- B. The African American Population
- C. The Asian American Population
- D. The American Indian and Alaska Native Populations
- E. Immigration and Family Life
- F. What the Future Will Bring

VI. Gay and Lesbian Couples and Families

- A. Same-Sex Couple Relationships and Marriages
- B. Gay and Lesbian Families
- C. The Challenges of Gay and Lesbian Couples and Families
- D. Transgender Individuals and Families

VII. Challenge to Researchers and Practitioners

- A. Research
- B. Practice

VIII. Cultural Competence

- A. Awareness
- B. Knowledge
- C. Skills

IX. Kin Relationships Across Cultures

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Chapter 2: Cultural Diversity and Diversity in Family Structure:  
Family Strengths and Challenges

X. Family System and Sociocultural Characteristics

- A. Three Family System Characteristics
- B. Families of Choice

XI. Family Strengths and Challenges Across Ethnic Groups

- A. Strengths of European American Families
  - Box 2.1: Self-Assessment: *Rate the Strengths in Your Family*
- B. Strengths of African American Families
- C. Strengths of Latino Families
- D. Strengths of Asian American Families
- E. Strengths of American Indian Families
  - Box 2.2: At Issue: *Historical Trauma and American Indians*

XII. Cross-Cultural Family Studies

XIII. Challenges for Ethnic Families

- A. Assimilation, Acculturation, and Segregation
  - Box 2.3: Diversity in Families: *The Tables Are Turned: Going from the Majority to the Minority*
- B. The Advantages of Being in the Majority
- C. Marriage Outside the Group
- D. Relationships Between Men and Women
- E. Relationships Between Parents and Children

Summary

Key Terms

Activities

Suggested Readings

## Learning Objectives

After reading Chapter 2, students should be able to accomplish the following objectives:

- Discuss how diversity and strengths in family structure and cultural context are interconnected.
- Describe why culture matters.
- Explain the relationship between intimacy and diversity.
- Explain the relationship between race, culture, and ethnicity.
- Discuss the demographics and future trends in the United States.
- Discuss the various challenges that gay and lesbian couples and families face.



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Chapter 2: Cultural Diversity and Diversity in Family Structure:  
Family Strengths and Challenges

- Summarize the research findings on diverse ethnic groups in the United States.
- Describe the importance of addressing the issue of marriage and family from the perspective of one's culture.
- Examine kin relationships across various cultural groups.
- Discuss how the family system characteristics and the sociocultural characteristics can be synthesized.
- Describe the family strengths and the family challenges of various ethnic groups—Latino families, African American families, American Indian families, Asian American families, and European American families.
- Describe the trends found in cross-cultural family studies.

## Lecture Notes

### I. Diversity and Strengths in Family Structure and Cultural Context

The goal of this chapter is to point out some of the major strengths of various **ethnic groups** in the United States. One of the reasons the United States has prospered is that the various ethnic groups have different strengths. The strengths of each of these groups can be seen at the individual level, family level, and cultural level. Some ethnic groups place a high value on the importance of kin networks and are very group oriented; other cultures emphasize more individual achievement. Some ethnic groups value both individual achievement and group connection relatively equally. [TBEXAM.COM](https://www.tbexam.com)

Although most of the information in this chapter is about ethnic diversity, it also includes information about an increasingly common diverse family structure, **gay and lesbian families**. In addition, because there is very recent research about **transgender** individuals and families, the chapter includes a summary of these studies.

Diversity and strengths are also interconnected. There are strengths in diversity, and diversity helps build further strengths. The different abilities, interests, attitudes, and values of each diverse group provide a broad range of options and ideas that can improve the ability to solve problems and create new ideas. So one way to increase one's appreciation of diversity is to seek out opportunities to talk with people who have ethnic backgrounds different from one's own. Sharing feelings about oneself with someone who is different can be a mutually rewarding experience, an opportunity to learn more about others and their uniqueness.

### II. Why Culture Matters

Everything that happens in families happens within a cultural context. Family members learn, and pass on to their children, the definition of family, how intimacy is expressed, what it means to be male and female, and role expectations (Waldegrave, 2009). Most often programs and policies focus on the values evident in mainstream society (Waldegrave, 2009). The result is that programs do not fit the values and needs of diverse populations. To be

effective and relevant in the lives of individuals and families from diverse cultures, one needs to understand one's values and experiences. This chapter provides information to begin the process of understanding members of diverse populations. It will become clear, however, that understanding cultural differences is a long process.

### III. Intimacy and Diversity

Poverty, prejudice, education level, and life experiences affect the ability to maintain intimate family relationships such as extended-family relationships, parent–child relationships, and couple relationships (Perreira, Chapman, & Stein, 2006; Sarkisian, Gerena, & Gerstel, 2006). Some people had historical experiences that have long-term effects on their ability to maintain intimate family lives today. These experiences created a legacy of trauma, which contributed to multiple psychiatric disorders such as alcoholism and violence (Chilisa, 2012). How members of **cultural groups** entered the United States, when they entered the country, and how they were received may also impact their ability to develop intimacy among family members.

### IV. The Concepts of Race, Culture, and Ethnicity

**Race** refers to the common physical characteristics of a group and generally describes skin color and the texture of hair (Murry, Smith, & Hill, 2001). The concept of race originally arose as a way to explain the diversity of the human population worldwide but can be problematic, since it does not describe what happens to people regarding socialization and environment (Murry et al., 2001). These authors indicate that ethnicity, on the other hand, refers to nationality or ancestry. Further, culture is usually used to describe how people make sense of their environment and their experiences. It describes their values, beliefs, and practices.

Culture is thought of as the social context in which people live (McGoldrick & Ashton, 2012). These authors further describe culture as how people raise their children, what they eat, how they celebrate, and how they die. These ways of doing things are learned from those around them. Ethnicity refers to peoples' common ancestry, when values, beliefs, and customs have been passed down from previous generations (McGoldrick & Ashton, 2012).

Perhaps the key issue in determining membership in an ethnic or cultural group is whether the individual *believes* he or she is a member of that group and has a **cultural identity**. Clearly, human beings are diverse. Classifications cannot be based solely on religious views, language, ancestry, or physical characteristics.

### V. U.S. Demographics and Future Trends

The United States is more ethnically diverse than ever before, with the Hispanic population making up the largest ethnic group, followed by African American, Asian American, and

American Indian. Estimates by the U.S. Census (U.S. Census Bureau Quick Facts, n.d.) provided new information on the estimated population distribution in the United States. The estimates are as follows: White 77%, Hispanic or Latino 18%, African American or Black 13%, Asian 6%, and American Indian or Alaska Native 1%.

There are differences in minority population changes by regions in the United States (Humes et al., 2011). The fastest rate of increase of minority populations was in the West, with the next largest increase in the South. As of 2010, California has the largest total minority population of any state, followed by Texas and New York. States with the largest percentage of minority populations, which are all over 50% minority, are Hawaii (77%), California and New Mexico (60%), and Texas (55%). These states have what is called a “majority-minority” population (Nittle, 2019, July 3). The nation’s capital, Washington, D.C. also has this majority-minority status with a 65% minority population.

### **A. The Hispanic Population**

The Hispanic population, also referred to as “Latino” and more recently as “Latinx.” In 2005, the Hispanic population became the largest ethnic group, surpassing the African American population for the first time in U.S. history and this trend is continuing (U.S. Census Bureau, n.d.). The growth in the Hispanic population is primarily due to new births and immigration. The largest number of Hispanics in the United States immigrated from Mexico (64%) (Flores, 2017, September 18; Stepler & Brown, 2016, April 19), with the remainder coming from other Central American, South American, or other Hispanic countries (Ennis, Rios-Vargas, & Albert, 2011). The Hispanic population in this country is very young, with a median age of 28 years in 2014 (Flores, 2017, September 18).

### **B. The African American Population**

The African American population is the second-largest minority population in the United States with the 2018 estimate at 13% of the population (U.S. Census Bureau Quick Facts, 2018, July 1). African Americans, or Blacks, refer to people having origins in any of the Black race groups of Africa. Although many African Americans came to the United States as slaves years ago, 9% are immigrants (Anderson, 2015, April 9). These new immigrants are very diverse and very different culturally from African Americans who have lived in the United States for several generations. These refugees and immigrants have come from the Caribbean and from African countries such as Nigeria, Ghana, and Ethiopia and have very little in common with their native-born counterparts. In 2013 the median age for African Americans was 37 years (Anderson, 2015, April 9). Blacks have a household income which is substantially lower than the national average (Noel, 2014, November).

### **C. The Asian American Population**

Asian Americans refer to people having origins in the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the

Indian subcontinent. The Asian American populations differ greatly in their culture, language, and length of residency in the United States. The median age of Asian Americans is 36 years. Asian Americans have the highest income level of all the minority groups and higher than that of Whites. It is important to note, however, that there is a wide disparity in education and affluence among different groups who identify themselves as Asian American.

#### **D. The American Indian and Alaska Native Populations**

As of 2019 there were 577 tribes that make up the American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/ AN) population in the United States (Bureau of Indian Affairs/Office of Indian Services, n.d.), with a wide range of tribal cultures. The largest tribe by population is the Navajo tribe in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah (Norris, Vines, & Hoeffel, 2012, January). One of the unique characteristics of the AI/AN population is that their communities are sovereign political entities with tribes having their own form of governance, culture, and history. The median age for American Indians and Alaska Natives is lower than other U.S. minority groups.

#### **E. Immigration and Family Life**

According to Grieco et al. (2012, May), immigration has continued to be at record highs in recent years. In 2010 those who were **foreign born**, or whose birth place is somewhere other than the United States, made up 13% of the U.S. population (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019, August 27). The ethnic composition of **immigrants**, or those who came to this country for a better life, is primarily Latino and Asian, with Mexicans making up the majority of Latinos coming into the United States (Camarota & Zeigler, 2014, September).

Since 2017 there have been major changes in policies regarding immigrants coming into the United States (Vesely, Bravo, & Guzzardo, 2019, July). There has been increased enforcement, a greater criminalization of immigrants, and greater restrictions on immigrants coming into this country. This has not only caused divisions within this country about how people treat immigrants, but also caused increased mental and physical stress for immigrants in the United States.

Many immigrants come to the United States without documentation or have allowed documentation to expire. There are indications that one-third of children who have immigrant parents have at least one parent that is undocumented.

**Refugees** make up another group of folks who come to the United States. Refugees come to the United States because conditions in their country of origin are unsafe or they wanted to avoid persecution. They often come to this country as families and are able to access social and financial services, but often face other challenges. Refugees have often experienced trauma due to war or other kinds of oppression prior to their arrival in the

United States. Many come having spent years in refugee camps that provided for their physical safety, but that in no way provided for optimal family life.

These families come to the United States with enormous issues and challenges as they begin their lives anew. They need to learn about the American culture, find ways to make a living, and help their children enter a world that is foreign to them. In addition to challenges for their families, there are also challenges for the communities where they reside.

### **F. What the Future Will Bring**

Estimates have been made about what the White and ethnic populations might look like in the year 2045 (Figure 2.1). The minority populations will grow faster than the White population. The nation's Hispanic and Asian populations are predicted to increase rather dramatically by 2045 and the white population will decrease to approximately half of the population (Frey, 2014, March 14). If the trend of multiracial marriages and relationships continues to increase as they have in recent history, there will be increasing numbers of multiracial children in the country. This combined with the increase in minority groups means it is possible that by the year 2050 cultural groups may cease to be an issue that will be written about in marriage and family textbooks.

## **VI. Gay and Lesbian Couples and Families**

There has been increased contention about whether or not gay and lesbian people have a right to legally marry and raise children. People's views about these issues often have roots in religious beliefs. Religious groups are not all opposed to gay and lesbian marriages and families.

In a landmark decision in June of 2015, the Supreme Court ruled to legalize same-sex marriages, which meant that individual states could not ban same-sex marriages, but rather needed to recognize these marriages. This ruling provided increased state and federal benefits for same-sex couples who choose to marry. This meant that, along with other benefits, same-sex married couples can file federal and state income taxes and can receive health insurance and retirement benefits in the same way heterosexual couples receive these benefits (Berman, 2015).

Although there are studies about same-sex couple relationships and families, most of this research is focused on samples that are European American and middle class (Goldberg, 2007). Very little is known about ethnic minority same-sex couples and families. Gay and lesbian same-sex couples and families who are from ethnic minorities not only are dealing with discrimination related to their family structure, but also are dealing with issues around racism.

**A. Same-Sex Couple Relationships and Marriages**

It is important to know that all family types have strengths and challenges (Prendergast & MacPhee, 2018). In general, same-sex couples are likely to experience some stigma, discrimination, and hostility in many communities. But, as all families that experience challenges, they can do things to minimize these negative experiences (Prendergast & MacPhee, 2018).

It is reasonable to assume that gay and lesbian couples could benefit from couple education in the same way heterosexual couples benefit. In fact, because of the lack of social support same-sex couples experience, these couples may need it even more. However, couple education for this population is typically not available.

Because same-sex marriages are relatively new, the effect of the Supreme Court's ruling is not known. Historically, couples were not allowed to enter into a legally binding marriage relationship and, therefore, cohabited. Thus, it was difficult to make comparisons between stable gay and lesbian couples who were not married because they could not be married and heterosexual couples who were in marriage relationships (Regnerus, 2012).

**B. Gay and Lesbian Families**

Perrin and Siegel (2013) report that 45% of same-sex couples are raising children. In addition, there are many children being raised by a single gay or lesbian person. There is some research that indicates that there are protective factors that can be especially helpful when it comes to individual and family well-being (Hughes, Heiden-Rootes, Weingard, & Bono, 2016; Kavanaugh, Stuhlsatz, Taylor, Nepl, & Lohman, 2017, Winter).

Children being raised by same-sex couples have not been studied until recently. In the 1990s, researchers wanted to know if children raised by gay and lesbian couples would, in some way, be damaged by the experience of growing up in a gay family (Berkowitz, 2009). The answer was that there was no difference in developmental outcomes—there were no adverse effects (Patterson, 2009).

Perrin and Siegel (2013) summarized several studies that indicate there are many things that affect the well-being of children, but the sex or sexual orientation of the parents is not one of them. They conclude that children raised with two parents in a secure and nurturing environment are likely to thrive. They found that the long-held conviction that children need both a mother and a father did not hold true.

**C. The Challenges of Gay and Lesbian Couples and Families**

It is obvious that same-sex relationships can be more difficult because of societal pressures. Researchers have addressed how the stigma of being in a same-sex relationship



affects intimacy in the couple relationship because these relationships are not seen as equal to heterosexual relationships (Frost, 2011). This study (Frost, 2011) makes it clear that society's stigma can positively or negatively affect intimate, same-sex couple relationships. It is important to note from this study that most couples are able to maintain a positive couple experience, even in the context of discrimination.

#### **D. Transgender Individuals and Families**

According to James et al. (2016, December), it is estimated that 0.6% of individuals in the United States are transgender, with these individuals being more culturally diverse than the general U.S. population. A transgender person is someone whose gender identity or expression does not align with their sex. Although the transgender population is growing in size, there is limited research about how these families are perceived and how they function as families. In the largest survey done with transgender people, they reported high levels of mistreatment, harassment, and violence.

In terms of challenges for children who had transgender parents, one study by Tablor (2019) found that it was difficult for children who had transgender parents who had recently undergone a gender transition. Children found that their parents' roles were ambiguous.

### **VII. Challenge to Researchers and Practitioners**

Most research that informs programs and services is based on White, middle-class families, and, yet, this research is typically used to provide programs and services for all ethnic groups (Skogrand, Hatch, & Singh, 2009). Most of these programs and services are not a good fit for families from other cultures, because the information is not culturally relevant. There is, therefore, a need for research to be conducted within a cultural context to inform programming for the members of diverse ethnic groups.

#### **A. Research**

Mohatt and Thomas (2006) indicate that individuals need to include members of diverse cultures in decision making about how they conduct research, analysis of findings, and interpretation of results. There are a variety of things researchers should be doing differently when conducting research with minority populations, which will take a shift in their thinking (Trimble & Fisher, 2006):

- They need to be respectful of the wishes of cultural groups regarding the research they do, how it should be used, and how those communities might benefit from the research findings.
- They need to collaborate with and develop partnerships with members and organizations in diverse cultures and accept the conditions imposed by the community when conducting research.

- They need to know about belief systems and show respect for these values in conducting research.
- Participants in research studies need to provide informed consent in a language and reading level that they understand.
- Interpretation of findings requires involving members of the population studied, because cultural meanings may not be understood by the researchers.

## B. Practice

One might ask, Why is it important to address the issue of marriage and family from the perspective of one's culture? There are two responses to this question. First, if there is a cultural clash between the information and services provided and the values of a cultural group, people will usually not participate. If they do participate, they will not benefit from the information provided.

Second, there is evidence that relying on one's cultural heritage, the way one's people deal with struggles, is the most effective way for people to be resilient and capable of handling difficulties (Skogrand et al., 2008). Several studies have shown that a positive **ethnic identity** has a positive influence on the lives of youth (Kiang, Gonzales-Backen, Yip, Witkow, & Fuligni, 2006; Perreira et al., 2006; Spencer, 2006). Consequently, it is important to draw on and reinforce the existing family values that are evident in minority cultural groups. In addition, there is evidence that maintaining one's cultural heritage and also learning about the dominant culture contribute to positive mental health (Chapman & Perreira, 2005; Kiang et al., 2006; Perreira et al., 2006).

## VIII. Cultural Competence

With the increasing numbers of people of diverse cultures becoming part of society, it is critical that professionals develop culturally appropriate ways to provide effective family education and services. This ability has been described as **cultural competence**. Cultural competence has been defined in a variety of ways. A general definition is that one is effective in working with a variety of cultural groups. Cultural competence is often viewed as having three parts: awareness, knowledge, and skills.

### A. Awareness

According to a classic article by Fowers and Davidov (2006), a person must begin with self-exploration, which leads to self-awareness. This is a process that starts with an understanding of one's own cultural heritage and belief system, which leads to the ability to recognize how one's own culture affects how one views those from other cultures. To better understand one's own belief system, one might ask oneself the following questions:

- What are my basic beliefs about family, children, and extended family?
- Do I think the individual or the collective group has the higher priority?



- How do religion and spirituality play into my belief system?
- What rituals do I carry out, and how and why have I developed these rituals?
- What foods do I eat and what kinds of clothes do I wear that make me feel like I am part of my family or community?

How individuals think about these questions may be influenced by a variety of things, but many of the answers might have resulted from their cultural experiences. Once individuals understand who they are and how their concept of self has been developed, they can think about how those views affect how they interact with those who are different from themselves.

## B. Knowledge

Knowledge may be general in nature and may include understanding discrimination, prejudice, and oppression and how these experiences affect a person or group of people. Specific knowledge about a cultural group might include the group's history, cultural beliefs and values, and family dynamics. The knowledge that one gains contributes to being more open to work with members of a culture because there is cross-cultural understanding. Not everyone within a cultural group is the same, but having knowledge about some cultural characteristics and features is necessary for one to become culturally competent. Once a person has knowledge about a culture as a whole, there can be additional learning about the subcultures within the larger group.

Several strategies have been identified by Skogrand (2004) that are useful in learning about a cultural group. First, reading scholarly information that describes the history of the culture, beliefs and values, and family organization will provide much needed knowledge about a cultural group. A second strategy is to attend activities, markets, art galleries, or places of business that are frequented by members of the culture. Respectfully attending these events can contribute to learning about family life, customs, and heritage.

## C. Skills

Developing and practicing appropriate skills in effectively working with people who are culturally different from oneself is the third component of cultural competency (Fowers & Davidov, 2006). Being aware and having knowledge are of little use unless they are put into action. Cultural competence skills can be demonstrated by the language used and by showing knowledge of history, beliefs and values, and cultural practices in implementing programs and providing services. Fowers and Davidov (2006) make it clear that it is not easy to teach skills in being culturally competent, but, rather, these skills are an outcome and are expressed naturally and in individual ways once one is self-aware and has knowledge about a cultural group.

## IX. Kin Relationships Across Cultures

All cultures recognize **kinship**, the relatedness of certain individuals within a group, and have norms and expectations that structure and govern kin behavior. The diversity of these norms is wide ranging. These kinship concepts describe kinds of kinship groups and the norms that govern marital forms, family structure and organization, inheritance, authority, and residence.

Kinship groups range from nuclear families to various forms of extended families and may even include symbolic relationships. The **nuclear family**—the smallest, most elementary kinship unit—usually consists of two parents and their dependent children. Even in societies in which the nuclear family is embedded within a larger group, it is recognized as a distinct entity. The nuclear family is a **conjugal family system**, one that emphasizes the relationships formed through marriage. Typically, a conjugal system comprises only two generations and is relatively transitory, dissolving when the parents die or the children grow up and leave.

Many family functions are better performed by composite family groups, or **consanguineal family systems**, which emphasize blood ties more than marital ties. In consanguineal systems, married couples and their children are embedded in a larger kinship group of three or more generations related by blood. Consanguineal systems can include extended families or families resulting from plural marriages. An **extended family** consists of a nuclear family and those people related to its members by blood ties, such as aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents.

A **plural marriage**, or **polygamy**, is a marriage in which a man has more than one wife (**polygyny**) or, more rarely, a marriage in which a woman has more than one husband (**polyandry**). In **monogamy**, a man or woman has only one mate. Although people from monogamous societies often perceive potential hazards in plural marriages, family patterns appear to operate in a relatively smooth fashion in groups in which plural marriages are the norm.

A third kind of kinship group is a **pseudo-kin group**, in which relationships resembling kinship ties develop among unrelated individuals. Relationships within these groups range in intensity, from close friendships to godparent–godchild connections to individuals living together and caring for each other without any legal or blood relationship.

Cultural norms influence family structure, but they also influence concepts of **lineage** or lines of descent; of who holds authority in a family; and of where newly married couples should reside. Lineage is important in determining membership in a particular kinship group, patterns of inheritance, and kinship obligations or responsibilities. In some societies, descent is traced by gender: **matrilineal societies** trace descent through females, and **patrilineal societies** trace descent through males.

**Bilateral descent** is common in many Western societies, with children tied equally to relatives of both the mother and the father. In this “family tree” approach to descent, in which

ancestors and descendants multiply geometrically, true descent kinship groups are not formed unless limited by generation or to particular ancestors and descendants.

Norms for lines of descent may or may not be linked to lines of authority within a kinship group. If females exercise the authority, a kinship group is considered a **matriarchal group**. If males are dominant and exercise the authority, the kinship group is considered a **patriarchal group**.

In **egalitarian groups**, such as those found in the United States, the ideals of democracy suggest that the rights and perspectives of both genders and all generations be respected. A given family's structure and interactions may lean toward the patriarchal or matriarchal, but the norms of the group would most likely be considered egalitarian.

Norms of residence for newly married couples can also be categorized by a society's emphasis on biological sex. In a **matrilocal society**, newly married couples normally live with or near the wife's kin, especially her mother's kinship group. Newly married couples in **patrilocal societies** are expected to live with or near the husband's kin, usually his father's kinship group. In a **neolocal society**, norms encourage newly married couples to establish a separate, autonomous residence, independent of either partner's kinship group.

Although a society may have norms regarding marital and family organization and interaction, diversity is generally also evident within that society's families and kinship groups. Understanding the concept of kin relationships, however, enables observers to compare and analyze the structure and dynamics of a broad range of kinship groups.

## X. Family System and Sociocultural Characteristics

Family system framework is very useful for understanding and improving the quality of life for couples and families. These family system characteristics are cohesion, flexibility, and communication. Three sociocultural characteristics that also give one insight into families are the extended family, the social system, and the belief system. Figure 2.2 graphically illustrates how the family system characteristics and the sociocultural characteristics can be synthesized.

### A. Three Family System Characteristics

The three dimensions (clusters of concepts) of family systems that have been found are cohesion, flexibility, and communication (Olson, 2011; Walsh, 2006). These three dimensions also relate directly to the six characteristics of strong families described by DeFrain in the international family strengths model (DeFrain & Asay, 2008).

**Family cohesion** is *the emotional closeness a person feels to other family members*. Cohesion includes both commitment and spending enjoyable time together from the

family strengths model. **Family flexibility** is *the ability to change and adapt when necessary*. Flexibility also relates to dealing effectively with stress and having helpful spiritual beliefs from the family strengths model. **Family communication** is *the sharing of information, ideas, and feelings with each other*. Communication is generally positive in strong families because angry outbursts and other negative interchanges simply do not work well.

## B. Families of Choice

People have relationships that are considered extended family despite the lack of blood or legal ties (Catalpa & Routon, 2018, Spring; Voorpostel, 2018, Spring). There are various terms used for these families, such as fictive kin, voluntary kin, and queer kinship. There are so many reasons today for individuals to create their own family of choice. One researcher makes the case that the families of choice promote resiliency and act as a protective factor when a variety of populations may need support beyond, or instead of, traditional family members (Johnson, 2018, Spring).

## XI. Family Strengths and Challenges Across Ethnic Groups

Each family in the world is a culture all to itself. It is unique and different from all the other families in the world, even though it is quite likely to share many similarities with other families in its own ethnic group and similarities with families outside its ethnic group.

### A. Strengths of European American Families

Understanding of the strengths of European American or White families has been highly influenced by the research of John DeFrain and Nick Stinnett. Their work began in the mid-1970s and very early they developed a model of six major traits that make a family strong (Stinnett & DeFrain, 1985; Stinnett, Sanders, & DeFrain, 1981; Stinnett & Sauer, 1977). Their ongoing later research continues to confirm that these six qualities of strong families apply to many ethnic groups around the world (DeFrain & Asay, 2008):

- *Commitment to family*
- *Enjoyable time together*
- *Ability to manage stress and crisis effectively*
- *Spiritual well-being*
- *Positive communication*
- *Appreciation and affection*

### B. Strengths of African American Families

Throughout the past four decades researchers have been interested in strengths of African American families (Billingsley, 1992; Hill, 1971). In recent years there has also been increased interest in strengths of African American marriages (Chaney & Skogrand, 2009;

Marks et al., 2008; Phillips, Wilmoth, & Marks, 2012; Sue & Sue, 2016). Both areas of research help people identify and better understand the strengths of this population:

- *Strong kinship bonds*
- *Flexibility in family roles*
- *Strong motivation to achieve*
- *Strong religious orientation*

### C. Strengths of Latino Families

Because Latinos have recently become the largest U.S. minority group (U.S. Census Bureau, 2006a), there has been increased literature about the cultural characteristics of this population. Although family strengths can vary depending upon country of origin and migration experience, there are several strengths that most Latinos have in common, and several of these characteristics are also common in families from other cultures:

- *Familism*
- *Children are highly valued*
- *Religion*

The Latino culture is collectivistic, which means that the group, or the family, is more important than the individual. Therefore, family members provide social and financial support for those in need, sometimes at the expense of their own well-being (Halgunseth, Ispa, & Rudy, 2006; Sue & Sue, 2016).

### D. Strengths of Asian American Families

Families of Asian descent are another very resilient group in this country. Although Asian Americans have faced prejudice and discrimination throughout their history in the United States, they have fared better than other ethnic minorities economically and have managed to preserve their family ties, traditions, and values.

Many Asian Americans share a cultural heritage that values discipline, family commitment, hard work, and education (Pew, 2013, April 4). Young people reared in such an environment become challenging competitors in a society such as the United States, which values competition and individual initiative. Asian American families are very diverse, but they commonly share many of the strengths of other cultural groups.

Following are six major strengths of Asian American families:

- *Strong family orientation*
- *Filial piety*
- *High value on education*
- *Well-disciplined children*
- *Extended-family support*
- *Family loyalty*

## E. Strengths of American Indian Families

American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) are people having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America) and who maintain tribal affiliation or community attachment. American Indian families in the United States are members of 577 federally recognized tribes, plus an unknown number of tribes that are not federally recognized (Bureau of Indian Affairs/Office of Indian Services, n.d.).

American Indians and Alaska Natives are classified together in the U.S. Census. Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders are included in a separate group. There is great diversity within the American Indian population based upon tribal affiliation and whether they live on reservations or in metropolitan communities. Several strengths of American Indians have been identified by researchers and others who write about the cultural characteristic of this population (Sue & Sue, 2016; Trimble & Gonzalez, 2008).

- *Extended-family system*
- *Spiritual beliefs*
- *High family cohesion*
- *Respect for elders*
- *Bilingual language skills*
- *Tribal support system*

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## XII. Cross-Cultural Family Studies

Cross-cultural family studies tend to focus on two interrelated questions. First, how are families in the United States different from those in other parts of the world? Second, how are they similar?

**Cross-cultural family studies** focus on how particular cultural contexts influence a wide variety of issues: family values and behaviors, courtship patterns and weddings, marital and parent–child communication, power and gender roles, work and the family, ethical and religious values, childrearing patterns, sexuality, the role of grandparents and the extended family, and the role people outside the immediate family play in helping families in crisis.

**Ethnocentrism** is the assumption that one's own culture is the standard by which other cultures should be judged. One's ethnocentricity influences the extent to which one judges other people, families, and cultures as similar to or different from oneself. Tolerance of the traditions and values of other cultural and ethnic groups is the first step in transcending one's overconcern with human differences. Understanding other ways of looking at life and the world around oneself can lead to genuine, mutual appreciation among people of different backgrounds.



Related to the issue of ethnocentrism is what anthropologists have called *perspective*. When one looks at a society from the outside, or from an **etic perspective**, one sees its characteristics in isolation rather than as they relate to the structure of the society as a whole. On the other hand, when one looks at a society from the inside, or from an **emic perspective**, one analyzes behaviors in terms of the internal structural elements of the society. The etic perspective tends to focus on and exaggerate differences, whereas the emic perspective makes it easier to see similarities between cultures. Family researchers attempt to combine these two perspectives, recognizing the differences between cultures but also trying to identify similarities.

### XIII. Challenges for Ethnic Families

Ethnic families in the United States face many challenges. Among them are intercultural marriage, the issue of assimilation, and relationships between men and women and between parents and children.

#### A. Assimilation, Acculturation, and Segregation

There are three important processes that help explain what happens when a cultural group from another country encounters the dominant culture of the new country. **Assimilation** is the process in which old cultural traits and values are relinquished and replaced by those of the dominant culture. **Acculturation** is the process whereby cultural traits and values from one ethnic group become blended with those of the dominant culture. **Segregation** is the process in which an ethnic group isolates itself or is forced into isolation within the dominant culture. All three of these processes can occur in an interactive way as a family adapts to living in another culture.

Members of the majority culture whose families have been in the United States for two, three, or more generations sometimes do not understand why immigrants are hesitant about assimilation—adopting the values of the dominant culture. But it is clear that immigrants are in a difficult psychological position. They see and are attracted by the strengths of American culture, especially its abundance of economic resources. But they also see the weaknesses of American culture—materialism, competitiveness, wasteful exploitation of the natural world, a fast-paced and often impersonal existence. Immigrants are in some ways in a better position to see America's strengths and weaknesses than are Americans, for they have another culture with which they can compare this one.

Unfortunately, most of what people know about ethnic and cultural groups other than their own is based on **stereotypes**—standardized, oversimplified, and mean-spirited views. When a person from one group describes people from another, the description is often a stereotype. **Prejudice**, which literally means prejudging, is also closely linked with stereotyping; both attitudes reinforce each other. As a society, people need to move beyond stereotypes and focus on each group's strengths and challenges. Recognizing

others' strengths helps reduce prejudice.

Racism is closely related to ethnocentrism and may even be a by-product of it. All the various "isms" tend to distance human beings from each other by accentuating differences and ignoring fundamental similarities, which, in turn, leads to tension and conflict.

**Racism** develops when the most powerful group in a society creates an elaborate mythology (a set of beliefs that grossly distort reality) about a minority group. These prejudices often endure because of the need of the dominant group to feel superior to others. These prejudices can be significant stressors for members of the minority group, having serious psychological, social, and physiological effects.

## B. The Advantages of Being in the Majority

If people are members of the predominant culture in any society, there are innumerable benefits that accrue to them. They receive these benefits every day of their life, regardless of whether they worked for them—and, thus, "deserve" them—or didn't do anything at all to gain them. Many countries throughout the world have a dominant culture. The dominant culture does not necessarily have to comprise the largest population, but it does hold most of the power.

If one is a member of the majority culture:

- Others speak the same language one speaks.
- The educational system is patterned after one's ways of thinking and honors one's history, one's beliefs, and one's values.
- The job market is more open to one because one is the "right" color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or social class, and one doesn't have a disability that makes the majority culture uncomfortable.
- People will not discriminate in renting an apartment to one or selling one a house in their neighborhood.
- The laws, the police, and the courts are sensitive to one's cultural values and tend to deal with one in a relatively open-minded fashion.
- Religious and spiritual values of the culture are ideals that one can agree on and live with.
- Music, literature, movies, and art reflect one's tastes and values.

## C. Marriage Outside the Group

In many countries throughout the world, marriage is seen primarily as an agreement between two families. An alliance through marriage between two successful families can enhance the power, prestige, and well-being of all the members of both families. In this sense, one marries not just an individual but also that person's family.



Because American culture stresses individuality, the importance of a good “fit” between families is often overlooked, and individuals who wish to marry often purposely ignore advice from family members. The greater the differences between the two families, the more likely the chance for conflict.

The society has become more diverse and marriages with someone from a different race or ethnic group has increased dramatically. In 2010, 15% of new marriages were multiracial (Frey, 2014, November 28). Only 17% of Whites were in **multiracial marriages**; however, almost half of Asians and Hispanics were in multiracial marriages (Frey, 2014, November 28). Recent studies indicate that there are increasing numbers of interracial marriages between Whites and Blacks, and slower increases in interracial marriages between Whites and Latinos (Qian & Lichter, 2011). There has also been a decline in the number of White and Asian interracial marriages.

The number of multicultural couples cohabiting has increased and is approximately twice as high as the number of multiracial marriages (Batson Qian, & Lichter, 2006). Some couples choose to live together to avoid disapproval from extended family. The number of multiracial marriages is increasing, and the trend is expected to continue as public attitudes become more accepting of such unions.

#### **D. Relationships Between Men and Women**

Regardless of nationality or cultural background, friction occurs between men and women in intimate relationships. Although couples strive for mutual love and caring, different socialization processes and biological inheritances produce misunderstanding and conflict. Women in developed countries, because of greater education and more employment opportunities outside the home, tend to have more options. If they are dissatisfied with their marriages and can support themselves, they are not as likely to stay in these marriages. Women in rural areas and in developing countries have fewer options, even though they may be just as unhappy as their divorcing counterparts in developed countries. As a result, divorce rates tend to be higher in industrialized, urban-oriented societies around the world and lower in less-developed, agrarian societies. But the lower divorce rates in the more rural societies do not necessarily indicate happier marriages.

#### **E. Relationships Between Parents and Children**

Children often develop into adults much like their own parents. In the process of growing up, however, children and parents often experience much conflict. The younger generation strives to create a relatively independent life, and the older generation tries to maintain control of the children. These struggles are played out in countless cultures around the world. Family power structures in various cultures seem to change gradually over time, as societies move from agriculturally oriented economies to industrialized economies. In an agriculturally oriented family, the father, who is responsible for making sure the farm runs

smoothly, has more control over his children. In the city, the father's influence lessens, and the influence of others (peers, school, the workplace) increases. Rural societies generally emphasize respect for the authority of the dominant males. In more modern societies, the rights of the individual, whether female or male, receive more weight because the family is more likely to succeed if all its members become well educated and find good jobs. When a family moves from one culture to another, parent-child relationships can be especially strained, because the youngsters struggle to fit into the new culture and inevitably lose touch with past traditions.

## Summary

- Cultural identity evolves from shared beliefs, values, and attitudes.
- Ethnic identity refers to the geographic origin of a particular group.
- Race is based on the physical characteristics of a group of people and is a concept that is losing value.
- The Hispanic, or Latino, population recently became the largest minority population in the United States, followed by African American, Asian American, and American Indian and Alaska Native populations.
- Historically, research has been primarily conducted with White, middle-class populations. Not only is there a need to include minority population in research studies, but there is also a need to include members of these populations in all aspects of research, including planning, analyzing data, and interpreting results.
- Professionals need to become culturally competent in order to more effectively provide family education and services.
- Strong families share the three family system traits of cohesion, flexibility, and communication. Three sociocultural characteristics are also useful for understanding families: the extended-family system, the social system, and the belief system.
- The strengths of white families in the United States include commitment to the family, enjoyable time spent together, the ability to manage stress and crisis effectively, spiritual wellbeing, positive communication, and appreciation and affection for each other.
- The strengths of African American families include strong kinship bonds, flexibility in family roles, strong motivation to achieve, and a strong religious orientation.
- The strengths of Latino families include familism, a supportive kin network system.
- The strengths of Asian American families include strong family orientation, filial piety, a high value on education, well-disciplined children, extended-family support, and family loyalty.
- The strengths of American Indian families include an extended-family system, spiritual beliefs, high family cohesion, respect for elders, bilingual language skills, and a tribal support system.
- Same-sex families and families where there is a transgender person experience challenges. Many of these families have developed strategies to meet those

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challenges.

- Multiracial marriages are increasing with the increase in diversity in this country.
- Male–female relationships and parent–child struggles are common issues in families from a variety of ethnic groups.
- The issues of assimilation, acculturation, and segregation must be faced by any new ethnic or cultural group.

## Key Terms

Gay and lesbian families

Transgender

Ethnic group

Cultural group

Race

Cultural identity

Foreign born

Immigrant

Refugee

Ethnic identity

Cultural competence

Kinship

Nuclear family

Conjugal family system

Consanguineal family system

Extended family

Plural marriage

Polygamy

Polygyny

Polyandry

Monogamy

Pseudo–kin group

Lineage

Matrilineal society

Patrilineal society

Bilateral descent

Matriarchal group

Patriarchal group

Egalitarian group

Matrilocal society

Patrilocal society

Neolocal society

Family cohesion

Family flexibility

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Family Strengths and Challenges

Family communication  
Extended-family system  
Social system  
Belief system  
Historical trauma  
Cross-cultural family study  
Ethnocentrism  
Etic perspective  
Emic perspective  
Assimilation  
Acculturation  
Segregation  
Stereotype  
Prejudice  
Racism  
Multiracial marriage

## Activities

1. Make a list of your family's strengths. How do they compare with the strengths identified by family researchers?
2. There will be multiple changes in population demographics in the United States by the year 2045. With a group of classmates, discuss how life in this country will be different from the way it is today.
3. Find people in your class or on campus who have ethnic backgrounds different from yours. Talk with them about what positive and negative things they have experienced because of their membership in this ethnic group.
4. Try to learn more about the challenges and strengths of living in a gay or lesbian family. You might find a family through a gay and lesbian group on your campus who might be willing to talk with you about their family life. Pay particular attention to examples of family members being stigmatized and how they deal with it.
5. Interview a recent immigrant to this country. Ask about his or her experiences getting to the United States and adjusting to his or her new culture.

## Suggested Readings

1. Chung, A. Y. (2016). *Saving face: The emotional costs of the Asian immigrant family myth*. Chapel Hill, NC: Rutgers University Press.

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Chapter 2: Cultural Diversity and Diversity in Family Structure:  
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3. S. Coontz, S. (Ed.). (2008). *American families: A multicultural reader*. New York, NY: Routledge /Taylor & Francis Group..
4. Dalla, R., DeFrain, J., Johnson, J., & Abbott, D. A. (Eds.). (2009). *Strengths and challenges of new immigrant families: Implications for research, education, policy, and service*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Press.
5. Dreby, J. (2010). *Divided by borders: Mexican migrants and their children*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
6. Haynes, C., Merolla, J., & Ramakrishnan, S. K. (2016). *Framing immigrants*. New York, NY: Russell Sage Foundation.
7. Mohatt, G., & Thomas, L. (2006). "I wonder, why would you do it that way?" In J. E. Trimble & C. B. Fisher (Eds.), *The handbook of ethical research with ethnocultural populations and communities*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
8. Owings, A. (2011). *Indian voices: Listening to Native Americans*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.
9. Putman, R. D. (2015). *Our kids*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster.
10. Russell, S. T., & Horn, S. S. (2016). *Sexual orientation, gender identity, and schooling*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
11. Skogrand, L., Hatch, D., & Singh, A. (2009). Strong marriages in Latino culture. In R. Dalla, J. DeFrain, J. Johnson, & D. Abbott (Eds.), *Strengths and challenges of new immigrant families: Implications for research, policy, education, and service*. Lexington, MA: Lexington Books.
12. Skogrand, L., Mueller, M. L., Arrington, R., LeBlanc, H., Spotted Elk, D., Dayzie, I., & Rosenband, R. (2008). Strong Navajo marriages. *American Indian and Alaska Native Mental Health Research: The Journal of the National Center*, 15, 25–41. Web site: [http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/PublicHealth/research/centers/CAIANH/journal/Documents/Volume%2015/15\(2\)\\_Skogrand\\_Strong\\_Navajo\\_Marriages\\_25-41.pdf](http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/PublicHealth/research/centers/CAIANH/journal/Documents/Volume%2015/15(2)_Skogrand_Strong_Navajo_Marriages_25-41.pdf).