



The
Marriage
& **Family**
Experience

Intimate Relationships
in a Changing Society

Theodore
F. Cohen
Bryan
Strong

14TH EDITION

The Marriage and Family Experience

Intimate Relationships in a Changing Society

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Australia • Brazil • Mexico • Singapore • United Kingdom • United States

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*I dedicate this edition to my
family, living and deceased, with
immeasurable appreciation for all the
love and support they have so freely
given to me.*

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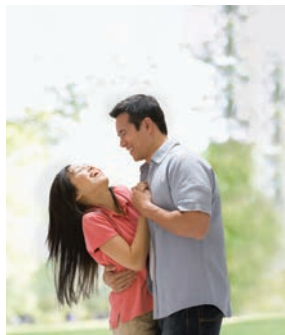
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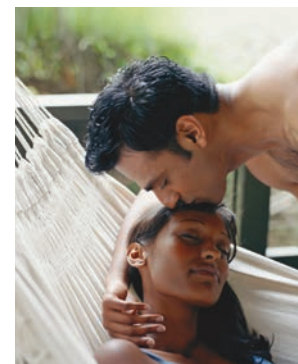
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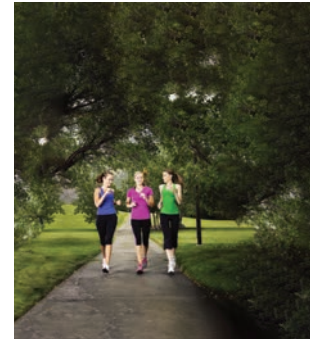
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Preface

The Marriage and Family Experience has enjoyed a long literary lifetime, stretching across four decades and now entering its 14th edition. Throughout this period, it has, like the family issues it addresses, experienced substantial change. The book has experienced the addition and departure of authors and the inclusion of material that the authors of the first edition likely never could have imagined. Dramatic changes in the living of intimate relationships, marriages, and families have made each new edition quite distinct from its predecessors. Just over the past decade, we have witnessed considerable changes in definitions of who and what counts as a family, the understanding and experience of gender and sexuality, shifts in the economy, and advances in reproductive and communications technology that, taken together, have profoundly affected how we understand and experience our family lives. The book you have before you, in whatever form you are reading it, is a product of and reflects those changes.

Yet, other kinds of changes also need mention. As these words are being written, the world is facing the unprecedented global crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the days pass, the numbers of those infected increases, as do the numbers who are seriously ill and/or hospitalized. Deaths due to the virus are mounting; in the state of New Jersey, where I live, and in New York, where I grew up and still have family, the numbers of fatalities are especially high, and it remains uncertain just how much higher they will climb, how soon we might “flatten the curve” and see them start to level off and diminish, and how and when the virus might be contained if not conquered. Alongside the quantitative measures of the health impact in illnesses or fatalities, the enormity of the economic, social, and emotional tolls of the pandemic are, like the disease itself, unparalleled and almost unimaginable. Though the reverberations from the disease are both global and affect all social institutions,

the impact on families and family relations has been as evident as any of the many social consequences. In having to quarantine in place, those who live with family members—be they spouses, parents, children, siblings, or wider kin—are both forced and fortunate to spend most of their waking hours together within whatever space constraints their residences impose. Those who live apart from family, especially those who live alone, face a quite different reality.

In addition to the sheer loneliness that many feel, many face fear for the well-being of distant or nonresidential loved ones, along with the anxieties associated with an inability to protect them, prevent their getting sick, or provide hands-on care for those whose ordinary needs have now become extraordinary.

Many are gathering with family and friends remotely, through technology, thus finding themselves spending lots of time “alone together.” Anecdotal accounts and journalistic speculation suggest that some families and family members are finding relationships strained to the point of breaking, while others are turning toward, relying on, and taking their greatest comfort from each other’s presence or their face on a screen—or even just their voice on a phone.

To say much more than these very general observations is risky and unwise, especially since these words may be read by some during a continued escalating nature of the pandemic and by others after the crisis diminishes and subsides. As of the moment, though, we simply don’t know how long the pandemic and its associated restrictions will remain in place or be increased, how big and deep the consequences will be, or how quick and smooth a recovery might follow. This is equally true for the effects the pandemic may ultimately have on marriage and family life.

As you turn the pages or flip through screens in reading the chapters that follow, it is my hope that the importance of families has become even more evident to all of us and that even in the midst of whatever

manner of hardship or loss you have experienced, you have been able to draw upon as well as direct back to others the strength that can come from family.

From its first to its present edition, *The Marriage and Family Experience* has sought to engage students from a range of academic and applied disciplines across a number of different types of institutions, and to stimulate their curiosity about families. The present edition retains that mission by characterizing and conveying the rich diversity of family experience, the dynamic nature of both the institution of family and of individual families, and the many ways in which experiences of relationships, marriages, and families are affected by the wider economic, political, social, and cultural contexts in which we live.

My personal involvement with *The Marriage and Family Experience* has a shorter history, though it now encompasses fully half of the book's 14 editions. By the time I entered its life, it was a successful textbook some seven editions old. Now, once again, I have had the opportunity to revise and update the text. Each time, I have incorporated the latest available research and official statistics on subjects such as sexuality (sexual orientation and expression), marriage, cohabitation, childbirth, child care, divorce, remarriage, blended families, adoption, abuse, the division of housework, and connections between paid work and family life. Once again, there are hundreds of new references in this edition, drawn mainly though not exclusively from research in sociology, psychology, and family studies. I have again tried to feature some of the most interesting issues, controversies, and real-life examples, sometimes drawn straight from recent news stories, popular culture, or narrative accounts, to give readers a better appreciation for how the more academic content applies to real life and to stimulate their fascination with families.

Thinking about my own many years of involvement with *The Marriage and Family Experience*, I marvel at how much has changed, both in the wider society and in my own family. I have been reminded, on a profoundly personal level, of the range of family experiences people have and of the dynamic, truly unpredictable quality of family life. When I first began working on the eighth edition of this book, I had been married for more than two decades and had no reason to even imagine I'd ever be single again or someday remarry. My wife Susan and I had two young teenagers who formed the center of our too-hectic life together. I was a husband and father, two roles that I valued above all others and that I juggled along with my

career as a sociologist and teacher. In the years since that beginning, I have been a full-time caregiver when Sue became ill, a widower after her passing, a single parent, a partner in a long-distance relationship, a remarried husband, a stepfather, an ex-spouse—and now happily remarried, to my wife, Julie, and a retiree from full-time teaching. Both my son, Dan, now nearing 35, and my daughter, Allison, now 32, married and living with her husband, Joe, and their two cats, have busy adult lives, each in their own homes hundreds of miles from where Julie and I currently live. The two stepsons and stepdaughter that I gained after marrying their mom have continued to experience their own educational and work milestones: Daniel graduated from college and has been working ever since, Molly is soon to graduate from college, while her younger brother Brett is just finishing his first year of college. During my involvement with this book I have seen how much family life can feel like a roller coaster, with its many ups and downs. None of this is unique to my life. If anything, my experiences of marriage, fatherhood, caregiving, widowerhood, single parenting, remarriage, stepfatherhood, separation, divorce, parental loss, and another remarriage, all just have served to heighten my own sensitivity to and appreciation of the many twists and unexpected turns that families take and the various roles and relationships covered in this book. They, too, are potent reminders to me of how—whether in a single lifetime, or across a society, or around the world—we can neither completely anticipate nor fully control the directions our families or our world may take.

New to This Edition

The most notable change is the inclusion of Learning Objectives introduced at the beginning of each chapter and highlighted within the appropriate portions of chapter content. These are intended to make it easier for both instructors and student readers to see how and where material fits into the bigger educational picture. Ideally, they will also guide readers through their efforts at reviewing and mastering material.

There are notable content-related changes that returning users will see in this edition. This edition devotes considerable attention to the impact of technology—especially communications technology—on numerous aspects of family and intimate relationships. Especially in Chapter 5, “Intimacy, Friendship, and Love,” and Chapter 7,

“Communication, Power, and Conflict,” technology-mediated communication, texting, smart phones, websites, and blogs receive much enlarged attention. Online dating is a major part of Chapter 5, while discussions of communication and conflict in Chapter 7 also pay similar attention, especially to texting. From meeting and dating online, through the use of technology-mediated communication in marriage, parenthood, and wider kin relationships, in both boxed features and within chapters, this edition features up-to-date illustration of the kinds of technologically induced changes that continue to impact people’s family experiences, including how people meet and form relationships, communicate with loved ones, and monitor or care for family members.

Second, attention to diversity remains a substantial and sustained theme of the book. Therefore, there is repeated attention paid to how our experiences of intimate relationships, marriage, parenthood, work and family, divorce, remarriage, abuse, and so on are differently experienced across lines of class, gender, race, ethnicity, and sexuality. Again, as in the last edition, the material on gender and sexuality has been updated and expanded to reflect still-continuing changes in the wider culture surrounding both gender and sexuality. This is not limited to the chapters that explicitly focus on gender (Chapter 4) and sexuality (Chapter 6), but is apparent in many places and chapters throughout the book. In the process, attention is also paid to LGBTQ+ family experiences, trans- and nonbinary identities, and ongoing gendered differences in the experiences that are our focus. With regard to issues surrounding socioeconomic and racial diversity, there is updated material on the socioeconomic standing of and diversity among different racial and ethnic groups. There is also consistent attention paid across the book’s 14 chapters to where, how, and why social class and race affect family experiences. In addressing race, there is updated information on multiracial family experience, especially with regard to parenting and racial socialization of children. This edition also continues to note and occasionally highlight aspects of family life that are affected by religion, as it shapes people’s attitudes, values, and experiences of many of the topics covered.

As always, the book again draws heavily from recent academic literature in sociology, psychology, and family studies, as well as from reports by such sources as the Pew Research Center, the National Center for Family and Marriage Research, the National Council on Family Relations, the Council on Contemporary Families, and

from many other official sources, such as the US Census Bureau, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institute of Justice, the World Health Organization, and many others. These, along with published research from books and journals, are incorporated, where relevant, throughout this revision. Furthermore, this edition continues to make extensive use of data from such national surveys as the General Social Survey, National Survey of Family Growth, the National Survey of Sexual Health and Behavior, the Global Study of Sexual Attitudes and Behavior, the National Survey of Adoptive Parents, the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, and the National Survey of Children’s Exposure to Violence. As with previous editions, the 14th edition attempts to accurately capture and objectively characterize the current state of marriage and the family experience.

Once again, there are a number of additions and/or updates to many of the well-received box features of the text that I hope will capture instructors’ and students’ interest and engage their curiosity. The *What Do You Think?* self-quiz at the start of each chapter has been extensively revised with new true/false questions that follow the content order of the chapter.

Content Changes by Chapter

The notable changes in **Chapter 1**, “The Meaning of Marriage and the Family,” include a new item in the discussion of ongoing controversies on parenting styles, contrasting helicopter and free range parents, to illustrate the range of viewpoints about family issues. Other additions include: new material in the discussion of forms of marriage, anthropological research on wives’ attitudes toward co-wives among the polygynous Himba of Namibia. New information on at-home mothers and fathers has been added to the section on economic cooperation among family members. I have added new data from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) on the percentage of baby boom–generation adults who expect to have their parents move in with them, and Pew Research Center survey data on attitudes toward full-time dual-earner parents, and on results from a 27-country Pew survey about attitudes toward family and the perceived strength of family ties. There is also updated data and discussion on the number and prevalence of multigenerational households, including three-generational and skipped-generation households, as well as a new discussion of extended family

ties among undocumented immigrants. Additionally, the discussion of race differences in attitudes toward family, sex, and sexuality has been updated. In addition, the box on the *Obergefell v. Hodges* has been updated with data on the numbers of legally married same-sex couples. Finally, the discussions of conservative, liberal, and centrist viewpoints and of differences between accepters, skeptics, and rejecters have been more effectively blended into one discussion.

Chapter 2, “Studying Marriages and Families,” contains updated data on exposure to popular culture, especially television, new examples of “reality television” programs on families, updated examples of the advice and information genre online, on air, and in print. In discussions of theories, there is a new example illustrating a functionalist approach to wedding rituals, and discussion of intersectionality in the section on feminist perspectives. In discussing research, there is a section on demography—what it is and why it is useful in studying families. Using comments by sociologist Paul Amato, the chapter concludes with more explicit mention of why it is impossible to formulate “universal laws” that apply to everyone’s experience of family life.

In Chapter 3, “Variations in American Family Life,” the coverage of American families across history now includes material from Andrew Cherlin’s *Labor’s Love Lost*, a history of working-class families in the United States, as well as two new sections—“Late Twentieth-Century Families” and “Families Today”—to better reflect the extent and nature of changes in family life over the past four decades. The section on the meaning and experience of family life, particularly the trends in marriage rates and divorce, have been updated with the most up-to-date data from the US Census Bureau (2017) and National Center for Health Statistics (2018). The current data reflect that as the marriage rate is declining, so is the divorce rate. Similarly, data on children’s living arrangements have been updated with recent statistics. The section “Cohabitation” has also been updated with the most recent data and reports from the previously listed sources (NCHS & Census Bureau). Additionally, supplemental data from Nugent and Daugherty (2018) and Gomez and Manning (2017) were added to this section to highlight some current cohabitating trends. The section on social-class variations now includes material on problems faced by affluent youth, middle-class families, neighborhood effects on opportunities for mobility, and effects of the recession on marriage and divorce, births, and multigenerational families. Specifically,

the section titled “Unmarried Motherhood and Single-Parent Families” was changed to reflect the most recent numbers derived from the National Vital Statistics Report by the CDC and Pew Research Center of 2018. Furthermore, the section on “Demographics” and the four important changes have all been updated. Data on poverty, the working poor, and children in poverty have all been updated with the latest data available. Material on racial and ethnic variations now includes a more detailed discussion of how the census has defined and measured race, a greatly enlarged discussion of multiracial families, and more attention to diversity of experiences within racial or ethnic groups. In discussing multiracial families, attention is paid to racial socialization and to experiences of microaggressions, sometimes within one’s own extended family. The section on “Changing Gender Roles and Opportunities for Women” has updated sections from the Pew Research Center reflecting the experiences and trends of mothers and fathers. On diversity within groups, there is material differentiating experiences of African Americans and Caribbean black immigrants, and new material on diversity among Asian American groups in their educational attainment, life goals, and where marriage and parenthood rank in their priorities. A new box feature titled “They Never Leave the House: The Complicated Worlds of iGens” was added to highlight the “super-connected” lives of the iGen population with smartphones and access to internet and social media platforms in the palm of their hand.

Chapter 4, “Gender and Family,” is among the more substantially updated chapters, in my effort to capture and characterize the current and continuing cultural changes in how we think about gender. In discussing the evolving concept of gender, there is more attention to the increasing numbers of people who identify as trans- or *nonbinary*. Discussions of transgender experience now specifically and explicitly include nonbinary experience. There is updated material on political, economic, educational, and household instances of gender inequality. Coverage of gendered media content and exposure has been updated. Once again, the chapter notes and addresses the sharing of housework and family responsibilities with updated attitudinal and behavioral data. The chapter provides recent research, including Barbara Risman’s, *Where the Millennials Will Take Us: A New Generation Wrestles with the Gender Structure* (2018). There is also updated information on work–family conflict, gendered religiosity, feminist identities, bullying, and school climate. The chapter includes a new box feature, “When

Masculinity Is Toxic,” and a considerably revised and updated discussion of changes in public policies in recognition of changing ideas about gender.

Chapter 5, “Intimacy, Friendship, and Love,” includes much new, updated, and significantly expanded material on the use of websites, smartphones, and texting in initiating, maintaining, and/or ending dating relationships. The substantial and comprehensive discussion of online relationships draws on recent research by Michael Rosenfeld and the How Couples Meet and Stay Together surveys, as well as 2019–2020 Pew Research Center data. It includes estimates of both use of and attitudes toward online relationships, as well as comparisons of relationships that begin in person versus online. Advantages and disadvantages, as well as problems specific to online dating, are included. The chapter also includes material on texting technology and ongoing relationships. In discussing love there is a discussion of soul-mate marriage and the elevated emphasis on emotional aspects of marriage. In discussion of sexuality there is now mention of asexuality. Additionally, there is new material on gendered roles in cross-gender dating; similarities in the experience of love and sexual intimacy among same-sex and heterosexual couples; living apart together (LAT) relationships; dating in among single parents and in older adulthood; and recent data on breakups and their consequences. In discussions about breaking up, there is new material on “ghosting” and other new experiences of ending relationships. There is increased attention to hooking up, including discussion of “abstainers” from the hookup culture. The section on love includes more recent data on the romance fiction literary genre and more current popular culture references to love themes in film.

Chapter 6, “Understanding Sex and Sexualities,” continues to look at recent cultural and social changes in sexual experience and expression. The most noticeable change is the relocating of the discussion of sexual identity and orientation to “up front” in the chapter, even prior to the discussion of learning about sex and sexual scripts, which themselves have been updated. The discussion of sexual identity now includes more mention of both pansexuality and asexuality. Discussion of parental sexual socialization now also includes mention of stepmothers and other kin as sources of learning about sex. The role of media content about sex now includes links between media exposure and sexting and other sexual activity. There is a new section on digital media that includes blogs, websites, and

podcasts about sex directed at either teens or parents. There is also discussion of pornography exposure, race, and gender. The discussion of General Social Survey data on attitudes about sex has been updated. Material on sexual expression across the life span has been updated with data from most recent waves of the National Survey of Family Growth and of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (2013). Discussions of LGBTQ+ sexual experience have been updated and expanded, especially with regard to the experiences of “coming out” and of bisexuality (including the experience of biphobia). Discussions of different forms of sexual expression have been updated as well as expanded to include discussion of celibate marriages and asexuality and broader, more nuanced discussion of nonmonogamous sex that now differentiates between consensual (e.g., polyamory and swinging) and nonconsensual (infidelity) nonmonogamy.

Chapter 7, “Communication, Power, and Conflict,” has new material on each of the topics in the chapter title. New or updated material on communication includes enlarged discussion of nonverbal communication, updated and broadened discussions of sexual communication, and a more nuanced consideration of *demand-withdraw communication* that acknowledges the role of social class. As for power: There is new discussion of the dyadic power social influence model of relationship power; research on the relationship between shared power and relationship quality; and new material on power dynamics among and in same-sex couples. Material on conflict and conflict management now includes discussion of the implicit theory of relationships, and the importance of the distinction between destiny and growth beliefs in experiencing and resolving relationship conflict. There is also new material on same-sex couples and conflict and updated and revised discussions of the common couple conflict areas of sex, money, and housework. Mention is now made of conflict about parenting and conflict over social media use. There is new material on the effects of parental conflict on children, with specific emphasis on the role of denigration and the potential boomerang effect. The Popular Culture feature, “Staying Connected with Technology,” has also been updated and significantly revised.

In **Chapter 8, “Marriages in Societal and Individual Perspective,”** the most notable changes result from keeping up to date with data on changing marriage rates and shifting attitudes about marriage. The chapter has moved from a consideration of “the marriage debate,” to a discussion that highlights the ambiguous status of

marriage in the United States, which includes special attention to attitudes and outlooks of millennials. There is new consideration of earlier historical fluctuations in marriage rates, new material on weddings and their costs, and new data on marriage and social ties (including to family and in volunteering and charitable giving).

The section on “Race and Ethnicity” include up-to-date data on marriages between members of the same race. This section also includes the numerous combinations of intermarriages and various bullet points that reflect more current intermarriage rates. The discussion of religion and marriage has been broadened, and the data on racial homogamy versus intermarriage (and roles played by education and income), religious homogamy, and age-discrepant marriages have all been updated with some more recent references. In the section on who we can marry, the attention to same-sex marriage now includes the *Obergefell* decision, and recent estimates of the numbers of married lesbian or gay male couples. The section “Marriage” also has some updated reflections on wedding costs by nationwide average costs. Furthermore, the section on “Aging and Later-Life Marriages” and “Widowhood” both have updated statistics that outline most recent trends on age as a consideration in who we marry.

The section on marriage typologies now also includes a typology from the work of John Gottman, and the chapter’s closing section on the future of marriage now includes reference to Cherlin’s *Labor’s Love Lost*. The new *Public Policies, Private Lives* feature, “Will You Marry Us?” examines the use of friends and family members as wedding officiants. A new box feature titled “The ‘Reality of Marriage Reality Shows’” examines the reality and/or influential nature of romantic reality television shows that end in marriage, and the perception of “finding happiness” in society.

In **Chapter 9**, “Unmarried Lives: Singlehood and Cohabitation,” data on numbers of singles and the extent of cohabitation again have been updated. Pew Research Center data on why unmarried women and men haven’t married are included. The chapter has updated discussions of both premarital and postmarital (prior to remarriage) cohabitation. There is updated and/or enlarged discussion of cohabitation and remarriage, pooling of finances among cohabiting couples, relationship satisfaction among cohabiting couples, and the impact of cohabitation and serial cohabitation on marriage. The material on same-sex cohabitation has been updated, and where available, comparisons are made between same-sex and heterosexual couples, married and/or cohabiting.

The section on “Children” details an updated perspective of children born into cohabitation. Also, there is an updated section on “Common Law Marriages and Domestic Partnerships” that outlines updated sources of health insurance for heterosexual and same sex spouses. The features titled “Living Apart Together,” “Elective Co-Parenting by Heterosexual and LGB Parents,” and on “Heterosexual Domestic Partnerships” all have been updated. A new box feature titled “Class and Cohabitation” has been added to this chapter to outline the trends of why couples are moving in together. This section seeks to answer the question if couples are moving in together out of love or out of convenience.

Chapter 10, “Becoming Parents and Experiencing Parenthood,” once again contains updated statistics on fertility, births, unmarried childbirth, infant mortality, pregnancy, mistimed or unwanted pregnancies, pregnancy loss, adoption, voluntary childlessness, and infertility. Newly added content includes the statistics on insurance coverage of pregnancy, discussion on childlessness and education, and the new table on contraceptive use by age, education, and race/ethnicity. The chapter also includes consideration of competing mothering ideologies (“intensive mothering” vs. “extensive mothering”), comparisons of employed versus at-home mothers, and updated data on the wage impact of motherhood for women. More recent data are included on fathers, especially regarding housework and time spent with children. There are also updated statistics on sudden unexpected infant deaths linked to race/ethnicity, and the statistics and rankings of adoptions by states. New data and discussion on nonparental households and skipped-generational household linked to poverty are included in this edition. The section on gay or lesbian parents has been updated and enlarged. The *Popular Culture* feature updates the discussion on the potential effects of reality shows on teen pregnancy and childbearing.

Chapter 11, “Marriage, Work, and Economics,” contains updated employment and labor force participation data along with data on women’s and men’s work experiences and dual-earner households. In addressing how work impacts family life, we updated the discussion on time strains and time poverty. We also present 2017 Pew Research data on whether it is important for men and women to support a family financially to be considered good partners. Data on the average time that mothers and fathers spend on children by age groups and the availability of family supportive policies have also been updated. Finally,

the discussion on changes in the reasons for mothers and fathers to stay home and the information on the cost of varying child care by states have been updated to this edition.

Chapter 12, “Intimate Violence and Sexual Abuse,” has much new material. This includes new examples to open, and later throughout the chapter reflecting the breadth of family violence and intimate partner violence. We updated the statistics on intimate partner violence, emotional and psychological abuse (including threats, insults, and excessive efforts to monitor and control), and the impact of abusive behavior on recipients. We also updated information on the reported prevalence of domestic violence during pregnancy, and the data on violence and abuse toward younger people ages 11 to 18 years old, and ages 19 to 24 years old. The discussion of World Health Organization on individual factors associated with men’s increased likelihood of committing violence against his partner. Finally, we have updated the data and discussion on child maltreatment and information on mandatory arrest policies. The discussion of policies to address family violence now better reflects both the advocacy for and the criticisms of mandatory arrest and no-drop prosecution.

Chapter 13, “Coming Apart: Separation and Divorce,” has updated data on divorce, custody, child support, and alimony, and enlarged coverage of these issues. This is accompanied by a brief discussion of the limitations of divorce data, due to incomplete reporting across the United States (data on divorce does not include data from all 50 states). The section “The Meaning of Divorce,” has some updated references to highlight how current adults of today may believe in the idea of marriage, but are currently not getting married. The section on “Divorce in the United States,” includes updated 2018 statistics from US Census Bureau and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Updated regions were also applied to the sections titled “Societal Factors” and “Educational Level,” which includes some new references of countries that were not included in the previous edition. The chapter uses 2014–2018 data to illustrate the different measures of divorce rates. The section of “Economic Consequences of Divorce” has a new section that underscores some references of employment and marriage as the two main sources of health insurance for most American adults. The sections on “Alimony” and “Employment” also has some up-to-date data points and references. New to the chapter are discussions of the trend in “gray divorce,” the risks involved in marrying either too

young *or* too old, and the economic impact of divorce. New or updated box features include “Divorcing in Iran and India, but NOT the Philippines,” “Making Personal Trouble Public: Sharing One’s Divorce Online or in Print,” and “Covenant Marriage as a Response to Divorce.” Lastly, a new box feature titled “Same-Sex Marriage, Same-Sex Divorce” outlines some interesting findings indicating that same sex marriages tend to have more stronger unions. But, in comparing same-sex unions across gender, female–female couples tend to dissolve at much higher rates than male–male relationships.

Chapter 14, “New Beginnings: Single-Parent Families, Remarriages, and Blended Families,” offers updated discussions of trends in single parenting and remarriage, and of the economic status and diversity of living arrangements of single parents. The variations in single-parent households and in remarriage, especially by gender, race/ethnicity, and poverty status, are highlighted. These sections now include some updated statistics from the US Census Bureau (2017), Forum on Child and Family Statistics (2019), and other forms of supplemental data. The “benefits” of remarriage are considered, especially as they compare to the benefits of first marriage. In addition, the chapter pays more attention to stepfamilies, including new material on the effects of stepfamily life on marital quality, age differences in children’s adjustment to stepfamily life, and the different ways children refer to stepfathers. Changes were also made to the section “Remarried Families,” especially many of the bulleted points, which now highlight up-to-date information. Data on remarriage and stepfamily life include estimates of how many US marriages are remarriages, how many adults have at least one step-relative, and how that varies along with education, age, and ethnicity. Lastly, a new box feature titled “Parenting in the World of Youth Sports: The Dilemma of Parent-Coaches” explores the research on the benefits and/or consequences of parents coaching their own children in the world of youth sports in America.

Features

What Do You Think?

Self-quiz chapter openers let students assess their existing knowledge of what will be discussed in the chapter. We have found these quizzes engage students, drawing them into the material and stimulating greater interaction with the course.

Public Policies, Private Lives

These features focus on legal issues and public policies that affect how we think about and/or experience family life. Among them are updated features on the need for adequate language and institutional policies regarding transgender identities, the Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, and the trend toward having friends or family conduct one's wedding, as well as updated features on sexting, the Family and Medical Leave Act, adoptions that dissolve, covenant marriage, and spanking.

Exploring Diversity

These boxes let students see family circumstances from the vantage point of other cultures, other eras, or within different lifestyles in the contemporary United States. Examples include boxes on cross-cultural research on kissing; race, class, and the maintenance of kin ties; and positive and negative trends in the status of LGBTQ+ population, both domestically and abroad. Other retained features address arranged marriage, collectivist versus individualistic cultural constructions of love, dating violence cross-culturally, same-sex marriage and same-sex divorce, class, and cohabitation, and the phenomenon of posthumous marriage.

Issues and Insights

These boxes once again focus on current and high-interest topics. They address such issues as virginity loss; gender, sexuality, and bullying; "living apart together"; and differences in obligations felt toward biological and stepfamily members. There are also new Issues and Insights features in Chapter 1 on helicopter parents and accordion families, on ethical expectations of family researchers in Chapter 2, in Chapter 3 on the iGen population and the use of smartphones, tablets, and social media, in Chapter 4 on toxic masculinity, and in Chapter 14 on parent coaches in the world of youth sports. A returning feature on the uses and abuses of technology in families and relationships has been substantially updated.

Popular Culture

These features discuss the ways relationship and family issues are portrayed through various forms of popular culture. Topics new to this edition include boxes on the possible effects and implications of certain

television portrayals, including features on a "Modern Family effect" on attitudes about gay marriage, race, and class as portrayed in *Black-ish*, and whether and how teen pregnancy rates may be affected by such programs as *16 and Pregnant* and *Teen Mom*. A newly enlarged feature, "Transgender and Nonbinary Faces," looks at popular culture figures such as Caitlyn Jenner, Jazz Jennings, Chaz Bono, and Laverne Cox, as well as nonbinary celebrities such as Sam Smith and Asia Kate Dillon and their possible influence on attitudes toward trans and nonbinary individuals. Another feature includes questioning the reality of marriage on reality television shows and its effect on society.

Real Families

These 10 features give up-close, sometimes first-person, accounts of issues raised in the text as they are experienced by people in their everyday lives. In this edition, there are updated boxes on elective co-parenting by heterosexual and LGBTQ+ parents, middle-class parenting, and heterosexual domestic partnerships. Returning features include those on blending and unblending families, family caregivers, and a feature on men and childbirth.

End-of-Chapter Features

Each chapter also has a *Chapter Summary* and a list of *Key Terms*, all of which are designed to maximize students' learning outcomes. The chapter summary reviews the main ideas of the chapter, making review easier and more effective. The key terms are boldfaced within the chapter and listed at the end, along with a page number where the term was introduced. Both chapter summaries and key terms assist students in test preparation.

Glossary

A comprehensive glossary of key terms is included at the back of the textbook.

Instructor and Student Resources

The Marriage and Family Experience, 14th edition, is accompanied by a wide array of supplements prepared for both instructors and students. Some new resources have been created specifically to accompany the 14th edition, and all of the continuing supplements have been thoroughly revised and updated.

Resources for Instructors

Instructor's Resource Center

Available online, the Instructor's Resource Center includes an instructor's manual, a test bank, and PowerPoint slides for each chapter. The instructor's manual will help instructors organize the course and captivate students' attention. Each chapter's Instructor Manual includes a chapter focus statement, learning objectives, lecture outlines, a list of key terms, in-class activities, suggested videos and internet sites, and student handouts. The test bank includes multiple-choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions, all with answers and text references, for each chapter of the text. The PowerPoints are chapter-specific presentations, including chapter outlines, images, figures, and tables, to help build your lectures.

Cengage Learning Testing Powered by Cognero

Cognero is a flexible, online system that allows you to:

- Import, edit, and manipulate test bank content from *The Marriage and Family Experience* test bank or elsewhere, including your own favorite test questions.
- Create multiple test versions in an instant.
- Deliver tests from your LMS, your classroom, or wherever you want.

Resources for Students and Instructors

MindTap for The Marriage and Family Experience, 14th Edition

- MindTap engages and empowers you to produce your best work—consistently—by seamlessly integrating course material with videos, activities, apps, and much more, MindTap creates a unique learning path that fosters increased comprehension and efficiency.
- MindTap delivers real-world relevance with activities and assignments that help students build critical thinking and analytical skills that will transfer to other courses and their professional lives.
- MindTap helps students stay organized and efficient with a single destination that reflects what's important to the instructor, along with the tools students needed to master the content.

- MindTap empowers and motivates students with information that shows where they stand at all times.
- Additionally, for instructors, MindTap allows you to:
 - Control what content students see and when they see it with a learning path that can be used as is or customized to your syllabus.
 - Create a unique learning path of relevant readings and multimedia and activities that move students up the learning taxonomy from basic knowledge and comprehensions to analysis, application, and critical thinking.
 - Integrate your own content into the MindTap Reader using your own documents or pulling from sources like YouTube videos, websites, Google Docs, and more.
 - Use powerful analytics and reports that provide a snapshot of class progress, time in course, engagement, and completion.

Acknowledgments

This book remains the product of many hands. Bryan Strong and, later, Christine DeVault, created a wonderful book from which to teach about or study families and relationships. I hope that once again I have retained their emphasis on the meaning and importance of families, along with their effort to engage students' curiosity and interest. I am gratified to continue their efforts.

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