

Family: a group of people related by blood, marriage, or adoption

(Census Bureau adds coresidence)

Nuclear family: husband, wife, and any children

Extended family: unit that includes husband and wife and at least one other adult

Family of orientation: family one grew up in

Family of procreation: family one creates by marriage

Conjugal ties: ties between husband and wife

Consanguinal ties: ties between blood relatives, usually refers to vertical ties

Western family tradition emphasizes conjugal ties, relations between husband and wife, relative to consanguinal ties emphasized in most of the world.

European marriage pattern (in place at least since 16th century)

-late and not universal marriage

-period of independence before marriage

-marriage only when could "afford"

Colonial family was responsible for many more functions than family today

Isolated from markets, poor, had to be relatively self-sufficient.

produced food, clothing

functioned as school, church, welfare institution, hospital

hours of work long for everyone; father was principal parent

Colonial family was eroded by technological advances that contributed to

Industrialization: moved work from home to factory and shops; mother became the principal parent by 1900

Urbanization (because urban areas are more efficient at producing non-agricultural products): helped create markets in goods and services that previously had to be produced at home

Income growth: permitted purchases from markets of higher quality products

Through higher wages, it also increased incentives to devote time to labor market rather than home-based production

Colonial family also eroded by increased assumption of state responsibility

Public schools (mandatory since 1890s)

Welfare institutions (orphanages, poor houses)

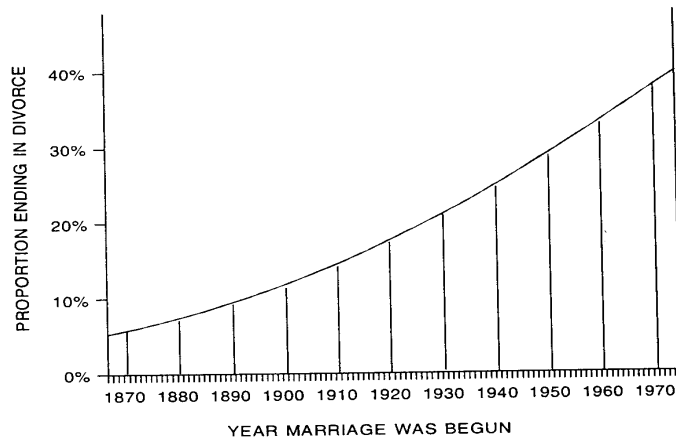
Today's family is left with three major functions:

Satisfying emotional needs of adults

Redistributing income from earners to non-earners

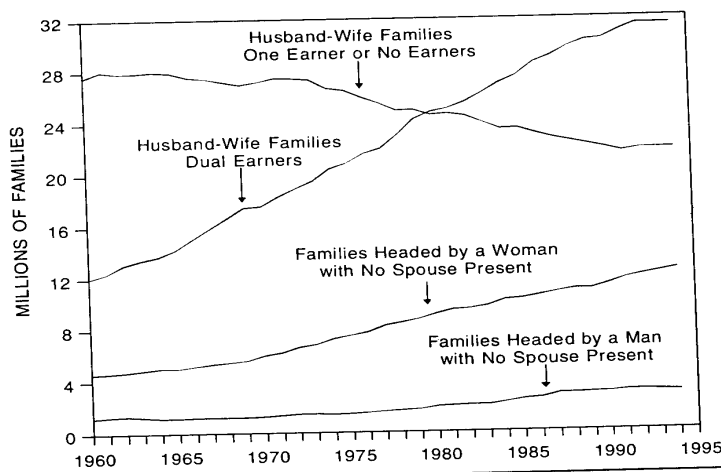
Producing and socializing (bearing and raising) the next generation

**Figure 4-2.** Proportion of Marriages Begun in Each Year Ending in Divorce: 1867 to 1973



SOURCE: Preston and McDonald 1979.

**Figure 4-1.** Number of Families, by Type: 1960 to 1994



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, series P-60, no. 184, table B11.

**How has the American family changed?**

1. People are marrying at a later age.
2. Divorce rates are much higher today.
3. Family structure has changed – more female-headed households.
4. Cohabitation levels have increased.

Table 4-5. International Comparisons of Family Status: 1990

	Divorce Rate	Percentage of Births to Single Women	Single-Parent Families	Percentage of Young Women Employed	Poverty Rates Controlling for Age and Education				
					Married-Couple Families		Single-Mother Families		
					Employed Mothers	Non-employed Mothers	Employed Mothers	Non-employed Mothers	69%
United States	21%	28%	23%	73%	10%	19%	30%	69%	
Canada	12	24	15	75	6	19	21	63	
Germany	8	11	14	62	2	6	13	44	
Italy	2	6	n.a.	61	4	17	9	41	
Netherlands	8	8	15	55	6	4	7	10	
Sweden	12	47	13	89	2	8	3	20	
United Kingdom	12	28	13	66	8	17	15	21	

SOURCE: McLanahan and Casper 1995, tables 1.3 and 1.10.

**Divorce Rate:** Divorces per 1,000 married women.

**Percentage of Births to Single Women:** Percentage of births born to unmarried women.

**Single-Parent Families:** Percentage of all family households that are single-parent families. Data for Canada are for 1986; for Germany, 1988; for the Netherlands and Sweden, 1985; and for the United Kingdom, 1987.

**Percentage of Young Women Employed:** Data refer to women aged 25 to 34, except in Italy where the age range is 25 to 39.

**Poverty Rates:** These are poverty rates controlling for age and education, taking into account family size. Poverty is defined as having a total family income less than one-half the median income for families of that size in that country.

International comparisons of family status:

1. Note patterns of family formation in Sweden
2. U.S. has highest percentage of children living in poverty.

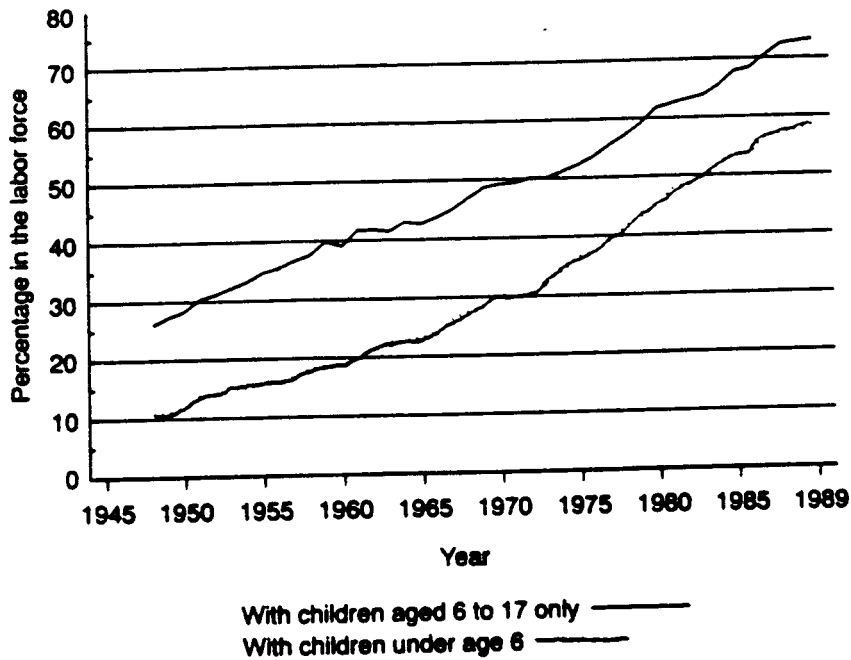


Figure 2-4. Labor force participation rates for married women with children, by age of children, 1948-1989. Sources: for 1948-1977, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Handbook of Labor Statistics*, 1978, bulletin 2000 (1979); for 1978-1989, U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, 1980, 1985, and 1991 volumes.

The explanation for changing family structure that has received the most attention is rising work opportunities for women.

Table 4-2. Economic Status of Children, by Living Arrangements: 1990

Living Arrangements	Distribution of Children by Family Type	Average Family Income in 1989 (000)	Percentage of Children	
			Below Poverty Line	Comfortable
In Two-Parent Families	72%	\$53.6	9%	18%
Both parents work full-time <sup>a</sup>	24	60.9	3	24
Father full-time, mother part-time	16	56.3	5	18
Father full-time, mother doesn't work	22	52.7	10	15
Mother full-time, father part-time	2	43.8	17	7
In Mother-Only Families	21	21.6	47	3
Mother works full-time	9	28.9	21	4
Mother works part-time	5	18.8	57	2
Mother doesn't work	7	14.4	75	1
In Father-Only Families	4	32.8	25	8
Father works full-time	3	37.5	14	11
Father works part-time	1	25.6	41	5
With Neither Parent	3	30.6	41	6
Total Children Under 18	100%	\$45.4	19%	14%

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Census of Population and Housing: 1990*, Public Use Microdata Sample.  
<sup>a</sup>Data not shown for all combinations of parental employment. Amounts shown in 1993 dollars.

Changes in family structure have had a large adverse effect on the well-being of children. Children are living in poorer economic conditions today than they did thirty years ago.