

A large, dense crowd of people is shown from an overhead perspective. The image is mostly in grayscale, but several individuals are wearing brightly colored shirts in shades of red, blue, yellow, green, orange, and purple. The text "Family Socialization" is overlaid in the center of the image.

# Family Socialization

# Defining Families

- Traditional Explanation
  - Social unit of people related through marriage, birth, or adoption who reside together in sanctioned relationships, engage in economic cooperation, socially approved sexual relations, and reproduction and child rearing
- Contemporary Explanation
  - Primary group of people—usually related by ancestry, marriage, or adoption—who form a cooperative economic unit and care for any young who consider their identity to be attached to the group; and are committed to maintaining the group.



# Family Structure

- The *nuclear family* is comprised of one married couple residing together with their children.
- *Extended families* are the whole network of parents, children, and other relatives who form a family unit.
  - Extended families are common among the urban poor because they develop a cooperative system of social and economic support.



# Perspectives of the Family

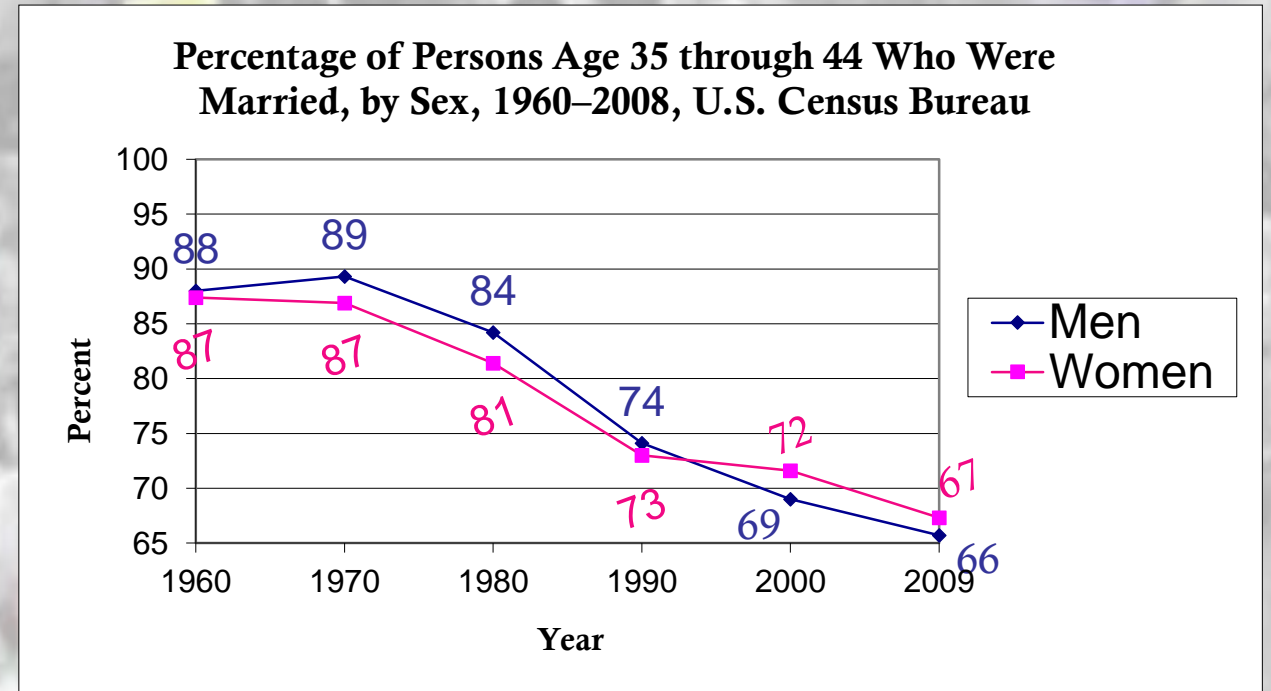
Functionalism	Meet the need to socialize children and reproduce new members.
Conflict Theory	Reinforce and support power relations in society.

# Perspectives of the Family

<b>Feminist Theory</b>	Reflect the gender hierarchies in society.
<b>Symbolic Interaction</b>	Emerge so people can meet basic needs and develop relationships.

# Changes in the Family

- Since 1960 the amount of adults (between the ages of 35 – 44) who were married has gone down drastically
  - Divorce rates in the United States close to 50%
- Cohabitation
  - Some families deciding to live together and function as a family without formalizing process
    - Especially popular in Northern European societies



# Change in Divorce Rates



# Impact of Family Structure on Society

- Divorce rates lead to negative views of marriage
  - Leading to less people wanting to get married in the first place
  - Increasing attractiveness of cohabitation
    - Increased disengagement from religious influences lead to less emphasis on the religious institution of marriage
- Higher involvement by extended family as extended families dissolve
- Changing definition of norms of what makes up a family
  - The new “normal” is not the same as the what it meant previously

