

# Skills for Living

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# Topic 4-2

## Family Structures Vary

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- In this topic, you will learn about the different characteristics of the American family, as well as
  - ❖ **Family structures**
  - ❖ **Factors influencing families**

# Family Structures Vary

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## **Objectives for Topic 4-2**

After studying this topic, you will be able to

- describe characteristics of various family structures
- name six factors that can influence family responsibilities

# Topic 4-2 Terms

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- ❖ family structure
- ❖ nuclear family
- ❖ single-parent family
- ❖ stepfamily
- ❖ extended family
- ❖ childless family
- ❖ media
- ❖ demographics

# Family Structures

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- *Family structure* refers to the makeup of a family group
  - ❖ nuclear families
  - ❖ single-parent families
  - ❖ stepfamilies
  - ❖ extended families
  - ❖ childless families

# Nuclear Families

- A *nuclear family* is a family group that consists of a man and a woman and their children



# Single-Parent Families



- In *single-parent families*, one adult lives with one or more children

# Stepfamilies

- A *stepfamily* is formed when a single parent marries
  - ❖ The husband, the wife, or both spouses have children from other marriages





# Extended Families

- In *extended families*, other relatives live with parents and their children



# Childless Families



- A *childless family* is a couple without children

# Did You Know...

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- According to the 2000 Census, nearly four million (3.9 million) American households consist of three or more generations living together

# Factors Influencing Families

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- Families are influenced by outside forces such as
  - ❖ cultural influences
  - ❖ societal influences
  - ❖ technological influences
  - ❖ demographic factors
  - ❖ economic factors
  - ❖ world events

# Cultural Influences

- Culture helps shape the expectations for the different roles of family members



# Societal Influences

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- Parents help teach children the standards of behavior expected by society
- *Media* are channels of mass communication that can influence behavior

# Technological Influences

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- Technology helps families
  - ❖ save time and energy
  - ❖ provide physical care for children
  - ❖ balance work and family life
  - ❖ communicate with family members

# Demographic Factors

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- *Demographics* are statistical qualities of the human population
- Demographic trends affecting families include
  - ❖ women who work outside the home
  - ❖ growing population of older adults
  - ❖ high rate of family moves



# Economic Forces

- The availability of jobs and income affects a family's well-being



# World Events

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- World events that can affect families include
  - ❖ social and political unrest
  - ❖ natural disasters
  - ❖ the global economy

# Did You Know...

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- Studies have shown that almost two-thirds of American children between the ages of 2 and 17 logged onto the Internet during 2002
- How do you think the use of the Internet is influencing families today?

Source: Corporation for Public Broadcasting

# Summary for Topic 4-2

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- Families take the form of different family structures
  - ❖ nuclear families
  - ❖ single-parent families
  - ❖ stepfamilies
  - ❖ extended families
  - ❖ childless families

# Summary for Topic 4-2

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- Various outside forces, including the following, may affect the roles of family members
  - ❖ culture
  - ❖ society
  - ❖ technology
  - ❖ demographic factors
  - ❖ the economy
  - ❖ world events