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Topic 4-2 Family Structures Vary

- 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

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

- family structure
- nuclear family
- * single-parent family
- * stepfamily

- extended family
- childless family
- media
- demographics

Family Structures

- 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...

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

Source: PBS.org

Factors Influencing Families

- 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

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

Technological Influences

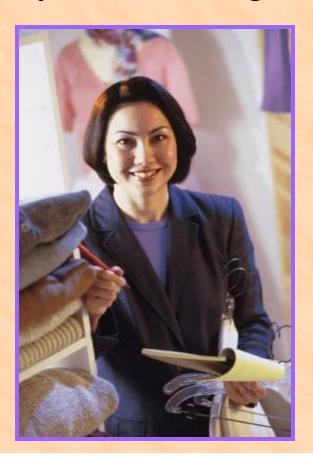
- Technology helps families
 - save time and energy
 - provide physical care for children
 - balance work and family life
 - * communicate with family members

Demographic Factors

- **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

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

Did You Know...

- 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

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

Summary for Topic 4-2

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