

# INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY

---

**Emily Restivo, Ph.D.**  
**New York Institute of Technology**





# 3. Social Institutions

---

## **3.1 Politics**

## **3.2 Economics**

## **3.3 Education**

## **3.4 Religion**

## **3.5 Marriage and Family**



# INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY

---

**Emily Restivo, Ph.D.**  
**New York Institute of Technology**





## 3.1 Politics

---

# Power

**Power: Ability to get way despite resistance**

**2 Types:**

- **Authority (Legitimate) government**
- **Coercion (Illegitimate)**



# **3 Types of Authority (Weber)**

***1. Traditional*–based on  
custom**

***2. Rational-Legal* –based on  
written rules – defined  
rights and duties**

***3. Charismatic* –authority  
figure - outstanding traits**



# **Transfer of Authority**

**Traditional- known**

**Rational-Legal- election**

**Charismatic- appointed**

**— Routinization of**

**Charisma- becomes**

**traditional or rational-**

**legal**



# Types of Government

## *I. Monarchy*

—King & Queen

—City states

—Ceremonial role or  
control the government



## **2. *Democracies* – “power to the people”**

**Direct - meet/discuss/  
make decisions**

**Representative - U.S.  
today**

**-voters elect people to  
make decisions**

**3. *Dictatorship* – Rule by individual**

**4. *Oligarchy* – Rule by a small group**

**5. *Totalitarian*- total control by government — Saddam Hussein & Iraqis**

# **The U.S. Political System**

## **Republicans**

- **Older**
- **Males**
- **Conservative**
- **Middle / Upper  
Classes**

# **The U.S. Political System**

## **Democrats**

- **Younger**
- **Minority Groups**
- **Women**
- **Liberal**
- **Working classes**

# Who is More Likely to Vote?

- **Older**
- **Non-Hispanic Whites**
- **More Educated**
- **Higher Income**
- **Women**
- **Socially integrated people**

**Low voter registration and  
decreased voter turnout**  
***Voter Apathy: indifference***  
**to voting**

# **Who Rules the U.S.? (Functionalist Perspective)**

## **Pluralism (Diffusion Among Many)**

- **U.S. ruled by many groups**
- **Checks & balances**
- **Conflict is minimized**





# **Who Rules the U.S.? (Conflict Perspective)**

- **Mills: Power Elite**
  - **capitalism is essential to welfare of country**
- **Domhoff: Ruling class-wealthy/powerful run US.**
  - **“merit”- everyone can be rich**

# **War and Terrorism**

**War: armed conflict b/w  
nations**

**1. Cultural Tradition of War**

**2. Antagonistic Situation**

**3. Fuel –revenge, power,  
prestige, unity, position,  
ethnicity, beliefs**

**Terrorism: directed against  
civilians**

# INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY

---

**Emily Restivo, Ph.D.**  
**New York Institute of Technology**





## 3.2 Economics

---

# What is the Economy?

- **the state of a country or region in terms of the production and consumption of goods and services**
- **the supply of money**



# **Post-Industrial U.S Economy**

- **Computer facilitated automation**
- **Relocation of manufacturing plants to less developed countries**
- **International competition in manufacturing sector**
- **Increasing numbers of knowledge based service jobs**

# Capitalism

**1. Private Ownership of Means of Production**

**2. Market Competition- free market sets price**

**3. Pursuit of Profit- goods produced for profit**

- **Laissez-Faire- “hands-off”**
  - **Welfare or State- Rights overseen by gov’t**
- U.S. economy**

# **Socialism**

- 1. Public Ownership of Means of Production**
- 2. Central Planning**
- 3. No Profit Motive**

- Central Committee-  
make decisions**
- To Eliminate  
Competition**
- All work for  
Government**



# **Socialism vs. Capitalism**

- **Socialism: profit is immoral**
  - **capitalism violates freedom from poverty**
- **Capitalism: market forces determine prices**
  - **socialists violate freedom of opportunity**

# Democratic Socialism

- **State: steel, mining, forestry, TV stations**
- **Individuals: retail, farms, service industries**



# INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY

---

**Emily Restivo, Ph.D.**  
**New York Institute of Technology**



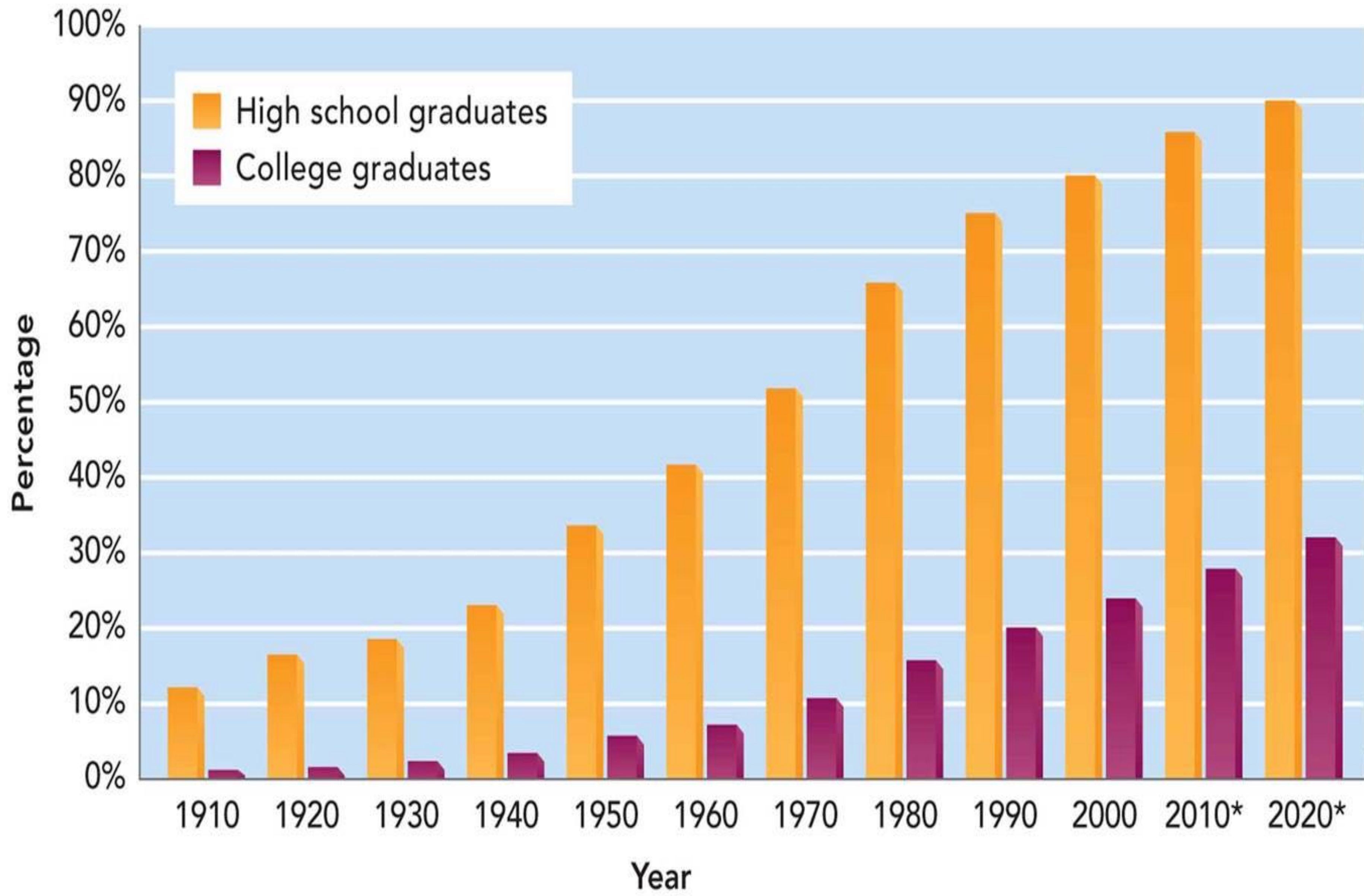


## 3.3 Education

---

# **Education & Industrialization**

- **Early U.S. - no free public education.**
- **Early 1900's- Community colleges**
- **Credential Society-  
degree determines job  
eligibility- weed out  
incapable**



# Education Around the World

- **Japan (Industrialized)**
  - **Group Solidarity**
  - **Discourages Competition**
- **Russia (Industrializing)**
  - **Communism - Capitalism**
  - **“Reinventing” Education**
- **Egypt (Least Industrialized)**
  - **Free at all levels**
  - **Learn from parents**



# Functionalist Perspective

**How does education contribute to society?**

## **Manifest functions:**

- **Skills & knowledge**
- **Cultural transmission of values**
- **Social Integration**
- **Gatekeeping: Tracking**
- **Family functions**



# **Conflict Perspective**

**How does education perpetuate social inequalities?**

- Hidden Curriculum-  
behavior/attitudes-  
unintended**
- IQ tests- social class bias**
- Unequal \$\$- better teachers,  
textbooks, technology -  
funding comes from local  
property taxes**

# **Symbolic Interactionist Perspective**

- **Rist Study: tracking depends on perception**
- **day 8: schooling determined**
- **teacher's perception – labeling**
- **social class**
- **self-fulfilling prophecy**

# **Symbolic Interactionist Perspective**

- **Farkas:**

- **How teacher expectations affect grades**
- **Asians and girls - use signals**
- **“try hard” - better grades**

# **Problems in U.S. Education**

- **Lack of Accommodation**
  - **Teaching children of different ethnic groups in own language and about their own ethnic heritage**
  - **African Americans**
  - **Arab Americans**
  - **Asian Americans**

# Problems in U.S. Education

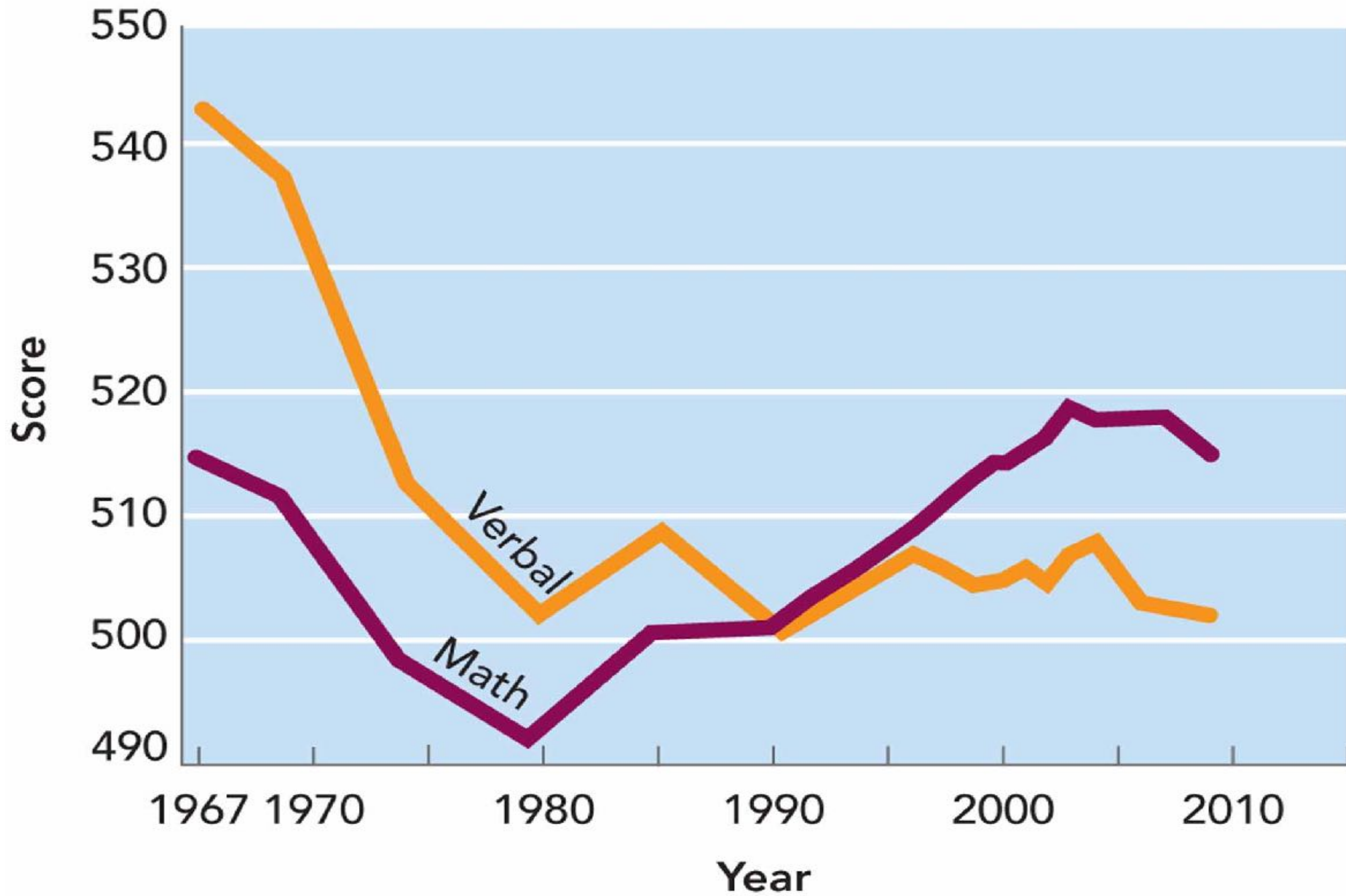
## • Mediocrity

**1. NY: 34% students  
proficient in National math  
test**

**2. Grade Inflation: C is  
average: more A's than C's**

**3. Dropping SAT scores-  
especially verbal**

# SAT Scores



# Problems in U.S. Education

## •Cheating:

- administration fake graduation rates
- only looks at seniors

## •Violence in Schools:

- guards, metal detectors
- “lock-down” drills



# INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY

---

**Emily Restivo, Ph.D.**  
**New York Institute of Technology**







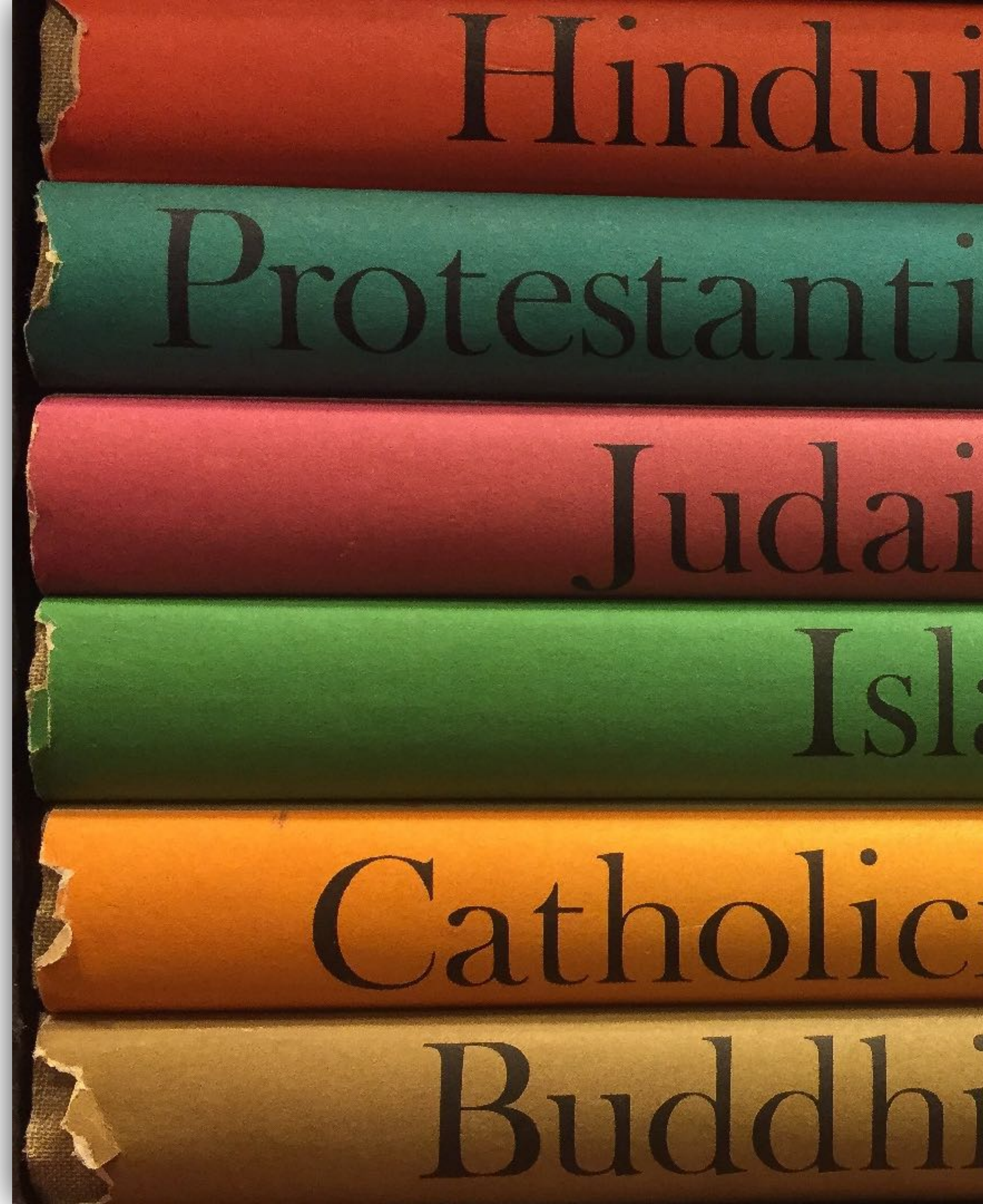
## 3.4 Religion

---

# What is Religion?

**Durkheim -a unified system of beliefs & practices relative to sacred things**

- ***Beliefs***
- ***Practices***
- ***A Moral Community***



# **Functionalist Perspective**

- 1. What is meaning of life?**
- 2. Social solidarity**
- 3. Emotional comfort**
- 4. Guidelines**

**Dysfunctions: War, Terrorism  
& Religious Persecution**

# **Symbolic Interactionist Perspective**

- **What meanings people  
give to religious beliefs?**

- **Symbols**

- **Rituals**

- **Ceremonies**

- **Repetitive Practices**

# **Conflict Perspective**

- **Critical of religion**

- **Marx : religion  
diverts attention**

- **Reflect Social  
Inequalities**

# **Types of Religious Groups**

- **Cults**

- **Charismatic Leader**
- **Most Fail**

- **Sects**

- **Loosely Organized/  
Small**
- **Personal Salvation**
- **Some never turn into  
churches (Amish)**

- **Churches**

- **Highly Bureaucratized**
- **Less outside recruitment**

- **Ecclesia**

- **State Religions**
- **Cultural Identification**

# **U.S. Churches**

- **All social classes but...**

- **Episcopalians / Jews - higher**

- **Baptists / Jehovah's Witnesses - lower**

- **All races but...**

- **Hispanic / Irish - Catholics**

- **African Americans - Protestants.**



# Religious Groups

**1) All religions have a right to exist;**

**2) Each religion is convinced by “truth” of own religion-don’t force upon others**

**\*\*Televangelists -growing.**

# **Future of Religion**

- **Science/Politics cannot replace religion**
- **It will continue**



# INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY

---

**Emily Restivo, Ph.D.**  
**New York Institute of Technology**





## 3.5 Marriage and Family

---

# Family Defined

- **Related by blood, marriage, or adoption.**
- **Nuclear- mom, dad, siblings**
- **Extended- nuclear + other relatives**
- **Orientation- born into**
- **Procreation- family you create**



# Marriage

- **US- monogamy**  
—one partner
- **Other societies- polygamy**
  - polygyny-  
wives
  - polyandry-  
husbands

# Mate Selection

- **Groups establish norms**
- **Endogamy: marry in-group**
  - **Race/Social Class**
- **Exogamy: marry out-group**
  - **Incest taboo**

# **Leaders**

- **Patriarchy- males**
- **Matriarchy- females**
- **Egalitarian- authority divided b/w men and women.**



# Descent and Inheritance

- **Patrilineal- only father or to sons**
- **Matrilineal-only mother or to daughters**
- **Bilineal- mother/ father or males/females**



# INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY

---

**Emily Restivo, Ph.D.**  
**New York Institute of Technology**





## **3.5.1 Marriage, Family and Theories**

---

# Functionalist Perspective

- **Functions of marriage?**

- 1. regulate sexual behavior**

- 2. socialization & education**

- 3. protection**

- 4. economic activity**

- 5. status conferral**

- 6. affection**

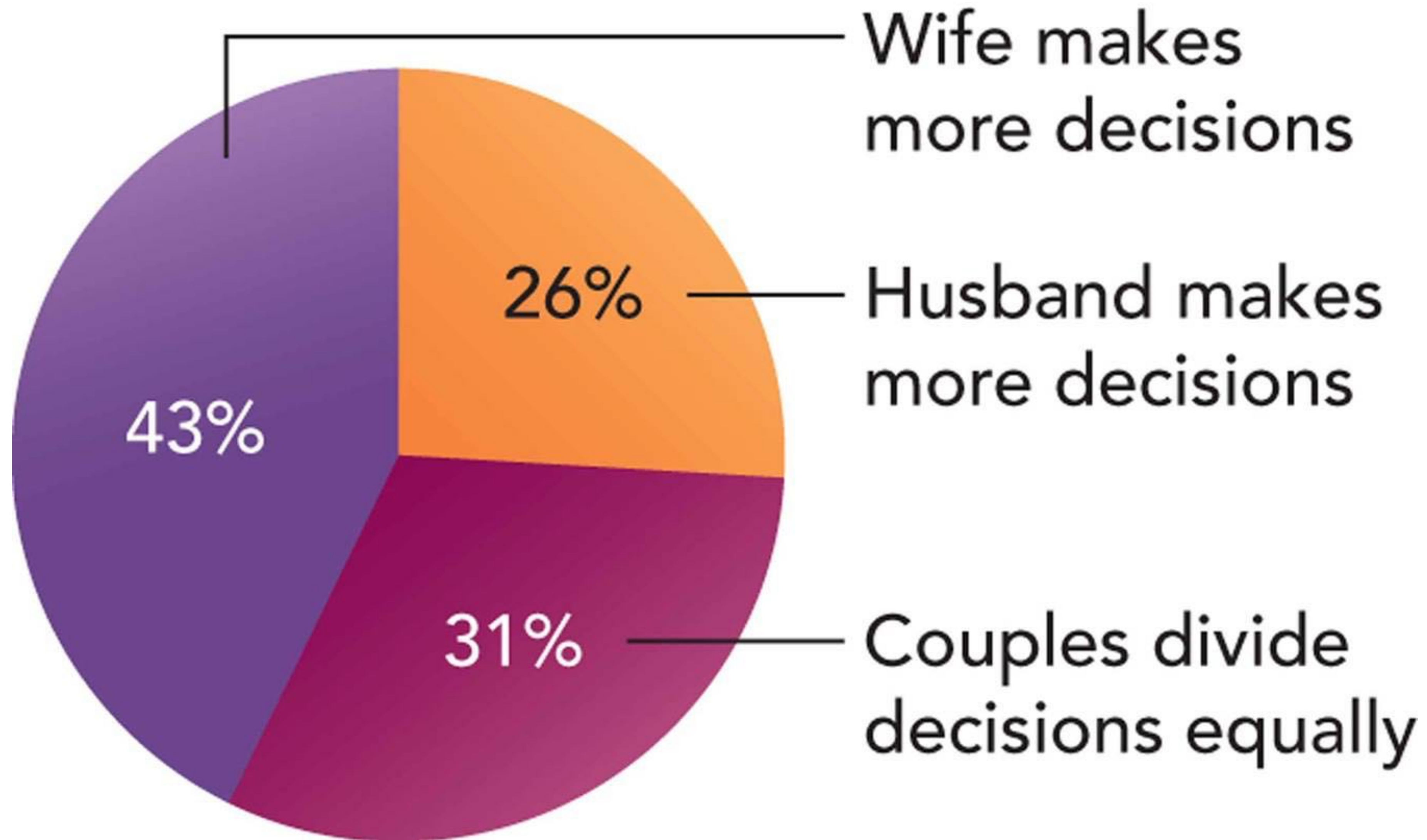
# Functionalist Perspective

- **Instrumental tasks-  
group oriented  
(males)**
- **Expressive tasks-  
relationship oriented  
(female)**

**Dysfunctions: incest,  
abuse, divorce**

# **Conflict Perspective**

- **Issue: struggle over power.**
- **Leads to rising divorce rate**
- **“second shift” - working mom**



**Figure 12.1** Who Makes the Decisions at Home?

*Note: Based on a nationally representative sample, with questions on who chooses weekend activities, buys things for the home, decides what to watch on television, and manages household finances.*

*Source: Morin and Cohn 2008.*

# **Symbolic Interactionist**

- **Changing definition**

**Marriage:**

**commitment - duty**

**Divorce:**

**failure - freedom**



# INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY

---

**Emily Restivo, Ph.D.**  
**New York Institute of Technology**





## **3.5.2 Family Life Cycle and Trends**

---

# Family Life Cycle

## I. Marriage

**Emotional +  
Cognitive  
= Romantic love**

**Homogamy - similar characteristics- race, class**

**\* Exception:**

**Interracial marriage: 7%**

**- 65,000 couples (1970)**

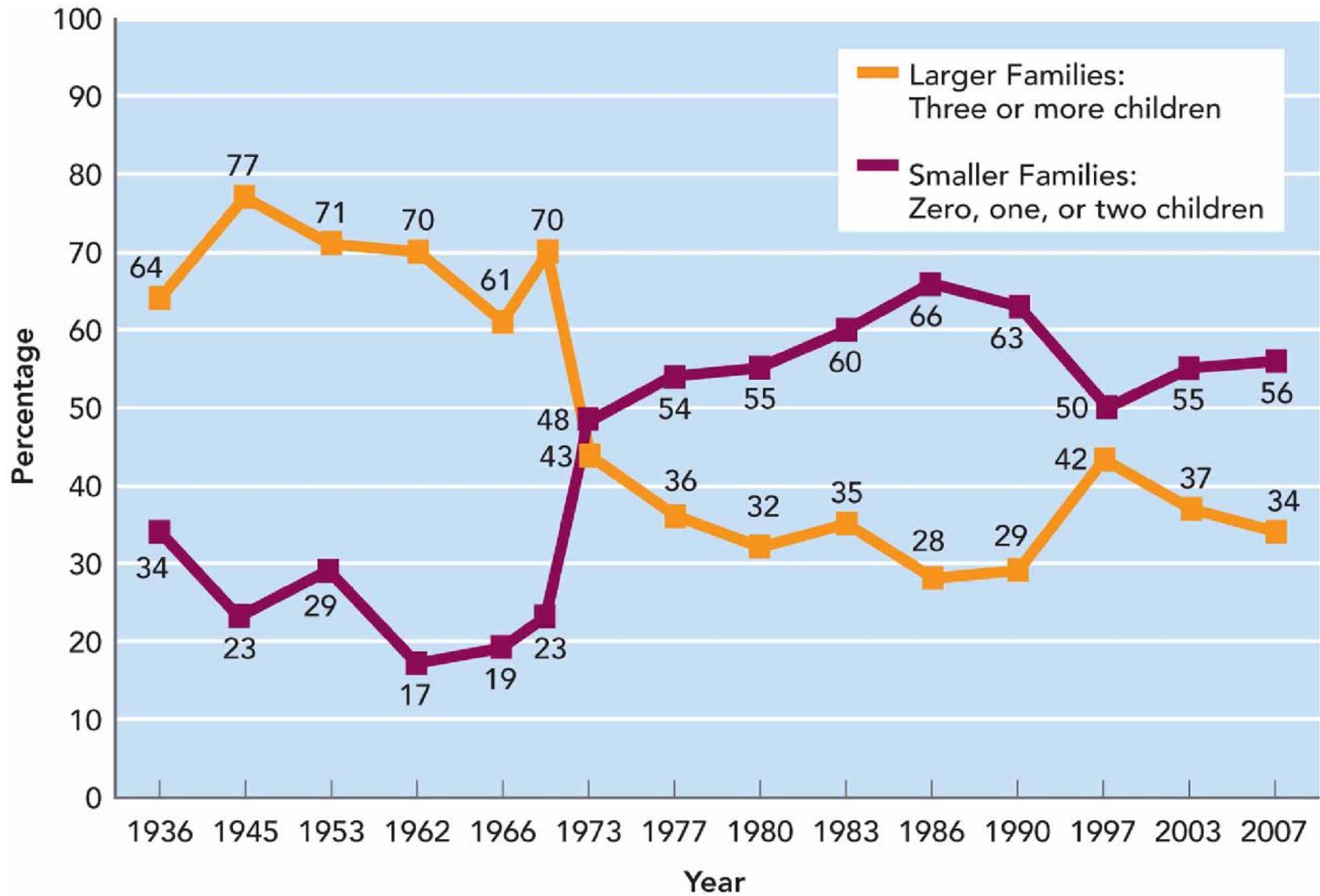
**-480,000 couples (today)**

# Family Life Cycle

## 2. Childbirth

**Family size =  
shrinking ( 3+, now  
0-2 )**

**Larger Families: More  
Religious & younger**

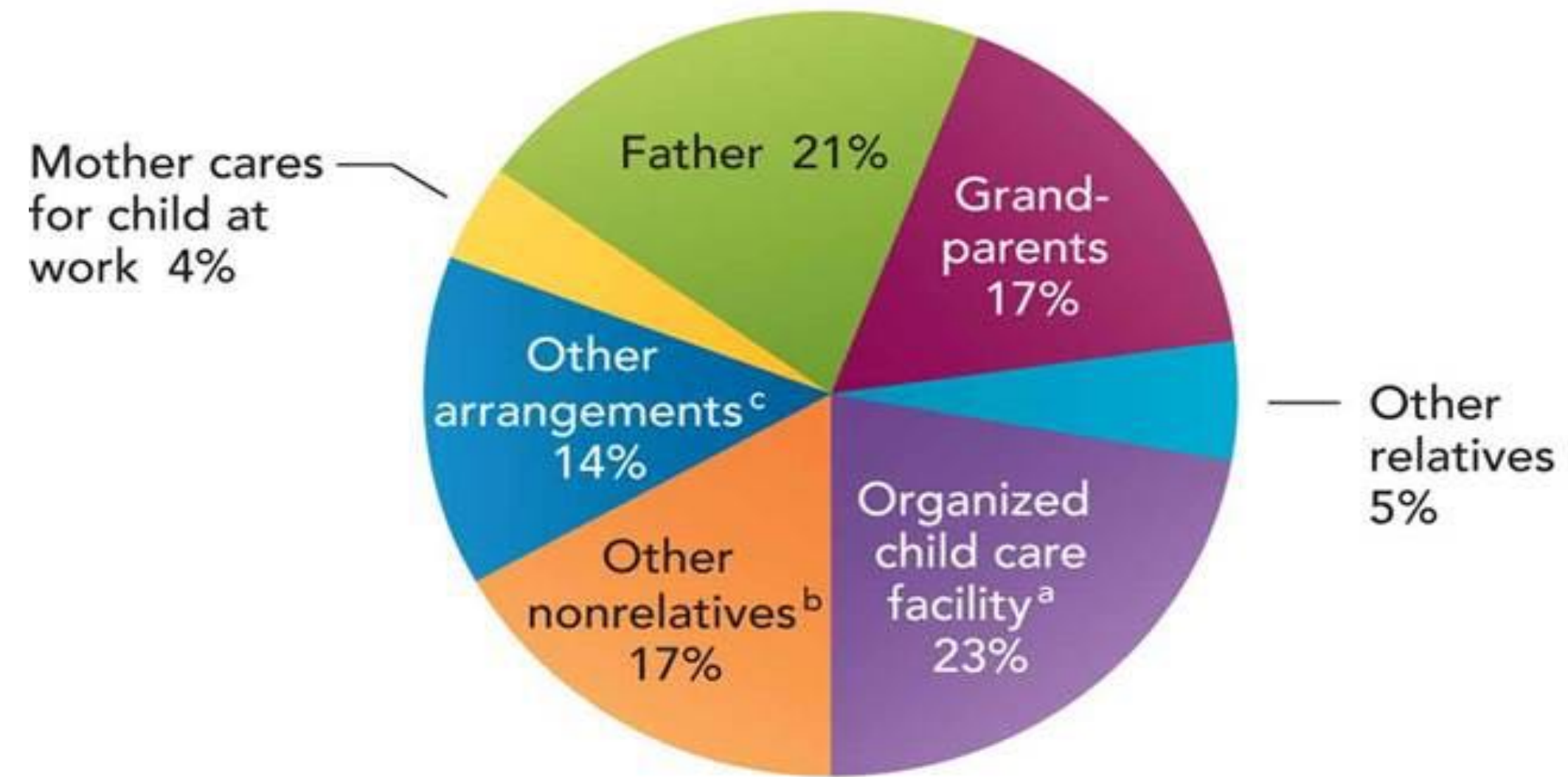


# Family Life Cycle

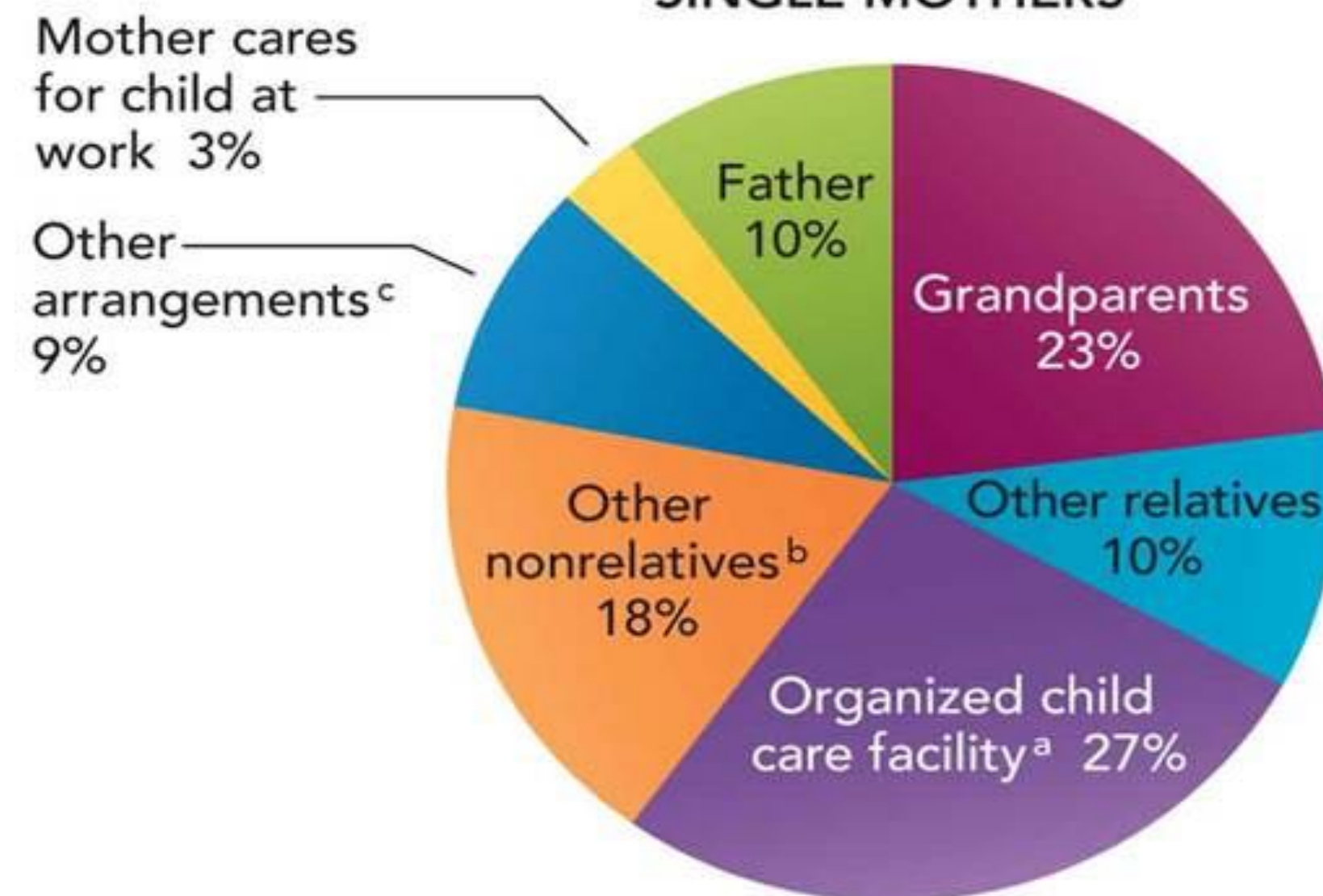
## 3. Child-Rearing

- **Mothers**
- **Differences -social class/employment conformity vs. creativity**
- **25% kids = daycare**

### MARRIED COUPLES



### SINGLE MOTHERS





# Family Transitions

- **Marital satisfaction : U curve**
- ***Empty nests- decreasing***
  - **42 % of children ages 24-29 live at home**
  - **“boomerang” generation**
- ***Widows- women face more problems***

# **Trends in U.S. Families**

## **Postponing Marriage/ Childbirth**

- marriage- brides age: 22  
to 27 since 1950**

## **Cohabitation – 2/3 of married couples**

- less marital success**

**WHY?**

# **Trends in U.S. Families**

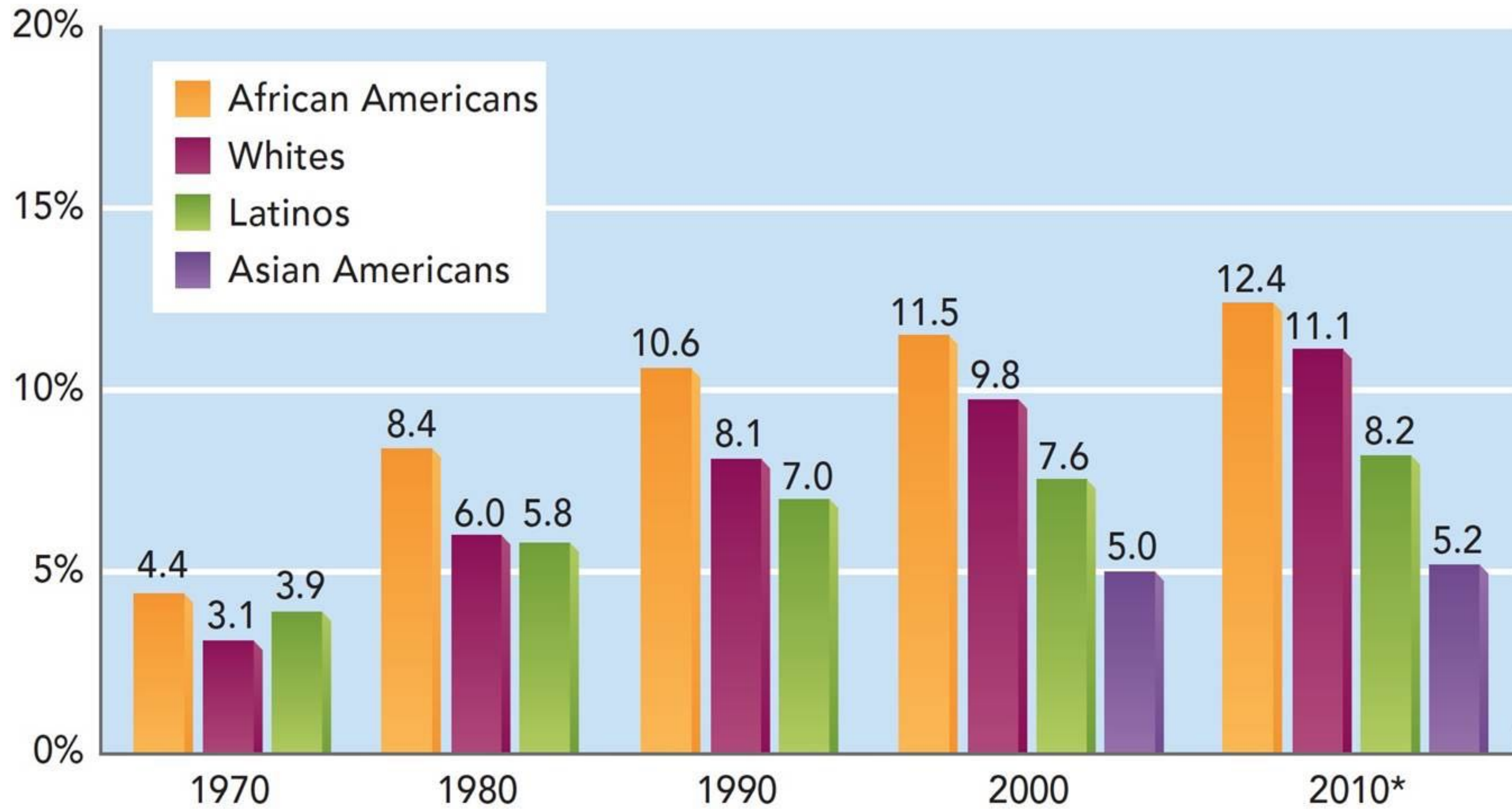
**Unmarried mothers**

**Grandparents as  
Parents**

**Sandwich Generation**

# Divorce

- **Rates rose 1950-1980, leveled off**
- **Effects on children – vary**
  - **distance from parents, less marriage, more divorce**
- **Serial Fatherhood – “new” family gets attention**
- **Divorce rate same or higher for 2<sup>nd</sup> marriage**



**Figure 12.13** What Percentage of Americans Are Divorced?

*\*Author's estimate Note: This figure shows the percentage who are divorced and have not remarried, not the percentage who have ever divorced. Only these racial-ethnic groups are listed in the source. The source only recently added data on Asian Americans.*

*Source: By the author. Based on Statistical Abstract of the United States 1995:Table 58; 2010:Table 57.*

**TABLE 12.3** ► What Reduces the Risk of Divorce?

Factors that Reduce People's Chances of Divorce	How Much Does This Decrease the Risk of Divorce?
Some college (vs. high-school dropout)	–13%
Affiliated with a religion (vs. none)	–14%
Parents not divorced	–14%
Age 25 or over at marriage (vs. under 18)	–24%
Having a baby 7 months or longer after marriage (vs. before marriage)	–24%
Annual income over \$25,000 (vs. under \$25,000)	–30%

*Note:* These percentages apply to the first ten years of marriage.

*Source:* Whitehead and Popenoe 2004.

# **Dark Side**

## **Spousal Abuse:**

- more women victims**
- reasons to stay vary**

## **Child Abuse:**

- majority of victims  
under 6**
- neglect is #1**

## **Incest**