



# DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

# DIVORCE

## Refined divorce rate

- This focuses on married people that get divorced rather than the crude divorce rate, which includes all people
- About 1/3 of people who have ever been married have also been divorced

## Historical Changes

- Mid-1800s “cruelty” of wife trying to break out of traditional role.
- Hit a peak in 1970s with nearly 23 divorces per 1,000 married women, higher than today’s rate



# MICRO-LEVEL FACTORS

Intergenerational transmission of divorce

Age at marriage

Parental status (having young children)

Race and Ethnicity (Hispanic and Asian groups)

Education

# MACRO FACTORS

1. the level of socioeconomic development
2. the dominant religion practiced
3. the divorce laws
4. the status of women, including their employment situation
5. the general attitudes towards divorce.

# EXPERIENCING DIVORCE

1. Pre-separation (thinking about benefits)
2. Early separation (facing issues like moving)
3. Mid-separation (realities of daily living)
4. Late separation (some may continue to work on problems and reconcile)
5. Legal separation



# HIS AND HER DIVORCE

Financial

Emotional

# CO-PARENT

Legal custody (legal authority to make decisions)

Sole physical custody (legally lives with one parent and visits the other)

Joint physical custody

Child snatching (more than 200 children a day)

Child support (about 1/2 have a court order or agreement to receive child support)

# CHILDREN OF DIVORCE

## Short-term effects

- Loss of parent
- Reduced standard of living
- Academic performance
- Levels of psychological well-being

## Long-term effects

- More likely to become teen parents
- Depression
- Behavioral problems



# REARRIAGE

Mixed results on happiness post-divorce

Ten years later about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of women and  $\frac{1}{3}$  of men still feel anger towards their ex-spouse

People who remarry tend to be happier

# PARENTING POST DIVORCE

Adjustment to divorce best predicted by mother's adjustment to divorce and ability to function as a parent

About 83% of custodial parents are mothers

Single fathers spend more time than married fathers, but far less time than single or married mothers caring for very young children.

Fathers tend to lack confidence in their parenting abilities



# DATING AFTER DIVORCE

Depends on length of marriage

Depends on age at divorce

Later-life cohabiting unions tend to be more stable and this decision tends to occur early in the relationship

# REARRIAGE

39% of women within 3 years

54% of women within 5 years

Nearly 75% of women by 10 years

21% of currently married individuals have been married at least twice

No evidence of rebound effect (begins quickly after divorce)

More likely to end in divorce than first marriage

# STEPFAMILIES

Common but expectations and obligations are ambiguous

About 17% of children live in stepfamilies

Stereotypes of stepfamilies

- Tended to marry younger woman that was treated more like a child rather than spouse