



Public and Private Families: An Introduction

By Andrew Cherlin

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As the title suggests, *Public and Private Families: An Introduction*, seventh edition, discusses the family in two senses: the private family, in which we live most of our personal lives, and the public family, in which we, as adults, deal with broader societal issues such as the care of the frail elderly, the increase in divorce, and childbearing outside of marriage. The book examines intimate personal concerns, such as whether to marry, as well as societal concerns, such as governmental policies that affect families. Distinctive chapters examine contemporary issues such as income assistance to poor families, the effects of out-of-home childcare, and the costs of Social Security and Medicare programs.

A companion reader to this textbook, *Public and Private Families: A Reader*, seventh edition, with 14 same-named chapters, has 34 readings from both the popular press and academic journals.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Andrew J. Cherlin is Benjamin H. Griswold III Professor of Public Policy and Sociology at Johns Hopkins University. He received a B.S. from Yale University in 1970 and a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1976. He is the author of the McGraw-Hill textbook, *Public and Private Families: An Introduction*. His other books include *Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage* (revised and enlarged edition, 1992), *Divided Families: What Happens to Children when Parents Part* (with Frank F. Furstenberg, Jr., 1991), *The Changing American Family and Public Policy* (1988), and *The New American Grandparent: A Place in the Family, A Life Apart* (with Frank F. Furstenberg, Jr., 1986). In 1989-1990 he was chair of the Family Section of the American Sociological Association. In 1999 he was president of the Population Association of America, the scholarly organization for demographic research.

In 2005, Professor Cherlin was awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship. He received the Distinguished Career Award in 2003 from the Family Section of the American Sociological Association. In 2001, he received the Olivia S. Nordberg Award for Excellence in Writing in the Population Sciences; and in 1999, he was President of the Population Association of America. He was also received a Merit Award from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for his research on the effects of family structure on children. His recent articles include "The Deinstitutionalization of American Marriage," in the *Journal of Marriage and Family*; "The Influence of Physical and Sexual Abuse on Marriage and Cohabitation," in the *American Sociological Review*; and "American Marriage in the Early Twenty-First Century," in *The Future of Children*.

He also has written many articles for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Nation*, *Newsweek*, and other periodicals. He has been interviewed on *ABC News Nightline*, *the Today Show*, network evening news programs, *National Public Radio's All Things Considered*, and other news programs and documentaries.

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