FAMILY DIVERSITY AND CONTEXT

Family Types

Socioeconomic Characteristics

- · Education level
- Income level
- Occupation

Structure

- Adoptive family
- Couple with and without dependent children
 - Same-sex/heterosexual marriage
 - cohabiting
 - first marriage
- remarriage
- "Estranged" family
- · Foster family
- · Immigrant family
- "Living-apart-together" family
- None, one, or more wage earners
- Nuclear/extended/multigenerational family
- Grandparent-led family
- Single-parent family
 - never married
 - separated
 - divorced
 - widowed
 - single-by-choice
- Transnational family

Family Life Cycle Stage*

- Dating
- Hooking up
- Cohabitation
- With no dependent children
- With infants and preschoolers
- With school-age children
- With children in transition to adulthood
- With elderly members who have impairments
- Elderly with adult children/grandchildren
- "Sandwich" generation—midlife adults with both young and old dependents

Family Contexts

- Ethnic/racial/cultural
- Geographic (rural/suburban/urban)
- Informal social networks (extended family, friends, neighbors, peers)
- Presence of disabilities (e.g., cognitive, emotional, physical, etc.)
- Religious
- Socioeconomic
- Stigmatized or target of discrimination

Note. Families can be at more than one stage at a time. Adapted from *The Family Impact Handbook: How to View Policy and Program Through the Family Impact Lens* (p. 37), by K. Bogenschneider, O. Little, T. Ooms, S. Benning, and K. Cadigan, 2012a, Madison, WI: Family Impact Institute. Copyright 2012 by the Family Impact Institute. Adapted with permission.