

* Structural Functionalist View of Family

- socialization - it's a child's first social tie
- regulation of sexual activity - kinship organization, property rights
- social placement - parents pass on identity to a child
- material & emotional security - family is a safe haven, a system of financial security

* Alternative Forms

- one parent families - only one parent around
- family of affinity - people without blood ties or legally, but define themselves as such
- cohabitation - two unmarried people living together
- same sex couples -
- singlehood - 9 out of 10 marry at some point, usually seen as a temporary phase of life

* Future Trends

- divorce rate -
- diversity - cohabitation, one parent, & same sex couples
- men in child rearing,
- economic changes - increase of women in workforce
- reproductive technologies - genetic testing, in vitro