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Chapter 2

Canada's Families: Historical and Contemporary Variations

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Comacchio refers to families that adapt and initiate larger demographic, economic, cultural, and political trends as _____.
a) migrating families
b) adaptive families
c) cultural actors
d) historical actors
e) national individuals

2. The historic centrality of families derives from the functions of _____.
a) reproduction
b) production
c) socialization
d) maintenance and regulation
e) All of the above

3. The _____ family, characterizing traditional agrarian communities, was imported intact to the New World.
a) historic
b) stem/extended
c) nuclear
d) colonial
e) "European"

4. Adulthood in Canadian colonial family life was signified by _____.
a) age
b) economic status
c) early marriage and family formation
d) paid work position
e) gender

5. In colonial times, women were all of the following except: _____.
a) expected to get pregnant right after marriage
b) pregnant every two to three years
c) considered tragic if they were without children

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d) likely to adopt within family and kin circles
e) pregnant before marriage

6. Within the urban middle class, anglophone, francophone, Protestant, and Catholic family life became less concerned with economic subsistence and more with maintaining _____ living standards.
a) respectable
b) comfortable
c) healthy
d) luxurious
e) social

7. In the late 1800s, Queen Victoria inspired _____, which focused on separate spheres for men and women.
a) modernization
b) manufactories
c) the cult of domesticity
d) the nanny phenomenon
e) female empowerment

8. _____ was augmented and accelerated by such transportation and communication advances as canals, railways, and telegraph lines, all of which facilitated the vision of a nation "from sea unto sea" that was realized by the first decade of the twentieth century.
a) Industrialization
b) Development
c) Modernization
d) Expansion
e) Technology

9. Many newcomers were intent on resettling families, kin, and even entire villages, complete with their social institutions on the prairies. This familial practice became known as _____.
a) chain migration
b) family expansionism
c) kinship enlargement
d) kinship growth
e) societal rejuvenation

10. Compulsory school legislation began in Ontario in _____.
a) 1867
b) 1871
c) 1896
d) 1900
e) 1901

11. The relationship of structural and familial change through time can be attributed to the impact of the _____ process.
a) domesticity
b) migration

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c) transitional
d) modernization
e) urbanization

12. _____ families were bearing the brunt of exploitation and deprivation in the midst of the rapid socio-economic changes at the turn of the twentieth century.
a) Working-class
b) Lower-class
c) Upper-class
d) Both *a* and *b*
e) Same-sex families

13. The "factory laws" of the 1890s took away jobs from women and children, and also _____.
a) devalued working men
b) allowed women to acquire paid positions in factories
c) reinforced the middle-class male breadwinner family ideal
d) compensated women for these lost jobs
e) positioned women as the head of the household

14. The _____ that was passed by the federal government in 1876 defined Indigenous people as wards of the Crown, officially infantilizing them in their relations with the paternal state and its agents.
a) Indigenous Act
b) Aboriginal Act
c) Metis Act
d) Indian Act
e) Status Indian Act

15. In 1900, the average age for men to marry was _____ years old and _____ years old for women.
a) 20; 22
b) 21; 23
c) 25; 28
d) 28; 25
e) 26; 27

16. The twentieth century was proclaimed the "_____". Childhood was seen as a special, vulnerable, dependent life stage associated with play, schooling, and character formation rather than work and wages.
a) Century of Youth
b) Century of the Child
c) Century of the Offspring
d) Century of Descendants
e) Century of the Progeny

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17. The phrase "_____" referred to the situation where a man would desert his wife rather than seek an official divorce in the early part of the 1900s.
a) abandoning the home
b) spouse escaping
c) exiting the home life
d) breaking the marital bond
e) the poor man's divorce

18. During the interwar years, _____ strove to restrict the immigration that many felt was leading to racial generation.
a) eugenics
b) Darwinism
c) pronatalism
d) equity revolution
e) sterilization

19. The first Canadian universal welfare measure developed in 1944 was called the _____.
a) New Deal
b) Social Minimum
c) Family Allowances Act
d) Report on Social Security
e) Universal Child Tax Benefit

20. The Family Allowances Act (1944) was the nation's first universal welfare measure. The federal government gave mothers _____ dollars per month for each child 16 years and younger.
a) two
b) three to five
c) five to eight
d) eight to ten
e) ten to fifteen

21. The _____ interlude occurred after the Second World War as Canadians wanted to settle into a nostalgic version of domesticity.
a) Homemaking
b) Reconstruction
c) Family Time
d) Baby Boom
e) Golden

22. The sharp increase in birth rates, called the Baby Boom, began in _____.
a) 1945
b) 1947
c) 1950
d) 1951
e) 1956

23. The 1950s mark the "golden age" of the so-called _____ family.
a) golden

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b) deviant
c) normal
d) prosperous
e) aging

24. _____ people were the largest group of immigrants during the second wave of immigrants in 1951.
a) Chinese
b) Indian
c) Japanese
d) Polish
e) Italian

25. After the Second World War, the federal government's commitment to supporting the postwar economy led to the establishment of the _____.
a) Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation
b) Automobile Act
c) Job Growth Act
d) Education for Our Children Organization
e) Child Tax Benefit

26. In the 1950s, the purchase of a _____ transformed family time and recreation in the evenings.
a) car
b) radio
c) television set
d) washing machine
e) dishwasher

27. In the 1950s, American feminist Betty Friedan called this time in women's lives to be "_____."
a) the scientific dilemma
b) the problem without a name
c) the pill popping era
d) the national disaster
e) female empowerment

28. In the 1950s and 1960s, mass produced books written by pediatricians like Dr. Benjamin Spock, were popular in middle-class homes across North America. Despite Dr. Spock's reassuring tones, most childrearing experts of the day blamed _____ for all of the physical, emotional and developmental problems that children might face.
a) the school system
b) grandparents
c) babysitters
d) fathers
e) mothers

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29. When the first wave of Baby Boomers entered adolescence in the 1960s, the problem worrying Canadians became known as the "_____."
a) reproductive dilemma
b) chain migration
c) generational overload
d) youthquake
e) Century of the Child

30. _____ had the most important influence on families of the 1960s and 1970s.
a) Divorce
b) The legalization of homosexual relationships
c) The establishment of residential schools
d) The recession
e) The Pill

31. An example of familial change of the twenty-first century is _____.
a) the increasing numbers of mothers staying home to raise children
b) the small proportion of men who interrupted their career to care for children
c) men choosing to remain single
d) men marrying at younger ages
e) the extreme reversal of gender roles in the household

32. The legal recognition of same-sex marriage in Canada came about with the Civil Marriage Act of _____.
a) 1999
b) 2001
c) 2005
d) 2010
e) 2015

33. Between 2006 and 2011, the number of common-law couples increased by approximately _____.
a) 5 per cent
b) 10 per cent
c) 14 per cent
d) 25 per cent
e) 30 per cent

34. According to the 2006 and 2011 Census, the number of same-sex couples increased by approximately
a) 10 per cent
b) 15 per cent
c) 27 per cent
d) 42 per cent
e) 55 per cent

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35. The following statement regarding Indigenous children is false: _____.

a) In 2011, Indigenous children aged 14 and over were less likely than non-Indigenous children to live with married parents.
b) Indigenous children were twice as likely to live with a lone parent.
c) Indigenous children were twice as likely to live with their grandparents.
d) Indigenous children account for 20 per cent of all children in Canada.
e) Almost half of all Indigenous children lived in foster care.

True or False Questions

1. Only recently have Canadian families become diverse models in form and composition.

2. The emergence of family history as a branch of "new social history" studies emerged in universities in the 1960s.

3. The family as an ideal is socially constructed and reconstructed to meet the larger social needs and objectives that are defined by the dominant class and upheld by the state, in any given time.

4. The definition of "family" is not as relevant to our individual, social, and national identities as it was 100 years ago.

5. The historic centrality of families derives from their vital social functions: reproduction, production, socialization, maintenance, and regulation.

6. Due to an abundance of cheap land in North America, nuclear families dominated during colonization times.

7. By the mid-nineteenth century, women became newly glorified in their traditional domestic roles and were expected to make home and family a safe haven.

8. By the last quarter of the nineteenth century, inexpensive farm land was increasingly scarce, making it difficult for adult sons to purchase land and settle their families.

9. During the early twentieth century, as Canada was undergoing modernization, families began taking greater responsibility for educating their children at home.

10. Due to socio-economic changes at the turn of the twentieth century, approximately 1 in 10 babies lost their lives before their first birthdays.

11. In the twentieth century, maternal mortality was the second-ranked threat to life for women of child-bearing age.

12. Men's focus in the early 1900s was to "clean up" the material and moral dilemmas that existed as a result of the modernizing forces.

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13. During the modernization process, women's work, both inside and outside the home, was deemed unimportant to family subsistence.

14. In the 1980s, Canadian feminist sociologists became actively involved in "domestic labour debates" to emphasize the productive and reproductive importance of women's unpaid labour work.

15. Immigration to Canada in the Laurier years (1896–1911) seemed to be open to all origins of race but was actually very selective and discriminatory.

16. The 1911 census showed that Asian and South Asian immigrant communities in Canada were exclusively female.

17. The nation-building and westward expansion that occurred in the early twentieth century affected Aboriginal families far more than other Canadian families.

18. The passage of the Indian Act (1876) ensured that Aboriginal women who married white men kept all their privileges associated with Indian status.

19. As a result of the land treaties of the 1870s, many Aboriginal children were removed from their families and communities in order to break the cultural transmission of their languages and customs.

20. In 1900, only 11 divorces were granted due to the tremendous religious disapproval of marriage dissolution.

21. In the early 1900s, divorce was granted only with proof of abandonment brought before the courts and then later finalized by an Act of Parliament.

22. "The poor man's divorce" in the early 1900s meant that a woman had the ability to divorce her husband if he deserted the family.

23. The Great War accelerated women's public involvement and resulted in their right to vote.

24. The Canadian family of the 1950s typically had three to four children.

25. Unemployment insurance became a reality in 1941, but it left most working men out of its provisions given that men could find jobs more easily than women.

26. The second wave of immigrants to Canada took place in 1951, around the time of the revision of the Immigration Act.

27. An abundance of pediatricians in the 1960s helped to reduce threats to children's health.

28. The hippie ethic of the 1960s challenged sexual taboos and embraced "open marriage" and communal living.

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29. A rising consumerism characterized the 1960s; however, families could still maintain a standard living on one income.

30. The 1950s were seen as a brief glorious moment when family values permeated society and family relations were strong and wholesome. However, men had distant relationships with their young children as long commutes, long workdays, and the emphasis on a mother-centered home kept them vaguely sidelined in the self-enclosed nuclear family unity.

31. Same-sex marriage became legal in Canada in 2005.

32. The number of same sex couples declined by 42 per cent between 2006 and 2016.

33. In 2011, Indigenous children aged 14 and under were less likely than non-Indigenous children to live with married parents.

34. Today, the male breadwinner family is now unequivocally the minority experience among Canadians of all classes.

35. As the twenty-first century dawned, the average number of children per family declined to 1.7, while a new demographic phenomenon, the "childless by choice" union, made significant headway.

Short Answer Questions

1. Queen Victoria's "cult of domesticity" emphasized separate spheres for men and women. What did this mean?

2. What was meant by "chain migration" in Canada between 1896 and 1914?

3. Discuss the conflict between education and the work of children in the late 1800s.

4. What did the Social Gospel of the late nineteenth century espouse?

5. Discuss the "open door" policy initiated by the Laurier government between 1896 and 1911.

6. What did the Chinese Immigration Act of 1923 entail?

7. Discuss the problems associated with patrilineage in association with the Indian Act of 1876.

8. What characterized the early 1900s as part of "Canada's Century" and the ideal childhood?

9. Discuss why the "woman question" became a crisis in many households.

10. What was the purpose of eugenics and how did it affect the family?

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11. Describe the hardships many families experienced during the years of the Great Depression.

12. What was important about the Reconstruction interlude and how were families affected?

13. Why was the 1944 Family Allowances Act so important?

14. What is meant by the "stagflation" of the 1970s?

15. What is meant by the "golden age" of the 1950s?

Essay Questions

1. Discuss colonial family life.

2. Describe the social stigma against divorce in the early 1900s.

3. Elaborate on the following statement:

The Great Depression and "Dirty Thirties" were a time of "gender crisis, more particularly a crisis of male unemployment, and consequently of the male-breadwinner family idea."

4. Describe how families were affected by eugenics and pronatalism.

5. Discuss how the Baby Boom era had an influence on Canadian families.

6. Explain how wage-earning changed the lives of Canadian women of the 1960s and 1970s.

7. According to census data, a number of demographic changes occurred within families between 2006 and 2016. Describe these patterns and trends.

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Answer Key

Multiple Choice Questions

1. **d** (p. 26)
2. **e** (p. 27)
3. **b** (p. 27)
4. **c** (p. 27)
5. **e** (p. 28)
6. **a** (p. 28)
7. **c** (p. 28)
8. **c** (p. 28)
9. **a** (p. 28)
10. **b** (p. 29)
11. **d** (p. 29)
12. **a** (p. 29)
13. **d** (p. 29)
14. **d** (p. 31)
15. **d** (p. 33)
16. **b** (p. 33)
17. **e** (p. 33)
18. **a** (p. 35)
19. **c** (p. 37)
20. **c** (p. 37)
21. **b** (p. 37)
22. **b** (p. 38)
23. **c** (p. 38)
24. **e** (p. 38)
25. **a** (p. 39)
26. **c** (p. 40)
27. **b** (p. 40)
28. **e** (p. 41)
29. **d** (p. 41)
30. **e** (p. 42)
31. **b** (p. 43)
32. **c** (p. 43)
33. **c** (p. 43)
34. **d** (p. 44)
35. **d** (p. 44)

True or False Questions

1. **F** (p. 25)
2. **T** (p. 25)
3. **T** (p. 26)
4. **F** (p. 26)
5. **T** (p. 27)
6. **T** (p. 27)
7. **T** (p. 28)
8. **T** (p. 28)
9. **F** (p. 29)
10. **F** (p. 29)
11. **T** (p. 29)
12. **F** (p. 29)
13. **T** (p. 30)
14. **T** (p. 30)
15. **T** (p. 31)
16. **F** (p. 31)
17. **T** (p. 31)
18. **F** (p. 31)
19. **T** (p. 32)
20. **T** (p. 33)
21. **F** (p. 33)
22. **T** (p. 33)
23. **T** (p. 34)
24. **T** (p. 38)
25. **F** (p. 37)
26. **T** (p. 38)
27. **T** (p. 41)
28. **T** (p. 41)
29. **F** (p. 43)
30. **T** (p. 40)
31. **T** (p. 43)
32. **F** (p. 44)
33. **T** (p. 44)
34. **T** (p. 44)
35. **T** (p. 43)

Short Answer Questions

1. See p. 28.
   - Men retained their traditional patriarchal authority and belonged to the public sphere of wage labour, business, and politics.
   - Women were expected to use their "innate" care-giving skills to make home and family "a haven in a heartless world."
   - Mothers were uniquely responsible for children's upbringing in this sheltered home. All family members were to sacrifice self-interest for the common good of the family.

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2. See p. 28.
    - Vast numbers of immigrants from Europe came to Canada as part of a familial practice called "chain migration."
    - Three million people came to Canada between 1896 and 1914, and increased the population by 43 per cent between the years 1901 and 1911.
    - These immigrants came to resettle families and kin, and establish villages and communities.
    - Canada, known for its vast land, opportunity, and religious tolerance was a viable nation for immigrants to settle in, work, and call home.

3. See p. 29.
    - Educated children moved out of the family home to public institutions funded by churches or charity and eventually taken over by the state.
    - Enacted compulsory schooling legislation began with Ontario in 1871.
    - Children aged seven to fourteen had to go to school.
    - Compulsory number of days in the classroom.
    - Needy families needed their children to keep working.
    - This meant erratic school attendance with time out to earn wages.
    - Factory laws also limited the work of women and children.

4. See p. 29.
    - The Social Gospel was based on urban, middle-class Protestant reform as a salve to the challenging processes of modernization.
    - It aimed to moderate the suffering of those in need.
    - It called attention to prostitution, alcoholism, disease, and slum life.
    - Women were the moral and natural contenders to lead the reform as a result of their maternal calling.
    - They pressured government to protect children and poor families.

5. See p. 31.
    - A priority of the Laurier government (1896-1911).
    - A policy that welcomed all immigrants of all origins.
    - In reality, immigration was economically selective and racially exclusive.
    - It tended to exclude immigrants from Asia and South Asia.

6. See p. 31.
    - The Chinese Immigration Act closed the doors to Chinese immigrants, including wives and children of those already in Canada, until after the Second World War.
    - This Act was a result of the racially exclusive and economically selective Canadian immigration policy.

7. See p. 31.
    - The Indian Act legislated women's subordination.
    - Women's status was based on the status of their husbands.

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- Indigenous men who married white women conferred their status onto their wives and children.
- Indigenous women who married white men lost all privileges associated with Indian status.

8. See p. 33.
   - The 1900s witnessed smaller families and new ideas about the nature of children and the ideal childhood.
   - Middle-class values demanded the best for children and saw childhood as a special, vulnerable, and dependent life-stage associated with play, schooling, and "character formation."
   - More affluent, urban families embraced this ideal.
   - Child labour laws and compulsory schooling advantaged children overall.
   - Later age of marriage helped facilitate better parenting and support of children.

9. See p. 34.
   - A social reform movement.
   - The "woman question" pertained to, and questioned, the public roles and rights of women.
   - Women worked with the realm of the household as it was seen as their proper sphere; however, questions were being posed as to women's sphere in the public.
   - Married and unmarried women started unifying and joining groups such as the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the National Council of Women.
   - Arguments were used to defend their unfeminine public involvement.
   - Women worked towards female autonomy.
   - The First World War hastened women's public involvement and entry into paid labour.
   - The right to vote was obtained in 1918.

10. See p. 35.
    - Eugenics was seen as a pseudo-science inspired by Darwinism.
    - It was premised on the notion of selective breeding.
    - Eugenicists tried to limit immigration due to "racial degeneration."
    - The medical profession supported campaigns against contraception as they felt that educated middle-class people were taking part in race suicide.

11. See pp. 35–36.
    - A decade of relentless hardship.
    - A crisis of male unemployment (30 to 50 per cent of the labour force).
    - Joblessness meant that many couples could not afford to get married and have a family.
    - Marriage and birth rates fell at this time.
    - It delayed marriages for many.
    - The Depression undermined family security.
    - All family members tried to contribute to the family income.

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12. See pp. 37–38.
    - The reconstruction referred to the return of veterans to civilian life (i.e. after World War I)
    - Attention focused on family.
    - Women who had worked in factories in paid employment during the war (and had replaced the men who had gone off to war) now found that they had to quit their jobs when the men returned.
    - Women returned to the domesticity of the home.
    - Women and children were accustomed to life without their soldier husband and father, so when they returned, there was some confusion.
    - The divorce rate rose.
    - People were seeking normalcy.

13. See p. 37.
    - The nation's first universal welfare measure.
    - It was passed in 1944.
    - The federal government gave mothers five to eight dollars per month for each child 16 years and younger.
    - Public support for this "baby bonus" led to a Liberal victory during the time of the election.

14. See p. 41.
    - The "stagflation" of the 1970s was the flagging of the economy in the late 1960s that resulted in low growth, unemployment, and high inflation.
    - The 1980s witnessed the worst recession since the Great Depression.

15. See p. 38.
    - The age of the so-called "normal" family.
    - Mother, father, and three or four healthy, well-behaved children became the icon of the day.
    - Consumer demand and spending.
    - An economic boom; relatively widespread prosperity.
    - Production increased and wages rose, doubling for male workers.

Essay Questions

1. See p. 27.

Discuss colonial family life.
- North American colonies focused on trade with their European mother countries so ties were strong.
- Colonists relied on this trade as well as through agriculture and farming in North America.

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- All family members were reliant on production and reproduction in order to sustain their families.
- The family took on the role of social monitor given the absence of any effective regulatory system or policing.
- Colonies were isolated; multi-generational members of the family all worked in some capacity.
- Early marriage and family formation.
- Sons worked on family land without wages since childhood.
- Women were expected to get pregnant shortly after marriage and would have children every two or three years.
- Childlessness was considered a tragedy; adoption was commonplace.

2. See p. 33.

Describe the social stigma against divorce in the early 1900s.

- Tremendous religious disapproval as well as legal obstacles.
- Divorce was only granted with proof of adultery.
- Divorce proceedings were held in front of a court.
- Finalized by an act of parliament
- The Roman Catholic Church allowed for annulments.
- Only eleven divorces were granted in Canada in 1900.
- The poor man's divorce and desertion.

3. See pp. 35–36.

Elaborate on the following statement:

The Great Depression and "Dirty Thirties" were a time of "gender crisis, more particularly a crisis of male unemployment, and consequently of the male-breadwinner family idea."

- The 1930s undermined both economic security and the quality of life for Canadian families.
- Wage work was needed and taken on by women who were paid less than men and then hired more often as a result.
- Loss of the breadwinner status for men was problematic.
- Whereby, women's feminine identity was unaffected by their employment opportunities.
- The government focused policy issues on the rights of men.
- The new social order was to be enhanced by favouring jobs for men.
- Additionally, the challenge was to give relief to the male breadwinner.
- Women's issues and work lives were not noticed, nor righted.

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4. See p. 35.

Describe how families were affected by eugenics and pronatalism.

- Eugenics was seen as a pseudo-science inspired by Darwinism.
- Premised on the notion of selective breeding.
- Eugenicists tried to limit immigration due to "racial degeneration".
- The medical profession supported campaigns against contraception as they felt that educated middle-class people were taking part in race suicide.
- With pronatalism, the "better" stock of people would be encouraged by family experts, governments, voluntary agencies and the popular media to marry, have children and submit to parent education to produce model future citizens.
- Parents would submit to educational practices in order that they would produce model future citizens.

5. See p. 38.

Discuss how the Baby Boom era had an influence on Canadian families.

- The Baby Boom (1946–1964) gave way to smaller families than earlier in history.
- This allowed for better parenting and more focus on the needs of children, their wellbeing, and their education.
- The economy was flourishing. More productivity gave way to better jobs, wages, and lifestyles for both men and women.
- Women nurtured their children; men worked outside the home.
- The suburbs were developed, homes were affordable, and life and communities were seen to be happy.
- The betterment of children would result in better future workers and enhancement of the nation.
- While women were known to be kept home, the quality of life via the common good and accessibility was a new era of modern time and thought.

6. See p. 39.

Explain how wage-earning changed the lives of Canadian women of the 1960s and 1970s.

- Access to the birth control pill gave women more choice and control over their fertility and sexuality.
- With fewer children, there was more opportunity for women to work outside the home.
- More education gave women more work options and better pay and income.
- With greater equity in the workplace, more equity can be found in families.
- Greater opportunity affords women higher status, happiness, and economic independence.
- All of this equals betterment for women, men, and their children via the dual-earner family, or female single-headed household.

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7. See pp. 43–44.

According to census data, a number of familial demographic changes occurred between 2006 and 2016. Describe these changes.

- The 2011 census reported an increase in census families of 5.5 per cent since 2006.
- By 2016, married couple families no longer dominated (45 per cent)
- Between 2006 and 2011, the number of common law couples increased by 13.9 per cent.
- In 2016, more than one-fifth of all couples were living common law. Approximately half of these couples had children.
- The number of same-sex couples increased (42.4 per cent) between 2006 and 2011.
- A widening gap between those couples who have children and those without.
- Indigenous children statistics.
- Indigenous children aged fourteen and under were less likely than non-Indigenous to live with married parents.
- Some lived with grandparents or a lone parent.

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