

COMS 306 Family Communication (4 credit hours)

Fall 2014 T/R

Allison Thorson, Ph.D.

University of San Francisco

Required Textbooks:

Braithwaite, D. O. & Baxter, L. A. (2006). *Engaging theories in family communication: Multiple perspectives*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

LePoire, B. A. (2006). *Family communication: Nurturing and control in a changing world*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

Empirically based research articles (see course Canvas site)

Course Description and Objectives:

Family relationships are one of the most primary relationships in which we are involved, and this course will focus on the central role that communication plays in family life. In this course, we will examine the changing and complex definition of family. We will explore various family forms and examine family interaction from different theoretical lenses. Specifically, we will look at family systems and communication patterns, family rituals and stories, power, conflict, and stress in families, as well as assess the idea of what constitutes a “functional” family. You will engage with a variety of materials designed to enhance both your analytic and experiential knowledge about family communication. Analytic knowledge stems from your understanding of theoretical and written materials and others’ experiences. Experiential knowledge will require you to apply what you have learned to your own family communication experiences. By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Discuss the changing definitions of family and recognize the social and cultural contexts in which families operate.
- Analyze family communication according to various theoretical perspectives, including systems theory and relational dialectics.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the importance of communication patterns and rituals in family systems.
- Assess how family forms, conflict, and stress have implications for family communication.
- Recognize communication as a process that both affects and reflects family relationships.
- Evaluate the communication patterns in your own families of origin.

Description of Course Assignments/Exercises:

Possible Extra Credit (TBD): Research is a fundamental component of any social science, especially communication studies, and learning about how we communicate involves learning about the research process. Throughout the semester you MAY have the opportunity to be involved as a research participant in which you would have a hands-on opportunity to become familiar with how research is conducted. You MAY also have the opportunity to attend a research talk in which you have the opportunity to become familiar with how another professor conducted a research project. Extra credit MAY be available for participating in a research project or attending a research talk. This option, however, is dependent on a prior arrangement that you must have made with me before participating in or attending a research event. This option MAY also require you to write a short reflection paper articulating your experience and summarizing what you have learned based on this experience. Details regarding possible extra credit opportunities will be provided to you this semester as they arise.

Exams: There will be two exams in this class: a midterm and a final exam. They will consist of fixed choice, short answer, and essay questions. (135 points each)

Facilitation: At the beginning of the semester you will be paired with one or two individuals to expand upon

the class discussion. During this 15+ minute facilitation you will review an empirically based research article that is related to the weekly readings / theory. The specific dates will be chosen during the first class and each group must meet with me 5 days prior to facilitating. In our meeting, you will share with me what article you have found and read that expands upon the scheduled course reading and discuss what you have planned to share with the class. Each member of the group must meet with me at the same time in order to discuss this. As discussion leaders, your responsibility is to provide a 1 page (single sided) typed outline of the main points of the reading, and then present and integrate the main ideas in a way that promotes active discussion among the class. Ways that you might promote discussion include (but are not limited to): (a) developing an inter-active activity related to the material – have students reenact what it would have been like to be a participant in the study at hand; (b) find a video clip from a popular TV or movie which relates to your topic and discuss how it is similar to or different from the research; and/or (c) prepare 3-5 discussion questions for your classmates to consider and discuss. The latter is very similar to what a round-table facilitator would do at a professional conference. This part of your grade will be determined by the thoroughness of the summary outline, the energy with which the discussion was facilitated, and your command of the topic. A detailed assignment sheet and grading rubric will be provided to you later in the semester for this assignment. (30 points)

Family Interview Case Study (Final Paper): This case study asks you to interview two individuals from two different generations of one family. Each person must be interviewed separately. After conducting each interview and transcribing it, you must formally analyze your data to uncover the family rituals, stories, histories and rules that are used within the family to identify how private information, uncertainty, accommodation, relational dialectics, or coordinate meanings are managed and developed in their family (i.e. this paper must be theoretically based). This assignment gives you the opportunity to see how family members share in developing a collective family identity/culture and apply theories learned in class to their experience. This paper should be 12 - 15 pages in length (including title page and all references). IRB approval is needed before your interviews can begin. (140 points)

Family Interview Case Study Poster & Presentation: A poster presentation is the presentation of research information by an individual or representatives of research teams for the public with an academic or professional focus. After writing your Family Interview Case Study, you will need to design and print a poster that summarizes your research and findings. This poster will be presented for the class, as well as printed and posted for public viewing at an even or all Communication Studies majors to attend. Details regarding this assignment will be provided in class. (30 points)

Methods of Evaluation:

Possible Extra Credit (TBD)

Exam #1	135 points	27%
Exam #2	135 points	27%
Facilitation	30 points	6%
Family Interview Case Study (Final Paper)	140 points	28%
Family Interview Case Study Poster & Presentation	30 points	6%
Class Involvement	30 points	6%
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TOTAL	500 points	100%

Grading Scale:

The following grading scale will be used in this class:

Percentage:	Points:	Grade:	What it means:
97-100%	485-500	A+	Outstanding Work
93-96%	465-484	A	
90-92%	450-464	A-	
87-89%	435-449	B+	Superior Work
83-86%	415-434	B	
80-82%	400-414	B-	
77-79%	385-399	C+	Satisfactory Work
73-76%	365-384	C	
70-72%	350-364	C-	
67-69%	335-349	D+	Lowest Passing Work for the Major
63-66%	315-334	D	
60-62%	300-314	D-	

Please note: Grades will not be rounded up at the end of the semester. Therefore, at the end of the semester if you are 2 points shy of earning a B+, your final grade will be a B, not a B+, because you earned a B. If you have any questions about this policy please ask me about this during the first week of class.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

This tentative schedule is designed to give you an idea of what we will be doing during the semester. We will try to follow it as closely as possible, but it may be necessary to make changes at certain times. Reading assignments need to be completed prior to arriving to class on the date listed. Note: *I reserve the right to give in-class pop quizzes and incorporate them into your class involvement grade if I sense that students are not completing the assigned reading.* These cannot be made up. ***Any assignments / notes listed in bold and italics are suggested personal due dates; no actual assignments are due to the professor on these dates.***

DATE
**ASSIGN. /
NOTES**

Week 1:

August 19 & 21 Welcome and Introduction to the Course

LePoire Ch. 1 – p. 1-9 – Defining Family

LePoire Ch. 2 - Family Forms in Our Changing Society

Week 2:

26 & 28 LePoire Ch. 2 - Family Forms in Our Changing Society (cont.)

Discussion of Family Interview Case Study, Family Interview Case Study Poster & Presentation

 Braithwaite, D. O., Bach, B. W., Baxter, L. A., DiVerniero, R., Hammonds, J. R., Hosek, A. M., Willer, E. K., & Wolf, B. M. (2010). Constructing family: A typology of voluntary kin. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 27, 388-407.

Week 3: September	2 & 4	Lannutti, P. J. (2011). Security, recognition, and misgivings: Exploring older same-sex couples' experiences of legally recognized same-sex marriage. <i>Journal of Social and Personal Relationships</i> , 28, 64-63.	
		LePoire Ch. 4, p. 93 – 101 & 104 – 108 – Two becoming one	
Week 4:	9 & 11	Frisby, B. N. (2009). 'Without flirting, it wouldn't be a marriage': Flirtatious communication between relational partners. <i>Qualitative Research Reports in Communication</i> , 10 (1), 55-60.	Final Paper Topic Due
		Petronio, S. (2013). Brief status report on communication privacy management theory. <i>Journal of Family Communication</i> , 13(1), 6-14. doi:10.1080/15267431.2013.743426	
		Durham, W., & Braithwaite, D. O. (2009). Communication Privacy Management Within the Family Planning Trajectories of Voluntarily Child-Free Couples. <i>Journal of Family Communication</i> , 9(1), 43-65. doi:10.1080/15267430802561600	Collect & read articles relevant to final paper
Week 5:	16 & 18	Bute, J. J. & Vik, T. A. (2010). Privacy management as unfinished business: Shifting boundaries in the context of infertility. <i>Communication Studies</i> , 61, 1-20.	
		Uncertainty Reduction Theory - Colaner, C., & Kranstuber, H. (2010). 'Forever Kind of Wondering': Communicatively Managing Uncertainty in Adoptive Families. <i>Journal of Family Communication</i> , 10(4), 236-255. doi:10.1080/15267431003682435	Outline of warrant and RQs for final paper complete – Set up mtg. with Prof. for feedback
		B&B Ch. 7 – Narrative Theory AND Kellas, J. K. (2005). Family ties: Communicating identity through jointly told family stories. <i>Communication Monographs</i> , 72, 365-389.	
Week 6:	23 & 25	Kranstuber Horstman, H. (2012) Changes in narrative sense making over time: The role of mother-daughter communication during conversations about difficulty. Communication Studies Dissertation – http:// digitalcommons.unl.edu/commstuddiss/ss (select portions)	
		In-Class discussion of Family Stories - tie to narrative research.	
		Turning points: LePoire Ch. 5, p. 114 – 124 AND Ch. 6, p. 134-140 – Two becoming three	Final write up of warrant and RQs complete
Week 7: October	30 & 2	Golish, T. D. (2000). Changes in closeness between adult children and their parents: A turning point analysis. <i>Communication Reports</i> , 13 (2, Summer), 79-97.	Interview protocol complete – get

**approval from
Prof. to move
forward**

Breshears, D. (2010). Coming out with our children: Turning points facilitating lesbian parent discourse with their children about family identity. *Communication Reports*, 23 (2, July-December), 79-90. Intergenerational & PSD

B&B Ch. 2 - Communication Accommodation Theory

Week 8:

7 & 9 Rittenour, C., & Soliz, J. (2009). Communicative and Relational Dimensions of Shared Family Identity and Relational Intentions in Mother-in-Law/Daughter-in-Law Relationships: Developing a Conceptual Model for Mother-in-Law/Daughter-in-Law Research. *Western Journal of Communication*, 73(1), 67-90. doi:10.1080/10570310802636334

Beeler, J.A. & DiProva, V. (1999) Adjustment of families following disclosure of homosexuality by a family member: Themes discerned in narrative accounts. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, 25(4), 443 - 459.

EXAM 1 – OCTOBER 9

Week 9:

14 & 16 NO CLASS - Fall Break Oct. 14th

B&B Ch. 4 - Family Communication Patterns

Thorson, A. R. & Kranstuber Horstman, H. A. (2014). Buy now, pay later: Family communication patterns theory, parental financial support, and emerging adults' openness about credit card behaviors. *Journal of Family Communication*, 14, 53-71. doi:10.1080/15267431.2013.857324

**Conduct
interviews and
transcribe
them**

Week 10:

21 & 23 B&B Ch. 6 – Inconsistent Nurturing Theory

Duggan, A. P., Dailey, R. M. & Le Poire, B. A. (2008). Reinforcement and punishment of substance abuse during ongoing interactions: A conversational test of inconsistent nurturing as control theory. *Health Communication*, 13 (5, July/August), 417-433.

Prescott, M. E., & Le Poire, B. A. (2002). Eating disorders and mother-daughter communication: A test of inconsistent nurturing as control theory. *The Journal of Family Communication*, 2(2), 59-78.

**Research
qualitative data
analysis –
begin data
analysis**

Week 11:

28 & 30 Family Conflict and Divorce - Tulane, S., Skogrand, L., & DeFrain, J. (2011). Couples in great marriages who considered divorcing. *Marriage & Family Review*, 47 (5), 289-310.

Buchanan, M. C., O'Hair, D. H., & Becker, J. A. H. (2006). Strategic communication during marital relationship dissolution:

**Write methods
and results
section of final
paper**

Disengagement resistance strategies. *Communication Research Reports*, 23 (3, August), 139-147.

Miller, A. E. (2009). Revealing and concealing postmarital dating information: Divorced coparents' privacy rule development and boundary coordination processes. *Journal of Family Communication*, 9 (3), 135-149.

Week 12:

November 4 & 6

B&B Ch. 9 – Relational Dialectics Theory

Braithwaite, D. O., Baxter, L. A. & Harper, A. M. (1998). The role of rituals in the management of the dialectical tensions of "old" and "new" in blended families. *Communication Studies*, 49, 101-120.

Koenig Kellas, J., LeClair-Underberg, C., & Normand, E. (2008). Stepfamily Address Terms: "Sometimes They Mean Something and Sometimes They Don't." *Journal of Family Communication*, 8(4), 238-263. doi:10.1080/15267430802397153

**Write
discussion
section of final
paper**

Week 13:

11 & 13

Myers, S. A., & Bryant, L. E. (2008). The Use of Behavioral Indicators of Sibling Commitment Among Emerging Adults. *Journal of Family Communication*, 8(2), 101-125. doi:10.1080/15267430701857364

Interactive discussion about final project / Sample poster

**Complete final
edits for family
interview case
study paper.**

Week 14:

18 & 20

EXAM 2 – NOVEMBER 18

NO CLASS – Nat. Comm. Assoc. Conf. / Work day for final paper/presentation – Nov. 20th

Week 15:

25 & 27

Thorson, A. R. (in press, 2015). Investigating adult children's experiences with privacy turbulence following the discovery of parental infidelity. *Journal of Family Communication*.
Thorson, A. R. (in press, 2015). Feeling caught: Adult children's experiences with parental infidelity. *Qualitative Research Reports in Communication*.

NO CLASS - Happy Thanksgiving Nov. 27th

**Final Paper
Due**

Week 16:

December 2

Class Presentation of Family Interview Case Study Poster

Final Exam Period: Tuesday, December 9th @ 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Class Presentation of Family Interview Case Study Poster (continued)

Additional Suggested Readings

Primary Family Journals

Journal of Family Communication

Journal of Marriage and the Family

Journal of Family Psychology

Other Interesting Manuscripts

Holtzman, M. (2008). Defining Family: Young Adults' Perceptions of the Parent-Child Bond. *Journal of Family Communication*, 8(3), 167-185. doi:10.1080/15267430701856887

Boland, J. P., & Follingstad, D. R. (1987). The relationship between communication and marital satisfaction: A review. *Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy*, 13, 286-313.

Duck, S., & Pittman, G. (1994). Social and personal relationships. In M. L. Knapp & G. R. Miller (Eds.), *Handbook of interpersonal communication* (2nd ed., pp. 676-695). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Vangelisti, A. L. (2004). *Handbook of family communication*. Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.

Coontz, S. (2000). Historical perspectives on family studies. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 62, 283-297.

Demo, D. H., & Allen, K. R. (1996). Diversity within lesbian and gay families: Challenges and implications for family theory and research. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 13, 415-434.

Popenoe, D. (1993a). American family in decline, 1960-1990: A review and appraisal. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 55, 527-542.

Popenoe, D. (1993b). The national family wars. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 55, 553-555.

Bengston, V. L., Acock, A. C., Allen, K. R., Dilworth-Anderson, P., & Klein, D. M. (2005). Theory and theorizing in family research: Puzzle building and puzzle solving. In V.L. Bengston, A. C. Acock, K. R. Allen, P. Dilworth-Anderson, & D. M. Klein (eds.), *Sourcebook of family theory and research* (pp. 3-33). Thousand Oaks, CA: Age.

Fitzpatrick, M. A., & Caughlin, J. P. (2002). Interpersonal communication in family relationships. In M. L. Knapp & J. A. Daly (Eds.), *Handbook of interpersonal communication*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Stamp, G. H. (2004). Theories of family relationships. In A.L. Vangelisti (Ed.), *Handbook of family communication* (pp. 563-591). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum

Berger, C. R. (1987). Communicating under uncertainty. In M. E. Roloff & G. R. Miller (Eds.), *Interpersonal processes: New directions in communication research* (pp. 39-62). Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

Buss, D. M., Shackelford, T. K., Kirkpatrick, L. A., & Larsen, R. J. (2001). A half century of mate preferences: The cultural evolution of values. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 63, 491-503.

Byrne, D. (1997). An overview (and underview) of research and theory within the attraction paradigm. *Family*, 61, 437-450.

- Collins, N. L., & Feeney, B. C. (2000). A safe haven: An attachment theory perspective on support seeking and caregiving in intimate relationships. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 78*, 1053-1073.
- DeMaris, A., & MacDonald, W. (1993). Premarital cohabitation and marital instability: A test of the unconventionality hypothesis. *Journal of Marriage and the Family, 55*, 399-407.
- Isabella, R. A. (1998). Origins of attachment: The role of context, duration, frequency of observation, and infant age in measuring maternal behavior. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, 15*, 538-554.
- Schmitt, D. P., & Buss, D. M. (2001). Human mate poaching: Tactics and temptations for infiltrating existing mateships. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 80*, 894-917.
- Stafford, L., Kline, S. L., & Rankin, C. T. (2004). Married individuals, cohabiters, and cohabiters who marry: A longitudinal study of relational and individual well-being. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, 21*, 231-248.
- Stets, J. E. (1993). Control in dating relationships. *Journal of Marriage and the Family, 55*, 673-686.
- Surra, C. A., Gray, C. R., Cottle, N., & Boettcher, T. M. J. (2004). Research on mate selection and premarital relationships: What do we really know? In A. L. Vangelisti (Ed.), *Handbook of family communication* (pp. 1-30). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.
- Taylor, D. A., & Altman, I. (1987). Communication in interpersonal relationships: Social penetration processes. In M. E. Roloff & G. R. Miller (Eds.), *Interpersonal processes: New directions in communication research* (pp. 257-277). Newbury Park, CA: Sage.
- Afifi, T. (2003). 'Feeling caught' in stepfamilies: Managing boundary turbulence through appropriate communication privacy rules. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, 20*, 729-755.
- Doherty, W. J., & Beaton, J. M. (2004). Mothers and fathers parenting together. In A. L. Vangelisti (Ed.), *Handbook of family communication* (pp. 269-286). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.
- Fox, G. L., & Bruce, C. (2001). Conditional fatherhood: Identity theory and parental investment theory as alternative sources of explanation of fathering. *Journal of Marriage and Family, 63*, 394-403.
- Huston, T. L., & Holmes, E. K. (2004). Becoming parents. In A. Vangelisti (Ed.), *Handbook of family communication* (pp. 105-133). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.
- Golish, T. (2003). Stepfamily communication strengths: Understanding the ties that bind. *Human Communication Research, 29*, 41-80.
- Krusiewicz, E. G., & Wood, J. T. (2001). "He was our child from the moment we walked in that room": Entrance stories of adoptive parents. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, 18*, 785-803.
- Mazur, M. A., & Hubbard, A. S. (2004). "Is there something I should know?": Topic avoidant responses in parent-adolescent communication. *Communication Reports, 17*, 27-37.
- Manning, W. D., & Lamb, K. A. (2003). Adolescent Well-Being in Cohabiting, Married, and Single-Parent Families. *Journal of Marriage & the Family, 65*, 876-894.
- McHale, J. P., Kazali, C., Rotman, T., Talbot, J., Carleton, M., & Lieberman, R. (2004). The transition to

- coparenthood: Parents' prebirth expectations and coparental adjustment at 3 months postpartum. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 16, 711-733.
- Stamp, G. H. (1994). The appropriation of the parental role through communication during the transition to parenthood. *Communication Monographs*, 61, 89-112.
- Abe, J. A. A., & Izard, C. E. (1999). A longitudinal study of emotion expression and personality relations in early development. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 77, 566-577.
- Coakley, C. G., & Wolvin, A. D. (1997). Listening in the parent-teen relationship. *International Journal of Listening*, 11, 88-126.
- Golish, T. D. (2000). Changes in closeness between adult children and their parents: A turning point analysis. *Communication Reports*, 13, 79-97.
- Lindsey, E. W., Mize, J., & Petitt, G. S. (1997). Mutuality in parent-child play: Consequences for children's peer competence. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 14, 523-538.
- Pluhar, E. I., & Kuriloff, P. (2004). What really matters in family communication about sexuality? A qualitative analysis of affect and style among African American mothers and adolescent daughters. *Sex Education*, 4, 303-321.
- Whitaker, D. J., & Miller, K. S. (2000). Parent-Adolescent Discussions About Sex and Condoms: Impact on Peer Influences of Sexual Risk Behavior. *Journal of Adolescent Research*, 15, 251-273.
- Winn, L. L. (2002). Strategies used by head start mothers while engaging their child in a picture book: Is one more related to child vocabulary scores? *Journal of Family Communication*, 2, 185-213.
- Zhou, Q., Eisenberg, N., Losoya, S. H., Fabes, R. A., Reiser, M., Guthrie, I. K. et al. (2002). The relations of parental warmth and positive expressiveness to children's empathy-related responding and social functioning: A longitudinal study. *Child Development*, 73, 893-915.
- Burleson, B. R., & Denton, W. H. (1997). The relationship between communication skills and marital satisfaction: Some moderating effects. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 59, 884-905.
- Denton, W. H., Burleson, B. R., & Sprenkle, D. H. (1995). Association of interpersonal cognitive complexity with communication skills in marriage: Moderating effects of marital distress. *Family Process*, 34, 101-111.
- Goldsmith, D. J. (2004). *Communicating social support*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Pendell, S. D. (2002). Affection in interpersonal relationships: Not just "a fond or tender feeling". In W. B. Gudykunst (Ed.), *Communication yearbook 26* (pp. 70-115). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Petronio, S. (Ed.). (2000). *Balancing the secrets of private disclosures*. Mahwah, New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- Petronio, S. (2002). *Boundaries of privacy: Dialectics of disclosure*. Albany, NY: State

University of New York Press.

- Weigel, D. J., and Ballard-Reisch, D. S. (2001). The impact of relational maintenance behaviors on marital satisfaction: A longitudinal analysis. *Journal of Family Communication, 1*, 265-279.
- Botta, R. A., & Dumlao, R. (2002). How do conflict and communication patterns between fathers and daughters contribute to or offset eating disorders? *Health Communication, 14*, 199-219.
- Ennett, S. T., Bauman, K. E., Foshee, V. A., Pemberton, M., & Hicks, K. (2001). Parent-child communication about adolescent tobacco and alcohol use: What do parents say and does it affect youth behavior? *Journal of Marriage and the Family, 63*, 48-63.
- Le Poire, B.A. (2004). The influence of drugs and alcohol on family communication: The effects that substance abuse has on family members and the effects that family members have on substance abuse. In A.L. Vangelisti (Ed.), *Handbook of family communication* (pp. 609-628). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum
- Uebelacker, L. A., Courtnage, E. S., & Whisman, M. A. (2003). Correlates of depression and marital dissatisfaction: Perceptions of marital communication style. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, 20*, 757-769.
- Kirby, E. L., & Krone, K. J. (2002). "The policy exists but you can't really use it": Communication and the structuration of work-family policies. *Journal of Applied Communication Research, 30*, 50-77.
- Larson, M. (1996). Sex roles and soap operas: what adolescents learn about single motherhood. *Sex Roles, 35*, 97-110.
- Magdol, L. (2000). The people you know: The impact of residential mobility on mothers' social network ties. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, 17*, 183-204.
- Morman, M. T., & Floyd, K. (2002). A "changing culture of fatherhood": Effects on affectionate communication, closeness, and satisfaction in men's relationships with their fathers and their sons. *Western Journal of Communication, 66*, 395-411.
- Orbuch, T. L., Veroff, J., Hassan, H., & Horrocks, J. (2002). Who will divorce: A 14-year longitudinal study of black and white couples. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, 19*, 179-202.

Web Resources for Family Communication Research

The Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
<http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/>

Childstats.gov, Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics
<http://childstats.gov/>

National Academy for Child Development
<http://www.nacd.org/>

National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/>

National Council on Family Relations

<http://www.ncfr.com/>

National Institute of Mental Health

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/>

National Survey of America's Families, Urban Institute

<http://www.urban.org/Content/Research/NewFederalism/NSAF/Overview/NSAFOverview.htm>

Resources for Parents, U.S. Department of Education

<http://www.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml>

U.S. Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov/>

Violence Against Women Online Resources, Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse

<http://www.vaw.umn.edu/>