

Moms, by the numbers

E-MAIL

FACEBOOK

TWITTER

GOOGLE

LINKEDIN

1



SHUTTERSTOCK/FILE

By [Matt Rocheleau](#)

GLOBE STAFF MAY 14, 2017

It's Mother's Day — a holiday devoted to showing appreciation to those who brought us into the world and raised us to be the people we are today.

In honor of all the moms, grandmas, and stepmoms out there, here's a look at motherhood by the numbers.

1908

— When the idea for Mother's Day began, Anna Jarvis organized the first observances in West Virginia and Pennsylvania on May 10 of that year to honor her deceased mother, according to the US Census Bureau. She pushed for the formal establishment of a day to commemorate all mothers. Within three years, every state in the country observed Mother's Day and in 1914, Congress made it a national event.



43.5 million

— The number of mothers nationwide between ages 15 and 50 in 2014, according to Census bureau estimates. Those mothers gave birth to a collective 95.8 million children.

Get Fast Forward in your inbox:

Forget yesterday's news. Get what you need today in this early-morning email.

Sign Up

26 years old

— The national average age for women to give birth for the first time. In 1970, the average age of first-time moms was just under 21 ½ years.

40%

— The share of US households for which mothers were the sole primary breadwinner, as of 2012, according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. That's up from 11 percent in 1960.

9.8 million

— The number of single mothers living with children under age 18 in 2016, according to the Census bureau. That was up from 7.7 million in 1985.

\$23.6 billion

— That’s how much US consumers are expected to spend to celebrate Mother’s Day this year, as they shower moms with cards, flowers, clothing, jewelry, and meals, according to the National Retail Federation. “Mother’s Day shoppers are expected to spend an average of \$186.39 for the holiday, up from last year’s \$172.22,” the group says.

#1

— The ranking that all children worldwide give for their own mothers. Thanks, Mom!

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](https://twitter.com/mrochele)



SHOW 1 COMMENT

Stay updated, right in your news feed.

Most Popular In Metro →



Storms could bring hail and severe winds

Damaging winds, quarter-size hail, and even a tornado are possibilities in Massachusetts today.

[MORE...](#)



Trump proposal relies on claims by religious researchers

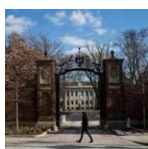
A proposal by President Trump’s administration would undo the Affordable Care Act’s five-year-old mandate for birth control coverage. [MORE...](#)

Dick Albert, former Channel 5 weatherman, dies

“It’s a huge loss,” said Harvey Leonard. “It’s truly like losing a brother, that’s what I considered him

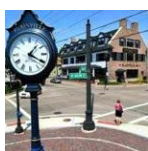


to be.” [MORE...](#)



The majority of Harvard’s incoming class is nonwhite

Harvard’s push to broaden diversity comes as the Trump administration turns its focus on affirmative action policies. [MORE...](#)



In Michelle Carter’s hometown, opinions vary on justice of her sentence

Residents who spoke to the Globe were split on whether Carter, now 20, received an appropriate sentence for urging Conrad Roy III to kill himself. [MORE...](#)



Teamster in Top Chef trial could get jail time for posting on Facebook during trial

Daniel Redmond, one of four Teamsters on trial, posted an article on the Facebook page, “Support the Teamster 4,” violating a court order to not speak publicly about the case. [MORE...](#)



VA Secretary ousts third official at troubled N.H. hospital

VA Secretary David Shulkin said he was responding to allegations of dangerously substandard care made by medical staff in a Boston Globe report last month. [MORE...](#)



In a Malden classroom, a lesson on immigration

Many economists say drastically cutting immigration hurts the economy for everyone. [MORE...](#)



Thousands of cyclists take off in first day of the 38th Pan-Mass Challenge

More than 5,300 cyclists took off Saturday morning in the 2017 Pan-Mass Challenge, raising money for patient care and cancer research. [MORE...](#)

TD Garden to pay \$1.65m after teen sleuths claimed it owed \$13m

A group of teenagers discovered the venue had failed to live up to its obligations to hold three fund-



raises a year to benefit the Department of Conservation and Recreation. [MORE...](#)

Police disperse hundreds of youths in the North End

State Police spokesman David Procopio said Boston police requested Massachusetts State Police assistance with dispersing between 500 and 1,000 youths. [MORE...](#)



He thought he was dying, but highway chief paved his own road to salvation

Tom Tinlin needed a lot of things to go his way when a blood vessel in his brain burst in April. Fittingly, one of them was traffic. [MORE...](#)



Mother of Conrad Roy III seeks \$4.2m in wrongful death suit against Michelle Carter

Lynn Roy says she is seeking damages “caused by the defendant’s negligence and wanton and reckless conduct.” [MORE...](#)



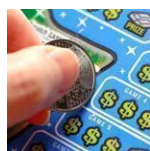
In the Michelle Carter case, the eyes have it

Judge Lawrence Moniz took great pains to explain that his job was to find that delicate balance between rehabilitation and punishment. [MORE...](#)



State agrees with Trump administration to delay long-awaited water pollution rules

A landmark plan to curb pollution in lakes, rivers, and streams throughout Massachusetts has been delayed for at least another year. [MORE...](#)



Lawbreakers or just really lucky? Mass. has more repeat lottery winners than any other state

Some people redeem so many winning tickets that they raise questions about the integrity and oversight of the \$5 billion state lottery. [MORE...](#)



‘When are you doing it?’ Read the Carter case texts

Text messages released in the case show Michelle Carter becoming increasingly aggressive in pressuring Conrad Roy III to commit suicide. [MORE...](#)



Mass. health insurers uneasy over Trump’s threat to cut subsidies

State insurers are at risk of losing \$132 million in government subsidies next year if President Trump makes good on his promise to cut off ACA payments. [MORE...](#)



A cross-country bicycle trip of a lifetime — delayed 40 years

John Sweeney averaged 65 miles a day, mostly along Route 20, a 3,365-mile ribbon of asphalt that is the longest road in the United States. [MORE...](#)

Top 10 Trending Articles

Most Viewed	Most Commented	Most Shared
-------------	----------------	-------------

Nick Cafardo: Which players may be available in trade after ...

Trump forsakes scenic traditions to vacation in the land of s...

Trump administration advances religious researchers’ birth ...

Dick Albert, former Channel 5 weatherman, dies

Storms could bring hail and severe winds Saturday

What’s it like be an NFL quarterback at 40? We asked Warr...
[My Account](#)

There’s one month left of summer. Here’s what you can’t mi...
[Manage my Account](#)

Trump increasingly isolated as disillusionment grows withi...
[Mobile Customer Service](#)

[Sign Up For Newsletters](#)
Darryl Appendola never considered retiring or playing for a t...

[Contact](#)
Reagle’s rousing ‘42nd Street’ triumphs over turmoil

[Help](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Globe newsroom](#)

[Advertise](#)

Social

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Google+](#)

More

[ePaper](#)

[News in Education](#)

[Archives](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

[Terms of service](#)

[Terms of purchase](#)

[Work at Boston Globe Media](#)

© 2017 Boston Globe Media Partners, LLC