

Mother's Day: May 8, 2005

The first Mother's Day observance was a church service in 1908 requested by Anna Jarvis, of Philadelphia, to honor her deceased mother. Jarvis, at an early age, had heard her mother express hope that a day to commemorate all mothers would be established. Her mother had also expressed the sentiment that there were many days dedicated to men but none to mothers. Two years after her mother's death, Jarvis and friends began a letter-writing campaign to declare a national Mother's Day observance to honor mothers. In 1914, Congress passed legislation designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

How Many Mothers

82.5 million

Estimated number of mothers of all ages in the United States. (From unpublished Survey of Income and Program Participation data.)

68%

Percentage of women in Mississippi, ages 15 to 44, who are mothers. This is among the highest rates among states. The national average is 56 percent.



82%

Percentage of women 40 to 44 years old who are mothers. In 1976, 90 percent of women in that age group were mothers.



New Moms

4.0 million

Number of women who have babies each year. Of this number, about 425,000 are teens ages 15 to 19, and more than 100,000 are age 40 or over.

25.1

Average age of women when they give birth for the first time [PDF] — a record high. The average age has risen nearly four years since 1970.

40%

Percentage of births that are the mother's first [PDF]. Another 32 percent are the second-born; 17 percent, third; and 11 percent, fourth or more.

35,000

Number of births in 2002 [PDF] attended by physicians, midwives or others that do not occur in hospitals.

Mothers Remembered

23,094

Number of florists nationwide in 2002 [PDF]. The florists' 119,117 employees will be especially busy preparing, selling and delivering floral arrangements for Mother's Day.

The flowers bought for mom probably were grown in California or Colombia. Among the 36 surveyed states, [California was the leading provider of cut flowers in 2003](#) [PDF], accounting for more than two-thirds of the domestic production (\$306 million out of \$425 million) in those states. Meanwhile, the value of [U.S. imports of cut flowers and fresh flower buds](#) in 2004 from Colombia, the leading foreign supplier to the United States, was more than \$385 million.

\$5 billion

Revenue of greeting-card publishers nationwide in 2002 [PDF]. The 15,859 employees of the 119 greeting-card publishing companies are especially busy creating Mother's Day greeting cards.

More than

152 million

Number of Mother's Day cards expected to be given this year in the United States, making Mother's Day the third-largest card-sending occasion. (Source: Hallmark research)

1-in-32

The odds of a woman delivering twins [PDF]. Her odds of having triplets or other multiple births was approximately 1-in-540.



August

The most popular month in which to have a baby [PDF], with 359,000 births taking place that month in 2002. July, with 358,000, was just a shade behind.

Tuesday

The most popular day of the week in which to have a baby [PDF], with an average of almost 13,000 births taking place on Tuesdays during 2002.

Single Moms

10 million

The number of single mothers [PDF] living with children under 18 years old, up from 3 million in 1970.

How Many Children

2

Average number of children [PDF] that women today can expect to have in their lifetime.

3

Average number of children [PDF] that women in Utah and Alaska can expect to have in their lifetime. These two states top the nation in average number of births per woman.

Only about 10 percent of women today end their childbearing years with [four or more children](#) [PDF]. That compares with 36 percent in 1976.

Working Moms

55%

Among mothers with infant children in 2002, [the percentage in the labor force](#), down from a record 59 percent in 1998. This marks the first significant decline in this rate since the Census Bureau began calculating this measure in 1976. In that year, 31 percent of mothers with infants were in the labor force.

63%

[Among college-educated women](#) with infant children, the percentage in the labor force.

[Among mothers between ages 15 and 44](#) who do not have infants, 72 percent are in the labor force.

More than 687,000

[Number of child day-care centers across the country in 2002](#) [PDF]. These include nearly 69,000 centers employing close to 750,000 workers and another 618,000 self-employed persons or other companies without paid employees. Many mothers turn to these centers to help juggle motherhood and career.

About 2 million

[Among more than 10 million preschoolers](#), the number who are cared for in a day-care center during the bulk of their mother's working hours.



5.4 million

[Number of stay-at-home moms in 2003](#). Thirty-nine percent of these mothers were under the age of 35.

Following is a list of observances typically covered by the Census Bureau **Facts for Features** series:

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Jan. 17) & African-American History Month (February)
- Valentine's Day (Feb. 14)
- Women's History Month (March)
- St. Patrick's Day (March 17)
- Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (May)
- Older Americans Month (May)
- Mother's Day (May 8)
- Father's Day (June 19)
- The Fourth of July (July 4)
- Anniversary of Americans With Disabilities Act (July 26)
- Back to School (August)
- Labor Day (Sept. 5)
- Grandparents Day (Sept. 11)
- Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15)
- Halloween (Oct. 31)
- American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month (November)
- Veterans Day (Nov. 11)
- Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 24)
- The Holiday Season (December)

Individual source links for each statement herein may be accessed on the Internet at http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/004109.htm.

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Editor's note: Some of the preceding data were collected in surveys and, therefore, are subject to sampling error. Questions or comments should be directed to the Census Bureau's Public Information Office at (301) 763-3030; fax (301) 457-3670; or e-mail pio@census.gov.

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