

National
Organization of
Mothers
Of
Twins
Clubs, Inc.

SUBJECT: **SIMILAR RESPONSES IN TWINS**
RESEARCHER: National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs, Inc.
DATE: 1989-1990

PURPOSE: This survey was designed to find out which group of twins will attain the highest percentage of answers that are the same. It also was designed to answer the question: "Will age grouping cause the results to differ?"

METHOD: This study consists of a 25 item questionnaire, which was filled out by twins ages 5 to adult. Each twin was instructed to answer the questions independently. Mothers of younger twins were instructed to read and record each twin's answer's separately. Two hundred and fifty-six (256) surveys were returned.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

I. WHO RESPONDED:

- A. Zygoty (twin type) of those responding:
- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|
| 1. Identical Female | 27% | 5. Unknown Female | 2% |
| 2. Identical Male | 18% | 6. Unknown Male | 2% |
| 3. Fraternal Female | 15% | 7. Boy/Girl | 19% |
| 4. Fraternal Male | 17% | | |
- B. Age groupings of those responding:
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Primary (Kindergarten - 3rd grade) | 57% |
| 2. Upper Elementary (4th - 6th grade) | 16% |
| 3. Junior High (7th - 9th grade) | 10% |
| 4. High School (10th - 12th grade) | 5% |
| 5. College | 7% |
| 6. Adults (21 years of age and over) | 5% |

II. This survey was divided into four sections:

A. BIRTHDAYS:

1. The majority of all of the twin types celebrate with one party
2. They were evenly divided on having 1 or 2 cakes
3. The majority received either the same separately wrapped gift or 2 different gifts
4. Fraternal male and boy/girl sets received 2 different gifts

B. SCHOOL QUESTIONS:

1. Same class
 - a. Identicals preferred being in the same class
 - b. Fraternal were evenly divided between same class and separation
2. Names mixed up by the teachers
 - a. High percentage occurred with identicals
 - b. Half of the time this occurred to fraternal
3. Quality of work/grades
 - a. Identicals reported making the same grades or doing equivalent work
 - b. Boy/girl twins reported not having the same grades
 - c. Half of the fraternal reported having similar grades

C. QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU:

1. Dressing Alike
 - a. Unknown males dressed alike
 - b. Identical males and boy/girl twins never dressed alike
 - c. Identical females only dressed alike on special occasions
 - d. Unknown females were evenly divided on this issue
2. Hair Color
 - a. Identicals reported having the same color hair
 - b. Half of the fraternal also reported the same color of hair
3. Cavities
 - a. In identicals and boy/girl sets half reported having an equal number of cavities
 - b. The majority reported not having the same number of cavities
4. ESP
 - a. Half of all identicals reported this experience
 - b. The majority have not experienced this
 - c. Majority of unknown males reported this experience
5. Weight

--All of the groups were the same except for boy/girl
6. Height

--Only fraternal males and boy/girl sets reported different heights
7. Glasses/contacts

--None of the groups reported a high number of both twins wearing glasses/contacts
8. Extracurricular activities

--Only boy/girl sets do not participate in the same activities

D. TWIN RELATED QUESTIONS:

1. Names

The majority do not have rhyming first names or matching initials
2. Public attention
 - a. Identical female, unknown male and female, and boy/girl liked the public attention of being twins
 - b. Identical male, fraternal male and female were evenly divided between liking and not liking the attention
3. Being called "Twins"
 - a. Identical male, unknown male and female did not mind title of twins
 - b. Fraternal female and male, identical female, and boy/girl were evenly divided on minding and not minding title of twins

- 4. Trading places to fool someone
66% of all identicals had done this
- 5. Presence of a leader between the twins
 - a. Identical male and unknown female reported no leader
 - b. Boy/girl reported a leader in half of the pairs
 - c. Identical female, fraternal male and female, and unknown male reported a leader
- 6. Family/friends calling multiples by wrong name
Identical and half of fraternal had this experience (excluding boy/girl)
- 7. "Are you twins?"
 - a. Majority are tired of this question
 - b. Half of the fraternal females and boy/girl sets tired
- 8. Enjoy being twins
 - a. Majority of all respondents enjoy being twins (with unknown male, identical male and female, and boy/girl having the highest positive percentages)
 - b. Fraternal enjoy twinship but less than identicals
- 9. Would you want to have twins?
 - a. 56% of all the twins would like to have twins
 - b. 41% of unknown males have the lowest desire
 - c. 66% of unknown females have the highest desire

CONCLUSION:

INDIVIDUAL TEST SCORE RESULTS:

- 1. Scores for all groups by twin types revealed that unknown males scored highest percentage of similar answers.
- 2. A comparison of identical to fraternal (excluding unknown males and females) revealed that both groups scored within one point of each other. Thus, identicals were no more likely to choose the same answer on this test than fraternal.
- 3. A comparison of younger twins (kindergarten through 6th grade) to older twins (7th grade to adult) were made to see if age is a contributing factor:
 - a. Older groups had higher scores for unknown males, identical males, and fraternal females.
 - b. Younger groups had higher scores in fraternal males, identical females and boy/girl sets.
 - c. Since the difference in scores between the two age groups was less than 5 points, it was not found to have an effect on how similar answers were.

LIMITATIONS:

- 1. Majority of twins were from primary grades. If an equal number of older twins were to take the test, scores might have differed.
- 2. The twins were not treated in a laboratory with researchers observing.
- 3. Test was administered under differing circumstances.
- 4. There was no control group of non-twins for comparison.
