

National
Organization of
Mothers
Of
Twins
Clubs, Inc.

SUBJECT: **MULTIPLES RUN IN THE FAMILY**
RESEARCHER: National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs, Inc.
DATE: 1987

PURPOSE: The purpose of this survey was to poll mothers of multiples concerning the question, "Do twins/triplets run in the family?" An additional purpose was to either support or refute the theories that fraternal twins run in the family, and identical twins are due to chance.

METHOD: Surveys were completed by 792 members of NOMOTC.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- I. This survey was divided into 8 questions:
 - A. TWIN TYPES

1. Identical Female	20%	5. Boy/Girl	24%
2. Identical Male	17%	6. Unknown	3%
3. Fraternal Female	17%	7. Triplets/Quads	3%
4. Fraternal Male	20%		
 - B. FERTILITY DRUGS
 1. 15% used fertility drugs 6 months prior to conception
 2. Those using drugs had a far greater number of fraternal twins or triplets
 3. Only 1.3% had identical twins after using fertility medication
 4. 31% of triplets/quads were conceived after using fertility drug
 - C. ORAL CONTRACEPTIVE

18% used them within 6 months prior to conception
 - D. MULTIPLE BIRTH GRANDCHILDREN

Only 6 respondents had multiple birth grandchildren
 - E. ARE YOU A MULTIPLE?

4% of respondents were multiples
 - F. ARE THEIR MULTIPLES ON THE MOTHER'S SIDE OF THE FAMILY?
 1. 60% had multiples on the mother's side of the family
 - a. 21% were identicals
 - b. 42% were fraternal
 2. Percentage of relatives who were multiples

a. Aunt	22%	c. Sibling	11%
b. Uncle	12%	d. Maternal grandmother	10%

3. Much higher percentage of multiple relatives were fraternal rather than identical

G. IS THE FATHER OF YOUR MULTIPLES A MULTIPLE HIMSELF?

- 1. 40% of fathers had multiples on their side of family
- 2. Percentage of relatives who were multiples
 - a. Aunt - 25%
 - b. Uncle - 17%
 - c. Sibling - 15%

3. Much higher percentage of multiple relatives were fraternal rather than identical twins

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Since fertility drugs cause more than one egg to be ovulated, the type of twins/triplets to be produced will usually be fraternal. This survey supports that.
- 2. Mothers had 20% more twins on their side of the family than the fathers. This supports the theory that twinning is passed on the mother's side.
- 3. Two facts support the inheritability of twins "running in the family":
 - a. Mothers of fraternal twins have a higher percent of twins in their family than those who have identical twins.
 - b. Of those mothers with relatives who were multiples, a much higher percent were fraternal.
