

National  
Organization of  
Mothers  
Of  
Twins  
Clubs, Inc.

SUBJECT:

**SURVEY OF MARITAL JEALOUSY  
DUE TO TWIN SIBLING RELATIONSHIP**

RESEARCHER:

National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs, Inc.

DATE:

1991

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this survey was to determine which issues had a strong impact on the marriages of twins, how the co-twins reacted, and how the spouses handled being married to twins (from the twin's point of view).

**METHOD:** This interorganizational survey was completed only by those multiples who are or who have been married. If a twin had been married more than once, separate surveys for each marriage were to be completed. The sample consisted of 71 responses from which 63 were used to compile data.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

1. Types of multiples responding to this questionnaire:
 

A. 41% - Identical female sets	D. 13% - Fraternal male sets
B. 19% - Male/Female sets	E. 8% - Identical male sets
C. 17% - Fraternal female sets	F. 0% - Triplets, Quads, Quints
2. Age of respondents:
  - A. 75% (majority) were 31 years of age or older.
  - B. 25% fell between the ages of 19-30 years old.
3. Females responded 3:1 over males.
4. Ninety-five percent of the respondents were married, while 5% were divorced.
5. Age when respondents married:
  - A. 65% - 19--25 years old
  - B. 24% - 26--30 years old
  - C. 9% - under 18 or over 31 years old
6. Length of marriage:
  - A. 25% - married for 2--5 years
  - B. 25% - married for 6--10 years
  - C. 33% - married for 11-20 years
  - D. 9% - married for 26--40 years
7. Only two respondents were married to multiples.

## RELATIONSHIP TO CO-TWIN:

8. Seventy-five percent admitted to having special bond to his/her co-twin. Ninety-one percent of these felt that his/her spouse understood this bond.
9. Thirty-five percent of those who had other siblings felt a similar special bond with non-twin siblings.
10. Seventy-three percent of the respondents' co-twins were also married.
  - A. 85% felt his/her co-twin's spouse understood the special bond.
  - B. 10% felt his/her co-twin's marital status had an effect on his/her own marriage.
  - C. 67% felt closer to his/her own co-twin and the co-twin's spouse as his/her own marriage progressed.
11. No one admitted to feeling as if he/she had been replaced by a co-twin's spouse--except in the beginning of the marriage.

## MARRIAGE ISSUES:

12. In comparing the relationships of the multiples with their own spouses to the relationships of the multiples with their co-twins:
  - A. 92% felt he/she did not choose a spouse on the basis of the same dominance/submissive relationship he/she may have shared with his/her co-twin.
  - B. 92% did not expect his/her spouse to "replace" his/her co-twin.
  - C. 85% felt his/her spouse was secure enough to feel unthreatened by the closeness of the relationship between the co-twins.
  - D. 22% admitted to automatically expecting his/her spouse to know his/her thoughts and feelings as in the twin relationship.
  - E. 36% said he/she confided in his/her co-twin before confiding in his/her spouse on certain issues.

## JEALOUSY:

13. Ten percent of the respondents felt his/her spouse was jealous of his/her co-twin, while 10% felt his/her co-twin was jealous of his/her spouse.
14. If jealousy did occur, 7 out of 10 respondents recognized it prior to marriage or within the first 6 months of the marriage.
  - A. Spouses recognized jealousy 50% of the time.
  - B. Multiples recognized jealousy 71% of the time (usually within the first 6 months of marriage).
  - C. Seventy-five percent of the respondents felt jealousy was first created by shared past experiences with the co-twin and by the fact that the co-twins confided in each other.
  - D. Eighty-three percent of those who felt jealousy said it caused no problem or only a minor problem in his/her marriage.
  - E. Only one respondent reported seeking counseling to help deal with feelings of jealousy.
15. Did the relationship with the co-twin change after marriage?
  - A. 44%--Yes. 64% of these felt the relationship changed within the first 6 months of marriage.
  - B. 48% felt closer to his/her co-twin after marriage.
  - C. 81% felt that the changed relationship with his/her co-twin (whether closer or more distant) was good for both twins.

- 16. Did the spouses notice a difference in the relationship of the co-twins?
  - A. 61% said the subject was never mentioned.
  - B. 18% said the change was noticed.
  - C. All respondents reported their spouses were happy about the changes in the relationship.
    - (1) 80% felt the change was good for both co-twins.
    - (2) 20% felt the change was good ONLY for his/her spouse.
  
- 17. What caused the change in relationships between the co-twins?
  - A. 85% felt lack of time spent with co-twin was responsible for the change.
  - B. 43% felt there was more communication with his/her co-twin AFTER marriage.
  
- 18. How did the co-twins' spouses get along with each other?
  - A. 88% felt his/her own spouse and his/her co-twin's spouse had a good relationship with each other.
  - B. 84% felt children did not have an effect on his/her spouse's relationship with his/her co-twin.

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**CONCLUSION:**

The responses show that the overwhelming majority of multiples who marry continue to have good relationships with their co-twins.

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