

*National
Organization of
Mothers
Of
Twins
Clubs, Inc.*

SUBJECT:

FATHER'S SURVEY

RESEARCHER:

National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs, Inc.

DATE:

1991 - 1992

PURPOSE: This was a "FUN" survey to see how fathers perceived their helpfulness during the early years of their multiples' lives.

METHOD: This survey was completed by all fathers and mothers of multiples who were married during the early years of their multiples lives. The sample size was 1,142 responses.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. 50% moms and 50% dads filled out the survey.
2. Over 60% of the parents were between the ages of 26 and 40.
3. 97% were under 40 when their multiples were born.
4. 50% of the multiples were fraternal boys or boy/girl twins.
5. 85% of the multiples were less than 7 years old.
6. 50% of the multiples were their father's first-borns.
7. 17% of the fathers have had more children since the multiples were born.
8. 24% of fathers had jobs with flexible hours so that they could help with child care.
9. A. Fathers spent 50% or more of their time at home doing "BABY CARE" with their singletons.
B. Fathers spent 64% of their time at home doing "BABY CARE" with their multiples.

HOW DID FATHER HELP (with baby care):

10. A. 89% gave bottles
B. 66% fed baby food
C. 17% only helped feed multiples when mom wasn't home
11. 62% got up at night
12. A. 74% helped bathe
B. 14% bathed multiples only if mom was gone
13. A. 92% helped change diapers
B. 6% only changed "wet" ones
C. 12% changed diapers when mom was gone
14. 50% of fathers rarely or never took multiples out in public by themselves.
15. 50% of the dads did watch multiples at home by themselves.
16. Most dads helped with birthday parties and buying gifts.

HOW DID FATHER HELP (during illnesses):

17. 50% of dads occasionally stayed home to help care for ill multiples.
18. 50% of dads helped take multiples to the doctor.
19. Almost all helped give the children their medicine.

HOW DID FATHER HELP (with housework):

- 20. A. 22% share chores 50/50 with their wife D. 10% of wives do all the work
 B. 31% do specific chores E. 4% have hired help
 C. 30% do a few traditional chores
- 21. Specific chores dads do are the following:
 - A. 28%--daily meal preparation E. 25%--vacuuming/dusting
 - B. 19%--laundry F. 45%--pick up toys
 - C. 12%--bathrooms G. 46%--help with the dishes
 - D. 31%--grocery shopping

LIFESTYLE:

- 22. A. 54% said lifestyle changed for the better.
 B. 14% said lifestyle changed for the worse.
- 23. 50% said that having multiples had been a financial burden.
- 24. 16% had to changes jobs or take on extra work as a result of having multiples.
- 25. 42% would consider becoming a "househusband" if financially possible
- 26. A. 39% of wives worked when multiples were two or under.
 B. 16% did so purely to help with the finances.
- 27. 48% of the fathers with multiples under two said they hardly ever went out with the spouse without the kids.
- 28. A. 13% thought that having multiples had come between them and their spouse.
 B. 40% felt that they were closer because of multiples.

PERSONAL FEELINGS ABOUT BEING A FATHER OF MULTIPLES:

- 29. When multiples were two or younger, most dads felt: proud, tired, happy, stressed, busy and wonderful.
- 30. When multiples were two or younger, most dads said their wives were: tired all the time, a born "super mom," taking it all in stride, rising to the challenge, loving it, and occasionally complaining.
- 31. Fathers said they didn't know "how she does it" and that it was better being the father than the mother.
- 32. Do you want more multiples?
 - A. 70% couldn't even think about it B. 26% would enjoy raising another set
- 33. Biggest surprise about parenting multiples:
 - A. 46%--time required for care D. 11%--lack of sleep
 - B. 14%--attention multiples attract E. 7%--marital stress
 - C. 12%--personal stress F. 6%--financial stress

Many additional comments were written by members and fathers. These comments will appear in a future edition of MOTC's Notebook under the heading, "Survey Comments."
