

National
Organization of
Mothers
Of
Twins
Clubs, Inc.

SUBJECT: MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT SURVEY:
SINGLE PARENTS OF MULTIPLES

RESEARCHER: National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs, Inc.

DATE: 1992-93

PURPOSE: To gather data to assist all single parents of multiples.

METHOD: This survey was completed by single parents who are divorced, separated, widowed, never married and single adoptive parents.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. 72% single parents responded, of these 1% were male.
2. 28% were never married.
3. 87% had 2-3 children, with 6% having 2 sets of twins.
4. 57% of multiples were female.
5. 73% became parents of twins at 20-30 years of age.
6. 50% of respondents were married less than 6 years before becoming single parents and 60% had been single less than 6 years.
7. 55% of multiples were less than 3 years old when the parents separated.
8. After separation, 94% of the multiples lived with their mothers and only 1% of the moms had remarried.
9. 37% of the parents felt that pressures of having multiples contributed to the divorce/separation.

RESULTS:

1. Some of the major factors contributing to the divorce/separation were:
 - A. Financial burden
 - B. Mate found someone else
 - C. Mate never helped care for multiples
 - D. No time to care for the rest of the family
 - E. Too tired for household duties
 - F. Stress from medical problems associated with multiples
2. Problems experienced by the children after separation included:

A. Health problems (17%)	D. Substance abuse
B. School problems (10%)	E. Low self-esteem
C. Social life problems (8%)	F. Delayed development
3. Help needed by the Single MOM's included:

A. Medical community (22%)	D. Clergy (18%)
B. Psychiatrists/psychologists (15%)	E. Relatives (35%)
C. Counseling (36%)	F. No help (15%)
4. How relatives assisted single moms:

A. Financial (17%)	C. Emotional support (6%)
B. Child care (7%)	D. Spousal support (4%)

5. Other types of help from friends and MOTC's:
 - A. Marriage counseling
 - B. Legal support
 - C. Moral support
6. Children required help from:

A. Medical community (31%)	D. Clergy (1%)
B. psychiatrists/psychologists (3%)	E. Relatives (14%)
C. Counselors (15%)	F. Required no help (39%)
7. Some of the stressors involved in being a single parent are:

A. Financial problems (64%)	D. Returning to school (11%)
B. Loneliness (35%)	E. Kid's school work (13%)
C. Finding a job (14%)	F. Being a parent of multiples (34%)
8. Other stressors mentioned:
 - A. Finding decent and affordable child care
 - B. Spending "quality time" with kids
 - C. Social dating problems
 - D. Doing it all alone
9. Helpful books and literature:

A. Single parenting books	D. Twins Magazine
B. MOTC's Notebook	E. "Make Room for Twins"
C. Divorce/separation books	
F. Few books available dealing with being a single MOM	
10. Helpful NOMOTC services included:
 - A. Bibliography listing "Publications on Single Parenting"(14%)
 - B. Single parent column in Notebook (14%)
 - C. Single parent shreshop at convention (10%)
 - D. Resources for Single Parents of Multiples (10%)
 - E. Single Parent Sharing Program/Pen Pals (4%)
11. Help from local MOTC's:
 - A. 13% got support from local club
 - B. 46% felt their local club didn't help single parents due to:
 - they couldn't get out of house to go to meeting
 - they were the only single parent in club
 - child care unavailable
 - little understanding of stress of being a single parent from other members in club
12. Other helpful groups:
 - A. Church single parent groups
 - B. Divorced/separated support group
 - C. Bereavement support group
 - D. Single parenting classes
 - E. La Leche League
 - F. "Singles Alive"
 - G. "Women Who Love Too Much" support group
13. Helpful National Organizations:

A. Parents Without Partners	F. Jewish Family Services
B. PTA	G. YMCA/YWCA
C. United Way	H. Parents United
D. WIC	I. National Association of Divorced and Separated Catholics
E. Salvation Army	
