

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

SUBJECT: **MOTHERS OF ADOPTED MULTIPLES**

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

DATE: 1993

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this survey was to determine if the needs of adoptive mothers of multiples are being met and what role National might play in fulfilling them.

**METHOD:** The survey was to be filled out by mother with adopted multiples. It was distributed to the membership in March, 1993. 31 responses were received.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

1. Twintype of the participants included:
 

A. 32% had fraternal girls	B. 23% had fraternal boys
C. 16% had identical girls	D. 13% had identical boys
E. 10% had boy/girl twins	F. 6% had unknown boys
G. none had triplets, quads, or quints	
  
2. Ages of the multiples currently:
 

A. 55% - 1 to 4 years	B. 23% - 5 to 9 years
C. 10% - < 1 year	D. 6% - over 20
E. 6% - 10 to 20 years	
  
3. The number of biological children were:
 

A. 16% had one	B. 16% had two
C. 3% had four	D. 3% were expecting
  
4. 23% adopted multiples after they had biological children  
 16% adopted multiples before they had biological children  
 58% had not other children besides the adopted multiples

**ADOPTION PROCESS:**

1. Reasons for adopting:
 

A. 84% for infertility
B. 0% for social responsibility
C. 16% for private reasons

2. The multiples were adopted through:
  - A. Public Agency - 26%
  - B. Private Agency - 26%
  - C. International Agency - 2%
  - D. Private Adoption - 32%
  - E. Other - 10%

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3. In 10% of cases the adoption of only one of the multiples was give as an option.

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4. Reasons for proceeding with the adoption when it was multiples rather than expected singleton:
  - A. 52% would have accepted any child(ren)
  - B. 19% always wanted multiples
  - C. 3% felt pressured for fear of a longer wait for another child
  - D. 26% had other reasons

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5. Age of multiples when received for adoption:
  - A. 87% were under one year old
  - B. 10% were 1-3 years old

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6. Length of time between adoption applications and receiving children in home:
 

A. 26% - 6 months or less	B. 16% - 6-12 months
C. 16% - 12-18 months	D. 6% 18 mo - 2 years
E. 16% - 2-3 years	F. 10% more than 4 yrs

#### HEALTH AND SOCIAL ISSUES:

1. 77% had health information and social background of the biological parents made available to them upon adoption.
2. 13% have had one of the adopted multiples experience a genetically predisposed health problem.
3. 50% of those experiencing a genetic health problem were informed about this possibility before the adoption.
4. In those with behavior/social problems in the multiples, 33% admitted to "sometimes" finding themselves blaming the biologic parent/background. However, 67% of participants perceived no behavior/social problems in their adoptive children.

#### TALKING ABOUT ADOPTION WITH YOUR MULTIPLES:

1. 56% of multiples are aware they are adopted, 32% were still too young to be told.
2. Of those multiples knowing about the adoption, 70% were informed when under 2 years old and the 30% were 3-5 years old.
3. Are there times when the adopted multiples express feelings that biologic parent would understand more than adopted parent?
  - A. 29% said no
  - B. 3% said rarely
  - C. 65% had multiples too young to express themselves
4. 81% would assist their multiples in finding the biologic parent if the multiples expressed a desire to locate them.

COPING

1. Expectations of singleton adoption in comparison to reality of multiple adoption:
  - A. 62% coped well from the start
  - B. 26% initially overwhelmed, but now coping
  - C. 3% were disappointed and thought they would cope better
2. 94% of friends and family were encouraging and supportive when hearing of the adoption of multiples.
3. 97% felt acceptance by most or all of their extended family of the adopted multiples.
4. 90% of those with biological children felt the same acceptance of the adopted multiples as their biologic children by the extended family.
5. Do the biologic children feel the adopted multiples get "special treatment"?
  - A. 64% said no
  - B. 18% said sometimes
  - C. 18% too young to tell
6. 19% of the multiples share a different ethnic background from their adoptive parents.
7. Was counseling regarding the adoption given?
  - A. Yes, it was helpful - 55%
  - B. Yes, but not much help - 16%
  - C. No, not offered - 19%
  - D. No, chose not to participate - 10%
8. Regarding counseling for the multiples about adoption, 58% felt it was not necessary.
9. In retrospect, 45% of those not receiving counseling felt it might have been helpful.
10. Only 8% of multiples who were old enough had experienced teasing or taunting by other children regarding the adoption.
11. 88% would choose to adopt multiples again if age and finances were not deciding factors.

SUPPORT GROUPS:

1. 100% of participants were interested in corresponding or contacting other mothers of adopted multiples.
2. 100% felt there was a place for adoptive mothers in their local MOTC and in NOMOTC.
3. 95% of those attending a National convention would attend a workshop on the topic of adopted multiples.

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CONCLUSION:

1. Most families had positive experiences with regard to adoption and in particular, adopting multiples.
2. The adopted children seemed to be well accepted into the family and have few problems with acceptance by peers.
3. More counseling at the time of the adoption should be offered to families.
4. Most families were supportive of the concept of "open" adoptions and helping to find a birth parent, if that were the child's wishes.
5. All participants had a need to network with other adoptive families of multiples.

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SUPPORT GROUPS:

1. 100% of participants were interested in corresponding or contacting other mothers of adopted multiples.
2. 100% felt there was a place for adoptive mothers in their local MOTC and in NOMOTC.
3. 92% of those attending a National convention would attend a workshop on the topic of adopted multiples.