

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

SUBJECT:

FAMILY HISTORY OF MULTIPLES

RESEARCHER:

National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs, Inc.

DATE:

1992

PURPOSE: The purpose of this survey is to answer the question that mothers of multiples are constantly being asked: "Do multiples run in your family?"

METHOD: The survey was to be filled out by any biological mother or father of multiples. It was distributed to the membership in March, 1992. 522 responses were received.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. Twintype of participants included:

A. 28% had boy/girl twins	B. 26% had identical boys
C. 18% had fraternal boys	D. 15% had identical girls
E. 4% had fraternal girls	F. 7% were unknown
G. 2% had triplets	
H. less than 1% had quads/quints	
2. 3% had more than one set of multiples, 97% did not.
3. The biological mother was a multiple herself in 3%.
4. The biological father was a multiple in 3%.

MOTHER'S SIDE OF THE FAMILY

1. 70% stated there were multiples on the mother's side of the family, 6% didn't know.
2. 7% of the mothers had a sibling who was a multiple.
3. 93% of the mothers had a sibling who had a set of multiples. The number of sets were:

A. 46% had one set	B. 4% had two sets
C. 2% had three sets	D. 2% had four sets
E. 2% had more than seven sets	
4. 8% had a parent who was a multiple.
5. 89% had other relatives (grandparents, aunts, uncles, or cousins in any generation) that are multiples. The total number of sets were:

A. 34% had one set	B. 29% had two sets
C. 17% had three sets	D. 10% had four sets
E. 4% had five sets	F. 2% had six sets
G. 1% had seven sets	H. 2% had more than seven sets

FATHER'S SIDE OF THE FAMILY

1. 54% had multiples on the father's side of the family, 9% didn't know.
2. 13% of the fathers had a sibling who was a multiple.

RESEARCH REPORT #41

- 3. 6% of the fathers had a sibling who had a set of multiples. The number of sets were:
 - A. 54% had one set
 - B. 31% had two sets
 - C. 13% had three sets
 - D. 3% had four sets
 - E. None had more than four sets
- 4. 8% of the fathers had a parent who was a multiple.
- 5. 76% of the fathers had a relative (grandparent, aunt, uncle, or cousin in any generation) who was a multiple. The total number of sets were:
 - A. 51% had one set
 - B. 27% had two sets
 - C. 13% had three sets
 - D. 5% had four sets
 - E. 1% had five sets
 - F. 1% had six sets
 - G. 1% had seven sets
 - H. <1% had more than seven sets

GRANDCHILDREN

- 1. 8% of the participants have grandchildren.
- 2. 8 of the respondents (10%) had grandchildren who were multiples. Of these, all of them had only one set of multiple grandchildren.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. The mother's side had a significant number (70%) of multiples on their side, which would be expected based on what we know about twinning. This would presumably be due to fraternal, as it is generally believed in the scientific community that identicals are "chance" and do not run in the family. This study did not address identicals as compared with fraternal, however.
- 2. The father's side had 54% with multiples on their side, close to a "50/50" chance.
- 3. There was a surprisingly large number of mothers of multiples who had a sibling with a set of multiples, compared to the fathers.
- 4. There were a larger number of mothers who had multiples somewhere in the family tree as compared to the fathers, though this difference was not as great.

FATHER'S SIDE OF THE FAMILY

- 1. 54% had multiples on the father's side of the family. I didn't know.
- 2. 13% of the fathers had a sibling who was a multiple.