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| National Organization of Mothers Of Twins Clubs, Inc. | SUBJECT: RESEARCHER: DATE: | Multiples and Clothing Issues National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs, Inc. July 2003 - January 2004 |
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PURPOSE: The purpose of this survey was to obtain information regarding clothing issues and multiple birth children.

METHOD: A survey consisting of 18 questions was printed in the July/August 2003 **NOMOTC's Notebook** and distributed in a National Mailing. The survey was to be completed by a parent of multiple birth children.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Five hundred and ninety-seven surveys were tabulated with 94% (561) of multiple type for twins and 6% (33) for triplets. One survey was submitted for quadruplets, and one for quintuplets.
2. The zygosity breakdown was as follows: 27% (159) were identical or monozygotic (MZ) multiples, 65% (387) were fraternal or dizygotic (DZ) multiples, and 7% (43) unknown. 8 respondents (1%) reported "Both" regarding zygosity. All sets of triplets were a combination of MZ and DZ multiples, with 3 BBB triplet sets, 2 GGG triplet sets, 2 GGB triplet sets, and 1 BBG set
3. Thirty-nine percent of multiple sets were boys, 34% were girls, and 27% were boy/girl combinations. Of the 24 higher order multiple sets, 17 were BBG, 4 were GGB, 1 was BBG, 1 was GGGB, and 1 was BBBGG. Twelve of the respondents who specified HOM did not specify sex of HOM.
4. Ages of multiples ranged from 1 month to 47 years 5 months. 2% of multiples were 1-6 months old, 7% were 6-12 months, 63% were 1-5 years old, 11% were 5-7 years, 7% were 7-10 years, 3% were 10-13 years, 3% were 13-18 years, 1% were 18-25 years, and 3% were 25-47 years old.
5. While 47% of the multiples did not have other siblings, 53% did. Of the multiples who had siblings, 72% had older siblings; 19% younger siblings, and 9% had both older and younger siblings.

RESULTS

1. Thirty-seven percent of the parents reported dressing their multiples in identical clothing "sometimes", followed by 26% "rarely" doing so, 18% "usually" doing so, 12% "never" doing so, and only 7% "always" using identical clothing.
2. Similar responses were received when parents were asked if they dressed their multiples in coordinating clothing. Thirty-nine percent of parents reported using such clothing "sometimes" with the second highest frequency of "usually" at 37%. Fourteen percent of parents "rarely" used coordinating clothing, 9% "always" did, and 2% "never" did.
3. The majority of parents did not dress their multiples in a way to tell them apart with 60% reporting "never" doing so and 14% "rarely" doing so. Thirteen percent of parents "sometimes" dressed multiples to tell them apart, 10% "usually" did, and only 4% "always" did.
4. When asked if parents dressed their multiples in specific clothing colors (i.e. Dylan wears blue and Ryan wears red), over half of the parents (51%) reported "never" doing so. Twenty-one percent of parents "sometimes" used specific colors, while 14% "usually" did, 10% "rarely" did, and 3% "always" did.
5. Most parents (87%) denied being asked by a teacher, babysitter or daycare provider not to dress their multiples alike. Thirteen percent of the parents reported that they had been asked to do so.
6. Fifty-three percent of multiples had siblings and 47% did not. Of those multiples with siblings, 72% had older siblings, 19% had younger siblings, and 9% had both.
7. No parents reported "always" coordinating sibling clothing with that of their multiples. The highest frequency of 35% reported "never" coordinating sibling clothing, while 30% did so on "special occasions", 18% "rarely" did so, and 17% "sometimes" did so. When asked why parents coordinated clothing between

- all siblings, 55% reported doing so on “special occasions”, 21% wanted to “color coordinate the family”, 12% wanted to “include the siblings in the multiple bond”, and 12% reported “other reasons”.
8. Thirty-two percent of parents reported that their multiples “sometimes” made their own decisions about what clothing to wear. Twenty-five percent of multiples chose their own clothing “usually”, 23% “never” did so, 13% “rarely” did so, and 7% “always” did so. When left to their own clothing decisions 36% of multiples “sometimes” chose the same clothing as their multiples, 23% “rarely” did, 20% “never” did, 17% “usually” did, and only 4% “always” did so.
 9. Of those multiples making their own clothing decisions, 69% started at 2-5 years of age, 16% were under 2 years old, 10% were 6-9 years old, 2% were under 9 years old, and 3% of parents reported not remembering at what age they started.
 10. When asked if multiples were given clothing by family and friends, and what type of outfits they received, the majority of parents (38%) reported receiving a combination of matching outfits, coordinating outfits, and different outfits. Thirty-four percent of parents reported receiving matching outfits, 22% received coordinating outfits, and 6% received different outfits.
 11. Forty percent of parents reported that they were never consulted as to the type of outfits preferred from family and friends (i.e. matching outfits, coordinating, or different). Twenty-seven percent of parents rarely were consulted, 24% were sometimes consulted, while 8% were usually consulted, and 1% were always consulted.

CONCLUSION

Parents having twins represented the majority of the respondents for this survey at 94%. Over half (65%) of the multiples were dizygotic with 24 higher order multiple sets consisting of various boy/girl combinations. Although the ages of multiples ranged from 1 month to 47 years, the largest group represented was the 1-5 year old age bracket at 63%. Just over half of the multiples (53%) had siblings, most of which (72%) were older.

Most parents did not always dress their multiples in identical clothing. The highest frequency of using such attire was sometimes at 37%. Although the frequency for always using coordinating clothing was slightly higher than identical clothing, again the highest frequency of coordinating multiple clothing was sometimes at 39%. Almost two-thirds of the parents denied dressing their multiples in clothing in order to tell them apart. Over half of the parents also denied dressing their multiples in specific clothing colors (i.e. Ryan in red, Dylan in blue). Most parents had never been asked by a third party (i.e. teacher, babysitter, daycare provider) not to dress their multiples alike.

Almost two-thirds of the parents either never (35%) coordinated sibling clothing with that of their multiples, or did so on special occasions (30%). The reasoning for coordinating sibling clothing with that of their multiples was primarily for special occasions, followed by wanting to color coordinate the family.

Of the 32% of multiples who made their own clothing decisions, about one third (36%) of them sometimes chose the same clothing as their multiples, while almost one-half of them either rarely or never chose such attire. Most of the multiples making their own clothing decisions began doing so at 2-5 years of age (69%).

When given clothing by family and friends, 38% of parents reported receiving a combination of matching outfits, coordinating outfits, and different outfits. Receiving matching outfits only was the next highest incidence of occurrence at 34%. Most parents were never consulted as to the type of outfits preferred from family and friends (i.e. matching outfits, coordinating, or different).