

Twins Family & Behaviour Study

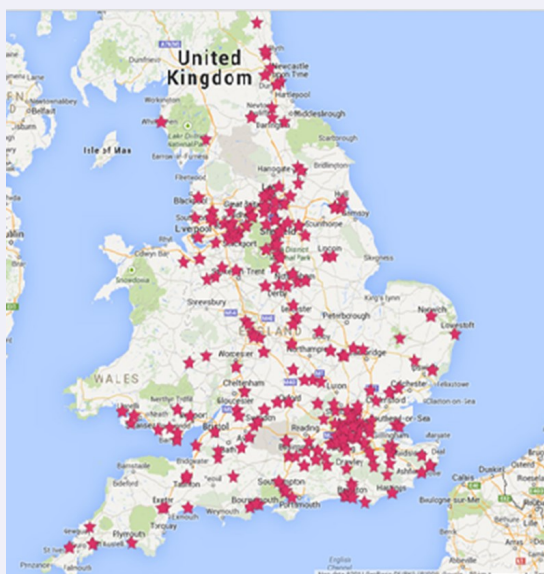
Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter for parents. This is our chance to tell you more about the progress of the research which you are making possible.



A brief update ...

Since our first newsletter last November we have been busy receiving more of your completed questionnaires and talking to many of you over the phone to learn more about you and your family. Thank you so much for your participation!

We're delighted with the response we've had, and as you can see we have families taking part from all over the UK. We know there are a few of you who are a bit further afield too!



What's happening now?

The next stage of our research is currently underway! For this part of the study, we're asking parents to play a ten-minute online game with each of their twins, while we record via Skype. This is a fun task for you to enjoy with the children. We're thrilled to be able to have the children involved and to put names to faces!

"The Skype call was a source of much happiness. When we talked about it afterwards, we realised how fun it was!" Mum from Kent.



We are in the process of arranging these video calls with everyone, but thank you to those of you who have been in touch and taken part already. After your family have had a go at the game, we'll send each of the twins a 'You're a star!' certificate to say thank you so much and well done for being a valued member of TFaB!



Proudly showing off their certificates!

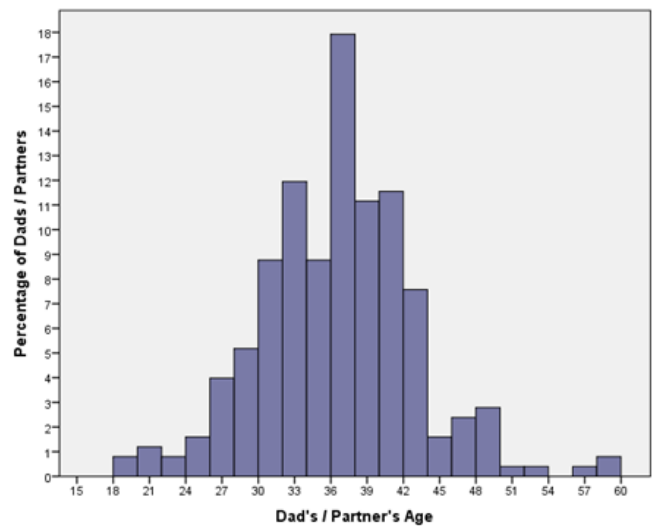
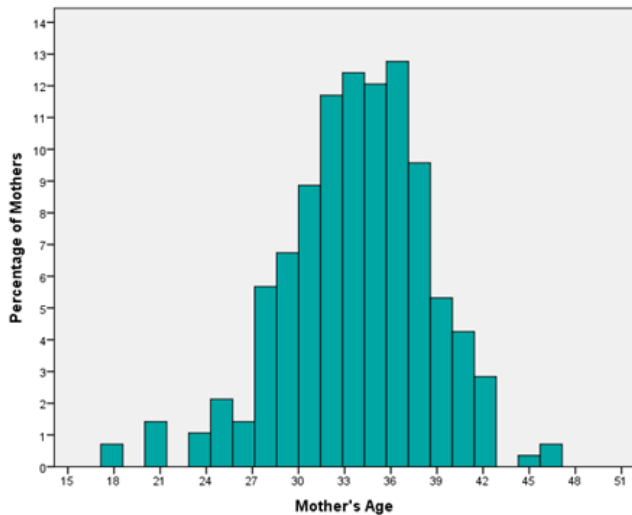
What next?

We are hoping to complete the Skype games in the New Year – if you haven't yet taken part and would like to, please do get in touch with us! Soon after this you will have another opportunity to take part in our study as we will be sending a questionnaire to you.

Taking a Peek ...

We know many of you are as excited as we are to hear about findings from the TFaB study. The questionnaires and telephone interviews have provided us with a lot of information so you are keeping us nicely busy! We have peeked at some of the information you have given us so far.

You may already know that the chance of having twins increases with mothers' age, the graph below shows the age of TFaB mothers and fathers when they had their twins. Where do you fit on the graph?



Results ...

One of our most exciting findings so far has come from looking at the differences and similarities between twin siblings and non-twin brothers and sisters. If you took part in the telephone interview earlier in the year, you kindly told us about how your twins get along together. You may remember that we asked you about things like affection, sharing, helping, quarrels and jealousy within your twins' relationship. The same questions were answered by parents of a non-twin sibling study (the Sisters and Brothers Study, see reference below for more information), so we have been able to compare this information.



After taking into account the age of the children involved, our results show that the relationship between brothers and sisters is very similar for both twin siblings and non-twin siblings. In other words, your descriptions of how your twins get on together were no different from the reports from parents of more typical brothers and sisters.

This finding is interesting, and also a bit surprising for us! It's a commonly held view that twins have a unique relationship, one that is in some way distinct from the bond between non-twin siblings. According to our results, this is not the case – all brothers and sisters, regardless of their twin or non-twin status, seem to share similar levels of positivity and negativity within their sibling relationship.

We are only at the beginning stages of analysing the information we've gathered over the past year and a half or so, but we are hoping that the above finding, as well as others we come across throughout the course of the study, will eventually be published in a scientific journal. This process takes time, but if you would like to be informed of any TFaB-related publications please let us know and we'll add you to our mailing list.

Reference.

Pike, A., Coldwell, J & Dunn, J. (2006). *Family relationships in middle childhood*. London, England: National Children's Bureau for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

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