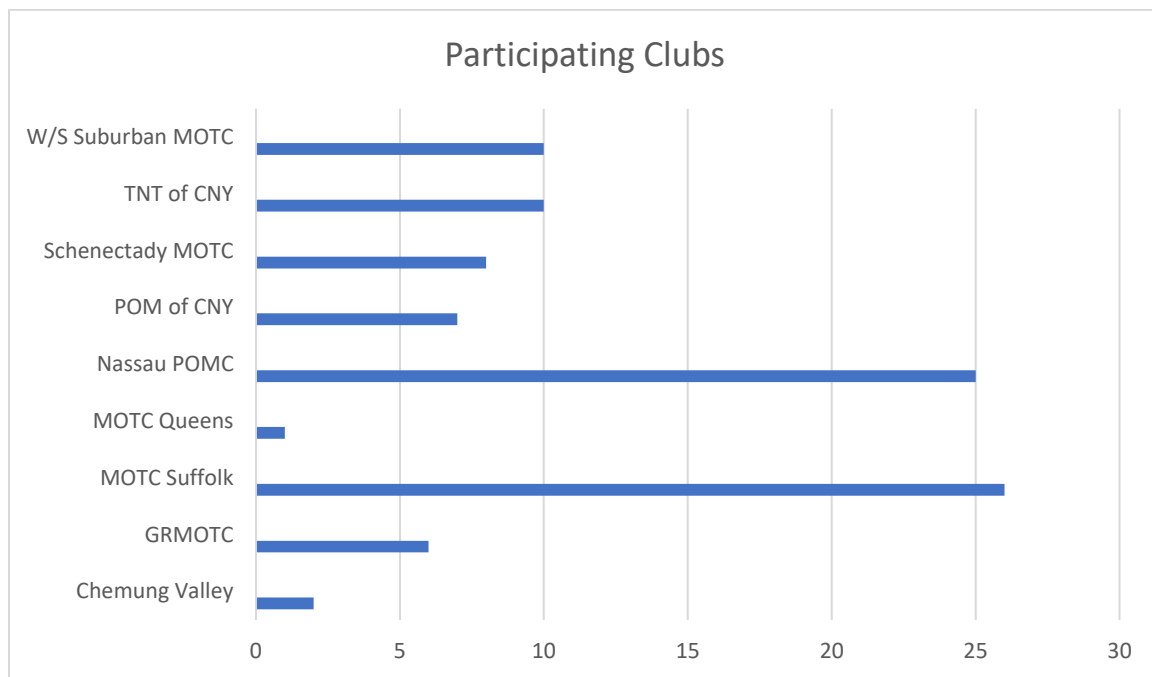


## Results of the 2019 Research Survey on the Naming of Multiples

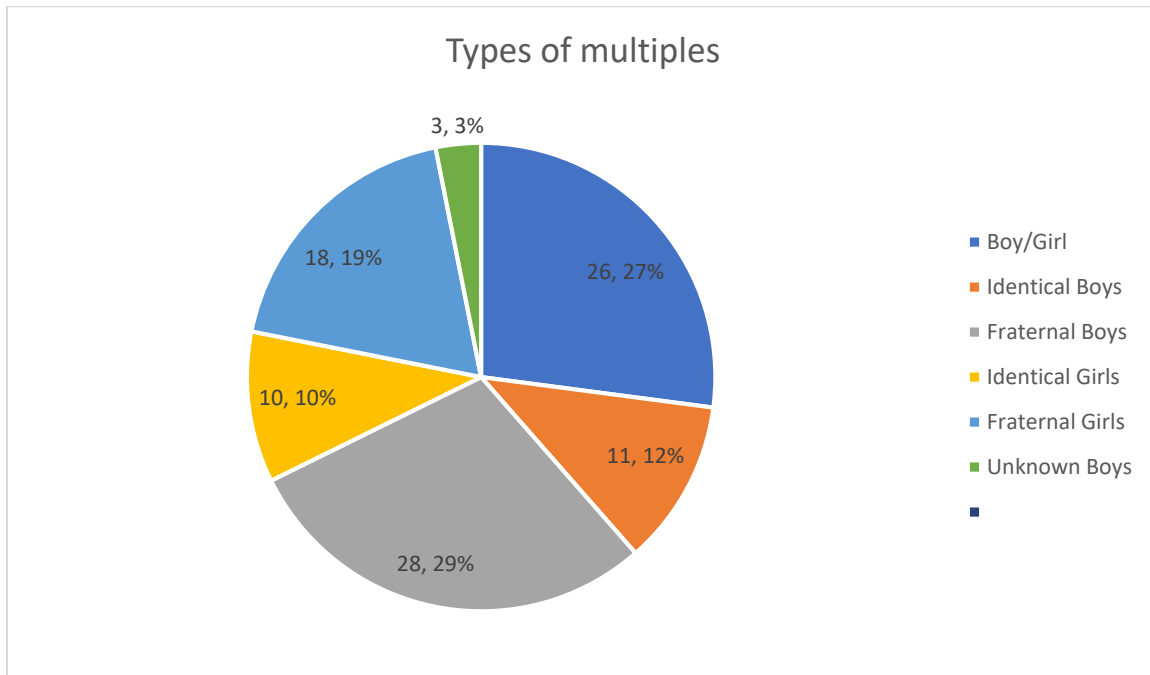
A survey regarding how parents named their multiples was sent out to the State Reps. of the New York State Mothers of Twins Club via an email attachment and google forms as well as appearing in the Presidential Papers. A total of 95 complete surveys were received on 96 pairs of twins. Forty-four surveys were received via google forms and 51 by paper. The breakdown by club is as follows:



Chemung Valley MOTC	2
GRMOTC	6
MOTC Suffolk	26
MOTC Queens	1
Nassau POMC	25
POM of CNY	7
Schenectady MOTC	8
TNT of CNY	10
W/S Suburban MOTC	10

Updated 5/7/19

The breakdown of the types of multiples of the respondents are as follows:



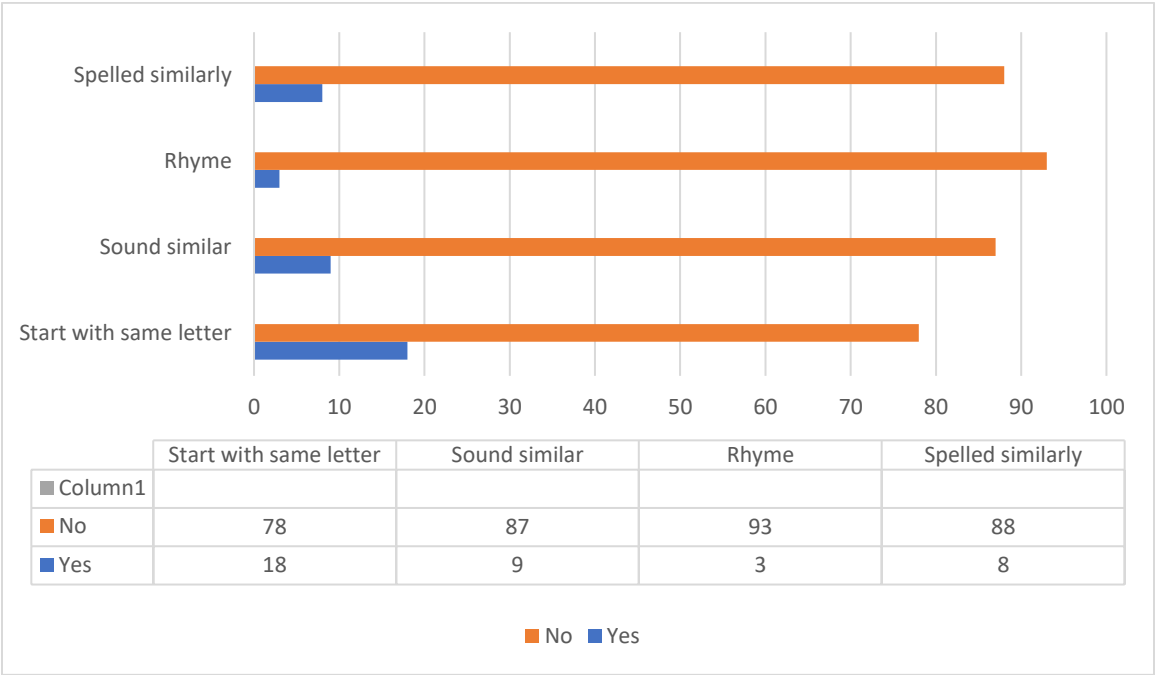
The respondents were asked to respond Yes or No to the following questions:

Did you pick names that start with the same letter?

Did you pick names that sound similar to each other?

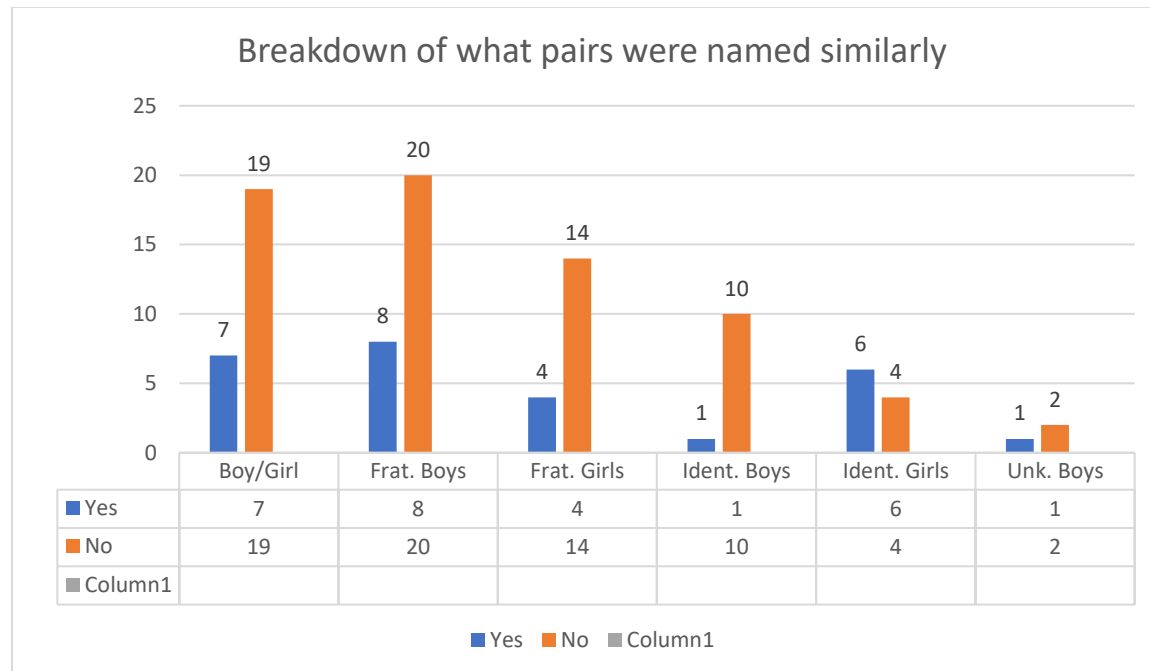
Did you pick names that rhyme with each other?

Did you pick names that are spelled similarly?



Eighteen (18.8%) responses indicated that the twins were given names that start with the same letter. The other types of similar names were far less common.

I then broke down the multiples by type to see if that made any difference in the results. I found that 6 out of 10 (60%) identical girl pairs were named similarly by at least one of the above criteria. Boy/girl pairs were named in a similar way 27% of the time, fraternal boys (29%), fraternal girls (22%), and identical boys (9%).

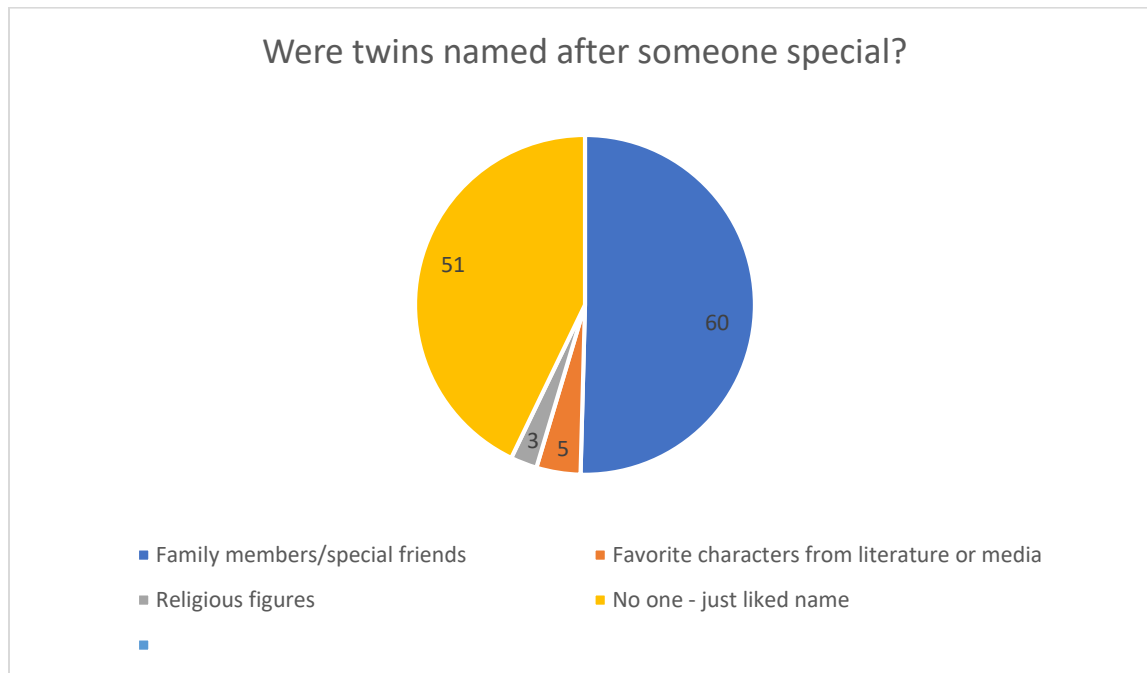


Sixty-seven responses for sixty-eight pairs of twins were all nos for the four preceding questions. They were asked, “If you answered no to questions 2-5, what were your reasons?”. They were told to check all that apply.



Six respondents wanted to avoid confusion (8.8%) Only one cited practical reasons like labeling with different initials. Promoting individuality was chosen by 26 respondents (38.2%) and no real reason was picked by 45 respondents (66.2%).

For the next question, respondents were asked if their multiples were named after someone special. They could check all that applied.



The most popular choice was family members or special friends at 60 (62.5%). Respondents who picked no one – just liked the name totaled 51 (53%). These answers could have been about one or both multiples.

Respondents were then asked if they had chosen names before birth. Those who answered yes had picked out at least one name. Seventy-nine (82.3%) responses were yes and 17 (17.7%) were no.

When asked if birth order influenced which multiple received which name, 57 (59.4%) said no and 39 (40.6%) said yes. When asked how birth order influenced the names, 33 responses were received. Fifteen (45.5%) said the oldest received the father's or a family name and 18 (54.6%) gave other reasons. Nine responses said that the first born received the first name chosen or agreed on. Other responses were the 2<sup>nd</sup> born was named Benjamin because he was the younger son in the Bible, 1<sup>st</sup> boy named after grandpa, oldest received grandfather's middle name, Baby A was thought of as Grayson and she was born 1<sup>st</sup>, wanted to name oldest after recently passed grandmother, but switched after they saw the babies, named them Luke and Ben because they sounded better in that order, started to call Baby A, Ace and Baby B, Bubba, and when names were picked one sounded similar to Ace, so baby A got that name, named by how they flowed, and named alphabetically.

Parents with more than one male multiple were asked if they named one after the father as a Jr., II, or III? Forty-eight responses were received. Forty-five said no and a mere 3 (6.25%) said yes. All 3 who said they named a son after the father as a Jr., II, or III said they gave the name to the first born.

Conclusions: It doesn't seem to be as common as I thought it was to name multiples similarly in some way. The only choice with any frequency was starting both names with the same letter at 18.8%. The other three choices (sounding similar, rhyming, and spelling similarly) were all under 10%. When it came to any differences according to type of multiples, identical girls had the highest frequency of similar names at 60% (6 of 10) in our sample. Most of the respondents didn't have a real reason for not giving similar names to their multiples (66.2%). However, 38.2% cited wanting to promote individuality as a possible reason. 62.5% of the responses indicated that at least one of the multiples was named after a family member or special friend. However, a large number (53%) said they just picked names they liked. Over 80% chose at least one name before birth. Birth order was not a big influencer of which baby received which name. Slightly over 40% said that birth order influenced the naming process. In most cases, the oldest received the father's or a family name or the oldest received the first name picked.