

ICPSR 2760

**National Survey of Midlife  
Development in the United States  
(MIDUS), 1995-1996**

Twin Screening Questionnaire

Inter-university Consortium for  
Political and Social Research  
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# **National Survey of Midlife Development in the United States (MIDUS), 1995-1996**

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JOHN D. AND CATHERINE T. MacARTHUR FOUNDATION

**TWIN SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE**

i TWIN SCREENING PROJECT

I

~ DECEMBER, 1994 -- MAY, 1995

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PRIM ID# CASE ID# IWER # IW DATE

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I I I '

1

TIME START: I 1

i M~P;~ mIH ~ GBE~N~NG Q~ST\*ONNAIRE

1

P1. The first thing I need to ask you is what is your full legal I name as it appears on official documents such as your voterls ! registration, Social Security Card, or driverls license?

(IWER: RECORD ON INFO SHEET)

Q1. As I mentioned earlier, the questions 1/11 be asking you (tonight/today) are about your being a twin.

FIELD CODE: (IWER: MARK ONE)

(IF *NECI* Are you and your twin of the same-sex or of opposite sex?) *f*  
[

, 11. ~::~=E-SEXI 12. OPPOSITE SEx1

Q2. Who was born firstl you or your twin?

11 . RESp6~~~;'~ ~~~:~~~] - 18 . DON I T KNOW I

I



Q3. Do you know what your exact birth weight was?

8 1- LBS o, ~OZ. ] , .

I GO TO NEXT PAGE, Q4  
'Y . ...  
J

Q3a. Do you remember **about** what it was within a pound or two?  
(IWER: ACCEPT RANGE OF ONLY 2 LBS., e.g., "3-4" OR "6-7".  
LARGER RANGE IS A "DK".)

[=:f::~~;J~o RMAL LOW H I G H  
LBS. (IF VOL.) (IF VOL.) (IF VOL.)

I I  
'Y  
GO TO NEXT  
@RECORD  
~PAGE, Q4 **IN Q3b**  
'Y 'Y

Q3b. Do you remember if it was very low, somewhat low, normal, very high, or somewhat high, or very high? (LOW/HIGH)?

[1. VERY 112 . SOMEWHAT 113. NO 14. SOMEWHAT 115. VE;~ -I ~~-~  
I LOW II LOW ,loJ' J.~VJ:U'l.rO..1..J II HIGH II HIGH II o. "-'I.~J

--

~  
';1') ]~1"~

;;  
,:;1  
'\ .  
3

'4  
! Q4. Do you know what your twin's exact birth weight was?

c:rI - -- I r~~~~~  
DK I - . LB~. ~OZ..I l~~~~ ~J  
~ ~  
GO TO Q5 -. -. . . GO TO Q5  
J ~

Q4a. Do you remember about what it was within a pound or two? (IWER: ACCEPT RANGE OF ONLY 2 LBS.,  
e.g., "3-4" OR "6-7".  
LARGER RANGE I SA" DKli .)

t  
[~:~:~:~:~:~:~:~:~:,; NORMAL LOW HIGH  
 .LBS. (IF VOL.) (IF VOL.) (IF VOL.)

GO TO Q5  
@ECO~IN Q4b  
, ! ~ ~

Q4b. Do you remember if it was very Would you say that it was  
l low, somewhat low, normal, very (LOW/HIGH) or somewhat  
; somewhat high, or very high? (LOW/HIGH)?

~. VERY[~::~J. SOMEWHAT I 3. NORMAL I  
E~::~J. SOMEWHAT~. VERY r;~---~ LOW LOW I ~. ~'V~::~. I HIGH HIGH I u. ~::~I  
,~

Q5. When you were children, how often did you and your twin have the  
same playmates -- always, most of the t-i:me, sometimes, or never? I [~::~~~~~ 12 . MO~T OF THE TIME!  
~ 3. SOMETI!::: ~::J E~~~~

!  
l .  
Q6. How often were you in the same classrooms at school -- always, most of the time, sometimes, or  
never?

! [~::~~~~~~J I~ .MOST OF THE TIM!J [ . S~METIMESJ ~::~~~~~  
r





4 ~~~;fCi;j~;

Q7.How often did you dress alike -- always, most of the time, sometimes, or never?

[~~~~~ r2. MOST OF THE TIME I 13. SOMETIMES I ~~~~~] .;. .

Q8. Did you ever share the same bedroom with your-twin during the time you were growing up?

~ ~~~~~ GO TO Q10 :~;

~ "c."

Q9. For how many years did the two of you have the same bedroom? ,;  
, YRS.

Q10. When you were children and just the two of you were doing things together, which one of you was more likely to be the leader and which one the follower?

11. R WAS LEADER 112 :ABO~ EQUAL 113. CO-TWIN WAS LEADER I S

~ ~

GO TO Q12,GO TO Q12  
I:,,~:i: 'O~6iiif;t I ,~~%~  
~::~!\:1" "f~7t  
;~::~!\:1" "f~7t

Q11. (Were you/Was your twin) always the leader or just most of the ~  
iff4t r1, , WJ:"" J.me. iff""  
SJ'?"{"

~~~~~ L2.MOST OF THE TIME I """,

Q12. INTERVIEWER CHECKPOINT

SEE P. 1, Q1 -- 1. SAME-SEX TWIN PAIR

D 2. ALL OTHERS ... GO TO P.10, Q40

~  
GO TO NEXT Q, Q13

. ,,-"".- ~lo.~, ". 'cO. c"1

i  
; .

5

Q13. Now I'm going to ask you a few questions about what you and your twin look like.

when you and your twin were children, did the two. of you look almost exactly alike or was there some difference in your appearance?

11.LOOK~D ALIKE] 12. SOME D~FFERENCE I . JOe' ~ ~

GO TO Q14 GO TO NEXT Q, Q13b

Q13b. What was that difference? I (IWER: RECORD VERBATIM)

I I:

r  
" (PROBE: Were there any other differences?)

Q14. Do you and your twin have the same eye color?

~ B

Q15. Do you and your twin have the same natural hair c.olor?

~=:~~ B

Q16. Do you and your twin have the same complexion - that is, the same skin tone, color and texture?

-

[~::~~~~ B

Q17. Do you and your twin have the same facial features - that is, the same shape of eyes, nose, mouth, and face in general?

I~~~~~ B

II ,



Q18. When you and your twin were children, would you say that you were generally the same height - that is, within an inch of each other - or was one of you generally taller than the other?

(IWER: IF NBC, "Who was taller?") ..'

,- {.SAME HEIGHT! 12.RESPONDENT TALLER I 13.C?;-:-!WIN TALLER I

Q19. Thinking again about when you were children, would you say that you generally weighed about the same - that is, within ten pounds of each other - or did one of you generally weigh more than the other?

(IWER: IF NEC, "Who was heavier?")

1 1. SAME WEIGH;l 12. RESPONDENT HEAVIER~ 13. CO-TWIN HEAVI;;\

Q20. When you were children, how often did your mother have difficulty telling you and your twin apart -- all of the time, most of the time, some of the time or never?

11. ALL OF 112. MOST OF 113. SOME OF 114. NEVER I Is. I NAP I I THE TIME I I THE TIME I I THE TIMEII~' L~, ", v, ", "-'II'-' "'L~...,.rcl

Q21. How often did your father have difficulty telling the two of you apart when you were children -- all of the time, most of the time, some of the time or never?

Ii. ALL OF 112. MOST OF 113. SOME OF \14. NEVER I Is. I NAP I I THE TIME II THE TIME 11- THE TIME II ~. L~, ", v '""'-'11'-' "'L~~rc I

Q22. When you were children, how often did other people that you lived with or close friends have difficulty telling you and your twin apart -- (all of the time, most of the time, some of the time, or never?)

r~~

E]~~r~~~~=~~~ "":\:"""'1"

1. ALL OF 2. MOST OF 3. SOME OF 4. NEVER , 'j~;"i THE TIME THE TIME THE TIME Ii}lJ~!;~~~'

.".,, ', ." " "" ".CC '"" .~' " ~"" .



Q23. How often did relatives that you didn't see as often, like distant aunts and uncles, have difficulty telling the two of you apart -- (all of the time, most of the time, some of the time, or never?) ,

I[~~~]Q. ALL OF r;: MOST 0-;- \ ~OMEb~ ~ NE~  
I THE TIME LTHE ~ LTHE T~ L J.~~ v ~::J  
"- )" - :

Q24. What about teachers? How often did teachers have trouble i telling you and your twin apart -- (all of the time, most of the ( time, some of the time, or never?)

r-;:-:-- ALL;---\ r;:-: MOST ;-;- \ ~OME~ r-;:: NE~  
l "::~~E ~ LTHE~ LTHE TI~ t..... J.~~v~J.~

Q25. How often did acquaintances have difficulty telling the two of you apart -- (all of the time, most of the time, some of the time, or never?)

r-;:-:--ALL ;-;- \ k MOST O~ r;:-:--SOME ~~~. N;~  
L THET~ L THE TI~ L THE T~I"=. J., ,~v~J.'-1  
" "  
!.  
".

Q26. When you and your twin were children, how often did your parents or the people who raised you do tKings like dress you differently or give you different haircuts to help people tell you apart -- (all of the time, most of the time, some of the time, or never?)

r-;:-:-- ALL~ r;:-:--MOST ~ ~ SOME -;-;- \ r;:-:--NE~-;l  
L THE~~ ~ L THE TI~ L :HE T~ L"=. J.~~ v ~J.~

Q27. Thinking now about your present appearance, how tall are you?

FT. IN.

Q28. How much do you presently weigh? \_ LBS.

{; ~  
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- "1'--- i I::::: 1

Q29. In your opinion, are you and your twin definitely identical, probably identical, Drobably fraternal, definitely fraternal, or are you not sure what kind of twins .you are? ,.

1. DEFINITELY 3. PROBABLY Is. PROBABLY I 7. DEFINITELY ~~~ IDENTICAL IDENTICAL r FRATERNAL I FRATERNAL 1.;1. '-''', I  
- -. !

There are several ways to tell the difference between being identical or fraternal twins. Which of the following are true for you...?

Q30. Were your parepts told the number of placentas, or afterbirths, when you and your twin were born?

~ ~ S~  
...  
GO TO Q32  
...

Q31. How many were there?

Q32. Did you and your twin ever have a blood test which told you what kind of twins you were?

~ , ~ ~  
...  
GO TO NEXT PAGE, Q34  
...

Q33. What were the result\$? (IWER: RECORD VERBATIM)

I  
7:.. , I,



9

I

Q34. Were you or your parents told by a doctor what kind of twins you were based on something else?

E;J I ~

~

GO TO Q36

~ J

Q35. What was that reason? (IWER: RECORD VERBATIM) ~

(PROBE: Did the doctor say anything else?)

Q36. INTERVIEWER CHECKPOINT , SEE Q30-35

!,

~ [] 1. IF ANY ~ TO Q30, Q32 OR Q34

.I ;' ~

GO TO NEXT 2. ALL OTHERS PAGE, Q40

j; ';

! ~

,: Q37. Do you just know what kind of twins you are based on how much  
i you look like each other?

G B

Q38. Is there any other reason why you feel that you and your twin  
are (identical/fraternal)? -

~ ~ , ~

~

GO TO NEXT PAGE, Q40

~

Q39. (What is that reason?) (IWER: RECORD VERBATIM)

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~ - -' :

'""', -., , ~, -""! ~ ~ . . . , "" . . ~ . . . "" . . . ""C~C, C.- , . '

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10 :

Q40. I'm now going to ask you a few questions about your relationship with your twin.

Are you currently living with your twin?

T. YES ~ ..,:"

GO TO .Q42  
- :1  
~

Q41. In your lifetime, how many total years have the two of you lived together?

YRS.

~

GO TO NEXT PAGE, Q46

Q42. In your lifetime, how many years did the two of you live together?

YRS.

Q43. How old were you when you last lived with your twin? YRS.

Q44. How frequently do you and your twin see each other? Would you say once a week or more, or less than that?

1.ONCE A WEEK 2.LESS THAN 17.NEVER (IF VOL.)'I  
OR MORE ONCE A WEEK I . ~ I .-- --- 'I

-. ~

GO TO NEXT PAGE, Q45, ~

GO TO NEXT Q, Q44b ~

Q44a. Would that be about once a week, several times a week, once a day, or several times a day?

E~~~~~l~~~~~ ~~~~~\$~~~~~  
~ ~

GO TO NEXT PAGE, Q45 GO TO NEXT PAGE, Q46

Q44b. Would that be about 2 or 3 times a month, once a month, less than once a month, or never or hardly ever?

11. 2 -3 X/MON;~-1 12. ONCE/MONTH I 3. LESS THAN

~. NEVER/ o.

1 .1.. ~ -.;0 AI J."J.'-'J.' "'..1 I ~ . VJ.'"'-~I "J.,-,. ' "'..1 ONCE/MONTH HARDLY

EVER

.- J. .

Q45. Not including visits, how frequently are you in contact with your twin -- including phone calls, letters, or electronic mail messages? Would you say once a week or more, or less than that?

1.ONCE A WEEK 2.LESS THAN 17.NEVER (IF VOL.) I OR MORE ONCE A WEEK I I .

...

GO TO Q46

...

~ GO TO Q45b

{;.-

1 Q45a. Would that be about once a week, several times a week, once a day, or several times a day?

2.SEVERAL X/WEEK 4.SEVERAL X/DAY

! . ...

!. GO TO Q46

' , ; Q45b. Would that be about 2 or 3 times a month, once a month, less than once a month, or never or hardly ever?

11. 2-3 X/MONT~I r;.ONCE/MONTHI 3.LESS THAN

~4.NEVER/ 1.1.: ~-.;o "'-I""J.'-'."..I 1~.vJ., "'-~/ "J.'-'."..j -GNCE/MONTH HARDLY

EVER

Q46. How much does your twin understand the way you feel about things? Would you say a lot, some, a little, or not at all?

~====] ~==== 1~. A L:tTT~ ~-. NOT AT AL~1

Q47. How much can you rely on (him/her) for help if you have a serious problem -- a lot, some, a little, or not at all?

[::~:~] ~~~~~] 13. A LITTLE I 14. NOT AT ALL I

Q48. How much does your twin really care about- you .].~.. (a lot, some, a little, or not at all?)

~::~:~ ~~~~~] 13. ~ LITTL-;I I ~. NO: AT ALL I

Q49. How much can you open up to your twin if you need to talk about your worries -- (a lot, some, a little, or not at all?)

[~::~:~ ~~~~~] 13. ALITTL~ 14. NOT AT ALL! Q50. How much does your twin criticize you -- (a lot, some, a little, or not at all?)

~::~:~:~. [~::~:~] 13. A LITT~I 14 . N?T AT ~-~J

Q51. How often does your twin make too many demands on you -- often, sometimes, rarely, or never?

~::~:~ ~~~~~] 12. SOME T I M E S I [~::~:~] ~::~:~]

Q52. How often does your twin let you down when you are counting on (him/her) -- often, sometimes, rarely,-pr never?

~::~:~] 12. SOMETIMES 1 [~::~:~ ~::~:~]

Q53. How often does your twin get on your nerves -- (often, sometimes, rarely, or never?)

~::~:~] 12. SOMETIMES I ~::~:~] ~::~:~]

Q54. When you have a personal or practical problem, how much of the time do you turn to your twin for advice or help? Would you say all of the time, most of the time, some of the time, a little of the time, or never or hardly ever?

~~~]g. ALL OFr~]~;~.. MOST OFr~~~. SOME OF 4. A LITTLE  
~. NEVER/ THE TIME THE TIME THE TIME OF THE HARDLY  
TIME EVER

Q55. When your twin has a personal or practical problem, how often does (he/she) turn to you for advice or help -- all of the time, most of the time, some of the time, a little of the time, or never or hardly ever?

11. ALL OF I  
E~~~~. SOME OF 4. A LITTLE  
~. NEVER/ THE TIME I THE TIME THE TIME OF THE HARDLY  
TIME EVER

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COLUMN I: COL~ II:

Before I go, I need to ask you a few more Now I need to find out ho~- questions for statistical purposes to many different households figure out the odds of locating you and these people live in. ' your twin. Please tell me which of the following people in your family live in the FOR EACH "YES" OR "ONE" OR continental u.s. and have a residential MORE:! phone -- that is, not including living in a nursing home, dormitory, or prison.

Q58.

Q56. (Do X and Y live together?) (What about...? Does he/she (Is this a separate fall into this category?) residence from those you've (Does (he/she) currently live mentioned already?) in the u.s. and have a residential phone number?) YES NO DK # NUMBER NEW HOUSEHOLDS

I;  
a: First, what about your . ' mother?

b. Your father?

.I

Q59.

Q57. (Do all X live in separate (What about...?) - homes. . .? Or... ) (Do they fall into this category?) (Do any of X live with ~~some~~ already've mentioned (.. .that is, they currently live already?) in the u.S. and have a phone number.) # DK # NUMBER NEW HOUSEHOLDS

a. How many of your children fall into this category? - .1

b. How many of your brothers' and sisters fall into this category?

Q60. Lastly, I need to know how many different residential phone numbers you have -- that would include multiple phone lines in your home and multiple residences for you or your spouse? (IF NEC, but not including beepers, car phones, or any other work numbers)

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15

That was the final question of the twin interview. I'd like to thank you again for your time and for participating in this important study. As I mentioned earlier, a different interviewer from DataStat will be calling you (after the holidays/next week/in the next few weeks) to ask you some questions about your health and lifestyle. Do you have any final questions?

.  
[IWER: IF NEC, Give 1-800-759-7947 (ISR) or 1-800-837-3737 "I  
(DataStat)] !  
~ I

Have a nice (day/evening).  
!

TIME END:

INTERVIEWERS DO NOT ENTER BELOW Q65. ISR Zygosity Diagnosis:

~~FINITE~ ~

~EFINITELYDZ - SAME SEX!

E~~EFINITELY DZ = OPPOSITE s;~1 -

LPROBABL Y~ E PROBABL ~~

I ~ . DOUBTFUL ZYGOSITY I