

Understanding Your Sibling DNA Test Results

A simple guide to the numbers you will see on your report

Prepared for informational purposes only
This guide explains the main numbers and what they typically mean.
It is not a substitute for professional genetic counseling.

1. The Two Key Numbers on Your Report

A. Combined Sibling DNA Index

(also called Sibling Index, Likelihood Ratio, or CPI in some reports)

This number shows how much more likely it is that the two people tested are related (as full or half siblings) compared to being unrelated.

Typical interpretation:

- **> 1.0** → The DNA evidence **supports** that they are siblings
- **10 or higher** → Strong support for siblings
- **50–100+** → Very strong support for siblings
- **< 0.1** → Strong evidence **against** being siblings
- **Around 1** → Inconclusive (data neither strongly supports nor rejects)

B. Probability Percentage

This is the final number most people look at first. It estimates the chance that the tested individuals are full siblings (or half siblings, depending on the test ordered).

Common ranges and meanings:

- **> 99%** → Almost certain they are full siblings
- **90% – 99%** → Very strong support for full siblings
- **10% – 90%** → Inconclusive – result does not clearly confirm or exclude
- **< 10%** → Very strong evidence they are **not** full siblings
- **< 1%** → Extremely strong evidence they are **not** full siblings

2. Quick Reference Table

Sibling Index	Approximate Probability	Most Likely Interpretation
Very high (50+)	> 99%	Almost certainly full siblings
High (10 – 50)	95 – 99%	Very strong support for full siblings
Moderate (1 – 10)	50 – 95%	Supports full siblings (but not definitive)
~1	~50%	Completely inconclusive
Very low (< 0.1)	< 10%	Extremely unlikely to be full siblings

Note: Half-sibling tests usually produce lower index numbers and probabilities than full-sibling tests, even when the people are truly half-siblings.

3. Important Things to Know

- These are **statistical probabilities**, not absolute yes/no answers.
- Results become **much clearer** when the biological mother is also tested (she provides additional genetic information).
- Half-sibling testing is **more challenging** than full-sibling testing → inconclusive results are more common.
- If the result is inconclusive (between ~10% and ~90%), the most frequent next step is additional testing (more genetic markers or including another family member).
- Rare genetic events (mutations, identical-by-descent sharing patterns) can sometimes affect results.
- This test is for personal knowledge only. It is not intended for legal, court, immigration, or child-support purposes unless chain-of-custody procedures were followed.

We hope this guide helps you understand your report more easily.

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