

### School children

Boys with XYY tend to be taller than other boys of their age and this may mean that more is expected of them than of other children of the same age. There is a wide range of abilities in boys with XYY as there is with other children. The average intelligence (IQ) of boys with XYY is slightly lower than that of boys with normal chromosomes and compared with their brothers and sisters, their IQ is 10-15 points lower.

**It is important to realise that this amount of variation often occurs naturally between children in the same family.**

About half of XYY boys may need some extra help at school, but the majority still manage well at mainstream school.

Some boys may have behaviour problems such as temper tantrums which may require referral to a child guidance clinic, but these problems usually respond well to treatment.

Some boys are described as easily distractible and more active physically. If parents are aware of this and can channel the child's energies constructively, this does not need to be a problem.

Aggression is not more frequently observed than in other children. The impact of the environment can be significant. XYY boys seem to cope less well with difficult social circumstances than their brothers and sisters, for instance when dealing with family conflict and stress. For this reason, a strong supportive home environment is especially important.

XYY boys from stable nurturing families seem to have no more psychological disorders than their brothers and sisters.

**There is no increased risk of schizophrenia, manic depressive disorders or any other serious mental illness.**

### Adolescence

XYY boys grow slightly faster in childhood and their average final height is 188 cm (around 6 feet 3 inches). Puberty is normal and comes at the expected time.

Many boys with XYY go on to further education after leaving school, but they are less likely to do this than their brothers and sisters. Some research has suggested that boys with XYY are more likely to take part in minor crime than other similar boys with only one Y chromosome.

### Adulthood

The majority of XYY men (around 75%) are in employment. Typical jobs include self-employment in business, catering workers (chefs and waiters), clerks, shop assistants and community service workers.

Men with XYY get married and have children just like men with XY chromosomes. Sexual function and fertility is normal. XYY does not seem to appear in their children any more than by chance. The majority of men with XYY live normal fulfilling lives and are completely unaware that they have an unusual chromosome pattern.