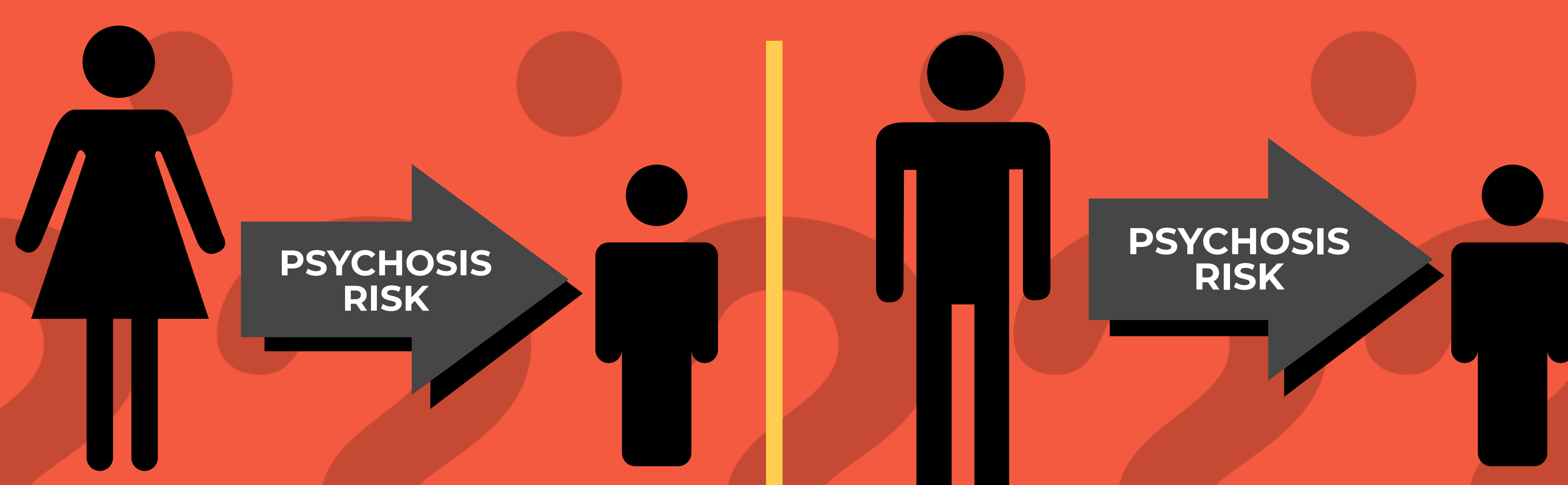


Like father like daughter: sex-specific parent-of-origin effects in the transmission of liability for psychotic symptoms to offspring.

Is the risk of developing psychosis passed on through mothers or fathers?



## METHOD

**113** participants

had a mother with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder or major depression



**43** participants

had a father with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder or major depression

**165** control

**OFFSPRING**  
8-24 years old were interviewed every year for up to 4 years about psychotic symptoms experienced in the past 12 months.



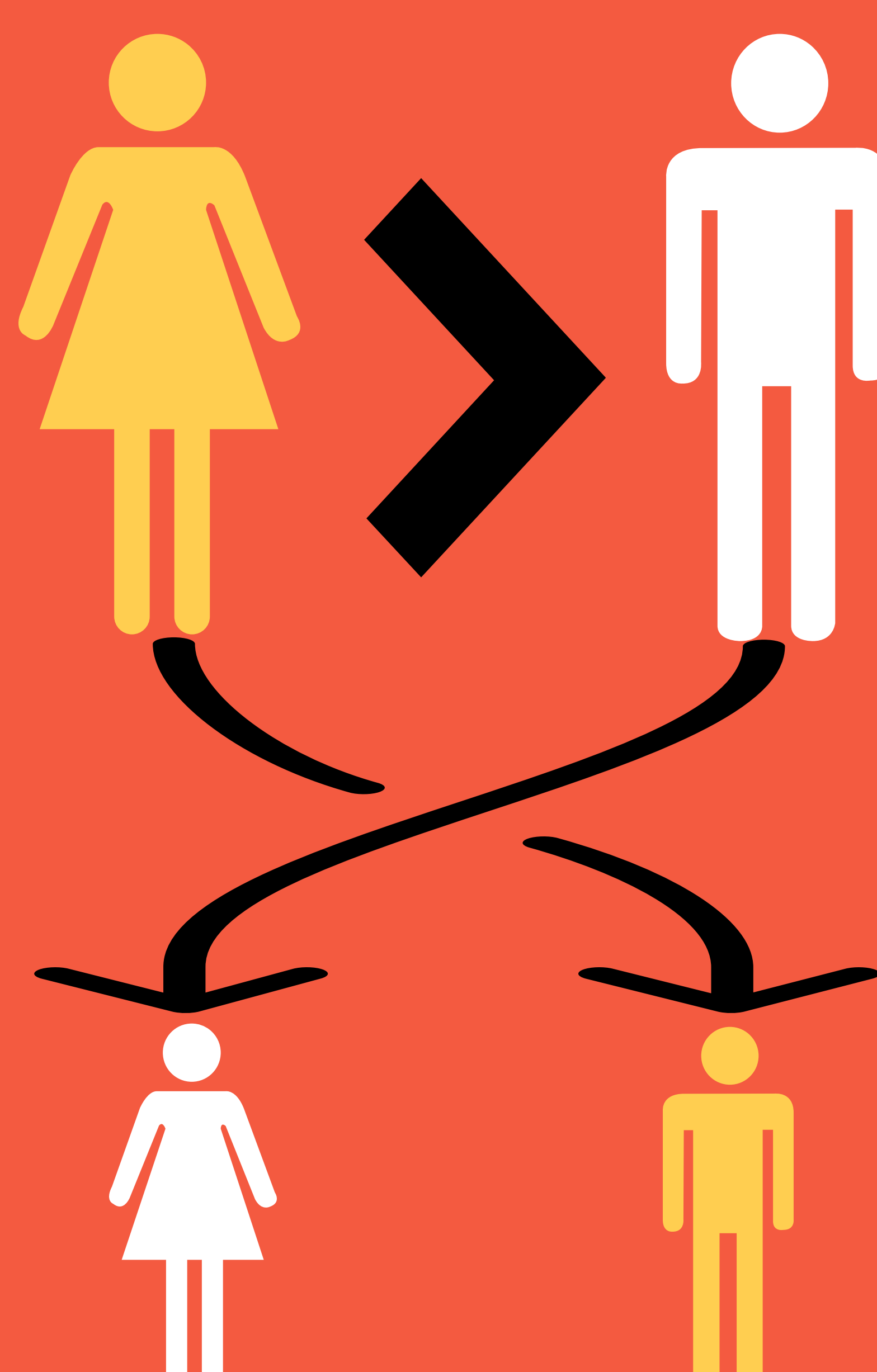
**PARENTS**  
were interviewed separately to assess their psychopathology. Both the biological mother and father were interviewed.

## RESULTS

**4.2%**  
**OF YOUTH**  
reported definite psychotic symptoms during at least one assessment

**1.8x**  
**INCREASE**  
in the odds of reporting a psychotic symptom if one parent has a mental illness

Daughters of affected fathers were more likely to have psychotic symptoms than sons of affected mothers



The mother's mental health influenced whether children developed psychotic symptoms more so than the father's, regardless of the child's sex

**Psychotic symptoms were more common among opposite-sex offspring of parents with mental illness.**

The results suggest that mental illness may be passed on through the **X chromosome**. Our mothers give us one, while fathers only pass one down to daughters- this may explain why daughters of affected fathers are more likely to be affected than sons.

