



1800 MARKET STREET, SUITE 408
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102
(415) 865-5619 (DYLAN VADE)
(415) 865-0176 (CHRIS DALEY)

WWW.TRANSGENDERLAWCENTER.ORG
INFO@TRANSGENDERLAWCENTER.ORG

Gender Neutral Bathroom Survey Results San Francisco Human Rights Commission (2002)

Many transgender and non-transgender people have no safe places to go to the bathroom - get harassed, beaten, and arrested in BOTH women's and men's rooms. Many avoid public bathrooms altogether and develop health problems. This affects not only self-identified transgender people but anyone who is perceived to not fit our society's strict gender norms.

To document the severe harassment and violence that occurs in gender segregated bathrooms, we surveyed almost 500 people in the San Francisco Bay Area asking about their experiences in the currently segregated bathrooms. We also asked about the solution - whether or not people wanted more gender neutral bathrooms.

Quotes from the Gender Neutral Bathroom Survey:

- **transgender people who do not identify as female or male:** "security chased me," "got the shit kicked out of me for using the 'wrong bathroom,'" "I run into problems 80% of the time," "This is a problem every day."
- **ftm/male and mtf/female identified people:** "Yelled at - 'you're using the wrong bathroom'" (mtf), "I have been slapped, pushed, and dragged out by security guards" (ftm), "got physically pulled out" (mtf), "having the door almost knocked down by teenagers" (ftm), "I have spent so many hours avoiding public multi-stall bathrooms that I have damaged my bladder and put pressure on my kidneys," "The problem was a daily one. I'd think about where I was going, what bathrooms I'd have access to, how much I drank during the day, whether I'd be with people who could help stand guard..."
- **butch women (who do not identify as transgender):** "being followed by a police officer," "women told me to leave the women's room and then tried to beat me up," "women jump out of their shoes; I get harassed by the guys," "I run into problems all the time," "all of my butch female friends, ex's, etc. ALL have experienced stares, harassment, threats, etc. in the women's room. Some only use the bathroom when they have a group of friends to accompany them."

- **feminine men (who do not identify as transgender):** “all my childhood, people told me I was in the wrong bathroom (long hair, too girly), “if my hair is long, I get stopped from going into the men’s room.”

- **parents with children:** “gender neutral bathrooms with changing tables so I can go in with my son, and my husband can go in with our daughter.” (non-transgender woman)

People who want more gender neutral bathrooms:

N: Number of people responding

A: Percentage of people who want gender neutral bathrooms of some form

B: Percentage of people who want single person gender neutral bathrooms

C: Percentage of people who want multiple person gender neutral bathrooms

D: Percentage of people who want gender neutral bathrooms in addition to male/female bathrooms

E: Percentage of people who want gender neutral bathrooms replacing female/male bathrooms

Gender	N	A	B	C	D	E
Transgender and not male or female	70	100	99	96	50	69
Transgender and ftm or male	76	100	97	74	49	46
Transgender and mtf or female	49	98	94	59	65	33
Total transgender	195	99	97	78	53	51
Not transgender and not male or female	27	96	96	81	59	48
Not transgender and female	195	97	93	78	57	45
Not transgender and male	51	100	98	90	64	48
Total not transgender	273	98	94	81	58	46
Partially transgender	19	100	100	74	74	68
Total	487	99	95	79	57	49

“Safe-stress free bathrooms should not be a privilege for just a few traditionally-gendered individuals.”

“I just need a place to pee.”

For more information or the complete survey results, please contact Dylan Vade at the Transgender Law Center