



# LSAC Legal Education Brief Series: The 2021 LGBTQ+ Law School Survey

## Student Experiences: Gender Inclusiveness and Support Facilities, Supplies, and Health Care Coverage

Law schools can support students' well-being by providing access to inclusive facilities and health inclusive care coverage. However, the 2021 LGBTQ+ Law School Survey found that these spaces and resources are often limited by the binary understanding of gender as only male or female.

### *Gender Inclusive Restrooms*

Of the schools that responded to this question ( $n = 119$ ), the majority reported that their restroom(s) are specifically all gender inclusive; only 11% reported not having gender-inclusive restroom(s). Seventy-eight percent of these schools reported that students are able to use gender-designated restroom(s) based on the gender with which they identify. While this policy, either formal or informal, may appear to be inclusive, it makes the assumption that students—especially transgender and gender nonbinary students—will simply use whichever gender-designated restroom matches their gender identity. In practice, however, this assumption or codified policy forces transgender and gender nonbinary students to fit into a gender binary system that does not recognize them.

### *Inclusive Restroom Supplies*

A growing best practice in higher education is ensuring universal availability of sanitary supplies and sanitary product receptacles. Where these receptacles are available is often dictated by the binary understanding of gender, and many schools only provide them in restrooms specifically designated for women. However, not all menstruating people are women. Of the schools that responded to this question ( $n = 119$ ), slightly more than half reported that all single-occupancy restrooms regardless of gender designation have sanitary product receptacles. While this is encouraging, only 12% of these schools reported having sanitary product receptacles in *all* restrooms.

### *Health Care Coverage*

More than 70% of law schools that responded to this question reported they offer health care benefits to some or all students. More specifically, the survey found that of the schools that offer health care benefits to some or all students that:

- A majority reported that coverage includes benefits for a student's same-sex spouse.
- Only just over one-third (36%) reported providing health care coverage for gender-affirming surgery.

These survey results reveal that there is a need for schools to gain a better understanding of how current health care benefits are or are not serving the needs of gender-diverse students, such as those who are transitioning.

To learn about recruitment, admission, orientation, engagement, and more, [download the full report online](#).