

For Immediate Release

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LIXIL Corporation

LIXIL Conducts Attitude Survey on Use of Public Toilets Among Sexual Minorities

Clarifying issues for improving toilets at workplaces, schools, and public facilities

Tokyo, Japan – LIXIL Corporation (“LIXIL”), a global leader in housing and building materials, products and services, today announced that it has conducted a joint survey with the nonprofit organization Nijiuro Diversity to assess the attitudes of sexual minorities toward public toilet use, with the objective of clarifying the issues faced by LGBT and other sexual minorities concerning public toiletsⁱ. LIXIL’s aim is to examine the issues concerning conventional gender-specific toilets, to facilitate the creation of public toilet spaces that reflect the needs of various users including sexual minorities, and that anyone can use with ease and comfort.

The attitude survey was conducted as an online questionnaire covering 624 persons identifying as LGBT or other sexual minority, in their teens or older and residing in Japan. Approximately 70% of survey respondents were transgenderⁱⁱ, including individuals with gender identity disorderⁱⁱⁱ, of whom more than 60% reported feeling troubled or stressed using toilets in their workplaces or schools. An overview of the survey results is as follows.

Overview of Survey Results

1. *More than 60% of transgender individuals reported feeling troubled or stressed using toilets in their workplaces or schools.*

In many cases, for transgender respondents the gender indicated on the toilet they wanted to use does not match the gender on their birth records or with which they identify, and more than 60% reported feeling stressed using their workplace or school toilets.

2. *There is a strong need for unisex toilets that can be used without concern for gender.*

Nearly 40% of transgender respondents stated that if they were able to freely choose a toilet at their workplace, school, or a public facility, they would like to use unisex toilets that don’t differentiate by gender. In particular, looking just at FTX (female-to-X gender) respondents, those who were born female but don’t identify as either male or female, more than 60% expressed a desire to use unisex toilets, indicating a strong need for such facilities.

3. *Some people wait to avoid using the toilet.*

Among transgender respondents, on average 5.0% stated that they wait to use the toilet rather than enter a facility at their school or workplace. By age group, this was most prevalent among persons in their teens at 22.7%. Among all transgender respondents 25.4%, or one in four, reported suffering inflammation of the bladder or other excretion-related problems, suggesting that stress over toilet usage can lead to serious health problems.

LIXIL held a briefing session on April 4 to announce the results of the survey analysis. Participants asked questions on methods to accommodate transgender persons in workplaces and other spaces, and were able to share awareness of the issues with persons involved in designing public toilets.

LIXIL is focused on considering how best to accommodate the needs of a wide range of users, also including wheelchair users, parents with infants, the elderly, ostomates and offers ideas for public toilets easy for everyone to use. Looking ahead to the expected increase in foreign visitors to Japan with the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, LIXIL will continue to work to meet the needs of a wide range of users, including LGBT persons and other sexual minorities, and for the further advancement of public toilets.

■ About Nijiuro Diversity

The nonprofit organization (NPO) Nijiuro Diversity conducts surveys, lectures, consulting, and other activities aimed at establishing workplaces where LGBT persons and other sexual minorities can work with confidence.



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About LIXIL

LIXIL Corporation is a global leader in housing and building materials products and services. The foundation of LIXIL's success is our constant investment in technological innovation to improve the way we live. Delivering core strengths in water, housing, building and kitchen technologies, our brand portfolio businesses LIXIL, GROHE, American Standard Brands and Permasteelisa are leaders in the industries and regions in which they operate. LIXIL produces some of the world's most fundamental and innovative products and services, and our solutions are an integral part of some of the world's most iconic and cutting-edge living and working spaces. Operating in more than 150 countries, and employing more than 80,000 people, we bring together function, quality and design to make people's lives better, and more delightful – wherever they are.

ⁱ "Public toilets" refers to toilets in offices, schools, commercial facilities, transportation facilities, and other public spaces.

ⁱⁱ "Transgender" is the common term for a person whose birth gender does not match the gender with which they identify (psychological gender).

ⁱⁱⁱ "Gender identity disorder" is the medical term used when a transgender person requires medical support, indicating a strong desire to align one's physical and social gender with psychological gender.