Switzerland - Trans and Nonbinary Individuals' Experiences & Challenges with Sex and Gender Identity Documentation in Healthcare Settings in Switzerland

Chantal Arditi

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Identification

SURVEY ID NUMBER
10.16909-dataset-71

TITLE
Trans and Nonbinary Individuals' Experiences & Challenges with Sex and Gender Identity Documentation in Healthcare Settings in Switzerland

ABBREVIATION OR ACRONYM
GENDER-REACH_TNB_Survey

COUNTRY

Name	Country code
Switzerland	CHE

STUDY TYPE
Other Household Survey [hh/oth]

ABSTRACT
This cross-sectional study aimed to examine the experiences of trans and nonbinary (TNB) individuals regarding the documentation and communication of sex and gender identity in healthcare settings in Switzerland.
Data were collected through an online survey assessing structural factors (documentation accuracy, form inclusivity, ease of change, provider knowledge), interpersonal factors (respectful communication, perceived rejection, breach of confidentiality, medical harm), individual factors (disclosure safety, disclosure of gender identity, negative expectations, non-disclosure behavior), and healthcare avoidance.
Recruitment was conducted through professional medical organizations (n = 11), LGBTIQ+ community organizations (n = 22), a targeted Instagram campaign led by Unisanté and Transgender Network Switzerland (TGNS), and snowball sampling.
Data collection took place from July 10 to September 4, 2025.
The dataset includes responses from 156 participants.

KIND OF DATA
Sample survey data [ssd]

UNIT OF ANALYSIS
individuals

Version

VERSION DESCRIPTION
version 2.1: Edited, anonymous dataset for public distribution.

VERSION DATE
2026-08-27

Scope

NOTES
1. Screening and transition information: The first section collected data on participants' sex/gender identity and their transition status.
2. Healthcare use and setting-specific experiences: Participants were asked to report their use of care within the last 12 months in five healthcare settings: 1) primary care, 2) specialized care (e.g., endocrinologist, gynecologist, urologist), 3) emergency care, 4) inpatient care, 5) mental health care (e.g., psychologist, psychiatrist). They were then instructed to select maximum two settings in which they had experiences within the last 12 months. For each of these settings, they were asked to detail their experiences.
3. General experiences in healthcare: Following the setting-specific questions, the survey shifted to general questions about

experiences. This included questions about delaying or avoiding needed healthcare, reasons for delaying care, and instances of medical harm in the last 12 months, as well as two free-text questions about positive and negative experiences
4. Preferences and suggestions: the next section asked participants about their preferences for the collection of and access to sex/gender information, and what would make healthcare more inclusive.
5. Gender-Minority Stress and Resilience (GMSR) and other measures: this section included three scales from the GMSR measures (negative expectations, internalized transphobia, non-disclosure behavior) as well as a question on passing, a scale on perceived social support, and the Brief COPE scale on coping strategies.
6. Demographics and health: The final section of the survey collected demographic information and subjective health data.

KEYWORDS

Keyword
Transgender persons
nonbinary persons
sex and gender documentation
healthcare communication
healthcare experiences
inclusive healthcare forms
healthcare avoidance
Switzerland

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE
National

UNIVERSE
The target population included individuals who identify as trans and/or non-binary individuals, as well as intersex individuals who often face similar structural and interpersonal challenges in healthcare, who were 14 years old and older.

Producers and sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

Name	Affiliation
Chantal Arditi	Department of Epidemiology and Health Systems, Unisanté, University Center for Primary Care and Public Health & University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland

PRODUCERS

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Sylvan Berrut	SB	Department of Epidemiology and Health Systems, Unisanté, University Center for Primary Care and Public Health & University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland	Researcher
Laura D Perler	LDP	Department of Epidemiology and Health Systems, Unisanté, University Center for Primary Care and Public Health & University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland	Researcher
Delphine Courvoisier	DC	Geneva University Hospitals and University of Geneva	Co-PI

FUNDING AGENCY/SPONSOR

Name	Abbreviation

Swiss National Science Foundation	SNSF

Sampling

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

Recruitment was facilitated through a collaborative effort involving 11 professional medical organizations and 22 LGBTIQ+ community organizations. Additionally, a targeted social media campaign was carried out on Instagram, spearheaded by Unisanté in partnership with Transgender Network Switzerland (TGNS), the national trans community organization. Further recruitment occurred through snowball sampling.

Data collection

DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

Start	End
2025/07/10	2025/09/04

DATA COLLECTION MODE

Internet [int]

DATA COLLECTORS

Name	Abbreviation
REDCap	REDCap

Questionnaires

QUESTIONNAIRES

The instrument was available in three languages (English, German, and French).
The estimated time for completion was between 20 to 35 minutes.
The questionnaire included 6 sections:
1. Screening and transition information: The first section collected data on participants' sex/gender identity and their transition status.
2. Healthcare use and setting-specific experiences: Participants were asked to report their use of care within the last 12 months in five healthcare settings: 1) primary care, 2) specialized care (e.g., endocrinologist, gynecologist, urologist), 3) emergency care, 4) inpatient care, 5) mental health care (e.g., psychologist, psychiatrist). They were then instructed to select maximum two settings in which they had experiences within the last 12 months. For each of these settings, they were asked to detail their experiences.
3. General experiences in healthcare: Following the setting-specific questions, the survey shifted to general questions about experiences. This included questions about delaying or avoiding needed healthcare, reasons for delaying care, and instances of medical harm in the last 12 months, as well as two free-text questions about positive and negative experiences
4. Preferences and suggestions: the next section asked participants about their preferences for the collection of and access to sex/gender information, and what would make healthcare more inclusive.
5. Gender-Minority Stress and Resilience (GMSR) and other measures: this section included three scales from the GMSR measures (negative expectations, internalized transphobia, non-disclosure behavior) as well as a question on passing, a scale on perceived social support, and the Brief COPE scale on coping strategies.
6. Demographics and health: The final section of the survey collected demographic information and subjective health data.

Access policy

CONTACTS

Name	Affiliation	Email

GENDER-REACH	Department of Epidemiology and Health Systems, Unisanté, University Center for Primary Care and Public Health & University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland	gender-reach@unisante.ch

CONFIDENTIALITY

ACCESS CONDITIONS
Licensed datasets, accessible under conditions and following review.

CITATION REQUIREMENTS
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ACCESS AUTHORITY

Name	Affiliation	Email	URL
Documentation and data unit (UDD)	Unisanté, University Center for Primary Care and Public Health & University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland	udd.data@unisante.ch	Link

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Metadata production

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Data Dictionary

Data file	Cases	Variables
		