



**CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2002 PROJECT SUMMARY**

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Project Title Could This Be True? Girls Are Filthier than Boys	
Abstract Objectives/Goals Our objective was to find out which gender restroom in our school was the filthiest. According to our pre-experimental survey, the students in the school believed that the boys' restroom in the gym would be the filthiest. By taking samples in order to grow bacteria, we could determine which bathroom sinks and possibly which bathroom in the school is the filthiest. Methods/Materials To conduct our experiment, we used petri-dishes with soy agar, cotton swabs, water, index cards, an incubator and paper. It was decided that it would be best to collect our samples from the drain in the sink since both boys and girls "should be" washing their hands after they used the toilet. The cotton swabs were used to collect the samples and then were carefully wiped on the agar of the designated petri-dishes. The petri-dishes were then placed in a incubator at 35°C. Results After 2 days, the petri dishes were checked and the results recorded. Based in our results, it was determined that the sink in the girls' restroom, in the Science Building, is dirtier than any the other restroom sinks in the school. Conclusions/Discussion Based on our results, we had to reject our hypothesis. The sink in the girls' restroom was filthier than the sink in the boys' restroom. Possible reasons for this may be because girls are more likely to use the sink. Many may use it to apply their makeup and may be more likely to wash their hands after using the toilet.	
Summary Statement To find out which gender's restroom in our school was the filthiest.	
Help Received Ms. Lujan provided some of the materials; Mr. Wiest provided the digital camera; the Science Department supplies the incubator.	