

Public Space Comfort Survey

Key Initial Findings



Initial findings based on a dataset of 110 deduplicated respondents, as of Feb 28, 2026. Full Survey: <https://forms.gle/xNCqLUS6jutDBBEa9>

- Across the dataset, **91% of respondents reported being consistently uncomfortable** in event environments as they currently exist.
- **83% cited sound** as a **primary discomfort driver** (across all genders and neurotypes). Coming in second at **44% was seating & physical comfort**. Tied for 3rd place were temperature at 39%, and lighting at 38%.
- **43% reported not being able to tolerate an overstimulating environment** for more than 60 mins.
- Importantly, this discomfort is not limited to neurodivergent respondents: While only 12.5% of respondents identified as neurotypical, **over 70% of those respondents show evidence of recurring sensory strain** based on endurance limits, early exit behavior, or identified discomfort triggers.
- **62%** of respondents are **not comfortable raising an issue of discomfort** to staff or management, meaning most sensory failures never register as feedback or complaints at all.
- Among respondents who report masking or downplaying their discomfort, approximately **70–75% indicate they leave environments silently** rather than ask staff to intervene. The combination of masking and discomfort raising complaints indicates that the problem is 'invisible at the system level'.
- Beyond immediate exits, **58% reported having avoided returning** to a venue due to sensory conditions, regardless of neurotype.
- **78%** of survey respondents said they are more likely to **return to or recommend a venue that demonstrates sensory awareness** (even when no formal accommodations are needed)

Want to contribute to the research and have your voice heard?
<https://www.beyondquietrooms.com/#surveys>