


East Indian programmers are pooping more than ever on the streets of San Francisco

Ben Gilbert, provided by



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 A Community Guide, (declined to give his name) cleans along 6th st. between Mission and Howard streets on Mon. April 23, 2018, in San Francisco, Calif. San Francisco City Hall politicians continue to struggle with a fix for the real public health menace on our sidewalks the dirty needles, tent encampments, feces and foul garbage. Photo: Michael

- Macor / The Chronicle

Photo: Michael Macor / The Chronicle

Image 1 of 15

A Community Guide, (declined to give his name) cleans along 6th st. between Mission and Howard streets on Mon. April 23, 2018,

in San Francisco, Calif. San Francisco City Hall politicians continue to struggle ... more


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One of [America's wealthiest cities](#) has a huge problem with public poop.

Between 2011 and 2018, San Francisco experienced a massive increase in reported incidents of human feces found on public streets.

In 2011, just over 5,500 reports were logged by the San Francisco Department of Public Works; in 2018, the number increased to more than 28,000.

The government watchdog Open the Books documented the sharp increase over time [in a stunning chart](#), first spotted [by the BuzzFeed editor John Paczkowski](#).

 San Francisco human feces chart Open the Books/City of San Francisco

Notably, this is a chart of only *documented* reports — the actual amount of feces on San Francisco's streets is likely even higher than these statistics suggest.

"I will say there is more feces on the sidewalks than I've ever seen growing up here," San Francisco Mayor London Breed [told NBC in a 2018 interview](#). "That is a huge problem, and we are not just talking about from dogs — we're talking about from humans."

San Francisco has struggled with a feces problem for years. The city [even employs a "Poop Patrol"](#) that attempts to keep the

streets clean and focuses on the Tenderloin neighborhood.

But the problem is bigger than just keeping the streets clean — the issue appears to be related to the city's struggle to accommodate its homeless population amid skyrocketing rent prices and a decreasing supply of affordable housing.

A [2017 survey of San Francisco's homeless population](#) counted nearly 7,500 people living on the street. That population faces limited public resources, and public bathrooms are no exception.

Whether the Poop Patrol is able to reverse the trend on San Francisco's streets remains to be seen, but there's an indication that the crew is a bandage on a problem much bigger than dirty streets.