

Analysis of the 2011 Asexual Awareness Week Community Census

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In 2011, the Asexual Awareness Week team organized an internet survey of asexual communities. The results are already available (<http://www.facebook.com/notes/asexual-awareness-week/results-of-the-asexual-community-census-2011/208581089214485?ref=nf>), but further information can be extracted from cross-correlating different answers. For each question, the answer choices are shown in italics. Many questions (indicated with stars) allowed respondents to check multiple answers, but analysis required throwing out a lot of information about the precise combination of answers given.

There were N=3436 respondents. 6 responses were deemed not to be serious, leaving N=3430.

Question 1: What year were you born?

Respondents wrote in a year, and from these, ages were calculated.

Age 13-15: 5%
Age 16-20: 44%
Age 21-25: 32%
Age 26-30: 11%
Age 31-40: 5%
Age 41-50: 1%
Age 51-60: 1%
Age 61-80: <1%

Question 2: How do you identify on the asexual spectrum?*

Asexual
Grey-asexual
Demisexual
Other (write-in)

For categorization purposes I only considered the last box checked. Write-in answers were interpreted by hand, but only 33 answers were adjusted this way.

Asexual: 56%
Gray-asexual: 21%

Demisexual: 21%
None of the above: 2%

Question 3: What is your gender identity?*

Androgynous
Bigender
Female
Gender fluid
Gender neutral
Genderqueer
Male
Pangender
Trigender
Two-Spirit
Questioning
Unsure/confused
I don't have a gender identity
Other (write-in)

Respondents were placed into five groups. The “Female” group checked female and no other boxes (except possibly the write-in box). The “Female-ish” group checked female as well as some other boxes, but not male. “Male” and “Male-ish” groups are similarly defined. The “Other” group checked a) female and male or b) neither female nor male. Write-in answers were interpreted by hand, but only 15 answers were adjusted this way.

Female: 51%
Female-ish: 13%
Male: 9%
Male-ish: 4%
Other: 23%

Question 4: Are you intersex?

Yes: 1%
No: 99%

Question 5: Do you consider yourself transgender?

Yes: 10%
No: 80%
Unsure: 10%

Answers were cross-correlated with gender in question 3.

	Yes	No	Unsure
Female (N=1738)	1%	97%	2%
Female-ish (N=443)	3%	84%	13%
Male (N=329)	16%	81%	3%
Male-ish (N=134)	60%	28%	12%
Other gender (N=785)	24%	50%	26%

Question 6-7: Nationality and ethnic identity

These questions were purely write-ins, so analysis was deemed infeasible.

Question 8: What is your romantic orientation?*

I am romantically attracted to men.
I am romantically attracted to women.
I am romantically attracted to non-binary gender identified people.
My romantic orientation is fluid.
There is no difference between romantic and non-romantic attraction to me.
I am romantically attracted to no one (aromantic).
I am demiromantic.
I am gray-romantic.
I am unsure at this time.
Other (write-in)

Answers were cross-correlated with gender in question 3 (putting “Female” and “Female-ish” together, as well as “male” and “male-ish”). “Heteroromantics” are binary-gender identified people who are romantically attracted to the same gender, but not to the opposite gender. “Homoromantics” are defined similarly. “Androgynoromantics” are romantically attracted to neither women nor men, but are attracted to non-binary people. “Other monoromantic” people are people in the “Other” gender category who are attracted to women but not men, or to men but not women. “Bi/Panromantics” are attracted to both women and men. “Aromantics” are attracted to none of the above, and also identified as aromantic. “Others” are attracted to none of the above, but did not identify as aromantic.

Heteroromantic: 22%
Homoromantic: 6%
Androgynoromantic: 1%
Other monoromantic: 4%
Bi/Panromantic: 22%
Aromantic: 16%
Other: 29%

To characterize people in the “other” category, I looked at the other boxes checked by this subgroup. Note that people may check multiple boxes or none at all.

My romantic orientation is fluid: 33%

There is no difference between romantic and non-romantic attraction to me: 8%

I am demiromantic: 16%

I am gray-romantic: 13%

I am unsure at this time: 40%

Other (write-in): 11%

Question 9: Do you have a religious or spiritual affiliation?*

I am not religious: 36.5%

I am spiritual: 19.2%

I am Agnostic: 22.7%

I am Atheist: 23.4%

I am Baha'i: 0.2%

I am Buddhist: 2.6%

I am Catholic: 6.6%

I am Christian: 14.3%

I am Eastern Orthodox: 0.3%

I am Hindu: 0.5%

I am Jewish: 3.0%

I am Protestant: 3.3%

I am Muslim: 1.0%

I am non-denominational: 3.2%

I am Pagan: 5.0%

I am Sikh: 0.1%

I am theistic: 1.5%

I am Unitarian: 2.2%

I am Wiccan: 2.1%

Other (write-in): 7.4%

There may be overlap in some of the above groups. Here are a few selected intersections:

Atheist OR agnostic: 42%

Atheist OR agnostic OR nonreligious: 64%

Catholic, Christian, Eastern Orthodox, Protestant, OR non-denominational: 22%

Question 10: What is your highest level of education?

I'm still attending college/university: 40.2%

I'm still attending high school/secondary school: 18.6%

I've graduated from college/university: 13.8%

I have some college/university education: 8.2%

I have graduated from high school/secondary school or have equivalent diploma: 6.8%

I'm still in post-graduate or professional school: 4.2%

I've graduated with a Master's or Post Graduate degree: 3.7%

I did not finish high school/secondary school: 1.4%
Other (write-in): 1.2%
I've graduated with a PhD, M.D., or other Doctoral level degree: 1.1%
I've graduated from professional school (law, medical, business, etc): 0.8%

9 answers were left blank.

Question 11: How do you currently perceive yourself?*

I am a virgin.
I am not a virgin.
I am sexually active.
I am not sexually active.
Other (write-in)

Many respondents gave contradictory answers, such as being a virgin and not a virgin or being a virgin and sexually active. There were also many incomplete answers, such as being neither a virgin nor not a virgin. All such answers are placed into the “Other” category. Write-in answers were ignored.

Virgin: 70%
 Not a virgin, but currently inactive: 11%
 Sexually active: 7%
 Other: 13%

The above groups were cross-correlated with people’s place on the asexual spectrum.

	Virgin	Virgin & inactive	Sexually active	Other
Asexuals (N=1941)	77%	9%	3%	11%
Grey-asexuals (N=721)	61%	16%	9%	15%
Demisexuals (N=707)	59%	14%	14%	14%

Question 12: What is your attitude towards sex?*

I enjoy having sex.
I am indifferent to the idea of (myself) having sex.
I am somewhat repulsed by the idea of (myself) having sex.
I am completely repulsed by the idea of (myself) having sex.
I am sex positive. (I am okay with the idea of others having sex.)
I am anti-sexual/sex negative. (I am against/disturbed by the idea of others having sex.)
I would be willing to compromise and have regular sex (in a relationship).
I would be willing to compromise and have occasional sex (in a relationship).
I would not be willing to have sex.
Other (write-in)

I broke this question into three parts.

Question 12, Part 1: Attitude towards oneself having sex

I categorized people by the most “repulsed” box checked.

Completely repulsed: 17%

Somewhat repulsed: 38%

Indifferent: 27%

Enjoy having sex: 4%

No response: 13%

These answers were then cross-correlated with people’s place on the asexual spectrum.

	Completely repulsed	Somewhat repulsed	Indifferent	Enjoy having sex	No response
Asexuals (N=1941)	25%	40%	24%	1%	11%
Grey-asexuals (N=721)	8%	43%	32%	4%	14%
Demisexuals (N=707)	6%	31%	34%	11%	17%

Question 12, Part 2: Attitude towards others having sex

Sex positive: 72%

Antisexual/sex negative: 4%

Neither or both: 23%

Question 12, Part 3: Compromise

I categorized people by the most “willing” box checked.

Willing to compromise and have regular sex: 17%

Willing to compromise and have occasional sex: 28%

Not willing to have sex: 25%

Contradictory or no response: 31%

These answers were then cross-correlated with people’s place on the asexual spectrum.

	Willing to have regular sex	Willing to have occasional sex	Not willing	Contradictory or no response
Asexuals (N=1941)	9%	24%	38%	29%
Grey-asexuals (N=721)	22%	36%	11%	31%
Demisexuals (N=707)	33%	31%	4%	33%

Question 13: Do you consider yourself part of the LGBT community?

Yes: 41%

No, but I'm an ally: 38%

No: 12%

Other (write-in): 9%

I also looked at the percentage yes for various subsets of the respondents.

Asexual: 32%

Grey-Asexual: 42%

Demisexual: 49%

Heteroromantics: 13%

Homoromantics: 77%

Bi/panromantics: 66%

Aromantics: 31%

Other orientation: 40%

Transgender people: 80%

"Other" gender category: 56%

AVEN: 38%

Tumblr: 52%

Question 14: Where do you connect with the asexual community?*

The AVEN forum: 34.5%

Other forums: 6.2%

AVEN chat: 6.2%

Other text, voice, or video chat: 1.8%

Asexual friends: 27.5%

Asexual & asexual-friendly dating sites: 2.8%

Blogs: 9.9%

In-person meetups: 4.5%

Livejournal asexuality community: 12.0%

LGBT organizations or community centers: 1.6%

LGBT college/university campus organizations: 4.6%

Tumblr asexual community: 45.7%

YouTube collaboration channels (e.g.: Hot Pieces of Ace, Dapper Ace, Deck of Aces, etc):
 10.1%
 Other (write-in): 20.4%

I was particularly interested in a comparison of the largest groups, AVEN, Tumblr, and LiveJournal. Here is the orientation breakdown.

	Hetero-romantic	Homo-romantic	Androgynoromantic	Other monoromantic	Bi/Panromantic	Aromantic	Other
AVEN N=1185	25%	5%	1%	5%	19%	20%	25%
Tumblr N=1569	17%	6%	1%	5%	27%	17%	29%
LiveJournal N=410	18%	6%	2%	5%	19%	21%	28%

And here is a gender breakdown.

	Female	Female-ish	Male	Male-ish	Other
AVEN N=1185	49%	13%	12%	4%	23%
Tumblr N=1569	49%	16%	6%	5%	25%
LiveJournal N=410	53%	17%	3%	3%	25%

Question 15: Which do you prefer?

Cake: 39.1%
 Pie: 15.7%
 Both: 35.1%
 Neither: 10.1%