

2017 and 2018 Asexual Community Survey Summary Report

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About this Report:

This report offers an overview of some of the main questions that were asked in the 2017 and 2018 Asexual Community Survey (also known as the Ace Community Survey).

The full 2017 survey text can be found at <https://bit.ly/3jUPLiA>, and the full 2018 survey text can be found at <https://bit.ly/34U0hvN>.

Blog posts, including additional analysis on specific topics, can be found on the Ace Community Survey Website located at <https://asexualcensus.wordpress.com/>.

Distribution of this document in whole or in part is encouraged so long as proper credit is given to the Asexual Community Survey Team. Please use the recommended citation below when crediting the study:

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About the Survey Team:

The Asexual Community Survey Team is a 100% volunteer-run group who design, administer, analyze, and report on the annual Asexual Community Survey. Team members come from a variety of backgrounds and bring their skills and expertise related to: survey design, coding, data analysis, writing, data processing, and more. You can contact the survey team at asexualcensus@gmail.com.

For updates from the Survey Team, subscribe to the Asexual Community Survey Blog at <https://asexualcensus.wordpress.com>.

Content Warning:

This report contains material that may be sensitive or triggering for readers, including (but not limited to) discussions of: sexual violence, suicide, prejudice, discrimination, harassment, and physical and mental wellbeing. Please see the table of contents for all subjects discussed in detail in the report.

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Methodology and Terminology

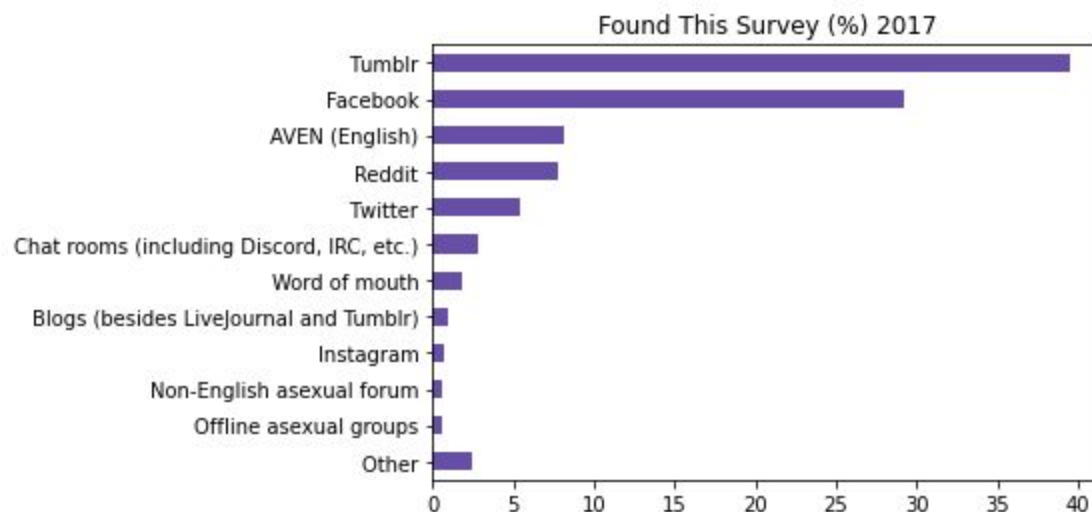
Survey Methodology

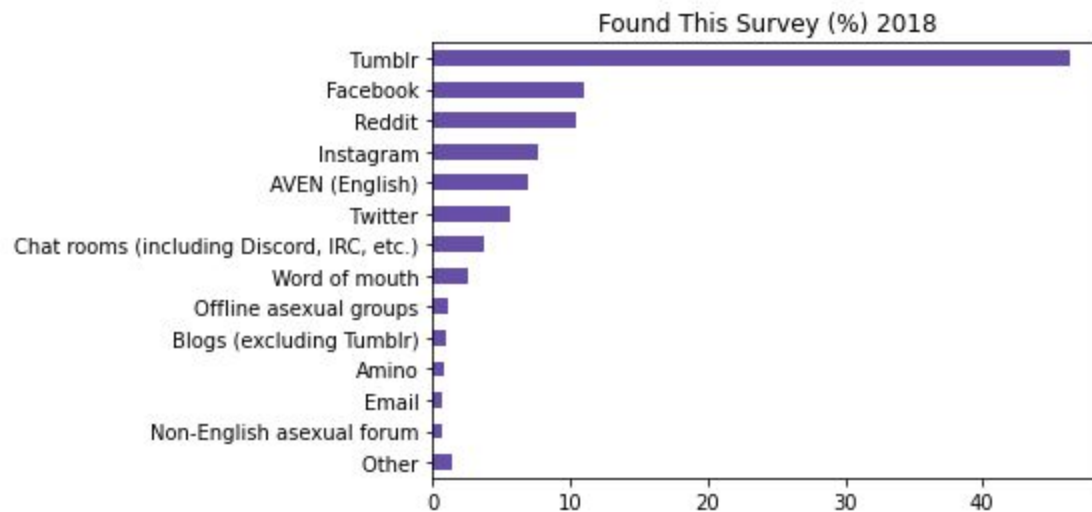
The Asexual Community Survey is an annual online survey of major asexual communities, administered with the goal of tracking the makeup and well-being of those communities. This survey has been released annually from 2014 to present (2020). The survey consists of a core set of demographic questions (reviewed and revised annually as the team learns more about the community), as well as rotating sets of topical questions.

The 2017 survey was open between October 22 and December 3, 2017, and received a total of 10,638 responses (ace = 10,047, non-ace = 591). The 2018 survey was open between October 23 and December 2, 2018, and received a total of 15,177 responses (ace = 14,459, non-ace = 718).

The surveys represent a convenience sample recruited via snowball sampling techniques. Announcements containing links to the surveys were posted on our website, several major asexual websites (AVEN, the Asexual Agenda, etc.), as well as in asexuality- and LGBTQ-themed groups on various popular social networking sites (Facebook, Tumblr, Twitter, Reddit, etc.). Respondents were encouraged to share the link with any other asexual communities or individuals they knew.

Most respondents found the 2017 and 2018 surveys through Tumblr or Facebook, as shown by the chart below. The proportion of respondents who found the survey via Tumblr increased from 2017 to 2018 while the proportion for most other sources fell.





Because of the sampling method, the ace respondents to this survey cannot be considered representative of ace people in general, nor can our sample of non-ace people be considered representative of the general population of non-ace people. Both ace and non-ace people are far more likely to participate in the survey if they are in contact with one of the major online Anglophone asexual communities. Furthermore, some communities are more represented than others because of differences in recruiting effectiveness. Comparisons between ace and non-ace respondents are generally not indicative of the differences between ace and non-ace people.

Many questions gave respondents the option to write in their own responses. These write-in options were interpreted by hand. Where applicable, we back-coded respondents into one of the existing options and in other cases, we created new categories for common themes among the written responses.

Terminology

The following terms and abbreviations are used throughout this report. These terms may hold different definitions when used in other contexts; to learn more about asexual terminology, please see the AVEN website (<https://www.asexuality.org/?q=overview.html>) or visit an LGBTQIA+ glossary such as <https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/lgbtq/education/glossary/> or <https://lgbtqia.ucdavis.edu/educated/glossary>. These resources are not owned or overseen by the Ace Community Survey team; we are providing them for educational purposes only and cannot vouch for their accuracy.

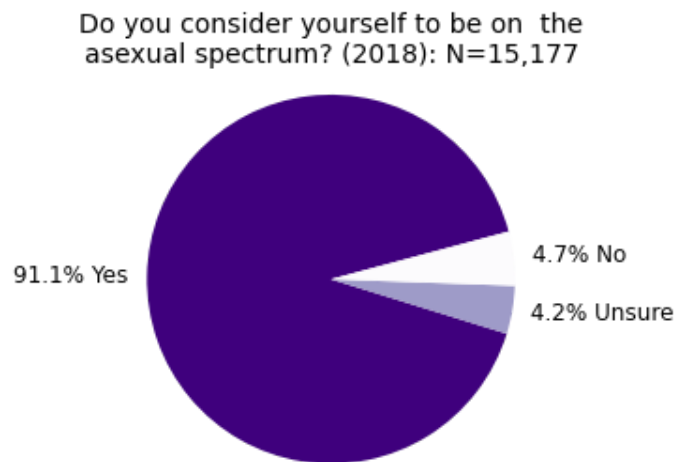
- Ace** Shorthand for "asexual." In this report, "ace" or "aces" refers to all respondents who identified anywhere on the asexual spectrum. In 2017, this included respondents who identified as asexual, demisexual, gray-A, or questioning. In 2018, it included respondents who answered "Yes" or "Unsure" to a new question, "Do you consider yourself to be on the asexual spectrum?"
- Asexual** The subset of respondents who identified specifically as asexual. Thus, "asexual" as used in this report does not include other asexual spectrum identities, such as demisexual, gray-A, or questioning.
- API** Asian/Pacific Islander.
- Binary group** Respondents who indicated a gender identity that is exclusively "man/male" or exclusively "woman/female."
- GNC** Gender non-conforming.
- Gray-A** Shorthand for "gray-asexual."
- LGBTQ** Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer.
- Non-ace** Respondents who did not identify on the asexual spectrum, and were not questioning if they were ace. Also known as "allosexual."
- Non-binary group** Respondents who selected an option other than "man or male" or "woman or female" as their gender identity. It includes respondents who identified as "man or male" or "woman or female" in addition to another gender label. In most analysis in the report, "non-binary" is used descriptively and does not indicate that respondents specifically identified as non-binary. Some respondents did identify specifically as non-binary, as described in Section 1.2.
- Questioning group** Ace respondents who marked "questioning" on where within the ace spectrum they fell.
- TGNC** Transgender and/or gender non-conforming. In this report, TGNC includes those who said "Yes" or "Questioning or unsure" to "Do you identify as transgender?," as well as those who selected a non-binary gender (see definition above).

Section 1: General Survey Demographics

This section asked respondents various demographic information, including orientations and identities.

1.1 Sexual Orientation

Do you consider yourself to be on the asexual spectrum?



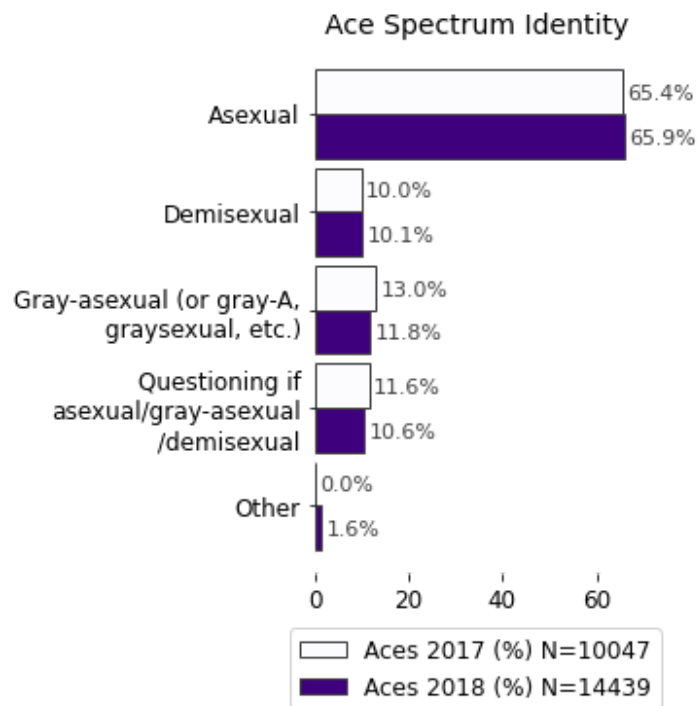
2018 was the first time we asked whether or not respondents identified as part of the asexual spectrum. Those who responded "Yes" (91.1%) and those who responded "Unsure" (4.2%) were classified as ace in this report. The remaining 4.7% were classified as non-ace.

Which of the following labels do you most closely identify with?

In both 2017 and 2018, we asked respondents whether they most closely identified as asexual, gray-asexual, demisexual, or questioning if one of those labels fit them. In 2017, there was also an option to select "none of the above." Those who chose this option (5.6%) were classified as non-ace in this report, while everyone else who answered this question was classified as ace. It is possible that this classification omitted some respondents who did identify as ace, but selected "none of the above" because they did not closely identify with any of the provided ace-spectrum labels.

In 2018, the addition of the previous question "Do you consider yourself to be on the asexual spectrum?" gave respondents the chance to self-identify as ace, regardless of which ace-spectrum identity they most closely identified with. Respondents in 2018 were also given a new option to write in their ace identity if it was different from one of the provided options.

With these classifications in mind, the breakdown of ace spectrum identities for these surveys can be seen on the following page.



Approximately two-thirds of ace respondents identified specifically as asexual.

Gray-asexual (gray-A) was the next most popular response, representing just over 10% of ace respondents. Closely following gray-As were those who were questioning as well as demisexuals.

"Other" represents the small percentage of ace respondents who specified a different ace spectrum identity as a write-in response. This option was not available in the 2017 survey.

Which of the following other sexual orientation labels do you most closely identify with?

Non-Ace Identity	Aces 2017 (%) N=10012	Aces 2018 (%) N=14383
Bisexual	13.8	16.2
Gay	4.1	4.3
Lesbian	6.6	7.4
Pansexual	13.5	14.0
Queer	1.7	2.8
Questioning or unsure	11.9	12.5
Straight	18.2	15.9
None of the above	29.1	26.3
Other	1.1	0.5

The next question asked about identification with other sexual orientation labels, such as gay, straight, lesbian, and pansexual. However, it should be noted that the question asked respondents to select only one label that they *most* identified with, and therefore may not have captured all labels that respondents identified with.

The tables below examine the breakdown of how different ace subgroups identified with these additional orientations. Among respondents who identified as asexual as their ace identity, more than a third (40.3% in 2017 and 35.9% in 2018) did not identify with a non-ace label (i.e., selected "none of the above" as an additional orientation). Of those who identified with both an ace identity and a non-ace identity, the next most popular label for asexuals was straight (14.7% in 2017 and 12.9% in 2018), followed closely by questioning, bisexual, and pansexual.

Among respondents who identified as demisexual or gray-A, about one in five also identified as bisexual, one in five as pansexual, and one in five as straight. In 2017, 30.0% of respondents who were questioning their ace identity also identified as straight, which was a greater proportion compared to other ace identities. In 2018, the proportion of questioning respondents who identified as straight dropped to 24.0%. In 2018, a greater proportion of respondents across all ace identities identified as bisexual compared to 2017.

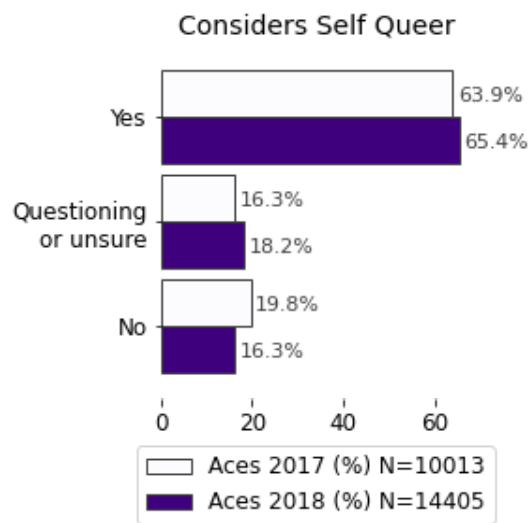
The "Other" category in 2018 represents aces who wrote in a different ace spectrum identity; this option was not available in 2017. Those with other ace identities were the second most likely group (after asexuals) to not identify with one of the listed labels.

Non-Ace ID	Ace ID (2017)				
	Asexual (%) N=6539	Demisexual (%) N=1005	Gray-A (%) N=1300	Questioning (%) N=1168	None of the above (%) N=591
Bisexual	10.8	20.3	19.3	18.8	30.6
Gay	3.5	4.1	6.8	4.3	8.5
Lesbian	6.3	8.1	6.3	7.1	11.0
Pansexual	10.7	23.1	20.5	13.1	17.4
Queer	1.6	2.0	2.3	1.1	2.4
Questioning or unsure	11.2	9.8	11.4	18.7	3.7
Straight	14.7	22.1	22.4	30.0	22.3
None of the above	40.3	9.4	9.2	5.6	1.0
Other	0.9	1.3	1.8	1.4	3.0

Non-Ace ID	Ace ID (2018)					
	Asexual (%) N=9452	Demisexual (%) N=1451	Gray-A (%) N=1702	Questioning (%) N=1524	None of the above (%) N=717	Other (%) N=235
Bisexual	12.7	24.3	23.5	22.0	34.4	16.6
Gay	4.0	3.8	5.9	4.0	6.7	7.7
Lesbian	7.3	6.8	7.9	8.1	14.2	8.1
Pansexual	11.3	21.4	20.0	15.9	22.7	23.8
Queer	3.1	2.9	2.1	1.7	2.8	4.3
Questioning or unsure	12.5	9.6	10.6	18.4	2.4	6.8
Straight	12.9	22.4	20.4	24.0	15.2	12.3
None of the above	35.9	8.0	8.6	5.6	1.0	19.1
Other	0.4	0.8	1.0	0.4	0.6	1.3

Do you consider yourself queer?

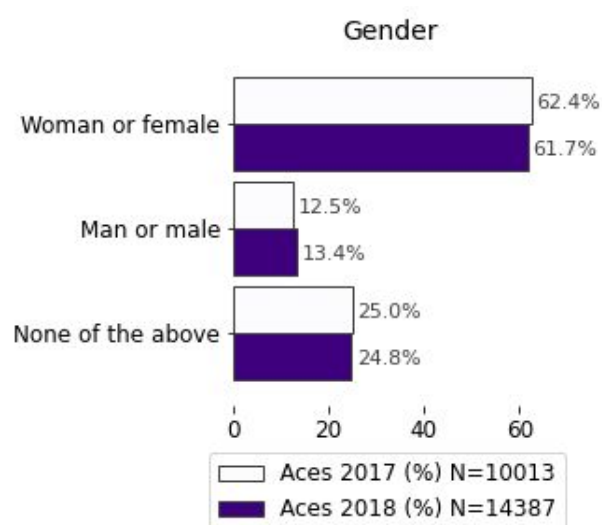
Almost two-thirds of ace respondents considered themselves queer. About one in six were questioning or unsure.



1.2 Gender and Sex

Which of the following best describes your current gender identity?

Following a similar trend to the 2014 AVEN Census and 2015 and 2016 Ace Community Survey, almost two-thirds of respondents chose woman/female, followed by about a quarter who chose “none of the above” (whom we describe as having non-binary genders, though these respondents may not necessarily have self-identified in that way, as explored more in the next question) (Ginoza et al., 2014; Bauer et al., 2017, 2018). The remaining respondents, roughly 13%, chose man/male, which was a slight increase from the 10.9% who identified as man or male in the 2016 survey (Bauer et al., 2018).



Which (if any) of the following words would you use to describe your current gender identity? Check all that apply.

Respondents were asked to further describe their gender identity using a list of 11 non-binary gender labels (detailed in the table below), as well as an option to write in an answer. In addition to those who selected "none of the above" to the previous question, we considered anyone who selected one of these options, including "questioning or unsure," to be someone who indicated a non-binary gender identity. We used information from this question, in addition to the previous question asking about binary gender identities, to examine subgroups of respondents based on different combinations of binary and non-binary gender identities.

Among all respondents who indicated a non-binary gender in either question (noted in the table below as "any non-binary gender"), almost half identified specifically with the label non-binary. A third were questioning or unsure of their gender identity, and three in ten identified as agender.

When filtered down to respondents who *only* indicated a non-binary gender (i.e., did not identify as "man or male" or "woman or female" in the previous question), more than two-thirds identified specifically as non-binary, more than two in five identified as agender, nearly a third identified as genderqueer, and one in five identified as genderfluid. Fewer respondents in this subgroup were questioning or unsure of their gender identity compared to all who indicated a non-binary gender.

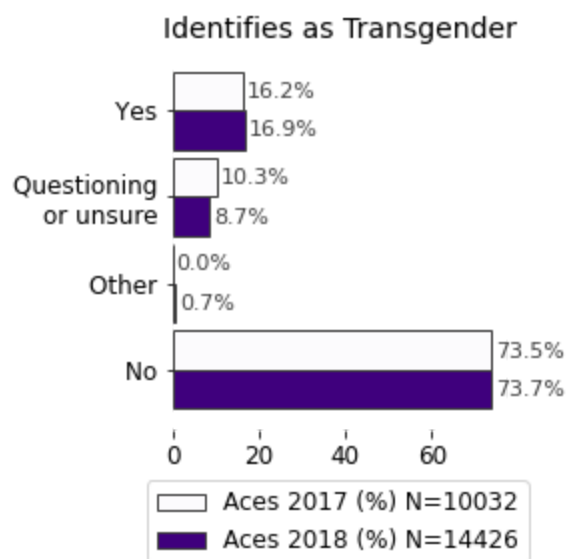
In contrast, among those who selected both a binary *and* non-binary gender identity, almost half indicated they were questioning or unsure of their gender identity. One in five identified specifically as non-binary, with slightly fewer having identified as demigirl. Similar proportions of respondents identified as androgynous in all three non-binary subgroups.

Gender Identity	Aces 2017			Aces 2018		
	Non-binary gender only (%) N=2533	Binary and non-binary gender (%) N=1945	Any non-binary gender (%) N=4478	Non-binary gender only (%) N=3624	Binary and non-binary gender (%) N=2884	Any non-binary gender (%) N=6508
Agender	44.1	14.7	31.3	42.6	14.4	30.1
Androgynous	16.3	14.0	15.3	17.1	16.6	16.9
Bigender	3.2	1.7	2.6	3.0	1.8	2.5
Demigirl	10.4	19.6	14.4	8.0	19.1	12.9
Demiguy	7.4	6.8	7.2	6.1	7.0	6.5
Genderfluid	21.4	10.1	16.5	21.5	10.7	16.7
Genderqueer	31.0	10.6	22.2	32.5	12.4	23.6
Neutrois	6.5	1.8	4.4	5.3	1.5	3.6
Non-binary	66.9	20.1	46.6	70.9	22.7	49.5
No Gender	17.4	6.8	12.8	19.8	7.0	14.1
Questioning or unsure	21.5	47.6	32.8	20.0	47.4	32.1
Other	6.9	9.0	7.8	7.0	8.9	7.8

The following table summarizes the proportion of different combinations of binary and non-binary gender identities. Among respondents who selected "woman or female" to the first gender question, three-quarters of them identified solely with that label, while the other quarter also identified with a non-binary gender identity. The proportion of binary men was slightly smaller, with fewer than 70% identifying as binary only and the remainder also identifying with a non-binary gender identity. Among those who indicated a non-binary gender identity, about half identified only with non-binary gender identities, while the other half also chose a binary gender identity.

	Aces 2017			Aces 2018		
	Woman or female (%) N=6253	Man or male (%) N=1256	Indicated a non-binary gender (%) N=4479	Woman or female (%) N=8880	Man or male (%) N=1933	Indicated a non-binary gender (%) N=6512
Binary gender only	75.1	69.1	—	74.5	67.9	—
Binary and non-binary gender	24.9	30.9	50.0	25.5	32.1	49.7
Non-binary gender only	—	—	50.0	—	—	50.3

Do you identify as transgender?



The number of respondents who identified as transgender has increased slightly each year, from 11.6% in 2015, to 14.8% in 2016, to 16.2% and 16.9% in the 2017 and 2018 surveys (Bauer et al., 2017, 2018). In addition to the data shown on the bar chart to the left, 0.7% of respondents in 2018 selected "prefer not to answer," an option that was not available in 2017.

Prevalence of transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming (TGNC) respondents

The tables to the right examine combinations of gender identities among all respondents. The percentages in each cell can be summed up to examine the prevalence of different gender identity subsets and classifications.

Almost half of all ace respondents in both 2017 (47.3%) and 2018 (47.8%) had a TGNC identity. More specifically, nearly 30% of respondents in both years were either transgender and/or did not identify with a binary identity. This rose to about one third when including respondents who were questioning or unsure of their transgender identity. In both 2017 and 2018, nearly 15% of respondents were both transgender and had a non-binary gender identity; this rose to nearly a quarter of ace respondents when including those who were unsure if they were transgender.

Prevalence of Gender Identity Combinations	Aces 2017 (%) N=10031		
	Binary Gender Only	Binary and Non-binary Gender	Non-binary Gender Only
Transgender	2.5	4.0	9.8
Questioning or unsure	0.2	3.2	6.9
Not Transgender	52.7	15.1	5.6

Prevalence of Gender Identity Combinations	Aces 2018 (%) N=14423		
	Binary Gender Only	Binary and Non-binary Gender	Non-binary Gender Only
Transgender	2.5	4.2	10.2
Unsure	0.1	2.7	5.9
Not Transgender	52.2	15.3	6.2
Prefer not to answer	0.0	0.2	0.4

Transgender identity within binary and non-binary identities

Considering how many ways there are to classify and subdivide gender identities, we were interested in examining the co-occurrence of binary or non-binary gender identity with transgender identity. About 45% of respondents whose gender was solely non-binary considered themselves to be transgender, with another 31.0% in 2017 and 26.1% in 2018 who were unsure. For

Trans Identity by Gender Identity	Aces 2017		
	Binary Gender Only (%) N=5558	Binary and Non-binary Gender (%) N=2238	Non-binary Gender Only (%) N=2235
Transgender	4.6	17.8	43.8
Questioning or unsure	0.3	14.3	31.0
Not Transgender	95.2	67.9	25.2

Trans Identity by Gender Identity	Aces 2018		
	Binary Gender Only (%) N=7919	Binary and Non-binary Gender (%) N=3237	Non-binary Gender Only (%) N=3267
Transgender	4.6	18.6	45.1
Unsure	0.2	12.0	26.1
Not Transgender	95.1	68.4	27.2
Prefer not to answer	0.1	1.1	1.6

respondents with both binary and non-binary gender identities, about 18% considered themselves to be transgender, and around one in eight were unsure. About 95% of binary respondents did not identify as transgender, and very few (0.2% to 0.3%) were unsure.

Please see Appendix I for a further breakdown of binary gender categories into men and women.

Have you ever been diagnosed by a medical doctor with an intersex condition or a 'difference of sex development', or were you born with (or developed naturally in puberty) genitals, reproductive organs, and/or chromosomal patterns that do not fit standard definitions of male or female? *Mark only one oval.*

In 2018, 0.7% of ace respondents identified as intersex. This is the same as the percentage reported in the 2014 survey, which was the last time we asked a version of this question (Ginoza et al., 2014). However, there were more respondents in 2018 reporting that they were "unsure" (3.0%) than there were in 2014 who reported the approximate equivalent answer, "maybe" (0.2%).

Intersex	Aces 2018 (%) N=14420
Yes	0.7
Unsure	3.0
No	95.8
Prefer not to answer	0.5

Does the term cisgender apply to you?

Does the term cisgender apply to you?	Aces 2018 (%) N=14435
Yes	52.9
Unsure; but I am familiar with the term	12.5
No	30.2
Unsure; I am not familiar with the term	3.4
Prefer not to answer	1.0

Given the diversity of gender in our previous surveys, in 2018 we included a question about whether or not the term cisgender applied to respondents. To make sure that we were accurately representing these responses, we included two unsure categories—one for those who were familiar with the term cisgender and one for those who were unfamiliar with the term. The majority of respondents agreed that the term cisgender applied to them (52.9%).

The number of ace respondents who said they were not cisgender (30.2%) is greater than the combined number of aces who identified as transgender or were questioning/unsure about identifying as transgender (25.6% in total in 2018). Likewise, the number of respondents who said they were cisgender or unsure if cisgender (but were familiar with the term)—65.4% combined—is less than the number of respondents who said they did not identify as transgender (73.7% in 2018). Although transgender and cisgender are considered to have opposite definitions, the differences in these percentages demonstrate the complexity of identity: just because someone does not identify with one term, does not mean they identify with the "opposite" term.

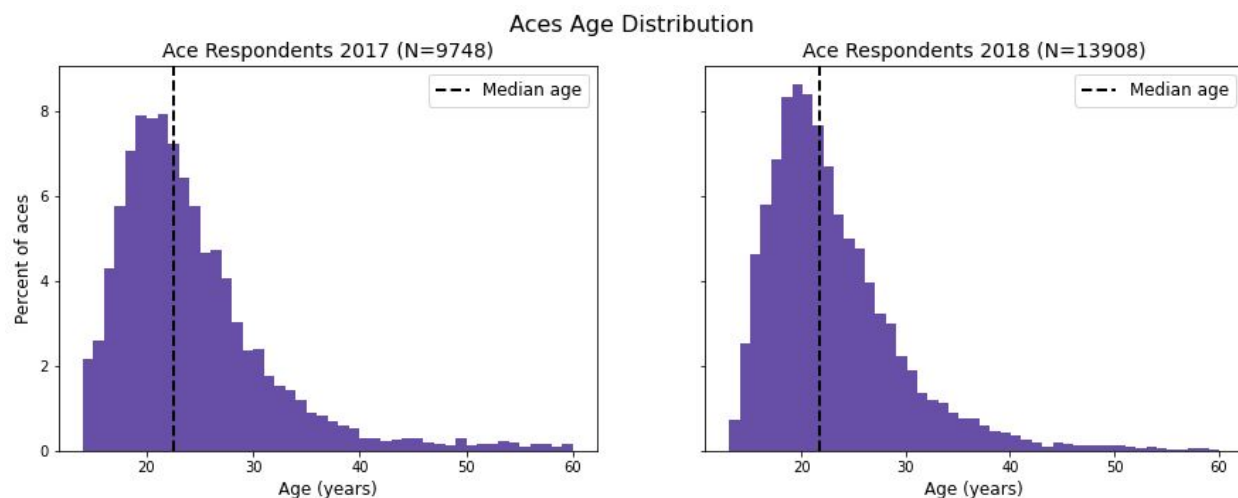
Cisgender identity compared to other gender identities

The following table examines the composition of cisgender identification within various gender experiences. The vast majority of those who considered themselves transgender identified as not cisgender (98.6%). Those who only indicated a non-binary gender largely did not consider themselves cisgender (83.8%). If we include those whose gender consisted of both binary and non-binary elements, the proportion of non-binary respondents who did not consider themselves cisgender dropped to 57.6%, in addition to nearly a quarter who were unsure.

Cis Identity by Other Identity (2018)	Trans: Yes (%) N=2439	Trans: Unsure (%) N=1255	Non-binary Gender Only (%) N=3573	Any Non-binary Gender (%) N=6507	Non-Trans, Binary Aces (%) N=7520
Cisgender	0.2	1.9	1.0	14.7	88.6
Unsure; but I am familiar with the term	0.9	34.3	13.5	24.7	2.5
Not Cisgender	98.6	62.4	83.8	57.6	3.2
Unsure; I am not familiar with the term	0.2	0.5	0.4	1.4	5.2
Prefer not to answer	0.1	1.0	1.3	1.5	0.5

1.3 Age

In which year were you born?



For legal reasons, we are only reporting the results from respondents who are at least 13 years of age at the time of the survey. In 2017, ace respondents ranged in age from 14 to 78, with a median age of 23 and a mean age of 24. In 2018, ace respondents ranged in age from 13 to 82, with a median age of 22 and a mean age of 23.

The age distribution skewed younger with 83.9% of respondents between 13 and 30 years of age in 2017 and 87.8% in 2018.

1.4 Education

Are you currently a student?

Are you currently a student?	Aces 2017 (%) N=9991	Aces 2018 (%) N=14364
Yes, in high school or secondary school	16.5	21.9
Yes, in an undergraduate program	29.8	28.8
Yes, in a graduate program	8.7	8.2
No	43.1	38.3
Other	1.9	2.8

Over half of ace respondents reported they were students at the time of the survey. In 2017, 43.1% of respondents reported they were not in school; in 2018, 38.3% were not in school. The largest group of students were those who reported they were undergraduate college students (29.8% in 2017 and 28.8% in 2018) with an increase in high school or secondary school students from 2017 (16.5%) to 2018 (21.9%).

What is your highest completed level of education?

Level of Education	Aces 2017 (%) N=10016	Aces 2018 (%) N=14368
Less than secondary education (e.g. has not graduated high school)	15.0	19.7
Upper secondary education (e.g. high school graduate, A-levels, etc.)	11.1	12.5
Some college / university / higher education (no degree yet)	36.2	35.8
Associate's Degree (including occupational or academic degrees)	5.3	4.6
Bachelor's Degree (BA, BS, BSc, AB, etc.)	22.9	19.8
Master's degree (MA, MS, MENG, MSW, etc.)	7.6	6.3
Professional school degree (MD, DDC, JD, etc.)	1.0	0.7
Doctorate degree (PhD, EdD, etc.)	0.8	0.6

In terms of educational attainment, the majority of ace respondents in 2017 and 2018 had at least some college education. The largest respondent group was those who had some college / university / higher education but no degree yet (36.2% in 2017 and 35.8% in 2018). In both 2017 and 2018, between 7.6% and 9.4% of ace respondents had a master's, professional, or doctorate degree.

1.5 Employment

Which of the following best describes your employment status?

Check all that apply. (2017) Mark only one oval. (2018)

In 2017, respondents had the option to select all options that applied. In 2018, this question was changed to a multiple choice question requiring only one answer.

Ace respondents were most commonly students in both years (48.9% in 2017 and 47.0% in 2018). Employment, whether part-time (less than 40 hours per week) or full-time (40 or more hours per week), was the next most

common response, with just under a quarter choosing each type of employment in 2017, and just under a fifth choosing each in 2018. The drop in full-time and part-time employment may be due to the question changing from a "check all that apply" to a single-choice answer, although responses could have also been affected by a shift from "full-time" or "part-time" language, which could have multiple interpretations in an international survey.

What is your employment status?	Aces 2017 (%) N=10009	Which of the following best describes your employment status?	Aces 2018 (%) N=14410
Student	48.9	Student	47.0
Full-time employee	24.4	Employed, working less than 40 hours per week	18.1
Part-time employee	23.9	Employed, working 40 or more hours per week	17.5
Unemployed and looking for work	9.9	Not employed and looking for work	6.6
Self-employed	6.5	Not employed due to disability	3.9
Unemployed and not looking for work	5.3	Self-employed	3.3
Not employed due to disability	4.8	Not employed and not looking for work	2.7
Homemaker or full-time parent	1.0	Other	0.9
Retired	0.5		
Other	2.4		

1.6 Living Arrangements

What are your current living arrangements?

Current Living Arrangements	Aces 2017 (%) N=10006	Aces 2018 (%) N=14384
I live alone	17.4	14.6
I live with children who are under the age of 18	13.9	16.8
I live with adult family members or legal guardians	51.1	57.3
I live with a significant other	9.4	7.8
I live with friends	16.9	14.9
I live with acquaintances/strangers	10.4	9.0
Other	2.6	2.6

Just over half of ace respondents reported living with adult family members or guardians. This is likely influenced by the fact that the survey skewed younger, and most respondents were students.

1.7 Religion

What is your religious preference?

Religion	Aces 2017 (%) N=9870	Aces 2018 (%) N=13751	Unaffiliated Religions	Aces 2017 (%) N=6205	Aces 2018 (%) N=8476	Christian Religions	Aces 2017 (%) N=1884	Aces 2018 (%) N=2712
Agnostic	18.0	17.6	Agnostic	28.8	28.9	Anglican	0.8	0.4
Atheist	27.1	26.5	Agnostic Atheist	0.5	0.4	Baptist	1.3	1.0
Buddhist	1.2	0.9	Apatheist	0.1	0.1	Episcopalian	0.8	0.7
Hindu	0.3	0.4	Atheist	42.7	42.7	Lutheran	1.9	2.4
Jewish	2.5	2.4	Humanist	0.2	0.1	Mennonite	0.3	0.2
Mormon	0.7	0.9	Nothing in particular	22.2	22.5	Methodist	2.4	1.4
Muslim	0.6	0.7	Other non-religious	5.6	5.3	Mormon	3.6	4.5
Nothing in particular	14.0	13.9				Non-denominational Christian	0.7	0.8
Orthodox (such as Greek or Russian Orthodox)	0.2	0.3				Orthodox (such as Greek or Russian Orthodox)	1.2	1.7
Other Christian denomination	6.1	6.6				Other Christian denomination	28.3	30.2
Other Pagan	4.3	4.7				Presbyterian	1.2	0.6
Other non-religious	3.6	3.4				Protestant	28.1	26.3
Other religious	1.7	1.9				Quaker	0.4	0.6
Pantheist or Panentheist	0.6	0.6				Roman Catholic	28.9	29.3
Protestant	6.5	6.0						
Roman Catholic	5.5	5.8						
Unitarian Universalist	0.9	0.6						
Unsure	4.6	5.5						
Wiccan	1.5	1.3						

Nearly two-thirds of the ace respondents reported that they were not necessarily affiliated with a religion, including more than a quarter who identified as Atheist, one in six who identified as Agnostic, and one in seven who described their religious affiliation as "nothing in particular." The table above titled "Unaffiliated Religions" shows the breakdown of religions and descriptors within the unaffiliated subgroup.

The total number of Jewish respondents included those who indicated they were religiously Jewish and those who indicated they were racially Jewish (see Section 1.9.1). Of the total Jewish respondents in 2017, 46.6% identified as being only racially Jewish and 43.8% as being both religiously and racially Jewish, and 9.6% identified as only religiously Jewish. In 2018, these were 47.5%, 42.9%, and 9.5% respectively.

Christian denominations made up the largest religious category, totalling nearly 20% when combining Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, and Other Christian denominations. Of Christian respondents, Roman Catholic and Protestant made up more than half.

1.8 Nationality

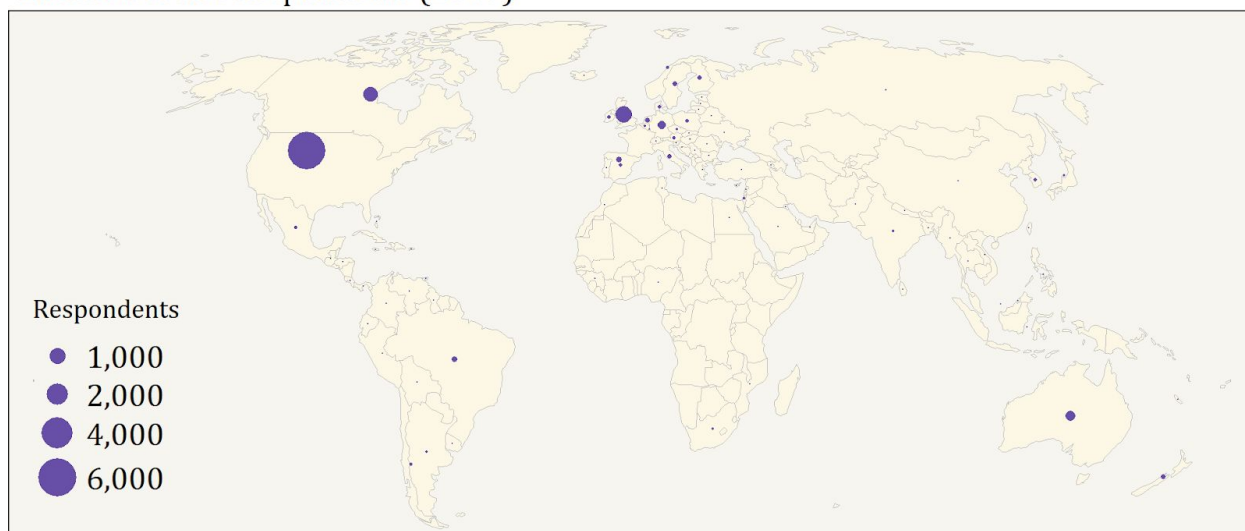
Please select the country in which you live.

Number of Respondents by Country	Aces 2017 (N=10047)	Aces 2018 (N=14459)
United States of America	5824	8282
United Kingdom	1062	1271
Canada	820	965
Australia	435	525
Germany	264	601
France	144	233
Brazil	136	168
Sweden	101	124
New Zealand	98	112
Netherlands	96	198
Italy	90	189
Finland	87	144
South Korea	65	23
Poland	61	130
Denmark	56	67
Spain	54	160
Ireland	49	68
Mexico	42	73
Austria	36	61
Norway	35	69
Chile	34	45
Japan	32	31
Israel	30	69
Argentina	29	102
Belgium	27	50
India	26	48
Czech Republic	20	37
South Africa	20	36
Singapore	19	27
Switzerland	18	53
Hungary	17	44
Philippines	15	37
Russia	15	50
Other	113	202

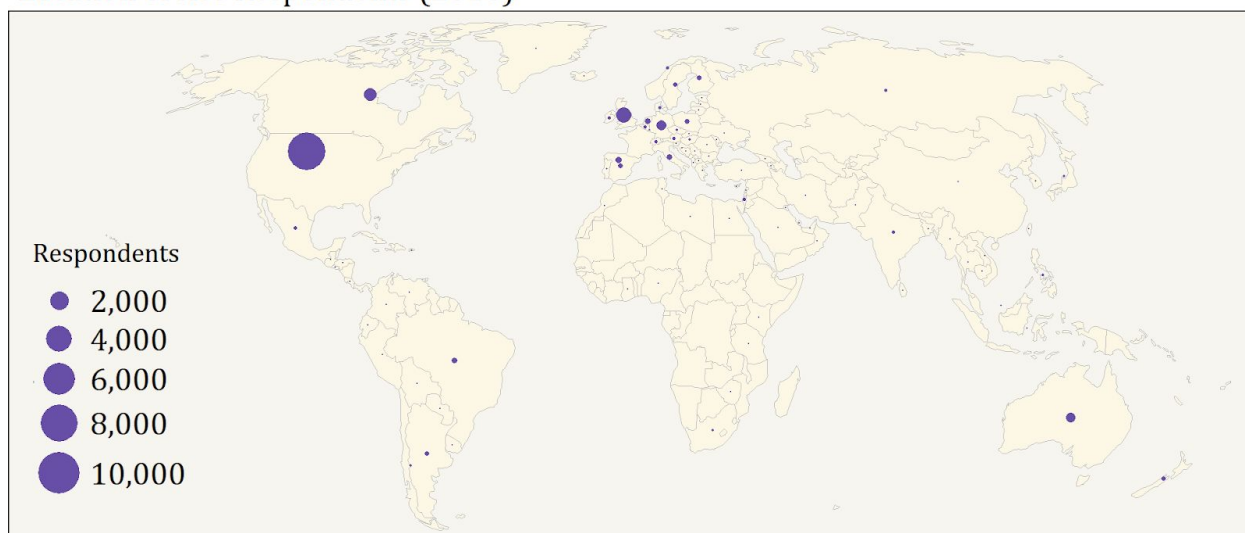
Ace participants resided in 73 different countries in 2017 and 82 different countries in 2018. Countries represented by more than 10 respondents in both 2017 and 2018 were reported in the table to the left with counts of respondents per year.

The majority of participants were residing in the United States, (58.0% in 2017 and 57.3% in 2018) followed by the United Kingdom (10.6% in 2017 and 8.8% in 2018), Canada (8.2% in 2017 and 6.7% in 2018), and Australia (4.3% in 2017 and 3.6% in 2018). While each of these countries had more respondents in 2018 than 2017, the total number of respondents in additional countries rose, decreasing the overall percentage of these four countries' percentages. It is worth noting that the surveys were written in English, which likely affected response rates in different countries.

Location of Ace Respondents (2017)



Location of Ace Respondents (2018)



1.9 Race

1.9.1 Race Categorizations

Do you identify with any of the following racial/ethnic categories? *Check all that apply.*

Information about respondents' racial identities was collected in several stages. First, all participants were asked if they identified with any of 19 specific racial groups, where they could check all groups that applied to them as well as write in their own description. The 19 options were chosen from racial categories found in existing censuses from several countries as well as frequent responses we have received in previous survey years. This question is reported in multiple tables, to show differing levels of detail.

The table to the right shows all 19 categories, with respondents checking all that applied. For example, if someone had indicated Latinx and Hispanic, they would have been included in both categories. The “Aggregated Racial Distributions” table above shows combined data where each respondent fits into only one category. The composition of each of these categories is described in Appendix II.

Additionally, participants from the US, Canada, and the UK were presented with questions based on their respective country's census, along with an option to write-in a different answer. These questions are described in Sections 1.9.3–1.9.5 with comparisons to each respective census' distributions.

Finally, all respondents had the option to describe their racial identity in their own words. Responses to this question, in addition to write-in responses for the previous questions, were interpreted and included where possible.

Aggregated Racial Distributions	Aces 2017 (%) N=9838	Aces 2018 (%) N=14166	Do you identify with any of the following racial ethnic categories?	Aces 2017 (%) N=9829	Aces 2018 (%) N=14146
API Only	4.7	5.0			
Aboriginal Australian Only	0.0	0.0	Aboriginal Australian	0.1	0.1
Black Only	1.4	1.7	Asian: Eastern (Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Taiwanese, Mongolian, etc.)	4.5	4.5
Brown Only	0.1	0.0	Asian: Southern (Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.)	1.3	1.6
Hispanic or Latinx Only	2.3	3.2	Asian: Southeast (Vietnamese, Cambodian, Malaysian, Laotian, etc.)	1.6	2.0
Jewish Only	0.6	0.7	Asian: Western (Arab, Azerbaijani, Kurdish, Persian, Turk, etc.)	0.6	0.7
Middle Eastern Only	0.1	0.0	Black and/or of the African Diaspora	1.5	1.9
Mixed or Multi Racial	4.5	4.6	Black: African	0.9	1.1
Multiple Races, Not Mixed	1.9	2.2	Black: Caribbean	0.8	0.7
N. or S. American Native Only	0.3	0.3	Brown	1.1	1.4
N. or S. American Native and Hispanic or Latinx	0.2	0.3	Hispanic	4.6	5.9
N. or S. American Native and White	2.4	2.3	Jewish (Ashkenazi, Sephardic, etc.)	4.3	4.0
West Asian Only	0.1	0.1	Latinx	4.3	5.1
White Hispanic or Latinx	2.9	3.4	Middle Eastern	0.9	1.1
White Only	78.2	75.8	Mixed Race / Multi-Racial	6.3	6.8
Other Race Only	0.2	0.3	North African: (Berber, Egyptian, Libyan, Nilo-Saharan, etc.)	0.2	0.3
			North American Native (North American Indian, Inuit, Metis, First Nations, etc.)	2.6	2.7
			Pacific Islander and/or Polynesian (Kanaka Maoli, Filipino, Maori, Samoan, etc.)	0.9	1.0
			South or Central American Native (Quechua, Aymara, Chiquitano, etc.)	0.4	0.5
			White or of European Descent	87.4	85.5
			Other	1.0	0.9

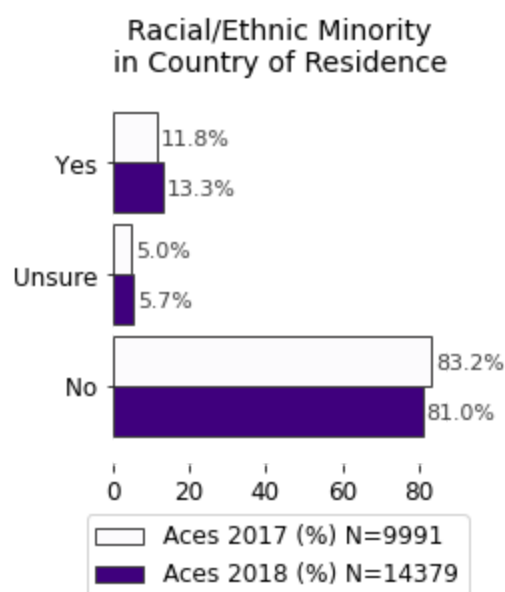
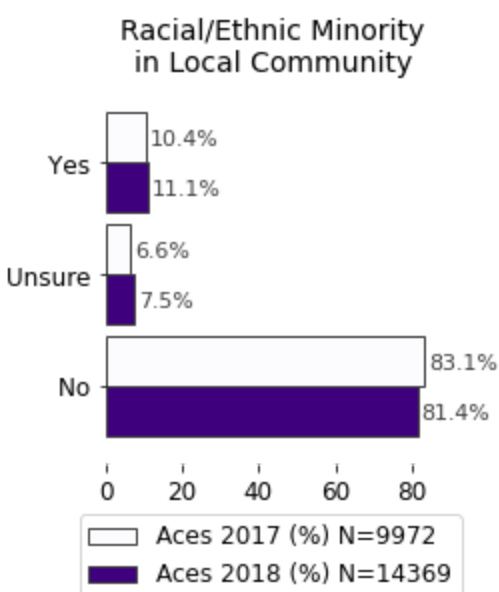
1.9.2 Racial Minorities in Local Communities and Nation of Residence

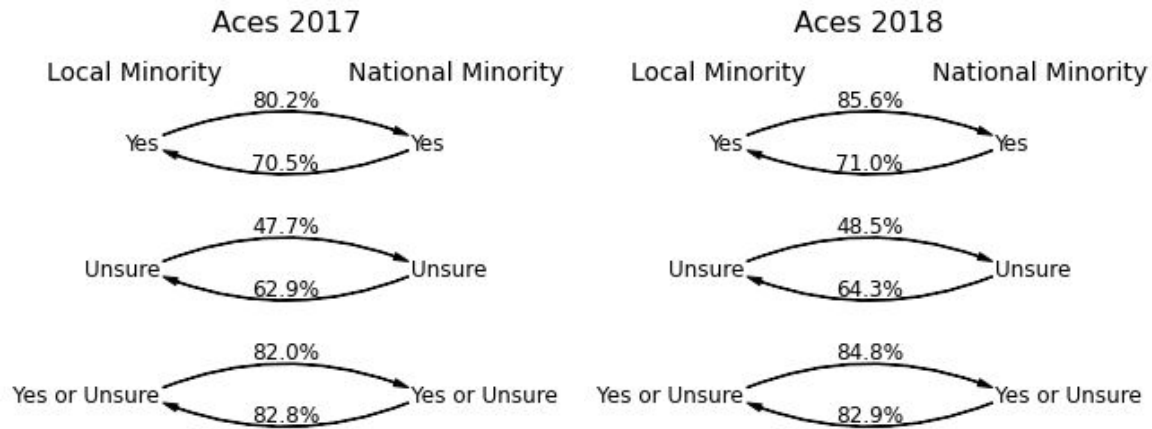
Are you a racial/ethnic minority in your local community?

Are you a racial/ethnic minority in your country of residence? *If you spend time in more than one country, consider the country in which you spend the most time.*

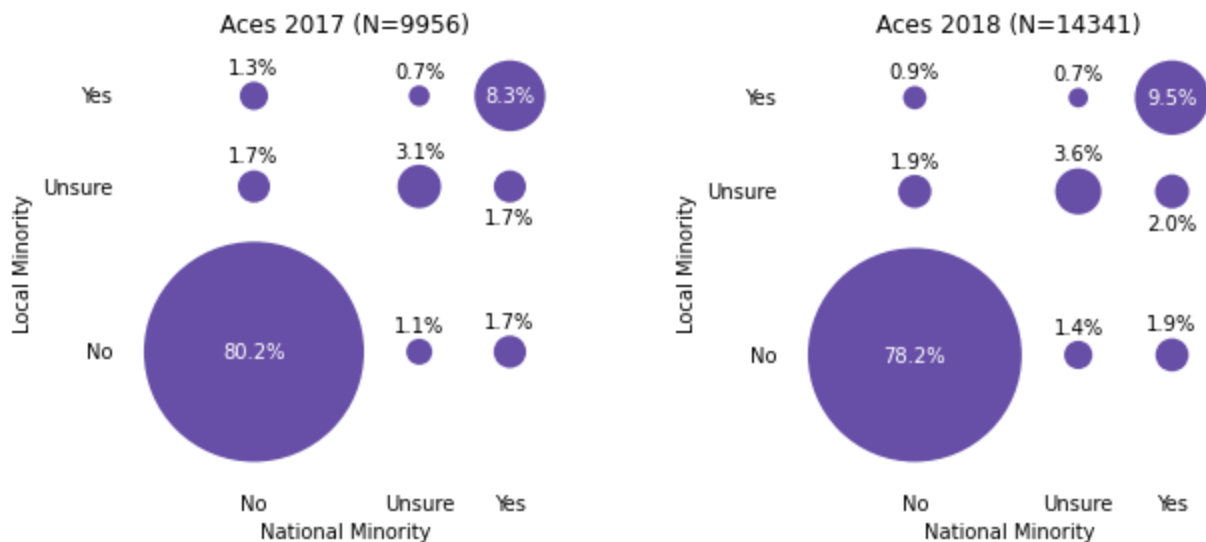
While the surveys found that a majority of respondents resided in the US, many respondents were from other countries where racial and ethnic identity do not align with US conceptions of race or ethnicity. These questions were added to give space for respondents in all areas of the world to identify for themselves if race or ethnicity was an area where they were in a minority group compared to those around them locally and nationally. These questions will be compared to a variety of questions throughout this report to highlight intersectional experiences of people through a racial and ethnic lense.

Between 2017 and 2018, 10.4%–13.3% of respondents reported being a local and/or national minority; an additional 5.0%–7.5% of respondents selected unsure.





The figures above show the conditional probability with which one minority status implied another. Respondents who identified as a racial or ethnic minority in their country of residence were likely to have also identified as a racial or ethnic minority in their local community, and vice-versa. Those who identified as a local minority were more likely to identify as a national minority than the reverse, but both had a greater than 70% probability. Those who are unsure whether they were a minority in their country were more than 60% likely to be unsure about their minority status in their local community, but those who were unsure whether they were a minority in their local community were slightly less than 50% likely to be unsure about their minority status in their country.

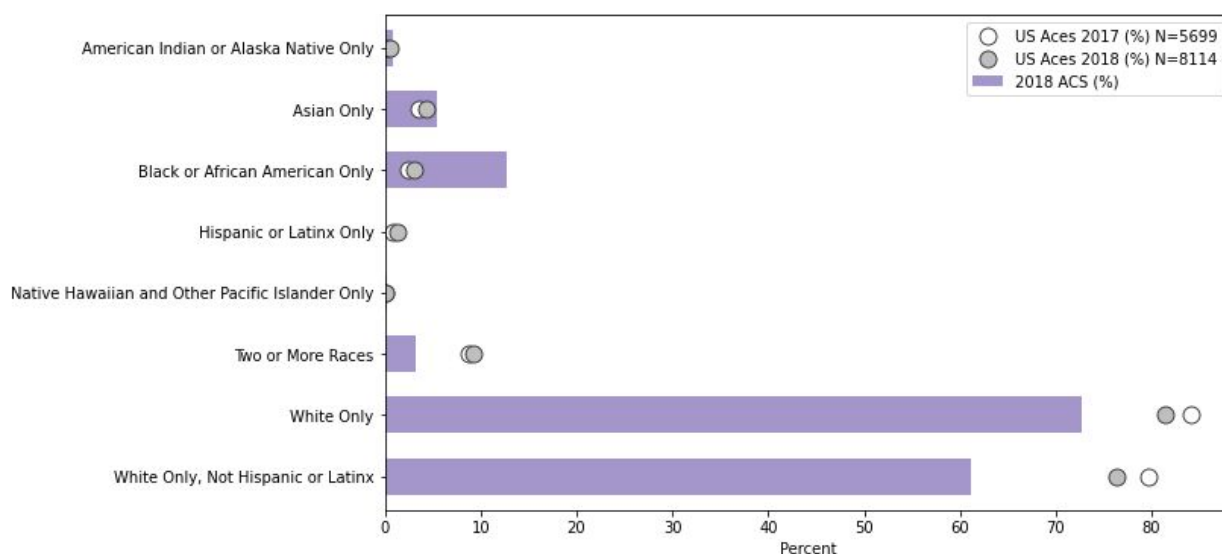


1.9.3 US Race Distributions

What is your race? Check one or more boxes. Categories are based on US census data.

The US race distributions are shown in two tables. The first table, "US Racial Distributions," is designed to match the reporting of the US Census and includes comparison numbers from the US Census Bureau's 2018 American Community Survey (ACS).¹ Our survey's US ace responses differ from the ACS in four ways that are particularly notable. A larger percentage of US aces (8.7% in 2017 and 9.4% in 2018) than ACS respondents (3.2%) reported two or more races. More US ace respondents (84.1% in 2017 and 81.3% in 2018) reported their race as only white than did respondents to the ACS (72.7%). More specifically, Non-Hispanic White respondents were overrepresented in our surveys (79.7% in 2017 and 76.4% in 2018) compared to the ACS (61.1%). Lastly, Black or African American respondents were underrepresented (2.4% in 2017 and 3.0% in 2018) compared to the ACS (12.7%). These four points of difference were similar to the percentages in the 2015 and 2016 Ace Community Survey reports (Bauer et al., 2017, 2018). As mentioned in each, internet based surveys commonly have higher percentages of white respondents than the general population in the US, which we see replicated here (Dillman, Smyth, and Christian, 2014).

US Racial Distributions	US Aces 2017 (%) N=5699	US Aces 2018 (%) N=8114	2018 ACS (%)
American Indian or Alaska Native Only	0.3	0.5	0.8
Asian Only	3.6	4.3	5.4
Black or African American Only	2.4	3.0	12.7
Hispanic or Latinx Only	0.9	1.3	—
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Only	0.0	0.1	0.2
Two or More Races	8.7	9.3	3.2
White Only	84.1	81.4	72.7
White Only, Not Hispanic or Latinx	79.7	76.4	61.1



¹ More information about the ACS can be found at: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs>

What is your race?	US Aces 2017 (%) N=5735	US Aces 2018 (%) N=8121
White	91.9	90.1
Black or African American	4.1	5.1
American Indian or Alaska Native	3.6	4.0
Asian Indian	0.8	1.0
Chinese	2.5	2.8
Filipino	1.2	1.3
Japanese	1.0	1.0
Korean	0.6	0.8
Vietnamese	0.4	0.6
Other Asian	0.9	1.4
Native Hawaiian	0.2	0.2
Guamanian or Chamorro	0.1	0.1
Other Pacific Islander	0.1	0.2
Other	3.3	3.1

The second table, “What is your race?,” shows all options for all US ace respondents. This was a question where respondents could check any race that applied to them, so these numbers add up to more than 100%.

Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

(US Respondents Only) *Categories are based on US census data.*

All US respondents were asked if they were of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin. Only 8.0% in 2017 and 9.2% in 2018 said yes, compared to 17.8% estimated by the US Census Bureau's 2018 ACS. This indicates lower representation, particularly among those of Mexican American, Mexican, or Chicano descent (3.4% Aces in 2017, 4.5% Aces in 2018, 11.2% ACS).

Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?	US Aces 2017 (%) N=5788	US Aces 2018 (%) N=8226	2018 ACS (%)
No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	92.0	90.8	82.2
Yes, Mexican American, Mexican, Chicano	3.4	4.5	11.2
Yes, another Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino origin	2.7	2.9	4.2
Yes, Puerto Rican	1.3	1.4	1.7
Yes, Cuban	0.6	0.4	0.7

1.9.4 Canada Race Distributions

What is your race? Mark as many as apply. Categories based on Canadian Census Data.

The Canadian Census removed race after the 2006 census and now includes racial groups in a question for the *Employment Equity Act*.² This question asks if someone is: White, South Asian (e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.), Chinese, Black, Filipino, Latin American, Arab, Southeast Asian (e.g., Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Thai, etc.), West Asian (e.g., Iranian, Afghan, etc.), Korean, Japanese, or Other - specify. Canadian census respondents were instructed to check all that applied. The information supports programs that promote equal opportunity for everyone to share in the social, cultural, and economic life of Canada. Please note that Aboriginal Canadians were not included in this question, but identification as Aboriginal is asked in a separate follow-up question.

The charts on the following page show this data for Canadian Ace respondents (Statistics Canada, 2016). While White was included as an option in the original Canadian Census question, it is not reported in the 2016 Census Profile, which only reports in detail on respondents who they classify as a "visible minority."³ We approximate the White population here by taking the total number of respondents, subtracting the total "visible minority" population, and then subtracting the total Aboriginal population (the Canadian Census does not include Aboriginal identities in the visible minority population⁴). To make our data consistent with the Census, we grouped Aboriginal respondents into their own category, even if they also selected a "visible minority" identity.

We classified respondents who selected multiple minority identities as having "multiple visible minorities," matching the category reported in the 2016 Census Profile. After all these adjustments, the columns in this table add up to approximately 100%, despite the question being one in which respondents could select all that applied.

Similar to the US Census comparison, our surveys showed overrepresentation of white respondents (82.5% in 2017 and 77.6% in 2018 compared to 72.9% in the 2016 Census) and those with multiple visible minorities (1.5% in 2017, 2.1% in 2018, and 0.7% in the 2016 Census), although the difference with the latter group was not as pronounced as it was among US respondents. Black respondents were underrepresented in our surveys, with 1.5% in 2017 and 2.0% in 2018 compared to 3.5% in the 2016 Census, a difference that is also present (to a greater extent) in the US Census comparisons. Additionally, South Asian respondents were underrepresented in our surveys (1.1% in 2017 and 1.3% in 2018) compared to the 2016 Census (5.6%).

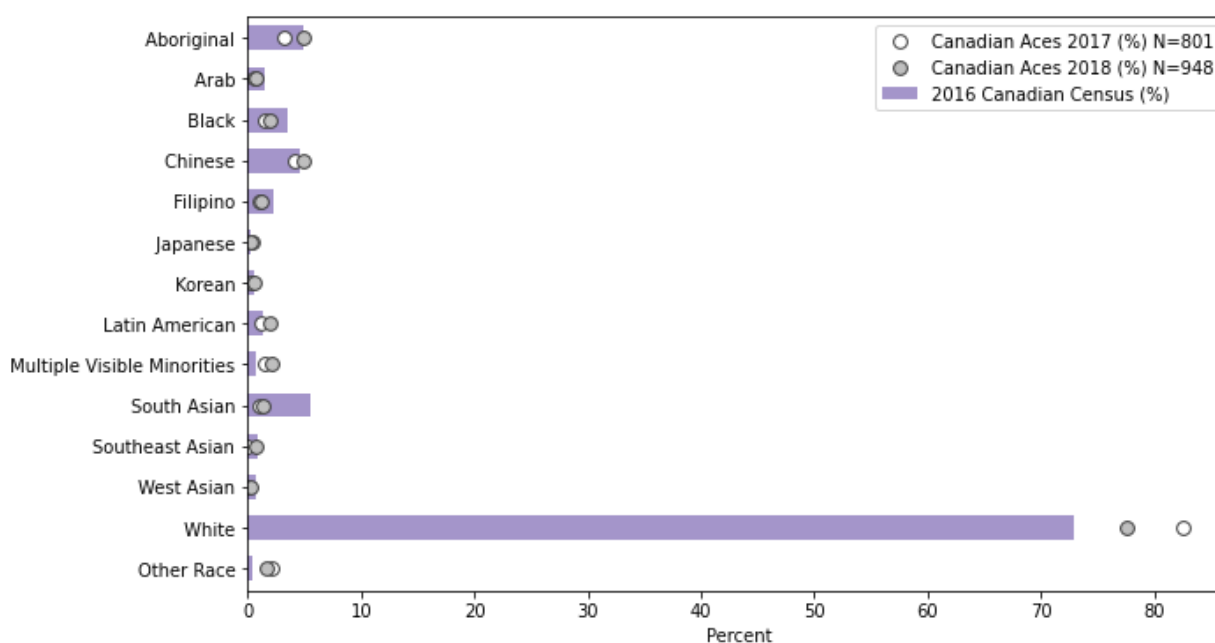
² See question 19 in the 2016 Canada Census transcript:

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2016/ref/questionnaires/questions-eng.cfm>

³ See footnote 95 in the Canada Census data: <https://bit.ly/3nWtvmE>

⁴ See footnote 102 in the Canada Census data (linked above)

Canada Racial Distributions	Canadian Aces 2017 (%) N=801	Canadian Aces 2018 (%) N=948	2016 Canadian Census (%)
Aboriginal	3.2	4.9	4.9
Arab	0.6	0.7	1.5
Black	1.5	2.0	3.5
Chinese	4.2	4.9	4.6
Filipino	1.1	1.2	2.3
Japanese	0.4	0.2	0.3
Korean	0.2	0.6	0.5
Latin American	1.2	1.9	1.3
Multiple Visible Minorities	1.5	2.1	0.7
South Asian (e.g. East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.)	1.1	1.3	5.6
Southeast Asian (e.g. Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Thai, etc.)	0.0	0.8	0.9
West Asian (e.g. Iranian, Afghan, etc.)	0.0	0.2	0.8
White	82.5	77.6	72.9
Other Race	2.2	1.6	0.4



What is your race?	Canadian Aces 2017 (%) N=801	Canadian Aces 2018 (%) N=948
Arab	0.9	1.1
Black	1.6	2.6
Chinese	5.0	6.0
Filipino	1.4	1.6
Japanese	0.5	0.7
Korean	0.2	0.7
Latin American	1.5	2.0
South Asian (e.g. East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.)	1.5	1.8
Southeast Asian (e.g. Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Thai, etc.)	0.0	1.2
West Asian (e.g. Iranian, Afghan, etc.)	0.0	0.3
White	89.5	87.9
Other	4.4	3.0

The second table, "What is your race?," shows the raw response rates for Canadian ace respondents. This table provides a different level of detail compared to the 2016 Census Profile, since respondents with multiple identities are represented in each of their racial identity groups, instead of being combined or filtered into one group.

Are you an Aboriginal person, that is First Nations (North American Indian), Métis, or Inuk (Inuit)?

Are you an Aboriginal person that is First Nations (North American Indian), Métis, or Inuk (Inuit)?	Canadian Aces 2017 (%) N=810	Canadian Aces 2018 (%) N=961	2016 Canadian Census (%)
No, not an Aboriginal Person	95.6	94.8	95.1
Yes, First Nations (North American Indian)	1.9	2.2	2.8
Yes, Metis	2.3	2.8	1.7
Yes, Inuk (Inuit)	0.1	0.0	0.2
Yes, multiple Aboriginal identities	0.1	0.5	0.1

Distributions of Aboriginal identities among our respondents mostly matched with distributions in the 2016 Census. There were fewer First Nations ace respondents in our survey compared to the Census, and a greater proportion of Métis ace respondents compared to the Census. In 2018, there was an increase in the number of respondents who had multiple Aboriginal identities.

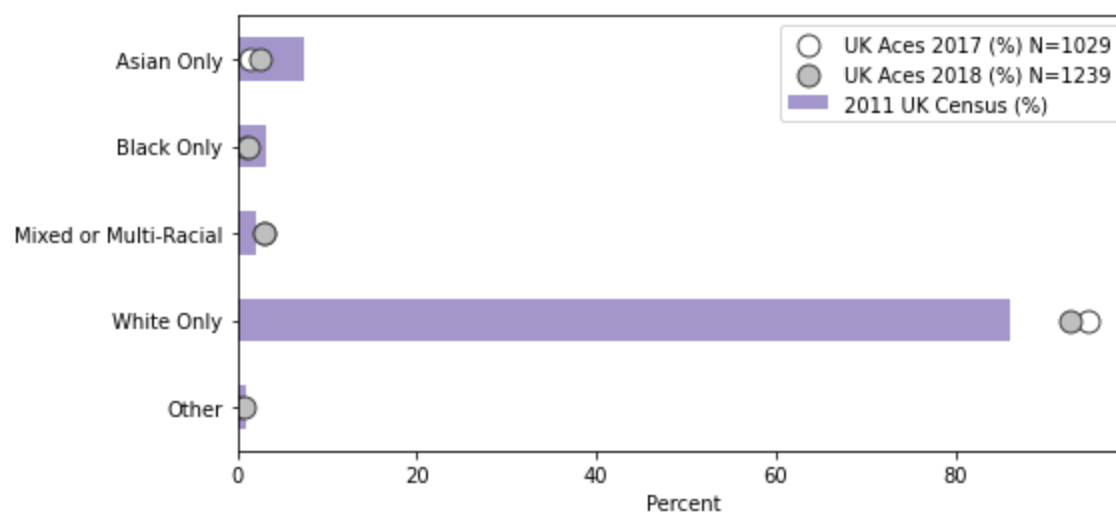
1.9.5 UK Race Distributions

What is your ethnic group?

Choose one section from A–E, then tick one box to best describe your ethnic group or background. Categories based on UK census data.

The majority of ace respondents in the UK identified with the White only option (94.7% in 2017 and 92.7% in 2018), which is larger than the number reported by the Office of National Statistics for the UK (2011) (86.0%). The next largest group of UK aces selected a mixed or multi-racial identity (2.9% in both 2017 and 2018), although this same group was the smallest racial category in the 2011 UK Census (2.2%). This highlights the discrepancies in the number of ace respondents who selected Black only (0.9% in 2017 and 1.1% in 2018) compared to the Census (3.3%) and especially Asian Only (1.4% in 2017 and 2.5% in 2018) compared to the Census (7.5%). This could be indicative of a number of different things, such as lack of access, awareness, or possibly cultural influences.

UK Racial Distributions	UK Aces 2017 (%) N=1029	UK Aces 2018 (%) N=1239	2011 UK Census (%)
Asian Only	1.4	2.5	7.5
Black Only	0.9	1.1	3.3
Mixed or Multi-Racial	2.9	2.9	2.2
White Only	94.7	92.7	86.0
Other	0.2	0.8	1.0



Section 2: Ace Identity

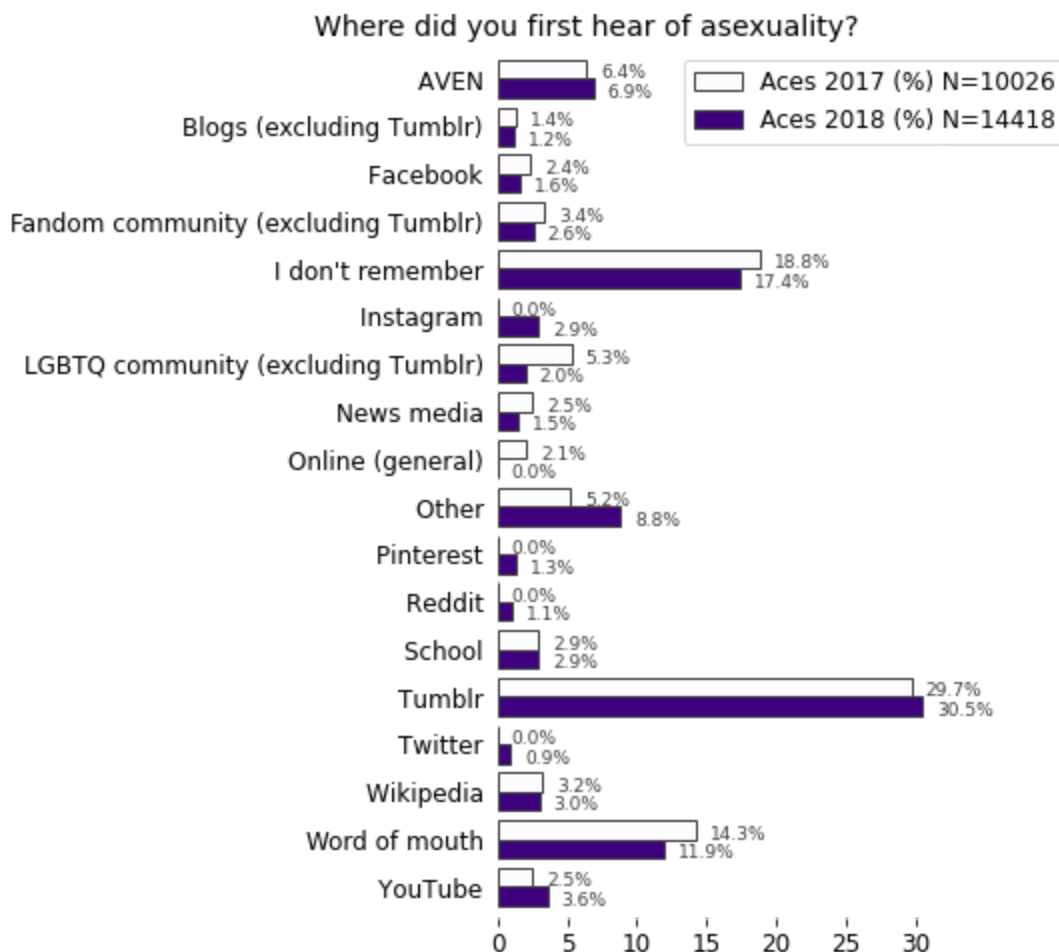
Respondents were asked questions about their ace spectrum identity. The questions were intended to gauge the respondents' perspective of how they saw themselves, how they described themselves, and whether or not they were out to other people.

2.1 Discovering Asexuality

Asked to ace respondents only.

Where did you first hear of asexuality?

Nearly one-third of ace respondents found out about asexuality first from the website Tumblr. This stands out by far, as the next highest response, "I don't remember," was more than 10% below the Tumblr response, as shown in the following chart. Knowing where the ace community gets their information is useful to focus the efforts of those looking to reach the community.



2.2 Previous Identity

Which of the following labels have you ever identified with at some point in time even if you no longer do so currently? *Check all that apply.*

Current or Previous Ace Identity	Aces 2017 (%) N=9962
Asexual	79.8
Gray-asexual (or gray-A, graysexual, etc.)	32.1
Demisexual	33.2
Questioning if asexual/demisexual/gray-asexual	54.4
None of the above	4.4

In 2017, more than half (54.4%) of all ace respondents indicated they had at some point questioned if they were asexual, demisexual, or gray-asexual. Response choices were changed in 2018 to add other sexual orientations (as seen in the two separate tables). In 2018, 44.0% of ace respondents said they currently or previously identified as questioning, but due to the change in options for this question, “questioning” did not refer specifically to questioning ace identity.

Current or Previous Identity	Aces 2018 (%) N=14448
Asexual	85.2
Gray-asexual (or gray-A, graysexual, etc.)	30.8
Demisexual	32.6
Straight	62.4
Gay	11.2
Lesbian	17.4
Bisexual	40.5
Pansexual	25.6
Queer	41.9
Questioning	44.0
None of the above	0.4

In 2018, out of the ace respondents who indicated they currently or previously identified with a non-ace identity, the majority (62.4%) identified as straight, 40.5% as bisexual, 28.6% as either gay or lesbian, and a quarter as pansexual. Under half (41.9%) currently or previously identified as queer.

2.3 Attraction

Which (if any) of the following romantic orientation labels do you identify with?

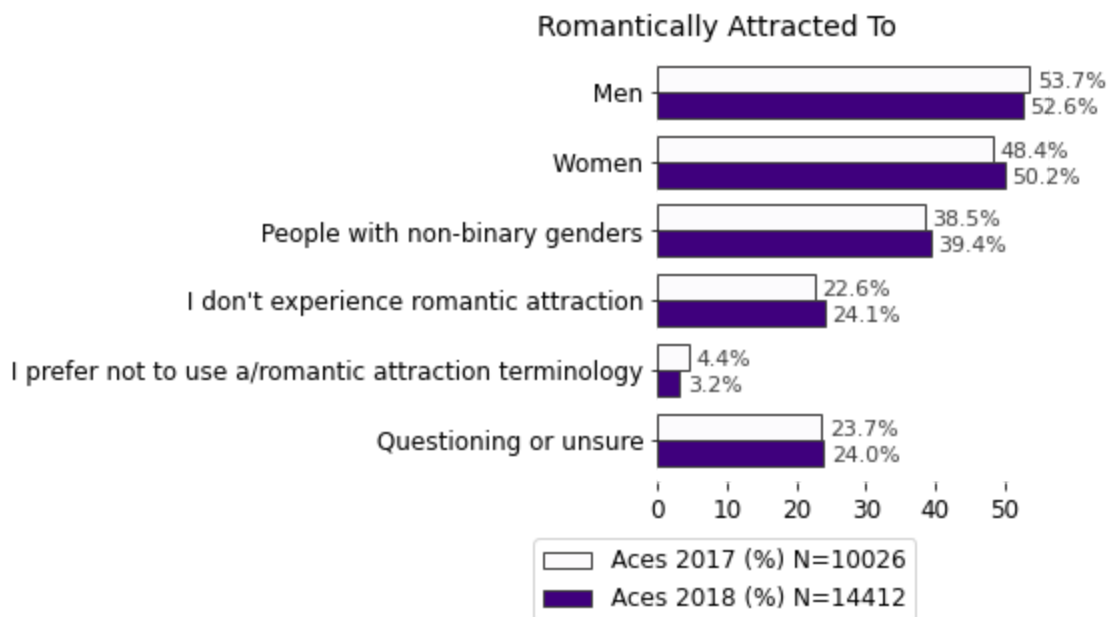
Check all that apply.

The highest proportion of respondents identified as aromantic (around 30% in both 2017 and 2018), while approximately a quarter identified as panromantic and about a fifth identified as biromantic, questioning or unsure, and/or heteroromantic. In both 2017 and 2018, 2.6% of respondents wrote in their own answer.

Romantic Orientation	Aces 2017 (%) N=10025	Aces 2018 (%) N=14445
Aromantic	29.1	32.1
Heteroromantic	18.0	17.4
Homoromantic	9.9	10.1
Biromantic	18.8	22.7
Panromantic	24.5	23.5
Polyromantic	6.2	5.5
WTFromantic or quoiromantic	8.7	8.3
Lithromantic	3.1	3.1
Gray-romantic or gray-aromantic	13.0	12.4
Demiromantic	15.6	14.9
Questioning or unsure	19.2	17.7
I am unfamiliar with some or all of these	12.9	10.0
I prefer not to use a/romantic orientation terminology	6.3	3.9
Other	2.6	2.6

Which of the following groups are you romantically attracted to? *Check all that apply.*

Note: this question did not explicitly distinguish between known gender and perceived gender. Respondents may have answered based only on their attractions to people whose gender identities they knew, or may have answered based on assumptions about other people's genders from that person's expression. This ambiguity is present in most discussions of gender preference in sexual or romantic attraction.



The tables below examine romantic attraction across different genders, from those who identified only as a binary man or woman, to those who identified both with a binary gender and a non-binary gender, to those who only identified with a non-binary gender.

More than half of the binary female-identifying ace respondents reported attraction to men (60.5% in 2017, 58.7% in 2018), followed by women (40.1% in 2017, 42.7% in 2018), and then people with non-binary genders (27.5% in 2017, 28.9% in 2018). About a fifth (20.1% in 2017, 21.6% in 2018) of binary women reported that they do not experience romantic attraction.

Binary male-identifying ace respondents followed largely the same pattern in similar proportions, except with attraction to men and women flipped: more than half reported romantic attraction to women (58.4% in 2017, 60.6% in 2018), followed by men (34.8% in 2017, 36.3% in 2018), then people with non-binary genders (23.3% in 2017, 23.4% in 2018). Between a quarter and a fifth of men (20.9% in 2017, 22.9% in 2018) reported experiencing no romantic attraction.

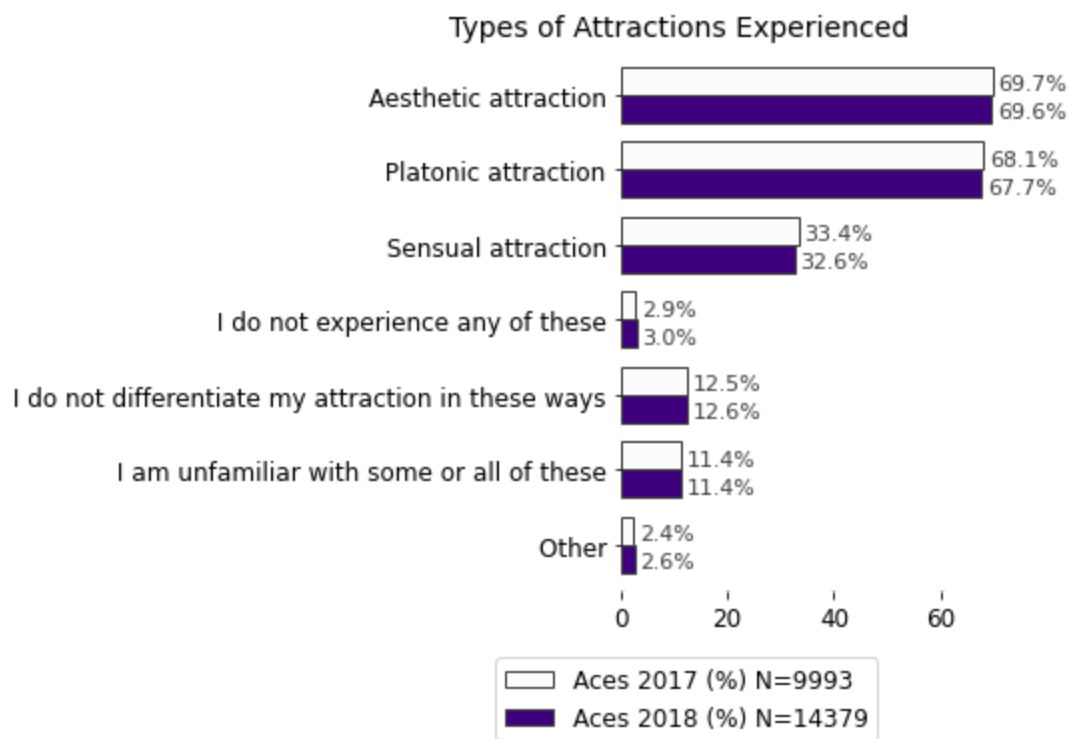
In 2017, non-binary men were slightly more likely than non-binary women to experience romantic attraction to each gender option, although the differences between these two groups were not as large in 2018. Among those who only identified with non-binary genders, just under half reported attraction to men and a little over half reported attraction to women and other non-binary people. Similarly, approximately half of non-binary women were attracted to each gender option.

Binary men were the least likely to be questioning or unsure about their romantic attraction (16.3% in both 2017 and 2018). About a quarter of respondents who identified as women (between 25.5% and 26.8% in 2017 and 2018), whether binary or non-binary, were questioning or unsure about their romantic attraction.

Romantically Attracted To	Aces 2017				
	Binary Women (%) N=4689	Binary Men (%) N=867	Non-binary Women (%) N=1550	Non-binary Men (%) N=387	Non-binary Only (%) N=2529
Men	60.5	34.8	51.7	57.6	48.2
Women	40.1	58.4	52.8	60.5	55.9
People with non-binary genders	27.5	23.3	45.6	57.6	56.8
I don't experience romantic attraction	20.1	20.9	23.4	18.6	27.9
I prefer not to use a/romantic attraction terminology	3.9	4.6	5.0	5.2	4.8
Questioning or unsure	25.5	16.3	26.8	23.3	21.0
Romantically Attracted To	Aces 2018				
	Binary Women (%) N=6596	Binary Men (%) N=1308	Non-binary Women (%) N=2255	Non-binary Men (%) N=618	Non-binary Only (%) N=3617
Men	58.7	36.3	54.5	56.8	45.5
Women	42.7	60.6	56.2	57.4	55.0
People with non-binary genders	28.9	23.4	50.2	53.9	55.3
I don't experience romantic attraction	21.6	22.9	23.7	22.0	29.9
I prefer not to use a/romantic attraction terminology	2.8	2.8	3.3	1.9	4.4
Questioning or unsure	26.5	16.3	25.6	23.1	21.6

Some people experience types of attraction other than romantic or sexual attraction. If you are familiar with any of the following terms, which of them describe something you experience? *Check all that apply.*

The majority of ace respondents experience some form of attraction other than sexual or romantic attraction. More than two-thirds experience aesthetic attraction and/or platonic attraction, and one-third experience sensual attraction. Just over 10% of participants said they do not differentiate their attraction in this way, and/or they were unfamiliar with at least some of the terms. Almost 3% of respondents wrote in their own response. The most common write-in responses included: alterous attraction, intellectual attraction, queerplatonic attraction, and emotional attraction. In the 2020 survey, we added additional options for this question based on these write-in answers.

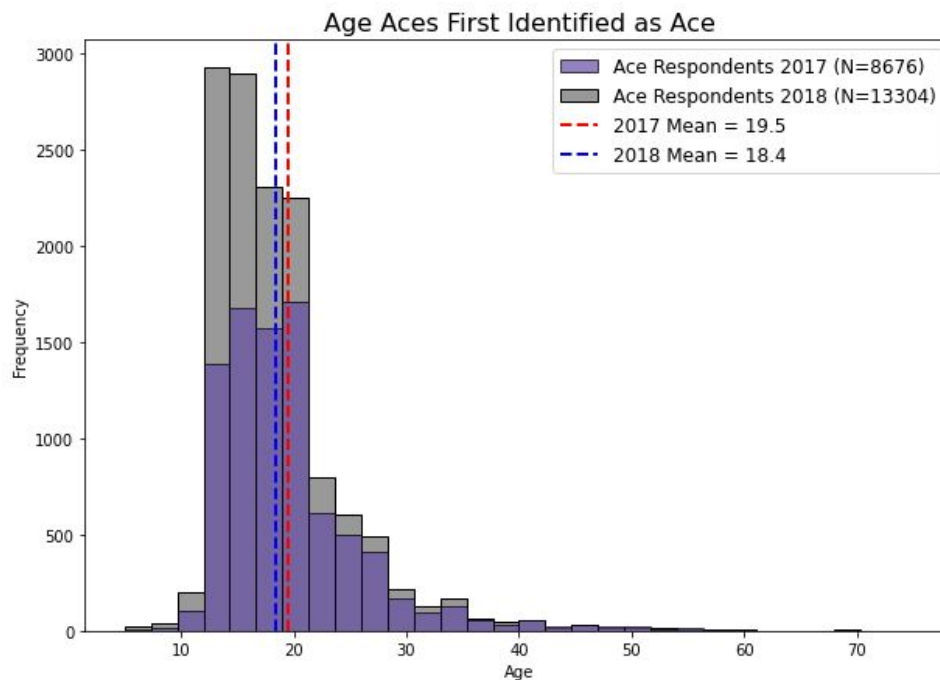


2.4 Coming Out

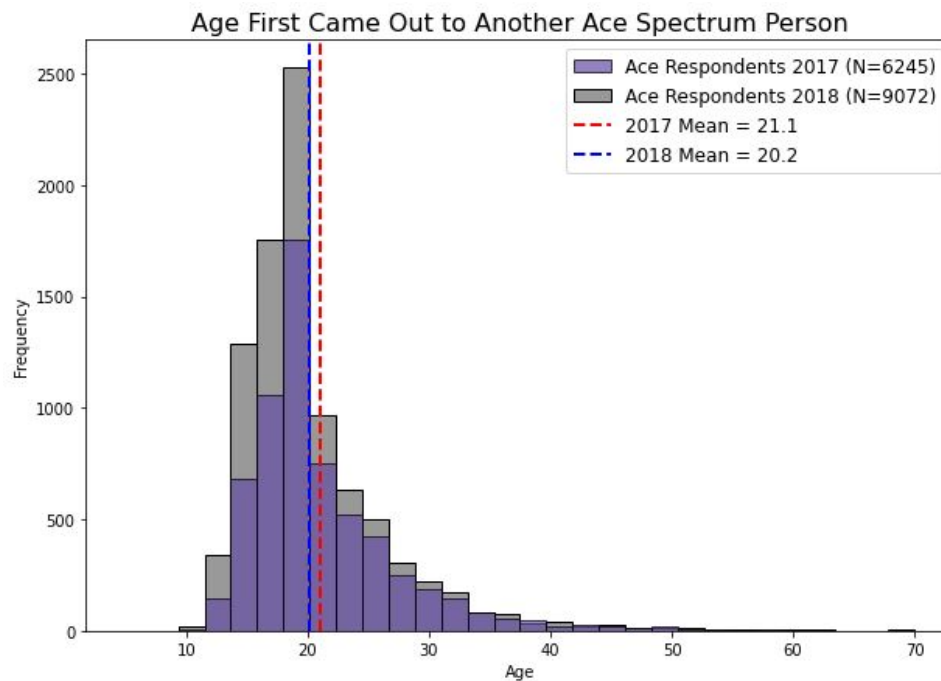
We asked ace respondents when they privately identified as ace and when they came out to other people. Questioning people and people who were not out were instructed to skip these questions.

On average, aces were privately identifying themselves as such between ages 19 and 20 in 2017. This range dropped by a year in 2018. It seems that on average, aces held on to this term for a year or so before coming out to others (regardless of that other person's ace identity): in 2017, aces were coming out at an average age of 21, which dropped to 20 in 2018. The exact language and age distribution for each question can be seen below.

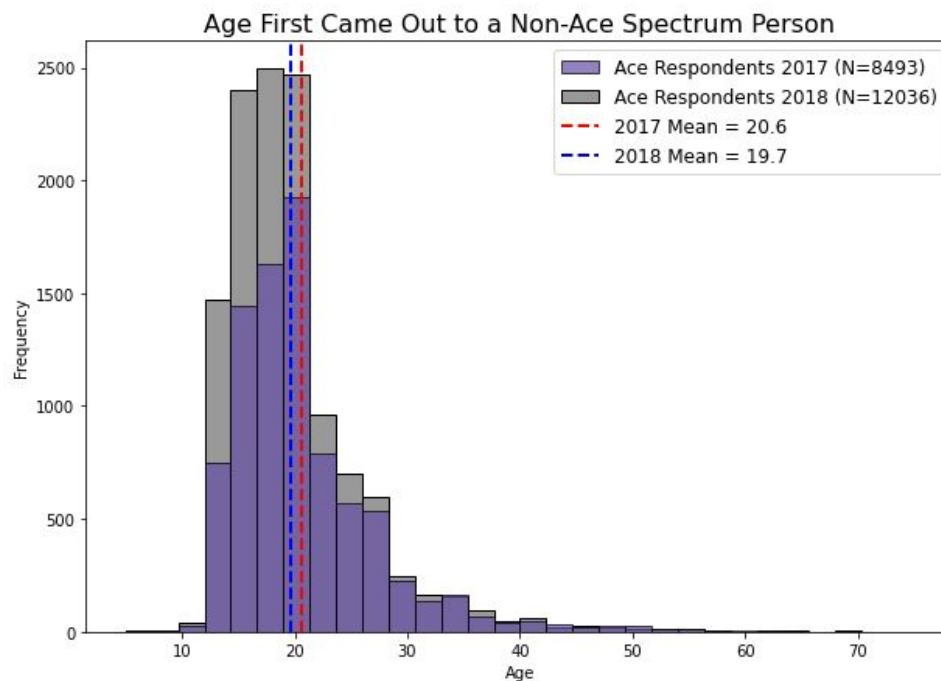
At what age did you first **privately identify** as asexual, gray-asexual, demisexual, or some equivalent term? *It counts even if you did not take the term seriously.*



At what age did you first tell another *asexual* person about your asexuality, gray-asexuality, demisexuality, or some equivalent term?



At what age did you first tell another *non-asexual* person about your asexuality, gray-asexuality, demisexuality, or some equivalent term?



How many people in the following groups have you told about your asexuality/demisexuality/gray-asexuality?

We asked participants whether they were out about their ace identity to "none," "a few," "about half" (2017 only), "most," or "all" of the people they knew in different groups (12 groups in 2017, and 10 groups in 2018), with an option to select "N/A." In 2018, we also asked participants how out they were about their lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual, questioning, or queer (LGBPQQ) identity as well as their transgender, non-binary, or gender-non-conforming (TGNC) identity.

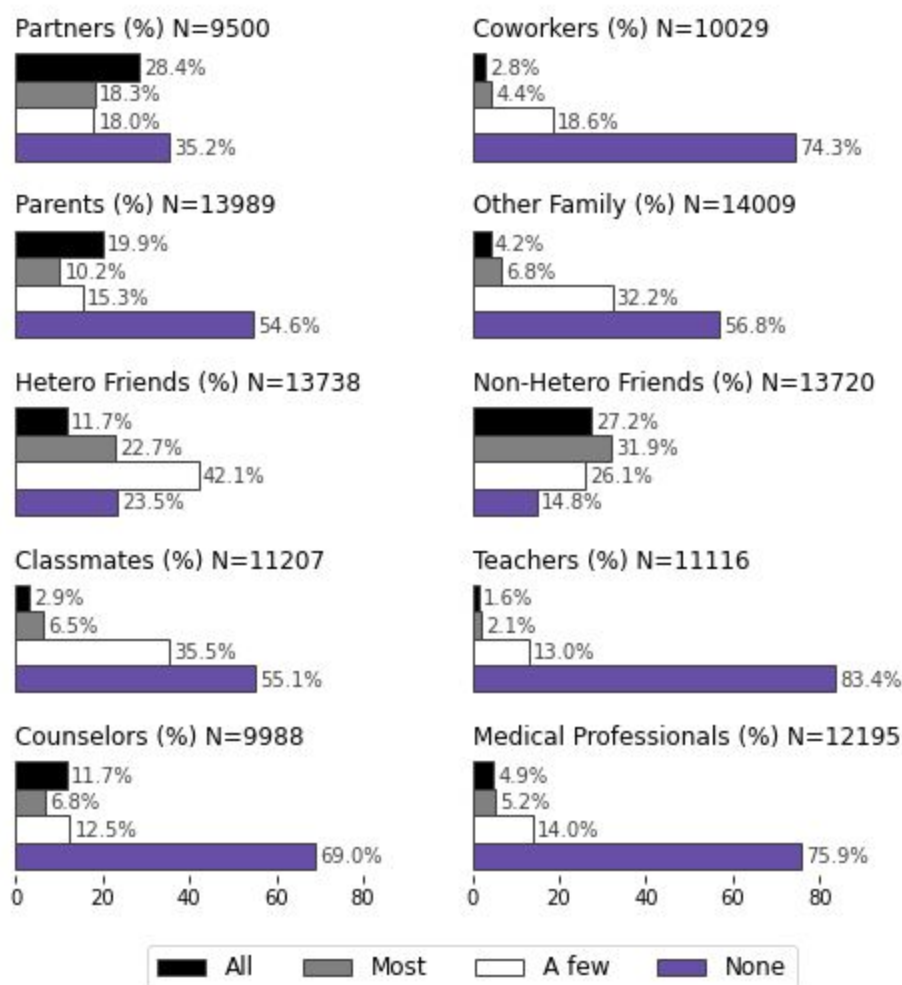
According to GLSEN's 2017 National School Climate Survey (NSCS), ace LGBTQ students may be out to fewer people about their identity compared to non-ace LGBTQ students, although the report does not distinguish between being out as ace and being out as LGBTQ (Kosciw, Greytak, Zongrone, Clark, and Truong, 2018). The NSCS cites concerns about invisibility, lack of acceptance, and lower levels of school belonging as reasons aces might be reluctant to come out about their ace identity. The questions in the 2017 and 2018 report create an opportunity to explore levels of outness about different identities among ace respondents.

In 2017, friends were the most common group for aces to be out about their ace identity to at least a few people, with non-heterosexual friends (82.8%) having a slight edge over heterosexual friends (76.4%). Aces were also more likely to be out to most (24.6%) or all (22.2%) non-heterosexual friends compared to heterosexual friends (17.5% and 9.9%, respectively). Aces were most likely to be out to all their partners (28.5%) or siblings (28.4%) compared to other groups, with parents (23.5%) following closely behind. 89.3% of aces said they were not out to any leaders.

How many people in the following groups have you told about your ace identity? (Aces 2017)	None	A few	About half	Most	All
Partners (%) N=6847	39.5	19.3	4.3	8.4	28.5
Parents (%) N=9676	54.3	6.6	12.8	2.7	23.5
Siblings (%) N=8675	54.6	8.7	4.5	3.7	28.4
Other Family (%) N=9516	76.6	16.5	2.3	2.7	2.0
Hetero Friends (%) N=9585	23.6	40.0	9.0	17.5	9.9
Non-Hetero Friends (%) N=9564	17.2	27.4	8.6	24.6	22.2
Acquaintances (%) N=9518	57.2	33.9	4.4	2.7	1.8
Classmates (%) N=8746	62.9	29.5	3.4	2.3	1.8
Leaders (%) N=7850	89.3	7.1	1.4	1.1	1.1
Coworkers (%) N=8165	74.8	18.7	2.7	2.3	1.5
Counselors (%) N=8219	71.0	12.6	3.1	3.8	9.5
Medical Professionals (%) N=9003	76.1	14.1	3.0	3.3	3.6

In 2018, friends were, once again, the most likely group for aces to be out about their ace identity to at least a few people, although the gap between non-heterosexual friends (85.2%) and heterosexual friends (76.5%) was more pronounced. In this year, aces were most likely to be out to all their partners (28.4%) and non-heterosexual friends (27.2%). About a fifth were out to all their parents. 83.4% of aces were not out to any of their teachers, and about three-quarters of aces were not out to any medical professionals or coworkers.

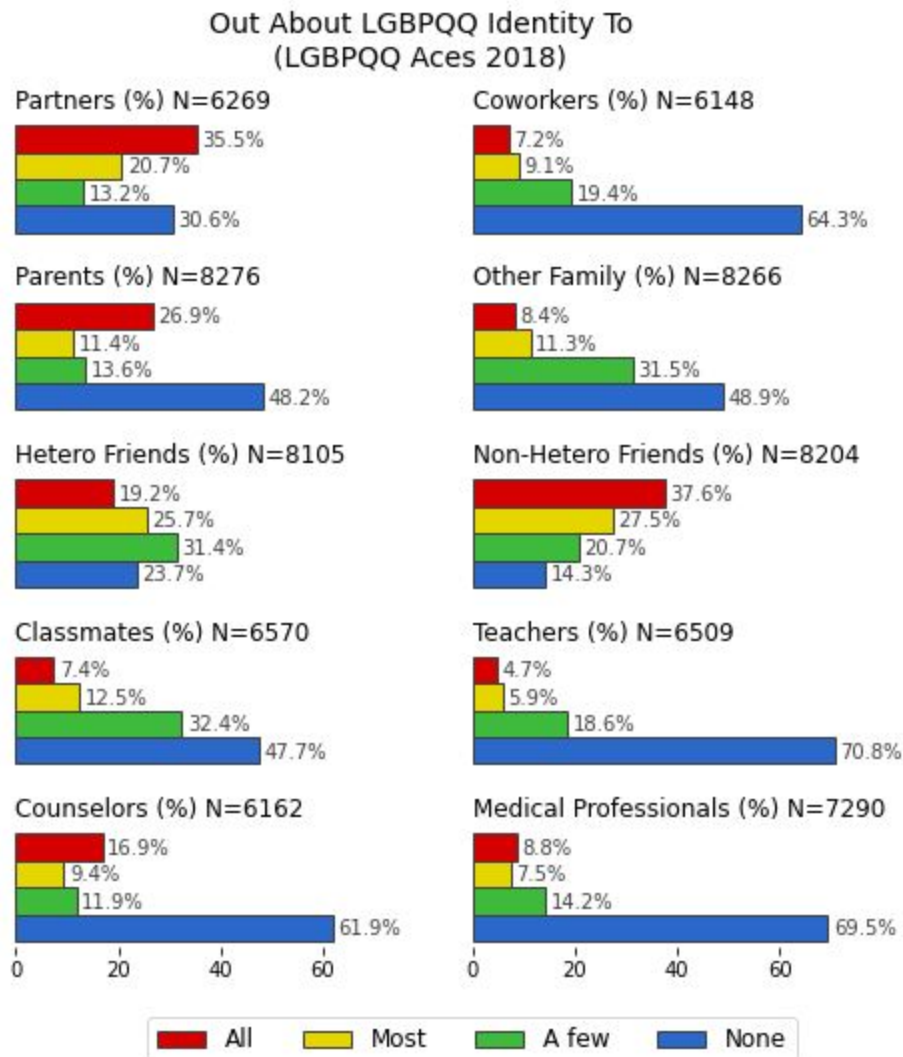
Out About Ace Identity To (2018)



How many people in the following groups have you told about your lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual, questioning, or queer (LGBPQQ) sexual orientation?

Overall, ace LGBPQQ respondents were out to more people about their LGBPQQ identity than their ace identity. Specifically, ace LGBPQQ respondents were more often out to all people in each group about their LGBPQQ identity, as well as to most people in each group except non-heterosexual friends, while they were more often out to no one about their ace identity in every group except heterosexual friends.

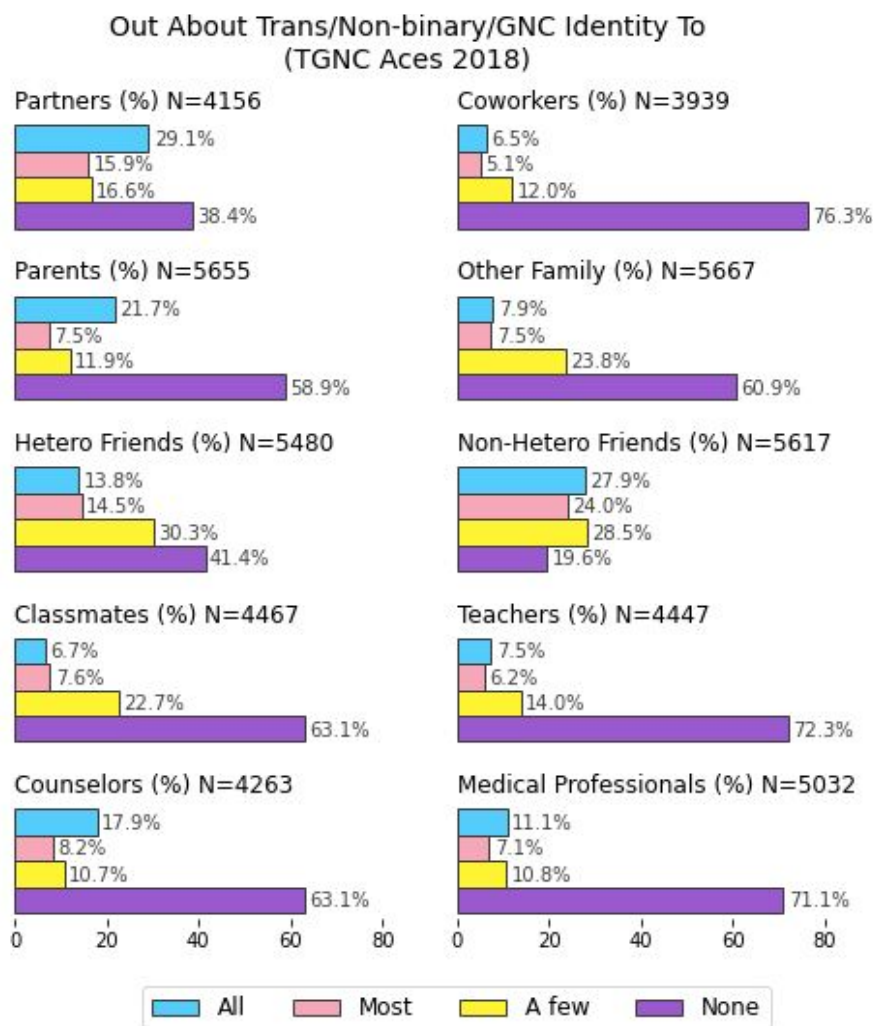
85.7% of ace LGBPQQ respondents who answered this question said they were out about their LGBPQQ identity to at least a few non-heterosexual friends, with heterosexual friends being the next most common group at 76.3%. Ace LGBPQQ respondents were most likely to be out about their LGBPQQ identity to all their non-heterosexual friends (37.6%) compared to other groups, followed by partners (35.5%), although respondents were only a little less often out to none of their partners (30.6%) as they were out to all of them.



How many people in the following groups have you told about your trans, non-binary, or gender non-conforming (TGNC)⁵ identity?

Non-heterosexual friends were the most likely group for TGNC ace respondents to be out to about their TGNC identity, with 80.4% out to at least a few members of that group. The next most common groups to be out to at least a few people were partners (61.6%) and heterosexual friends (58.6%), although TGNC respondents were about twice as likely to be out to no one in these groups compared to non-heterosexual friends. Moreover, TGNC ace respondents had the greatest proportion who were out to none of their heterosexual friends (41.4%) compared to respondents who were out to no one in this group about their LGBPQQ (23.7%) or ace (23.5%) identities.

TGNC respondents were most likely to be out about their gender identity to all of their partners (29.1%) or all of their non-heterosexual friends (27.9%) compared to other groups. Just over one in five TGNC respondents were out to all their parents about their gender identity. More than 70% of TGNC respondents were out to none of their coworkers, teachers, or medical professionals.



⁵ Please visit the Terminology section on page 7 to see our classification of TGNC respondents.

Section 3: Significant Relationships

Respondents were asked general questions about their significant relationships including information about their relationship status, partners, relationship history, and relationship style.

For purposes of this study, a “significant relationship” is defined as close relationships other than family or close friends—typical examples could include marriage, domestic partnerships, queerplatonic relationships, partner, boyfriend, girlfriend, etc. Significant relationships need not necessarily be sexual or romantic.

3.1 Relationship Status and History

What is your significant relationship status?

Current Relationship Status	Aces 2017 (%) N=10024
Single	74.4
In at least one significant relationship (either romantic or not)	19.8
Engaged/married	5.8

Current Relationship Status	Aces 2018 (%) N=14434
Single	76.7
Not engaged or married, but in at least one significant relationship (either romantic or not)	17.8
In at least one relationship where we are engaged or married	5.5

It is important to understand the relationship make-up of the respondents in order to gain a broader understanding of the ace community. Respondents were asked about any significant relationships they had at the time of the surveys. In 2018 we updated the language of the question to consider people in polyamorous engagements and marriages. As shown on the tables to the left, the majority of ace respondents (74.4% in 2017 and 76.75% in 2018) were single, followed by those who indicated they were in at least one significant relationship (19.8% in 2017 and 17.8% in 2018), and just over 5% in both years reporting they were engaged or married.

Have you ever had a significant relationship?

Had a Significant Relationship	Aces 2017 (%) N=10027	Aces 2018 (%) N=14447
Yes	53.2	50.4
Unsure	7.9	8.9
No	38.8	40.7

About half of ace respondents reported having been in a significant relationship, while around 40% in both 2017 and 2018 reported they have not. The remaining respondents said they were unsure.

Have you ever had a significant romantic relationship?

Had a Romantic Relationship	Aces 2017 (%) N=10020	Aces 2018 (%) N=14427
Yes	44.7	42.4
Unsure	6.8	7.3
No	44.5	46.8
I do not differentiate between romantic and nonromantic relationships	4.0	3.5

A little less than half of ace respondents (44.7% in 2017 and 42.4% in 2018) reported having been in a significant romantic relationship. This aligns closely with the number of respondents who said they had not had such a relationship. The remainder of ace respondents either said they were unsure or that they did not differentiate between romantic and non-romantic relationships.

Have you ever had a significant non-romantic relationship?

Had a Non-Romantic Relationship	Aces 2017 (%) N=10002	Aces 2018 (%) N=14400
Yes	31.7	32.1
Unsure	16.4	17.4
No	47.0	46.0
I do not differentiate between romantic and nonromantic relationships	5.0	4.4

About a third of ace respondents (31.7% in 2017 and 32.1% in 2018) reported having been in a significant non-romantic relationship, compared to nearly half (47.0% in 2017 and 46.0% in 2018) who said they had not. The remainder of the respondents said they were unsure or that they did not differentiate between romantic and non-romantic relationships.

3.2 Orientation of Partners

Have you ever had a partner who you know is asexual, gray-asexual, or demisexual? Have you ever had a partner who you know is NOT asexual, gray-asexual, or demisexual?

Had an Ace Partner	Aces who have had a significant relationship 2017 (%) N=5328	Aces who have had a significant relationship 2018 (%) N=7259
Yes	22.3	24.0
No	77.7	76.0

Had an Non-Ace Partner	Aces who have had a significant relationship 2017 (%) N=5324	Aces who have had a significant relationship 2018 (%) N=7258
Yes	89.5	88.5
No	10.5	11.5

Partner Orientation History	Aces who have had a significant relationship 2017 (%) N=5338	Aces who have had a significant relationship 2018 (%) N=7278
Ace partner(s) only	5.1	6.1
Non-ace partner(s) only	72.1	70.3
Both ace and non-ace partner(s)	17.1	17.8
Other	5.7	5.9

Among aces who had ever had a significant relationship, fewer than a quarter had a partner who was on the ace spectrum. It is important to point out here that the question asked respondents if they knew their partner was ace, and presumed that only those respondents who had confirmation of their partner's ace status would respond affirmatively. If a respondent had a partner(s) who had not come out to them, then there would be no way of knowing that partner's (or partners') orientation.

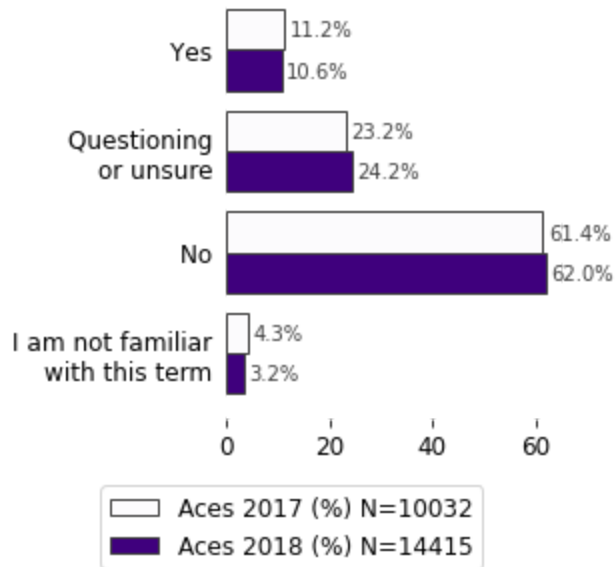
In contrast, almost 90% of aces who had ever had a significant relationship had a non-ace partner.

In total, about a fifth of respondents who had ever had significant relationships had both ace and non-ace partners. More than 70% had only had non-ace partners, while just over 5% had only had ace partners.

3.3 Polyamory

Do you consider yourself polyamorous?

Do you consider yourself polyamorous?



About one in ten ace respondents considered themselves polyamorous, with twice as many respondents who were questioning or unsure if they considered themselves polyamorous. Fewer than 5% of respondents said they were unfamiliar with the term. In the 2020 survey, we altered this question to be inclusive of other forms of non-monogamous relationship styles.

Section 4: Sexual Violence

Due to the sensitive nature of the questions in this section, respondents were asked at the beginning of it if they were willing to answer questions about their sexual history, including experiences with sexual violence. This section only includes respondents who were willing to proceed with this section. 9.3% of ace respondents in 2017 and 17.4% of ace respondents in 2018 skipped this section. All questions in this section were optional.

Certain analyses in this section examine the sexual violence experienced by subsets of respondents who self-identified as a racial minority, as transgender, or as having a non-binary gender identity⁶. In order to represent the ranges of experiences in these groups, each analysis subgroup includes respondents who identified with that group, as well as those who indicated they were questioning or unsure if they identified with or belonged to those groups.

4.1 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Interpretations of Sexual Violence

The CDC (2020) defines sexual violence as *sexual activity when consent is not obtained or not given freely*. To get a sense of how many respondents have experienced sexual violence under this definition, we combined answers to the following questions from the 2017 survey:

- Have you ever experienced sexual contact that you did not consent to, or were incapable of giving consent to?
- Have you ever had sex because of social pressure from a partner, your peers, or anyone else, when you might not have wanted to have sex?
- Have you ever experienced sex that you did not consent to or were incapable of giving consent to?

In 2017, nearly half of ace respondents (47.5%) were victims of sexual violence, with an additional 4.9% who were unsure. Aces who were among a racial minority were more likely to experience rape or non-consensual sex than aces among a racial majority.

Experienced sexual violence	Aces 2017		
	All Aces (%) N=9052	Majority Race (%) N=7250	Racial Minority (%) N=1217
Yes	47.5	46.7	49.4
Unsure	4.9	5.1	4.3
No	47.6	48.2	46.3

⁶ Please visit the Terminology section on page 7 to see our classification of non-binary respondents.

In 2018, we updated the language of questions asking about sexual violence to specify examples of “sex” and “sexual contact” to capture respondents who did not relate their experiences with those general terms. These correspond to questions 64–73 in the 2018 survey.⁷ When we combined the new set of questions to fit the CDC definition, 79.5% of ace respondents were victims of sexual violence, a rate that is approximately 1.7 times the year prior. This is one demonstration of how differences in question phrasing can reveal dramatically different results.

Furthermore, about one in four ace respondents in 2018 had experienced sexual coercion, and more than one in five experienced rape. Aces who were among a racial minority were more likely to experience every type of sexual violence compared to aces among a racial majority.

Experienced sexual violence (CDC)	Aces 2018		
	All Aces (%) N=10078	National Dominant Race (%) N=7975	National Racial Minority (%) N=1779
Any sexual violence	79.5	78.7	82.1
Non-contact sexual violence	71.8	70.9	74.9
Contact sexual violence	57.7	56.6	61.8
Unwanted sexual contact	52.7	51.3	57.7
Rape	20.5	19.3	24.5
Sexual coercion	24.3	23.6	26.4

⁷ Raw text of the 2018 survey can be accessed here:

<https://asexualcensus.files.wordpress.com/2018/12/2018rawtext.pdf>

4.2 Rape/Non-Consensual Sex

Have you ever experienced sex that you did not consent to or were incapable of giving consent to?

Among the respondents in 2017 who agreed to answer questions on sexual violence, 16.3% had experienced non-consensual sex (i.e., rape, although as shown by Bauer et al. (2017) in Section 5.1 of the 2015 Survey Report, respondents may not necessarily describe it in those terms), and 5.5% were unsure. Aces who were among a racial minority were more likely to experience rape or non-consensual sex than aces among a racial majority.

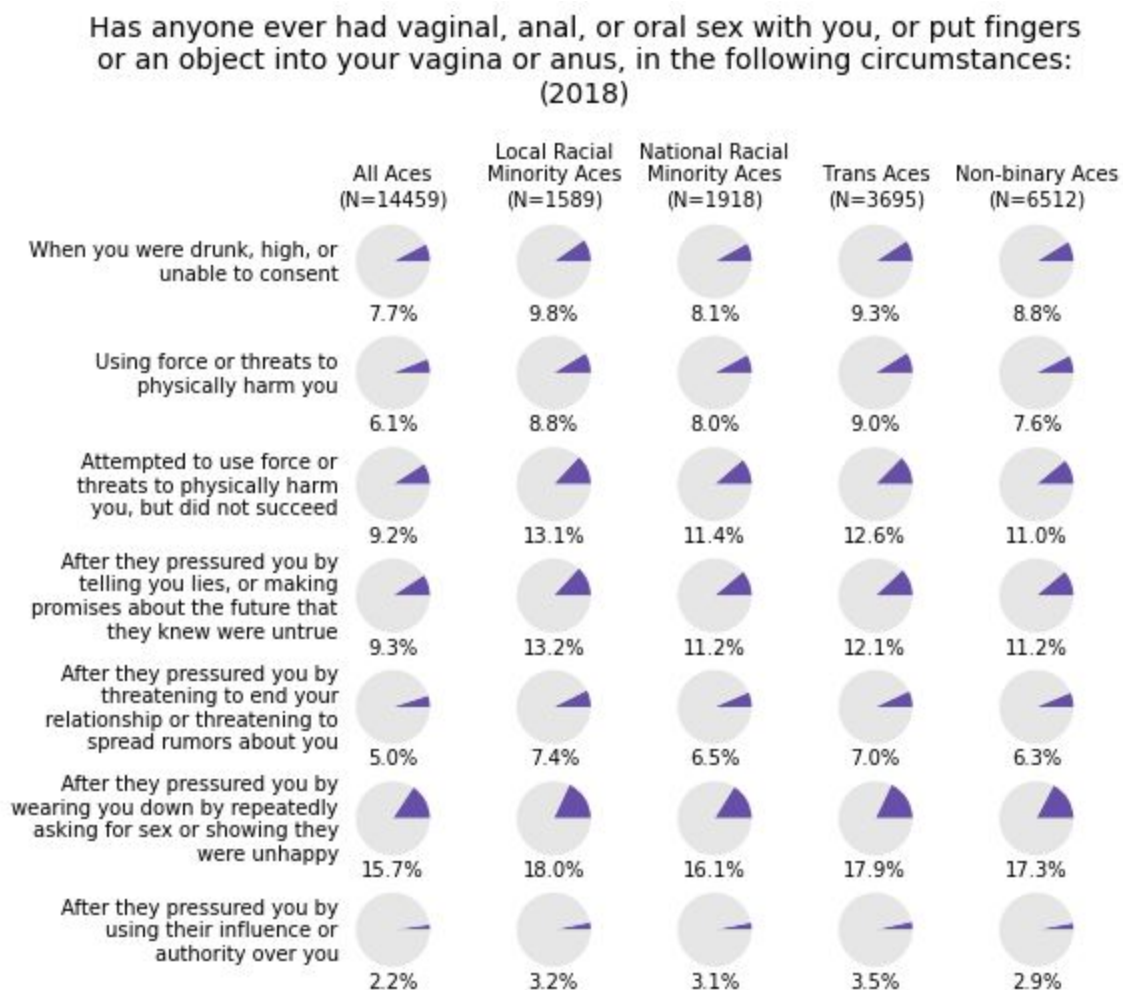
Experienced non-consensual sex	Aces 2017		
	All Aces (%) N=9075	Majority Race (%) N=7268	Racial Minority (%) N=1220
Yes	16.3	15.6	17.9
Unsure	5.5	5.3	6.1
No	78.3	79.1	76.0

In 2018, we changed the wording in this section of the survey to be more descriptive of forced or coerced "vaginal, oral, or anal sex." Our intention was for the new phrasing to make both the definition of "sex" and "consent" more specific in case people did not relate their experiences to those terms, in accordance with the question phrasing used by the National Intimate Sexual Violence Survey (United States Department of Health and Human Services, 2016). This time, 28.7% of respondents said they had experienced forced or coerced sex, which is an increase of more than 10% compared to the less specific question asked in 2017.

Experienced forced or coerced vaginal, oral, or anal sex:	Aces 2018 (%) N=10367
Yes	28.7
No	71.3

Circumstances of non-consensual sexual contact

In 2018 we asked respondents how many times, if at all, someone had initiated specific types of non-consensual sexual contact with them under different circumstances, as detailed in the chart below. The circumstance that respondents most commonly experienced was after someone repeatedly asked for sex or showed that they were unhappy (15.7%). When dividing the respondents into different minority groups (local racial minorities, national racial minorities, transgender, and non-binary respondents), each minority group was more likely to have experienced sexual violence in every circumstance when compared to the larger ace subgroup, with local racial minorities and transgender respondents especially prone.

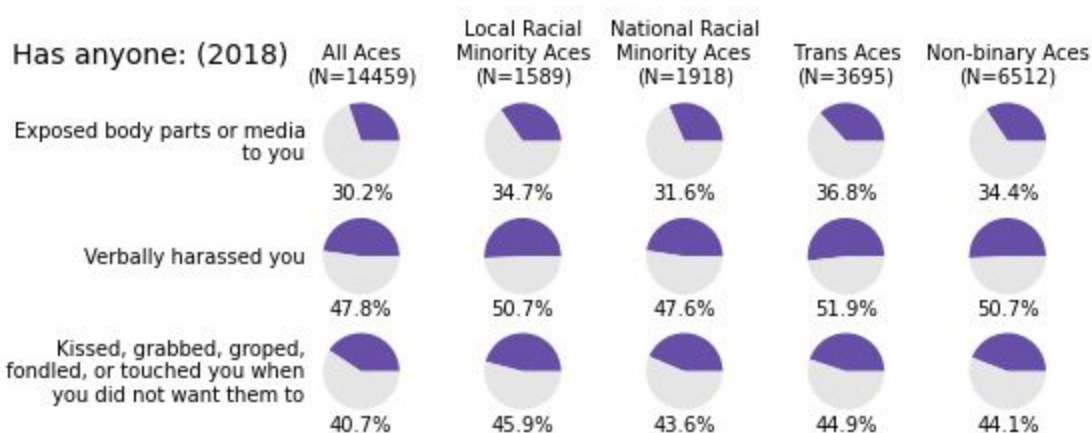


Aces who were among a national racial minority experienced forced or coerced sex more often than aces who were part of the national dominant race (30.8% and 28.0%, respectively). The same was true for aces who were among a local racial minority compared to aces in a local dominant race (32.4% and 28.0%, respectively).

Experienced forced or coerced vaginal, oral, or anal sex:	Aces 2018		
	Dominant Race (%) N=8209	National Racial Minority (%) N=1819	Local Racial Minority (%) N=1807
Yes	28.0	30.8	32.4
No	72.0	69.2	67.6

4.3 Sexual Assault

When it came to scenarios involving sexual assault, about half of the respondents had experienced verbal harassment, more than 40% had been kissed, grabbed, fondled, or touched, and about a third had someone expose their body parts or graphic media. Among the minority groups in this analysis (aces, local racial minorities, national racial minorities, transgender, and non-binary), respondents who were transgender were the most likely to have experienced verbal harassment or exposure of body parts or graphic media. Aces who were a racial minority in their community were the most likely to have experienced unwanted touching.



4.4 Surviving Sexual Violence

People have many different reactions after experiencing a traumatic or stressful event.

After any of the events referred to in the previous questions, have you experienced any of the following?

Due to having experienced sexual violence, approximately two-thirds of ace respondents who experienced sexual violence said that they had distressing memories of the event or that they kept remembering the event though they did not want to. Between a quarter and a third had distressing dreams about the event or felt that they were reliving that event or that it was happening all over again. About three-fourths experienced at least one of these symptoms. Any of these four may qualify as an intrusion symptom, in partial fulfillment of the DSM-5's diagnostic criteria for PTSD (American Psychiatric Association, 2013), but only about one-tenth have been professionally diagnosed with PTSD.

Reactions to sexual violence (2017)	Aces Experienced Sexual Violence N=4296	Aces Unsure If Experienced Sexual Violence N=444
I kept remembering the event even though I didn't want to	61.8	16.4
I had distressing memories of the event	64.1	14.0
I had distressing dreams about the event	29.5	6.5
I felt that I was reliving that event or that it was happening all over again	27.6	3.4
Any of above	76.1	25.0
Professionally diagnosed with PTSD	9.5	2.0

Section 5: Consensual Sexual Experiences

The 2017 and 2018 surveys asked questions about respondents' experiences with consensual, partnered sex. In 2018, respondents were given the option to skip this section due to its sensitive nature. The 2018 results in this section only include respondents who were willing to proceed with this section (85.3% of all ace respondents).

5.1 Consensual Sexual Experiences

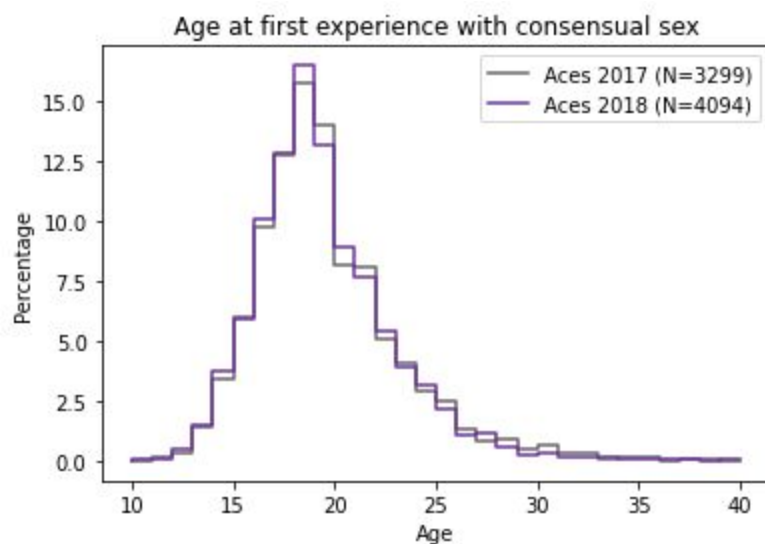
Have you ever had consensual sex?

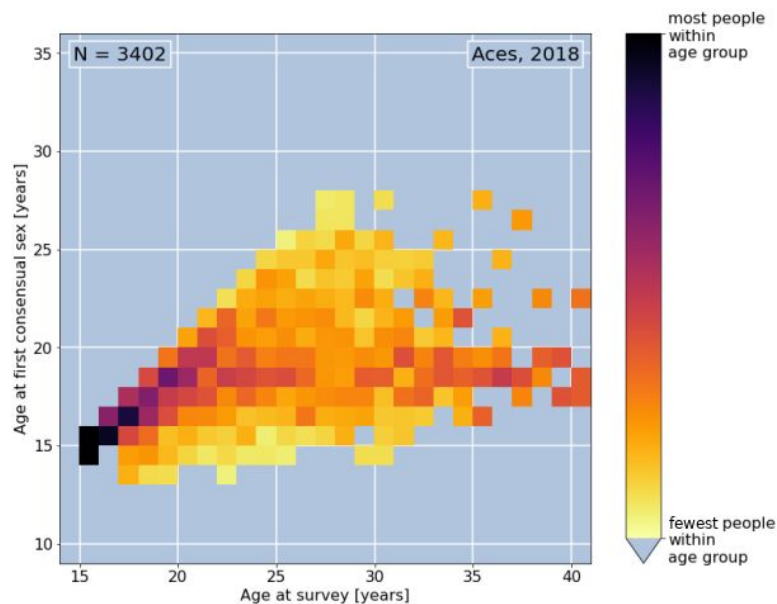
Have had consensual sex	Aces 2017 (%) N=9082	Aces 2018 (%) N=12276
Yes	35.8	32.9
Unsure	1.9	2.0
No	62.3	65.1

The majority of ace respondents—almost two-thirds—had not had consensual sexual experiences, while about a third had. The remainder (around 2% for both years) were unsure.

By your best estimate, how old were you at the EARLIEST time you had consensual sex?

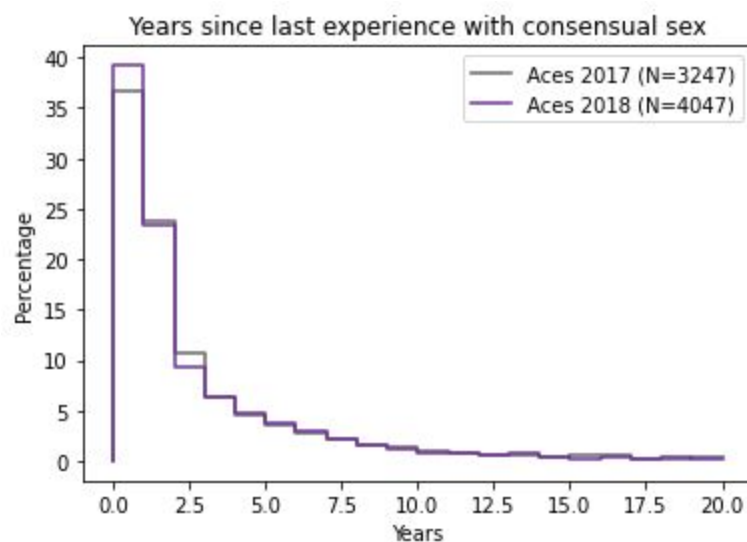
About half of ace respondents who had consensual sex had their first experience in their late teenage years, peaking around age 18. Note: this is self-reported data that does not necessarily factor in the legal age of consent in respondents' respective countries.





The chart to the left shows the frequency of respondents' first consensual sexual experience across the different ages of respondents. Respondents who were 18 and older were most likely to have had their first consensual sexual experience around age 18, and respondents younger than 18 had their first experience in the previous year or two. The range of age at first experience became broader as the age group increased, showing a diversity in these first experiences. The range begins to taper off around age 30, which is reflective of the diminishing number of respondents who are around 30 or older, as discussed in Section 1.3.

By your best estimate, how old were you at the MOST RECENT time you had consensual sex?



When we compare the above responses with the respondents' ages, we can analyze how many years had passed since their first or last experience with consensual sex. More than a third of respondents who had consensual sex had done so within the previous year. About a quarter said it had been a year, one in ten said it had been two years, and everyone else who had experienced consensual sex said it had been three years or more since their most recent experience.

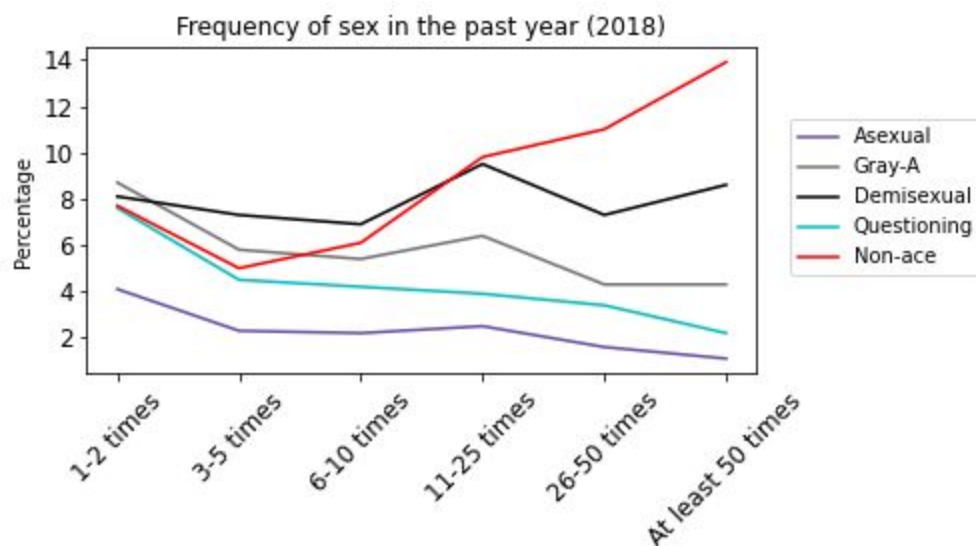
How often have you engaged in consensual sexual activity in the past year?

The majority of respondents across all ace identities had not had consensual sex at all in the previous year. The percentages of those who had consensual sex in the previous year are approximately 48% of demisexuals, 35% of gray-A respondents, 26% of questioning respondents, and 14% of asexuals.

Frequency of sex in past year (2018)	Asexual (%) N=7860	Gray-A (%) N=1505	Demisexual (%) N=1295	Questioning (%) N=1250	Non-ace (%) N=620
Not at all	86.2	65.2	52.1	74.2	46.5
1-2 times	4.1	8.7	8.1	7.6	7.7
3-5 times	2.3	5.8	7.3	4.5	5.0
6-10 times	2.2	5.4	6.9	4.2	6.1
11-25 times	2.5	6.4	9.5	3.9	9.8
26-50 times	1.6	4.3	7.3	3.4	11.0
At least 50 times	1.1	4.3	8.6	2.2	13.9

When looking across the ace spectrum, asexual respondents reported the lowest amount of sexual activity for all frequency options compared to other ace identities, whereas demisexuals reported the highest amount of sexual activity for almost every frequency. Gray-A and questioning respondents reported intermediate amounts of sexual activity, with gray-A slightly above questioning.

A qualitative difference between ace and non-ace groups is that the graph of sex frequency for those that had sex in the previous year is approximately flat or has a negative slope for ace subgroups, while it has a distinctly positive slope for non-aces.



5.2 Negative Consensual Sexual Experiences

Please note: a negative consensual sexual experience in this instance refers to consensual sex where the respondent did not have a pleasurable experience for whatever reason. Please see Section 4 of this report for data on non-consensual sexual experiences.

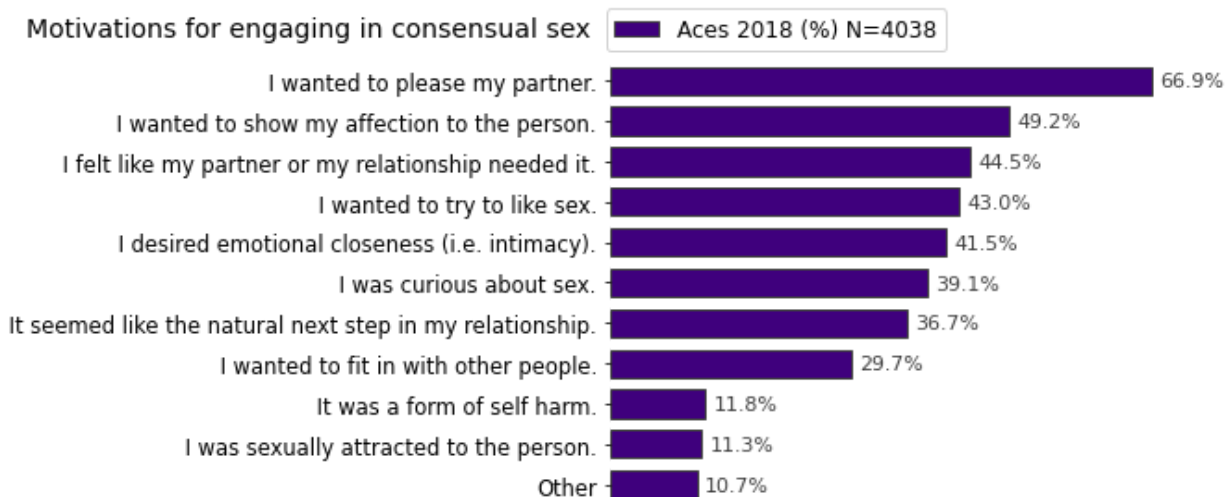
Have you ever engaged in sex that you felt was consensual, but which was a negative experience for you?

Had a negative experience with consensual sex	Aces who have had consensual sex 2018 (%) N=3866
Yes	66.1
Unsure if it was consensual	5.7
Unsure if it was a negative experience	15.1
No	13.1

Among aces who had ever had consensual sex, nearly two-thirds reported having had a negative experience. Only 13.1% said they had never had a bad experience with consensual sex, while the rest were either unsure if the experience was negative, or they were unsure if it was consensual.

If you answered Yes or Unsure to the previous question, please list your motivations for engaging in sex at those times.

We asked respondents who had negative experiences with consensual sex what their motivations had been for engaging in it. Many of these motivations were related to the other person/people involved: the majority indicated they wanted to please their partners, and almost half reported that it was a way to show affection, or felt like their partners or relationships needed it. A large group felt having sex would bring emotional closeness. Only 11.3% of the respondents had sex because they were sexually attracted to the other person/people. Others motivations were more personal, such as being curious or wanting to try sex, using it as a way to fit in with others, or as a way to self-harm. About one in ten respondents wrote in answers citing other motivations.



Section 6: Sexual Attitudes, Preferences, and Behaviors

Respondents were asked about feelings towards sex in general, including any sexual fantasies or fetishes.

6.1 Attitudes about Sex

How do you feel about the idea of you (personally) engaging in sex?

In ace communities, there is a common set of language used to describe one's attitude about personally engaging in sex: repulsed, indifferent, and favorable. In this question, we allowed respondents to select any of those three options, to also indicate they were uncertain, or to write in their own response. We did not define any of the terms, because their meanings are contested, and yet the words are clear enough that people who have never encountered these labels can often still categorize themselves.

Among asexual respondents, over half said they were repulsed, about a quarter said they were indifferent, around 3% said they were favorable, and about 15% said they were uncertain. The remaining respondents wrote in their own answer, which included themes like feeling uninterested (2.4% in both 2017 and 2018) or having feelings that fluctuated or depended on circumstance (3.3% in 2017 and 2.9% in 2018). Demisexual respondents were more favorable and less repulsed by the idea of personally engaging in sex compared to other ace-spectrum groups. While gray-A respondents were not as repulsed as asexuals, the percentage of gray-A respondents who said they were indifferent or uncertain was higher compared to asexual respondents.

The percentage of non-ace respondents who answered favorable (72.9% in 2017 and 72.1% in 2018) was much greater than asexuals who answered favorable (3.2% in 2017 and 2.8% in 2018). The difference was not as large between asexuals who said they were uncertain (14.5% in 2017 and 15.7% in 2018) and non-aces who answered uncertain (12.5% in 2017 and 13.5% in 2018).

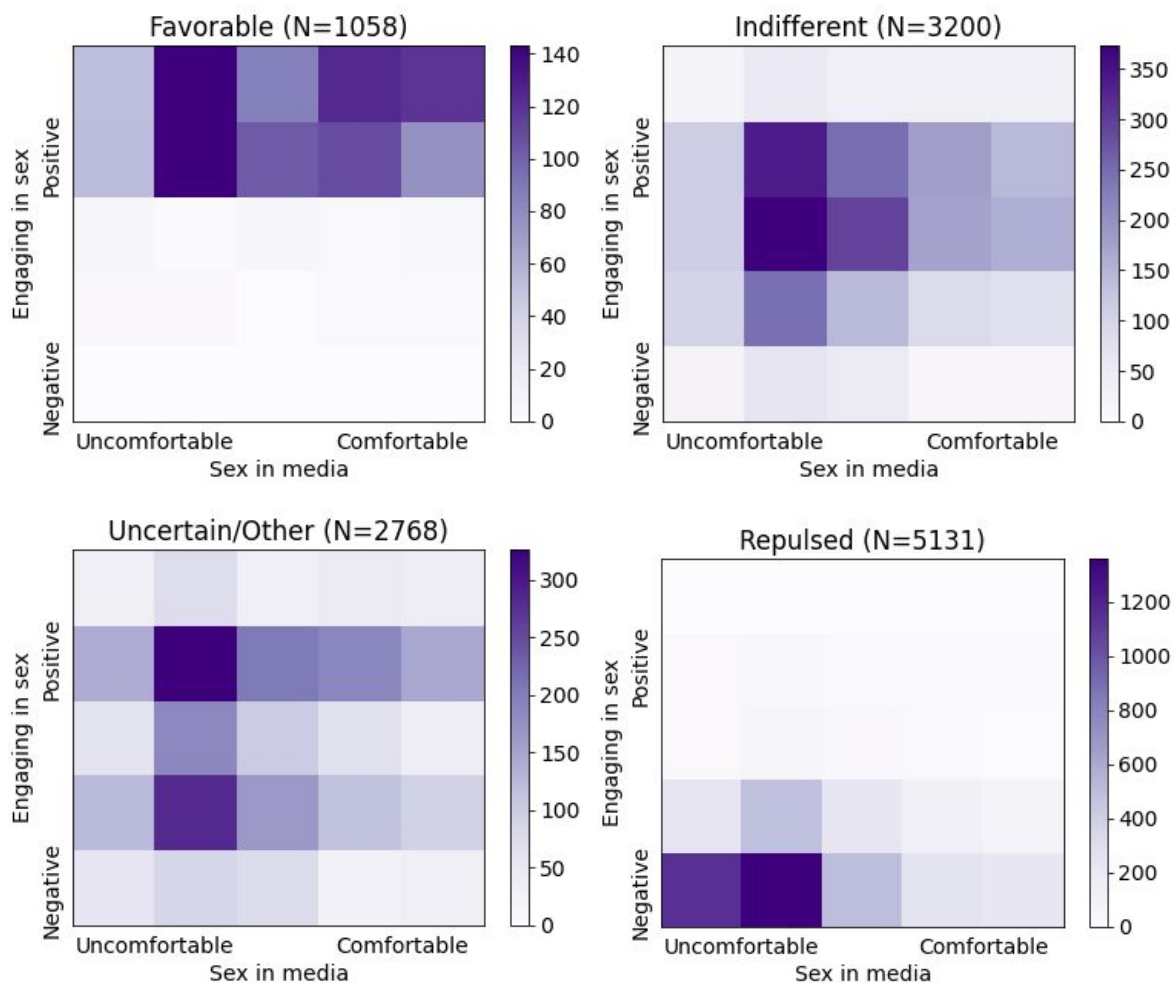
Sexual Disposition (2017)	Asexual (%) N=6562	Gray-A (%) N=1300	Demisexual (%) N=1003	Questioning (%) N=1167	Non-ace (%) N=590
Favorable	3.2	10.6	29.2	11.4	72.9
Indifferent	24.8	34.9	28.1	24.3	8.3
Repulsed	51.8	19.7	9.2	20.8	2.5
Uncertain	14.5	24.6	21.9	34.0	12.5
Other	5.6	10.2	11.6	9.4	3.7

Sexual Disposition (2018)	Asexual (%) N=9504	Gray-A (%) N=1705	Demisexual (%) N=1450	Questioning (%) N=1518	Non-ace (%) N=716
Favorable	2.8	12.1	28.3	10.7	72.1
Indifferent	23.4	35.0	30.6	22.9	8.2
Repulsed	51.4	16.1	8.6	22.1	2.5
Uncertain	15.7	26.0	21.9	35.5	13.5
Other	6.6	10.8	10.6	8.7	3.6

If you were planning to engage in sex, under circumstances of your choosing, how would you feel about the prospect? How comfortable are you with seeing sex scenes (where sex may be shown or implied) in TV or movies?

In addition to asking about whether respondents would feel favorable, indifferent, repulsed, or uncertain about engaging in sex, we also asked respondents how positive or negative they would feel if they were to engage in sex (under circumstances of their choosing), as well as their comfort level of viewing sex scenes (where sex may be shown or implied) in TV or movies.

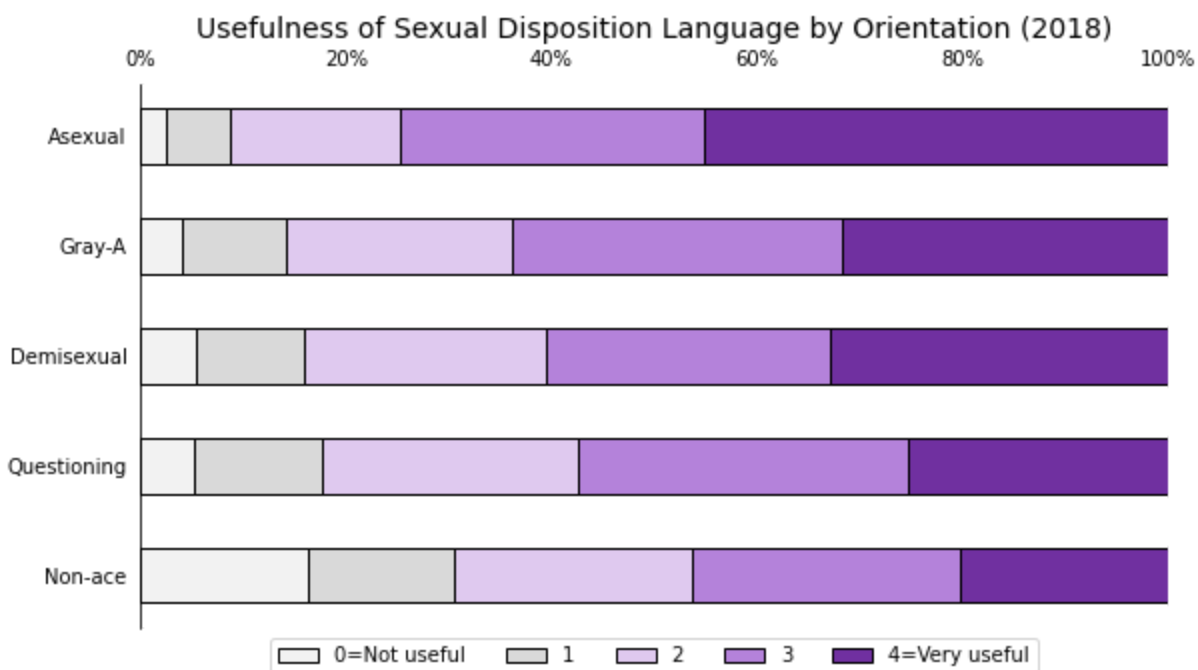
The respondents who said they felt favorable about personally engaging in sex also felt positive about planning to engage in sex. In contrast, those who felt repulsed about engaging in sex felt very negative about planning to engage in sex, with the majority also feeling somewhat or very uncomfortable about seeing sex in media. Those who felt indifferent or uncertain about personally engaging in sex were less likely to feel polarized at very positive or very negative about planning to engage in sex. Both groups felt less comfortable seeing sex in media than those who said they felt favorable about engaging in sex.



Some people differentiate between types of feelings towards the idea of personally engaging in sex using terms like “repulsed,” “indifferent,” and “favorable.” Do you find this a useful way of describing your own personal experiences?

In 2018, respondents were also asked how useful they found the terms “repulsed,” “favorable,” and “indifferent” for describing their own personal experiences. We can see that most asexual respondents considered these terms useful, with 45.2% having even considered them very useful. Gray-A and demisexual respondents considered them useful, but in smaller numbers than asexual respondents. Questioning respondents seemed to find them useful as well, but were more divided on the matter. Out of the population who responded to this question, non-aces seemed to find the terms least useful, but even within this group, nearly half found the terms to be useful or very useful.

Usefulness of sexual disposition language (2018)	Asexual (%) N=9474	Gray-A (%) N=1702	Demisexual (%) N=1444	Questioning (%) N=1510	Non-ace (%) N=708
0=Not useful	2.5	4.0	5.3	5.2	16.2
1	6.2	10.2	10.5	12.5	14.3
2	16.5	21.9	23.7	24.9	23.2
3	29.6	32.2	27.7	32.1	26.0
4=Very useful	45.2	31.7	32.8	25.4	20.3

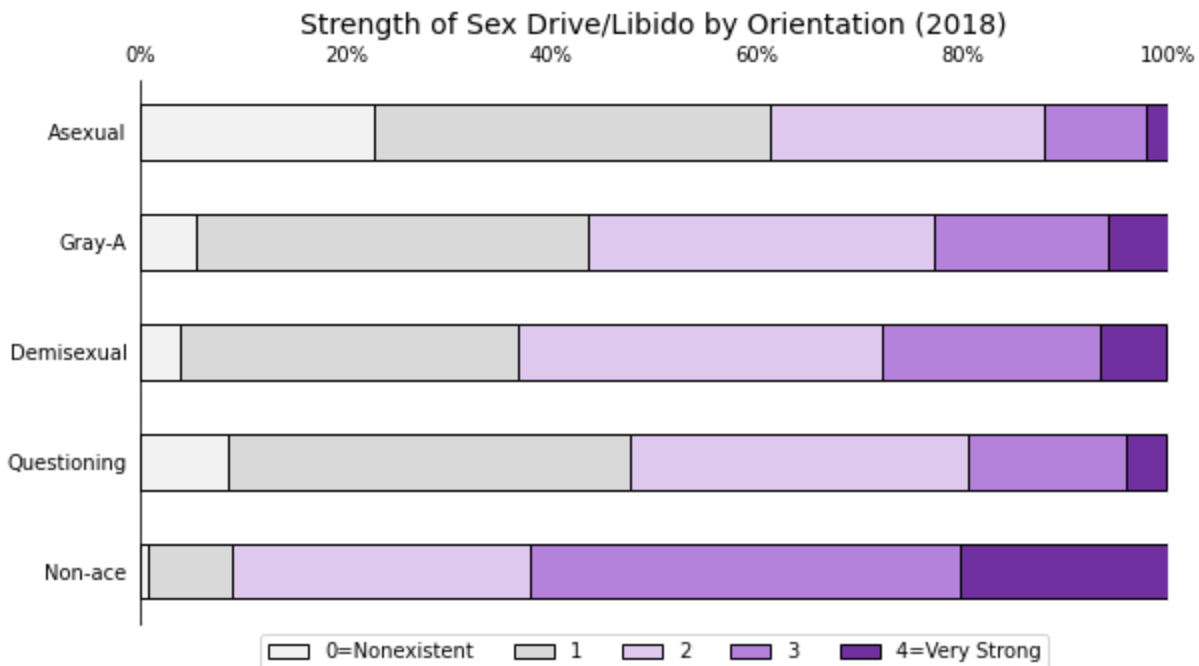


6.2 Sex Drive/Libido

How strong is your sex drive/libido, typically? Sex drive, or libido, refers to the drive to engage in some kind of sexual stimulation, whether through partnered sex or solo stimulation (e.g., masturbation).

Ace and non-ace respondents reported opposite distributions when it came to their sex drive. Ace respondents most commonly answered 1 (on a scale from 0 to 4), and non-ace respondents most commonly answered 3. A Chi-squared test proved these distributions were indeed significantly different from one another ($p < .01$).

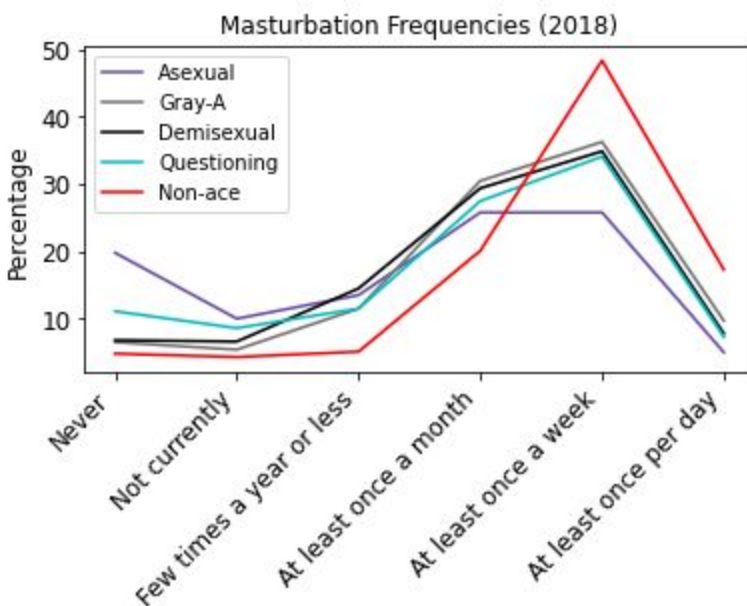
Strength of Sex Drive/Libido (2018)	Asexual (%) N=8548	Gray-A (%) N=1619	Demisexual (%) N=1378	Questioning (%) N=1402	Non-ace (%) N=670
0=Nonexistent	22.8	5.4	3.9	8.4	0.7
1	38.5	38.2	32.9	39.3	8.1
2	26.6	33.7	35.3	32.8	29.1
3	9.9	16.9	21.3	15.5	41.8
4=Very Strong	2.3	5.8	6.5	3.9	20.3



How frequently do you masturbate, typically?

Overall, asexual respondents masturbated less frequently than non-ace respondents, with gray-A, demisexual, and questioning respondents between the aforementioned two groups. Just about a fifth of asexual respondents stated they have never masturbated, compared to 11.1% of questioning and fewer than 10% of gray-A, demisexual, and non-ace respondents. Non-ace respondents were almost twice as likely as any ace-spectrum group to masturbate at least once per day.

Masturbation Frequencies (2018)	Asexual (%) N=8534	Gray-A (%) N=1621	Demisexual (%) N=1383	Questioning (%) N=1402	Non-ace (%) N=670
Never	19.8	6.5	6.8	11.1	4.8
Not currently	10.0	5.4	6.6	8.6	4.3
Few times a year or less	13.5	11.5	14.5	11.5	5.1
At least once a month	25.8	30.5	29.4	27.5	20.1
At least once a week	25.8	36.3	34.9	34.1	48.4
At least once per day	5.0	9.7	7.8	7.3	17.3

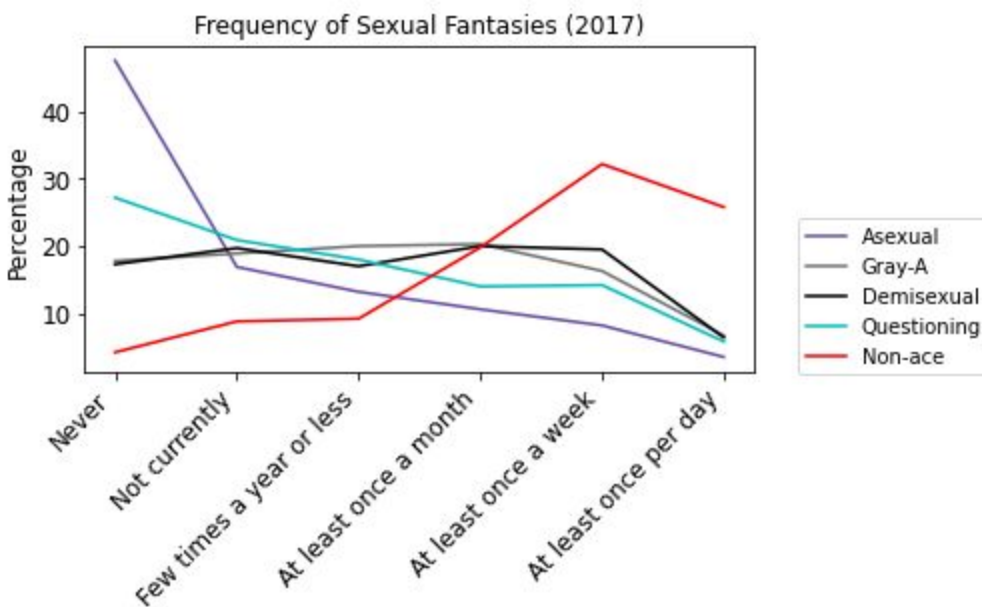


6.3 Fantasies, Interests, and Proclivities

How frequently do you have sexual fantasies, typically?

Across the ace spectrum, asexual respondents were the least likely to have sexual fantasies, with nearly two-thirds reporting that they had never had or were not at the time having sexual fantasies, compared to about half of questioning respondents and a little more than a third of gray-A and demisexual respondents. Close to half of asexual respondents never had sexual fantasies at all. As the frequency of sexual fantasies increased, fewer asexuals reported experiencing sexual fantasies at each incrementing frequency, as seen by the negative slope in the graph below. A similar trend was true for questioning respondents, though questioning respondents overall experienced fantasies more often than asexual respondents. The pattern of non-ace respondents was the inverse of asexual and questioning respondents. Gray-A and demisexual respondents shared similar patterns and percentages in terms of having (or rather not having) sexual fantasies across all frequencies. Most members of these two subgroups reported having sexual fantasies at the time with a frequency at most once a week.

Frequency of sexual fantasies (2017)	Asexual (%) N=6092	Gray-A (%) N=1259	Demisexual (%) N=980	Questioning (%) N=1095	Non-ace (%) N=566
Never	47.6	17.8	17.3	27.2	4.2
Not currently	16.9	18.9	19.7	20.9	8.8
Few times a year or less	13.2	20.0	17.0	18.0	9.2
At least once a month	10.6	20.3	20.0	14.0	19.8
At least once a week	8.2	16.3	19.5	14.2	32.2
At least once per day	3.5	6.7	6.4	5.8	25.8



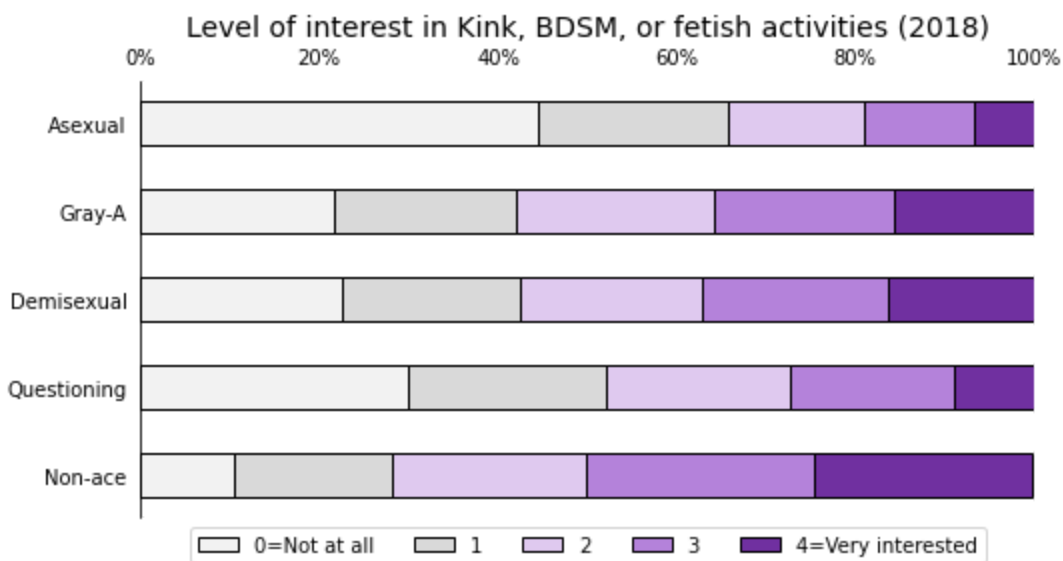
How interested are you in any kink, BDSM, or fetish activities (including nonsexual ones)?
If you are interested in some such activities but not others, answer only for the ones you are interested in.

Within the ace spectrum, asexual respondents expressed the least interest in any kink, BDSM, or fetish activities, with 44.5% answering that they were not interested at all and each more interested group declining in size. Questioning respondents had a similar pattern to their responses, although the decrease is less pronounced.

Interest among gray-A and demisexual respondents was about evenly distributed at each level, with fewer respondents who said they were very interested (15.6% and 16.3% respectively, compared to about 20% or more for each other level of interest). The percentage of gray-A and demisexual respondents who said they were very interested is more than double that of asexual respondents.

Non-ace respondents' pattern is roughly the reverse of asexuals', with percentages increasing from "not at all" to "very interested." The percentage of non-ace respondents who answered that they were very interested was approximately four-times that of asexual respondents. Only 10.4% of non-aces said they were not at all interested, which is less than half of any ace-spectrum group who indicated the same level of disinterest.

Level of interest in kink, BDSM, or fetish activities (2018)	Asexual (%) N=8540	Gray-A (%) N=1619	Demisexual (%) N=1386	Questioning (%) N=1402	Non-ace (%) N=670
0=Not at all	44.5	21.7	22.5	30.0	10.4
1	21.2	20.4	19.9	22.1	17.8
2	15.4	22.0	20.4	20.5	21.6
3	12.2	20.3	20.9	18.4	25.5
4=Very interested	6.7	15.6	16.3	9.0	24.6

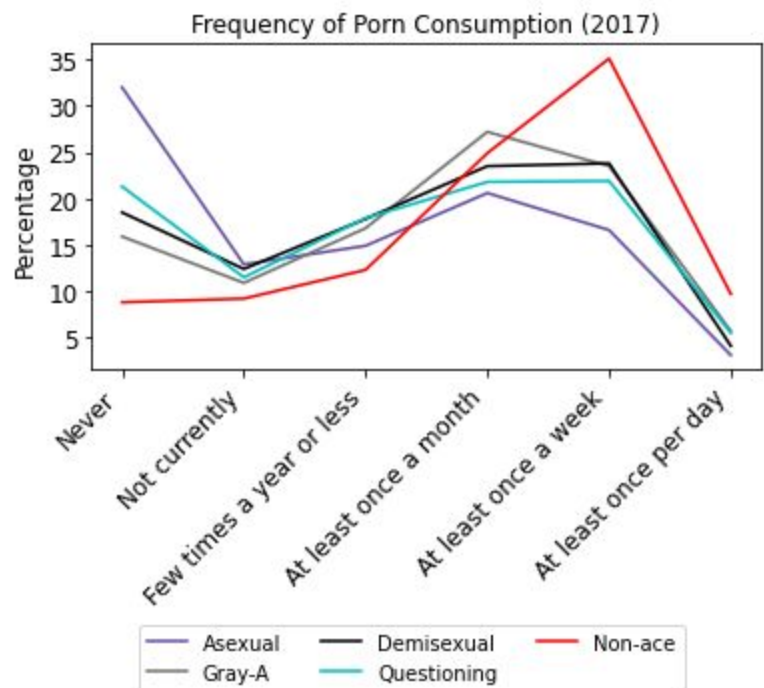


How frequently do you read, watch, or otherwise consume porn or erotica for the purpose of sexual gratification, typically? *Mark only one oval.*

Nearly one half of asexual respondents answered that they did not or did not presently consume porn or erotica for the purpose of sexual gratification. In the question regarding frequency of having sexual fantasies, the number of asexual respondents decreased as frequency increased, yet this was not true in the case of porn or erotica consumption. Of asexual respondents who consumed porn or erotica, the most common response in terms of frequency was at least once a month, at 20.6%, followed by at least once a week (16.6%) and a few times a year or less (14.9%).

Similar to the asexual respondents, gray-A respondents' most commonly reported consuming porn or erotica at least once a month at 27.2%, but one out of four did not or did not presently consume any. Compared to gray-A respondents, demisexual respondents consumed less porn or erotica, with close to one-third who did not or presently did not consume any. The most common frequency that demisexual respondents reported was at least once a week (23.8%), followed closely by at least once a month (23.5%), sharing a similar pattern to the responses of questioning respondents.

Non-ace respondents consumed more porn or erotica compared to ace respondents, but the numbers did not necessary increase with the increase in frequency: the most common response among non-ace respondents was at least once a week at 35.1%, with fewer than 20% reporting they do not or currently do not consume any.



Frequency of porn consumption (2017)	Asexual (%) N=6098	Gray-A (%) N=1263	Demisexual (%) N=980	Questioning (%) N=1087	Non-ace (%) N=567
Never	32.0	15.9	18.5	21.3	8.8
Not currently	12.9	10.9	12.4	11.5	9.2
Few times a year or less	14.9	16.8	17.8	17.9	12.3
At least once a month	20.6	27.2	23.5	21.8	24.9
At least once a week	16.6	23.5	23.8	21.9	35.1
At least once per day	3.1	5.7	4.1	5.5	9.7

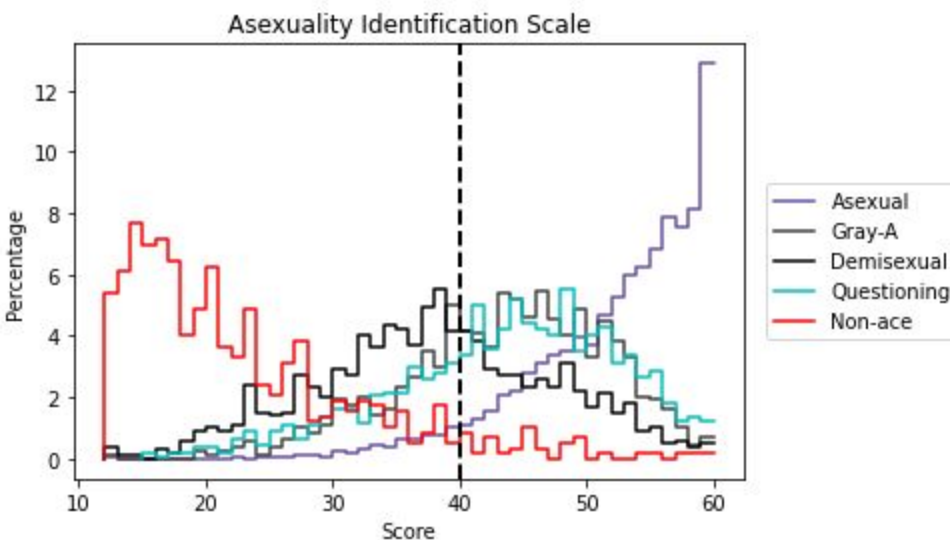
6.4 Asexuality Identification Scale

The Asexuality Identification Scale (AIS-12) is a 12-item questionnaire created by Yule, Brotto, and Gorzalka (2015) to assess asexuality and to understand the feelings and behaviors of asexual individuals.⁸ We included these 12 questions in our 2017 survey.

Each item is scored on a 5-point Likert scale, with higher scores reflecting experiences more typical of asexual respondents than sexual ones. In the researchers' analysis, they found that a score of 40 out of 60 on the AIS-12 was found to capture 93% of individuals who self-identified as asexual (Yule, Brotto, and Gorzalka, 2015). That is, 93% of asexual participants scored at or above 40 on the AIS-12, while 95% of self-identified sexual participants scored below 40.

In the Ace Community Survey, the AIS-12 captured 91.4% of ace respondents; in other words, these respondents scored 40 or above out of 60. For gray-asexuals, it captured 67.3%, demisexuals 39.5%, questioning 66.0%, and non-aces 5.8%. Scores for asexual respondents were highly concentrated at the top end of the scale, while for non-ace respondents, they were (less strongly) concentrated near the bottom. Gray-A, demisexual, and questioning respondents clustered more towards the middle of the scale. Gray-A and questioning respondents had very similar distributions; demisexuals had a slightly lower mean score than gray-A and questioning respondents. It is interesting to note that the mean score for gray-A and question respondents, around 43, was above the cutoff of 40, while the mean for demisexuals, 37.5, was below the cutoff.

Asexuality Identification Scale	Asexual (%) N=6570	Gray-A (%) N=1302	Demisexual (%) N=1005	Questioning (%) N=1170	Non-ace (%) N=591
Above cutoff	91.4	67.3	39.5	66.0	5.8
Below cutoff	8.6	32.7	60.5	34.0	94.2



⁸ Yule, Brotto, and Gorzalka provide the following note about terminology on p. 157, second paragraph: "While we view (a)sexuality as likely occurring on a dimensional spectrum, it was necessary to create a cut-off score that allowed researchers to categorize participants as 'asexual' or 'sexual' [...]."

Section 7: Health and Ability

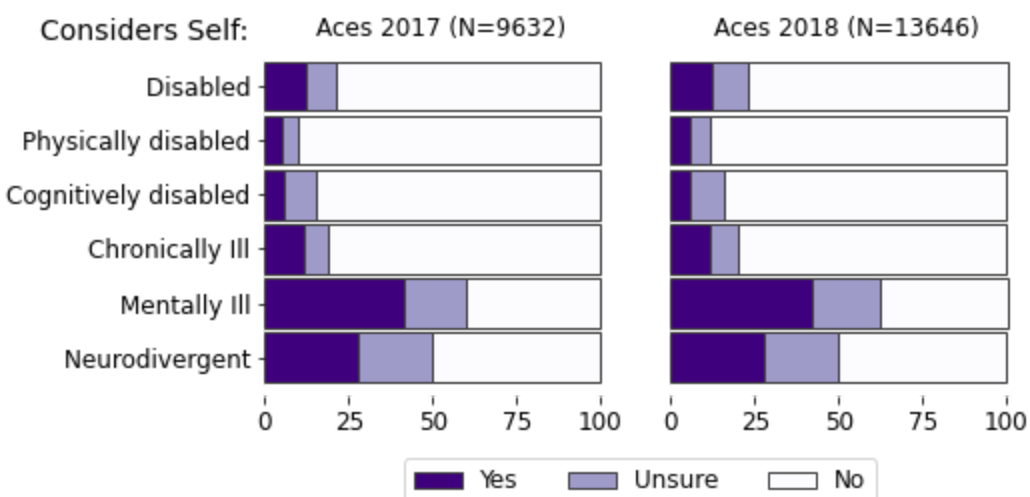
Respondents were asked questions about their physical and mental health, suicide ideation and attempts, and substance use. The questions were intended to gauge the respondents' considerations of their own well being, what diagnoses respondents had, and how they interacted with substances.

7.1 Physical and Mental Health

Do you consider yourself any of the following?

Almost half of ace respondents considered themselves mentally ill, as shown in the table below. The prevalence of mental illness among ace respondents was greater than found in samples of the general population; for example, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH, 2019) has reported 18.9% of adults having any mental illness, compared to 41.7% (2017) and 41.8% (2018) of ace respondents. The results from our survey are more in line with rates for adolescents, cited by the NIMH, from the National Comorbidity Survey Adolescent Supplement (NCS-A), which reported 49.5% of adolescents ages 13–18 having any mental disorder (Merikangas et al., 2010).

Tables with percentages of responses for this question can be found in Appendix III.



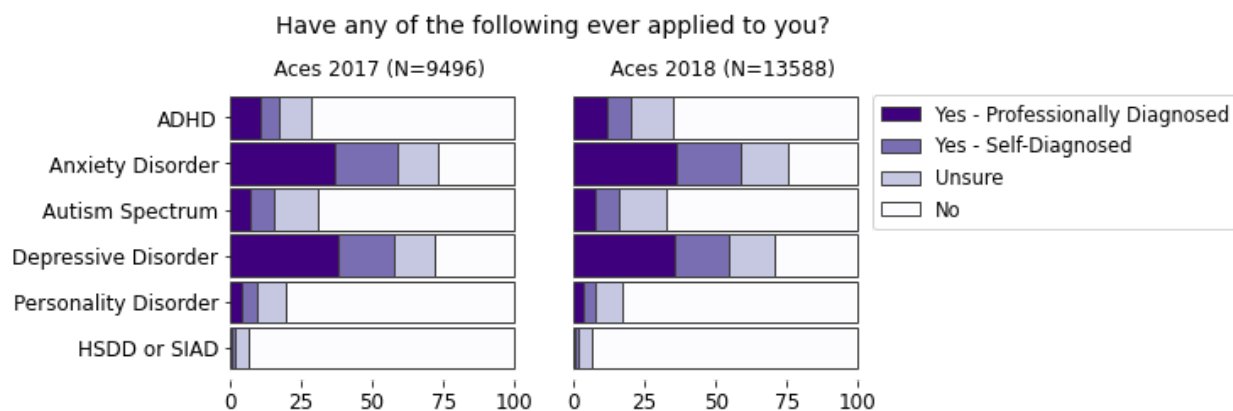
Have any of the following ever applied to you?

Depressive disorder was quite common in both 2017 and 2018 among our ace respondents, with more than a third indicating they had been professionally diagnosed, around a fifth indicating they were self-diagnosed, and around 15% unsure. In contrast, Harvard Medical School (2007) reported 16.9% of adults in the United States had major depressive disorder at some point in their lifetime. Although the data is from 2007, Brody, Pratt, and Hughes (2018) discovered that rates of depression among adults in the US in two studies covering 2007–2008 and 2013–2016 were similar, suggesting there was not a major change in the amount of Americans experiencing depression over that period of time. This in turn suggests that our ace respondents had much higher rates of depression compared to the general US population.

Anxiety disorder was also common in both years, with more than a third of ace respondents professionally diagnosed, more than a fifth self-diagnosed, and 14.2% in 2017 and 16.6% in 2018 unsure. When combined, these rates were once again much higher than the 31.2% of US adults who have experienced any anxiety disorder in their lifetime (Harvard Medical School, 2007).

Less than half a percent of respondents in each year were professionally diagnosed with Hypoactive Sexual Desire Disorder (HSDD) or Sexual Interest Arousal Disorder (SIAD). HSDD and SIAD are listed in the DSM-4-TR as sexual disorders characterized by distressingly low sexual desire (American Psychiatric Association, 2000). While an individual can both have HSDD/SIAD and identify as asexual, it is not uncommon for people's asexual identities to be wrongly diagnosed as one of these medical disorders, or pathologized as a disorder in general (Kai, 2019). Although many aces also experience low sexual desire, this lack of desire is not usually experienced as distressing (one of the main criteria for a HSDD/SIAD diagnosis); what *is* distressing, however, is having others pathologize one's asexual identity as a sexual disorder (Brotto, 2009). The DSM-V has revised its diagnostic criteria for disorders with low sexual desire. The new disorder, Female Sexual Interest/Arousal Disorder (FSIAD), specifically states that people who self identify as asexual should not be diagnosed with FSIAD (American Psychiatric Association, 2013).

Tables with percentages of responses for this question can be found in the Appendix III.



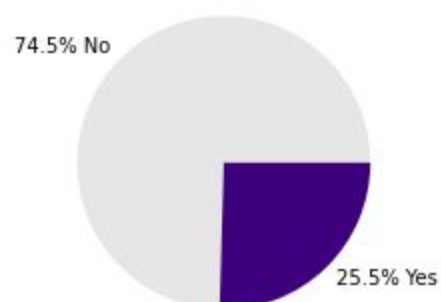
7.2 Pap Smears/Gynecological Care

The following section contains questions about cervical screening and Pap smears. Presumably, some proportion of respondents in this section have never had a cervix, but we are not able to identify and remove them from the sample without making assumptions or speculations about respondents' bodies, which we obviously do not wish to do. Even among respondents who we might assume have never had a cervix (e.g. self-identifying cisgender men or transgender women), participation in these questions was very low (less than 1% in any given question), which suggests that the majority of respondents to the questions in this section have (or used to have) a cervix. These questions did not appear in the 2017 survey; results are from 2018 only.

Have you had a Pap smear, Pap test, or cervical screening in the past three years?

The vast majority of respondents—nearly three-quarters—have not had a Pap smear, Pap test, or cervical screening in the past three years, meaning only about 25% of respondents have. Later in this section, we explore reasons that medical professionals have provided regarding whether or not ace respondents needed a cervical screening.

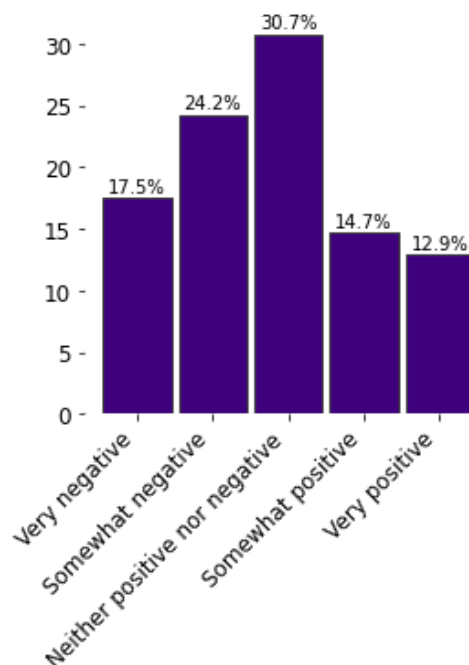
Have you had a cervical screening in the past three years?
Aces 2018: N=9975



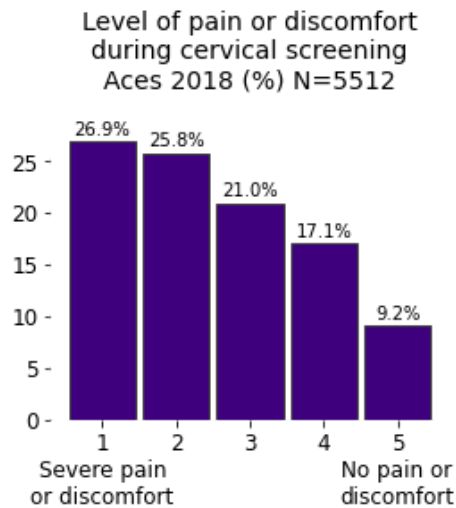
If you have ever had a Pap smear, Pap test, or cervical screening, how would you rate your overall experience at your last exam?

Of those who had a Pap smear, Pap test, or cervical screening, just over 40% described their most recent experience as negative. An additional ~30% of the respondents described their overall experience as neither positive nor negative, while 27.6% described their experience as somewhat positive or very positive.

Overall experience at last cervical screening
Aces 2018 (%) N=3080



How much discomfort/pain do you experience during a Pap smear, or how much discomfort/pain do you think you would experience?

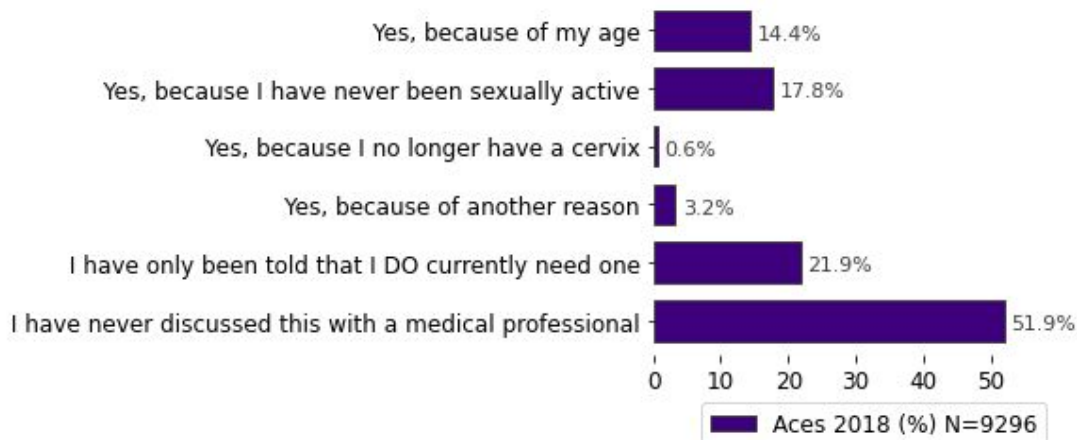


The majority of the respondents said they experience or think they would experience at least some degree of discomfort/pain (90.8%), with 26.9% either experiencing or thinking they would experience severe discomfort/pain. Only 9.2% said they experience or think they would experience no discomfort/pain.

Have you been told by a medical professional that you ***DO NOT*** currently need a Pap smear/Pap test/cervical screening? *Check all that apply.*

28.5% of ace respondents said they have been told by a medical professional that they **DO NOT** currently need a Pap smear, Pap test, and/or cervical screening. The reasons varied, but the most common reasons that respondents were told they did not need one had to do with age as well as them not being sexually active. Over half of this question's respondents had never discussed having a cervical screening with a medical professional, which is something we wish to look into in future surveys.

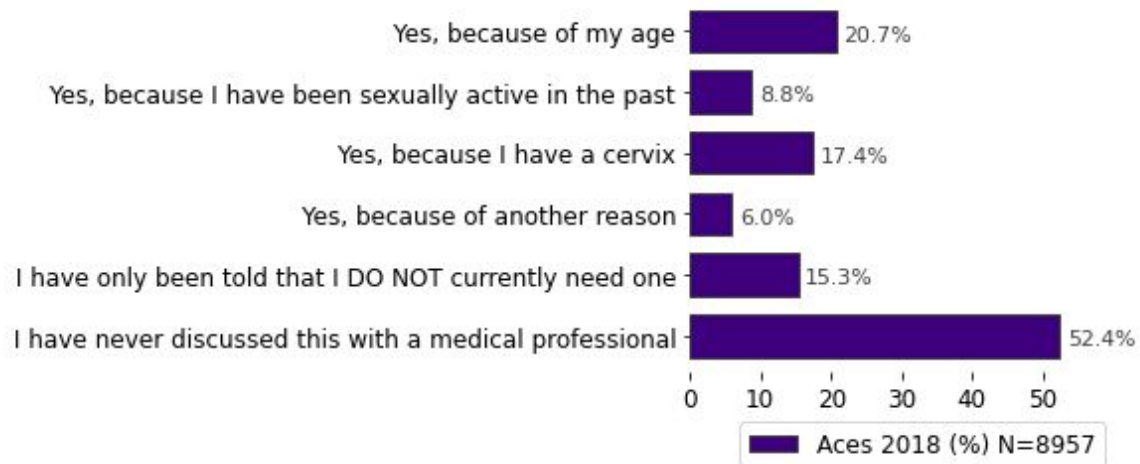
Has a medical professional told you that you ***DO NOT*** currently need a cervical screening?



Have you been told by a medical professional that you ***DO*** currently need a Pap smear/Pap test/cervical screening? *Check all that apply.*

33.0% of ace respondents said that they have been told by a medical professional that they DO currently need a Pap smear, Pap test, and/or cervical screening. The top reasons why respondents were told they needed a Pap smear, Pap test, and/or cervical screening include age, having a cervix, and being sexually active in the past.

Has a medical professional told you that you ***DO*** currently need a cervical screening?



Has a medical professional ever withheld (or threatened to withhold) medical care until you agreed to a smear/Pap test/cervical screening or pelvic exam? *(e.g., refusing to prescribe birth control or contraceptives until you undergo a Pap smear or pelvic exam; refusing to schedule new appointments until you agree to a Pap smear or pelvic exam, etc.)*

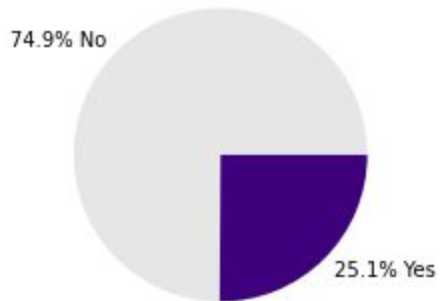
Has a medical professional withheld care until you agreed to get a cervical screening?
Aces 2018: N=9225



About one in 22 respondents had medical care withheld (or threatened to be withheld) by a medical professional until they agreed to a smear, Pap test, cervical screening, or pelvic exam.

Have you ever avoided or delayed getting healthcare because of concerns over being pressured into a Pap smear or pelvic exam?

Have you ever avoided or delayed getting healthcare due to concerns over being pressured into a Pap smear or pelvic exam?
Aces 2018: N=9346



One-quarter of ace respondents said they have avoided or delayed getting medical care due to concerns over being pressured into getting a Pap smear or pelvic exam.

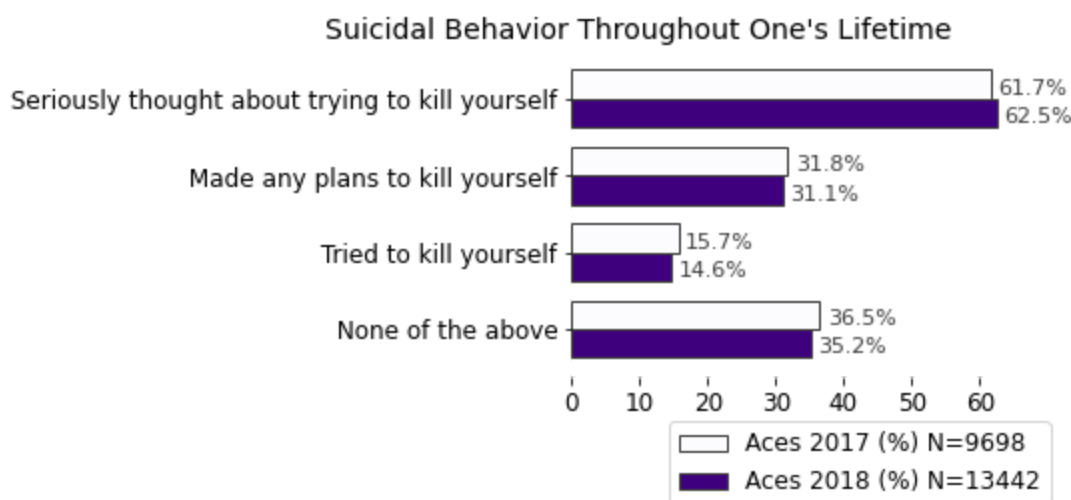
7.3 Suicide

Starting in 2017, questions related to suicidal actions or ideations specified two different timeframes: over one's lifetime, and within the past 12 months. Structuring the questions in this way makes our responses more comparable to existing research on suicide, such as the reports produced by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH).⁹ For each of these timeframes, respondents were asked if they had “seriously thought about trying to kill yourself,” “made any plans to kill yourself,” “tried to kill yourself,” or “none of the above.” As a checkbox question, all respondents could choose any combination of those options for either question.

This change in survey question increased the percentages of respondents indicating suicidal ideation and behavior over the course of one's lifetime. For example, in the 2016 Ace Community Survey, 49.4% of ace respondents reported that they had considered suicide (Bauer et al., 2018). After we updated the question in 2017, that number grew to 61.7%.

At any time in your life, have you ever: Check all that apply.

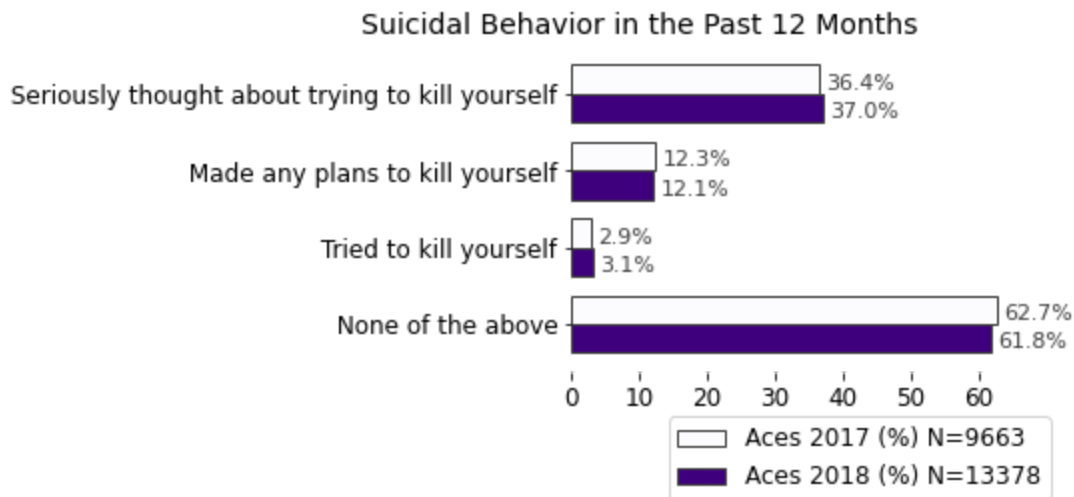
The majority of ace respondents had seriously considered suicide at some time in their life. About a third of respondents had made plans to kill themselves, and about half of those who made plans attempted suicide.



⁹ The NIMH uses data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) survey to report on suicide. See page A-72 for notes on SAMHSA survey design related to suicide: <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/cbhsq-reports/NSDUHMethodsSummDefs2018/NSDUHMethodsSummDefs2018.pdf>

In the last 12 months have you: *Check all that apply.*

While nearly two-thirds of the respondents had seriously considered suicide in their life time, one-third of the respondents had seriously thought about it in the last 12 months. In contrast, the NIMH (2020) reported that 4.3% of adults over 18 in the United States had thoughts about suicide and 0.6% had attempted suicide in 2018. This suggests that the ace population is at much greater risk of suicidal ideation and attempts than the general US population.



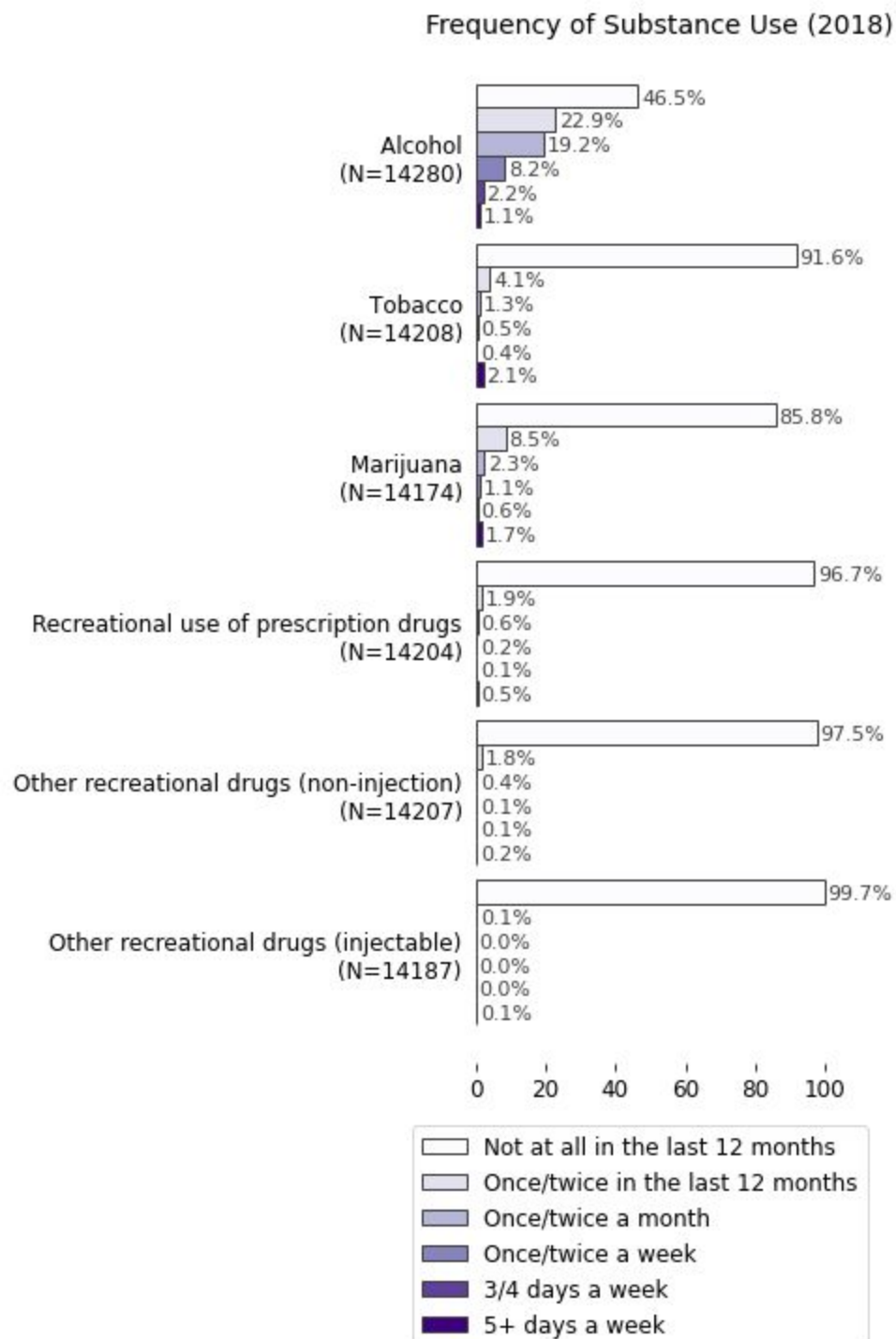
7.4 Substances

How often have you used the following in the past 12 months? Alcohol.

Frequency of Alcohol Consumption	Aces 2017 (%) N=10029	Aces 2018 (%) N=14280
Not at all in the last 12 months	38.4	46.5
Once/twice in the last 12 months	25.6	22.9
Once/twice a month	21.8	19.2
Once/twice a week	10.4	8.2
3/4 days a week	2.5	2.2
5+ days a week	1.3	1.1

In 2017, over a third (38.4%) of the respondents said that they did not consume any alcohol in the past year. The percentage of the respondents who did not consume any alcohol increased to nearly half of respondents in 2018 (46.5%). About two out of three ace respondents consumed alcohol at most two times in the last year, fewer than one in seven consumed alcohol at least once per week, and only a fraction (less than 4%) consumed alcohol more than twice a week. In general, aces were drinking less alcohol in 2018 than in 2017. This is less alcohol consumption than reported alcohol use in the United States, where 70% of those 18 and older reported that they had drunk in the past year (SAMHSA, 2018).

In 2018, the survey included questions about additional types of substance use. Other than alcohol, the two most commonly used drugs were marijuana and tobacco where fewer than 4% used at least once or twice a week. However, the vast majority had not used any drugs, other than alcohol, in the past 12 months.



7.5 Food Security

The following section contains questions about respondents' access to food. These questions did not appear in the 2017 survey, so results here are from 2018 only.

Which of these statements best describes the food eaten in your household in the last 12 months?

Food Supply	Aces 2018 (%) N=14340
There was enough of the kinds of food I want to eat	53.8
There was enough but not always the kinds of food I want	37.2
There was sometimes not enough to eat	6.2
There was often not enough to eat	1.3
Don't know	0.6
Prefer not to answer	1.0

Just over half of ace respondents were satisfied with the quantity and quality of their food supply. Less than 10% did not have enough to eat at times.

In the last 12 months, I worried whether my food would run out before I got money to buy more.

Worried whether food would run out	Aces 2018 (%) N=14298
Often true	4.0
Sometimes true	17.1
Never true	72.7
Don't know	4.3
Prefer not to answer	1.9

A little over a fifth of ace respondents experienced some degree of food insecurity; it was a frequent experience for one in 25 respondents.

In the last 12 months, I couldn't afford to eat balanced meals.

Couldn't afford to eat balanced meals	Aces 2018 (%) N=14283
Often true	8.6
Sometimes true	18.1
Never true	65.9
Don't know	5.3
Prefer not to answer	2.1

A little over a quarter of ace respondents sometimes or often could not afford to eat a balanced diet.

Section 8: Negative Experiences

The following questions were intended to gauge respondents' perspective of the origin and impact of any negative sexual experience they may have had. Respondents were asked questions about their experiences with harassment, physical violence, level of support (including difficulty in finding support), and basic necessities at the intersection of sexual orientation and gender.

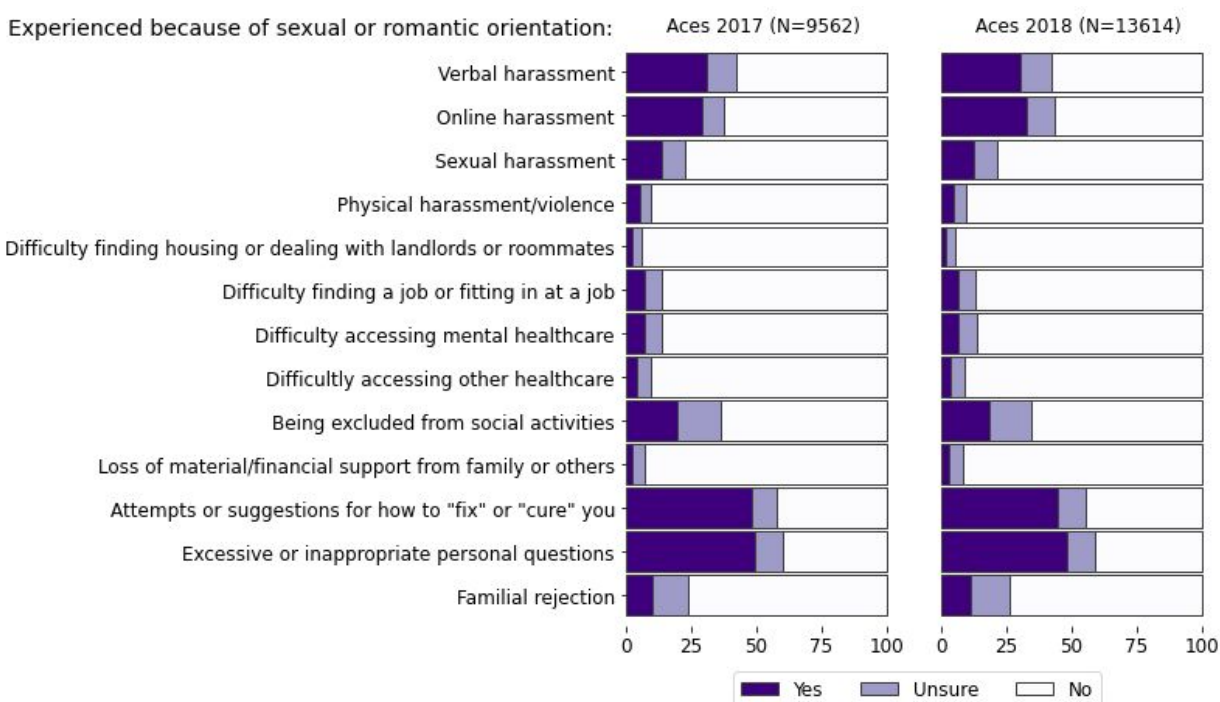
8.1 Negative Experiences Based On Sexual and Romantic Identity

Because of your sexual and/or romantic orientation, have you experienced any of the following? *Select all that apply.*

Nearly half of ace respondents in both 2017 and 2018 reported experiencing excessive or inappropriate personal questions due to their sexual and/or romantic orientation. In addition, nearly half of ace respondents in each year reported having others suggest or even attempt ways to “fix/cure” them of their orientation. These examples show how prevalent misunderstanding, denial, and bigotry (whether overt or covert) are in ace experiences.

The top three types of harassment remained the same from 2017 to 2018 (verbal harassment, online harassment, and exclusion from social activities), with only the frequency among those three causing a change of order. The rise in online harassment is particularly pertinent considering the prevalence of social media usage and participation in online asexual communities seen among respondents (as described later in Section 9.2).

Data tables for this question can be accessed in Appendix IV.



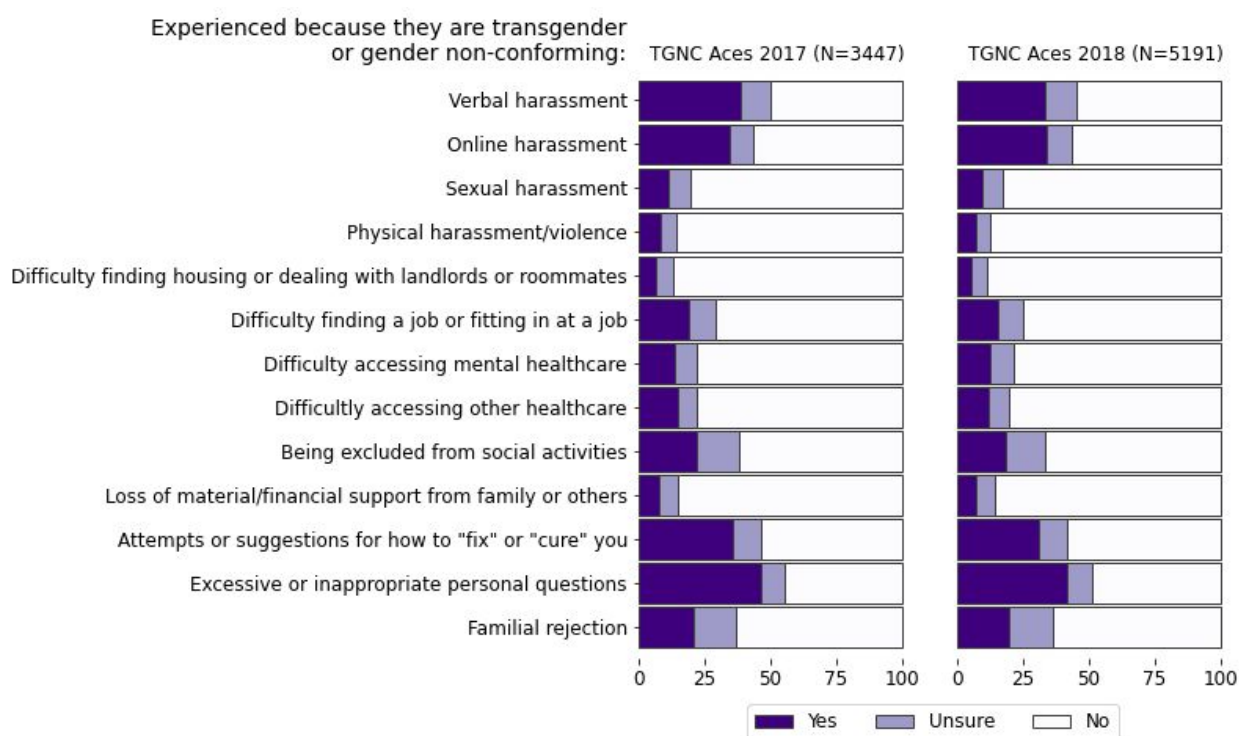
8.2 Negative Experiences at the Intersection of Ace and Gender Identity

Because you are transgender/gender non-conforming have you experienced any of the following?

Nearly half of transgender/gender non-conforming (TGNC)¹⁰ aces experienced excessive or inappropriate personal questions due to their gender identity. About a third had been harassed verbally or online, and/or faced people trying to "fix" or "cure" them of their gender identity.

Approximately one in five TGNC aces faced familial rejection and exclusion from social activities due to their gender identity, about one in six had trouble finding or fitting in at a job, and more than one in ten had difficulty accessing healthcare (including mental healthcare). About 8% of TGNC aces were victims of physical harassment/violence because of their gender identity.

Data tables for this question can be accessed in Appendix IV.

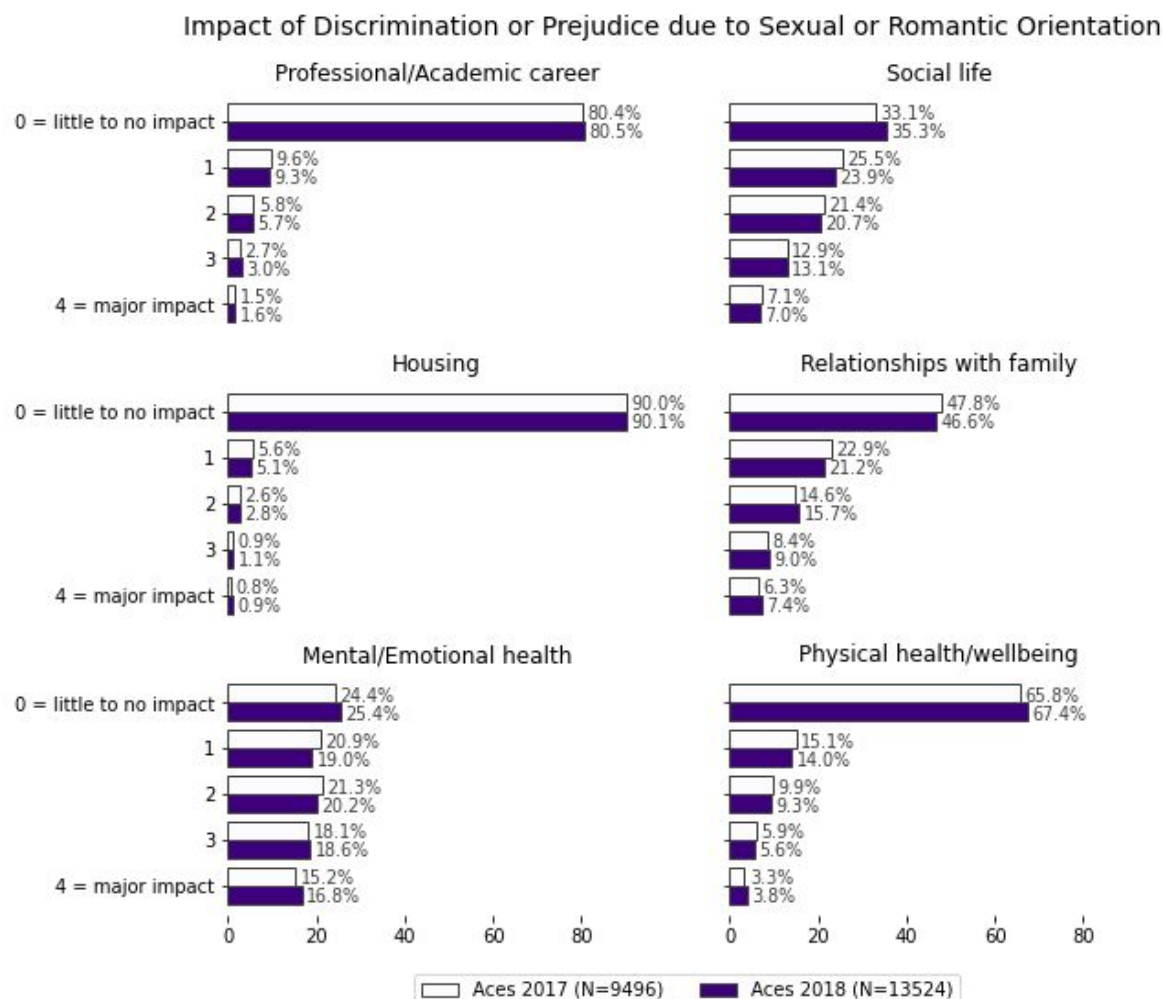


¹⁰ Please visit the Terminology section on page 7 to see our classification of TGNC respondents.

8.3 Impact of Discrimination or Prejudice Due to Sexual/Romantic Orientation

On a scale of 0 (little to no impact) to 4 (major impact), how much of an impact has discrimination, prejudice, or other negative experiences due to your sexual or romantic orientation had on the following aspects of your life?

Discrimination or prejudice due to sexual or romantic orientation had the largest impact on the mental or emotional health of ace respondents compared to the other categories, with approximately three-quarters feeling at least some impact (a response of 1 through 4), and a third feeling a high impact (a response of 3 or 4) in both 2017 and 2018. The category with the next largest impact was social life, where two-thirds felt at least some impact and one in five felt a high level of impact, followed by relationships with family, where more than half reported at least some impact and one in six or seven felt high impact. In both years, a third of respondents reported some impact on their physical health or wellbeing, a fifth reported some impact on professional/academic career, and around 10% reported some impact on housing.



Section 9: Communities

Respondents were asked questions about their participation in ace communities, online and offline, as well as participation in LGBTQ spaces.

9.1 Initial Participation in Ace Communities

Where did you first participate in an asexual community?

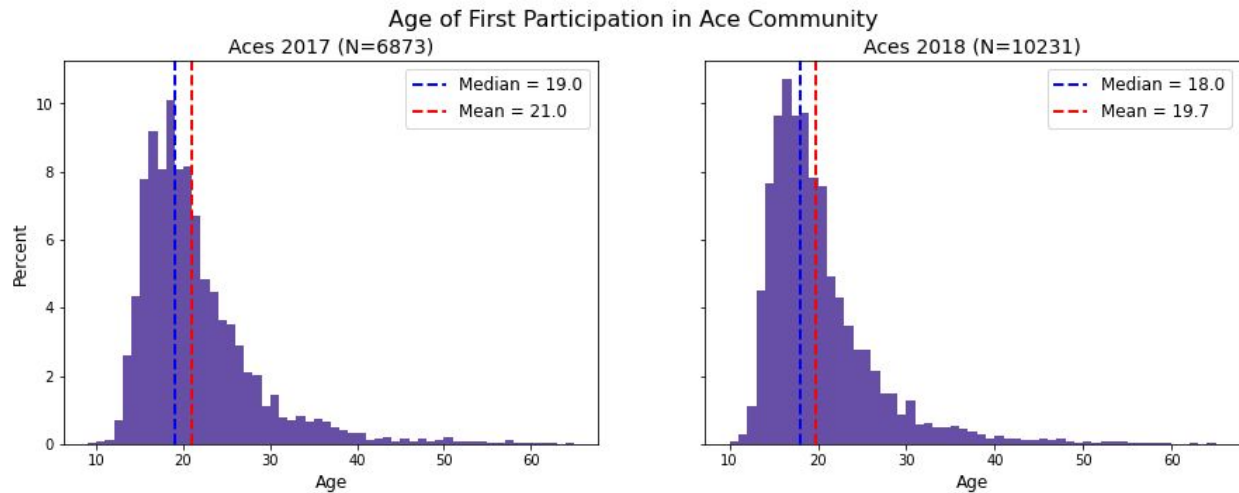
The most common platform where respondents first participated in an asexual community was Tumblr. The next most common was AVEN, followed by Facebook and Reddit, with their order changing from year to year. Instagram and chat rooms were relatively more common answers in 2018 compared to 2017. The opposite was true for Facebook.

In 2017, 28.0% of respondents had never participated in an asexual community, whether online or offline. In 2018, that percentage decreased to 24.1%.

Where did you first participate in an asexual community?	Aces 2017 (%) N=9966	Aces 2018 (%) N=14405
Tumblr	32.5	35.1
AVEN (English)	14.0	13.3
Facebook	10.5	5.2
Reddit	4.1	5.4
Offline asexual groups	3.5	3.0
Twitter	1.5	1.7
Non-English asexual forum	1.5	1.3
Chat rooms (including Discord, IRC, etc.)	0.7	3.2
Livejournal	0.6	0.3
Blogs (Besides LiveJournal and Tumblr)	0.6	0.4
Instagram	0.4	4.7
Amino	0.1	0.6
Other	2.0	1.4
I have never participated in an asexual community	28.0	24.1

How old were you when you first participated in an asexual community?

For respondents who had participated in an asexual community, the average age of first participation was 21 years old in 2017 and 20 years old in 2018. The median was 19 years old in 2017 and 18 years old in 2018.



9.2 Engagement with Ace Communities

Do you have any current friends who identify as asexual, gray-asexual, or demisexual, that you know of?

In both 2017 and 2018, more than half of the ace respondents said they had friends who identified as asexual, gray-asexual, or demisexual. About a third of ace respondents in both years said they did not have any ace friends, and 9.7% in 2017 and 10.4% in 2018 were unsure.

Have Ace Friends	Aces 2017 (%) N=10026	Aces 2018 (%) N=14387
Yes	56.5	55.0
Unsure	9.7	10.4
No	33.9	34.5

Have you ever met someone offline who identified as asexual, gray-asexual, or demisexual, that you know of?

More than 60% of aces in both 2017 and 2018 said they had met someone offline who identified as asexual, gray-asexual, or demisexual. Around 30% in both years said they had not, while the remaining respondents were unsure.

Met Aces Offline	Aces 2017 (%) N=10020	Aces 2018 (%) N=14364
Yes	63.7	60.9
Unsure	7.5	8.8
No	28.8	30.3

Do you currently have access to... *Check all that apply.*

99.4% of the ace respondents reported having access to online ace communities, but the percentage greatly decreased when asked about online ace communities that the respondents felt comfortable participating in (57.7%). The percentage of ace respondents who had access to offline communities was even smaller, with one in five aces having access to an offline ace community, although only about half of those respondents actually felt comfortable participating in the communities they had access to.

Access to Ace Communities	Aces 2017 (%) N=8851
ONLINE ace communities at all	99.4
ONLINE ace communities that you feel comfortable participating in	57.7
OFFLINE ace communities at all	21.5
OFFLINE ace communities that you feel comfortable participating in	12.4

How often do you currently participate in OFFLINE asexual groups?

Most ace respondents never participated in an offline asexual community (83.6% in 2017 and 85.2% in 2018). 10.4% participated in offline asexual groups a few times a year or less in 2017, with the amount of participation lessening as the frequency increased. The percentage of ace respondents who participated in an offline asexual community remained similar or declined slightly at all frequencies in 2018.

Frequency Attending Offline Asexual Communities	Aces 2017 (%) N=9983	Aces 2018 (%) N=14250
Never	83.6	85.2
A few times a year or less	10.4	9.6
A few times a month	2.3	2.2
Once a month	2.3	1.8
A few times a week	1.1	0.9
At least once per day	0.4	0.3

How much do you currently READ or WATCH content from the following online asexual communities?

Since recruitment for the surveys came primarily through online communities, people who frequently read or followed one of those communities were overrepresented in our sample. Nonetheless, we report that among our ace respondents, Tumblr was the most widely followed online asexual community in both 2017 and 2018 with about three-quarters visiting at least a few times a year. Other commonly followed communities, in both 2017 or 2018, included AVEN and YouTube, in which nearly half of ace respondents viewed each platform at least a few times a year.

Frequency Reading or Watching Online Asexual Communities	Aces 2017				
	Never	A few times a year or less	A few times a month	A few times a week	At least once per day
AVEN (%) N=9677	50.4	35.6	9.7	3.0	1.3
Blogs (besides LiveJournal and Tumblr) (%) N=9530	79.0	13.1	5.5	1.9	0.5
Chat rooms (including Discord, IRC, etc.) (%) N=9558	82.8	6.3	4.2	3.6	3.1
Facebook (%) N=9628	55.8	11.5	11.6	11.1	9.9
LiveJournal (%) N=9471	95.2	4.0	0.7	0.1	0.0
Non-English asexual forum (%) N=9478	91.3	4.9	1.9	1.2	0.7
Reddit (%) N=9520	80.5	7.2	6.0	4.2	2.1
Tumblr (%) N=9752	26.3	15.6	19.3	21.2	17.6
Twitter (%) N=9543	74.8	9.7	7.8	4.9	2.9
YouTube (%) N=9608	52.1	26.9	14.9	4.7	1.3

Frequency Reading or Watching Online Asexual Communities	Aces 2018				
	Never	A few times a year or less	A few times a month	A few times a week	At least once per day
AVEN (%) N=13582	54.9	30.2	9.5	3.7	1.6
Blogs (besides LiveJournal and Tumblr) (%) N=13241	74.4	15.3	7.1	2.6	0.6
Chat rooms (including Discord, IRC, etc.) (%) N=13318	78.4	7.1	5.7	4.8	4.1
Facebook (%) N=13383	71.5	8.2	7.6	7.6	5.1
FetLife (%) N=13185	97.6	1.4	0.6	0.4	0.1
Instagram (%) N=13403	75.8	5.7	5.6	6.1	6.8
Non-English asexual forum (%) N=13199	91.5	4.8	2.1	1.1	0.5
Reddit (%) N=13357	76.6	8.2	5.7	6.2	3.3
Tumblr (%) N=13824	24.4	15.1	19.0	23.6	17.9
Twitter (%) N=13347	72.3	9.7	8.3	6.2	3.5

How much do you currently POST or COMMENT in the following online asexual communities?

Ace respondents were less likely to post or comment on online forums than they were to read or watch. Tumblr remained the most popular online forum for posting or commenting, used by more than one in three respondents. Unlike the reading or watching numbers, the next most popular forums for posting or commenting were chat rooms, Facebook, and Twitter.

Frequency Posting or Commenting in Online Asexual Communities	Aces 2017				
	Never	A few times a year or less	A few times a month	A few times a week	At least once per day
AVEN (%) N=9666	90.2	6.9	1.6	0.8	0.6
Blogs (besides LiveJournal and Tumblr) (%) N=9585	97.2	1.8	0.7	0.2	0.1
Chat rooms (including Discord, IRC, etc.) (%) N=9595	88.0	4.0	3.6	2.5	1.9
Facebook (%) N=9648	75.5	12.1	7.7	3.7	1.0
LiveJournal (%) N=9560	99.2	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Non-English asexual forum (%) N=9601	97.2	1.7	0.7	0.3	0.1
Reddit (%) N=9567	93.4	4.1	2.0	0.4	0.1
Tumblr (%) N=9709	61.9	17.8	12.1	5.4	2.7
Twitter (%) N=9591	88.6	6.0	3.2	1.5	0.7
YouTube (%) N=9590	93.8	4.3	1.4	0.4	0.2

Frequency Posting or Commenting in Online Asexual Communities	Aces 2018				
	Never	A few times a year or less	A few times a month	A few times a week	At least once per day
AVEN (%) N=13579	91.5	5.8	1.4	0.9	0.5
Blogs (besides LiveJournal and Tumblr) (%) N=13400	97.0	1.6	0.9	0.3	0.1
Chat rooms (including Discord, IRC, etc.) (%) N=13429	84.9	4.7	4.5	3.4	2.5
Facebook (%) N=13478	86.2	7.0	4.3	2.0	0.5
FetLife (%) N=13348	99.0	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.0
Instagram (%) N=13461	89.5	4.5	3.3	1.9	0.8
Non-English asexual forum (%) N=13419	97.6	1.4	0.6	0.3	0.1
Reddit (%) N=13447	92.6	4.1	2.4	0.7	0.2
Tumblr (%) N=13704	64.1	17.2	11.3	5.7	1.7
Twitter (%) N=13433	89.1	5.3	3.5	1.6	0.6

Inactivity Statistic	Aces 2017 (%) N=8934	Aces 2018 (%) N=12416
AVEN	79.7	81.4
Blogs (Besides LiveJournal and Tumblr)	86.1	87.4
Chat rooms (including Discord, IRC, etc.)	28.2	28.6
Facebook	44.3	50.0
FetLife	-	53.2
Instagram	-	54.3
LiveJournal	82.2	-
Non-English asexual forum	66.8	69.6
Reddit	64.7	67.4
Tumblr	48.5	52.6
Twitter	53.4	59.6
YouTube	86.6	-

Using responses from the previous two questions, we developed an inactivity statistic to measure respondents' engagement in a particular community. For a given community, its value is the difference between "passive users" (respondents who read or watched content) and "active users" (respondents who posted or commented), divided by the number who participated in either way. This number is positive when more users were passive, negative when more users were active, small in absolute value (closer to zero) when most users did both, and large in absolute value when there was a small intersection with a large imbalance.

In both years, the platforms with the most active engagement among our respondents included Facebook, Tumblr, FetLife, Instagram, and Twitter, with chat rooms having the lowest inactivity score of all.

9.3 LGBTQ Communities

In this section, we defined an LGBTQ space as a space dedicated to people primarily under the LGBTQ umbrella, such as a discussion group, social event, parade, or bar. As part of the definition, we excluded asexual-specific spaces such as asexual meetups.

Do you currently have access to... *Check all that apply.*

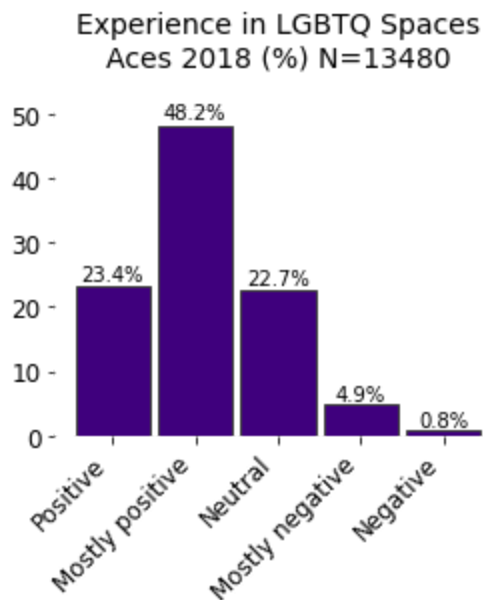
Access to LGBTQ Communities	Aces 2017 (%) N=7934
ONLINE LGBTQ communities at all	95.7
ONLINE LGBTQ communities that you feel comfortable participating in	51.5
OFFLINE LGBTQ communities at all	54.2
OFFLINE LGBTQ communities that you feel comfortable participating in	27.0

When asked about communities ace respondents had access to, the majority said they did have access to an LGBTQ community. More specifically, 54.2% responded as having access to offline communities and 95.7% responded as having access to online communities. However, these percentages nearly halved when asked if ace respondents felt comfortable participating in these LGBTQ communities; only 27.0% responded as having access to offline communities they felt comfortable participating in and 51.5% said the same for online communities.

When comparing access to ace versus LGBTQ communities, aces reported greater access to online ace communities (99.4%, as shown in Section 9.2) compared to online LGBTQ communities (95.7%), as well as greater comfort participating in ace online communities (57.7% compared to 51.5%, respectively). The opposite was true when it came to offline communities: fewer aces felt like they had access to offline ace communities compared to offline LGBTQ communities (21.5% vs. 54.2%). Likewise, fewer aces felt like they had access to offline ace communities they felt comfortable participating in compared to offline LGBTQ communities (12.4% vs. 27.0%).

Whether or not the community was online/offline or ace/LGBTQ, only about half the number of respondents (49.8% to 58.0%) who had access to communities felt comfortable participating in them.

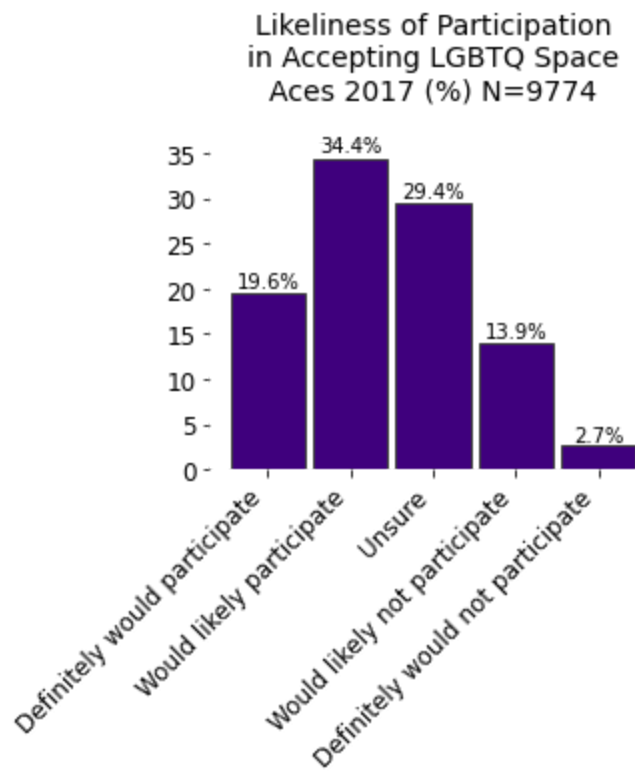
How would you characterize your experience in LGBTQ communities?



Ace respondents' most common response in characterizing their experiences in LGBTQ communities was "mostly positive with some negative experiences" (48.2%), followed by 23.4% who answered that their experiences in LGBTQ communities was "positive." 22.7% of ace respondents characterized their experiences in LGBTQ spaces as "neutral," and the remaining 5.7% had either mostly negative or very negative experiences.

Assuming you could access an LGBTQ space that was accepting of your orientation, how likely would you be to participate in such spaces?

More than half of ace respondents expressed interest in participating in a LGBTQ space that accepted their orientation, with 19.6% saying they would definitely participate. About a third of aces said they were unsure, and only 2.7% reported they definitely would not participate.



When was the most recent time you participated in an offline LGBTQ space? When was the most recent time you participated in an online LGBTQ space?

Last Participation in a LGBTQ Space (Aces 2017)	Offline (%) N=9907	Online (%) N=9847
In the past month	18.1	38.3
Between a month and a year ago	19.1	14.4
Between 1 and 5 years ago	11.2	5.2
Over 5 years ago	2.5	0.9
Never	49.1	41.2

Ace respondents' overall participation in offline LGBTQ spaces (50.9%) was slightly lower than in online spaces (58.8%). A greater difference emerged when looking at activity in the previous year, with 52.7% of ace respondents visiting an online LGBTQ space compared to 37.2% who participated offline.

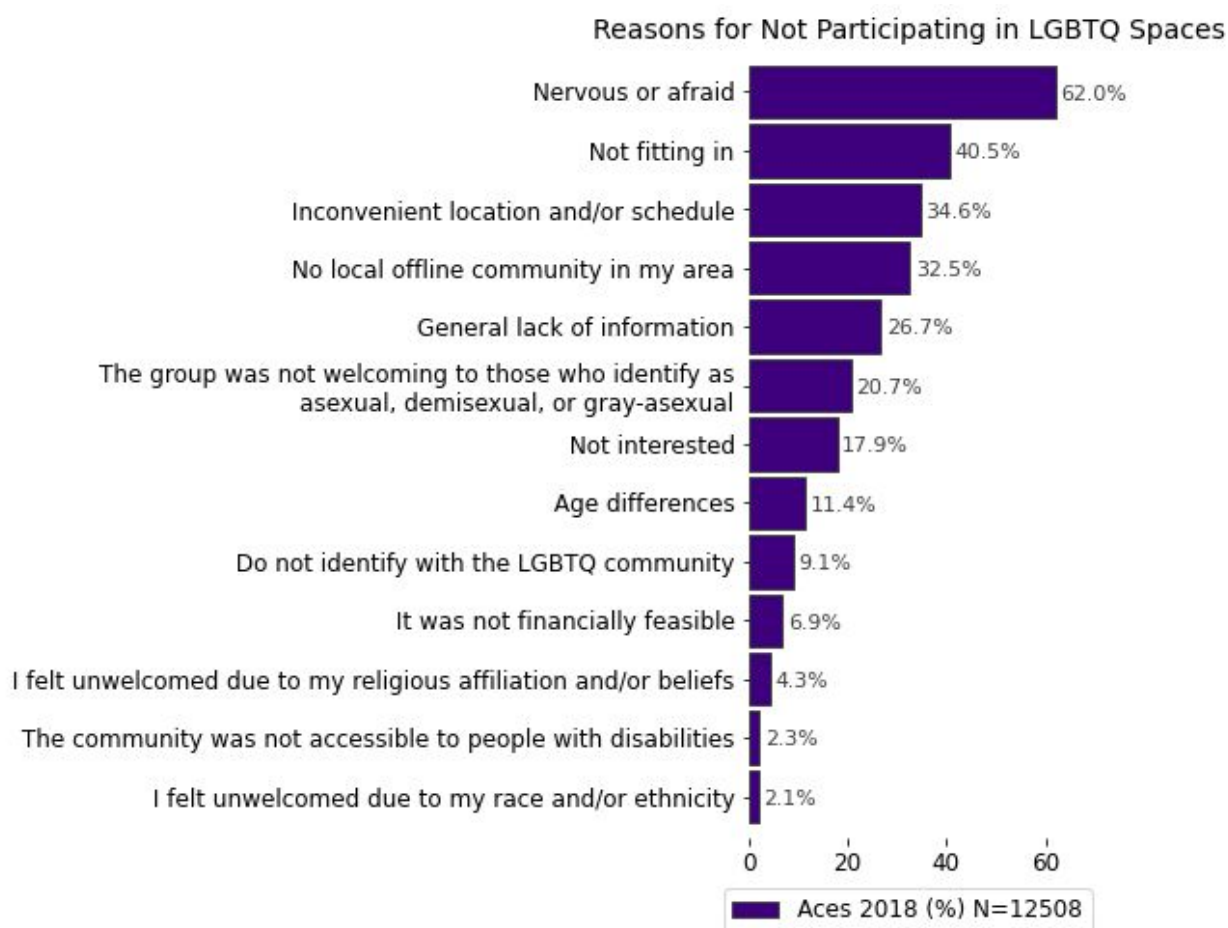
Of the OFFLINE and ONLINE LGBTQ spaces that you have access to, how many do you find accepting of your sexual and/or romantic orientations?

How many LGBTQ spaces do you find accepting of your sexual/romantic orientations? (Aces 2017)	Offline (%) N=9608	Online (%) N=9543
All	15.2	10.9
Most	14.4	27.3
About half	3.8	14.5
Very few	3.2	5.5
None	1.9	1.2
Unsure	21.4	18.4
I do not have access to any groups	40.0	22.1

When asked about acceptance of their sexual and/or romantic orientation in LGBTQ spaces the respondent had access to, around 30% said they felt accepted for all or most offline communities and almost 40% said the same for online communities. Conversely, one-fifth of respondents were unsure of the level of acceptance, regardless of the space being online or offline.

If you have ever decided NOT to participate in an LGBTQ community, what factors played a role?

62.0% of ace respondents cited nerves/fear as a reason for not participating in LGBTQ spaces. The second most common reason was not fitting in, followed by having an inconvenient location and/or schedule. About a third said there was no local offline community in their area, and a little over a quarter answered that there was a general lack of information. A fifth reasoned that the LGBTQ community was not welcoming to those who identify as asexual, demisexual, or gray-asexual.



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Appendix

I. Transgender Identity within Specific Gender Identities

The following tables provide a more detailed look at analysis from section 1.2. There is a stark difference between the rates at which non-binary men and non-binary women identified as transgender. There is also a larger contingent of transgender men compared to transgender women, despite the much greater number of women than men.

Prevalence of Gender Identity Combinations	Aces 2017 (%) N=10030				
	Binary Men	Binary Women	Non-binary Men	Non-binary Women	Non-binary Only
Transgender	1.6	0.9	2.0	0.6	11.1
Questioning or unsure	0.1	0.1	0.4	2.1	7.6
Not Transgender	6.9	45.8	1.4	12.8	6.5

Trans Identity by Gender Identity	Aces 2017				
	Binary Men (%) N=868	Binary Women (%) N=4689	Non-binary Men (%) N=388	Non-binary Women (%) N=1556	Non-binary Only (%) N=2529
Transgender	19.0	1.9	52.3	4.0	44.0
Questioning or unsure	0.7	0.2	10.3	13.6	30.2
Not Transgender	80.3	97.9	37.4	82.5	25.9

Prevalence of Gender Identity Combinations	Aces 2018 (%) N=14413				
	Binary Men	Binary Women	Non-binary Men	Non-binary Women	Non-binary Only
Transgender	1.9	0.6	2.4	0.7	11.4
Unsure	0.0	0.1	0.3	1.8	6.5
Not Transgender	7.1	45.1	1.6	13.1	6.9
Prefer not to answer	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4

Trans Identity by Gender Identity	Aces 2018				
	Binary Men (%) N=1310	Binary Women (%) N=6599	Non-binary Men (%) N=621	Non-binary Women (%) N=2262	Non-binary Only (%) N=3621
Transgender	21.3	1.3	55.4	4.2	45.2
Unsure	0.4	0.2	7.4	11.5	25.7
Not Transgender	78.0	98.5	36.1	83.3	27.5
Prefer not to answer	0.3	0.0	1.1	0.9	1.6

II. Racial Distribution Categories

The categories for the Combined Racial Distributions table in Section 1.9.1 were based on responses to “Do you identify with any of the following racial/ethnic categories?” (detailed in Section 1.9.1) and were combined as follows:

API Only is anyone who exclusively indicated a combination of Asian: Eastern (Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Taiwanese, Mongolian, etc.), Asian: Southeast (Vietnamese, Cambodian, Malaysian, Laotian, etc.), Asian: Southern (Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.), or Pacific Islander and/or Polynesian (Kanaka Maoli, Filipino, Māori, Samoan, etc.). In the Detailed table, if someone only indicated one of those categories they were included in that one specific category, while someone who indicated more than one of only those categories would be included in API Only.

Similar logic was used for Black Only, where if someone exclusively selected from Black and/or of the African Diaspora, Black: African, and/or Black: Caribbean, they were included in the Black Only category; if they only indicated one of those specific categories, they would be included in that one specific category in the Detailed table.

Hispanic or Latinx Only includes anyone who only indicated Latinx and/or Hispanic.

Jewish Only includes those who only indicated Jewish.

Mixed or Multi Racial includes anyone who chose Mixed Race / Multi-Racial.

Multiple Races, Not Mixed includes anyone who chose more than one of the combined racial categories listed here, but did not choose Mixed Race / Multi-Racial.

N. or S. American Native Only includes respondents who exclusively indicated a

combination of North American Native (North American Indian, Inuit, etc.) and South or Central American Native (Quechua, Aymara, Chiquitano, etc.).

N. or S. American Native and Hispanic or Latinx includes respondents who indicated N. or S. American Native as described above and Hispanic or Latinx as described above.

N. or S. American Native and White includes respondents who indicated N. or S. American Native as described above and White or of European Descent.

North African Only includes those who only indicated North African.

Other, includes all categories in the full table that were not explicitly listed.

Other Race Only were write-in responses that did not fit into one of the other races provided, with no other options indicated.

White Hispanic or Latinx includes anyone who indicated White or of European Descent and Hispanic or Latinx as described above.

White Only includes those who only indicated White or of European Descent.

III. Physical and Mental Health Percentage Tables

Considers Self	Aces 2017 (%) N=9632			Aces 2018 (%) N=13646		
	Yes	Unsure	No	Yes	Unsure	No
Disabled	12.5	8.8	78.7	12.5	10.7	76.9
Physically disabled	5.1	4.6	90.3	5.9	5.6	88.5
Cognitively disabled	5.8	9.6	84.6	5.8	10.1	84.1
Chronically Ill	11.6	7.5	80.9	11.7	8.0	80.3
Mentally Ill	41.7	18.4	39.9	41.8	20.7	37.6
Neurodivergent	27.9	21.7	50.4	28.0	21.6	50.4

Have any of the following ever applied to you?	Aces 2017 (%) N=9496				Aces 2018 (%) N=13588			
	Yes - Professionally Diagnosed	Yes - Self-Diagnosed	Unsure	No	Yes - Professionally Diagnosed	Yes - Self-Diagnosed	Unsure	No
ADHD	10.6	6.5	11.5	71.4	12.0	7.9	15.2	64.9
Anxiety Disorder	37.0	21.7	14.2	27.1	36.5	22.2	16.6	24.7
Autism Spectrum	7.1	8.5	15.5	68.9	7.9	8.1	16.9	67.2
Depressive Disorder	38.0	19.6	14.1	28.3	35.9	18.8	16.2	29.1
Personality Disorder	4.2	5.3	10.2	80.3	3.7	3.9	9.8	82.6
Hypoactive Sexual Desire Disorder or Sexual Interest Arousal Disorder	0.3	1.7	4.5	93.4	0.4	1.1	4.7	93.9

IV. Negative Experiences Percentage Tables

Because of Sexual or Romantic Orientation, Aces Experienced:	Aces 2017 (%) N=9562			Aces 2018 (%) N=13614		
	Yes	Unsure	No	Yes	Unsure	No
Verbal harassment	31.0	11.3	57.7	30.2	12.1	57.7
Online harassment	29.4	8.4	62.2	33.0	10.5	56.6
Sexual harassment	14.0	8.5	77.4	12.2	9.0	78.8
Physical harassment/violence	5.1	4.5	90.4	4.9	4.8	90.3
Difficulty finding housing or dealing with landlords or roommates	2.5	3.4	94.1	1.8	3.5	94.7
Difficulty finding a job or fitting in at a job	7.0	7.0	86.0	6.3	6.6	87.1
Difficulty accessing mental healthcare	7.0	6.9	86.1	6.4	7.5	86.1
Difficulty accessing other healthcare	4.4	5.2	90.4	3.5	5.3	91.2
Being excluded from social activities	19.9	16.6	63.5	18.5	16.0	65.5
Loss of material/financial support from family or others	2.7	4.6	92.7	3.1	5.2	91.7
Attempts or suggestions for how to "fix" or "cure" you	48.0	10.0	42.0	44.4	10.8	44.8
Excessive or inappropriate personal questions	49.7	10.2	40.1	48.1	10.7	41.2
Familial rejection	10.2	13.7	76.1	11.1	15.2	73.7

Because they are transgender or gender non-conforming, aces experienced:	TGNC Aces 2017 (%) N=3447			TGNC Aces 2018 (%) N=5191		
	Yes	Unsure	No	Yes	Unsure	No
Verbal harassment	38.7	11.5	49.8	33.5	11.6	54.9
Online harassment	34.7	8.8	56.5	33.8	9.5	56.7
Sexual harassment	11.4	8.1	80.5	9.6	7.4	83.0
Physical harassment/violence	8.5	5.9	85.6	7.1	5.6	87.3
Difficulty finding housing or dealing with landlords or roommates	6.7	6.6	86.7	5.1	6.1	88.8
Difficulty finding a job or fitting in at a job	18.9	10.3	70.8	15.4	9.6	75.1
Difficulty accessing mental healthcare	14.0	8.2	77.8	12.5	8.9	78.5
Difficulty accessing other healthcare	14.7	7.4	78.0	11.8	8.0	80.1
Being excluded from social activities	21.8	16.2	62.1	18.6	14.5	67.0
Loss of material/financial support from family or others	7.7	7.3	85.1	7.0	7.1	85.9
Attempts or suggestions for how to "fix" or "cure" you	35.7	10.6	53.7	31.1	10.8	58.1
Excessive or inappropriate personal questions	46.3	9.0	44.7	41.7	9.4	48.9
Familial rejection	20.7	16.2	63.2	19.6	16.5	64.0