Asexual people (or aces) experience little or no sexual attraction. While most asexual people desire emotionally intimate relationships, they are not drawn to sex as a way to express that intimacy.

**Useful Terminology**

- **Aromantic** — people who experience little or no romantic attraction and are content with close friendships and other non-romantic relationships.
- **Demisexual** — people who only experience sexual attraction once they form a strong emotional connection with the person.
- **Grey-A** — people who identify somewhere between sexual and asexual on the sexuality spectrum.
- **Queerplatonic** — One type of non-romantic relationship where there is an intense emotional connection going beyond what is traditionally thought of as friendship.
- **Romantic orientations** — Aces commonly use hetero-, homo-, bi-, and pan- in front of the word romantic to describe who they experience romantic attraction to.

**Asexuality Isn't**

- Abstinence because of a bad relationship
- Abstinence because of religious reasons
- Celibacy
- Sexual repression, aversion, or dysfunction
- Loss of libido due to age or circumstance
- Fear of intimacy
- Inability to find a partner

**Aces Might**

- Want friendship, understanding, and empathy
- Fall in love
- Experience arousal and orgasm
- Masturbate
- Have sex
- Not have sex
- Be of any gender, age, or background
- Have a spouse and/or children

**By the Numbers**

- **28%** of the community is 18 or younger
- **32%** of the community are between 19 and 21
- **19%** of the community are currently in high school
- **40%** of the community are in college
- **20%** of the community identify as transgender or are questioning their gender identity
- **41%** of the community identify as part of the LGBT community

Source: Asexy Community Census

http://www.tinyurl.com/AsexyCensusResults
### Asexual Awareness Week Community Engagement Series – Trevor Project | Last Updated April 2012

#### Instead of saying... | Try saying...
---|---
Asexuality can’t exist. | Asexuality is a sexual orientation just like bi, gay, lesbian, and pan.
You will know when it’s time to have sex. | Love doesn’t equal sex.
Have you seen a doctor? | There are many happy, healthy relationships that don’t have sex involved in them.
This will pass, it is just a phase. Everyone wants sex sometimes. | Sexuality is fluid and exists on a huge spectrum. There are many different types of sexuality.
Sex is a natural part of adult relationships. | Sex and sexuality are complicated to figure out. Give yourself time and space to explore what you are feeling.

#### Additional Resources

- AVEN
  - [http://www.asexuality.org](http://www.asexuality.org)
- Asexual Awareness Week
  - [http://www.asexualawarenessweek.com](http://www.asexualawarenessweek.com)
- Asexual Explorations
  - [http://asexystuff.blogspot.com/](http://asexystuff.blogspot.com/)
- Being an Ally
  - [http://tinyurl.com/BeAnAceAlly](http://tinyurl.com/BeAnAceAlly)
- Hot Pieces of Ace
  - [http://www.youtube.com/HotPiecesofAce/](http://www.youtube.com/HotPiecesofAce/)