



The Aro Census 2020 Report

July 2021



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About

The Aro Census is an online community survey whose purpose is to gather information on the makeup of the aromantic community. The initiative was started by AUREA in 2020 and is intended to be a bi-yearly project. This report shows the results of the 2020 survey.

The team behind the creation, dissemination, analysis, and report writeup for the Aro Census is international, and is composed of volunteers. The volunteers are entirely arospec or a-spec and come from a variety of backgrounds. The following groups and individuals were involved throughout the various stages of the project:

- The AUREA team
- Grace Vestuto
- aspec of stardust
- Birgit/Yellow
- gracesofluck
- Markus Lilienthal
- Shelley

If any readers of this report are interested in being part of the team in the future or have any questions about the report, please email AUREA at contact@aromanticism.org.

Distribution of this report, in whole or in part, is allowed, as long as proper credit is given to the Aro Census team. To refer to this report, the following citation is recommended:

AUREA Aro Census Team 2020. (2021). *The Aro Census 2020 Report*. AUREA.
<https://aromanticism.org/aro-census>.

Content Warnings: This report contains material that may be sensitive or triggering for some readers. Content covered in this report includes (but is not limited to): romance, sex, intimate relationships, break-ups and ends of relationships, prejudice, discrimination, harassment, violence (including physical and sexual violence), mental health (including illness), and disability. It is recommended that readers engage in self-care or seek social support when reading the report if they find any content distressing.

Terminology and Abbreviations

The census and this report both use certain terms and abbreviations in particular ways. Some of these terms and abbreviations are used in different ways throughout the community. To learn more about these terms, visit [AUREA's glossary](#). Below are the ways the census team defined and used the following terms:

Aro, arospec, aro-spec, aromantic

Short for “aromantic” or the broader “aromantic community.” All of these terms are used as specific labels or as umbrella terms to include participants who personally identify with or relate to the aromantic spectrum (e.g., individuals who are greyromantic, quoiromantic, or questioning, and who consider themselves part of the aromantic community in some way).

A-spec

Short for “a-spectrum.” This includes individuals who identify as aromantic and/or asexual as well as those who do not identify specifically as aromantic or asexual but more broadly “a-spec.” This includes all participants that consider themselves part of the aromantic and/or asexual umbrellas (e.g., individuals who are grey-asexual who consider themselves part of the broad asexual community and a-spec community).

Ace,**acespec,****ace-spec**

Short for “asexual.” All of these terms can be used to refer to anyone who identified as somewhere on the asexual spectrum, and we use these terms as both specific identities and umbrella terms for the asexual community.

Trans

Short for “transgender” and/or “transsexual*” (*a more outdated term). We define trans in this survey as anyone who does not identify with the gender they were assigned at birth, whether wholly or partially.

Queer

We use this term both as a specific identity (e.g., queer as a sexuality, genderqueer) and as a broad term to describe the LGBTQIA+ community.



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Executive Summary

In its first year, the aro census 2020 received 9758 responses from English-speaking aromantics around the world, though mostly concentrated in the United States, the UK, Europe, Canada, and Australia. Most respondents were young, under 30 years old. Most respondents were also white. As such, this census is not representative of the whole aromantic community and should instead be treated as a snapshot.

The aromantics that participated in the aro census used a variety of arospec labels and had many other orientations and identities. The vast majority were aromantic asexuals, although a number identified as broadly queer and used microlabels. Likely due to the age demographic, most aromantics captured in this survey had gone through few intimate relationships. However, these relationships varied in type, length, and frequency. Almost half of the participants had not been in any relationship at all.

Romantic interest and aromantics' feelings about romance varied, showing how individual experiences in the aromantic community can be different. It is notable that most aromantics indicated that when they had been faced with romantically-coded experiences and behaviors, they had felt uneasy. Learning about aromanticism seemed to change many participants' beliefs about romance and aromanticism in general, showing how important diverse education and resources are.

Ultimately, aromantics in the aro census were most often affected by others' denial of aromanticism as a legitimate and healthy experience. Visibility, recognition, and discussion of diverse experiences was indicated as what aromantics need from their community most.



Methodology

The Aro Census is a community survey started in 2020, set to repeat biannually (every two years). The survey contains general demographic questions and questions about topics related to the aromantic experience. Some questions were mandatory while others were optional and depended upon answers to other questions (e.g., participants who did not indicate having a sexual history did not answer the sexual history questions). The team reviews and edits these questions after each iteration of the census, according to feedback.

In 2020, the Aro Census was only available in English. The survey administration platform used to host the survey was Google Forms. This means the survey was only accessible through the web.

The 2020 survey was open from March 29th to November 30th, 2020. The survey was advertised on AUREA's website (aromanticism.org) and social media platforms (Tumblr, Twitter, Facebook, Reddit, Arocalypse forums, some Discord servers) throughout the survey's distribution. Snowball sampling was used, meaning that the link to the survey could be shared through word of mouth (personally or online). Due to this convenient sampling method, the findings reported on in this document are not representative of the entire community of aromantics.

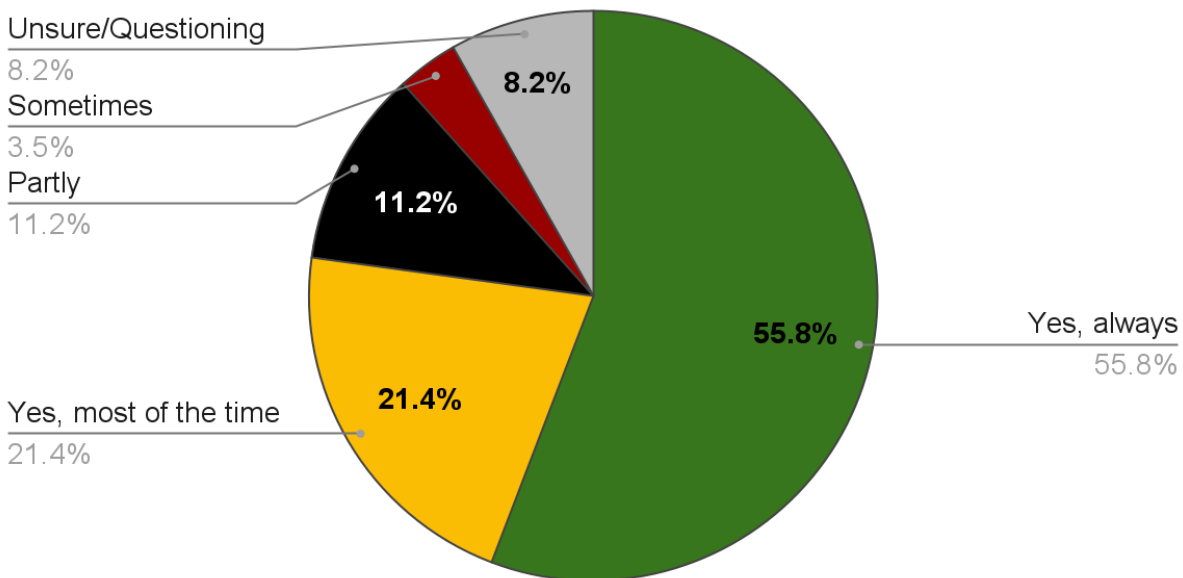
Analysts used a combination of MS Excel, R, Python, and Google Sheets to organize, analyze, and visualize the data. Some survey questions had write-in response options or "Other" options. These were coded by hand by a team of coders, based on common answers. In cases where options had too few participants to report on individually (defined as 1% of participants or fewer), some options were rolled together into broader categories, defined by the coders based on common data analysis practices.

Demographics

This section describes the participants' general demographic characteristics.

The census had 9758 respondents in total. Not all questions were mandatory (e.g., questions about sexual history only applied to some people); therefore, some of the following visualizations show fewer responses.

Do you consider yourself aromantic (on the aromantic spectrum)?



Of those who responded to the census, 55.8% indicated they consider themselves aromantic all of the time, 21.4% indicated they consider themselves aromantic most of the time, and 11.2% feel closer to the aromantic label than the alloromantic label. The remaining 11.6% indicated that their identification with the aromantic spectrum changes, fluctuates with their identity, or is still being questioned.



Orientations

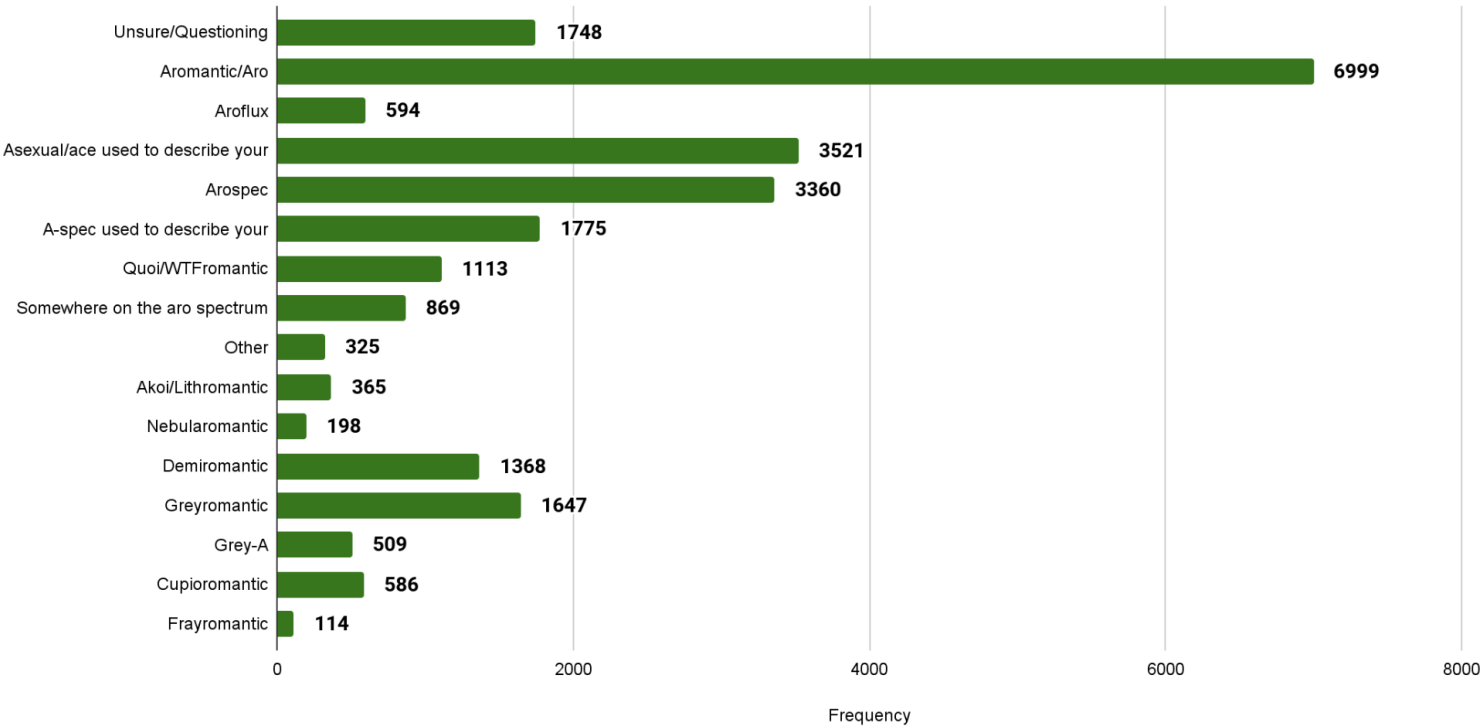
The census asked about orientations participants held. These include romantic and sexual orientations, as well as other orientations and attractions.

Romantic Orientation

In terms of arospec labels participants held (including broader a-spec labels, in the case of people whose aromantic identity is part of a broader one), a large number of respondents (6999) indicated they identify as aro or aromantic.

Which of the following aro- or a-spec labels do you identify with? Select any that apply.

Multiple answers possible; answered by 9546 people



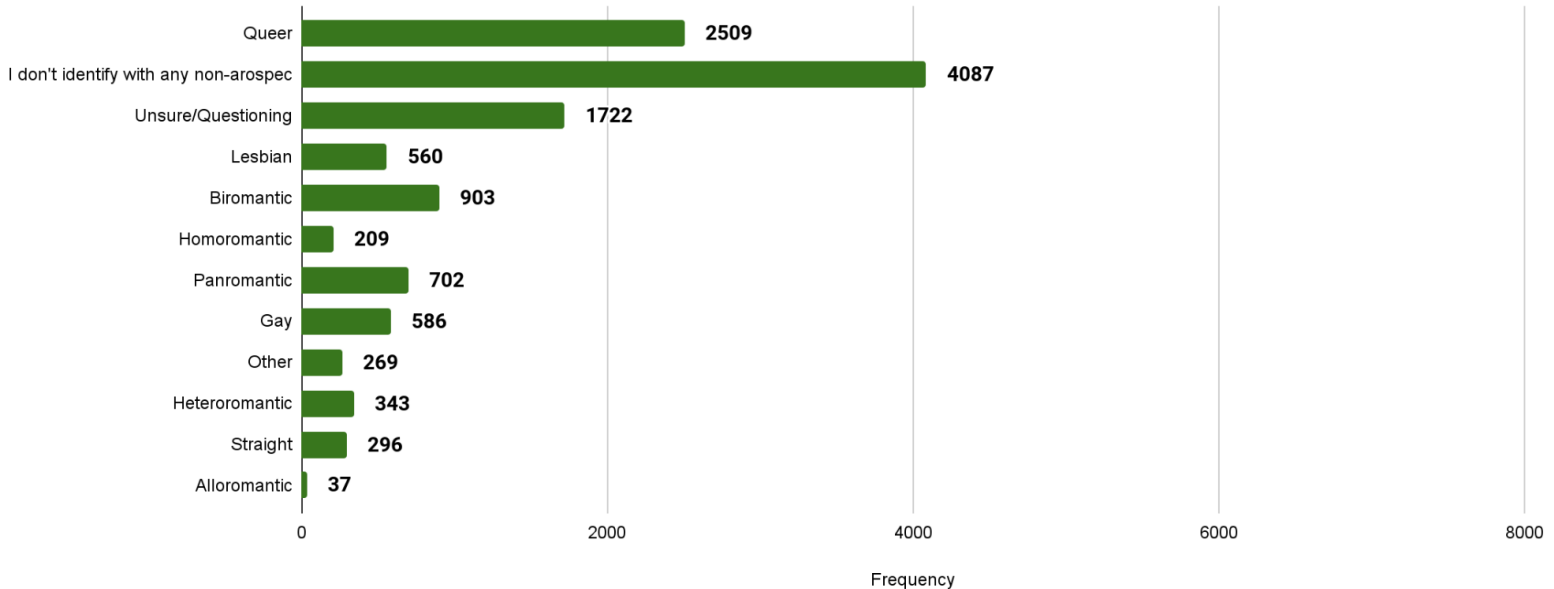
Around a third indicated they use asexual as a broad umbrella term to include their aromanticism, and another third indicated they use the arospec label. Other common



labels include greyromantic, demiromantic, and quoi/wtfromantic. Over 1700 respondents indicated they were questioning.

Do you identify with any non-ariospec romantic orientations?

Multiple answers possible; answered by 9140 people



Almost half of respondents did not identify with non-ariospec romantic orientations.

For those that did, the most common was queer, indicated by 2509 participants. Biromantic, panromantic, gay, and lesbian were the next most common orientations. Over 1700 survey takers indicated they were questioning.

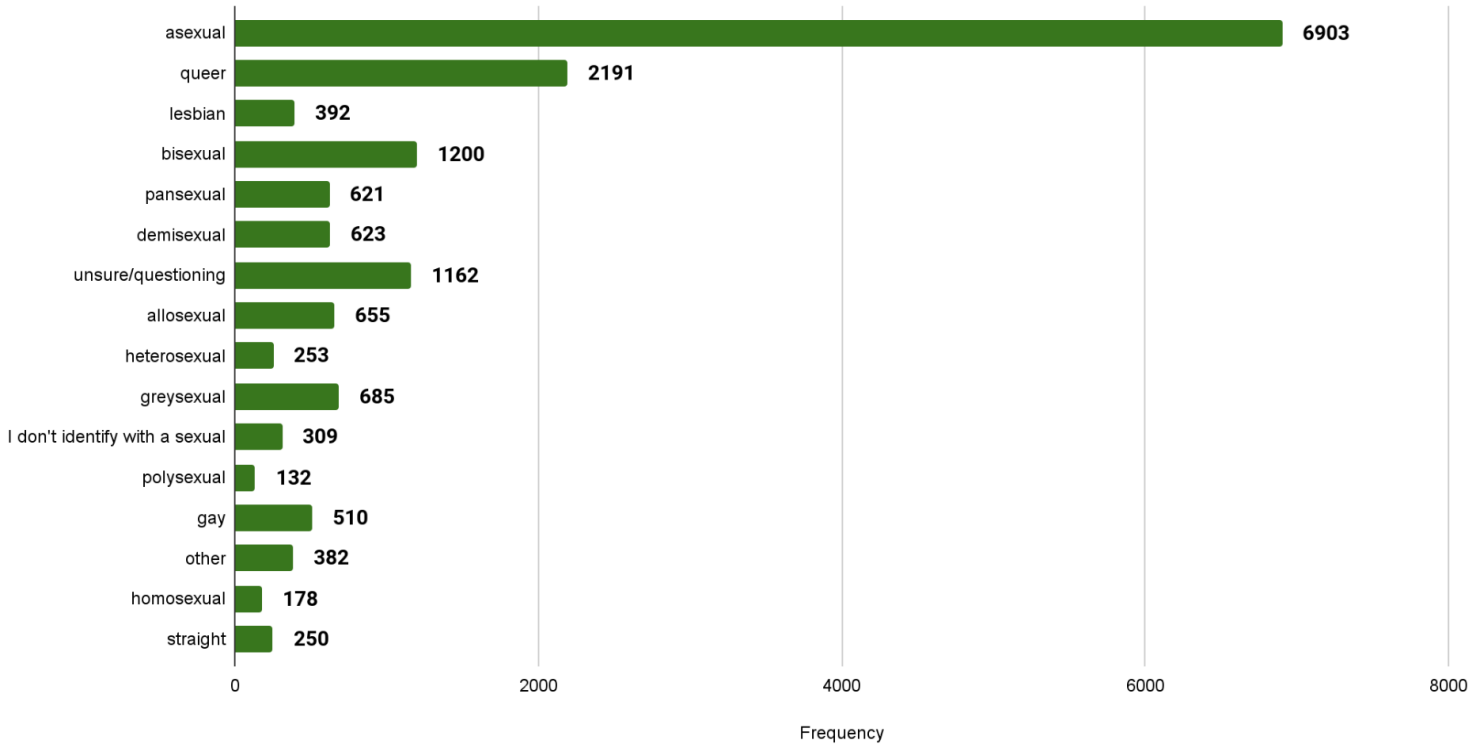
Sexual and Other Orientations

In terms of sexual orientation, 6903 people identified as asexual. This accounts for the vast majority of participants. After asexual, the most common sexual orientation was queer, accounting for 2191 participants. Bisexual people and those who were questioning their sexuality accounted for around 1200 responses each. The distributions for other sexualities were relatively even, though heterosexual, homosexual, and polysexual people were quite few, only accounting for 253, 178, and 132 responses respectively.



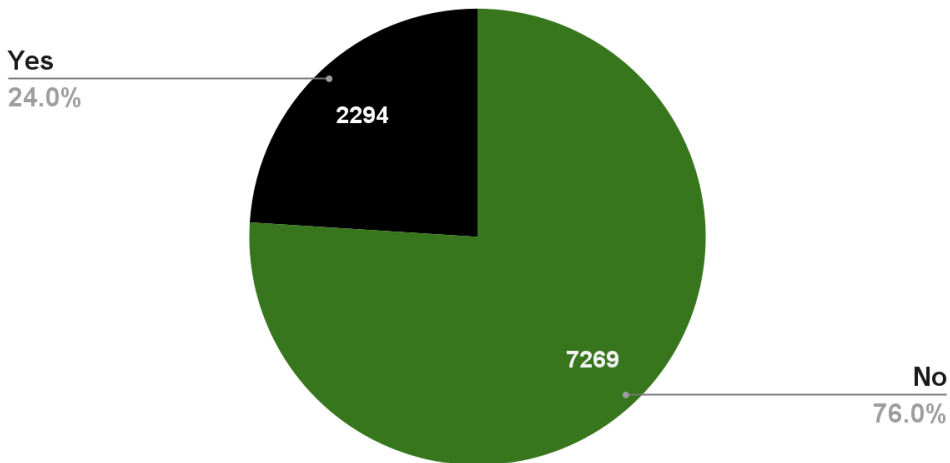
Do you identify with any sexual orientations?

Multiple answers possible; answered by 9539 people



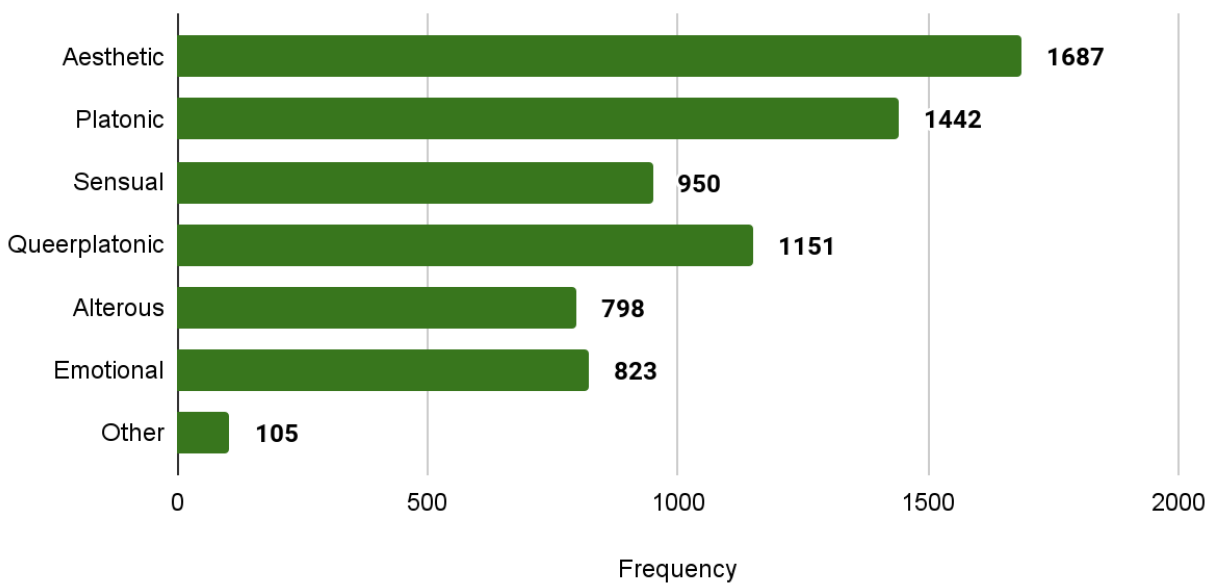
About a quarter of all respondents also used labels for attractions other than sexual or romantic.

Do you use a separate label for any kind(s) of attraction other than sexual or romantic?



The most commonly labeled attraction was aesthetic, accounting for 1687 of respondents. Platonic attraction was labeled by 1442 people, and queerplatonic attraction was labeled by 1151. Sensual, emotional, and alterous attractions accounted for just under 1000 respondents respectively. 105 people labeled attractions other than these as well.

Since you answered Yes, can you specify what kind(s) of attraction you label for yourself? Select any that apply.

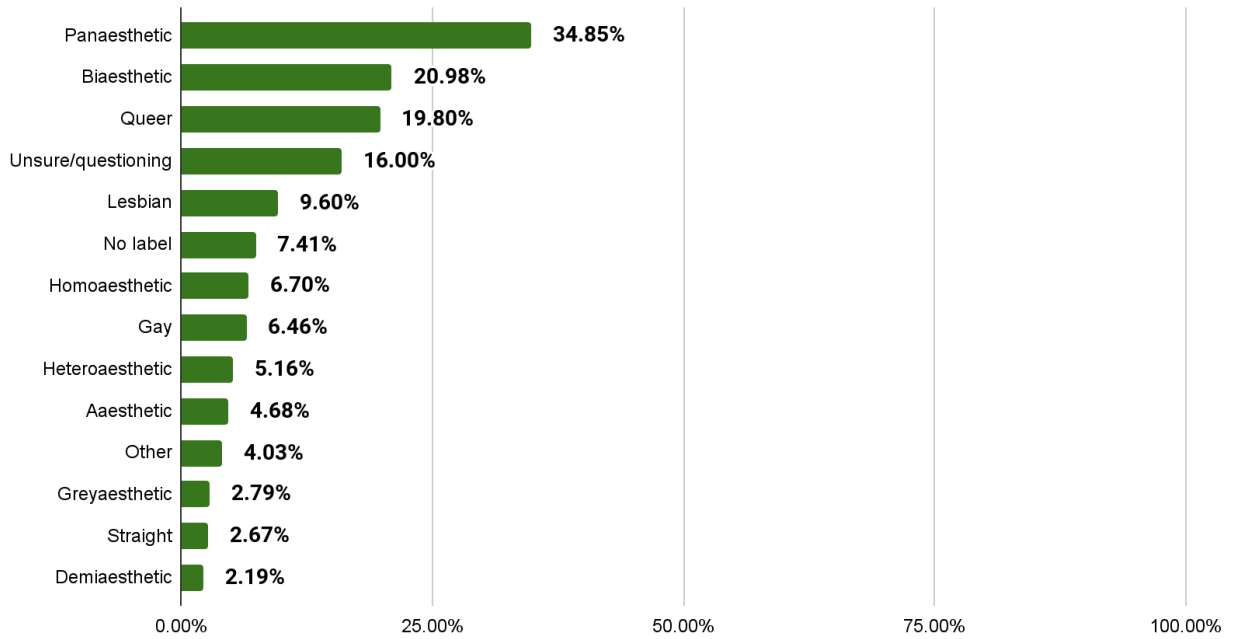


Some other attractions people labeled included a mix of the above, unlabeled general attraction, affectionate attraction, and intellectual attraction, among other individually-defined attractions.

For those that labeled their aesthetic attraction, the most common label was panaesthetic, accounting for almost 35% of responses. Queer and biaesthetic were also relatively common, at nearly 20% each.

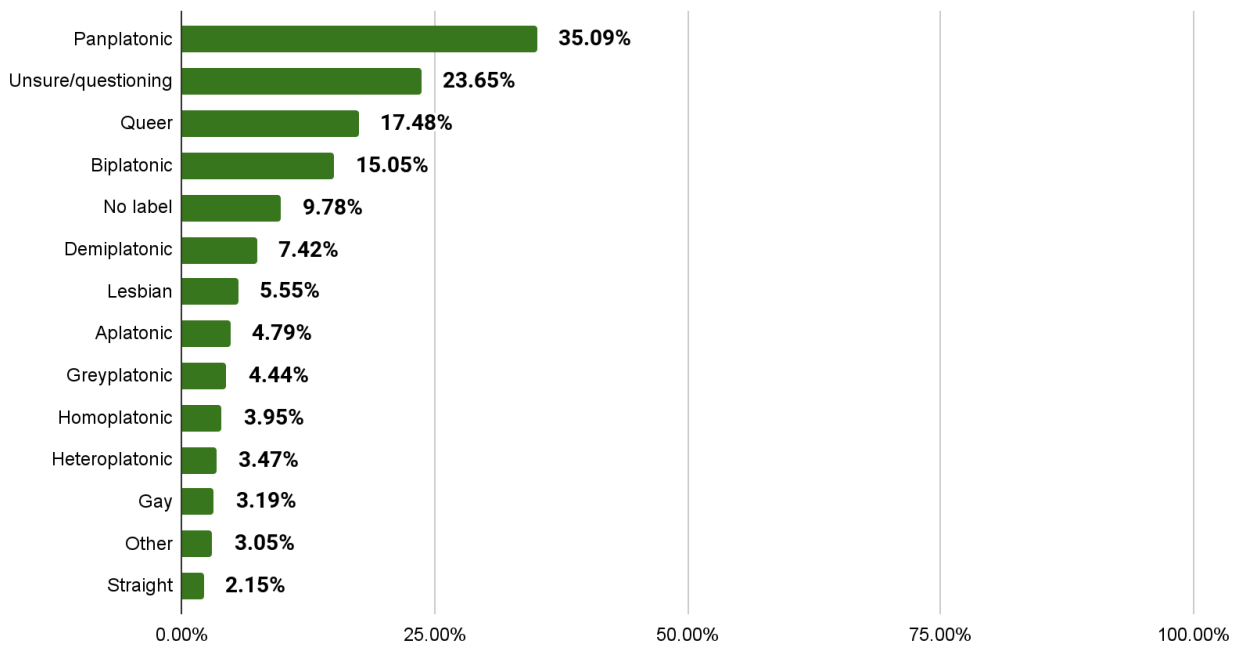


If you answered you label Aesthetic attraction, can you specify what label(s) you use?



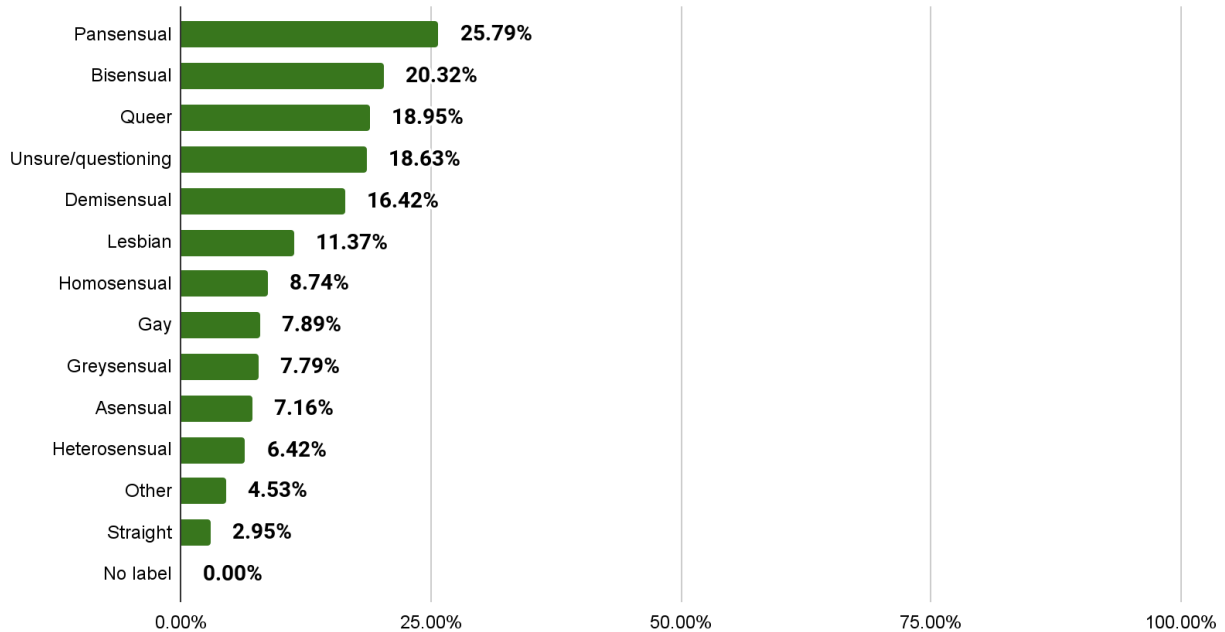
There was a similar distribution for those that labeled platonic attraction, though there was a higher number of unsure/questioning responses.

If you answered you label Platonic attraction, can you specify what label(s) you use?



For those that labeled sensual attraction, pan, bi, and queer were the most common labels as well. However, there was a greater percentage of respondents who indicated they were demisensual in this category. 16.42% of respondents indicated they were demisensual.

If you answered you label Sensual attraction, can you specify what label(s) you use?



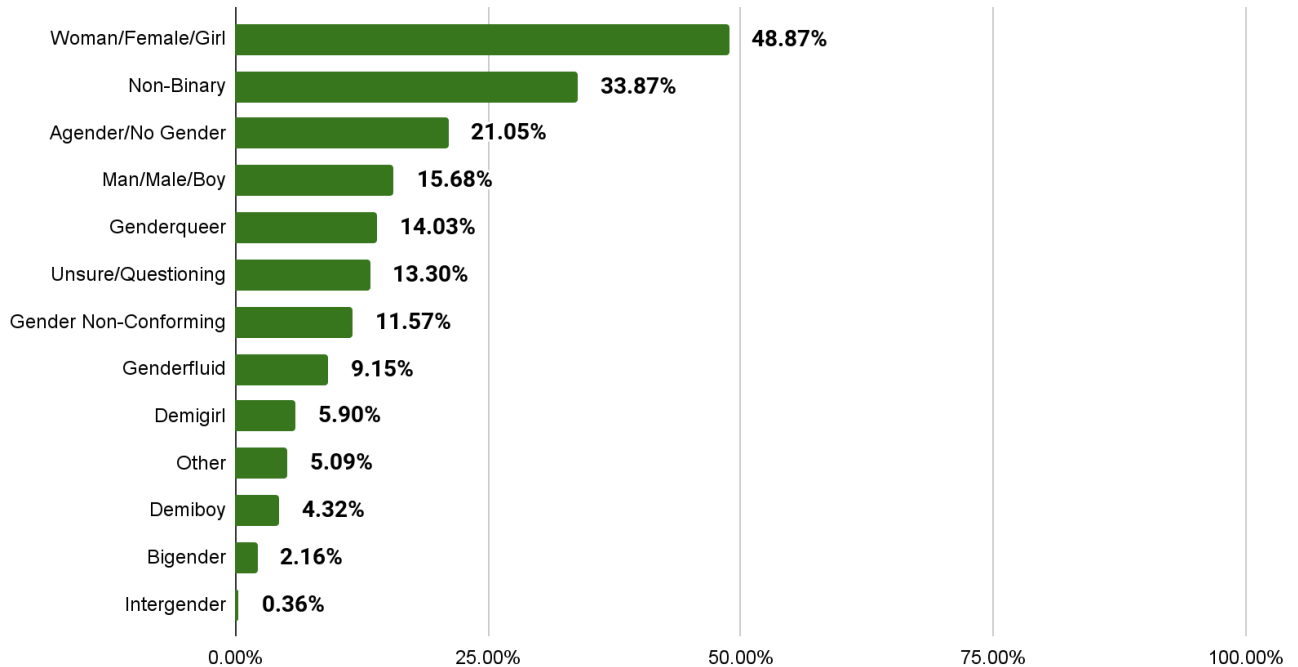
For queerplatonic, alterous, emotional, and other categories, there were too few respondents who indicated they identified with those labels to adequately describe the breakdowns. Between 15 and 25 percent of respondents in each category indicated they were questioning or unsure.

Gender

In terms of gender identity, almost half of the participants in the census indicated they were women, girls, or female. A third indicated they were non-binary. Other common gender identities of the participants, in order, were: agender or no gender; man, boy,

or male; genderqueer; gender non-conforming; and genderfluid. 13.3% of participants indicated they were questioning their gender or unsure.

What is your gender identity? Select any that apply.

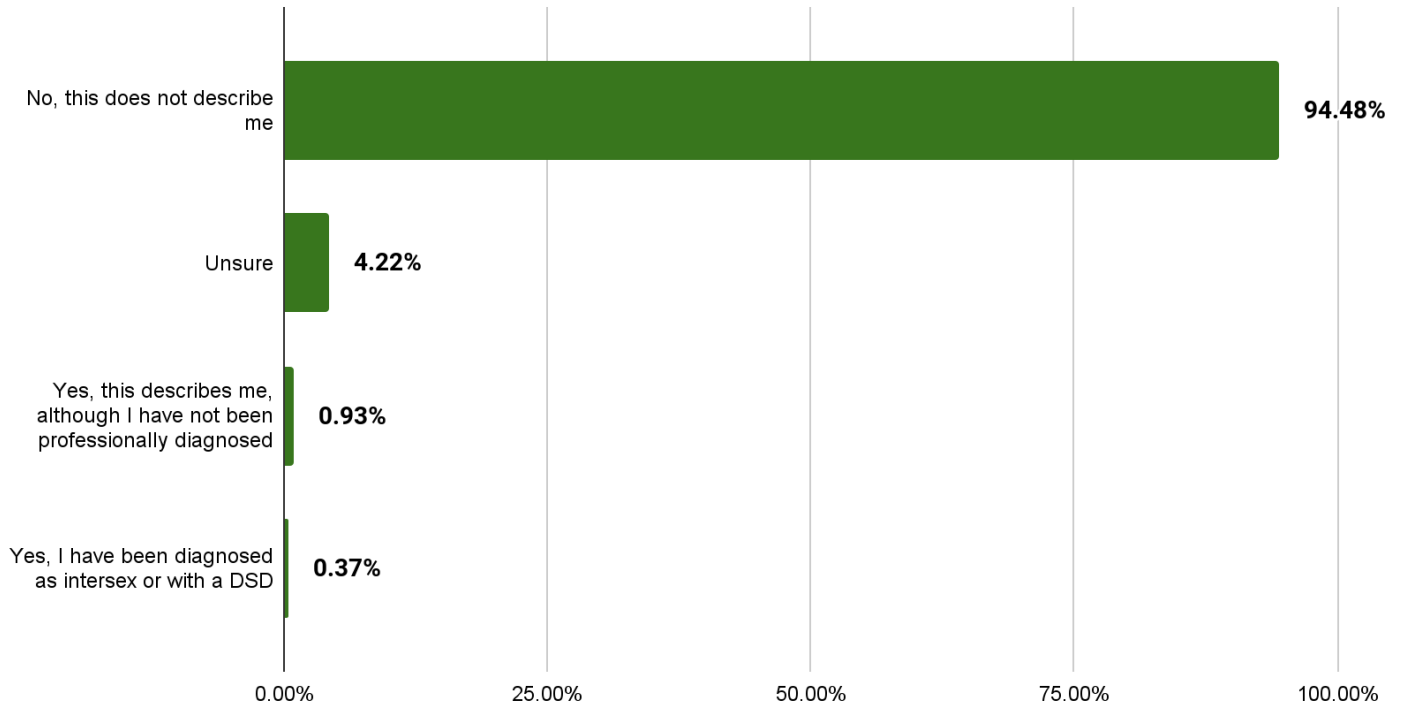


Intersex

The vast majority of respondents (94.48%) indicated they were not intersex and did not have differences of sex development (DSD). Just under 5% indicated they were unsure, and a small percentage indicated they were intersex and/or had DSD.



Some people are assigned male or female at birth but are born with or develop sexual anatomy, reproductive organs, and/or chromosome patterns that do not fit the typical definition of male or female. This physical condition is known as intersex or Differences

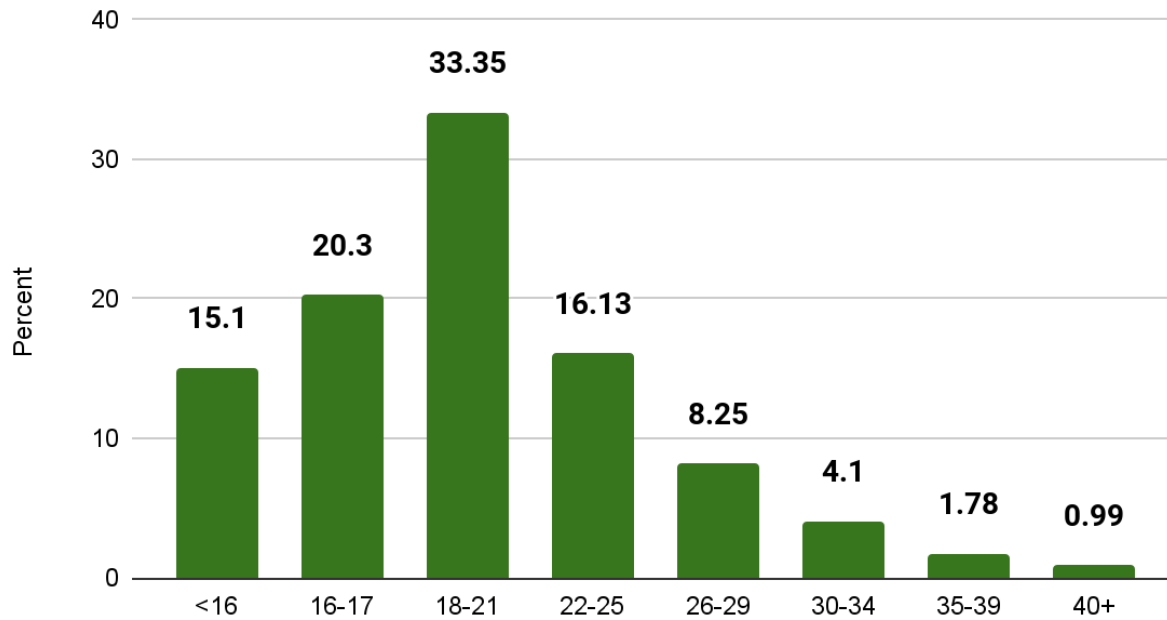


Age

Most respondents were between 18 and 21 years old. The respondents' ages grouped around this average, as well, with fewer than 10% of respondents indicating they were 30 or older. Age of respondents was therefore skewed young.



Age



Race and Ethnicity

Half of the respondents to the survey indicated they were white. 17% indicated they were European in terms of ethnicity. 5.67% indicated they had mixed identities. Other racial and ethnic backgrounds accounted for under 5% each.

Race/Ethnicity	Frequency	Percentage
White	7506	50.93
European	2527	17.15
Jewish	429	2.91
Unsure	187	1.27
Hispanic	544	3.69
Mixed	835	5.67
East Asian	439	2.98
Native, Indigenous or Aboriginal	298	2.02
Other	179	1.21

Black	371	2.52
Latine/Latinx	629	4.27
South Asian	231	1.57
Southeast Asian	336	2.28
West Asian	88	0.60
African	80	0.54
Middle-Eastern or North African	58	0.39

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one category.

Country

Just over half of the participants in the census were from the USA. Other respondents were commonly from the UK, Europe, Canada, and Australia.

Country	Frequency (N= 9501)	Percentage
Australia	400	4.21
Brazil	208	2.19
Canada	657	6.92
France	190	2.00
Germany	431	4.54
Italy	202	2.13
Spain	107	1.13
UK	853	8.98
USA	5052	53.17
Other Americas	173	1.82
Other EU	736	7.75
Other MENA	62	0.65
Other Eurasia	65	0.68
Other Asia	244	2.57

Other Africa	35	0.37
Other Oceania	86	0.91

Living Environment (Size)

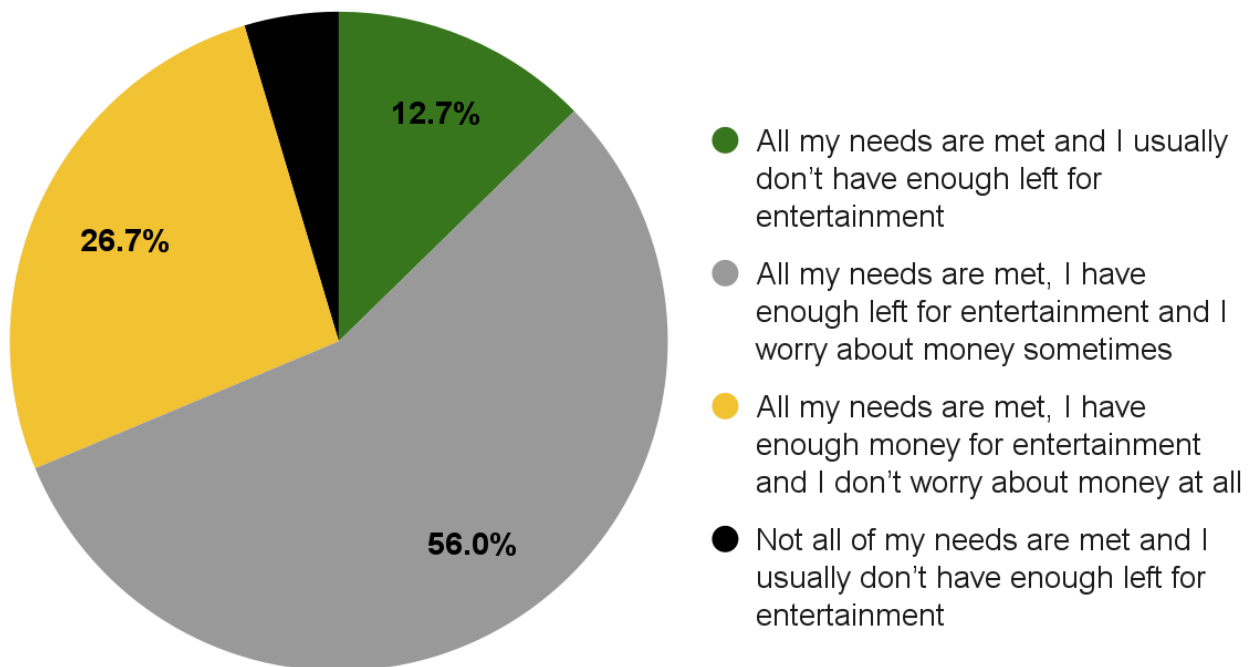
The respondents to the census were relatively evenly distributed when it came to where they lived. There were slightly more people living in big towns (10 to 99 thousand people) and less living in villages (categorized as having less than 999 people).

City Size	Freq	Percent
Large city (more than 4 million people)	861	9.04
Metropolis (1 to 3 million people)	897	9.42
Big city (300 to 999 thousand people)	1097	11.52
Big town (10 to 99 thousand people)	1889	19.84
Medium city (100 to 299 thousand people)	1264	13.27
Small town (1 to 9 thousand people)	1245	13.07
Suburbs of big or medium city	1098	11.53
Suburbs of large city or metropolis	781	8.2
Village (less than 999 people)	390	4.1

Financial Situation

In terms of financial situation, 56% of respondents said all their needs were generally met and they had enough left for entertainment, but worried about money sometimes. Just over a quarter of respondents said their needs and entertainment expenses were generally met and they did not worry about money. The few remaining respondents indicated they worried about money and either only had enough for meeting basic needs or did not have enough.

Financial Situation



Education

More than 75% of respondents completed formal education equivalent to high school or beyond. 31.1% of respondents stopped at high school, while the remaining half were split between types of post-secondary education. The most common were some

college, a Bachelor's degree, and college certificate. Very few participants had a Master's degree or doctoral degree.

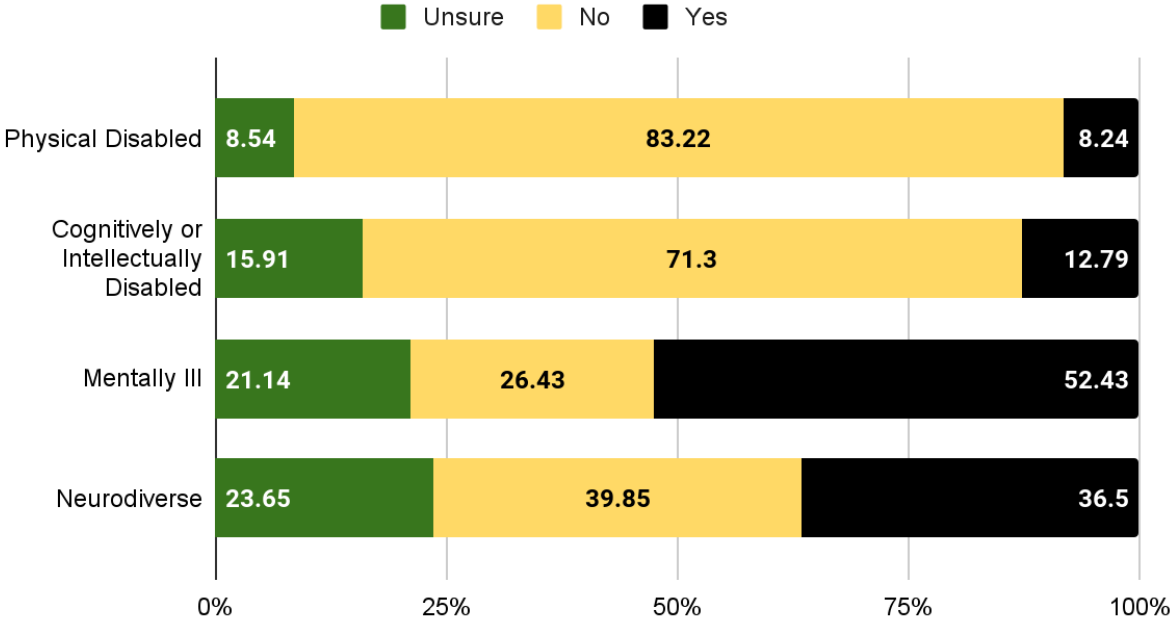
Education	Freq	Percent
Bachelor's degree	1448	15.35
College certificate or degree	513	5.44
Doctoral degree	60	0.64
High school	2937	31.13
Less than high school	1742	18.46
Master's degree	442	4.68
Some college	2294	24.31

Disability and Neurodivergence

About half of the participants in the aro census indicated they had mental illness. 36.5% indicated they were neurodivergent or neurodiverse. 12.79% of participants indicated they were cognitively or intellectually disabled, and 8.24% indicated they were physically disabled. Notably, for these latter two categories, a very large number of people indicated they were not sure about whether they were disabled in these ways. In fact, uncertainty about disability and neurodivergence accounted for over 25% for each related question.



Disability and Neurodivergence



Children

Likely related to the age demographics found in this survey, less than 1% of respondents indicated they had children.



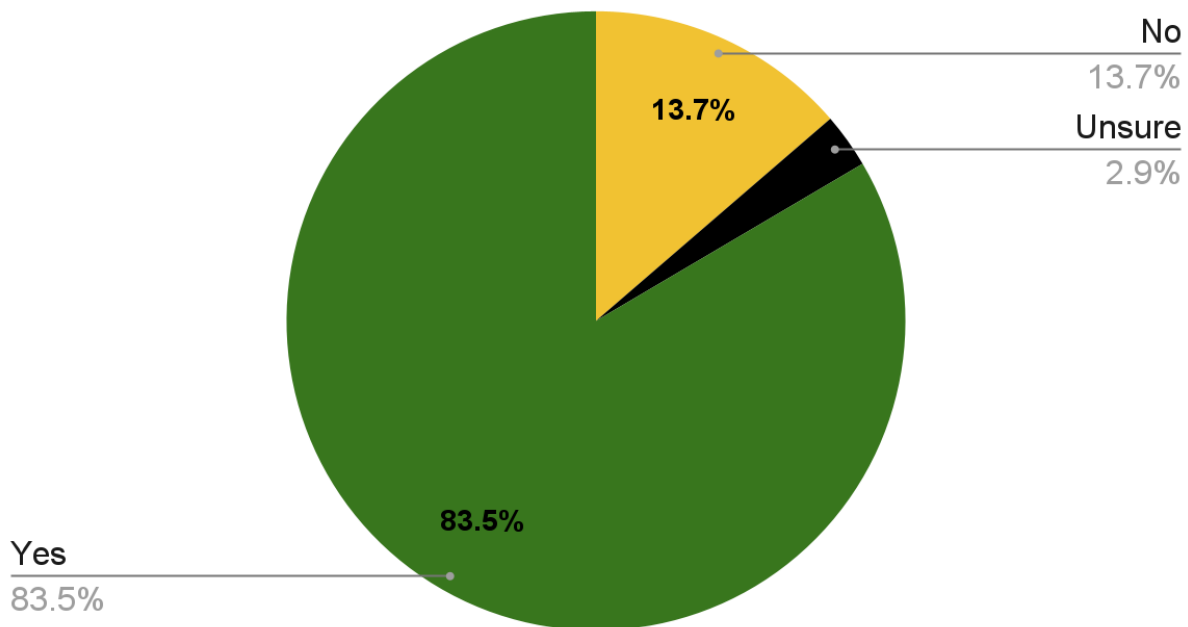
Relationships

This section of the census asked aromantics about their relationships.

Single Aromantics

83.6% of respondents to the aro census indicated they were single at the time of taking the survey. 13.7% indicated they were not single, and 2.9% said they were unsure.

Are you single?

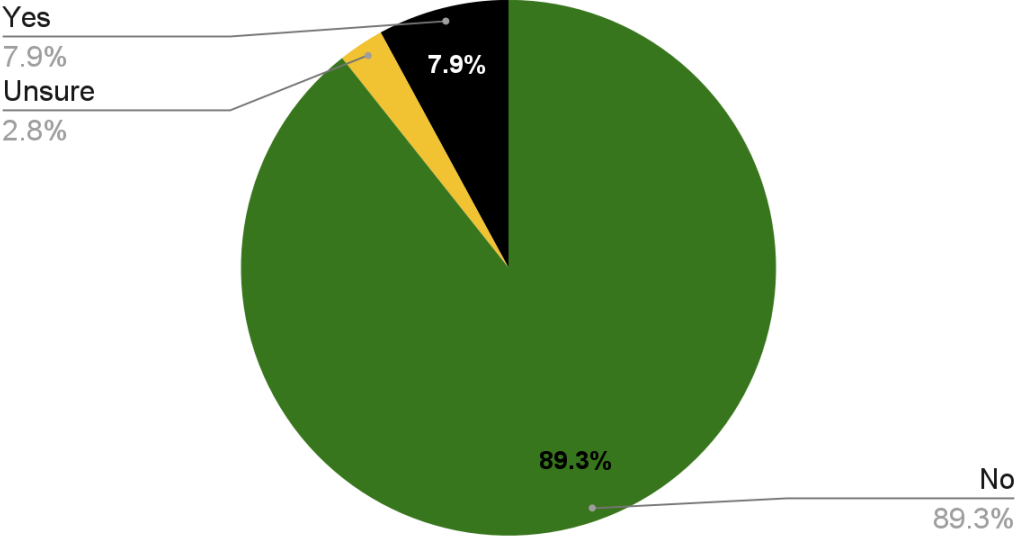


Partnerships

7.9% of aromantics who took the aro census indicated they were in a romantic partnership at the time of the survey. 89.3% indicated they were not, with the remaining being unsure.

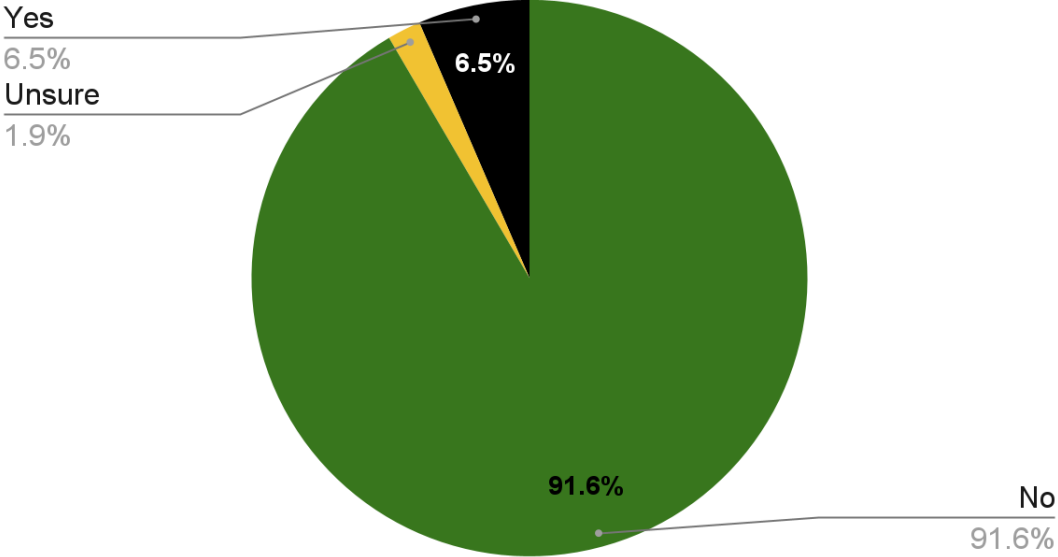


Are you in a romantic partnership?



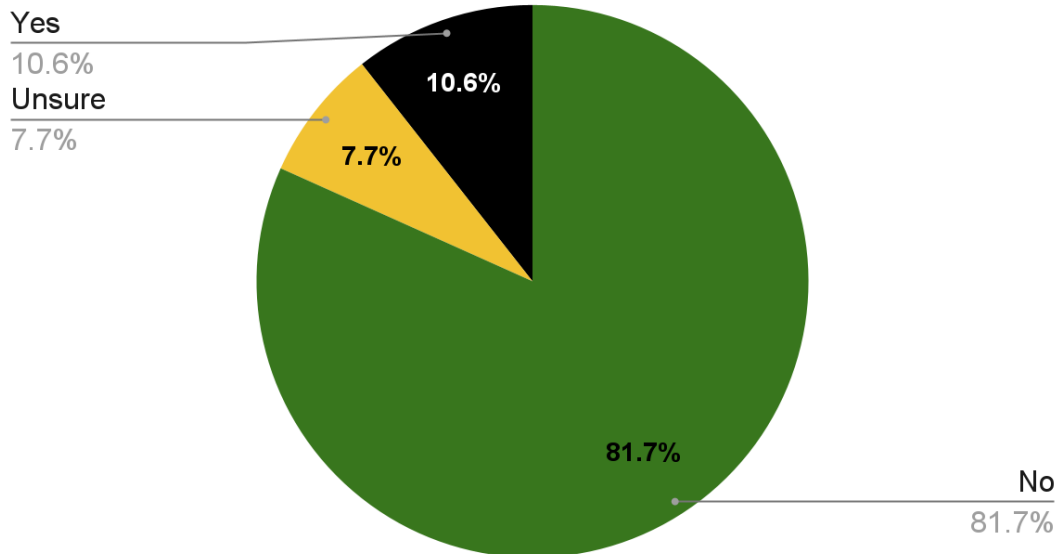
6.5% of respondents indicated they were in a sexual partnership. The vast majority of others (91.6%) said they were not in a sexual partnership, while the remaining just under 2% were unsure.

Are you in a sexual partnership?



More individuals (10.6%) indicated they were in a non-romantic partnership at the time of the survey. A greater number also indicated being unsure, compared to those that were unsure for other partnerships questions.

Are you in a non-romantic partnership?



Marriage

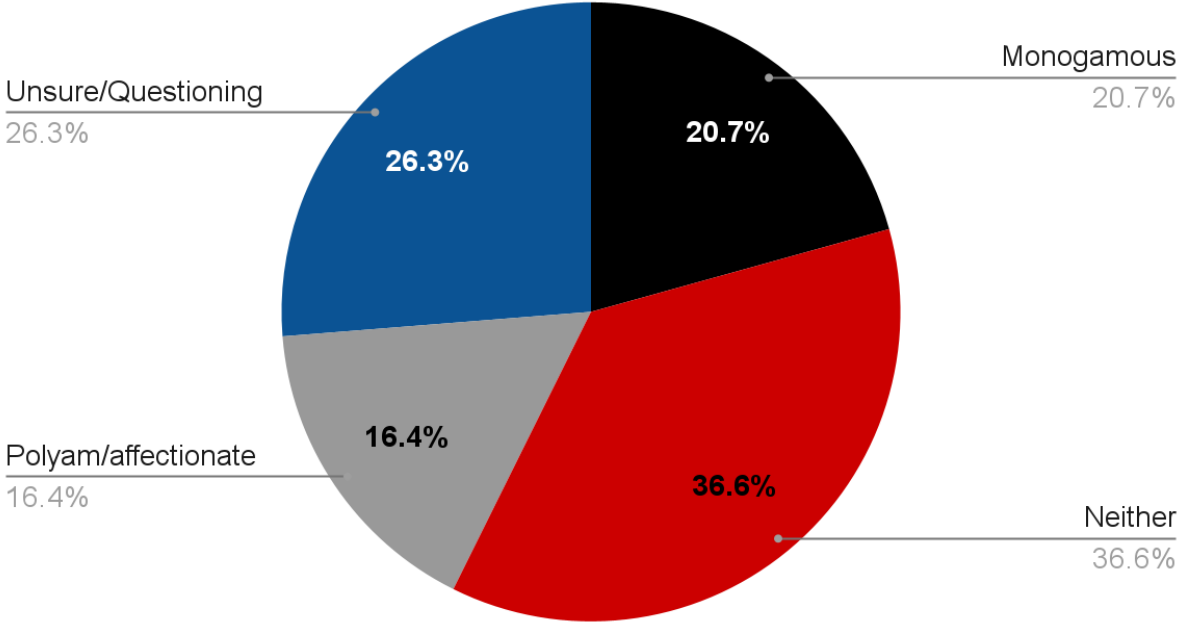
Likely due to the age distribution of respondents to this census, only 1.58% of respondents indicated they had ever been married, with 1% indicating they were currently married. Less than 1% of respondents had gone through divorce.

Polyamory

36.6% of respondents indicated they were not polyamorous, polyaffectionate, or monogamous. This could mean they were non-partnering and therefore did not identify with any of these terms at all, or they were non-monogamous in different ways. About 20% of respondents indicated they were monogamous, and 16.4% indicated they were polyamorous and/or polyaffectionate. The remaining quarter of participants indicated they were questioning or unsure.



Are you polyamorous / polyaffectionate or monogamous?



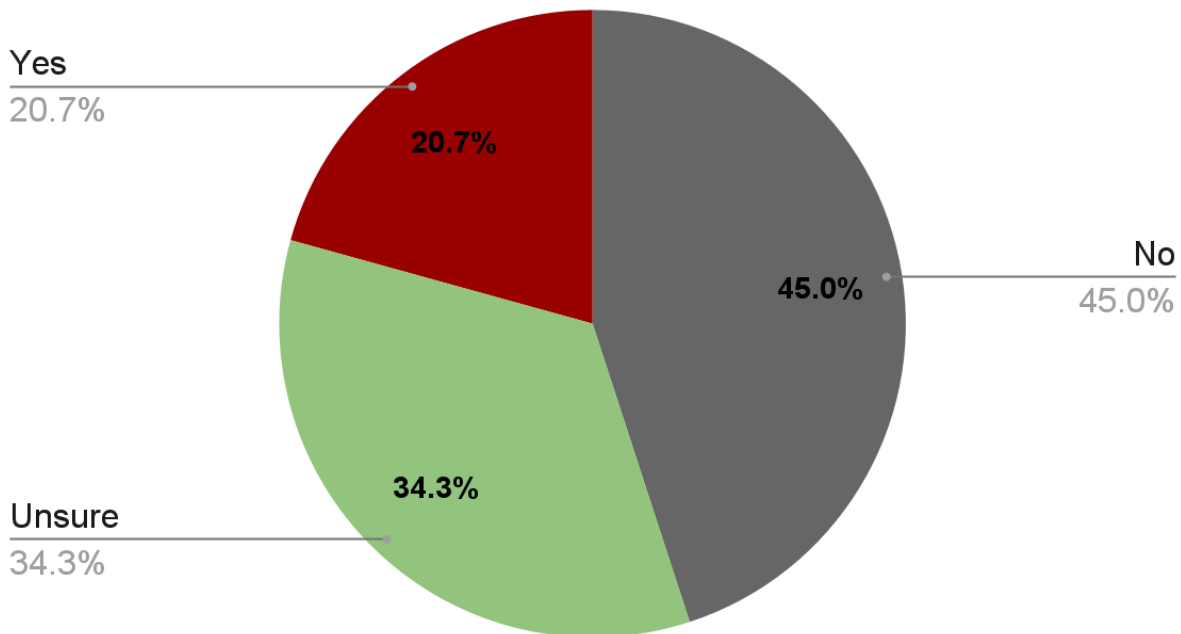
History with Romance & Romantic Interest

This section of the census asked aromantics about their history with romance and how their romantic interest (or lack of it) works for them individually.

Romantic Attraction

45% of participants in this survey indicated that they had not been attracted to someone romantically, while 20.7% indicated that they had been. The remaining 34.3% indicated they were unsure whether they had or hadn't been.

Have you ever been attracted to someone romantically?

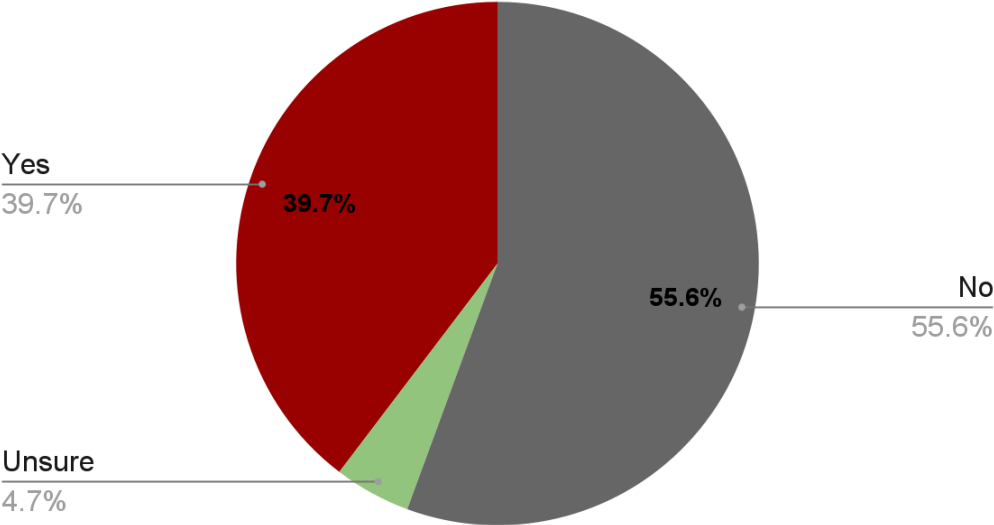


Romantic Relationships

39.7% of respondents indicated they had been in a romantic relationship before, while 55.6% indicated they had not been. The remaining small percentage were unsure of whether they had been in a romantic relationship or not.

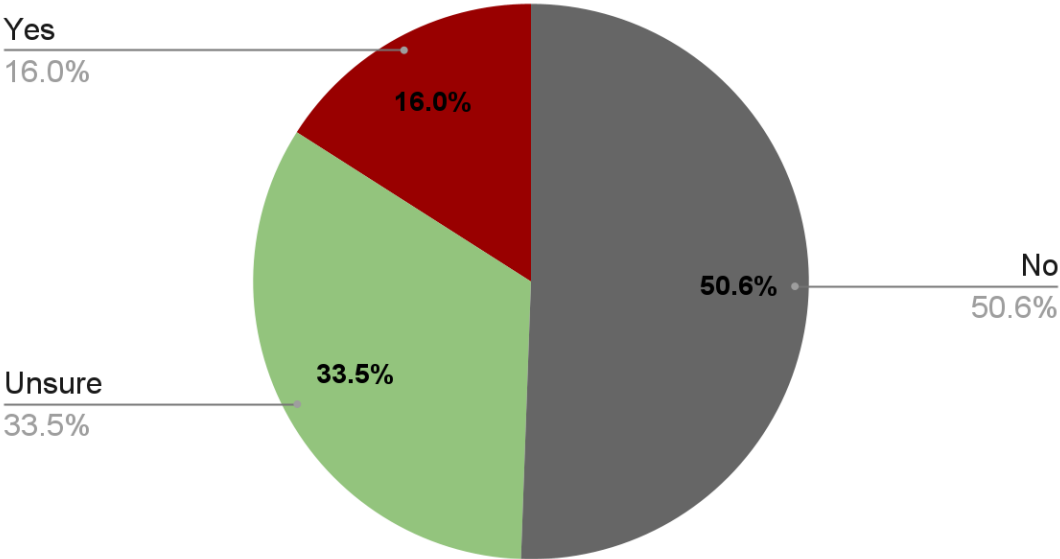


Have you ever been in a romantic relationship?



In terms of desiring romantic relationships, a much smaller percentage (16%) indicated they were sure they were interested in them. Half of respondents indicated they were not interested, and the remaining 33.5% were unsure.

Do you want to be in a romantic relationship?

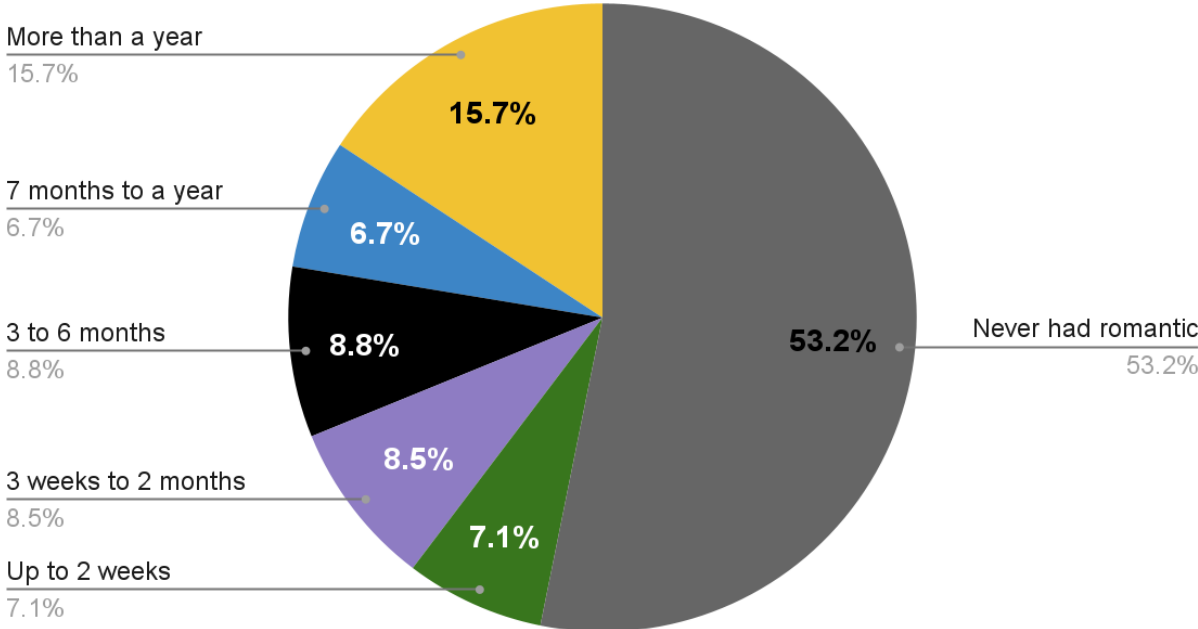




Romantic Interest

Half of participants in the census indicated that they had never been romantically interested in anyone. The remaining participants indicated different time frames for how long their interest lasted. For most (16.7%), their interest lasted for more than a year. The remaining participants were relatively evenly distributed between time frames, ranging from up to 2 weeks to 7 months to a year.

How long did your longest romantic interest in a person last?



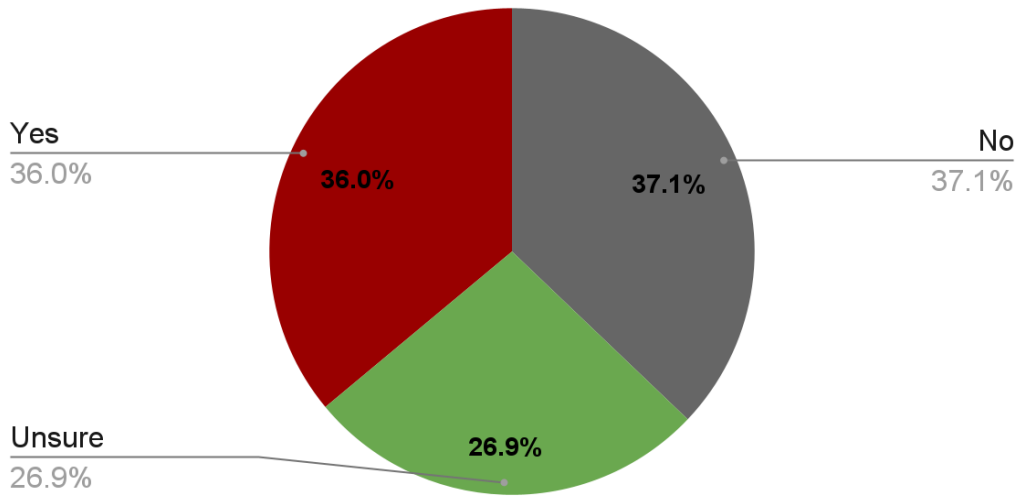
Crushes

Responses were relatively evenly distributed when respondents were asked whether they had had a crush on someone. About a third indicated they had been, another third indicated they hadn't been, and the final third indicated they weren't sure.





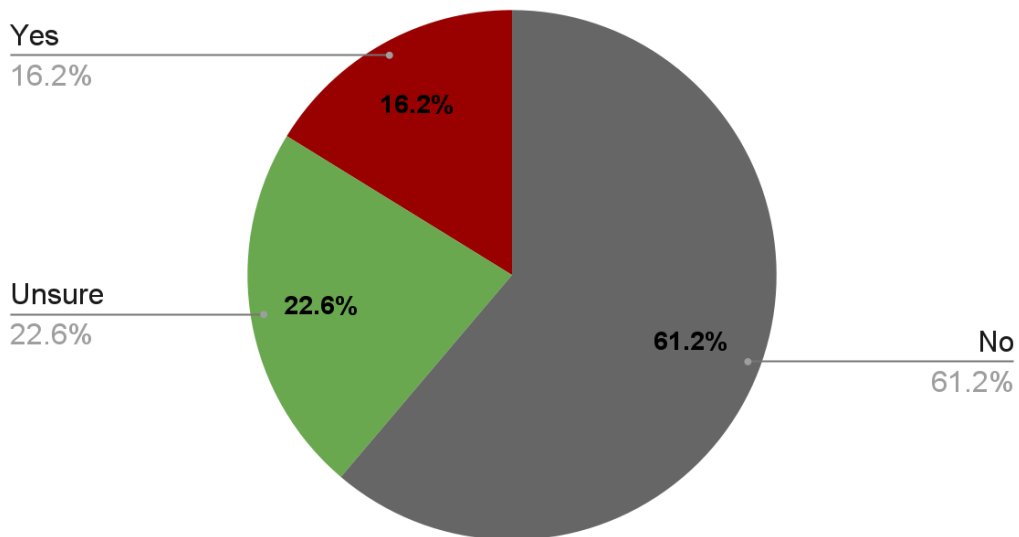
Have you ever had a crush on someone or been infatuated with someone?



Being in Love

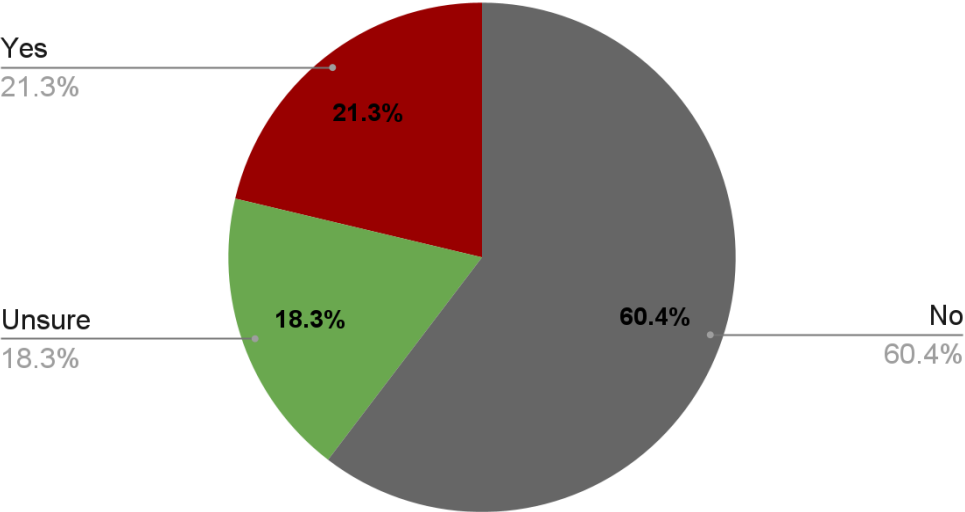
When asked about being in love, most respondents (61.2%) indicated they had not been in love before. 16.2% indicated they had been, with the remaining 22.6% being unsure.

Have you ever been in love?



Answers were similar when asked if participants had only ever fallen in love with a friend; the percentage of respondents answering yes was higher for this one (21.3%).

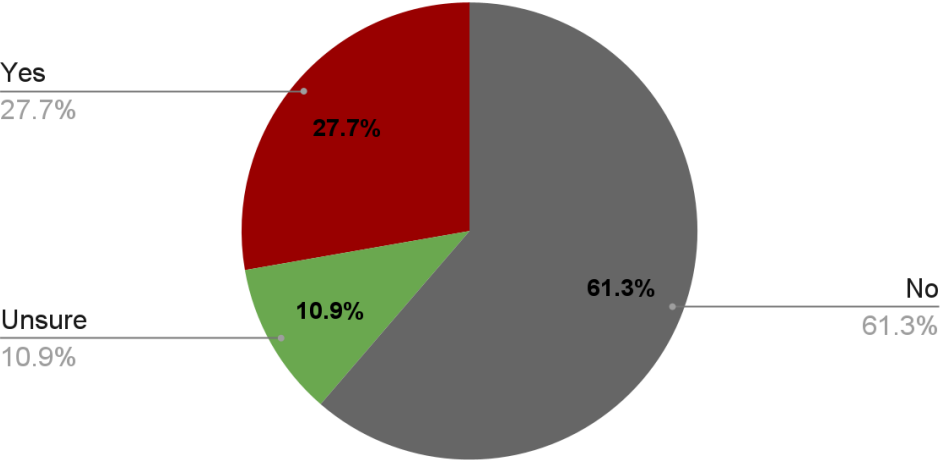
Have you only ever fallen in love with a friend?



Disappearing Romantic Interest

61.3% of respondents indicated that their romantic interest (or lack thereof) had not been stable over time. 27.7% of respondents indicated it had been, with the remaining 10.9% being unsure.

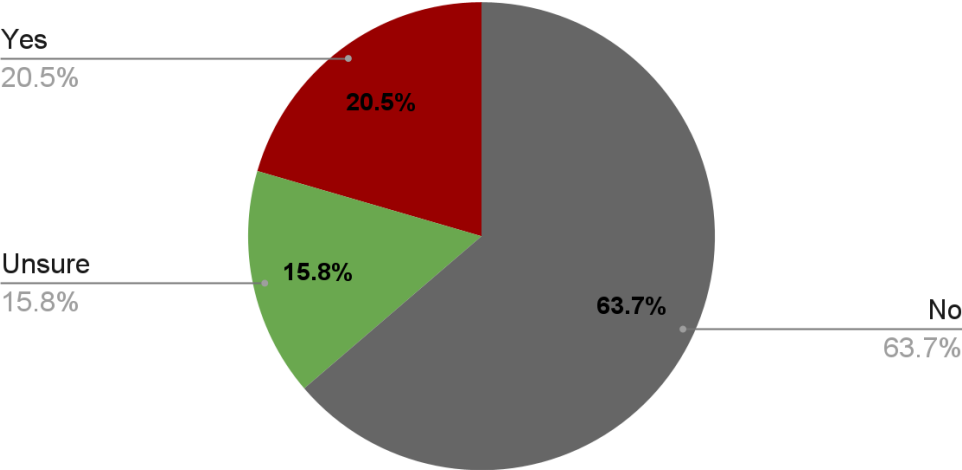
Has your romantic interest in a person been stable over time (e.g. didn't disappear and reappear)?





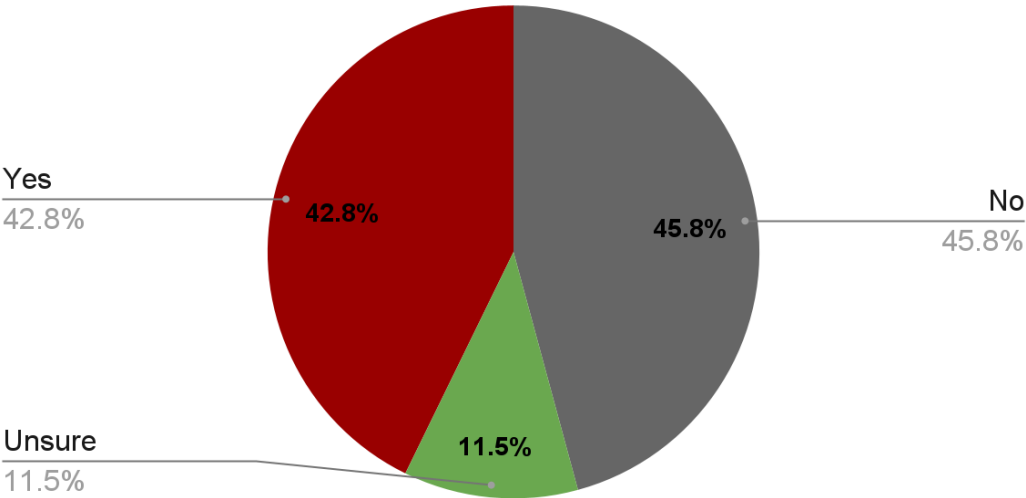
20.5% of respondents indicated that their romantic interest only appeared when a person confessed they were interested in that individual.

Has your romantic interest only appeared when a person confessed they were interested in you?



Respondents were split almost 50/50 when asked whether their romantic interest in someone disappeared because the person did something they couldn't accept.

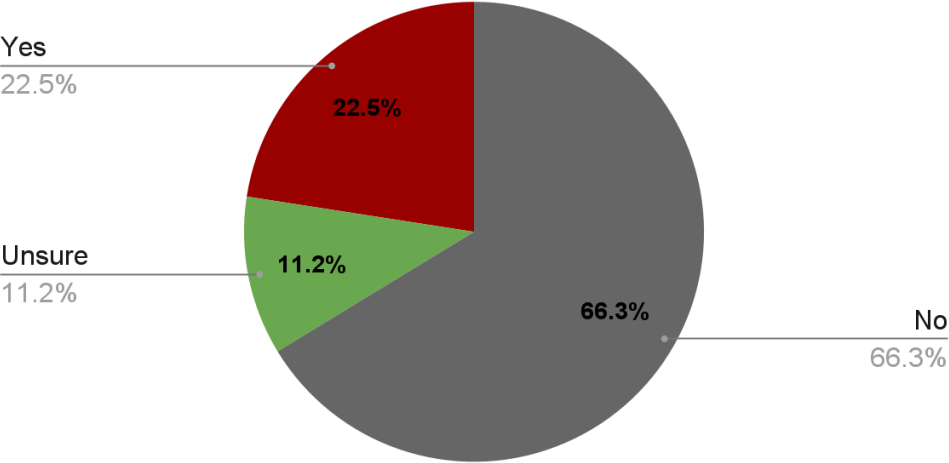
Has your romantic interest in a person disappeared suddenly, because the person did something you couldn't accept?





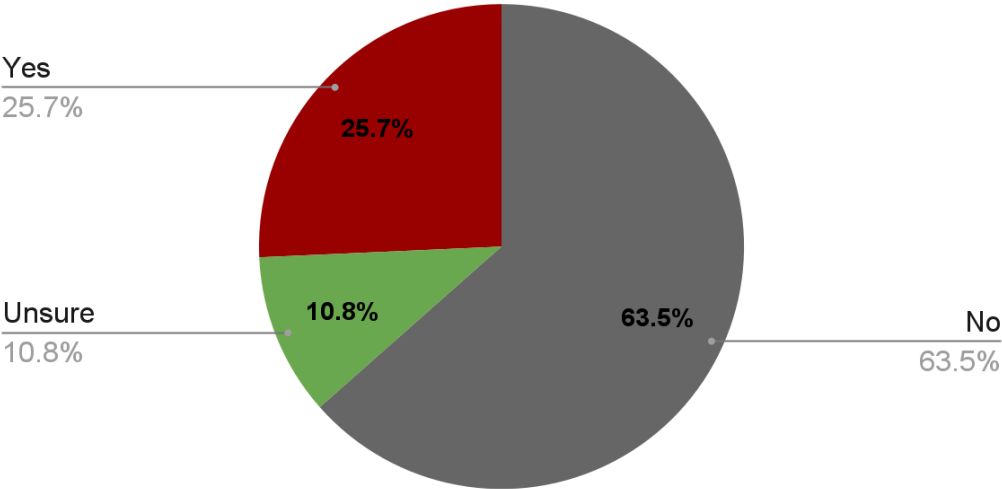
For some respondents, there were other reasons their romantic interest in someone disappeared. For 22.5% of respondents, their romantic interest disappeared when the person they were interested in reciprocated the interest.

Has your romantic interest in a person disappeared suddenly when the person reciprocated the interest?



For 25.7% of respondents, their romantic interest in someone disappeared when they got to know them better.

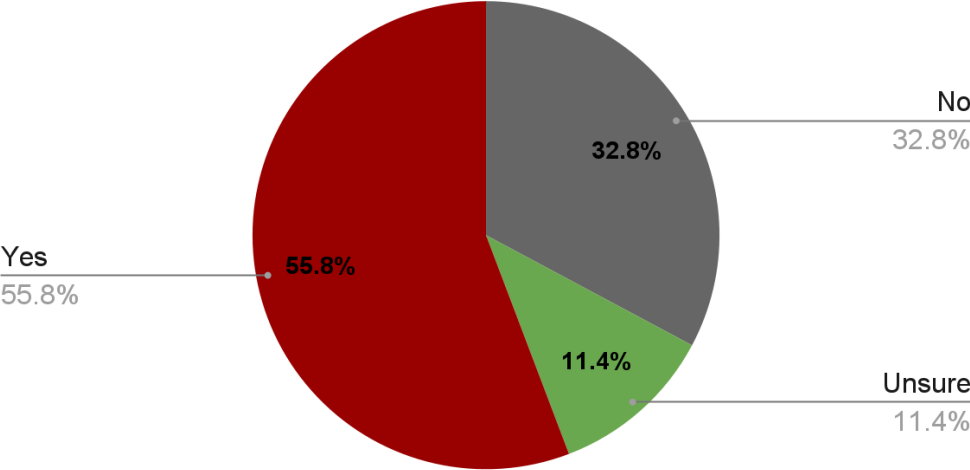
Has your romantic interest in a person disappeared suddenly when you got to know the person?





For others, their romantic interest in someone disappeared for seemingly no reason.

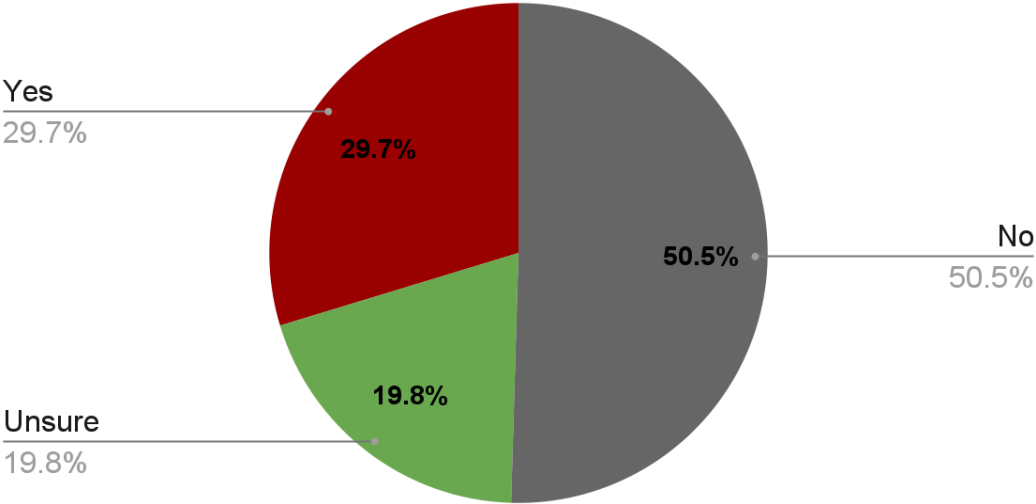
Has your romantic interest in a person disappeared suddenly, without any apparent reason?



Desiring a Romantic Relationship

Participants were asked if they had ever wanted to be in a romantic relationship with a specific person. Half said they did not, while almost 30% said they did.

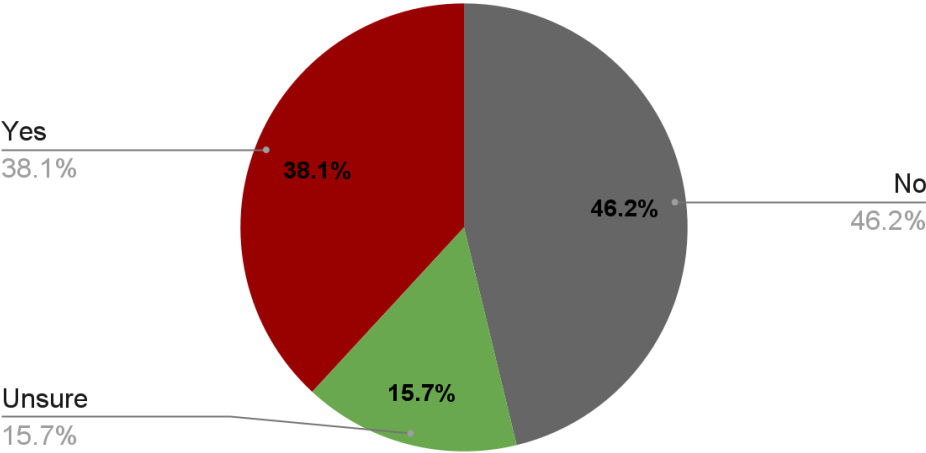
Have you ever wanted to be in a romantic relationship with a specific person?





When asked about a desire to be in a romantic relationship in general, not necessarily with a specific person, the percentage of those who responded Yes increased to 38.1%.

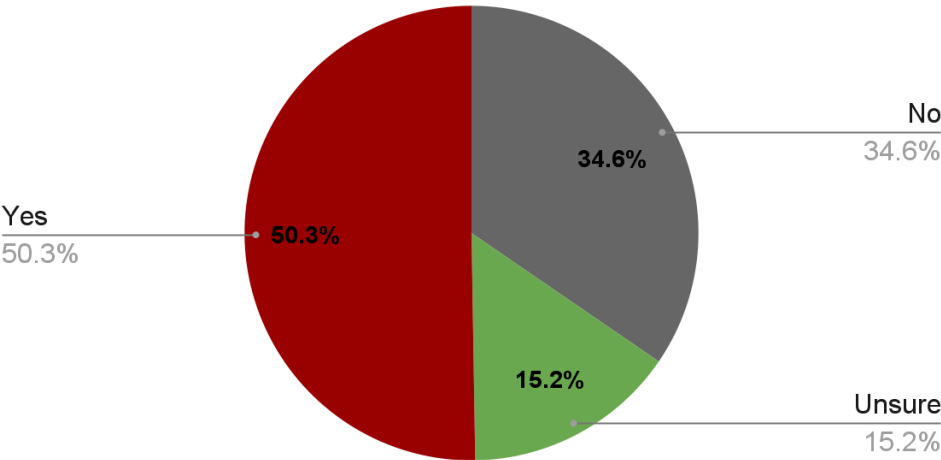
Have you ever wanted to be in a romantic relationship in general?



Expectation of Romantic Relationships

Half of respondents indicated that at some point they had expected to be in a romantic relationship in their future, regardless of whether or not they desire it. 34.6% of respondents said they never expected to be in a romantic relationship.

Have you ever expected to be in a romantic relationship in your future?



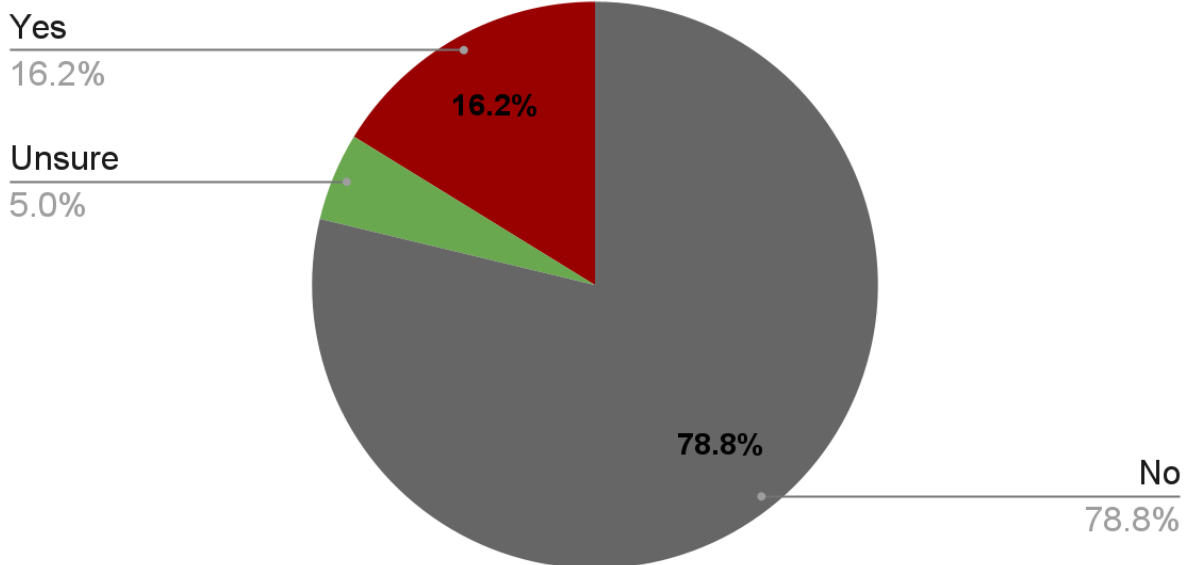
Romantic Relationships

This section of the census asked people about whether they pursued romantic relationships and how..

Pursuing Romantic Relationships

The vast majority of respondents in this survey (78.8%) indicated they had never pursued a romantic relationship with a specific person.

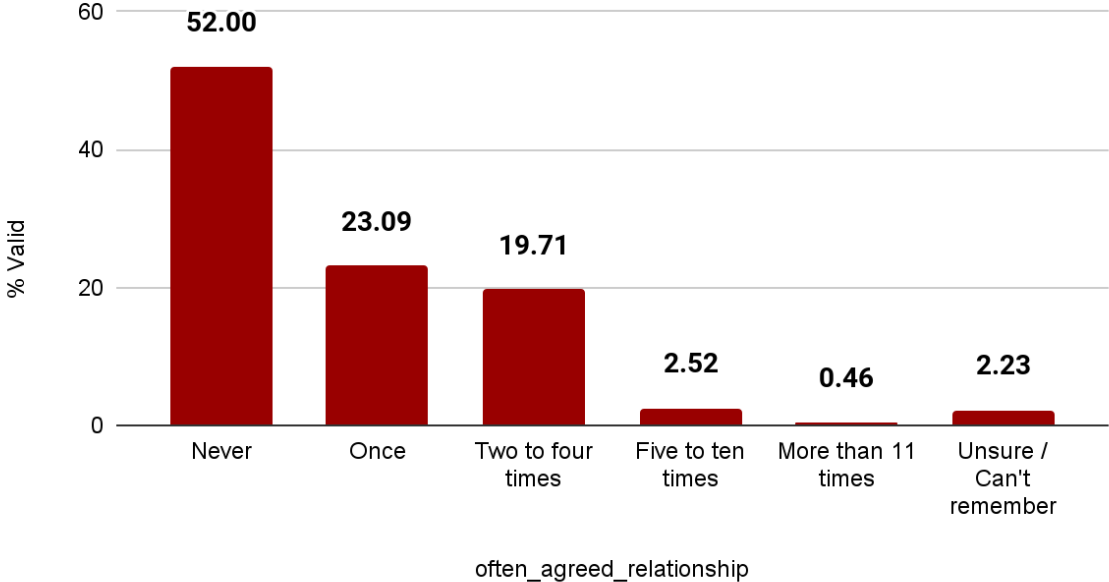
Have you ever pursued a romantic relationship with a specific person, regardless of if you were turned down or not?



About half of respondents indicated they had never agreed to a romantic relationship. The majority of the other half was split between once and 2 to 4 times. Few respondents indicated having agreed to a romantic relationship more than five times.



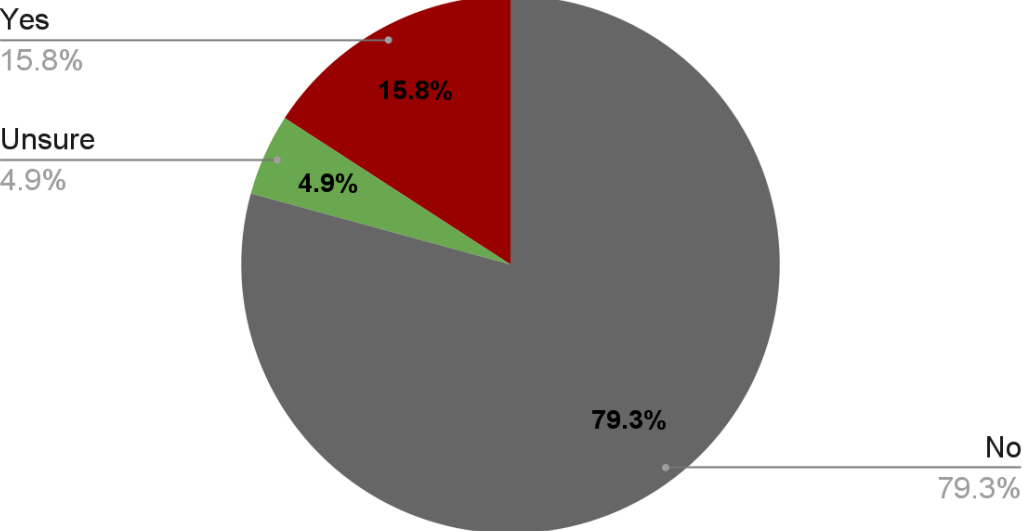
How often have you agreed to a romantic relationship?



Initiating Romantic Relationships

Almost 80% of respondents indicated they had never initiated a romantic relationship, with 15.8% of respondents saying they had.

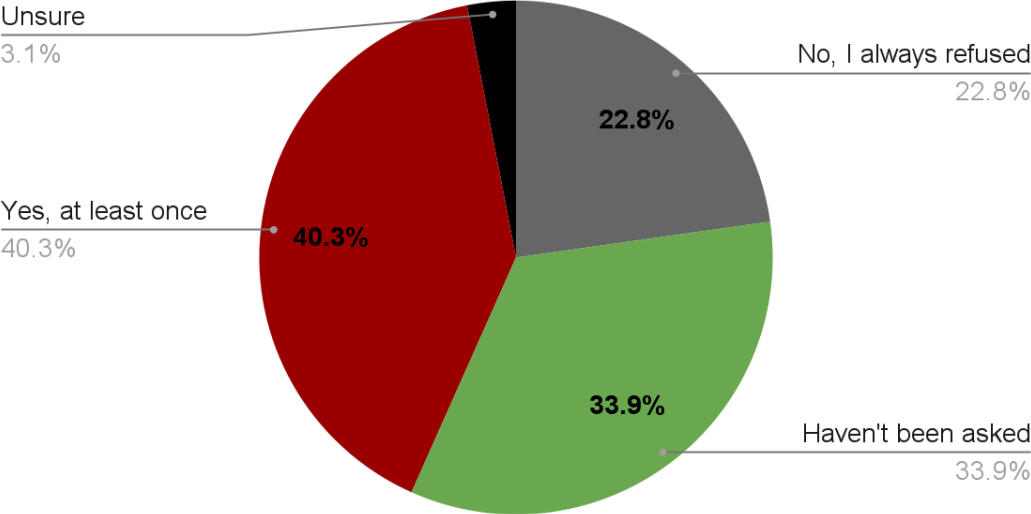
Have you ever initiated a romantic relationship?





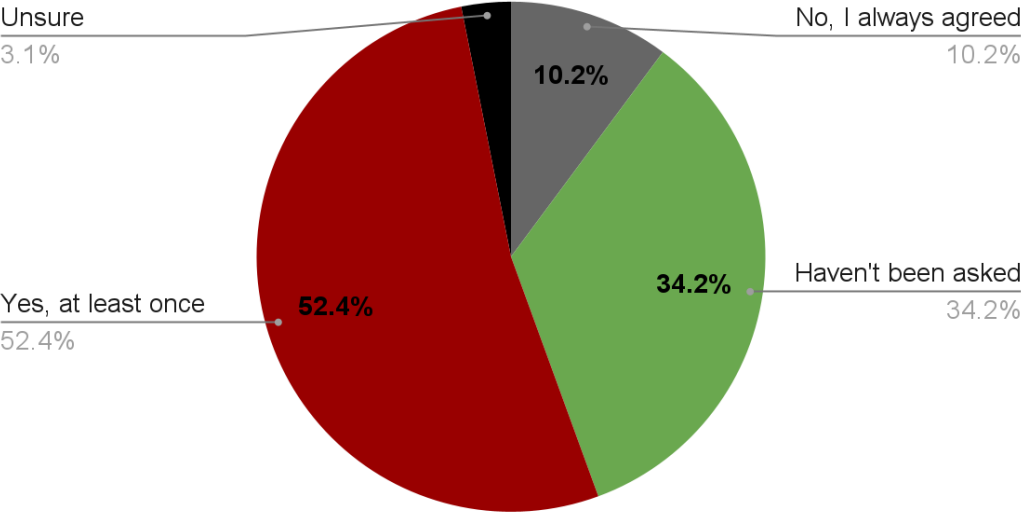
Two thirds of respondents had been asked out by someone before. Most had agreed to be in a romantic relationship at least once, although some always refused.

Have you ever agreed to be in a romantic relationship when asked by someone else?



In terms of refusal, most people that had been asked out had refused someone at least once. A small percentage of people, however, always agreed to being in a romantic relationship when asked by someone else.

Have you ever refused to be in a romantic relationship when asked by someone else?



In terms of turning down romantic advances, the most common response (37.7%) was turning them down often or almost always. Almost 30% of respondents indicated they had never had that opportunity, as they had not been asked out.

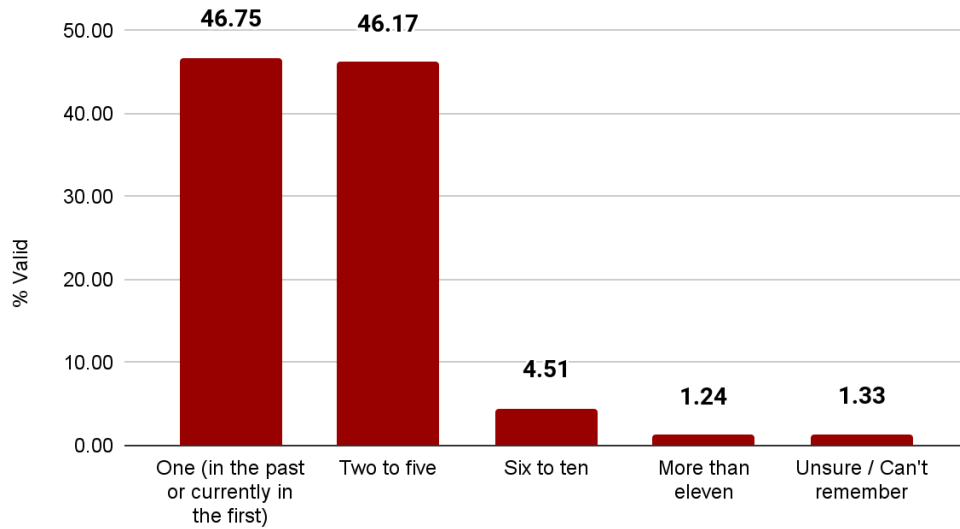
Frequency of Rejecting Romantic Advances	Frequency	Percent
Always or almost always	2662	27.87
Often	935	9.79
Sometimes	1046	10.95
Rarely	1051	11.01
Never, I always accepted	425	4.45
Never, I was never in a situation to turn someone down	2748	28.77
Unsure / Can't remember	7.15	683

Number

For those that had relationship history, the vast majority (92.9%) indicated they had had between one and five romantic relationships. Few had had six or more.

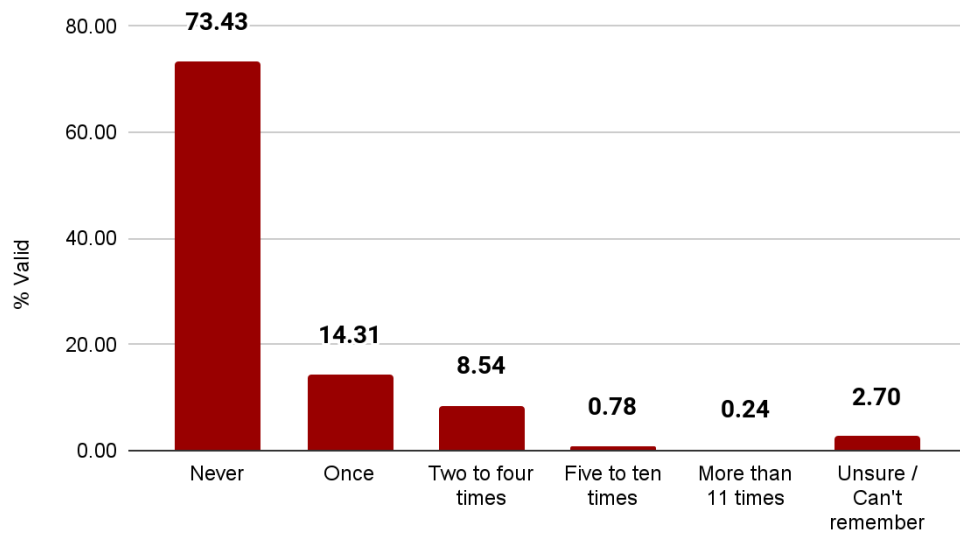


How many romantic relationships have you been in?



For those that had been in a romantic relationship before, almost 75% indicated they had never initiated a relationship. The remaining individuals overwhelmingly initiated one to four times, with very few individuals initiating more than five times.

How many times have you initiated a romantic relationship?

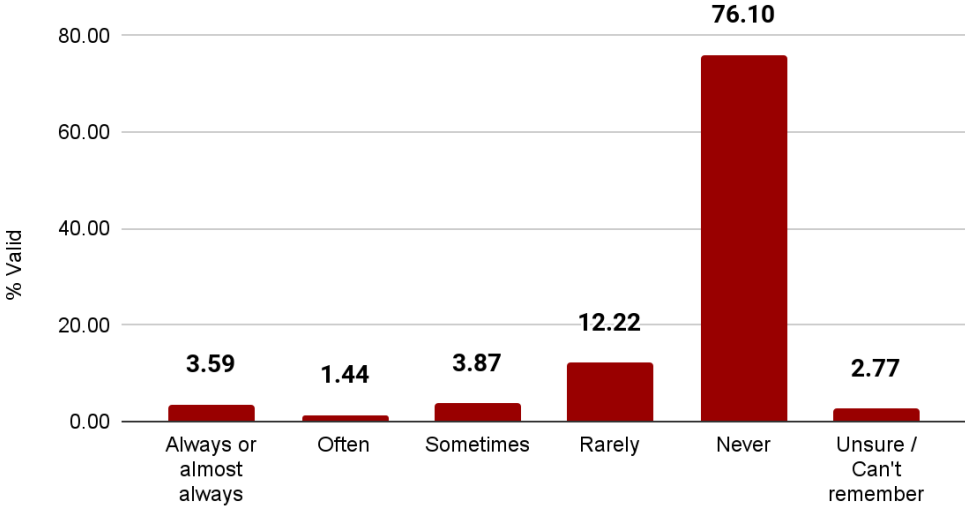


Most respondents (76.1%) similarly said that they had never been the ones initiating a romantic relationship, with most saying they were the initiators quite rarely.





How often have you been the one who initiated a romantic relationship?



Length

For those that had a relationship history, the length of their relationships varied. Some indicated up to 2 weeks while others indicated 3 to 5 years. Few respondents indicated more than 6 years; this is likely due to the age range of the demographic surveyed.

Length	Frequency	Percent
Up to 2 weeks	395	9.42
3 weeks to 2 months	779	18.59
3 months and 6 months	920	21.95
7 months to 11 months	604	14.41
A year to two years	936	22.33
Three years to five years	387	9.23
Six years to ten years	123	2.93
More than 11 years	47	1.12

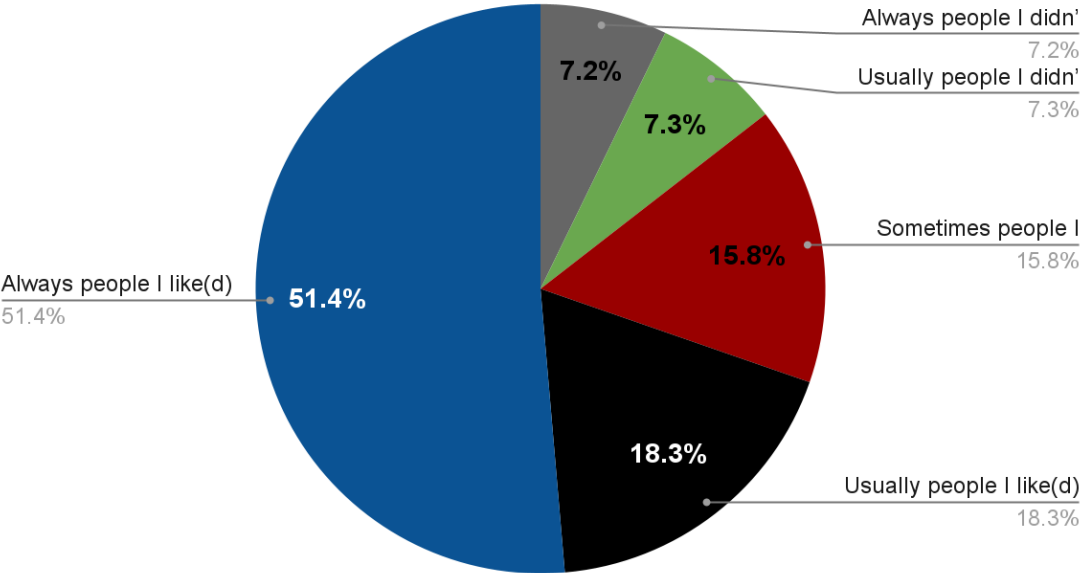




People Involved

Half of respondents that indicated they had been in romantic relationships said that their romantic partners were people they liked, loved, or cared about. 34.1% indicated that their romantic partners were sometimes or usually people they liked, loved, or cared about. The remaining percentage indicated their romantic partners were usually people they did not have a previous emotional connection with.

My romantic partners were/are:

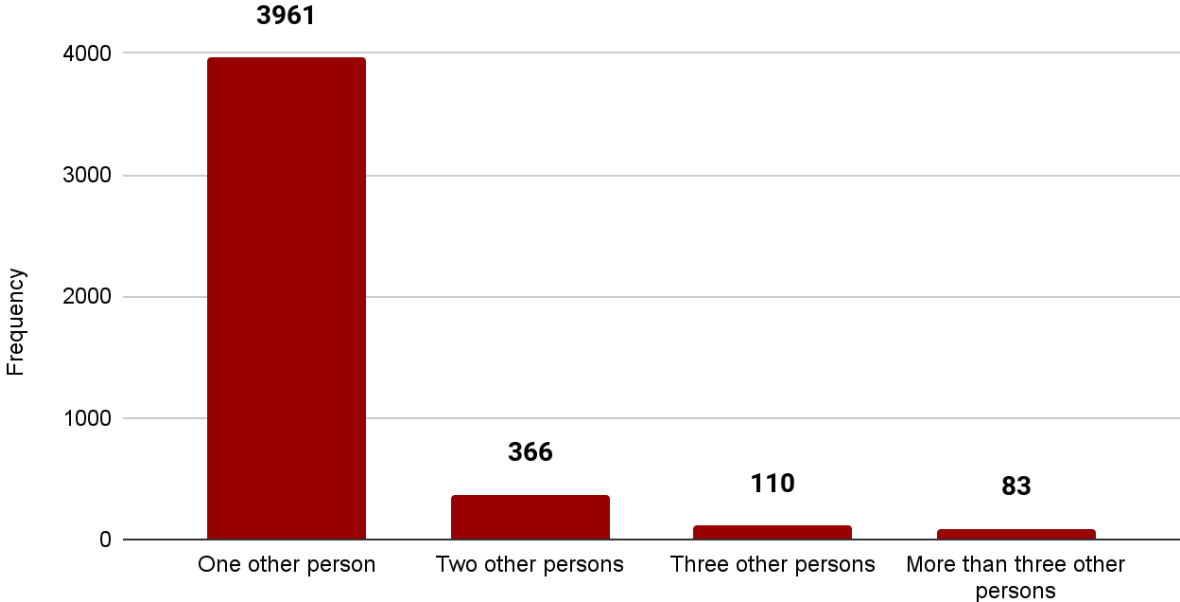


The vast majority of respondents indicated having romantic relationships with one other person at a time, although some indicated having two or more.





My romantic relationship(s) was/were/is with:



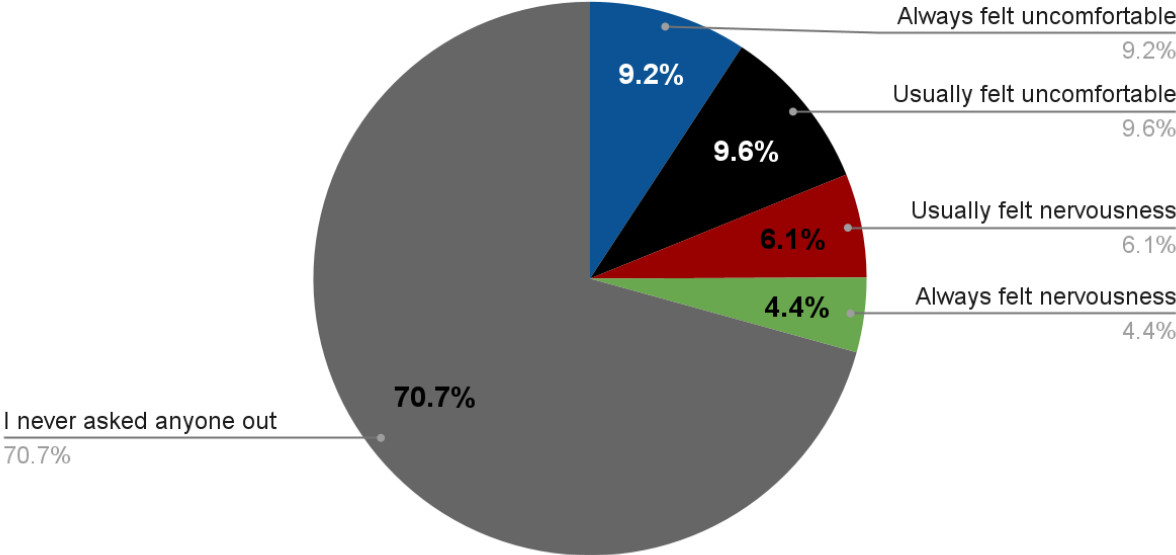
Feelings about Relationships

For those that had asked someone out before, slightly more respondents indicated they felt uncomfortable for a reason other than general nervousness.



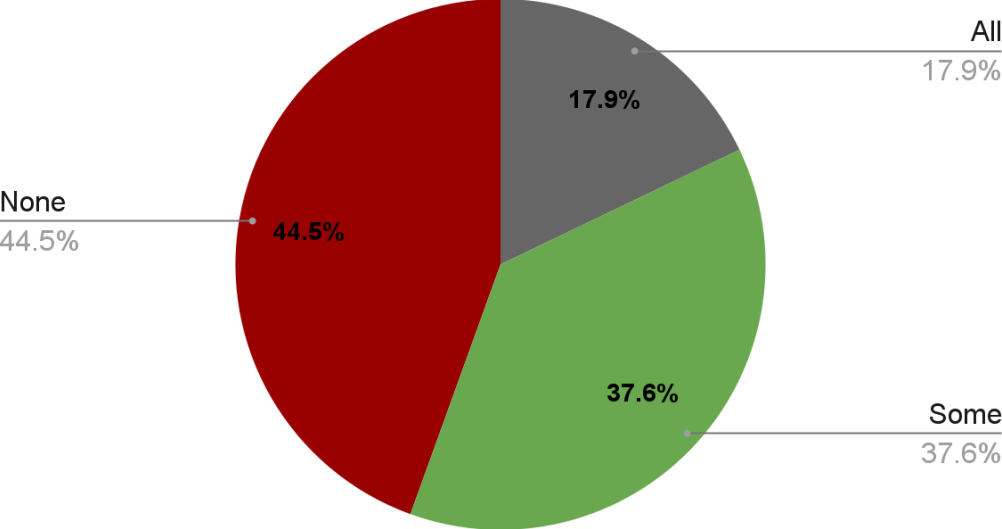


When you asked someone out, have you often felt uncomfortable in a way that felt different from expected nervousness?



For those that had relationship history, 44.5% of respondents indicated that they did not enjoy being in any of their romantic relationships. 37.6% of respondents indicated they had mixed feelings, while the remaining 17.9% indicated they had enjoyed all of their romantic relationships.

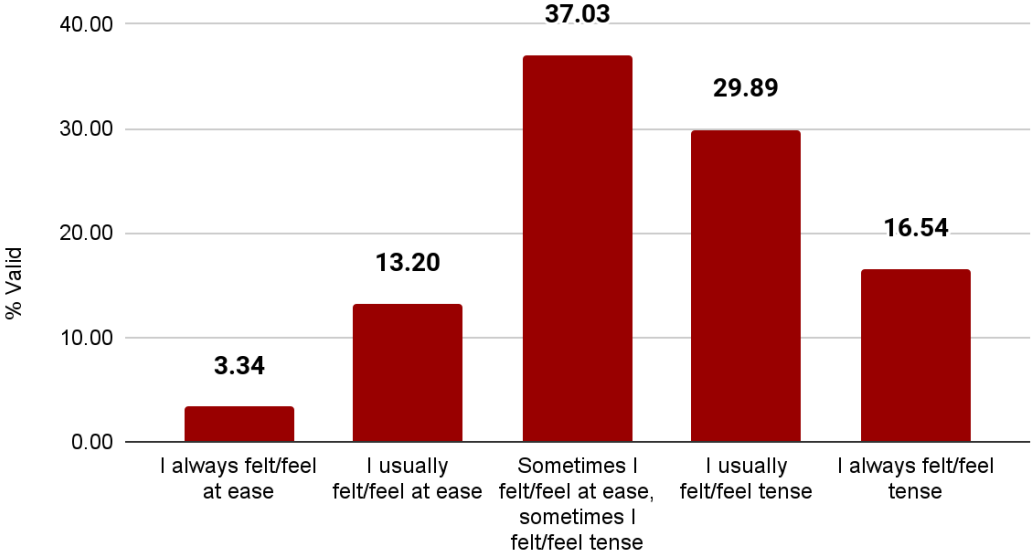
How many relationships did/do you enjoy being in:





More often than not, respondents who had been in romantic relationships indicated feeling tense at least some of the time. Only 16.6% of respondents indicated usually or always feeling at ease in their romantic relationships.

In my romantic relationships:

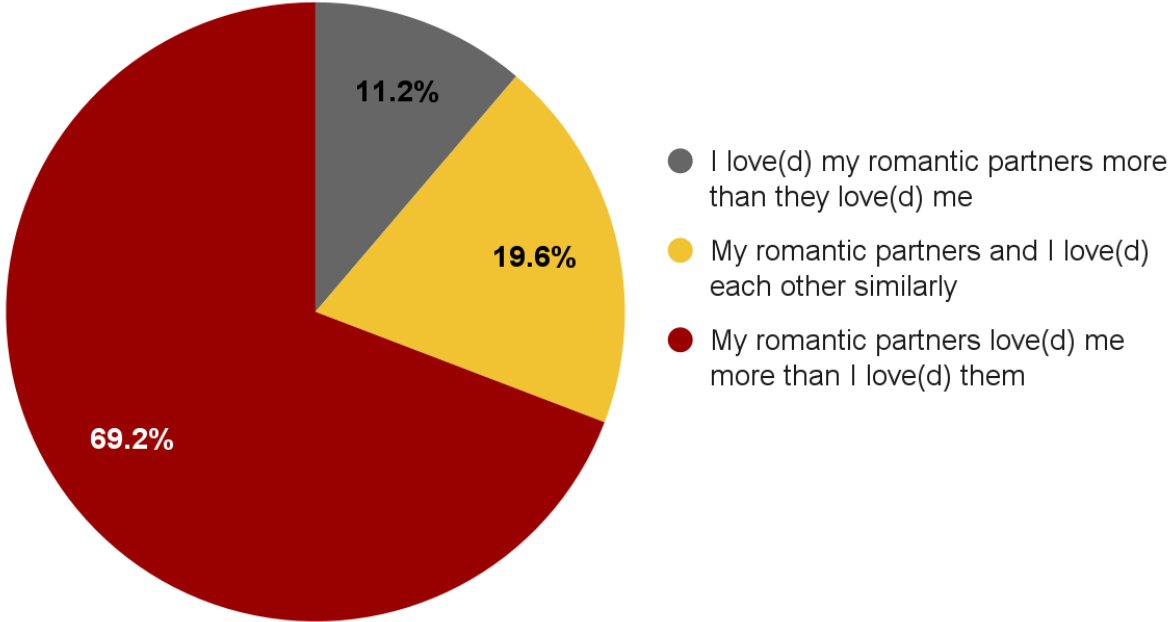


69.2% of respondents who had been in romantic relationships before indicated that they felt their romantic partners loved them more than they loved their romantic partners. 11.2% of respondents indicated the opposite, and 19.6% reported feeling relatively equal in terms of feeling love.





I felt/feel that:



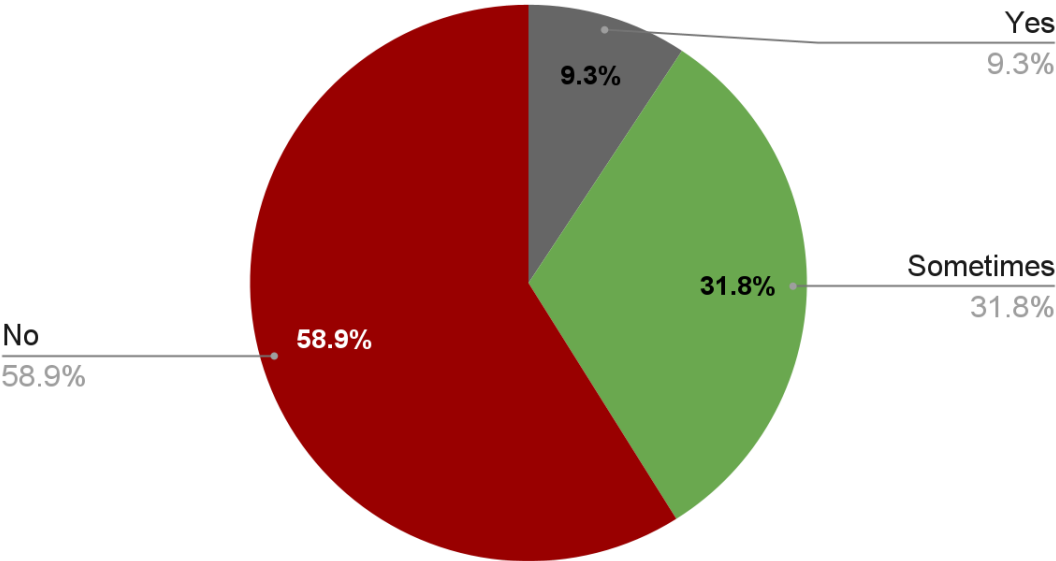
Romantic Behaviors

For over half of respondents (58.9%), romantic behaviors did not come spontaneously to them in romantic relationships. In fact, only 9.3% of respondents indicated that romantic behaviors did come spontaneously to them in romantic relationships. The remaining respondents indicated that it depended on the behaviors.



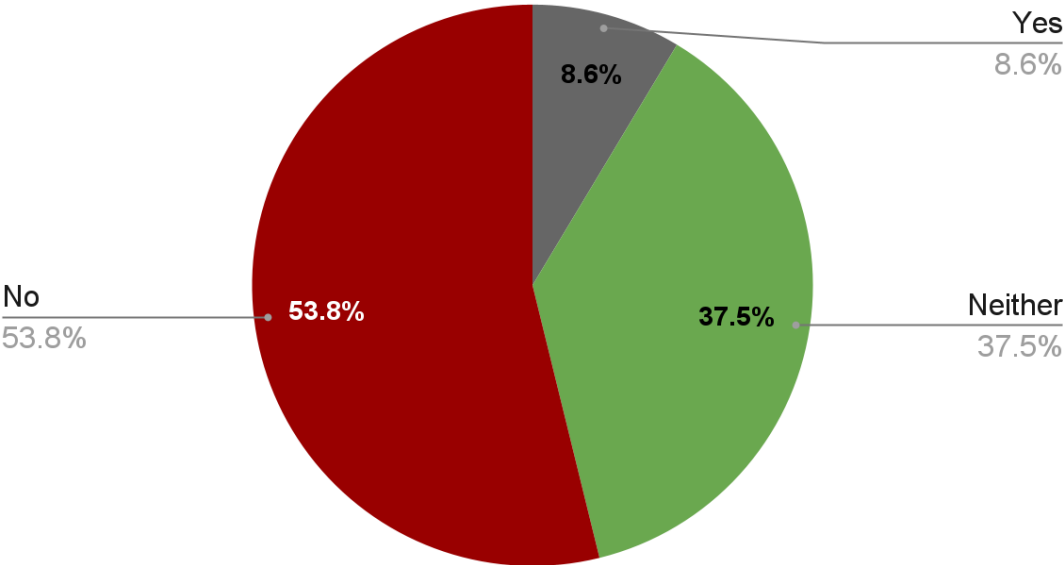


Did romantic behaviors come spontaneously to you?



Similarly, over half (53.8%) of respondents indicated that doing romantic things felt unnatural to them. 8.6% of respondents said that doing romantic things did feel natural to them in relationships, while the remaining respondents felt neutral.

Does doing something romantic feel natural to you?



Ending Romantic Relationships

Almost half of respondents who had been in romantic relationships indicated that they usually or always broke up with their partners. 17.3% reported that breakups were evenly distributed between them and their partners, and the remaining respondents indicated that their partners tended to break up with them.

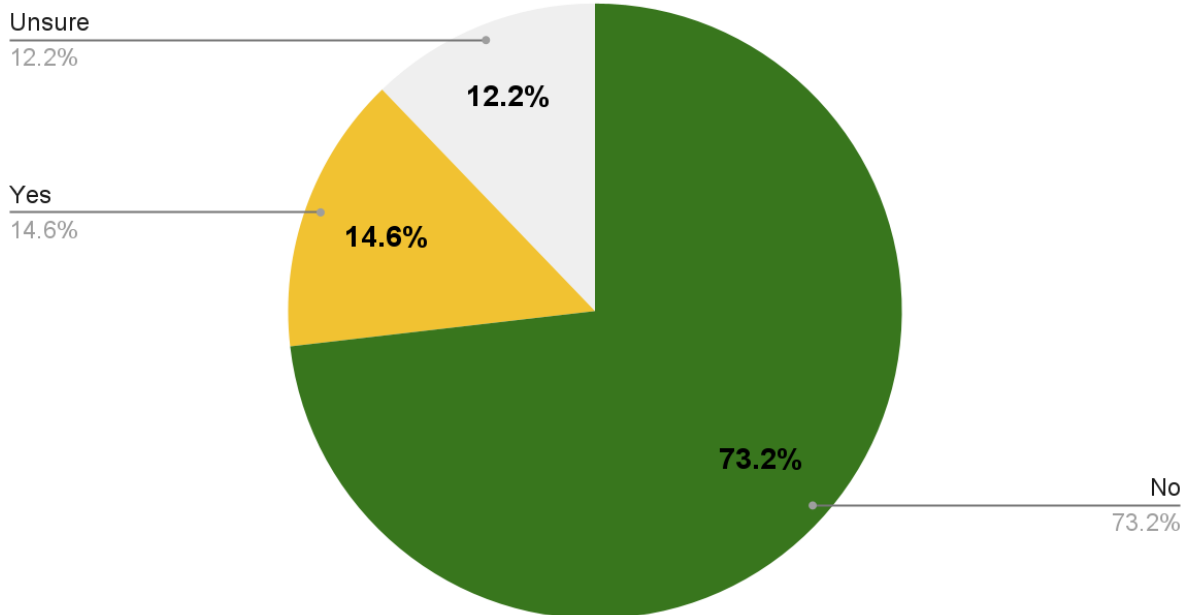
Romantic Relationship Ended	Frequency	Percent
I always broke up with my partners	1739	41.63
I usually broke up with my partners	530	12.69
Sometimes I broke up with my partners, sometimes they broke up with me	724	17.33
My partners usually broke up with me	296	7.09
My partners always broke up with me	571	13.67
Doesn't apply, I'm currently in my first relationship	317	7.59

Non-Romantic Relationships

Some committed relationships don't fit the traditional romantic model. As such, it was important to ask about non-romantic partnerships in this census.

14.6% of respondents indicated they had definitely been in a non-romantic partnership. Almost three quarters of respondents said they hadn't been, and the remaining 12.2% indicated they were unsure.

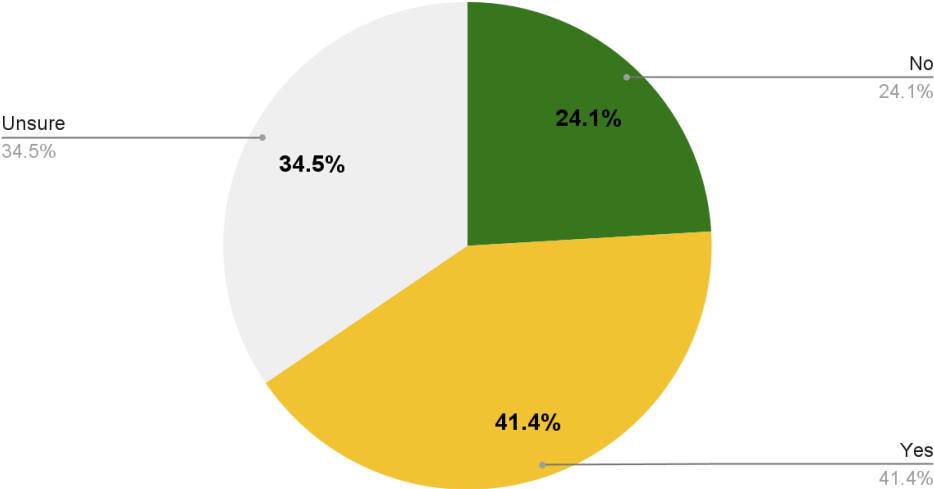
Have you ever had or been in a non-romantic partnership?



All of these respondents were also asked whether they would want to be in a non-romantic partnership (whether they had or hadn't been before), or if they would want to remain in their non-romantic partnership (if they were currently in one). 41.4% of participants said they would want a non-romantic partnership, and 24.1% said they were not interested. 34.5% were unsure.



Do you want to remain or be in a non-romantic partnership?

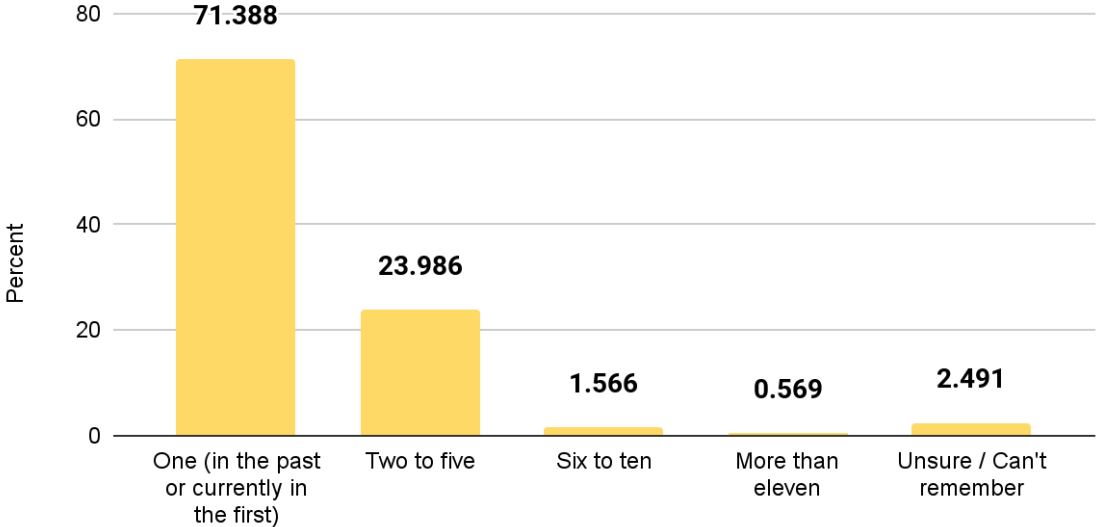


Number

For those that had been in a non-romantic partnership before, 71.4% indicated they had been in one (or were currently in one). 24% indicated they had had two to five, and very few participants indicated having been in six or more.

How many non-romantic partnerships have you been in?

Answered by 1405 people out of 9580



Length

Length of non-romantic relationships varied. The most common answer was a year to two years, indicated by 24.7% of respondents. The least common were the shortest (up to two weeks) and longest (six or more years) periods.

Length	Frequency	Percent
Up to 2 weeks	74	5.3
3 weeks to 2 months	210	15.05
3 months to 6 months	257	18.42
7 months to 11 months	173	12.4
A year to two years	344	24.66
Three years to five years	219	15.7
Six years to ten years	86	6.16
More than 11 years	32	2.29

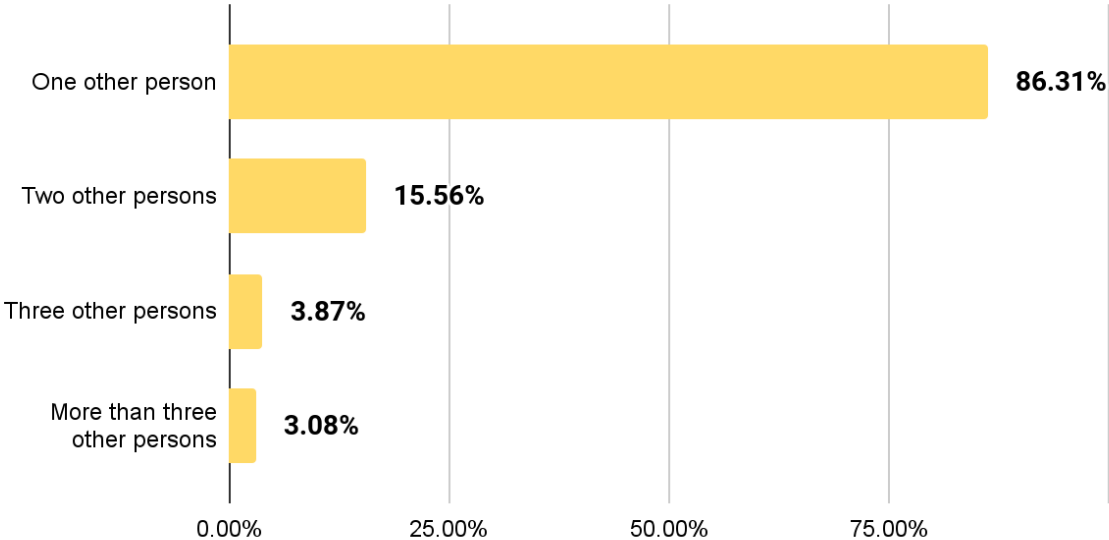
People Involved

Most non-romantic partnerships (86.31%) were with one other person, although 15.56% were with two other people and a small percentage of respondents indicated they had been in non-romantic partnerships with three or more people involved.



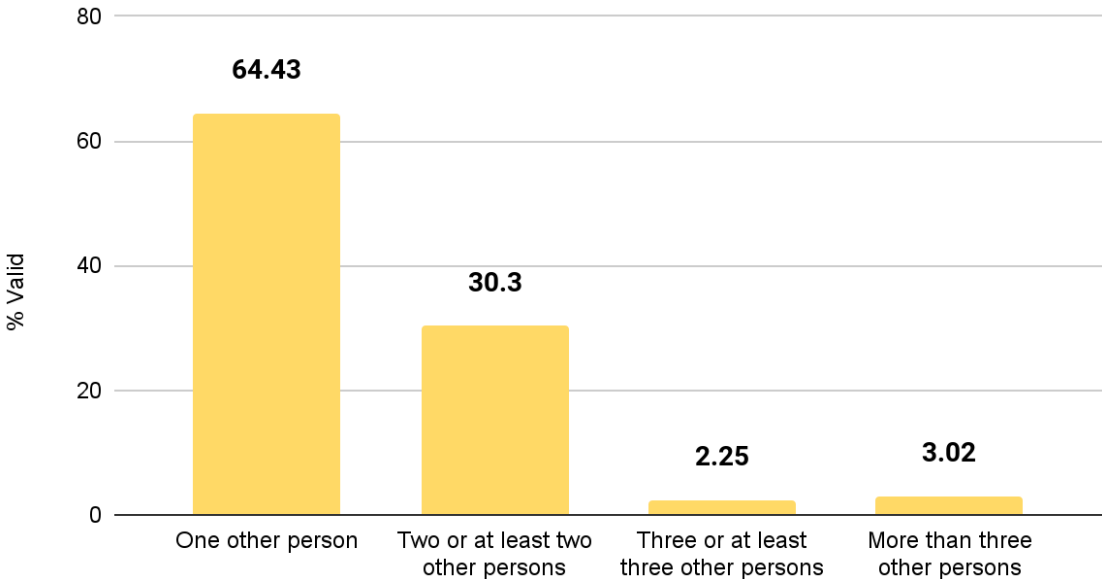
My non-romantic partnership(s) was/were/is with:

Answered by 1395 people out of 9580



A lower percentage (64.4%) indicated wanting to be with one other person, ideally speaking. A greater number (30.3%) wished to be involved with two people, and a small percentage indicated wanting to be involved with a larger group.

Ideally, my non-romantic partnership(s) would be with:



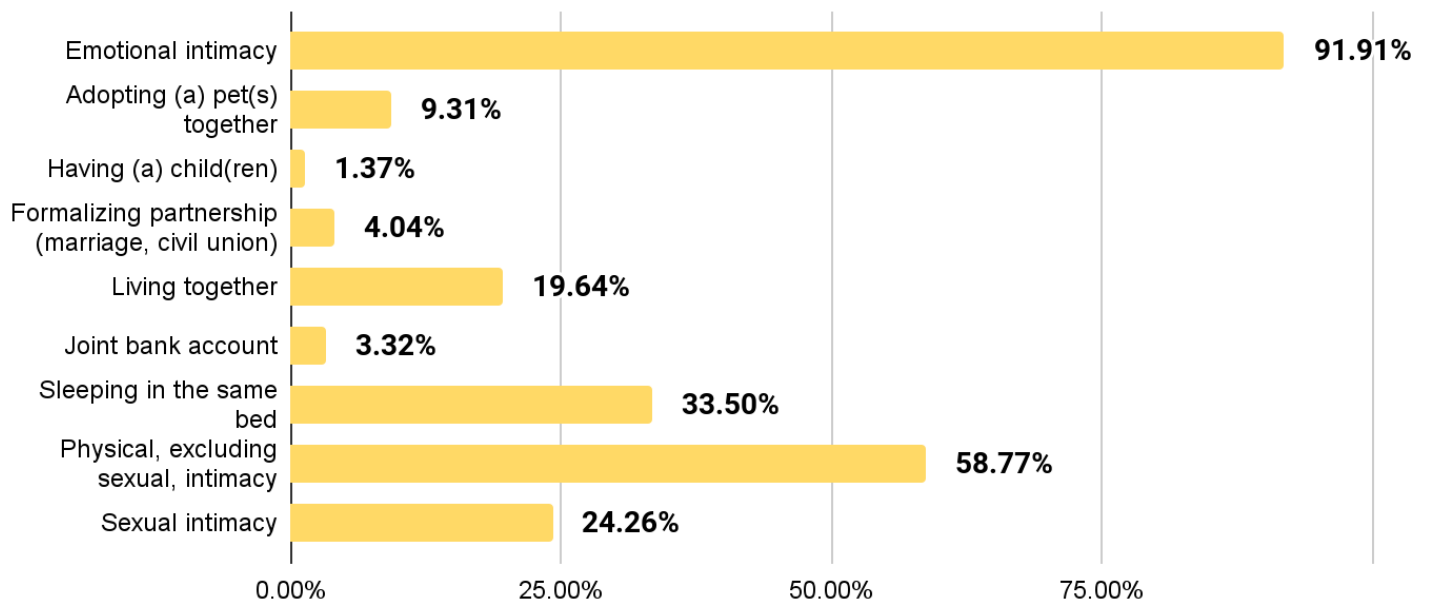
Structure

Non-romantic partnerships are broadly defined. As such, participants in the census were asked what kinds of things were included in their non-romantic partnerships.

The most common item was emotional intimacy, indicated by 91.91% of respondents. Also popular was non-sexual physical intimacy, indicated by 58.77% of respondents. For some, sleeping in the same bed, sexual intimacy, and living together were parts of their relationship. Uncommon (indicated by less than 10% of respondents) were adopting a pet together, formalizing their partnership in a marriage or civil union, having a joint bank account, and having children.

My non-romantic partnership(s) included/include(s):

Answered by 1385 people out of 9580



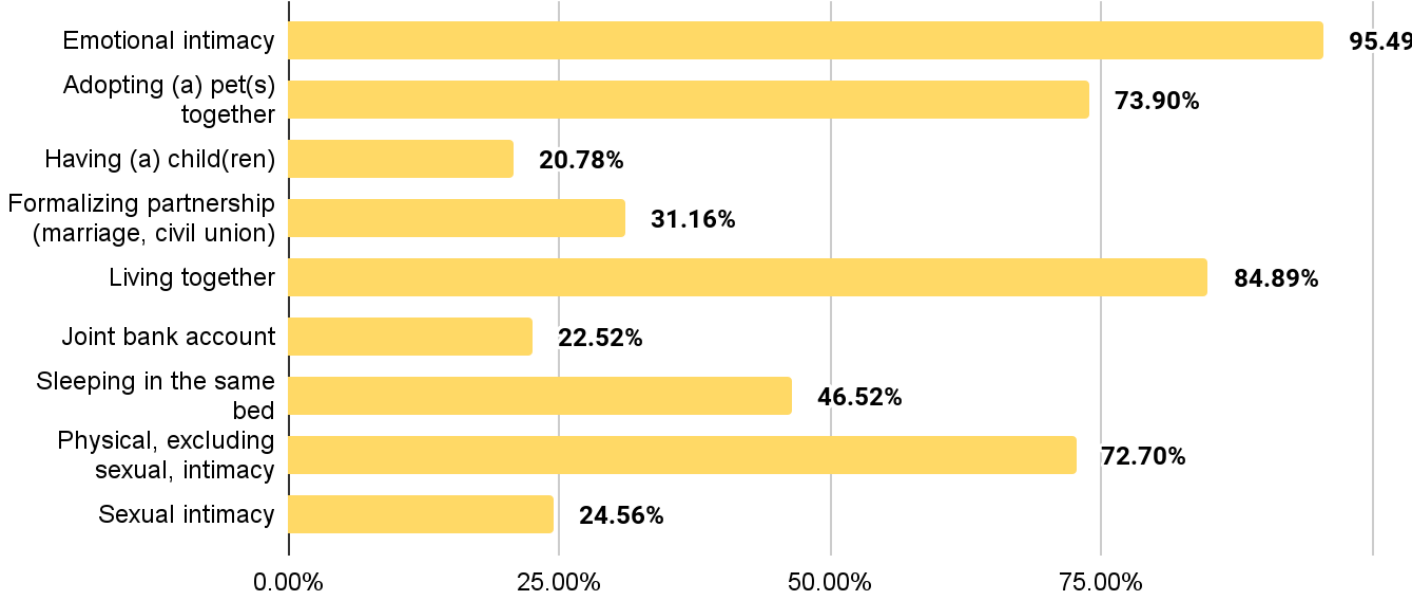
In terms of what respondents wanted from their non-romantic relationships, ideally, all of those same options were indicated more frequently. Emotional intimacy was still the most popular item, indicated by 95.49% of respondents. Living together was the next most popular item, indicated by 84.89%, jumping a significant amount from



19.64%. Non-sexual physical intimacy and adopting a pet were indicated by 75% of respondents respectively. Almost half of respondents indicated they would ideally like to sleep in the same bed as their partner(s). 31.16% indicated they would like to formalize their partnership in a marriage or civil union. Finally, between 20 and 25% of participants said they would like sexual intimacy, a joint bank account, and children as part of their non-romantic partnership(s).

Ideally, my non-romantic partnership(s) would include:

Answered by 3970 people out of 9580



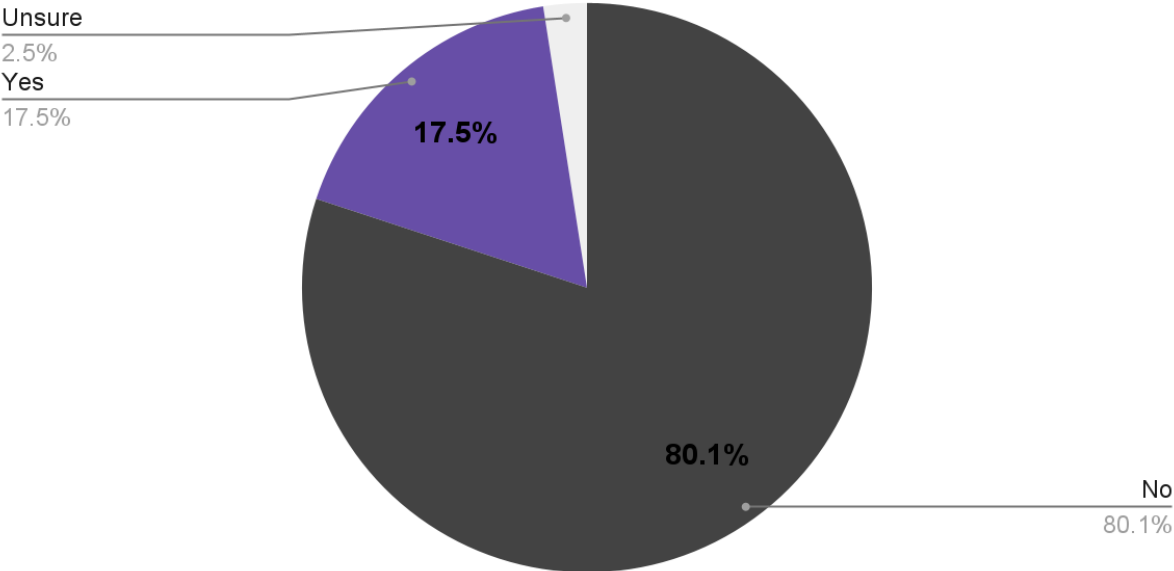


Sexual Relationships

80.1% of respondents in this survey had not had sex before. 17.5% had, while 2.5% were unsure. Participants in the census had the option of opting out of questions about sexual relationships and activity; therefore, questions beyond this one were only answered by a small subset of the total number of participants.

Have you had sex?

Answered by 9561 people



Sexual Activity

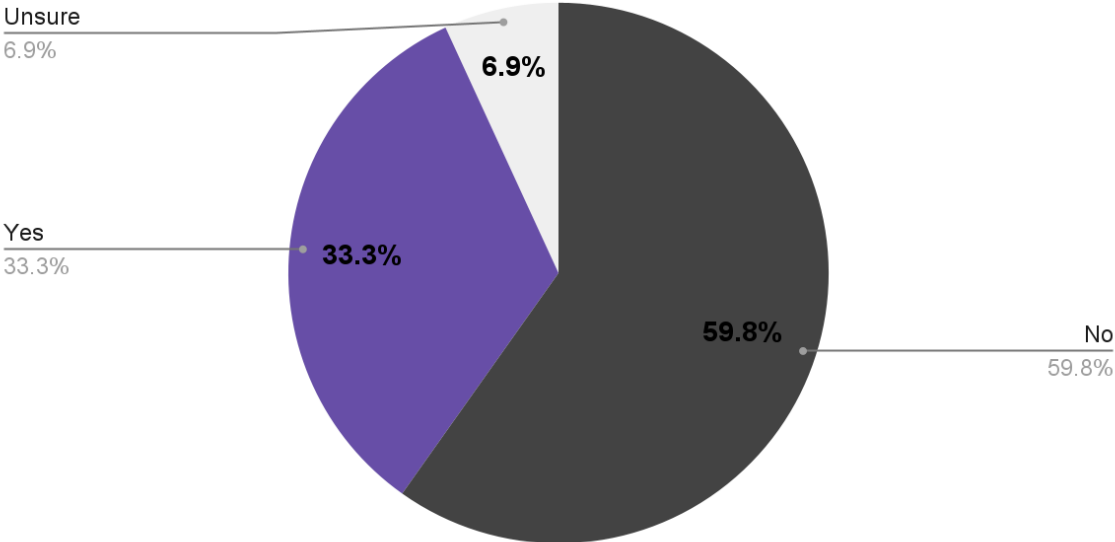
33.3% of respondents considered themselves sexually active at the time of the survey. 59.8% did not consider themselves sexually active, and the remaining 6.9% of respondents were unsure.





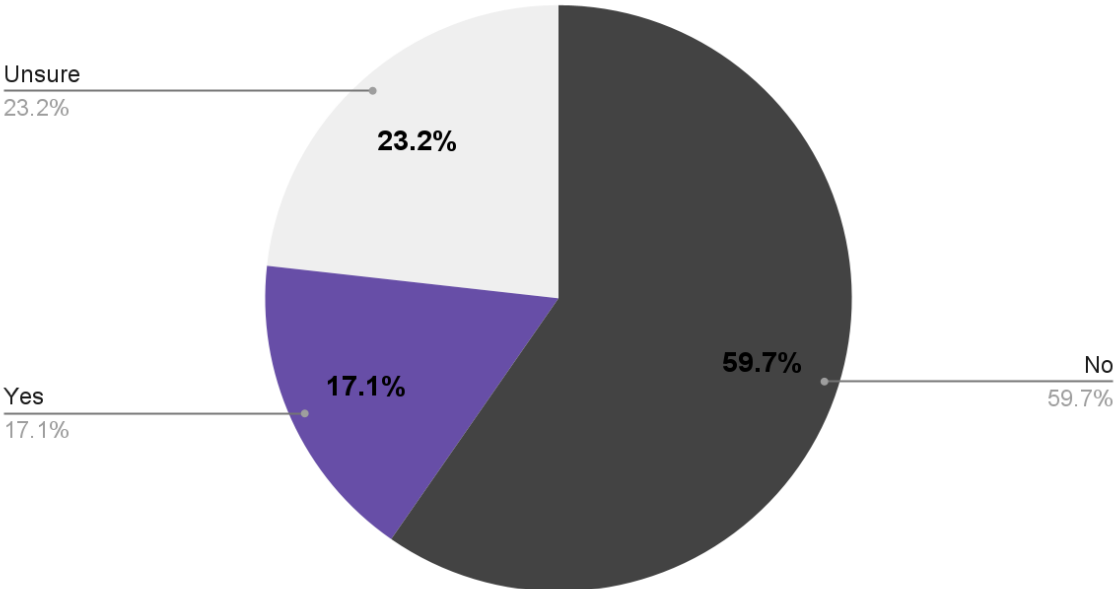
Do you consider yourself sexually active currently?

Answered by 1675 people out of 9580



Almost 60% of respondents indicated they did not want to be or remain sexually active. 17.1% indicated that they did, while a larger percentage (23.2%) were unsure.

Do you want to remain or be sexually active?

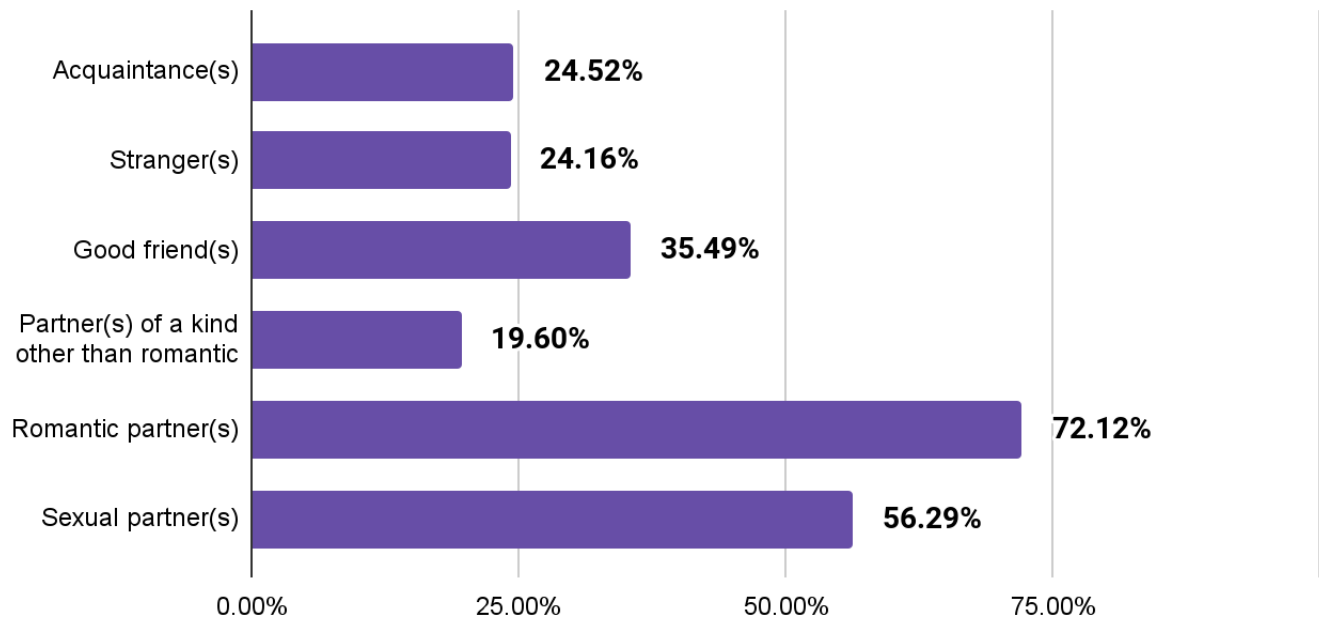


Structure and People Involved

Most respondents (72.12%) indicated that they had sex with romantic partners. 56.29% indicated it was with sexual partners specifically. Good friends accounted for 35.49% of responses. Acquaintances and strangers were just as common, hovering around 24% of responses, and the least common people involved sexually were non-romantic non-sexual partners.

I've had sex with one or more:

Answered by 1668 people out of 9580

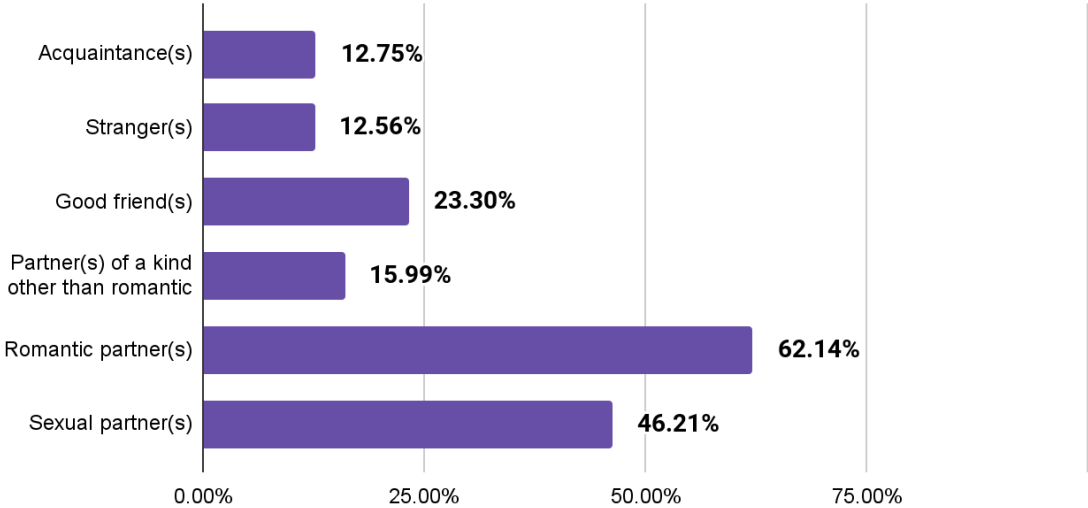


When speaking about habitual sex, or what was most common for sexual activity for respondents, 62.14% of respondents indicated romantic partner(s). 46.21% indicated sexual partners. 23.30% indicated good friends, and almost 16% indicated non-romantic non-sexual partners as people they usually have/had sex with. Acquaintances and strangers were the least commonly indicated as habitual sexual encounters, hovering around 12% each.



I usually have/had sex with one or more:

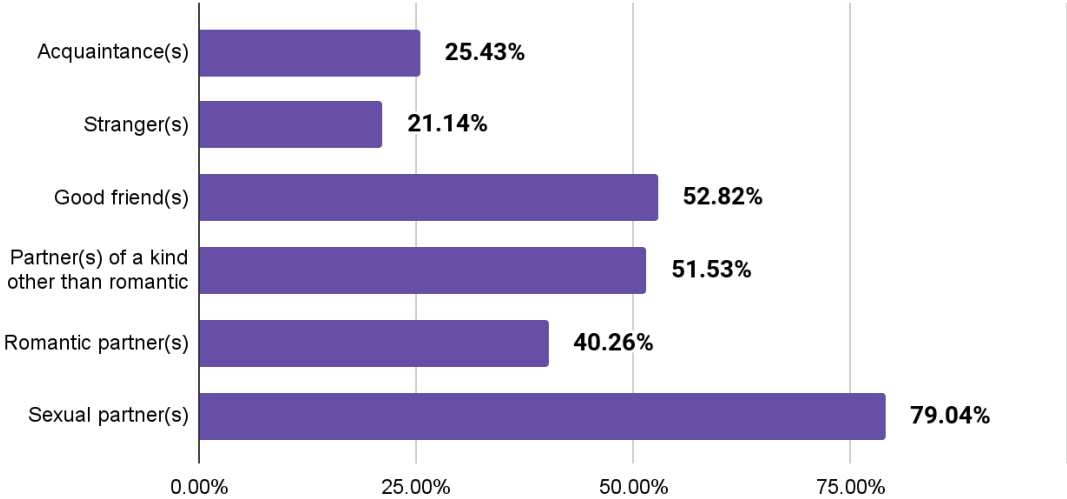
Answered by 1545 people out of 9580



When speaking about what would be ideal, 79.04% of respondents indicated that sexual partners would work best for them. Over half indicated good friends and non-romantic non-sexual partners as ideal to have sex with. Romantic partners accounted for just less than half of responses, less than what was reported in actuality. Acquaintances and strangers were the least common responses, hovering around 25% and 21% respectively.

Ideally, I'd like to have sex with one or more:

Answered by 1632 people out of 9580



Sex was most common with one regular partner. 66.1% of respondents indicated that they had sexual encounters with one regular partner at a time. 15% of respondents indicated that they had sex with people who were not regular partners. 8.3% of respondents mentioned one regular partner and some other people who were not regular partners. Multiple regular partners were rare for these respondents.

Usually have sex with:	Frequency	Percent
With people who aren't regular partners	242	15.01
With one regular partner	1065	66.07
With two regular partners	69	4.28
With three or more regular partners	34	2.11
With one regular partner and some other people who aren't regular partners	134	8.31
With two or more regular partners and other people who aren't regular partners	68	4.22

In terms of what would be ideal, the responses were much more variable. Most common was still one regular partner to have sex with, indicated by 37.6% of respondents. Two regular partners was the next most common, 19.6% of respondents indicating just or at least those two, and 16.8% of respondents indicating two regular partners and also other people who would not be regular partners. 14.1% of

respondents indicated they would like one regular partner and some other people who are not regular partners to be part of their sex life. Three or more regular partners and people exclusively not partners were indicated by 5% of respondents respectively.

Ideally have sex with:	Frequency	Percent
With people who aren't regular partners	86	5.38
With one regular partner	600	37.55
With two regular partners	313	19.59
With three or more regular partners	104	6.51
With one regular partner and some other people who aren't regular partners	226	14.14
With two or more regular partners and other people who aren't regular partners	269	16.83



Learning about Aromanticism

This section of the census concerned itself with how aromantics learned and felt about aromanticism.

Attitudes and Beliefs about Romance

The survey asked participants to recount their conscious attitudes and beliefs about romance and aromanticism, both before and after discovering aromanticism.

The most commonly held beliefs and attitudes before discovering aromanticism included:

- Other people are too preoccupied with romance (indicated by 75.68% of people);
- Romance is real and exists (67.9%);
- Romantic love is something that will happen to me one day (67.65%);
- Other people exaggerate their feelings toward their partners (64.71%); and
- It's impossible to fall in love at first sight (55.88%).

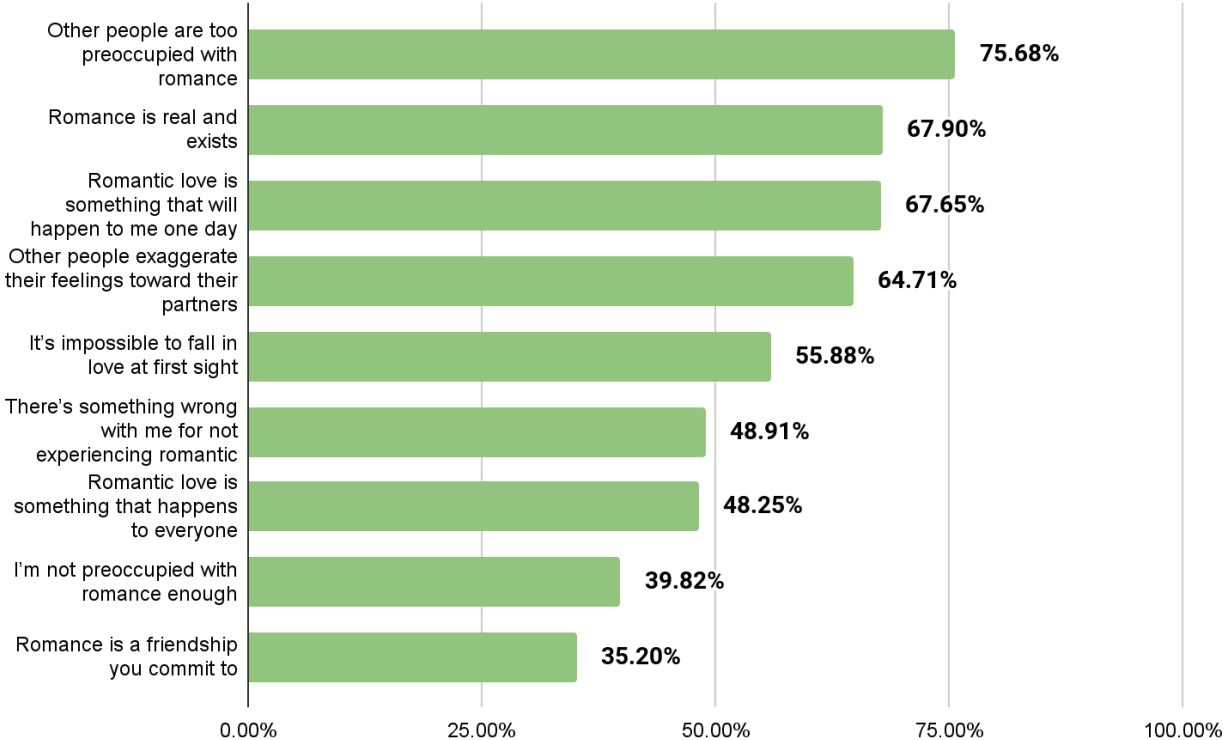
The least commonly held beliefs and attitudes before discovering aromanticism included:

- Other people aren't preoccupied by romance enough (indicated by 1.01% of respondents);
- No one experiences romantic feelings (6.66%);
- Romance is not real (9.02%); and
- I'm too preoccupied with romance (9.4%).

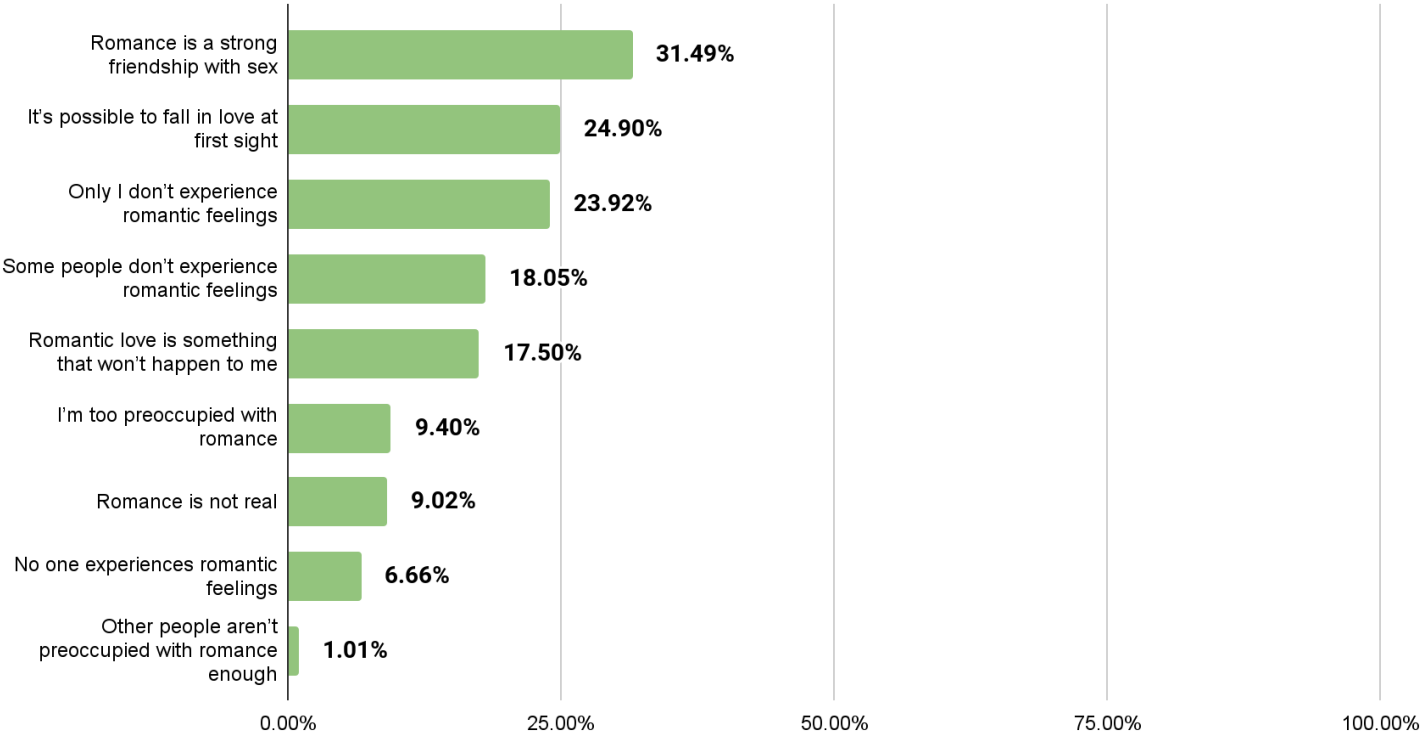




Before discovering aromanticism, I believed the following statements:



Before discovering aromanticism, I believed the following statements:



After discovering aromanticism, the most commonly held beliefs included:

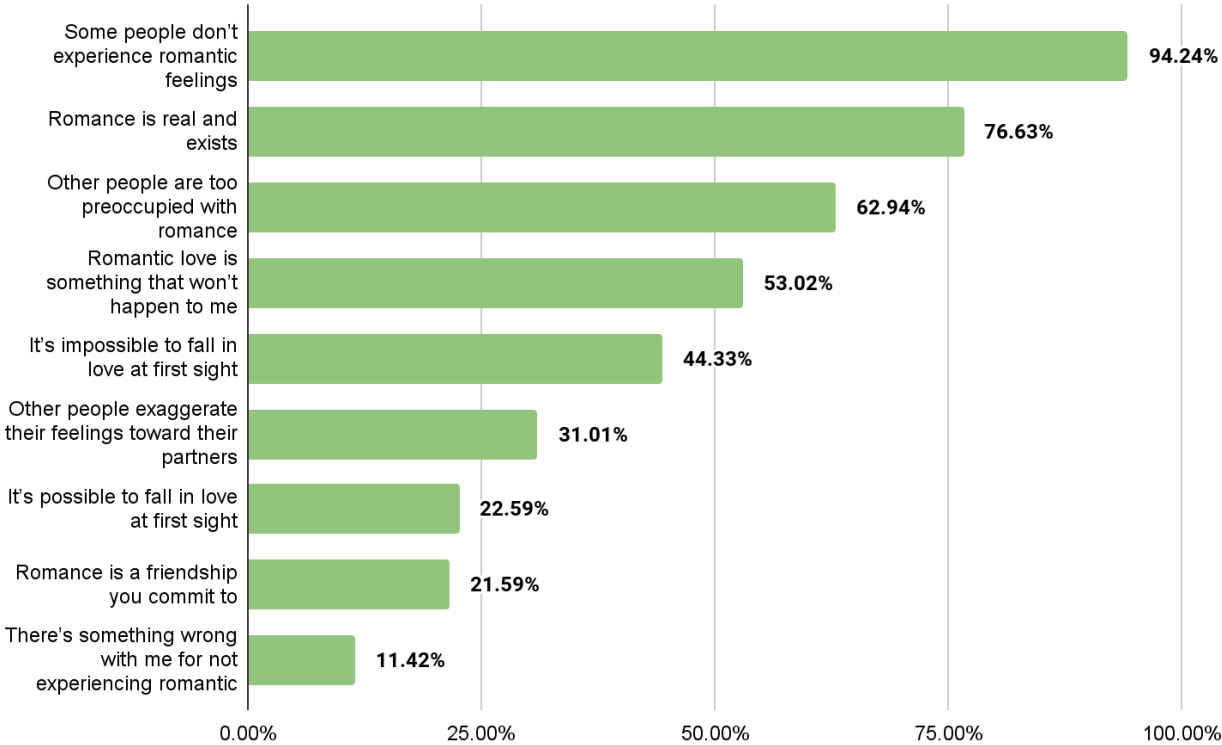
- Some people don't experience romantic feelings (indicated by 94.24% of respondents);
- Romance is real and exists (76.63%);
- Other people are too preoccupied with romance (62.94%); and
- Romantic love is something that won't happen to me (53.02%).

The least commonly held beliefs after discovering aromanticism included:

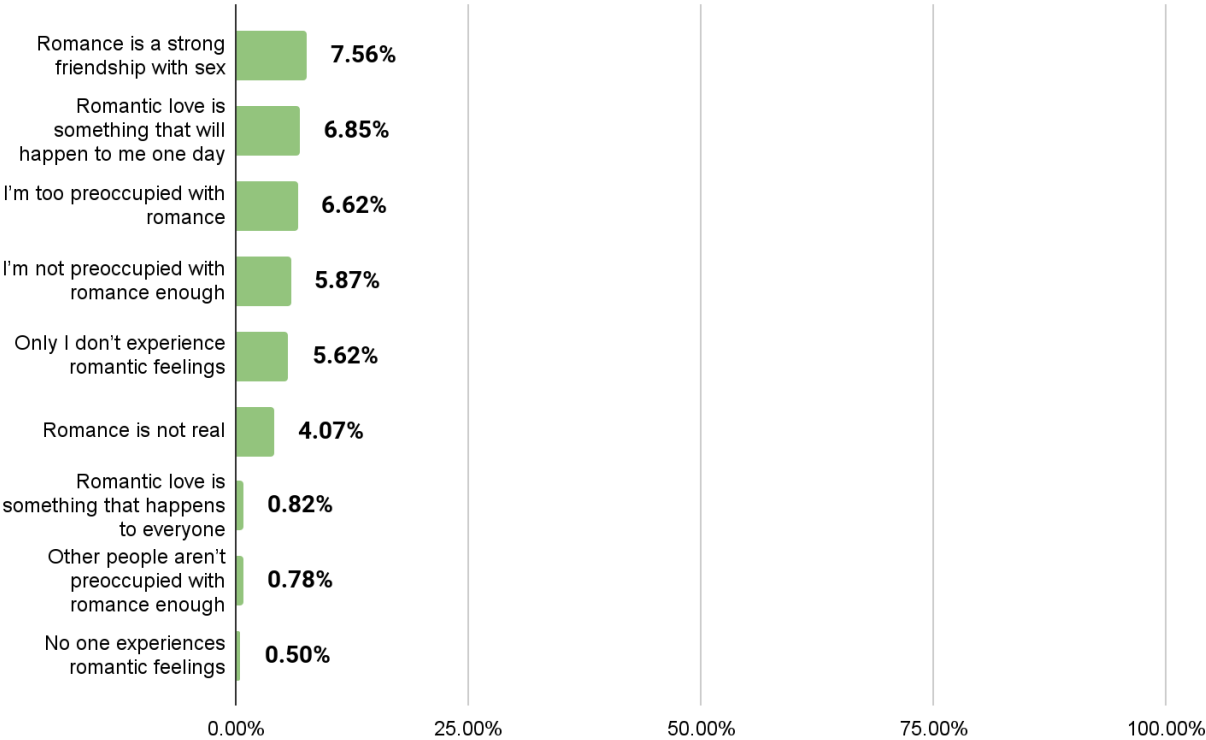
- No one experiences romantic feelings (indicated by 0.5% of respondents);
- Other people aren't occupied with romance enough (0.78%);
- Romantic love is something that happens to everyone (0.82%);
- Romance is not real (4.07%);
- Only I don't experience romantic feelings (5.62%);
- I'm not preoccupied with romance enough (5.87%);
- I'm too preoccupied with romance (6.62%);
- Romantic love is something that will happen to me one day (6.85%); and
- Romance is a strong friendship with sex (7.56%).



After discovering aromanticism, I think that:



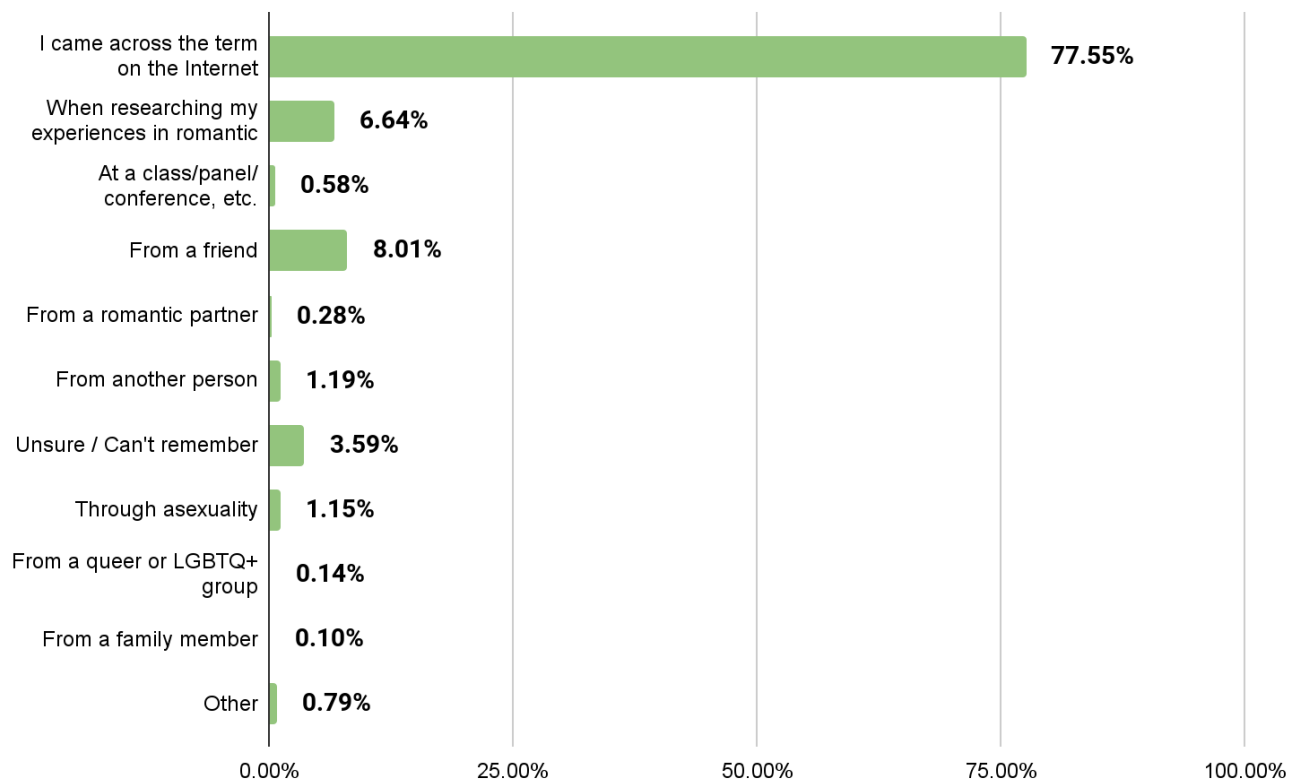
After discovering aromanticism, I think that:



Questioning and Identifying as Aromantic

Over three quarters of respondents indicated they first learned about aromanticism by coming across the term on the internet. Other popular spaces to learn about aromanticism included from a friend (accounting for 8.01% of responses) and when conducting general research about personal experiences in romantic relationships (accounting for 6.64%).

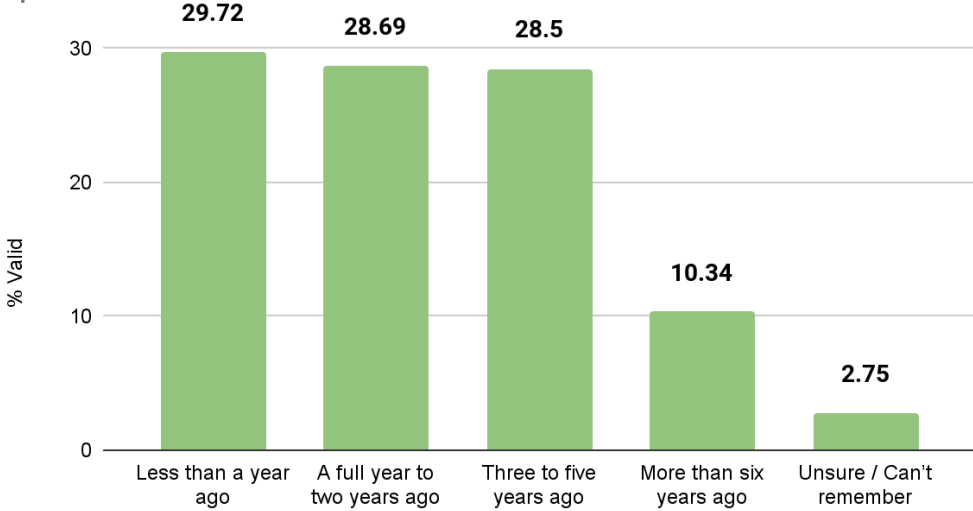
I first learned about aromanticism:



At the time of the survey, most aros indicated they had started questioning they were aromantic up to five years ago. Responses were evenly split between less than a year ago (29.7%), a full year to two years ago (28.7%), and three to five years ago (28.5%). 10.3% of respondents indicated starting their questioning more than six years ago, and a small number were unsure or couldn't remember.

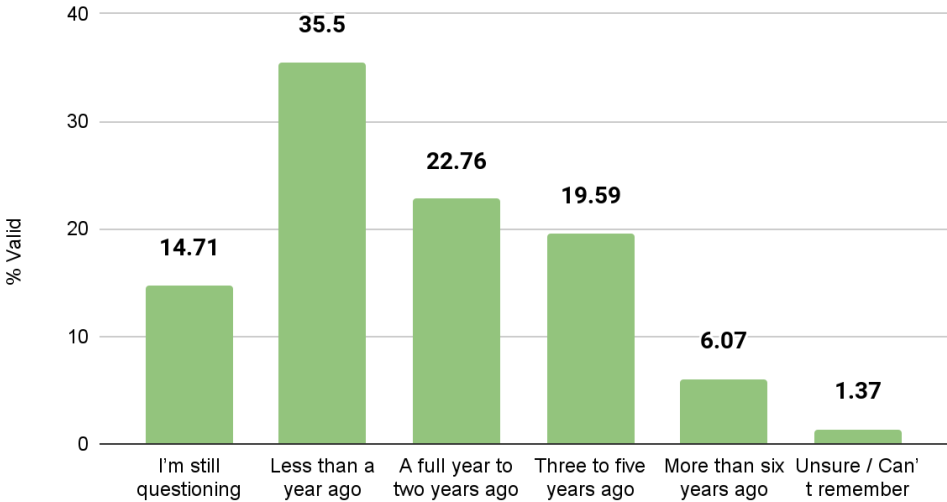


When did you start questioning if you were on the aromantic spectrum?



As for identifying on the aromantic spectrum, 14.7% of respondents indicated they were still questioning at the time of the survey. 35.5% of respondents said they started identifying as aro less than a year before taking the survey, and around 20% indicated somewhere between one to two years or three to five years ago respectively. Few respondents first identified as aro more than six years ago.

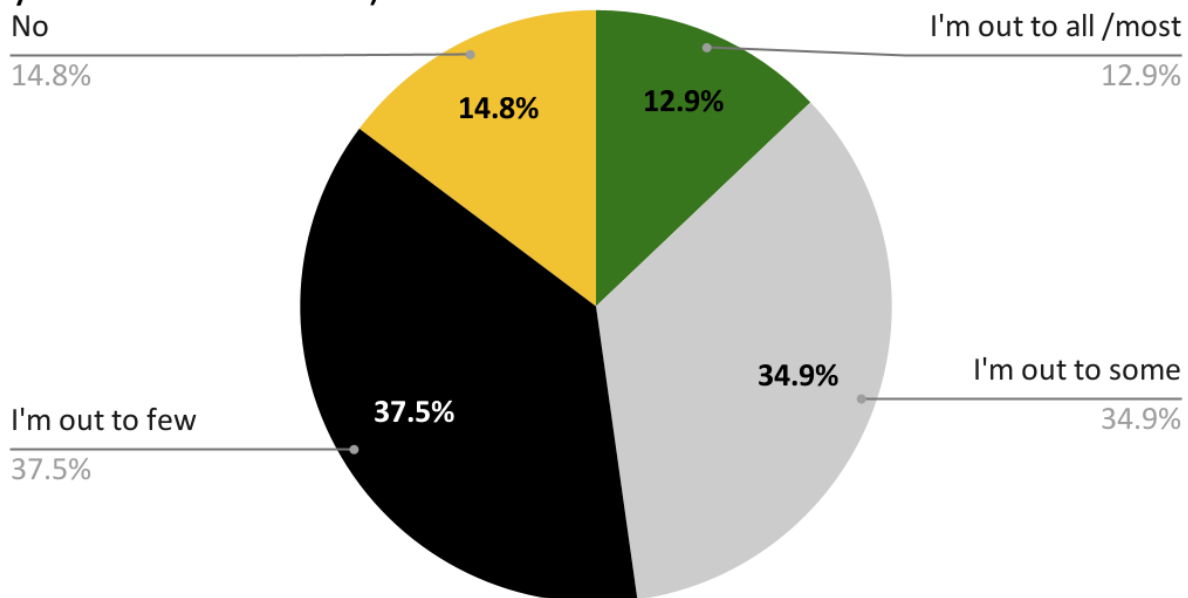
When did you start identifying as on the aromantic spectrum?



Coming Out

Just less than half of respondents were out to more than one or a few select people. Only 12.9% indicated they were openly aro. 72.4% indicated they were partially out - some to particular groups of people, and some to only one person or select few. 14.8% of respondents indicated they were not out as aro at all.

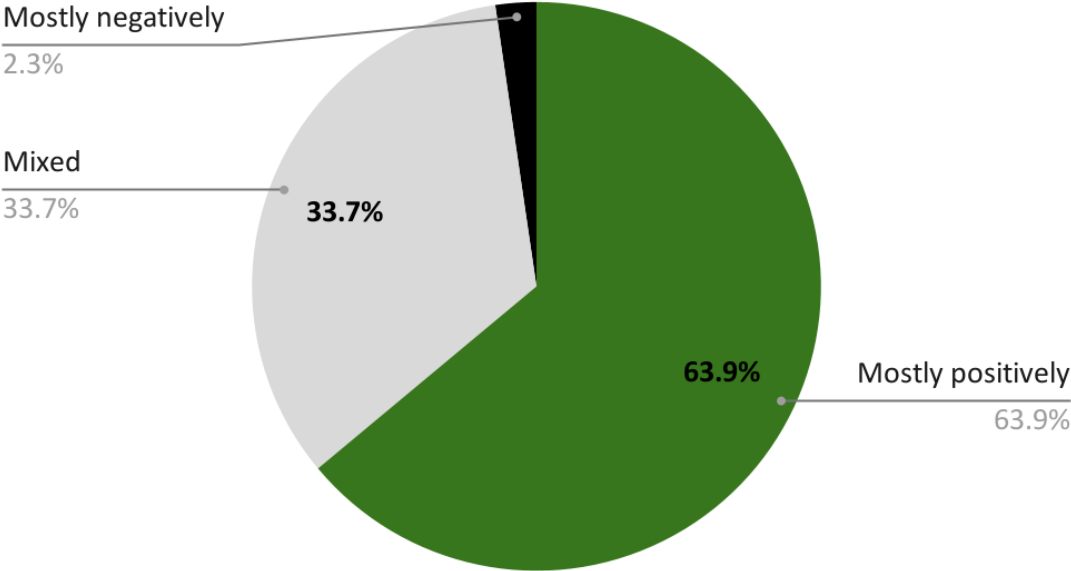
Are you out as aromantic (i.e., have you told people about your aromanticism)?



For those that came out, the majority (63.9%) indicated that those they came out to reacted positively most or all of the time. About a third of respondents indicated they had mixed positive and negative responses. A very small percentage indicated that their coming out was met with predominantly negative responses.

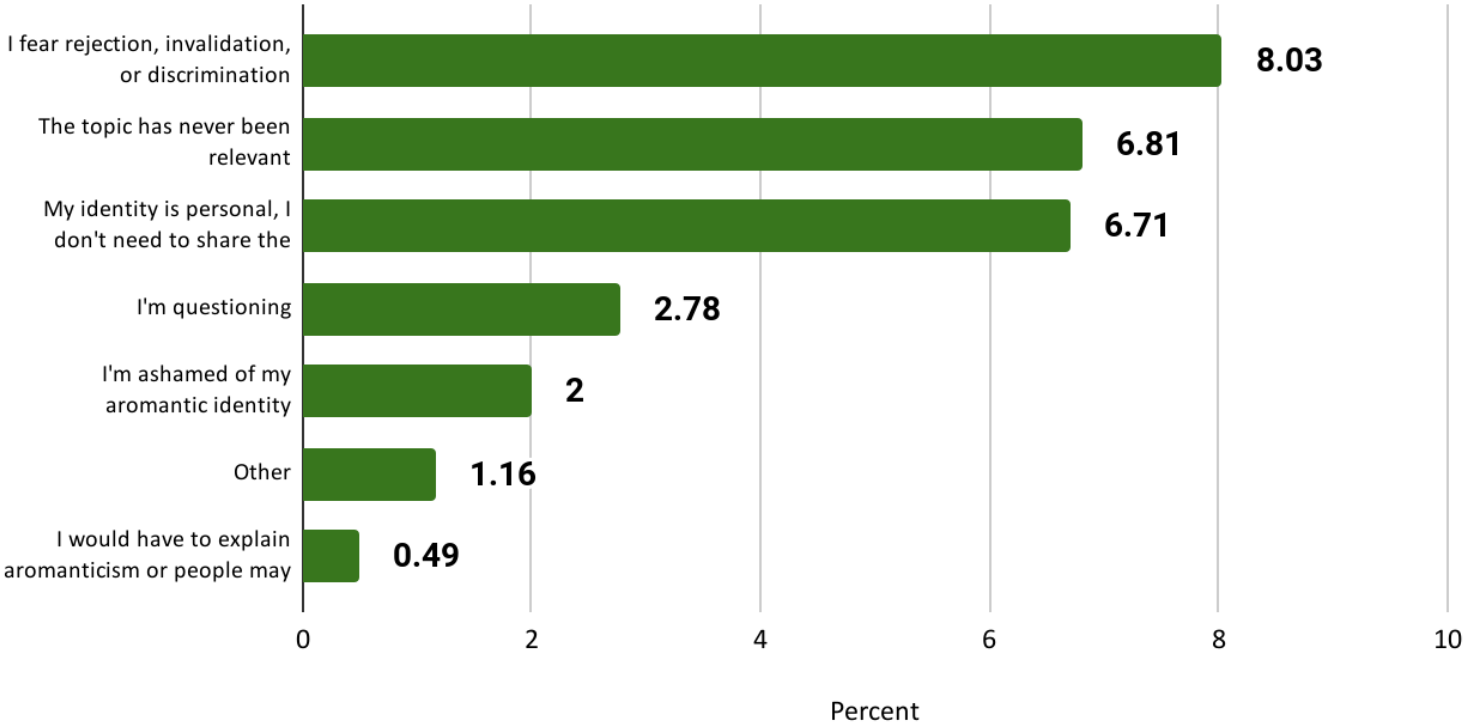


In general, how have people reacted to you coming out?



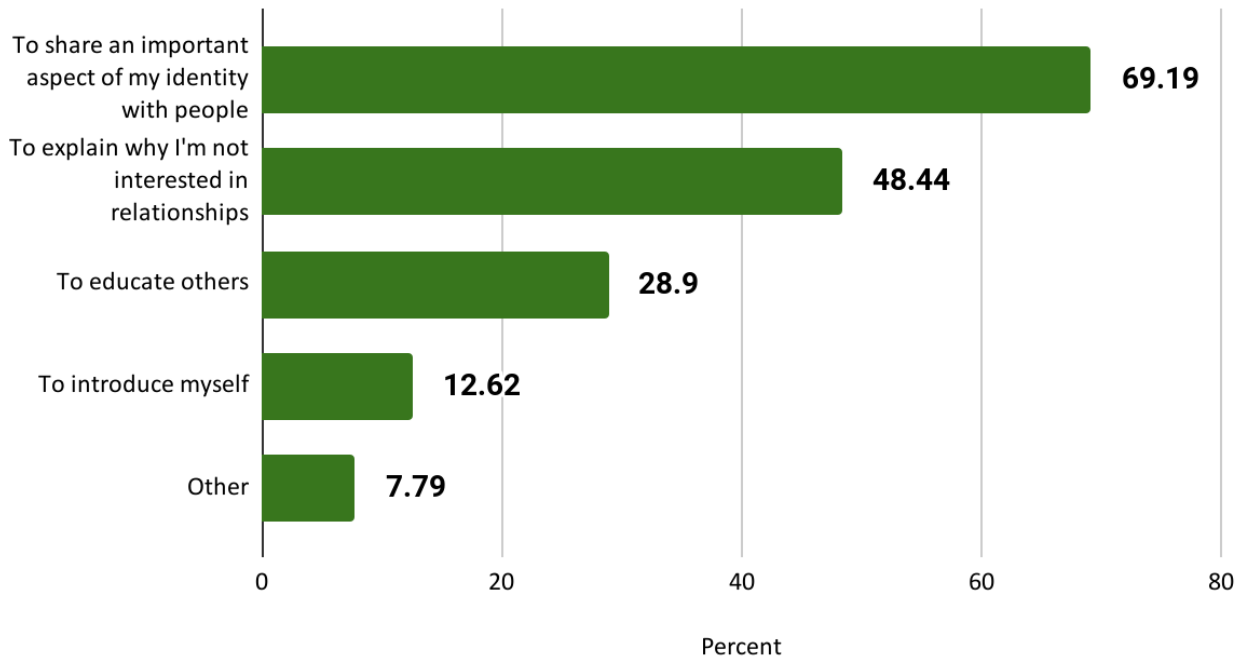
For those that did not come out (Yes), their reasons for not coming out varied.

Why have you chosen not to come out to certain people?



For those who did come out to at least one person (Yes), their reasons for coming out varied, but the most common reason was to share an important aspect of their identity.

Why have you chosen to come out to certain people?

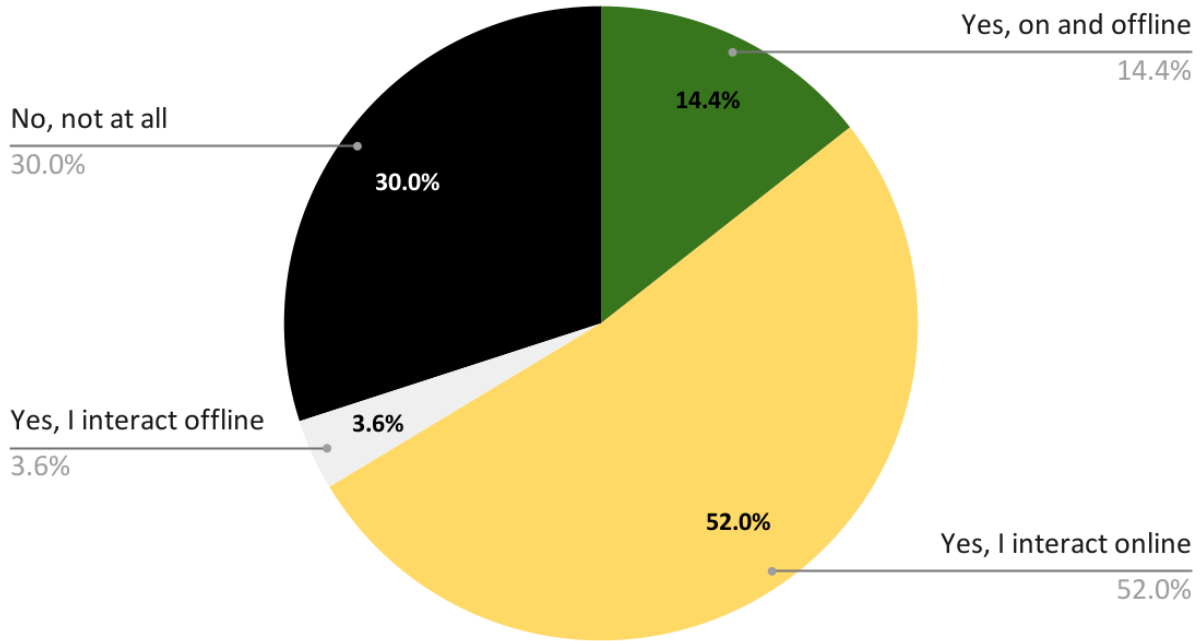


Involvement with Aro Communities

Most individuals who took this survey (70%) interact with other aromantic people. Most of this interaction takes place online (52%), though some is both online and offline. It is notable that due to COVID-19, the responses to this census may be skewed toward online interaction simply due to physical distancing protocols in place in many countries.

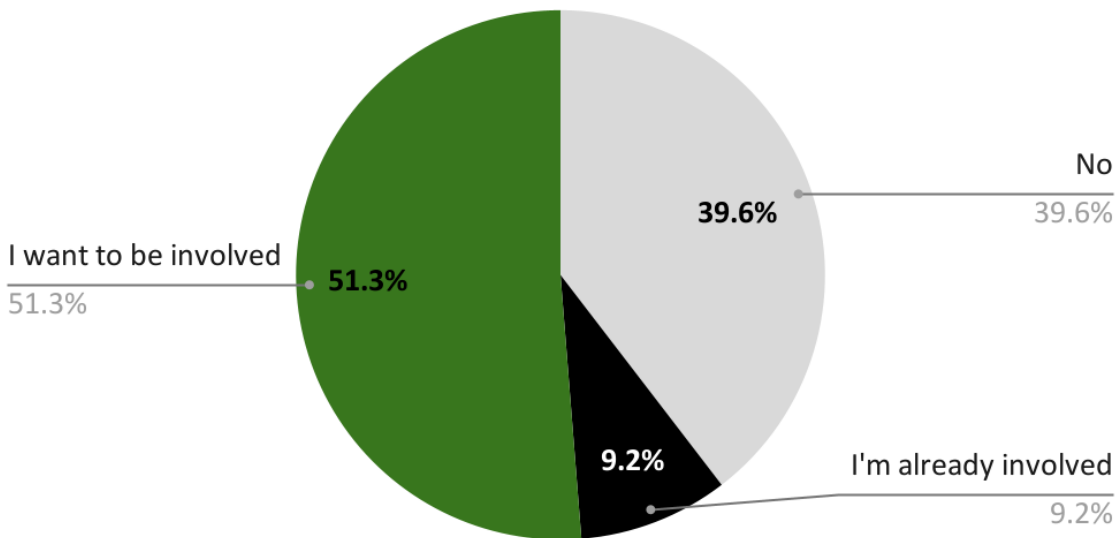


Do you currently interact with other aromantics?



A very small percentage of respondents (9.2%) indicated that they were involved in aro communities. Over half of the other respondents indicated they were not involved yet, but wanted to be. This represents a large proportion of aromantics who are ready to build their community, whether personally or professionally.

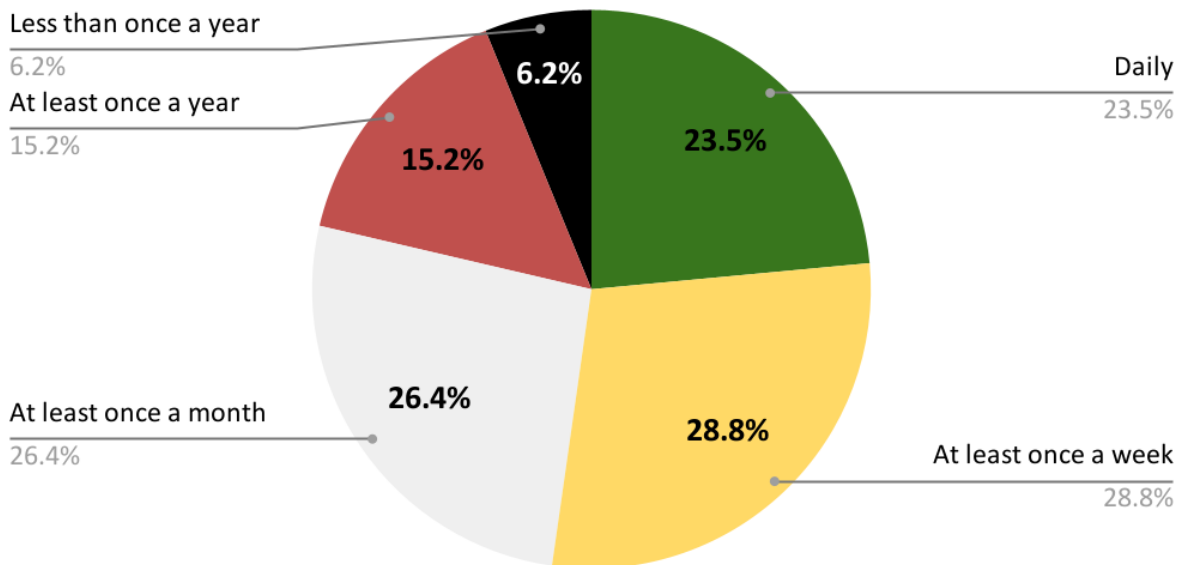
Are you already involved in or want to be involved in building resources and support for the aro community?



In Person

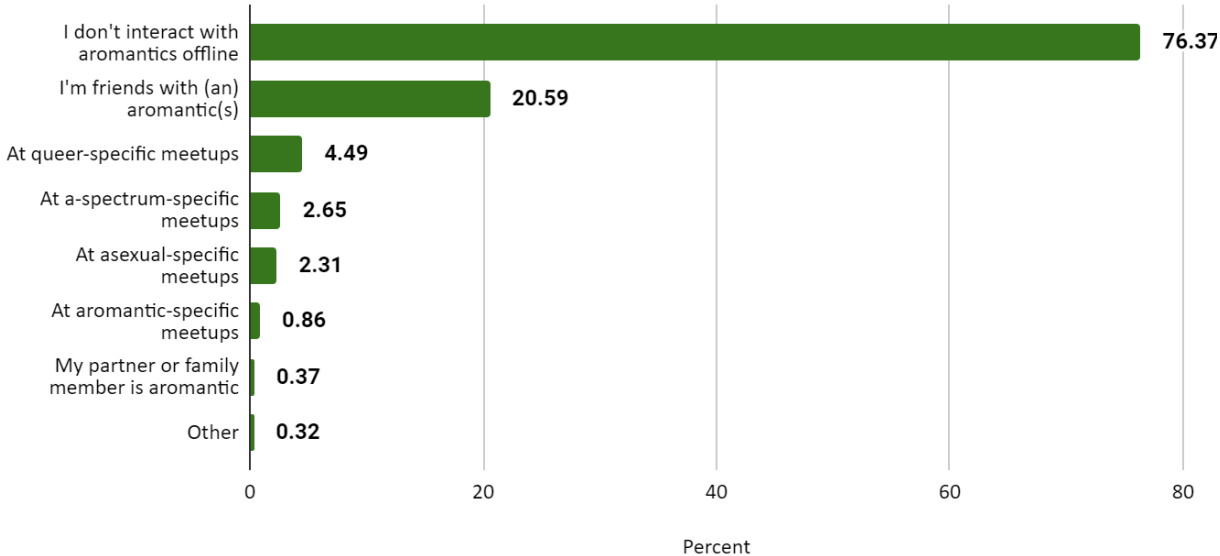
For those who interact with other aromantics in-person, just over half of respondents indicated they do so at least once per week, and over 75% indicate they interact with other aromantics at least once per month.

If you interact with other aromantics offline (in-person), how often do you do so?



In terms of where aromantics interact with each other in-person, most have aro friends they interact with personally. Some find each other at queer or a-spec meetups. Uncommon are aromantic-specific meetups or aro family or partners.

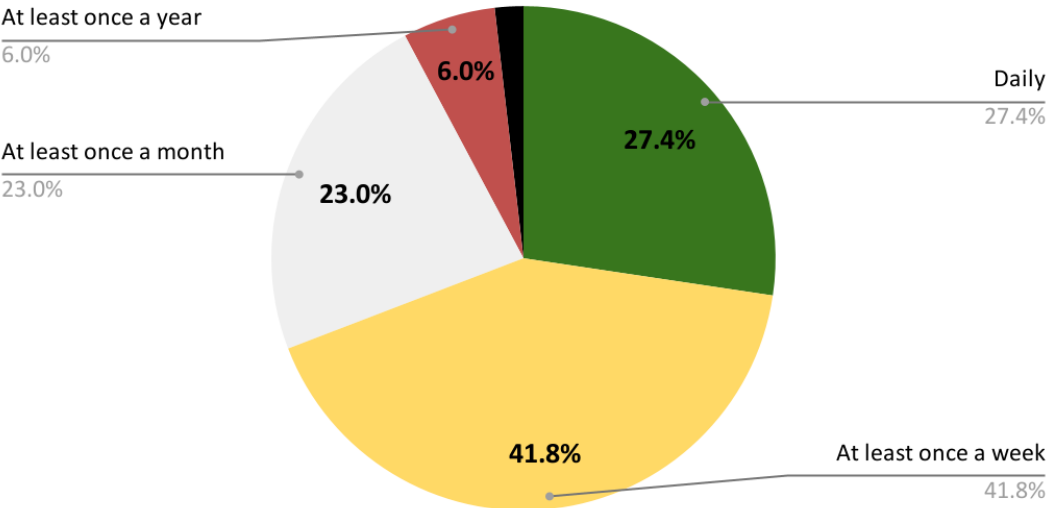
If you interact with other aromantics offline (in-person), where do you do it?



Online

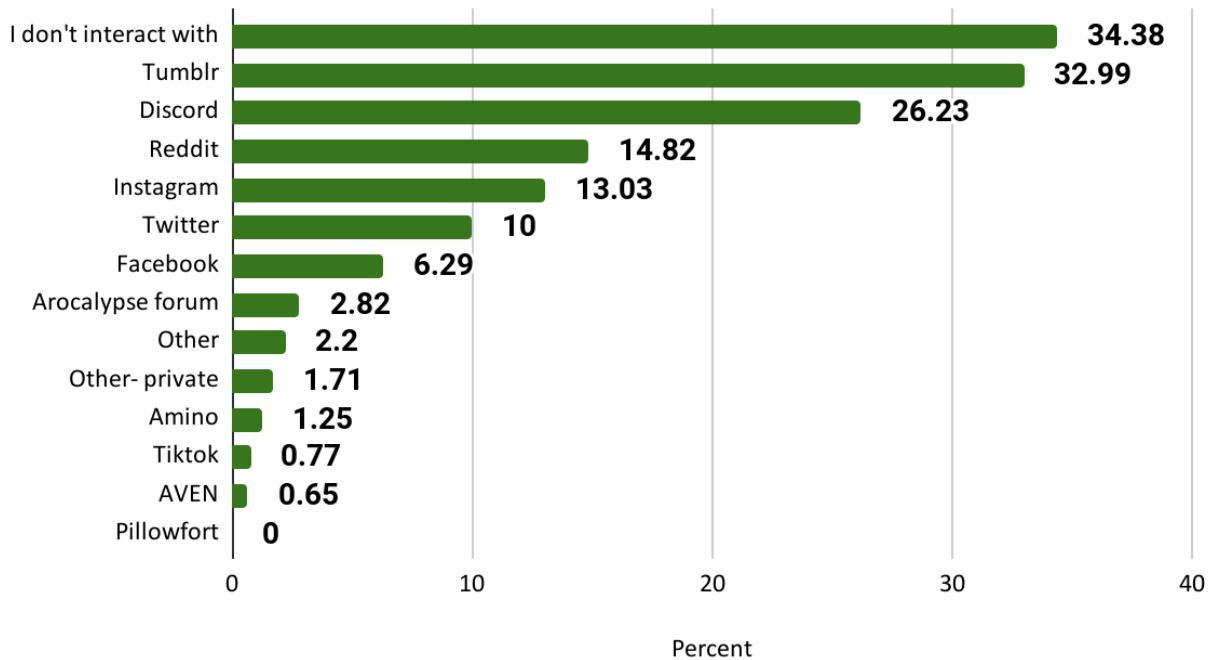
For those who interact with other aromantics online, nearly 70% indicate they do so at least once per week.

If you interact with other aromantics online, how often do you do so?



In terms of where aromantics interact with each other online, the most popular destinations for respondents in this survey are Tumblr and Discord, followed by Reddit, Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook.

If you interact with other aromantics online, where do you do it?



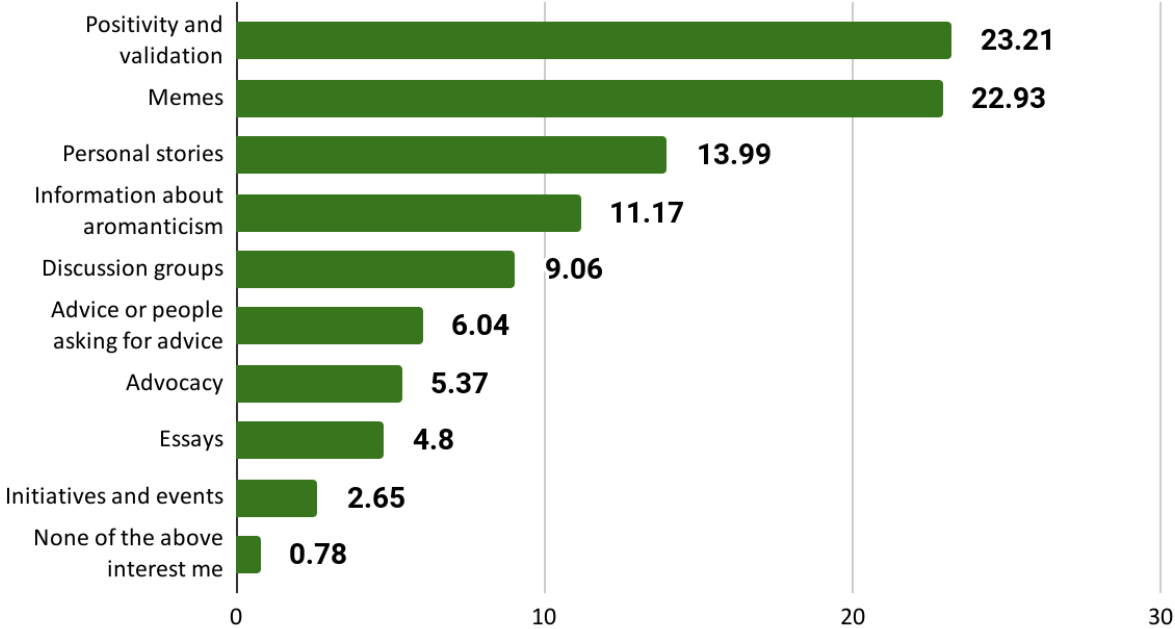
Tumblr, Discord, Reddit, Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook were the most common online spaces aromantics in this survey interacted with each other. Other spaces included the Arocalypse forum, private messaging, Amino, TikTok, and AVEN.

Interests in Aromantic Content

When we asked what kind of aromantic content most interests participants, the responses favored positivity and validation as well as memes, each accounting for around 23% of responses. Personal stories, information about aromanticism, and discussion groups took third, fourth, and fifth place respectively.

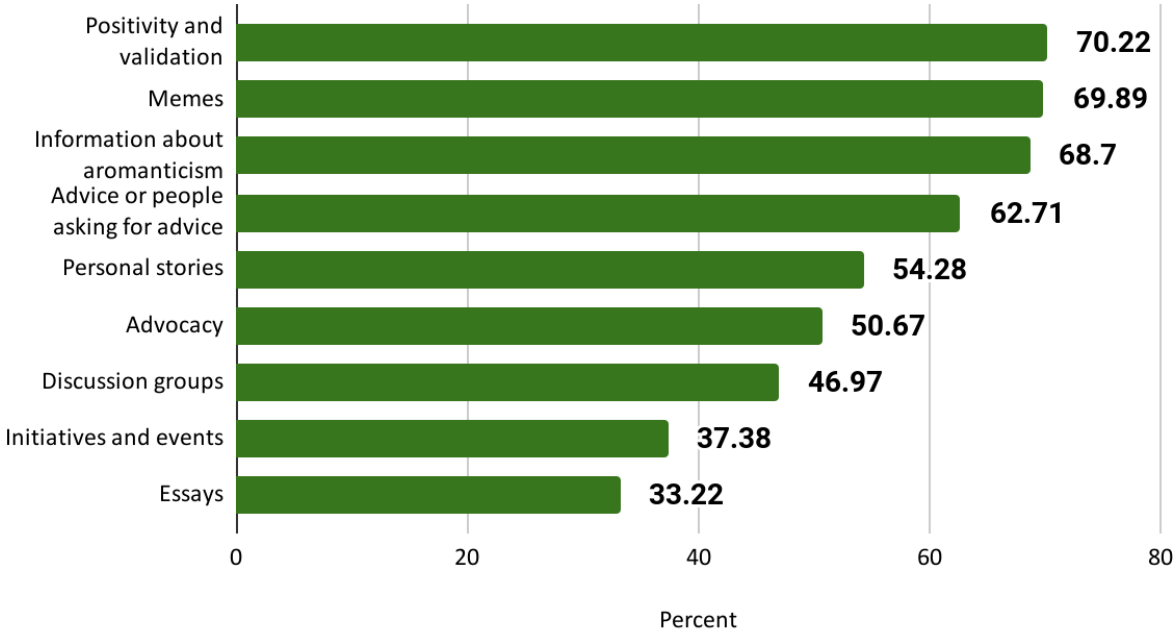


What kind of aromantic content interests you the most?



For those that answered the follow-up question about what other kinds of aromantic content interest participants, responses were very similar, with the exception of essays, which fell below initiatives and events in this question.

What other kind of aromantic content interests you?



Resources

Visibility, recognition, and discussion of diverse experiences was the type of resource indicated most often as what aromantics need from their community most. Other popular answers included offline and in-person communities, followed by research and academic resources, 101 and introductory resources, more connection and involvement with non-aro organizations, and online communities. There were many other ideas written in for resources as well that may help guide activist and advocacy organizations in the future.

Resource	Frequency	Percentage
101 resources and step-by-step introductory education about different aspects of aromanticism	729	7.75
Creation of aro-specific and/or aro-inclusive hotlines or shelters	101	1.07
Information in a greater number of languages	210	2.23
More connection to and involvement with non-aro queer organizations (e.g., collaboration, allyship, joint events)	667	7.09
Offline and in-person communities (e.g., more of them, specific types that may be missing)	1471	15.64
Online communities (e.g., more of them, specific types that may be missing)	661	7.03
Other	894	9.51
Research and academic resources	883	9.39
Visibility, recognition, and discussion of diverse experiences within the aro community	3787	40.27

Note: Respondents were able to choose multiple options.

Discrimination

The census asked some questions about discrimination, microaggressions, and oppression aromantic people face.

Discrimination	Frequency	Percent
Not being taken seriously, being ignored, or being dismissed by others	4911	82.43
Attempts or suggestions to "fix" or "cure" you	2880	48.34
Online harassment	1616	27.12
Difficulty finding or maintaining partnered relationships	1608	26.99
Being excluded from social activities	1527	25.63
Verbal harassment	1245	20.9
Familial rejection	902	15.14
Difficulty accessing mental health care or being accepted by mental health professionals	780	13.09
Difficulty accessing other health care or being accepted by medical professionals	257	4.31
Difficulty finding a job or fitting in at a job	239	4.01
Physical harassment or violence	93	1.56
Difficulty finding housing or dealing with landlords or roommates	74	1.24
Loss of material or financial support from family or others	69	1.16

Note: Respondents could choose more than one answer.

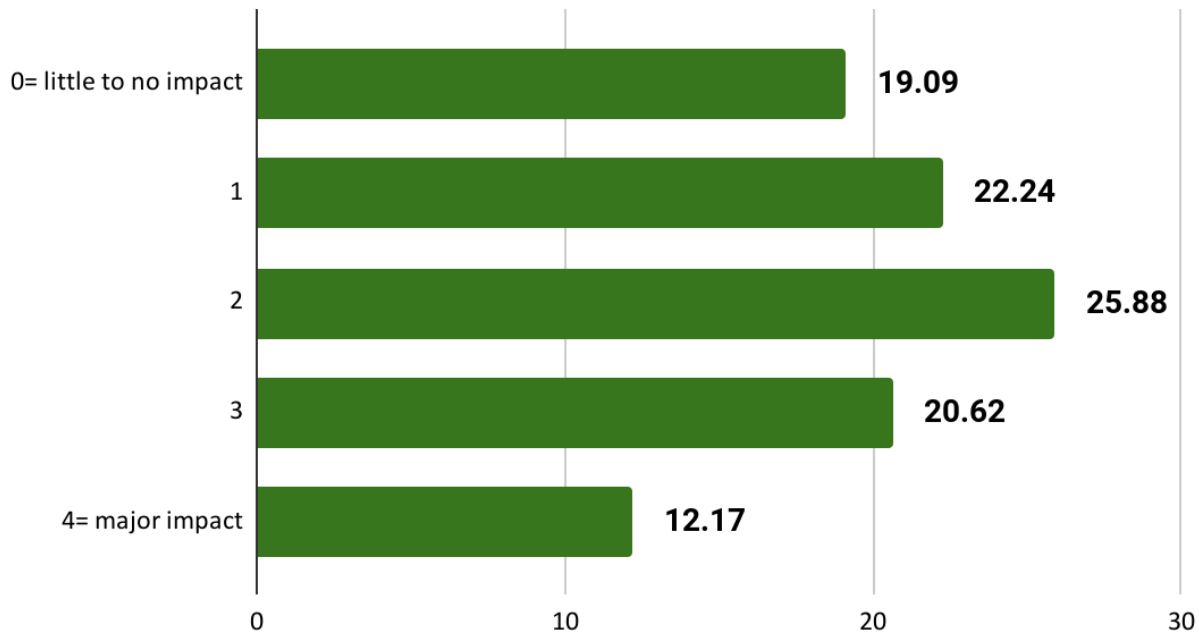
The most commonly indicated type of discrimination indicated by aromantics in this census was not being taken seriously, being ignored, or being dismissed by others (82.43%). Almost half of respondents also indicated they were subjects of attempts or suggestions to "fix" or "cure" them. Online harassment, difficulty finding or maintaining

partnered relationships, being excluded from social activities, and verbal harassment were indicated by over 20% of respondents. Around 15% of respondents indicated they experienced familial rejection and difficulty accessing or being accepted for mental health care respectively.

The scale used to measure impact of discrimination was 0 to 4, with 0 representing little to no impact and 4 representing major impact of the items on the participant's life.

Most affected by discriminatory behavior was participants' mental and emotional health. 12.17% of respondents indicated this part of their life was majorly impacted, with a significant percentage (80.91%) indicating any sort of impact in the first place.

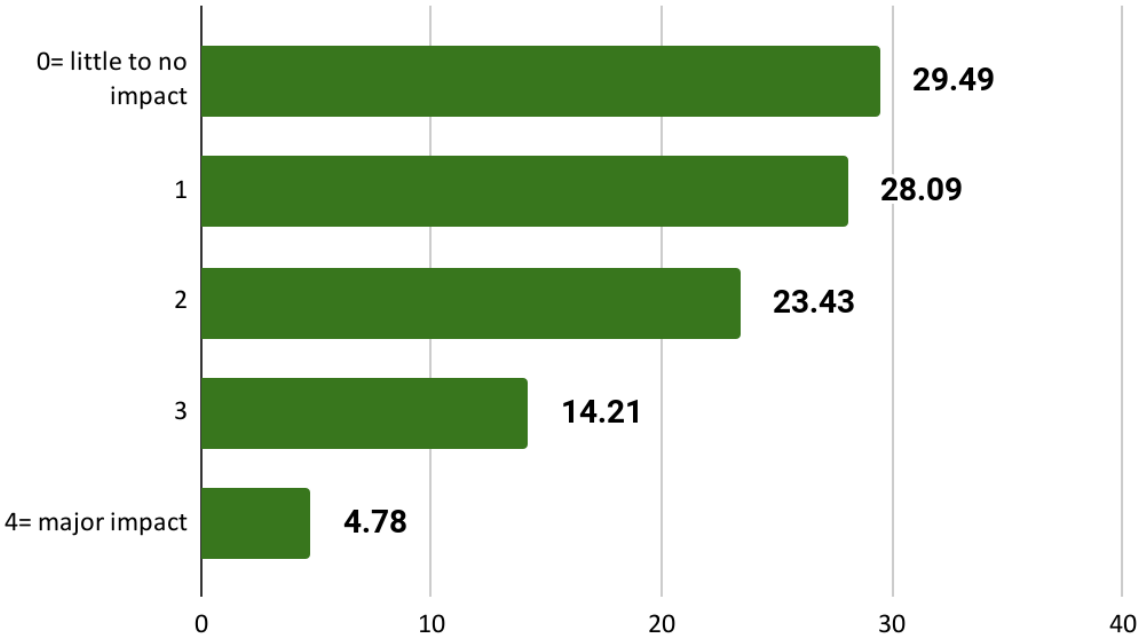
Mental or Emotional Health



Social life was the next most impacted part of participants' lives. 70.51% of respondents indicated some impact of discrimination against their aromantic identity on this aspect of their lives.

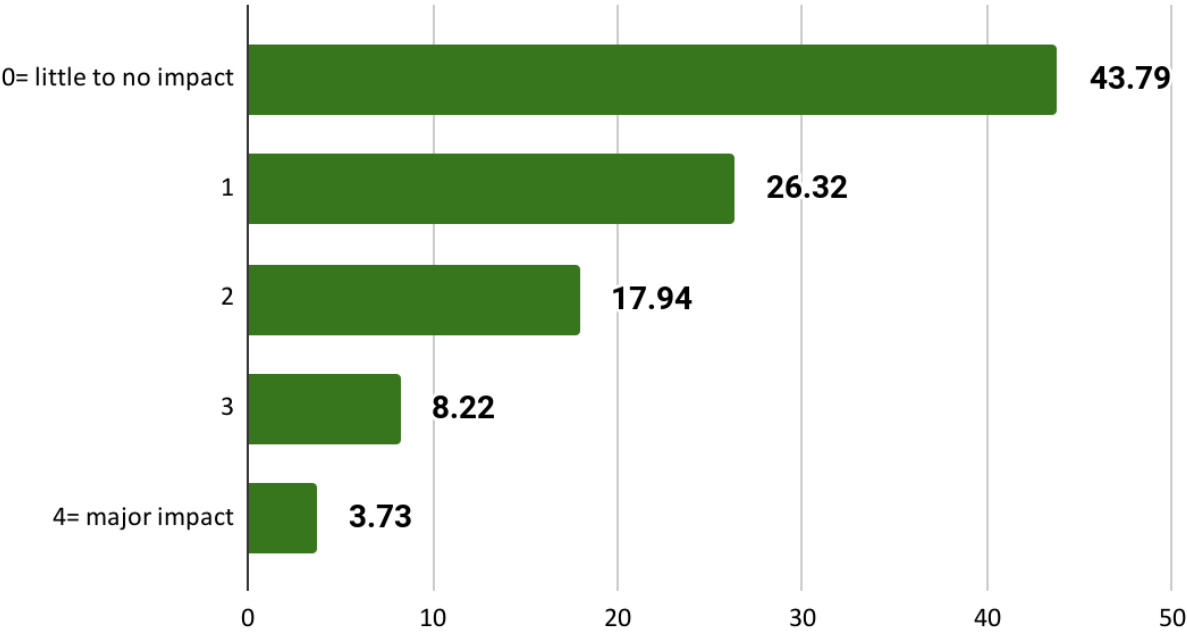


Social life



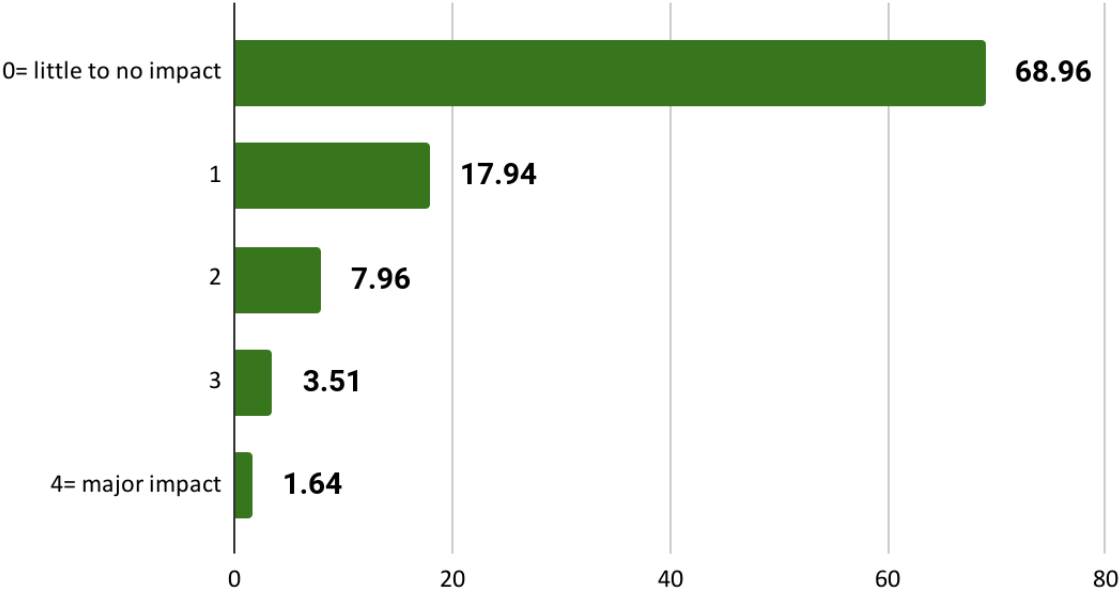
Relatedly, relationships with family were particularly impacted parts of participants’ lives. 56.21% of respondents indicated that this was an area affected by discrimination.

Relationship with family



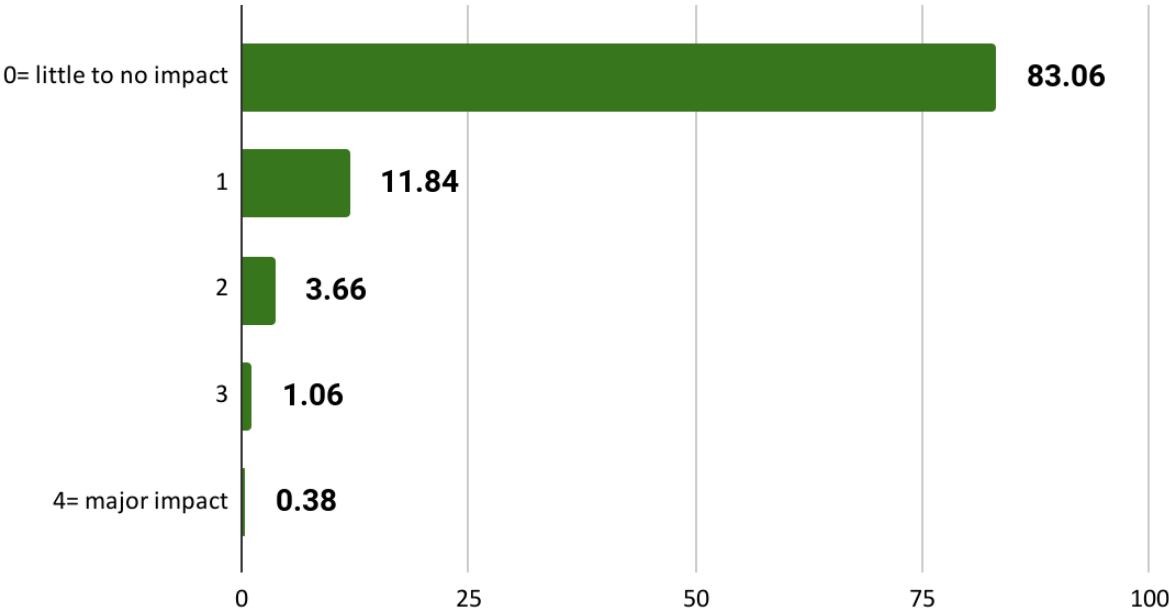
Over 30% of respondents indicated that their physical health and wellbeing was impacted by discrimination they faced as aromantic people.

Physical health and wellbeing



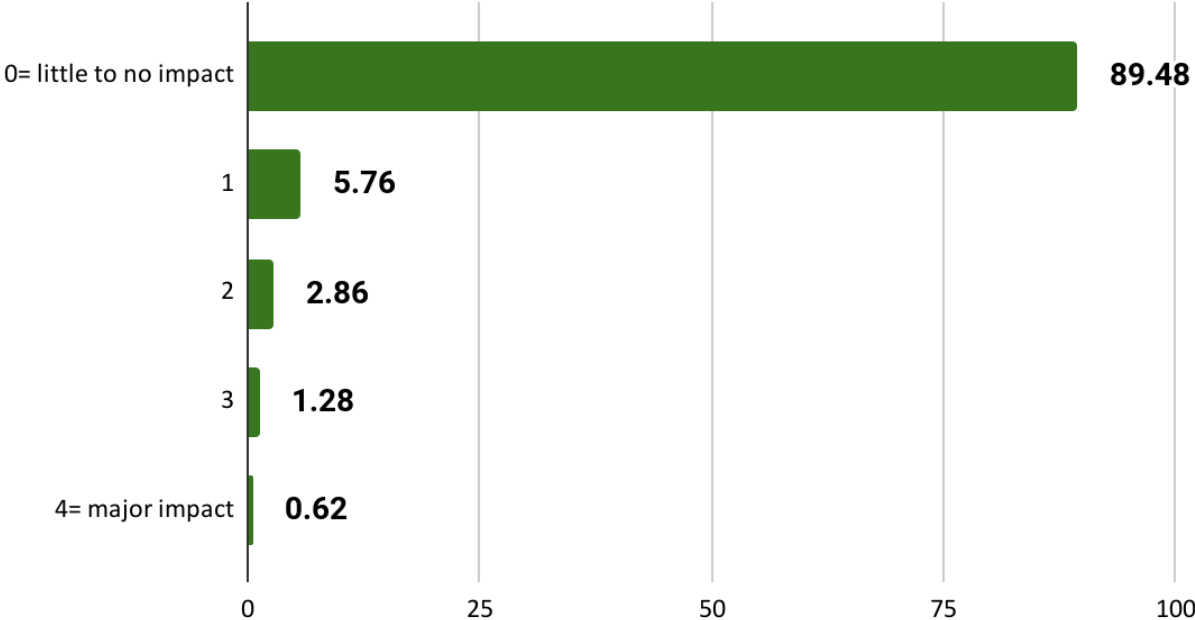
In terms of professional or academic career, the effect of discrimination was seen for 16.95% of participants, with 11.84% of those participants indicating a small effect.

Professional or academic career



The impact of aro-specific discrimination on housing was small, but not unrepresentative, for the participants in this census.

Housing





Limitations and Feedback

At the end of the census, there was an optional write-in feedback box for participants to tell the team about anything that might have been confusing, invalidating or exclusionary, or missed, as well as any positive feedback.

Recruitment

Aromantics who are also asexual were overrepresented in the participant pool. In addition, respondents who lived in the US and are white were represented far more than respondents living elsewhere and with different backgrounds. Additionally, younger aromantics numbered far more than older aromantics.

These and other skewed demographics may be related to the predominantly online recruitment method. In addition, the 2020 census was only available in the English language, likely alienating non-English-speaking aromantics. Adding a question about how or where participants found out about the census would be ideal in the next census iteration, so that spots that might have been missed in recruitment can be considered for subsequent iterations.

Some feedback about recruitment also mentioned that it was unclear whether questioning people or individuals who identify as on the aromantic spectrum but not with the “aromantic” term were welcome. The census was created with those individuals in mind, but a closer look at the questions and at the recruitment blurb when sending out invitations would be vital to making sure everyone feels welcome.

Relatedly, there were some individuals who did not identify entirely with the aromantic community or with the alloromantic community. These individuals were not completely accounted for in the aro census, so it may be worth discussing scope.



In the recruitment call and original form, it was mentioned that raw data would not be published or shared. During the analysis phase of the census, AUREA received some requests from researchers (aro and non-aro) who were interested in the data. For future iterations of the census, it may be useful to have some of the non-personal data be publicly available for other members of the community to view and use for their own analyses.

Specific Questions

There were specific questions that received a lot of feedback from participants. It is important to address those in the next iteration of the census to be more inclusive and clear.

Some feedback simply asked for more definitions of terms used in the census, and reminders of those definitions where relevant, in order to be more accessible. Rewording some questions and their possible responses was also a common recommendation so that survey respondents can understand better.

Other feedback related to the following questions or types of questions.

Demographics

Where 1% or more respondents answered with a particular label or identity, those labels or identities will be added to the next census in the selection options instead of forcing a write-in “other” response.

Race and ethnicity was a question that needs to be further considered and parsed. Some categories included in the census were too broad in comparison to others (e.g., Native or Indigenous). Follow-up questions and more specific labels are needed. Race, ethnicity, and nationality also sometimes overlap in some spaces, so it may be difficult to unanimously define. Some individuals consider one label to not be an ethnicity label

while others do and self-identify with it. For this question in particular, asking for multiple reviewers of different backgrounds will help.

For the question about country, the categories included before “Other” were the most popular from previous surveys in the aro community, which had issues of underrepresenting people of color. Structuring this question was erroneous on the part of the survey creators, as it reinforced this bias. A fully write-in response would be difficult for analysis purposes, but a searchable drop-down menu instead of a selection option may balance accessibility and inclusivity.

The question about education was Western and American-centric. It was also too simple, as it did not account for professional certifications such as law school. Education systems around the world, and even within countries, can widely vary. Adding an “Other” write-in option is one way to account for anything that may not have been listed, but an expanded and more general list is recommended.

Additions

Some feedback from participants included ideas for questions to add to the census. One suggestion was to ask about trauma and its relationship to aromanticism. Follow-up questions regarding trauma may also help aromantics better understand how it is or isn't related to people's identities.

Including more varied relationships (not just partnerships) in the census would also be a useful addition to understand how aromantics relate to people in the worlds around them.

Some write-in answers to questions such as interests in aromantic content and resources needed from other aros and from allies would be useful to include.

Appendix A: Census Questions

The Aro Census is a research project conducted by Aromantic-spectrum Union for Recognition, Education, and Advocacy (AUREA). The purpose of the census is to gain knowledge and through this, a better understanding of the aromantic community. To achieve this, we gather data on demographics, experiences connected to aromanticism, romantic attitudes and history, sexual history, and relationship history. Participation is limited to persons identifying on the aromantic spectrum. Some of the census questions may be personal or potentially distressing. All answers are anonymous and optional.

If you feel distressed at any point during the survey, you may stop, and your responses up to that point will be recorded. We also recommend you engage in self-care, reach out to someone for support, contact your local crisis phone line, or use <https://www.imalive.org/> or <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/get-help-now/> online. Your wellbeing is of utmost importance.

Completing the census will take around 30 minutes. The census will be open to answers until 30th November 2020 and results will be posted in the first quarter of 2021 on aromanticism.org. Should you have any questions, you can contact AUREA through contact@aromanticism.org.

In this survey, we use the following terms to refer to the broad aromantic community:

Aromantic

Aro

Aro-spec (short for aromantic-spectrum)

To make this survey accessible for length, some questions do not have all possible options as answers. In these situations, we included the answers that were most common in previous research on aro communities. If you do not see an option that matches your experiences, in some instances you will still be able to tell us after clicking the “Other” option.

Some questions in this survey will ask about numbers or frequency. If you fall somewhere in the middle or in-between, choose the lower (smaller) answer.

If you can't remember an answer to a question exactly, try to estimate.

1. Do you consider yourself aromantic (on the aromantic spectrum)?

In this question, alloromantic is used to mean not on the aromantic spectrum in any way.

- Unsure - I am questioning
 - Yes, always
 - Yes, most of the time
 - Sometimes, my identity fluctuates or changes
 - Partly, I feel closer to the aromantic label than the alloromantic label
 - No, I do not consider myself aromantic, but I also do not consider myself alloromantic
 - No, I consider myself alloromantic
-





Demographics

2. Which of the following aro- or a-spec labels do you identify with? Select any that apply.

- Unsure or Questioning
- Aromantic or aro
- Arospec
- Demiromantic
- Greyromantic
- Grey-a
- Quoiromantic or WTFromantic
- Aroflux
- Akoioromantic or Lithromantic
- Somewhere on the aromantic spectrum otherwise unspecified
- Asexual or ace, used to describe your relationship with romance too
- A-spec or a-spectrum, used to describe your relationship with romance too
- Other

2a. Since you answered Other, can you specify any other aro-spec labels you use? List as many as you would like.

- Cupioromantic
- Nebularomantic
- Frayromantic
- _____.

3. Do you identify with any non-ariospec romantic orientations? Select any that apply.

- I don't identify with any non-ariospec romantic orientations





- Unsure or Questioning
- Alloromantic
- Queer
- Gay
- Lesbian
- Homoromantic
- Straight
- Heteroromantic
- Biromantic
- Panromantic
- Other

3a. Since you answered Other, can you specify any other non-aro-spec romantic orientation labels you use? List as many as you would like.

_____.

4. Do you identify with any sexual orientations? Select any that apply.

- I don't identify with a sexual orientation
- Unsure or Questioning
- Allosexual (non-aseexual)
- Asexual
- Queer
- Gay
- Lesbian
- Homosexual
- Straight
- Heterosexual
- Bisexual



- Pansexual
- Other

4a. Since you answered Other, can you specify any other sexual orientation labels you use? List as many as you would like.

- Greysexual
- Demisexual
- Polysexual
- _____.

5. People usually use labels (e.g. heterosexual) for their sexual orientation and some for their romantic orientation (e.g. aromantic), because of the types of attraction to others they do or don't experience. There are types of attraction other than sexual and romantic, for example sensual or aesthetic. Do you use a separate label for any kind(s) of attraction other than sexual or romantic?"

This question is about labeling only, if you experience those attractions, but don't label them, click "no".

- Yes
- No

5a. If you answered Yes, can you specify what kind(s) of attraction you label?

Select any that apply.

- Platonic
- Sensual
- Aesthetic
- Emotional
- Queerplatonic
- Alterous



- Other

5aa. If you answered Other, can you specify any other kind(s) of attraction you label?

_____.

5ab. If you answered you label Platonic attraction, can you specify what label(s) you use? Select any that apply.

- Unsure or Questioning
- Aplatonic
- Demiplatonic
- Greyplatonic
- Queer
- Gay
- Lesbian
- Homoplatic
- Straight
- Heteroplatic
- Biplatonic
- Panplatonic
- Other

5aba. If you answered Other, can you specify what label(s) you use?

_____.

5ac. If you answered you label Sensual attraction, can you specify what label(s) you use? Select any that apply.

- Unsure or Questioning





- Asensual
- Demisensual
- Greysensual
- Queer
- Gay
- Lesbian
- Homosensual
- Straight
- Heterosensual
- Bisensual
- Pansensual
- Other

5aca. If you answered Other, can you specify?

_____.

5ad. If you answered you label Aesthetic attraction, can you specify what label(s) you use?

- Unsure or Questioning
- A-aesthetic
- Demi-aesthetic
- Grey-aesthetic
- Queer
- Gay
- Lesbian
- Homo-aesthetic
- Straight
- Hetero-aesthetic





- Bi-aesthetic
- Pan-aesthetic
- Other

5ada. Since you answered Other, can you specify?

_____.

5ae. Since you answered you label Emotional attraction, can you specify what label(s) you use?

- Unsure or Questioning
- A-emotional
- Demi-emotional
- Grey-emotional
- Queer
- Gay
- Lesbian
- Homo-emotional
- Straight
- Hetero-emotional
- Bi-emotional
- Pan-emotional
- Other

5aea. Since you answered Other, can you specify?

_____.

5af. Since you answered you label Queerplatonic attraction, can you specify what label(s) you use?



- Unsure or Questioning
- A-queerplatonic
- Demi-queerplatonic
- Grey-queerplatonic
- Queer
- Gay
- Lesbian
- Homo-queerplatonic
- Straight
- Hetero-queerplatonic
- Bi-queerplatonic
- Pan-queerplatonic
- Other

5afa. Since you answered Other, can you specify?

_____.

5ag. Since you answered you label Alterous attraction, can you specify what label(s) you use?

- Unsure or Questioning
- A(n)-alterous
- Demialterous
- Greyalterous
- Queer
- Gay
- Lesbian
- Homo-alterous
- Straight

- Hetero-alterous
- Bialterous
- Panalterous
- Other

5 aga. Since you answered Other, can you specify?

_____.

6. What is your relation to gender assigned at birth?

- Cisgender - I identify with the binary gender I was assigned at birth
- Trans - I don't identify with the binary gender I was assigned at birth
- Unsure or Questioning
- Neither cisgender nor trans

7. Some people are assigned male or female at birth but are born with or develop sexual anatomy, reproductive organs, and/or chromosome patterns that do not fit the typical definition of male or female. This physical condition is known as intersex or Differences of Sex Development (DSD). Does this describe you?

- Yes, I have been diagnosed as intersex or with a DSD
- Yes, this describes me, although I have not been professionally diagnosed
- No, this does not describe me
- Unsure

8. What is your gender identity? Select any that apply.

- Unsure or Questioning
- Man, male, or boy
- Woman, female, or girl



- Non-binary
- Genderqueer
- Agender or no gender
- Genderfluid
- Intergender
- Gender non-conforming
- Other

8a. Since you answered Other, can you specify any other gender labels you use?

List as many as you would like.

- Demigirl
- Demiboy
- _____.

9. How old are you?

_____.

10. Which country do you currently live in? If you travel often, which country do you live in most often?

- USA
- Canada
- Australia
- UK
- Germany
- France
- Sweden
- Brazil
- India





- Russia
- _____.

11. What is your racial and/or ethnic background? Select any that apply.

- Unsure
- White
- Mixed
- Black
- African
- European
- Native, Indigenous, or Aboriginal
- West Asian
- East Asian
- South Asian
- Southeast Asian
- Hispanic
- Latine/Latinx
- Jewish
- Other

11a. Since you answered Other, can you specify? List as many as you would like.

_____.

12. Where do you live? If you travel often, where do you live most often?

If you fall somewhere in between, choose the lower (smaller) category.

- Large city (more than 4 million people)
- Metropolis (1 to 3 million people)
- Big city (300 to 999 thousand people)



- Medium city (100 to 299 thousand people)
- Suburbs of large city or metropolis
- Suburbs of big or medium city
- Big town (10 to 99 thousand people)
- Small town (1 to 9 thousand people)
- Village (less than 999 people)

13. What is your financial situation?

- All my needs are met, I have enough money for entertainment and I don't worry about money at all
- All my needs are met, I have enough left for entertainment and I worry about money sometimes
- All my needs are met and I usually don't have enough left for entertainment
- Not all of my needs are met and I usually don't have enough left for entertainment

14. Do you consider yourself physically disabled?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

15. Do you consider yourself cognitively disabled? This doesn't include learning disabilities/difficulties.

- Yes
- No
- Unsure



16. Do you consider yourself mentally ill or have a mental health condition?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

17. Do you consider yourself neurodivergent or neurodiverse (e.g., autistic, have ADHD/ADD)?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

18. What is your (highest achieved) education?

- Less than high school
- High school
- Some college
- College certificate or degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Doctoral degree

19. Do you have children?

- Yes
- No





Relationships

20. Are you single?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

21. Are you in a sexual partnership?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

22. Are you in a non-romantic partnership?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

23. Are you in a romantic partnership?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

24. Have you ever been married?

- Yes
- No

25. Are you married currently?

- Yes



- No

26. Are you divorced?

- Yes
- No

27. Have you been widowed (i.e., has a partner of yours passed away while in the relationship)?

- Yes
- No

28. Are you polyamorous / polyaffectionate or monogamous?

Polyamorous describes a person who desires or is involved in intimate relationships where individuals may have more than one partner at a time, with the knowledge and consent of all partners

Polyaffectionate describes a person who desires or is involved in non-romantic and/or non-sexual relationships where individuals have more than one partner at a time, with the knowledge and consent of all partners

Monogamous describes a person who desires or is involved in an intimate relationship with a single exclusive partner at a time

- I am polyamorous and/or polyaffectionate
 - I am monogamous
 - I am neither
-



History with romance

29. Have you ever been attracted to someone romantically?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

30. Have you ever been in a romantic relationship?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

31. Do you want to be in a romantic relationship?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

32. Have you ever had a crush on someone or been infatuated with someone?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

33. Have you ever been in love?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure





34. Have you only ever fallen in love with a friend?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

35. How long did your longest romantic interest in a person last?

If you fall somewhere in between, choose the lower (smaller) option.

- I've never been romantically interested in someone
- Up to 2 weeks
- 3 weeks to 2 months
- 3 months and 6 months
- 7 months to a year
- More than a year

35a. Has your romantic interest in a person been stable over time (e.g. didn't disappear and reappear)?

- Yes
- No, it hasn't been stable
- Unsure

35b. Has your romantic interest only appeared when a person confessed they were infatuated with you?

- Yes
- No, it hasn't appeared only in those circumstances
- Unsure

35c. Has your romantic interest in a person disappeared suddenly, because the person did something you couldn't accept?



- Yes
- No, it hasn't disappeared suddenly for this reason
- Unsure

35d. Has your romantic interest in a person disappeared suddenly, without any apparent reason?

- Yes
- No, it hasn't disappeared suddenly without any apparent reason
- Unsure

35e. Has your romantic interest in a person disappeared suddenly when the person reciprocated the interest?

- Yes
- No, it hasn't disappeared suddenly for this reason
- Unsure

35f. Has your romantic interest in a person disappeared suddenly when you got to know the person?

- Yes
- No, it hasn't disappeared suddenly for this reason
- Unsure

36. Have you ever wanted to be in a romantic relationship with a specific person? (Example: Thinking "I wish I was in a relationship with this person.")

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

37. Have you ever wanted to be in a romantic relationship in general? (Example: Thinking "I wish I was in a relationship right now.")

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

**38. Have you ever expected to be in a romantic relationship in your future?
(Example: Thinking “One day I’ll be in a relationship.”)**

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

**39. Have you ever pursued a romantic relationship with a specific person,
regardless if you were turned down or not?**

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

40. Have you ever initiated a romantic relationship?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

41a. How many times have you initiated a romantic relationship?

- Once
- Two to four times
- Five to ten times
- More than 11 times
- Unsure / Can’t remember

41b. How often have you been the one who initiated a romantic relationship?

- Rarely

- Sometimes
- Often
- Always or almost always
- Unsure / Can't remember

41c. When you asked someone out, have you often felt uncomfortable in a way that felt different from expected nervousness? (E.g., It didn't feel right or you felt like you should ask but didn't really want to)

- I always wanted to do it and any discomfort I felt was nervousness in the moment
- I usually wanted to and any discomfort I felt was nervousness in the moment
- I usually have felt uncomfortable for a reason other than general nervousness
- I always have felt uncomfortable for a reason other than general nervousness

42. Have you ever agreed to be in a romantic relationship when asked by someone else?

- Yes, I agreed at least once
- No, I always refused
- No, I haven't been asked out
- Unsure

42a. How often have you agreed to a romantic relationship?

- Once
- Two to four times
- Five to ten times

- More than 11 times
- Unsure / Can't remember

43. Have you ever refused to be in a romantic relationship when asked by someone else?

- Yes, I refused someone at least once
- No, I always agreed
- No, I haven't been asked out
- Unsure

44. How often have you turned down romantic advances?

- Never, I was never in a situation to turn someone down
- Never, I always accepted
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Always or almost always
- Unsure / Can't remember

For people with romantic history (answered “yes” to have you ever been in a romantic relationship?)

30a. How many romantic relationships have you been in?

- One (in the past or current first)
- Two to five

- Six to ten
- More than eleven
- Unsure / Can't remember

30b. My romantic relationship(s) was/were/is with:

- One other person
- Two other persons
- Three other persons
- More than three other persons

30c. How long did your longest romantic relationship last? If your current one is the longest or first, how long has it been so far? If you fall somewhere in between, choose the lower (smaller) option.

- Up to 2 weeks
- 3 weeks to 2 months
- 3 months to 6 months
- 7 months to 11 months
- A year to two years
- Three years to five years
- Six years to ten years
- More than 11 years

30d. I enjoyed/enjoy being in:

- all my romantic relationships
- some of my romantic relationships
- none of my romantic relationships

30e. In my romantic relationships:

- I always felt/feel at ease

- I usually felt/feel at ease
- sometimes I felt/feel at ease, sometimes I felt/feel tense
- I usually felt/feel tense
- I always felt/feel tense

30f. My romantic partners were/are:

- always people I like(d) or love(d) and care(d) about
- usually people I like(d) or love(d) and care(d) about
- sometimes people I like(d) or love(d) and care(d) about and sometimes people I didn't/don't have an emotional connection with before
- usually people I didn't/don't have an emotional connection with before
- always people I didn't/don't have an emotional connection with before

30g. I felt/feel that:

- I love(d) my romantic partners more than they love(d) me
- my romantic partners and I love(d) each other similarly
- my romantic partners love(d) me more than I love(d) them

30h. Romantic behaviors:

- came/come spontaneously to me
- sometimes came/come spontaneously, sometimes not
- didn't/don't come spontaneously to me

30i. Doing something romantic:

- felt/feels natural to who I am
- didn't/doesn't feel natural or unnatural
- felt/feels unnatural to who I am

30j. My romantic relationships relationships ended in the following way:

- I always broke up with my partners
 - I usually broke up with my partners
 - sometimes I broke up with my partners, sometimes they broke up with me
 - my partners usually broke up with me
 - my partners always broke up with me
 - doesn't apply, I'm currently in my first relationship
-

Attitudes towards and beliefs about romance

54.If an acquaintance asked me out:

- I'd always accept
- I'd most likely accept
- I'd most likely refuse
- I'd always refuse
- Unsure

55.If someone I knew well and liked asked me out:

- I'd always accept
- I'd most likely accept
- I'd most likely refuse
- I'd always refuse
- Unsure

56.Before discovering aromanticism, I believed the following statements:

- romance is real and exists
- romance is a strong friendship with sex
- romance is a friendship you commit to

- romance is not real
- It's possible to fall in love at first sight
- it's impossible to fall in love at first sight
- no one experiences romantic feelings
- only I don't experience romantic feelings
- some people don't experience romantic feelings
- other people exaggerate their feelings toward their partners
- there's something wrong with me for not experiencing romantic love that others experience
- romantic love is something that happens to everyone
- romantic love is something that will happen to me one day
- Romantic love is something that won't happen to me
- Other people aren't preoccupied with romance enough
- other people are too preoccupied with romance
- I'm too preoccupied with romance
- I'm not preoccupied with romance enough

57. After discovering aromanticism, I think that:

- romance is real and exists
- romance is a strong friendship with sex
- romance is a friendship you commit to
- romance is not real
- it's impossible to fall in love at first sight
- no one experiences romantic feelings
- only I don't experience romantic feelings
- some people don't experience romantic feelings
- other people exaggerate their feelings toward their partners

- there's something wrong with me for not experiencing romantic love that others experience
- romantic love is something that happens to everyone
- romantic love is something that will happen to me one day
- other people are too preoccupied with romance
- I'm not preoccupied with romance enough

58.I first learned about aromanticism:

- I came across the term on the internet
- When researching my experiences in romantic relationships
- At a class/panel/conference, etc.
- From a friend
- From a romantic partner
- From another person
- Other
- Unsure / Can't remember

59.Since you answered Other, can you specify?

_____.

60.When did you start questioning if you were on the aromantic spectrum? If you fall somewhere in between, choose the lower (smaller) option.

- Less than a year ago
- A full year to two years ago
- Three to five years ago
- More than six years ago
- Unsure / Can't remember

61. When did you start identifying as on the aromantic spectrum? If you fall somewhere in between, choose the lower (smaller) option.

- Less than a year ago
 - A full year to two years ago
 - Three to five years ago
 - More than six years ago
-

Sexual life and history with other partnerships

For all of the following questions, 'sex' refers only to consensual sex. We do not consider sexual violence or rape to be sex.

62. Have you had sex?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

62a. Do you consider yourself sexually active currently?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

62c. I've had sex with one or more:

- romantic partner(s)
- sexual partner(s)
- partner(s) of a kind other than romantic and sexual
- good friend(s)
- acquaintance(s)

- stranger(s)

62d.I usually have sex with one or more:

- romantic partner(s)
- sexual partner(s)
- partner(s) of a kind other than romantic and sexual-specific regular
- good friend(s)
- acquaintance(s)
- stranger(s)

This question applies to a pattern of sex life over an extended period of time, **not** sex with multiple partners at a time.

62e.I usually have sex:

- with one regular partner
- with two regular partners
- with three or more regular partners
- with one regular partner and some other people who aren't regular partners
- with two or more regular partners and other people who aren't regular partners
- with people who aren't regular partners

63.Do you want to remain/be sexually active?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

63a. Ideally, I'd like to have sex with one or more:

- romantic partner(s)
- sexual partner(s)

- partner(s) of a kind other than romantic and sexual
- good friend(s)
- acquaintance(s)
- stranger(s)

This question applies to a pattern of sex life over an extended period of time, **not** sex with multiple partners at a time.

63b. Ideally, I'd like to have sex with:

- with one regular partner
- with two regular partners
- with three or more regular partners
- with one regular partner and some other people who aren't regular partners
- with two or more regular partners and other people who aren't regular partners
- with people who aren't regular partners

64. Have you ever had a non-romantic partnership(s)?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

64a. My non-romantic partnership(s) was/were/is with:

- one other person
- two other persons
- three other persons
- more than three other persons

64b. How long did your longest non-romantic partnership last? If your current one is the longest or first, how long has it been so far?

If you fall in between, choose the lower (smaller) option.

- up to 2 weeks
- 3 weeks to 2 months
- 3 months and 6 months
- 7 months to 11 months
- a year to two years
- three years to five years
- six years to ten years
- more than 11 years

64c. My non-romantic partnership(s) included/include(s):

- emotional intimacy
- physical, excluding sexual, intimacy
- sexual intimacy
- living together
- sleeping in the same bed
- adopting (a) pet(s) together
- having (a) child(ren)
- formalizing partnership (marriage, civil union)
- joint bank account

65. Do you want to remain/be in a non-romantic partnership(s)?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

**65a. Ideally, my non-romantic partnership(s) would be with:**

- one other person
- two other persons
- three other persons
- more than three other persons

65b. Ideally, my non-romantic partnership(s) would include:

- emotional intimacy
- physical, excluding sexual, intimacy
- sexual intimacy
- living together
- sleeping in the same bed
- adopting (a) pet(s) together
- having (a) child(ren)
- formalizing partnership (marriage, civil union)
- joint bank account

Discrimination, Allyship, and Support

66. Are you out as aromantic (i.e., have you told people about your aromanticism)?

- Yes, I am out to all or most people
- Yes, I am partially out to some people
- Yes, I am partially out, only to one person or a few select people
- No, I am not out to anyone



**66aa. Why have you chosen to come out to certain people?**

- To explain why I'm not interested in relationships
- To share an important aspect of my identity with people
- To educate others
- To introduce myself
- Other

66b. Why have you chosen not to come out to certain people?

- My identity is personal, I don't need to share the information
- The topic has never been relevant to conversations
- I fear rejection, invalidation or discrimination
- I'm ashamed of my aromantic identity
- Other

66ab. In general, how have people reacted to you coming out? If you are out to only one person, you can answer according to how they reacted.

- Mostly or almost always positively
- Sometimes positively, sometimes negatively
- Mostly or almost always negatively

67. Because of your aromanticism, have you personally experienced any of the following?

- Verbal harassment (e.g., being insulted, being called names, anti-aromantic remarks made towards you specifically)
- Online harassment (e.g., being insulted, being called names, anti-aromantic remarks made towards you specifically)
- Physical harassment or violence
- Difficulty finding housing or dealing with landlords or roommates



- Difficulty finding a job or fitting in at a job
- Difficulty accessing mental health care or being accepted by mental health professionals
- Difficulty accessing other health care or being accepted by medical professionals
- Being excluded from social activities
- Loss of material or financial support from family or others
- Attempts or suggestions to “fix” or “cure” you
- Familial rejection
- Difficulty finding or maintaining partnered relationships
- Not being taken seriously, being ignored, or being dismissed by others

68. 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 aromanticism had on the following aspects of your life?

Professional or academic career	0	1	2	3	4
Social life	0	1	2	3	4
Housing	0	1	2	3	4
Relationships with family	0	1	2	3	4
Mental or emotional health	0	1	2	3	4
Physical health and wellbeing	0	1	2	3	4

69. What resources or support from the aro community do you need most?

- Visibility, recognition, and discussion of diverse experiences within the aro community
- Safe spaces to discuss potentially triggering topics that are nevertheless important to many aromantics (e.g., sex, romance, trauma)

- Online communities (e.g., more of them, specific types that may be missing)
- Offline and in-person communities (e.g., more of them, specific types that may be missing)
- 101 resources and step-by-step introductory education about different aspects of aromanticism
- Research and academic resources
- Information in a greater number of languages
- Creation of aro-specific hotlines or shelters
- More connection to and involvement with non-aros Queer organizations (e.g., collaboration, allyship, joint events)
- _____.

70. Are you already involved in or want to be involved in building resources and support for the aro community (e.g., activism, advocacy, creating spaces for aromantic people online or offline)?

- Yes, I am already involved
- Yes, I want to be involved
- No

80. What resources or support from non-aros allies do you need most?

- Visibility, recognition, and discussion about aromanticism in Queer spaces
- Visibility, recognition, and discussion about aromanticism in non-Queer and/or mainstream spaces
- Acceptance and understanding of aromanticism in healthcare spaces (e.g., mental health, sexual health)

- Political advocacy on an institutional level (e.g., helping change policies around adoption, insurance, housing, and legal partnerships)
- Research including or at least inclusive to aromantics
- _____.

Aro community engagement

81. Do you interact with other aromantics? Interaction here means being in touch with other aros or what's going on in the community, through following organizations, personal or group blogs, pages, talking on a forum, joining aro groups online and offline, meeting with aros in person informally, etc.

- Yes, I interact both online and offline
- Yes, I interact online
- Yes, I interact offline
- No, I don't interact with other aromantics at all

81aa. Where do you interact with other aromantics offline?

- I'm friends with (an) aromantic(s)
- At aromantic-specific meetups
- At a-spectrum-specific meetups
- At asexual-specific meetups
- At queer-specific meetups
- Other

Since you answered Other, can you specify?

_____.

81ab. How often do you interact with other aromantics offline?

- Daily
- At least once a week
- At least once a month
- At least once a year
- Less frequently than once a year

81ba. Where do you interact with other aromantics online?

- On Facebook
- On Twitter
- On the Arocalypse forum
- On Discord
- On Tumblr
- On Pillowfort
- On Reddit
- Other

Since you answered Other, can you specify?

_____.

81bb. How often do you interact with other aromantics online?

- Daily
- At least once a week
- At least once a month
- At least once a year
- Less frequently than once a year

81c. What kind of aromantic content interests you the most?

- Information about aromanticism
- Essays



- Advocacy
- Initiatives and events
- Memes
- Positivity and validation
- Advice or people asking for advice
- Personal stories

81d. What other kind of aromantic content interests you?

- Information about aromanticism
- Essays
- Advocacy
- Initiatives and events
- Memes
- Positivity and validation
- Advice or people asking for advice
- Personal stories
- Other

Since you answered Other, can you specify?

_____.



If you have any feedback on this survey - how it was structured, the questions asked, etc. - please leave a note here for us to improve.

_____.

