

Asexual Respondents Report Sharper Declines in Acceptance, Outness, and Visibility

Findings from the 2025 Annual LGBTQ+ Community Survey

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In the 2025 Annual LGBTQ+ Community Survey (ALCS), 4.7% of respondents included asexual as part of their sexual orientation or identity. Among those respondents, 16.9% identified only as asexual, while 83.1% identified as asexual alongside one or more other identities. Many people within the asexual community differentiate between their romantic and sexual orientation, while also using other identities that fall under the asexual umbrella. There was not an option to select romantic orientations as a separate category in this research, nor to break down the asexual label further, which may have contributed to some respondents using write-ins such as aromantic, demisexual, greysexual, and panromantic. 58.0% of respondents who included asexual among their identities were also transgender or gender-expansive.

Because of this overlap—and because this analysis is based on the LGBTQ+ sample of the ALCS, not a study designed to capture the full range of people who may identify as asexual, including some cisgender straight-identifying people—this brief should be read as a snapshot of respondents who included asexual among their identities within the ALCS, rather than as a complete portrait of the broader asexual community.

WHO WAS INCLUDED IN THIS ANALYSIS?

4.7% of ALCS respondents included asexual among their identities

16.9% identified only as asexual

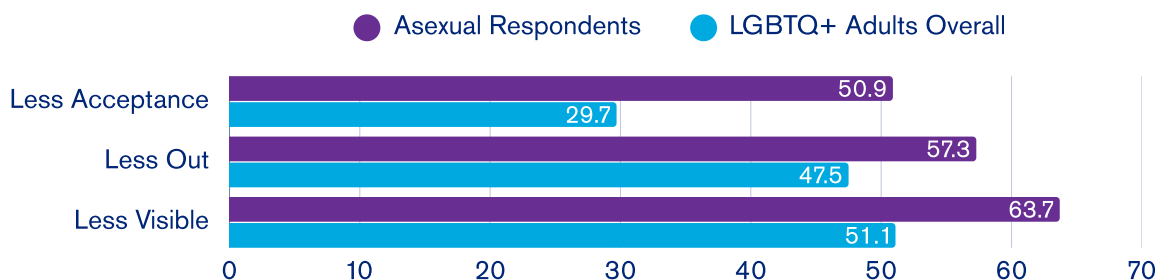
83.1% identified as asexual plus one or more other identities

58.0% were also transgender or gender-expansive

ASEXUAL RESPONDENTS STOOD OUT FROM LGBTQ+ ADULTS OVERALL

Respondents who identified as asexual reported sharper declines than LGBTQ+ adults overall across all three measures in this analysis: acceptance, outness, and visibility. Just over half (50.9%) said there had been somewhat or a lot less acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community over the last 12 months, compared with 29.7% of LGBTQ+ adults overall. A majority (57.3%) said they were less out today than 12 months ago, compared with 47.5% of LGBTQ+ adults overall. Nearly two-thirds (63.7%) said they were less visible today, such as wearing Pride symbols or displaying LGBTQ+ affirming items, compared with 51.1% of LGBTQ+ adults overall.

Sharper Declines in Acceptance, Outness, and Visibility



Taken together, these findings suggest that respondents who identified as asexual were navigating a particularly difficult social climate. The [broader ALCS visibility brief](#) found that views of declining acceptance were associated with lower outness, and lower outness was associated with lower visibility. This shorter asexual-focused analysis does not attempt to reproduce that full model, but the descriptive pattern is similar: respondents who identified as asexual were more likely than LGBTQ+ adults overall to report retreat across all three areas.

EXPERT PERSPECTIVE

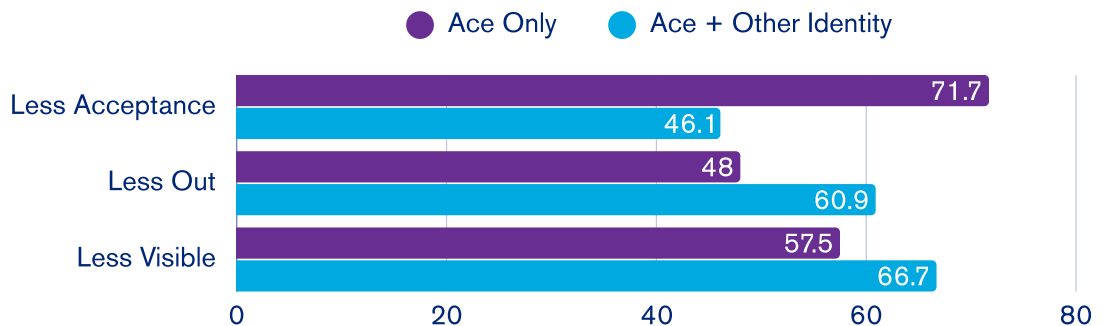
Yasmin Benoit, asexual activist and partner on this analysis, said:

“The asexual community has long been regarded as one of the least visible groups within the wider LGBTQIA+ community. While we have begun to see improvements over the past few years, we are still one of the communities least likely to come out, to be represented, to have legislative recognition, or to receive support from LGBTQ+ groups and organizations, all while facing many of the same issues as the rest of the LGBTQ+ community. In an increasingly hostile environment, and with lower levels of community support, asexual people who were gradually approaching the point of feeling safe enough to be open are retreating backward again or deeming it necessary to stay in the background. The significant overlap between the trans community and the ace community means that the impact of these rollbacks is felt even more.”

THERE ARE ALSO IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE ASEXUAL SAMPLE

Respondents who identified only as asexual were more likely to report worsening acceptance (71.7%) than respondents who identified as asexual alongside one or more other identities (46.1%). At the same time, respondents who identified as asexual plus one or more other identities were more likely to say they were less out (60.9% vs. 48.0%) and less visible (66.7% vs. 57.5%) than respondents who identified only as asexual. These results suggest that there is no single asexual experience within the data.

Differences by Asexual Identity Profile



Benoit, who reviewed this brief and provided contextual expertise, noted that romantic orientation and gender identity can significantly shape how asexual people are perceived and how they navigate an increasingly hostile environment. For asexual people who experience some degree of sexual or romantic attraction toward one or more genders, identities such as asexual lesbian or homoromantic asexual may connect them to communities that can offer additional support and acceptance beyond specifically asexual spaces. At the same time, asexual people with other LGBTQ+ identities may also feel the effects of rising queerphobia, transphobia, and acephobia, which can affect how visible they feel and how open they are about their identities.

This may help explain why respondents who identified as asexual alongside one or more other identities were less likely to report worsening acceptance, but more likely to report declines in outness and visibility. That interpretation should be understood as contextual rather than causal.

VISIBILITY AND RECOGNITION MATTER

“ *I recently found out I am asexual (after figuring out what being ace actually means) and my whole life in retrospect makes sense. It has been difficult to find community locally with people who share this identity*

-Anonymous Respondent, 2025 Annual LGBTQ+ Community Survey

This comment points to two themes that fit the broader findings: the importance of visibility and recognition, and the difficulty some asexual people may face in finding community and support.

CHANGES IN VISIBILITY WERE ALSO SHAPED BY GENDER IDENTITY

Because 58.0% of respondents who included asexual among their identities were also transgender or gender-expansive, the asexual sample is deeply shaped by gender diversity. Among respondents who identified as asexual, 71.4% of transgender and gender-expansive respondents said they were somewhat or a lot less visible than they were a year ago, compared with 45.9% of cisgender respondents. In other words, the decline in visibility among asexual respondents appears to be driven in substantial part by the experiences of trans and gender-expansive people in the sample.

THE BOTTOM LINE

This analysis suggests that respondents who identified as asexual were more likely than LGBTQ+ adults overall to report declines in acceptance, outness, and visibility over the past year.

At the same time, the asexual respondents included in the ALCS represent a diverse and overlapping group: most respondents who included asexual among their identities also selected other identities, and some write-ins reflected romantic orientation or ace-spectrum identities. Because this analysis is drawn from the LGBTQ+ sample of the ALCS, it also does not capture the full range of people who may identify as asexual, including some cisgender straight-identifying people. As a result, these findings are best understood as a snapshot of asexual respondents within the ALCS, not as a definitive portrait of the broader asexual community.

ABOUT THE DATA

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation's 2025 Annual LGBTQ+ Community Survey was fielded online from September 29 to October 27, 2025, among U.S. adults age 18 and older. The LGBTQ+ sample included nearly 10,000 LGBTQ+ adults. This brief draws on respondents who selected asexual as at least one of their sexual orientation or identity categories. See [this document](#) for the full methodology.

The authors thank Yasmin Benoit for reviewing this brief and providing contextual expertise on the experiences of asexual communities.