First characterised by Kinsey in 1948, asexuality is now defined as an absence of sexual attraction, with approximately 1% of the population found to be asexual. While asexuality research has flourished recently, few have investigated the mechanism of romantic attraction in asexuals, notably that some asexuals experience romantic attraction (romantic asexuals) while others do not (aromantic asexuals). This study compared romantic and aromantic asexuals on demographic, behavioral, psychological and physiological measures as the primary objective and compared asexuals to sexuals on some measures as a secondary aim. After combining data from seven previous studies (n = 4032 total), we found that 73.4% of asexuals reported experiencing romantic attraction. No significant difference was found in distribution of males and females between the aromantic and romantic asexual groups, though asexuals showed higher proportions of women and non-binary genders compared to the sexual comparison group. Romantic asexuals reported a diverse range of romantic orientations, with only 35.1% of romantic asexuals reporting a heteroromantic orientation, compared to 76.1% of sexuals. As predicted, romantic asexuals were more likely to have been in a relationship when completing the survey, reported more past romantic and sexual partners and more frequent kissing than aromantic asexuals, and experienced more partner-oriented sexual desire than aromantic asexuals. No difference was seen between romantic and aromantic asexuals in demographic characteristics, likelihood of having children, solitary sexual desire, physiological sexual functioning, frequency of masturbation and sexual fantasy or depression. These differences between romantic and aromantic asexuals highlight the diversity within the asexual community.

Themes:

Check (highlight) the most applicable theme according to the abstract.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Innovation and Technology</th>
<th>Health and Wellness</th>
<th>Culture and Society</th>
<th>Sustainability and Conservation</th>
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</thead>
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Comments:

This abstract is clear and well constructed.