

# Men can smell when a woman is sexually aroused: study

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Credit: Pexels

Kent research suggests that men can distinguish between the scents of sexually aroused and non-aroused women.

The detection of sexual arousal through smell may function as an additional channel in the communication of sexual interest and provide further verification of human sexual interest.

This [research](#) by Dr. Arnaud Wisman, a Psychologist at Kent, expands on previous studies which have concluded that humans can communicate and detect emotions such as fear or sadness through scent. Sexual arousal is also identified as an emotional physical state.

Findings were established through three different experiments where men processed the scents of axillary sweat samples from anonymous sexually aroused and non-aroused women. Men evaluated the scent of sexually aroused women as relatively more attractive and this increased their sexual motivation. This suggests that the chemical signals of [scent](#) alone can elicit a sexual response in recipients.

Dr. Arnaud Wisman said: "The present studies suggest that men are sensitive to the olfactory signals of [sexual arousal](#) released by [women](#). This research suggests that these signals released along with corresponding visual and auditory expressions of sexual interest can produce a stronger overall signal that increases sexual motivation. Sexual interest may entail more than meets the eye and we hope that the current findings encourage further research to examine the role of sexual olfactory signals in [human communication](#)."

The research paper titled, "Sexual Chemosignals: Evidence that Men Process Olfactory Signals of Women's Sexual Arousal," is published in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*.

**More information:** Arnaud Wisman et al. Sexual Chemosignals: Evidence that Men Process Olfactory Signals of Women's Sexual Arousal, *Archives of Sexual Behavior* (2020). [DOI: 10.1007/s10508-019-01588-8](#)

Provided by University of Kent

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