

Expert Advice On Love, Dating, And Pandemic Relationships

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AUDIE CORNISH, HOST:

As far as Dr. Richard Slatcher's work goes, there are two types of people in the world.

RICHARD SLATCHER: We really find that there are two groups – relationship haves and have-nots. And that's really delineated by how their relationships were doing going into the pandemic.

CORNISH: Slatcher teaches in the Department of Psychology at the University of Georgia. For about a year, he's been running a research project with collaborators around the world called Love In The Time Of COVID. He's found that people who started the pandemic with a romantic partner are probably headed in the same direction they were a year ago.

SLATCHER: So those couples who were really, by and large, satisfied with their relationships – we actually see them becoming more satisfied over the pandemic because they're able to spend a lot more time together.

CORNISH: Whereas, not surprisingly, if your relationship was not great before the pandemic, odds are it has not improved.

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