

## Marriage and Family Therapists Relationship Commitment During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Eman. Tadros<sup>1\*</sup>, Maxine. Notice<sup>2</sup>, Michael Fitzgerald<sup>3</sup>, Eunice. Gomez<sup>4</sup>, Morgan Canterbury<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Marriage and Family Therapy, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY U.S.A

<sup>2</sup> School of Human Services, Abilene Christian University, Dallas, TX U.S.A

<sup>3</sup> Department of Human Development and Family Science, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK U.S.A


<sup>4</sup> Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL, U.S.A

<sup>5</sup> Department of Human Development and Family Science, University of Central Missouri Warrensburg, MO U.S.A



\* Corresponding author email address: emantadros@gmail.com

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### Editor

Shokouh Navabinejad  
Professor, Psychology and  
Counseling of Department, KMAN  
Research Institute, Toronto, Canada  
sh.navabinejad@kmanresce.ca

### Reviewers

**Reviewer 1:** Baidi Bukhori  
Dean of the Faculty of Psychology and Health, Universitas Islam Negeri Walisongo  
Semarang, Indonesia. Email: baidi\_bukhori@walisongo.ac.id  
**Reviewer 2:** Melanie J. Cain  
Conscious Culture Psychology Clinic, Commerce, CA, USA.  
cainmelanie05@gmail.com

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## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The operational definition of 'commitment' should be expanded to include not only mutual caring but also other dimensions such as long-term orientation and sacrifice, which are commonly recognized in the literature. This would enhance the comprehensiveness and applicability of the findings.

Consider stratifying the sample by factors such as age and years of experience to assess if these variables influence the outcomes differently. This could provide deeper insights into how different cohorts of MFTs were affected by the pandemic.

Utilizing advanced statistical techniques such as structural equation modeling could help in understanding the direct and indirect relationships among the study variables, providing a more nuanced interpretation of the data.

The presentation of statistical findings could be improved by including confidence intervals and effect sizes for all significant findings, which would aid in the interpretation and understanding of the study's impact.

The discussion could benefit from a comparison of these findings with pre-pandemic data on MFTs' relationship commitment, which would contextualize the impact of COVID-19 more effectively.

It is advisable to control for additional variables such as the presence of children, which might affect relationship dynamics and stress levels, to rule out alternative explanations for the findings.

Response: Revised and uploaded the new document.

### 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The review would benefit from including a broader range of studies on the effects of crises similar to COVID-19 on health professionals. This would position the findings within a larger context and provide a more robust theoretical framework.

Integrating qualitative data through interviews or open-ended survey questions could enrich the understanding of how MFTs personally experienced and responded to the pandemic, offering deeper insights into the quantitative results.

Reevaluate the instruments used for measuring mental and physical health to ensure they are sensitive enough to detect subtle changes over the pandemic period, which could lead to more accurate results.

A more detailed examination of why certain expected relationships (e.g., between mental health and commitment) were not significant could uncover important aspects overlooked in the analysis.

Future research could adopt a longitudinal design to track changes in MFTs' relationship dynamics over time, providing a temporal perspective that this cross-sectional study lacks.

The study should aim to include a more diverse demographic profile regarding race, gender, and sexual orientation to enhance the generalizability of the findings.

Propose specific areas for further research, such as exploring the role of support systems and coping mechanisms among MFTs during crises, to build on the current findings and guide future inquiries.

Response: Revised and uploaded the new document.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.