Abstract

The main topic of this thesis is the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and pandemic measures on the everyday lives of seniors who live in nursing homes. The aim of the thesis was to learn about the seniors' perspective on the changed situation and to get their opinion on some of the government measures affecting their lives. The pandemic and the subsequent measures have affected almost everyone in the world. In particular, seniors and people with disabilities are considered to be the most vulnerable groups. For this reason, seniors are the most discussed group of people in the media and in the public space. Nursing homes are very prone to succumbing to the disease. Isolation and other restrictions have hit the facilities really hard. After analyzing the available literature and other sources, the theoretical part focuses on the existence of the important factors leading to the well-being of seniors. It then compares the current position of seniors with their position in the past and, last but not least, describes in detail the course of the pandemic and measures which illustrate the reasons for the impact on seniors living in nursing homes. A mixed methods research was used to obtain the necessary data that lead to deep insight into the issue. First, interviews were conducted, which served as a pilot for the subsequent questionnaire survey. The method of grounded theory was partly used to analyze the obtained data. Sufficient physical and mental stimuli are essential for the well-being of seniors. Social activities, interpersonal interaction and especially personal contact with loved ones are also important. All of these factors have been completely or partially disrupted during the pandemic. So the question is not whether the pandemic had any effect on the elderly, but what effects were perceived as the most fatal.