

## **ABSTRACT**

**Background:** Widespread and local anti-epidemic measures were taken in the Czech Republic to limit the spread of the new covid-19 disease. These measures have negatively affected the daily lives of the population. One of the consequences of the impact of the measures was social isolation, which led to an increase in the use of social networks in society. The social networks have been used primarily to keep in touch with family, friends and acquaintances, through virtual reality.

**Aims:** The aim of this bachelor thesis was to map the change in the use of social networks in students of addictology due to the coronavirus pandemic.

**Methods:** In the research part of this work, a questionnaire survey was conducted among students of addictology, which was created on the platform Google in application Google Forms. This survey was then distributed among students according to individual years of studies with the help of student tutors and sharing of the questionnaire to official year student Facebook groups. Furthermore, the data were transferred to Microsoft Excel and evaluated using descriptive statistics.

**Results:** A survey of 63 addictology students showed that the students increased their time spent on platforms Facebook, Instagram and Tiktok by more than 30 minutes due to global pandemic. During distance learning, there was an increase in the number of students who used social networks during classes, an increase in the number of students who turned on social networks at the beginning of classes, and there was also an increase in the number of students using social networks during classes because they lost attention. The last part of the research showed a certain connection between a higher rate of social network use and the occurrence of symptoms of depressive disorder.

**Conclusion:** The work maps the change in the time spent on social media, the change in patterns of social network use during distance learning and the occurrence of symptoms of depressive disorder, due to the increased use of social networks in students of addictology. This work can serve as a starting point for further research in the field of addictive use of social networks. This issue is not sufficiently explored yet in terms of addictive behavior due to the relatively short time that has elapsed since the expansion of social networks among the majority of the worlds population.

**Key words:** social networks – covid-19 - mental health - university - distance learning

