

The aim of the work was to ascertain the level of awareness of the population of the Czech Republic about hospices and hospice services and also their interest in hospices. This work contains a general, brief overview of the terms relating to dying, death, palliative and hospice care and the history of hospices in our country and the world. Furthermore it contains an overview and description of the individual working hospice buildings within the territory of the Czech Republic together with a mention of the projects for and building of new Czech hospices. An inseparable part of each hospice are the volunteers, thus their irreplaceable significance for the activities and running of all hospices is also described in this work. For the running of the practical part of this research investigation the obtaining and evaluation of at least 200 questionnaires (this work contains 201 of them) was required from respondents of over 18 years of age from over the whole of the Czech Republic. The evaluation of these questionnaires often produced surprising results concerning the precise degree of infirmity and public interest in hospices. It was established that close to a majority of respondents knew what a hospice was whereas somewhat fewer could define the concept of a hospice. The public also grasped the importance of awareness about hospices and selected television as the most significant source of information. The questionnaire also contained questions directly aimed at the respondent with the question of whether he or she thought that the work of hospice volunteers was important and whether he or she would want to become a volunteer him or herself. Most answered that the work of the volunteers was necessary, but perhaps only a quarter of them would really want to become a volunteer. It was also ascertained by means of research questions whether the population would make use of the services of a hospice.