

## **ABSTRACT**

This bachelor thesis deals with elective mutism. Attention was paid to the definition, symptomatology and speech therapy intervention of this communication disorder, and above all to the analysis of the level of public awareness of elective mutism. Analyzing the level of public awareness of elective mutism was the main research objective of this paper. The motivation for investigating this issue was the fact that there is currently no research survey in the Czech Republic that would map the public's awareness of elective mutism. However, a higher level of public awareness of this disorder has a positive effect on early diagnosis, and early diagnosis positively affects the success of subsequent therapy. The research was conducted using quantitative research, with a questionnaire used as a research tool. The administration of the questionnaire was carried out online, data collection was completed after obtaining 200 responses. The obtained data were processed in the MS Excel program. Subsequently, two predetermined hypotheses were tested, one of them saying that the level of elective mutism awareness depends on the field of education of the respondents was confirmed. The answers also showed that the majority of respondents are not informed about elective mutism and hold the opinion that the public needs to be more informed about this topic. Finally, based on the analysis of data on public awareness, an information leaflet was created, the aim of which is to increase public awareness of elective mutism, and with which one of the sub-goals of the work was fulfilled.

## **KEYWORDS**

Elective mutism, public awareness, speech therapy intervention, communication disorder, quantitative research