

Abstract (in English)

The thesis focuses on the topic of support and needs in the life of an elderly person after the death of a partner. The aim of this thesis is to identify the needs and possibilities of support for seniors in life after the death of a partner in terms of social support from their close environment and social work. In the theoretical part, the basic background of the topic is defined – the issue of seniors' needs in the period of loss of a loved one, the grieving process, formalized bereavement support and the topic of social support and social work. The research part was conducted through a qualitative method of semi-structured interviews with seven seniors who experienced the death of a partner. The results showed that the needs were mainly related to emotional sharing, finding new meaning and autonomy. The social network plays an important role in terms of social support – the family provides emotional and practical support. From the social work side, participants would appreciate more practical support than emotional support. Accessibility, timing of the offer of help and respect for the individual pace of grieving are key elements.