

ABSTRACT

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF, THE LEVEL OF RADIATION PROTECTION, IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE X-RAY FACILITIES, IN THE KINGSTON AND ST.ANDREW METROPOLITAN AREA

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X-rays are classified as ionising radiation. All ionising radiation is harmful. This is the premise that mandates for a radiation protection policy. This study compares radiation control in public and private X-ray facilities in Kingston and St Andrew. The study was conducted during April 1989. Data collection was through self-administered questionnaires and semi-structured interviews.

Findings highlighted a generally favourable state of radiation protection, with public institutions appearing to be slightly more vigilant than private institutions.

There was a general lack of knowledge and application of recent principles of radiation protection throughout the

industry. The main issues arising were those of absence of a monitoring and regulatory body, and the absence of written legislation to govern the use of radiation sources.

The main limitation of the study was its size. The sample was small but unavoidably so bearing in mind that the study population was also small. As a consequence of the sample size, some statistical analyses could not be performed.