

ABSTRACT

As the elderly population in Jamaica grows, an increasing number of old people will spend some portion of their lives in institutional care. Over the last decade, the numbers of non-government nursing and geriatric homes have been steadily increasing to meet this rising demand.

This study attempts to critically assess the levels of physical, mental and social care in such homes in Kingston and Saint Andrew with regard to accepted standards, and hence to determine the need for a professional integrated home health care service.

The results indicate wide variations in standards of care in the face of inadequate legislation. The conclusion is that there is not enough scope for a formally constituted Home Health Care Agency in the private sector in Kingston at this time. A proposal is put forward instead for the modification of an existing multi-disciplinary group practice to meet the needs of this subset of the geriatric population.