

ABSTRACT

"The Graying Of The World", a phenomenon of great significance in this decade creates food for thought and action as countries the world over plan for their elderly populations.

The need for appropriate residential arrangements for the elderly in Jamaica is an issue of concern as this population continues to increase. The elderly generally dislike institutionalisation and it is felt, are best cared for within the family home when possible.

A comparative study of the elderly in Nursing homes and the community was conducted to determine the existence of an association between certain sociodemographic, socioeconomic and psychosocial variables and institutionalisation of the elderly.

The results though based on statistical evaluation of a small sample of the population indicate an association between these variables and institutionalisation of the elderly. These findings indicate that more needs to be done at a national and local level to improve the lot of the elderly regarding their residential arrangement. Recommendations have been made for interventions at a National and community level.