

ABSTRACT

This study analysed the catchment area distribution of persons using the casualty department of the Kingston Public Hospital and the utilization patterns of persons registering to be seen in the casualty department in two time periods, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m..

Persons who were referred from four different sources - police, general practitioners, other hospitals and self-referrals were studied to determine whether there was any significant difference in the after hour period compared to normal working hours.

Admissions to both the medical and surgical services were analysed to determine if there was any difference in numbers admitted in the 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m. period compared to the 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. period.

It was part of the findings of this study that although significantly more persons registered in the 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. period more patients were admitted in the 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m. period. There was no significant difference in the number of police referrals in the two

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