

JUST THE FACTS

Radiation Dose Comparisons

Each of us experiences chronic radiation exposure, meaning low doses over long periods of time. This radiation comes from natural sources in our environment, the foods we eat, medical procedures, and from cosmic radiation.

On the other hand, acute radiation exposure refers to a large dose in a short period of time. This ionizing radiation can damage living tissue within seconds or minutes.

This chart compares ranges of doses received from natural, occupational, or medical sources with those received from the Three Mile Island and Chernobyl accidents.

