

THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S SECOND QUARTER STATISTICS REPORT 2025



The Corporate Area Coroner's and The Special Coroner's Court

(April 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025)

OVERALL QUANTITATIVE HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 1, 2025 - JUNE 30, 2025			
Court	Case Disposal Rate (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Average time to Disposition (months)
Corporate Area Coroner's Court	100	113.11	0.5
Corporate Area Special Coroner's Court	36.84	168.42	47.28
Weighted Average	90.08	121.80	8.67

Prepared by The Court Statistics Division with the support of the IT Unit, Supreme Court of Jamaica, Kings Street, Kingston

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CHIEF JUSTICE'S MESSAGE FOR SPECIAL CORONER'S AND CORPORATE AREA CORONER'S COURT

The Special Coroner's Court (SCC) and the Corporate Area Coroner's Court (CACC) carry out important work to determine the circumstances under which a death has occurred. Their work may determine the time in which property is moved from one generation to the next. Unless there is a case of significant public, the public's eye is not on these courts. The absence of the glare of publicity has not prevented the judges and staff from pursuing their work with dispatch. The SCC and the CACC have clearance rates of 168.42% and 113.11%, respectively.

The CACC had a case disposal rate of 100%, that is to, say, all the cases that came in that court in this quarter were disposed of. This means that that court is more than abreast of new cases and is addressing the backlog of cases. The average time to disposition was 0.5 months (15 days). It is still concerning to note that the average time between the report of the death and opening of the file in the court is 3.2 years. The reasons for this delay need to be investigated so that the wait time for the conclusion of an inquest is reduced to the absolute procedurally necessary minimum.

The SCC had a case disposal rate of 36.84%. With a clearance rate of 168.42%, it means that significant resources were dedicated to clearing the backlog of cases. This explains the low disposal rate but high clearance rate. The data for the SCC raises the inherent tension between addressing backlog and keeping current. Obviously, the court has been actively striving to arrive at the correct balance.

The next stage for improved service delivery is to look more closely at the processes, the existing legislation, and improved technological infrastructure. All this is in the context of improved customer service delivery and creating a better experience when persons interact with both courts.

Let me thank the judges, staff, and stakeholders for their continued commitment to improved service delivery to our citizens.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD
Chief Justice of Jamaica

Executive Summary

The Corporate Area Coroner's Court demonstrated efficiency and effective case management, having achieved a 100% disposal rate and a 113.11% clearance rate. The Corporate Area Coroner's Court not only resolved all newly filed cases but also made significant progress in addressing backlog cases.

The Special Coroner's Court reported a clearance rate of 168.42%, reflecting its concentrated effort to address a substantial backlog, having resolved six times the number of cases filed during the reporting period. This focus on historical cases resulted in a low disposal rate of 36.84% for newly filed cases, illustrates the challenge of prioritizing backlog reduction over addressing more recent filings and emphasizes the balance between the two.

A total of 141 new cases were filed across both courts (122 in Corporate Area Coroner's Court and 19 in Special Coroner's Court). In the report period a total of 170 cases across both courts (including backlogs) were also disposed. The weighted case clearance rate across both courts was 121.80% with the average time to disposal of 8.67 months.

Key performance Summary-Second Quarter ended June 30, 2025

Court	Disposal Rate (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Average time to disposition (months)
Corporate Area Coroner's Court	100	113.11	0.50
Special Coroner's Court	36.84	168.42	47.28
Weighted Average	90.08	121.80	8.67

In the report period 69.40% of the cases in the Corporate Area Coroner's Court originated from police reports. The most common cause of death recorded was multiple gunshot wounds (14.29%). Of the total deceased, 78.36% were male and the remaining 21.64% were female with the average age of the deceased in the report period being 49 years.

The average time between reporting death and the case opening was estimated at 3.2 years for the report period in the Corporate Area Coroner's Court.

The Special Coroner's Court recorded 19 new cases filed, with 7 disposed of within the quarter. Custodial and JCF deaths were all filed by the Independent Commission of Investigations (INDECOM). All the recorded deceased were male with an average age of 41 years. The majority of dispositions were resolved via Section 14¹ (65%). The average time to disposition for cases resolved in the report period was estimated at 3.8 years.

Forecasted case flow performance estimates for the quarter ended September 30, 2025

Parish Court	Forecasted number of new cases	Forecasted number of disposed cases	Forecasted gross number of disposed cases (regardless of origin)	Forecasted case disposal rate (%)	Forecasted case clearance rate (%)
Corporate Area Coroner's Court	118	118	139	99.27	117.24
Corporate Area Special Coroner's Court	22	5	31	22.59	137.75
Total/Weighted Average	140	123	170	87.22	120.46

The above table forecasts core activity for the Corporate Area Coroner's and Special Coroner's court. The forecasts are generated using the method of exponential smoothing which uses weighted averages from past observations with weights decaying exponentially as the observations get older. See further explanation of the mathematical science behind the method of exponential smoothing in the glossary of terms.

The data shows that the overall forecasted case clearance rates for the Corporate Area Coroner's court in quarter three (Jul.-Sep. 2025.) is 117.24%, which would be 4.13 percentage points higher than

¹ Section 14 of the Coroner's Act grants Coroner's the discretion to forgo an inquest if the cause of death is clearly established, there is no suspicion of foul play, or an inquest would not provide further insights. This provision aims to improve efficiency, avoid unnecessary burdens on families, and ensure judicial resources are used effectively.

that of the 113.11% recorded in quarter two (Jan-Mar.2025). The overall forecasted case clearance rates for the Corporate Area Special Coroner's court in quarter three (Jul. – Sep.2025.) is 137.75%, which would be 30.67 percentage points lower than that of the 168.42% recorded in quarter two (Apr.-Jun.2025).

Introduction

This report presents a comprehensive analysis of case activity and operational performance for the Corporate Area Coroner's Court and the Special Coroner's Court during the second quarter of 2025. The Coroner's Court serves as the judicial body responsible for determining the cause of death in diverse circumstances. Although the Coroner's Court operates across all parishes in Jamaica, this report concentrates specifically on the Corporate Area Coroner's Court and the Special Coroner's Court. It is important to note the distinction between these two entities: the Special Coroner's Court focuses on cases involving deaths caused by individual or institutional state actors or occurring under state care. Despite there being only one Special Coroner's Court on the island, located in Kingston and St. Andrew, it conducts special sittings in all parish courts, ensuring full coverage. The report evaluates key performance indicators, including case clearance and disposal rates, average disposition times, and factors influencing case outcomes and any associated delays.

Using detailed statistical analysis, the report identifies both achievements and areas for improvement within these judicial entities. It examines the volume and nature of cases filed, their origins, and the demographic characteristics of the deceased. Furthermore, it assesses operational metrics such as time-to-disposition and adherence to international case management standards.

The report also addresses discrepancies between reported and determined causes of death, thereby reflecting procedural accuracy. Overall efficiency is evaluated using weighted averages of disposal and clearance rates, providing a holistic performance overview.

This analysis is intended to inform strategic decision-making aimed at enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Coroner's Court system. By comparing current performance with prior periods and international benchmarks, the report emphasizes the importance of timely and equitable administration of justice in mitigating systemic delays.

Chapter 1.0: The Corporate Area Coroner's Court

This subsection on the Corporate Area Coroner's Court details information on the case activity in this court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025, as well as the associated measurements of productivity in the disposal of cases, time lag measures outlining the average times between important events on the case flow continuum, as well as other supplementary measurements and information.

Table 1.1: Summary of time interval between date death reported and date case opened for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (in days)	
Number of observations	132
Mean	1145.58
Std. Error of Mean	128.064
Median	616.00
Mode	541 ^a
Std. Deviation	1471.342
Skewness	3.258
Std. Error of Skewness	.211
Range	9243
Minimum	53
Maximum	9296

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown.

The table above provides a descriptive summary of the time taken between the date deaths were reported and the date that the cases for investigation of causes of death were opened in court at the Corporate Area Coroner's Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025. It is seen that from a sample of 132 observations, the average time taken between the date deaths were reported and the date that the associated cases were opened in Corporate Area Coroner's Court was roughly 1145 days (or 3.2 years). The modal time taken was 541 days and the median was 616 days or approximately 21 months. The standard deviation stands at a high of 1471 days or 4.0 years, strongly

suggesting that the alignment between the time of reporting death and the date cases open in the court varies widely around the mean. The acutely high positive skewness further suggests that decisively more of the scores fall below the overall average, a result that is not surprising considering that the modal and median values are significantly below the overall mean. The maximum time shown between date deaths reported and date case opened is approximately 25.47 years, while the lowest is 53 days.

Table 1.2: Case Activity Summary for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2025

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Number of active cases	Number of disposed or inactive cases (from those filed in the quarter)	Estimated Case disposal rate (%)
122	2	122	100

The above table provides a summary of the cases filed at the Corporate Area Coroner's Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025. It is shown that 122 new cases were filed during the quarter, 1 case than the 123 cases filed in the similar quarter of 2024. There were 122 disposed cases at the end of the quarter. These results yield to a case disposal rate of 100% this disposal rate satisfies the international standard on this measure and suggests that for every 100 cases filed over the period, roughly 100 cases were resolved. The case clearance rate will be examined later in this report.

Table 1.3: Sampling distribution of Source of cases filed for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2025.

Source	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Police	93	69.40
Family	41	30.69
Total	134	100

A sample of 134 cases filed at the Corporate Area Coroner's Court shows that 93 cases or 69.40% of cases filed were filed by the police, while 41 or 30.69% were filed by the family of deceased.

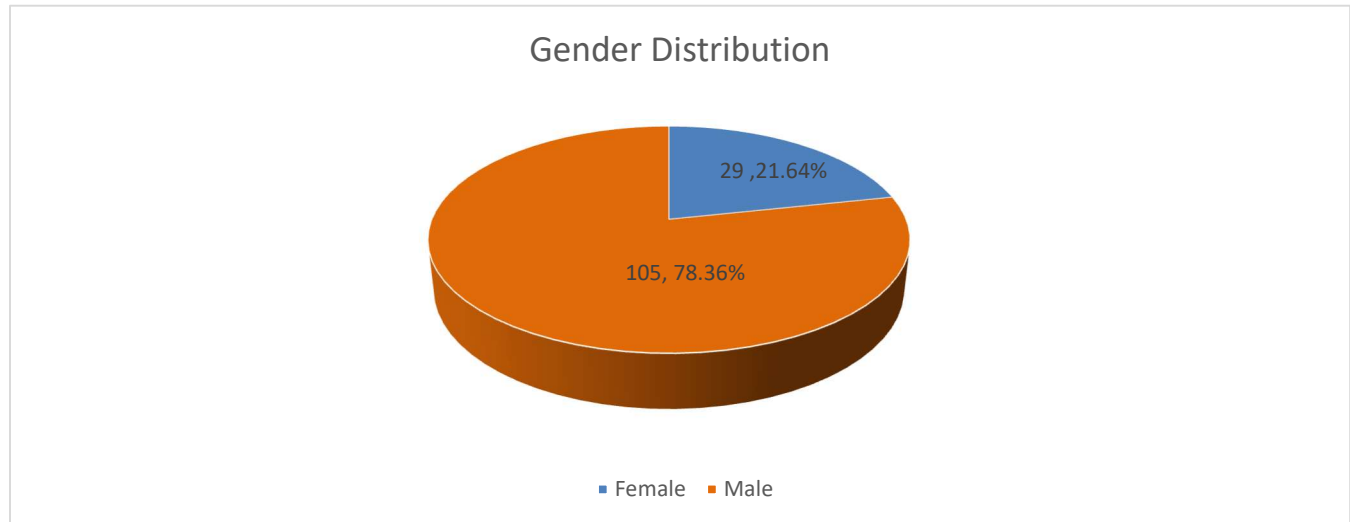
Table 1.4: Sampling distribution of deaths reported at various Police and brought before the court for the quarter ended June 30, 2025.

Police Station	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Denham Town Police Station	20	14.93
Major Investigations Div	20	14.93
Papine Police Station	18	13.43
Half Way Tree police Station	12	8.96
Elleston Road Police Station	8	5.97
Sub-Total	78	100.0

Sample of observations (N) = 134

The data showed a sample of 134 Coroner's Court cases reported at the different police stations in the Corporate Area which were subsequently brought to the court. Of that number, Denham Town Police Station and Major Investigations Division. accounted for the highest proportion of cases filed/investigated in the quarter with 20 or 14.93%, while the Papine Police Station followed with 18 or 13.43%. The Half Way Tree Police Station with 12 or 8.96% ranked next while The Elleston Town Police Station rounded off the top five Police Station with 8 cases (5.97%) of the sample.

Chart 1.1: Distribution of gender of the deceased for new cases filed in the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2025



The above chart summarizes gender distribution, using a sample of 134 deceased persons involved in the cases filed during the second quarter ended June 30, 2025. It is shown that 105 or 78.36% of the deceased were male, while the remaining 29 or 21.64% were female. In the similar quarter of 2024 males also accounted for a larger proportion, 88 or (67.18%) of the total sample. For the reporting period the absolute number of cases of males increased by 19.3% when compared to 2024.

Table 1.5: Descriptive Statistics on the age of the deceased in cases filed during the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2025

Descriptive statistics (age in years)	
Number of observations	133
Mean	49.60
Std. Error of Mean	1.921
Median	45.00
Mode	25 ^a
Std. Deviation	22.155
Skewness	.347
Std. Error of Skewness	.210
Range	84
Minimum	11
Maximum	95

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

A sample of 134 ages of the deceased involved in the cases filed revealed that the average age is roughly 50 years while the median is approximately 45 years, and one of the most common age value is 25 years. The standard deviation stands at a moderate value of 22 years, indicating a modest variation of the scores around the mean. The skewness is low negative value, suggesting that the distribution of ages is clustered around the mean. The smallest age value in the data set is 11 years, while the largest age value was 95 years.

Table 1.6a: Sampling distribution of the causes of death reported for cases filed during the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2025

Cause of death	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Multiple gunshot wounds	19	14.29
Gunshot wounds of head/neck	13	9.77
Haemorrhage and shock, Multiple gunshot wounds	12	9.02
Acute myocardial infarction, Ischemic heart disease	5	3.76
Injuries to the vital organs, Multiple Gunshot Wounds to the upper body	4	3.01
Sub-Total	53	40

Sample size (N) = 133

The above table is computed using a sample of 133 observations of the causes of death associated with cases. It is shown that among the most common causes of death reported are death caused by multiple gunshot with 19 or 14.29% of the sample and gunshot wounds of the head/neck with 13 or 9.77% followed by Haemorrhage and shock, multiple gunshot wounds with 12 or 9.02%. rounded off the top three causes of death.

Table 1.6b: Sampling distribution of the causes of death as officially determined by the coroner for matters disposed during the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2025

Cause of death as determined by Coroner	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Death due to natural causes	58	43.94
Death due to gunshot wounds	56	42.42
Death due to motor vehicle accident	3	2.27
Death due to stab wounds	3	2.27
Death undetermined	3	2.27
Total	123	93

Number of observations N= (132)

The above table is computed using a sample of 131 observations of the causes of death as officially determined by the Coroner. It is shown that among the most common causes of death reported are deaths due to natural causes with 89 or 67.694% of the sample and deaths due to gunshot wounds with 37 or 28.24% of the sample. It is important to note that there may often be variances between the causes of death as reported and the causes of death as determined by the Coroner.

Table 1.7: Sampling distribution of the Summary of outcomes of Form D applications made during the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2025.

Outcomes	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Section 14	68	51.52
Other	64	48.48
Total	132	100.0

During the processing of a case at the Coroner's Court, a Form D application is made which the judge reviews in order to determine the direction of the case thereafter. The above table provides a summary of the outcomes of these applications over the period under examination. It is seen that the dominant outcome from Form D applications were decisions in accordance with Section 14, which means that the matter was accepted for an Inquest to be carried out by the Coroner. Section 14 accounts for 68 or 51.42% of the outcomes. While the generic category 'other outcomes' accounted for 64 or 48.48%. These results are typical to the trends observed in the Coroner's Courts Island wide. The data was computed using a sample of 132 cases.

Table 1.8: Sampling distribution of reasons for adjournment/continuance during the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2025

Reasons for adjournment/continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
File incomplete/awaiting medical certificate	3	17.65
Part-heard	7	41.18
Reason for Adjournment	1	5.88
Transfer to other court/return to sender	5	29.41
Witness absent	1	5.88
Total	17	100.0

In the report period, 17 matters were adjourned/continued. Continuances (delays attributable to case progression stages) by way of Adjournments due Part heard matters followed with 7 or 41.18%. Transfer to other court/return to sender, accounted for the second highest portion of the sample with 29.41% of the sample. Others accounted for 11.43% of the sample. File incomplete awaiting medical certificate followed with 3 or 17.54% of the sample.

Table 1.9: Sampling distribution of the type of hearings in the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2025

Type of hearing	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Chambers	133	99.25
Trial Judge Only	1	0.75
Total	134	100

A sample of 139 hearings at the Corporate Area Coroner's Court in the second quarter of ended June 30, 2025, reveals that 133 were chamber hearings, and the remaining 1 or 0.75% was trial by Judge only.

Table 1.10: Sampling distribution of the methods of Disposition of matters completed during the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2025

Methods of disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Section 14 ²	108	55.96
Section 10	79	40.93
Open Court Verdict	4	2.07
Inquest	2	1.04
Total	193	100

The methods of disposition for a sample of 193 matters which were disposed during the second quarter revealed that 108 or 55.96% of matters were disposed by way of an Inquest, under the provisions of Section 14 of the Coroner's Court Act. Matters disposed by way of inquest under the provision of Section 10 of the Coroner's Court Act followed this with 79 or 40.93% of the sample. Matters disposed by open court verdict or by inquest accounted for 6 or 3.11%.

Table 1.11: Descriptive Statistics on the time to disposition for matters completed during the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2025**Descriptive Statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	189
Mean	14.94
Median	3.00
Mode	1
Std. Deviation	54.061
Skewness	5.117
Std. Error of Skewness	.177
Range	403
Minimum	1
Maximum	404

² Section 14 of the Coroner's Act grants Coroner's the discretion to forgo an inquest if the cause of death is clearly established, there is no suspicion of foul play, or an inquest would not provide further insights. This provision aims to improve efficiency, avoid unnecessary burdens on families, and ensure judicial resources are used effectively.

The data in Table 1.11 shows that the average time taken to dispose of matters during the second quarter ended June 30, 2025, is approximately 15 days. This was derived from a sample of 189 matters resolved during the quarter. The data also revealed that the median time taken to dispose of the matters was 3 days and the modal time was 1 day. The standard deviation of approximately 54 days, however, suggests that there is a wide variation in the individual scores and the high positive skewness indicates that a larger proportion of the scores fell below the overall mean. The minimum time taken was 1 day, with the maximum time taken being 404 days. The average time taken between the date the file was received, and the date of first hearing was 3.16 days compared to the 4.15 days recorded in 2024.

Table 1.12: Case clearance rate summary for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2025

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Number of cases disposed or inactive	Estimated Case clearance rate (%)
122	138	113.11

Courts that consistently maintain an average case clearance rate of between 90%-110% long enough will at a minimum have its disposals keeping up with the number of new cases filed but may also likely make considerable strides in reducing its case backlog rate to an acceptable level of under 10% of its active cases. The Corporate Area Coroner's Court with a case clearance rate of 113.11% for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025, up from the 108.13% recorded in the similar period of 2024, falls within the above –mentioned range which shows promising signs of a well-managed caseload. Currently has a net case backlog rate of approximately 21%. There were 122 new cases filed during the quarter and 138 cases were disposed (regardless of date of origin), leading to the stated clearance rate. It suggests that for every 100 new cases filed, 113 cases were resolved during the quarter.

Chapter 2.0: The Special Coroner's Court

This section provides a detailed summary of case activity and events as well as case outcomes and related factors at the Special Coroner's Court during the second quarter ended June 30, 2025.

Table 2.1a: Case activity summary for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2025, in the Special Coroner's Court

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of active cases	Approximate number of disposed or inactive cases (from those filed in quarter)	Estimated Case disposal rate (%)
19	0	7	36.84

Note 1: There were 12 new pending cases at the end of the quarter.

The above table provides a summary of the cases filed at the Cooperate Area Special Coroner's Court. It is shown that 8 new cases were filed during the second quarter ended June 30, 2024, and 1 disposed case at the end of the quarter leading to a disposal rate of 12.50%.

Table 2.2: Sampling distribution of the parish of origin of matters filed during the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2025

Parish Origin	Frequency	Percentage (%)
St Catherine	5	22.73
St James	4	18.18
Hanover	2	9.09
Kingston	2	9.09
St Elizabeth	2	9.09
Westmoreland	2	9.09
Clarendon	1	4.55
Manchester	1	4.55
St Ann	1	4.55
St Mary	1	4.55
Trelawny	1	4.55
Total	22	100.0

As a parish court, the Special Coroner's Court has a single location in Kingston but is deployed island wide to hear cases originating in the various parishes. The above table provides a summary of the 'parish of origin' of cases filed in the Special Coroner's Court. It is seen that St. Catherine with 22.73% of the cases filed, St. James with approximately 18.18% and Hanover with 9.09% accounted for 77% share of new cases filed in the Special Coroner's Court during the second quarter ended June 30, 2025.

Table 2.3: Sampling distribution of the source of matters filed during the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2025

Source	Frequency	Percentage (%)
INDECOM	22	100

A sample of 22 matters filed at the Special Coroner's Court during the second quarter ended June 30, 2025, shows that all 100% were filed by INDECOM.

Table 2.4: Sampling distribution on the type of death by Institution for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2025

Type of death	Frequency	Percentage (%)
JCF	21	95.45
Custodial Institution	1	4.55
Total	22	100.0

It is seen in the above table that 95.45% of all the matters filed during the second quarter of 2025 were related to JCF deaths, while 4.55% were related to custodial deaths.

The majority of the causes of death as reported in the cases filed during the second quarter of 2025 were stated as "hemorrhage and shock" or "gunshot wound to the body", accounting for 33.08% of the sample.

The sex distribution of the deceased involved in the 19 cases filed in the second quarter of 2025, were all (100%) males.

Table 2.5: Descriptive Statistics on the age of the deceased in cases filed during the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (age in years)	
Number of observations	17
Mean	41.41
Std. Error of Mean	4.109
Median	39.00
Mode	26 ^a
Std. Deviation	16.941
Range	57
Minimum	21
Maximum	78

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above descriptive summary on the age of the deceased 17 observations, the average age was roughly 41 years, while one of the most frequently occurring age was 26 years old. The highest age recorded was 78 years, while the lowest is 21 years old. The moderate standard deviation of roughly 17 years suggests that there was a modest variation of the individual ages from the overall mean, while the positive skewness shown is an indication that proportionately more of the scores fell below the overall mean.

Table 2.6: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for matters resolved during the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2025

Methods of distribution	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Section 14 ³	26	65.00
Section 16(1)	14	35.00
Total	40	100.0

The methods of disposition for a sample of 40 matters, which were disposed of during the second

³Section 14 of the Coroner's Act grants Coroner's the discretion to forgo an inquest if the cause of death is clearly established, there is no suspicion of foul play, or an inquest would not provide further insights. This provision aims to improve efficiency, avoid unnecessary burdens on families, and ensure judicial resources are used effectively.

quarter ended June 30, 2025, revealed that 26 or 65% of matters were disposed of by way of an inquest under the provisions of Section 14 of the Coroner's Court Act. The remainder were matters disposed of by way of inquest under the provision of Section 16 of the Coroner's' Court Act with 14 or 35% of the sample.

Table 2.7: Descriptive Statistics on the time to disposition for matters completed during the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (Days)

Number of observations	40
Mean	1418.33
Std. Error of Mean	194.856
Median	1257.50
Mode	3065
Std. Deviation	1232.379
Skewness	.610
Std. Error of Skewness	.374
Range	4603
Minimum	33
Maximum	4636

The above table uses a sample of 40 cases disposed of in the quarter reveals an estimated average of roughly 47 months, with a maximum of approximately 10 years and a minimum of 13 days.

The low positive skewness is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the distribution were clustered around the series mean, while the moderate standard deviation shows some amount variation in the data points around the overall mean.

Table 2.8: Descriptive statistics on the age of active cases as at June 30, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (in days)	
Number of observations	37
Mean	294.97
Std. Error of Mean	45.152
Median	244.00
Mode	97
Std. Deviation	274.650
Skewness	3.989
Std. Error of Skewness	.388
Range	1619
Minimum	96
Maximum	1715

The above data is based on sample of 37 active Special Coroner's matters during the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. The average age of these matters was roughly 295 days or approximately 9 months, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 97days. The standard deviation of roughly 275 days suggests that there is a large dispersion in the individual scores from the average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 1715 days old or 4.6 years, while the youngest case is 96 days.

Table 2.9: Case clearance rate summary for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2025

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of cases disposed	Estimated Case clearance rate (%)
19	32	168.42

Courts that consistently maintain an average case clearance rate of between 90%-110% for long enough will at a minimum, have its disposals keeping up with the number of new cases filed but may also likely make considerable strides in reducing its case backlog rate to an acceptable level of under 5% of active cases. The Corporate Area Special Coroner's Court with a case clearance rate

of 113.11% in the quarter, exceeds the above-mentioned range, which shows promising signs of a well- managed caseload, there were 122 new cases filed, and 138 cases were disposed (regardless of date of origin), leading to the stated clearance rate.

Table 2.9: Clarendon Coroner's court Case clearance rate summary for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2025

Approximate number of cases filed	Approximate number of cases disposed	Estimated case clearance rate (%)
42	46	109.52

Courts that consistently maintain an average case clearance rate of between 90%-110% for long enough will at a minimum, have its disposals keeping up with the number of new cases filed but may also likely make considerable strides in reducing its case backlog rate to an acceptable level of under 5% of active cases. The Clarendon Coroner's Court, with a case clearance rate of 109.52% in the quarter, exceeds the above-mentioned range, which shows promising signs of a well- managed caseload, there were 42 new cases filed, and 46 cases were disposed (regardless of date of origin), leading to the stated clearance rate.

Aggregate Case Activity Summary

Table 2.10: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the Second Quarter ended June 30, 2025

Metric	Corporate Area Coroner's Court	Corporate Area Special Coroner's Court	Total/Weighted Average
Approximate number of new cases	122	19	141
Approximate number of disposed cases	122	7	129
Approximate gross number of disposed cases (regardless of date of origin)	138	32	170
Estimated Case Disposal Rate (%)	100	36.84	91.49
Estimated Case Clearance Rate (%)	113.11	168.42	120.57
Average Time to Disposition	0.50	47.28	8.67

The above table provides a summary of aggregate case activity across the featured specialized Coroner's Court and Special Coroner's Court during the second quarter ended June 30, 2025. It is shown that a total of 141 new cases were filed in these courts, while 129 of these cases were disposed of, leading to an estimated weighted case disposal rate of 91.49%. The Corporate Area Coroner's Court had an estimated case disposal rate of 100%, an impressive result. The table also shows that a gross number of 170 cases were disposed of in the quarter, leading to an estimated weighted case clearance rate of 120.57%. The Corporate Area Coroner's Court recorded a case clearance rate of 113.11% and the Special Coroner's Court had an estimated case clearance rate of 168.42%, both notable results which exceed the international standard.

Concluding Note

The Corporate Area Coroner's Court and the Special Coroner's Court exhibit both notable achievements and persistent challenges in case management during the reporting period. Key performance indicators, including case disposal rates, clearance rates, and time-to-disposition, presented differences in performance between the two institutions.

The Corporate Area Coroner's Court demonstrated efficiency in caseload management and systemic integration in the report period. This enabled the timely resolution of cases, resulting in a 100% case disposal rate and a 113.11% clearance rate surpassing international benchmarks. The Court's caseload was primarily comprised of police investigations (69.40%), with natural causes of death accounting for a substantial proportion (43.94%), demonstrating the courts ability to manage both routine and complex cases adeptly. Delays caused by incomplete files and late medical reports are challenges which persisted in the Corporate Area Coroner's Court in the report period. These challenges highlight the need for improvements in file integrity and inter-agency coordination.

The Special Coroner's Court has made substantial progress in addressing its backlog, achieving an impressive 168.42% clearance rate during the reporting period. However, it continues to face challenges in balancing backlog reduction with the timely processing of new cases, as evidenced by a 36.84% case disposal rate for new filings. The high proportion of deaths linked to law enforcement (95.45%) necessitates specialized resources and streamlined processes to manage these sensitive investigations effectively. Additionally, the protracted average time to disposition of approximately 48 months underscores the urgency of implementing measures to enhance procedural efficiency and reduce delays.

Despite these disparities, both courts operate under the framework of Sections 14 and 16 of the Coroner's Court Act, with natural causes and gunshot wounds being the most prevalent causes of

death. Discrepancies between reported and officially determined causes of death underscore the importance of thorough and meticulous inquests. Demographic data reveal a disproportionately high number of male decedents (81.40%), particularly in cases of violent death, presents the need for targeted prevention initiatives and informing not only justice policies but also broader public health.

Both courts demonstrate a clear commitment to fulfilling their mandates, though their performance outcomes differ significantly. The Corporate Area Coroner's Court serves as a model of efficient case management, areas of development though further enhancements in file management and inter-agency collaboration are necessary. The performance of the Special Coroner's Court posits opportunity for strategic interventions, including improved resource allocation, procedural streamlining, and collaboration with key stakeholders, to bring about the needed balance in reducing its backlog and the timely processing of new cases. Performance evaluation and optimization measures not only serve to strengthen public confidence in the Coroner's system but also enhance the broader administration of justice nationally.

Glossary of Terms

Sampling Distribution: A sampling distribution of a given population is the distribution of frequencies of a range of outcomes that could possibly occur for a statistic of a population. A population is the entire pool from which a statistical sample is drawn.

Range: This is a measure of the spread of values in a data set, calculated as the highest minus the lowest value. A larger range score may indicate a higher spread of values in a data set.

Standard deviation: This is a measure of how widely spread the scores in a data set are around the average value of that data set. The higher the standard deviation, the higher the variation of the raw scores in the data set, from the average score. A low standard deviation is an indication that the scores in a data set are clustered around the average.

Outlier: An outlier is a value that is too small or too large, relative to the majority of scores/trend in a data set.

Skewness: This is measure of the distribution of scores in a data set. It gives an idea of where the larger proportion of the scores in a data set can be found. Generally, if skewness is positive as revealed by a positive value for this measure, this suggests that a greater proportion of the scores in the data set are at the lower end. If the skewness is negative as revealed by a negative value for this measure, it generally suggests that a greater proportion of the scores are at the higher end. If the skewness measure is approximately 0, then there is roughly equal distribution of scores on both the higher and lower ends of the average figure.

Clearance rate: The ratio on incoming to outgoing cases or of new cases filed to cases disposed, regardless of when the disposed cases originated. For example, in a given Term 100 new cases were filed and 110 were disposed (including cases originating before that Term) the clearance rate is 110/100 or 110%.

Note: The clearance rate could therefore exceed 100% but the disposal rate has a maximum value of 100%. A persistent case clearance rate of less than 100% will eventually lead to a backlog of cases in the court system. The inferred international benchmark for case clearance rates is an average of 90% - 110 annualized. This is a critical foundation to backlog prevention in the court system.⁴

Disposal rate: As distinct from clearance rate, the disposal rate is the proportion of new cases filed which have been disposed in a particular period. For example, if 100 new cases are filed in a particular Term and 80 of those cases were disposed in said Term, then the disposal rate is 80%.

Note: A persistent case clearance rate of less than 100% will eventually lead to a backlog of cases in the court system.⁵

Case congestion rate: The ratio of pending cases to cases disposed in a given period. It is an indication of how fatigued a court is, given the existing state of resources and degree of efficiency. A case congestion rate of 150% for example is an indication that given the resources currently at a court's disposal and its degree of efficiency, it is carrying 1.5 times its capacity.

Trial/hearing date certainty: This is the proportion of dates set for trial or hearing which proceed without adjournment. For example, if 100 trial dates are set in a particular Term and 40 are adjourned, then the trial certainty rate would be 60%. The international standard for this measure is between 92% and 100%.

⁴ Source :

<http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/bestpractice/BestPracticeCaseAgeClearanceRates.pdf>

⁵ Source :

<http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/bestpractice/BestPracticeCaseAgeClearanceRates.pdf>

Case File Integrity Rate: Measures the proportion of time that a case file is fully ready and available in a timely manner for a matter to proceed. Hence, any adjournment, which is due to the lack of readiness of a case file or related proceedings for court at the scheduled time, impairs the case file integrity rate. The international benchmark for the case file integrity is 100%.

Courtroom utilization rate: The proportion of courtrooms in full use on a daily basis or the proportion of hours utilized in a courtroom on a daily basis. The international standard for this rate is 100%.

Case backlog: A case that is in the court system for more than two years without disposition.

The **gross backlog rate** measures the proportion of all cases filed within a given period which remain unresolved for a period of over two years.

The **net backlog rate** on the other hand measures the proportion of active cases filed in a given period which are unresolved for over two years.

Continuance and Adjournment: In a general sense, any delay in the progression of a hearing in which a future date/time is set or anticipated for continuation is a form of adjournment. However, in order to make a strict distinction between matters which are adjourned for procedural factors and those which are generally avoidable, court statistics utilizes the terms 'continuance' and 'adjournment'. Here, 'continuance' is used strictly to describe situations in which future dates are set due to procedural reasons and 'adjournments' is used to describe the circumstances in which future dates of appearance are set due to generally avoidable reasons. For example, adjournments for another stage of hearing, say from a plea and case management hearing to a trial hearing or from the last date of trial to a sentencing date are classified as 'continuance' but delays for say, missing or incomplete files, due to outstanding medical reports or attorney absenteeism are classified as 'adjournments'. Adjournments as defined in this document have an adverse effect on hearing date certainty rates, but continuances do not.

Percentile Rank: This refers to the percentage of scores that are equal to or less than a given score. Percentile ranks, like percentages, fall on a continuum from 0 to 100. For example, a percentile rank of 45 indicates that 45% of the scores in a distribution of scores fall at or below the score at the 45th percentile. Percentile ranks are useful when you want to quickly understand how a particular score compares to the other scores in a distribution of scores. For instance, knowing a court disposed 300 cases in a given period doesn't tell you much. You don't know how many case disposals were possible, and even if you did, you wouldn't know how that court's score compared to the rest of the courts. If, however, you were told that the court scored at the 80th percentile, then you would know that this court did as well or better than 80% of the courts in case disposals.

Difference between percentage and percentage points: The difference between percentage and percentage points, the latter is strictly used to compare two percentages, for example, if the clearance rate in 2018 was 89% and the clearance rate in 2019 is 100%, then the appropriate expression to compare these would be "an 11 percentage points increase". However, if we are comparing two absolute numbers, say, 1000 cases were disposed in 2018, and 1500 in 2019, then there would be a 50% increase in cases disposed.

Weighted Average: Weighted average is a calculation that takes into account the varying degrees of significance of the groups or numbers in a data set. In calculating a weighted average for a particular variable, the individual scores or averages for each group are multiplied by the weight or number of observations in each of those groups and summed. The outcome is then divided by the summation of the number of observations in all groups combined. For example, if we wish to calculate the weighted average clearance rate for the parish courts, the product of the clearance rate and number of cases for each court are computed, added, and then divided by the total number of cases across all the parish courts. This means that a court with a larger caseload has a greater impact on the case clearance rate than a smaller court. A weighted average can be more

accurate than a simple average in which all numbers in a data set are assigned an identical weight.

Exponential Smoothing: Exponential smoothing of time series data assigns exponentially decreasing weights for newest to oldest observations. In other words, the older data, the less priority ("weight") the data is given; newer data is seen as more relevant and is assigned more weight.

Smoothing parameters (smoothing constants) – usually denoted by α – determine the weights of the observations.

Exponential smoothing is usually used to make short term forecasts, as longer-term forecasts using this technique can be quite unreliable.

- **Simple (single) exponential smoothing** uses a weighted moving average with exponentially decreasing weights.
- **Holt's trend-corrected double exponential smoothing** is usually more reliable for handling data that shows trends, compared to the single procedure.
- **Triple exponential smoothing** (also called the Multiplicative Holt-Winters) is usually more reliable for parabolic trends or data that shows trends and seasonality.