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

(July 1 -September 30, 2025)

OVERALL QUANTITATIVE HIGHLIGHTS JULY 1, 2025 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2025			
Court	Case Disposal Rate (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Average time to Disposition (months)
Corporate Area Coroners Court	96.13	100	0.64
Corporate Area Special Coroners Court	16.67	216.67	23.28
Weighted Average	83.64	118.33	4.25

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Coroners

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

The Special Coroner and Corporate Area Coroner continue to excel and provide timely delivery of service. The clearance rate continues to be above international standards. In the last quarter's report, it was noted that the average time to disposition for matters in the Special Coroner's jurisdiction was 23.28%. This is within the 24 months time standard set for this court. However, the average means that there are cases that are above that average. In 2026, a more comprehensive analysis of the work process and work flow will be undertaken.

The Chevannes Report will provide the basis for the over hauling of the Coroner's system. Paragraphs 259 to 262 which must be read in the broader context of Part 5 of the report. The specific areas of improvement were identified. Some have been implemented. It is our good fortune to have judges there who are willing and able to undertake the necessary work to reform the coronial system. The judges, staff and stakeholders have cooperated sufficiently to ensure that great productivity has been accomplished within the existing framework. More can be done and will be done.

One of the critical reforms that will be proposed and coming from the Chevannes Report is removing coronial duties from the Judges of the Parish Court and place it with the Coroner for the Corporate Area and give that office all island jurisdiction. This is what is done in the case of the Special Coroner. There is no need for a jury in current coroner's court operations. The removal of the jury would increase productivity and increase the rate of disposition of cases.

The judges, staff, and stakeholders have done an excellent job in taking the courts to where they are now. The reform process will begin in earnest in 2026.

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

Executive Summary

This report provides a detailed analysis of case activity within the Corporate Area Coroner's Court and the Special Coroner's Court during the quarter ended September 30,2025. Key performance indicators such as case disposal rate, case clearance rate, and average time to disposition were examined to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of these courts.

The Corporate Area Coroner's Court recorded a case disposal rate of 96.13%, indicating that approximately 96 cases were resolved out of every 100 filed during the second quarter. The Corporate Area Coroner's Court continues to maintain a case clearance rate above international standards. This reporting period saw 155 disposed cases (regardless of date of origin) and 155 new cases filed; this produced a case clearance rate of 100%. The average time to disposition was 0.6 months, indicative of efficient case processing within the Corporate Area's Coroner's Court.

For the third quarter ended September 30, 2025, the Special Coroner's Court filed 12 new cases; of the new cases filed during the quarter there were 2 disposed cases, leading to a disposal rate of 16.67%. The Special Coroner's Court disposed 26 cases regardless of the date of origin, indicative of efforts to resolve older cases within year, leading to a clearance rate of 216.67% and an average time to disposition of 23.28 months. The court's jurisdiction across parishes, saw cases in the reporting period primarily originating from St. Catherine (30.77%), Kingston (30.77%), and St. James and Clarendon (15.38%) each.

Key performance Summary- Quarter 3, 2025 (July-September)

Court	Disposal Rate (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Average time to disposition (months)
Corporate Area Coroner's Court	96.13	100	0.6
Special Coroner's Court	16.67	216.67	23.28
Weighted Average	**83.64**	**118.33**	**4.25**

The report also analyzed various aspects of case activity, including sources of cases, causes of death, gender distribution, and age demographics. Notably, in the Corporate Area Coroner's court the majority of cases were filed by the police (80.63%), highlighting their role in initiating legal proceedings. The majority of cases filed in the Corporate Area Coroner's Court third quarter ended September 30, 2025, were males (69.38%), and the prevalent cause of death as reported was death due to natural causes. As it concerns Form D applications, most (43.23%) of the outcomes were in accordance with Section 14[1], indicating the acceptance of matters for an inquest. Despite the fact that delays were encountered, primarily due to the generic category 'Other' (30.82%), the Corporate Area Coroner's Court overall performance for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025, remained impressive.

An examination of the demographic disaggregation and causes of death for cases in the Special Coroner's Court, noted all cases were male victims. It is also of note for the period July-September 2025 that 61.54% of the matters filed in the Special Coroner's Court were deaths related to JCF incidents, 38.46% were death related to custodial incidents. Of the new cases filed in the period 2 cases were disposed of. The Special Coroner's Court recorded a case clearance rate of 216.67% exceeding international standards.

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[1] Section 14 of the Coroners Act grants coroners 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.

Across both courts in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025, a total of 167 new cases were filed, with 151 disposed of during the year and an overall average time to disposition of 4.25 months. The weighted average case disposal rate was 83.64%, and the weighted average case clearance rate was 118.33% for the reporting period.

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	130	126	143	97.15	110.34
Corporate Area Special Coroner's Court	18	4	29	22.94	165.09
Total/Weighted Average	**140**	**130**	**170**	**85.49**	**118.94**

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 above data shows that the overall forecasted case clearance rates for the Corporate Area Coroner's court for the period (Oct.-Dec. 2025.) is 110.34%, which would be 10.34 percentage points higher than that of the 100% recorded in the period (Jul.-Sept. 2025). The overall forecasted case clearance rates for the Corporate Area Special Coroner's court in the period (Oct.-Dec.2025.) is 165.09%, which would be 51.58 percentage points lower than that of the 216.67% recorded in the period (Jul.-Sept.2025).

Introduction

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 the Coroner's Court and the Special Coroner's Court, with the latter focusing on cases involving deaths caused by individual or institutional state actors or occurring under state care. Despite the fact that there's 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.

This report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the key statistics regarding case activity within both the Corporate Area Coroner's Court and the Special Coroner's Courts during the third quarter of 2025. It includes various metrics related to productivity, time lag, resource utilization, and other relevant measurements. The objective is to offer insights into the case flow dynamics within these courts, including disposals, factors contributing to case delays, and other crucial aspects of case progression management and outcomes.

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 third quarter ended September 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 period ended September 30,2025

Descriptive Statistics (in days)

Number of observations	154
Mean	725.97
Median	317.50
Mode	292
Std. Deviation	942.443
Skewness	2.791
Std. Error of Skewness	.195
Range	5715
Minimum	1
Maximum	5716

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 Coroners Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. It is seen that from a sample of 154 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 726 days (or 1.9 years). The modal time taken was 292 days and the median was approximately 318 days or approximately 10.6 months. The standard deviation stands at a high of 942 days or 2.6 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 15.66 years, while the lowest is 1 day.

Table 1.2: Case Activity Summary for the third quarter ended September 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 (%)
155	6	149	96.13

The above table provides a summary of the cases filed at the Corporate Area Coroner's Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. It is shown that 155 new cases were filed during the quarter, 31 case more than the 124 cases filed in the similar quarter of 2024. There were 149 disposed cases at the end of the quarter. These results yield to a case disposal rate of 96.13% this disposal rate satisfies the international standard on this measure and suggests that for every 100 cases filed over the period, roughly 96 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2025.

Source	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Police	129	80.63
Family	31	19.38
Total	**160**	**100**

A sample of 160 cases filed at the Corporate Area Coroner's Court shows that 129 cases or

80.63% of cases filed were filed by the police, while 31 or 19.38% 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2025

Police Station	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Elletson Road Police Station	24	15.38
Half Way Tree police Station	17	10.90
Cross Road Police Station	13	8.33
Hunts Bay Police Station	11	7.05
Denham Town Police Station	10	6.41
Sub-Total	**75**	**48**

Sample of observations (N) = 156

The data showed a sample of 156 Coroner's Court cases reported at the different police

stations in the Corporate Area which were subsequently brought to the court. Of that

number, Elletson Road Police Station. accounted for the highest proportion of cases

filed/investigated in the quarter with 24 or 15.38%, while the Half Way Tree Police Station

followed with 17 or 10.90%. The Cross Roads Police Station with 13 or 8.33% ranked next,

followed by The Hunts Bay Police Station with 11 or 7.05% while The Denham Town Police

Station rounded off the top five Police Station with 10 cases (6.41%) of the sample.

Chart 1.1: Distribution of gender of the deceased for new cases filed during the third quarter ended September 30, 2025
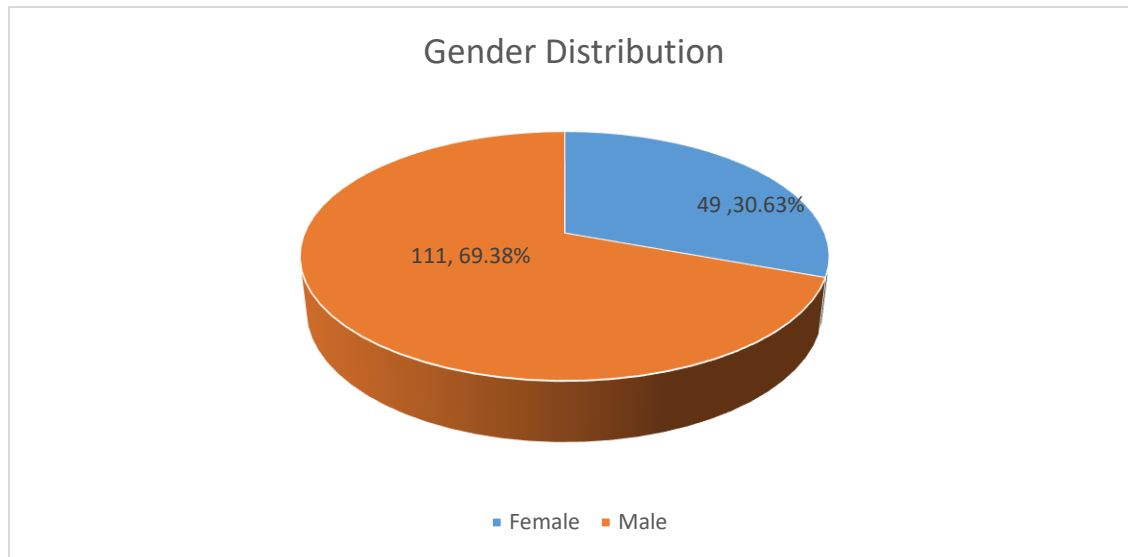
The above chart summarizes gender distribution, using a sample of 160 deceased persons involved in the cases filed during the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. It is shown that 111 or 69.38% of the deceased were male, while the remaining 49 or 30.63% were female. In the similar quarter of 2024 males also accounted for a larger proportion, 94 or (68.12%) of the total sample. For the reporting period the absolute number of cases of males increased by 17 when compared to 2024.

Table 1.5: Descriptive Statistics on the age of the deceased in cases filed during the quarter ended September 30,2025

Descriptive statistics (age in years)

Number of observations	156
Mean	57.25
Median	61.00
Mode	61
Std. Deviation	22.982
Skewness	-.032
Std. Error of Skewness	.194
Range	88
Minimum	14
Maximum	102

A sample of 156 ages of the deceased involved in the cases filed revealed that the average age is roughly 57 years while the median is approximately 61 years, and one of the most common age value is 61 years. The standard deviation stands at a moderate value of 23 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 14 years, while the largest age value was 102 years.

Table 1.6a: Sampling distribution of the causes of death reported for cases filed during the third quarter ended September 30, 2025

Cause of death	Frequency	Percentage(%)
Multiple gunshot wounds	8	4.88
Bilateral pulmonary thromboembolism, bilateral deep venous, thrombosis breast carcinoma	7	4.27
Acute respiratory distress, Fracture of the left femur, non-intervened fell from his feet	5	3.05
Cranio Cerebral injury perfration of right cartoid and jugular vein, Gunshot wound to head and multiple stab wound to neck	5	3.05
Haemorrhage and shock due to multiple gunshot wounds to the right posterior(Back of the) trunk (Chest and abdomen)	5	3.05
Sub-Total	**30**	**18**

Sample size (N) = 164

12

The above table is computed using a sample of 164 observations of the causes of death associated with cases. It is shown that among the most common causes of death reported are death due to multiple gunshot wounds with 8 or 4.88% of the sample and Bilateral pulmonary thromboembolism, bilateral deep venous, thrombosis breast carcinoma with 7 or 4.27%.

Table 1.6b: Sampling distribution of the causes of death as officially determined by the coroner for matters disposed during the third quarter ended September 30, 2025

Cause of death as determined by Coroner	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Death due to natural causes	67	43.23
Death due to gunshot wounds	28	18.06
Death due to motor vehicle accident	14	9.03
Haemorrphage due to multiple gunshot wounds	3	1.94
Blunt Impact Trauma of neck with quadriplegia due to fall from height due to epileptic seizure	2	1.29
Sub-Total	**114**	**74**

Number of observations N= (155)

The above table is computed using a sample of 155 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 67 or 43.23% of the sample and deaths due to gunshot wounds with 28 or 18.06% of the sample. Death due to motor vehicle accident rounded off the top three with 14 or 9.03% rounded off the top three Cause of death as determined by Coroner. t 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2025.

Outcomes	Frequency	Percentage(%)
Section 14	108	67.92
Other	49	30.82
Awaiting Further Information	1	.63
Trial and Judge	1	.63
Total	**159**	**100.0**

During the processing of a case at the Coroner's Court, a Form D application is made which the judge reviews an 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 108 or 67.92% of the outcomes. While the generic category 'other outcomes' accounted for 49 or 30.82%. These results are typical to the trends observed in the Coroner's Courts Island wide. The data was computed using a sample of 159 cases.

Table 1.8: Sampling distribution of reasons for adjournment/continuance during the third quarter ended September 30, 2025

Reasons for adjournment/continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
File incomplete/awaiting medical certificate	4	50.0
Other	1	12.50
Part-heard	2	25.00
Witness absent	1	12.50
Total	**8**	**100.0**

In the report period, 8 matters were adjourned/continued. Continuances (delays attributable to case progression stages) by way of Adjournments due to file incomplete/awaiting medical certificate with 4 or 50%. Part -Heard, accounted for the second highest portion of the sample with 25% of the sample. Witness absent and Other accounted for 12.50% of the sample.

Table 1.9: Sampling distribution of the type of hearings during the third quarter ended September 30, 2025

Type of hearing	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Chambers	164	99.39
Trial and Judge	1	0.61
Total	**165**	**100**

A sample of 165 hearings at the Corporate Area Coroner's Court in the third quarter of 2025, reveals that 164 of the sample were chamber hearing, and the remaining 1 case was by way of Trial and Judge.

Table 1.10: Sampling distribution of the methods of Disposition of matters completed during the third quarter ended September 30, 2025

Methods of disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Section 14	106	65.84
Section 10	53	32.92
Inquest	2	1.24
Total	**161**	**100.0**

The methods of disposition for a sample of 161 matters which were disposed during the third quarter, revealed that 106 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 53 or 32.92% of the sample. Matters disposed by open court verdict or by inquest accounted for 2 or 1.24%.

Table 1.11: Descriptive Statistics on the time to disposition for matters completed during the third quarter ended September 30, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (in days)

Number of observations	158
Mean	19.15
Median	4.00
Mode	2
Std. Deviation	81.245
Skewness	9.859
Std. Error of Skewness	.193
Range	944
Minimum	1
Maximum	945

The above data shows that the average time taken to dispose of matters during the third quarter ended September 30, 2025, is approximately 15 days. This was derived from a sample of 158 matters resolved during the quarter. The data also revealed that the median time taken to dispose of the matters was 4 days and the modal time was 2 days. The standard deviation of approximately 81 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 945 days. The average time taken between the date the file was received, and the date of first hearing was 2.61days compared to the 6.83 days recorded in 2024.

Table 1.12: Case clearance rate summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Number of cases disposed or inactive	Estimated Case clearance rate (%)
155	155	100

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 100% for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025, down from the 114.19%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 155 new cases filed during the quarter and 155 cases were disposed (regardless of date of origin), leading to the stated clearance rate. It suggests that for every 100 new cases filed, 155 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 Corner's Court during the third quarter ended September 30, 2025.

Table 2.1a: Case activity summary for the third quarter ended September 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 (%)
12	0	2	16.67

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

The above table provides a summary of the cases filed at the Cooperate Area Special Coroner's Court. It is shown that 12 new cases were filed in the third quarter of 2025 cases were disposed from those originating in the quarter leading to a disposal rate 16.67%.

Table 2.2: Sampling distribution of the parish of origin of matters filed during the third quarter ended September 30, 2025

Parish Origin	Frequency	Percentage(%)
St Catherine	4	30.77
Kingston	4	30.77
St Andrew	2	15.38
Clarendon	2	15.38
St Elizabeth	1	7.69
Total	**13**	**100.0**

As a parish court, the Special Coroners 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 and Kingston each accounted for 30.77% of the cases filed, St. Andrew and Clarendon accounted for 15.38% each of the total. St. Elizabeth rounded off the top five parishes with 7.69% share of new cases filed in the Special Coroner's Court during the third quarter ended September 30, 2025.

Table 2.3: Sampling distribution of the source of matters filed during the third quarter ended September 30, 2025

Source	Frequency	Percentage (%)
INDECOM	11	100.00
Total	**11**	**100**

A sample of 11 matters filed at the Special Coroner's Court during the third quarter ended September 30, 2025, shows that all 11 or 100% were filed by INDECOM.

Table 2.4: Sampling distribution on the type of death by Institution during the third quarter ended September 30, 2025

Type of death	Frequency	Percentage(%)
JCF	8	61.54
Custodial Institution	5	38.46
Total	**22**	**100.0**

It is seen in the above table that 61.54% of all the matters filed during the third quarter of 2025 were matters related to JCF deaths, while 38.46% were related to custodial deaths.

Table 2.5: Descriptive Statistics on the age of the deceased in cases filed during the third quarter ended September 30, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (age in years)

Number of observations	11
Mean	46.00
Median	50.00
Mode	23[a]
Std. Deviation	16.511
Skewness	-.013
Std. Error of Skewness	.661
Range	49
Minimum	23
Maximum	72

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above descriptive summary on the age of the deceased 11 observations, the average age was roughly 46 years, while one of the most frequently occurring age was 23 years old. The highest age recorded was 72 years, while the lowest is 23 years old. The moderate standard deviation of roughly 16.5 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2025

Methods of disposition	Frequency	Percentage(%)
Section 14	22	73.33
Section 16(1)	8	26.67
Total	**30**	**100**

The methods of disposition for a sample of 30 matters, which were disposed of during the third quarter ended September 30, 2025 revealed that 22 or 73.33% 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 Coroners' Court Act with 8 or 26.67% of the sample.

Table 2.7: Descriptive Statistics on the time to disposition for matters completed during the third quarter ended September 30, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (Days)	
Number of observations	30
Mean	698.30
Median	314.00
Mode	215
Std. Deviation	705.160
Skewness	.720
Std. Error of Skewness	.427
Range	1914
Minimum	32
Maximum	1946

The above table uses a sample of 30 cases disposed of in the quarter reveals an estimated average of roughly 23 months, with a maximum of approximately 5.33 years and a minimum of 32 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 September 30,2025

Descriptive Statistics (in days)

Number of observations	35
Mean	304.20
Median	274.00
Mode	162
Std. Deviation	143.004
Skewness	.516
Std. Error of Skewness	.398
Range	446
Minimum	141
Maximum	587

The above data is based on sample of 35 active Special Coroner's matters as at September 30, 2025. The average age of these matters was roughly 309 days or approximately 10.3 months, while one of the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 162 days. The standard deviation of roughly 143 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 587 days old or 1.6 years, while the youngest case is 141 days.

Table 2.9: Case clearance rate summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of cases disposed	Estimated Case clearance rate (%)
12	26	216.67

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 216.67% in the quarter, exceeds the above-mentioned range, which shows promising signs of a well- managed caseload, there were 12 new cases filed and 26 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2025

Metric	Corporate Area Coroner's Court	Corporate Area Special Coroner's Court	Total/Weighted Average
Approximate number of new cases	155	12	**167**
Approximate number of disposed cases	149	2	**151**
Approximate gross number of disposed cases (regardless of date of origin)	155	26	**181**
Estimated Case Disposal Rate (%)	96.13	16.67	**83.64**
Estimated Case Clearance Rate (%)	100	216.67	**118.33**
Average Time to Disposition	0.64	23.28	**4.25**

The above table provides a summary of aggregate case activity across the featured specialized Coroner's Court and Special Coroner's Court during the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. It is shown that a total of 167 new cases were filed in these courts, while 151 of these cases were disposed of, leading to an estimated weighted case disposal rate of 83.64.%. The Corporate Area Coroner's Court had an estimated case disposal rate of 96.13%, an impressive result. The table also shows that a gross number of 181 cases were disposed of in the quarter (regardless of date of origin), leading to an estimated weighted case clearance rate of 118.33%. The Corporate Area Coroner's Court recorded a case clearance rate of 100% and the Special Coroner's Court had an estimated case clearance rate of 216.67%, both notable results which exceed the international standard.

Concluding Note

The Corporate Area Coroner's Court and the Special Coroner's Court both continue to contribute to reducing the overall net case backlog rate and enhancing judicial efficiency. In the second quarter of 2025, the combined weighted average time to disposition was 4.25 months. Across both courts the estimated case disposal rate was 83.64%, and the estimated case clearance rate was 118.33% in the reporting period.

The Corporate Area Coroner's Court has consistently sustained high rates of case disposal and clearance, and to this regard has achieved and maintained the judiciary's goal of reducing the backlog to under 5%. These sustained high case disposal and clearance rates are pivotal in positioning the Jamaican judiciary as one of the most efficient globally. The data shows that, for the reporting period, the Special Coroner's Court filed 12 new cases and irrespective of the date of origin twenty-six (26) cases were either disposed or inactive. The Special Coroner's Court recorded a case clearance rate of 216.67%, with an average time to disposition of 23.28 months in quarter three of 2025. The Corporate Area Coroner's Court filed 155 new cases in the reporting period and disposed of 155 matters irrespective of the date of origin, producing a case clearance rate of 100%. The Corporate Area Coroner's Court, in particular, continues to be an exceptional performing court and one of the fastest in disposing of new cases, having disposed of all of the 155 new cases filed (100%) in quarter three and recorded an average time to disposition of (0.64 months).

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.[i]

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.[ii]

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%.

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 ranks of 45 indicates that 45% of the scores in a distribution of scores fall at or below the score at the 35th 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 percentile changes: 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 a- 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.

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[i] Source:
http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/bestpractice/BestPracticeCaseAgeClearanceRates.pdf

[ii] Source:
http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/bestpractice/BestPracticeCaseAgeClearanceRates.pdf