

THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S FIRST QUARTER STATISTICS REPORT 2025



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

(January 1, 2025 – March 31, 2025)

OVERALL QUANTITATIVE HIGHLIGHTS JANUARY 1, 2025 – MARCH 31, 2025			
Court	Case Disposal Rate (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Average time to Disposition (months)
Corporate Area Coroners Court	100	101.68	1.26
Corporate Area Special Coroners Court	28.57	132.14	38.65
Weighted Average	91.73	105.20	8.33

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHIEF JUSTICE'S MESSAGE FOR SPECIAL CORONER'S AND CORPORATE AREA CORONER'S COURT	3
Executive Summary	4
Introduction	7
Chapter 1.0: The Corporate Area Coroner's Court	8
The Clarendon Coroner's Court.....	18
Chapter 2.0: The Special Coroner's Court	19
Concluding Note	25
Glossary of Terms.....	26

List of Tables

Coroners

Table 1.1	Summary of time interval between date death reported and date case opened for the quarter ended March 31, 2025.	8
Table 1.2	Case Activity Summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025.	9
Table 1.3	Sampling distribution of Source of cases filed for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025.	10
Table 1.4	Sampling distribution of deaths reported at various Police and brought before the court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025.	10
Chart 1.1	Distribution of gender of the deceased for new cases filed during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025.	11
Table 1.5	Descriptive Statistics on the age of the deceased in cases filed during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025.	12
Table 1.6a	Sampling distribution of the causes of death reported for cases filed during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025.	12
Table 1.6b	Sampling distribution of the causes of death as officially determined by the coroner for matters disposed during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025.	13
Table 1.7	Sampling distribution of the Summary of outcomes of Form D applications made during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025.	14
Table 1.8	Sampling distribution of reasons for adjournment/continuance during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025.	15
Table 1.9	Sampling distribution of the type of hearings in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025.	15

Table 1.10	Sampling distribution of the methods of Disposition of matters completed during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025	.....	16
Table 1.11	Descriptive Statistics on the time to disposition for matters completed during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025.	.....	16
Table 1.12	Case clearance rate summary for first quarter ended March 31, 2025.	.....	17
Clarendon Coroners			
Table 1.3	Case Clearance rate summary for Clarendon Coroners Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025	.....	18
Special Coroners			
Table 2.1a	Case activity summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025, in the Special Coroners Court.	.....	19
Table 2.2	Sampling distribution of the parish of origin of matters filed during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025.	.....	19
Table 2.3	Sampling distribution of the source of matters filed during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025.	.....	20
Table 2.4	Sampling distribution on the type of death by Institution for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025.	.....	20
Table 2.5	Descriptive Statistics on the age of the deceased in cases filed during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025.	.....	21
Table 2.6	Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for matters resolved during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025.	.....	21
Table 2.7	Descriptive Statistics on the time to disposition for matters completed during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025.	.....	22
Table 2.8	Descriptive statistics on the age of active cases as at March 31, 2025.	.....	23
Table 2.9	Case clearance rate summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025	.....	23
Table 2.10	Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025	.....	24

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

The Corporate Area Coroner's Court (CCC) continues its high standard of performance into the first quarter of 2025. It has a case disposal rate of 100% and case clearance rate of 101.68%. The average time to disposition was 1.26 months. The importance of this kind of efficiency cannot be understated. Inheritances and other property rights depend on the issuing of the death certificates. This is a contribution to the economy in that the transfer of property from the estate of the deceased to the inheritors releases previously 'sterile' property into the economy for productive use.

The Special Coroner's Court (SCC) continued its significant contribution to creating an effective accountability mechanism for actions by the security force resulting in death. This is an important part of the administration of justice. It is critical that the Special Coroner completes this important task in the shortest possible time. While the clearance rate is high (132.14%) and case disposal rate is acceptable (28.57%), the average time to disposition is still too high (38.65) months.

A review of the processes and law are necessary to see why it is taking so long to dispose of cases in the SCC.

I wish to thank the judges, staff, and stakeholders in both courts for their diligence and commitment to excellence.

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 March 31, 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 100.00%, indicating that approximately 100 cases were resolved out of every 100 filed during the first quarter. The Corporate Area Coroner's Court continues to maintain a case clearance rate above international standards. This reporting period saw 121 disposed cases (regardless of date of origin) and 119 new cases filed, this produced a case clearance rate of 101.68%. The average time to disposition was 1.26 months, indicative of efficient case processing within the Corporate Area's Coroner's Court.

For the first quarter ended March 31, 2025 the Special Coroner's Court filed 28 new cases; of the new cases filed during the quarter there were 8 disposed cases, leading to a disposal rate of 28.57%. The Special Coroner's Court disposed 37 cases regardless of the date of origin, indicative of efforts to resolve older cases within year, leading to a clearance rate of 132.14% and an average time to disposition of 38.65 months. The court's jurisdiction across parishes, saw cases in the reporting period primarily originating from St. Catherine (27.27%), Kingston (18.18%), and St. James 15.15%).

Key performance Summary- Quarter 1, 2025 (Jan.-Mar.)

Court	Disposal Rate (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Average time to disposition (months)
Corporate Area Coroner's Court	100	101.68	1.26
Special Coroner's Court	28.57	132.14	38.65
Weighted Average	91.73	105.20	8.33

The report also analysed 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 (83.61%), highlighting their role in initiating legal proceedings. The majority of cases filed in the Corporate Area Coroner's Court for first quarter ended March 31, 2025 were males (68.85%), and the prevalent cause of death as reported was death due to natural causes. As it concerns Form D applications, most (71.07%) of the outcomes were in accordance with Section 14¹, indicating the acceptance of matters for an inquest. Despite the fact that delays were encountered, primarily due to the generic category 'Other' (28.93%), the Corporate Area Coroner's Court overall performance for the first quarter ended March 31, 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 January to March 2025 that 87.88% of the matters filed in the Special Coroner's Court were deaths related to JCF incidents, 12.12% were death related to custodial incidents. Of the new cases filed in the period 8 cases were disposed of. The Special Coroner's Court recorded a case clearance rate of 132.14% exceeding international standards.

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 first quarter ended March 31, 2025, a total of 147 new cases were filed, with 158 disposed of during the year and an overall average time to disposition of 8.33 months. The weighted average case disposal rate was 91.73%, and the weighted average case clearance rate was 105.20% for the reporting period.

Forecasted case flow performance estimates for the quarter ended March 31, 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	116	114	134	98.76	115.70
Corporate Area Special Coroner's Court	21	4	35	18.52	166.16
Total/Weighted Average	137	118	169	89.47	121.54

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 (Apr.- Jun. 2025.) is 115.70%, which would be 14.02 percentage points higher than that of the 101.68% recorded in the period (Jan-March. 2025). The overall forecasted case clearance rates for the Corporate Area Special Coroner's court in the period (Apr.-Jun.2025.) is 166.16%, which would be 34.02 percentage points higher than that of the 132.14% recorded in the period (Jan.-Mar. 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 first 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 first quarter ended March 31, 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 March 31,2025

Descriptive Statistics (in days)	
Number of observations	122
Mean	802.53
Std. Error of Mean	108.758
Median	359.50
Mode	1 ^a
Std. Deviation	1201.274
Skewness	3.110
Std. Error of Skewness	.219
Range	7548
Minimum	1
Maximum	7549

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 first quarter ended March 31, 2025. It is seen that from a sample of 122 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 803 days (or 2.2 years). The modal time taken was 1 days and the median was approximately 359 days or approximately 11.9 months. The standard deviation stands at a high of 1201 days or 3.3 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 20.6 years, while the lowest is 1 day.

Table 1.2: Case Activity Summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 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 (%)
119	0	119	100

The above table provides a summary of the cases filed at the Corporate Area Coroner's Court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025. It is shown that 119 new cases were filed during the quarter, 13 cases or 9.85% less than the 132 cases filed in the similar quarter of 2024. There were 119 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 first quarter ended March 31, 2025.

Source	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Police	102	83.61
Family	20	16.39
Total	122	100

A sample of 122 cases filed at the Corporate Area Coroner's Court shows that 102 cases or 83.61% of cases filed were filed by the police, while 20 or 16.39% were filed by the family of deceased.

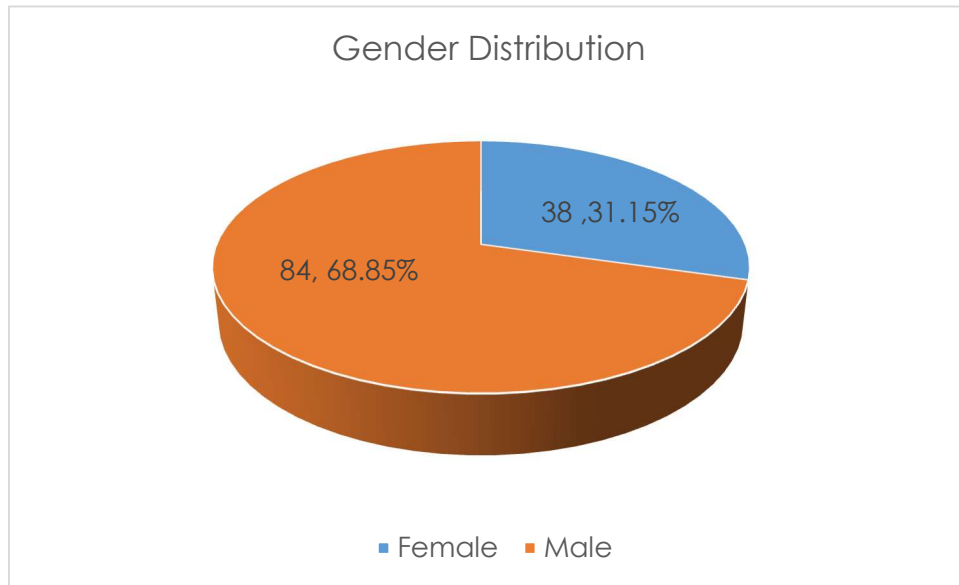
Table 1.4: Sampling distribution of deaths reported at various Police and brought before the court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Police Station	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Hunts Bay Police Station	11	9.32
Elletson Road Police Station	10	8.47
Constant Spring Police Station	8	6.78
Central Police Station	8	6.78
Franklin Town Police Station	7	5.93
Sub-Total	44	37.28

Sample of observations (N) = 118

The data showed a sample of 118 Coroner's Court cases reported at the different police stations in the Corporate Area which were subsequently brought to the court. Of that number, Hunts Bay Police Station accounted for the highest proportion of cases filed/investigated in the quarter with 11 or 9.32%, while the Elletson Road Police Station followed with 10 or 8.47%. The Constant Spring and Central Police Station with 8 or 6.87% ranked next while The Franklin Town Police Station and Major Investigation Division rounded off the top five Police Station with 7 cases (5.93%) of the sample.

Chart 1.1: Distribution of gender of the deceased for new cases filed during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025



The above chart summarizes gender distribution, using a sample of 122 deceased persons involved in the cases filed during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025. It is shown that 84 or 68.85% of the deceased were male, while the remaining 38 or 31.15% were female. In the similar quarter of 2024, males also accounted for a larger proportion, 93 or (68.89%) of the total sample. For the reporting period the absolute number of cases of males decreased by was 9.68% when compared to the same period for 2024.

Table 1.5: Descriptive Statistics on the age of the deceased in cases filed during the quarter ended March 31,2025

Descriptive statistics (age in years)	
Number of observations	121
Mean	57.31
Std. Error of Mean	1.9
Median	58
Mode	74
Std. Deviation	20.895
Skewness	-0.114
Std. Error of Skewness	0.22
Range	81
Minimum	15
Maximum	96

A sample of 121 ages of the deceased involved in the cases filed revealed that the average age is roughly 57 years while the median is approximately 58 years, and one of the most common age value is 74 years. The standard deviation stands at a moderate value of 20 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 15 years, while the largest age value was 96 years.

Table 1.6a: Sampling distribution of the causes of death reported for cases filed during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Cause of death	Frequency	Percentage(%)
Multiple gunshot wound to head and chest	10	8.20
Gunshot wound of torso	5	4.10
Myocardial infarction, Congestive cardiac failure , Diabetes Mellitus, Hypertension Gastroenteritis	4	3.28
Myocardial infarction, Hypertensive heart disease, Ischematic heart disease, hypertension, Atrial fibrillation chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	4	3.28
Atherosclerotic and hypertensive heart disease	3	2.46
Sub-Total	26	21

Sample size (N) = 122

The above table is computed using a sample of 122 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 Gunshot wound of the head and chest with 10 or 8.20% of the sample and gunshot wounds to the torso with 5 or 4.10% followed by Myocardial infarction, Congestive cardiac failure, Diabetes Mellitus, Hypertension Gastroenteritis with 4 or 3.28%. 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 first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Cause of death as determined by Coroner	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Death due to natural causes	76	62.81
Death due to gunshot wounds	29	23.97
Death due to motor vehicle accident	4	3.31
Death due to fall	3	1.65
Death due to blunt force trauma to the head	2	1.65
Sub-Total	114	93.39

Number of observations N= (121)

The above table is computed using a sample of 121 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 76 or 62.81% of the sample and deaths due to gunshot wounds with 29 or 2.39% 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 first quarter ended March 31, 2025.

Outcomes	Frequency	Percentage(%)
Section 14	86	71.07
Other	35	28.93
Total	121	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 86 or 71.07% of the outcomes. While the generic category 'other outcomes' accounted for 35 or 28.93%. These results are typical to the trends observed in the Coroner's Courts Island wide. The data was computed using a sample of 121 cases.

Table 1.8: Sampling distribution of reasons for adjournment/continuance during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Reasons for adjournment/continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
File incomplete/awaiting medical certificate	4	30.77
Part-heard	8	61.54
Witness absent	1	7.69
Total	13	100

In the report period, 13 matters were adjourned/continued. Continuances (delays attributable to case progression stages) by way of Adjournments due to incomplete files/awaiting medical certificate, accounted for the highest portion of the sample with 30.77% of the sample. Part heard matters followed with 8 or 61.54%. Other accounted for 11.43% of the sample.

Table 1.9: Sampling distribution of the type of hearings during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Type of hearing	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Chambers	122	100.00
Total	122	100

A sample of 132 hearings at the Corporate Area Coroner's Court in 2025, reveals that all 132 were chamber hearings.

Table 1.10: Sampling distribution of the methods of Disposition of matters completed during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Methods of disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Section 14	83	68.03
Section 10	31	25.41
Inquest	6	4.92
Open Court Verdict	2	1.64
Total	122	100

The methods of disposition for a sample of 554 matters which were disposed during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025, revealed that 343 or 61.91% 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 195 or 35.20% of the sample. Matters disposed by open court verdict or by inquest accounted for 16 or 2.88%.

Table 1.11: Descriptive Statistics on the time to disposition for matters completed during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025**Descriptive Statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	120
Mean	37.98
Median	3.00
Mode	3
Std. Deviation	139.692
Skewness	5.063
Std. Error of Skewness	.221
Range	983
Minimum	1
Maximum	984

The above data shows that the average time taken to dispose of matters during the year first quarter ended March 31, 2025 is approximately 38 days. This was derived from a sample of 120 matters resolved during the year. The data also revealed that the median time taken to dispose of the matters was 3 days and the modal time was also 3 days. The standard deviation of 139.69 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 984 days. The average time taken between the date the file was received and the date of first hearing was 5.43 days compared to the 5.18 days recorded in the same period of 2024.

Table 1.12: Case clearance rate summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Number of cases disposed or inactive	Estimated Case clearance rate (%)
119	121	101.68

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 101.68% for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025, down from the 115.91% 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 119 new cases filed during the quarter and 121 cases were disposed (regardless of date of origin), leading to the stated clearance rate. It suggests that for every 100 new cases filed, 101 cases were resolved during the

quarter.

The Clarendon Coroner's Court

Table 1.13: Case clearance rate summary for Clarendon Coroner's Court for the first quarter ended

Approximate number of cases filed	Approximate number of cases disposed	Estimated case clearance rate (%)
32	33	103.13

March 31, 2025

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 Clarendon Coroner's Court with a case clearance rate of 103.13% for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025, falls within the above –mentioned range which shows promising signs of a well-managed caseload. There were 32 new cases filed during the quarter and 33 cases were disposed (regardless of date of origin), leading to the stated clearance rate. It suggests that for every 100 new cases filed, 103 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 first quarter ended March 31, 2025.

Table 2.1a: Case activity summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 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 (%)
28	1	8	28.57

Note 1: There were 37 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 28 new cases were filed in the first quarter of 2025 cases were disposed from those originating in the quarter leading to a disposal rate of 28.57%.

Table 2.2: Sampling distribution of the parish of origin of matters filed during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parish Origin	Frequency	Percentage(%)
St Catherine	9	27.27
St James	5	15.15
Kingston	6	18.18
St Elizabeth	2	6.06
Clarendon	2	6.06
Manchester	1	3.03
St Andrew	2	6.06
Westmoreland	3	9.09
St. Ann	3	9.09
Total	33	100

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 with 27.27% of the cases filed, Kingston with approximately 18.18%

and St. James with 15.15% accounted for 60.60% share of new cases filed in the Special Coroner's Court during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025.

Table 2.3: Sampling distribution of the source of matters filed during the first quarter ended March 31,2025

Source	Frequency	Percentage (%)
INDECOM	33	100.00
Total	33	100

A sample of 33 matters filed at the Special Coroner's Court during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025, shows that all 33 or 100% were filed by INDECOM.

Table 2.4: Sampling distribution on the type of death by Institution during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Type of death	Frequency	Percentage(%)
JCF	29	87.88
Custodial Institution	4	12.12
Total	33	100.0

It is seen in the above table, that 87.88% of all the matters filed during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025 were matters related to JCF deaths, while 12.12% were related to custodial deaths.

Table 2.5: Descriptive Statistics on the age of the deceased in cases filed during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (age in years)	
Number of observations	21
Mean	40.00
Median	34.00
Mode	20 ^a
Std. Deviation	16.392
Skewness	0.895
Std. Error of Skewness	.501
Range	56
Minimum	20
Maximum	76

The above descriptive summary on the age of the deceased 21 observations, the average age was roughly 40 years, while one of the most frequently occurring age was 20 years old. The highest age recorded was 76 years, while the lowest is 20 years old. The moderate standard deviation of roughly 16 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 first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Methods of disposition	Frequency	Percentage(%)
Section 14	8	100
Total	8	100

The methods of disposition for a sample of 8 matters, which were disposed of during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025 revealed that all 8 matters were disposed by way of an inquest under the provisions of Section 14 of the Coroner's Court Act.

Table 2.7: Descriptive Statistics on the time to disposition for matters completed during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (Days)	
Number of observations	41
Mean	1158.1500
Median	1069.0000
Mode	22.00 ^a
Std. Deviation	1015.50000
Skewness	0.519
Std. Error of Skewness	.369
Range	3665.00
Minimum	20.00
Maximum	3685.00

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table uses a sample of 41 cases disposed of in the quarter reveals an estimated average of roughly 39 months, with a maximum of approximately 10 years and a minimum of 20 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 March 31, 2025**Descriptive Statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	45
Mean	609.71
Median	301.00
Mode	223
Std. Deviation	703.945
Skewness	1.744
Std. Error of Skewness	.354
Range	2303
Minimum	112
Maximum	2415

The above data is based on sample of 45 active Special Coroner's matters as at March 31, 2025. The average age of these matters was roughly 609 days or approximately 20.3 months, while one of the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 223 days. The standard deviation of roughly 704 days suggests that there is a small 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 2415 days old or 7 years, while the youngest case is 112 days.

Table 2.9: Case clearance rate summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of cases disposed	Estimated Case clearance rate (%)
28	37	132.14

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 132.14% in the quarter, exceeds the above-mentioned range, which shows promising signs of a well- managed caseload, there were 28 new cases filed and 37 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 first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Metric	Corporate Area Coroner's Court	Corporate Area Special Coroner's Court	Total/Weighted Average
Approximate number of new cases	119	28	146
Approximate number of disposed cases	119	8	127
Approximate gross number of disposed cases (regardless of date of origin)	121	37	158
Estimated Case Disposal Rate (%)	100	28.57	91.73
Estimated Case Clearance Rate (%)	101.68	132.14	105.20
Average Time to Disposition	1.26	38.65	8.33

The above table provides a summary of aggregate case activity across the featured specialized Coroner's Court and Special Coroner's Court during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025. It is shown that a total of 146 new cases were filed in these courts, while 127 of these cases were disposed of, leading to an estimated weighted case disposal rate of 91.7%. 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 158 cases were disposed of in the quarter (regardless of date of origin), leading to an estimated weighted case clearance rate of 105.20%. The Corporate Area Coroner's Court recorded a case clearance rate of 101.68% and the Special Coroner's Court had an estimated case

clearance rate of 132.14%, 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 first quarter of 2025, the combined weighted average time to disposition was 8.33 months. Across both courts the estimated case disposal rate was 91.73%, and the estimated case clearance rate was 105.20% 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 28 new cases and irrespective of the date of origin one hundred and thirty-seven (37) cases were either disposed or inactive. The Special Coroner's Court recorded a case clearance rate of 132.14%, with an average time to disposition of 38.65 months in quarter one of 2025. The Corporate Area Coroner's Court, filed 119 new cases in the reporting period, and disposed of 121 matters irrespective of the date of origin, producing a case clearance rate of 132.14%. 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 119 new cases filed (100%) in quarter one and recorded an average time to disposition of a little over one month (1.26 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 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.

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>