

Charleston County: 2024 Case Processing Trends

Formally established in 2015, the Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) proactively strengthens the local criminal justice system and public safety through data sharing and analysis. The CJCC remains committed to accountability and transparency.

In comparing 2023 and 2024 case processing trends¹:

- **Cases were resolved** (disposed) **23% faster** (median of 601 days in 2023, median of 462 days in 2024), **and the Solicitor's Office received discovery** (case-related documents such as police reports and evidence) **14% faster** (median of 14 days in 2023, median of 12 days in 2024).
- **More new cases were filed – up 6%** (7,711 in 2023, 8,212 in 2024), **but 15% fewer cases were resolved** (8,046 disposed in 2023, 6,807 disposed in 2024).

In 2024:

- **Most General Sessions Court cases ended** (disposed) **in either a dismissal** (dismissed not indicted or Nolle Prosequi - 52%) **or a guilty plea** (40%), **while less than 1% went to trial** (49 cases in 2024).
- **Most defendants waited for their case outcome** (disposition) **outside of jail** (4,620 out of custody, 2,122 in custody), **but those who were in jail had their cases resolved faster on average** (196 days when in custody, 596 days when out of custody).
- **The South Carolina Statewide Case Processing Standard for General Sessions Court is to bring 80% of cases to trial within one year². However, 44 out of 46 counties - including Charleston County – did not meet that standard. As of December 31, 2024, 55% of Charleston County cases (8,078 cases) have been waiting more than a year, with the average case taking 462 days to finish** (2024 median time to case resolution 462 days).

¹ All data presented in this document is drawn from the CJCC 2024 Annual Report found here: <https://cjcc.charlestoncounty.org/files/publications/2024-CJCC-Annual-Report.pdf>

² https://www.sccourts.org/media/monthlyReports/Mar2025/cr75_mon_graph.pdf