

RATE OF RECIDIVISM, JAMAICA 2010-2021

Definition: An inmate recidivism rate is the percentage of inmates released during a specific period who commit a new offence within a certain time following their release. Recidivism is the tendency of criminal offenders to relapse into their previous undesirable and illegal behaviour¹.

This indicator is one of over sixty being tracked under the Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan. The rate of recidivism in Jamaica when observed for the period 2010 to 2021, shows that this rate has been increasing and so in general an upward trend is realized (Figure 1.0). The overall trend observed is represented using a linear model. The lowest recorded value for recidivism in Jamaica was 26.0 per cent in 2011 and at its peak, the highest recorded value was 48.4 per cent in 2014 (Table 1.0)².

Upon closer examination, the data reveal that during the first 5 years 2010 to 2014, the trend is upward in keeping with the overall trend. Minimum and maximum values for this indicator are also observed during this period and for the years 2011 and 2014 respectively. The data maps a cyclic path during this period albeit not pronounced, but with periodic peaks and troughs.

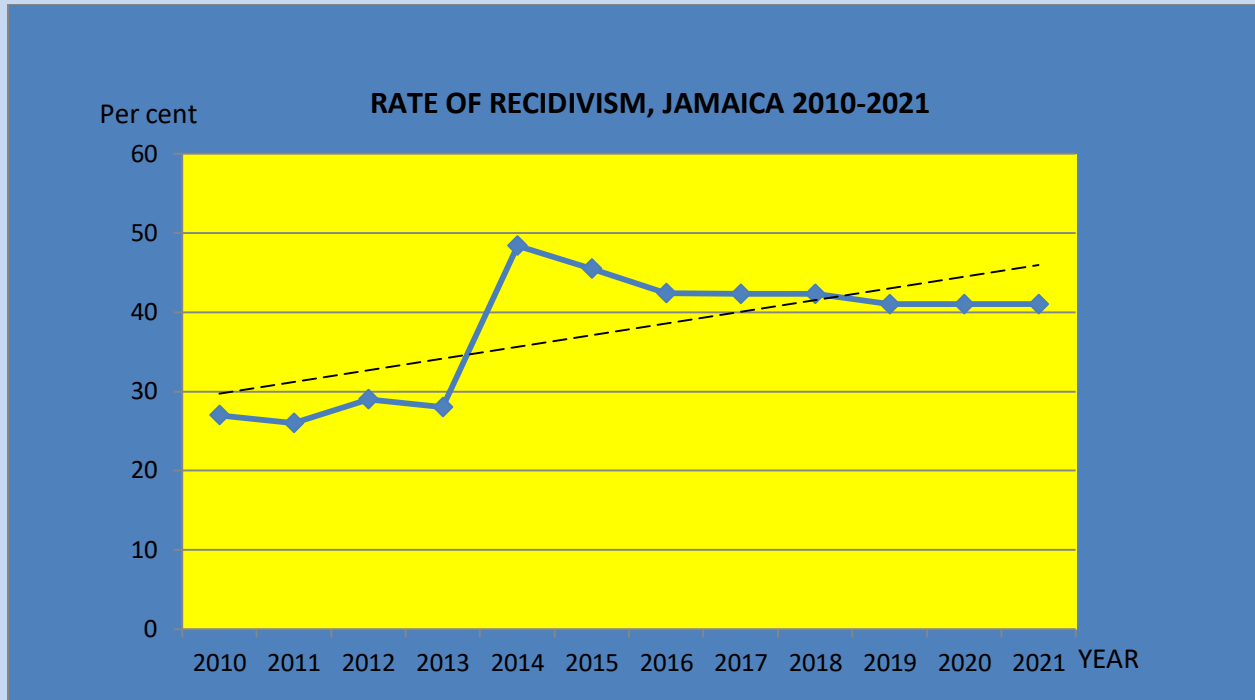
Table 1.0 Rate of Recidivism in Jamaica, 2010-2021

Rate of Recidivism (per cent)	27.0	26.0	29.0	28.0	48.4	45.5	42.4	42.3	42.3	41.0	41.0	41.0
Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021

¹ Metadata Hub: <https://data4development.gov.jm/en/meta-data-result?secid=GL>

² Data source: JamData Mobile App

Figure 1.0 Rate of Recidivism in Jamaica, 2010-2021



From 2015 onward the trend is downward, moving from a high of 45.5 per cent in 2015 to a low of 41.0 per cent in 2019, thereafter its value remains unchanged.

So even though the overall trend is upward for the period 2010 to 2021, it is important to note that, for the last seven years the trend is downward and is an important observation that defines the present reality. Much more is expected from the government and partners in the criminal justice system for this rate to return to at least its 2011 value of 26.0 per cent.