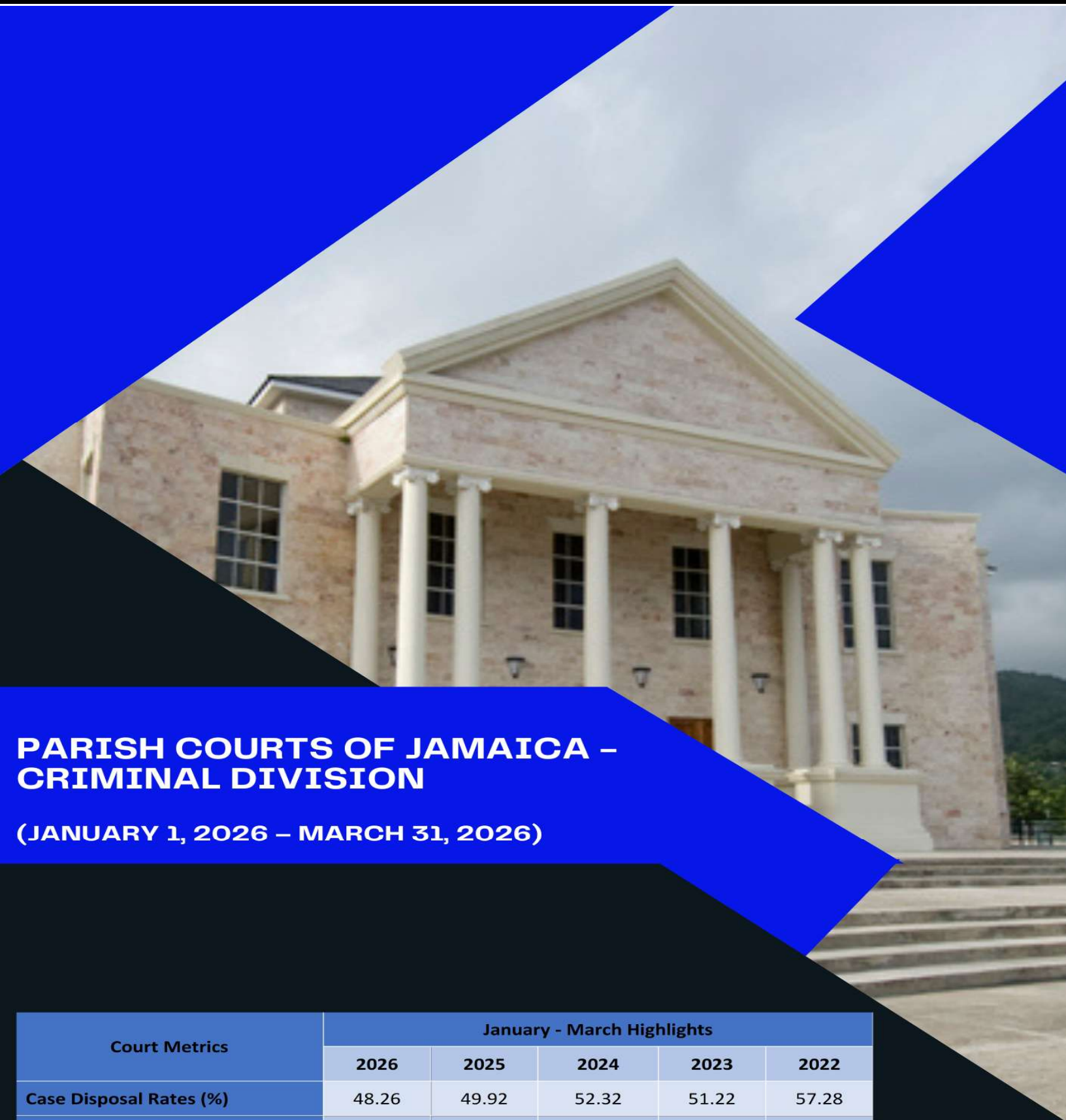


THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S FIRST QUARTER STATISTICS REPORT 2026



PARISH COURTS OF JAMAICA – CRIMINAL DIVISION

(JANUARY 1, 2026 – MARCH 31, 2026)

Court Metrics	January - March Highlights				
	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Case Disposal Rates (%)	48.26	49.92	52.32	51.22	57.28
Case Clearance Rates (%)	93.86	95.05	97.23	108.41	112.61
Trial Date Certainty Rates (%)	92	81	81	82	85
Courtroom Utilization Rates (%)	71.67	66.42	65.37	63.41	65.31

Table of Contents

List of Tables	2
List of Charts.....	4
Chief Justice’s Message First Quarter Criminal Parish Court 2026	6
Executive Summary	10
Methodology	17
Disclaimer	18
Chapter 1.0: Criminal Case Activity Statistics in the Parish Courts for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026.....	19
Offence Types	50
Methods of Disposal and Conviction Rate.....	79
Common Reasons for Adjournment	80
The case file integrity rate:.....	81
Chapter 2.0: Case Demographics and Courtroom Activity	84
Inferential Statistics and Conclusion	120
Glossary of Terms	123

List of Tables

Table i	Key Performance Metrics of High-Performing Courts	16
Table 1.01	Aggregate case statistics for each Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	19
Table 1.02a	Aggregate case statistics for each Parish Court as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	22
Table 1.02b	Percentile rank on selected performance metrics for the criminal division of the Parish Courts for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	25
Table 1.02c	Forecasted case activity statistics for the second quarter of 2026 [April 01, 2026 – June 30, 2026]	26
Table 1.02d	Sampling distribution of new cases filed per 10,000 population in the criminal division of the Parish Courts in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	27
Table 1.02e	Sampling distribution of the Indices of Judge Productivity for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	30
Table 1.03	Aggregate summary case statistics for each Parish Court for the first quarter of 2025 and 2026	32
Table 1.04a	Sampling distribution of mention court activity for cases disposed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	36
Table 1.04b	Summary of cases heard during the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	38
Table 1.05a	Comparison of the trial certainty rates for the first quarter of 2025 and 2026	39
Table 1.05b	Percentile Rank on trial date certainty rate for the criminal division of the Parish Courts in the first quarter of 2025 and 2026	40
Table 1.05c	Average duration from first trial date set to date of disposal of case for matters resolved by trial in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	41
Table 1.05d	Time interval between major events for cases that had a trial date in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	42
Table 1.05e	Trial court activity summary during the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	44
Table 1.06a	Distribution of courtroom utilization rates across the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	45
Table 1.06b	Percentile Rank on Courtroom utilization rate for the criminal division of the Parish Courts in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	47
Table 1.07	Types of matters for each Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	48

Table 1.08.01	Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	50
Table 1.08.02	Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	50
Table 1.08.03	Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Portland Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	51
Table 1.08.04	Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	52
Table 1.08.05	Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	53
Table 1.08.06	Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	54
Table 1.08.07	Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. James Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	55
Table 1.08.08	Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	55
Table 1.08.09	Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	56
Table 1.08.10	Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	57
Table 1.08.11	Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	58
Table 1.08.12	Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	58
Table 1.08.13	Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	59
Table 1.09	Conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	60
Table 1.10	Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges across the Parish Courts for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	61
Table 1.11	Conviction rate for leading occurring charges heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	62
Table 1.12	Sampling distribution of the average age of active charges for each Parish Court for first quarter ended March 31, 2026	63
Table 1.13	Average age of charges disposed for matters originating in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	64
Table 1.14a	Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	66
Table 1.14b	Sampling distribution of the times to disposition for matters completed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	68
Table 1.15a	Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	70
Table 1.15b	Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for matters completed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	72
Table 1.15c	Net and gross criminal case backlog as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2026 for cases over 24 months	74
Table 1.15d	Net and gross criminal case backlog as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2026 for cases over 20 months	76
Table 1.16	Distribution of methods of disposition for matters set for trial during the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	78
Table 1.17	Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	79
Table 1.18.01	Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	80
Table 1.18.02	Summary of case management date activity for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	82
Table 2.01	Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	84

Table 2.02.01	Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Westmoreland for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	85
Table 2.02.02	Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Corporate Area for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	87
Table 2.02.03	Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. James for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	88
Table 2.02.04	Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Catherine for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	89
Table 2.02.05	Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Thomas for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	91
Table 2.02.06	Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Trelawny for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	92
Table 2.02.07	Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Mary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	93
Table 2.02.08	Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Portland for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	95
Table 2.02.09	Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Hanover for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	97
Table 2.02.10	Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Ann for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	99
Table 2.02.11	Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Clarendon for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	100
Table 2.02.12	Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Manchester for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	102
Table 2.02.13	Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Elizabeth for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	103
Table 2.03	proportion of cases heard at the main court and outstation across all Parish Courts for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	104

List of Charts

Chart 1.01a	Summary of changes in the number of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2025 and 2026	28
Chart 1.01b	Summary of changes in the number of cases disposed in the first quarter of 2025 and 2026	29
Chart 1.2.01	Aggregate summary of selected case activity metrics for the first quarter of 2025 and 2026	33
Chart 1.2.02a	Comparison of case disposal rates across the Parish Courts for the first quarter of 2025 and 2026	34
Chart 1.2.02b	Comparison of case clearance rates across the Parish Courts for the first quarter of 2025 and 2026	34
Chart 1.2.02c	Comparison of case congestion rate across the Parish Courts for the first quarter of 2025 and 2026	35
Chart 2.01	Aggregate age distribution of persons charged for all Parish Courts for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	106
Chart 2.02	Aggregate gender distribution of persons charged for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	107
Chart 2.03.01	Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Manchester Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	108
Chart 2.03.02	Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Clarendon Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	109
Chart 2.03.03	Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Catherine Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	110
Chart 2.03.04	Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Thomas Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	111
Chart 2.03.05	Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Portland Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	112
Chart 2.03.06	Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Mary Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	113

Chart 2.03.07	Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. James Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	114
Chart 2.03.08	Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Corporate Area Criminal Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	115
Chart 2.03.09	Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	116
Chart 2.03.10	Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Hanover Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	117
Chart 2.03.11	Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Ann Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	118
Chart 2.03.12	Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Trelawny Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026	119

Chief Justice's Message First Quarter Criminal Parish Court 2026

The first quarter statistics for 2026 show that the criminal division of the Parish Courts of Jamaica continues to move in the right direction but also remind us that sustained high performance is a journey, not a single event. Overall, we have achieved and maintained one of our most important strategic objectives: the net case backlog in the criminal division of the Parish Courts now stands at just over 2 per cent, well below the 5 per cent target and consistent with a system that may properly be described as “backlog free” in functional terms. This has been so for the past three years. The next strategic objective for the Criminal Division of the Parish Courts is to reduce the gross backlog to less than 10 percent across the system initially and then below 5 percent. To get to this point and maintain this standard there must be training of staff particularly the leadership core and this training must now be institutionalised and that is being done with the development of appropriate courses in conjunction with one of the tertiary level training institutions in Jamaica. This training will provide the skills necessary to maintain the gains made, improve service delivery and using data to make decisions about each court's operations.

When these are accomplished, the Parish Courts will be able to operate in the manner indicated by the metrics of a high performing backlog free courts because there will be the knowledge and skill in place to sustain the methodology of managing and operating these courts. Systems will transcend personalities. In this context, special note must be taken of the improved trial date certainty to 92 percent in this quarter. It is just 3 percent short of where the Parish Court system needs to be based on our strategic plan and not the international standard what is lower than our target of 95 percent. This 92 percent is the result of 11 courts having a hearing date certainty of 92 percent or higher. Five courts were at 100 percent. One court was at 58 percent and another at 76 percent. This metric – 92% and increasing to 95% - now needs to be sustained as the new norm and default standard. Thus, high trial date certainty, high hearing date certainty, combined with reduced number of case management dates and improved case disposal rates, will, over time, reduce the time and money spent by litigants on court cases. The goal is to reduce the time spent on cases to the irreducible base line beyond which greater compression of time will result in making the process unfair. That point has not yet been reached.

Our processes need further refinement and that refinement is being done with the implementation of the ISO 9001 project where our courts have begun the long climb to process efficiency, implementing and maintaining the practice of continuous improvement. ISO 9001 requires us to review constantly our processes and make them more efficient, less costly, increasingly accessible so that justice services can be delivered at lower cost to the litigants and other court users. This will be supported by deployment of the Integrated Case Management System (IECMS), which will integrate all the major justice sector institutions in one chain so that information flows seamlessly across operational boundaries. This is to reduce service delivery times, which should result in increased confidence in our processes, systems, and decisions.

We are also focusing on the customer service aspect of our operations. That is, how do our customers feel about their interaction with the courts? How were they treated? How were they spoken to? How frictionless was the interaction? How many trips did they have to make to the court or how many times did they have to call the court to obtain information or initiate and complete a transaction? Do they understand the process and what they need to do to gain access to and secure the outcome they want? This approach combined with ISO 9001 will see our courts becoming leading world class courts in the delivery of justice services.

Overall, the data reflect several important strengths. Case clearance rates remain high and are generally within accepted international standards, and trial date certainty has improved to over 90 per cent, meaning that in most instances, when we say a trial will proceed, it does. This increased trial date certainty has translated into a declining gross backlog even at the 20 month time standard. At present there are 6 courts with a gross backlog of greater than 10 percent (and declining), which means 7 courts are under 10%. The majority of Parish Courts are under 10% gross backlog. The rest are under 10 percent with Hanover (3.48 percent), Portland (3.82 percent) below 5 percent on the 20 month time standard. The overall gross backlog is 16.11 percent at the reduced time standard of 20 months. What this demonstrates is that with disciplined case management, close attention to adjournments, and the cooperation of stakeholders who embrace the concept of collective responsibility, it is possible to dispose of cases promptly, reduce congestion, and give the public a predictable, high quality service. The Parish Courts are

showing, in practical terms, what the Strategic Plan 2024–2028 envisioned when it spoke of an evidence-based, data-driven judiciary committed to continuous improvement.

Although the average time to disposition is approximately 9.6 months the need for greater courtroom utilization, reduced average number of case management dates, improved case disposal rates, strongly suggests that the average time to disposition can be reduced further. Proper and effective implementation of differentiated case management principles (DCMP) can reduce the time to disposition even further. That is why, it can be safely asserted that our Parish Court Criminal Division is not yet at optimum efficiency where cases are disposed of in the shortest possible time given the resources – human, material and financial - available. More can be done. Stated differently, the underfunding of the courts reflected in the lack of thorough high value maintenance does not prevent us from doing all within our control to reduce wait times to the irreducible point beyond which it is not possible to go below.

The report also highlights areas that require frank acknowledgement and decisive action. Our overall case disposal rate, which measure show the courts are disposing of and managing new cases, is still below the minimum standard for a high-performing court, case congestion remains far above the desired benchmark, and the average number of case managements per case is still too high.

Special mention must be made of St Elizabeth now operating with two judges because there are not enough courtrooms in the parish to accommodate three judges and support staff. The courthouse at Balaclava – previously an outstation has been pressed into being a full time court – because Hurricane Melissa destroyed the main court in Black River.

Westmoreland is another parish severely hampered by the reduction in courthouses caused by Hurricane Melissa. The main court rooms at the main courthouse were inoperable as of October 2025. The data shows that the leadership on the ground has managed to rally the staff to provide some legal services in the face of the devastation. After Hurricane Melissa, the number of courtrooms were reduced from 5 to 1. There are now two courtrooms in operation; the second one came on stream at the end of the quarter. The data for this quarter show remarkable

resilience. It also highlights the importance of being backlog free so that when shocks come as they will the impact is not as devastating in terms of wait times for legal services.

The Parish Court of St Ann was operating without its full complement of judges for near unto a year. This was addressed at the end of the first quarter and thus there should be an improvement in that court's performance for the rest of 2026.

The task before us is to close the identified performance gaps. If we maintain our current trajectory, and if all stakeholders commit to using these statistics as tools for improvement rather than instruments of blame, there is every reason to believe that by 2028 the criminal division of our Parish Courts will not only be backlog free, but also firmly in the company of the best-performing courts in the world.

I wish to thank all our stakeholders, staff, judges, and the Court Administration Division for making this progress possible and for their continued commitment to improving the delivery of justice services to the people of Jamaica.

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

Executive Summary

This statistical report for the first quarter of 2026 is for the criminal division of the parish courts. The criminal division of the parish courts has already achieved one of its main key strategic targets, that of reducing the overall net case backlog rate to less than 5%, as it continues to sustain exceptionally high case clearance rates. From all available statistical accounts, the criminal division of the parish courts is now among the most efficient in the Caribbean and Latin American region in the timely delivery of justice. It is now critical that the criminal division of the parish courts strive to reduce the overall average time taken to dispose of cases and in so eventually reduce the net case backlog rate to the point that it can be classified as a whole as being backlog free.

The aggregate new case count in the Parish Courts in the first quarter of 2026 was 6,500, an increase of 16.26% when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. The Corporate Area Parish Court - Criminal Division with 1,374 new cases or 21.14% of the total sample, followed by the St. Catherine and St. James Parish Courts with 858 cases or 13.20% and 541 cases or 8.32% respectively, account for the three largest proportions of the new criminal cases filed in the period. Taken together, the three parishes with the highest new case count account for 42.66% of the new cases filed in the first quarter of 2026, not dissimilar to the previous year. The Parish Courts of St. Elizabeth, Hanover and St. Mary accounted for the lowest shares of the aggregate new cases filed in the period, each with under 5.0% of the total new caseload.

The overall average disposal rate for cases originating in the first quarter of 2026 was 48.26%, which is a decrease of 1.66 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. The Hanover Parish Court leads the way with a disposal rate of 64.26%, thereby resolving new cases the fastest in the period. The St. James and Portland Parish Courts ranked next with case disposal rates of 63.22% and 61.42% respectively, continuing western dominance on this metric.

The case clearance rate provides a measure of the number of cases disposed (regardless of date/year of initiation) for every new case filed in a particular period. This is a productivity index as many of the disposed cases, which are included in its computation, would have originated before the period of focus and is a more instructive statistic on case activity than the case disposal rate. The overall case clearance rate for the first quarter of 2026 was 93.86%, a decrease of 1.19 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. The result suggests that for every 100 new criminal cases that were filed in the Parish Courts in the first quarter of 2026, roughly 94 cases were disposed. Eight (8) of the 13 Parish Courts satisfied the international standard of between 90% and 110% in the first quarter of 2026. The best performing court on this measure was the Portland Parish Court with an impressive rate of 114.19%, while the St. Mary Parish Court with 107.33% and the St. James Parish Court with 102.40% rounded off the top three performers on this key metric.

One highly important measure, which is of keen interest to the leadership of the courts and the policy makers, is the case congestion rate. This is a measure of how well a court is doing in managing its pending caseload, relative to its rates of disposition and clearance and the implied state of resources. The higher the case congestion rate of a court, the more burdensome the caseload and the longer it will take to dispose of cases, again within the context of the existing rates of disposition and clearance and the implied state of resources. The overall case congestion rate recorded for the criminal division of the Parish Courts in the first quarter of 2026 was 327.72%, which is an improvement of 9.80 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2025. The Parish Courts of Hanover, Portland, and St. Mary continue to be among the least congested court at the end of the quarter. There is a long run negative association between the case clearance rate and the case congestion rate, therefore, sustained increases in the case clearance rate will cause the case congestion rate to fall.

Another essential measure, which is an important cornerstone in the drive to bring Jamaica among the best performing court systems in the world is the trial date certainty rate. This provides a measurement of the likelihood that dates set for trial will proceed as scheduled (without adjournment for future dates). The perfect rate of 100% would suggest that all dates set for trial proceed as scheduled in the relevant period. The criminal division of the Parish Courts recorded an overall trial date certainty rate of 92% in the first quarter of 2026, roughly 11 percentage points more when compared to the same as the corresponding period in 2025. The Parish Courts of Westmoreland, Clarendon, St. James, St. Mary, and St. Thomas were the leaders on this metric. The proportion of allocated court time that is utilized for hearings in each parish

court bears some long run correlation with the case clearance rate, the case congestion rate and overall court performance. The courtroom utilization rate provides a solid measurement of the proportion of time allocated for court hearings, which are utilized throughout the period in each court. The overall courtroom utilization rate across the parish courts in the period was 71.67%, an increase of 5.25 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. The Parish Courts of Westmoreland, St. Mary and St. Catherine were the leaders on this metric during the quarter.

On the matter of caseload distribution in the individual parishes, the data show that in many instances the outstation courts in the respective parishes are carrying a notable share of the caseload. The overall average number of new cases heard in the outstations in the first quarter of 2026 is approximately 39.07%, while roughly 60.93% of cases were heard at the main Parish Court locations. While outstation court activity in parishes such as St. James and the Corporate Area account for less than 10% of total activity, there are several parishes where outstations are extensively utilized, accounting for over 30% of total case activity. This includes the Parish Courts of Trelawny, St. Elizabeth, St. Ann and Hanover, among others. The evidence continues to suggest that there is the potential in many parishes for outstations to be utilized to a greater degree to ease the caseload carriage in the main courts, thus potentially enhancing case clearance and disposal rates by reducing the case congestion. The largest proportion of cases disposed in the first quarter of 2026 was by way of guilty pleas, accounting for 22.04% of the cases disposed. This was followed by cases disposed by way of not guilty verdicts, which was responsible for 19.62% of the cases disposed. It is of note that guilty verdicts accounted for roughly 6.89% of the matters

disposed, while matters dismissed accounted for 14.19% of the total sample. Mediated settlements (of various forms) accounted for roughly 15.14% of the cases disposed during the quarter. The combined 28.93% of the cases disposed by way of guilty outcomes represent the estimated criminal conviction rate in the parish courts for the quarter. Further analysis of the data suggests that for the cases originating over at least over the past roughly 9 years, which are disposed, roughly 36.15% were resolved within 90 days, 56.61% within six months and 76.31% within a year.

In terms of the distribution of case types, the report highlights that the largest proportion of the criminal cases filed in the Parish Courts were indictments with approximately 47% of all matters. This is followed by summary matters with roughly 27.81% and Lay Magistrates' sittings which accounted for 12.10%. Summary matters had an overall conviction rate of 62.30% in the quarter, while indictments had a conviction rate of 10.90% across the Parish Courts.

An important delay factor, which affects the efficiency with which cases move towards disposition is the incidence of adjournments in the Parish Courts. The data suggests that the dominant reasons for adjournments for the quarter were for warrants issued due to the non-appearance of defendants (7.87%), for disclosure (7.60%), for files to be completed (7.32%), and adjournments for referral to mediation (5.13%), rounding off the top four incidences. Also featuring prominently on the lists of reasons for adjournment across the Parish Courts during the quarter were adjournments for re-issue, adjournment at the request of the Crown, medical reports unavailable, and psychiatric evaluation to be done. This probability distribution for the

reasons for adjournment was broadly similar to that of the past few years. The three most frequent criminal charges filed in the Parish Courts in the first quarter of 2026 were assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding and malicious destruction of property. The majority of charges filed during the quarter involved accused males, accounting for roughly 81.80%, with females accounting for 18.20%. The dominant age group of persons charged in period were the 27-36 and 37-50 age groups, accounting for 32.74% and 28.01% respectively of the total sample. One of the most decisive and instructive findings from this quarterly report comes from the analysis of the distribution of times to disposition in the Parish Courts. The report reveals that on average, the criminal division of the Parish Courts took roughly 9.6 months to dispose cases in the first quarter of 2026. The courts which had the shortest times to disposition for cases resolved are the Parish Courts of Hanover (81 days), St. Mary (136 days) and Westmoreland (177 days).

Using the method of exponential smoothing, the report forecasts that in the second quarter of 2026, 5,483 new criminal cases will be filed in the criminal division of the Parish Courts, while 5,676 are expected to be disposed or become inactive during the period. The overall forecasted case clearance rate for the second quarter of 2026 in the criminal division of the Parish Courts is, therefore, roughly 103.52%. The Parish Courts of Portland, Corporate Area Criminal Division and St. Catherine are forecasted to register the highest case clearance rates in the second quarter of 2026.

With over nine years of extensive data on case activity in the parish courts of Jamaica, Lagrange multiplier techniques were applied to determine the minimum requirements that a highly successful court must meet in order to satisfy an efficiency threshold for the sustainable containment of case backlog and to provide optimal service to the public. The minimum annual required standards for each key parameter are summarized in the table below:

Table i: Key Performance Metrics of High-Performing Courts

Parameter	Minimum Annual Required Standard	Strategic Target 2024–2028	Rates for the first quarter 2026
Case Disposal Rate	>=75%	>=95%	48.26
Case Clearance Rate	>=100%	>=130%	93.86
Case Congestion Rate	<=115%	<=115%	327.72
Trial Date Certainty Rate	>=85%	>=95%	92
Net Case Backlog Rate	<=5%	<=5%	2.13
Gross Case Backlog Rate	<=10%	<=10%	15.73
Average Number of Mentions	<=3	<=3	4.89

If any court or jurisdiction can consistently achieve these rates, it will attain a high level of efficiency and service excellence, characteristic of high performing courts.

Methodology

Guaranteeing the reliability and validity of the data used to produce the periodic statistical reports for the Jamaican Courts is of utmost importance as we seek to produce a data driven enterprise for policymaking and operational decisions. As a result, a robust and verifiable system of data production has been created in both the parish courts and the Supreme Court. At the parish courts, a data capture system for criminal matters, called the CISS (Case Information Statistical System) has been operational in all courts for the past 9 years. This system captures a wide range of data on the progression of criminal cases from initiation to disposition and is manned by at least one dedicated Data Entry Officer in each court. The Data Entry Officers update the system on a daily basis so that the data produced is as close as possible to real time. The electronic data sheets for each parish court are then validated and backed-up to the network at the end of each month and the data submitted to a centralized, secure medium for processing by the Statistics Unit at the Supreme Court. A robust data validation mechanism is in place to periodically sample criminal case files in all parish courts on a quarterly basis. A representative sample of case files are taken in each case and crosschecked against the electronic data to detect and eliminate errors of omission and commission.

Monthly statistical data is processed using the data submissions, culminating in Quarterly Reports and eventually the Annual Report of this nature. All Quarterly and Annual Parish Court reports are published on the website of the Supreme Court; however, interim data required by stakeholders may be requested through the Office of the Chief Justice.

Disclaimer

The numbers that are reflected in the case activity summaries in the annual statistics report may vary slightly from those quoted in the individual quarterly reports throughout the year due to occasional constraints with timely access to all records and other mitigating factors. Methodological adjustments may also result in slight variations in comparative figures across periods. It should also be noted that there have been progressive improvements in the strength of the data collection mechanism in some courts such as the Clarendon Parish Court, which have positive measurement outcomes.

Chapter 1.0: Criminal Case Activity Statistics in the Parish Courts for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

This chapter provides an assessment of criminal case activity in the parish courts for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. This includes analysis of the criminal caseload, rates of case disposal, clearance and congestion as well as cases statuses in the various courts over the period, assessments of courtroom utilization rates, case file integrity rates, trial date certainty rates and forecasts of the core case activity outcomes for the upcoming quarters of 2026. This chapter also explores the common methods of disposition, reasons for court delay, leading charges and case types across the parish courts and associated conviction rates.

Table 1.01: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Number of inactive cases	Number of disposed cases	Active Pending Case Load	Case disposal Rate (%)
Hanover	263	6	163	94	64.26
St. Catherine	858	14	445	399	53.50
Westmoreland	536	27	195	314	41.42
St. Mary	273	4	151	118	56.78
Clarendon	438	22	183	233	46.80
Portland	451	23	254	174	61.42
St. Elizabeth	166	2	29	135	18.67
Corporate Area Criminal	1374	129	423	822	40.17
St. Thomas	279	16	123	140	49.82
St. James	541	40	302	199	63.22
St. Ann	462	45	146	271	41.34
Trelawny	384	25	157	202	47.40
Manchester	475	7	206	262	44.84
Total	6500	360	2777	3363	-
Average/Weighted Average	500.00	27.69	213.62	258.69	48.26
Standard deviation	314.23	33.19	117.16	189.55	12.26
Skewness	2.03	2.67	0.88	2.46	-0.94

Note: The case disposal rate for the Browns Town outstation for the first quarter is 31.48%

The table above shows the aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the first quarter of 2026. A total of 6,500 new criminal cases were filed across the parish courts while 3,137 of these cases were either disposed or became inactive during the period, resulting in a weighted average case disposal rate of 48.26%. In the corresponding period in 2025, 5,591 cases were filed, while 2,791 cases were either disposed or became inactive which resulted in a weighted average disposal rate of 49.92%, which is 1.66 percentage points more than the rate for the first quarter of 2026. This comparison reveals that there was an increase of 909 cases or a 16.26% increase in the number of new cases filed and an increase of 346 cases or a 12.40% increase in the number of new cases disposed or became inactive when compared to the first quarter of 2025. Of the thirteen parish courts listed above, three (3) Parish Courts recorded a decrease in the number of new cases filed, while ten (10) recorded an increase. The parish courts that recorded a decline in new cases filed were the St. Elizabeth Parish Court, decreasing by 29.06%, the St. James Parish Court, which decreased by 5.25% and the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division, which decreased by 0.51%. Among the parish courts with the largest improvement in new cases filed were the Portland Parish Court, increasing by 83.33%, the Hanover Parish Court, which increased by 65.41% and the Trelawny Parish Court, which experienced an increase of 59.34%.

The Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division with 1,374 cases or 21.14% of the new cases filed, the St. Catherine Parish Court with 858 cases or 13.20% and the St. James Parish Court with 541 or 8.32% accounted for the three largest shares of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2026. These three parish courts with the largest share of new cases filed, cumulatively accounted for 42.66% of the total sample of new criminal cases filed in the first quarter of 2026. On the other end, the parish courts of St. Elizabeth with 166 cases or 2.55% of the sample of new cases,

Hanover with 263 cases or 4.05% and St. Mary with 273 cases or 4.20% accounted for the lowest shares of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2026. The best performing courts in relation to case disposal rates for the first quarter of 2026 were the Hanover (64.26%), St. James (63.22%) and Portland (61.42%) Parish Courts. The bottom three courts on this measure were the St. Elizabeth (18.67%), Corporate Area – Criminal Division (40.17%) and St. Ann (41.34%) parish courts. The skewness of the number of new cases filed, the number of cases disposed, and the active pending new caseload are all positive, which is an indication that the larger proportion of the courts fell below the overall average case count in each of these data series. The overall skewness of the case disposal rates is a low positive figure, which indicates that a large proportion of courts had disposal rates which were clustered around the overall average rate for the quarter. *Refer to Table 1.03 for a graphical comparison of the Case Disposal Rates across all Parish Courts for the first quarter of 2025 and 2026.*

Table 1.02a: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court as at March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed in quarter	Number of Disposed cases in Jan. 1 - Mar. 31, 2026	Number of Inactive cases in Jan. 1 - Mar. 31, 2026	Grand total number of inactive cases (2016-Mar. 2026)	Grand total number of disposed cases (2016-Mar. 2026)	Grand Active Pending Caseload b/f Jan. 1, 2026	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
Hanover	263	246	7	261	8057	140	96.20	159.29
St. Catherine	858	717	76	3142	30149	857	92.42	216.27
Westmoreland	536	364	75	1519	25785	916	81.90	330.75
St. Mary	273	286	7	420	8792	281	107.33	189.08
Clarendon	438	374	48	2014	15438	610	96.35	248.34
Portland	451	478	37	421	10739	482	114.19	181.17
St. Elizabeth	166	116	5	8317	884	804	72.89	801.65
Corporate Area Criminal	1374	996	249	20451	69659	5821	90.61	577.91
St. Thomas	279	197	33	706	7636	472	82.44	326.52
St. James	541	501	53	3042	21443	559	102.40	198.56
St. Ann	462	348	66	4974	14116	1055	89.61	366.43
Trelawny	384	282	56	23647	8297	383	88.02	226.92
Manchester	475	445	39	1635	12854	1114	101.89	328.31
Total	6500	5350	751	70549	233849	13494	-	-
Average/Weighted Average	500.00	411.54	57.77	5426.85	17988.38	1038.00	93.86	327.72
Standard deviation	314.23	232.64	62.40	7732.84	17482.68	1467.31	11.26	183.13
Skewness	2.03	1.44	2.66	1.87	2.41	3.35	0.05	1.87

Note 1: The figures are computed for the period since the use of the CISS system commenced in August 2016. Not all courts commenced at the same time, so the exact times vary but are long enough to make statistically significant inferences.

Note 2: The grand total number of active cases from 2016 to the first quarter ended March 31, 2026, for all parish courts combined = 14,061

Note 3: The case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for the first quarter is 90.74% and the case congestion rate is 884.69%.

The table above is an extension of table 1.01. Among the critical performance measures reported in this table is the case congestion rate across the parish courts. This provides a measure of manageability of a court's existing caseload. In particular, it provides an indication of the caseload burden relative to existing resources and the pace of case clearance. As an empirical measurement of case carriage load, the case congestion rate is more meaningful over longer period, typically a year or more; hence, the quarterly results are to be interpreted in a guarded way.

The weighted average case congestion rate among the parish courts in the first quarter of 2026 was 327.72%, an indication that the parish courts (criminal division) as a whole are carrying over three times the caseload that their current rate of clearance and implied state of resources justifies. This result represents a 9.80 percentage points decrease when compared to the first quarter of 2025. The St. Elizabeth Parish Court (801.65%) and the parish courts of Corporate Area - Criminal Division (577.91%), St. Ann (366.43%) and Westmoreland (330.75%) were the courts with the highest case congestion rates in the first quarter of 2026. The Manchester (328.31%) and St. Thomas (326.52%) Parish Courts rounded off the top 6 most case congested courts at the end of the first quarter of 2026. The parish courts of St. Ann, St. Thomas, Manchester, St. Elizabeth and Corporate Area-Criminal Division were also among the most congested courts in the comparative first quarter of 2025. The parish courts of Hanover (159.29%), Portland (181.17%), and St. Mary (189.08%) performed best on this measure. As with previous reports, variations in caseload and resources do not appear to be a major factor explaining the variances in performance on this measure as some of the courts ranking on either ends of the scale are the

larger courts in the island and resource endowment do not vary in a statistically way among the courts. The case congestion rate is a more meaningful measurement over a full year.

The results on the overall case clearance rate for the first quarter of 2026 provide interesting insights into the court-wide progress being made on this measure. The overall weighted average case clearance rate of 93.86%, which is a decrease of 1.19 percentage points when compared to the corresponding first quarter of 2025, however, the performance meets the international standard of 90%-110%. This overall case clearance rate of 93.86% suggests that for every 100 new cases filed, roughly 94 cases were disposed. Eight (8) parish courts met or exceeded the international standards of 90%-110%. The parish courts of Portland (114.19%), St. Mary (107.33%), St. James (102.40%) Manchester (101.89%) were the leading parish courts on this measure. The parish courts of St. Elizabeth (72.89%), Westmoreland (81.90%), St. Thomas (82.44%) and Trelawny (88.02%) had the lowest criminal case clearance rates for the quarter. Five (5) parish courts recorded an increase in clearance rates when compared to first quarter of 2025, while eight (8) parish courts recorded a decrease in clearance rates when compared to first quarter of 2025. The Manchester and Portland parish courts saw the largest gains, with 27.70 and 24.76 percentage points improvement respectively. The St. Ann and St. Elizabeth parish courts saw the largest decline, with 35.90 and 13.43 percentage points decline respectively. The data in the table above were positively skewed to various degrees, indicating that for the most part, proportionately more of the scores in that data set fell below their respective series means. *Refer to Table 1.03 for further comparison of the case clearance rates and the case congestion rates across all parish courts for the first quarter of 2025 and 2026.*

Table 1.02b: Percentile rank on selected performance metrics for the criminal division of the parish courts for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Percentile Rank - Case Disposal rate (%)	Percentile Rank - Case Clearance Rate (%)
Hanover	100	58
St. Catherine	67	50
Westmoreland	25	8
St. Mary	75	92
Clarendon	42	67
Portland	83	100
St. Elizabeth	0	0
Corporate Area Criminal	8	42
St. Thomas	58	17
St. James	92	83
St. Ann	17	33
Trelawny	50	25
Manchester	33	75

The table above provides the percentile ranks of the case disposal and case clearance rates for the first quarter of 2026. The percentile rank gives an indication of where particular courts falls on a metric relative to the other courts. The parish courts of Hanover (100%), St. James (92%) and Portland (83%) had the highest percentile ranks on case disposal rate for the first quarter of 2026, an indication that they performed better than the vast proportion of the courts on this measure. The percentile ranks of 100% for the Hanover Parish Court for example, means that

they performed better than all the courts on case disposal rate in the quarter, while the St. James Parish Court performed better than 92% of the parish courts and the Portland Parish Court performed better than 83% of all the parish courts on this measurement. The parish courts of St. Elizabeth, Corporate Area – Criminal Division and St. Ann had the lowest percentile rank on case disposal rate for the quarter. In terms of case clearance rates, the parish courts of Portland (100%), St. Mary (92%) and St. James (83%) had the highest percentile ranks, while the parish courts of St. Elizabeth, Westmoreland, and St. Thomas had the lowest.

Table 1.02c: Forecasted case activity statistics for the second quarter 2026 [April 01 - June 30, 2026]

Parish Court	Forecasted number of new cases	Forecasted number of disposed cases	Forecasted number of inactive cases	Forecasted case clearance rate (%)
Hanover	214	194	7	94.06
Manchester	395	336	38	94.61
St. Mary	241	243	8	103.77
St. James	471	410	66	101.26
St. Catherine	729	756	58	111.66
Portland	342	404	32	127.13
St. Ann	394	283	63	87.93
St. Elizabeth	175	128	4	75.13
Corporate Area Criminal	1177	1154	259	120.14
Westmoreland	486	336	58	80.98
St. Thomas	215	176	24	93.02
Clarendon	369	322	45	99.64
Trelawny	274	228	43	98.95
Total/Weighted Average	5483	4970	706	103.52

Note: The forecasted case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for the second quarter of 2026 is 92.56%

The above table forecasts core case activity for the criminal division of each parish court and overall for the second quarter of 2026. 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 criminal division of the parish courts for the second quarter of 2026 is 103.52%, which would be 9.66 percentage points higher than that of the first quarter of 2026. Ten (10) parish courts are forecasted to satisfy the international standard on case clearance rate of 90% or more in the second quarter of 2026, led by the Portland Parish Court with 127.13%, the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division with 120.14% and the St. Catherine Parish Court with 111.66%.

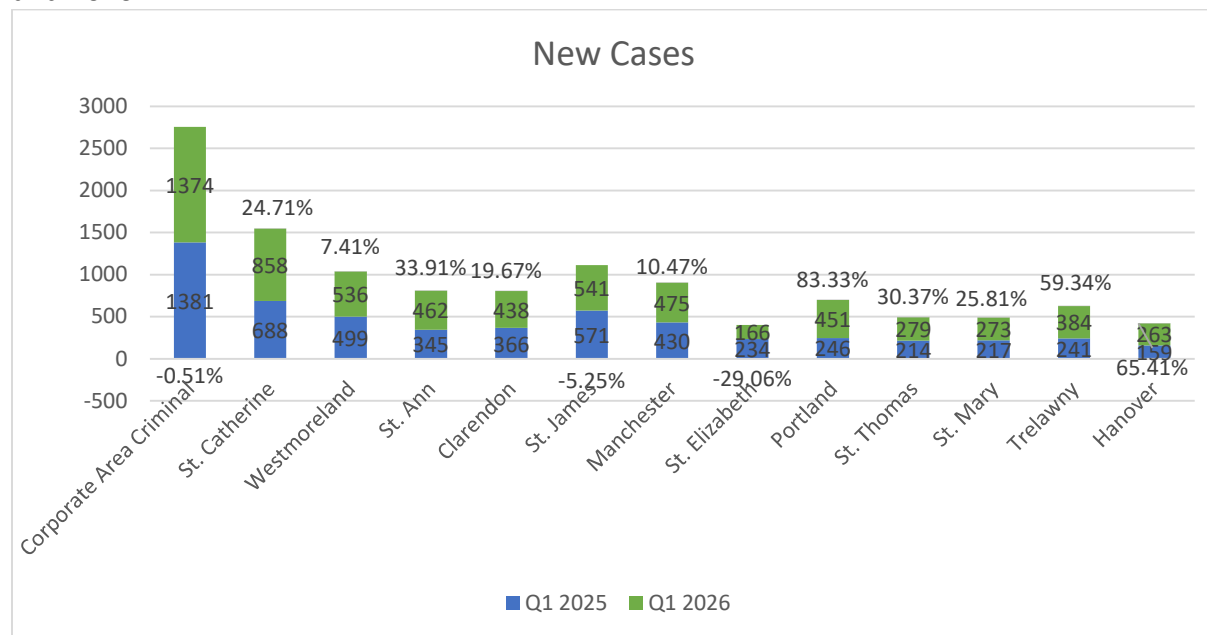
Table 1.02d: Sampling distribution of new cases filed per 10,000 population in the criminal division of the parish courts in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Population size in parish	Case per 10,000 population
Hanover	263	69780	38
St. Catherine	858	542763	16
Westmoreland	536	146205	37
St. Mary	273	116497	23
Clarendon	438	258643	17
Portland	451	84972	53
St. Elizabeth	166	153201	11
Corporate Area Criminal	1374	672904	20
St. Thomas	279	94485	30
St. James	541	188656	29
St. Ann	462	175310	26
Trelawny	384	77427	50
Manchester	475	193694	25
Total	6500	2774538	23

The above table provides an outline of the number of new criminal cases filed per 10,000 population in the parish courts in the first quarter of 2026. The population sizes used are based on the last published national population census in 2022 and therefore, the data and represents the most recent current value. This kind of data provides interesting insights into the demand for

adjudication in criminal matters in the various parishes. It is seen that the parish of Portland, which is among the parishes with smaller population sizes, and midrange in caseload, registered the largest number of new criminal cases filed per 10,000 population in the first quarter of 2026. Trelawny, which is among the parishes with a smaller population size and caseload and Hanover, which is among the parishes with a smaller population size and caseload, followed. Equally interesting is the result that the St. Elizabeth Parish Court, which is the parish with the smallest quarterly caseload and midrange in population size, had the smallest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population in the quarter. The St. Catherine parish court had the second lowest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population for the quarter, followed by Clarendon.

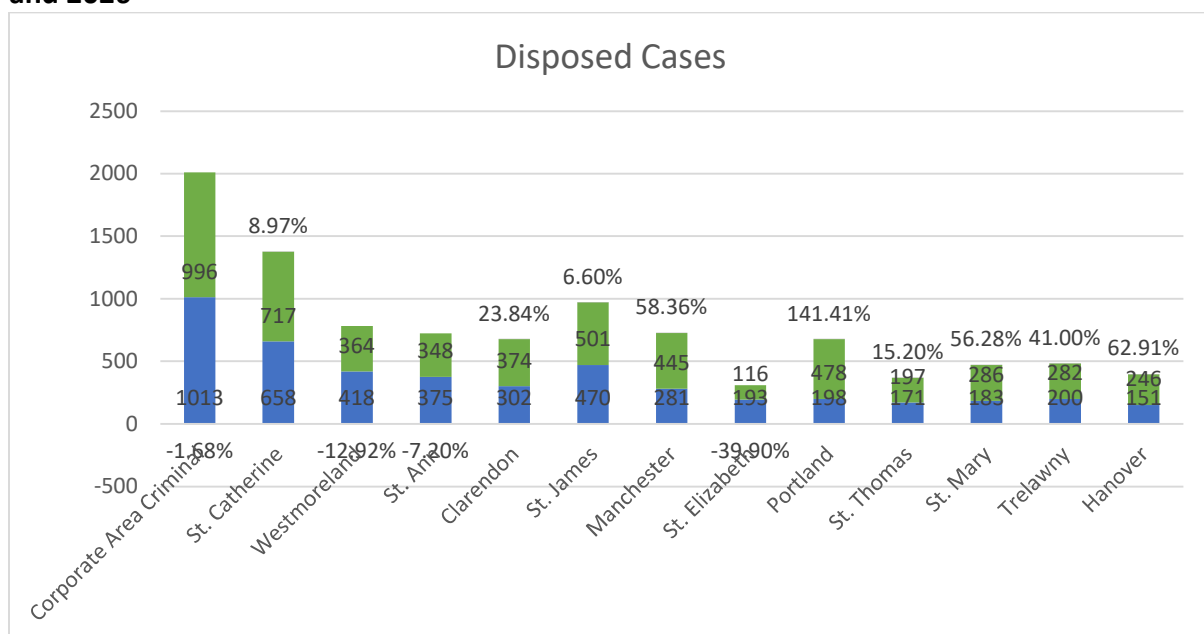
Chart 1.01a: Summary of changes in the number of new cases filed in the first quarters of 2025 and 2026



The above chart provides a breakdown of the changes in the number of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2025 and 2026. It is seen that there has been a decrease in new cases filed over the comparative period in three (3) parish courts and an increase in ten (10). Among the parish

courts with the largest rise in new cases filed were the Portland Parish Court increasing by 83.33% and the Hanover Parish Court, which increased by 65.41%. Among the parish courts with the largest decline in new cases filed were the St. Elizabeth parish court fell by 29.06% and the St. James Parish court fell by 5.25%.

Chart 1.01b: Summary of changes in the number of cases disposed in the first quarters of 2025 and 2026



The above graph provides a breakdown of the changes in the number of cases disposed in the first quarter of 2025 and 2026. It is seen that there has been a decrease in cases resolved over the comparative period in four (4) parish courts and an increase in the cases resolved in nine (9) parish courts. Among the parish courts with the largest rise in cases resolved were the Portland

Parish Court increasing by 141.41% and the Hanover Parish Court, which increased by 62.91%.

Among the parish courts with the largest decline in cases resolved were the St. Elizabeth Parish Court fell by 39.90% and the Westmoreland Parish court fell by 12.92%.

Table 1.02e: Sampling distribution of the Indices of Judge Productivity for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Number of Judges	New criminal cases per Judges	Active pending caseload per Judge at the beginning of Q1 2026	Active caseload per Judge at the end of Q1 2026	Cases disposed per Judge
Hanover	2	131.50	70.00	75.00	123.00
St. Catherine	5	171.60	171.40	184.40	143.40
Westmoreland	3	178.67	305.33	337.67	121.33
St. Mary	3	91.00	93.67	87.00	95.33
Clarendon	3	146.00	203.33	208.67	124.67
Portland	3	150.33	160.67	139.33	159.33
St. Elizabeth	2	83.00	402.00	424.50	58.00
Corporate Area Criminal	9	152.67	646.78	661.11	110.67
St. Thomas	2	139.50	236.00	260.50	98.50
St. James	5	108.20	111.80	109.20	100.20
St. Ann	3	154.00	351.67	367.67	116.00
Trelawny	3	128.00	127.67	143.00	94.00
Manchester	3	158.33	371.33	368.33	148.33
Total/Weighted Average	46	141.30	293.35	302.02	116.30

The above table provides a distribution of the new cases filed per judge, the cases disposed per judge and the caseload per judge in the criminal division of the parish courts for the first quarter of 2026. The data reveals that the overall weighted average number of new criminal cases filed per judge in the first quarter of 2026 is roughly 141 cases. The parish courts of Westmoreland (179 cases), St. Catherine (172 cases) and Manchester (158 cases) had the three largest number of new cases filed per judge during the quarter. On the contrary, the parish courts St. Elizabeth (83 cases), St. Mary (91 cases) and the St. James (108 cases) had the lowest number of new cases filed per judge in the quarter. In terms of cases disposed per judge, the Portland Parish Court disposed the most cases per judge in the quarter with 159 cases, followed by the Manchester Parish Court with 148 cases and the St. Catherine Parish Court with 143 cases disposed per judge. The three courts with the smallest number of cases disposed per judge were the St. Elizabeth Parish Court and the Trelawny Parish Court with 58 and 94 disposed cases per judge respectively and the St. Mary Parish Court with 95 disposed cases per judge. The overall number of criminal cases disposed per judge was 116 cases. The most crucial of the indicators is the active caseload per judge at the end of the quarter. The data shows that the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division had the highest caseload per judge at the end of the quarter with 661 cases, followed by the St. Elizabeth Parish Court with 425 cases and the Manchester Parish Court with 368 cases per judge. On the lower end, the parish courts of Hanover and St. Mary with 75 and 87 cases per judge respectively, had the lowest active criminal caseload per judge at the end of the quarter, followed by the St. James Parish Court with 109 active criminal cases per judge. The overall average active criminal caseload per judge at the end of the quarter is 302 cases. The active caseload is a proxy for the existing demand for judicial services in the respective courts and the

anecdotal evidence suggests that some courts with a higher caseload per judge are generally more hard pressed to sustain high productivity rates.

Table 1.03: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the first quarters of 2026 and 2025

Parish Court	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q1 2026	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q1 2025	Change in case disposal rate (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q1 2026	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q1 2025	Change in case clearance rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q1 2026	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q1 2025	Change in case congestion rate (%)
Hanover	64.26	66.67	-2.41	96.20	98.74	-2.54	159.29	145.86	13.43
St. Catherine	53.50	53.63	-0.13	92.42	104.36	-11.94	216.27	204.04	12.23
Westmoreland	41.42	48.3	-6.88	81.90	91.58	-9.68	330.75	217.72	113.03
St. Mary	56.78	36.41	20.37	107.33	88.02	19.31	189.08	237.17	-48.09
Clarendon	46.80	39.62	7.18	96.35	90.44	5.91	248.34	260.42	-12.08
Portland	61.42	34.15	27.27	114.19	89.43	24.76	181.17	318.64	-137.47
St. Elizabeth	18.67	63.25	-44.58	72.89	86.32	-13.43	801.65	501.49	300.16
Corporate Area Criminal	40.17	53.22	-13.05	90.61	95.51	-4.90	577.91	511.9	66.01
St. Thomas	49.82	47.2	2.62	82.44	89.72	-7.28	326.52	359.9	-33.38
St. James	63.22	64.97	-1.75	102.40	94.92	7.48	198.56	184.13	14.43
St. Ann	41.34	42.32	-0.98	89.61	125.51	-35.90	366.43	340.88	25.55
Trelawny	47.40	40.66	6.74	88.02	96.68	-8.66	226.92	290.56	-63.64
Manchester	44.84	39.07	5.77	101.89	74.19	27.70	328.31	509.09	-180.78
Average /Weighted Average	48.26	49.92	-1.66	93.86	95.05	-1.19	327.72	337.52	-9.80
Standard Deviation	12.26	11.14		11.26	11.82		183.13	126.18	
Skewness	-0.94	0.52		0.05	1.34		1.87	0.59	

The table above provides a comparison of the case disposal rate, the case clearance rate and the case congestion rate for the first quarter of 2026 and 2025. The weighted average case disposal rate for the first quarter of 2026, was 48.26%, which was a 1.66 percentage points decrease when compared to the first quarter of 2025, which had a weighted average rate of 49.92%. The overall case clearance rate of 93.86% for the first quarter of 2026 was 1.19 percentage points less the

95.05% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2025. The overall case congestion rate for the first quarter of 2026 improved, changing from 337.52% in the first quarter of 2025, to 327.72% in the first quarter of 2026, a 9.80 percentage point decrease. Ceteris paribus, there should be a roughly inverse linear association between the case clearance rates and the case congestion rate. This is more pronounced in the long run than in the short or medium terms.

Chart 1.2.01: Aggregate summary of selected case activity metrics for the first quarters of 2025 and 2026

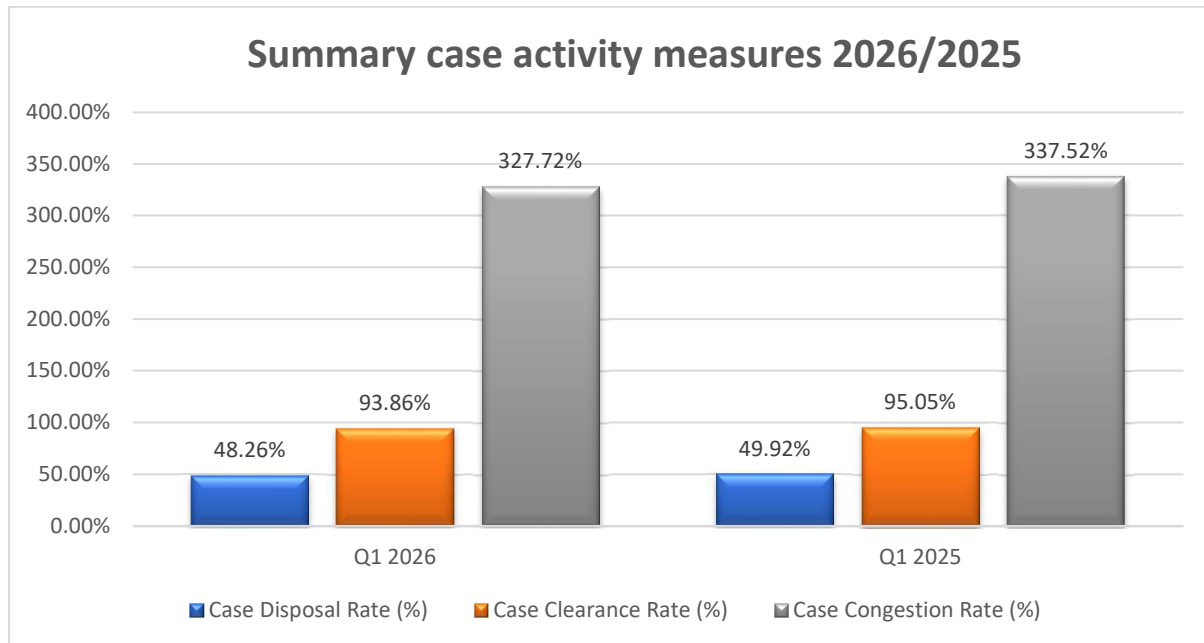


Chart 1.2.02a: Comparison of case disposal rates across the parish courts for the first quarters of 2025 and 2026

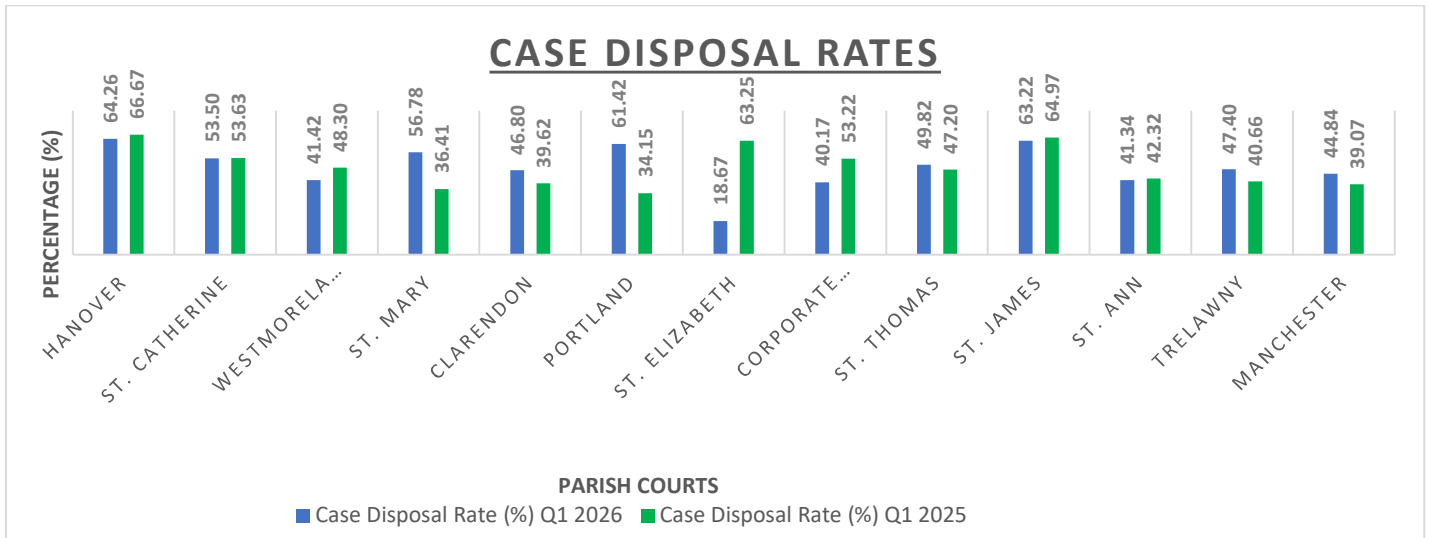


Chart 1.2.02b: Comparison of case clearance rates across the parish courts for the first quarters of 2025 and 2026

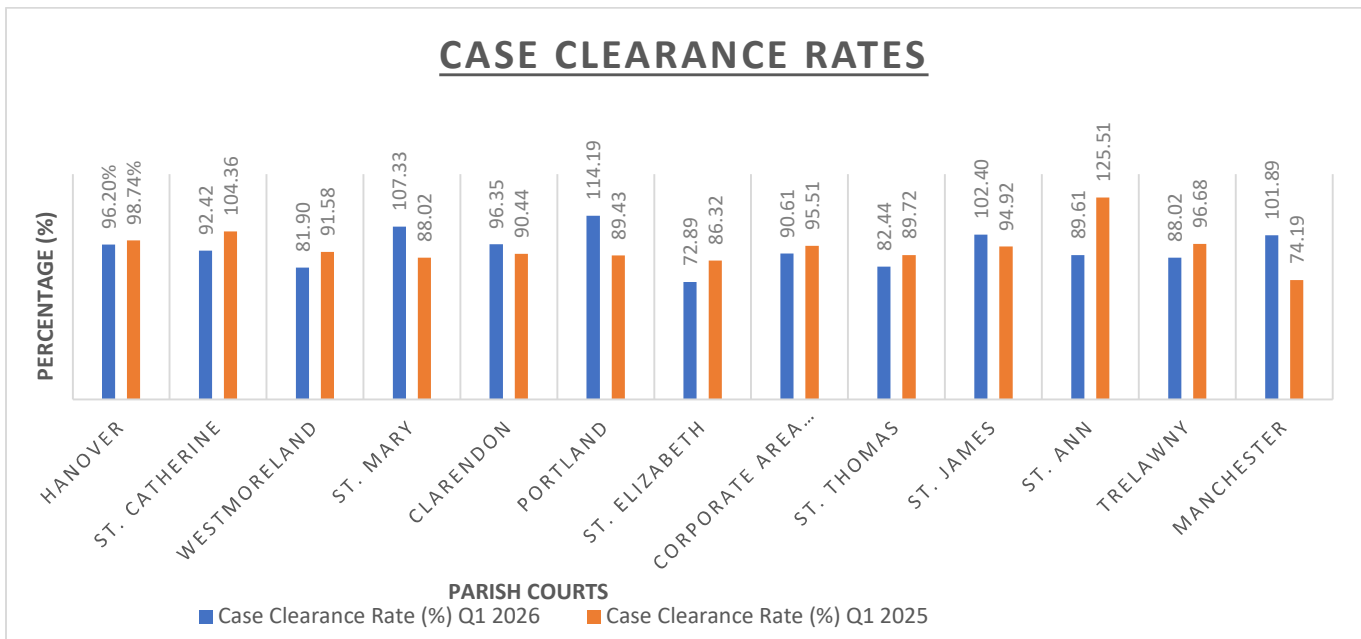


Chart 1.2.02c: Comparison of case congestion rate across the parish courts for the first quarters of 2025 and 2026

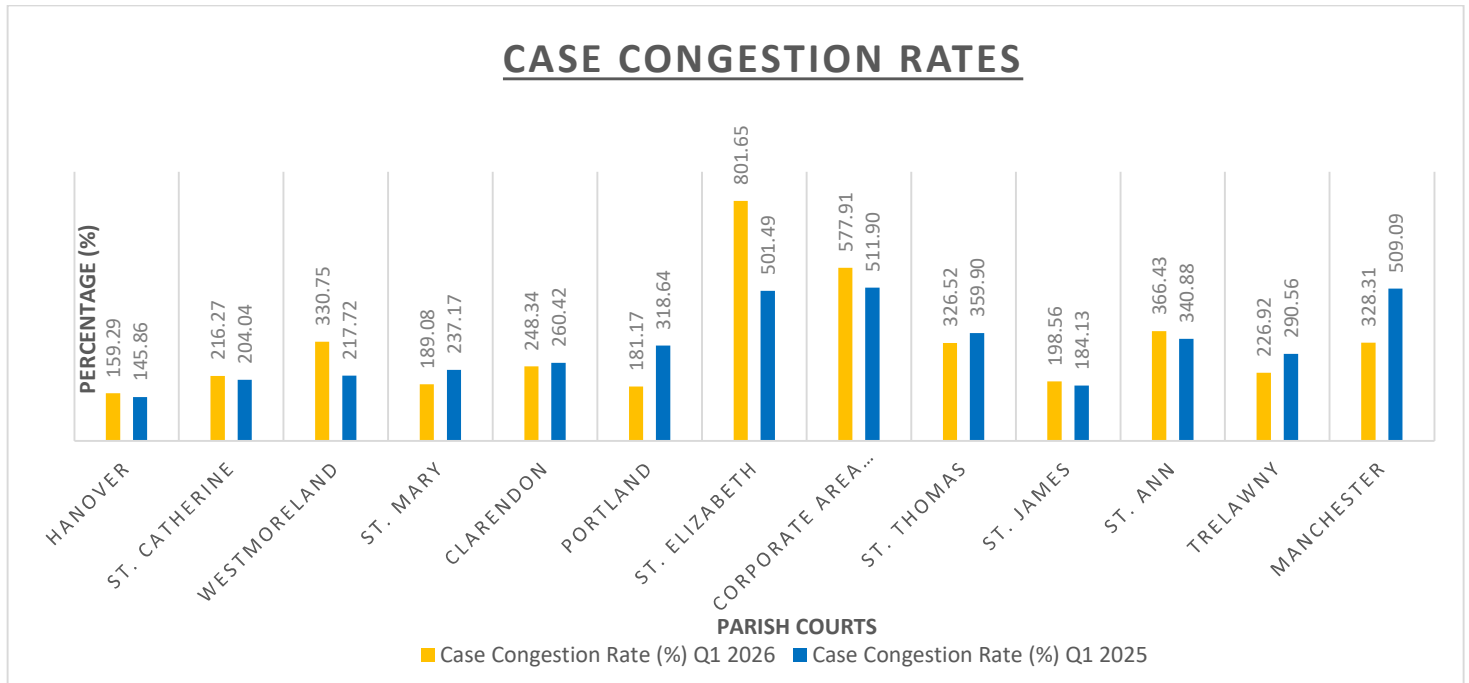


Table 1.04a: Sampling distribution of case management activity for cases disposed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Overall number of cases disposed	Number of cases disposed in 1 case management date	Number of cases disposed in 2 management dates	Number of cases disposed in 3 management dates	Number of cases disposed in 4 management dates	Number of cases disposed in 5 management dates	Number of cases disposed in 6-10 management dates	Number of cases disposed in more than 10 management dates
Hanover	246	41	24	19	10	5	8	-
St. Catherine	717	394	128	64	39	29	58	14
Westmoreland	364	141	58	49	47	33	29	5
St. Mary	286	58	31	18	22	21	19	5
Clarendon	374	160	79	46	27	20	38	11
Portland	478	247	59	40	25	30	41	17
Corporate Area Criminal	996	378	214	138	89	62	91	70
St. Thomas	197	100	27	16	15	12	28	3
St. James	501	154	85	27	15	8	15	-
St. Ann	348	141	84	40	21	10	18	2
Trelawny	282	47	56	17	12	11	9	5
Manchester	445	209	72	47	45	30	35	7
Mean	436.17	172.50	76.42	43.42	30.58	22.58	32.42	13.90
Median	369.00	147.50	65.50	40.00	23.50	20.50	28.50	6.00
Skewness	1.63	0.93	1.81	2.25	1.82	1.39	1.52	2.84
Standard Deviation	224.59	117.58	52.27	33.58	22.21	15.81	23.48	19.15
Total	5234	2070	917	521	367	271	389	139

The above sampling distribution provides critical insights into case management date activity for a representative sample of criminal cases disposed across the parish courts over the first quarter of 2026. In general, the fewer the number of case management dates per case, the more efficient the case flow progression. A maximum of five case management dates per case is considered to be desirable based on international best practices. It is noted that 10.70% of the sample of 5,234 cases disposed during the period were resolved on their first appearance before the court. A further 39.55% of the sample of cases disposed were resolved after 1 case management date, while 17.52% were resolved after 2 case management dates and 9.95% after 3 case management dates. Cumulatively, roughly 89.91% of the cases sampled were resolved in five or less case management dates, inclusive of those resolved on first appearance before the courts. This is an impressive outcome by any measure. Although there are some variances across the parish courts, the overall outcomes were consistently observed for all courts. In other words, the vast majority of the cases sampled were disposed in five or less case management appearance in all courts and matters disposed on first appearance before the court or within the first few appearances accounted for the largest share of the activity across the courts. These outcomes are not surprising given the consistently high case clearance rates in the parish courts in the last few years. These collective results augur well for the probability of relatively quick and efficient resolution of criminal cases across the parish courts.

Table 1.04b: Summary of cases heard during the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Number of cases heard in the quarter	Share of cases heard in the quarter (%)
Clarendon	1007	7.16
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	3743	26.61
Hanover	385	2.74
Manchester	1041	7.40
Portland	907	6.45
St. Ann	856	6.08
St. Catherine	1721	12.23
St. Elizabeth	231	1.64
St. James	920	6.54
St. Mary	511	3.63
St. Thomas	533	3.79
Trelawny	761	5.41
Westmoreland	1452	10.32
Total/Weighted Average	14068	100.00

The table above provides a summary of the criminal cases heard during the first quarter of 2026 at the parish courts. From a sample of 14,068 cases heard, it is seen that the Corporate Area Criminal court accounted for the highest share of cases heard with 3,743 cases heard or 26.61% of the sample, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court with 1,721 cases heard or 12.23% and the Westmoreland parish court with 1,452 cases or 10.32% of the sample. Cumulatively, the top three courts account for roughly 49.16% of the cases sampled. On the lower end, the parish courts of St. Elizabeth with 231 cases or 1.64%, Hanover with 385 or 2.74% and St. Mary with 511 or 3.63% of the sample, accounted for the lowest share of cases heard in the first quarter of 2026.

Table 1.05a: Comparison of the trial certainty rates for Q1 2025 and 2026

Parish Court	Trial certainty rate (%) Q1 2026	Trial certainty rate (%) Q1 2025	Change in the trial certainty rate (%)
Westmoreland	100	53	47
Clarendon	100	75	25
St. Ann	76	100	-24
Portland	94	100	-6
St. James	100	97	3
Manchester	58	97	-39
St. Catherine	96	55	41
St. Elizabeth	93	96	-3
Trelawny	95	85	10
St. Mary	100	69	31
St. Thomas	100	66	34
Corporate Area Criminal	92	96	-4
Hanover	95	65	30
Total/Average	92	81	11

Note 1: Q1 represents the first quarter i.e. January - March

Note 2: The trial date certainty rate for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for the first quarter is 100%

The trial date certainty rate provides a measure of the extent to which dates, which are set for trial, proceed on schedule without being delayed to start at some future date. The overall trial date certainty rate for the first quarter of 2026 was 92%, roughly 11 percentage points increase when compared to the first quarter of 2025. Eleven (11) of the parish courts met the prescribed international performance standard of a rate between 92% and 100% in the quarter. Leading the way are the parish courts of Westmoreland, Clarendon, St. James, St. Mary and St. Thomas each with a trial certainty rate of 100%, St. Catherine with 96 and Hanover and Trelawny with 95% each. The minimum-targeted court-wide trial date certainty rate which has been set out by the Honourable Chief Justice for the judiciary is 95%. This is consistent with the push to significantly enhance the efficiency of the court system and hence the timely delivery of justice to the

Jamaican citizenry. The attainment of this minimum threshold rate will assist in sustaining the current net case backlog rate of less than 5%.

Table 1.05b: Percentile Rank on trial date certainty rate for the criminal division of the parish courts in the first quarter 2025 and 2026

Parish Court	Percentile Rank – Trial Date Certainty Rate Q1 2026 (%)	Percentile Rank – Trial Date Certainty Rate Q1 2025 (%)
Westmoreland	67	0
Clarendon	67	42
St. Ann	8	92
Portland	33	92
St. James	67	75
Manchester	0	75
St. Catherine	58	8
St. Elizabeth	25	58
Trelawny	42	50
St. Mary	67	33
St. Thomas	67	25
Corporate Area Criminal	17	58
Hanover	42	17

The above table provides a summary of the percentile rank of the various parish courts with regards to their performances on the trial date certainty rates for the first quarter of 2025 and 2026. The results present a mixed picture across both years for most courts in terms of the relative performances on this measurement. Some courts experienced gains in the ranking and several others experienced declines, while some courts remained the same. There were, however, no dramatic changes in ranking for any court over the comparable period.

Table 1.05c: Average duration from first trial date set to date of disposal of case for matters resolved by trial in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Average duration of trial
Clarendon	491.06
Corporate Area	440.76
Hanover	73.48
Manchester	127.55
Portland	976.36
St. Ann	324.00
St. Catherine	306.68
St. James	264.83
St. Mary	263.37
St. Thomas	1057.84
Trelawny	194.15
Westmoreland	89.15
Weighted average	362.25
Standard Deviation	322.37

The above table summarizes the average durations between first trial date set and the date of case disposal for trial matters resolved in the first quarter of 2026 across the various parish courts. The data shows an overall weighted average interval between the first trial date set and the disposition of such cases in the quarter is 362 days or roughly 12.1 months, with a standard deviation of roughly 322 days or 10.7 months. The Hanover and Westmoreland Parish Courts had the lowest times between first trial dates set and disposal of cases with roughly 73 days and 89 days respectively, reflective of more ideal standards when compared to most other courts. The St. Thomas and Portland Parish Courts with average interval times of roughly 1058 days or 35.3 months and 976 days or roughly 32.5 months respectively had the worst ranks on this measurement for the quarter. Lengthy time intervals between the first trial date and the date of case disposition are symptoms of case management problems, case readiness and possibly even scheduling and calendar management issues in the particular court.

Table 1.05d: Time interval between major events for cases that had a trial date in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Average time between filing and first court appearance (in days)	Average time between first court appearance and trial (in days)	Average time between trial and disposition (in days)
Clarendon	4.47	277.65	491.06
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	7.95	521.38	440.76
Hanover	14.97	71.94	73.48
Manchester	7.61	182.75	127.55
Portland	5.91	318.80	976.36
St. Ann	10.52	590.21	324.00
St. Catherine	4.92	238.93	306.68
St. James	4.20	1082.68	264.83
St. Mary	3.79	143.51	263.37
St. Thomas	4.97	293.24	1057.84
Trelawny	5.20	249.82	194.15
Westmoreland	6.80	542.26	89.15
Weighted average	6.76	471.78	362.25
Standard Deviation	3.22	275.09	322.37

Note 1: The average time between filing a case and the first court appearance for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for the first quarter is 10.35 days.

Note 2: The average time between the first appearance and first trial date for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for first quarter is 238.37 days.

Note 3: The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for the first quarter is 536 days.

Tracking the times between the occurrence of major hearing events along the case flow continuum is important to establishing precise points of possible delay in case progression. The above table provides a summary of the average times between filing a case and the first court appearance, the average time between first court appearance and the first date of trial and the average duration between the first trial date and disposition. Overall, it is seen that the average time between filing a criminal case and the first court appearance is approximately 7 days, while

the overall average time between first appearance of a criminal matter in the parish courts and the first trial date is, however, much longer at roughly 15.7 months or 472 days. The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition is roughly 12.1 months or 362 days. These findings indicate that there may be imprecisions in the science of scheduling trial dates which may at times face long delays after a first date set is postponed. Since roughly less than a quarter of criminal cases filed in the parish courts will proceed to trial, these findings may not have a dramatic impact on the overall time to disposition of criminal cases but are nonetheless critical for monitoring case activity.

Table 1.05e: Trial court activity summary during the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Number of cases heard	Number of cases with a trial date set	Percentage of cases heard which had a trial date set (%)
Clarendon	1007	123	12.21
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	3543	639	18.04
Hanover	385	64	16.62
Manchester	1041	313	30.07
Portland	907	98	10.80
St. Ann	856	193	22.55
St. Catherine	1721	373	21.67
St. Elizabeth	231	15	6.49
St. James	920	94	10.22
St. Mary	511	48	9.39
St. Thomas	533	58	10.88
Trelawny	761	152	19.97
Westmoreland	1452	129	8.88
Total/Weighted Average	13868	2299	16.58

Note 1: The Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann had 10.91% of cases heard proceed to trial in the first quarter

Note 2: Calculations for the Corporate Area Court-Criminal Division were done using data available from sheets in which a trial date was listed from 2017 onwards, hence, the total number of cases heard may differ from the number of cases heard listed in table 1.04b.

The above table provides a summary of number of cases heard in the first quarter of 2026 in the criminal divisions of the parish courts which had trial dates set, whether in the current quarter, from the previous quarter or a future date. Using a sampling distribution, it is seen that of 13,868 criminal cases heard across the parish courts in the first quarter of 2026, 2,299 cases or 16.58% had a trial date set. The parish courts of St. Elizabeth (6.49%), Westmoreland (8.88%), and St. Mary (9.39%) had the lowest proportion of cases proceeding to trial, while the parish courts of Manchester (30.07%), St. Ann (22.55%) and St. Catherine (21.67%) had the highest proportions.

Table 1.06a: Distribution of courtroom utilization rates across the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Average overall courtroom utilization rate (%)	Highest recorded courtroom utilization rate (%)	Lowest recorded courtroom utilization rate (%)	Standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rate (%)	Average courtroom utilization rate for Night Court sittings (%)	Average number of courtroom adjournments per day
St. Catherine	79.55	200.00	7.50	31.71	83.01	1.00
Westmoreland	150.81	222.22	48.33	30.33	NA	NA
Trelawny	69.07	133.33	5.00	27.97	NA	1.06
St. Thomas	44.43	122.22	11.11	24.69	87.71	1.00
St. Mary	85.15	327.00	13.00	35.45	NA	1.00
St. James	60.96	94.17	18.33	29.84	NA	NA
Corporate Area Criminal Court	70.00	135.00	6.00	25.63	67.50	1.17
St. Ann	64.27	137.22	11.11	26.20	88.71	1.00
Portland	58.37	119.44	9.17	21.51	NA	NA
Hanover	57.67	121.67	1.94	33.23	NA	1.06
Clarendon	64.71	229.72	1.94	48.39	100.00	NA
Manchester	55.01	125.56	2.50	29.29	NA	1.00
Overall Averages	71.67	163.96	11.33	30.35	85.39	1.04
Standard Deviation	27.18	67.39	12.66	6.86	11.79	0.06
Skewness	2.54	1.48	2.59	1.67	-0.65	1.88

Note: The courtroom utilization rate for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for the first quarter is 58.53%

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the various parish courts in the first quarter of 2026. The courtroom utilization rate provides a measurement of the proportion of available hours for open court hearings in all courtroom (including outstations) which are actually utilized. If the usage of any courtroom exceeds the available hours, then the utilization rate will exceed 100% and the rate will fall below 100% if less than the available hours are utilized. The prescribed international standard for the courtroom utilization rate is 100%, which means that

all hours allocated for court hearings in any court, on any given day should be utilized. The data suggests that as a whole, the parish courts of Jamaica are performed well below this level in the first quarter of 2026. The overall average courtroom utilization rate across the parish courts in the quarter was 71.67%, which is an indication that on average roughly 72% of the available hours for court hearings were utilized across the parish courts in the first quarter of 2026. This result is roughly 5.25 percentage points above the figure for the corresponding period in 2025. The parish courts recording the highest courtroom utilization rates for the first quarter are the Westmoreland and St. Mary Parish Courts with 150.81% and 85.15% respectively, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court with 79.55%. The St. Thomas and Manchester Parish Courts with 44.43% and 55.01% respectively, had the lowest rates, while the Hanover Parish Court with 57.67% had the next lowest rate. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates is moderate, suggesting that on average the rates for the individual courts did not vary widely from the overall mean. This is affirmed by the moderate positive skewness of the data. The dataset also isolates the courtroom utilization rate for night court sittings. These sittings were suspended in the 2020 calendar year due to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and resumed across select Parish Courts during the 2025 calendar year. A part of the designation of night courts is to bolster the capacity of the courts to hear and dispose of more cases in a timely manner. At an overall courtroom utilization rate of 85.39%, with the Clarendon Parish Court with a night court utilization rate of 100% and the St. Ann Parish Court with 88.71% ranked highest for the quarter, with the St. Catherine Parish Court ranking next with 83.01%.

The sample size of days used to compute the rates for each court were sufficiently large and representative, though not the same for all courts. The margin of error of the courtroom utilization rates is a reliable $\pm 2.5\%$.

Table 1.06b: Percentile Rank on Courtroom utilization rate for the criminal division of the parish courts in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Percentile rank Q1 2026 (%)	Percentile rank Q1 2025 (%)
St. Catherine	82	91
Westmoreland	100	82
Trelawny	64	73
St. Thomas	0	9
St. Mary	91	100
St. James	36	0
Corporate Area Criminal Court	73	64
St. Ann	45	55
Portland	27	27
Hanover	18	18
Clarendon	55	45
Manchester	9	36

The above table provides a summary of the percentile rank of the various parish courts with regards to their performances on the courtroom utilization rates for the first quarter of 2025 and 2026. The results present a relatively consistent picture across both years for most courts in terms of the performances on this measurement. Some courts experienced gains in the ranking, several others experienced declines, and some courts retained the same ranking. The Westmoreland Parish Court performed better than all courts in the first quarter of 2026 and the St. Mary Parish Court performed better than all courts in the first quarter of 2025. The St. James Parish Court had the lowest courtroom utilization rate in the first quarter of 2025 and the St. Thomas Parish Court with the lowest rate in the first quarter of 2026.

Table 1.07: Types of matters for each Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Indictment	Summary Matters	Lay Magistrates Sittings	Committal Proceedings	Tax	Miscellaneous	LRF	Traffic	NS	Total
Corporate Area Criminal	1490	739	173	303	-	-	-	30	-	2735
St. Catherine	804	382	239	183	5	-	19	-	-	1632
Manchester	284	140	165	78	-	-	25	-	-	692
St. James	374	275	147	50	-	9	-	-	-	855
St. Ann	227	163	128	157	-	-	15	3	-	693
Westmoreland	444	125	100	78	-	-	-	-	-	747
Clarendon	317	245	51	74	-	-	-	-	-	687
Portland	169	437	50	17	-	-	13	-	-	686
St. Mary	208	86	49	138	-	-	-	-	-	481
Trelawny	268	194	32	46	-	-	19	-	-	559
Hanover	232	63	67	26	-	-	9	-	-	397
St. Thomas	160	116	116	48	-	-	18	-	-	458
St. Elizabeth	156	72	4	67	-	-	-	-	-	299
Total	5133	3037	1321	1265	5	9	118	33	0	10921
Percentage	47.00	27.81	12.10	11.58	0.05	0.08	1.08	0.30	0	100

***Total number of observations = 10,921**

****LRF means Law Reform Fraudulent Transaction, ***NS means not stated**

The above table provides a breakdown of the different types of new charges filed in each parish court for the first quarter of 2026. For the quarter, 10,921 charges were filed across the parish courts, an increase of approximately 1,649 charges or a 17.78% increase when compared to the corresponding first quarter of 2025. The largest proportions of these charges were filed in the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division (2,735), the St. Catherine Parish Court (1,632), the St. James Parish Court with (855) and the Westmoreland Parish Court with 747 charges. The largest

share of the charges were Indictments (47%); followed by summary matters (27.81%), Lay Magistrates' matters (12.10%) and committal proceedings with 11.58% of the total sample. The Corporate Area Court-Criminal Division accounted for the largest proportion of Indictments filed, followed by the parish courts of St. Catherine, Westmoreland and St. James. The Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division accounted for the largest share of summary matters filed, followed by the Portland Parish Court and the St. Catherine Parish Court. The largest proportion of Lay Magistrates' matters was filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court, followed by the parish courts of Corporate Area– Criminal Division and Manchester. The Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court and the St. Ann Parish Court accounted for the largest individual shares of Committal Proceedings in the quarter. As for criminal matters, which are traffic related, the only incidences of these in the quarter were in the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division and the St. Ann Parish Court.

Offence Types

Table 1.08.01: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	82	21.08
Unlawful wounding	59	15.17
Threat	26	6.68
Malicious destruction of property	24	6.17
Simple larceny	16	4.11
Sub-total	207	53.21

Number of observations sampled (N): 389

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court for the first quarter of 2026. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 82 or 21.08%, unlawful wounding with 59 or 15.17% and threat with 26 or 6.68% of the total sample of charges are the most frequently occurring charges. Malicious destruction of property with 24 or 6.17% followed this, while simple larceny with 16 or 4.11% of the total sample rounds off the top five. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 53.21% of the total sample of 389 charges filed in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2025 in the Hanover Parish Court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property, threat and possession of an offensive weapon.

Table 1.08.02: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault Occasioning Bodily Harm	95	13.73
Unlawful Wounding	80	11.56
Exposing goods for sale	45	6.50
Malicious Destruction of Property	44	6.36
Possession of offensive weapon	43	6.21
Sub-total	307	44.36

Number of observations sampled (N): 692

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court for the first quarter of 2026. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 95 or 13.73% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 80 or 11.56% and exposing goods for sale with 45 or 6.50% rank next. The top five is rounded off by Malicious Destruction of Property with 44 or 6.36% and possession of an offensive weapon with 43 or 6.21% of the sample charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 44.36% of the total sample of 692 charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2025 in the Manchester Parish Court included threat, possession of an offensive weapon, assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding and exposing goods for sale.

Table 1.08.03: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Portland Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Possession of an offensive weapon	91	13.32
Smoking in a Public Place	86	12.59
Assault occasioning bodily harm	61	8.93
Unlawful wounding	38	5.56
Threat	37	5.42
Sub-total	313	45.83

Number of observations sampled (N): 683

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Portland Parish Court in the first quarter of 2026. It is shown that possession of offensive weapon with 91 or 13.32% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charges. Smoking in a public place with 86 or 12.59% and assault occasioning bodily

harm with 61 or 8.93% followed this. The top five is rounded off by Unlawful wounding with 38 or 5.56% and threat with 37 or 5.42% of the sample of charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 45.83% of the total sample of 683 charges filed in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2025 in the Portland parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, threat, malicious destruction of property and possession of offensive weapon.

Table 1.08.04: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Unlawful wounding	71	10.36
Assault occasioning bodily harm	70	10.22
Threat	88	12.85
Possession of offensive weapon	58	8.47
Malicious destruction of property	31	4.53
Sub-total	318	46.42

Number of observations sampled (N): 685

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the first quarter of 2026. It is shown that unlawful wounding with 71 or 10.36% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 70 or 10.22%, threat with 88 or 12.85% and possession of an offensive weapon with 58 or 8.47% followed this. Malicious destruction of property with 31 or 4.53% of the total sample rounds of the top charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 46.42% of the total sample of 685 charges filed in the quarter at the St. Ann Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2025 in the St. Ann parish court included threat, assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property, and possession of an offensive weapon. From a sample of 123

charges, it is seen that the leading charges recorded in the first quarter of 2026 at the Brown's Town Outstation included threat with 32 or 26.02%, unlawful wounding with 20 or 16.26% and assault occasioning bodily harm with 17 or 13.82%. Malicious destruction of property with 7 or 5.69% and disorderly conduct with 4 or 3.25% of the sample followed.

Table 1.08.05: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	362	22.18
Unlawful wounding	126	7.72
Malicious destruction of property	112	6.86
Assault at common law	77	4.72
Possession of offensive weapon	53	3.25
Sub-total	730	44.73

Number of observations sampled (N): 1632

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the first quarter of 2026. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 362 or 22.18% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 126 or 7.72%, malicious destruction of property with 112 or 6.86% and assault at common law with 77 or 4.72% followed this. Possession of offensive weapon with 53 or 3.25% of the total sample of charges filed round off the top five. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 44.73% of the total sample of 1,632 charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2025 in the St. Catherine parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, threat, possession of offensive weapon, assault at common law and malicious destruction of property.

Table 1.08.06: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	63	21.95
Unlawful wounding	27	9.41
Malicious destruction of property	23	8.01
Dealing in ganja	14	4.88
Possession of ganja	14	4.88
Sub-total	141	49.13

Number of observations sampled (N): 287

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court in the first quarter of 2026. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 63 or 21.95% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 27 or 9.41% and malicious destruction of property with 23 or 8.01% followed this. The top five is rounded off by dealing in ganja and possession of ganja with 14 or 4.88% each of the sample. The charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 49.13% of the total sample of 287 charges filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2026 in the St. Elizabeth parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, possession of offensive weapon, possession of ganja and malicious destruction of property.

Table 1.08.07: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. James Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	114	13.30
Unlawful wounding	76	8.87
Possession of offensive weapon	65	7.58
Malicious destruction of property	56	6.53
Threat	56	6.53
Sub-total	367	42.82

Number of observations sampled (N): 857

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges at the St. James Parish Court in first quarter of 2026. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 114 or 13.30% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 76 or 8.87% and possession of an offensive weapon with 65 or 7.58% followed this. The top five is rounded off malicious destruction of property and threat with 56 or 6.53% each of the total sample. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 42.82% of the sample of 857 charges filed in quarter at the St. James Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2025 in the St. James parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, possession of offensive weapon, smoking in a public place, possession of ganja and disorderly conduct.

Table 1.08.08: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	57	11.85
Malicious destruction of property	40	8.32
Unlawful Wounding	28	5.82
Possession of identity information	27	5.61
Assault at common law	25	5.20
Sub-total	177	36.80

Number of observations sampled (N): 481

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the first quarter of 2026. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 57 or 11.85% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Malicious destruction of property with 40 or 8.32% and unlawful wounding with 28 or 5.82% followed this. The top five is rounded off by possession of identity information with 27 or 5.61% and assault at common law with 25 or 5.20% of the sample. The charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 36.80% of the total sample of 481 charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2025 in the St. Mary parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, threat, possession of identity information and unauthorized possession of ammunition.

Table 1.08.09: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	56	12.25
Unlawful wounding	46	10.07
Malicious destruction of property	37	8.10
Threat	30	6.56
Possession of offensive weapon	18	3.94
Sub-total	187	40.92

Number of observations sampled (N): 457

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in the first quarter of 2026. It is shown assault occasioning bodily harm with 56 or 12.25% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 46 or 10.07% and malicious destruction of property with 37 or 8.10% followed this. The top five is rounded off by threat with 30 or 6.56% and possession of offensive weapon with 18 or 3.94% of the total sample of charges. The five charges quoted above

accounts for an estimated 40.92% of the sample of 457 charges filed in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2025 in the St. Thomas parish court included malicious destruction of property, unlawful wounding, assault occasioning bodily harm, threat and possession of an offensive weapon.

Table 1.08.10: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	90	16.13
Possession of offensive weapon	81	14.52
Unlawful wounding	71	12.72
Smoking in a Public Place	33	5.91
Malicious destruction of property	32	5.73
Sub-total	307	55.02

Number of observations sampled (N): 558

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the first quarter of 2026. It is shown assault occasioning bodily harm with 90 or 16.13% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Possession of offensive weapon with 81 or 14.52% of the sample followed this. Unlawful wounding with 71 or 12.72% and smoking in a public place with 33 or 5.91% and malicious destruction of property with 32 or 5.73% of the charges round of the top five charges filed in the quarter. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 55.02% of the total sample of 558 charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2025 in the Trelawny parish court included unlawful wounding, assault occasioning bodily harm, malicious destruction of property, possession of offensive weapon, and smoking in a public place.

Table 1.08.11: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	186	24.87
Unlawful wounding	125	16.71
Malicious Destruction of property	69	9.22
Possession of offensive Weapon	57	7.62
Threat	37	4.95
Sub-total	474	63.37

Number of observations sampled (N): 748

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the first quarter of 2026. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 186 or 24.87% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 125 or 16.71% and malicious destruction of property with 69 or 9.22% followed this. Possession of offensive weapon with 57 or 7.62% and threat with 37 or 4.95% of the sample rank next. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 63.37% of the total sample of 748 charges filed in the quarter at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2025 in the Westmoreland parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, threat, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property and possession of offensive weapon.

Table 1.08.12: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	133	19.11
Unlawful wounding	76	10.92
Malicious destruction of property	47	6.75
Possession of offensive weapon	38	5.46
Threat	29	4.17
Sub-total	323	46.41

Number of observations sampled (N): 696

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in first quarter of 2026. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 133 or 19.11% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 76 or 10.92% and malicious destruction of property with 47 or 6.75% followed this. The top five is rounded off by possession of offensive weapon with 38 or 5.46% and threat with 29 or 4.17%. The charges quoted above account for an estimated 46.41% of the sample of 696 charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2025 in the Clarendon parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, possession of offensive weapon, threat and malicious destruction of property.

Table 1.08.13: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	342	12.54
Unlawful wounding	244	8.94
Malicious destruction of property	170	6.23
Possession of an offensive weapon	118	4.33
Simple larceny	100	3.67
Sub-Total	974	35.70

Number of observations sampled (N): 2728

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division for the first quarter of 2026. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 342 or 12.54% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 244 or 8.94% and by malicious destruction of property with 170 or 6.23% followed this. The top five is rounded off by possession of offensive weapon with 118 or 4.33% and simple larceny with 100 or 3.67% of the charges. The

five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 35.70% of the total sample of 2,728 charges at filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court –Criminal Division in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2025 in the Corporate Area parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property, littering and possession of offensive weapon.

Table 1.09: Conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Type of case	Number of disposed matters	Number of guilty verdicts	Number of guilty pleas	Aggregate number of guilty outcomes	Estimated conviction rate (%)
Summary	2427	278	1234	1512	62.30
Indictment	3946	78	352	430	10.90

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard across all parish courts in the first quarter of 2026. Summary matters heard in the quarter include charges such as possession of an offensive weapon, possession of ganja, exposing goods for sale and dealing in ganja. The estimated conviction rate for the quarter for summary matters was 62.07%, which is 6.26 percentage points above the conviction rate of 56.04% recorded for the corresponding first quarter of 2025. The estimated conviction rate for indictment matters was significantly lower at 10.90% for the quarter, a rate which is approximately 7.32 percentage points below the 18.22% recorded in the first quarter of 2025. Indictment matters heard in the quarter included charges such as assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property and simple larceny.

Table 1.10: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges across the parish courts for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Charge	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	1611	14.79
Unlawful wounding	1067	9.80
Malicious destruction of property	704	6.46
Possession of offensive weapon	660	6.06
Threat	409	3.75
Assault at common law	313	2.87
Simple larceny	289	2.65
Disorderly conduct	263	2.41
Possession of ganja	226	2.07
Smoking in a Public Place	224	2.06
Sub-total	5766	52.93

Number of observations sampled (N): 10,893

The above table shows the distribution of the ten most commonly occurring charges across all parish courts for the first quarter of 2026. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 1,611 or 14.79% of the total number of charges sampled is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 1,067 or 9.80% and malicious destruction of property with 704 or 6.46% followed this. The top five is rounded off by possession of offensive weapon with 660 or 6.06% and threat with 409 or 3.75% of the total sample of charges filed in the quarter. These ten most frequently occurring types of charges account for approximately 52.93% of the total sample of charges filed in the quarter.

Table 1.11: Conviction rate for leading occurring charges heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Type of Offence	Number of disposed matters	Number of guilty verdicts	Number of guilty pleas	Aggregate number of guilty outcomes	Estimated conviction rate (%)
Smoking in a Public Place	184	29	140	169	91.85
Possession of offensive weapon	528	79	345	424	80.30
Possession of ganja	184	42	102	144	78.26
Disorderly conduct	221	41	101	142	64.25
Simple larceny	210	6	19	25	11.90
Threat	374	11	20	31	8.29
Malicious destruction of property	558	5	28	33	5.91
Unlawful wounding	795	5	38	43	5.41
Assault occasioning bodily harm	1236	12	51	63	5.10
Assault at common law	245	1	9	10	4.08

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for the ten (10) leading charges across all parish courts in the first quarter of 2026. It is shown that smoking in a public place had the highest estimated conviction rate on the list with 91.85%. Possession of an offensive weapon with 80.30% and possession of ganja with 78.26% followed this. The top conviction rates on the list in the quarter is rounded off by disorderly conduct with an estimated conviction rate of 64.25%. Possession of an offensive weapon recorded the highest estimated conviction rate in the corresponding first quarter of 2025 with 82.99%, followed by disorderly conduct with an estimated conviction rate of 75.81%.

Table 1.12: Sampling distribution of the average age of active charges for each parish court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Average age of active charges (days)
Clarendon	38
Trelawny	40
Portland	43
St. Mary	42
Hanover	39
Westmoreland	40
St. Catherine	41
St. Ann	38
St. James	39
St. Thomas	41
Corporate Area Criminal	41
Manchester	37
St. Elizabeth	23
Overall Average	38.62
Standard Deviation	4.99
Skewness	-2.88

The above table shows the average age of active charges originating in the first quarter of 2026, for charges originating in said quarter. The overall average age of active matters originating in the quarter was approximately 39 days or roughly 1.3 months, roughly 1 more day than the average recorded in the first quarter of 2025. The parish courts of St. Elizabeth, Manchester and St. Ann have the lowest averages on the list. On the contrary, the highest averages were observed in the parish courts of Portland, St. Mary, St. Catherine, St. Thomas and Corporate Area- Civil Division. The standard deviation of the scores was, however, relatively low (5 days), an indication that the individual values for the parish courts were on average close to the overall mean. The negative skewness indicates that most of the individual times to disposition in the data set were above the overall series average. There is an intuitive correlation between case clearance rates and the average age of cases in the long run, but it does not necessarily manifest empirically in

the short run. This means that in the long run, courts with higher clearance rates will in general have a lower case backlog and a lower average age of active cases. Courts which manage to maintain a case clearance rate of between 90% and 110% long enough will eventually eliminate their case backlog, a feat that is quite conceivable with improved case progression management in the respective courts. In such cases, the average time taken to dispose of cases will experience a natural decline, tapering off at a modest, tolerable rate, improving the efficiency of the courts and the enhancing the timely delivery of justice.

Table 1.13: Average age of charges disposed for matters originating in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Average age of disposed charges (days)
Clarendon	36
Trelawny	25
Portland	28
St. Mary	19
Hanover	35
Westmoreland	33
St. Catherine	30
St. Ann	36
St. James	28
St. Thomas	25
Corporate Area Criminal	37
Manchester	26
St. Elizabeth	11
Overall Average	28.38
Standard Deviation	7.51
Skewness	-0.99

The above table shows that the average time taken to dispose of criminal cases filed in the Parish Courts in the first quarter of 2026 is approximately 29 days. This is roughly 2 less days than the time taken to dispose cases originating in the first quarter of 2025. The standard deviation of the scores was relatively low (8 days), an indication that the individual values for the parish courts

were on average close to the overall mean. The negative indicates that proportionately more of the scores of the individual times to disposition in the data set were close to the overall series average. The scores ranged from a low of roughly 11 days at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court to a high of 37 days for the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division.

Table 1.14a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parishes	Time interval in days						730 days and over	Sample size (n)
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365-547 days	548-729 days		
Corporate Area Criminal	22346 (33.3%)	12571 (18.7%)	7607 (11.3%)	5470 (8.2%)	6683 (10.0%)	3932 (5.9%)	8439 (12.6%)	67048 (100%)
St. Catherine	9151 (32.6%)	6057 (21.6%)	3578 (12.7%)	2311 (8.2%)	2374 (8.4%)	1224 (4.4%)	3400 (12.1%)	28095 (100%)
St. James	7196 (38.2%)	3706 (19.7%)	2035 (10.8%)	1376 (7.3%)	1521 (8.1%)	774 (4.1%)	2208 (11.7%)	18816 (100%)
Manchester	5049 (30.2%)	3497 (20.9%)	2221 (13.3%)	1523 (9.1%)	1771 (10.6%)	1043 (6.2%)	1632 (9.8%)	16736 (100%)
Westmoreland	7351 (53.9%)	2632 (19.3%)	1459 (10.7%)	806 (5.9%)	761 (5.6%)	295 (2.2%)	325 (2.4%)	13629 (100%)
St. Ann	4423 (28.5%)	3204 (20.7%)	1844 (11.9%)	1346 (8.7%)	1817 (11.7%)	1025 (6.6%)	1850 (11.9%)	15509 (100%)
Clarendon	6482 (40.6%)	3757 (23.5%)	1893 (11.9%)	1195 (7.5%)	1368 (8.6%)	585 (3.7%)	680 (4.3%)	15960 (100%)
St. Thomas	2572 (30.4%)	1853 (21.9%)	1142 (13.5%)	883 (10.4%)	864 (10.2%)	396 (4.7%)	742 (8.8%)	8452 (100%)
Portland	3962 (36.2%)	2665 (24.4%)	1241 (11.4%)	754 (6.9%)	804 (7.4%)	426 (3.9%)	1080 (9.9%)	10932 (100%)
St. Mary	5172 (44.1%)	2270 (19.4%)	1409 (12.0%)	805 (6.9%)	753 (6.4%)	315 (2.7%)	993 (8.5%)	11717 (100%)
Trelawny	2795 (34.6%)	1464 (18.1%)	964 (11.9%)	685 (8.5%)	896 (11.1%)	497 (6.2%)	779 (9.6%)	8080 (100%)
Hanover	3917 (54.3%)	1567 (21.7%)	708 (9.8%)	376 (5.2%)	292 (4.0%)	152 (2.1%)	208 (2.9%)	7220 (100%)
St. Elizabeth	2878 (35.1%)	1896 (23.1%)	1055 (12.9%)	706 (8.6%)	743 (9.1%)	354 (4.3%)	576 (7.0%)	8208 (100%)
% of Total	36.15	20.46	11.79	7.91	8.96	4.78	9.94	-
Average	6407.23	3626.08	2088.92	1402.77	1588.23	847.54	1762.46	17723.23
Standard Deviation	5186.46	2957.22	1814.33	1319.35	1635.75	984.05	2191.07	15888.81
Skewness	2.74	2.65	2.71	2.80	2.87	2.94	2.71	2.87

Number of charges sampled (N) = 230,402

Note 1: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the previous 9.6 years

The above table shows the breakdown of the times to disposition for matters filed in the respective parish courts for at least 115 consecutive months (9.6 years) over the period September 2016 to March 2026. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges resolved in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 36.15% of the disposals. The Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division along with the parish courts of St. Catherine, Westmoreland and St. James are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed within 90 days. This trend is broadly similar to that seen over the past 24 months. Cumulatively, 76.31% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year, a continued positive indicator of the potential effectiveness of the courts in sustaining overall productivity and realizing the objective of becoming the best in the Caribbean region in three years and among the best in the world in six years. From the data set, the parish courts of Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, St. Catherine and St. Ann had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 9.94% of the matters resolved over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts of Corporate Area-Criminal Division, St. Catherine and St. James had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than 2 years. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample range from weak positive to moderate positive, which is an indication that for disposed cases, the distributions of the times taken do not vary dramatically across the courts. The difference, however, is the proportion of cases disposed, relative to the caseload, which as shown earlier, indicates that some courts are performing much better.

Table 1.14b: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition for matters completed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parishes	Time interval in days							
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365-547 days	548-729 days	730 days and over	Sample size (n)
Corporate Area Criminal	356 (23.3%)	267 (17.5%)	210 (13.7%)	222 (14.5%)	171 (11.2%)	95 (6.2%)	209 (13.7%)	1530 (100%)
St. Catherine	254 (38.1%)	152 (22.8%)	96 (14.4%)	81 (12.2%)	22 (3.3%)	21 (3.2%)	40 (6.0%)	666 (100%)
St. James	137 (37.2%)	108 (29.3%)	65 (17.7%)	24 (6.5%)	14 (3.8%)	3 (0.8%)	17 (4.6%)	368 (100%)
Manchester	119 (26.3%)	150 (33.2%)	87 (19.2%)	38 (8.4%)	37 (8.2%)	12 (2.7%)	9 (2.0%)	452 (100%)
Westmoreland	96 (30.8%)	78 (25.0%)	77 (24.7%)	41 (13.1%)	14 (4.5%)	5 (1.6%)	1 (0.3%)	312 (100%)
St. Ann	123 (31.5%)	151 (38.6%)	38 (9.7%)	18 (4.6%)	21 (5.4%)	19 (4.9%)	21 (5.4%)	391 (100%)
Clarendon	118 (27.1%)	88 (20.2%)	56 (12.9%)	70 (16.1%)	37 (8.5%)	45 (10.3%)	21 (4.8%)	435 (100%)
St. Thomas	64 (31.8%)	53 (26.4%)	29 (14.4%)	10 (5.0%)	14 (7.0%)	6 (3.0%)	25 (12.4%)	201 (100%)
Portland	120 (32.5%)	73 (19.8%)	38 (10.3%)	22 (6.0%)	25 (6.8%)	6 (1.6%)	85 (23.0%)	369 (100%)
St. Mary	170 (52.5%)	63 (19.4%)	32 (9.9%)	35 (10.8%)	19 (5.9%)	5 (1.5%)	-	324 (100%)
Trelawny	83 (33.5%)	59 (23.8%)	40 (16.1%)	15 (6.0%)	34 (13.7%)	7 (2.8%)	10 (4.0%)	248 (100%)
Hanover	110 (64.0%)	48 (27.9%)	11 (6.4%)	-	-)	3 (1.7%)	-	172 (100%)
St. Elizabeth	18 (27.7%)	22 (33.8%)	12 (18.5%)	7 (10.8%)	3 (4.6%)	-	3 (4.6%)	65 (100%)
% of Total	31.95	23.71	14.30	10.54	7.43	4.10	7.97	-
Average	136.00	100.92	60.85	44.85	31.62	17.46	33.92	425.62
Standard Deviation	85.98	65.29	52.17	58.24	43.44	26.17	57.40	363.50
Skewness	1.56	1.43	2.12	2.68	3.16	2.57	2.77	2.62

Number of charges sampled (N) = 5,533

The table above shows the breakdown of the time disposition for matters disposed parish courts in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant

proportion of the charges resolved in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 31.95% of the disposals. The Corporate Area Parish Court -Criminal Division along with the parish courts of St. Catherine, St. Mary and St. James are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days. Cumulatively, 80.50% of the matters resolved over the period took less than a year, a positive indicator of the potential effectiveness of the courts in increasing overall productivity and realizing the objective of becoming the best in the Caribbean region in three years and among the best in the world in six years. From the data set, the parish courts of Corporate Area - Criminal Division, Portland, and Clarendon had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 7.97% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts of Corporate Area - Criminal Division, Portland and St. Catherine had the largest proportion of their disposed matters in the year taking more than 2 years. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample range from weak positive to moderate positive, which is an indication that for disposed cases, the distributions of the time taken do not vary dramatically across the courts. The difference, however, is the proportion of cases disposed, relative to the caseload, which as shown earlier, indicates that some courts are performing much better.

Table 1.15a: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Criminal	337.31	1	166	470.32	3.04	1	3969	67048
St. Catherine	346.53	28	157	533.14	3.24	1	7091	28095
St. James	394.33	28	134	950.33	6.82	1	17119	18816
Manchester	292.67	63	171	341.07	3.25	1	9044	16736
Westmoreland	148.87	28	77	191.37	2.97	1	2555	13629
St. Ann	333.28	28	182	421.13	3.28	1	8875	15509
Clarendon	204.34	63	118	256.15	3.52	1	3824	15960
St. Thomas	276.17	63	168	319.81	2.49	1	2739	8452
Portland	335.49	63	130	589.62	3.28	1	4197	10932
St. Mary	270.67	14	112	476.32	3.61	1	5684	11717
Trelawny	287.59	28	158	344.08	2.42	1	3722	8080
Hanover	152.48	28	77	264.57	11.67	1	9333	7220
St. Elizabeth	242.50	28	140	291.29	2.52	1	2223	8208
Average/Weighted Average	302.59	35.62	137.69	419.17	4.01	1.00	6182.69	17723.23
Standard Deviation	75.05	20.56	34.24	197.99	2.55	0.00	4155.29	15888.81
Skewness	-0.52	0.31	-0.69	1.69	2.70	0.00	1.63	2.87

Number of charges sampled (N) = 230,402

Note 1: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the previous 9.6 years

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a large sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at March 31, 2026. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 115-month period over September 2016 – March 2026 for most parish courts and it should be noted that these descriptive statistics are for matters disposed over that sample period. The output produces an estimated weighted average time taken to dispose matters in the parish courts (Criminal Division) of approximately 303 days (10.1 months). The skewness of these times to disposition is a low negative 0.52, suggesting a cluster of scores around the overall mean. For

matters resolved in the period, the parish courts of Westmoreland (149 days), Hanover (152 days) and Clarendon (204 days) took the lowest times on average to resolve cases over the period. The parish courts of St. James (394 days), St. Catherine (347 days) and Corporate Area Criminal (337 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters resolved over the period. The average variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts is, however, wide as shown by the moderately high standard deviation (75.05), suggesting inconsistencies in performances on this measure. An interesting finding is that the minimum time taken to resolve matters across all parish courts was 1 day; however, the maximum times are substantially larger, in some cases several years. This result continues to be both a reflection of the relative complexity of cases entering open court over the period as well as the relative strength of case management across the various parish courts. The maximum times to disposition in the sample ranged from a low of 2,223 days (74.1 months/6.2 years) in the St. Elizabeth parish court to a high of 17,119 days (570.6 months/47.6 years) in the St. James Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a positive 1.63, which is an indication that most of the maximum times to disposition were below the overall series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial 230,402 matters.

Table 1.15b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for matters completed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Criminal	384.02	1417	236.50	448.26	2.27	1	2505	1530
St. Catherine	250.23	42	123	520.38	8.34	1	6436	666
St. James	211.36	49	132	429.02	7.39	1	4435	368
Manchester	192.88	112	137	171.59	1.64	2	910	452
Westmoreland	176.69	49	160	133.58	1.31	1	835	312
St. Ann	232.10	113	123	363.25	4.39	2	3096	391
Clarendon	269.43	701	189	256.96	1.64	1	1440	435
St. Thomas	297.68	114	133	423.01	2.41	2	1965	201
Portland	611.98	56	169	922.24	1.77	1	3405	369
St. Mary	135.60	42	77.50	143.20	1.40	1	620	324
Trelawny	206.16	2	138	198.94	1.42	1	883	248
Hanover	81.32	28	65	66.56	1.98	1	378	172
St. Elizabeth	202.98	3	139	243.53	3.32	2	1431	65
Average/Weighted Average	287.39	209.85	140.15	332.35	3.02	1.31	2179.92	425.62
Standard Deviation	131.58	405.94	43.96	227.01	2.32	0.48	1769.74	363.50
Skewness	1.85	2.69	0.42	1.47	1.68	0.95	1.32	2.62

Number of charges sampled (N) = 5,533

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. The output produces an estimated weighted average time taken to resolve matters in the parish courts (Criminal Division) of approximately 288 days or 9.6 months. The skewness of these times to disposition is a positive 1.85, suggesting that a large proportion of these times were below the overall mean. For matters resolved in the quarter, the parish courts of Hanover (81 days), St. Mary (136 days) and Westmoreland (177 days) took the lowest times on average to resolve cases in the quarter. The parish courts of Portland (612 days), Corporate Area Criminal (384 days) and St. Thomas (298 days) demonstrate the

highest times to disposition for matters resolved during the quarter. The average variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts is, however, wide as shown by the moderately high standard deviation (132), suggesting inconsistencies in performances on this measure. The average minimum time taken to resolve matters across all parish courts was 1.31 days; however, the maximum times are substantially larger, in some cases several years. This result continues to be both a reflection of the relative complexity of cases entering open court over the period as well as the relative strength of case management across the various parish courts. The maximum times to disposition in the sample ranged from a low of 378 days (12.6 months/1.1 years) in the Hanover parish court to a high of 6,436 days (214.5 months/17.9 years) in the St. Catherine Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a positive 1.32 which is an indication that proportionately more of the maximum times to disposition were below the overall series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial 5,533 matters cases which were resolved during the first quarter of 2026.

Table 1.15c: Net and gross criminal case backlog as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2026 for cases over 24 months

Parish Court	Net Backlog (%)	Gross Backlog (%)
Clarendon	0.39	11.04
Corporate area	3.97	24.56
Hanover	0.11	3.47
Manchester	2.63	12.78
Portland	0.73	3.55
St. Ann	2.90	25.65
St. Catherine	0.25	9.36
St. Elizabeth	4.68	13.89
St. James	0.83	12.30
St. Mary	0.45	4.96
St. Thomas	2.11	9.41
Trelawny	0.38	10.21
Westmoreland	0.35	7.87
Weighted Average	2.13	15.73
Standard Deviation	1.56	6.91

Note: The net backlog for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann as at March 31, 2026 is 10.17% and the gross backlog is 31.37%.

The net and gross case backlog rates provide one of the most decisive indicators of court performance as they are strongly influenced by most of the other critical court performance metrics such as the case clearance, case disposal, trial and hearing date certainty rates and are also directly correlated with the case congestion rate. The estimated gross case backlog rate provides a measurement of the proportion of cases filed for a given period (of over two years) which are either active or inactive (i.e. are unresolved) and are over two years old at the date of reporting. The closely related estimated net case backlog rate is the proportion of all cases filed for a given period (of over two years) which are still active and exceeding two years old at the time of reporting. The estimated net case backlog rate therefore excludes inactive cases which are unresolved. Based on international best practices an estimated gross case backlog rate of under 10% is desirable, while an estimated net case backlog rate of under 5% is prescribed. The

results revealed are quite outstanding, revealing a net case backlog rate for cases over 24 months old (weighted average) in the criminal division of the parish courts is 2.13% (with a standard deviation of 1.56%) which is satisfies than the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at 15.73% (with a standard deviation of 6.91%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved criminal cases in the parish courts. This rate is 5.73 percentage points higher than the prescribed rate of 10%, but seemingly has the potential to meet this standard relatively soon with the application of more aggressive case management practices and reduction in the incidence of delays in the criminal courts. The sample set is large and representative of the current direction of the court system. The parish courts of Hanover with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.11%, St. Catherine with 0.25% and Westmoreland with an estimated net case backlog rate of 0.35% have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts of St. Elizabeth (4.68%), Corporate Area Criminal (3.97%), and St. Ann (2.90%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of Hanover (3.47%), Portland (3.55%) and St. Mary (4.96%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of St. Ann (25.65%), Corporate Area Criminal Court (24.56%) and St. Elizabeth (13.89%) have the highest rates. Taken together, these are quite impressive returns for the criminal court system in Jamaica and augur well for future prospects.

Table 1.15d: Net and gross criminal case backlog as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2026 for cases over 20 months

Parish Court	Net Backlog (%)	Gross Backlog (%)
Clarendon	0.56	11.43
Corporate area	4.04	25.00
Hanover	0.11	3.48
Manchester	2.81	13.12
Portland	0.88	3.82
St. Ann	3.03	26.39
St. Catherine	0.30	9.63
St. Elizabeth	4.93	14.20
St. James	0.91	12.50
St. Mary	0.49	5.08
St. Thomas	2.28	9.71
Trelawny	0.51	10.72
Westmoreland	0.52	8.41
Weighted Average	2.23	16.11
Standard Deviation	1.60	7.04

Note: The net backlog for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann as at March 31, 2026 is 10.65% and the gross backlog is 32.31%.

The net and gross case backlog rates provide one of the most decisive indicators of court performance as they are strongly influenced by most of the other critical court performance metrics such as the case clearance, case disposal, trial and hearing date certainty rates and are also directly correlated with the case congestion rate. The estimated gross case backlog rate provides a measurement of the proportion of cases filed for a given period (of over two years) which are either active or inactive (i.e. are unresolved) and are over two years old at the date of reporting. The closely related estimated net case backlog rate is the proportion of all cases filed for a given period (of over two years) which are still active and exceeding two years old at the time of reporting. The estimated net case backlog rate therefore excludes inactive cases which are unresolved. Based on international best practices an estimated gross case backlog rate of under 10% is desirable, while an estimated net case backlog rate of under 5% is prescribed. The

results revealed are quite outstanding, revealing a net case backlog rate for cases over 20 months old (weighted average) in the criminal division of the parish courts is 2.23% (with a standard deviation of 1.60%) which is satisfies than the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at 16.11% (with a standard deviation of 7.04%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved criminal cases in the parish courts. This rate is 6.11 percentage points higher than the prescribed rate of 10%, but seemingly has the potential to meet this standard relatively soon with the application of more aggressive case management practices and reduction in the incidence of delays in the criminal courts. The sample set is large and representative of the current direction of the court system. The parish courts of Hanover with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.11%, St. Catherine with 0.30%, and St. Mary with an estimated net case backlog rate of 0.49% have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts of St. Elizabeth (4.93%), Corporate Area Criminal (4.04%), and St. Ann (3.03%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of Hanover (3.48%), Portland (3.82%) and St. Mary (5.08%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of St. Ann (26.39%), Corporate Area Criminal Court (25%) and St. Elizabeth (14.20%) have the highest rates. Taken together, these are quite impressive returns for the criminal court system in Jamaica and augur well for future prospects.

Table 1.16: Distribution of methods of disposition for matters set for trial during the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage
Not guilty	309	30.90
Dismissed	231	23.10
Guilty Plea	192	19.20
Committed to Circuit	101	10.10
Not Guilty Plea - Mediated Settlement	88	8.80
Guilty	73	7.30
Transferred	5	0.50
Mistrial	1	0.10
Total	1000	100.00

The above table summarizes the common methods of disposition for a sample of cases proceeding to trial. It is seen that matters disposed by not guilty verdicts with 309 or 30.90% of the cases disposed, matters dismissed with 231 or 23.10% and matters disposed by guilty plea with 192 or 19.20% account for the three leading methods of disposition in the sample for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026.

Methods of Disposal and Conviction Rate

Table 1.17: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Guilty Plea	Dismissed	Not Guilty Verdict	Transferred	Mediated Settlement	Guilty Verdict	Committed to Circuit Court	Total
St. Catherine	232	316	4	252	442	1	114	1361
Corporate Area Criminal	665	438	304	138	203	7	430	2185
Westmoreland	90	13	150	5	213	-	23	494
St. James	3	1	268	2	-	234	88	596
Manchester	19	92	113	-	153	153	143	673
Clarendon	215	41	261	59	-	6	41	623
Trelawny	41	115	4	-	2	44	173	379
Hanover	56	36	115	3	99	5	32	346
Portland	245	-	148	-	20	3	40	456
St. Mary	17	67	167	-	4	88	127	470
St. Thomas	121	17	68	48	54	27	11	346
St. Ann	106	26	29	8	44	4	83	300
St. Elizabeth	22	18	-	14	25	1	5	85
Total	1832	1180	1631	529	1259	573	1310	8314
Percentage of total	22.04	14.19	19.62	6.36	15.14	6.89	15.76	-

Total sample size: 8,314

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts for the first quarter of 2026. From the sample, it is observed that the largest proportion of matters disposed during the quarter were by way of a guilty plea with 22.04% of the sample, followed by not guilty verdicts with 19.62% and matters committed to circuit court with 15.76%. Mediated settlements with 15.14%, matters dismissed with 14.19%, guilty verdicts with 6.89% and matters transferred to another court with 6.36% account for the remaining disposals in the quarter. The combined 28.93% of the cases disposed by way of guilty outcomes represent the

estimated criminal conviction rate in the parish courts for the quarter. This represents a decrease of 5.41 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in 2025.

Common Reasons for Adjournment

Table 1.18.01: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Reasons for Adjournment	Count	Percentage (%)
Defendant Not Appearing (DNA) warrant issued	1064	7.87
Disclosure	1027	7.60
File to be completed	989	7.32
Referred to mediation	693	5.13
Adjournment request - crown	467	3.46
Re-issue	334	2.47
Social enquiry report requested	207	1.53
Medical report unavailable	202	1.49
Subpoena investigating officer	184	1.36
Psychiatric evaluation to be done	178	1.32
Sub-total	5345	39.55

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 13,513)

Note: DNA means that the accused 'did not appear'

***Referral to mediation encompasses referrals to Probation and to the Dispute Resolution Foundation**

The above table is derived using a sample of 13,513 reasons for adjournments/continuance for matters heard in the across all parish courts. The largest proportion (7.87%) was due to the nonappearance of the accused, leading to the issuing of warrants. Adjournments for disclosure with 7.60% and adjournments due to incomplete files with 7.32% account for the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts for the quarter. Adjournments due to referrals to mediation with 5.13% and adjournment request by the crown with 3.46%, round of the top five reasons for adjournment in this period. Five (5) of the top five reasons for adjournment were also featured in the top five for the first quarter of 2025. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 39.55% of the total sample of adjournments.

The case file integrity rate:

One factor, which has a significant bearing on the progression of cases through the court system, is the case file integrity rate. A case file is considered to have met the standards of integrity if at the point of a court hearing requiring the use of said file; it is complete, accurate, available and correctly listed for court. Hence reasons for adjournment such as file incomplete, file not ready for court, matter wrongly listed and matter not before the court have an adverse impact on the case file integrity rate of the courts. In the first quarter of 2026, the case file integrity rate for criminal matters across the parish courts was 92.10%, as 7.90% of the total incidence of adjournments was due to the indicated factors, which impair the case file integrity rate. Of these factors, file to be completed accounts for 7.32% of the total incidence of adjournments/continuance and is the greatest contributor, adversely affecting the case file integrity rate. This rate is below the prescribed international standard of 98%-100%. This is an area in which major operational interventions need to be undertaken across the parish courts to improve the availability, completeness, accuracy and correct scheduling of case files for court.

Table 1.18.02: Summary of case management date activity for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Average number of mentions per case	Standard Deviation of Mentions Per Case	Skewness of mentions per case	Maximum Mention Court Frequency	Minimum Mention Court Frequency
Clarendon	4.63	3.90	1.38	24	1
Corporate Area	6.44	9.43	3.75	121	1
Hanover	2.54	1.78	1.71	10	1
Manchester	3.27	2.66	1.73	18	1
Portland	3.71	4.10	3.04	34	1
St. Ann	3.71	4.19	2.67	29	1
St. Catherine	3.34	3.41	3.56	40	1
St. James	2.99	2.46	3.07	23	1
St. Mary	3.76	3.19	2.18	24	1
St. Thomas	3.86	3.05	1.73	28	1
Trelawny	3.51	3.18	3.12	34	1
Westmoreland	5.74	6.88	3.05	40	1
Weighted Average	4.89			35.42	1.00
Standard Deviation	1.13			28.33	0.00
Skewness	1.28			2.88	0.00

The above table summarises the number of case management dates per case leading towards disposition in the criminal division of the parish courts for matters heard in the first quarter of 2026. The overall average number of case management dates per case is 4.89 (i.e. between 4 and 5) with a standard deviation of 1.13 across the courts sampled and a skewness of 1.28. Together, these results suggest that the average number of appearances per case is within the prescribed international standard of a maximum of 5 mentions per case, that a larger proportion of cases have less than the overall average number of case management dates and that there isn't on average a wide variation in the number of case management dates per case across the courts. Among the parish courts with the highest number of case management dates per cases for matters heard in the first quarter of 2026 are the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division,

the Westmoreland and the Clarendon parish courts, while the Hanover, St. James and Manchester Parish Courts were among those with the lowest case management dates per case. In terms of cases disposed, the average case management dates for all cases resolved across all the parish courts combined in the first quarter of 2026 was 3.61 with a standard deviation of 1.00.

Chapter 2.0: Case Demographics and Courtroom Activity

This chapter examines case demographics including age and gender distribution of offenders as well as a sample estimate of the geographical distribution of charges based on the police station where matters are reported. This section also examines the distribution of new cases heard in the quarter by the respective courtrooms and outstations in each parish.

Table 2.01: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

	Male		Female		Total	
Charge	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Assault occasioning bodily harm	1235	76.80	373	23.20	1608	100
Unlawful wounding	804	75.49	261	24.51	1065	100
Malicious destruction of property	562	79.83	142	20.17	704	100
Possession of offensive weapon	626	94.99	33	5.01	659	100
Threat	316	77.26	93	22.74	409	100
Assault at common law	257	82.37	55	17.63	312	100
Simple larceny	222	77.08	66	22.92	288	100
Disorderly conduct	205	77.95	58	22.05	263	100
Possession of ganja	168	74.67	57	25.33	225	100
Smoking in a Public Place	213	95.09	11	4.91	224	100

*****The gender of offenders was not available for every matter that was filed in the parish courts hence a sample is used. Sample size (N) = 10,857**

The above table provides a sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. Based on the data shown in chart 2.01, it is not surprising that males account for the dominant proportion of all these charges. Among the charges listed with the greatest imbalance in the gender distribution are at common law, and possession of offensive weapon for which over 80% of the persons charged were male. More

particularly, is seen smoking in a public place with 95.09% of the persons charged being male had the most significant incidence of persons charged being male for the quarter. Possession of ganja, unlawful wounding, and assault occasioning bodily harm act saw the highest incidence of female involvement.

The below series of tables provide a sampling distribution of cases by assigned courtroom in the individual parish courts in the first quarter of 2026. These figures are derived from representative datasets from the respective courts and do not necessarily add back to the total population of cases outlined in the first few tables of the report.

Table 2.02.01: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Westmoreland for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2026	Number of new cases disposed in Q1 2026	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2026	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	286	126	16	53.36	49.65
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	11	3	0	2.05	27.27
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	25	0	1	4.66	4.00
Whithorn Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	9	1	0	1.68	11.11
Whithorn Outstation	205	65	10	38.25	36.59
Total/Weighted Average	536	195	27	100.00	41.42

Note: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of criminal cases filed in the first quarter of 2026 at the Westmoreland Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and

outstations in the parish and outlines the applicable disposal rates. The table separates Lay Magistrates' and night court cases heard in each of the relevant locations for ease of comparison. The data shows decisively that cases entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse and sittings at the Whithorn Outstation account for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 286 (53.36%) and 205 (36.59%) cases respectively. Sittings at the Lay Magistrates' court at the main courthouse with 25 cases or 4.66% rank next. The number of cases heard in courtroom one (286 cases), decreased by 69 cases or 19.44% below the 355 cases recorded in the similar first quarter of 2025. The case disposal rate increased by 2.61 percentage points moving up to 49.65% compared to the 47.04% reported in the first quarter of 2025. In terms of cases disposed, sittings in courtroom number 1 with 126 cases accounted for the highest absolute share of cases disposed and had the highest disposal rate of 49.65%. The outstation in Whithorn rank next with 65 disposed cases and recorded the second highest disposal rate of 36.59%, which is 29.15 percentage points below the 65.74% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2025. The single outstation in Westmoreland accounted for 39.93% of the total sample of new cases heard, an increase of 17.29 percentage points when compared to the 22.64% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2025. The main courthouse accounted for the remaining 60.07%, a decrease of 17.29 percentage points when compared to the 77.36% recorded in 2025.

Table 2.02.02: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Corporate Area for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2026	Number of new cases disposed in Q1 2026	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2026	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	4	0	0	0.29	NA
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1171	377	123	85.23	42.70
Courtroom #6 (main courthouse)	64	2	1	4.66	4.69
Courtroom #7 (main courthouse)	47	2	0	3.42	4.26
Gun Court (main courthouse)	19	1	0	1.38	5.26
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	64	36	5	4.66	64.06
Gordon Town Outstation	5	5	0	0.36	100.00
Total/Weighted Average	1374	423	129	100.00	40.17

Note 1: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026 at the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for the majority of new cases filed in the quarter with 1,171 cases or 85.23% of the total sample. Courtroom 6 at the main courthouse and Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse with 64 cases or roughly 4.66% each follows this, rounding off the top three proportion of new cases filed in the quarter. Courtroom number two at the main courthouse accounts for the largest absolute share of cases disposed in the first quarter of 2026 with 377 cases and the third highest disposal rate of 42.70%. When compared to the corresponding first quarter of 2025, courtroom number two also accounted for the largest absolute share of cases disposed with 433 cases and had a disposal rate of 58.77%. This represents a decrease of 56 cases disposed or a 12.93% decrease and a 16.07

percentage points decrease in the disposal rate. The main courthouse in Half-Way-Tree accounted for 99.93% of the total sample of new cases heard in the first quarter of 2025, while the Gordon Outstation accounted for 0.07%.

Table 2.02.03: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. James for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2026	Number of new cases disposed in Q1 2026	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2026	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	541	302	40	100.00	63.22
Total/Weighted Average	541	302	40	100.00	63.22

Note: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026, at the St. James Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish and outlines the disposal rates of the various courtrooms and outstations. The sample shows that courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse in Montego Bay accounts for all new cases heard with 541 cases, a decrease of 8 cases or a 1.46% decline below the 549 cases recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2025. Courtroom 2 at the main courthouse also has an estimated case disposal rate of 63.22% for the first quarter of 2026.

Table 2.02.04: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Catherine for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2026	Number of new cases disposed in Q1 2026	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2026	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (Main Courthouse)	106	45	0	12.59	42.45
Courtroom #3 (Main Courthouse)	8	3	0	0.95	37.50
Courtroom #4 (Main Courthouse)	323	195	4	38.36	61.61
Courtroom #5 (Main Courthouse)	24	12	0	2.85	50.00
Courtroom #6 (Main Courthouse)	57	35	0	6.77	61.40
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	26	4	1	3.09	19.23
Linstead Outstation (Courtroom #1)	165	84	3	19.60	52.73
Linstead Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	5	1	0	0.59	20.00
Old Harbour Outstation	90	59	4	10.69	70.00
Old Harbour Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	10	3	2	1.19	50.00
Portmore Outstation (Children's Court)	28	4	0	3.33	14.29
Total/Weighted Average	842	445	14	100.00	54.51

Note 1: There were 18 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.

Note 2: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026 at the St. Catherine Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish and outlines the applicable disposal rates. The table separates Lay Magistrates' and night court matters for the relevant locations for ease of comparisons. The data shows decisively that cases entered in courtroom number 4 at the main courthouse in Spanish Town and courtroom 1 at the outstation in Linstead account for the largest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 38.36% and 19.60% of the cases respectively. Courtroom 1 at the main

courthouse with 12.59% of new cases filed ranks next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 4 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 195 cases. Courtroom 4 also had the second highest disposal rate of 61.61%, which is an increase of 47.32 percentage points above the 14.29% recorded in the comparable first quarter of 2025. Sittings at the Old Harbour Outstation had the highest disposal rate of 70%, with sittings in courtroom 6 at the main courthouse with a disposal rate of 61.40% and courtroom 1 at the Linstead Outstation with a disposal rate of 52.73% rounding out the top disposal rates in the quarter. The main courthouse in Spanish Town accounts for 64.61% of the total sample of new cases heard in the first quarter of 2026, a decrease of 8.93 percentage points below the 73.54% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2025. The outstations combined accounted for the remaining 35.39%.

Table 2.02.05: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Thomas for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2026	Number of new cases disposed in Q1 2026	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2026	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Children's Court (main courthouse)	8	0	0	2.89	NA
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	125	59	0	45.13	47.20
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	94	44	9	33.94	56.38
Yallahs Outstation	49	20	6	17.69	53.06
Yallahs Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	1	0	1	0.36	100.00
Total/Weighted Average	277	123	16	100.00	50.18

Note 1: There were 4 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.

Note 2: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The data shows decisively that cases entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse and courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse account for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 45.13% and 33.94% respectively. Courtroom number 1 also accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 59 cases and had a disposal rate of 47.20%. When compared to the corresponding first quarter of 2025, this represents an increase of 3.20 percentage points above the disposal rate of 44% recorded. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Yallahs Outstation recorded highest disposal rate in the quarter, despite proportionally low numbers, followed by stings in courtroom 2 at the main courthouse with a disposal rate of 56.38%. The main courthouse in Morant Bay accounted for 81.96% of the total new cases heard in the quarter, which is an increase of 7.19 percentage points when compared to the 74.77% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2025. The

remaining 18.04% was accounted for by the Yallahs outstation, a decrease of 7.19 percentage points when compared to the 25.23% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2025.

Table 2.02.06: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Trelawny for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2026	Number of new cases disposed in Q1 2026	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2026	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Clarks Town Outstation (Courtroom #1)	171	67	8	44.65	43.86
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	1	0	0	0.26	NA
Falmouth Outstation	127	50	10	33.16	47.24
Falmouth Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	4	0	2	1.04	50.00
Ulster Spring Outstation	79	40	4	20.63	55.70
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	1	0	0	0.26	NA
Total/Weighted Average	383	157	24	100.00	47.26

Note 1: There was 1 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.

Note 2: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026 at the Trelawny Parish Court. The data shows decisively that cases entered in courtroom 1 at the Clarks Town Outstation accounts for the highest proportion of new cases heard in the quarter with 44.65% of the sample. The Falmouth Town Outstation and the Ulster Spring Outstation with 33.16% and 20.63% respectively, followed. Sittings at the Ulster Spring Outstation recorded the highest disposal rate of 55.70%, followed by Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Falmouth Outstation and sittings the Falmouth Outstation with disposal rates of 50% and 47.24% respectively. The outstations in the parish account for 99.48% of the new cases heard in

the first quarter of 2026, while the remaining 0.52% were accounted for by the main courthouse.

In the corresponding first quarter of 2025, the main courthouse accounted for 4.56% of the new cases heard, while the remaining 95.44% were accounted for by the outstations.

Table 2.02.07: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Mary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2026	Number of new cases disposed in Q1 2026	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2026	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Children's Court (main courthouse)	5	0	0	1.84	NA
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	170	96	2	62.50	57.65
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	1	1	0	0.37	100.00
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	2	2	0	0.74	100.00
Lay Magistrates' Court (main Courthouse)	5	3	1	1.84	80.00
Annotto Bay Outstation	54	32	1	19.85	61.11
Annotto Bay Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	1	0	0	0.37	NA
Gayle Outstation	11	4	0	4.04	36.36
Gayle Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	1	1	0	0.37	100.00
Richmond Outstation	22	12	0	8.09	54.55
Total/Weighted Average	272	151	4	100.00	56.99

Note 1: There was 1 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.

Note 2: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Mary in the first quarter of 2026. The data shows decisively that courtrooms number 1 at the main courthouse and the Annotto Bay Outstation account for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 62.50% and 19.85% respectively of the total sample. Sittings at the Richmond Outstation with 8.09% and

sittings at the Gayle Outstation with 4.04% rank next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Port Maria accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 96 cases, roughly 51 more cases or a 113.33% increase when compared to the corresponding first quarter of 2025 and had a case disposal rate of 57.65%. Sittings in courtroom 2 and 3 at the main courthouse, and sittings at the Gayle outstation had the highest disposal rates of 100% each, despite having proportionally low numbers. The outstations in the parish account for a combined 32.72% of the total sample of new cases heard in the first quarter of 2026, an increase of 6 percentage points above the 26.72% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2025. On the other hand, the main courthouse accounts for 67.28%, which is a decrease of 6 percentage point below the 73.28% recorded in 2025.

Table 2.02.08: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Portland for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2026	Number of new cases disposed in Q1 2026	Number of inactive cases Q1 2026	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Buff Bay Outstation (Children's Court)	1	0	0	0.23	NA
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	306	189	16	69.23	66.99
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	17	8	1	3.85	52.94
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	19	5	0	4.30	26.32
Buff Bay Outstation (Courtroom #1)	67	46	4	15.16	74.63
Lay Magistrates' Court (main Courthouse)	32	2	1	7.24	9.38
Total/Weighted Average	442	250	22	100.00	61.54

Note 1: There were 9 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.

Note 2: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Portland in the first quarter of 2026. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 at the main court in Port Antonio accounts for the majority of new cases heard in the period, with 69.23% of the total sample. In the first quarter of 2025, courtroom one also accounted for the majority of new cases heard with 61.43% of the sample of cases. Sittings in Courtroom 1 at the outstation in Buff Bay and Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse with 15.16% and 7.24% respectively of the total sample of the new cases heard in the period ranked next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Port Antonio accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 189 cases, a 278% increase or 139 more cases compared to the 50 cases recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2025; and

had the second highest disposal rate of 66.99%. Courtroom number one at the Buff Bay Outstation and sittings in courtroom 2 at the main courthouse with disposal rates of 74.63% and 52.94% respectively ranked first and third on this measure. The outstations in Portland account for a combined 15.39% of the new cases heard, which is a decrease of 5.25 percentage points below the 20.64% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2025. The main courthouse in Port Antonio accounts for the remaining 84.61%, which is an increase of 5.25 percentage above the 79.36% recorded in the first quarter of 2025.

Table 2.02.09: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Hanover for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2026	Number of new cases disposed in Q1 2026	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2026	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courtroom)	8	4	0	3.05	50.00
Courtroom #2 (main courtroom)	121	78	4	46.18	67.77
Courtroom #3 (main courtroom)	2	0	0	0.76	NA
Ramble Outstation (Courtroom #1)	16	13	0	6.11	81.25
Ramble Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	1	0	0	0.38	NA
Sandy Bay Outstation (Courtroom #1)	55	39	1	20.99	72.73
Sandy Bay Outstation (Courtroom #2)	3	0	0	1.15	NA
Green Island Outstation	27	16	1	10.31	62.96
Green Island Outstation (Courtroom #2)	1	0	0	0.38	NA
Green Island Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	7	4	0	2.67	57.14
Lay Magistrates' Court (main Courthouse)	21	8	0	8.02	38.10
Total/Weighted Average	262	162	6	100.00	64.12

Note 1: There was 1 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0

Note 2: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Hanover in the first quarter of 2026. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 46.18% of the total sample and is 29.83 percentage points above the 16.35% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2025. Courtroom one at the Sandy Bay Outstation and sittings at the Green Island Outstation with 20.99% and 10.31% respectively rank next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 78 cases and had a case disposal

rate of 67.77%. Courtroom number 1 at the Ramble Outstation also recorded the highest case disposal rate of 81.25%, followed by sittings in courtroom 1 at the outstation in Sandy Bay with a disposal rate of 72.73%. The outstations in the parish account for 41.99% of the new cases heard during the quarter, which is a decrease of 8.33 percentage points below the 50.32% recorded in the first quarter of 2025. The main courthouse accounts for the remaining 58.01%, which is an increase of 8.33 percentage points above the 58.01% when compared to 2025.

Table 2.02.10: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Ann for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2026	Number of new cases disposed in Q1 2026	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2026	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
St. Ann's Bay and the Claremont Outstation					
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	94	37	22	28.40	62.77
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	84	51	8	25.38	70.24
Claremont Outstation	42	18	0	12.69	42.86
Claremont Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	3	2	0	0.91	66.67
Brown's Town Outstation					
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	82	24	5	24.77	35.37
Lay Magistrates' Court	26	1	4	7.85	19.23
Total/Weighted Average	331	133	39	100.00	51.96

Note 1: There were 176 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.

Note 2: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Ann in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. The data shows that courtroom 1 in St. Ann's Bay (the main court) and courtroom 2 in St. Ann's Bay (the main court) account for the largest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 28.40% and 25.38% respectively of the total sample. When compared to the first quarter of 2025, the data shows that courtroom 1 in the Brown's Town Outstation and courtroom 2 in St. Ann's Bay (main courthouse) accounted for the two largest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 35.93% and 20.35% respectively of the total sample. In terms of cases disposed, sittings in courtroom 2 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 51 cases and had the highest disposal rate of 70.24%. As a whole, the Brown's Town court

accounted for approximately 32.62% of the new cases filed in the parish of St. Ann in the first quarter of 2026, which is 8.07 percentage points below the 40.69% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2025. The St. Ann's Bay courthouse accounts for 53.78% of the new cases heard in the quarter and the Clarendon outstation accounted for the remaining 13.60% of new cases.

Table 2.02.11: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Clarendon for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2026	Number of new cases disposed in Q1 2026	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2026	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	198	89	9	45.41	49.49
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	29	11	1	6.65	41.38
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	19	8	1	4.36	47.37
Lionel Town Outstation	102	42	5	23.39	46.08
Chapleton Outstation	56	21	4	12.84	44.64
Frankfield Outstation	9	2	1	2.06	33.33
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	23	10	1	5.28	47.83
Total/Weighted Average	436	183	22	100.00	47.02

Note 1: There were 2 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.

Note 2: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Clarendon in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. The available data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 in May Pen accounted for highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 45.41% of the total sample. The Lionel Town outstation account for the next highest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 23.39% of the total sample. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 at the main

courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 89 cases, an increase of 64.81% or 35 cases more than the 54 disposed cases recorded for this courtroom in the first quarter of 2025 and had the highest disposal rate of 49.49%. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse with a disposal rate of 47.83% had the second highest disposal rate, followed by sittings in courtroom 3 at the main courthouse with a disposal rate of 47.37%. The main courthouse in May Pen accounted for 61.71% of cases heard in quarter, while the remaining 38.29% was accounted for by the outstations, which is a decrease of 1.05 percentage points less than the 39.34% recorded in 2025.

Table 2.02.12: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Manchester for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2026	Number of new cases disposed in Q1 2026	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2026	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	100	51	0	22.37	51.00
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	76	29	2	17.00	40.79
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	14	3	0	3.13	21.43
Cottage Outstation	4	0	0	0.89	NA
Cottage Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	7	1	0	1.57	14.29
Christiana Outstation	58	34	1	12.98	60.34
Christiana Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	11	0	0	2.46	NA
Cross Keys Outstation	28	15	0	6.26	53.57
Cross Keys Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	2	1	0	0.45	50.00
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	75	38	2	16.78	53.33
Porus Outstation	22	16	0	4.92	72.73
Porus Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	5	0	0	1.12	NA
Spalding Outstation	42	10	2	9.40	28.57
Spalding Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	3	0	0	0.67	NA
Total/Weighted Average	447	198	7	100.00	45.86

Note 1: There were 28 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.

Note 2: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Manchester in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. The data shows courtroom number one at the main courthouse accounted for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 100 cases or 22.37% of the total sample. Courtroom 2 at the main courthouse and Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse account for the next highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 17% and 16.78%

respectively of the total sample. In terms of the case disposal rate, sittings at the Porus Outstation recorded the highest disposal rate of 72.73%, despite proportionally low numbers, followed by the Christiana Outstation with 60.34% and Cross Keys Outstation with 53.57%. The main courthouse in Mandeville accounts for 59.28% of the total sample of new cases heard during the first quarter of 2026, which is a decrease of 14.39 percentage point when compared to the 73.67% recorded in the first quarter of 2025. The remaining 40.72% was accounted for by the various outstations.

Table 2.02.13: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Elizabeth for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2026	Number of new cases disposed in Q1 2026	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2026	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Balaclava Outstation (Courtroom #1)	158	28	1	95.18	18.35
Balaclava Outstation (Courtroom #2)	7	1	1	4.22	28.57
Courtroom #1 (main courtroom)	1	0	0	0.60	NA
Total/ Weighted Average	166	29	2	100.00	18.67

Note 1: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Elizabeth in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. The data shows courtroom number 1 at the Balaclava Outstation accounted for the majority of new cases heard in the quarter, with 158 cases or 95.18% of the total sample. In terms of the case disposal rate, courtroom number two at the Balaclava Outstation recorded the highest disposal rate of 28.57%, followed by courtroom 1 at the Balaclava Outstation with 18.35%. The outstations in the parish accounts for 99.40% of the total sample of new cases heard

during the first quarter of 2026, while the remaining 0.60% was accounted for by the main courthouse in Black River.

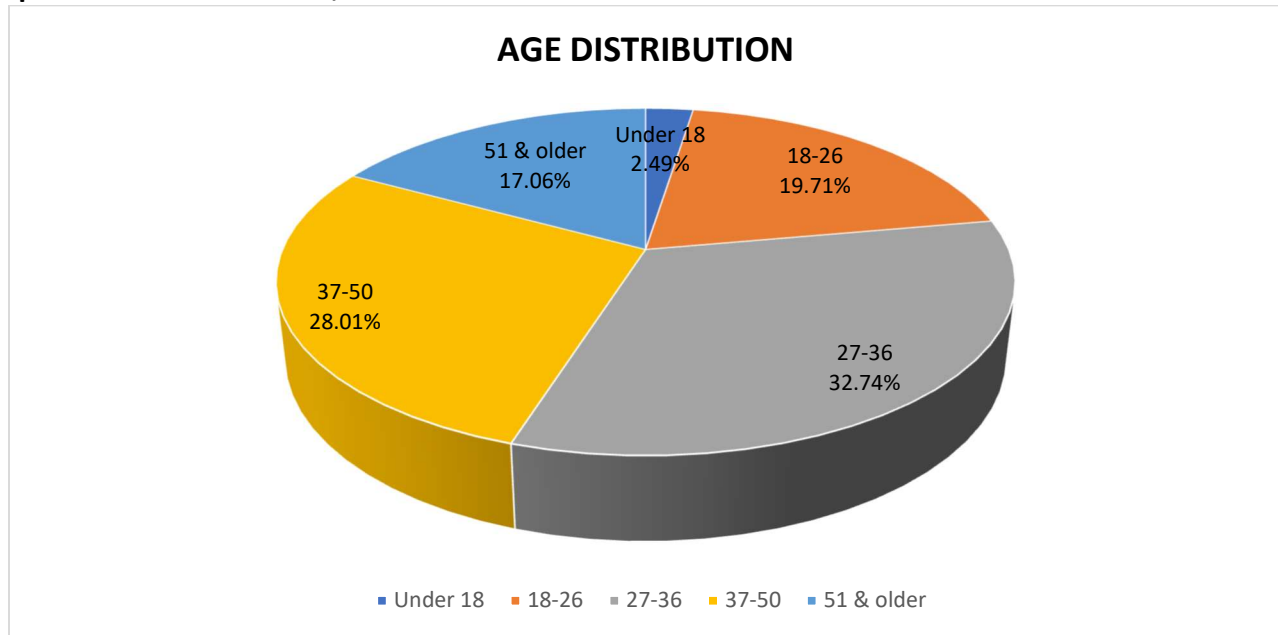
Table 2.03: proportion of cases heard at the main court and outstation across all parish courts for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish	Main Court Q1 2026 (%)	Outstation Q1 2026 (%)
Westmoreland	60.07	39.93
Corporate Area	99.64	0.36
St. James	100	0
St. Catherine	64.61	35.39
St. Thomas	81.96	18.04
Trelawny	0.52	99.48
St. Mary	67.28	32.72
Portland	84.61	15.39
Hanover	58.01	41.99
St. Ann	53.78	46.22
Clarendon	61.71	38.29
Manchester	59.28	40.72
St. Elizabeth	0.60	99.40
Simple Averages	60.93	39.07

The above table provides a proxy summary of the distribution of the utilization of the main courthouse locations and combined outstation usage in the hearing of new criminal cases filed. It is seen that 60.93% of new cases filed were entered for initial hearing in the main courthouse locations, while 39.07% were allocated for outstations. There are significant variances in the extent of main courthouse and outstation usage for the hearing of criminal matters across the parishes. It is seen, for example, that in parishes such as Corporate Area (Kingston and St. Andrew), St. James, Portland and St. Thomas, in excess of 75% of the new cases filed were entered for initial hearing, with the usage being particularly acute in the St. James Parish Court, which had 100% of cases entered for initial hearing at the main courthouse. On the contrary, there are parishes where the level of outstation usage competes with or outruns the usage of

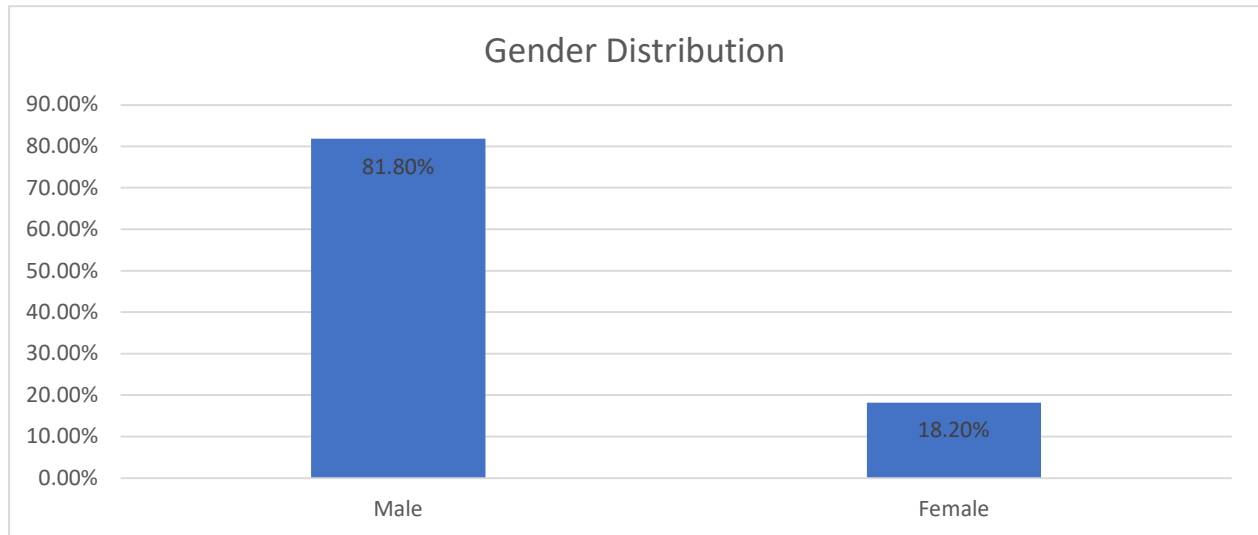
the main courthouse in the hearing of criminal cases filed. Trelawny and St. Elizabeth are good examples of courts with significant outstation usage, registering over 90% for initial hearing of new criminal cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. There may be opportunities for greater utilization of outstations to carry the caseload in some parishes, but such precise determinations require further analyses of total 'demand and supply, in each location.

Chart 2.01: Aggregate age distribution of persons charged for all parish courts for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026



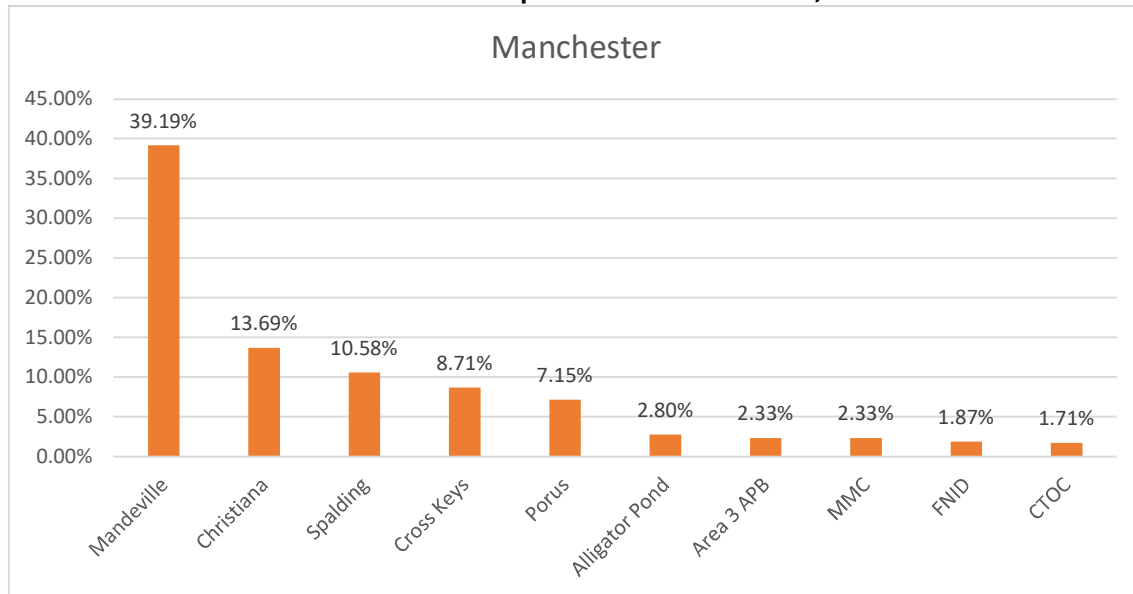
The above chart summarizes the age distribution of persons charged and brought before the criminal division of the parish courts in the first quarter of 2026. It is shown that the 27-36 age group with 32.74% accounted for the largest share of the persons charged, followed by the 37-50 age group with 28.01%. The lowest shares were attributed to the under 18 age group with 2.49% and 51 and over age group with 17.06%. The remaining proportion was accounted for by the 18-26 age group with 19.71% of the total sample.

Chart 2.02: Aggregate gender distribution of persons charged for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026



The above chart shows that the overwhelming majority of persons charged for the first quarter of 2026 were male, accounting for roughly 81.80% of the total sample, while females accounted for approximately 18.20%. The gender distribution of persons charged during the first quarter of 2026 was broadly similar to the breakdown for the first quarter of 2025 which had a male to female ratio of approximately 82.85% to 17.15%.

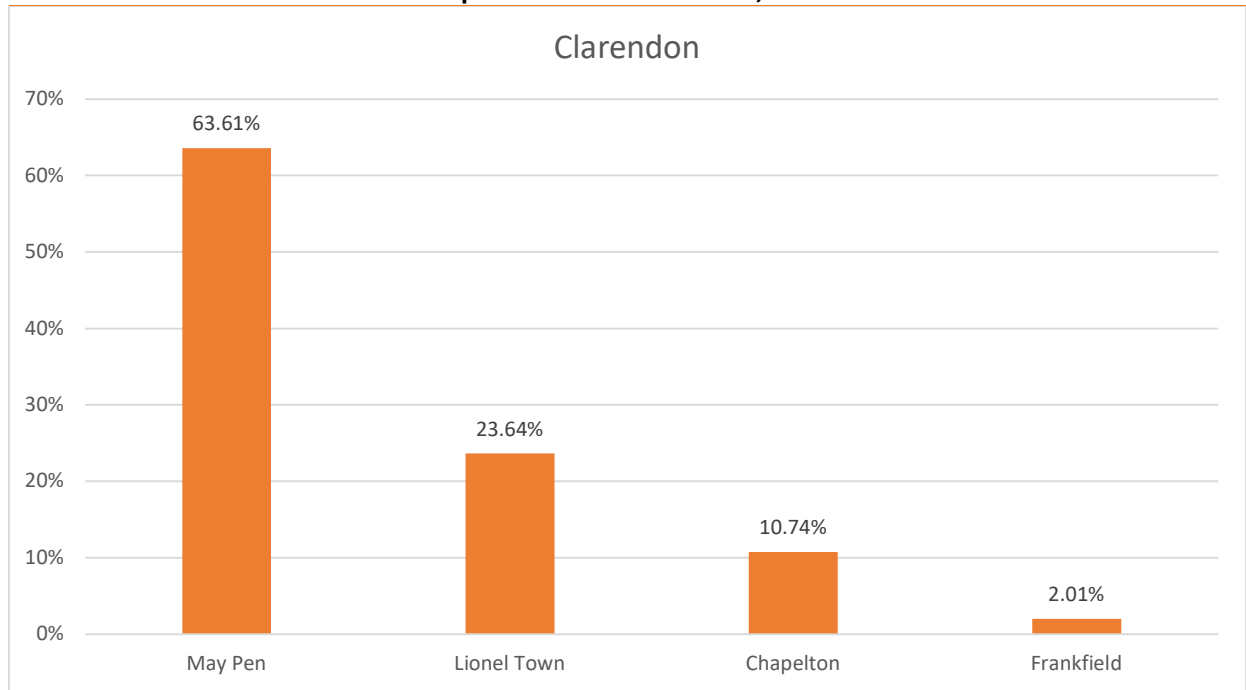
Chart 2.03.01: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Manchester Parish Court for the second quarter ended March 31, 2026



The above chart shows the distribution of charges at the Manchester Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 643 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2026 the highest proportion of charges, 39.19%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Mandeville Police Station. This was followed by the Christiana Police Station, which accounts for 13.69% of the total sample of matters reported. The Spalding police station rounded off the top three with 10.58%. In the corresponding first quarter of 2025, the top three comprised of the Mandeville Police Station, the Christiana Police Station, and the Spalding police station.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

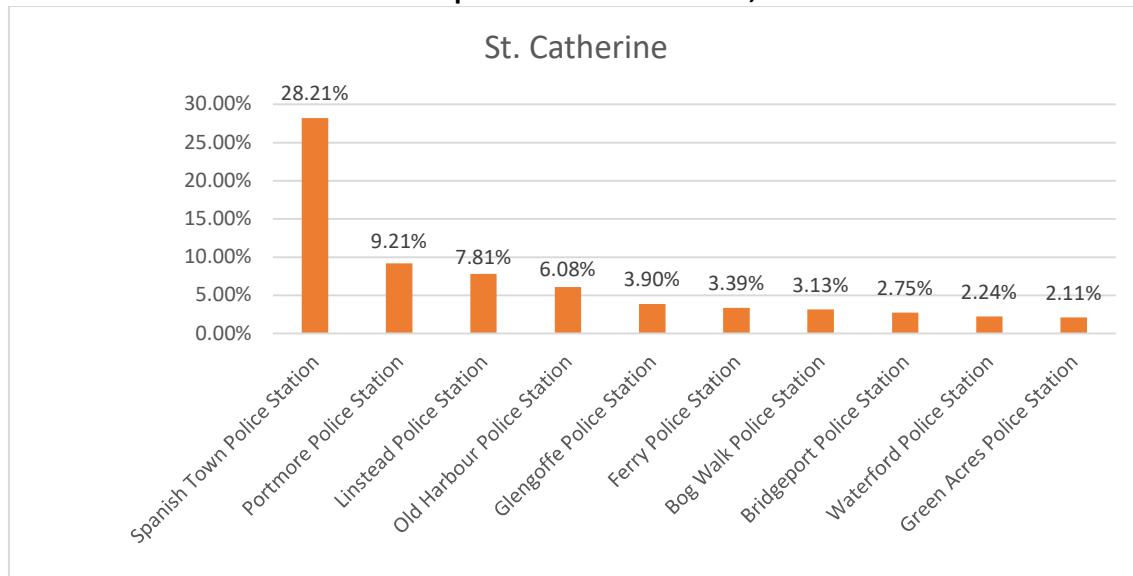
Chart 2.03.02: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Clarendon Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 698 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2026, the majority of criminal matters, 63.61%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the May Pen Police Station. This was followed by the Lionel Town Police Station which accounts for 23.64% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Chapelton Police Station with 10.74%. In the previous first quarter of 2025, the top three comprised of the May Pen Police Station, the Lionel Town and the Chapleton Police Station.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

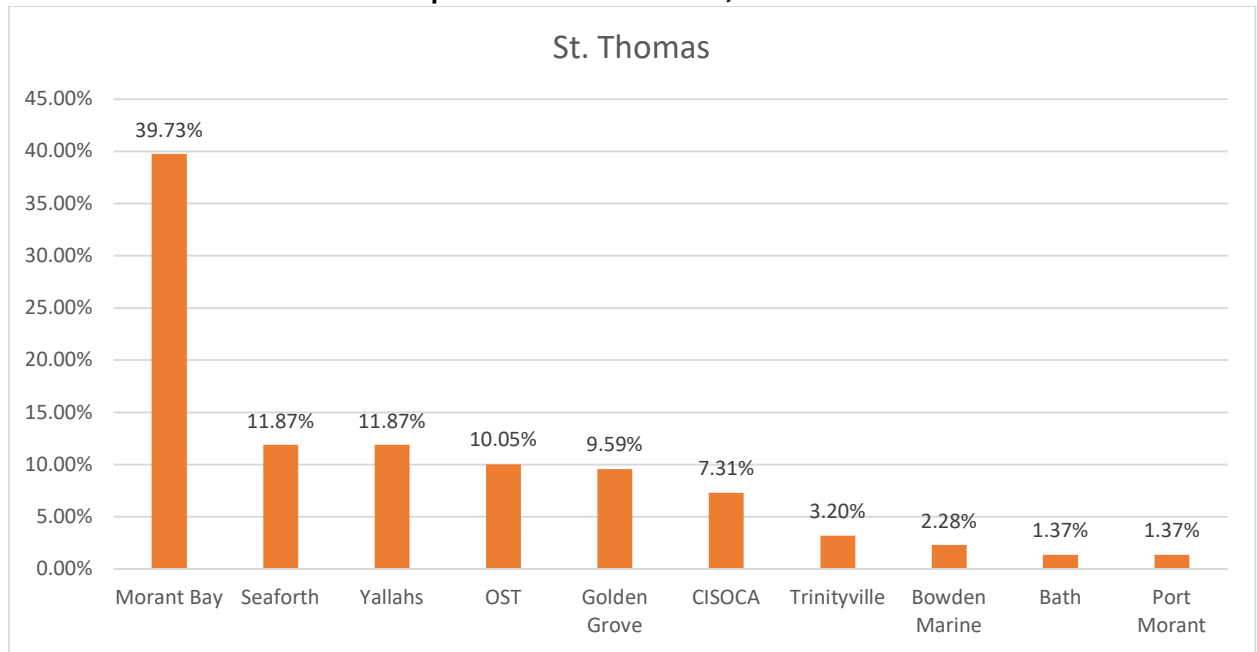
Chart 2.03.03: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Catherine Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 1,563 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2026, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 28.21%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Spanish Town Police Station. This was followed by the Portmore Police Station which accounts for 9.21% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Linstead Police Station with 7.81%. In the previous first quarter of 2025, the top three comprised of the Spanish Town Police Station, the Portmore and the Old Harbour Police Stations.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

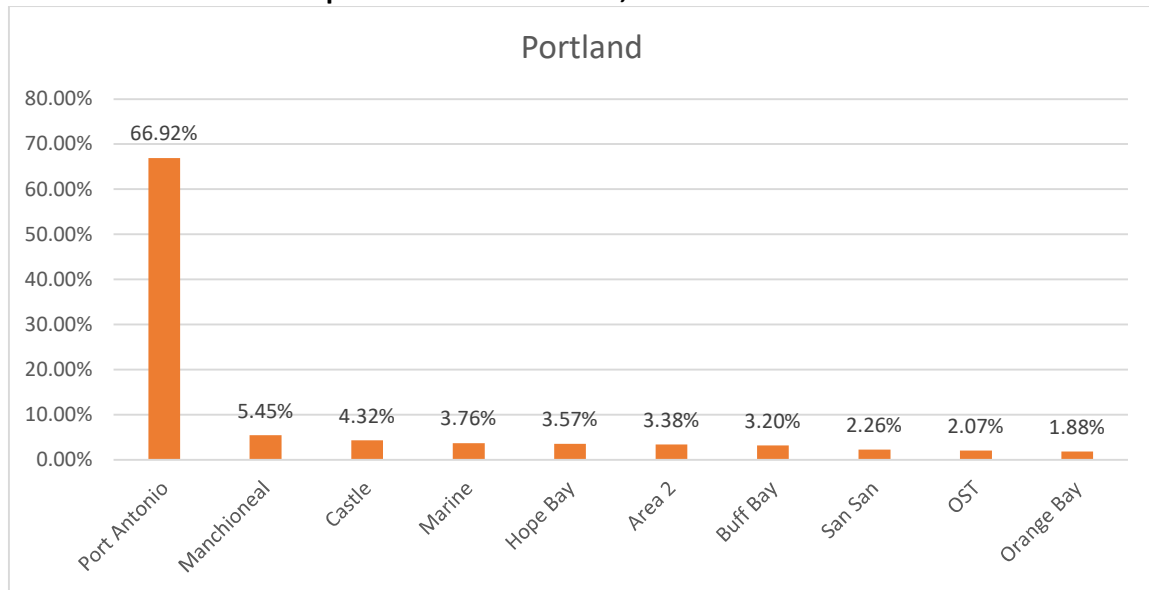
Chart 2.03.04: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Thomas Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 219 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2026, the highest proportion of criminal matters, 39.73%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Morant Bay Police Station. The top three was rounded off by the Seaforth Police station and the Yallahs Police Station with 11.87% each. In the previous first quarter of 2025, the top three comprised of the Morant Bay Police Station, the Yallahs Police station and the Bath Police station.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

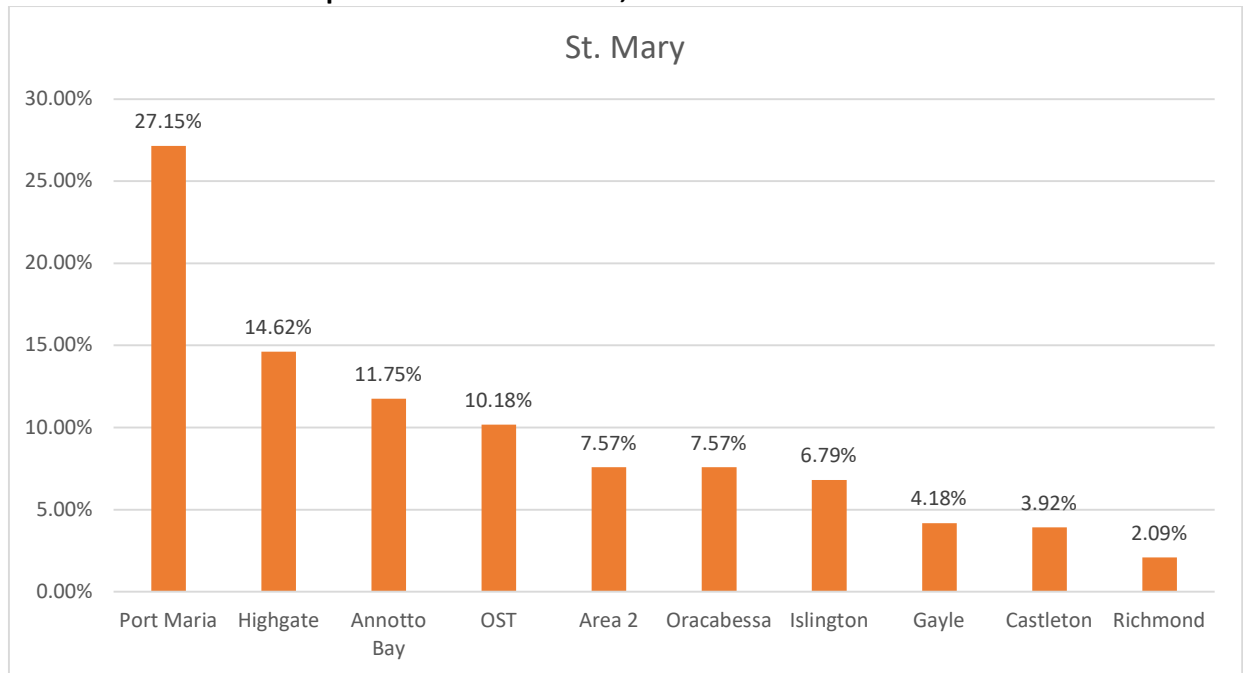
Chart 2.03.05: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Portland Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Portland Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 532 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2026, the majority of criminal matters, 66.92%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Port Antonio Police Station. This was followed by the Manchioneal Police Station, which accounts for 5.45% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Castle Police station with 4.32%. In the previous first quarter of 2025, the top three comprised of the Port Antonio Police Station, the Buff Bay Police Station and the Marine Police.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

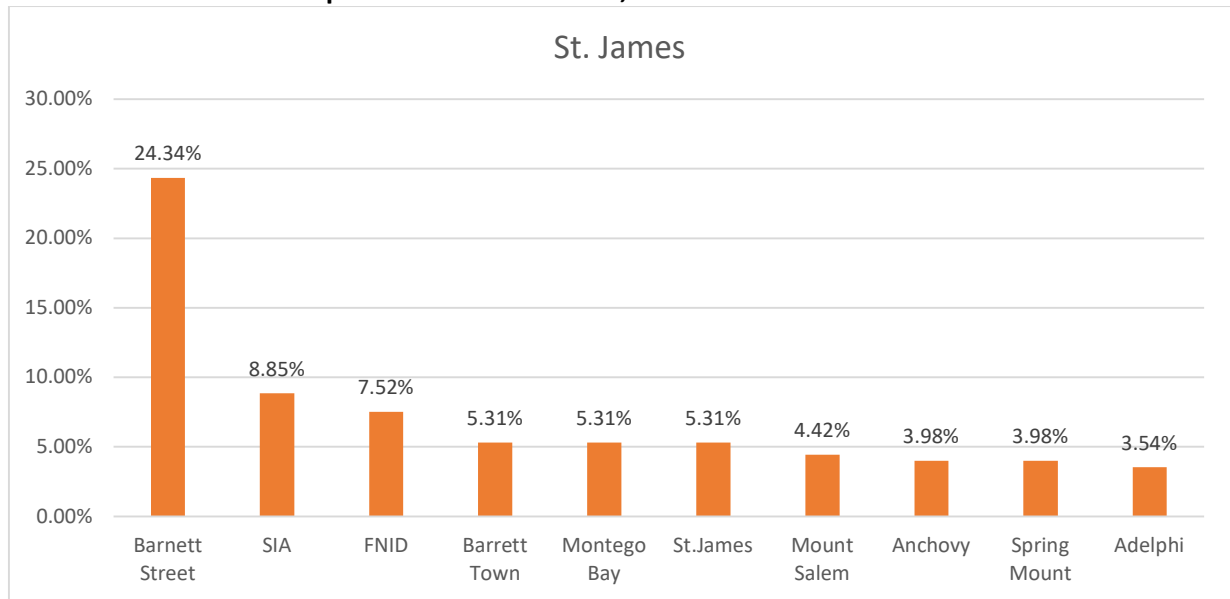
Chart 2.03.06: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Mary Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 383 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2026, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 27.15%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Port Maria Police Station. This was followed by the Highgate Police Station which accounts for 14.62% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Annotto Bay Police Station with 11.75%. In the previous first quarter of 2025, the top three comprised of the Port Maria Police Station, the Oracabessa Police Station and the Highgate Police Station.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

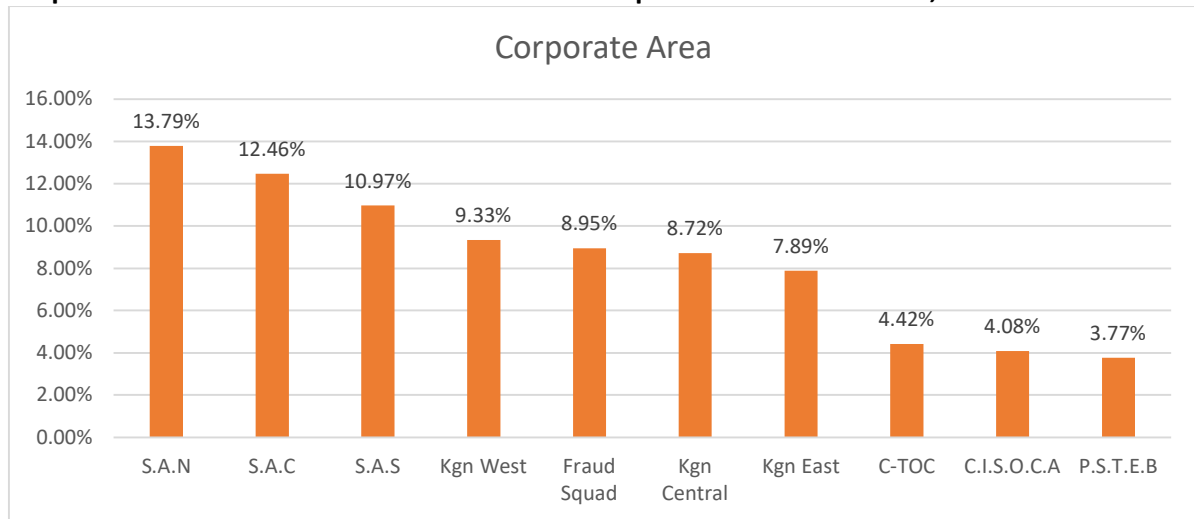
Chart 2.03.07: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. James Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. James Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 226 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2026, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 24.34%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Barnett Street Police Station. This was followed by the SIA Police, which accounts for 8.85% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the FNID Police with 7.52%. In the previous first quarter of 2025, the top three comprised of the Barnett Street Police Station, the Montego Bay Police station and the St. James Police Station.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

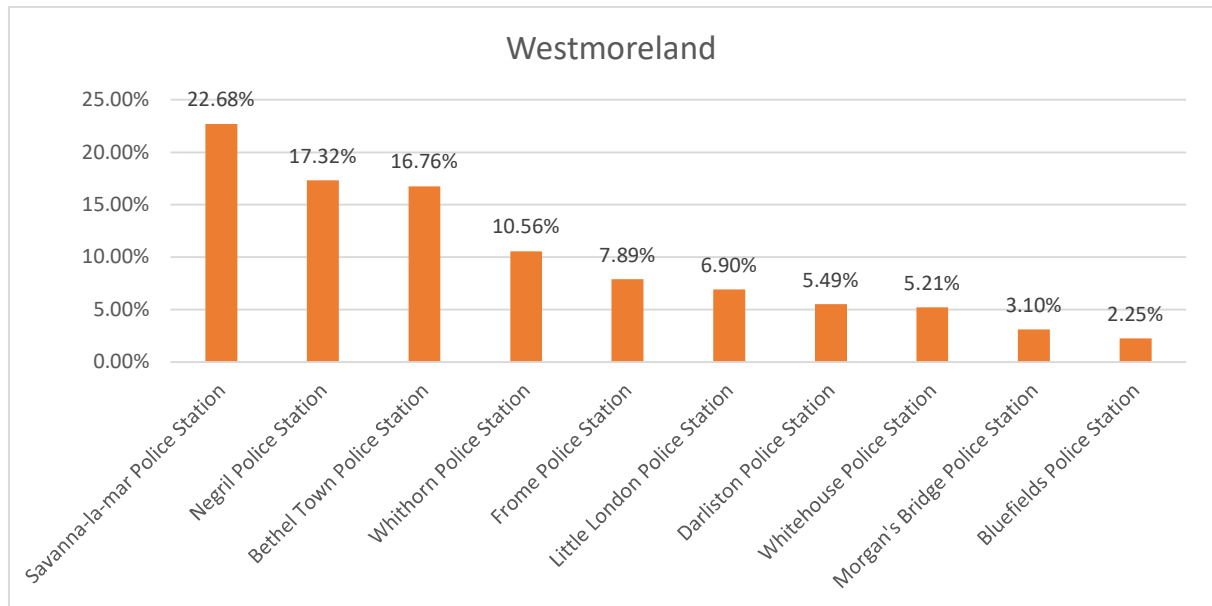
Chart 2.03.08: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Corporate Area Criminal Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 2,625 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2026, the highest proportion of criminal matters, 13.79%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the St. Andrew North Police Station. This was followed by the St. Andrew Central Police Station which accounts for 12.46% of the sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the St. Andrew South Police Station with 10.97%. In the previous first quarter of 2025, the top three comprised of the St. Andrew North Police Station, the St. Andrew Central Police Station and the St. Andrew South Police Station.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

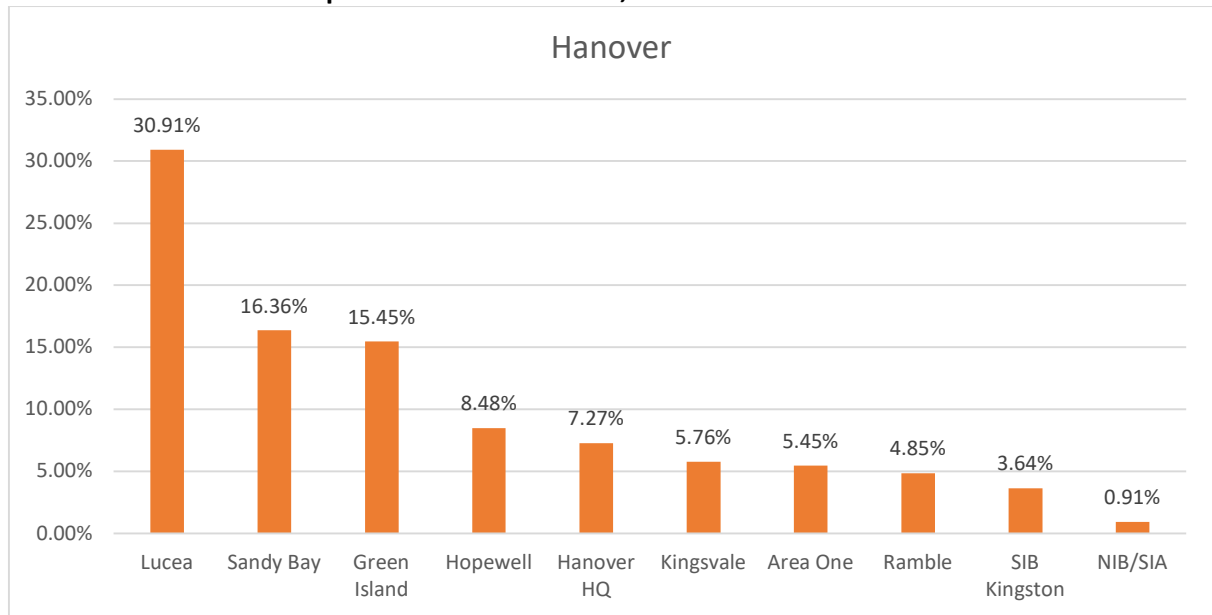
Chart 2.03.09: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 710 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2026, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 22.68%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Savanna-la-mar Police Station. This was followed by the Negril Police Station which accounts for 17.32% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Bethel Town Police Station with 16.76%. In the previous first quarter of 2025, the top three comprised of the Savanna-la-mar Police Station, the Negril Police Station and Withorn Police Station.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

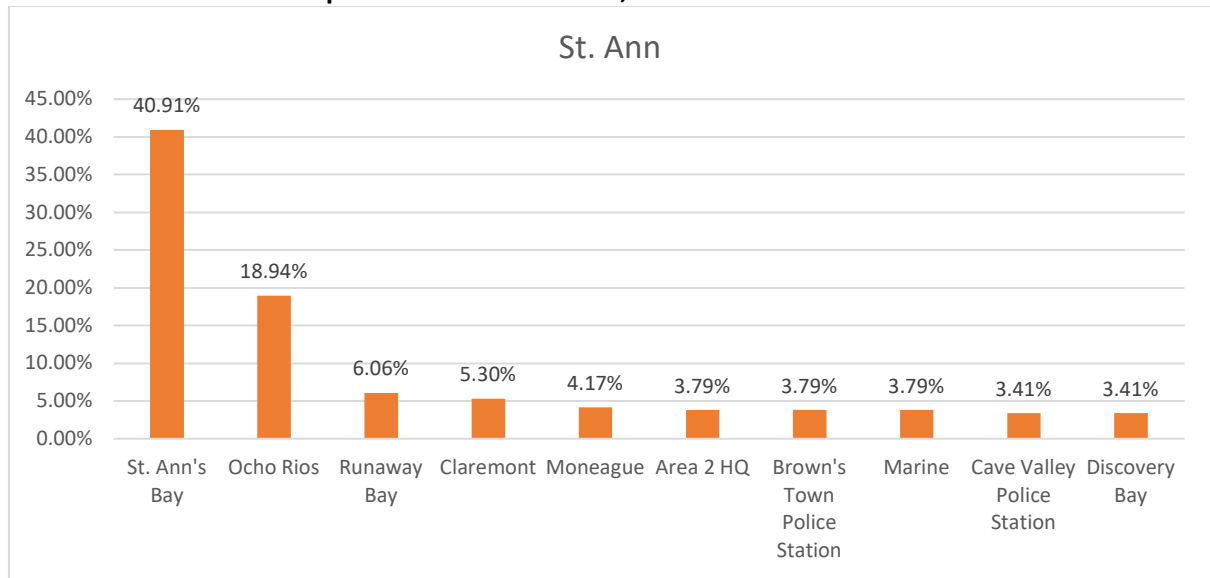
Chart 2.03.10: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Hanover Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 330 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2026, the highest proportion of criminal matters, 30.91%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Lucea Police Station. This was followed by the Sandy Bay Police Station, which accounts for 16.36% of the sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Green Island Police Station with 15.45%. In the previous first quarter of 2025, the top three comprised of the Lucea Police Station, Green Island Police Station and the Hanover HQ Police Station.

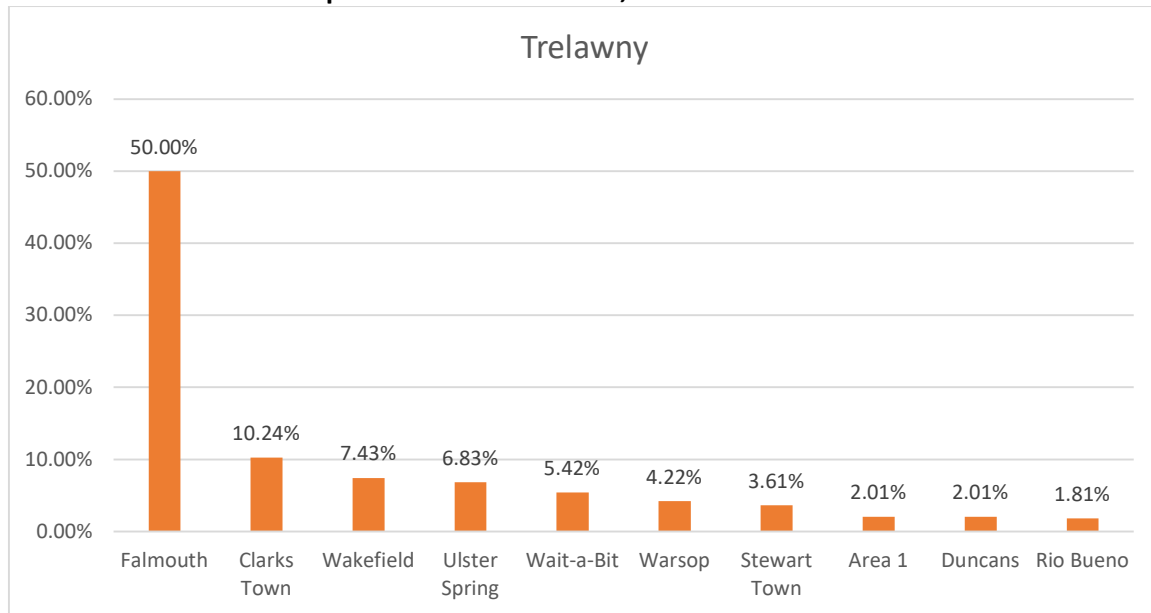
This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 2.03.11: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Ann Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 264 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2026, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 40.91%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the St. Ann's Bay Police Station. This was followed by the Ocho Rios Police Station which accounts for 18.94% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Runaway Police station with 6.06%. In the previous first quarter of 2025, the top three comprised of the Ocho Rios Police Station, the St. Ann's Bay Police Station and the Area 2 Narcotics Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 2.03.12: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Trelawny Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026



The above chart shows the distribution of charges field at the Trelawny Parish Court, using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 498 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2026, the highest proportion of charges, 50%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Falmouth Police Station. This was followed by the Clarks Town Police Station, which accounts for 10.24% of total sample of matters reported. The Wakefield Police station rounded off the top three with 7.43%. In the previous first quarter of 2025, the top three comprised of the Falmouth Police Station, Clarks Town Police Station and the Warsop Police Station.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Inferential Statistics and Conclusion

The first quarter of 2026 represents the continuation of an impressive trend in the criminal division of the Parish Courts where a steady state equilibrium average case clearance rate of over 90% and net case backlog rate of a little above 2.0% has been sustainable achieved. With this kind of consistency in output, the criminal division of the Parish Courts is by all accounts among the top performing in the Caribbean and Latin American region at present. Among the key highlights from the quarterly statistical report for the first quarter of 2026 is that the criminal division of the Parish Courts as a whole recorded an overall case clearance rate of 93.86%, with eight (8) of the thirteen courts attaining or exceeding the international standard on this metric.

The overall net case backlog rate for cases over 24 months old in the courts is above 2% at 2.13%, with the Hanover, St. Catherine and Westmoreland Parish Courts having near zero net backlog rates. The overall gross case backlog rate which takes into account inactive cases, decreased by 0.16 percentage points to 15.73%, reflecting a general decrease in the inactive caseload in the criminal division of the Parish Courts. The overall net case backlog rate for cases over 20 months old¹ in the courts is above 2% at 2.23%, with the Hanover, St. Catherine and St. Mary Parish Courts having near zero net backlog rates. The overall gross case backlog rate for cases above 20 months which takes into account inactive cases for the first quarter of 2026 was 16.11%.

¹ Effective December 1, 2023

20 months is considered the maximum time that any criminal case should take to be disposed, regardless of complexity dynamics. Hence, any unresolved criminal case that is over 20 months old is considered to be in a state of backlog

The overall time taken to dispose of cases in the criminal division of the Parish Courts in the first quarter of 2026 is roughly 9.6 months, with the average time taken to dispose cases in some Parish Courts such as Hanover and St. Mary Parish Courts in the quarter being 5 months or more less than the overall average. As a whole roughly 80.50% of the cases disposed during the first quarter of 2026 took a year or less to be resolved. The overall trial date certainty rate recorded was 92%, which is still below the targeted minimum of 95%, but has improved cumulatively by over 7 percentage points when compared to the past five years. These statistical highlights, among several others which are detailed in this report strongly suggest that the criminal division of the Parish Courts are on the right path of excellence. Among the main areas of concern are the persistence of the gross case backlog rate over 10%, which suggests that there is a relatively high incidence of inactive cases as a percentage of the total caseload, particularly for courts like the Corporate Area Court - Criminal Division and the St. Ann Parish Court. Additionally, the rate of case adjournments remains moderately high, which is one of the reasons that the trial date adjournments have failed to meet the desired target. Among these are adjournments due to files to be completed, adjournments due to the non-appearance of the accused and adjournments for mediation.

Inferential analysis the size of a court as measured by its caseload did not make a statistically significant difference to performance as measured by the case clearance rate during the first quarter of 2026. This was established using the Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) test which reveals an observed level of significance of greater than 5%, leading to a failure to reject the null hypothesis that court size made no difference to performance. The Parish Courts of Hanover and St. Catherine have the enviable status of less than 0.40% of active cases in

backlog, meaning that there is a close to zero probability that a case filed at this court will remain active for 20 months, an outstanding accomplishment which is worthy of acclaim.

The Parish Courts of Jamaica, having demonstrated significant progress, are well positioned to further contribute to Jamaica's Vision 2030 National Goal 2, "The Jamaican Society is Secure, Cohesive and Just," and the 2030 Global Agenda Goal 16, "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions."

Glossary of Terms

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 systemⁱ.

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 systemⁱⁱ.

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%.

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 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.

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 casefile integrity is 100%.

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 either too small or too large, relative to the majority of scores/trend in a data set.

Skewness: This is a 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 an approximately equal distribution of scores on both the higher and lower ends of the average figure.

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.

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 (both active and inactive cases).

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.

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 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.

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.

Exponential Smoothing: Exponential smoothing of time series data assigns exponentially decreasing weights for newest to oldest observations. In other words, the older the 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 for 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

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>