

**Parish Courts of Jamaica**  
**The Chief Justice's Annual Statistics**  
**Report for 2023**  
**(Criminal Matters)**

**ANNUAL SUMMARY**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Case Disposal Rates (%)	74.47	74.43	77.51
Case Clearance Rates (%)	106.61	124.58	106.47
Trial Date Certainty Rates (%)	75	72	74
Courtroom utilization Rate (%)	65.72	63.61	59.74

**QUARTERLY SUMMARY - 2023**

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Case Disposal Rates	51.22	51.56	51.48	53.71
Case Clearance Rates	108.41	107.18	100.46	143.35

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## **The Chief Justice's Message for the Annual Report – Parish Court (Criminal Division)**

The statistical report for the year ending December 31, 2023, confirms the backlog free status of the Parish Courts (Criminal Division) which was first announced in September 2023. As of December 31, 2023, only 2.35% of active cases (called net backlog rate) are in a state of backlog. Globally, a net backlog rate of under 5% is considered acceptable. By any measure, this is an exceptional performance. This achievement comes in the context of a 24-month time standard, which means that, in Jamaica, up to December 31, 2023, a case is in backlog if it is in the particular court longer than 24 months. It must be stated that all 13 Parish Courts have a net backlog rate of under 2.5%, thus all Parish Courts have surpassed the internationally accepted standards of a net backlog rate of no greater than 5% of active cases being older than the time standard.

The overall gross backlog rate is at 16.92%. The gross backlog is the sum of active and inactive cases over 24 months old. Cases are considered inactive if there is no further action for the court to take to bring them to final disposition. The accepted global standard in relation to gross backlog is that it should not be greater than 10% of total case load. However, it should be noted that four Parish Courts - Hanover, Portland, St Thomas, and Westmoreland - have a gross case backlog rate of under 10% thus meeting international standards in respect of net backlog (under 5%) and gross backlog (under 10%). A significant portion of cases making up this gross backlog is unexecuted bench warrants. Addressing the gross backlog and the unexecuted bench warrants will be given attention in the next strategic planning period 2024 to 2028.

The Parish Courts (Criminal Division) are in this position because their productivity has increased from a clearance rate of 71.53% in 2017 to 106.61% in 2023 with a sharp increase in 2022 (124.58%). In short, since 2021 the clearance rate, generally, has not been below 100% , which means that for the past three years the Parish Courts, as a whole, were disposing of more cases than cases entering those courts.

Once this level of productivity is maintained then there will be no return to case backlogs. This is how backlog free courts are attained and maintained.

It is only fair to point out that there are three Parish Courts that did not have a clearance rate of 100% or more in 2023. However, it should be noted that these three courts performed at the international norm of maintaining a clearance rate of no less than 90%. All thirteen Parish Courts had a clearance rate of greater than 97%.

Another important measure of productivity is the case disposal rate which is the proportion of new cases that entered the courts in 2023 that were disposed of in that year. The disposal rate was 74.47%. The Parish Court of Hanover had a disposal rate of 87.98%. To put this another way, in Hanover only 12.02% were not disposed of within 12 months of entering the court and were carried forward to the next 12 month period.

These two measures, the case clearance and case disposal rates, are important indicators of a court's productivity. They indicate how well any particular court is dealing with cases generally and how well the court is dealing with new cases coming in.

A critical measure in determining whether courts are working at full capacity is the court room utilization rate. The ideal is 100%, that is to say, courts should be in session for the total time that they are expected to be in sitting. Generally, across the Parish Courts, the courtroom utilization rate was 65.72%, an improvement of 2.11% / 2022. In practical terms this means that, on average, the Parish Courts are sitting just about three hours per day out of the expected five. There is a notable exception, namely the Parish Court of Westmoreland which has a court room utilization rate of 84.33%. The next highest is Portland with 69.78 followed by St James with 68.68%. This means that more cases can be disposed of during the additional 34.28% of time which means reducing the wait time for citizens and other court users to have their matters heard and disposed of. In plain English, this means that there is little justification for night courts and the money that would have been spent there can be spent elsewhere in the courts. There is therefore room for improved service delivery.

The data also shows that for the past 7 ½ years, approximately 36.33% of cases are disposed of within three months or 90 days, 56.91% within six months or 180 days and 75.05% within a year or 365 days. In other words, three quarters of the cases in the Parish Courts are disposed of within their first year of entry. When this is juxtaposed with average court room

utilization time, the inference must be that more than three quarters of cases can be disposed of within one year of entry if the court room utilization improves and gets closer to 100%.

In light of what has been said, new time standards are being implemented in full this year, 2024. The new time standards are: simple cases are to be completed in 3 months or 90 days; standard cases are to be completed in 6 months or 180 days; complex cases are to be completed in 12 months or 365 days, and highly complex cases 20 months or 600 days.

These new targets are not beyond our capabilities. I have every confidence that the Parish Courts will rise to the challenge as they have done for the past 6 years. To support these new standards, all Parish Courts must implement the Differentiated Case Management Principles (DCM) in accordance with the criteria developed by Judges of the Parish Courts. This is a tool that enables judges and other persons to understand the timeline applicable to the particular case and work towards meeting those standards. Within the DCM there are intermediate milestones which must be met to meet the disposal deadline.

Notwithstanding the achievements outlined so far it is matter of concern that the three leading causes of adjournments across the Parish Courts are defendants not appearing (23.06%); incomplete files (10.81%), and disclosure issues (8.69%).

I wish to express my appreciation to the Senior Judges of the Parish Courts, the Judges of the Parish Courts, the Clerk of Courts, the Assistant Clerks, Bailiffs, office attendants, messengers, Close Protection Officers all those within the courts who worked assiduously to produce these outstanding results. It is also important to recognize the contribution of the police, the attorneys at law, the probation services and other agencies that interact with the courts to making the Parish Courts the most productive trial courts in Jamaica and the Commonwealth Caribbean.

### **The Chief Justice's Message**

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

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This statistical report on criminal matters in the Parish Courts of Jamaica is for the year ended December 31, 2023. It represents a continuation of the enhanced efforts to measure court productivity with a view to providing a concrete basis for placing the analyses of the judicial system into proper perspective and for informing the policymaking and operational planning apparatus of the leadership of the courts. This report interrogates a number of vital measures, which provide insights into the operations of the parish courts on both an individual and an aggregated basis. It forms an important foundation for understanding criminal case activity and delay factors in the parish courts as well as important characteristics of criminal cases. This report creates the framework within which the quantitative and some qualitative targets set out in the strategic plan of the judiciary can be monitored and evaluated. This report reaffirms that at the end of 2023, the criminal division of the parish courts is among the most productive in the Caribbean and Latin American region.

One of the most significant findings from this seventh instalment of the Chief Justice's Annual Report on Criminal matters in the Parish Courts is that as at December 31, 2023, less than 2.5% of active criminal cases in the parish court jurisdiction are in a state of backlog, significantly better than the target of 5% which was set to be achieved by the end of the 2023/24 fiscal year. As of December 31, 2023, only 2.35% of active cases in the criminal division of the parish courts are in a state of backlog. The overall gross case backlog rate which includes both active and inactive cases in a state of backlog, however still stands above 10% (at 16.92% to be exact) and its reduction is a priority for the

judiciary which has deployed a range of creative strategies in an effort to further bolster efficiency, such as the use of Differentiated Case Management.

The aggregate new case count in the parish courts in 2023 was 20,388, a decline of 3.97% when compared to the previous year. The Corporate Area Parish Court - Criminal Division with 5087 new cases or 24.95% of the total, followed by the St. Catherine and St. James Parish Courts with 3188 cases or 15.64% and 1899 cases or 9.31% respectively, account for the three largest proportions of the new criminal cases filed in 2023. Taken together, the three parishes with the highest new case count account for 49.90% of the new cases filed in 2023, not dissimilar to the previous year. The parish courts of St. Elizabeth, Hanover and St. Thomas accounted for the lowest shares of the aggregate new cases filed each with under 4.0% of the total new caseload in 2023.

The overall average disposal rate for cases originating in 2023 was 74.47%, which is an increase of 0.40 percentage points when compared to the previous year. The Hanover Parish Court occupied a now familiar pole position on this metric, as one of the model productive courts in the island, leading the way with a rate of 87.98%, thereby disposing of new cases the fastest in 2023. The St. James and Westmoreland Parish Courts ranked next with case disposal rates of 86.73% and 84.83% respectively, again asserting western dominance on this metric. Notably, 9 of the 13 parish courts exceeded the theoretical ideal of a 70% criminal case disposal rate in 2023.

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 2023 was a record 106.61%, down by 17.97 percentage points when compared to 2022. The result suggests that for every 100 new criminal cases that were filed in the parish courts in 2023, roughly 107 cases were disposed (including cases originating prior to 2023), likely one of the highest in the Caribbean and Latin American region. For the third consecutive year, all thirteen parish courts satisfied the international standard of between 90% and 110% in 2023. The top three spots on this metric was occupied by the parish courts of St. Elizabeth (142.86%), St. Catherine (113.69%) and St. Thomas (113.34%).

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 2023 was 140.49%, an increase of 6.48 percentage points when compared to 2022, one of the lowest case congestion rate recorded in the criminal division of the parish courts since this type of reporting began. The parish courts of Hanover, Westmoreland and St. James are ranked as the least congested criminal courts in the island, each with rates under 118%. 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 3 percentage points increase in trial date certainty rate when compared to 2022, netting out at 75%. The parish courts of Manchester, St. Mary and Trelawny 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 year in each court. The overall courtroom utilization rate across the parish courts in 2023 was 65.72%, an improvement of 2.11 percentage points when compared to the previous year. The Westmoreland Parish Court with a courtroom utilization rate of 84.33%, the Portland Parish Court with 69.78% and the St. James Parish Court with 68.78% were the top performers on this metric.

On the matter of caseload distribution in the individual parishes, the data shows 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 2023 is approximately 34.18%, up by 0.61 percentage points when compared to 2022 while roughly 65.21% of cases were heard at the main parish court locations, a decline of 0.61 percentage points when compared to 2022. 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 25% of total case activity. This includes the parish courts of Manchester, Clarendon, St. Mary and Trelawny, 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.

As with 2022, the largest proportion of cases disposed in 2023 was by way of guilty pleas, accounting for 30.70% of the cases disposed. This was followed by cases dismissed, which was responsible for 22.27% of the cases disposed. It is of note that guilty verdicts accounted for roughly 3.81% of the matters disposed while not guilty verdicts accounted for 13.37% of the total. Mediated settlements (of various forms) accounted for roughly 12.73% of the cases disposed during the year. Taken together, the data therefore reveals a conviction rate of 34.51% for the 2023 calendar year. Further analysis of the data suggests that for the cases originating over at least over the past roughly eight years, which are disposed, roughly 36.33% were resolved within 90 days, 56.91% within six months and 75.05% 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 42.57% of all matters. This is followed by summary matters with a roughly 28.70% and matters heard by Lay Magistrates with approximately 13.34% of the total. It is of note that Committal Proceedings accounted for roughly 12.97% of all criminal matters filed in the parish courts in 2023. Summary matters had an overall conviction rate of 62.67% in 2023 while indictments had a conviction rate of 19.78% 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 year were due to the issuance of warrants for defendants not appearing (DNA- warrant issued) with an estimated 23.06% of all adjournments, files to be completed with 10.81% and adjournments for disclosure with 8.69%, rounding off the top three. Also featuring prominently on the lists of reasons for adjournment across the parish courts in 2023 are adjournments for referral to mediation, absent defendants, medical reports outstanding and subpoena of investigating officers and the crown respectively. This probability distribution for the reasons for adjournments was broadly similar to that observed in 2022.

The four most frequent criminal charges filed in the parish courts in 2023 were assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, threat and possession of offensive weapon. The majority of charges filed in 2023 involved accused males, accounting for roughly 80.25%, with females accounting for 19.75%. The dominant age group of

persons charged in 2023 were the 27 – 36 and 18 - 26 age groups, accounting for 31.68% and 27.63% respectively of the total.

One of the most decisive and instructive findings from this annual 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 ten months to dispose of cases in 2023, a slight improvement of approximately one month when compared to the previous year. In 2023, the courts which had the shortest times to disposition for cases resolved are the parish courts of Hanover (3.27 months), Westmoreland (3.36 months) and St. Mary (4.48 months).

Using the method of exponential smoothing, the report forecasts that in 2024, 22,288 new criminal cases will be filed in the criminal division of the parish courts while 20,112 cases are expected to be disposed and 4,078 to become inactive. The overall forecasted case clearance rate for 2024 in the criminal division of the parish courts is therefore 108.53%. The parish courts of St. Elizabeth, Manchester and St. Ann are expected to register the highest case clearance rates in 2024. These estimates are subject to adjustment as the year progresses.

With eight years of extensive data on criminal case activity on the parish courts of Jamaica, the Statistics Unit applied Lagrange multiplier techniques to determine that a successful court must meet the following minimum requirements in order to satisfy an efficiency threshold for the sustainable containment of case backlog and provide

optimal service to the public. The required minimum annual parameters are summarized below:

Parameter	Minimum Required Standard
Case disposal rate	$\geq 75\%$
Case clearance rate	$\geq 95\%$
Case congestion rate	$\leq 115\%$
Trial Date Certainty Rate	$\geq 85\%$
Net case backlog rate	$\leq 5\%$
Gross case backlog rate	$\leq 10\%$
Average number of mentions per case	$\leq 3$

The Statistics Unit has determined that if any court or jurisdiction can consistently achieve these rates, it will attain a high level of efficiency and service excellence.

## **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 two 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 positively measurement outcomes.

**Chapter 1.0: Criminal Case Activity Statistics in the Parish Courts for the year ended December 31, 2023**

This chapter provides an assessment of criminal case activity in the parish courts for the year ended December 31, 2023. 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 2024 calendar year. 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 1.0: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the year ended December 31, 2023**

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Number of inactive cases	Number of disposed cases	Active Pending Case Load	Case disposal Rate (%)
Hanover	707	9	613	85	87.98
St. Catherine	3188	341	2015	832	73.90
Westmoreland	1424	90	1118	216	84.83
St. Mary	771	20	498	253	67.19
Clarendon	1427	122	1001	304	78.70
Portland	884	43	562	279	68.44
St. Elizabeth	637	57	266	314	50.71
Corporate Area Criminal	5087	1555	2090	1442	71.65
St. Thomas	622	31	438	153	75.40
St. James	1899	133	1514	252	86.73
St. Ann	1698	438	801	459	72.97
Trelawny	803	67	472	264	67.12
Manchester	1241	76	812	353	71.56
<b>Total</b>	<b>20388</b>	<b>2982</b>	<b>12200</b>	<b>5206</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Average/Weighted Average</b>	<b>1568.31</b>	<b>229.38</b>	<b>938.46</b>	<b>400.46</b>	<b>74.47</b>
<b>Standard deviation</b>	<b>1273.87</b>	<b>418.29</b>	<b>595.06</b>	<b>361.18</b>	<b>9.90</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>2.11</b>	<b>3.08</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>2.39</b>	<b>-0.61</b>

*Note: The case disposal rate for the Browns Town outstation for 2023 is 50%.*

The table above shows the aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the 2023 calendar year. A total of 20,388 new criminal cases were filed across the parish courts while

15,182 of these cases were either disposed or became inactive during the period, resulting in a weighted average case disposal rate of 74.47%. In the corresponding period in 2022, 21,230 cases were filed, while 15,801 cases were either disposed or became inactive which resulted in a weighted average disposal rate of 74.43%, which is 0.04 percentage points more than the rate for the 2022 calendar year. This comparison reveals that there was a decrease of 842 cases or a 3.97% decline in the number of new cases filed and a decrease of 619 cases or a 3.92% decline in the number of new cases disposed of or became inactive when compared to the 2022 calendar year. Of the thirteen parish courts listed above, eight (8) Parish Courts recorded a decrease in the number of new cases filed, while five (5) recorded an increase. Among the parish courts with the largest decline in new cases filed were the St. Elizabeth Parish Court, decreasing by 33.78%, the Manchester Parish Court, which decreased by 15.86% and the Portland Parish Court, which decreased by 13.08%. Among the parish courts with the largest improvement in new cases filed were the Westmoreland Parish Court, increasing by 7.88%, the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, which increased by 5.82% and the St. Mary Parish Court, which experienced an increase of 5.18%.

The Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division with 5,087 cases or 24.95% of the new cases filed, the St. Catherine Parish Court with 3,188 cases or 15.64% and the St. James Parish Court with 1,899 or 9.31% accounted for the three largest shares of new cases filed in the 2023 calendar year. These three parish courts with the largest share of new cases filed, cumulatively accounted for 49.90% of the total sample of new criminal cases filed in the 2023 calendar year. On the other end, the parish courts of St. Thomas with 622 cases or 3.05% of the new cases, St. Elizabeth with 637 cases or 3.12% and Hanover with 707 cases or 3.47% accounted for the lowest shares of new cases filed in the 2023 calendar year. The best performing courts in relation to case disposal rates for the 2023 calendar year were the

Hanover (87.98%), St. James (86.73%) and Westmoreland (84.83%) Parish Courts. The bottom three courts on this measure were the St. Elizabeth (50.71%), Trelawny (67.12%) and St. Mary (67.19%) parish courts. The parish courts of St. Elizabeth and Trelawny were also among the bottom three courts on this measure in the 2022 calendar year. 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 negative figure, which indicates that a large proportion of courts had disposal rates which were clustered around the overall average rate for the year.

*Refer to Table 4.0 for a graphical comparison of the Case Disposal Rates across all Parish Courts for 2022 and 2023.*

**Table 2.0a: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court as at the year ended December 31, 2023**

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed in year	Number of Disposed cases in 2023	Number of Inactive cases in 2023	Grand total number of inactive cases (2016 - Dec. 2023)	Grand total number of disposed cases (2016 – Dec. 2023)	Grand Active Pending Caseload b/f Jan. 1, 2023	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
Hanover	707	714	13	288	6437	88	102.83	109.35
St. Catherine	3188	3145	478	3327	23330	1200	113.64	121.12
Westmoreland	1424	1319	97	1148	11773	190	99.44	113.98
St. Mary	771	676	25	763	6449	241	90.92	144.37
Clarendon	1427	1353	158	1829	12236	489	105.89	126.80
Portland	884	904	56	757	7880	489	108.60	143.02
St. Elizabeth	637	832	78	-	-	-	142.86	-
Corporate Area Criminal	5087	3242	1837	12026	36365	4264	99.84	184.11
St. Thomas	622	650	55	583	6256	407	113.34	145.96
St. James	1899	1861	155	2722	17017	477	106.16	117.86
St. Ann	1698	1312	541	4152	10119	1108	109.13	151.43
Trelawny	803	778	99	766	6236	436	109.22	141.28
Manchester	1241	1247	111	1934	10340	760	109.43	147.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>20388</b>	<b>18033</b>	<b>3703</b>	<b>30295</b>	<b>154438</b>	<b>10149</b>	-	-
<b>Average/Weighted Average</b>	<b>1568.31</b>	<b>1387.15</b>	<b>284.85</b>	<b>2524.58</b>	<b>12869.83</b>	<b>845.75</b>	<b>106.61</b>	<b>140.49</b>
<b>Standard deviation</b>	<b>1273.87</b>	<b>875.65</b>	<b>494.51</b>	<b>3225.30</b>	<b>8992.25</b>	<b>1128.43</b>	<b>12.05</b>	<b>20.76</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>2.11</b>	<b>1.52</b>	<b>2.99</b>	<b>2.68</b>	<b>1.94</b>	<b>2.94</b>	<b>1.88</b>	<b>0.75</b>

*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 year ended December 31, 2023, for all parish courts combined = 9,323.*

*Note 3: The case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for 2023 is 74.88% and the case congestion rate is 327.96%.*

The table above is an extension of table 1.0. 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 2023 calendar year was 140.49%, an indication that the parish courts (criminal division) as a whole are carrying roughly 40% more than the caseload that their current rate of clearance and implied state of resources justifies. This result represents a 6.48 percentage points increase when compared to the 2022 calendar year. The Corporate Area Court- Criminal Division (184.11%) and the parish courts of St. Ann (151.43%), Manchester (147.35%) and St. Thomas (145.96%) were the courts with the highest case congestion rates in the 2023 calendar year. The St. Mary (144.37%) and Portland (143.02%) Parish Courts rounded off the top 6 most case congested courts at the end of the 2023 calendar year. The parish courts of St. Ann, Portland, Manchester, St. Thomas and Corporate Area-Criminal Division were also among the most congested courts in the comparative 2022 calendar year. The parish courts of Hanover (109.35%), Westmoreland (113.98%), and St. James (117.86%) 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 2023 calendar year provide interesting insights into the court-wide progress being made on this measure. The overall weighted average case clearance rate of 106.61%, which is a decrease of 17.97 percentage points when compared to the corresponding 2022 calendar year, however, the performance meets the international standard of 90%-110%. This overall case clearance rate of 106.61% suggests that

for every 100 new cases filed, roughly 107 cases were disposed of. All thirteen (13) parish courts met or exceeded the annualized international standards of 90%-110%. The parish courts of St. Elizabeth (142.86%), St. Catherine (113.64%), St. Thomas (113.34%), Manchester (109.43%) and Trelawny (109.22%) were the leading parish courts on this measure. Traditionally one of the top performers, the parish court of St. Mary (90.92%) had the lowest criminal case clearance rates for the year, but still met the international standard of 90%-110%. Only one (1) parish courts recorded an increase in clearance rates when compared to the 2022 calendar year, while twelve (12) parish courts recorded a decrease in clearance rates when compared to 2022 calendar year. The Portland parish court saw an improvement of 3 percentage points when compared to the 2022 calendar year. The Corporate Area-Criminal Division and Hanover parish courts saw the largest decline, with 43.49 and 18.79 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 4.0 for further comparison of the case clearance rates and the case congestion rates across all parish courts for 2022 and 2023.*

**Table 2.0b: Percentile rank on selected performance metrics for the criminal division of the parish courts for the year ended December 31, 2023**

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

The table above provides the percentile ranks of the case disposal and case clearance rates for the 2023 calendar year. 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 Westmoreland (83%) had the highest percentile ranks on case disposal rate for the 2023 calendar year, 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 year, while the St. James Parish Court performed better than 92% of the parish courts and the Westmoreland Parish Court performed better than 83% of all the parish courts on this measurement. The parish courts of St. Elizabeth, Trelawny and St. Mary had the lowest percentile rank on case disposal rate for the year. In terms of case clearance rates, the parish courts of St. Elizabeth (100%), St. Catherine (92%) and St. Thomas (83%) had the highest percentile ranks, while the parish courts of St. Mary, Westmoreland and Corporate Area-Criminal Division had the lowest.

**Table 2.0c: Forecasted case activity statistics for the 2024 calendar year [January 01 - December 31, 2024]**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Forecasted number of new cases</b>	<b>Forecasted number of disposed cases</b>	<b>Forecasted number of inactive cases</b>	<b>Forecasted case clearance rate (%)</b>
Hanover	847	849	51	106.23
Manchester	1368	1421	176	116.73
St. Mary	813	764	59	101.33
St. James	2079	2009	286	110.41
St. Catherine	3351	3050	598	108.85
Portland	1060	1033	104	107.24
St. Ann	1804	1472	548	112.00
St. Elizabeth	1066	1111	137	117.08
Corporate Area Criminal	5148	3856	1603	106.05
Westmoreland	1533	1507	119	106.07
St. Thomas	745	746	78	110.68
Clarendon	1615	1456	211	103.19
Trelawny	860	837	108	109.89
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>22288</b>	<b>20112</b>	<b>4078</b>	<b>108.53</b>

*Note: The forecasted case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for 2023 is 108.81%.*

The above table forecasts core case activity for the criminal division of each parish court and overall for the 2024 calendar year. 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 2024 calendar year is 108.53%, which would be 1.92 percentage points higher than that of the 2023 calendar year. All thirteen (13) parish courts are forecasted to satisfy the international standard on case clearance rate of 90% or more in the 2024 calendar year, led by the St. Elizabeth Parish Court with 117.08%, the Manchester Parish Court with 116.73% and the St. Ann Parish Court with 112.00%.

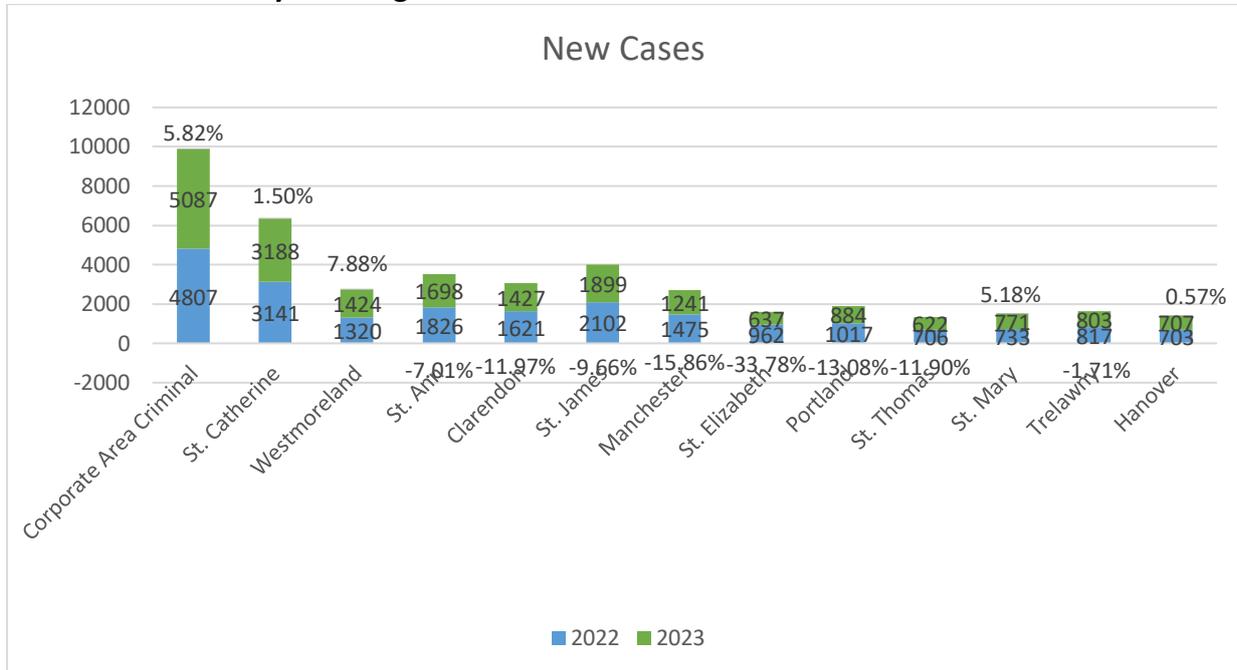
**Table 2.0d: Sampling distribution of new cases filed per 10,000 population in the criminal division of the parish courts in the year ended December 31, 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Population size in parish</b>	<b>Case per 10,000 population</b>
Hanover	707	69,533	102
St. Catherine	3188	516,218	62
Westmoreland	1424	144,103	99
St. Mary	771	113,615	68
Clarendon	1427	245,103	58
Portland	884	81,744	108
St. Elizabeth	637	150,205	42
Corporate Area Criminal	5087	662,426	77
St. Thomas	622	93,902	66
St. James	1899	183,811	103
St. Ann	1698	172,362	99
Trelawny	803	75,164	107
Manchester	1241	189,797	65
<b>Total</b>	<b>20388</b>	<b>2697983</b>	<b>76</b>

The above table provides an outline of the number of new criminal cases filed per 10,000 population in the parish courts in the 2023 calendar year. The population sizes used are based on the last published national population census in 2011 and therefore the data does not have full current value. Nevertheless, 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 the smaller population sizes, and modest caseloads, registered the largest number of new criminal cases filed per 10,000 population in the 2023 calendar year. Trelawny, which is among the parishes with a smaller population size and caseload, was second on this measurement. St. James, which is among the parishes with the larger caseload and population sizes, followed. Equally interesting is the result that the St. Elizabeth Parish Court, which is among the parishes with the smaller yearly caseload and mid-range population size, had the smallest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population

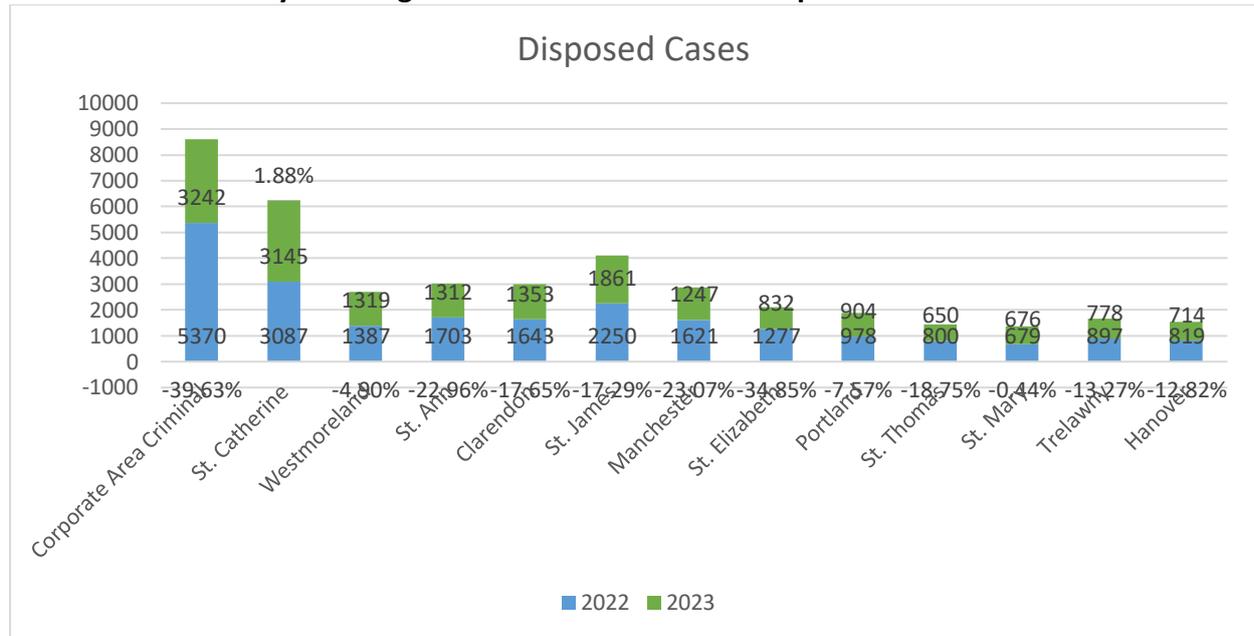
in the year. Clarendon had the second lowest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population for the year, followed by St. Catherine.

**Chart 1.0a: Summary of changes in the number of new cases filed in the 2022 and 2023**



The above chart provides a breakdown of the changes in the number of new cases filed in the 2022 and 2023 calendar years. It is seen that there has been a decrease in new cases filed over the comparative period eight (8) parish courts and an increase in five (5). Among the parish courts with the largest rise in new cases filed were the Westmoreland Parish Court increasing by 7.88% and the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, which increased by 5.82%. The St. Elizabeth parish court fell by 33.78% and the Manchester Parish court fell by 15.86%.

**Chart 1.0b: Summary of changes in the number of cases disposed in 2022 and 2023**



The above graph provides a breakdown of the changes in the number of cases disposed of in 2022 and 2023 calendar years. It is seen that there has been a decrease in cases resolved over the comparative period in twelve (12) parish courts and an increase in the cases resolved in one (1) parish court. The Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division fell by 39.63%, the St. Elizabeth Parish fell by 34.85% and the Manchester Parish Court fell by 23.07%. The only parish court with an increase in the cases disposed in the year was the St. Catherine Parish Court increasing by 1.88%.

**Table 2.0e: Sampling distribution of the Indices of Judge Productivity for the year ended December 31, 2023**

Parish Court	Number of Judges	New criminal cases per Judges	Active pending caseload per Judge at the beginning of 2023	Active caseload per Judge at the end of 2023	Cases disposed per Judge
Hanover	2	353.50	44.00	34.00	357.00
St. Catherine	5	637.60	240.00	153.00	629.00
Westmoreland	2	712.00	95.00	99.00	659.50
St. Mary	3	257.00	80.33	103.67	225.33
Clarendon	3	475.67	163.00	135.00	451.00
Portland	2	442.00	244.50	206.50	452.00
St. Elizabeth	3	212.33	NA	NA	277.33
Corporate Area Criminal	9	565.22	473.78	474.67	360.22
St. Thomas	2	311.00	203.50	162.00	325.00
St. James	5	379.80	95.40	72.00	372.20
St. Ann	3	566.00	369.33	317.67	437.33
Trelawny	3	267.67	145.33	120.67	259.33
Manchester	3	413.67	253.33	214.33	415.67
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>453.07</b>	<b>225.53</b>	<b>201.64</b>	<b>400.73</b>

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 2023 calendar year. The data reveals that the overall weighted average number of new criminal cases filed per judge in the 2023 calendar year is roughly 453 cases. The parish courts of Westmoreland (712 cases), St. Catherine (638 cases) and St. Ann (566 cases) had the three largest number of new cases filed per judge during the year. On the contrary, the parish courts St. Elizabeth (212 cases), St. Mary (257 cases) and the Trelawny Parish Court (268 cases) had the lowest number of new cases filed per judge in the year. In terms of cases disposed of per judge, the Westmoreland Parish Court disposed of the most cases per judge in the year with 660 cases, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court with 629 cases and the Portland Parish Court with 452 cases disposed per judge. The three courts with the smallest number of cases disposed per judge were the St. Mary Parish Court and the Trelawny Parish Court with 225

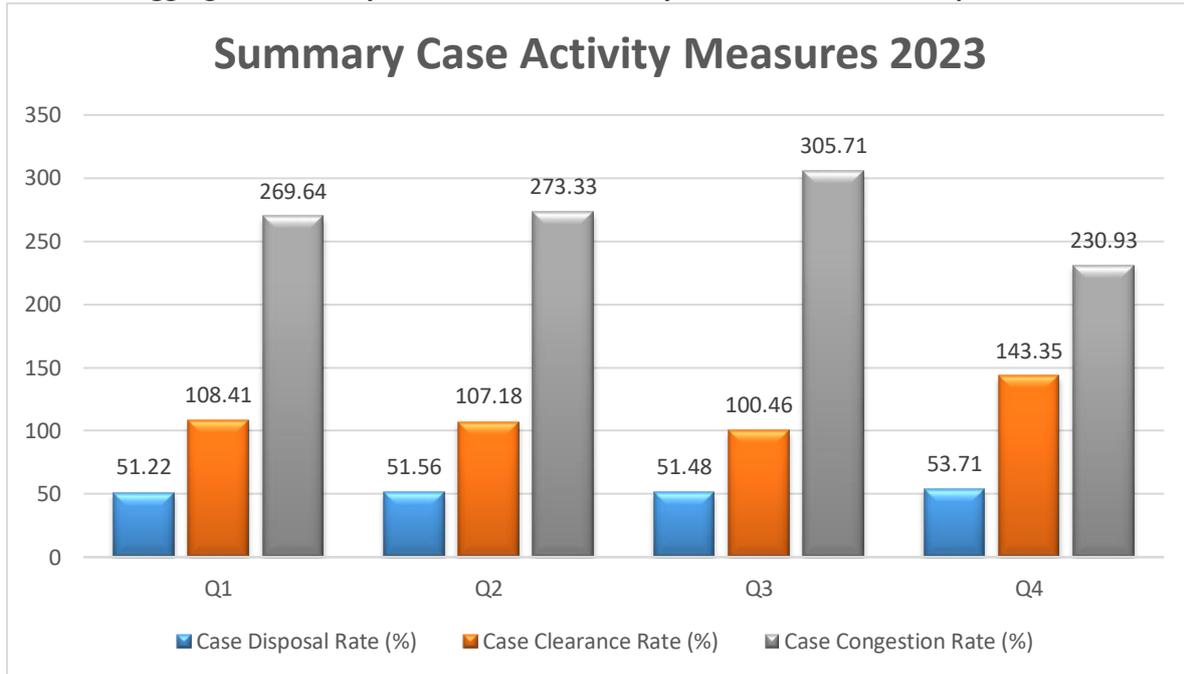
and 259 disposed cases per judge respectively and the St. Elizabeth Parish Court with 277 disposed cases per judge. The overall number of criminal cases disposed per judge was 401 cases. The most crucial of the indicators is the active caseload per judge at the end of the year. The data shows that the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division had the highest caseload per judge at the end of the year with 475 cases, followed by the St. Ann Parish Court with 318 cases and the Manchester Parish Court with 214 cases per judge. On the lower end, the parish courts of Hanover and St. James with 34 and 72 cases per judge respectively, had the lowest active criminal caseload per judge at the end of the year, followed by the Westmoreland Parish Court with 99 active criminal cases per judge. The overall average active criminal caseload per judge at the end of the year is 202 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 3.0: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the period Jan.-Dec. 2023**

<b>Statistical Measurements</b>	<b>Case Disposal Rate (%) Q4</b>	<b>Case Disposal Rate (%) Q3</b>	<b>Case Disposal Rate (%) Q2</b>	<b>Case Disposal Rate (%) Q1</b>	<b>Case Clearance Rate (%) Q4</b>	<b>Case Clearance Rate (%) Q3</b>	<b>Case Clearance Rate (%) Q2</b>	<b>Case Clearance Rate (%) Q1</b>	<b>Case Congestion Rate (%) Q4</b>	<b>Case Congestion Rate (%) Q3</b>	<b>Case Congestion Rate (%) Q2</b>	<b>Case Congestion Rate (%) Q1</b>
<b>Weighted Average</b>	53.71	51.48	51.56	51.22	143.35	100.46	107.18	108.41	230.93	305.71	273.33	269.64
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	10.47	9.21	12.26	11.75	88.56	16.42	13.59	24.27	110.00	93.84	85.57	95.52
<b>Skewness</b>	-0.57	0.36	0.44	0.77	3.26	1.36	0.24	2.47	-0.29	0.87	0.66	0.52

The above table provides a detailed quantitative summary of the progression of the key measures discussed so far, namely the case disposal rate, the case clearance rate and the case congestion rate across the four quarters of 2023 for all parish courts combined. A pictorial representation of this data follows.

**Chart 2.0: Aggregate summary of selected case activity metrics over the four quarters of 2023**



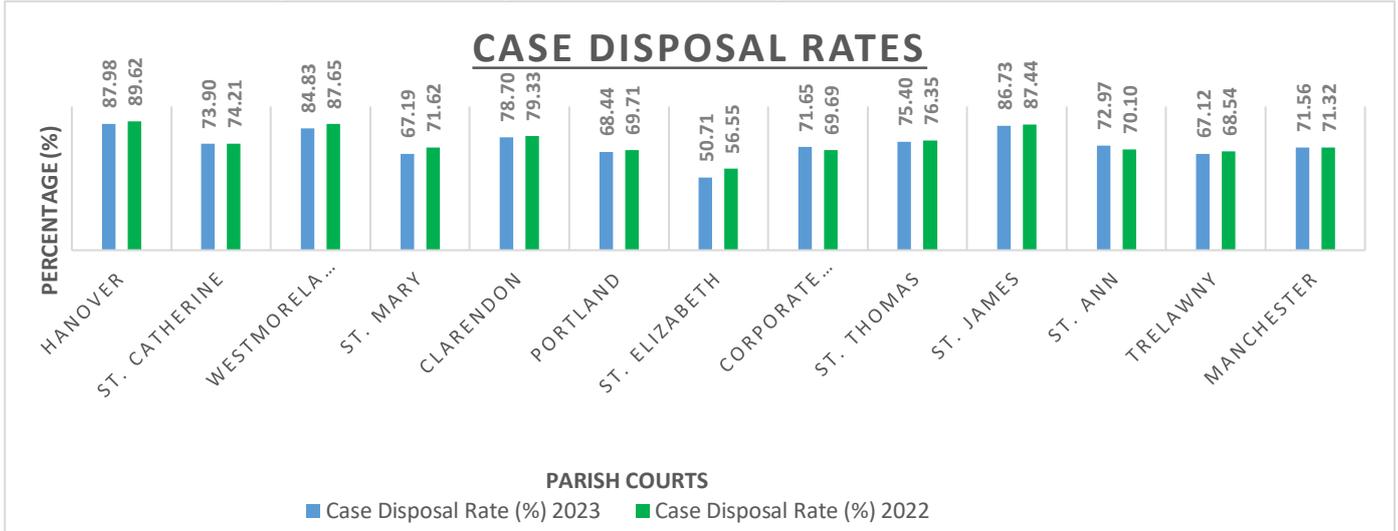
The above graph provides a summary of the progression of the overall case disposal, case clearance and case congestion rate over the four quarters of 2023 for all parish courts combined. It is seen that there was some amount of fluctuations in the progression of all three metrics over the four quarters throughout the year. The overall case disposal rate varied within a band of a low of 51.22% in the first quarter and a high of 53.71% in the fourth quarter. The case clearance rate ranged from a low of 100.46% in the third quarter to 143.35% in the fourth quarter of 2023, while the case congestion rate was at its lowest in fourth quarter with 230.93% and at its highest in the third quarter with a rate of 305.71%.

**Table 4.0: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for 2022 and 2023**

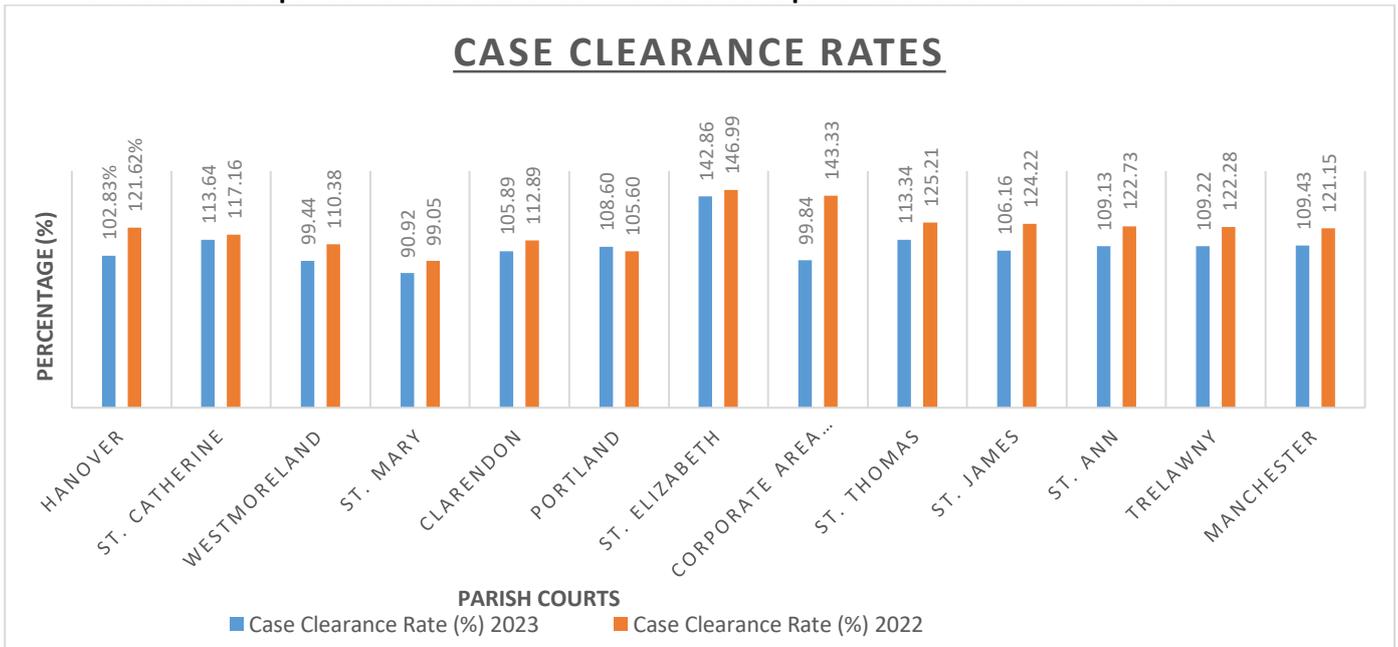
Parish Court	Case Disposal Rate (%) 2023	Case Disposal Rate (%) 2022	Change in case disposal rate (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%) 2023	Case Clearance Rate (%) 2022	Change in case clearance rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%) 2023	Case Congestion Rate (%) 2022	Change in case congestion rate (%)
Hanover	87.98	89.62	-1.64	102.83	121.62	-18.79	109.35	106.67	2.68
St. Catherine	73.90	74.21	-0.31	113.64	117.16	-3.52	121.12	115.49	5.63
Westmoreland	84.83	87.65	-2.82	99.44	110.38	-10.94	113.98	109.75	4.23
St. Mary	67.19	71.62	-4.43	90.92	99.05	-8.13	144.37	131.4	12.97
Clarendon	78.70	79.33	-0.63	105.89	112.89	-7.00	126.80	126.99	-0.19
Portland	68.44	69.71	-1.27	108.60	105.6	3.00	143.02	135.57	7.45
St. Elizabeth	50.71	56.55	-5.84	142.86	146.99	-4.13	NA	122.14	NA
Corporate Area Criminal	71.65	69.69	1.96	99.84	143.33	-43.49	184.11	154.72	29.39
St. Thomas	75.40	76.35	-0.95	113.34	125.21	-11.87	145.96	143.1	2.86
St. James	86.73	87.44	-0.71	106.16	124.22	-18.06	117.86	113.21	4.65
St. Ann	72.97	70.1	2.87	109.13	122.73	-13.60	151.43	152.61	-1.18
Trelawny	67.12	68.54	-1.42	109.22	122.28	-13.06	141.28	141.04	0.24
Manchester	71.56	71.32	0.24	109.43	121.15	-11.72	147.35	140.57	6.78
<b>Average /Weighted Average</b>	<b>74.47</b>	<b>74.43</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>106.61</b>	<b>124.58</b>	<b>-17.97</b>	<b>140.49</b>	<b>134.01</b>	<b>6.48</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>9.90</b>	<b>9.29</b>		<b>12.05</b>	<b>13.29</b>		<b>20.76</b>	<b>16.01</b>	<b>90.58</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>-0.61</b>	<b>0.10</b>		<b>1.88</b>	<b>0.54</b>		<b>0.75</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2.27</b>

The table above provides a comparison of the case disposal rate, the case clearance rate and the case congestion rate for the 2022 and 2023 calendar years. The weighted average case disposal rate for the 2023 calendar year, was 74.47%, which was a 0.04 percentage points increase when compared to the 2022 calendar year, which had a weighted average rate of 74.43%. The overall case clearance rate of 106.61% for the 2023 calendar year was 17.97 percentage points less the 124.58% recorded in the corresponding 2022 calendar year. The overall case congestion rate for the 2023 calendar year deteriorated, changing from 134.01% in the 2022 calendar year, to 140.49% in the 2023 calendar year, a 6.48 percentage point increase. 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.

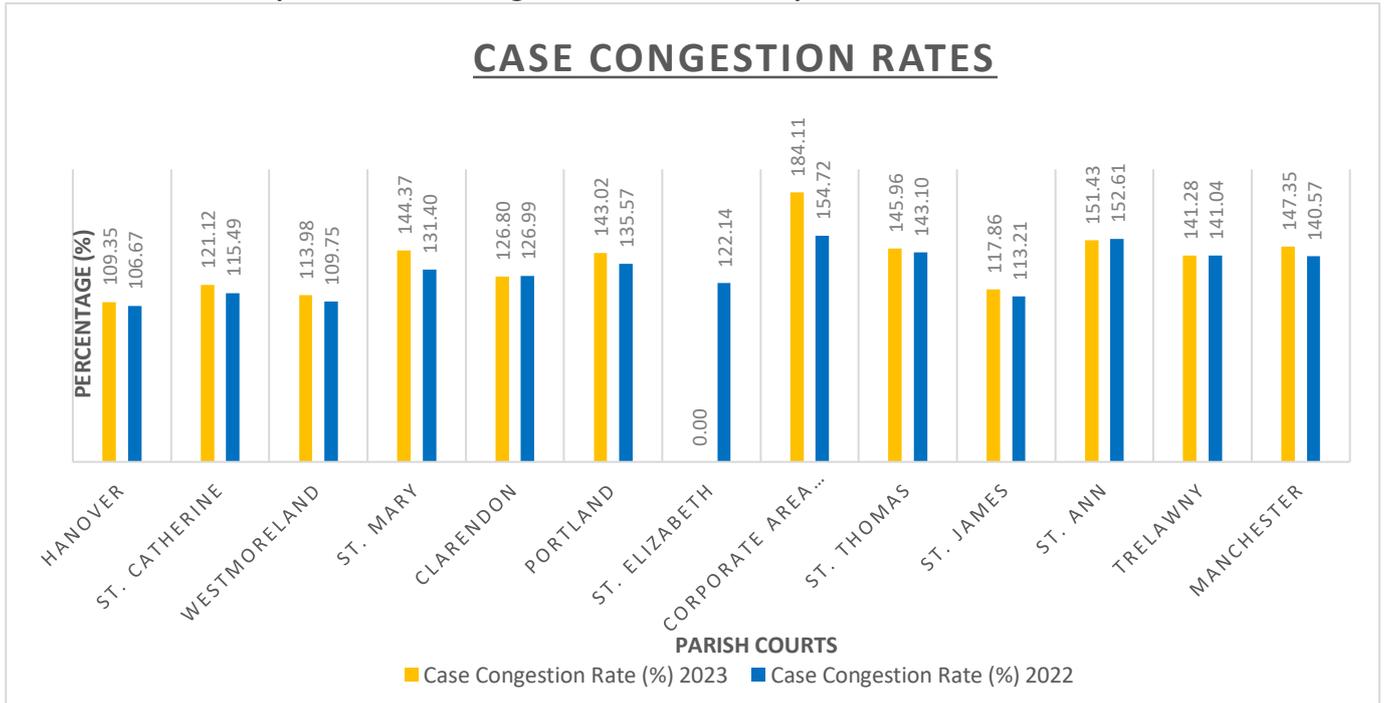
**Chart 3.0a: Comparison of case disposal rates across the parish courts for the 2022 and 2023**



**Chart 3.0b: Comparison of case clearance rates across the parish courts for 2022 and 2023**



**Chart 3.0c: Comparison of case congestion rate across the parish courts for 2022 and 2023**



**Table 5.0a: Sampling distribution of mention court activity for cases disposed of in the year ended December 31, 2023**

Parish Court	Overall number of cases disposed	Number of cases disposed in 1 mention	Number of cases disposed in 2 mentions	Number of cases disposed in 3 mentions	Number of cases disposed in 4 mentions	Number of cases disposed in 5 mentions	Number of cases disposed in 6-10 mentions	Number of cases disposed in more than 10 mentions
Hanover	714	107	49	19	11	4	4	3
St. Catherine	3145	726	277	207	163	130	278	104
Westmoreland	1319	592	252	151	83	49	95	73
St. Mary	676	156	120	60	56	28	53	10
Clarendon	1353	272	123	86	45	66	85	15
Portland	904	180	155	145	84	81	160	72
Corporate Area Criminal	3242	1059	500	379	290	210	588	229
St. Thomas	650	119	79	65	24	13	45	22
St. James	1861	112	47	18	13	5	9	5
St. Ann	1312	244	187	102	84	35	82	11
Trelawny	778	118	87	51	62	35	47	2
Manchester	1247	296	173	111	76	40	96	23
<b>Mean</b>	<b>1433.42</b>	<b>331.75</b>	<b>170.75</b>	<b>116.17</b>	<b>82.58</b>	<b>58.00</b>	<b>128.50</b>	<b>47.42</b>
<b>Median</b>	<b>1279.50</b>	<b>212.00</b>	<b>139.00</b>	<b>94.00</b>	<b>69.00</b>	<b>37.50</b>	<b>83.50</b>	<b>18.50</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.40</b>	<b>1.62</b>	<b>1.71</b>	<b>1.81</b>	<b>2.01</b>	<b>1.78</b>	<b>2.42</b>	<b>2.17</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>897.84</b>	<b>302.76</b>	<b>126.94</b>	<b>99.82</b>	<b>77.15</b>	<b>59.54</b>	<b>162.32</b>	<b>66.25</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>17201</b>	<b>3981</b>	<b>2049</b>	<b>1394</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>1542</b>	<b>569</b>

The above sampling distribution provides critical insights into mention court activity for a representative sample of criminal cases disposed across the parish courts over the 2023 calendar year. In general, the fewer the number of mentions per case, the more efficient the case flow progression. A maximum of five mentions per case is considered to be desirable based on international best practices. A notable 34.76% of the sample of 17,201 cases disposed of during the period were resolved on their first appearance before the court. A further 23.14% of the sample of cases disposed were resolved at first mention, while 11.91% were resolved after two

mentions and 8.10% after three mentions. Cumulatively, roughly 87.73% of the cases sampled were resolved in five or less mentions, 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 mentions in all courts and matters disposed on first appearance before the court or within the first few mentions 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 5.0b: Summary of cases heard during the year ended December 31, 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Number of cases heard in the year</b>	<b>Share of cases heard in the year (%)</b>
Clarendon	1965	7.05
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	7647	27.43
Hanover	818	2.93
Manchester	1796	6.44
Portland	1305	4.68
St. Ann	2474	8.87
St. Catherine	4775	17.13
St. James	2315	8.30
St. Mary	1002	3.59
St. Thomas	893	3.20
Trelawny	1235	4.43
Westmoreland	1654	5.93
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>27879</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The table above provides a summary of the criminal cases heard during the 2023 calendar year at the parish courts. From a sample of 27,879 cases heard, it is seen that the Corporate Area Criminal court accounted for the highest share of cases heard with 7,647 cases heard or 27.43%

of the sample, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court with 4,775 cases heard or 17.13% and the St. Ann parish court with 2,474 cases or 8.87% of the sample. Cumulatively, the top three courts account for roughly 53.43% of the cases sampled. On the lower end, the parish courts of Hanover with 818 cases or 2.93%, St. Thomas with 893 or 3.20% and St. Mary with 1,002 or 3.59% of the sample, accounted for the lowest share of cases heard in the 2023 calendar year.

**Table 6.0a: Comparison of the trial certainty rates 2022 and 2023**

Parish Court	Trial certainty rate (%) (2023)	Trial certainty rate (%) (2022)	Change in the trial certainty rate (%)
Westmoreland	67	49	18
Clarendon	62	57	5
St. Ann	75	64	11
Portland	81	77	4
St. James	91	76	15
Manchester	99	92	7
St. Catherine	52	65	-13
Trelawny	64	82	-18
St. Mary	77	89	-12
St. Thomas	81	68	13
Corporate Area Criminal	82	79	3
Hanover	67	71	-4
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>3</b>

**Note: The trial date certainty rate for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for 2023 is 96%**

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 2023 calendar year was 75%, a 3-percentage points improvement when compared to the 2022 calendar year. Only the Manchester Parish Court met the prescribed international performance standard of a rate between 92% and 100% in the year, registering a rate of 99%, followed by the St. James Parish Court with a trial certainty rate of 91% and Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division with 82%. 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 6.0b: Percentile Rank on trial date certainty rate for the criminal division of the parish courts in 2022 and 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Percentile Rank – Trial Date Certainty Rate 2023 (%)</b>	<b>Percentile Rank – Trial Date Certainty Rate 2022 (%)</b>
Westmoreland	27	0
Clarendon	9	9
St. Ann	45	18
Portland	64	64
St. James	91	55
Manchester	100	100
St. Catherine	0	27
Trelawny	18	82
St. Mary	55	91
St. Thomas	64	36
Corporate Area Criminal	82	73
Hanover	27	45

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 2022 and 2023 calendar years. 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 6.0c: Average duration from first trial date set to date of disposal of case for matters resolved by trial in the year ended December 31, 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average duration of trial</b>
Clarendon	301.59
Corporate Area	329.76
Hanover	113.72
Manchester	344.39
Portland	238.39
St. Ann	232.65
St. Catherine	397.29
St. James	577.02
St. Mary	140.11
St. Thomas	374.74
Trelawny	255.61
Westmoreland	105.26
<b>Weighted average</b>	<b>327.19</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>134.89</b>

The above table summarizes the average durations between first trial date set and the date of case disposal for trial matters resolved in the 2023 calendar year 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 year is 327 days or roughly 10.9 months, with a standard deviation of roughly 135 days or 4.5 months. The Westmoreland and Hanover Parish Courts had the lowest times between first trial dates set and disposal of cases with roughly 105 days and 114 days respectively, reflective of more ideal standards when compared to most other courts. The St. James and St. Catherine Parish Courts with average interval times of roughly 577 days or 19.2 months and 397 days or roughly 13.2 months respectively had the worst ranks on this measurement for the year. 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 6.0d: Time interval between major events for cases that had a trial date in the year ended December 31, 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average time between filing and first court appearance (in days)</b>	<b>Average time between first court appearance and trial (in days)</b>	<b>Average time between trial and disposition (in days)</b>
Clarendon	5.53	264.32	301.59
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	3.91	429.21	329.76
Hanover	9.83	123.30	113.72
Manchester	7.67	236.94	344.39
Portland	6.96	313.20	238.39
St. Ann	9.52	651.94	232.65
St. Catherine	7.38	319.63	397.29
St. James	6.78	1183.05	577.02
St. Mary	5.11	137.93	140.11
St. Thomas	9.28	224.89	374.74
Trelawny	6.56	252.82	255.61
Westmoreland	5.70	207.19	105.26
<b>Weighted average</b>	<b>6.24</b>	<b>414.52</b>	<b>327.19</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>1.84</b>	<b>294.48</b>	<b>134.89</b>

*Note 1: The average time between filing a case and the first court appearance for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for 2023 is 10.71 days.*

*Note 2: The average time between the first appearance and first trial date for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for 2023 is 782.55 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 f 2023 is 468.03 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 6 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 13.8 months or 415 days. The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition is roughly 10.9 months or 327 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 6.0e: Trial court activity summary during the year ended December 31, 2023**

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	1965	454	23.10
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	7647	1138	14.88
Hanover	818	142	17.36
Manchester	1796	430	23.94
Portland	1305	134	10.27
St. Ann	2474	428	17.30
St. Catherine	4775	1029	21.55
St. James	2315	89	3.84
St. Mary	1002	174	17.37
St. Thomas	893	168	18.81
Trelawny	1235	239	19.35
Westmoreland	1654	206	12.45
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>27879</b>	<b>4631</b>	<b>16.61</b>

*Note 1: The Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann had 13.01% of cases heard proceed to trial in 2023.*

*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 5.0b.*

The above table provides a summary of number of cases heard in the 2023 calendar year in the criminal divisions of the parish courts which had trial dates set, whether in the current year, from the previous year or a future date. Using a sampling distribution, it is seen that of 27,879 criminal cases heard across the parish courts in the 2023 calendar year, 4,631 cases or 16.61% had a trial date set. The parish courts of St. James (3.84%), Portland (10.27%) and Westmoreland (12.45%) had the lowest proportion of cases proceeding to trial, while the parish courts of Manchester (23.94%), Clarendon (23.10%) and St. Catherine (21.55%) had the highest proportions.

**Table 7.0a: Distribution of courtroom utilization rates across the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the year ended December 31, 2023**

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	68.23	152.08	0.83	28.98	87.51	1.1
Westmoreland	84.33	238.67	1.67	43.86	NA	NA
Trelawny	66.29	254.67	1.00	32.36	NA	1.0
St. Thomas	54.49	120.83	2.78	23.32	NA	1.0
St. Mary	68.10	206.94	2.33	29.76	NA	1.0
St. James	68.78	274.33	1.67	38.25	NA	NA
Corporate Area Criminal Court	60.89	218.33	0.28	31.23	NA	1.1
St. Ann	65.24	226.39	1.39	31.04	39.74	1.0
Portland	69.67	227.78	2.78	31.07	NA	1.0
Hanover	61.36	206.94	1.39	33.67	NA	1.0
Clarendon	64.44	300.33	7.33	38.57	150.27	1.0
Manchester	56.82	154.00	1.33	30.15	NA	1.0
<b>Overall Averages</b>	<b>65.72</b>	<b>215.11</b>	<b>2.07</b>	<b>32.69</b>	<b>92.51</b>	<b>1.02</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>7.59</b>	<b>52.15</b>	<b>1.82</b>	<b>5.35</b>	<b>55.43</b>	<b>0.04</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>-0.32</b>	<b>2.48</b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>0.40</b>	<b>1.78</b>

*Note: The courtroom utilization rate for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for in 2023 is 67.37%.*

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the various parish courts in the 2023 calendar year. The courtroom utilization rate provides a measurement of the proportion of available hours for open court hearings in all courtrooms (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 performed below this level in the 2023 calendar year. The overall average courtroom utilization rate across the parish courts in the year was 65.72%, which is an indication that on average roughly 66% of the available hours for court hearings were utilized across the parish courts in the 2023 calendar year. This result is roughly 2.11 percentage points above the figure for the corresponding period in 2022. The parish courts recording the highest courtroom utilization rates for the year are the Westmoreland and Portland Parish Courts with 84.33% and 69.67% respectively, followed by the St. James Parish Court with 68.78% and the St. Catherine Parish Court with 68.23%. The St. Thomas Parish Court and Manchester Parish Courts with 54.49% and 56.82% respectively, had the lowest rates, while the Corporate Area Parish Court- Criminal Division with 60.89% had the next lowest rate. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates was relatively low, suggesting that on average the rates for the individual courts did not vary widely from the overall mean. The positive skewness of the data suggests that proportionately more of the sample are below the overall mean.

*NB: 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 7.0b: Percentile Rank on Courtroom utilization rate for the criminal division of the parish courts in the year ended December 31, 2023**

Parish Court	Percentile rank 2023 (%)	Percentile rank 2022 (%)
St. Catherine	73	36
Westmoreland	100	100
Trelawny	55	82
St. Thomas	0	18
St. Mary	64	55
St. James	82	73
Corporate Area Criminal Court	18	9
St. Ann	45	64
Portland	91	91
Hanover	27	0
Clarendon	36	27
Manchester	9	45

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 2022 and 2023 calendar years. 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 2023 calendar year and in the 2022 calendar year. The St. Thomas Parish Court had the lowest courtroom utilization rate in the 2023 calendar year and the Hanover Parish Court with the lowest rate in the 2022 calendar year.

**Table 8.0: Types of matters for each Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2023**

Parish Court	Indictment	Summary Matters	Lay Magistrates Sittings	Committal Proceedings	Tax	Miscellaneous	LRF	Traffic	NS	Total
Corporate Area Criminal	4351	2980	651	1167	-	-	-	52	-	9201
St. Catherine	2093	1780	648	766	129	-	44	-	-	5460
Manchester	901	276	528	220	93	-	22	-	-	2040
St. James	954	923	572	242	77	135	-	-	-	2903
St. Ann	1001	613	494	446	53	-	-	8	-	2615
Westmoreland	913	528	346	283	35	-	-	-	-	2105
Clarendon	840	844	193	246	-	-	3	-	-	2126
Portland	776	254	174	52	6	-	3	-	-	1265
St. Mary	556	274	160	337	16	-	-	-	-	1343
Trelawny	447	274	185	144	14	-	72	-	-	1136
Hanover	525	213	223	86	-	-	58	-	-	1105
St. Thomas	420	331	142	150	-	-	22	-	-	1065
<b>Total</b>	<b>13777</b>	<b>9290</b>	<b>4316</b>	<b>4139</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>42.57</b>	<b>28.70</b>	<b>13.34</b>	<b>12.79</b>	<b>1.31</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>0.69</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Total number of observations = 32,364\*\*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 2023 calendar year. For the year, 32,364 charges were filed across the parish courts, a decrease of approximately 1,285 charges or a 3.82% decline when compared to the corresponding 2022 calendar year. The largest proportions of these charges were filed in the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division (9,201), the St. Catherine Parish Court (5,460), the St. James Parish Court with (2,903) and the St. Ann Parish Court with 2,615 charges. The largest share of the charges were Indictments (42.57%); followed by summary matters (28.70%), Lay Magistrates’ matters (13.34%) and committal proceedings with 12.79% 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, St. Ann and St. James. The Corporate Area Parish

Court – Criminal Division accounted for the largest share of summary matters filed, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court and the St. James Parish Court. The largest proportion of Lay Magistrates’ matters was filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court– Criminal Division, followed by the parish courts of St. Catherine and St. James. 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 year. As for criminal matters, which are traffic related, the only incidences of these in the year were in the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division and the St. Ann Parish Court.

### Offence Types

**Table 9.01: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2023**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	168	15.43
Unlawful wounding	141	12.95
Threat	103	9.46
Malicious destruction of property	79	7.25
Assault at common law	37	3.40
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>48.48</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 1089

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court for the 2023 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 168 or 15.43%, unlawful wounding with 141 or 12.95% and threat with 103 or 9.46% of the total sample of charges are the most frequently occurring charges. Malicious destruction of property with 79 or 7.25% followed this, while assault at common law with 37 or 3.40% of the total sample rounds off the top five. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 48.48% of the total sample of 1,089 charges filed in the year. The top five most

frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2022 calendar year in the Hanover Parish Court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property, threat, and indecent language.

**Table 9.02: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2023**

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Assault occasioning bodily harm	247	12.12
Unlawful wounding	182	8.93
Exposing goods for sale	164	8.05
Threat	121	5.94
Malicious destruction of property	119	5.84
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>40.87</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 2038

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court for the 2023 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 247 or 12.12% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 182 or 8.93%, exposing goods for sale with 164 or 8.05% and threat with 121 or 5.94% rank next. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 119 or 5.84% of the sample charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 40.87% of the total sample of 2,038 charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court in the year. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2022 calendar year in the Manchester Parish Court included breach of the Disaster Risk Management Act, malicious destruction of property, assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding and exposing goods for sale.

**Table 9.03: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Portland Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2023**

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Assault occasioning bodily harm	213	16.72
Unlawful wounding	179	14.05
Threat	153	12.01
Malicious destruction of property	79	6.20
Assault at common law	78	6.12
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>55.10</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 1274

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Portland Parish Court in the 2023 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 213 or 16.72% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 179 or 14.05% and threat with 153 or 12.01% ranked next. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 79 or 6.20% and assault at common law with 78 or 6.12% of the sample of charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 55.10% of the total sample of 1,274 charges filed in the year. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2022 calendar year in the Portland parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, threat, malicious destruction of property and assault at common law.

**Table 9.04: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2023**

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Threat	382	14.82
Assault occasioning bodily harm	258	10.01
Unlawful wounding	194	7.53
Littering	150	5.82
Malicious destruction of property	135	5.24
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1119</b>	<b>43.41</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 2578

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the 2023 calendar year. It is shown that threat with 382 or 14.82% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 258 or 10.01% and unlawful wounding with 194 or 7.53% followed this. Littering with 150 or 5.82% and malicious destruction of property with 135 or 5.24% of the total sample rounds of the top charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 43.41% of the total sample of 2,578 charges filed in the year at the St. Ann Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2022 calendar year in the St. Ann parish court included threat, assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property, and breach of curfew order. From a sample of 534 charges, it is seen that the leading charges recorded in the 2023 calendar year at the Brown’s Town Outstation included threat with 143 or 26.78% of the charges, assault occasioning bodily harm with 84 or 15.73% and unlawful wounding with 63 or 11.80%. Malicious destruction of property with 35 or 6.55% and failure to file returns with 5.06% of the sample followed.

**Table 9.05: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2023**

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Assault occasioning bodily harm	679	12.44
Possession of offensive weapon	412	7.55
Unlawful wounding	316	5.79
Malicious destruction of property	297	5.44
Smoking in a public place	256	4.69
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1960</b>	<b>35.91</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 5458

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the 2023 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 679 or 12.44% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently

occurring charge. Possession of offensive weapon with 412 or 7.55%, unlawful wounding with 316 or 5.79% and malicious destruction of property with 297 or 5.44% followed this. Smoking in a public place with 256 or 4.69% of the total sample of charges filed round off the top five. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 35.91% of the total sample of 5,458 charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the year. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2022 calendar year in the St. Catherine parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, breach of the Disaster Risk Management Act, possession of offensive weapon, unlawful wounding and malicious destruction of property.

**Table 9.06: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. James Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2023**

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Assault occasioning bodily harm	308	10.60
Possession of offensive weapon	286	9.85
Threat	201	6.92
Unlawful wounding	193	6.64
Malicious destruction of property	142	4.89
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1130</b>	<b>38.90</b>

**Number of observations sampled (N): 2905**

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges at the St. James Parish Court in the 2023 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 308 or 10.60% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Possession of an offensive weapon with 286 or 9.85% and threat with 201 or 6.92% followed this. The top five is rounded off by unlawful wounding with 193 or 6.64% and malicious destruction of property with 142 or 4.89% of the total sample. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 38.90% of the sample of 2,905 charges filed in year at the St. James Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2022 calendar year in the St. James

parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, possession of offensive weapon, breach of Endangered Species Act, threat and Breach of the Disaster Risk Management Act.

**Table 9.07: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2023**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	162	12.08
Unlawful wounding	141	10.51
Threat	102	7.61
Malicious destruction of property	73	5.44
Assault at common law	62	4.62
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>40.27</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 1341

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the 2023 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 162 or 12.08% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 141 or 10.51% and threat with 102 or 7.61% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 73 or 5.44% and assault at common law with 62 or 4.62% of the sample. The charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 40.27% of the total sample of 1,341 charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the year. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2022 calendar year in the St. Mary parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, threat, breach of curfew order and malicious destruction of property.

**Table 9.08: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2023**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	140	13.13
Unlawful wounding	108	10.13
Smoking in a Public Place	72	6.75
Possession of offensive weapon	62	5.82
Threat	50	4.69
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>40.53</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 1066

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in the 2023 calendar year. It is shown assault occasioning bodily harm with 140 or 13.13% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 108 or 10.13%, smoking in a public place with 72 or 6.75% and possession of an offensive weapon with 62 or 5.82% followed this. The top five is rounded off by threat with 50 or 4.69% of the total sample of charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 40.53% of the sample of 1,066 charges filed in the year. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2022 calendar year in the St. Thomas parish court included malicious destruction of property, unlawful wounding, assault occasioning bodily harm, threat and breach of the Disaster Risk Management Act.

**Table 9.09: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2023**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	158	13.91
Unlawful wounding	137	12.06
Possession of offensive weapon	88	7.75
Malicious Destruction of Property	67	5.90
Knowingly Possessing Identity Information	54	4.75
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>44.37</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 1136

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the 2023 calendar year. It is shown assault occasioning bodily harm with 158 or 13.91% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 137 or 12.06% and possession of an offensive weapon with 88 or 7.75% followed this. Malicious destruction of property with 67 or 5.90% and knowingly possessing identity information with 54 or 4.75% of the total sample of charges round of the top five charges filed in the year. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 44.37% of the total sample of 1,136 charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the year. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2022 calendar year in the Trelawny parish court included unlawful wounding, assault occasioning bodily harm, breach of the curfew order, knowingly possessing identity information, and abstracting electricity.

**Table 9.10: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2023**

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Assault occasioning bodily harm	378	18.06
Threat	201	9.60
Unlawful wounding	193	9.22
Malicious destruction of property	145	6.93
Possession of offensive weapon	118	5.64
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1035</b>	<b>49.45</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 2093

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the 2023 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 378 or 18.06% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Threat with 201 or 9.60% and unlawful wounding with 193 or 9.22% and malicious destruction of property with 145 or 6.93% followed this. Possession of offensive

weapon with 118 or 5.64% of the sample rank next. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 49.45% of the total sample of 2,093 charges filed in the year at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2022 calendar year in the Westmoreland parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, threat, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property, and breach of the curfew order.

**Table 9.11: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2023**

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Assault occasioning bodily harm	317	14.91
Unlawful wounding	183	8.61
Smoking in a Public Place	174	8.18
Possession of offensive Weapon	158	7.43
Malicious destruction of property	130	6.11
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>45.25</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 2126

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the 2023 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 317 or 14.91% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 183 or 8.61% and smoking in a public place with 174 or 8.18% followed this. The top five is rounded off by possession of an offensive weapon with 158 or 7.43% and malicious destruction of property with 130 or 6.11%. The charges quoted above account for an estimated 45.25% of the sample of 2,126 charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the year. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2022 calendar year in the Clarendon parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, threat, malicious destruction of property and breach of the curfew order.

**Table 9.12: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2023**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Littering	1139	12.38
Assault occasioning bodily harm	870	9.46
Unlawful wounding	576	6.26
Possession of offensive Weapon	389	4.23
Malicious destruction of property	371	4.03
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>3345</b>	<b>36.36</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 9200

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 2023 calendar year. It is shown that littering with 1139 or 12.38% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 870 or 9.46% and unlawful wounding with 576 or 6.26% followed this. The top five is rounded off by possession of an offensive weapon with 389 or 4.23% and malicious destruction of property with 371 or 4.03% of the charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 36.36% of the total sample of 9,200 charges at filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court –Criminal Division in the year. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2022 calendar year in the Corporate Area parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property, littering and breach of the curfew order under the Disaster Risk Management Act.

**Table 10.0: Conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2023**

Type of case	Number of disposed matters	Number of guilty verdicts	Number of guilty pleas	Aggregate number of guilty outcomes	Estimated conviction rate (%)
Summary	7946	362	4618	4980	62.67
Indictment	12650	255	2247	2502	19.78

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard across all parish courts in the 2023 calendar year. Summary matters heard in the year 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 year for summary matters was 62.67%, which is 0.62 percentage points below the conviction rate of 63.29% recorded for the corresponding 2022 calendar year. The estimated conviction rate for indictment matters was significantly lower at 19.78% for the year, a rate which is approximately 0.40 percentage points above the 19.38% recorded in the 2022 calendar year. Indictment matters heard in the year included charges such as assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property and simple larceny.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges across the parish courts for the year ended December 31, 2023**

Charge	Frequency	Percentage
Assault occasioning bodily harm	3898	12.07
Unlawful wounding	2543	7.87
Threat	1767	5.47
Possession of offensive weapon	1720	5.32
Malicious destruction of property	1683	5.21
Littering	1312	4.06
Disorderly conduct	797	2.47
Possession of ganja	736	2.28
Assault at common law	723	2.24
Exposing goods for sale	699	2.16
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>15878</b>	<b>49.15</b>

**Number of observations sampled (N): 32,304**

The above table shows the distribution of the ten most commonly occurring charges across all parish courts for the 2023 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 3,898 or 12.07% of the total number of charges sampled is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 2,543 or 7.87% and threat with 1,767 or 5.47% followed this. The top

five is rounded off by possession of an offensive weapon with 1,720 or 5.32% and malicious destruction of property with 1,683 or 5.21% of the total sample of charges filed in the year. These ten most frequently occurring types of charges account for approximately 49.15% of the total sample of charges filed in the year.

**Table 12.0: Conviction rate for leading occurring charges heard in the year ended December 31, 2023**

Type of Offence	Number of disposed matters	Number of guilty verdicts	Number of guilty pleas	Aggregate number of guilty outcomes	Estimated conviction rate (%)
Exposing goods for sale	633	135	443	578	91.31
Possession of offensive weapon	1510	75	1269	1344	89.01
Littering	90	1	74	75	83.33
Possession of ganja	778	83	533	616	79.18
Disorderly conduct	709	66	446	512	72.21
Malicious destruction of property	1565	22	212	234	14.95
Unlawful wounding	2499	47	229	276	11.04
Assault occasioning bodily harm	3748	50	359	409	10.91
Assault at common law	654	8	56	64	9.79
Threat	1459	25	109	134	9.18

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for the ten (10) leading charges across all parish courts in the 2023 calendar year. It is shown that exposing goods for sale had the highest estimated conviction rate on the list with 91.31%. Possession of offensive weapon with 89.01% and littering with 83.33% followed this. The top conviction rates on the list in the year is rounded off by possession of ganja with an estimated conviction rate of 79.18% and disorderly conduct with 72.21%. Possession of an offensive weapon recorded the highest estimated conviction rate in the corresponding 2022 calendar year with 87.59%, followed by breach of the Disaster Risk Management Act with an estimated conviction rate of 81.77%.

**Table 13.0: Sampling distribution of the average age of active charges for each parish court for the year ended December 31, 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average age of active charges (days)</b>
Clarendon	115
Trelawny	139
Portland	140
St. Mary	121
Hanover	104
Westmoreland	96
St. Catherine	133
St. Ann	161
St. James	132
St. Thomas	132
Corporate Area Criminal	150
Manchester	121
<b>Overall Average</b>	<b>128.67</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>18.48</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>-0.12</b>

The above table shows the average age of active charges originating in the 2023 calendar year, for charges originating in said year. The overall average age of active matters originating in the year was approximately 129 days or roughly 4.3 months, roughly 2 more days than the average recorded in the 2022 calendar year. The parish courts of Westmoreland, Hanover and Clarendon have the lowest averages on the list. On the contrary, the highest averages were observed in the parish courts of St. Ann, Corporate Area Criminal, Portland, Trelawny and St. Catherine. The standard deviation of the scores was, however, relatively low (18 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 clustered around 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 14.0: Average age of charges disposed for matters originating in the year ended December 31, 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average age of disposed charges (days)</b>
Clarendon	80
Trelawny	86
Portland	72
St. Mary	70
Hanover	47
Westmoreland	56
St. Catherine	91
St. Ann	93
St. James	75
St. Thomas	88
Corporate Area Criminal	96
Manchester	83
<b>Overall Average</b>	<b>78.08</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>14.97</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>-0.94</b>

The above table shows that the average time taken to dispose of criminal cases filed in the Parish Courts in the 2023 calendar year is approximately 78 days. This is roughly 7 less days than the time taken to dispose of cases originating in the 2022 calendar year. The standard deviation of the scores was relatively low (15 days), an indication that the individual values for the parish courts were on average close to the overall mean. The negative skewness, however, 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 47 days at the Hanover Parish Court to a high of 96 days for the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal.

**Table 15.0a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the year ended December 31, 2023**

Parishes	Time interval in days							Sample size (n)
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365 days-547 days	548 days-729 days	730 days and over	
Corporate Area Criminal	14568 (35.9%)	8546 (21.0%)	5127 (12.6%)	3527 (8.7%)	3853 (9.5%)	2041 (5.0%)	2964 (7.3%)	40626 (100%)
St. Catherine	6715 (33.7%)	4576 (23.0%)	2657 (13.3%)	1581 (7.9%)	1735 (8.7%)	881 (4.4%)	1778 (8.9%)	19923 (100%)
St. James	5650 (38.3%)	2910 (19.7%)	1600 (10.8%)	1242 (8.4%)	1375 (9.3%)	683 (4.6%)	1308 (8.9%)	14768 (100%)
Manchester	3474 (27.0%)	2414 (18.8%)	1707 (13.3%)	1292 (10.0%)	1568 (12.2%)	973 (7.6%)	1430 (11.1%)	12858 (100%)
Westmoreland	6103 (55.8%)	1986 (18.2%)	1128 (10.3%)	586 (5.4%)	595 (5.4%)	260 (2.4%)	279 (2.6%)	10937 (100%)
St. Ann	3201 (26.7%)	2356 (19.7%)	1428 (11.9%)	1150 (9.6%)	1520 (12.7%)	880 (7.3%)	1438 (12.0%)	11973 (100%)
Clarendon	5238 (41.9%)	2843 (22.8%)	1491 (11.9%)	920 (7.4%)	1112 (8.9%)	414 (3.3%)	473 (3.8%)	12491 (100%)
St. Thomas	1973 (29.2%)	1503 (22.2%)	868 (12.8%)	746 (11.0%)	716 (10.6%)	348 (5.1%)	613 (9.1%)	6767 (100%)
Portland	2977 (38.2%)	1968 (25.2%)	925 (11.9%)	607 (7.8%)	640 (8.2%)	341 (4.4%)	338 (4.3%)	7796 (100%)
St. Mary	3561 (44.1%)	1653 (20.5%)	1020 (12.6%)	611 (7.6%)	594 (7.4%)	258 (3.2%)	370 (4.6%)	8067 (100%)
Trelawny	2164 (35.3%)	1115 (18.2%)	715 (11.7%)	539 (8.8%)	628 (10.3%)	360 (5.9%)	603 (9.8%)	6124 (100%)
Hanover	3050 (52.5%)	1266 (21.8%)	572 (9.9%)	343 (5.9%)	267 (4.6%)	149 (2.6%)	157 (2.7%)	5804 (100%)
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>37.10</b>	<b>20.95</b>	<b>12.17</b>	<b>8.31</b>	<b>9.23</b>	<b>4.80</b>	<b>7.43</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>4889.50</b>	<b>2761.33</b>	<b>1603.17</b>	<b>1095.33</b>	<b>1216.92</b>	<b>632.33</b>	<b>979.25</b>	<b>13177.83</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>3421.50</b>	<b>2046.23</b>	<b>1243.18</b>	<b>851.35</b>	<b>957.09</b>	<b>524.50</b>	<b>830.10</b>	<b>9576.43</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>2.31</b>	<b>2.39</b>	<b>2.39</b>	<b>2.39</b>	<b>2.07</b>	<b>1.94</b>	<b>1.32</b>	<b>2.44</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 158,134*

*Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the previous 7.3 years*

The above table shows the breakdown of the times to disposition for matters filed in the respective parish courts for at least 88 consecutive months (7.3 years) over the period September 2016 to December 2023. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 37.10% 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, 78.53% 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 Manchester had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 7.43% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts of Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, St. Catherine and St. Ann also 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 15.0b: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition for matters completed in the year ended December 31, 2023**

Parishes	Time interval in days							Sample size (n)
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365 days-547 days	548 days-729 days	730 days and over	
Corporate Area Criminal	1305 (27.4%)	1044 (21.9%)	620 (13.0%)	444 (9.3%)	607 (12.7%)	274 (5.7%)	475 (10.0%)	4769 (100%)
St. Catherine	900 (26.3%)	589 (17.2%)	435 (12.7%)	251 (7.3%)	272 (8.0%)	236 (6.9%)	737 (21.5%)	3420 (100%)
St. James	676 (42.6%)	289 (18.2%)	129 (8.1%)	133 (8.4%)	130 (8.2%)	63 (4.0%)	166 (10.5%)	1586 (100%)
Manchester	514 (36.3%)	391 (27.6%)	134 (9.5%)	119 (8.4%)	93 (6.6%)	65 (4.6%)	100 (7.1%)	1416 (100%)
Westmoreland	794 (66.5%)	213 (17.8%)	104 (8.7%)	31 (2.6%)	21 (1.8%)	10 (0.8%)	21 (1.8%)	1194 (100%)
St. Ann	553 (33.3%)	333 (20.0%)	191 (11.5%)	151 (9.1%)	117 (7.0%)	97 (5.8%)	219 (13.2%)	1661 (100%)
Clarendon	540 (39.5%)	308 (22.5%)	144 (10.5%)	102 (7.5%)	130 (9.5%)	52 (3.8%)	90 (6.6%)	1366 (100%)
St. Thomas	270 (31.7%)	180 (21.1%)	89 (10.4%)	83 (9.7%)	54 (6.3%)	33 (3.9%)	143 (16.8%)	852 (100%)
Portland	442 (41.9%)	263 (25.0%)	103 (9.8%)	78 (7.4%)	84 (8.0%)	38 (3.6%)	46 (4.4%)	1054 (100%)
St. Mary	506 (53.8%)	212 (22.6%)	97 (10.3%)	44 (4.7%)	56 (6.0%)	10 (1.1%)	15 (1.6%)	940 (100%)
Trelawny	226 (27.8%)	136 (16.7%)	103 (12.7%)	64 (7.9%)	124 (15.3%)	55 (6.8%)	105 (12.9%)	813 (100%)
Hanover	413 (71.5%)	85 (14.7%)	28 (4.8%)	29 (5.0%)	7 (1.2%)	5 (0.9%)	11 (1.9%)	578 (100%)
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>36.33</b>	<b>20.58</b>	<b>11.08</b>	<b>7.78</b>	<b>8.63</b>	<b>4.77</b>	<b>10.83</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>594.92</b>	<b>336.92</b>	<b>181.42</b>	<b>127.42</b>	<b>141.25</b>	<b>78.17</b>	<b>177.33</b>	<b>1637.42</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>295.55</b>	<b>258.40</b>	<b>170.73</b>	<b>117.23</b>	<b>161.84</b>	<b>87.15</b>	<b>217.30</b>	<b>1226.70</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.26</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>2.06</b>	<b>2.08</b>	<b>2.51</b>	<b>1.69</b>	<b>1.97</b>	<b>1.98</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 19,649*

The table above shows the breakdown of the time disposition for matters disposed parish courts in the year ended December 31, 2023. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 36.33% of the disposals. The Corporate Area 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 under 90 days. Cumulatively, 75.77% of the matters disposed 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 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 10.83% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts of St. Catherine, Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division and St. Ann 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 of, relative to the caseload, which as shown earlier, indicates that some courts are performing much better.

**Table 16.0a: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at the year ended December 31, 2023**

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Criminal	252.29	1	142	309.4	2.71	1	2809	40626
St. Catherine	275.37	28	147	367.91	2.84	1	2593	19923
St. James	268.19	66	134	346.59	2.57	1	2679	14768
Manchester	317.61	63	199	331.56	1.82	1	2647	12858
Westmoreland	146.57	28	75	189.45	2.58	1	1792	10937
St. Ann	329.3	63	199	358.1	1.97	1	2314	11973
Clarendon	194.93	63	112	230.73	2.66	1	2685	12491
St. Thomas	274.82	63	172	290.67	1.84	1	2047	6767
Portland	215.71	63	122	278.79	3.51	1	2620	7796
St. Mary	191.84	14	109	228.29	2.32	1	2080	8067
Trelawny	282.23	28	154	330.9	2.04	1	2366	6124
Hanover	151.05	35	83	194.22	2.72	1	1696	5804
<b>Average/Weighted Average</b>	<b>249.50</b>	<b>42.92</b>	<b>137.33</b>	<b>288.05</b>	<b>2.47</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>2360.67</b>	<b>13177.83</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>60.86</b>	<b>23.11</b>	<b>40.15</b>	<b>63.51</b>	<b>0.49</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>376.02</b>	<b>9576.43</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>-0.28</b>	<b>-0.49</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>-0.41</b>	<b>0.48</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-0.66</b>	<b>2.44</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 158,134*

*Note 1: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the previous 7.3 years.*

*Note 2: The average time to disposition for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann as at December 31, 2023 is 328.87 days*

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a large sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at December 31, 2023. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least an 88-month period over September 2016 – December 2023 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 of matters in the parish courts (Criminal Division) of approximately 250 days (8.3 months). The skewness of these times to disposition is a low negative 0.28, suggesting a cluster of scores around the overall

mean. For matters disposed of in the period, the parish courts of Westmoreland (147 days), Hanover (151 days) and St. Mary (192 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Ann (329 days), Manchester (318 days) and Trelawny (282 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters disposed 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 (60.86), suggesting inconsistencies in performances on this measure. An interesting finding is that the minimum time taken to dispose of 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 1696 days (56.5 months/4.7 years) in the Hanover parish court to a high of 2809 days (93.63 months/7.8 years) in the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a negative 0.66, which is an indication that most of the maximum times to disposition were clustered around the overall series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial 158,134 matters.

**Table 16.0b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for matters completed in the year ended December 31, 2023**

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Criminal	311.92	129	183	372.83	3.00	1	3278	4769
St. Catherine	441.34	849	220	530.92	1.85	1	3097	3420
St. James	355.01	2220	114.51	667.46	4.37	1	9723	1586
Manchester	242.43	63	129	327.76	3.01	1	2647	1416
Westmoreland	100.96	21	49	151.99	3.64	1	1116	1194
St. Ann	324.90	63	161	443.14	3.25	1	3429	1661
Clarendon	237.54	49	124	320.84	4.10	1	3824	1366
St. Thomas	329.92	77	161	373.64	1.52	1	2047	852
Portland	220.31	63	105	356.84	4.21	1	2620	1054
St. Mary	134.45	14	83	158.68	2.94	1	1754	940
Trelawny	345.95	42	217	390.50	2.15	1	2366	813
Hanover	98.21	35	43	160.52	4.06	1	1183	578
<b>Average/Weighted Average</b>	<b>298.52</b>	<b>302.08</b>	<b>132.46</b>	<b>354.59</b>	<b>3.18</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>3090.33</b>	<b>1637.42</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>108.99</b>	<b>646.29</b>	<b>58.44</b>	<b>153.08</b>	<b>0.95</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2256.97</b>	<b>1226.70</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>-0.24</b>	<b>2.85</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>-0.45</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2.60</b>	<b>1.98</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 19,649*

*Note: The average time to disposition for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann in the year ended December 31, 2023 is 331.19 days*

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the year ended December 31, 2023. The output produces an estimated weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Criminal Division) of approximately 299 days or 10 months. The skewness of these times to disposition is a negative 0.24, suggesting that a large proportion of these times were clustered around the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the year, the parish courts of Hanover (98 days), Westmoreland (101 days) and St. Mary (134 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases in the year. The parish courts of St. Catherine (441 days), St. James (355 days) and Trelawny (346 days) demonstrate the highest

times to disposition for matters resolved during the year. The average variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts is, however, wide as shown by the moderately high standard deviation (109), suggesting inconsistencies in performances on this measure. An interesting finding is that the minimum time taken to dispose of 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 1116 days (37.2 months/3.1 years) in the Westmoreland parish court to a high of 9,723 days (324.10 months/27 years) in the St. James Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a positive 2.60 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 19,649 matters cases which were resolved during the 2023 calendar year.

**16.0c: Net and gross criminal case backlog as at the year ended December 31, 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Net case backlog rate (%)</b>	<b>Gross case backlog rate (%)</b>
Clarendon	0.43	11.81
Corporate Area Criminal	4.60	24.58
Hanover	0.12	4.64
Manchester	2.11	16.61
Portland	1.29	8.75
St. Ann	2.57	24.09
St. Catherine	0.50	10.41
St. James	0.83	12.79
St. Mary	0.26	10.30
St. Thomas	2.21	9.53
Trelawny	1.17	10.82
Westmoreland	0.12	8.35
<b>Weighted Average</b>	<b>2.35</b>	<b>16.92</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>1.33</b>	<b>6.11</b>

*Note: The net backlog for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for 2023 is 8.04% and the gross backlog is 29.95%.*

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 (weighted average) in

the criminal division of the parish courts is 2.35 (with a standard deviation of 1.33%) which is satisfies than the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at 16.92% (with a standard deviation of 6.11%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved criminal cases in the parish courts. This rate is 6.92 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 and Westmoreland with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.12% each and St. Mary with an estimated net case backlog rate of 0.26% have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts Corporate Area Criminal (4.60%), St. Ann (2.57%) and St. Thomas (2.21%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of Hanover (4.64%), Westmoreland (8.35%) and Portland (8.75%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of Corporate Area Criminal Court (24.58%), St. Ann (24.09%) and Manchester (16.61%) 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 17.0: Distribution of methods of disposition for matters set for trial during the year ended December 31, 2023**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage
Dismissed	1586	38.10
Not guilty	1033	24.81
Guilty Plea	689	16.55
Not Guilty Plea - Mediated Settlement	472	11.34
Guilty	263	6.32
Committed to Circuit	74	1.78
Transferred	46	1.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>4163</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the common methods of disposition for a sample of cases proceeding to trial. It is seen that matters dismissed with 38.10% of the cases disposed, not guilty verdicts with 1,033 or 24.81% and disposals by way of guilty pleas with 689 or 16.55% account for the three leading methods of disposition in the sample for the year ended December 31, 2023.

### Methods of Disposal and Conviction Rate

**Table 18.0: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2023**

Parish Court	Guilty Plea	Dismissed	Not Guilty Verdict	Transferred	Mediated Settlement	Guilty Verdict	Committed to Circuit Court	Total
St. Catherine	1531	1587	43	707	1087	40	425	5420
Corporate Area Criminal	2599	1861	180	206	333	128	720	6027
Westmoreland	560	489	312	4	345	6	263	1979
St. James	1325	-	1009	151	18	17	198	2718
Manchester	1	411	444	12	242	541	322	1973
Clarendon	990	117	217	69	422	30	255	2100
Trelawny	263	508	29	10	131	13	185	1139
Hanover	202	113	506	6	88	31	93	1039
Portland	148	1	339	-	196	11	180	875
St. Mary	15	389	161	1	174	165	202	1107
St. Thomas	327	46	209	98	277	57	133	1147
St. Ann	469	592	222	444	183	8	16	1934

<b>Total</b>	<b>8430</b>	<b>6114</b>	<b>3671</b>	<b>1708</b>	<b>3496</b>	<b>1047</b>	<b>2992</b>	<b>27458</b>
<b>Percentage of total</b>	<b>30.70</b>	<b>22.27</b>	<b>13.37</b>	<b>6.22</b>	<b>12.73</b>	<b>3.81</b>	<b>10.90</b>	<b>-</b>

Total sample size: 27,458

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts for the 2023 calendar. From the sample, it is observed that the largest proportion of matters disposed of during the year were by way of a guilty plea with 30.70% of the sample, followed by matters dismissed with 22.27% and not guilty verdicts with 13.37%. Mediated settlements with 12.73%, matters committed to Circuit Court with 10.90%, matters transferred to another court with 6.22% and guilty verdicts with 3.81% account for the remaining disposals in the year. The combined 34.51% of the cases disposed of by way of guilty outcomes represent the estimated criminal conviction rate in the parish courts for the year. This represents a decline of 3.11 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in 2022.

### Common Reasons for Adjournment

**Table 19.01: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for the year ended December 31, 2023**

<b>Reasons for Adjournment</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Defendant Not Appearing (DNA) warrant issued	4038	23.06
File to be completed	1892	10.81
Disclosure	1521	8.69
Referred to Mediation	1178	6.73
Re-issue application	630	3.60
Medical report unavailable	301	1.72
Subpoena investigating officer	290	1.66
Subpoena crown witness	278	1.59
Facilitate restitution	224	1.28
Psychiatric evaluation to be done	217	1.24
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>10569</b>	<b>60.36</b>

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 17,509)

**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 17,509 reasons for adjournments/continuance for matters heard in the across all parish courts. The largest proportion (23.0%) adjournments due to the nonappearance of the accused, leading to the issuing of warrants. Adjournments for files to be completed with 10.81% and adjournments for disclosure with 8.69% account for the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts for the year. Adjournments due to referrals to mediation with 6.73% and adjournments for the re-issue of applications with 3.60%, round of the top five reasons for adjournment in this period. All five (5) of the top five reasons for adjournment were also featured in the top five for the 2022 calendar year. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 60.36% 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 2023 calendar year, the case file integrity rate for criminal matters across the parish courts was 89.14%, as 10.86% 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 10.81% 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 19.2: Summary of mention court activity for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2023**

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	3.71	2.88	1.74	23	1
Corporate Area Criminal	6.33	8.02	2.92	83	1
Hanover	2.24	1.92	2.98	15	1
Manchester	3.09	2.82	2.97	31	1
Portland	4.62	4.03	2.09	26	1
St. Ann	3.49	3.25	2.44	26	1
St. Catherine	4.38	3.92	2.15	40	1
St. James	2.43	2.61	4.22	20	1
St. Mary	3.72	2.96	2.25	23	1
St. Thomas	3.82	4.01	3.78	40	1
Trelawny	3.19	2.33	1.58	16	1
Westmoreland	4.40	5.50	2.52	32	1
<b>Weighted Average</b>	<b>4.96</b>	-	-	<b>31.25</b>	<b>1.00</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>1.09</b>	-	-	<b>18.21</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.91</b>	-	-	<b>2.34</b>	<b>0.00</b>

The above table summarises the number of mention court appearances per case leading towards disposition in the criminal division of the parish courts for matters heard in the 2023 calendar year. The overall average number of mention court appearances per case is 4.96 (i.e. between 4 and 5) with a standard deviation of 1.09 across the courts sampled and a skewness of 0.91. Together, these results suggest that the average number of appearances per case is above 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 appearances and that there isn't on average a wide variation in the number of appearances per case across the courts. Among the parish courts with the highest number of appearances per cases for matters heard in the 2023 calendar year are the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, the Portland and the Westmoreland Parish Courts, while the Hanover, St. James and Manchester Parish Courts were among those with the lowest case appearance incidence per case. In terms of cases disposed of, the average mention court appearance for all cases resolved across all the parish courts combined in the 2023 calendar year was 4 with a standard deviation of 0.79.

## 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 year by the respective courtrooms and outstations in each parish.

**Table 20.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender for the year ended December 31, 2023**

Charge	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
	Count		Count		Count	
Assault occasioning bodily harm	2876	74.01	1010	25.99	3886	100
Unlawful wounding	1948	76.84	587	23.16	2535	100
Threat	1416	80.73	338	19.27	1754	100
Possession of offensive weapon	1633	95.00	86	5.00	1719	100
Malicious destruction of property	1296	77.28	381	22.72	1677	100
Littering	1240	94.51	72	5.49	1312	100
Disorderly conduct	549	68.88	248	31.12	797	100
Possession of ganja	556	75.65	179	24.35	735	100
Assault at common law	619	85.85	102	14.15	721	100
Exposing goods for sale	527	75.39	172	24.61	699	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) = 32,075**

The above table provides a sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender in the year ended December 31, 2023. Based on the data shown in chart 5.0, 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 threat and assault at common law for which over 80% of the persons charged were male. More particularly, it is seen that possession of an offensive weapon with 95% and littering with 94.51% of the persons

charged being male had the most significant incidence of persons charged being male for the year. Disorderly conduct, exposing goods for sale and assault occasioning bodily harm 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 2023 calendar year. These figures are derived from representative datasets from the respective courts and do not necessary add back to the total population of cases outlined in the first few tables of the report.

**Table 21.01: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Westmoreland for the year ended December 31, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in 2023	Number of inactive cases in 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	1018	832	52	71.59	86.84
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1	0	0	0.07	NA
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	2	2	0	0.14	100.00
Night Court (main courthouse)	1	1	0	0.07	100.00
Whithorn Outstation	200	167	10	14.06	88.50
Whithorn Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	30	18	0	2.11	60.00
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	170	98	26	11.95	72.94
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>1422</b>	<b>1118</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>84.81</b>

*Note 1: There were 5 missing courtrooms/Outstation entries 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 criminal cases filed in the 2023 calendar year 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 year with 1,018 (71.59%) and 200 (14.06%) cases respectively. Sittings at the Lay Magistrates' court at the main courthouse with 170 cases or 11.95% rank next. The number of cases heard in courtroom one (1,018 cases), increased by 38 cases or 3.88% above the 980 cases recorded in the similar 2022 calendar year. The case disposal rate decreased by 1.12 percentage points moving down to 86.84% compared to the 87.96% reported in the 2022 calendar year. In terms of cases disposed of, sittings in courtroom number 1 with 832 cases accounted for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of and had the fourth highest disposal rate of 86.84%. The outstation in Whithorn rank next with 167 disposed cases and recorded the third highest disposal rate of 88.50%, which is 6.31 percentage points below the 94.81% recorded in the corresponding 2022 calendar year. The single outstation in Westmoreland accounted for 16.17% of the total sample of new cases heard, an increase of 1.93 percentage points when compared to the 14.24% recorded in the corresponding 2022 calendar year. The main courthouse accounted for the remaining 83.83%, a decrease of 1.93 percentage points when compared to the 85.76% recorded in 2022.

**Table 21.02: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Corporate Area for the year ended December 31, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in 2023	Number of inactive cases in 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (Main courthouse)	1	1	0	0.02	100.00
Courtroom #2 (Main courthouse)	4332	1758	1479	85.16	74.72
Courtroom #6 (Main courthouse)	155	51	6	3.05	36.77
Courtroom #7 (Main courthouse)	169	48	12	3.32	35.50
Fast Track Court (Main courthouse)	2	2	0	0.04	100.00
Gordon Town Outstation	50	33	0	0.98	66.00
Gun Court (Main courthouse)	95	18	1	1.87	20.00
Lay Magistrates' (Main courthouse)	283	179	57	5.56	83.39
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>5087</b>	<b>2090</b>	<b>1555</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>71.65</b>

*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 year ended December 31, 2023 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 year with 4,332 cases or 85.16% of the total sample. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse with 283 cases or roughly 5.56% follows this and courtroom number 7 with 169 cases or 3.32%, rounding off the top three proportion of new cases filed in the year. Courtroom number two at the main courthouse accounts for the largest absolute share of cases disposed of in the 2023 calendar year with 1,758 cases and the fourth highest disposal rate of 74.72%. When compared to the corresponding 2022 calendar year, courtroom number two also accounted for the largest absolute share of cases disposed of with 1,894 cases and had a disposal rate of 71.81%. This represents a decrease of 136 cases disposed of or a 7.18% decrease and 2.91

percentage points increase in the disposal rate. The main courthouse in Half-Way-Tree accounted for 99.02% of the total sample of new cases heard in the 2023 calendar year.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. In particular, of the 4,332 cases heard in courtroom two, 183 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms. Ninety-seven (97) cases were disposed of at fast track court, twenty-eight (28) cases were disposed of at courtroom 8, twenty-two (22) cases were disposed of at courtroom 5, while courtroom 6 and 8 disposed of sixteen (16) cases each. Courtroom 1 at the main courthouse disposed of two (2) cases, while courtrooms 4 and 3 each disposed of one (1) case.

**Table 21.03: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. James for the year ended December 31, 2023**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2023</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2023</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2023</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	1	0	0	0.05	NA
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1735	1376	125	91.36	86.51
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	8	6	1	0.42	87.50
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	22	19	3	1.16	100.00
Cambridge Outstation	133	113	4	7.00	87.97
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>1899</b>	<b>1514</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>86.73</b>

*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 year ended December 31, 2023, 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 the majority of new cases heard with 1,735 cases or 91.36% of the total sample, an increase of 4 cases or an 0.23% improvement above the 1,731 cases recorded in the

corresponding 2022 calendar year. This was followed by the Cambridge Outstation with 133 cases or 7% of the total sample. Courtroom number 4 had the highest disposal rate of 100%, despite the relatively low numbers, followed by the Cambridge Outstation with a disposal rate of 87.97%. The main courthouse in Montego Bay accounts for 93% of the new cases heard in the 2023 calendar year, 2.86 percentage points below the 95.86% recorded in corresponding 2022 calendar year. The remaining 7% was accounted for by the sole outstation (Cambridge).

**Table 21.04: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Catherine for the year ended December 31, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in 2023	Number of inactive cases in 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	1604	990	181	50.31	73.00
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	238	118	27	7.47	60.92
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	8	3	0	0.25	37.50
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	2	0	0	0.06	NA
Courtroom #5 (main courthouse)	25	11	2	0.78	52.00
Children's Court Portmore Outstation	88	31	1	2.76	36.36
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	100	74	5	3.14	79.00
Linstead Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	46	35	5	1.44	86.96
Linstead Outstation (Courtroom #1)	560	413	29	17.57	78.93
Old Harbour Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	28	17	2	0.88	67.86
Old Harbour Outstation (Courtroom #1)	489	323	89	15.34	84.25
<b>Total/ Weighted Average</b>	<b>3188</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>73.90</b>

*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 year ended December 31, 2023 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 1 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 year with 50.31% and 17.57% of the cases respectively. Courtroom 1 at the outstation in Old Harbour with 15.34% of new cases filed ranks next. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 990 cases, which is an increase of 13.01% or 114 more cases than the 876 cases

recorded in the corresponding 2022 calendar year. Courtroom 1 also had the fifth highest disposal rate of 73%, which is a decrease of 0.06 percentage points below the 73.06% recorded in the comparable 2022 calendar year. Lay Magistrates' sittings at outstation in Linstead had the highest disposal rate of 86.96%, followed by courtroom number 1 at the Old Harbour Outstation with a disposal rate of 84.25% and Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse with a disposal rate of 79%. The main courthouse in Spanish Town accounts for 62.01% of the total sample of new cases heard in the 2023 calendar year, a decrease of 0.61 percentage points below the 62.62% recorded in the corresponding 2022 calendar year. The outstations combined accounted for the remaining 37.99%.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. In particular, of the 1,604 cases heard in courtroom number one at the main courthouse, 186 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstation. Sittings at Children's Court at the Portmore Outstation disposed of 1 case, courtroom 2 at the main courthouse disposed of 108 cases, courtroom 3 disposed of 44 cases, courtroom 4 disposed of 25 cases and courtroom 5 disposed of 8 cases. Of the 238 cases heard in courtroom number two at the main courthouse, 18 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstations. Courtroom 1 at the main courthouse disposed of 11 cases, courtroom 3 disposed of 4 cases and courtroom 4 disposed of 3 cases.

**21.05: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Thomas for the year ended December 31, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in 2023	Number of inactive cases in 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Children's Court (main courthouse)	29	8	2	4.72	34.48
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	257	201	10	41.79	82.10
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	148	102	15	24.07	79.05
Yallahs Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	3	0	1	0.49	33.33
Yallahs Outstation	178	121	3	28.94	69.66
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>75.28</b>

*Note 1: There were 8 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 year ended December 31, 2023 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The data shows decisively that cases entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse and the Yallahs outstation account for the highest share of new cases heard in the year with 41.79% and 28.94% respectively. Courtroom number 1 also accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 201 cases and the highest disposal rate of 82.10%. When compared to the corresponding 2022 calendar year, this represents an increase of 4.05 percentage points above the disposal rate of 78.05% recorded. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse with a disposal rate of 79.05% (compared to 84.09% in 2022) accounts for the second highest disposal rate in the year. The main courthouse in Morant Bay accounted for 70.58% of the total new cases heard in the year, which is an increase of 1.82 percentage points when compared to the 68.76% recorded in the corresponding 2022 calendar year. The remaining 29.42% was accounted for by the Yallahs outstation, a decrease of 1.82 percentage points when compared to the 31.24% recorded in the corresponding 2022 calendar year.

**Table 21.06: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Trelawny for the year ended December 31, 2023**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2023</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2023</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2023</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	26	14	0	3.24	53.85
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1	1	0	0.12	100.00
Falmouth Outstation	287	151	25	35.74	61.32
Falmouth Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	22	11	5	2.74	72.73
Ulster Spring Outstation	134	86	4	16.69	67.16
Ulster Spring Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	8	4	2	1.00	75.00
Clarks Town Outstation (courtroom #1)	311	202	21	38.73	71.70
Clarks Town Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	14	3	10	1.74	92.86
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>67.12</b>

*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 year ended December 31, 2023 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 year with 38.73%. The Falmouth Town Outstation and the Ulster Spring Outstation with 35.74% and 16.69% respectively, followed. Courtroom 2 at the Clarks Town Outstation recorded the highest disposal rate of 100%, but had a relatively low number of cases, followed by Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Clarks Town outstation and Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Ulster Spring outstation with disposal rates of 92.86% and 75% respectively. The outstations in the parish account for 96.64% of the new cases heard in the 2023 calendar year, while the remaining 3.36% were accounted for by the main courthouse. In the corresponding 2022 calendar year, the main courthouse accounted for 5.64% of the new cases heard, while the remaining 94.36% were accounted for by the outstations.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. Of the 311 new cases heard in courtroom 1 at the Clarks Town Outstation, the Falmouth Outstation disposed of 6 cases, while courtroom 1 at the main courthouse disposed of 1 case.

**Table 21.07: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Mary for the year ended December 31, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in 2023	Number of inactive cases in 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Children's Court (main courthouse)	20	4	0	2.67	20.00
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	362	238	7	48.33	67.68
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	4	2	0	0.53	50.00
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	20	17	0	2.67	85.00
Lay Magistrates' (main courthouse)	61	35	2	8.14	60.66
Annotto Bay Outstation	146	106	6	19.49	76.71
Annotto Bay Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	3	2	0	0.40	66.67
Gayle Outstation	56	42	1	7.48	76.79
Gayle Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	6	1	0	0.80	16.67
Richmond Outstation	68	51	1	9.08	76.47
Richmond Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	3	0	2	0.40	66.67
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>69.03</b>

*Note 1: There were 26 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 2023 calendar year. 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 year, with 48.33% and 19.49% respectively of the total sample. Sittings at the Richmond outstation with 9.08% and Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse with 8.14% rank next. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 in Port Maria accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with

238 cases, roughly 30 less cases or a 11.19% decline when compared to the corresponding 2022 calendar year and had a case disposal rate of 67.68%. Courtroom 3 at the main courthouse had the highest disposal rate of 85%, followed by the Gayle Outstation with a disposal rate of 76.79%. The outstations in the parish account for a combined 37.65% of the total sample of new cases heard in the 2023 calendar year, a decrease of 0.54 percentage points below the 38.19% recorded in the corresponding 2022 calendar year. On the other hand, the main courthouse accounts for 62.35%, which is an increase of 0.54 percentage point above the 61.81% recorded in 2022.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 362 cases heard in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse, 55 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstations. Children's court disposed of 1 case, courtroom 2 at the main courthouse disposed of 25 cases, courtroom 3 at the main courthouse disposed of 18 cases, Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse disposed of 5 cases, while the Annotto Bay outstation disposed of 6 cases. Of the 146 cases heard in the Annotto Bay Outstation, 15 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstations. Courtroom 1 at the main courthouse disposed of 7 cases, courtroom 2 at the main courthouse disposed of 6 cases, while courtroom 3 at the main courthouse disposed of 2 cases.

**Table 21.08: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Portland for the year ended December 31, 2023**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2023</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2023</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2023</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	400	291	14	55.87	76.25
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	6	4	1	0.84	83.33
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	15	8	0	2.09	53.33
Buff Bay Outstation (courtroom #1)	171	121	10	23.88	76.61
Buff Bay Outstation (Children’s Court)	44	6	2	6.15	18.18
Manchioneal Outstation	80	53	5	11.17	72.50
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>71.93</b>

*Note 1: There were 187 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 2023 calendar year. 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 55.87% of the total sample. In the 2023 calendar year, courtroom one also accounted for the majority of new cases heard with 58.27% of the sample of cases. Courtroom number 1 at the outstation in Buff Bay and Manchioneal outstation with 23.88% (compared to 23.38% in 2022) and 11.17% (compared to 13.34% in 2022) respectively of the total sample of the new cases heard in the period ranked next. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 in Port Antonio accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 291 cases, a 16.86% decline or 59 less cases compared to the 350 cases recorded in the corresponding 2022 calendar year; and had the third highest disposal rate of 76.25%. Courtroom 2 at the main courthouse and courtroom number one at the Buff Bay Outstation with disposal rates of 83.33% and 76.61% respectively ranked first and second on this

measure. The outstations in Portland account for a combined 41.20% of the new cases heard, which is an increase of 1.41 percentage points above the 39.79% recorded in the corresponding 2022 calendar year. The main courthouse in Port Antonio accounts for the remaining 58.80%, which is a decrease of 1.41 percentage below the 60.21% recorded in the 2022 calendar year.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 400 cases heard in courtroom number one at the main courthouse, 34 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstations. Courtrooms two and three at the main courthouse disposed of 9 cases and 22 cases respectively, the Manchioneal outstation disposed of 2 cases, while courtroom 1 at the Buff Bay Outstation disposed of 1 case. Of the 171 cases heard in courtroom 1 at the Buff Bay outstation, 4 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstations. Courtrooms 1 and 2 at the main courthouse disposed of 3 cases and 1 case respectively.

**Table 21.09: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Hanover for the year ended December 31, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in 2023	Number of inactive cases in 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	231	197	1	32.86	85.71
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	80	60	3	11.38	78.75
Green Island Outstation (courtroom #1)	143	133	2	20.34	94.41
Green Island Outstation (courtroom #2)	1	1	0	0.14	100.00
Green Island Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	22	20	0	3.13	90.91
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	50	40	1	7.11	82.00
Ramble Outstation (courtroom #1)	44	42	1	6.26	97.73
Ramble Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	5	3	1	0.71	80.00
Sandy Bay Outstation (courtroom #1)	104	95	0	14.79	91.35
Sandy Bay Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	23	20	0	3.27	86.96
<b>Total/ Weighted Average</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>88.19</b>

*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 Hanover in the 2023 calendar year. The data shows decisively that courtroom number one at the courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the year, with 32.86% of the total sample and is 0.09 percentage points below the 32.95% recorded in the corresponding 2022 calendar year. Courtroom one at the Green Island Outstation and courtroom one at the Sandy Bay outstation with 20.34% and 14.79% respectively rank next. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 197 cases, a 1.50% decline or 3 less cases than the 200 cases recorded in the corresponding 2022 calendar year. Courtroom 1 at the main courthouse also recorded the seventh highest case disposal rate of 85.71%, which is a decrease of 4.68 percentage points below the 90.39% reported in the comparative 2022 calendar year. Despite the relatively low absolute numbers, courtroom 1 at the outstation in Green Island recorded the highest disposal rate of 100%. The outstations in the parish account for 48.64% of the new cases heard during the year, which is an increase of 1.45 percentage points above the 47.19% recorded in the 2022 calendar year. The main courthouse accounts for the remaining 51.36%, which is a decrease of 1.45 percentage points below the 52.81% when compared to 2022.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 231 cases heard in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, 4 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstations. Courtroom 2 at the main courthouse and courtroom 1 at the Ramble outstation disposed of 1 case each and courtroom 1 at the Sandy

Bay outstation disposed of 2 cases. Of the 143 cases heard in courtroom number 1 at the Green Island outstation, 6 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstations. Courtroom 2 at the main courthouse disposed of 2 cases, courtroom 1 at the main courthouse disposed of 3 cases, and courtroom 1 at the Sandy Bay outstation disposed of 1 case.

**Table 21.10: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Ann for the year ended December 31, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in 2023	Number of inactive cases in 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
<b>St. Ann's Bay and the Claremont outstation</b>					
Church Hall (main courthouse)	8	2	4	0.59	75.00
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	351	216	93	25.98	88.03
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	428	265	90	31.68	82.94
Claremont Outstation (Children's Court)	30	8	4	2.22	40.00
Claremont Outstation	66	47	3	4.89	75.76
Claremont Outstation (Lay Magistrates' court)	18	4	9	1.33	72.22
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	45	16	25	3.33	91.11
<b>Brown's Town</b>					
Children's Court (main courthouse)	3	1	2	0.22	100.00
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	329	119	42	24.35	48.94
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	73	5	3	5.40	10.96
<b>Total/ Weighted Average</b>	<b>1351</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>70.91</b>

*Note 1: There were 476 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 year ended December 31, 2023.

The data shows that courtroom 2 in St. Ann's Bay (the main court) and courtroom 1 in St. Ann's Bay (the main court) account for the largest shares of new cases heard in the year with 31.68% and 25.98% respectively of the total sample. When compared to the 2022 calendar year, the data shows that courtroom 2 in St. Ann's Bay (main courthouse) and courtroom 1 in St. Ann's Bay (main courthouse) were also among the top three largest share of new cases heard in the year

with 17.89% and 42.74% respectively of the total sample. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom 2 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 265 cases and had a disposal rate of 82.94%. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse and the courtroom 1 at the main courthouse with disposal rates of 91.11% and 88.03% respectively were among the highest disposal rates for the year. As a whole, the Brown's Town court accounted for approximately 29.97% of the new cases filed in the parish of St. Ann in the 2023 calendar year, which is 5.85 percentage points above the 24.12% recorded in the corresponding 2022 calendar year. The St. Ann's Bay courthouse accounts for 61.58% of the new cases heard in the year and the Claremont outstation accounted for the remaining 8.45% of new cases.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 428 cases heard in courtroom number two at the main courthouse, 62 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstations. Courtroom 1 at the main courthouse disposed of 59 cases, Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse, the Claremont outstation and sittings at the Children's court at the Claremont outstation disposed of 1 case each. Of the 351 cases heard in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse, 53 case was disposed of in other courtrooms/outstations. Courtroom 2 at the main courthouse disposed of 51 cases, while Church Hall and the Claremont outstation disposed of 1 case each.

**Table 21.11: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Clarendon for the year ended December 31, 2023**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2023</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2023</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2023</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	618	472	43	43.31	83.33
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	198	128	13	13.88	71.21
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	69	41	1	4.84	60.87
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	69	40	24	4.84	92.75
Lionel Town Outstation	206	132	22	14.44	74.76
Chapleton Outstation	198	136	14	13.88	75.76
Frankfield Outstation	69	52	5	4.84	82.61
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>1427</b>	<b>1001</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>78.70</b>

*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 new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Clarendon in the year ended December 31, 2023. The available data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 in May Pen accounted for highest share of new cases heard in the year, with 43.31% of the total sample. The Lionel Town outstation account for the next highest shares of new cases heard in the year with 14.44% of the total sample. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 472 cases, a decrease of 12.43% or 67 cases less than the 539 disposed cases recorded for this courtroom in the 2022 calendar year and had the second highest disposal rate of 83.33%. Lay Magistrates’ sittings at the main courthouse with a disposal rate of 92.75% had the highest disposal rate and Frankfield outstation with a disposal rate of 82.61% was featured among the top 3. The main courthouse in May Pen accounted for 66.87% of cases heard in year, while the remaining 33.13% was accounted for by the outstations, which is a decrease of 0.62 percentage points less than the 33.75% recorded in 2022.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. There were 618 new cases heard in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse, of this amount, 26 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstations. Courtroom 2 at the main courthouse disposed of 6 cases, courtroom 3 at the main courthouse and night court disposed of 5 cases each, the Lionel Town outstation disposed of 8 cases, Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse and the Chapleton outstation disposed of 1 case each. There were 206 new cases heard in Lionel Town outstation, of this amount, 28 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstations. Courtroom 1 at the main courthouse disposed of 13 cases, courtroom 2 at the main courthouse disposed of 11 cases, courtroom 3 at the main courthouse disposed of 3 cases, while night court disposed of 1 case.

**Table 21.12: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Manchester for the year ended December 31, 2023**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2023</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2023</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2023</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	302	236	14	24.59	82.78
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	199	128	14	16.21	71.36
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	36	23	0	2.93	63.89
Cottage Outstation	19	14	1	1.55	78.95
Cottage Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	3	1	0	0.24	33.33
Christiana Outstation	93	56	7	7.57	67.74
Christiana Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	76	46	2	6.19	63.16
Spalding Outstation	72	42	5	5.86	65.28
Spalding Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	11	8	0	0.90	72.73
Porus Outstation	48	32	2	3.91	70.83
Porus Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	6	0	0	0.49	NA
Cross Keys Outstation	33	27	1	2.69	84.85
Cross Keys Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	11	1	0	0.90	9.09
Tax Court (main courthouse)	88	19	7	7.17	29.55
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	231	173	22	18.81	84.42
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>1228</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>71.74</b>

*Note 1: There were 30 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 year ended December 31, 2023. The data shows courtroom number one at the main courthouse accounted for the highest share of new cases heard in the year, with 302 cases or 24.59% of the total sample. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse and courtroom 2 at the main courthouse account for the next highest share of new cases heard in the year with 18.81% and 16.21% respectively of the total sample. In terms of the case disposal rate, the Cross Keys Outstation recorded the highest disposal rate of 84.85%, despite its proportionally low numbers, followed by Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse with 84.42% and courtroom 1 at the main courthouse with 82.78%. The main courthouse in Mandeville accounts for 69.71% of the total sample of new cases heard during the 2023 calendar year, which is an increase of 4.99 percentage point when compared to the 64.72% recorded in the 2022 calendar year. The remaining 30.29% was accounted for by the various outstations.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 302 cases heard in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse, courtroom 2 and 3 at the main courthouse disposed of 3 cases each. Of the 199 cases heard in courtroom 2 at the main courthouse, 16 cases were disposed of in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse.

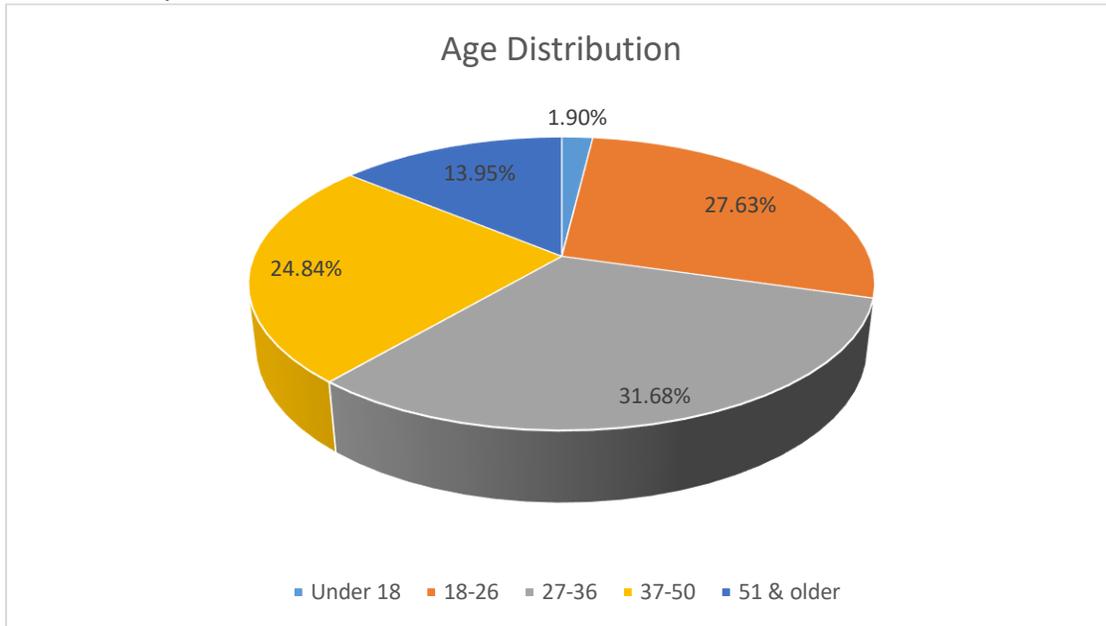
**Table 21.13: proportion of cases heard at the main court and outstation across all parish courts for the year ended December 31, 2023**

<b>Parish</b>	<b>Main Court 2023 (%)</b>	<b>Outstation 2023 (%)</b>
St. James	93.00	7.00
St. Catherine	62.01	37.99
Westmoreland	83.83	16.17
Hanover	51.36	48.64
St. Mary	62.35	37.65
Trelawny	3.36	96.64
St. Thomas	70.58	29.42
Manchester	69.71	30.29
Portland	58.80	41.20
St. Ann	61.58	38.42
Clarendon	66.87	33.13
Corporate Area	99.02	0.98
<b>Simple Averages</b>	<b>65.21</b>	<b>34.79</b>

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 65.21% of new cases filed were entered for initial hearing in the main courthouse locations, while 34.79% 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 and Westmoreland, in excess of 80% of the new cases filed were entered for initial hearing, with the usage being particularly acute in the Corporate Area Court Criminal Division, which had 99.02% 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 is a good example of courts with significant outstation usage, registering over 90% for initial hearing of new criminal cases filed in the year ended December 31, 2023. There may be opportunities for greater

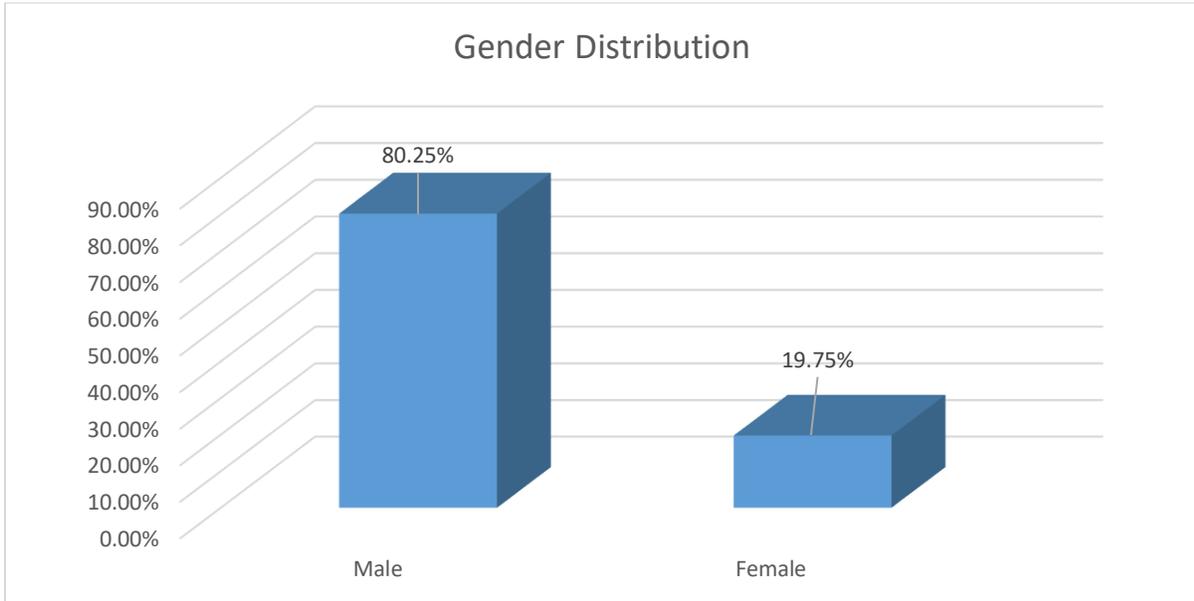
utilization of outstations to carry the caseload in some parishes, but such precise determinations require further analyses of total demand and supply, in each location.

**Chart 4.0: Aggregate age distribution of persons charged for all parish courts for the year ended December 31, 2023**



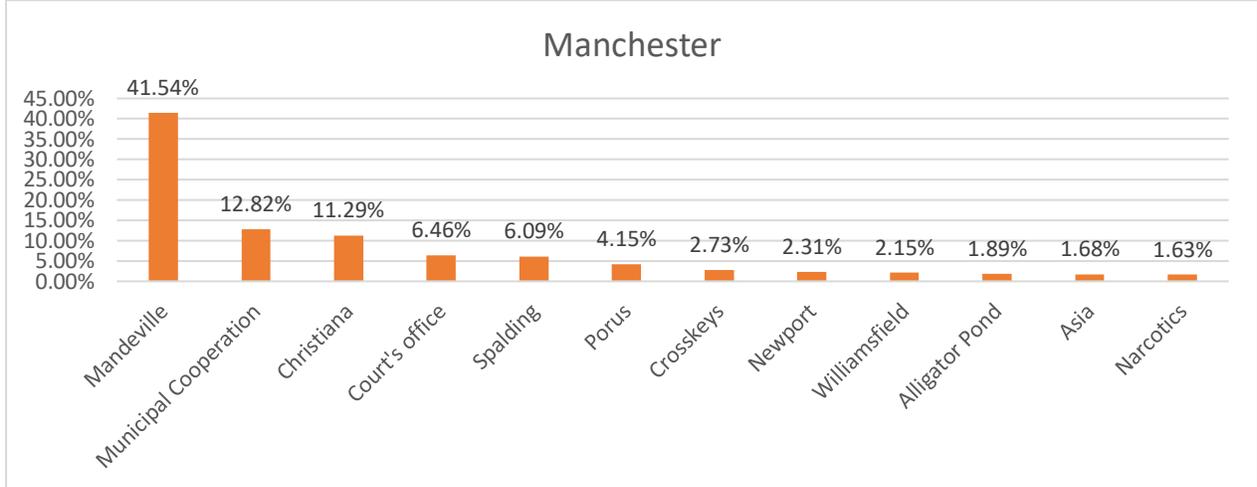
The above chart summarizes the age distribution of persons charged and brought before the criminal division of the parish courts in the 2023 calendar year. It is shown that the 27-36 age group with 31.68% accounted for the largest share of the persons charged, followed by the 18-26 age group with 27.63%. The lowest shares were attributed to the under 18 age group with 1.90% and 51 and over age group with 13.95%. The remaining proportion was accounted for by the 37-50 age group with 24.84% of the total sample.

**Chart 5.0: Aggregate gender distribution of persons charged for the year ended December 31, 2023**



The above chart shows that the overwhelming majority of persons charged for the 2023 calendar year were male, accounting for roughly 80.25% of the total sample, while females accounted for approximately 19.75%. The gender distribution of persons charged during the 2023 calendar year was broadly similar to the breakdown for the 2022 calendar year which had a male to female ratio of approximately 79.58% to 20.42%.

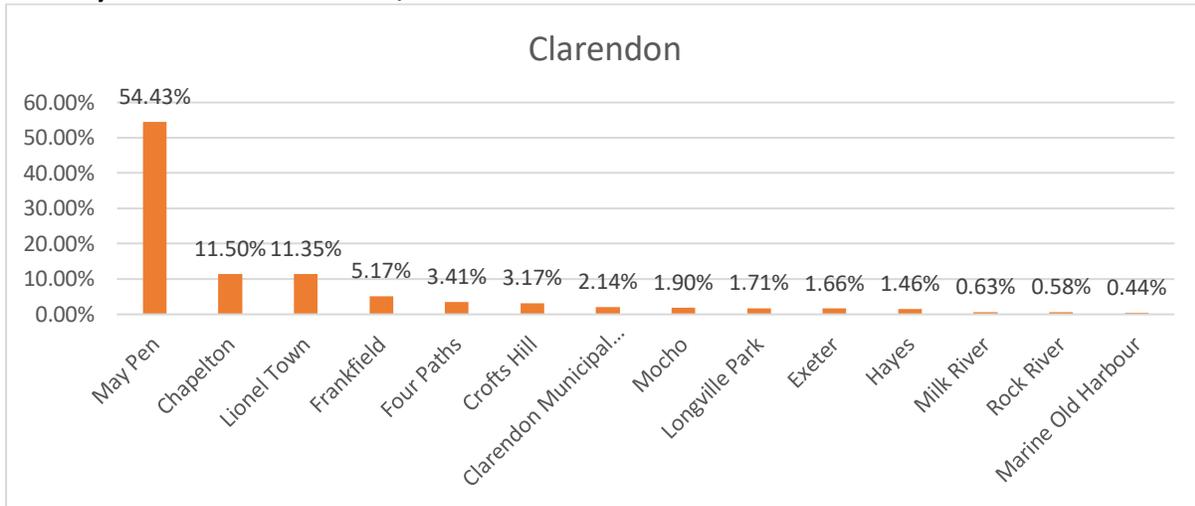
**Chart 6.01: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Manchester Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2023**



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 1,904 records indicate that for the 2023 calendar year the highest proportion of charges, 41.54%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Mandeville Police Station. This was followed by the Municipal Corporation, which accounts for 12.82% of the total sample of matters reported. The Christiana police station rounded off the top three with 11.29%. In the corresponding 2022 calendar year, the top three comprised of the Mandeville Police Station, the Christiana Police Station, and the Parish council.

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

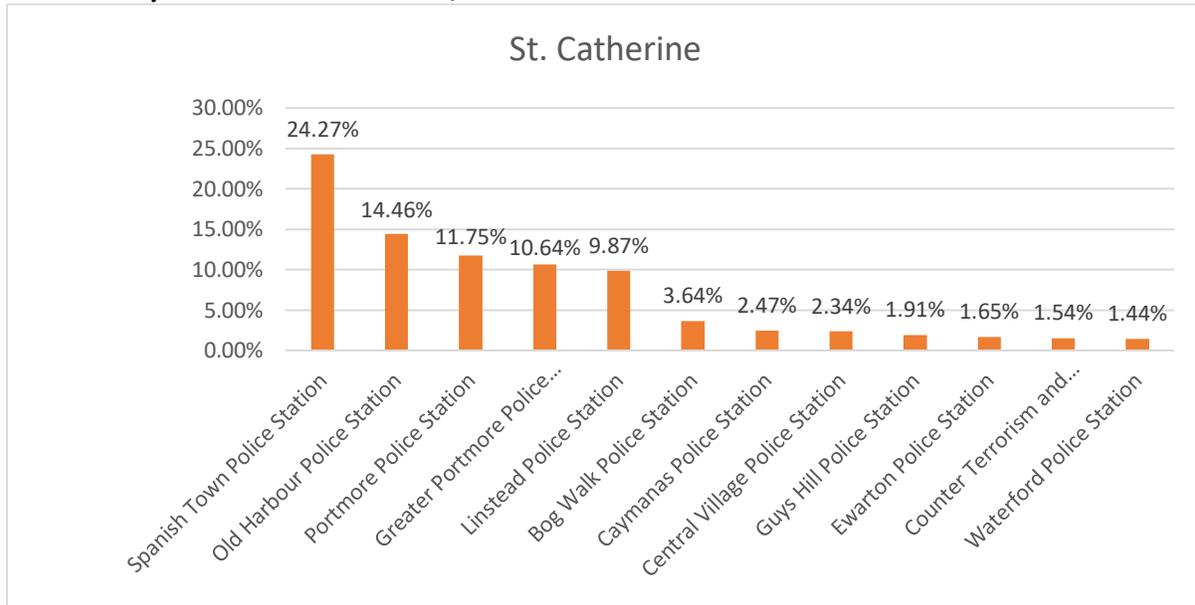
**Chart 6.02: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Clarendon Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2023**



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 2,052 records indicate that for the 2023 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 54.43%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the May Pen Police Station. This was followed by the Chapelton Police Station which accounts for 11.50% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Lionel Town Police Station with 11.35%. In the previous 2022 calendar year, the top three comprised of the May Pen Police Station, the Lionel Town and the Chapelton Police Station.

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

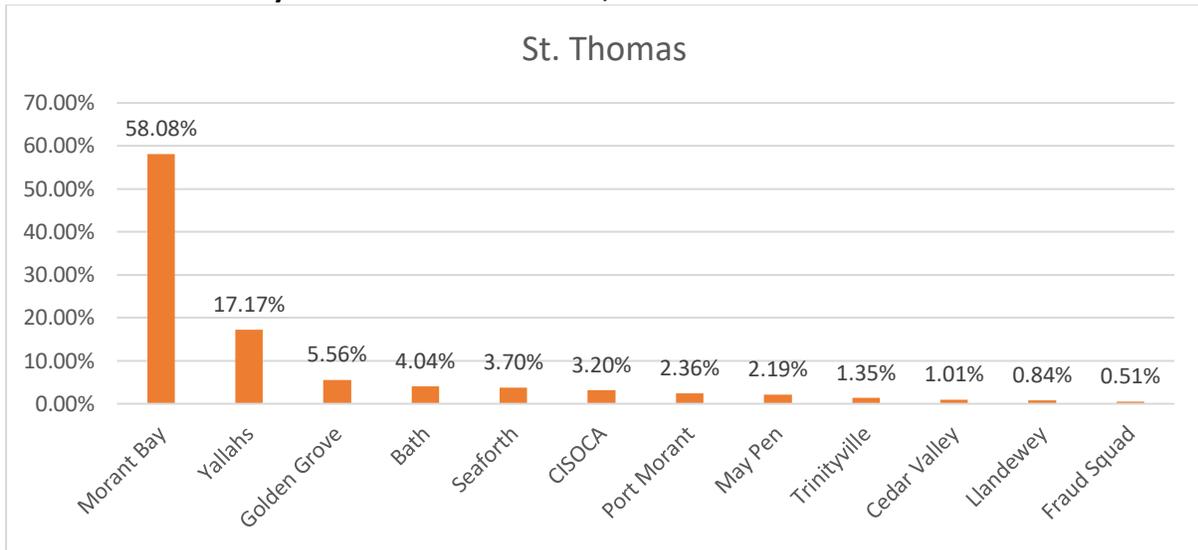
**Chart 6.03: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Catherine Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2023**



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 5,139 records indicate that for the 2023 calendar year, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 24.27%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Spanish Town Police Station. This was followed by the Old Harbour Police Station which accounts for 14.46% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by Portmore Police Station with 11.75%. In the previous 2022 calendar year, the top three comprised of the Spanish Town Police Station, the Linstead and the Old Harbour Police Station.

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

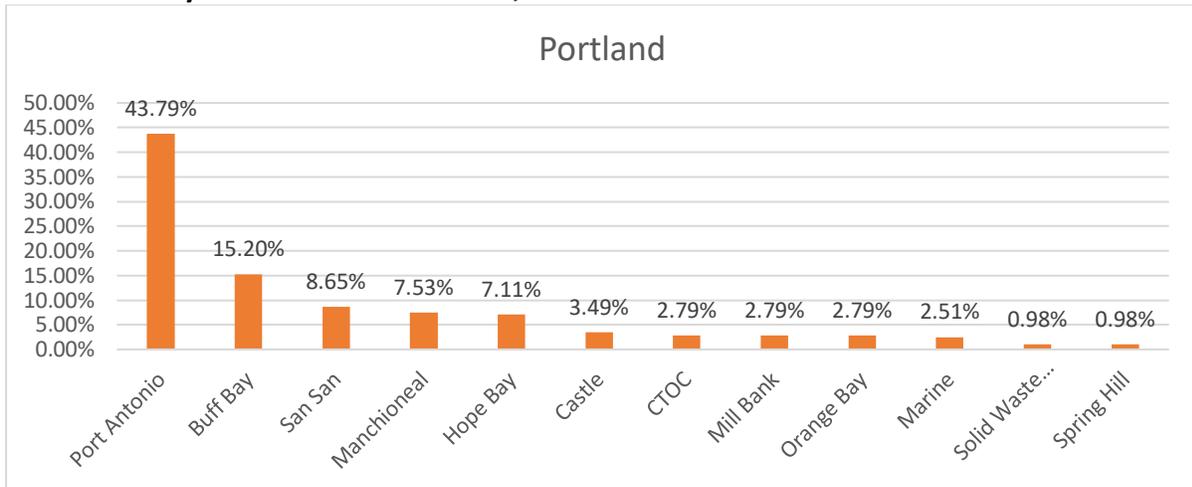
**Chart 6.04: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Thomas Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2023**



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 594 records indicate that for the 2023 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 58.08%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Morant Bay Police Station. This was followed by the Yallahs Police Station which accounts for 17.17% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Golden Grove Police Station with 5.56%. In the previous 2022 calendar year, the top three comprised of the Morant Bay Police Station, the Yallahs Police Station and the Golden Grove Police Station.

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

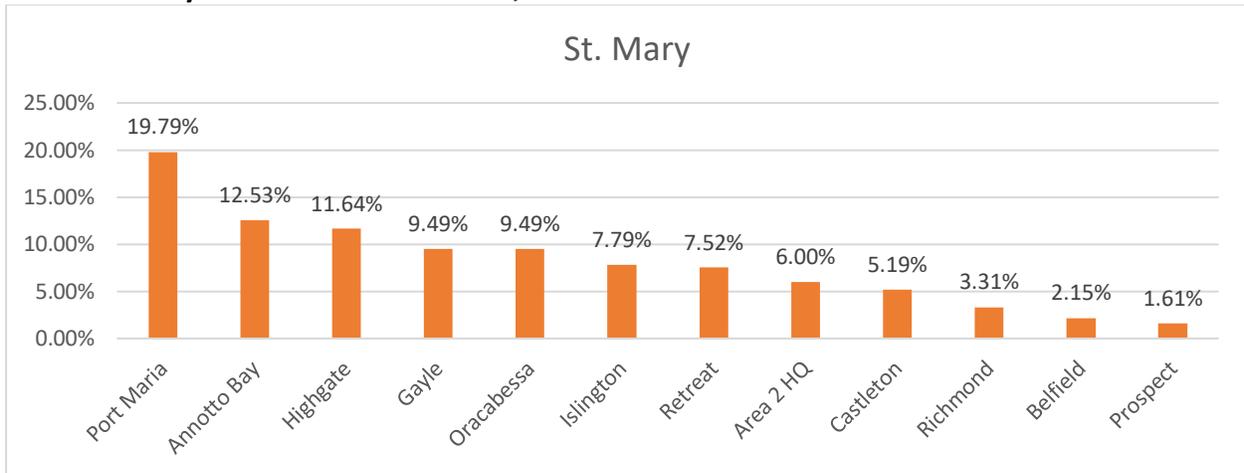
**Chart 6.05: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Portland Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2023**



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 717 records indicate that for the 2023 calendar year, the highest proportion of criminal matters, 43.79%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Port Antonio Police Station. This was followed by the Buff Bay Police Station, which accounts for 15.20% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the San San Police Station with 8.65%. In the previous 2022 calendar year, the top three comprised of the Port Antonio Police Station, the Buff Bay Police Station and the Manchioneal Police Station.

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

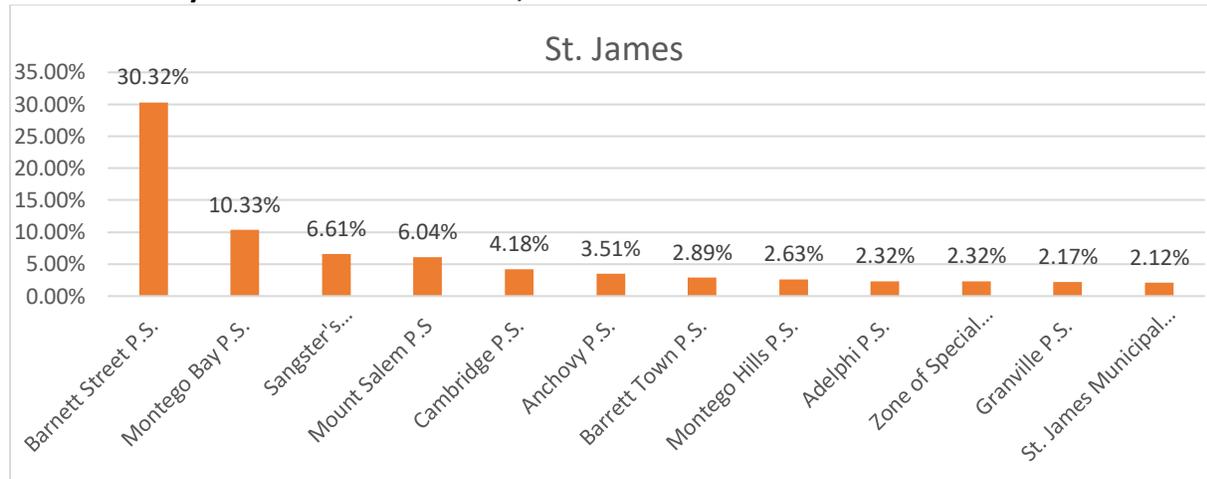
**Chart 6.06: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Mary Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2023**



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 1,117 records indicate that for the 2023 calendar year, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 19.79%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Port Maria Police Station. This was followed by the Annotto Bay Police Station which accounts for 12.53% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Highgate Police Station with 11.64%. In the previous 2022 calendar year, the top three comprised of the Port Maria Police Station, the Annotto Bay Police Station and the Highgate Police Station.

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

**Chart 6.07: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. James Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2023**



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 1,936 records indicate that for the 2023 calendar year, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 30.32%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Barnett Street Police Station. This was followed by the Montego Bay Police Station, which accounts for 10.33% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Sangster’s International Airport Police Station with 6.61%. In the previous 2022 calendar year, the top three comprised of the Barnett Street Police Station, the Montego Bay Police station and the National Environment and planning Agency.

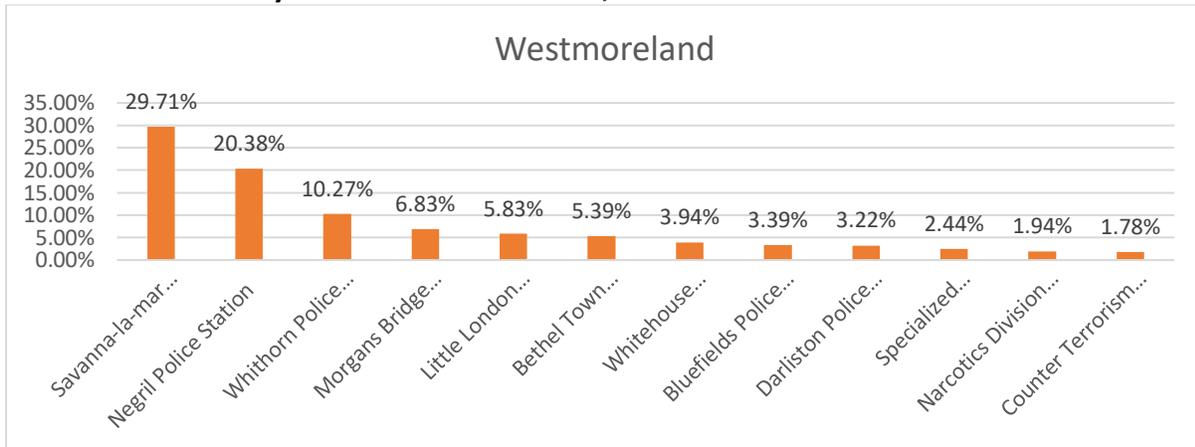
This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 6.08: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Corporate Area Criminal Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2023**



Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 8,639 records indicate that for the 2023 calendar year, the highest proportion of criminal matters, 13.14%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the N.S.W.M.A Police Station. This was followed by the St. Andrew Central Police Station which accounts for 10.26% of the sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the St. Andrew South Police Station with 9.98%. In the previous 2022 calendar year, the top three comprised of the St. Andrew Central Police Station, the P.S.T.E.B Police and the St. Andrew North Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

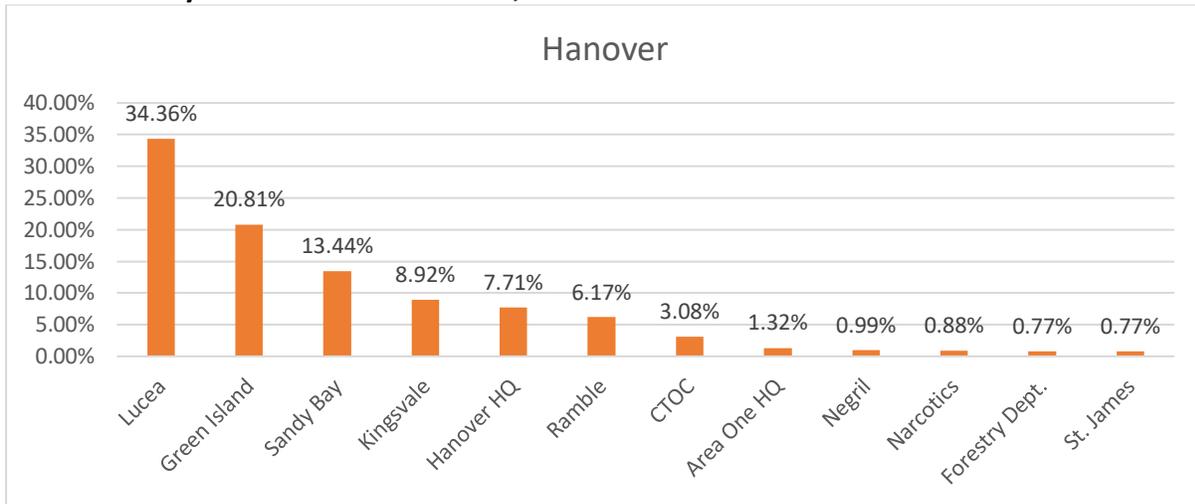
**Chart 6.09: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2023**



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 1,801 records indicate that for the 2023 calendar year, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 29.71%, 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 20.38% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Whithorn Police Station with 10.27%. In the previous 2022 calendar year, the top three comprised of the Savanna-la-mar Police Station, the Negril Police Station and Morgans Bridge Police Station.

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

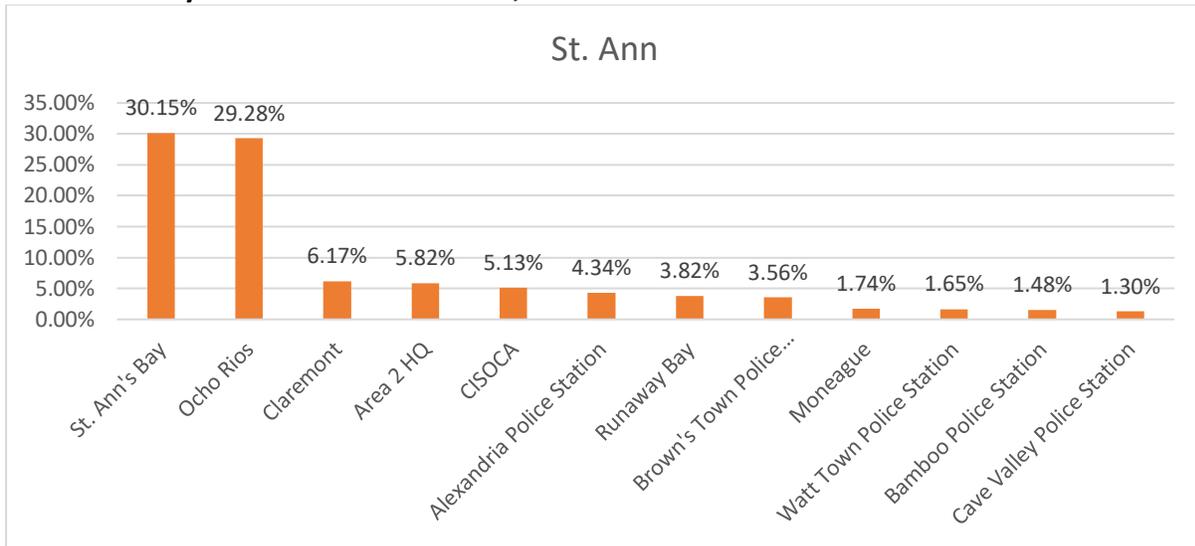
**Chart 6.10: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Hanover Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2023**



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 908 records indicate that for the 2023 calendar year, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 34.36%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Lucea Police Station. This was followed by the Green Island Police Station, which accounts for 20.81% of the sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Sandy Bay Police Station with 13.44%. In the previous 2022 calendar year, the top three comprised of the Lucea Police Station, Green Island Police Station and the Sandy Bay Police Station.

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

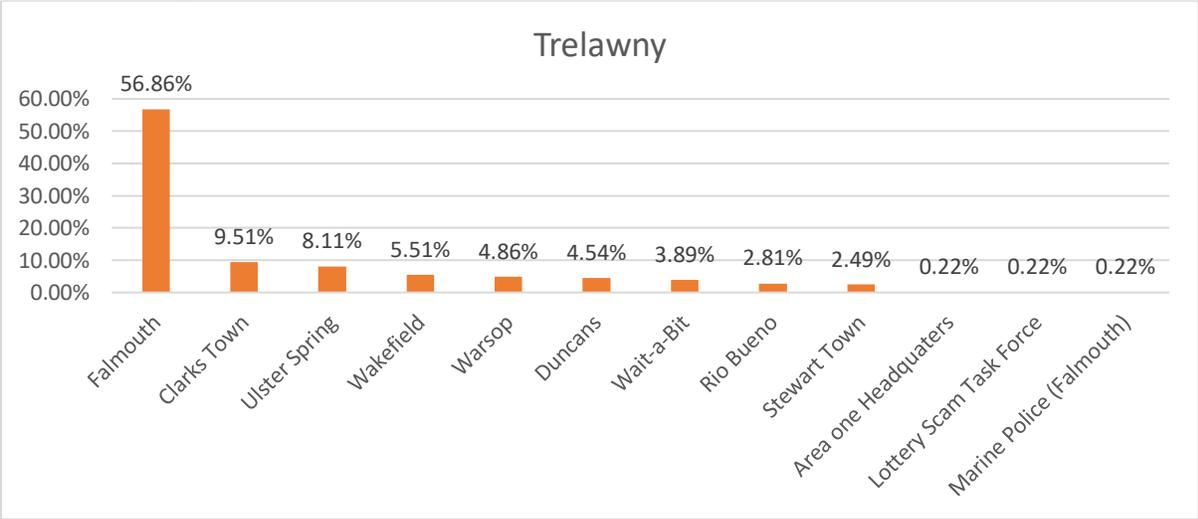
**Chart 6.11: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Ann Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2023**



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 1,151 records indicate that for the 2023 calendar year, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 30.15%, 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 29.28% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Claremont Police Station with 6.17%. In the previous 2022 calendar year, the top three comprised of the Ocho Rios Police Station, the St. Ann's Bay Police Station and the Alexandria Police Station.

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

**Chart 6.12: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Trelawny Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2023**



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 925 records indicate that for the 2023 calendar year, the majority of charges, 56.86%, 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 9.51% of total sample of matters reported. The Ulster Spring Police station rounded off the top three with 8.11%. In the previous 2022 calendar year, the top three comprised of the Falmouth Police Station, Ulster Spring Police Station and the Wait-a-Bit Police Station.

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

## Conclusion

The criminal division of the parish courts is now well established as consistently one of the most efficient areas of the Jamaican judiciary and arguable among the most efficient in delivering justice in the Caribbean and Latin American region. In 2023, approximately 74.47% of the 20388 new cases filed were either disposed or became inactive while the overall case clearance rate exceeded the 100% mark, netting out at a rate of 106.61%, with 8 of the 13 courts outpacing the 100% mark. Furthermore, across the criminal division of the parish courts, 36.33% of cases disposed were resolved within 90 days and 75.05% were resolved within 12 months. Additionally, the overall average time that it took for criminal cases in the parish courts to be disposed in 2023 was roughly 299 days or almost 10 months while as at the end of the year, only 2.35% of active cases were in state of backlog (net backlog rate), however when active and inactive cases are combined, 16.92% of the undisposed case inventory are currently in a state of backlog. The overall case congestion rate in the criminal division of the parish courts stand at a rate of 140.49% which is above the desired tolerable level of about 115%, however it is in a much improved state compared to past years. The overall picture is positive with the current strategic thrust is likely to continuously improve.

With eight years of extensive data on criminal case activity in the parish courts of Jamaica, the Statistics Unit applied Lagrange multiplier techniques to determine that a highly successful court must meet the following minimum requirements in order to satisfy the efficiency threshold for the sustainable containment of the case backlog and to provide optimal service to the public. The required minimum annual parameters are summarized below:

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE’S ANNUAL STATISTICS REPORT ON CRIMINAL MATTERS IN  
THE PARISH COURTS-2022**

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Minimum Required Standard</b>
Case disposal rate	>=70%
Case clearance rate	>=95%
Case congestion rate	<=115%
Trial Date Certainty Rate	>=85%
Net case backlog rate	<=5%
Gross case backlog rate	<=10%
Average number of mentions per case	<=3

The Statistics Unit has determined that if any court or jurisdiction can consistently achieve these rates, it will attain a high level of efficiency and service excellence. These have been illustrated in the criminal divisions of several parish courts over the past eight years in the Jamaican court system, including the parish courts of Westmoreland, Hanover and St. Mary. These courts have the enviable status of less than 0.20% of active cases, meaning that there is a close to zero probability that a case filed at this court will remain active for more than two years, an outstanding accomplishment which is worthy of acclaim. The Parish Courts of Jamaica are poised to be among the best performing in the world within the coming years.

The overall forecasted case clearance rate for the criminal division of the parish courts in 2024 is 108.53, with the parish courts of St. Elizabeth, Manchester and St. Ann expected to be the leading performers on this metric.

### Glossary of Statistical 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 system. <sup>i</sup>

**Disposal rate:** As distinct from clearance rate, the disposal rate is the proportion of new cases filed which have been disposed in a particular period. For example, if 100 new cases are filed in a particular Term and 80 of those cases were disposed in said Term, then the disposal rate is 80%.

**Note:** A persistent case clearance rate of less than 100% will eventually lead to a backlog of cases in the court system.<sup>ii</sup>

**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 the 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 measure of the distribution of scores in a data set. It gives an idea of where the larger proportion of the scores in a data set can be found. Generally, if skewness is positive as revealed by a positive value for this measure, this suggests that a greater proportion of the scores in the data set are at the lower end. If the skewness is negative as revealed by a negative value for this measure, it generally suggests that a greater proportion of the scores are at the higher

end. If the skewness measure is approximately 0, then there is roughly equal distribution of scores on both the higher and lower ends of the average figure.

**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  $\alpha$ — 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 or data that shows trends and seasonality.

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<sup>i</sup> Source:

<http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/bestpractice/BestPracticeCaseAgeClearanceRates.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> Source:

<http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/bestpractice/BestPracticeCaseAgeClearanceRate>

