



## Parish Courts Of Jamaica

# The Chief Justice's Second Quarter Statistics Report on Criminal Matters in the Parish Courts

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# THE CHIEF JUSTICE’S SECOND QUARTER STATISTICS REPORT ON CRIMINAL MATTERS IN THE PARISH COURTS

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## **Chief Justice's Message**

This is the first quarterly report since it was declared that Jamaica's court system will be backlog free in six years. It provides the encouraging statistic that the average clearance rate is now 108%, that is, 108 cases are being disposed of, for every 100 cases entering the courts.

This sets the foundation for achieving the main goal of clearing the backlog in criminal cases in six years. It is important to note that for the first time since 2016 when this method of compiling statistics began nine Parish Courts have had clearance rates over 100% ranging from 102.36% (St Catherine) to 160.95% (St Elizabeth). Eleven Parish Courts had clearance rates of over 90% with twelve Parish Courts having clearance rates of greater than 80%. The lowest case clearance rate was Clarendon at 79%. This therefore means that eleven Parish Courts exceeded the international bench mark of 90%. With the average clearance rate at 108% there is a clear indication of steady progress being made in clearing the backlog of cases and if the current trend continues, along with other core measurements such as hearing date certainty, the Parish Courts are on course to clear the backlog in criminal matters within the projected six years.

A critical component of success is hearing date /event certainty, that is, the likelihood of the stated event taking place on the date it is was scheduled. The standard set for the Judiciary is 95%. The international standard is 92%. For this quarter, only one court (Westmoreland 98%) exceeded the standard set. However, it is important to note that three courts (Westmoreland 98%, Portland 92%, St James 92%) either met or exceeded the international standard. Only two courts fell below 70% (Corporate Area Criminal 56%, Hanover 48%). This is a steady improvement and continues the upward trend which needs to be maintained.

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What is obvious from the data collected over the years is that if there is a steady increase in clearance rates and a high clearance rate of at least 95% significant inroads will be made in removing the backlog.

An important highlight that must be mentioned is that a sample of the data reveals that over the past twenty-eight months 45.28% of cases across the Parish Courts were disposed of within ninety days of entry into those courts.

By any analysis, what has been achieved in the Parish Courts is nothing short of remarkable given the difficult circumstances in which many of the courts operate. The court rooms are old and in need of substantial repair if not replacement. Despite the less than ideal environment, the Parish Court Judges remain committed to serving the people of Jamaica and all court users

With better case management, caseload management, reduction of the time necessary for third parties to provide documents and better records management, it is expected that further improvements can still be made.

The strategic plan for the entire judiciary supplemented by strategic plans for each court will assist in the efficient delivery of legal services by ensuring better utilization of human, material and financial resources. Under these plans, appropriate measures supported by proper initiatives will see consolidation and improvement on the gains made so far.

It is expected that some of the cases within our Courts will be referred to and addressed by other dispute resolution mechanisms such as mediation and restorative justice.

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I wish to thank the Parish Court Judges, the court staff, attorneys at law, the police, probation officers and others. Mention must be made of the support provided by the Ministry of Justice in their continued attempt to renovate and provide the necessary infrastructure for the hearing of matters and the Court Management Services in providing administrative services to the courts and the Judiciary at large. None of this would be possible without these two entities. Finally, I must pay tribute to Dr Denarto Dennis and the dedicated team of statisticians and statistical entry clerks whose tireless efforts made this report possible.

With what has been achieved so far, the next two quarterly reports are eagerly anticipated.

**Bryan Sykes OJ, CD**

**Chief Justice**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This statistical report on criminal matters in the Parish Courts of Jamaica is for the second quarter ended June 30, 2019. This report interrogates a number of vital measures, which provides insights into the operations of the parish courts on both an individual and an aggregated basis. It forms an important basis for understanding criminal case activity and delay factors in the parish courts as well as important characteristics of criminal cases. The quarterly and annual statistics reports also provide the foundation for monitoring critical performance metrics which have been set out by the Honourable Chief Justice, among which is the attainment of a court-wide average of a 95% trial date certainty rate over the next six years and a minimum court-wide clearance rate of 130%. The simultaneous attainment of these rates is necessary to eliminate the criminal case backlog.

The aggregate new case count in the parish courts for the quarter was 6845 cases, down by 6.92% when compared to the 7354 new cases recorded in the second quarter of 2018. The Corporate Area Parish Court- Criminal Division with 1261 or 18.42% of the total, followed by the St. Catherine and St. James Parish Courts with 975 or 14.24% and 625 or 9.13% respectively, account for the three largest proportions of the new cases filed in the second quarter of 2019. These three courts also ranked first to third in terms of share of aggregate new cases filed throughout 2018 and the first quarter of 2019. The parish courts of Hanover, St. Thomas and Trelawny accounted for the lowest shares of the aggregate new cases filed, each with under 4.5% of the total caseload in the quarter.

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The overall average disposal rate for cases originating in the quarter was 45.61%, a decline of 0.8 percentage points when compared to the second quarter of 2018. The Hanover Parish Court topped the disposal rate for the first time since this type of reporting began, recording a rate of 59.92%. The St. James Parish Court (56.80%) and the St. Catherine Parish Court (55.08%), both courts being staples in the top quintile of the various performance measures, followed them. Since the disposal rate measures the proportion of new cases disposed in the quarter, the top performing courts on this measure demonstrate commendable output. Notably, the Clarendon Parish Court entered the top five on this measure for the first time since this type of reporting began. The parish courts of St. Ann, Manchester and Portland demonstrate the lowest disposal rates for the quarter. The St. Ann parish court had a disposal rate of 28.24 %, while the Manchester and Portland Parish Courts had disposal rates of 34.50% and 38.81% respectively. As the court system strives towards improving productivity and higher disposal rates, the probability of attaining such standards can be greatly strengthened by continuous improvements in case management across the courts. The optimization of resource alignments and the adoption of a more scientific method of scheduling cases in open court.

A measure, which is closely related to the case disposal rate, is the case clearance rate, which provides a measure of the number of cases disposed for every new case filed in a particular period. This is simply a productivity index as the disposed cases, which are included in its computation, could have originated before the period of focus. For the first time, the St. Elizabeth Parish Court emerged with the highest clearance rate with 160.95%, ahead of the St. James Parish Court with 133.76% and the St. Mary Parish Court with 116.72% rounding off the top three performing courts on this measure for the quarter. The overall case clearance rate for the second quarter was a promising 108.45%, the highest overall rate recorded since the commencement of these reports in 2016, superseding the

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previous highest recorded in the first quarter of 2019. This output suggests that for every 100 new cases that were filed in the parish courts, roughly 108 were disposed (including cases originating prior to the quarter). There is a direct association between the case disposal and case clearance rates as a poor case disposal rate will result from the persistence of poor case clearance rates. It is important to point out that a persistent case clearance rate of fewer than 100% will accelerate the case backlog and therefore the standard, which should be attained on an annual basis, is between 90% and 110%, based on International best practices in developed jurisdictions. It is of note that 11 of the parish courts exceeded a clearance rate of 90% in the second quarter, with 9 scoring above 100%, an unprecedented feat since this type of reporting began.

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 implied state of resources. The higher the case congestion rate of a court, the more burdensome the caseload, again within the context of the existing rates of clearance and the implied state of resources. The case congestion rate for any single quarter is quite insightful however, a longer time series of typically a year or over is ideal when generalizing from this metric. It is not surprising that most of the parish courts, which have demonstrated a longer time series of high case clearance and case disposal rates, are among those with the lowest case congestion rates. In particular, the parish courts of St. Catherine and Westmoreland, which have consistently been among the courts with the highest productivity rates for the past three years, rank in the top quintile (best performers) on case congestion rate. The inverse empirical association between the case clearance and case congestion rates is further depicted by the St. Elizabeth Parish Court, which



had the highest clearance rate for the quarter and moved into the rank of courts with the lowest congestion rates, a first for this court in these reports. A similar observation is made for the St. Mary Parish Court which has ranked among the top three courts on clearance rate for the past two quarters. The rarely attained prescribed benchmark of 100% case congestion rate would mean that a court is operating optimally and that it is realizing its maximum clearance rate potential. All parish courts exceeded this figure in the second quarter of 2019, an indication that there is either capacity to improve on the efficiency with which existing resources are used and/or in improving the case clearance rates.

The idea of more efficient use of resources positively influencing the case congestion rates is underscored by the results on the courtroom utilization rate, which suggests that the overall rate in the parish courts for the second quarter is roughly 63%. This implies that on average 3 out of every 5 available hours for open court hearings were utilized in the second quarter. The unutilized 37% suggests that with more efficient scheduling and case management, the productivity of the courts could significantly increase, reducing the case congestion rates to far more manageable levels. The parish courts of Portland (86.53%), St. Ann (77.57%) and Trelawny (67%) had the highest overall courtroom utilization rate in the second quarter of 2019. This measure will become more instructive when a longer time series is built up. The prescribed international standard for the courtroom utilization rate is 100%.

Another essential measure, which is an important cornerstone in the drive to bring Jamaica among the best performing court systems in the world in six years, is the trial date certainty rate. This provides a measurement of the likelihood that dates set for trial will commence as scheduled

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(without being adjourned to future dates). The perfect rate of 100% would suggest that all dates set for trial proceed as scheduled in the relevant period. The overall trial date certainty in the second quarter was 79.15%, up from 77% in the corresponding quarter in 2018 but down by 2.85 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2019. The top three parish courts on this measure were Westmoreland (98%) and Portland and St. James with 92% for the quarter while six other parish courts recorded a rate of 80% or over for the quarter. The parish courts of Hanover (48%) and the Corporate Area (56%) had the lowest trial date certainty rates for the second quarter of 2019.

On the matter of caseload distribution in the individual parishes, the data shows that in many cases the outstation courts in the respective parishes are carrying a notable share of the caseload. The overall average number of new cases heard in outstations in the first quarter of 2018 is 30%, while 70% were heard at the main parish court locations, roughly similar to the distribution throughout 2018 and the first quarter of 2019. The variance is however quite wide among the parish courts as it seen that in parishes like Hanover, St. Catherine, Manchester, Clarendon, St. Elizabeth and St. Ann the use of outstation courts is 25% or over, while in parishes like St. James and the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division, under 10% of new cases were heard in such courts. The evidence again suggests 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 easing the case congestion.

The largest proportion of cases disposed in the first quarter was by way of guilty pleas, accounting for 57.69% of the cases disposed. This was followed by cases dismissed, which was responsible for 16.14% of the cases disposed. It is of note that guilty verdicts accounted for 1.74% of the matters

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disposed, while mediated settlements accounted for 10.45% and not guilty verdicts 9.20%. Taken together, the data therefore reveals a conviction rate of 59.43% for the second quarter of 2019, a decline of 3.81 percentage points when compared to the second quarter of 2018. Further analysis of the data suggests that among the cases originating over the past 31 months which were disposed in the third quarter of 2018; roughly 45.28% were disposed within 90 days, which is quite an encouraging result that is consistent with the generally improved clearance rates seen across the parish courts during the year so far.

In terms of the distribution of case types, the report highlights that the largest proportion of the criminal cases filed in the courts were Indictments with approximately 40.68% of all matters. This is followed by Summary Matters with a roughly 30.70% and Lay Magistrates matters with approximately 15.43% of the total. It is of note that Committal Proceedings accounted for 9.4% of all criminal matters filed in the parish courts during the quarter.

An important delay factor, which affects the efficiency with which cases move towards disposition, is the incidence of adjournments in the parish courts. The report suggests that the dominant reasons for adjournments for the quarter were due to mediation referrals with 15.30%, the issuance of warrants for non-appearance of the accused (DNA- warrant issued) with an estimated 12.42% of all adjournments, and outstanding fingerprints with roughly 11.28% of the total. Also featuring prominently on the lists of reasons for adjournment across the courts are outstanding medical reports and subpoenas of investigating officers.

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The three most frequent criminal charges filed in the parish courts in the quarter were assault occasioning bodily harm with 12.97%, unlawful wounding with 9.20% and possession of offensive weapon with 5.73% of the total number of charges. The vast majority of offences were committed by males, accounting for roughly 82.05% of all charges filed during the quarter. The dominant age group of offenders was the 20 - 26 and 27 – 36 age groups accounting for roughly 26.67% and 28.86% respectively of all offences filed in the parish courts in the second quarter of 2019.

The most up to date estimated backlog of criminal cases in the parish courts is 25,145 cases, which is below the combined annual criminal caseload. This represents incremental and sustained reductions over the past 24 months. A criminal case is considered to be in backlog if it has been in the court system for more than two years without disposal.

## **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 policy making 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 based 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. The primary data used to produce this report is for a continuous period of at least 27 months for each court. The Corporate Area Criminal Court has the shortest time series among the courts. The metrics used in the report adjust for time period variations, thus placing no court at a disadvantage in terms of comparisons.

A monthly statistical report is produced 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 from the Statistics Unit through the Office of the Chief Justice.

### **Structure of report**

The report is divided into two main sections. Chapter 1.0 explores case activity statistics by examining the caseload carried by each parish court in aggregate and by quarter as well the associated disposal rates, clearance rates and case congestion rates as appropriate. This section also examines the distribution of the different types of cases filed in the respective courts as well as the most commonly occurring charges and the trial date certainty ratios. The common reasons for adjournment and the distribution of the methods of case disposition are also examined in this section along with the overall conviction rate.

Chapter 2.0 examines case demographics including age and gender distribution of offenders as well as a sample estimate of the geographical distribution of charges based on the police station where matters are reported. This section also examines the distribution of new cases heard in the quarter by the respective outstations in each parish.

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## Chapter 1.0: Criminal Case Activity Statistics in the Parish Courts for the quarter ended March 31, 2019

This chapter provides an assessment of criminal case activity in the parish courts for the second quarter ended June 30, 2019. This includes analysis of the criminal caseload, rates of case disposal, clearance and congestion as well as case statuses in the various courts over the period, assessments of trial certainty rates, common methods of disposition and reasons for adjournment.

**Table 1.0: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the quarter ended June 30, 2019**

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	number of inactive cases	Number of disposed cases	Active Pending Case Load	Case disposal Rate (%)
Hanover	247	11	137	99	59.92
St. James	625	87	268	270	56.80
St. Catherine	975	122	415	438	55.08
Corporate Area Criminal	1261	275	412	574	54.48
Clarendon	538	52	214	272	49.44
St. Thomas	251	14	108	129	48.61
St. Mary	323	52	103	168	47.99
St. Elizabeth	402	25	136	241	40.05
Trelawny	265	9	96	160	39.62
Westmoreland	598	29	206	363	39.30
Portland	288	20	92	176	38.89
Manchester	516	30	148	338	34.50
St. Ann	556	92	65	399	28.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>6845</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>2400</b>	<b>3627</b>	
<b>Average/Weighted Average</b>	<b>526.54</b>	<b>62.92</b>	<b>184.62</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>45.61</b>
<b>Standard deviation</b>	<b>301.77</b>	<b>72.83</b>	<b>116.3</b>	<b>138.69</b>	<b>9.59</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.445</b>	<b>2.335</b>	<b>1.261</b>	<b>0.694</b>	<b>-0.176</b>

The table above shows the aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the quarter ended June 30, 2019. A total of 6,845 new criminal cases were filed across the parish courts, an increase of 58 matters when compared to the previous quarter. A total of 3,218 cases

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were either disposed or became inactive, resulting in a gross disposal rate of 45.61 %. In the corresponding 2018 quarter 7,354 cases were filed, while 3,696 cases were either disposed or inactive which resulted in a disposal rate of 46.41%. When compared to the corresponding quarter in 2018, there was a decrease of 509 or 6.92% in the number of cases filed and decrease of 501 or 17.27% in the number of cases disposed. The overall case disposal rate therefore declined by a marginal 0.8% when compared to the second quarter of 2018 and declined by 7.53 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2019.

The best performing courts in relation to case disposal rates for the second quarter of 2019 were the Hanover with (59.92%), the St. James Parish Court (56.80%) and the St. Catherine Parish Court (55.08%). The first quarter of 2019 had the Westmoreland Parish Court (64.09%), the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division (63.75%) and St. Catherine (60.76%) as the top three performing courts. The bottom three courts on this measure were the parish courts of Portland (38.89%), Manchester (34.50%) and St. Ann (28.24%) parish courts. The Hanover parish court moved from a disposal rate of 44.50% in the similar quarter of 2018 to roughly 60% in the current Apr.-Jun. 2019 second quarter while the three bottom courts were also among the courts with the weakest output in the corresponding 2018 quarter. The Westmoreland Parish Courts is among those with the most pronounced decline in case disposal rate, both in comparison to the first quarter of 2019 and the corresponding period in 2018. It is also of note that the Clarendon Parish Court has entered the top five performing courts on this measure for the first time since 2016.

The skewness of the number of new cases filed, the number of cases disposed and the active pending case load are all moderately to highly positive, which is an indication that the majority of the courts fall below the average count in each case. These inferences are supported by



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the moderately high standard deviations which indicate some amount of variability of the scores from the mean individual series. The skewness of the case disposal rates is however low negative, which is an indication that the larger proportion of the courts had disposal rates falling below the overall average.

**Table 2.0: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court as at June 30, 2019.**

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed in quarter	Number of Disposed cases in Apr.-Jun. quarter	Number of Inactive cases in Apr-Jun. quarter	Grand total number of inactive cases (2016-2019)	Grand total number of disposed cases (2016-2019)	Grand Active Pending Case Load b/f Apr.01,2019	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
St. Elizabeth	402	352	295	530	2473	525	160.95	143.28
St. James	625	563	273	1879	7305	1071	133.76	202.87
St. Mary	323	320	57	621	2519	512	116.72	221.49
Trelawny	265	249	59	224	2164	776	116.23	337.99
St. Thomas	251	245	32	329	2559	557	110.36	291.70
Corporate Area Criminal	1261	927	437	4330	8794	1723	108.17	218.77
Manchester	516	418	136	3233	1807	1215	107.36	312.45
Portland	288	235	64	759	2423	594	103.82	294.98
St. Catherine	975	795	206	2192	7508	954	102.67	192.71
Westmoreland	598	492	97	897	4183	466	98.49	180.65
Hanover	247	202	26	57	2305	438	92.31	300.44
St. Ann	556	388	57	2105	2972	2062	80.04	588.31
Clarendon	538	352	73	660	3457	2796	79.00	784.47
<b>Total</b>	<b>6845</b>	<b>5538</b>	<b>1812</b>	<b>17816</b>	<b>50469</b>	<b>13689</b>		
<b>Average</b>	<b>526.54</b>	<b>426.00</b>	<b>139.38</b>	<b>1370.46</b>	<b>3882.23</b>	<b>1053.00</b>	<b>108.45</b>	<b>313.09</b>
<b>Standard deviation</b>	<b>301.77</b>	<b>220.74</b>	<b>126.29</b>	<b>1297.31</b>	<b>2372.73</b>	<b>728.53</b>	<b>21.64</b>	<b>180.23</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.44</b>	<b>1.35</b>	<b>1.35</b>	<b>1.21</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>1.44</b>	<b>1.05</b>	<b>1.91</b>

*Note: \*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.*

The table above is an extension of table 1.0. Among the data reported on 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

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to existing resources and the pace of case disposal. The Clarendon Parish Court has the largest case congestion rate over the period measured with 784.47. Despite this large congestion rate, it was an improvement from the previous quarter with a congestion rate of 997.59%, this showed a 213.12 percentage point increase. The Parish courts of St. Elizabeth, Westmoreland and St. Catherine performed best on this measure, mostly on account of moderate to strong case disposal and case clearance rates for much of the past three years. As with previous reports, caseload and resources do not appear to be a major factor explaining the differences in performance here as the courts ranking on either ends of the scale are the larger courts in the island and resource endowment does not vary in a statistically significant way among the courts. The results on the case clearance rates are also quite interesting. The St. Mary Parish court improved its clearance rates by 19.62 percentage points moving from 97.10% in the second quarter of 2018 to 116.72% in the second quarter of 2019. However when compared to the first quarter of 2018, the clearance rate fell by 45.40 percentage points from the 162.12%. The St. Elizabeth Parish Court was the most improved court on this measure with an increase of 69.72 percentage points when compared to the first quarter and 68.47% when compared to the corresponding second quarter of 2018. This improvement correlated with a decline in the congestion rate at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court, moving from 253.57% the first quarter to 143.28% in the second quarter of 2019. The Trelawny Parish Court also recorded a significant increase moving from a clearance rate of 88.69% in the corresponding 2018 quarter to 116.23% in the 2019 reporting period, an increase of approximately 28 percentage points. This result also represents an improvement of 111 percentage points when compared to the 49.13% recorded in the first quarter of 2019.

The second quarter list of case clearance rates is lead by the parish courts of St. Elizabeth (160.95%), St. James (133.76%) and St. Mary (116.72%). The three lowest rank courts on this

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measure in this quarter were the parish courts of Clarendon (79.0%), St. Ann (80.04%) and Hanover (92.31%).

Overall, the parish courts moved from an average clearance rate of 98.27% in the second quarter of 2018, to 108.45% in the current 2019 quarter an increase of 10.18 percentage points.

When compared to the first quarter of 2019 there was a 4.99 percentage point increase moving from 103.46%. Similarly, to the second quarter of 2018, there were eleven parish courts meeting the international standard.

There is a generally linear empirical association between the case clearance rate and the case congestion rate, such that an increase in the case clearance rate should, *ceteris paribus* result in a reduction in the case clearance rate. Based on the way in which the congestion rate is mathematically computed it is however theoretically possible that a modest increase in the clearance rate could coincide with a similarly modest increase in the case congestion rate. The case clearance rates and the case congestion rates are highly positively skewed, which indicates that more scores fall below the average/mean.

**Table 2.1: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the period Apr.-Jun. 2019**

Parish Court	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q2,(2019)	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q2, (2018)	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q2,(2019)	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q2,(2018)	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q2 (2019)	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q2, (2018)
Westmoreland	39.30	62.28	98.49	105.96	180.65	133.77
Corporate Area Criminal	55.08	63.54	108.17	116.20	218.77	185.10
St. Catherine	55.08	52.19	102.67	100.37	192.71	172.14
St. James	56.80	60.96	133.76	102.40	202.87	195.44
Hanover	59.92	44.50	92.31	108.26	300.44	136.02
St. Elizabeth	40.05	39.50	160.95	93.65	143.28	149.56
Portland	38.89	42.53	103.82	90.98	294.98	215.30

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Manchester	34.50	39.08	107.36	104.80	312.45	247.46
St. Mary	47.99	38.06	116.72	97.10	221.49	159.80
St. Thomas	48.61	39.77	110.36	108.88	291.70	206.03
Trelawny	39.62	45.94	116.23	88.69	337.99	175.30
Clarendon	49.44	44.60	79.00	91.75	784.47	638.12
St. Ann	28.24	30.32	80.04	68.48	588.31	288.81
<b>Average/weighted Average</b>	<b>45.66</b>	<b>46.41</b>	<b>108.45</b>	<b>98.27</b>	<b>313.09</b>	<b>223.30</b>
<b>Standard deviation</b>	<b>9.64</b>	<b>10.36</b>	<b>21.64</b>	<b>12.09</b>	<b>180.23</b>	<b>132.15</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>-0.17</b>	<b>0.58</b>	<b>1.05</b>	<b>-1.08</b>	<b>1.26</b>	<b>2.96</b>

\*Q2- Refers to quarter two (April to June 2018&2019)

**Table 3.0: Comparison of the trial certainty rates for the second quarters of 2018 and 2019**

Parish Court	Trial certainty rate (%) Q2 (2019)	Trial certainty rate (%) Q2 (2018)
Westmoreland	98	100
Clarendon	79	100
St. Ann	84	100
Portland	92	100
St. James	92	94
Manchester	84	84
St. Elizabeth	84	84
St. Catherine	80	81
Trelawny	80	80
St. Mary	82	75
St. Thomas	70	63
Corporate Area Criminal	56	53
Hanover	48	32
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>79.15</b>	<b>77%</b>

\*Q1 represents previous quarter i.e. January- March 2018

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 some future date. The overall trial date certainty rate for the second quarter of 2019 was 79.31%, a 2.15-percentage points improvement when compared to the corresponding period in 2018. Three of the parish courts met the prescribed international

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performance standard of a rate between 92% and 100% in the quarter. Leading the way are the parish courts of Westmoreland, Portland and St. James with trial date certainty rates of 92% or higher in the quarter. The parish courts of St. Ann, St. Elizabeth and Manchester each with rates of 84% rank next on this measure. The minimum-targeted trial date certainty rate, which has been set out by the Honourable Chief Justice for the judiciary for the next six years, 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 depress the overall criminal case backlog in the Jamaican court system below 5%.

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**Table 4.0: Distribution of courtroom utilization rates across the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the second quarter of 2019**

Parish Court	Average overall courtroom utilization rate (%)	Highest Recorded Courtroom Utilization rate (%)	Lowest Recorded Courtroom Utilization rate (%)	Standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates (%)	Average courtroom utilization rate for Night Court sittings (%)	Average number of courtroom adjournments per day
St. Catherine	56.26	130	1.39	25.30	45.01	1.3
Westmoreland	66	266	2	43.27	70.10	1.1
Trelawny	67	290	4	45	52.56	1.3
St. Thomas	55	235	0	35	-	1.4
St. Mary	65.54	277	4	33	53.32	1.8
St. James	61.41	157	3	31.52	61.11	1.4
Corporate Area Criminal Court	63	148	2.50	26.12	57.68	1.2
St. Ann	77.57	221	0	32.65	59.34	1.1
Portland	86.53	266	16.67	42.28	-	1.2
Hanover	50.47	111.39	1.39	27.48	-	1.2
Clarendon	44.03	97.50	0.42	20.98	28.36	1.16
<b>Overall Averages</b>	<b>62.98</b>	-	-	-	<b>53.44</b>	<b>1.29</b>
<b>Standard deviation</b>	<b>13.01</b>	-	-	-	<b>12.48</b>	<b>0.20</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.29</b>	-	-	-	<b>-1.08</b>	<b>1.86</b>

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the various parish courts in the second quarter of 2019. The courtroom utilization rate provides a measurement of the proportion of available hours for open court hearings in all courtroom (including outstations) which are actually utilized. If the usage of any courtroom exceeds the available hours then the utilization rate will exceed 100% and the rate will fall below 100% if less than the available hours are utilized. The prescribed international standard for the courtroom utilization rate is 100%, which means that all hours allocating for court hearings in any court, on any given day should be utilized. The data suggests that as a whole the parish courts of Jamaica are performed well below this level in the second quarter of 2019. The overall average courtroom utilization rate across the parish courts in this period was 62.98%, which is an

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indication that on average roughly 63% of the available hours for court hearings were utilized across the parish courts in the second quarter of 2019. This translates into an average of roughly three of every five available hours being utilized. The parish courts recording the highest courtroom utilization rates for the second quarter are the Portland and St. Ann Parish Courts with 86.53% and 77.57% respectively, followed by the Trelawny Parish Court with 67%. The Clarendon and Hanover Parish Courts with 44.03% and 50.47% respectively had the lowest rates, while the St. Thomas Parish Court with 55% had the next lowest rate. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates is moderate, suggesting that on average the rates for the individual courts did not vary widely from the overall mean. This is affirmed by the low positive skewness of the data. The data also isolates the courtroom utilization rate for Night Courts. Apart of the designation of Night Courts is to bolster the capacity of the courts to hear and dispose more cases in a timely manner. At an overall courtroom utilization rate of 53.44%, the Night Courts use 9.54 percentage points less of the available time than regular day court. The Westmoreland Parish Court with a Night Court utilization rate of 70.10% and the St. James Parish Court with 61.11% ranked highest for the second quarter with the St. Ann Parish Court ranking next. At the lower end of the courtroom utilization rates for Night Court sittings were the parish courts of Clarendon (28.36%), St. Catherine (45.01%) and Trelawny with 52.56%.

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  $\pm 2.5\%$ .

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**Table 5.0: Types of matters for each Parish Court for the for the second quarter ended June 30, 2019**

Parish Court	Indictment	Summary Matters	Lay Magistrates Sittings	Committal Proceedings	Tax	Miscellaneous	LRF	Traffic	NS	Total
Corporate Area Criminal	987	570	336	141	-	-	-	11	-	2045
St. Catherine	620	530	202	192	67	-	-	-	-	1611
Manchester	359	161	278	79	23	-	-	-	-	900
St. James	281	348	116	77	80	53	-	-	-	955
St. Ann	370	236	177	26	17	-	-	1	-	827
Westmoreland	272	309	85	124	29	-	-	-	-	819
Clarendon	163	154	43	38	-	-	-	-	-	398
Portland	231	120	44	20	8	-	-	-	-	423
St. Elizabeth	295	216	59	53	56	-	3	-	-	682
St. Mary	208	89	97	59	29	-	-	-	-	482
Trelawny	156	146	51	32	-	-	12	-	-	397
Hanover	131	119	62	36	-	-	-	-	-	348
St. Thomas	115	163	39	91	-	-	-	-	-	408
<b>Total</b>	<b>4188</b>	<b>3161</b>	<b>1589</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10295</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>40.68</b>	<b>30.70</b>	<b>15.43</b>	<b>9.40</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>0.51</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>-</b>	

\*Total number of matters in the sample = 10,295. \*\*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 second quarter of 2019. For the quarter, 10,295 charges were filed across the parish courts, a decline of approximately 12.75% when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2018. The majority of these charges were filed in the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division (2,045), the St. Catherine Parish Court (1611), the St. James Parish Court with (955) and the Manchester Parish Court with 900 charges. The majority of the charges were Indictments (40.68%); followed by Summary matters (30.70%), Lay Magistrates matters (15.43%) and Committal Proceedings with 9.40% of the total. The Corporate Area Court-Criminal Division accounted for the largest proportion of both Summary matters and Indictments. This was followed by the parish courts of St. Catherine, Manchester, St. Ann and Westmoreland. The largest proportion of Lay Magistrates matters were filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division followed by the parish courts of



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Manchester and St. Catherine. The St. Catherine Parish Court followed by the Corporate Area Criminal Court and the Westmoreland Parish Court accounted for the largest individual shares of Committal Proceedings. As for criminal matters, which are traffic related, the only incidences of these in the quarter were in the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division and the St. Ann Parish Court.

### Offence Types

**Table 6.0: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges across the parish courts for the second quarter ended June 30, 2019**

Parish Court	Assault Occasioning bodily harm	Unlawful wounding	Threat	Malicious destruction of property	Possession of Offensive Weapon	Exposing goods for Sale
Manchester	68	53	54	45	32	100
Clarendon	142	82	24	38	32	7
St. Catherine	202	137	79	86	89	53
St. Thomas	77	58	35	40	59	13
Portland	59	51	32	34	8	7
St. Mary	70	62	27	36	7	-
St. James	83	64	15	49	80	27
Corporate Area Criminal	211	167	36	79	145	24
Westmoreland	110	59	38	31	36	64
Hanover	43	41	20	27	27	1
St. Elizabeth	105	76	37	42	36	-
St. Ann	111	60	38	31	36	53
Trelawny	54	37	25	26	3	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1335</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>354</b>
<b>Percentage of total</b>	<b>12.97</b>	<b>9.20</b>	<b>4.47</b>	<b>5.48</b>	<b>5.73</b>	<b>3.44</b>

\*\*\*Number of observations (N) = 10,295

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the six most commonly occurring types of charges across all parish courts for the second quarter of the 2019. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 1335 or 12.97% of the total number of charges is the most frequently occurring. Unlawful wounding with 947 or 9.20% and possession of offensive weapon with 590 or 5.30% followed this. The top six is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 564 or

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5.48%, threats with 460 or 4.47% and exposing goods for sale with 354 or 3.44% of the total number of charges filed in the parish courts during the quarter. These six most frequently occurring types of charges account for approximately 41.28% of the total incidence of charges in quarter. In the corresponding quarter of 2018, these same charges accounted for approximately 37% of the total number of incidence of charges.

**Table 7.0: Average age of active charges for each parish court for charges filed in the second quarter of 2019**

Parish Court	Average Age of Active charges (days)
Clarendon	60
Trelawny	78
Portland	70
St. Mary	52
Hanover	54
Westmoreland	49
St. Catherine	55
St. Elizabeth	62
St. Ann	52
St. James	60
St. Thomas	85
Corporate Area Criminal	71
Manchester	72
<b>Overall Average</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>11.20</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.60</b>

The above table shows the average age of active charges originating in the second quarter of 2019, for charges originating in said quarter. The average age of active matters originating in the quarter was approximately 63 days or roughly 2 months, roughly 24 days longer than the average in the second quarter of 2018. The parish courts of Westmoreland, St. Mary, Hanover and St. James have the lowest averages on the list. On the contrary, the highest averages were observed for in the parish courts of St. Thomas, Manchester and Trelawny. There is an intuitive correlation between 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 end, courts with higher clearance rates will in general have a lower case backlog

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and a lower average age of active cases. Courts, which manage to maintain a clearance rate of between 90% and 110% long enough will eventually eliminate 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 and improving the efficiency of the courts and the enhancing the timely delivery of justice. The standard deviation of the scores was a moderate at roughly 11 days, an indication that the individual values for the parish courts were on average abstemiously close to the overall mean. The low positive skewness shown is an indication that slightly more of the average age of active cases for the various courts fell below the overall mean.

**Table 8.0: Average age of charges disposed for matters originating in the quarter ended June 30, 2019**

Parish Court	Average Age of Disposed charges (days)
St. Catherine	40
St. Thomas	32
St. Ann	29
Corporate Area Criminal	20
Manchester	35
Portland	27
St. James	37
Hanover	34
Westmoreland	55
St. Elizabeth	26
St. Mary	45
Clarendon	48
Trelawny	32
<b>Overall Average</b>	35.38
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	9.67
<b>Skewness</b>	0.56

The above table shows that the average time taken to dispose of criminal cases filed in the second quarter of 2019, which were filed in the Parish Courts, is 35.38 days or just over a month. This is just over thrice the time taken to dispose of cases originating in the second quarter of 2018, which were disposed. The standard deviation of roughly 10 days is an indication that there were moderate

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variations in the distribution of the scores, which ranged from a low of roughly 20 days at the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division to a high of 55 days for the Westmoreland Parish Court. The weak positive skewness of roughly 0.56 is an indication that a significant proportion of the scores were clustered around the overall average score though slightly more fell below it.

**Table 8.0: Breakdown of time to disposition as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2019**

Parishes	Time intervals in days					Total Frequency
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365 days and over	
Corporate Area Criminal	2312 (61.57%)	813 (21.65%)	304 (8.09%)	101 (2.69%)	225 (5.99%)	3755 (100%)
St. Catherine	292 (25.66)	264 (23.20%)	165 (14.50%)	156 (13.71%)	261 (22.93%)	1138 (100%)
St. James	1512 (42.92%)	761 (21.60%)	457 (12.97%)	417 (11.84%)	376 (10.67%)	3523 (100%)
Manchester	582 (25.29%)	415 (18.04%)	372 (16.17%)	315 (13.69%)	617 (26.81%)	2301 (100%)
Westmoreland	615 (69.41%)	139 (15.69%)	82 (9.26%)	34 (3.84%)	61 (6.89%)	886 (100%)
St. Ann	138 (27.49%)	94 (18.73%)	55 (10.96%)	48 (9.56%)	167 (3.33%)	502 (100%)
Clarendon	774 (72.47%)	115 (10.77%)	56 (5.24%)	50 (4.68%)	73 (6.84%)	1068 (100%)
St. Thomas	53 (22.55%)	34 (14.47%)	31 (13.19%)	48 (20.34%)	69 (29.36%)	235 (100%)
Portland	35 (11%)	63 (19.90%)	60 (18.90%)	40 (12.60%)	119 (37.50%)	317 (100%)
St. Mary	124 (30.69%)	98 (24.26%)	73 (18.07%)	35 (8.66%)	74 (18.32%)	404 (100%)
St. Elizabeth	184 (36.22%)	121 (23.82%)	71 (13.98%)	34 (6.69%)	98 (19.29%)	508 (100%)
Trelawny	75 (50.0%)	30 (20.0%)	10 (6.67%)	14 (9.33%)	21 (14.0%)	150 (100%)
Hanover	415 (66.83)	132 (21.26%)	58 (9.34%)	7 (1.13%)	9 (1.45%)	621 (100%)
% of total	<b>45.28</b>	<b>19.93</b>	<b>11.74</b>	<b>8.74</b>	<b>14.61</b>	<b>100.00</b>

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Average	558	246	145	108	180	1232
Standard Deviation	699	275	149	128	171	1267
Skewness	1.81	1.51	1.30	1.85	1.76	1.33

***Number of charges sampled (N) = 14,440***

***Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least a consecutive 27-month period over September 2016 –March 31, 2019 for each parish court.***

The table above shows the breakdown of the time disposition for matters filed in the respective parish courts for at least 31 consecutive months over the period September 2016 to June 2019.

The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 45.28% of the disposals. The parish courts of Clarendon, Westmoreland, and the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division are among the courts with the largest proportion of cases disposed within 90 days. This trend is broadly similar to that seen over the past 18 months. Cumulatively, 85.39% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year, a continued 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. This result was slightly less than that recorded in the second quarter of 2018. From the data set, the parish courts of Portland, St. Thomas and Manchester had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample again did not vary dramatically either within or across the time intervals, particularly for the higher times to disposition. This is an indication that for disposed cases, the times taken are not markedly different across the courts. The difference however is the proportion of cases disposed, relative

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to the caseload, which as shown earlier, indicates that some courts are performing much better.

**Table 9.0: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2019**

Parish Court	Time to disposition (in days)							Sample size (N)
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	
Clarendon	92.35	10	41	151.23	2.812	1	794	1002
Corporate Area Criminal	105.27	7	63	135.613	2.60	1	808	3597
Westmoreland	108.17	34	58.13	143.126	1.05	1	956	950
St. Catherine	195.13	128	157	167.15	0.68	1	1040	1215
Hanover	78.51	32	43	95.16	1.12	1	894	35
Trelawny	70.51	56	45	38.29	2.00	2	250	115
St. Mary	90.05	28	45	103.45	1.31	1	595	415
St. Elizabeth	185.17	41	98.12	176.15	1.48	1	895	650
St. Thomas	212.34	41	176.23	194.12	0.55	1	1054	313
Portland	204.51	39	133.12	145.17	1.48	1	1123	450
St. James	134.12	65	110	97.16	0.74	1	1115	1500
Manchester	198.17	35	132	96.78	2.05	1	1356	1413
St. Ann	153.17	71	112.32	132.14	0.93	1	1050	750
<b>Std. Deviation</b>	<b>52.96</b>	<b>30.96</b>	<b>47.23</b>	<b>41.84</b>	<b>0.73</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>274.48</b>	<b>1180.50</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.11</b>	<b>1.61</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>-0.55</b>	<b>0.70</b>	<b>3.61</b>	<b>-1.08</b>	<b>2.11</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 12,405*

*Note: The data in this table covers case activity for a at least a consecutive 30month period over September 2016 –June 30, 2019 for each Parish Court*

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The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at June 30, 2019. For each parish court, the estimates cover at least 31 consecutive months spanning September 2016 to June 30, 2019 and it should be noted that these descriptive statistics are for matters disposed over that sample period. The output produces an overall average estimated time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Criminal Division) of 141 days over the period, markedly higher than the corresponding period in 2018. The skewness of these times to disposition is 0.11, suggesting that the times to disposition were clustered around the overall mean. For matters disposed in the period, the parish courts of Trelawny (71 days), Hanover (79 days) and St. Mary (90 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of Portland (205 days), St. Thomas (212 days) and Manchester (198 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters disposed during the quarter. The variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts are however wide as shown by the moderately high standard deviation (52.96), 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 is 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 250 days (16.67 months) in the Trelawney Parish Court to a high of 1336 days (3.70 years) in the St. Catherine Parish Court. The skewness of the maximum times to disposition is moderately negative 1.08, which is an indication that proportionately more of the maximum times to disposition fell above the overall average of these scores. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was 12405, which is statistically significant and representative.

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## Methods of Disposal and Criminal Conviction Rate

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposal for the second quarter ended June 30, 2019**

Parish Court	Guilty Plea	Dismissed	Not Guilty Verdict	Transferred	Mediated settlement	Guilty verdict	Committed to circuit court	Total
St Catherine	354	98	2	96	150	1	43	744
Corporate Area Criminal	547	195	3	12	-	9	2	768
Westmoreland	170	81	34	-	35	2	1	323
St. James	236	6	35	-	14	1	-	292
Manchester	136	88	-	3	11	13	2	253
Clarendon	132	21	49	11	39	3	34	289
St. Elizabeth	164	2	27	-	39	1	8	241
Trelawny	77	13	29	-	4	23	-	146
Hanover	103	2	41	1	7	8	2	164
Portland	11	1	39	-	-		-	51
St. Mary	52	49	-	-	63	1	-	165
St. Thomas	48	4	21	-	11	-	1	85
St. Ann	29	16	-	3	-		-	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>2059</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>3569</b>
<b>Percentage of Total</b>	<b>57.69</b>	<b>16.14</b>	<b>7.85</b>	<b>3.53</b>	<b>10.45</b>	<b>1.74</b>	<b>2.61</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Total sample size = 3569

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts for the second quarter of 2019. From the sample, it is observed that the majority of matters disposed during the quarter were by way of guilty plea with 57.69% of the disposals, followed by matters dismissed with 16.14% and mediated settlements with 10.45%. Not guilty verdicts with 7.85%, matters transferred with 3.53%, matters committed to Circuit Court with 2.61% and guilty verdicts with 1.74% account for the remaining disposals in the quarter. The combined 59.43% of the cases disposed by way of guilty outcomes represents the criminal



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conviction rate in the parish courts for the quarter. This represents a decline of 3.87 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in 2018.

### Common Reasons for Adjournment

**Table 10.1: Distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for the quarter ended June 30, 2019**

Reasons for Adjournment/Continuance	Count	Percentage
Referred to mediation	255	15.30
DNA – Warrant issued	207	12.42
Fingerprint outstanding	188	11.28
Subpoena of Investigating Officer	97	5.82
Medical report unavailable	70	4.20
Reissue of application	58	3.48
For referral to Restorative Justice Centre	52	3.12
For legal aid assignment	41	2.46
Subpoena of complainant	42	2.52
Forensic report outstanding	37	2.22
For disclosure	32	1.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>1079</b>	<b>64.73</b>

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 1,667)

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

The above table shows that from a sample of 1,667 reasons for adjournments/continuance in the second quarter of 2019 across all parish courts, the largest proportion (15.0%) were because

of adjournments due for referral to mediation. Adjournments for the issuance of warrants for the non-appearance of the accused with 7.32% and adjournments for outstanding fingerprints with 11.28% rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts. Matters adjourned for the subpoena of the investigating officers and medical reports outstanding with 5.82% and 4.20% respectively of the total number of adjournments, rounds off the top five reasons for adjournment for the second quarter of 2019. Two of these top five reasons for adjournment also featured in the top five in the second quarter of 2018, namely medical report outstanding and subpoena of an Investigating Officer. The 11 reasons for adjournment quoted above account for the 64.73% 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 second quarter of 2019, the case file integrity rate for criminal matters across the parish courts was 87.16% as 12.88% of the total incidence of adjournments were due to one or more of the above named factors which impair the case file integrity rate. This represents a 1.04 percentage point improvement when compared to the first quarter results. Despite the improvement, the case file integrity rate remains below the prescribed international standard of 98% - 100%. Herein lies an area in which major operational

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interventions need to be undertaken across the parish courts to improve the availability, completeness, accuracy and correct scheduling of case files for court.

**Table 11.0: Distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for continuance for the second quarter ended June 30, 2019**

Reasons for Adjournment/Continuance	Count	Percentage
Sentencing	142	8.52
Bail application	27	1.62

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 1,667)

The analysis of adjournments makes a distinction between those incidences, which may be considered avoidable due to either internal or external factors, and those, which are intrinsic to the progression of a case. The above table highlights the primary reasons for adjournment gleaned from the sample, which may be considered as simply intrinsic to the progression of some cases. These reasons are classified as reasons for 'continuance.' As seen in the above table, adjournments for sentencing and those for bail application featured prominently among such reasons.

### Chapter 2.0: Case Demographics

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

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**Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender for the second quarter ended June 30, 2019**

	Male		Female		Total	
Charge	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	893	79.52	230	20.48	1123	100%
Unlawful wounding	555	75.41	181	24.59	736	100%
Threat	356	76.39	110	23.61	466	100%
Malicious destruction of property	451	80.82	107	19.18	558	100%
Armed with an offensive weapon	481	93.40	34	6.60	515	100%
Exposing goods for sale	223	68.83	101	31.17	324	100%
Disorderly conduct	215	70.49	90	29.51	305	100%
Possession of ganja	222	81.32	51	18.68	273	100%
Simple larceny	84	78.50	23	21.50	107	100%
<b>TOTAL</b>	3480	-	927	-	4407	<b>100%</b>

**\*\*\*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) = 4407**

The above table provides a sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender in the first quarter ended June 30, 2019. Based on the data shown in chart 2.0, it is not surprising that males account for the dominant proportion of all these charges. Among the offences listed with the greatest imbalance in the gender distribution are assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, armed with an offensive weapon, malicious destruction of property and possession of ganja for which over 75% of the offenders were male. Exposing good for sale, disorderly conduct and unlawful wounding saw the highest incidence of female involvement among the offences, which appeared most frequently.

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**Table 13.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges across the parish courts for the second quarter-ended June 30, 2019**

Charge	Count	%
Assault occasioning bodily harm	1249	12.17
Unlawful wounding	925	9.01
Threat	534	5.20
Malicious destruction of property	586	5.71
Armed with an offensive weapon	761	7.41
Exposing goods for sale	375	3.65
Disorderly conduct	304	2.96
Possession of ganja	276	2.69
Simple larceny	108	1.05

**NB: Total sample size (N) = 10,295**

The above table shows the distribution of the nine most commonly occurring types of charges across all parish courts for the first quarter of 2019. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 1249 or 12.17% of the total number of charges is the most frequently occurring. Unlawful wounding with 925 or 9.01% and threats with 534 or 5.20% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 586 or 5.71% and armed with an offensive weapon with 761 or 7.41% of the total count during the quarter. These nine most frequently occurring types of charges account for approximately 49.71% of the total incidence of charges in the quarter.

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## Chapter 2.0: Criminal Case Demographics for the second quarter June 30, 2019

This chapter provides a detailed account of gender and age distribution of offenders across the parish courts in the second quarter of 2019 as well as the distribution of new cases filed based on the police stations of origin and the relative caseload carried by the courtrooms and outstations in each parish throughout the quarter, based on open court hearings. The chapter commences with an examination of courtroom and outstation activity in each court followed by age and gender distribution and finally the distribution of new cases filed, by police station.

**Table 14.1: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Westmoreland for the quarter of ended June 30, 2019**

Courtroom/ Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of Cases disposed (of Those Originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom#1 (main court)	335	92	11	56.11	30.75
Night Court (main court)	148	83	8	24.79	61.49
Whithorn Outstation	70	30	3	11.73	47.14
Petty Session (main court)	34	3	-	5.70	8.82
Whithorn Outstation (Petty Session)	7	2	-	1.17	28.57
Courtroom#2 (main court)	1	1	-	0.17	100
Courtroom#3 (main court)	2	1	-	0.34	50
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>39.20</b>

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The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2019 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 Petty Session and Night Court matters heard in each of the relevant locations, for ease of comparison. The data shows decisively that matters entered in courtroom number 1 and the Night Court in Savanna La Mar accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter as was the case in quarter one, with 335(56.11%) and 148(24.79%) matters respectively. There was also an increase of 118 cases or 54.38% above the 217 cases heard in courtroom 1 and 59 cases or 28.50% above the 207 cases heard in Night Court in Savanna La Mar in the corresponding quarter ended June 30, 2018. The Whithorn Outstation with 70 or 11.73% of the new matters heard in the parish ranks next, an increase of 14 cases or 25% when compared to the similar Apr.-Jun.2018 period. There was also a 1.08 percentage points increase when compared to the 10.65% recorded in quarter one of 2019. In terms of cases disposed, sittings in courtroom number 1 accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 92 cases and had the fifth highest disposal rate for the current quarter of 30.75%, compared to the 44.24% recorded in the corresponding 2018 quarter. This shows a 13.49 percentage point decrease. In comparison to quarter one (Jan.-Mar.2019) courtroom 1 showed a decline in the absolute number of cases disposed, moving from 111 cases a decrease of 19 cases or 17.12%. Night court sittings was next with 83 disposed cases and a disposal rate of 61.49%, a 30.78 percentage points decline when compared to the 92.27% recorded in the corresponding quarter in 2018. The night court registered an absolute share of 149 cases disposed in quarter, which led to a disposal rate of 93.85%, a decline of 32.36 percentage points and 28 cases lower than what was recorded in quarter 1 of 2019. The single

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outstation in Westmoreland accounted for 12.90% of the total number of new cases heard in the quarter, with the main courthouse accounting for the remaining 87.10%.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 335 cases heard in courtroom 1, there were 3 cases disposed in other courtrooms. Two (2) of these cases were disposed of in courtroom 3, while 1 was disposed of in petty session court. Of the 148 cases heard in Night Court, there were 2 cases disposed of in other courtrooms. One (1) of these cases was disposed of in courtroom 1, while 1 was disposed of in courtroom 2. One (1) case was disposed of in courtroom 1 of the 70 heard in Whithorn outstation. Of the 3 cases heard in courtroom 3, 1 was disposed of at the Night Court.



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**Table 14.2: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Corporate Area for the quarter of ended June 30, 2019**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the Quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of total new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom #2 (main court)	1037	406	200	82.24	58.43
Lay magistrates (main court)	100	48	19	7.90	67
Courtroom #6 (main court)	44	5	1	3.49	13.63
Gordon Town outstation	33	13	1	2.62	42.42
Courtroom #7 (main court)	42	0	0	3.33	0
Courtroom # 8 (main court)	5	1	0	0.40	20
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>1261</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>55.08</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2019 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 in the parish, and outlines the applicable disposal rates. It is seen that courtroom number two accounts for the highest proportion of new cases filed in the quarter with 82.24% of the total, while in quarter 1 that same courtroom accounted for 85.72%, also being the highest proportion. The Lay magistrates Court with roughly 7.90% follows this and courtroom # 6 with 3.49%, rounding off the top three proportions for new cases filed in the quarter. Similarly in the second quarter of the corresponding 2018 period, courtroom 2 had the highest proportion of new cases with 73.38% of the total and Lay Magistrates Court and Night Court rounded off the top three with approximately 767% and 4.39% respectively. In terms of disposal rates, the data also shows that courtroom 2 with a disposal rates of 58.43% and Gordon Town outstation with 42.42% were among the

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highest disposal rates for the period, as was the case in quarter 1, with Gordon Town outstation recording 68.75% and courtroom 2 with 68.05%. However, in the corresponding 2018 quarter courtroom number 2 and the Lay Magistrates Court accounted for the highest disposal rates of 73.19% and 67.52% respectively. Courtroom number 2 accounts for the largest absolute share of cases disposed in the quarter with 406 matters, a decrease of 128 matters or 23.97% when compared to the 534 matters disposed of in the Apr-Jun. 2018 quarter and 162 matters less than the 568 matters in the previous quarter of 2019. The main courthouse in Half Way Tree accounted for 97.38% of the total number of new matters heard in the second quarter compared to the 98.95% recorded in the previous quarter and 97.80% recorded in the second quarter of 2018. The remaining 2.62% was accounted for by the one outstation.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 1037 cases heard in courtroom 2, there were 49 cases disposed of in other courtrooms. 20 of these cases were disposed of in courtroom 8 while 9 were disposed at Night Court sittings. Another seven of the cases were disposed in courtroom 4, 6 cases in courtroom number 1 and 5 cases at the fast track court. Courtrooms 6 and Plea and Case Management Court each disposed of 1 case. Of the 5 cases heard in courtroom 8, one (1) was disposed of at Night Court sittings. There were 33 cases that were heard at the Gordon Town outstation, of this number, 1 was disposed in courtroom 2.

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**Table 14.3: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. James for the quarter of ended June 30, 2019**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of Cases disposed (of Those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of total new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom#2 (main court)	538	239	59	89.97	55.39
Courtroom#4(main court)	4	-	1	0.67	25
Courtroom #3 (main court)	38	35	2	6.35	97.37
Cambridge Outstation	12	7	-	2.01	58.33
Courtroom#1(main court)	2	-	-	0.34	-
Lay Magistrates Court	4	-	4	0.67	100
<b>*Total/Average</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>58.03</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2019 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. Courtroom 2 had the largest amount of new cases filed with 538, one less than the 539 recorded in the previous January to March quarter of 2019. However, when compared to the corresponding period in 2018 the number of cases filed increased by 326 cases or 153.77% from 212 cases. The sample also shows that, courtroom number 2 at the main court in Montego Bay accounts for the highest share of new cases heard with 89.97%, followed by courtrooms number 3 and Cambridge outstation with 6.35% and 2.01% respectively of the total number. Courtroom number 2 has a substantially higher disposal rate in this quarter of 89.97% compared to the 50.24% recorded in the corresponding 2018 quarter. However there was a marginal decline of 0.62 percentage point when compared to the previous

quarter in 2019. The main courthouse in Montego Bay accounts for 97.32% of new cases filed in quarter 2 compared to 95.50% in quarter 2 of 2018, an increase of 1.82 percentage points.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. In particular, of the 538 cases heard in courtroom 2, there were 7 cases disposed of in other courtrooms. Three (3) of these cases were disposed of in courtroom 2, Two (2) in courtroom 3 and one (1) each in both courtrooms 1 and 4.

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**Table 14.4: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Catherine for the quarter of ended June 30, 2019**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom#1 (main court)	441	217	40	45.23	58.28
Linstead Outstation courtroom #1	146	77	3	14.97	54.79
Old Harbour Outstation	103	61	4	10.56	63.11
Petty Session (Main Court)	45	4	15	4.62	42.22
Courtroom#2 (main court)	50	20	7	5.13	54.00
Portmore Outstation(Childrens Court)	48	4	2	4.92	12.50
Courtroom#4 (main court)	26	11	-	2.67	42.31
Portmore Outstation (Night Court)	75	56	10	7.69	88
Linstead ( Lay Magistrates Curt)	16	2	9	1.64	68.75
Old Harbour Outstation Lay Magistrates Court)	5	1	1	0.51	40
Courtroom#5 (main court)	10	2	-	1.03	20
Courtroom #3 (main court)	3	-	-	0.31	-
Lay Magistrates' Court	7	1	-	0.92	14.29
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>56.10</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the first quarter ended June 30, 2019 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 Petty Session and Night Court matters for the relevant

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locations for ease of comparisons. The data shows decisively that matters entered in Courtroom number 1 at the main court in Spanish Town and the Linstead outstation accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 45.23% and 14.97% respectively, similar to quarter one in which they accounted for 46.03% and 23.54% respectively of new cases heard. The Old Harbour outstation with 10.56% of the new cases heard ranks next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 217 and had the third highest disposal rate of 58.28%, similar to the result in the corresponding 2018 quarter, as courtroom number 1 had the highest absolute share of cases disposed with an amount of 229 and a disposal rate of 54.21%, the fifth highest disposal rate during that period. As it relates to quarter 1 of 2019, courtroom number 1 also had the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 222, a decrease of 5 cases when compared to quarter 2. Courtroom number 1 had 441 cases filed in the current Apr.-Jun. 2019 quarter, 46 cases below the 487 new cases filed in the corresponding 2018 period, a 9.45% decrease and 35 cases above the 406 cases recording in the previous quarter of 2019. The Portmore outstation (Night Court) had the highest disposal rate with 88%, an increase of 10.73 percentage points from the 77.27% recorded in the corresponding 2018 quarter. The Linstead (Lay Magistrates Court) and the Old Harbour outstation followed with disposal rates of 68.75% and 63.11% respectively, rounding off the top three on this measure. Evidently, the outstations in St. Catherine not only carry a significant new caseload but also appear to be relatively productive with the disposition of cases. The main courthouse in Spanish Town accounted for 61.33% of the total number of new cases heard in the quarter compared to the 63.45% recorded in the previous quarter (Jan-Mar.2019) and the outstations combined accounted for the remaining 38.67%, 2.13% above the 36.54% recorded in quarter 1.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 441 cases heard in courtroom 1, 17 of these cases disposed in other courtrooms. Seven (7) of these cases were disposed of in courtroom 3, six (6) were disposed of in

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courtroom 2, three (3) were disposed of in courtroom 4 court while 1 was disposed of at the Linstead outstation. Of the 50 cases heard in courtroom number 2, one was disposed of in each of the following courtrooms; courtrooms 1, 2 and 4. Of the 26 cases heard in courtroom number 4 there were 3 cases disposed of in other courtrooms. Two (2) of these cases were disposed of in courtroom 1, while 1 was disposed of in courtroom 3. Courtroom 5 with 10 cases heard had one disposed at the Linstead outstation. One (1) case was disposed in courtroom 1 of the 70 heard in Whithorn outstation. Of the 3 cases heard in courtroom 3, 1 was disposed of at the Night Court. The Linstead outstation and Old harbour outstation with 146 and 103 cases heard respectively had 1 case each disposed of in courtroom 1.

### 14.5: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Thomas for the quarter of ended June 30, 2019

Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom#1 (main court)	60	44	2	23.90	76.67
Yallahs Outstation	55	24	5	21.91	52.73
Children's Court	21	1	-	8.37	4.76
Courtroom#2 (main court)	114	45	4	45.42	42.98
Night court	1	1	-	0.40	100
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>50.20</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2019 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The data shows decisively that matters entered in courtroom number 2 and courtroom number 1 at the main court accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 45.42% and 23.90% respectively. Courtroom number 2 accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 45, a significant improvement from the 2 matters

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disposed in quarter 1 and had the third highest disposal rate of 42.98%. Courtroom number 1 at the main court and the Yallahs outstation with disposal rates of 76.67% and 52.73% respectively accounts for the first and second highest disposal rates respectively. The main courthouse in Morant Bay accounted for 78.09% of the total number of new cases heard in quarter compared to the 78.91% recorded in the previous quarter of 2019. The remaining courts accounted for 21.91% of the total.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. In particular, of the 60 cases heard in courtroom 1, there were 4 cases disposed in other courtrooms. Three (3) cases of these cases were disposed of in courtroom 2, while 1 was disposed of at Night Court sittings. Of the 114 cases heard in courtroom 2, there was 1 case disposed of at Night Court sittings. One (1) case was disposed in courtroom 2, but originally heard in Night Court sittings. Of the 55 cases heard at the Yallahs outstation, 1 case was disposed of in courtroom number 2.

**Table 14.6: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Trelawny for the quarter of ended June 30, 2019**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of total new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Falmouth Court	142	55	-	53.58	38.73
Ulster Spring outstation	35	13	-	13.21	37.14
Clarks Town (Children's Court)	9	1	-	3.40	11.11
Falmouth (Petty Session)	10	-	4	3.77	40
Courtroom#1 (main court)	18	4	-	6.79	22.22
Ulster Spring (Petty Session)	5	2	1	1.89	60
Clarks Town (Petty	10	1	4	3.77	50



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Session)					
Falmouth (Night Court)	2	-	-	0.38	-
Clarks Town Outstation (Courtroom #1)	34	21	-	12.83	61.76
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>40.00</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2019 at the Trelawny Parish Court. The data shows decisively that matters entered in the Falmouth court and the Ulster Spring outstation accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 53.58% and 13.21% respectively of the total. This represents an increase of 7.64 percentage points for the Falmouth court when compared to the 45.94% recorded in the corresponding 2018 quarter while on the contrary there was a decrease of 7.99 percentage points in the number of new cases heard at Ulster Spring outstation when compared to the 21.20% recorded in the similar second quarter of 2018. However, when compared to quarter 1 it shows that there was a decline of 4.01 percentage points at the Falmouth Court an increase of 0.27 percentage points at Ulster Spring outstation, with proportions of 57.69% and 12.94% respectively. The Falmouth Court accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 55 matters and a disposal rate of 38.73%. Similarly, in quarter 1 that court recorded the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 88 matters 33 more than what was recorded in quarter 2 and a disposal rate of 53.33%. Although the absolute numbers are proportionately low, the Clarks Town outstation and Ulster spring (Lay Magistrates Court) rank among the highest disposal rates for the parish in the quarter with 61.76% and 60% respectively. The main court accounts for 73.96% while the outstations account for a combined 26.04% of the new cases heard in the quarter.

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As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. In particular, of the 142 cases heard at the Falmouth court, there were 3 cases disposed of in other courtrooms. The Night Court accounted for 2 of these cases while Falmouth petty session had 1 case.

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**Table 14.7: Aggregate case statistics for each outstation in the Parish of St. Mary for the quarter ended June 30, 2019**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of Cases disposed (of Those Originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of total new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom#1 (main court)	155	55	9	47.99	41.29
Courtroom#2 (main court)	12	9	-	3.72	75
Annotto Bay (OA) Outstation	41	23	1	12.69	58.54
Petty Session (main court)	48	1	38	14.86	81.25
Richmond (Lay Magistrates Court)	1	-	1	0.31	100
Richmond Outstation	23	8	-	7.12	34.78
Children's Court	14	2	-	4.33	14.29
Gayle Outstation	17	4	-	5.26	23.53
Courtroom #3	7	4	-	2.17	57.14
Annotto Bay Outstation (Lay Magistrates Court)	4	-	2	1.24	50
Gayle Outstation (Lay Magistrates Court)	1	-	-	0.31	-
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>48.61</b>

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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 second quarter ended June 30, 2019. The data shows decisively that courtrooms number 1 and Annotto Bay Outstation account for the highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 47.99% and 12.69% respectively of the total. Lay Magistrates sittings (main court) with 14.86% of the new cases heard in the quarter rank next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Port Maria accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 55, an increase of 23 matters or 71.88% when compared to the corresponding 2018 second quarter. This courtroom had the fifth highest case disposal rate of 41.29%. The Lay Magistrates Court (main court) with 81.25%, courtroom 2 with 75% and the Annotto Bay outstation with 58.54% all rank among the top five disposal rates for the quarter. The outstations in the parish account for a combined 26.93% of the total number of new cases heard in the quarter a similar percentage to that recorded in the previous quarter which recorded a figure of 26.63%. On the other hand the main courthouse accounts for roughly 73.37% of the new cases heard, a marginal decline from the 73.38% recorded in the previous quarter. On the contrary it marks a 7.25 percentage points increase when compared to the corresponding Apr.-Jun.2018 quarter.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. In particular, of the 155 cases heard courtroom 1, there were 8 cases disposed of in other courtrooms. The Night Court accounted for 4 of these cases while courtrooms 2 and 3 accounted for 3 and 1 of the 8 cases respectively. Of the 12 cases heard in courtroom 2, three (3) were disposed of on courtroom 3. There were 41 cases heard at the Annotto Bay outstation, of which number 4 were disposed of in other courtrooms, 2 were disposed in courtroom 2 while 1 was disposed in courtroom 3.

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**Table 14.8: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Portland for the quarter of ended June 30, 2019**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom#1 (main court)	170	58	13	62.73	41.76
Buff Bay Outstation	60	25	2	22.14	45
Manchioneal Outstation	32	10	1	11.81	34.38
Children's Court	4	1	-	1.48	25
Courtroom#2 (main court)	5	3	-	1.85	60
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>41.70</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Portland in the first quarter ended June 30, 2019. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 at the main court in Port Antonio accounts for the highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 62.73% of the total, a 3.25 percentage points decrease below the 65.98% recorded in the corresponding 2018 second quarter and 6.15 percentage points above the 56.58% recorded in quarter one of 2019. Buff Bay and Manchioneal outstations with 22.14% and 11.81% respectively of the total number of the new cases heard in the quarter rank next. Both outstations followed a similar pattern in quarter 1 of 2019 which saw Buff Bay with 22.78% and Manchioneal with 12.46% ranking second and third respectively. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Port Antonio accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 58 matters, 11 matters or 15.94% decrease when compared to the 69 matters recorded in the similar quarter of 2018 and had the third highest case

disposal rate of 41.76%. Courtroom 2 with a disposal rate of 60% and the Buff Bay outstation with a rate of 45% are the top two on this measure. The outstations in Portland account for a combined 33.95% of the new cases heard an increase of 5.08 percentage points above the 28.87% recorded in the corresponding 2018 second quarter. The main courthouse in Port Antonio accounts for the remaining 66.05% and decreasing by 5.08 percentage points below the 71.13% recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2018.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. In particular, of the 170 cases heard courtroom 1, 1 case was disposed of in children's court.

## THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S SECOND QUARTER STATISTICS REPORT ON CRIMINAL MATTERS IN THE PARISH COURTS

**Table 14.9: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Hanover for the quarter of ended June 30, 2019**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of cases inactive (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main court)	109	53	3	44.12	51.38
Sandy Bay Outstation #1	33	24	-	13.36	72.73
Green Island (main court)	45	29	-	18.22	64.44
Petty Session (main court)	8	5	-	3.24	62.50
Ramble Outstation (Courtroom #1)	21	15	1	8.50	76.19
Sandy Bay (Petty Session)	8	1	-	3.24	12.50
Courtroom #2 (main court)	10	8	-	4.05	80
Green Island Outstation (Petty Session)	8	5	-	3.24	62.50
Ramble (Petty session)	4	1	-	1.62	25
Lay Magistrates Court	1	-	-	0.40	-
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>58.70</b>

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 second quarter ended June 30, 2019. The data shows decisively that courtrooms number 1 at the main court in Lucea accounts for the highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 44.12% of the total. When compared to the previous quarter courtroom #1 also accounted for the highest share of new matters heard with 45.33% of the total. The Greenisland and the Sandy Bay outstations with 18.22% and 13.36% respectively rank next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Lucea accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 53, 11 more matters than was reported in the first quarter of 2018 and had the sixth highest

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case disposal rate of 51.38%, an increase of 3.50 percentage points above the 47.73% recorded in the corresponding 2019 period. Courtroom 2 at the main court in Lucea and Ramble outstation recorded disposal rate of 80% and 76.19% respectively and were among the top three disposal rates. The outstations in the parish account for roughly 26.72% of the new cases heard during the quarter while the main courthouse accounts for the remaining 73.28%.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. In particular, of the 109 cases heard in courtroom 1, one (1) was disposed of at the green island main court.



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**Table 14.10: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Elizabeth for the quarter of ended June 30, 2019**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of Cases disposed (of Those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Santa Cruz Outstation (Courtroom number #1)	225	95	8	56.39	45.78
Santa Cruz Outstation (Courtroom #2)	10	6	-	2.51	60
Balaclava (Courtroom #1)	39	14	2	9.77	41.03
Santa Cruz (Lay Magistrates Court)	19	7	-	4.76	36.84
Courtroom #1 (main court)	80	26	2	20.05	35
Santa Cruz (Children's Court)	13	1	-	3.26	7.69
Petty Session (main court)	10	2	-	2.51	20
Balaclava Outstation(Children's Court)	1	-	-	0.25	-
Balaclava (Lay Magistrates Court)	2	1	-	0.50	50
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>41.10</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Elizabeth in the second quarter ended June 30, 2019. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 at the Santa Cruz outstation accounted for highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 56.39% of the total, 5.73 percentage points above the 50.66% recorded in the previous quarter. Courtroom number 1 at the main court in Black River and courtroom number 1 in Balaclava accounts for the next highest shares of new cases heard in the

## THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S SECOND QUARTER STATISTICS REPORT ON CRIMINAL MATTERS IN THE PARISH COURTS

quarter with 20.05% and 9.77% respectively of the total. In terms of cases disposed Lay Magistrates sittings in BalACLava accounts for the highest case disposal rate of 50%. Courtroom numbers 2 and 1 in Santa Cruz had the next highest disposal rates of 60% and 45.78% respectively. The outstation in Santa Cruz accounts for the highest proportion of new cases heard in the quarter with 58.90% while the main courthouse in Black River accounts for roughly 40.85%. The remaining 0.25% is accounted for the other outstation courts.

As mentioned Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. In particular, of the 38 cases heard in BalACLava courtroom 1, one (1) was disposed of at the Santa Cruz outstation (courtroom #1).

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**Table 14.11: Aggregate case statistics for each outstation in the Parish of St. Ann for the quarter of ended June 30, 2019**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
<b>ST.ANN'S BAY</b>					
Courtroom #1 (main court)	255	48	28	46.79	29.80
Lay Magistrates (main court)	64	3	29	11.74	50
Lay Magistrates' Court	22	-	-	4.04	0
Claremont Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	5	-	1	0.92	20
Children's Court - Claremont	10	2	-	1.83	20
Claremont outstation	31	8	1	5.69	29.03
<b>BROWNS TOWN</b>					
Courtroom #1	115	21	7	21.10	24.35
Lay Magistrates Court	34	1	3	6.24	11.76
Children's Court	9	3	1	1.65	44.44
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>28.62</b>

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 second quarter ended June 30, 2019. The data shows that courtroom 1 in both St. Ann's Bay (the main court) and Browns Town account for the largest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 46.79% and 21.10% respectively of the total. In quarter 1 of 2019, the same two courts recorded the highest share of new cases with 51.87% and 16.57% respectively. In the corresponding quarter of 2018, courtroom

## THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S SECOND QUARTER STATISTICS REPORT ON CRIMINAL MATTERS IN THE PARISH COURTS

11 in St. Ann's Bay and courtroom 1 in Browns Town accounted for 43.61% and 25.89%, this showed an increase in the St. Ann's Bay (Courtroom 1) and a decline in Browns Town (Courtroom 1) with 3.18 percentage point and 4.79 percentage points respectively. The Lay Magistrates Court in St. Ann's Bay accounts for the third largest share of new cases heard, with 11.74%, similar to the first quarter of 2018. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 at the St. Ann's Bay Parish Court accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 48 matters and had the third highest case disposal rate of 29.80%. Matters heard at the Petty session court in St. Anns Bay with a 50% disposal rate and the Children's court in Browns Town with a rate of 44.44% accounts for the two highest disposal rates in the quarter. As a whole, the Brown's Town court accounted for approximately 28.99% of the new cases filed in the parish of St. Ann during the quarter, a decrease of 5.59 percentage points below the 34.58% recorded in the corresponding Apr.-Jun.2018 quarter. The St. Ann's Bay courthouse accounts for 64.40% of the new cases heard in the quarter an increase of 3.92 percentage points up from the 60.48% recorded in the similar 2018 second quarter and a decrease of 7.39 percentage points below the 71.79% recorded in the previous Jan.-Mar.2019 quarter. The outstations apart from Brown's Town account for approximately 6.61% of the total.

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**Table 14.12: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom/outstation in the Parish of Clarendon for the quarter of ended June 30, 2019**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of total new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom#1 (main court)	119	43	6	22.12	41.18
Lionel Town outstation	68	23	2	12.64	36.76
Courtroom#2 (main court)	170	59	30	31.60	52.35
Chapleton outstation	64	24	1	11.90	39.06
Courtroom#3 (main Court)	34	16	3	6.32	55.88
Lay Magistrates Court (main court)	25	5	5	4.64	40.00
Children's Court (main court)	32	1	1	5.95	6.25
Frankfield Outstation	18	2	-	3.35	11.11
Night Court (main court)	8	4	1	1.49	62.50
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>42.01</b>

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 second quarter ended June 30, 2019. The available data shows decisively that courtroom number 2 in May Pen accounted for highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 31.60% of the total, an increase of 18.67 percentage points above the 12.93% recorded in the previous quarter. Courtroom number 1 and Lionel Town outstation accounts for the next two highest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 22.12% and 12.64% respectively of the total. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 2 in May Pen accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 59 cases, an increase of 19 above the 40

## THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S SECOND QUARTER STATISTICS REPORT ON CRIMINAL MATTERS IN THE PARISH COURTS

cases recorded in the similar 2018 quarter and had the fourth highest case disposal rate of 52.35%. Night court sittings with a disposal rate of 62.50% and courtroom 3 at the main court with 56.25% had the highest disposal rates in the parish in the second quarter of 2019. An estimated 27.88% of new cases heard in Clarendon during the second quarter occurred in the outstation locations with the remaining 72.12% taking place in the main court in May Pen, a marginal increase of 1.2 percentage points above the 70.92% recorded in the corresponding Apr.-Jun. 2018 quarter.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. In particular, of the 170 cases heard courtroom 2, one (1) was disposed of in courtroom 1. Of the 119 cases heard in courtroom 1, one (1) was disposed of in courtroom 1.

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**Table 13.13: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Manchester for the quarter of ended June 30, 2019**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in the quarter</b>	<b>Number of Cases disposed (of Those originating in the quarter)</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases(of those originating in the month)</b>	<b>Proportion of total new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case Disposal Rate (%)</b>
Courtroom#1 (main court)	121	30	3	23.77	27.27
Courtroom#2 (main court)	87	28	4	17.09	36.78
Lay Magistrates Court (main court)	149	68	10	29.27	52.35
Christiana Outstation	33	5	-	6.48	15.15
Spalding Outstation	8	-	-	1.57	0
Christiana (Lay Magistrates Court)	13	-	1	2.55	7.69
Tax Court (main court)	5	-	-	0.98	0
Porus (main court)	11	2	-	2.16	18.18
Cross Keys (main court)	13	4	1	2.55	38.46
Spalding Lay Magistrates Court)	4	2	-	0.79	20
Porus (Children's Court)	7	--	-	1.38	0
Cottage Outstation	8	1	-	1.57	12.5
Courtroom #3 (main court)	25	7	-	4.91	28
Cross Keys Outstation (Petty Session)	6	-	3	1.18	50
Children's Court (main court)	1	-	-	0.20	0
Night Court (main court)	11	4	-	2.16	36.36
Cottage (Lay Magistrates Court)	4	1	-	0.79	25
Porus (Lay Magistrates Court)	3	1	1	0.59	66.67
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>34.58</b>

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 second quarter ended June 30, 2019. The data shows that the Lay Magistrates Court accounted for

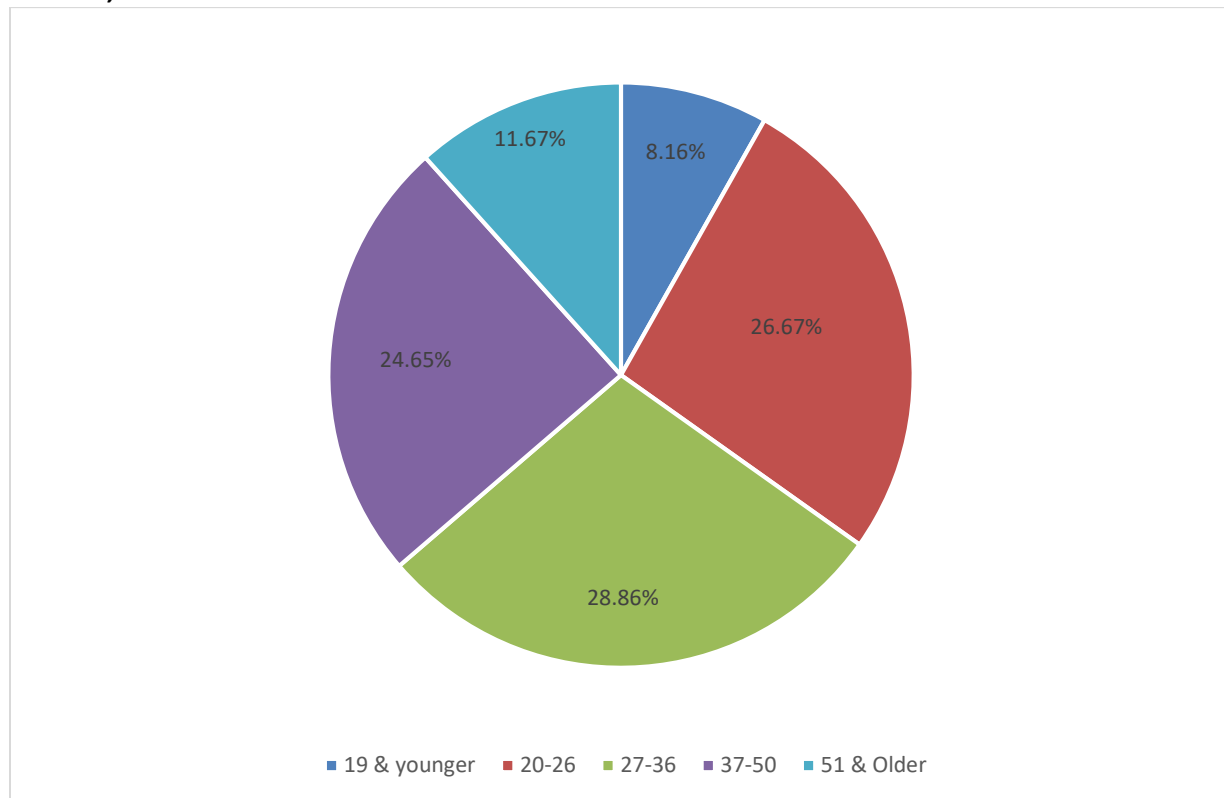
## THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S SECOND QUARTER STATISTICS REPORT ON CRIMINAL MATTERS IN THE PARISH COURTS

highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 29.27% of the total, compared to 25.67% in the first quarter of 2019 an increase of 3.6 percentage points. Courtroom numbers 1 and 2 accounts for the next highest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 23.77% and 17.09% respectively of the total. This represents an increase of 1.23 percentage points for courtroom 1 and a decrease of 6.23 percentage points for courtroom number 2. In terms of cases disposed, Lay Magistrates sittings at the main court in Mandeville accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 68 cases, 6 cases or 9.68% above the 62 recorded in the previous Jan-Mar.2019 quarter and had the second highest case disposal rate of roughly 52.35%, 11.50 percentage points higher than the 40.85% recorded in quarter one of 2019. Petty session sittings in Porus, with disposal rates of 66.67% accounts for the highest disposal rates in the parish. However, in quarter 1 main court in the Cross Keys outstation accounted for the highest disposal rate with 85.71%. The main courthouse in Mandeville accounts for 89.19% of the total number of new cases heard in the quarter, an increase of 8.23 percentage points above the 80.96% recorded in the previous quarter. The remaining 10.81% were accounted for by the various outstations. This however showed a decline of 17.81 percentage points below the 28.62% reported in the corresponding 2018 second quarter.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 121 cases heard in courtroom 1, there were 3 cases disposed of at the Night Court sittings at the main court. Of the 87 cases heard in courtroom 2, one was disposed in courtroom number 2. There were 2 cases disposed in other courtrooms of the 11 cases heard at the Night Court sittings. One was disposed of at the Lay Magistrates court while the other was disposed of in courtroom 1 at the main court.



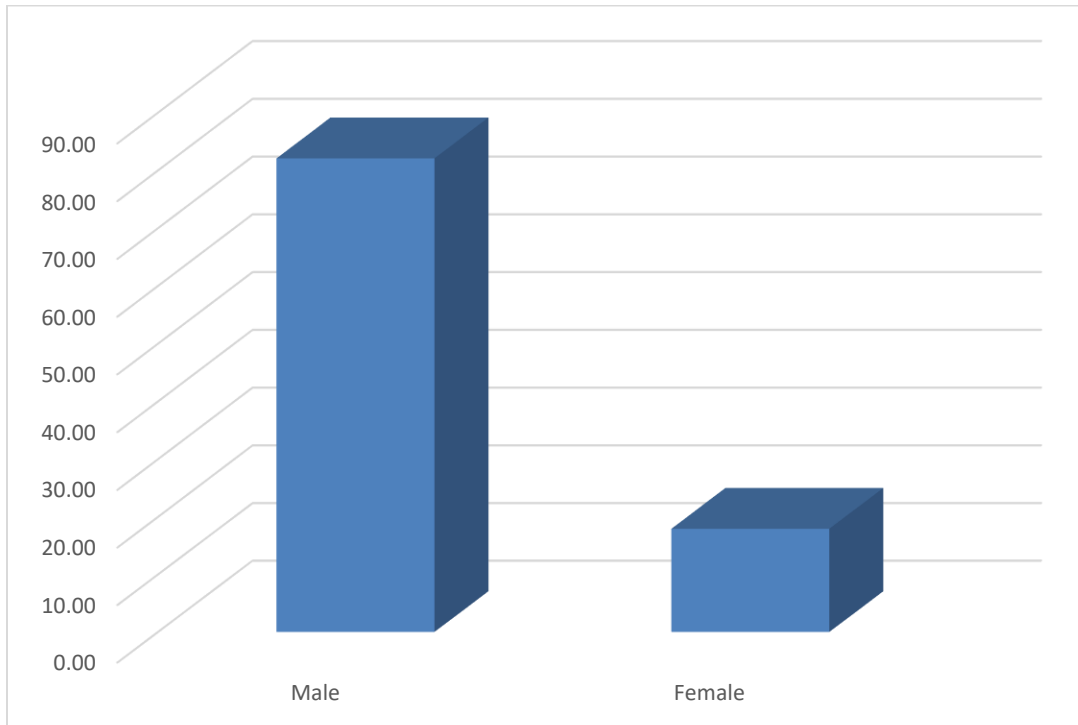
**Chart 1.0: Aggregate age distribution of offenders for all parish courts for the quarter ended June 30, 2019**



The above chart shows that of the total number of offenders, for which age data was readily available for the April to June quarter, 2019; the largest proportion, 28.86% were from the 27-36 age cohorts. This category is followed by the 20-26 age group with 26.67%, the 37-50 age group with 24.65% and the oldest age cohorts 51 years and older accounting for 11.65%. The youngest age cohort in the distribution accounted for the lowest proportions with the 19 and younger category accounting for 8.16% and of total offenders.

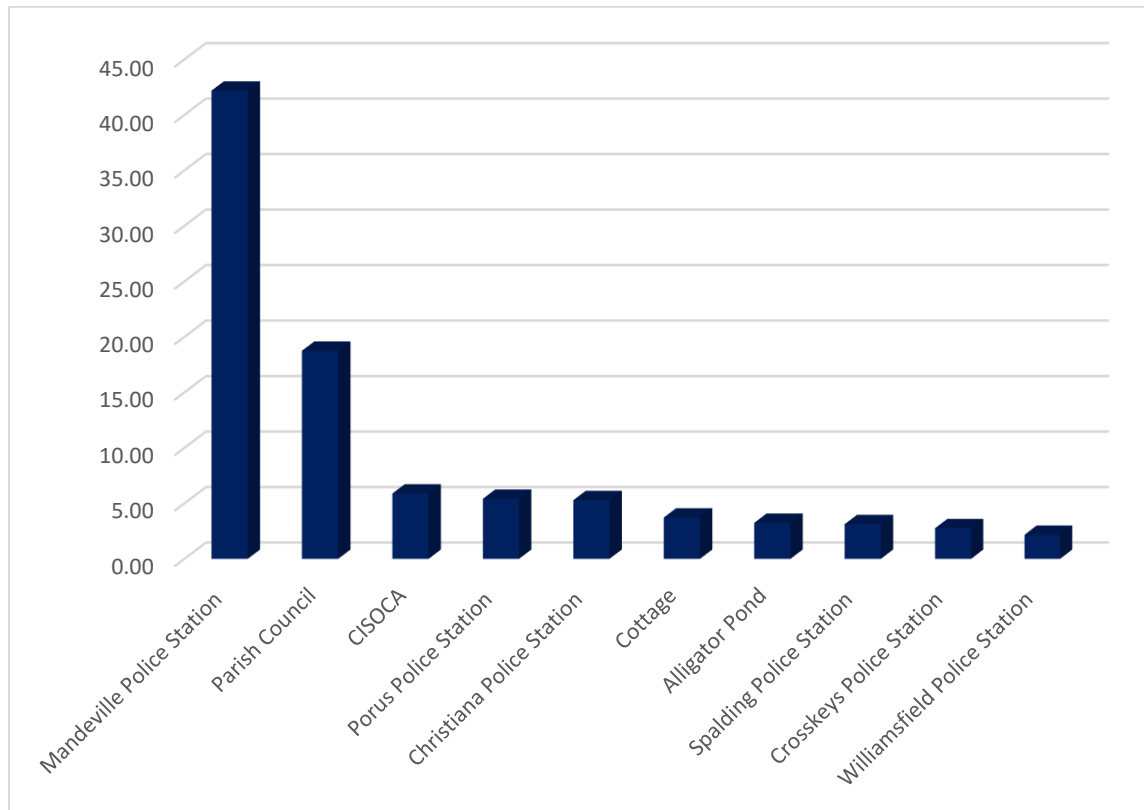
## THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S SECOND QUARTER STATISTICS REPORT ON CRIMINAL MATTERS IN THE PARISH COURTS

**Chart 2.0: Aggregate gender distribution of offenders for the quarter ended June 30, 2019**



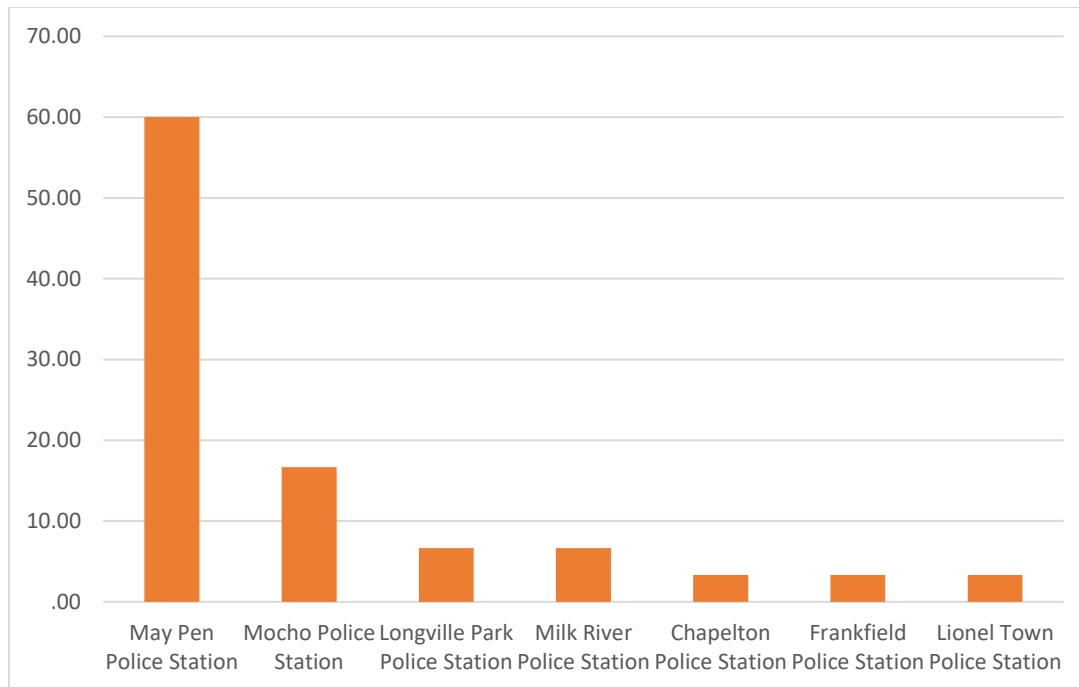
The above chart shows that the overwhelming majority of offenders for the April to June quarter, 2019 were male, accounting for roughly 82.08% of the total while females accounted for approximately 17.94%. The gender distribution of offenders for the first quarter was quite similar to this breakdown for second quarter with approximately 76.52% to 23.48% male to female ratio.

**Chart 3.0: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Manchester Parish Court for the quarter ended June 30, 2019**



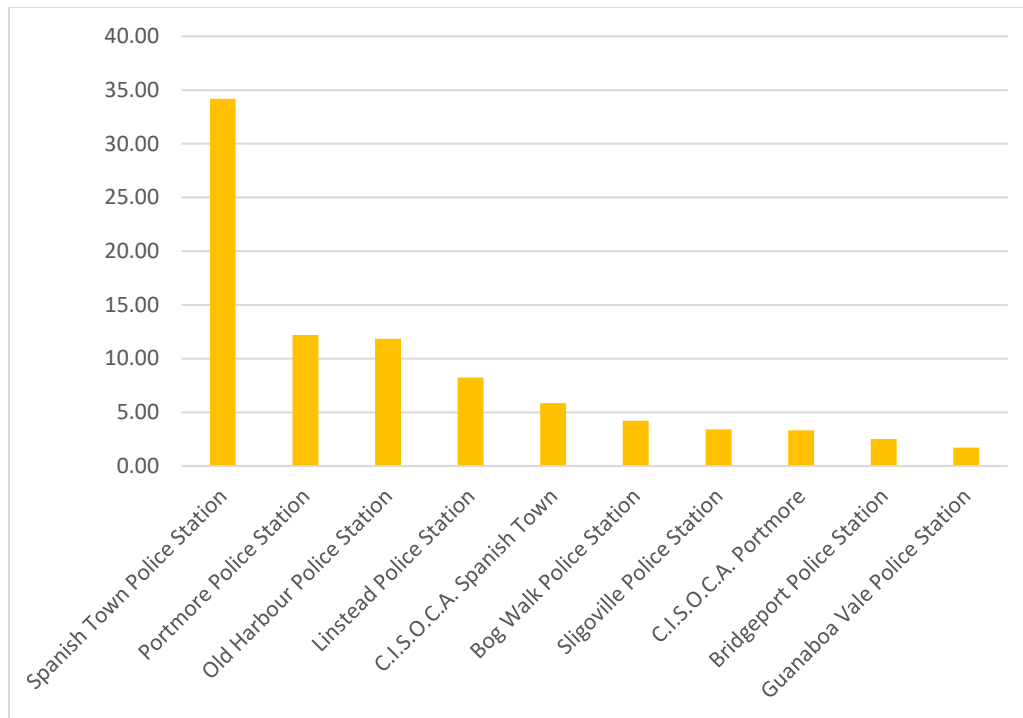
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Manchester Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 832 records indicate that for the April to June quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 42.19%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Mandeville Police Station. This was followed by the Parish Council which accounts for 18.75% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the CISOCA with 5.89%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of the Mandeville Police Station, the Parish Council and the Christiana Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.1: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Clarendon Parish Court for the quarter ended June 30, 2019**



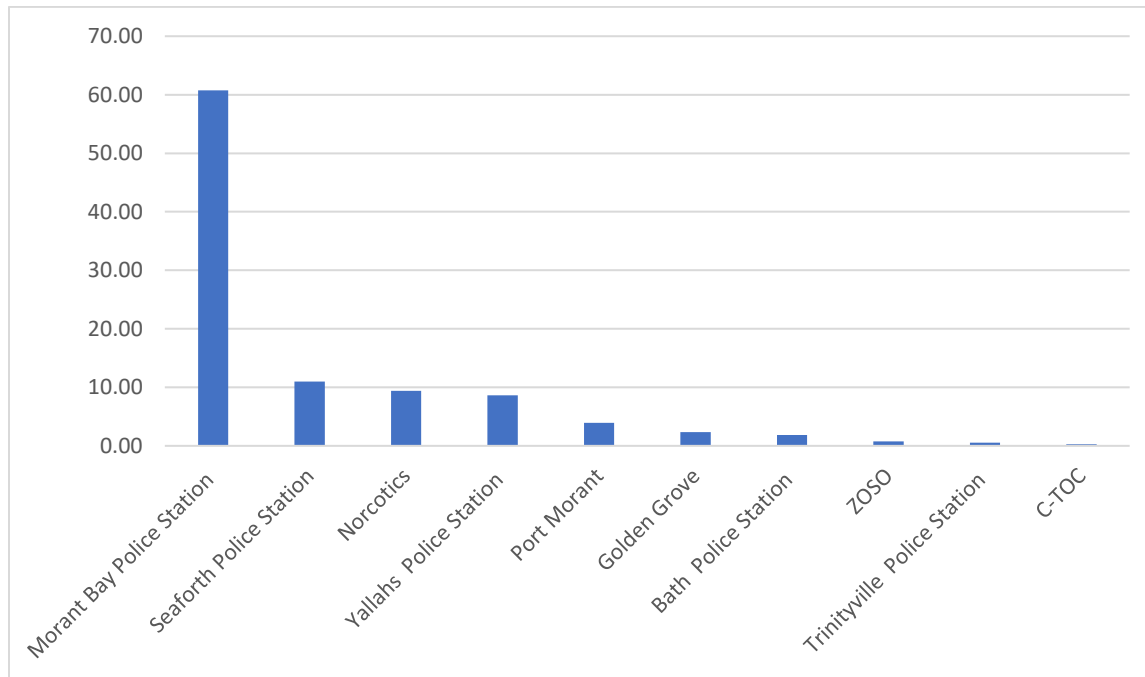
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Clarendon Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 30 records indicate that for the April to June quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 60%, which were brought before the Court were reported in May Pen Police Station. This was followed by the Mocho Police Station which accounts for 16.67% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Longville Park Police with 6.67%. In the previous quarter the top three were accounted for by the May Pen, Four Paths and Lionel Town Police Stations. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.2: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Catherine Parish Court for the quarter ended June 30, 2019**



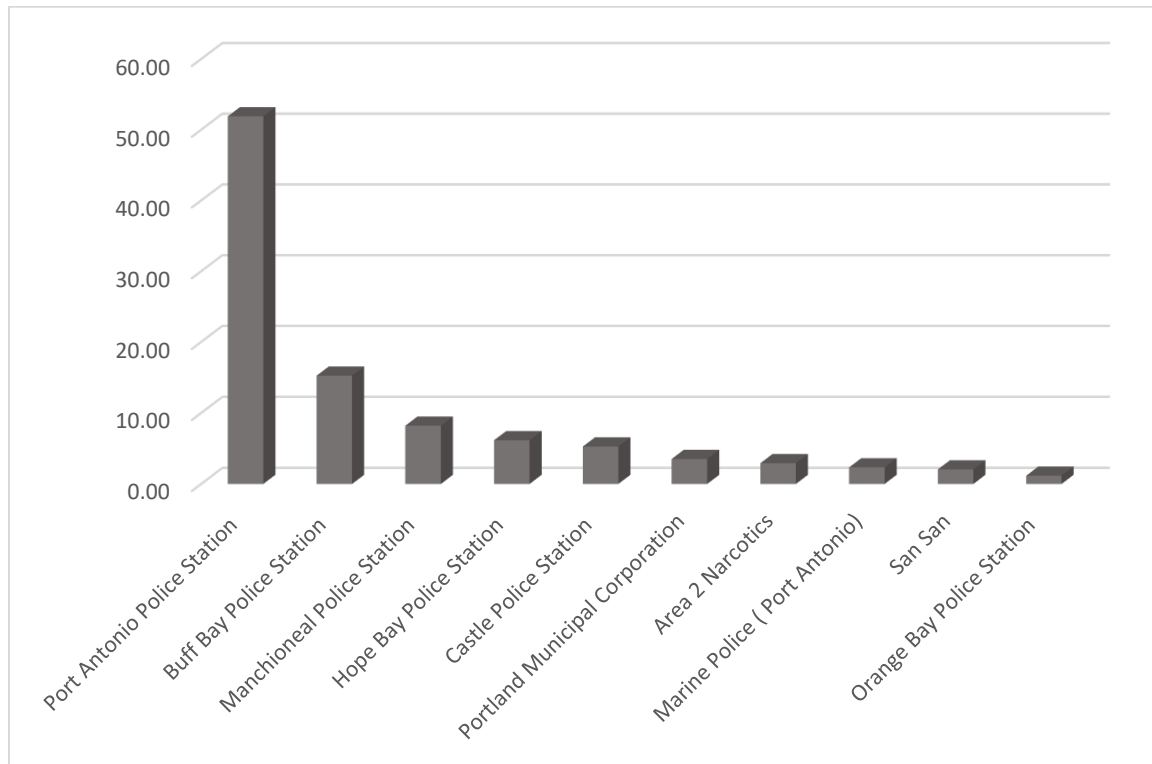
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Catherine Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 1468 records indicate that for the April to June quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 34.20%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Spanish Town Police Station. This was followed by the Portmore Police Station which accounts for 12.19% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Old Harbour Police Station with 11.85%. In the previous quarter the top three was accounted for by the Spanish Town, Linstead Town and Portmore Police Stations. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.3: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Thomas Parish Court for the quarter ended June 30, 2019**



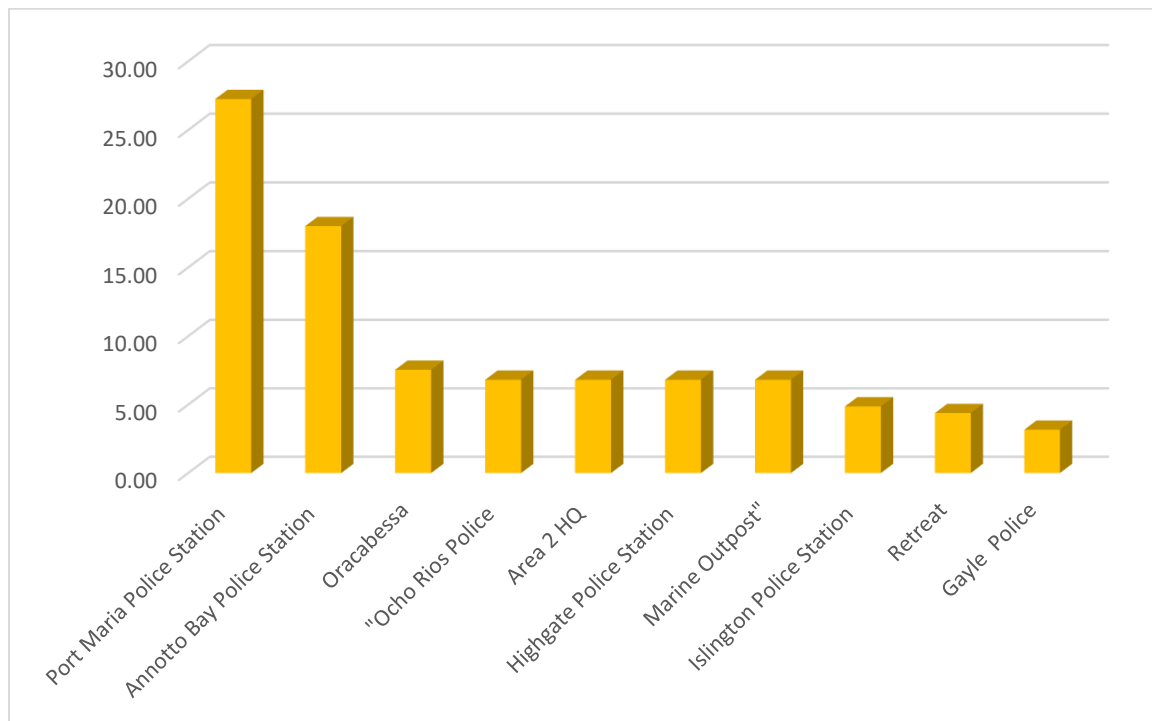
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Thomas Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 382 records indicate that for the April to June quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 60.73%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Morant Bay Police Station. This was followed by the Seaforth Police Station which accounts for 10.99% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Norcotics Police with 9.42%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Morant Bay, Yallahs and Golden Grove Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.4: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Portland Parish Court for the quarter ended June 30, 2019**



The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Portland Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 341 records indicate that for the April to June quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 51.91%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Port Antonio Police Station. This was followed by the Buff Bay Police Station which accounts for 15.25% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Manchioneal Police with 8.21%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of the Port Antonio, Buff Bay and Marine Police Stations. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

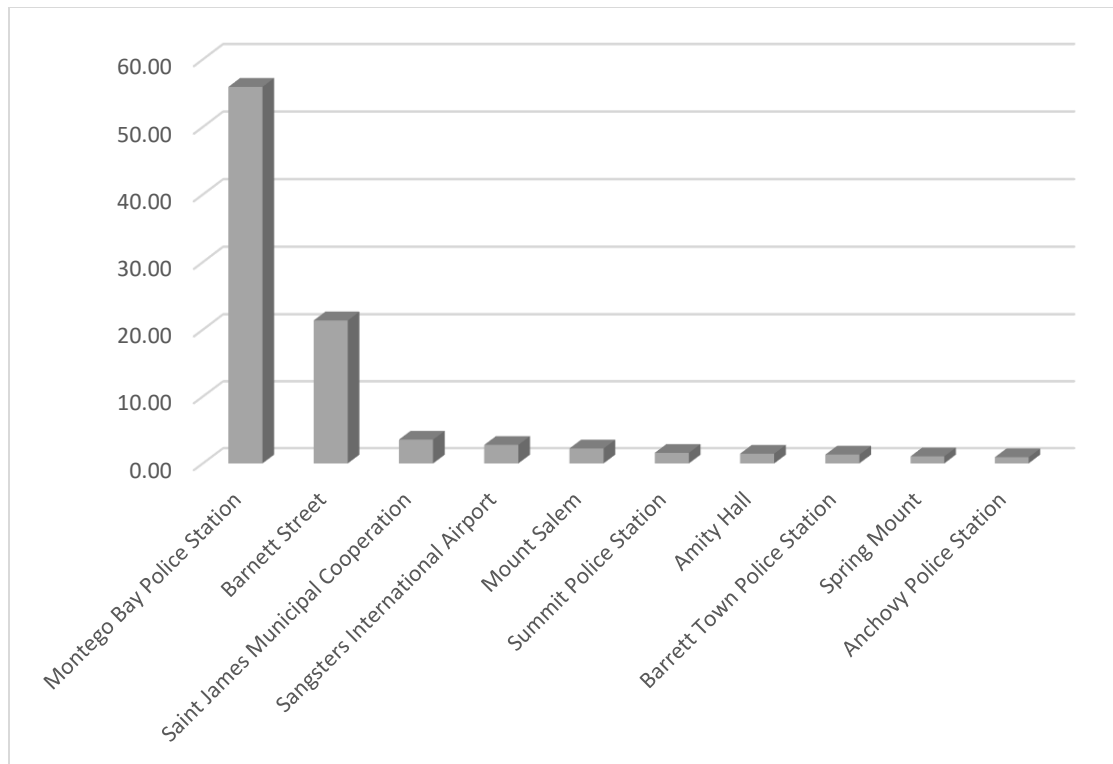
**Chart 3.5: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Mary Parish Court for the quarter ended June 30, 2019**



The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Mary Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 411 records indicate that for the April to June quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 27.25%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Port Maria Police Station. This was followed by the Annotto Bay Police Station which accounts for 18% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Oracabessa Police with 7.54%. In the previous quarter the top three Police Stations were similar to this quarter. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

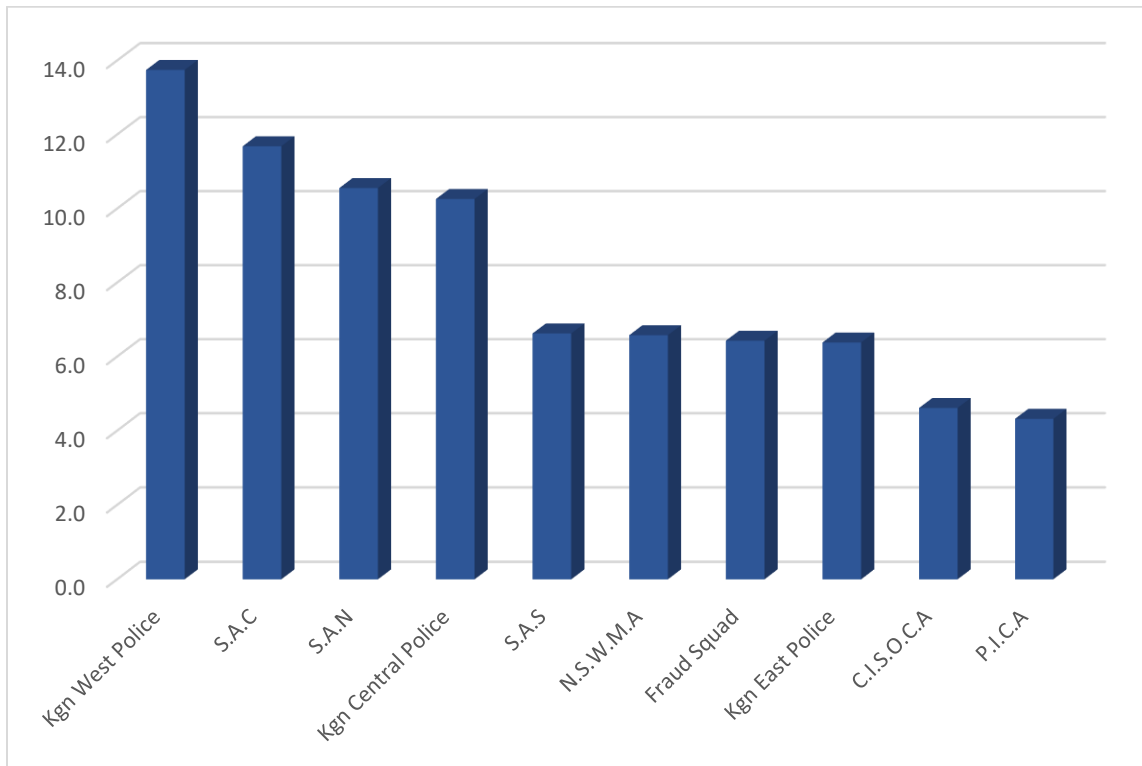


**Chart 3.6: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. James Parish Court for the quarter ended June 30, 2019**



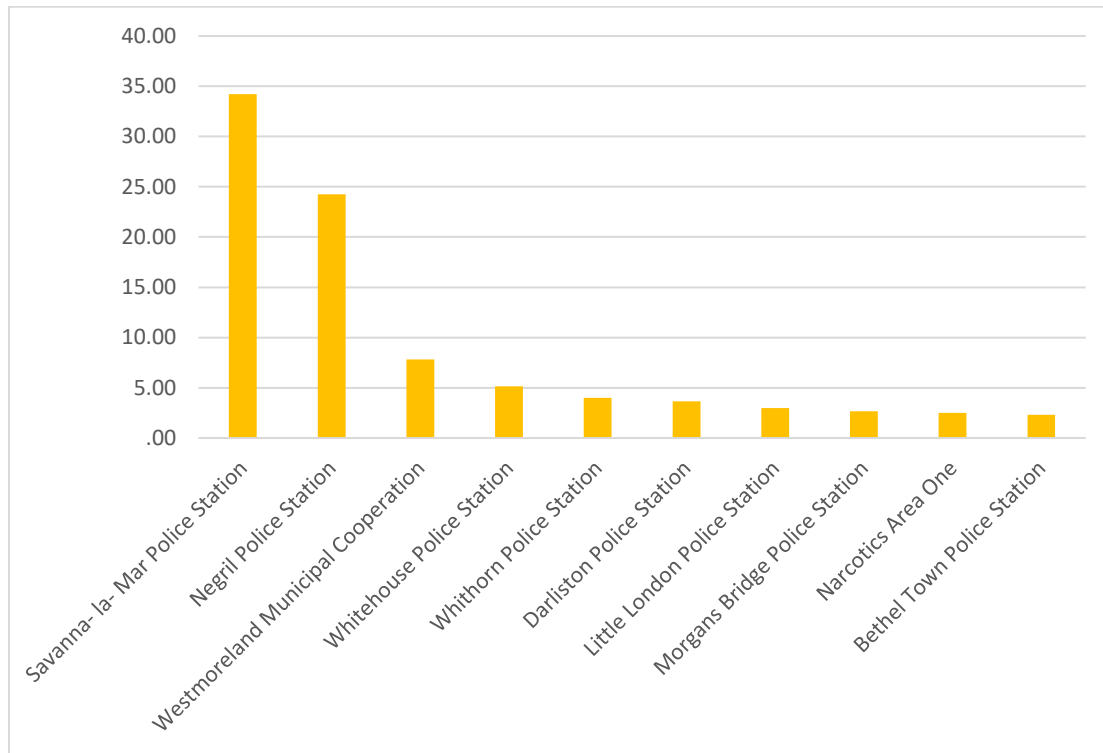
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. James Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 758 records indicate that for the April to June quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 55.94%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Montego Bay Police Station. This was followed by the Barnett Street Police Station which accounts for 21.37% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the St. James Municipal Cooperation with 3.56%. In the previous quarter the top three was accounted for by the Barnett Street Police Station, the Montego Bay Police and Sangster's International Airport. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.7: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Corporate Area Criminal Parish Court for the quarter ended June 30, 2019**



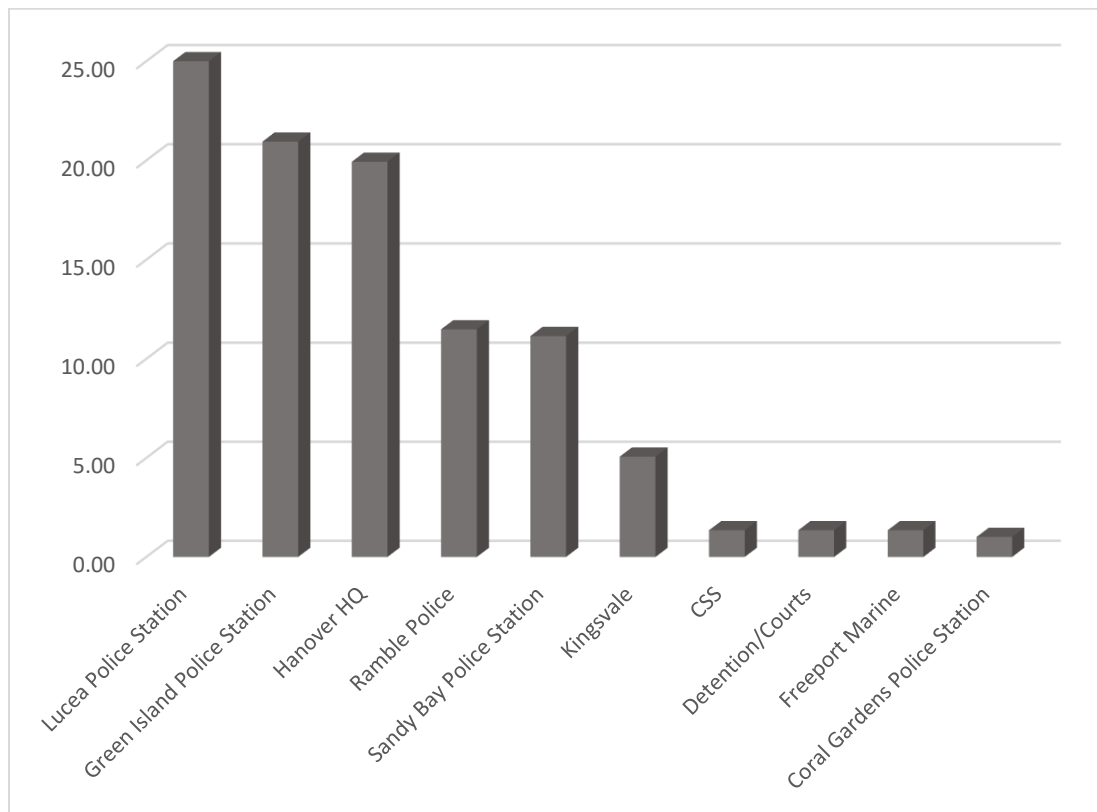
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Corporate Area Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 2037 records indicate that for the April to June quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 13.75%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Kingston West Police Station. This was followed by the St. Andrew Central Police Station which accounts for 11.68% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the St. Andrew North Police with 10.55%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of the Kingston Central, St. Andrew Central and the St. Andrew South Police Stations. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.8: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the quarter ended June 30, 2019**



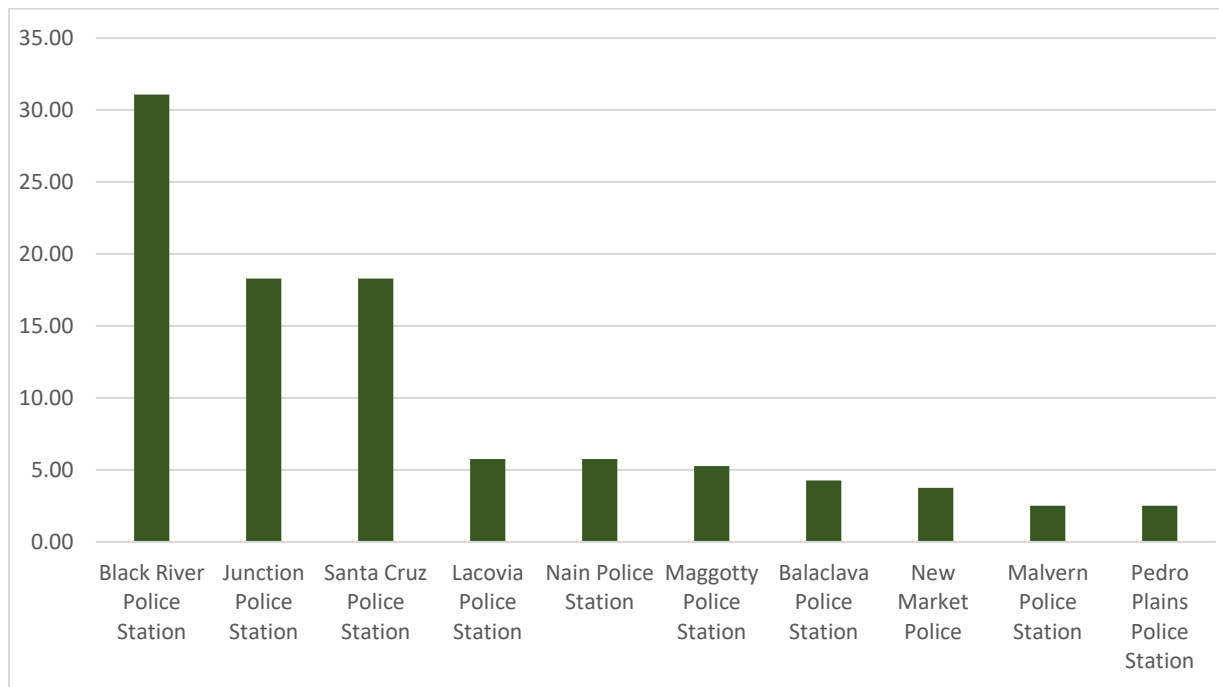
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Westmoreland Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 602 records indicate that for the April to June quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 34.22%, which were brought before the Court, were reported at the Savanna-la-mar Police Station. This was followed by the Negril Police Station which accounts for 24.25% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Westmoreland Municipal Cooperation with 7.81%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of the Savanna-la-mar Police, the Negril Police and Narcotics Division Area 1. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.9: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Hanover Parish Court for the quarter ended June 30, 2019**



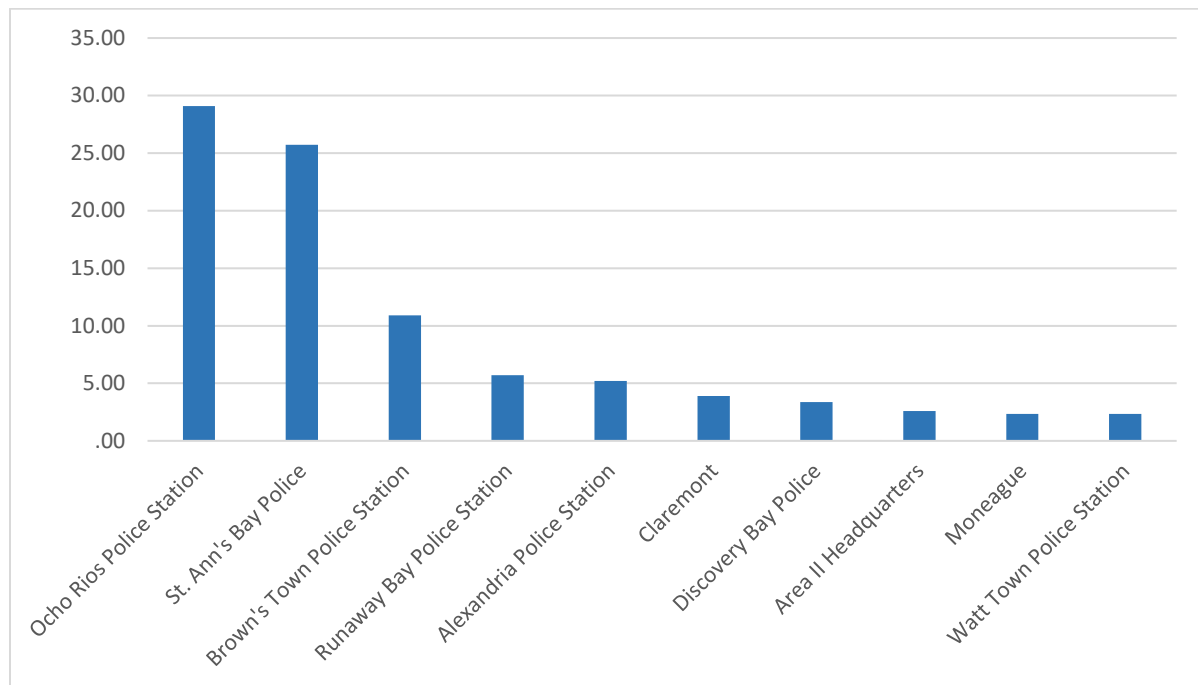
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Hanover Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 296 records indicate that for the April to June quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 25%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Lucea Police Station. This was followed by the Green Island Police Station which accounts for 20.95% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Hanover HQ Police with 19.93%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of the Lucea, Green Island and Sandy Bay Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.10: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court for the quarter ended June 30, 2019**



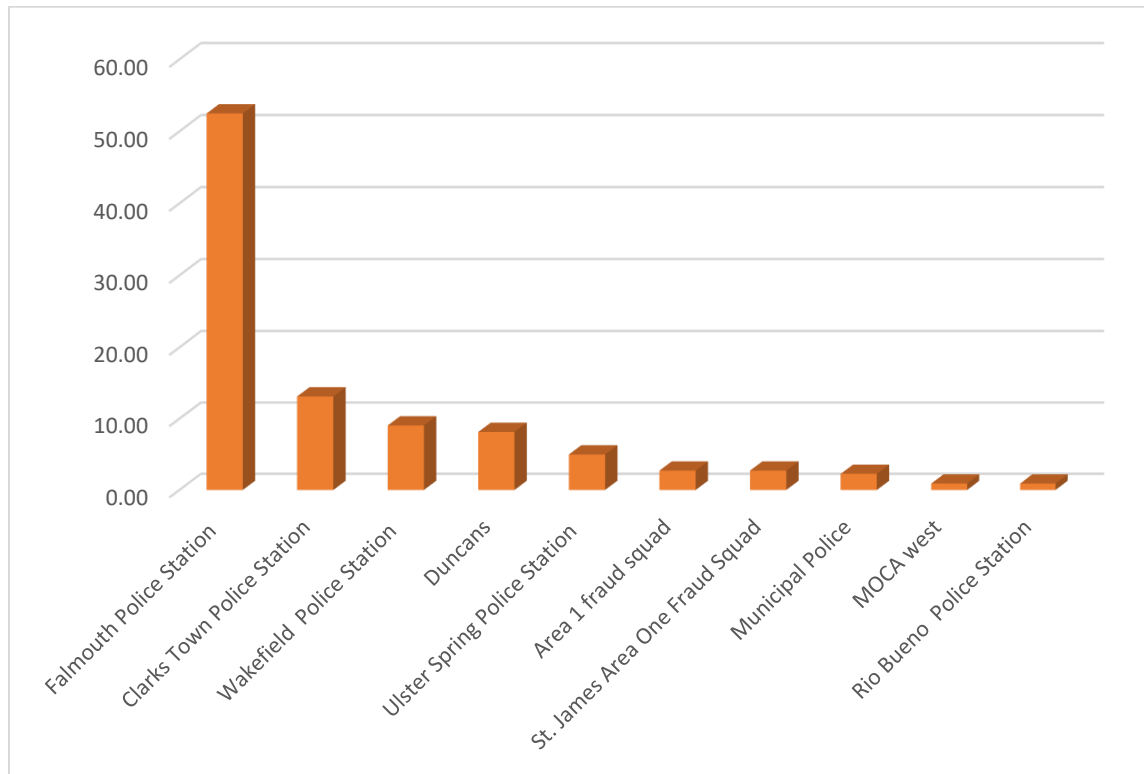
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 399 records indicate that for the April to June quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 31.08%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Black River Police Station. This was followed by the Junction Police Station which accounts for 18.30% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Santa Cruz Police with 18.30%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of the Black River, Santa Cruz and Nain Police Stations. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.11: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Ann Parish Court for the quarter ended June 30, 2019**



The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Ann Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 385 records indicate that for the April to June quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 29.09%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Ocho Rios Police Station. This was followed by the St. Ann's Bay Police Station which accounts for 25.71% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Brown's Town Police with 10.91%. In the previous quarter the top three were accounted for by the Brown's Town, Ocho Rios and St. Ann's Bay Police Stations. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.12: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Trelawny Parish Court for the quarter ended June 30, 2019**



The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Trelawny Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 221 records indicate that for the April to June quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 52.49%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Falmouth Police Station. This was followed by the Clarks Town Police Station which accounts for 13.12% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Wakefield Police with 9.05%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of the Falmouth, Clarks Town and Duncans Police Stations. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

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Overall, this quarter shows a decrease in the total number of matters/cases distributed across the many Police Stations/Agencies for each parish within the island.



## **Conclusion and Recommendations**

This report provides a range of essential insights into criminal case activity in the parish courts for the first quarter ended June 30, 2019, representing a continuation of the trend in comprehensive and consistent reporting on criminal case activity in the parish courts. The findings from this report provide the basis for important policy and operational decisions. Among these key findings is that the overall criminal case clearance rate across the parish reached its highest level since this type of statistical reporting began in 2016, a rate of 108.45%, suggesting that for every 100 new cases filed across the parish courts in the period, 108 were disposed. This represents a new high, over the record 103.46% recorded in the first quarter of 2019. This progress continues to augur well for the accomplishment of the target of raising the overall average criminal clearance rate to roughly 130% over the next six-year period. This is seen as necessary to reduce the criminal case backlog rate below the 5% mark. Impressively, 11 of the parish courts exceeded the minimum prescribed international standard of a 90% clearance rate; the most to have attained this feat since these reports began, outstripping the 10 which attained the feat in the first quarter of 2019. Notably, nine of these courts exceeded a rate of 100% clearance rate mark, another unprecedented feat since this type of reporting began. These results provide another solid anchorage for the major effort underway to eliminate the criminal case backlog in the courts within six years. The generally improved productivity of the courts can be attributed to the number of factors, including the strengthening of the case management process through the employment of case progression officers across the courts and the adoption of a data driven approach to decision making in the court system. In all parish courts, data on the status of the criminal cases as well as key delay factors and complexity indicators are electronically available to

multiple internal stakeholders by way of the Case Information Statistical System (CISS). Despite the strides made with the case clearance rate over the period, there was a decline of 0.8 percentage points in the case disposal rate when compared to the corresponding period in 2018 and a fall of 7.53 percentage points in comparison to the first quarter of 2019. There is no necessary short term positive linear correlation between the case disposal rate and the case clearance rate though in the long run the association could be strictly positive.

In reinforcement of the improved results on the case clearance rates was the finding that sample data on cases disposed over the past 28 months across the parish courts indicate that roughly 45.28% were disposed of in three months or less. This is again quite a promising sign for continuous efforts to improve the timely resolution of cases in the criminal court system.

As with the previous quarter, the data affirms that despite the improvements noted, mathematically all parish courts, based on current rates of disposal and the implied resource endowments are carrying higher caseloads than their existing capacities seem to suggest. This was derived from the analysis of the case congestion rates, which shows that most courts are carrying caseloads, which are well above what their current capacity seems to portend. The resource constraints faced by the courts are evident from these results; however, there continues to be a number of critical delay factors, which must be addressed in order to improve efficiency. Among these factors are the high incidences of adjournments, which increase the average time taken to dispose of cases and thus foster a sub-optimal use of judicial time. Among

the leading delay factors in this regard are outstanding medical reports, outstanding forensic reports and the non-appearance of parties and investigating officers for court hearings. Such factors invariably have a direct association with the incidence of mention and trial and thus trial and hearing date certainty, which currently varies by parish court but overall falls short of the international standards. It is critical that robust interventions be pursued to engage the necessary stakeholders to redress those delay factors that are outside the court's direct control, for example, outstanding medical certificates for which the Hospitals would be largely culpable and more decisive police action could militate against the frequency of the non-appearance of parties for court. There are however many common reasons for adjournment over which the parish courts have some degree of direct control, such as those factors outlined earlier which have an impact on the case file integrity rates, including matters adjourned due to the lack of readiness of files for court, matters left off court lists or matters wrongly listed for court. These can be mitigated by a more robust system of scheduling matters for court and generally more robust case management practices. The new case management system, which is anticipated within the next 12 months, should make a positive impact in this regard. A superior system of scheduling is also expected to have a positive impact on the courtroom utilization rate which stands at 63% for this quarter, suggesting that despite the improved clearance rates, a spare capacity of 37% still exists to improve productivity in the criminal courts. Hence, the apparent congestion of the courts can be aided by a more efficient utilization of courtrooms through stronger scheduling and case management practices.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Earlier in this report, it was pointed out that what gets measured gets attention, an adage that is bearing out strongly in the Jamaican court system, seen in the strides made in improving productivity. Constant access to absolute and comparative data for the various courts is having an unquestionable effect on driving court performance. It is hereby recommended that such access become available on the go, in near real time to the various internal stakeholders of the court by way of a ***court performance app (CPA)*** which will allow the Judiciary to continuously access data, charts, forecasts, projections and variances for the respective courts and business lines. This is proposed to form part of a broader technological transformation, which will improve the science of case management in the Jamaican court system.

The nucleus of improved court performance lies in enhancing the strength of the case management process in the criminal courts. This is necessary to ensure that more sound scheduling practices are employed and that the electronic and other monitoring mechanisms are fully utilized to ensure that the probability of cases lagging in the court system and entering backlog classification are substantially lessened. As mentioned, a strong and direct engagement of external stakeholders, which are at least partly responsible for the lengthy and frequent delays in criminal matters are critical to the way forward. Slow but steady strides are being made in improving the critical performance indicators such as the case clearance rates and trial certainty ratios; however, the system is still a long way from reaching a state of self-sustaining equilibrium.

Bolstering the technical and human resources at the disposition of the courts is also vital in realising the desired advances in the near future. Below are two strategies, which can be employed court wide in an effort to alter the status quo and create new paths to optimizing efficiency, subject to the existing constraints.

Firstly, we propose the employment of a Differentiated Case Management (DCM) mechanism. Differentiated case management is a technique that courts can use to create an efficient, tight-fitting assignment of cases for judges based on the specific characteristics of each case, much like putting a jigsaw puzzle together. By balancing complex cases that involve more time and resources with simpler cases that require less time and resources, a court can better utilize its judges and courtrooms. The way this can work is that when a case is filed, a determination of the expected time to complete the case should be made. Depending on the complexity of the case, it can be assigned to one of four tracks, from the least to most complex. A less complex case would be assigned to an expedited track. Cases in this track would have limited pre-trial deadlines and trials could possibly be set within 90 days of filing. By contrast, the most complex cases would be assigned to an extended track, where the trial date was set at months away. There could also two other intermediate tracks between the expedited and extended tracks, with varying trial date schedules. This kind of approach could potentially enhance hearing/trial date certainty, improve courtroom utilization rates and over time significantly expedite the disposition of cases. For this mechanism to work effectively, it is important that time standards/expected times for the

disposition of cases of varying complexity be firmly established. Backlog monitoring groups within each parish court, called the Backlog Reduction, Evaluation and Assessment Committee (BREAC) – parish court version, could marshal the Differentiated Case Management (DCM) in these courts, forming the ethos of the second facet of my proposal. The purpose of these groups would be to track the aged caseload in the different courts. For this purpose all 'older' cases on the trial list of the courts, however aged can be categorized by complexity, state of readiness and age in the court system. This list can be used on an ongoing basis as the basis of informing the work of the **BREAC** group. The goal is to sustain reductions in the pre-existing case backlog in the parish courts and to marshal the process of revising the scheduling practices of the respective courts, thus making backlog prevention a priority. The Case Progression Officers, under the guidance of the Judges could anchor such groups.

The differentiated case management system can be supplemented by the employment of the Weighted Caseload Model (**WCM**). By weighting different types of cases to account for variations in complexity and the need for judicial attention, workload assessment translates the number of cases that come before the court into the total judicial work required to dispose those cases. The weighted caseload method calculates judicial need based on total judicial workload. This employment of this scientific model can significantly enhance case scheduling practices throughout the courts.

The report notes that despite the steady strides being made in improving the case clearance rates, the courts still grapple with a high congestion rate, implying that the current caseload is more than what the implied state of resources and rate of clearance would suggest that they are capable of carrying. The overall courtroom utilization rate of 63% however suggests that much can be done to improve the overall case congestion and general productivity of the courts by improving the efficiency with which courtrooms are utilized. As with the Supreme Court, the parish courts are indeed showing much resilience amidst the constraints experienced however, there is much to be done to accomplish the desired international benchmarks in efficiency and timely delivery of justice, universally. The current operational policy revisions pursued bears much promise in this regard. A serious examination of the causes of wide variations in the rank of the different parish courts on the various performance indicators should be pursued and the best practices adopted and standardized.

### Glossary of Statistical Terms

- 1) 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>

- 2) 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>



- 3) **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%
- 4) **Court room 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
- 5) **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.
- 6) **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.
- 7) **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.
- 8) **Skewness:** This is a measure of the distribution of scores in a data set. It gives an idea of where the larger proportion of the scores in a data set can be found. Generally, if skewness is positive as revealed by a positive value for this measure, this suggests that a greater

proportion of the scores in the data set are at the lower end. If the skewness is negative as revealed by a negative value for this measure, it generally suggests that a greater proportion of the scores are at the higher end. If the skewness measure is approximately 0, then there is roughly equal distribution of scores on both the higher and lower ends of the average figure.

- 9) **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.

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*i* Source:

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

*ii* Source:

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

