

Family Courts of Jamaica
The Chief Justice's Annual Statistics Report for 2021
(Corporate Area Family Court, the Trelawny Family Court and the Western Regional Family Courts)

	JANUARY TO DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS	
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	96.68	102.96
Net backlog rate (%)	9.12	9.04

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Executive Summary

The specialized family courts in Jamaica continued a trend of commendable output in 2021 and in so doing is poised to make a strong contribution towards the realization of several key quantitative targets set out by the Honourable Chief Justice as part of the objective for the Jamaican judiciary to become one of the best performing court systems in the world over the next few years. Accomplishing such a goal will pivot the court system more firmly towards inspiring public confidence and in contributing immensely to creating the environment for business, investment and broader economic buoyancy.

There were 8095 new cases filed at the five specialized family courts included in this report, namely the Corporate Area Family Court, Trelawny and the three Western Regional Family Courts of St. James, Hanover and Westmoreland. The St. James location again accounted for the largest share of these new cases filed with 2511 or 31.02%, followed by the Corporate Area with 2335 or 28.84% and Westmoreland with 1760 or 21.74%. The Family Courts of Hanover and Trelawny with 10.44% and 7.96% of the new cases filed in the year accounted for the lowest shares. The Corporate Area Family Court accounted for the largest share of cases disposed during the year with 2251 or 30.68% followed by the St. James Family Court with 2127 or 28.99% and the Westmoreland Family Court with 22.94% respectively.

On the matter of the case clearance rate which is one of the most critical measures of court performance, from which several metrics stem, the Hanover Family Court was again the leader for the year, netting an impressive 114.08%, followed by the Corporate Area Family Court with

104.33. The Westmoreland and St. James Family Courts rank next with rates of 98.69% and 88.93% respectively while the Trelawny Family Court with a rate of 70.81% rounds off the list.

The estimated net case backlog rate across the specialized family courts is computed to be roughly 9.12%, which is 4.12 percentage points above the maximum targeted figure set out by the Honourable Chief Justice. A net case backlog rate of 5% or less is highly desirable and reflective of a court operating at near optimality in its clearance of cases. At the current rate of case clearance, it is anticipated that the family courts as a whole will be able to achieve a net case backlog rate of under 5% within the next 12-18 months.

The Family Courts as a whole continue to face challenges with delay factors such as the absenteeism of applicants and respondents for hearings as well as due to outstanding scientific reports, among other factors. Strengthening the case management apparatus of these courts as well as greater levels of cooperation and efficiency from external parties and stakeholders will be useful in reducing the general incidence of delays going forward. The Western Regional Family Courts and the Trelawny Family Court benefitted from the implementation of the new Judicial Case Management System (JCMS) towards the end of 2021 and are now positioned to becoming significant more service efficient as a result of this advanced technological influx.

Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2021

Family Court	Number of new cases	Gross Number of disposed cases	Gross number of Inactive cases	Weighted Average Case Clearance Rate (%)
Corporate Area Family Court	2335	2251	185	104.33
Hanover Family Court	845	934	30	114.08
St. James Family Court	2511	2127	106	88.93
Westmoreland Family Court	1760	1683	54	98.69
Trelawny Family Court	644	341	115	70.81
Total/Weighted Average	8095	7336	490	96.68

The above table provides a summary of aggregate case activity across the featured specialized Family Courts in the 2021 calendar year. It shows that a total of 8095 new cases were filed in these courts, while 490 became inactive and 7336 were disposed, leading to an estimated weighted case clearance rate of 96.68%. The Hanover Family Court recorded the highest overall weighted case clearance rate among the featured courts with 114.08%, followed by the Corporate Area Family Court with 104.33%.

Introduction

In recent years, an electronic data capture system has been implemented in the specialized Family Courts of the Corporate Area, Trelawny and the Western Regional Family Courts (comprising St. James, Westmoreland and Hanover) to promote efficient data collection and statistical reporting as well as improved case management practices. The system, now nearly perfected, is the foundation for the production of this statistics report on these specialized Family

Courts, detailing a range of case related activities in 2021. The specialized family courts are quite unique within the Jamaican court system, carrying out an array of functions on daily basis – in many ways functioning as a ‘one-stop shop.’ Among the primary functions carried out are on site counselling, filtering matters to offsite counselling locations, extensive open court hearings and adjudication and facilitating wide-ranging operational logistics involving the collection of payments and pay-outs for matters such as maintenance. The specialized Family Courts also tends to a number of distinct case types/macro business units, namely criminal, civil, domestic violence, family which includes maintenance, custody, adoption, declaration of paternity, guardianship and child welfare which includes childcare and protection and uncontrollable child. The criminal division and child welfare together make up the primary activities in the Children’s Court. This report primarily focusses on open court activity for the named specialize courts. According to the Judicature Family Court Act, the primary purpose of the Family Court is to prevent the breakdown of families and where this may be unavoidable to ensure that the welfare of its members and in particular children is safeguarded. The plethora of functions, both judicial and administrative which are performed by the Family Courts are therefore not surprising. In explaining the structure of the handling of family matters in the Jamaican court system, the Judicature (Family Court) Act of 1975 outlines that:

Matters concerning the family of which our statute laws take cognizance are adoption, custody, maintenance, affiliation, juveniles in need of care and attention, juvenile offenders and divorce...the Resident Magistrate’s Court (now parish courts) have jurisdiction in adoption, maintenance and affiliation. These courts along with the Supreme Court hear and determine matters relating to custody and guardianship. The law relating to juveniles in need of care and protection and to offending juveniles is principally administered by the Juvenile Courts, whilst the Supreme Court exercises exclusive jurisdiction in divorces.

The Family Courts are indeed an important part of the fabric of the justice sector and nation building and statistical reporting of this nature will contribute positively to the productivity of this court and improve the public's understanding and appreciation of its role and provisions. Together, these throughputs will redound to the benefit of the Jamaican society in both the long and short runs. It of note that the newly formed specialized Family Court in Chapleton, Clarendon are not included in this report but will appear in later reports in future reports.

Structure of Report

This 2021 statistics report is subdivided into four primary chapters, the second focussing extensively on open court operations at the Corporate Area Family Court, followed by summary measures on the three specialized family courts in the Western Region, namely St. James, Westmoreland and Hanover and also the Trelawny Family Court.

Disclaimer

The numbers that are reflected in the case activity summary in the annual report may vary slightly from those quoted in the individual quarterly reports throughout the year due to occasional constraints with timely access to all records and other mitigating factors. Methodological adjustments may also result in slight variations in comparative figures across periods.

Methodology – Generating Court Statistics in Jamaica

Guaranteeing the reliability and validity of the data used to produce the periodic statistical reports for the Jamaican Courts is of utmost importance as we seek to produce a data driven enterprise for policymaking and operational decisions. As a result, a robust and verifiable system

of data production has been created in both the parish court and the Supreme Court jurisdictions. At the parish courts, a data capture system for criminal matters, called the CISS (Case Information Statistical System) has been operational in several courts for the past 3-5 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 Statistical Officer in each court. These 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 Statistical Unit of the Supreme Court. A data validation mechanism is in place to periodically sample case files in all parish courts and the Divisions of the Supreme Court. 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 Court Statistics Unit at the Supreme Court produces various quarterly and annual court reports which are published on the websites of the Supreme Court and the Parish Courts; however, interim data required by stakeholders may be requested through the Office of the Chief Justice.

Chapter One: Case Activity in the Criminal Section (Corporate Area Family Court)

Case Activity in the Criminal Division (A Division of the Children’s Court)

Section 1.0: An analysis of Criminal Case Activity in the Family Courts in the 2021 calendar year

This chapter of the document will examine a range of output and performance measurements for criminal matters in the Family Court for the year ended December 31, 2021. Such will involve analyses of caseload, case type distribution, case clearance rates and disposal rates as well references to the case backlog rate and on-time case-processing rate among other metrics.

Table 1.0a: Sampling distribution of the status of charges handled at the Corporate Area Family Court in the year ended December 31, 2021

Number of charges handled	Number of active charges	Number of disposed charges	Number of inactive charges
577	214	322	41

The above table shows a sampling distribution of 577 criminal charges that were handled at the Corporate Area Family Court in the 2021 calendar year, a decrease of 210 charges or a 26.68% decrease when compared to the 787 charges recorded in the 2020 calendar year. At the end of the year, 214 matters or 37.09% were still active. A matter is considered inactive when it is adjourned without a future date set, as is typically the case with warrant matters. A total of 41 or 7.11% of these charges originating was inactive at the end of the year, while 322 or 55.81% were disposed.

Table 1.0b: Sampling distribution of the status of cases handled at the Corporate Area Family in the year ended December 31, 2021

Number of individual cases filed	Number of active cases	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases
312	112	174	26

The above table provides a sampling distribution of the case activity corresponding to the charges in the previous table. A sample of 312 criminal cases handled at the Corporate Area Family Court in the 2021 calendar year is shown, 168 cases or 35% below the 480 cases recorded in the 2020 calendar year. Of the 312 new cases handled, 112 were still active at the end of the year, 174 were disposed and 26 were inactive. There was a ratio of one (1) case to 1.85 charges handled in the 2021 calendar year. In other words, for every 100 cases handled, there were 185 charges. There was a ratio of 1 case to 1.64 charges recorded in the 2020 calendar year.

Table 1.0c: Distribution of cases statuses for criminal cases filed at the Corporate Area Family Court in the year ended December 31, 2021

Number of new cases filed	Number of active cases	Number of inactive cases	Number of disposed cases	Case disposal rate (%)	Case clearance rate (%)
190	84	11	95	55.79	105.26

The above table provides a summary of the distribution of case statuses for criminal cases filed at the Corporate Area Family Court in the 2021 calendar year. Of the 190 new criminal cases filed at this court, 84 were still active at the end of the year, while 95 were disposed and 11 were inactive. This resulted in an estimated case disposal rate of 55.79% for criminal cases filed, a 14.01 percentage points decline when compared to the 69.80% recorded in the 2020 calendar year. A more robust measurement of the productivity of cases handled in any court is the case clearance

rate, which provides a ratio of all cases disposed to the new cases filed in a given period. The data presented in table 1.0b suggests that a total of 200 criminal cases were either disposed or became inactive in the year, resulting in a clearance rate of 105.26%, which is a 38.27 percentage point decline when compared to the 2020 calendar year.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of case types for criminal charges filed at the Corporate Area Family Court for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Committal Proceedings	121	35.17
Summary	102	29.65
Indictments	93	27.03
Petty Sessions	28	8.14
Total	344	100.00

The above table shows that the largest proportion of the sample of 344 criminal charges filed at the Corporate Area Family Court in the 2021 calendar year. Of these, 121 or 35.17% were committal proceedings, 102 or 29.65% were summary matters and 93 or 27.03% were Indictments. Petty Sessions with 28 or 8.14% accounted for the lowest proportion of the sample of criminal charges in in the year ended December 31, 2021.

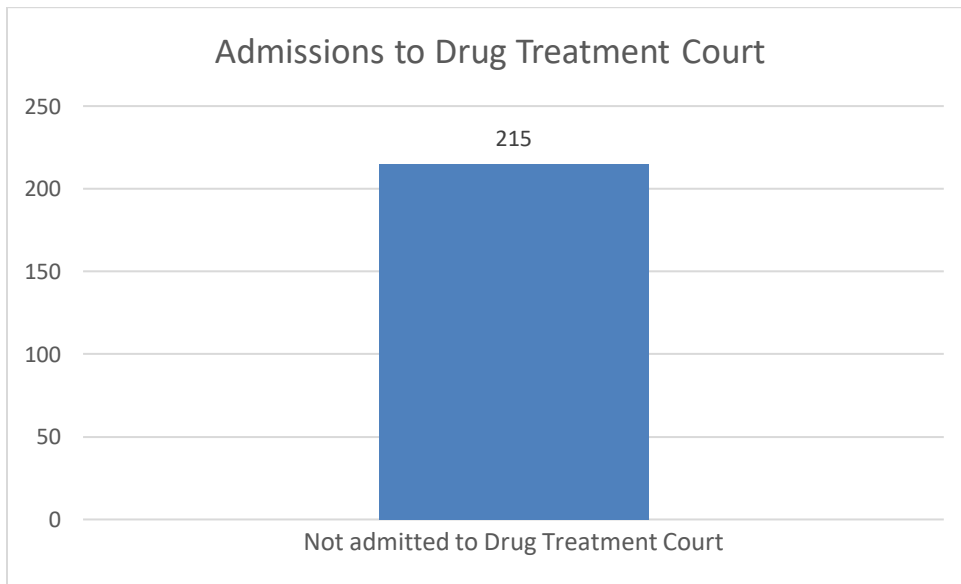
Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the top five reasons for adjournment/continuance for the year ended December 31, 2021

Reason for adjournment/continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Social enquiry report requested	32	12.70
Subpoena	11	4.37
Psychiatric evaluation to be done	4	1.59
Forensic report unavailable	3	1.19
Other	174	69.05
Sub-total	224	88.89

Total number of adjournments/continuances observed (N) = 252

The above data highlights the sampling distribution of the five leading reasons for adjournment/continuance for criminal cases heard during the year ended December 31, 2021, at the Corporate Area Family Court. Aside from the reasons of adjournment pooled under the category 'other methods', it is seen that social enquiry report requested accounted for 32 or 12.70% of the sample, and subpoena with 11 or 4.37% ranking next among the causes of delay in the progression of criminal of cases at this court. Psychiatric evaluation to be done with 4 or 1.59% and forensic report unavailable with 3 or 1.19% round off the list. The reasons for adjournment listed above account for 88.89% of the sample of 252 delay factors. The reasons for adjournment provide critical insights into the range of both external and internal factors which explain delay in case progression. They therefore constitute an important part of computing the hearing trial date certainty rates, which are central measures of court activity.

Chart 1.0: Sampling distribution of Referrals to the Drug Treatment Court



The above chart shows that from a sample of 215 children involved in matters in the Children's Court in 2021, all 215 or 100% were not admitted to the Drug Treatment Court. The proportion

of admissions into the Drug Treatment Court provides an indication of the complexity of the dynamics involved in some cases, which in turn has implications for the times taken to dispose of some cases.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of mention court frequency for the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive Statistics (months)

Number of observations	515
Mean	3.4835
Median	3.0000
Mode	2.00
Std. Deviation	2.49615
Skewness	2.281
Std. Error of Skewness	.108
Range	17.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	18.00

The above table displays the descriptive statistics on mention court frequency for criminal matters at the Corporate Area Family Court in the 2021 calendar year. It is seen that the average number of mentions per case is roughly 3.5, an indication that for every 10 cases there were 35 mentions. The median number of mentions was 3, and the mode was 2. The maximum number of mentions per matter in the year was 18, while the minimum was 1 mention. The moderate standard deviation is an indication that there was some amount of variation in the mention court frequency of individual cases around the average incidence. The positive skewness is an indication that a larger proportion of the scores in the data set fell below the average mention

court frequency. The result is within the prescribed maximum rate 5 mentions per case, based on international best practices.

Table 5.0: Sampling distribution of methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2021

Method of disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Transferred	70	25.36
Committed to Circuit	25	9.06
Granted	11	3.99
Guilty	10	3.62
Mediated settlement	6	2.17
Sub-total	122	44.20

Sample size= 276

The above table summarizes the methods of disposition for a sample of 276 criminal charges disposed in the 2021 calendar year. It is seen that matters transferred to another court with 70 or 25.36% of the sample accounts for the highest proportion of the sample of methods of disposition in the year. Matters committed to Circuit Court account for 25 or 9.06%, applications granted with 11 or 3.99%, guilty verdicts with 10 or 3.62% and mediated settlements with 6 or 2.17% of the sample complete the top methods of disposition in the year.

Table 6.0: Sampling distribution of the types of sentencing/orders made in the year ended December 31, 2021

Type of Order/Sentencing	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Probation Order	28	58.33
Correctional Order	13	27.08
Admonish and Discharge	3	6.25
Supervision Order	3	6.25
Fit Person Order	1	2.08
Total	48	100.00

It is seen in the above table that from the sample of 48 orders made in the 2021 calendar year, the majority were probation orders with 28 or 58.33% of the sample. Correctional orders with 13 or 27.08% rank next, followed by orders of admonishment and discharge and supervision orders with 3 or 6.25% each of the sample. Fit person order accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 2.08%.

Table 7.0: Sampling distribution of times to disposition for the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	308
Mean	194.2208
Median	112.0000
Mode	51.00
Std. Deviation	209.76990
Skewness	1.907
Std. Error of Skewness	.139
Range	954.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	958.00

The above descriptive statistics provide a summary of the time taken to dispose of a sample of 308 matters resolved in the 2021 calendar year. It is seen that the average time taken to dispose of these cases was roughly 194 days or 6.5 months, while the median time was 112 days and the most frequently occurring time to disposition in the year (mode) was 51 days. The relatively large standard deviation suggests that there is a wide variation in the individual times, while the positive skewness suggests that a significant portion of the times to disposition in the data set fell below the overall average time to disposition. The maximum time taken to dispose of these cases was roughly 958 days or 2.7 years and the minimum was 4 days.

Case Demographics

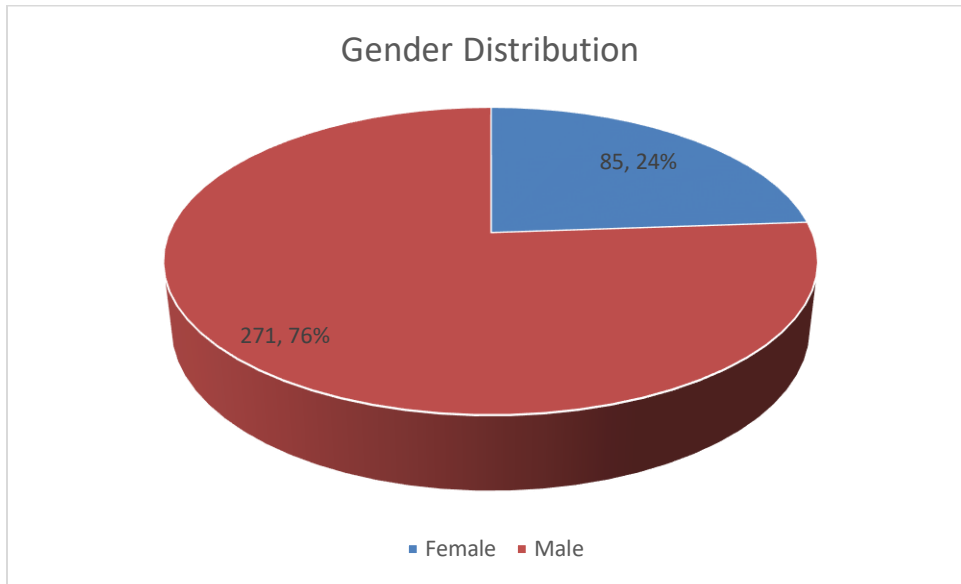
Table 1.0: Sampling distribution of the leading charges filed at the Corporate Area Family Court in the year ended December 31, 2021

Type of offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Grievous sexual assault	25	7.51
Unlawful wounding	25	7.51
Assault occasioning Bodily Harm	23	6.91
Indecent assault	20	6.01
Sexual intercourse with a person under 16	19	5.71
Sub-total	112	33.63

Sample size= 333

The above table provides a summary of the most frequently occurring charges filed in the 2021 calendar year at the Corporate Area Family Court. Of a sample of 333 charges filed in the year, it is seen that 25 or 7.51% were matters of unlawful wounding and for grievous sexual assault. Assault occasioning bodily harm accounted for 23 or 6.91% of the sample, followed by indecent assault with 20 or 6.01% and sexual intercourse with a person under 16 with 19 or 5.71%. Of the leading charges listed in the table above, sexual intercourse with a person under 16 had the highest proportion of males with 100%, while assault occasioning actual bodily harm had the highest proportion of females with 42.86% of the sample.

Chart 1.0: Distribution of offences by gender for the year ended December 31, 2021



The above chart shows the distribution of charges filed by gender, using a sample of 356 matters.

Males account for the majority of the matters with 271 or 76% of the sample, while females accounted for the remaining 24% of matters filed.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of the leading charges by gender in the year ended December 31, 2021

Charges	Male		Female		Total
	Count	%	Count	%	
Grievous sexual assault	17	68.00	8	32.00	25
Unlawful wounding	17	70.83	7	29.17	24
Assault occasioning Bodily Harm	12	57.14	9	42.86	21
Indecent assault	17	85.00	3	15.00	20
Sexual intercourse with a person under 16	19	100.00	0	0.00	19
Breach of Curfew Order	9	60.00	6	40.00	15
Illegal Possession of firearm	16	94.12	1	5.88	17
Rape	14	93.33	1	6.67	15
Offensive Weapon	11	84.62	2	15.38	13
Illegal Possession of Ammunition	9	81.82	2	18.18	11

The above table summarizes a sampling distribution of the leading charges filed by gender at the Corporate Area Family Court in the 2021 calendar year. Males are especially dominant with the charges of rape, sexual intercourse with a person under 16 and illegal possession of firearm. As it relates to females charged, the charges with the highest frequencies were assault occasioning bodily harm followed by breach of curfew order.

Table 3.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of person charged for the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (age in years)

Number of observations	162
Mean	16.9877
Median	17.0000
Mode	18.00
Std. Deviation	2.55374
Skewness	4.303
Std. Error of Skewness	.191
Range	25.00
Minimum	12.00
Maximum	37.00

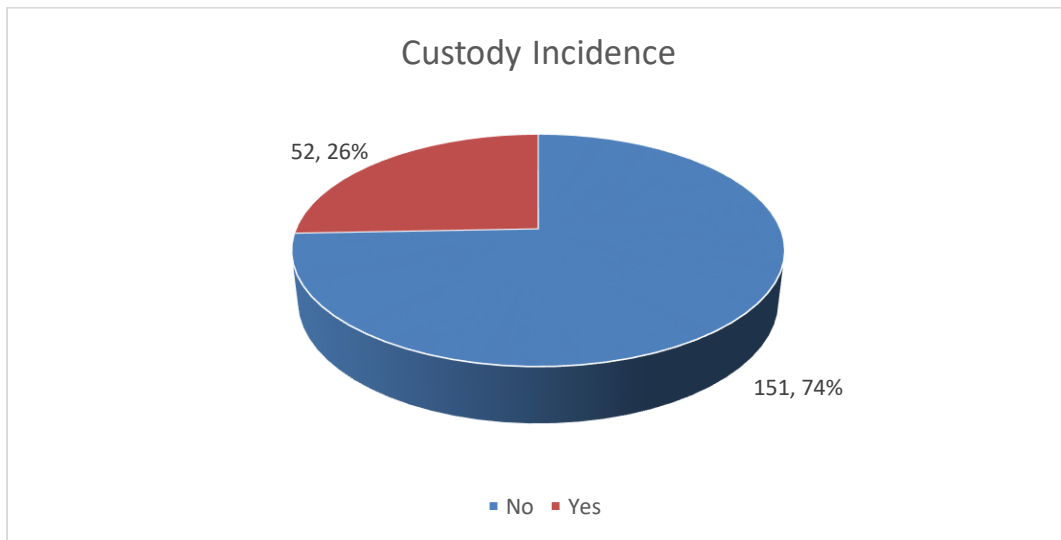
The above descriptive statistics provide a statistical summary of the ages of persons charged, using a sample of 162 criminal matters handled in 2021. It is seen that the average age is roughly 17 years. The oldest person charged was 37 years and the youngest was 12. The median age was 17 years and modal age was 18 years old. The low standard deviation is an indication that the ages of offenders did not on average vary widely from the overall mean age. The positive skewness, however, is an indication that there were proportionally more scores in the data set that are below the series average.

Table 4.0: Courtroom/outstation distribution for new matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2021

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Children's Court	360	100.00
Total	360	100.00

It is shown in the above table that all new criminal cases heard at the Corporate Area Family Court in the 2021 calendar year were initiated in the Children’s Court.

Chart 2.0: Sampling distribution of Custody incidence for new matters filed in the year ended December 31, 2021



A sample of 203 juveniles brought before the Corporate Area Family Court for criminal proceedings in 2021 revealed that the majority 151 (74%) were not taken into custody, while the remaining 52 or 26% were taken into custody.

Section 2.0: Case Activity in the Child Welfare Matters (A Division of the Children’s Court)

This section examines case activity for matters classified as child welfare in the Corporate Area Family Court in the 2021 calendar year. Matters classified under the general case type category classified as child welfare includes uncontrollable child and childcare and protection.

Table 1.0: Distribution of Child Welfare matters handled at the Corporate Area Family Court in the year ended December 31, 2021

Number of matters handled	Matters active	Matters disposed	Inactive matters
252	58	185	9

The above table details the outcome of 252 Child Welfare matters, which were handled by the Family Court in the Corporate Area in the 2021 calendar year. At the end of the year, 58 matters were still active and 185 were disposed. The remaining 9 matters were inactive at the end of the year.

Table 2.0a: Distribution of new Child Welfare cases filed at the Corporate Area Family Court in the year ended December 31, 2021

Number of new cases filed	Active cases	Disposed cases	Inactive cases	Case Disposal Rate (%)
182	50	125	7	72.53

The above data shows a sample of 182 child welfare cases handled at the Corporate Area Family Court in the 2021 calendar year, which is 14 cases or 8.33% above the 168 cases recorded in the 2020 calendar year. Of this, 125 were disposed, 7 were inactive and 50 were still active at the end of the year. This produced a case disposal rate of 72.53% for these types of cases, which is

13.18 percentage points less than the disposal rate recorded in the corresponding 2020 calendar year.

2.0b: Clearance rate summary for the Corporate Area Family Court for the year ended December 31, 2021

New Child Welfare cases filed	Gross number of inactive cases	Gross number of disposed cases	Case clearance rate (%)
182	9	142	82.97

The above Table shows that there was an aggregate of 151 child welfare cases which were either disposed or became inactive in the 2021 calendar year at the Corporate Area Family Court. This produced a case clearance rate of 82.97% which is below the international standard and is 49.77 percentage points less than the clearance rate recorded in the corresponding 2020 calendar year.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the types of Child Welfare matters filed in the year ended December 31, 2021

Types of cases	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Child Care and Protection	202	89.38
Uncontrollable Child	24	10.62
Total	226	100.00

A sample of 226 child welfare matters filed in the 2021 calendar year revealed that the majority of cases filed were childcare and protection matters with 202 or 89.38% of the sample, while matters of uncontrollable child with 24 or 10.62% accounted for the remaining proportion.

Table 4.0: Reasons for adjournment/continuance for Child Welfare matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2021

Reasons for adjournment/continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Other	30	46.15
Social Enquiry Report Outstanding	22	33.85
Adjournment for Institutional Reports	6	9.23
Adjourned for psychiatric evaluation	4	6.15
Absenteeism of Applicant	3	4.62
Total	65	100.00

Total number of adjournments/continuance sampled (N)= 65

The above table is derived from a sample of 65 adjournments/continuances heard in the 2021 calendar year; the largest share, 30 or 46.15% were due to adjournments pooled under the category “other”, followed by adjournments due to Social Enquiry Report outstanding with 22 or 33.85% and adjournments for institutional reports with 6 or 9.23% of the sample. Adjournments for psychiatric evaluation to be done accounted for 6.1% of the sample and adjournment due to the absenteeism of applicants accounted for the remaining 4.62% of the adjournments.

Table 4.0b: Sampling distribution of mention court frequency for Child Welfare matters heard in the in the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (months)

Number of observations	230
Mean	2.4478
Median	2.0000
Mode	2.00
Std. Deviation	1.11925
Skewness	1.366
Std. Error of Skewness	.160
Range	7.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	8.00

The above table displays the descriptive statistics on mention court frequency for 230 child welfare matters at the Corporate Area Family Court in the 2021 calendar year. It is seen that the average number of mentions per case is roughly 2.4, an indication that for every 10 cases there were 24 mentions. The median time and the modal number of mentions both stood at 2. The maximum number of mentions per matter in the year was 8, while the minimum was 1. The standard deviation is moderate, an indication that there is some variation in the mention court frequency of individual cases. The positive skewness is an indication that the higher proportion of the scores in the data set fell below the series average. These outputs are within the prescribed maximum rate of 5 mentions per matter, based on international best practices.

Table 5.0: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2021

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Granted	81	57.45
Other	40	28.37
Withdrawn	12	8.51
Transferred	7	4.96
Struck out	1	0.71
Total	141	100.00

The above table summarizes the methods of disposition for a sample of 141 child welfare matters in the 2021 calendar year. It is seen that applications granted accounted for the majority of the sample with 81 or 57.45% of the sample. Methods of disposition pooled under the category “other methods” with 40 or 28.37% of the sample and applications withdrawn with 12 or 8.51% rank next. Matters Transferred with 7 or 4.96% and matters struck out with 0.71% of the sample round off the top methods of disposition in the year.

Table 6.0: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition for Child Welfare matters for the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

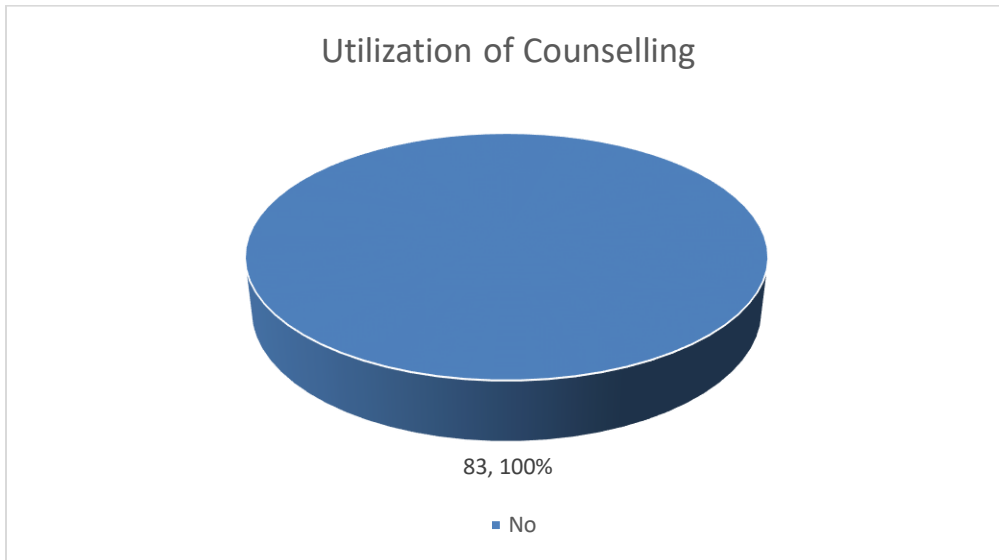
Number of observations	160
Mean	100.8250
Median	89.0000
Mode	61.00
Std. Deviation	59.56451
Skewness	1.174
Std. Error of Skewness	.192
Range	317.00
Minimum	16.00
Maximum	333.00

The above table provides a descriptive statistical summary of the times taken to dispose of child welfare cases in the 2021 calendar year. It is shown that from a sample of 160 matters disposed in the year, the average time to disposition was 101 days or roughly 3.4 months. The maximum time taken to dispose of the cases used in this sample was 333 days, while the lowest time taken was 16 days. The overall standard deviation of approximately 60 days was moderate, indicating there was some amount of variation in the times to disposition. The positive skewness is an indication that a larger proportion of the data points were clustered around the overall mean.

Case initiation and case demographics –Child Welfare matters in the year ended December 31, 2021

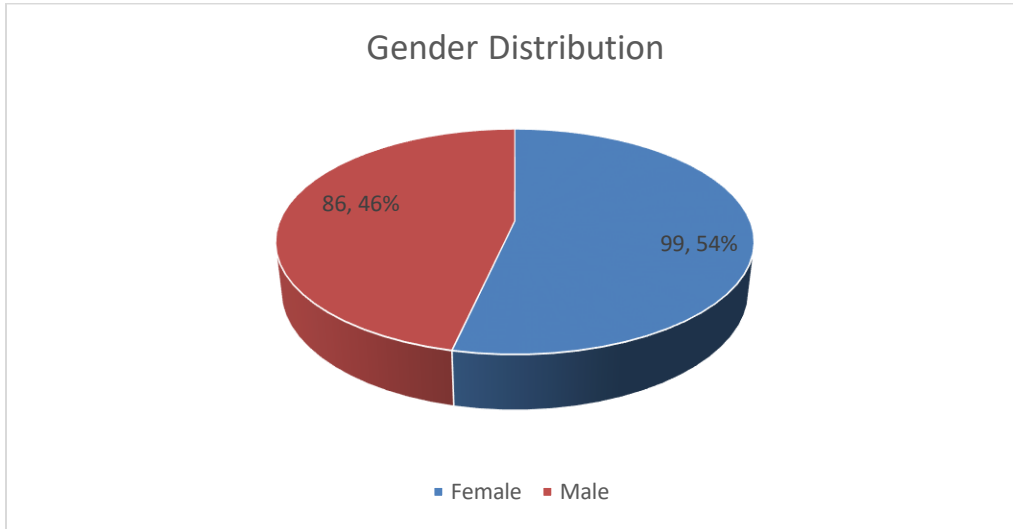
In this subsection of the report, there is an examination of the case party demographics for the cases which had some activity in the 2021 calendar year, as well as the utilization of the counselling option offered to case parties at the point of filing a case.

Chart 1.0: Sampling distribution of the utilization of counselling for the year ended December 31, 2021



At the point of filing some cases in the Family Court, the option is provided for counselling option to be utilized. This intervention is an important part of the diversion facilities, which are afforded by the Family Courts to resolve matters outside of open court hearings. A random sample of 83 matters filed revealed that 100% of the parties did not utilize the counselling option.

Chart 2.0: Sampling distribution of the gender of children associated with new cases handled for the year ended December 31, 2021



The above chart shows that 54% of a sample of 185 children involved in child welfare cases filed were female, with males accounting for 46% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of children involved in child welfare cases during the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in years)

Number of observations	64
Mean	11.5156
Median	13.0000
Mode	17.00
Std. Deviation	5.54632
Skewness	-.894
Std. Error of Skewness	.299
Range	20.00
Minimum	<1
Maximum	20.00

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of ages of children involved in child welfare cases during the year ended December 31, 2021. It is shown that from a sample of 64

matters, the average age was roughly 12 years old. The maximum age in this sample was 20 years, while the minimum age was less than a year. The overall standard deviation of approximately 6 years was moderate, indicating some variation among the ages in the distribution. This is affirmed by the negative skewness which indicates a decisive leaning towards the higher ages in the distribution.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of matters by courtroom/outstation assignment for the year ended December 31, 2021

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Children's Court	223	99.11
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1	0.44
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	1	0.44
Total	225	100.00

The above table shows the distribution of 225 child welfare matters filed by courtroom of assignment. It is shown that the Children's Court with 223 or 99.11% of the matters accounted for the majority of cases, while courtroom 2 at the main courthouse along with courtroom 3 with 0.44% each of the assignments complete the sample.

Section 3.0: Case Activity on Family Division (A Division of the Children’s Court)

This section examines case activity for matters classified as Family Matters in the Corporate Area Family Court in the 2021 calendar year. Matters classified under the general case type category classified as family matters includes maintenance, custody and declaration of paternity matters.

Table 1.0: Distribution of family matters handled at the Corporate Area Family Court in the year ended December 31, 2021

Number of matters handled	Matters active	Matters disposed	Inactive matters
3436	1294	2015	127

The above table details the outcome of the 3436 family matters, which were handled by the Corporate Area Family Court in the 2021 calendar year. At the end of the year, 1294 matters were still active and 2015 were disposed. There remaining 127 matters were inactive at the end of the year.

Table 2.0a: Distribution of new family cases filed at the Corporate Area Family Court in the year ended December 31, 2021

Number of new cases filed	Active cases	Disposed cases	Inactive cases	Case Disposal Rate (%)
1375	668	679	28	51.42

The above data shows a sample of 1375 child welfare cases handled at the Corporate Area Family Court in the 2021 calendar year is shown, 25 more cases or 1.85% above the 1350 cases recorded in the 2020 calendar year. Of this, 679 were disposed, 28 became inactive and 668 were still

active at the end of the year. This produced an estimated case disposal rate of 51.42% for these types of cases and is 8.23 percentage points more than the case disposal rate recorded in the corresponding 2020 calendar year.

2.0b: Clearance rate summary for the Family Courts for the year ended December 31, 2021

New Family cases filed	Gross number of inactive cases	Gross number of disposed cases	Case clearance rate (%)
1375	87	1317	102.11

The above table shows that in the 2021 calendar year in the family division, there were 1317 disposed cases and 87 cases which became inactive. This produced an estimated case clearance rate of 102.11% which satisfies the international standard and is 6.78 percentage points less than the case clearance rate recorded in the corresponding 2020 calendar year.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the types of Family matters filed in the year ended December 31, 2021

Types of cases	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Maintenance	950	49.69
Custody	559	29.24
Declaration of paternity	403	21.08
Total	1912	100.00

A sample of 384 matters filed at the Corporate Area Family Court in the 2021 calendar year revealed that the highest proportion of cases filed were maintenance matters with 950 or 49.69% of the sample. This was followed by 559 or 29.24%, which were custody matters and 403 or 21.08% which were matters of declaration of paternity.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution on the reasons for adjournment/continuance for Family matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2021

Reasons for adjournment/continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Results Outstanding	120	18.38
Social Enquiry Report Outstanding	105	16.08
Absenteeism of Respondent	88	13.48
Absenteeism of Applicant	51	7.81
Adjourned for counselling	5	0.77
Sub-total	369	56.51

Total number of adjournments/continuance sampled (N) = 653

The above table is derived from a sample of 653 adjournments heard in the 2021 calendar year. The largest share, 120 or 18.38% were due to Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) results outstanding, followed by adjournments due to Social Enquiry Reports outstanding with 105 or 16.08% and adjournments due to absenteeism of respondents with 88 or 13.48%. Adjournments due to the absenteeism of applicants with 51 or 7.81% and adjournments for counselling with 5 or 0.77% rank next.

Table 4.0b: Sampling distribution of mention court frequency for family matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics

Number of observations	2492
Mean	2.5498
Median	2.0000
Mode	1.00
Std. Deviation	2.49068
Skewness	2.608
Std. Error of Skewness	.049
Range	18.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	19.00

The above table displays the descriptive statistics on mention court frequency for 2492 family matters at the Corporate Area Family Court in the 2021 calendar year. It is seen that the average number of mentions per case is roughly 2.5, an indication that for every 10 cases there were 25 mentions. The median number of mentions was 2 and modal number of mentions stood at 1. The maximum number of mentions per matter in the year was 19, while the minimum was 1 mention. The standard deviation is high, an indication that there is a wide variation in the mention court frequency of individual cases. The positive skewness shown is an indication that the vast proportion of the scores in the data set fell below the average. These outputs are within the prescribed maximum rate of 5 mentions per matter, based on international best practices.

Table 5.0: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2021

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck out	980	53.73
Granted	571	31.30
Withdrawn	195	10.69
Denied	46	2.52
Other	27	1.48
Transferred	5	0.27
Total	1824	100.00

The above table summarizes the methods of disposition for a sample of 1824 family matters in the 2021 calendar year. It is shown in the sample that the majority of matters were disposed by being struck out, accounting for 980 or 53.73% of the sample of disposed matters. This was followed by applications granted with 571 or 31.30% of the sample. Applications withdrawn with 195 or 10.69% and applications denied with 46 or 2.52% of the sample rank next. Methods of

disposition pooled under the term, “other” for 1.48% of the sample and matters transferred accounted for the remaining 0.27% of the sample.

Table 6.0: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition for family matters for the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

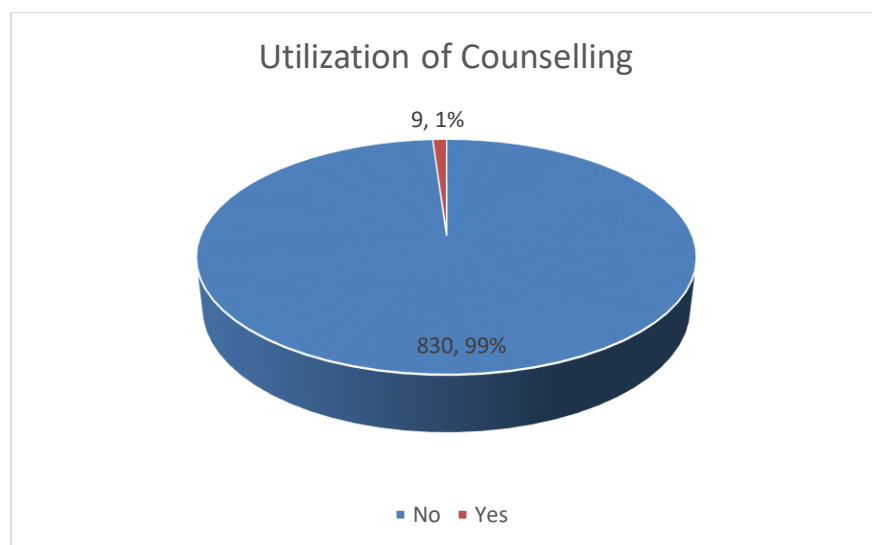
Number of observations	930
Mean	223.3677
Median	127.5000
Mode	41.00
Std. Deviation	268.35565
Skewness	2.805
Std. Error of Skewness	.080
Range	2304.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	2305.00

The above table provides a descriptive statistical summary of the times taken to dispose of family cases at the Family Court in the Corporate Area in the 2021 calendar year. It is shown that from a sample of 930 cases disposed in the year, the average time to disposition was 223 days or roughly 7.4 months. The maximum time taken to dispose of the cases used in this sample was 2305 days or 6.4 years, while the lowest time taken was 1 day. The overall standard deviation of approximately 268 days was relatively high, indicating a wide variation in the times to disposition. The positive skewness was high, an indication that a decidedly larger the proportion of the data points fell below the overall mean.

Case initiation and case demographics –Family matters in the year ended December 31, 2021

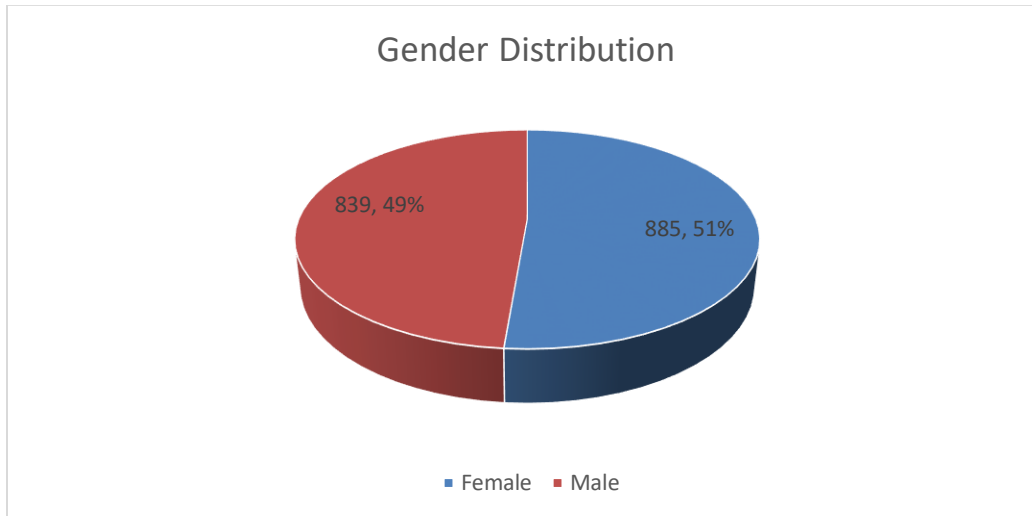
In this subsection of the report, there is an examination of the case party demographics for the cases which had some activity in the 2021 calendar year, as well as the utilization of the counselling option offered to case parties at the point of filing a case.

Chart 1.0: Sampling distribution of the utilization of counselling for the year ended December 31, 2021



At the point of filing some cases in the Family Court, the option is provided for counselling option to be utilized. This intervention is an important part of the diversion facilities, which are afforded by the Family Courts to resolve matters outside of open court hearings. A random sample of 839 matters filed revealed that 830 or 99% of the parties did not utilize the counselling option, while only 1% of the sample utilized the counselling option.

Chart 2.0: Sampling distribution of the gender of children associated with new cases for the year ended December 31, 2021



The above chart shows that 885 or 51% of a sample of 1724 children involved in family matters filed were female, with males accounting for 49% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Descriptive statistics on age distribution of parties involved in cases filed in the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in years)

Number of observations	1782
Mean	7.6162
Median	6.0000
Mode	2.00
Std. Deviation	7.14074
Skewness	2.477
Std. Error of Skewness	.058
Range	66.00
Minimum	<1
Maximum	66.00

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of age of parties involved in cases for family case types for the year ended December 31, 2021. It is shown from a sample of 1782

matters that the average age was 7.6 years. The maximum age in this sample was 66 years, while the minimum age was less than a year. The overall standard deviation of approximately 7 years was relatively high, indicating a wide variation in the ages in the distribution. The positive skewness indicates a decisive leaning towards the lower ages in the distribution.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of cases by courtroom/outstation assignment for the year ended December 31, 2021

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	569	46.19
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	343	27.84
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	319	25.89
Children's Court	1	0.08
Total	1232	100.00

The above table shows the distribution of 1232 family matters filed, by courtroom of assignment. It is shown that courtroom 1 at the main courthouse with 569 or 46.19% of the matters accounted for the highest proportion of cases sampled, with courtroom 3 at the main courthouse accounting for 343 or 27.84% ranking next. Courtroom 2 with 319 or 25.89% of the sample and the Children's Court with 0.08% rounds off the accommodations in the sample.

Section 4.0: Summary of case activity for Domestic Violence matters filed in the year ended December 31, 2021

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for Domestic Violence cases filed at the Family Court in the Corporate Area in the year ended December 31, 2021.

Table 1.0: Summary of matters filed in the year ended December 31, 2021

New matters filed	Matters active	Matters inactive	Matters disposed
1020	209	74	737

The above table shows that 1020 domestic violence matters were filed in the 2021 calendar year, 209 of which were still active at the end of the period. There were 737 of the matters disposed of and 74 were inactive at the end of the year. Table 2.0 provides further analysis of the equivalent number of domestic violence cases filed and the case disposal rates.

Table 2.0a: Summary of case activity for the year ended December 31, 2021

New cases filed	Active cases	Inactive cases	Disposed cases	Case Disposal Rate (%)
588	157	34	397	73.30

An equivalent number of 588 new domestic violence cases were filed in the 2021 calendar year, of which 157 were active, 34 were inactive and 397 were disposed at the end of the year. This produces an estimated disposal rate of 73.30%, which is 5.68 percentage points above the disposal rate of 67.62% recorded for the 2020 calendar year.

Table 2.0b: Summary of gross case activity for the year ended December 31, 2021

New Domestic Violence cases filed	Gross number of Inactive cases	Gross number of Disposed cases	Clearance Rate (%)
588	63	618	115.82

The data above shows that a total of 681 domestic violence cases which were either disposed or became inactive in the 2021 calendar year at the Corporate Area Family Court. This produces an estimated case clearance rate of 115.82%, which meets the international standard. This is also 11.81 percentage points above the clearance rate of 104.01% recorded for the 2020 calendar year.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of cases by courtroom/outstation assignment for the year ended December 31, 2021

Courtroom/outstation	Frequency	Percentage
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	284	40.98
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	206	29.73
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	203	29.29
Total	693	100.00

The above table shows the distribution of 693 domestic violence matters filed, by courtroom of assignment. It is shown that courtroom 2 at the main courthouse with 284 or 40.98% of the matters accounted for the highest proportion of cases sampled, with courtroom 3 at the main courthouse accounting for 206 or 29.73% ranking next. Courtroom 1 with 203 or 29.29% of the sample rounds off the accommodations in the sample.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution on the reasons for adjournment/continuance for family matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2021

Adjournments/Continuances	Frequency	Percentage
Absenteeism of Applicant	24	15.19
Absenteeism of Respondent	18	11.39
Social Enquiry Report Outstanding	10	6.33
Adjourned for counselling	8	5.06
Adjourned for psychiatric evaluation	4	2.53
Sub-total	64	40.51

Sample of adjournments/continuances = 158

The above table is derived from a sample of 158 adjournments heard in the 2021 calendar year.

The largest share of the sample, 24 or 15.19% were due to absenteeism of applicants, followed by adjournments due to the absenteeism of respondents with 18 or 11.39% and adjournments due to Social Enquiry Reports outstanding with 10 or 6.33%. Adjournments for counselling with 8 or 5.06% and adjourned for psychiatric evaluation to be done with 2.53% ranking next.

Table 5.0: Sampling distribution of Domestic Violence cases disposed in the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	444
Mean	188.3446
Median	106.0000
Mode	56.00
Std. Deviation	217.33513
Skewness	2.906
Std. Error of Skewness	.116
Range	1943.00
Minimum	5.00
Maximum	1948.00

The above table shows that the average time taken to dispose of a sample of 444 matters in the 2021 calendar year was roughly 188 days or 6.3 months. The standard deviation of 217 days is high, indicating that there's a wide dispersion of the individual times in the data set. The skewness of the data is a high positive, which is an indication that a proportionally large number of the observations fell below the overall mean score. The maximum time taken to dispose of these matters was 1948 days or 5.4 years, while 5 days was the lowest time.

Table 6.0: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2021

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck out	363	52.92
Withdrawn	146	21.28
Granted	129	18.80
Other	34	4.96
Transferred	9	1.31
Sub-total	681	99.27

Sample size= 686

The above table summarizes the methods of disposition for a sample of 686 domestic violence matters disposed of in the 2021 calendar year at the Corporate Area Family Court. It is seen that matters struck out account for the majority of the sample with 363 or 52.92% of the sample. This was followed by applications withdrawn with 146 or 21.28% and applications granted with 129 or 18.80% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of applications for restraining orders as at the year ended December 31, 2021

Type of restraining order	Number of orders made	Equivalent number of cases	Percentage of total orders
Protection Order	2768	2673	83.96
Occupation Order	528	518	16.01
Ancillary Order	1	1	0.03
Total	3297	3192	100

Using a sample of cases filed predominantly since 2018, the above table provides a sampling distribution of applications for restraining order filed. It is seen that of an estimated 3297 such orders filed predominantly between 2018 and the end of December 2021, the overwhelming majority were protection orders with 2768 or 83.96%, while occupation orders accounted for 528 or 16.01% of the matters. Only a single ancillary order is recorded in this sample.

The ensuing tables summarize the relationships between the case parties involved in restraining order application over a primary sample period of 2018 to the end of December 2021.

Table 8.0a: Distribution of the relationship between parties for protection order applications made during the year ended December 31, 2021

Relationship	Frequency	Percentage
Former Partner	1278	62.07
Spousal	204	9.91
Estranged wife/husband	195	9.47
Parent/Child	190	9.23
Other	148	7.19
Members of Household	44	2.14
Total	2059	100.00

For the sample of applications for protection orders made over the stated primary period, the largest proportion of the relationships between the case parties concerned was that of former partners, accounting for a notable 62.07%, followed in distant second by spousal relations with 9.91% and estranged partners with 9.47%, rounding off the top three.

Table 8.0b: Distribution of the relationship between parties for occupation order applications made during the year ended December 31, 2021

Relationship	Frequency	Percentage
Former Partner	158	37.09
Parent/Child	85	19.95
Estranged wife/husband	59	13.85
Other	55	12.91
Spousal	49	11.50
Members of Household	20	4.69
Total	426	100.00

The largest proportion of the relations in the sample of 426 applications for occupation order was also that of former partners, accounting for 37.09% of the sample. This is followed by parent/child relations with 19.95% and estranged partners with 13.85% of the sample.

The below tables summarize the leading methods of disposition for the earlier listed types of restraining orders over the stated period.

Table 9.0a: Distribution of methods of disposition for Protection Orders made in the year ended December 31, 2021

Method of disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck out	1180	53.56
Granted	483	21.92
Withdrawn	448	20.34
Other	49	2.22
Denied	29	1.32
Transferred	8	0.36
Matters Settled	3	0.14
Mediated settlement	3	0.14
Total	2203	100.00

The dominant methods of disposition for 2203 protection order applications are disposals by being struck out (53.56%), applications granted (21.92%) and applications withdrawn (20.34%).

Table 9.0b: Distribution of methods of disposition for Occupation Orders made in the year ended December 31, 2021

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck out	218	52.28
Withdrawn	125	29.98
Granted	50	11.99
Denied	15	3.60
Other	7	1.68
Transferred	2	0.48
Total	417	100.00

The dominant methods of disposition for 417 occupation order applications are disposals by being struck out (52.28%), applications withdrawn (29.98%) and applications granted (11.99%).

Summary of case activity for matters filed in the 2021 calendar year at the Corporate Area Family Court

Table 1.0a: Summary of new case activity for cases in the year December 31, 2021

Aggregate Number of new cases filed	Number of Active cases	Number of inactive cases	Number of Disposed Cases	Weighted Case Disposal Rate (%)
2335	959	80	1296	58.93

The above table provides a summary of total case activity cross all business lines at the Corporate Area Family Court for the 2021 calendar year. It is shown that there was a total of 2335 new cases filed, of which 1296 were disposed and 80 became inactive, thereby producing an estimated weighted case disposal rate of 58.93% for the year across all case types, 2.84 percentage points above the recorded weighted disposal rate for the corresponding 2020 calendar year. Domestic violence cases with a case disposal rate of 73.30%, family cases with a disposal rate of 51.42%,

Child Welfare cases with a disposal rate of 72.53% and criminal cases with a rate of 55.79% completes the distribution of the case disposal rates across the macro case units.

Table 1.0b: Summary of case activity for cases in the year December 31, 2021

Aggregate Number of new cases filed	Number of inactive cases	Number of Disposed cases	Number of Disposed or inactive Cases (of those originating in the year)	Overall Weighted Case Clearance Rate (%)	Overall Weighted Case Disposal Rate (%)
2335	185	2251	1376*	104.33	58.93

***Includes 80 inactive cases**

The above table shows that a grand total of 2335 new cases were filed across the business lines at the Corporate Area Family Court in the 2021 calendar year, while 2251 cases were disposed and 185 became inactive. This produces an estimated weighted case clearance rate of 104.33% across all the case types in the 2021 calendar year, which is 8.38 percentage points below the overall weighted case clearance rate recorded in the 2020 calendar year. Domestic violence cases with 115.82% had the highest clearance rate, followed by criminal cases with 105.26% and family division cases with 102.11%. Child welfare cases had the lowest estimated clearance rate in the year with 82.97%. By any measure, these are quite impressive results. As indicated, the Corporate Area Family Court also recorded an overall weighted average case disposal rate of 58.93% in the year, ranging from a low of 51.42% in the family Division to a high of 73.30% in the domestic violence subdivision.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of courtroom utilization rate for the year ended December 31, 2021

Parish Court	Average overall Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)	Highest Recorded Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)	Lowest Recorded Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)	Standard Deviation of the Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)	Average Courtroom Utilization Rate for Night Court sittings (%)	Average Number of Courtroom Adjournments Per Day
Corporate Area Court-Family	86.30	225.00	16.67	28.64	-	1.2

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the Corporate Area Family Court for the 2021 calendar year. The courtroom utilization rate provides a measurement of the proportion of available hours for open court hearings in all courtrooms (including outstations) which are 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 overall average courtroom utilization rate for the Corporate Area Family Court in the year was roughly 86.30%, which is an indication that on average roughly 86% of the available hours for court hearings in the 2021 calendar year. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates is moderate, suggesting that on average the rates did not vary widely from the overall mean.

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

Table 3.0: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at the year ended December 31, 2021

Family Courts	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Court-Child welfare	128.48	64	112	84.02	1.43	1	578	603
Corporate Area Court-Criminal	214.23	70	140	225.79	2.60	1	1758	1666
Corporate Area Court-Domestic Violence	176.68	63	112	205.96	4.60	1	3135	1445
Corporate Area Court-Family	230.17	28	134	341.19	5.40	1	4984	4129
Total/Weighted Average	209.11	56.25	124.50	214.24	3.51	1.00	2613.75	1960.75
Standard Deviation	45.23	19.09	14.64	105.32	1.82	0.00	1894.41	1516.32
Skewness	-0.78	-1.84	0.14	-0.09	-0.18	0.00	0.43	1.44

Number of matters sampled (N) = 7,843

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed at the Corporate Area Family Court as at December 31, 2021, covering at least a 93-week period. The output produces an estimated weighted average time taken to dispose of matters of approximately 210 days. The skewness of these times to disposition is -0.78, suggesting that slightly more these times were above the overall mean. For the matters disposed in the period, the child welfare division (128 days) took the lowest time on average to dispose of cases over the period. The domestic violence division (177 days), the criminal division (214 days) and the family division (230

days) rank next. The average variation among the times to disposition across these divisions is however modest, as shown by the standard deviation (45.23). The maximum times to disposition in the sample ranged from a low of 578 days (19 months/1.6 years) in the child welfare division, to a high of 4984 days (166 months/13.8 years) in the family division, while the overall minimum time to disposition was one day. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial and representative 7,843 matters.

Chapter 2.0: St. James Family Court (A Division of the Western Regional Family Court)

This chapter of the document will examine a summary of selected output and performance measurements for matters in the St. James Family Court for the year ended December 31, 2021. Such will involve analyses of caseload, case type distribution, case clearance rates for the different business lines of the family court.

Case Activity Summary in the Criminal Section (A Division of the Children’s Court)

Table 1.0: Summary of criminal case activity for cases for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	9	9	0	100.00
Indictments	15	17	2	126.67
Summary	70	54	6	85.71
Petty Session	22	18	1	86.36
Total/Weighted Average	116	98	9	92.24

The above table shows that the sample of 116 criminal cases filed at the St. James Family Court in the year ended December 31, 2021. Of these, 70 or 60.34% were summary matters, 22 or 18.97% were Petty session matters, 15 or 12.93% were indictments and 9 or 7.76% were committal proceedings. There was a total of 107 criminal cases disposed or which became inactive during the year. Of these, 54 summary cases were disposed and 6 became inactive, 18 petty session cases were disposed and 1 became inactive. Indictments had 17 disposed cases and 2 inactive cases and 9 committals were disposed of during the year. This led to an estimated weighted clearance rate of 92.24% for these types of cases, which is 82.76 percentage points below the corresponding 2020 calendar year weighted average case clearance rate of 175%.

Case Activity on Child Welfare Matters (A Division of the Children’s Court)

This section examines case activity for matters classified as child welfare in the St. James Family Court for the year ended December 31, 2021. Matters falling under the child welfare subdivision are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

Table 1.0: Summary of child welfare case activity for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Childcare and protection	127	100	8	85.04
Uncontrollable Child	65	53	13	101.54
Total Weighted Average	192	153	21	90.63

There were 192 child welfare cases filed at the St. James Family Court in the year ended December 31, 2021, the majority of which were childcare and protection cases which accounted for 127 or 66.15% of the sample, while cases of uncontrollable child with 65 or 33.85% accounted for the remaining proportion. A total of 153 child welfare cases were disposed, while 21 became inactive during the year. One Hundred (100) childcare and protection cases were disposed during the year and 8 became inactive, while 53 uncontrollable child cases were disposed and 13 cases became inactive during the year. These results led to estimated case clearance rates of 85.04% for childcare and protection cases and 101.54% for uncontrollable child cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 90.63%, which satisfies the international standards on this vital metric and is 8.52 percentage points below the corresponding 2020 calendar year weighted case clearance rate of 99.15%.

Family matters case activity summary for the St. James Family Court in the 2021 calendar year

This section examines case activity for matters classified under the broad category of family matters in the St. James Family Court for the year ended December 31, 2021. Matters falling under this broad case category which are included in this report includes maintenance, custody, legal guardianship, access and declaration of paternity

Table 1.0: Summary of Family case activity for cases for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	499	470	22	98.60
Declaration of Paternity	209	204	7	100.96
Access	146	93	0	63.70
Legal Guardianship	11	4	0	36.36
Maintenance	558	561	23	104.66
Adoption	20	19	0	95.00
Total/Weighted Average	1443	1351	52	97.23

The 1443 new family division cases filed at the St. James Family Court in the 2021 calendar year revealed that maintenance cases with 558 or 38.67% of the sample and custody matters with 499 cases or 34.58% of the sample accounts for the largest proportion of cases filed. This was followed by declaration of paternity with 209 or 14.48%. There were also 146 access cases, 20 adoption cases and 11 legal guardianship cases filed. A total of 1403 cases falling under this broad family category were disposed or became inactive in the year. This is subdivided into 561 disposed and 23 inactive maintenance cases, 470 disposed and 22 inactive custody cases, 204 disposed and 7 inactive declaration of paternity cases, 93 disposed access cases, 4 disposed legal guardianship cases and 19 disposed adoption cases. This led to an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 97.23% for the broad family case type, led by maintenance cases with a case clearance rate of 104.66% and declaration of paternity cases with 100.96%, custody

cases with 98.60%, adoption cases with 95%, access cases with 63.70% and legal guardianship cases with 36.36%.

Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the 2021 calendar year at the St. James Family Court

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for Domestic Violence cases filed at the Family Court in St. James for the 2021 calendar year.

Table 1.0: Summary of domestic violence case activity for cases for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	496	327	15	68.95
Occupation Order	97	61	9	72.16
Total/Weighted Average	593	388	24	69.48

The data above shows that there was a total of 593 new domestic violence cases filed in 2021 at the St. James Family Court. Of this, 496 were protection order cases and 97 were occupation order cases. A total of 412 Domestic Violence of these cases were either disposed or became inactive during the year. There were 327 disposed and 15 inactive protection order cases, and 61 disposed and 9 inactive occupation order cases in the period. This produces an estimated weighted case clearance rate of 69.48% for these case types, which is below the international standard and is 29.74 percentage points below the corresponding 2020 calendar year weighted case clearance rate of 99.22%.

Summary of case activity for civil matters at the St. James Family Court

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for civil matters at the St. James Family Court in the 2021 calendar year.

Table 1.0: Summary of civil case activity for cases in the year ended December 31, 2021

Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted Case Clearance Rate (%)
167	137	0	82.04

The data above shows that there was a total of 167 new civil cases filed in the 2021 calendar year. There was also a total of 137 civil cases which were disposed of in the year at the St. James Family Court. This produces an estimated case clearance rate of 82.04% for the period, which is below the international standard, but is 18.75 percentage points above the corresponding 2020 calendar year weighted case clearance rate of 63.29%.

Summary of case activity across all business lines in the 2021 calendar year at the St. James Family Court

Table 1.0: Summary of case activity across all business lines in the year ended December 31, 2021

Aggregate Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted Case Clearance Rate (%)
2511	2127	106	88.93

The above table shows that a total of 2511 new cases were filed at the St. James Family Court in the 2021 calendar year, while 2127 cases were disposed, and 106 cases became inactive. This produces an estimated weighted case clearance rate of 88.93% across all the case types in the

period. Family division cases with 97.23% had the highest clearance rate, followed by criminal cases with 92.24%, child welfare cases with 90.63% and civil cases with 82.04%. Domestic violence cases had the lowest estimated weighted average clearance rate in the year with a rate of 69.48%.

Chapter 3.0: The Westmoreland Family Court (A Division of the Western Regional Family Court)

This chapter of the document will examine a summary of selected output and performance measurements for matters in the Westmoreland Family Court for the year ended December 31, 2021. Such will involve analyses of caseload, case type distribution, case clearance rates for the different business lines of the family court.

Case Activity Summary in the Criminal Section (A Division of the Children’s Court)

Table 1.0: Summary of criminal case activity for cases for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	30	21	1	73.33
Indictments	26	41	2	165.38
Summary	63	66	2	107.94
Petty Session	36	45	3	133.33
Total/Weighted Average	155	173	8	116.77

The above table shows the distribution by case type of 155 criminal cases filed at the Westmoreland Family Court in the 2021 calendar year. Of these, 63 or 40.65% were summary matters, 36 or 23.23% were petty session matters, while committal proceedings had 30 cases and indictments matters had 26 cases or 16.77%. There was a total of 181 cases disposed or cases which became inactive during the year. Of these, 66 summary cases were disposed and 2 became inactive, 41 indictments were disposed and 2 became inactive, 21 committals were disposed and 1 became inactive, while 45 petty sessions cases were disposed and 3 became inactive. This led to an estimated weighted clearance rate of 116.77% for these types of cases, which satisfies the

international standards on this vital metric and is 6.70 percentage points above the corresponding 2020 calendar year weighted case clearance rate of 110.07%.

Case Activity on Child Welfare Matters (A Division of the Children’s Court)

This section examines case activity for matters classified as child welfare in the Westmoreland Family Court for the year ended December 31, 2021. Matters falling under the child welfare subdivision are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

Table 1.0: Summary of child welfare case activity for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Childcare and protection	162	139	3	87.65
Uncontrollable Child	68	53	9	91.18
Total/Weighted Average	230	192	12	88.70

A sample of 230 child welfare cases filed in the 2021 calendar year revealed that the majority of 162 or 70.43% were childcare and protection cases, while cases of uncontrollable child with 68 or 29.57% accounted for the remaining proportion. A total of 204 child welfare cases were disposed or became inactive in the year, 142 of which were childcare and protection cases and 62 were uncontrollable child cases. This led to an estimated weighted case clearance rate of 88.70% for these types of cases, which falls slightly below the international standards on this vital metric and is 19.74 percentage points below the corresponding 2020 calendar year weighted case clearance rate of 108.44%.

Family matters case activity summary for the Westmoreland Family Court in the 2021 calendar year

This section examines case activity for matters classified under the broad category of family matters in the Westmoreland Family Court for the 2021 calendar year. Matters falling under this broad case category which are included in this report includes maintenance, custody, legal guardianship, access and declaration of paternity

Table 1.0: Summary of Family case activity for cases for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	233	322	13	143.78
Declaration of Paternity	111	112	4	104.50
Access	72	24	0	33.33
Legal Guardianship	7	7	0	100.00
Maintenance	416	447	10	109.86
Adoption	3	3	0	100.00
Total/Weighted Average	842	915	27	111.88

The 842 new cases which were filed at the Westmoreland Family Court in the 2021 calendar year under the broad family matters case category revealed that the largest proportion were maintenance matters with 416 cases or 49.41% of the sample. This was followed by 233 or 27.67% which were custody cases and 111 or 13.18% which were cases of declaration of paternity. There were also 72 access cases, 3 adoption cases and 7 legal guardianship cases, rounding off the distribution of new cases filed in this category. A total of 942 cases were disposed or became inactive in the year. This is subdivided into 447 disposed and 10 inactive maintenance cases, 322 disposed and 13 inactive custody cases, 112 disposed and 4 inactive declaration of paternity cases, 24 disposed access cases and 3 disposed adoption cases and 7

disposed legal guardianship cases. These outcomes led to an estimated overall weighted case clearance rate of 111.88% for family matters category of cases led by a rate of 143.78% for the sub-category of custody.

Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the 2021 calendar year at the Westmoreland Family Court

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for Domestic Violence cases filed at the Family Court in Westmoreland for the 2021 calendar year.

Table 1.0: Summary of domestic violence case activity for cases for the year ended December 31, 2021

Order Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	383	290	5	77.02
Occupation Order	72	53	2	76.39
Total/Weighted Average	455	343	7	76.92

The data above shows that there was a total of 455 new domestic violence cases filed in the 2021 calendar year at the Westmoreland Family Court. Of this number, there were 383 protection order cases and 72 occupation order cases. A total of 350 domestic violence of these cases were either disposed or became inactive during the period. There were 290 disposed and 5 inactive protection order cases, and 53 disposed and 2 inactive occupation order cases. This produces an estimated weighted case clearance rate of 76.92% for these case types, which is below the international standards on this vital metric and is 3.85 percentage points above the corresponding 2020 calendar year weighted case clearance rate of 73.07%.

Summary of case activity for civil matters at the Westmoreland Family Court

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for civil matters at the Westmoreland Family Court in the 2021 calendar year.

Table 1.0: Summary of civil case activity for cases in the year ended December 31, 2021

Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted Case Clearance Rate (%)
78	60	0	76.92

The data above shows that there was a total of 78 new civil cases filed in the 2021 calendar year at the Westmoreland Family Court. There was also a total of 60 civil cases which were disposed during the period at this court. This produces an estimated case clearance rate of 76.92%, which is below the international standard and is 64.26 percentage points below the corresponding 2020 calendar year weighted case clearance rate of 141.18%.

Summary of case activity across all business lines in the 2021 calendar year at the Westmoreland Family Court

Table 1.0: Summary of case activity across all business lines in the year ended December 31, 2021

Aggregate Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted Case Clearance Rate (%)
1760	1683	54	98.69

The above table shows that a total of 1760 new cases were filed at the Westmoreland Family Court in the 2021 calendar year, while 1683 cases were disposed, and 54 cases became inactive. This produces an estimated weighted case clearance rate of 98.69% across all the case types in the 2021 calendar year. Criminal cases with 116.77% had the highest clearance rate, followed by

family division cases with 111.88%, child welfare cases with 88.70%. Domestic violence and civil cases had the lowest estimated weighted average clearance rate in the year both with a rate of 76.92%.

Chapter 4.0: The Hanover Family Court (A Division of the Western Regional Family Court)

This chapter of the document will examine a summary of selected output and performance measurements for matters in the Hanover Family Court for the year ended December 31, 2021. Such will involve analyses of caseload, case type distribution, case clearance rates for the different business lines of the family court.

Case Activity Summary in the Criminal Section (A Division of the Children's Court)

Table 1.0: Summary of criminal case activity for cases for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	12	26	1	225.00
Indictments	13	30	3	253.85
Summary	44	52	2	122.73
Petty Session	28	34	1	125.00
Total/Weighted average	97	142	7	153.61

The above table shows the distribution by case type for 97 criminal cases filed at the Hanover Family Court in the 2021 calendar year. Of these, 44 or 45.36% of the sample were summary matters, 28 or 28.87% were petty sessions, 13 or 13.40% were indictments and 12 or 12.37% were committal proceedings. There was a total of 149 cases which were disposed or became inactive in the year. Of these, 30 indictments cases were disposed and 3 became inactive, 52 summary matters were disposed and 2 became inactive, 26 committals were disposed 1 became inactive, and 34 petty sessions cases were disposed and 1 became inactive. This led to an estimated weighted clearance rate of 153.61% for criminal cases at the Hanover Family Court in the year, ranging from 253.85% for indictments to 122.73% for summary matters. The estimated

weighted case clearance rate is also 102.12 percentage points above the corresponding 2020 calendar year weighted case clearance rate of 51.49%.

Case Activity on Child Welfare Matters (A Division of the Children’s Court)

This section examines case activity for matters classified as child welfare in the Hanover Family Court for the year ended December 31, 2021. Matters falling under the child welfare subdivision are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

Table 1.0: Summary of child welfare case activity for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Childcare and protection	71	79	0	111.27
Uncontrollable Child	31	38	2	129.03
Total/Weighted Average	102	117	2	116.67

A sample of 102 child welfare cases filed in the 2021 calendar year revealed that the majority of 71 or 69.61% of the sample were childcare and protection cases, while cases of uncontrollable child with 31 or 30.39% accounted for the remaining proportion. A total of 119 child welfare cases were disposed or became inactive in the year, of which 79 were disposed childcare and protection cases and 38 disposed and 2 inactive uncontrollable child cases. This led to an estimated weighted case clearance rate of 116.67% for child welfare cases as a whole in the 2021 calendar year and is 50.37 percentage points above the corresponding 2020 calendar year weighted case clearance rate of 66.30%.

Family matters case activity summary for the Hanover Family Court in the 2021 calendar year

This section examines case activity for matters classified under the broad category of family matters in the Hanover Family Court for the year ended December 31, 2021. Matters falling under this broad case category which are included in this report includes maintenance, custody, legal guardianship, access and declaration of paternity.

Table 1.0: Summary of Family case activity for cases for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	153	168	7	114.38
Declaration of Paternity	38	38	2	105.26
Access	27	24	1	92.59
Legal Guardianship	1	4	0	400.00
Maintenance	166	174	3	106.63
Total/Weighted Average	385	408	13	109.35

The 385 new cases which were filed at the Hanover Family Court in the 2021 calendar year under the broad family matters case category revealed that the largest proportion were maintenance matters with 166 cases or 43.12%. This was followed by 153 or 39.74% which were custody cases and 38 or 9.87% which were declaration of paternity cases. There were also 27 access cases and 1 legal guardianship case rounding off the distribution of new cases filed in this category. A total of 421 cases were disposed or became inactive in the year. This is subdivided into 168 disposed and 7 inactive custody cases, 174 disposed and 3 inactive maintenance cases, 38 disposed and 2 inactive declaration of paternity cases and 24 disposed and 1 inactive access cases and 4 disposed legal guardianship case. These outcomes led to an estimated overall weighted case clearance rate of 109.35% for the family matters category of cases, which satisfies the international

standards on this vital metric and is 13.18 percentage points below the corresponding 2020 calendar year weighted case clearance rate of 122.53%.

Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the 2021 calendar year at the Hanover Family Court

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for Domestic Violence cases filed at the Family Court in Hanover for the year ended December 31, 2021.

Table 1.0: Summary of domestic violence case activity for cases for the year ended December 31, 2021

Order Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	200	186	6	96.00
Occupation Order	33	36	1	112.12
Total/Weighted Average	233	222	7	98.28

The data above shows that there was a total of 233 new domestic violence cases filed in the 2021 calendar year at the Hanover Family Court. Of this, there were 200 protection order cases and 33 occupation order cases. A total of 229 Domestic Violence cases were either disposed or became inactive in the year. This produces an estimated weighted case clearance rate of 98.28% for these case types which satisfies the international standard and is 23.17 percentage points above the corresponding 2020 calendar year weighted case clearance rate of 75.11%.

Summary of case activity for civil matters at the Hanover Family Court

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for civil matters at the Hanover Family Court in the year ended December 31, 2021

Table 1.0: Summary of civil case activity for cases in the year ended December 31, 2021

Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted Case Clearance Rate (%)
28	45	1	164.29

The data above shows that there was a total of 28 new civil cases filed in the 2021 calendar year at the Hanover Family Court. There was also a total of 45 civil cases which were disposed of and 1 which became inactive during the year at this court. This produces an estimated case clearance rate of 164.29%, which exceeds the international standards on this vital metric and is 71.43 percentage points above the corresponding 2020 calendar year weighted case clearance rate of 92.86%.

Summary of case activity across all business lines in the 2021 calendar year at the Hanover Family Court

Table 1.0: Summary of case activity across all business lines in the year ended December 31, 2021

Aggregate Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted Case Clearance Rate (%)
845	934	30	114.08

The above table shows that a total of 845 new cases were filed at the Hanover Family Court in the 2021 calendar year, while 934 cases were disposed, and 30 cases became inactive. This produces an estimated weighted case clearance rate of 114.08% across all the case types in the 2021 calendar year. Civil cases with 164.29% had the highest clearance rate, followed by criminal cases with 153.61%, child welfare cases with 116.67% and family division cases with 109.35%.

Domestic violence cases had the lowest estimated weighted average clearance rate in the year with a rate of 98.28%.

Chapter 5.0: The Trelawny Family Court

This chapter of the document will examine a summary of selected output and performance measurements for matters in the Trelawny Family Court for the year ended December 31, 2021. Such will involve analyses of caseload, case type distribution, case clearance rates for the different business lines of the family court.

Case Activity Summary in the Criminal Section (A Division of the Children’s Court)

Table 1.0: Summary of criminal case activity for cases for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	16	8	1	56.25
Indictments	21	9	0	42.86
Summary	22	20	0	90.91
Petty Session	16	15	0	93.75
Total/Weighted Average	75	52	1	70.67

The above table shows that the sample of 75 criminal cases filed at the Trelawny Family Court in 2021 calendar year. Of these, 22 or 29.33% were summary cases, 21 or 28% were indictments and petty session and committal proceedings each accounted for 16 or 21.33% of the total sample. There was a total of 53 criminal cases disposed or became inactive during the year. Of these, 20 summary cases were disposed, 15 petty session cases were disposed, 9 indictments were disposed, 8 committals were disposed and 1 became inactive during the year. This led to an estimated weighted clearance rate of 70.67% for these types of cases.

Case Activity on Child Welfare Matters (A Division of the Children’s Court)

This section examines case activity for matters classified as child welfare in the Trelawny Family Court for the year ended December 31, 2021. Matters falling under the child welfare subdivision are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

Table 1.0: Summary of child welfare case activity for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Childcare and protection	50	43	2	90.00
Uncontrollable Child	6	8	1	150.00
Total/ Weighted Average	56	51	3	96.43

There were 56 child welfare cases filed at the Trelawny Family Court in the 2021 calendar year, the majority of which were childcare and protection cases which accounted for 50 or 89.29% of the sample, while cases of uncontrollable child with 6 or 10.71% accounted for the remaining proportion. A total of 51 child welfare cases were disposed of during the year and 3 cases became inactive. There were 43 childcare and protection cases that were disposed of during the year and 2 cases became inactive, while 8 uncontrollable child cases were disposed and 1 became inactive. These results led to an estimated case clearance rates of 90% for childcare and protection cases and 150% for uncontrollable child cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 96.43%, which meets the international standards on this vital metric.

Family matters case activity summary for the Trelawny Family Court in the 2021 calendar year

This section examines case activity for matters classified under the broad category of family matters in the Trelawny Family Court for the year ended December 31, 2021. Matters falling under this broad case category which are included in this report includes maintenance, custody, legal guardianship, access and declaration of paternity

Table 1.0: Summary of Family case activity for cases for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	134	56	23	58.96
Declaration of Paternity	43	13	10	53.49
Access	31	9	4	41.94
Legal Guardianship	6	3	0	50.00
Maintenance	135	64	39	76.30
Total/Weighted Average	349	145	76	63.32

The 349 new cases filed at the Trelawny Family Court in the 2021 calendar year revealed that the largest proportion were maintenance matters with 135 cases or 38.68% of the sample. This was followed by custody matters with 134 cases or 38.40% and declaration of paternity cases with 43 or 12.32%. There were 31 access cases and 6 legal guardianship cases filed. A total of 221 cases falling under this broad family category were disposed or became inactive in the year. This is subdivided into 56 disposed and 23 inactive custody cases, 64 disposed and 39 inactive maintenance cases, 13 disposed and 10 inactive declaration of paternity cases, 9 disposed and 4 inactive access cases and 3 disposed legal guardianship case. This led to an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 63.32% for the broad family case type, led by

maintenance cases with 76.30%, custody cases with 58.96% and declaration of paternity cases with 53.49%. Legal guardianship had a clearance rate of 50% and access cases had a clearance rate of 41.94%.

Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the 2021 calendar year at the Trelawny Family Court

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for Domestic Violence cases filed at the Family Court in Trelawny for the year ended December 31, 2021.

Table 1.0: Summary of domestic violence case activity for cases for the year ended December 31, 2021

Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
132	80	31	84.09

The data above shows that there was a total of 132 new domestic violence cases filed in the 2021 at the Trelawny Family Court. A total 111 of these cases were either disposed or became inactive during the year, which resulted in a weighted average case clearance rate of 84.09%, falling below the international standards on this vital metric.

Summary of case activity for civil matters at the Trelawny Family Court

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for civil matters at the Trelawny Family Court in the year ended December 31, 2021.

Table 1.0: Summary of civil case activity for cases in the year ended December 31, 2021

Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted Case Clearance Rate (%)
32	13	4	53.13

The data above shows that there was a total of 32 new civil cases filed in the 2021 calendar year. There were also 17 civil cases which were disposed or became inactive during the period. This produces an estimated case clearance rate of 53.13%, which is below the international standard.

Summary of case activity across all business lines in the 2021 calendar year at the Trelawny Family Court

Table 1.0: Summary of case activity across all business lines in the year ended December 31, 2021

Aggregate Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted Case Clearance Rate (%)
644	341	115	70.81

The above table shows that a total of 644 new cases were filed at the Trelawny Family Court in the 2021 calendar year, while 341 cases were disposed, and 115 cases became inactive. This produces an estimated weighted case clearance rate of 70.81% across all the case types in the 2021 calendar year. Child welfare cases with 96.43% had the highest clearance rate, followed by domestic violence cases with 84.09%, criminal cases with 70.67% and family division cases with

63.32%. Civil cases had the lowest estimated weighted average clearance rate in the year with a rate of 53.13%.

Aggregate Case Activity Summary

Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2021

Family Court	Number of new cases	Gross Number of disposed cases	Gross number of Inactive cases	Weighted Average Case Clearance Rate (%)
Corporate Area Family Court	2335	2251	185	104.33
Hanover Family Court	845	934	30	114.08
St. James Family Court	2511	2127	106	88.93
Westmoreland Family Court	1760	1683	54	98.69
Trelawny Family Court	644	341	115	70.81
Total/Weighted Average	8095	7336	490	96.68

The above table provides a summary of aggregate case activity across the featured specialized Family Courts in the 2021 calendar year. It shows that a total of 8095 new cases were filed in these courts, while 490 became inactive and 7336 were disposed, leading to an overall estimated weighted case clearance rate of 96.68%. The Hanover Family Court recorded the highest overall weighted case clearance rate among the featured courts with 114.08%, followed by the Corporate Area Family Court with 104.33%.

Conclusion

This report featured the specialized Family Courts of Kingston and St. Andrew (Corporate Area), Trelawny and the Western Regional Family Courts which comprises the Hanover, Westmoreland and St. James Family Courts. Together, these specialized family courts registered a commendable overall case clearance rate of 96.68%, representing a 6.28 percentage points decline when compared to the previous year. The rates ranged from a high of 114.08% in the Kingston and St. Andrew Family Court to a low of 70.81% in the Trelawny Family Court. The Chief Justice has set a target for the Jamaican courts to achieve a court-wide case clearance rate of 130% over the next 4-5 years. Achieving this rate will ensure that the net case backlog rate in the court system is reduced to under 5%. Specific targeted case clearance rates have been established for the individual courts and business lines throughout the Jamaican court system, including the Family Court. The Western Regional Family Courts need to attain an overall case clearance rate of % by 2025 in order to achieve a sustainable net case backlog rate of under 5% while the Kingston and St. Andrew Family Courts have a target of 119.14% by that time and the Trelawny Parish Court should attain a rate of 111.24%. Based on the results observed over the past six consecutive quarters, there is a relatively high probability that the specialized Family Courts will attain their targets before 2025, creating a near backlog free situation. One important metric that bears a direct correlation with the case clearance rate is the courtroom utilization rate. The specialized Family Courts enjoy comparatively strong courtroom utilization which partly explains their consistently strong case clearance rates. In 2021 for example, the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Courts registered a courtroom utilization of roughly 86%.

The specialized family courts appear to be well poised to meet the key quantitative targets set out by the Chief Justice as part of the judiciary's strategic plan for the next few years, thus contributing to positioning the Jamaican court system among the best in the region and the world.

Glossary of Terms

Sampling Distribution: A sampling distribution of a given population is the distribution of frequencies of a range of outcomes that could possibly occur for a statistic of a population. A population is the entire pool from which a statistical sample is drawn.

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%. A distinction is sometimes made between the gross and net case clearance rates. The simple difference is that the net rate completely excludes inactive cases from its computation while the gross rate does not.

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.¹

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%. A distinction is sometimes made between the gross and net case disposal rates. The simple difference is that the net rate completely excludes inactive cases from its computation while the gross rate does not.

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

Trial/hearing date certainty: This is the proportion of dates set for trial or hearing which proceed without adjournment. For example, if 100 trial dates are set in a particular Term and 40 are adjourned, then the trial certainty rate would be 60%. The international standard for this measure is between 92% and 100%.

Courtroom utilization rate: The proportion of courtrooms in full use on a daily basis or the proportion of hours utilized in a courtroom on a daily basis. The international standard for this rate is 100%.

Case congestion rate: The ratio of pending cases to cases disposed in a given period. It is an indication of how fatigued a court is, given the existing state of resources and degree of efficiency. A case congestion rate of 150% for example, is an indication that given the resources currently at a court's disposal and its degree of efficiency, it is carrying 1.5 times its capacity.

Case File Integrity Rate: Measures the proportion of time that a case file is fully ready and available in a timely manner for a matter to proceed. Hence, any adjournment, which is due to the lack of readiness of a case file or related proceedings for court at the scheduled time, impairs the case file integrity rate. The international benchmark for the case file integrity is 100%

Standard deviation: This is a measure of how widely spread the scores in a data set are **around** the average value of that data set. The higher the standard deviation, the higher the variation of

the raw scores in the data set, from the average score. A low standard deviation is an indication that the scores in a data set are clustered around the average.

Outlier: An outlier is a value that is too small or too large, relative to the majority of scores/trend in a data set.

Skewness: This is a measure of the distribution of scores in a data set. It gives an idea of where the larger proportion of the scores in a data set can be found. Generally, if skewness is positive as revealed by a positive value for this measure, this suggests that a greater proportion of the scores in the data set are at the lower end. If the skewness is negative as revealed by a negative value for this measure, it generally suggests that a greater proportion of the scores are at the higher end. If the skewness measure is approximately 0, then there is roughly equal distribution of scores on both the higher and lower ends of the average figure.

Range: This is a measure of the spread of values in a data set, calculated as the highest minus the lowest value. A larger range score may indicate a higher spread of values in a data set.

Case backlog: A case that is in the court system for more than two years without disposition.

Case backlog: A case that is in the court system for more than two years without disposition. The **gross backlog rate** measures the proportion of all cases filed within a given period which remain unresolved for a period of over two years. The **net backlog rate** on the other hand measures the proportion of active cases filed in a given period which are unresolved for over two years.

Percentile Rank: This refers to the percentage of scores that are equal to or less than a given score. Percentile ranks, like percentages, fall on a continuum from 0 to 100. For example, a percentile rank of 45 indicates that 45% of the scores in a distribution of scores fall at or below the score at the 35th percentile.

Percentile ranks are useful when you want to quickly understand how a particular score compares to the other scores in a distribution of scores. For instance, knowing a court disposed 300 cases in a given period doesn't tell you much. You don't know how many case disposals were possible, and even if you did, you wouldn't know how that court's score compared to the rest of the courts. If, however, you were told that the court scored at the 80th percentile, then you would know that this court did as well or better than 80% of the courts in case disposals.

Difference between percentage and percentile changes: The difference between percentage and percentage points, the latter is strictly used to compare two percentages, for example, if the clearance rate in 2018 was 89% and the clearance rate in 2019 is 100%, then the appropriate expression to compare these would be "an 11 percentage points increase". However, if we are comparing two absolute numbers, say, 1000 cases were disposed in 2018, and 1500 in 2019, then there would be a 50% increase in cases disposed.

Weighted Average: Weighted average is a calculation that takes into account the varying degrees of significance of the groups or numbers in a data set. In calculating a weighted average for a particular variable, the individual scores or averages for each group are multiplied by the weight or number of observations in each of those groups, and summed. The outcome is then divided by the summation of the number of observations in all groups combined. For example, if we wish to calculate the weighted average clearance rate for the parish courts, the product of the

clearance rate and number of cases for each court are computed, added, and then divided by the total number of cases across all the parish courts. This means that a court with a larger caseload has a greater impact on the case clearance rate than a smaller court.

A weighted average can be more accurate than a simple average in which all numbers in a data set are assigned an identical weight.

Continuance and Adjournment: In a general sense, any delay in the progression of a hearing in which a future date/time is set or anticipated for continuation is a form of adjournment. However, in order to make a strict distinction between matters which are adjourned for procedural factors and those which are generally avoidable, court statistics utilizes the terms ‘continuance’ and ‘adjournment’. Here, ‘continuance’ is used strictly to describe situations in which future dates are set due to procedural reasons and ‘adjournments’ is used to describe the circumstances in which future dates of appearance are set due to generally avoidable reasons. For example, adjournments for another stage of hearing, say from a plea and case management hearing to a trial hearing or from the last date of trial to a sentencing date are classified as ‘continuance’ but delays for say, missing or incomplete files, due to outstanding medical reports or attorney absenteeism are classified as ‘adjournments’. Adjournments as defined in this document have an adverse effect on hearing date certainty rates but continuances do not.

Source:

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

ⁱ *Source:*

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

