

**Parish Courts of Jamaica**  
**The Chief Justice's Annual Statistics**  
**Report for 2022**  
  
**(Criminal matters)**

**ANNUAL SUMMARY**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Case Disposal Rates (%)	<b>74.43</b>	<b>77.51</b>	<b>64.57</b>
Case Clearance Rates (%)	<b>124.58</b>	<b>106.47</b>	<b>96.09</b>
Trial Date Certainty Rates (%)	<b>72</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>
Courtroom utilization Rate (%)	<b>63.61</b>	<b>59.74</b>	<b>54.68</b>

**QUARTERLY SUMMARY - 2022**

	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Case Disposal Rates	<b>57.28</b>	<b>49.74</b>	<b>45.15</b>	<b>47.27</b>
Case Clearance Rates	<b>112.61</b>	<b>118.66</b>	<b>109.42</b>	<b>143.05</b>

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## THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S MESSAGE

The data in this report confirms that the Parish Courts have not only recovered from the COVID 19 pandemic. The overall clearance rate of Parish Courts was 124.55%, an increase of 18.11% over 2021. This is quite likely one of the highest disposal rates in the Commonwealth Caribbean, the wider Caribbean, and the Latin American Region. The net backlog of the Parish Courts is 1.37% while the gross backlog, which includes active and inactive cases, is over 10%. This performance is exceptionally outstanding.

All thirteen courts, for the second consecutive year, have satisfied the international standard for **case clearance** of between 90% and 110% in 2022 while nine of the thirteen Parish Courts exceeded 70% **case disposal** rate in 2022. In this context special note must be made of the Parish Court for the Parish of St Ann which had a case clearance rate of 122.73%. It will be recalled that this court suffered a devastating fire in February 2022. Notwithstanding this, the leadership of the senior judge, supported by the other judges, combined with the ability of the staff to rise above the disaster resulted in this performance. This is nothing short of being remarkable. Even now, the court at Brown's Town is still not properly housed, as it continues in the temporary accommodation which is still incomplete, one year after the fire.

The Parish Court of St Elizabeth is also another outstanding performer. It achieved a case clearance rate of 146.99%. The Corporate Area Criminal Court achieved a clearance rate of 122.73%. In respect of the Corporate Area court this is more than praiseworthy because it is the largest criminal court at this level in the Commonwealth Caribbean and hears a wide range of matters ranging from common assault to highly complex fraud and money laundering cases. These figures would not be possible without the leadership of the Senior Judges of the Parish Courts with the support of the other judges and staff. The cooperation of the private bar, public bar, the police, and other agencies have also contributed immensely to these results.

In spite of this very good performance, there is still the need to improve our performance to deliver efficient justice. The high overall clearance rate means that we have made significant inroads in the backlog of criminal cases across Jamaica. This drive is to be maintained until

the backlog is cleared. However, the critical thing is to prevent the backlog from building up to the level from which the courts are emerging. How is this going to be done? By keeping the case disposal rate high and increasing. The case disposal rate is that which focuses on how many new cases are disposed of within a given period usually a year. Since this is an annual report then the rate at which new cases were entering the courts in 2022 is an important indicator of the likelihood of backlog developing. A persistently low case disposal rate over time will result in high backlog because it means that cumulatively more cases will be taken forward from previous years. An effective tool in managing the disposal of cases effectively is Differentiated Case Management (DCM). In essence, it means allocating sufficient time and other resource as are appropriate, based on the level of complexity of the case, so that it can be disposed of within the shortest possible time.

An excellent example of the combined effect of high case clearance supported by high case disposal is the Parish Court in Hanover. Over the last two years, Hanover has emerged as the leading court in the criminal division of the Parish Courts. While its intake was small in comparison to the others, it had a backlog of cases. This was cleared after approximately two years of intensive effort. That court does not have a backlog in either criminal or the civil division. The court achieved a case disposal rate of 89.62% for 2022. This impressive performance did not come about because the court has a small intake in comparison to other courts but because of effective leadership by the Senior Judge supported by the other judges and the exceptional effort by the staff there.

DCM was introduced in the criminal division in April of 2021 and will be introduced in the civil division in April of 2023. This tool, properly implemented, will lead to increased efficiency which leads to increased stakeholder satisfaction.

There is also the need to increase court room utilization. While this metric has improved to 63.61% over the 59.74% achieved in 2021 it still needs to rise to at least 90%. The combination of high clearance rate, high case disposal rate, and high court room utilization will inevitably mean, over time, the elimination of case backlog and maintenance of time standards for disposal of cases.

The Criminal Division of the Parish Courts has become a beacon of excellence and amply demonstrates what can be achieved by a realistic yet demanding strategic plan, effective leadership on the ground, reliable and consistent support from the staff and all relevant stakeholders. I have not mentioned the impact of modern technology since that factor has not had a significant impact on the positive outcomes mentioned. The most significant change has been the productivity of judges and staff.

I close by thanking the senior judges and judges of the Parish Courts, the staff of the Parish Courts for their evident embracing of the vision and mission of the Judiciary. Your performance has spoken more eloquently than words.

**Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD.**

**Chief Justice of Jamaica**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This statistical report on criminal matters in the Parish Courts of Jamaica is for the year ended December 31, 2022. It represents a continuation of the enhanced efforts to measure court productivity with a view to providing a concrete basis for placing the analyses of the judicial system into proper perspective and for informing the policymaking and operational planning apparatus of the leadership of the courts. This report interrogates a number of vital measures, which provide insights into the operations of the parish courts on both an individual and an aggregated basis. It forms an important foundation for understanding criminal case activity and delay factors in the parish courts as well as important characteristics of criminal cases. This report creates the framework within which the quantitative and some qualitative targets set out in the strategic plan of the judiciary can be monitored and evaluated. This report confirms that at the end of 2022, the criminal division of the parish courts is among the most productive in the Caribbean and Latin American region.

Arguably the most significant finding from this sixth instalment of the Chief Justice's Annual Report on Criminal matters in the Parish Courts is that as at December 31, 2022, less than 2% of active criminal cases in the parish court jurisdiction are in a state of backlog, significantly better than the target of 5% which was set to be achieved by the end of the 2023/24 fiscal year. As of December 31, 2022, only 1.37% of active cases in the criminal division of the parish courts are in a state of backlog. The overall gross case backlog rate which includes both active and inactive cases in a state of backlog, however still stands above 10% and its reduction is a priority for the judiciary as the much

vaunted Differentiated Case Management (DCM) strategy has now been deployed in the criminal division of the Jamaican parish courts. The impressive results seen in the case backlog reduction in the criminal division of the parish courts over the past few years is also borne out in several other critical performance metrics for 2022.

The aggregate new case count in the parish courts in 2022 was 21,230, a marked decrease of 31.55% when compared to the previous year, partly on account of the significant reduction in charges under the Disaster Risk Management Act. The Corporate Area Parish Court - Criminal Division with 4807 new cases or 22.64% of the total, followed by the St. Catherine and St. James Parish Courts with 3141 cases or 14.80% and 2102 cases or 9.90% respectively, account for the three largest proportions of the new criminal cases filed in 2022. The Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division and the St. Catherine Parish Court also ranked as the courts with the highest new caseload in the previous decade. Taken together, the three parishes with the highest new case count account for 47.34% of the new cases filed in 2022, not dissimilar to the previous year. The parish courts of St. Mary, Hanover and St. Thomas accounted for the lowest shares of the aggregate new cases filed each with under 4.0% of the total new caseload in 2022.

The overall average disposal rate for cases originating in 2022 was 74.43%, which is a decrease of 3.08 percentage points when compared to the previous year. The Hanover Parish Court occupied a now familiar position as one of the model productive courts in the island, leading the way with a rate of 89.62%, thereby disposing of new cases the fastest in 2022. The Westmoreland and St. James Parish Courts ranked next with case

disposal rates of 87.65% and 87.44% respectively, asserting western dominance on this metric. Notably, 9 of the 13 parish courts exceeded the theoretical ideal of a 70% criminal case disposal rate in 2022.

The case clearance rate provides a measure of the number of cases disposed (regardless of date/year of initiation) for every new case filed in a particular period. This is a productivity index as many of the disposed cases, which are included in its computation, would have originated before the period of focus and is a more instructive statistic on case activity than the case disposal rate. The overall case clearance rate for 2022 was a record 124.55%, up by 18.11 percentage points when compared to 2021. The result suggests that for every 100 new criminal cases that were filed in the parish courts in 2022, roughly 125 cases were disposed (including cases originating prior to 2022), likely one of the highest in the Caribbean and Latin American region. For the second consecutive year, all thirteen parish courts satisfied the international standard of between 90% and 110% in 2022. The top three spots on this metric was occupied by three courts which entered largely unfamiliar territory, with the St. Elizabeth Parish Court leading the way with a case clearance rate of 146.99%, followed by the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division with a rate of 143.33% and the St. Ann Parish Court with 122.73%. The arrival of the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division in this echelon is especially outstanding given its large size and wide ranging complexity of cases heard. The placement of the St. Ann Parish Court is also quite noteworthy as this court is typically in the lower quintile across several annual productive measurements. This terrain is relatively less unfamiliar to the St. Elizabeth Parish Court.



One highly important measure, which is of keen interest to the leadership of the courts and the policy makers, is the case congestion rate. This is a measure of how well a court is doing in managing its pending caseload, relative to its rates of disposition and clearance and the implied state of resources. The higher the case congestion rate of a court, the more burdensome the caseload and the longer it will take to dispose of cases, again within the context of the existing rates of disposition and clearance and the implied state of resources. The overall case congestion rate recorded for the criminal division of the parish courts in 2022 was 134.01%, an improvement of 2.13 percentage points when compared to 2021, the lowest case congestion rate recorded in the criminal division of the parish courts since this type of reporting began. The parish courts of Hanover and Westmoreland are now ranked as the least congested criminal courts in the island, each with rates under 110%. The case of Westmoreland is especially intriguing for its relatively large size. There is a long run negative association between the case clearance rate and the case congestion rate, therefore, sustained increases in the case clearance rate will cause the case congestion rate to fall.

Another essential measure, which is an important cornerstone in the drive to bring Jamaica among the best performing court systems in the world is the trial date certainty rate. This provides a measurement of the likelihood that dates set for trial will proceed as scheduled (without adjournment for future dates). The perfect rate of 100% would suggest that all dates set for trial proceed as scheduled in the relevant period. The criminal division of the parish courts recorded an overall 2 percentage points decline in trial date certainty rate when compared to 2021, netting out at 72%. The parish courts of Manchester, St. Mary and Trelawny were the leaders on this metric.

The proportion of allocated court time that is utilized for hearings in each parish court bears some long run correlation with the case clearance rate, the case congestion rate and overall court performance. The courtroom utilization rate provides a solid measurement of the proportion of time allocated for court hearings, which are utilized throughout the year in each court. The overall courtroom utilization rate across the parish courts in 2022 was 63.61%, an improvement of 3.87 percentage points when compared to the previous year. The Westmoreland Parish Court with a courtroom utilization rate of 80.96%, the Portland Parish Court with 72.96% and the Trelawny Parish Court with 68.72% were the top performers on this metric.

On the matter of caseload distribution in the individual parishes, the data shows that in many instances the outstation courts in the respective parishes are carrying a notable share of the caseload. The overall average number of new cases heard in the outstations in 2022 is approximately 34.18%, up by 3.48 percentage points when compared to 2021 while roughly 65.82% of cases were heard at the main parish court locations, a decline of 3.48 percentage points when compared to 2021. While outstation court activity in parishes such as St. James and the Corporate Area account for less than 10% of total activity, there are several parishes where outstations are extensively utilized, accounting for over 25% of total case activity. This includes the parish courts of Manchester, Clarendon, St. Mary and Trelawny, among others. The evidence continues to suggest that there is the potential in many parishes for outstations to be utilized to a greater degree to ease the caseload carriage in the main courts, thus potentially enhancing case clearance and disposal rates by reducing the case congestion.

As with 2021, the largest proportion of cases disposed in 2022 was by way of guilty pleas, accounting for 34.77% of the cases disposed. This was followed by cases dismissed, which was responsible for 23.23% of the cases disposed. It is of note that guilty verdicts accounted for roughly 2.85% of the matters disposed while not guilty verdicts accounted for 13.05% of the total. Mediated settlements (of various forms) accounted for roughly 9.84% of the cases disposed during the year. Taken together, the data therefore reveals **a conviction rate of 37.62% for the 2022** calendar year. Further analysis of the data suggests that for the cases originating over at least over the past roughly seven years, which are disposed, roughly 37.25% were resolved within 90 days, 58.25% within six months and 70.57% within a year.

In terms of the distribution of case types, the report highlights that the largest proportion of the criminal cases filed in the parish courts were indictments with approximately 38.99% of all matters. This is followed by summary matters with a roughly 34.62% and matters heard by Lay Magistrates with approximately 12.82% of the total. It is of note that Committal Proceedings accounted for roughly 10.97% of all criminal matters filed in the parish courts in 2022. Summary matters had an overall conviction rate of 63.29% in 2022 while indictments had a conviction rate of 19.38% across the parish courts.

An important delay factor, which affects the efficiency with which cases move towards disposition is the incidence of adjournments in the parish courts. The data suggests that the dominant reasons for adjournments for the year were due to the issuance of warrants for defendants not appearing (DNA- warrant issued) with an estimated

22.85% of all adjournments, files to be completed with 13.58% and adjournments for disclosure with 9.08%, rounding off the top three. Also featuring prominently on the lists of reasons for adjournment across the parish courts in 2022 are adjournments for referral to mediation, absent defendants, medical reports outstanding and subpoena of investigating officers and the crown respectively. This probability distribution for the reasons for adjournments was broadly similar to that observed in 2021.

The three most frequent criminal charges filed in the parish courts in 2022 were assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding and breaches of the Disaster Risk Management Act. The majority of charges filed in 2022 involved accused males, accounting for roughly 79.58%, with females accounting for 20.42%. The dominant age group of persons charged in 2022 were the 27 – 36 and 18 - 26 age groups, accounting for 31.75% and 26.32% respectively of the total.

One of the most decisive and instructive findings from this annual report comes from the analysis of the distribution of times to disposition in the parish courts. The report reveals that on average, the criminal division of the parish courts took roughly eleven months to dispose of cases in 2022, the same as 2021. In 2022, the courts which had the shortest times to disposition for cases resolved are the parish courts of Westmoreland (4.27 months), Hanover (5.30 months) and St. Mary (5.83 months). These three courts are also typical among the leading performers across several metrics.

Using the method of exponential smoothing, the report forecasts that in 2023, 24766 new criminal cases will be filed in the criminal division of the parish courts while 22,773 cases are expected to be disposed and 4,534 to become inactive. The overall forecasted case clearance rate for 2023 in the criminal division of the parish courts is therefore 110.27%. The parish courts of Manchester, St. James and the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division are expected to register the highest case clearance rates in 2023. These estimates are subject to adjustment as the year progresses.

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

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

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

## **METHODOLOGY**

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

Monthly statistical data is processed using the data submissions, culminating in Quarterly Reports and eventually the Annual Report of this nature. All Quarterly and Annual Parish Court reports are published on the website of the Supreme Court;

however, interim data required by stakeholders may be requested through the Office of the Chief Justice.

**Disclaimer**

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

## Chapter 1.0: Criminal Case Activity Statistics in the Parish Courts for the year ended December 31, 2022

This chapter provides an assessment of criminal case activity in the parish courts for the year ended December 31, 2022. This includes analysis of the criminal caseload, rates of case disposal, clearance and congestion as well as cases statuses in the various courts over the period, assessments of courtroom utilization rates, case file integrity rates, trial date certainty rates and forecasts of the core case activity outcomes for the upcoming 2023 calendar year. This chapter also explores the common methods of disposition, reasons for court delay, leading charges and case types across the parish courts and associated conviction rates.

**Table 1.0: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Number of inactive cases	Number of disposed cases	Active Pending Case Load	Case disposal Rate (%)
Hanover	703	25	605	73	89.62
St. Catherine	3141	429	1902	810	74.21
Westmoreland	1320	59	1098	163	87.65
St. Mary	733	33	492	208	71.62
Clarendon	1621	137	1149	335	79.33
Portland	1017	75	634	308	69.71
St. Elizabeth	962	72	472	418	56.55
Corporate Area Criminal	4807	1060	2290	1457	69.69
St. Thomas	706	52	487	167	76.35
St. James	2102	290	1548	264	87.44
St. Ann	1826	434	846	546	70.10
Trelawny	817	57	503	257	68.54
Manchester	1475	93	959	423	71.32
<b>Total</b>	<b>21230</b>	<b>2816</b>	<b>12985</b>	<b>5429</b>	-
<b>Average/Weighted Average</b>	<b>1633.08</b>	<b>216.62</b>	<b>998.85</b>	<b>417.62</b>	<b>74.43</b>
<b>Standard deviation</b>	<b>1181.75</b>	<b>291.47</b>	<b>589.65</b>	<b>366.22</b>	<b>9.29</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.91</b>	<b>2.33</b>	<b>1.16</b>	<b>2.19</b>	<b>0.10</b>

*Note: The case disposal rate for the Browns Town outstation for the 2022 calendar year is 47%*

The table above shows the aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the 2022 calendar year. A total of 21,230 new criminal cases were filed across the parish courts, 15,801



cases were either disposed or became inactive, resulting in a weighted average case disposal rate of 74.43%. In the corresponding period in 2021, 31,015 cases were filed, while 24,039 cases were either disposed or became inactive which resulted in a weighted average disposal rate of 77.51%, which is 3.08 percentage points higher than the rate for the 2022 calendar year. This comparison reveals that there was a decrease of 9,785 cases or a 31.55% decline in the number of new cases filed and a decrease of 8,238 cases or a 34.27% decline in the number of cases disposed or became inactive when compared to the 2021 calendar year. All thirteen (13) parish courts listed above recorded a decrease in the number of new cases filed in the 2022 calendar year. Among the parish courts with the largest decline in new cases filed were the St. Elizabeth Parish Court, decreasing by 52.14%, the Hanover Parish Court, which decreased by 43.71% and the St. Catherine Parish Court, which decreased by 37.96%.

The Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division with 4,807 cases or 22.64% of the new cases, the St. Catherine Parish Court with 3,141 cases or 14.80% and the St. James Parish Court with 2,102 or 9.90% accounted for the three largest shares of new cases filed in the 2022 calendar year. These three parish courts with the largest share of new cases filed, cumulatively accounted for 47.34% of the total sample of new criminal cases filed in the 2022 calendar year. On the other end, the parish courts of Hanover with 703 cases or 3.31% of the new cases, St. Thomas with 706 cases or 3.33% and St. Mary with 733 cases or 3.45% accounted for the lowest shares of new cases filed in the 2022 calendar year. The best performing courts in relation to case disposal rates for the 2022 calendar year were the Hanover (89.62%), Westmoreland (87.65%), St. James (87.44%) Parish Courts. The bottom three courts on this measure were the St. Elizabeth (56.55%), Trelawny (68.54%) and Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division (69.69%) parish courts. The parish court of St. Elizabeth was also among the bottom three courts on this measure in the 2021 calendar year.

The skewness of the number of new cases filed, the number of cases disposed, and the active pending new caseload are all positive, which is an indication that the larger proportion of the courts fell below the overall average case count in each of these data series. The overall skewness of the case disposal rates is a low positive figure, which indicates that a large proportion of courts had disposal rates which were clustered around the overall average rate for the year.

*Refer to Table 4.0 for a graphical comparison of the Case Disposal Rates across all Parish Courts for 2021 and 2022.*

**Table 2.0a: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court as at December 31, 2022**

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed in year	Number of Disposed cases in 2022	Number of Inactive cases in 2022	Grand total number of inactive cases (2016-2022)	Grand total number of disposed cases (2016-2022)	Grand Active Pending Caseload b/f Jan. 1, 2022	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
Hanover	703	819	36	287	5725	209	121.62	106.67
St. Catherine	3141	3087	593	3206	20207	1109	117.16	115.49
Westmoreland	1320	1387	70	1063	10485	279	110.38	109.75
St. Mary	733	679	47	748	5772	221	99.05	131.40
Clarendon	1621	1643	187	1709	10900	703	112.89	126.99
Portland	1017	978	96	748	6953	439	105.60	135.57
St. Elizabeth	962	1277	137	-	-	765	146.99	122.14
Corporate Area Criminal	4807	5370	1520	9849	32853	5853	143.33	154.72
St. Thomas	706	800	84	545	5603	559	125.21	143.10
St. James	2102	2250	361	2631	15169	854	124.22	113.21
St. Ann	1826	1703	538	3674	8840	1594	122.73	152.61
Trelawny	817	897	102	698	5458	592	122.28	141.04
Manchester	1475	1621	166	1869	9128	1037	121.15	140.57
<b>Total</b>	<b>21230</b>	<b>22511</b>	<b>3937</b>	<b>27027</b>	<b>137093</b>	<b>14214</b>	-	-
<b>Average/Weighted Average</b>	<b>1633.08</b>	<b>1731.62</b>	<b>302.85</b>	<b>2252.25</b>	<b>11424.42</b>	<b>1093.38</b>	<b>124.58</b>	<b>134.01</b>
<b>Standard deviation</b>	<b>1181.75</b>	<b>1283.33</b>	<b>408.85</b>	<b>2634.72</b>	<b>8075.57</b>	<b>1483.16</b>	<b>13.29</b>	<b>16.01</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.91</b>	<b>2.19</b>	<b>2.53</b>	<b>2.49</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>3.18</b>	<b>0.54</b>	<b>0.00</b>

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

**Note 2: The grand total number of active cases from 2016 to the year ended December 31, 2022, for all parish courts combined= 10,149**

**Note 3: The case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for 2022 is 103.39% and the case congestion rate is 259.34%**

The table above is an extension of table 1.0. Among the critical performance measures reported in this table is the case congestion rate across the parish courts. This provides a measure of manageability of a court's existing caseload. In particular, it provides an indication of the caseload burden relative to existing resources and the pace of case clearance. As an empirical measurement of case carriage load, the case congestion rate is more meaningful over longer period, typically a year or more; hence, the quarterly results are to be interpreted in a guarded way.

The weighted average case congestion rate among the parish courts in the 2022 calendar year was 134.01%, an indication that the parish courts (criminal division) as a whole are carrying 34% more than the caseload that their current rate of clearance and implied state of resources justifies. This result represents a 2.13 percentage points decrease when compared to the 2021 calendar year and is the lowest annual rate recorded in recent history. The parish courts of Corporate Area Criminal (154.72%), St. Ann (152.61%), St. Thomas (143.10%) and Trelawny (141.04%) were the courts with the highest case congestion rates in the 2022 calendar year. The Manchester (140.57%) and Portland (135.57%) Parish Courts rounded off the top 6 most case congested courts in the 2022 calendar year. The parish courts of the Corporate Area Criminal, Manchester, St. Ann, St. Thomas and Trelawny were also among the most congested courts in the comparative 2021 calendar year. The parish courts of Hanover (106.67%), Westmoreland (109.75%), and St. James (113.21%) performed best on this measure. As with previous reports, variations in caseload and resources do not appear to be a major factor explaining the variances in performance on this measure as some of the courts

ranking on either ends of the scale are the larger courts in the island and resource endowment do not vary in a statistically way among the courts. The case congestion rate is a more meaningful measurement over a full year.

The results on the overall case clearance rate for the 2022 calendar year provide interesting insights into the court-wide progress being made on this measure. The overall weighted average case clearance rate of 124.58%, which is an increase of 18.11 percentage points when compared to the corresponding 2021 calendar year and the performance exceeds the international standard of 90%-110. This overall case clearance rate of 124.58% suggests that for every 100 new cases filed, roughly 125 cases were disposed and represents the highest annual case clearance rate on record for the criminal division of the parish courts. All thirteen (13) parish courts met or exceeded the international standards of 90%-110%. The parish courts of St. Elizabeth (146.99%), Corporate Area Criminal (143.33%), St. Thomas (125.21%), St. James (124.22%) and St. Ann (122.73%) were the leading parish courts on this measure. Traditionally one of the top performers, the parish court of St. Mary (99.05%) had the lowest criminal case clearance rates for the year, but still met the international standard of 90%-110%. Nine (9) parish courts recorded an increase in clearance rates when compared to 2021 calendar year. The St. Elizabeth and Corporate Area Criminal parish courts saw the largest gains, with 50.62 and 44.42 percentage points improvement respectively. The data in the table above were positively skewed to various degrees, indicating that for the most part, proportionately more of the scores in that data set fell below their respective series means. *Refer to Table 4.0 for further comparison of the case clearance rates and the case congestion rates across all parish courts for the 2021 and 2022 calendar years.*

**Table 2.0b: Percentile rank on selected performance metrics for the criminal division of the parish courts for the year ended December 31, 2022**

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

The table above provides the percentile ranks of the case disposal and case clearance rates for the 2022 calendar year. The percentile rank gives an indication of where particular courts falls on a metric relative to the other courts. The parish courts of Hanover (100%), Westmoreland (92%) and St. James (83%) had the highest percentile ranks on case disposal rate for the 2022 calendar year, an indication that they performed better than the vast proportion of the courts on this measure. The percentile ranks of 100% for the Hanover Parish Court for example means that they performed better than all the courts on case disposal rate in the year, while Westmoreland Parish Court performed better than 92% of the parish courts and the St. James Parish Court performed better than 83% of all the parish courts on this measurement. The parish courts of St. Elizabeth, Trelawny and Corporate Area Criminal had the lowest percentile rank on case disposal rate for the year. In terms of case clearance rates, the parish courts of St. Elizabeth (100%), Corporate Area Criminal (92%) and St. Thomas (83%) had the highest percentile ranks, while the parish courts of St. Mary, Portland and Westmoreland had the lowest.

**Table 2.0c: Forecasted case activity statistics for the 2023 calendar year [January 01 - December 31, 2023]**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Forecasted number of new cases</b>	<b>Forecasted number of disposed cases</b>	<b>Forecasted number of inactive cases</b>	<b>Forecasted case clearance rate (%)</b>
Hanover	913	947	58	110.13
Manchester	1571	1566	245	115.27
St. Mary	902	909	94	111.22
St. James	2384	2276	420	113.09
St. Catherine	3672	3232	751	108.45
Portland	1194	1156	141	108.60
St. Ann	1978	1634	515	108.62
St. Elizabeth	1373	1363	157	110.66
Corporate Area Criminal	5347	4536	1550	113.80
Westmoreland	1726	1724	159	109.13
St. Thomas	878	865	97	109.50
Clarendon	1879	1645	247	100.65
Trelawny	948	921	101	107.76
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>24766</b>	<b>22773</b>	<b>4534</b>	<b>110.26</b>

*Note: The forecasted case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for 2022 is 84.30%.*

The above table forecasts core case activity for the criminal division of each parish court and overall for the 2023 calendar year. The forecasts are generated using the method of exponential smoothing which uses weighted averages from past observations with weights decaying exponentially as the observations get older. See further explanation of the mathematical science behind the method of exponential smoothing in the glossary of terms.

The above data shows that the overall forecasted case clearance rates for the criminal division of the parish courts for the 2023 calendar year is 110.26%, which would be 14.32 percentage points lower than that of the 2022 calendar year. All thirteen (13) parish courts are forecasted to satisfy the international standard on case clearance rate of 90% or more in the 2023 calendar year, led by the Manchester Parish Court with 115.27%, the Corporate Area Criminal Court with 113.80% and the St. James Parish Court with 113.09%.

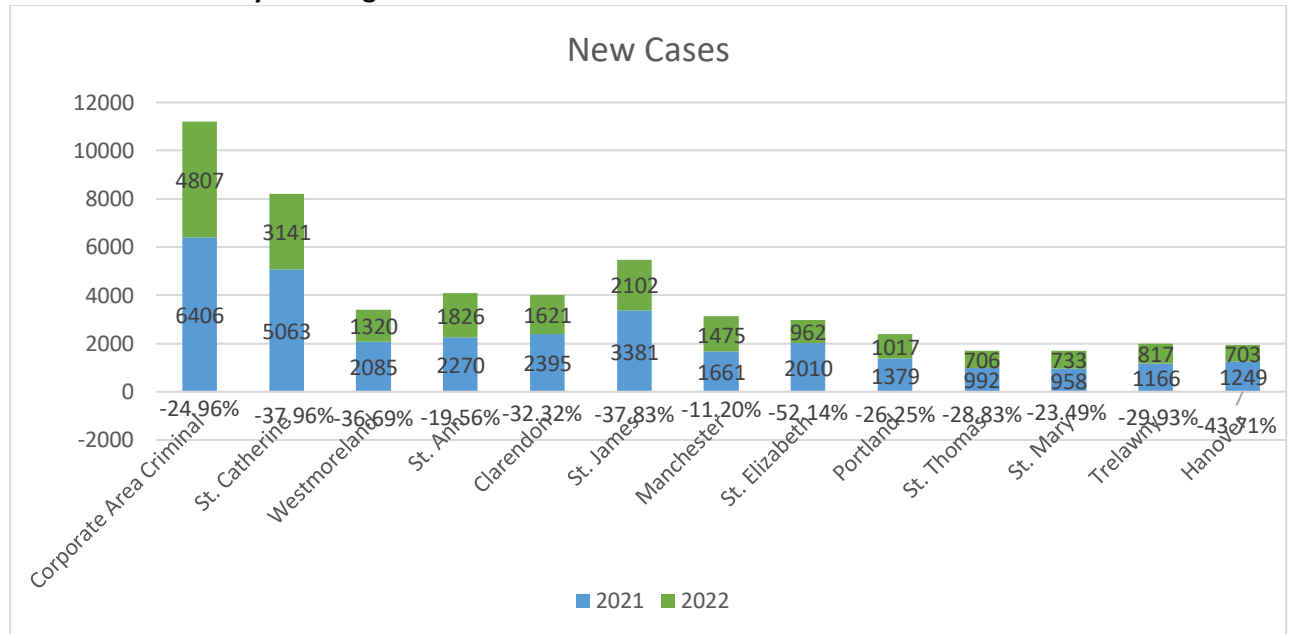
**Table 2.0d: Sampling distribution of new cases filed per 10,000 population in the criminal division of the parish courts in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Population size in parish</b>	<b>Case per 10,000 population</b>
Hanover	703	69,533	101
St. Catherine	3141	516,218	61
Westmoreland	1320	144,103	92
St. Mary	733	113,615	65
Clarendon	1621	245,103	66
Portland	1017	81,744	124
St. Elizabeth	962	150,205	64
Corporate Area Criminal	4807	662,426	73
St. Thomas	706	93,902	75
St. James	2102	183,811	114
St. Ann	1826	172,362	106
Trelawny	817	75,164	109
Manchester	1475	189,797	78
<b>Total</b>	<b>21230</b>	<b>2697983</b>	<b>79</b>

The above table provides an outline of the number of new criminal cases filed per 10,000 population in the parish courts in the 2022 calendar year. The population sizes used are based on the last published national population census in 2011 and therefore the data does not have full current value. Nevertheless, this kind of data provides interesting insights into the demand for adjudication in criminal matters in the various parishes. It is seen that the parish of Portland, which is among the parishes with the smaller population size, and mid-range in caseloads, registered the largest number of new criminal cases filed per 10,000 population in the 2022 calendar year. St. James which is among the parishes with the larger caseload and mid-range in population sizes, was second on this measurement. Trelawny, which is among the parishes with the smaller caseload and smaller population sizes, followed. Equally interesting is the result that the St. Catherine Parish Court, which is among the parishes with the larger yearly caseload and bigger populations, had the smallest number of new cases filed

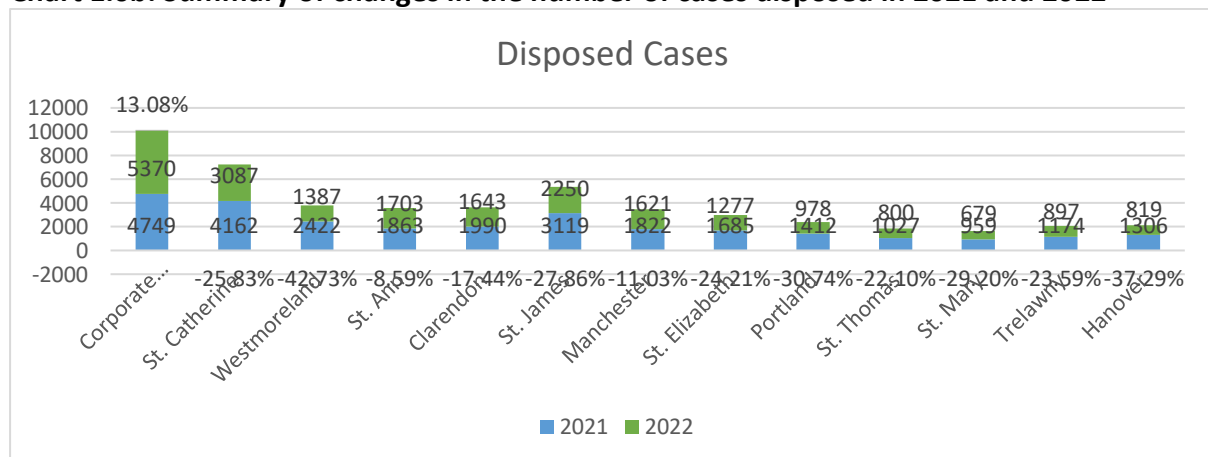
per 10,000 population in the year. St. Elizabeth had the second lowest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population for the year, followed by St. Mary.

**Chart 1.0a: Summary of changes in the number of new cases filed in 2021 and 2022**



The above chart provides a breakdown of the changes in the number of new cases filed in 2022 and 2021 calendar years. It is seen that there has been a decrease in new cases filed over the comparative period in all thirteen (13) parish courts. Among the parish courts with the largest drop in new cases filed were the St. Elizabeth Parish Court falling by 52.14% and the Hanover Parish Court, which fell by 43.71%.

**Chart 1.0b: Summary of changes in the number of cases disposed in 2021 and 2022**





The above graph provides a breakdown of the changes in the number of cases disposed in 2022 and 2021 calendar years. It is seen that there has been a decrease in cases resolved over the comparative period in twelve (12) parish courts and an increase in the cases resolved in the other one (1) parish court. The Westmoreland Parish Court fell by 42.73%, the Hanover Parish Court fell by 37.29% and the Portland Parish Court fell by 30.74%. The only parish court with an increase in the cases disposed in the year was the Corporate Area Criminal Court increasing by 13.08%.

**Table 2.0e: Sampling distribution of the Indices of Judge Productivity for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Parish Court	Number of Judges	New criminal cases per Judges	Active pending caseload per Judge at the beginning of 2022	Active caseload per Judge at the end of 2022	Cases disposed per Judge
Hanover	2	351.50	104.50	28.50	409.50
St. Catherine	5	628.20	221.80	114.00	617.40
Westmoreland	3	440.00	93.00	47.33	462.33
St. Mary	3	244.33	73.67	76.00	226.33
Clarendon	3	540.33	234.33	164.67	547.67
Portland	3	339.00	146.33	127.33	326.00
St. Elizabeth	3	320.67	255.00	104.33	425.67
Corporate Area Criminal	9	534.11	650.33	418.89	596.67
St. Thomas	2	353.00	279.50	190.50	400.00
St. James	5	420.40	170.80	69.00	450.00
St. Ann	3	608.67	531.33	393.00	567.67
Trelawny	3	272.33	197.33	136.67	299.00
Manchester	3	491.67	345.67	241.67	540.33
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>451.70</b>	<b>302.43</b>	<b>191.40</b>	<b>478.96</b>

The above table provides a distribution of the new cases filed per judge, the cases disposed per judge and the caseload per judge in the criminal division of the parish courts for the 2022 calendar year. The data reveals that the overall weighted average number of new criminal cases filed per judge in the 2022 calendar year is roughly 452 cases. The parish courts of St. Catherine (628 cases), St. Ann (609 cases) and Clarendon (540 cases) had the three largest number of new cases filed per judge during the year. On the contrary, the parish courts of St.

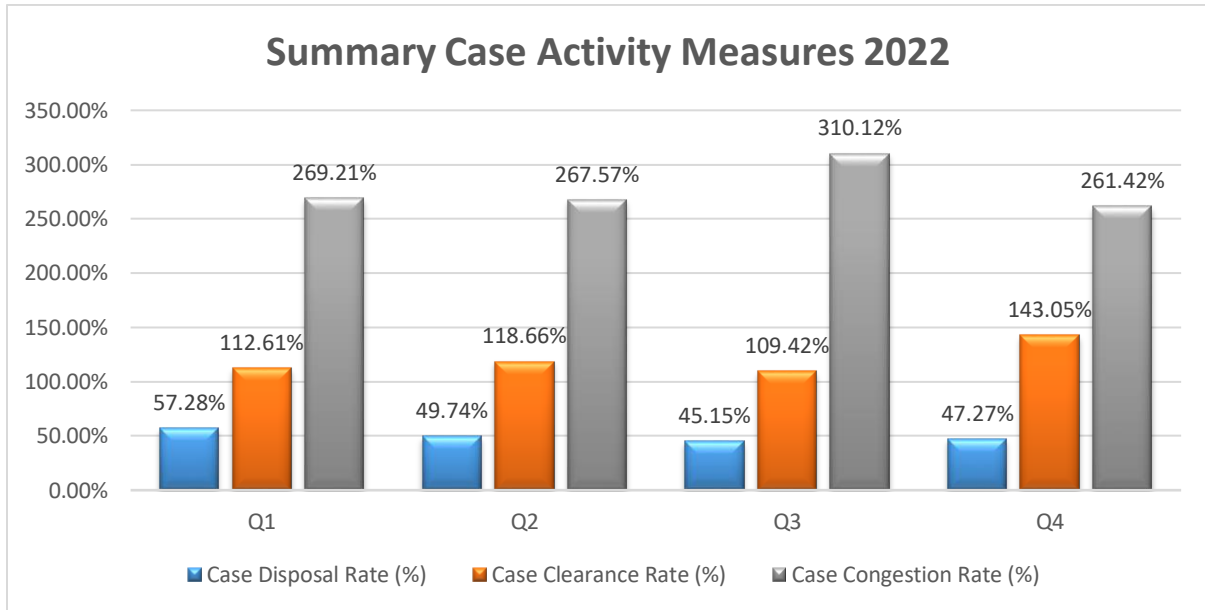
Mary (244 cases), Trelawny (272 cases) and the St. Elizabeth Parish Court (321 cases) had the lowest number of new cases filed per judge in the year. In terms of cases disposed per judge, the St. Catherine Parish Court disposed the most cases per judge in the year with 617 cases, followed by the Corporate Area Criminal Court with 597 cases and the St. Ann Parish Court with 568 cases disposed per judge. The three courts with the smallest number of cases disposed per judge were the St. Mary Parish Court with 226 cases, the Trelawny Parish Court with 299 disposed cases per judge and the Portland Parish Court with 326 disposed cases per judge. The overall number of criminal cases disposed per judge was 479 cases. The most crucial of the indicators is the active caseload per judge at the end of the year. The data shows that the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division had the highest caseload per judge at the end of the year with 419 cases, followed by the St. Ann Parish Court with 393 cases and the Manchester Parish Court with 242 cases per judge. On the lower end, the parish courts of Hanover and Westmoreland with 29 and 47 cases per judge respectively, had the lowest active criminal caseload per judge at the end of the year, followed by the St. James Parish Court with 69 active criminal cases per judge. The overall average active criminal caseload per judge at the end of the year is 191 cases. The active caseload is a proxy for the existing demand for judicial services in the respective courts and the anecdotal evidence suggests that some courts with a higher caseload per judge are generally more hard pressed to sustain high productivity rates.

**Table 3.0: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the period Jan.-Dec. 2022**

Statistical Measurements	Case Disposal Rate (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1
Weighted Average	47.27	45.15	49.74	57.28	143.05	109.42	118.66	112.61	261.42	310.12	267.57	269.21
Standard Deviation	12.25	12.36	8.73	10.13	24.40	22.40	22.17	17.46	100.70	109.24	71.82	86.77
Skewness	0.23	0.29	1.04	0.14	0.21	2.06	0.73	1.17	0.83	1.34	0.81	0.72

The above table provides a detailed quantitative summary of the progression of the key measures discussed so far, namely the case disposal rate, the case clearance rate and the case congestion rate across the four quarters of 2022 for all parish courts combined. A pictorial representation of this data follows.

**Chart 2.0: Aggregate summary of selected case activity metrics over the four quarters of 2022**



The above graph provides a summary of the progression of the overall case disposal, case clearance and case congestion rate over the four quarters of 2022 for all parish courts combined. It is seen that there was some amount of fluctuations in the progression of all three metrics over the four quarters throughout the year. The overall case disposal rate varied within a band of a low of 45.15% in the third quarter and a high of 57.28% in the first quarter. The case clearance rate ranged from a low of 109.42% in the third quarter to 143.05% in the fourth quarter of 2022, while the case congestion rate was at its lowest in fourth quarter with 261.42% and at its highest in the third quarter with a rate of 310.12%.

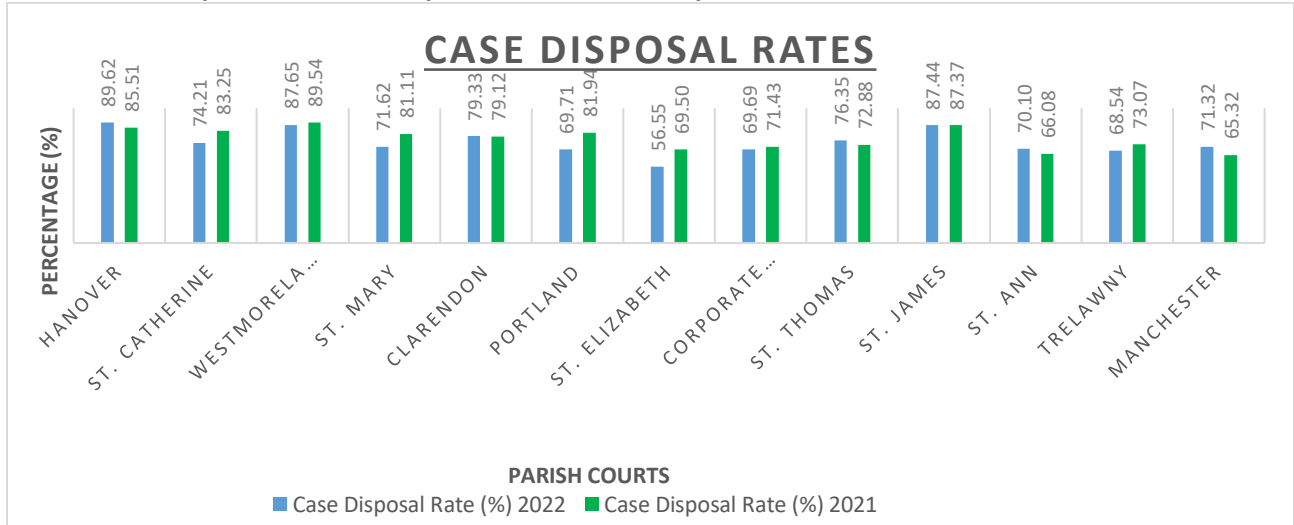
**Table 4.0: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for 2020 and 2021**

Parish Court	Case Disposal Rate (%) 2022	Case Disposal Rate (%) 2021	Change in case disposal rate (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%) 2022	Case Clearance Rate (%) 2021	Change in case clearance rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%) 2022	Case Congestion Rate (%) 2021	Change in case congestion rate (%)
Hanover	89.62	85.51	4.11	121.62	110.49	11.13	106.67	112.97	-6.30
St. Catherine	74.21	83.25	-9.04	117.16	100.93	16.23	115.49	119.47	-3.98
Westmoreland	87.65	89.54	-1.89	110.38	125.23	-14.85	109.75	107.28	2.47
St. Mary	71.62	81.11	-9.49	99.05	108.98	-9.93	131.40	118.68	12.72
Clarendon	79.33	79.12	0.21	112.89	95.24	17.65	126.99	190.14	-63.15
Portland	69.71	81.94	-12.23	105.60	116.53	-10.93	135.57	127.38	8.19
St. Elizabeth	56.55	69.5	-12.95	146.99	96.37	50.62	122.14	137.84	-15.70
Corporate Area Criminal	69.69	71.43	-1.74	143.33	98.91	44.42	154.72	144.24	10.48
St. Thomas	76.35	72.88	3.47	125.21	112.1	13.11	143.10	148.02	-4.92
St. James	87.44	87.37	0.07	124.22	110.14	14.08	113.21	120.06	-6.85
St. Ann	70.10	66.08	4.02	122.73	110.79	11.94	152.61	160.99	-8.38
Trelawny	68.54	73.07	-4.53	122.28	111.75	10.53	141.04	143.98	-2.94
Manchester	71.32	65.32	6.00	121.15	124.2	-3.05	140.57	146.34	-5.77
<b>Average /Weighted Average</b>	<b>74.43</b>	<b>77.51</b>	<b>-3.08</b>	<b>124.58</b>	<b>106.47</b>	<b>18.11</b>	<b>134.01</b>	<b>136.14</b>	<b>-2.13</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>9.29</b>	<b>8.14</b>		<b>13.29</b>	<b>9.53</b>		<b>16.01</b>	<b>22.72</b>	<b>90.58</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>-0.08</b>		<b>0.54</b>	<b>0.11</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.96</b>	<b>-2.45</b>

The table above provides a comparison of the case disposal rate, the case clearance rate and the case congestion rate for the 2021 and 2022 calendar years. The weighted average case disposal rate for the 2022 calendar year, was 74.43%, which was a 3.08 percentage points decrease when compared to the 2021 calendar year which had a weighted average rate of 77.51%. The overall case clearance rate of 124.58% for the 2022 calendar year was 18.11 percentage points above the 106.47% recorded in the corresponding 2021 calendar year. The overall case congestion rate for the 2022 calendar year improved, changing from 136.14% in the 2021 calendar year, to 134.01% in the 2022 calendar year, a 2.13 percentage point decrease. Ceteris paribus, there

should be a roughly inverse linear association between the case clearance rates and the case congestion rate. This is more pronounced in the long run than in the short or medium terms.

**Chart 3.0a: Comparison of case disposal rates across the parish courts for 2021 and 2022**



**Chart 3.0b: Comparison of case clearance rates across the parish courts for 2021 and 2022**

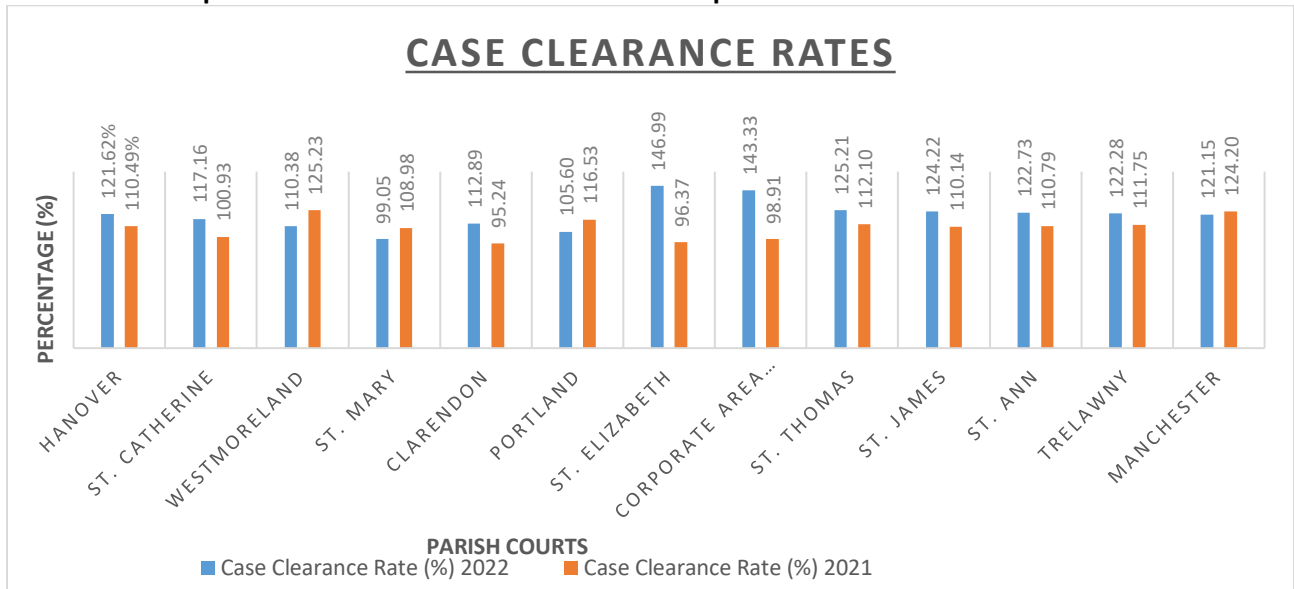


Chart 3.0c: Comparison of case congestion rate across the parish courts for the 2021 and 2022

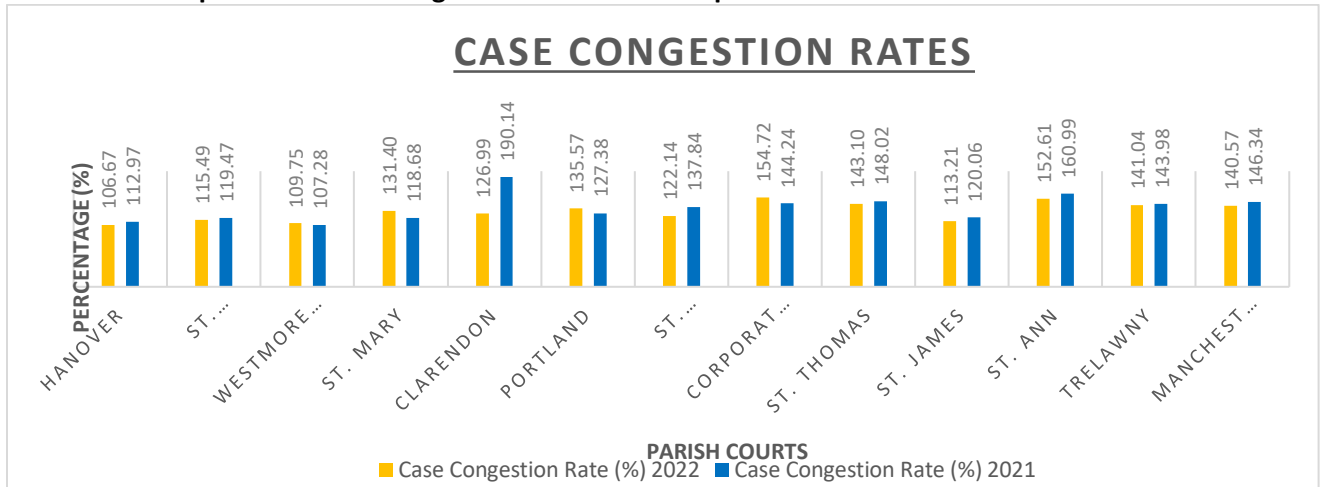


Table 5.0a: Sampling distribution of mention court activity for cases disposed in the year ended December 31, 2022

Parish Court	Overall number of cases disposed	Number of cases disposed in 1 mention	Number of cases disposed in 2 mentions	Number of cases disposed in 3 mentions	Number of cases disposed in 4 mentions	Number of cases disposed in 5 mentions	Number of cases disposed in 6-10 mentions	Number of cases disposed in more than 10 mentions
Hanover	819	140	66	38	21	16	23	6
St. Catherine	3087	809	278	208	124	97	228	54
Westmoreland	1387	625	268	143	97	56	148	67
St. Mary	679	155	94	60	54	28	58	9
Clarendon	1643	295	163	106	65	61	140	15
Portland	978	198	200	122	110	82	167	46
Corporate Area Criminal	5370	1362	618	430	358	254	532	375
St. Thomas	800	157	87	55	40	37	74	24
St. James	2250	186	122	74	73	52	94	11
St. Ann	1703	325	204	152	91	71	138	45
Trelawny	897	69	37	25	24	9	16	0
Manchester	1621	216	148	116	43	36	65	17
<b>Mean</b>	<b>1769.50</b>	<b>378.08</b>	<b>190.42</b>	<b>127.42</b>	<b>91.67</b>	<b>66.58</b>	<b>140.25</b>	<b>55.75</b>
<b>Median</b>	<b>1504</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>155.5</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>20.50</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>2.06</b>	<b>1.95</b>	<b>2.11</b>	<b>2.16</b>	<b>2.67</b>	<b>2.51</b>	<b>2.31</b>	<b>3.20</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>1332.78</b>	<b>377.90</b>	<b>154.64</b>	<b>108.98</b>	<b>90.17</b>	<b>64.55</b>	<b>138.20</b>	<b>102.78</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>21234</b>	<b>4537</b>	<b>2285</b>	<b>1529</b>	<b>1100</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>1683</b>	<b>669</b>

The above sampling distribution provides critical insights into mention court activity for a representative sample of criminal cases disposed across the parish courts over the 2022 calendar year. In general, the fewer the number of mentions per case, the more efficient the case flow progression. A maximum of five mentions per case is considered to be desirable based on international best practices. A notable 36.74% of the sample of 21,234 cases disposed during the period were resolved on their first appearance before the court. A further 21.37% of the sample of cases disposed were resolved at first mention, while 10.76% were resolved after two mentions and 7.20% after three mentions. Cumulatively, roughly 85.01% of the cases sampled were resolved in five or less mentions, inclusive of those resolved on first appearance before the courts. This is an impressive outcome by any measure. Although there are some variances across the parish courts, the overall outcomes were consistently observed for all courts. In other words, the vast majority of the cases sampled were disposed in five or less mentions in all courts and matters disposed on first appearance before the court or within the first few mentions accounted for the largest share of the activity across the courts. These outcomes are not surprising given the consistently high case clearance rates in the parish courts in the last few years. These collective results augur well for the probability of relatively quick and efficient resolution of criminal cases across the parish courts.



**Table 5.0b: Summary of cases heard during the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Number of cases heard in the year</b>	<b>Share of cases heard in the year (%)</b>
Clarendon	2294	6.93
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	9929	30.01
Hanover	941	2.84
Manchester	2403	7.26
Portland	1450	4.38
St. Ann	3054	9.23
St. Catherine	4888	14.77
St. James	2969	8.97
St. Mary	958	2.90
St. Thomas	1155	3.49
Trelawny	1402	4.24
Westmoreland	1647	4.98
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>33090</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The table above provides a summary of the criminal cases heard during the 2022 calendar year at the parish courts. From a sample of 33,090 cases heard, it is seen that the Corporate Area Criminal court accounted for the highest share of cases heard with 9,929 cases heard or 30.01% of the sample, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court with 4,888 cases heard or 14.77% and the St. Ann parish court with 3,054 cases or 9.23% of the sample. Cumulatively, the top three courts account for roughly 54.01% of the cases sampled. On the lower end, the parish courts of Hanover with 941 cases of 2.84%, St. Mary with 958 or 2.90% and St. Thomas with 1,155 or 3.49% of the sample, accounted for the lowest share of cases heard in the 2022 calendar year.

**Table 6.0a: Comparison of the trial certainty rates for 2021 and 2022**

Parish Court	Trial certainty rate (%) (2022)	Trial certainty rate (%) (2021)	Change in the trial certainty rate (%)
Westmoreland	49	45	4
Clarendon	57	64	-7
St. Ann	64	50	14
Portland	77	94	-17
St. James	76	94	-18
Manchester	92	87	5
St. Elizabeth	NA	68	NA
St. Catherine	65	65	0
Trelawny	82	81	1
St. Mary	89	82	7
St. Thomas	68	83	-15
Corporate Area Criminal	79	74	5
Hanover	71	69	2
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>-2</b>

*Note 1: The trial date certainty rate for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for 2022 is 67%*

The trial date certainty rate provides a measure of the extent to which dates, which are set for trial, proceed on schedule without being delayed to start at some future date. The overall trial date certainty rate for the 2022 calendar year was 72%, a 2-percentage points decline when compared to the 2021 calendar year. Only the Manchester Parish Court met the international standard on trial date certainty rate in 2022, registering a rate of 92%, followed by the St. Mary Parish Court with a trial certainty rate of 89% and Trelawny with 82%. The minimum-targeted court-wide trial date certainty rate which has been set out by the Honourable Chief Justice for the judiciary is 95%. This is consistent with the push to significantly enhance the efficiency of the court system and hence the timely delivery of justice to the Jamaican citizenry. The attainment of this minimum threshold rate will assist in sustaining the current net case backlog rate of less than 5%.

**Table 6.0b: Percentile Rank on trial date certainty rate for the criminal division of the parish courts in 2021 and 2022**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Percentile Rank – Trial Date Certainty Rate 2022 (%)</b>	<b>Percentile Rank – Trial Date Certainty Rate 2021 (%)</b>
Westmoreland	0	0
Clarendon	9	17
St. Ann	18	8
Portland	64	92
St. James	55	92
Manchester	100	83
St. Elizabeth	NA	33
St. Catherine	27	25
Trelawny	82	58
St. Mary	91	67
St. Thomas	36	75
Corporate Area Criminal	73	50
Hanover	45	42

The above table provides a summary of the percentile rank of the various parish courts with regards to their performances on the trial date certainty rates for the 2021 and 2022 calendar years. The results present a mixed picture across both years for most courts in terms of the relative performances on this measurement. Some courts experienced gains in the ranking and several others experienced declines, while some courts remained the same. There were, however, no dramatic changes in ranking for any court over the comparable period.

**Table 6.0c: Average duration from first trial date set to date of disposal of case for matters resolved by trial in 2022**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average duration of trial (days)</b>
Clarendon	200.64
Corporate Area	298.32
Hanover	146.76
Manchester	359.43
Portland	316.62
St. Ann	260.64
St. Catherine	339.91
St. James	258.52
St. Mary	195.60
St. Thomas	302.69
Trelawny	324.25
Westmoreland	69.34
<b>Weighted average</b>	<b>279.95</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>87.16</b>

The above table summarizes the average durations between first trial date set and the date of case disposal for trial matters resolved in the 2022 calendar year across the various parish courts. The data shows an overall weighted average interval between the first trial date set and the disposition of such cases in the year is 280 days or roughly 9.3 months, with a standard deviation of roughly 87 days or 2.9 months. The Westmoreland and Hanover Parish Courts had the lowest times between first trial dates set and disposal of cases with roughly 69 days and 147 days respectively, reflective of more ideal standards when compared to most other courts. The Manchester and St. Catherine Parish Courts with average interval times of roughly 359 days or 11.97 months and 340 days or roughly 11.3 months respectively had the worst ranks on this measurement for the year. Lengthy time intervals between the first trial date and the date of case disposition are symptoms of case management problems, case readiness and possibly even scheduling and calendar management issues in the particular court.

**Table 6.0d: Time interval between major events for cases that had a trial date in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average time between filing and first court appearance (in days)</b>	<b>Average time between first court appearance and trial (in days)</b>	<b>Average time between trial and disposition (in days)</b>
Clarendon	7.18	265.44	200.64
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	4.12	394.12	298.32
Hanover	11.12	138.93	146.76
Manchester	7.84	293.43	359.43
Portland	10.84	297.34	316.62
St. Ann	12.31	756.85	260.64
St. Catherine	9.49	288.59	339.91
St. James	6.95	903.03	258.52
St. Mary	4.58	142.40	195.60
St. Thomas	8.23	231.13	302.69
Trelawny	5.60	331.64	324.25
Westmoreland	6.61	223.27	69.34
<b>Weighted average</b>	<b>7.16</b>	<b>396.27</b>	<b>279.95</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>2.61</b>	<b>235.11</b>	<b>87.16</b>

*Note 1: The average time between filing a case and the first court appearance for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for 2022 is 15.45 days.*

*Note 2: The average time between the first appearance and first trial date for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for 2022 is 928.12 days.*

*Note 3: The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for 2022 is 390.16 days.*

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

the first trial date is, however, much longer at roughly 13.2 months or 396 days. The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition is roughly 9.3 months or 280 days. These findings indicate that there may be imprecisions in the science of scheduling trial dates which may at times face long delays after a first date set is postponed. Since roughly less than a quarter of criminal cases filed in the parish courts will proceed to trial, these findings may not have a dramatic impact on the overall time to disposition of criminal cases but are nonetheless critical for monitoring case activity.

**Table 6.0e: Trial court activity summary during the year ended December 31, 2022**

Parish Court	Number of cases heard	Number of cases with a trial date set	Percentage of cases heard which had a trial date set (%)
Clarendon	2294	612	26.68
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	7385	1419	19.21
Hanover	941	262	27.84
Manchester	2403	692	28.80
Portland	1450	219	15.10
St. Ann	3054	604	19.78
St. Catherine	4888	1033	21.13
St. James	2969	280	9.43
St. Mary	958	198	20.67
St. Thomas	1155	222	19.22
Trelawny	1402	287	20.47
Westmoreland	1647	233	14.15
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>30546</b>	<b>6061</b>	<b>19.84</b>

**Note 1: The Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann had 16.69% of cases heard proceed to trial in 2022**

**Note 2: Calculations for the Corporate Area Court-Criminal Division were done using data available from sheets in which a trial date was listed from 2017 onwards, hence, the total number of cases heard may differ from the number of cases heard listed in table 5.0b.**

The above table provides a summary of number of cases heard in the 2022 calendar year in the criminal divisions of the parish courts which had trial dates set, whether in the current year, from

the previous year or a future date. Using a sampling distribution, it is seen that of 30,546 criminal cases heard across the parish courts in the 2022 calendar year, 6,061 cases or 19.84% had a trial date set. The parish courts of St. James (9.43%), Westmoreland (14.15%) and Portland (15.10%) had the lowest proportion of cases proceeding to trial, while the parish courts of Manchester (28.80%), Hanover (27.84%) and Clarendon (26.68%) had the highest proportions.

**Table 7.0a: Distribution of courtroom utilization rates across the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Parish Court	Average overall courtroom utilization rate (%)	Highest recorded courtroom utilization rate (%)	Lowest recorded courtroom utilization rate (%)	Standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rate (%)	Average courtroom utilization rate for Night Court sittings (%)	Average number of courtroom adjournments per day
St. Catherine	59.71	151.67	1.11	29.28	NA	1.1
Westmoreland	80.96	150.00	1.00	38.12	NA	NA
Trelawny	68.72	147.67	1.67	29.88	NA	1.0
St. Thomas	57.08	109.67	3.89	23.61	NA	1.0
St. Mary	61.94	141.94	5.56	28.67	NA	1.0
St. James	64.97	270.67	4.67	31.92	NA	1.5
Corporate Area Criminal Court	57.00	141.67	0.28	30.88	NA	1.1
St. Ann	64.69	149.44	0.28	29.49	NA	1.1
Portland	72.96	259.00	3.61	30.08	NA	1.0
Hanover	55.37	218.06	1.39	36.03	NA	1.0
Clarendon	58.19	255.67	1.00	32.08	NA	1.0
Manchester	61.70	155.33	1.11	30.43	NA	2.3
<b>Overall Averages</b>	<b>63.61</b>	<b>179.23</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>30.87</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>1.19</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>7.52</b>	<b>55.42</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>3.64</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>0.40</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.24</b>	<b>0.78</b>	<b>0.88</b>	<b>0.27</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>2.65</b>

*Note 1: The courtroom utilization rate for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for 2022 is 57.58%*

*Note 2: The Courtroom utilization rate for Manchester was calculated using dates available up until September 30, 2022*

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the various parish courts in the 2022 calendar year. The courtroom utilization rate provides a measurement of the proportion of available hours for open court hearings in all courtrooms (including outstations) which are actually utilized. If the usage of any courtroom exceeds the available hours, then the utilization rate will exceed 100% and the rate will fall below 100% if less than the available hours are utilized. The prescribed international standard for the courtroom utilization rate is 100%, which means that all hours allocated for court hearings in any court, on any given day should be utilized. The data suggests that as a whole, the parish courts of Jamaica performed below this level in the 2022 calendar year. The overall average courtroom utilization rate across the parish courts in the year was 63.61%, which is an indication that on average roughly 64% of the available hours for court hearings were utilized across the parish courts in the 2022 calendar year. This result is roughly 3.87 percentage points above the figure for the corresponding period in 2021. The parish courts recording the highest courtroom utilization rates for the year are the Westmoreland and Portland Parish Courts with 80.96% and 72.96% respectively, followed by the Trelawny Parish Court with 68.72% and the St. James Parish Court with 64.97%. The Hanover and Corporate Area Court-Criminal Division Parish Courts with 55.37% and 57% respectively, had the lowest rates, while the St. Thomas Parish Court with 57.08% had the next lowest rate. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates was relatively low, suggesting that on average the rates for the individual courts did not vary widely from the overall mean. The Positive skewness of the data suggests that proportionately more of the sample are below the overall mean.



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

**Table 7.0b: Percentile Rank on Courtroom utilization rate for the criminal division of the parish courts in 2022 and 2021**

Parish Court	Percentile rank 2022 (%)	Percentile rank 2021 (%)
St. Catherine	36	33
Westmoreland	100	92
Trelawny	82	58
St. Thomas	18	8
St. Mary	55	83
St. James	73	67
Corporate Area Criminal Court	9	25
St. Ann	64	100
Portland	91	50
Hanover	0	0
Clarendon	27	42
Manchester	45	75
St. Elizabeth	NA	17

The above table provides a summary of the percentile rank of the various parish courts with regards to their performances on the courtroom utilization rates for the 2021 and 2022 calendar years. The results present a relatively consistent picture across both years for most courts in terms of the performances on this measurement. Some courts experienced gains in the ranking, several others experienced declines, and some courts retained the same ranking. The Westmoreland Parish Court performed better than all courts in the 2022 calendar year and St. Ann Parish court performed better than all courts in the 2021 calendar year, with the Hanover Parish Court having the lowest courtroom utilization rate in the 2021 calendar year and the 2022 calendar year.

**Table 8.0: Types of matters for each Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Parish Court	Indictment	Summary Matters	Lay Magistrate's Sittings	Committal Proceedings	Tax	Miscellaneous	LRF	Traffic	NS	Total
Corporate Area Criminal	4507	3312	996	1245	-	-	-	188	-	10248
St. Catherine	1834	2242	623	682	97	-	55	-	-	5533
Manchester	372	307	245	83	-	-	-	-	-	1007
St. James	760	1497	611	253	195	106	-	-	-	3422
St. Ann	1021	799	513	337	80	-	5	5	-	2760
Westmoreland	813	592	268	240	93	-	-	-	-	2006
Clarendon	1019	1059	308	229	-	-	8	-	-	2623
Portland	752	384	117	38	-	-	6	-	-	1297
St. Mary	524	345	126	156	13	-	-	-	-	1164
Trelawny	550	433	144	162	-	-	2	-	-	1291
Hanover	418	243	218	105	-	-	23	-	-	1007
St. Thomas	550	433	144	162	-	-	2	-	-	1291
<b>Total</b>	<b>13120</b>	<b>11646</b>	<b>4313</b>	<b>3692</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>33649</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>38.99</b>	<b>34.61</b>	<b>12.82</b>	<b>10.97</b>	<b>1.42</b>	<b>0.32</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>0.57</b>		<b>-</b>

\*Total number of observations = 33,649\*\*LRF means Law Reform Fraudulent Transaction, \*\*\*NS means not stated

The above table provides a breakdown of the different types of new charges filed in each parish court for the 2022 calendar year. For the year, 33,649 charges were filed across the parish courts, a decrease of approximately 19,266 charges or a 36.41% decline when compared to the corresponding 2021 calendar year. The largest proportions of these charges were filed in the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division (10,248), the St. Catherine Parish Court (5,533), the St. James Parish Court with (3,422) and the St. Ann Parish Court with 2,760 charges. The largest share of the charges were Indictments (38.99%); followed by summary matters (34.61%), Lay

Magistrates’ matters (12.82%) and Committal Proceedings with 10.97% of the total sample. The Corporate Area Court-Criminal Division accounted for the largest proportion of Indictments filed, followed by the parish courts of St. Catherine, St. Ann and Clarendon. The Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division accounted for the largest share of summary matters filed, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court and the St. James Parish Court. The largest proportion of Lay Magistrates’ matters was filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division followed by the parish courts of St. Catherine and St. James. The Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court and the St. Ann Parish Court accounted for the largest individual shares of Committal Proceedings in the year. As for criminal matters, which are traffic related, the only incidences of these in the year were in the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division.

### Type of Charges

**Table 9.01: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	137	13.69
Unlawful wounding	128	12.79
Threat	120	11.99
Malicious destruction of property	84	8.39
Indecent language	25	2.50
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>49.35</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 1001

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court for the 2022 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 137 or 13.69% and unlawful wounding with 128 or 12.79% of the total sample of charges are the most frequently occurring charges. Threat with 120 or 11.99% followed this,

while malicious destruction of property with 84 or 8.39% and indecent language with 25 or 2.50% of the total sample rounds off the top five. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 49.35% of the total sample of 1,001 charges filed in the year. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2021 calendar in the Hanover Parish Court included, assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, breaches of the Disaster Risk Management Act, threat and breaches of the curfew order.

**Table 9.02: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	320	13.28
Unlawful Wounding	224	9.30
Exposing goods for sale	183	7.60
Breach of the disaster risk management	152	6.31
Malicious Destruction of Property	136	5.65
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1015</b>	<b>42.13</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 2409

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court for the 2022 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 320 or 13.28% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 224 or 9.30% and exposing goods for sale with 183 or 7.60% and breach of the disaster risk management with 152 or 6.31% rank next. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 136 or 5.65% of the sample charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 42.13% of the total sample of 2,409 charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court in the year. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2021 calendar in the Manchester Parish Court included breach of the Disaster

Risk Management Act, assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, exposing goods for sale and breach of the Curfew Order.

**Table 9.03: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Portland Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Assault occasioning bodily harm	214	16.59
Unlawful Wounding	189	14.65
Threat	139	10.78
Malicious destruction of property	90	6.98
Assault at common law	56	4.34
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>53.33</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 1290

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Portland Parish Court in the 2022 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 214 or 16.59% and unlawful wounding with 189 or 14.65% of the total sample of charges are the most frequently occurring charge. Threat with 139 or 10.78% and malicious destruction of property with 90 or 6.98% of the sample rank next. The top five is rounded off by assault at common law with 56 or 4.34% of the sample of charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 53.33% of the total sample of 1,290 charges filed in the year. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2021 calendar year in the Portland parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, threat, malicious destruction of property and breach of the Disaster Risk Management Act.

**Table 9.04: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Threat	388	14.20
Assault occasioning bodily harm	264	9.66
Unlawful wounding	213	7.80
Malicious destruction of property	138	5.05
Breach of Curfew Order	98	3.59
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1101</b>	<b>40.30</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 2732

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the 2022 calendar year. It is shown that threat with 388 or 14.20% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 264 or 9.66% and unlawful wounding with 213 or 7.80% followed this. Malicious destruction of property with 138 or 5.05% and breach of the curfew order with 98 or 3.59% of the total sample rounds of the top charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 40.30% of the total sample of 2,732 charges filed in the year at the St. Ann Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2021 calendar year in the St. Ann parish court included threat, assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property, and breaches of the Disaster Risk Management Act. From a sample of 552 charges, it is seen that the leading charges recorded in the 2022 calendar year at the Brown's Town Outstation included threat with 120 or 21.74% of the charges and assault occasioning bodily harm with 73 or 13.22%. Unlawful wounding with 68 or 12.32%, malicious destruction of property with 44 or 7.97% and receiving stolen property and larceny of cattle with 3.80% each of the sample followed.

**Table 9.05: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Breach of the Disaster Risk Management Act	811	14.73
Assault occasioning bodily harm	546	9.92
Unlawful Wounding	356	6.47
Malicious Destruction of Property	258	4.69
Possession of offensive weapon	226	4.10
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>2197</b>	<b>39.90</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 5506

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the 2022 calendar year. It is shown that breach of the Disaster Risk Management Act with 811 or 14.73% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 546 or 9.92% and unlawful wounding with 356 or 6.47% followed this. Malicious destruction of property with 258 or 4.69% and possession of offensive weapon with 226 or 4.10% of the total sample of charges filed rounds off the top five. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 39.90% of the total sample of 5,506 charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the year. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2021 calendar year in the St. Catherine parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, breaches of the disaster risk management act, possession of offensive weapon, unlawful wounding and malicious destruction of property.

**Table 9.06: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. James Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Breach of the Disaster Risk Management Act	495	14.46
Threat	274	8.00
Assault occasioning bodily harm	231	6.75
Breach of Endangered Species Act	194	5.67
Possession of offensive weapon	186	5.43
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>40.32</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 3423

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. James Parish Court in 2022 calendar year. It is shown that breaches of the Disaster Risk Management Act with 495 or 14.46% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Threat with 274 or 8%, assault occasioning bodily harm with 231 or 6.75% and breach of Endangered Species Act with 194 or 5.67% followed this. The top five is rounded off by possession of offensive weapon with 186 or 5.43% of the total sample. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 40.32% of the sample of 3,423 charges filed in year at the St. James Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2021 calendar year in the St. James parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, possession of offensive weapon, breach of curfew order, threat and breaches of Disaster Risk Management Act.



**Table 9.07: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Unlawful wounding	161	13.83
Assault occasioning bodily harm	147	12.63
Malicious destruction of property	88	7.56
Threat	77	6.62
Breach of Curfew Order	59	5.07
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>45.70</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 1164

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the 2022 calendar year. It is shown that unlawful wounding with 161 or 13.83% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 147 or 12.63% and malicious destruction of property with 88 or 7.56% and threat with 77 or 6.62% followed this. The top five is rounded off by breach of Curfew Order with 59 or 5.07% of the sample. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 45.70% of the total sample of 1164 charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the year. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in 2021 calendar year in the St. Mary parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, breach of curfew order, threat and malicious destruction of property.

**Table 9.08: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	144	11.12
Unlawful wounding	127	9.81
Breach of the Disaster Risk Management Act	121	9.34
Malicious destruction of property	78	6.02
Threat	69	5.33
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>41.62</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 1295

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in the 2022 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 144 or 11.12% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 127 or 9.81% and breach of the Disaster Risk Management Act with 121 or 9.34% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 78 or 6.02% and threat with 69 or 5.33% of the total sample of charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 41.62% of the sample of 1,295 charges filed in the year. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2021 calendar year in the St. Thomas parish court included failure to wear a mask, unlawful wounding, assault occasioning bodily harm, breach of the Disaster Risk Management Act and breach of the curfew order.

**Table 9.09: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Assault occasioning bodily harm	181	13.68
Unlawful wounding	163	12.32
Breach of Curfew Order	100	7.56
Knowingly Possessing Identity Information	73	5.52
Abstracting electricity	60	4.54
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>43.61</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 1323

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the 2022 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 181 or 13.68% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 163 or 12.32% and breach of the Curfew Order with 100 or 7.56% followed this. Knowingly possessing identity information with 73 or 5.52% and abstracting

electricity with 60 or 4.54% of the total sample of charges round of the top five charges filed in the year. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 43.61% of the total sample of 1,323 charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the year. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2021 calendar year in the Trelawny parish court included unlawful wounding, assault occasioning bodily harm, breach of the curfew order, failure to wear a mask in public and possession ganja.

**Table 9.10: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	321	16.55
Threat	179	9.23
Unlawful Wounding	174	8.97
Malicious Destruction of property	123	6.34
Breach of Curfew Order	117	6.03
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>47.14</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 1939

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the 2022 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 321 or 16.55% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Threat with 179 or 9.23% and unlawful wounding with 174 or 8.97% followed this. Malicious Destruction of property with 123 or 6.34% and breach of Curfew Order with 117 or 6.03% of the sample rank next. The charges quoted above account for an estimated 47.14% of the total sample of 1939 charges filed in the year at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2021 calendar year in the Westmoreland parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, threat, unlawful wounding, breach of curfew order and failure to wear a mask.

**Table 9.11: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Assault occasioning bodily harm	351	13.38
Unlawful wounding	218	8.31
Being Armed with an offensive weapon	176	6.71
Breach of Curfew Order	152	5.79
Malicious destruction of property	140	5.34
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1037</b>	<b>39.53</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 2623

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the 2022 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 351 or 13.38% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 218 or 8.31% and being armed with an offensive weapon with 176 or 6.71% followed this. The top five is rounded off by breach of Curfew Order with 152 or 5.79% and malicious destruction of property with 140 or 5.34%. The charges quoted above account for an estimated 39.53% of the sample of 2623 charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the year. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2021 calendar year in the Clarendon parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, breach of the Disaster Risk Management Act, breach of curfew order and failure to wear a mask in public.

**Table 9.12: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Assault occasioning bodily harm	825	8.05
Breach of the curfew order under the disaster risk management act	677	6.61
Littering	650	6.34
Unlawful wounding	498	4.86
Malicious destruction of property	358	3.49
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>3008</b>	<b>29.35</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 10248

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division for the 2022 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 825 or 8.05% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Breach of the curfew order under the disaster risk management act with 677 or 6.61% and littering with 650 or 6.34% followed this. The top five is rounded off by unlawful wounding with 498 or 4.86% and malicious destruction of property with 358 or 3.49% of the charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 29.35% of the total sample of 10,248 charges at filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court –Criminal Division in the year. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2021 calendar year in the Corporate Area parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, breach of the curfew order under the disaster risk management act, littering and disorderly conduct.

**Table 10.0: Conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Type of case	Number of disposed matters	Number of guilty verdicts	Number of guilty pleas	Aggregate number of guilty outcomes	Estimated conviction rate (%)
Summary	11702	320	7086	7406	63.29
Indictment	13008	344	2177	2521	19.38

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard across all parish courts in the 2022 calendar year. Summary matters heard in the year include charges such as possession of an offensive weapon, possession of ganja, exposing goods for sale and dealing in ganja. The estimated conviction rate for the year for summary matters was 63.29%, which is 14.12 percentage points below the conviction rate of 77.41% recorded for the corresponding 2021 calendar year. The estimated conviction rate for indictment matters was significantly lower at 19.38% for the year, a rate which is approximately 1.10 percentage points below the 20.48% recorded in the 2021 calendar year. Indictment matters heard in the year included charges such as assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property and simple larceny.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges across the parish courts for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Charge</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Assault occasioning bodily harm	5378	15.39
Unlawful Wounding	2599	7.44
Breach of the Disaster Risk Management Act	1828	5.23
Threat	1787	5.11
Malicious destruction of property	1662	4.75
Breach of Curfew Order	1274	3.64
Possession of offensive weapon	1231	3.52
Disorderly conduct	795	2.27
Littering	730	2.09
Simple Larceny	716	2.05
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>18000</b>	<b>51.50</b>

**Number of observations sampled (N): 34,953**

The above table shows the distribution of the ten most commonly occurring charges across all parish courts for the 2022 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 5,378 or 15.39% of the total number of charges sampled is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 2,599 or 7.44% and breach of the Disaster Risk Management Act with 1,828 or 5.23% followed this. The top five is rounded off by threat with 1,787 or 5.11% and malicious destruction of property with 1,662 or 4.75% of the total sample of charges filed in the year. These ten most frequently occurring types of charges account for approximately 51.50% of the total sample of charges filed in the year.

**Table 12.0: Conviction rate for leading occurring charges heard in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Type of Offence	Number of disposed matters	Number of guilty verdicts	Number of guilty pleas	Aggregate number of guilty outcomes	Estimated conviction rate (%)
Possession of offensive weapon	1104	28	939	967	87.59
Breach of the Disaster Risk Management Act	1997	65	1568	1633	81.77
Breach of Curfew Order	1629	33	1192	1225	75.20
Disorderly conduct	757	54	460	514	67.90
Littering	109	1	56	57	52.29
Simple Larceny	581	26	119	145	24.96
Malicious destruction of property	1587	36	194	230	14.49
Assault occasioning bodily harm	3736	44	357	401	10.73
Unlawful Wounding	2748	43	214	257	9.35
Threat	1725	27	96	123	7.13

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for the ten (10) leading charges across all parish courts in the 2022 calendar year. It is shown that possession of an offensive weapon had the highest estimated conviction rate on the list with 87.59%. Breach of the Disaster Risk Management Act with 81.77% and breach of Curfew Order with 75.20% followed this. The top conviction rates on the list in the year are rounded off by disorderly conduct with an estimated conviction rate of 67.90% and littering with an estimated conviction rate of 52.29%. Breach of the Disaster Risk Management Act recorded the highest estimated conviction rate in the corresponding 2021 calendar year with 88.13%, followed by breaches of the curfew order with an estimated conviction rate of 88.10%.



**Table 13.0: Sampling distribution of the average age of active charges for each parish court for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average age of active charges (days)</b>
Clarendon	134
Trelawny	152
Portland	138
St. Mary	111
Hanover	80
Westmoreland	92
St. Catherine	140
St. Ann	120
St. James	142
St. Thomas	126
Corporate Area Criminal	146
Manchester	138
<b>Overall Average</b>	<b>126.58</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>22.17</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>-1.13</b>

The above table shows the average age of active charges originating in the 2022 calendar year, for charges originating in said year. The overall average age of active matters originating in the year was approximately 127 days or roughly 4.2 months, roughly 14 days less than the average recorded in the 2021 calendar year. The parish courts of Hanover, Westmoreland and St. Mary have the lowest averages on the list. On the contrary, the highest averages were observed in the parish courts of Trelawny, Corporate Area Criminal, St. James, St. Catherine, Manchester and Portland. The standard deviation of the scores was, however, relatively low (22 days), an indication that the individual values for the parish courts were on average close to the overall mean. The negative skewness indicates that most of the individual times to disposition in the data set were above the overall series average. There is an intuitive correlation between case clearance rates and the average age of cases in the long run, but it does not necessarily manifest

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

**Table 14.0: Average age of charges disposed for matters originating in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average age of disposed charges (days)</b>
Clarendon	100
Trelawny	89
Portland	94
St. Mary	66
Hanover	66
Westmoreland	53
St. Catherine	91
St. Ann	96
St. James	84
St. Thomas	98
Corporate Area Criminal	94
Manchester	92
<b>Overall Average</b>	<b>85.25</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>15.15</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>-1.24</b>

The above table shows that the average time taken to dispose of criminal cases filed in the Parish Courts in 2022 is approximately 85 days. This is roughly the same time taken to dispose of cases originating in the 2021 calendar year. The standard deviation of the scores was relatively low (15 days), an indication that the individual values for the parish courts were on average close to the

overall mean. The negative skewness, however, indicates that proportionately more of the scores of the individual times to disposition in the data set were above the overall series average. The scores ranged from a low of roughly 53 days at the Westmoreland Parish Court to a high of 100 days for the Clarendon Parish Court.

**Table 15.0a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the year ended December 31, 2022**

Parishes	Time interval in days							Sample size (n)
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365 days-547 days	548 days-729 days	730 days and over	
Corporate Area Criminal	13259 (37.2%)	7465 (20.9%)	4486 (12.6%)	3066 (8.6%)	3183 (8.9%)	1754 (4.9%)	2458 (6.9%)	35671 (100%)
St. Catherine	5815 (35.2%)	3986 (24.2%)	2223 (13.5%)	1334 (8.1%)	1459 (8.8%)	641 (3.9%)	1047 (6.3%)	16505 (100%)
St. James	4978 (37.7%)	2619 (19.8%)	1471 (11.1%)	1105 (8.4%)	1247 (9.4%)	619 (4.7%)	1165 (8.8%)	13204 (100%)
Manchester	2974 (25.9%)	2031 (17.7%)	1577 (13.7%)	1178 (10.3%)	1481 (12.9%)	910 (7.9%)	1340 (11.7%)	11491 (100%)
Westmoreland	5309 (54.5%)	1773 (18.2%)	1024 (10.5%)	555 (5.7%)	573 (5.9%)	250 (2.6%)	257 (2.6%)	9741 (100%)
St. Ann	2647 (25.7%)	2016 (19.5%)	1234 (12.0%)	1000 (9.7%)	1404 (13.6%)	783 (7.6%)	1229 (11.9%)	10313 (100%)
Clarendon	4696 (42.2%)	2537 (22.8%)	1347 (12.1%)	815 (7.3%)	983 (8.8%)	362 (3.3%)	386 (3.5%)	11126 (100%)
St. Thomas	1703 (28.8%)	1323 (22.3%)	779 (13.2%)	666 (11.3%)	665 (11.2%)	315 (5.3%)	469 (7.9%)	5920 (100%)
Portland	2525 (37.6%)	1702 (25.4%)	817 (12.2%)	528 (7.9%)	552 (8.2%)	304 (4.5%)	285 (4.2%)	6713 (100%)
St. Mary	3055 (42.8%)	1453 (20.3%)	927 (13.0%)	567 (7.9%)	539 (7.5%)	248 (3.5%)	355 (5.0%)	7144 (100%)
Trelawny	1940 (36.5%)	979 (18.4%)	613 (11.5%)	474 (8.9%)	503 (9.5%)	304 (5.7%)	498 (9.4%)	5311 (100%)
Hanover	2646 (50.6%)	1180 (22.5%)	544 (10.4%)	313 (6.0%)	261 (5.0%)	144 (2.8%)	146 (2.8%)	5234 (100%)
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>37.25</b>	<b>21.00</b>	<b>12.32</b>	<b>8.38</b>	<b>9.29</b>	<b>4.79</b>	<b>6.96</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>4295.58</b>	<b>2422.00</b>	<b>1420.17</b>	<b>966.75</b>	<b>1070.83</b>	<b>552.83</b>	<b>802.92</b>	<b>11531.08</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>3139.69</b>	<b>1782.72</b>	<b>1074.72</b>	<b>733.12</b>	<b>790.44</b>	<b>447.63</b>	<b>672.63</b>	<b>8352.55</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>2.38</b>	<b>2.39</b>	<b>2.41</b>	<b>2.40</b>	<b>1.85</b>	<b>1.97</b>	<b>1.44</b>	<b>2.49</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 138,373*

*Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the previous 6.3 years*

The above table shows the breakdown of the times to disposition for matters filed in the respective parish courts for at least 76 consecutive months (6.3 years) over the period September 2016 to December 2022. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 37.25% of the

disposals. The Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division along with the parish courts of St. Catherine, Westmoreland and St. James are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed within 90 days. This trend is broadly similar to that seen over the past 24 months. Cumulatively, 78.95% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year, a continued positive indicator of the potential effectiveness of the courts in sustaining overall productivity and realizing the objective of becoming the best in the Caribbean region in three years and among the best in the world in six years. From the data set, the parish courts of Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, Manchester and St. Ann had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 6.96% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts of Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, Manchester and St. Ann also had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than 2 years. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample range from weak positive to moderate positive, which is an indication that for disposed cases, the distributions of the times taken do not vary dramatically across the courts. The difference, however, is the proportion of cases disposed, relative to the caseload, which as shown earlier, indicates that some courts are performing much better.

**Table 15.0b: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition for matters completed in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Parishes	Time interval in days							Sample size (n)
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365 days-547 days	548 days-729 days	730 days and over	
Corporate Area Criminal	1457 (26.1%)	1233 (22.1%)	677 (12.1%)	520 (9.3%)	614 (11.0%)	336 (6.0%)	749 (13.4%)	5586 (100%)
St. Catherine	732 (22.1%)	606 (18.3%)	399 (12.0%)	218 (6.6%)	317 (9.6%)	274 (8.3%)	770 (23.2%)	3316 (100%)
St. James	953 (37.5%)	405 (15.9%)	240 (9.4%)	178 (7.0%)	237 (9.3%)	88 (3.5%)	443 (17.4%)	2544 (100%)
Manchester	588 (29.1%)	362 (17.9%)	331 (16.4%)	196 (9.7%)	172 (8.5%)	89 (4.4%)	281 (13.9%)	2019 (100%)
Westmoreland	715 (60.5%)	203 (17.2%)	111 (9.4%)	43 (3.6%)	63 (5.3%)	30 (2.5%)	17 (1.4%)	1182 (100%)
St. Ann	450 (21.4%)	439 (20.9%)	231 (11.0%)	160 (7.6%)	293 (14.0%)	157 (7.5%)	368 (17.5%)	2098 (100%)
Clarendon	564 (30.9%)	435 (23.8%)	278 (15.2%)	185 (10.1%)	224 (12.3%)	47 (2.6%)	92 (5.0%)	1825 (100%)
St. Thomas	282 (25.9%)	236 (21.7%)	136 (12.5%)	78 (7.2%)	147 (13.5%)	61 (5.6%)	149 (13.7%)	1089 (100%)
Portland	394 (39.0%)	250 (24.8%)	104 (10.3%)	70 (6.9%)	78 (7.7%)	18 (1.8%)	96 (9.5%)	1010 (100%)
St. Mary	424 (44.9%)	194 (20.5%)	123 (13.0%)	79 (8.4%)	81 (8.6%)	25 (2.6%)	19 (2.0%)	945 (100%)
Trelawny	327 (28.4%)	190 (16.5%)	128 (11.1%)	104 (9.0%)	143 (12.4%)	59 (5.1%)	200 (17.4%)	1151 (100%)
Hanover	437 (52.4%)	177 (21.2%)	100 (12.0%)	36 (4.3%)	32 (3.8%)	36 (4.3%)	16 (1.9%)	834 (100%)
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>31.03</b>	<b>20.04</b>	<b>12.11</b>	<b>7.91</b>	<b>10.17</b>	<b>5.17</b>	<b>13.56</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>610.25</b>	<b>394.17</b>	<b>238.17</b>	<b>155.58</b>	<b>200.08</b>	<b>101.67</b>	<b>266.67</b>	<b>1966.58</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>328.64</b>	<b>296.13</b>	<b>169.97</b>	<b>130.93</b>	<b>159.13</b>	<b>103.05</b>	<b>268.33</b>	<b>1368.04</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.74</b>	<b>2.35</b>	<b>1.74</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>1.68</b>	<b>1.61</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>1.92</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 23,599*

The table above shows the breakdown of the time disposition for matters disposed parish courts in the year ended December 31, 2022. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly

31.03% of the disposals. The Corporate Area Court -Criminal Division along with the parish courts of St. James, St. Catherine and Westmoreland are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days. Cumulatively, 71.09% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year, a positive indicator of the potential effectiveness of the courts in increasing overall productivity and realizing the objective of becoming the best in the Caribbean region in three years and among the best in the world in six years. From the data set, the parish courts of Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, St. Catherine and St. Ann had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 13.56% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts of St. Catherine, Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division and St. James had the largest proportion of their disposed matters in the year taking more than 2 years. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample range from weak positive to moderate positive, which is an indication that for disposed cases, the distributions of the time taken do not vary dramatically across the courts. The difference, however, is the proportion of cases disposed of, relative to the caseload, which as shown earlier, indicates that some courts are performing much better.

**Table 16.0a: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at the year ended December 31, 2022**

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Criminal	243.32	1	136	298.82	2.61	1	2509	35671
St. Catherine	241.34	63	134	314.85	3.09	1	2510	16505
St. James	263.38	66	138	321.77	2.20	1	2029	13204
Manchester	327.19	63	212	331.20	1.69	1	2193	11491
Westmoreland	152.04	28	76	192.63	2.50	1	1792	9741
St. Ann	333.01	63	208	355.21	1.94	1	2314	10313
Clarendon	190.61	63	112	223.21	2.62	1	2452	11126
St. Thomas	266.87	63	173	275.51	1.84	1	2009	5920
Portland	213.75	63	126	260.77	3.08	1	2166	6713
St. Mary	199.35	28	112	234.69	2.25	1	2080	7144
Trelawny	272.61	28	147	320.77	1.98	1	2080	5311
Hanover	156.66	28	85	196.69	2.64	1	1696	5234
<b>Average/Weighted Average</b>	<b>243.13</b>	<b>46.42</b>	<b>138.25</b>	<b>277.18</b>	<b>2.37</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>2152.50</b>	<b>11531.08</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>58.80</b>	<b>22.26</b>	<b>42.48</b>	<b>55.10</b>	<b>0.46</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>262.37</b>	<b>8352.55</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.14</b>	<b>-0.83</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>-0.32</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-0.15</b>	<b>2.49</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 138,373*

*Note 1: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the previous 6.3 years.*

*Note 2: The average time to disposition for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann as at December 31, 2022 is 405.47 days*

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a large sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at December 31, 2022. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 76-month period over September 2016 – December 2022 for most parish courts and it should be noted that these descriptive statistics are for matters disposed over that sample period. The output produces an estimated weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Criminal Division) of approximately 243 days (8.1 months). The skewness of these times to disposition is a low positive 0.14, suggesting a cluster of scores around the overall



mean. For matters disposed of in the period, the parish courts of Westmoreland (152 days), Hanover (157 days) and Clarendon (191 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Ann (333 days), Manchester (327 days) and Trelawny (273 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters disposed over the period. The average variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts is, however, wide as shown by the moderately high standard deviation (58.80), suggesting inconsistencies in performances on this measure. An interesting finding is that the minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 1 day; however, the maximum times are substantially larger, in some cases several years. This result continues to be both a reflection of the relative complexity of cases entering open court over the period as well as the relative strength of case management across the various parish courts. The maximum times to disposition in the sample ranged from a low of 1696 days (56.5 months/4.7 years) in the Hanover parish court to a high of 2510 days (83.7 months/7 years) in the St. Catherine Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a negative 0.15, which is an indication that most of the maximum times to disposition were clustered around the overall series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial 138,373 matters.

**Table 16.0b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for matters completed in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Criminal	355.50	1502	191.50	438.67	2.52	1	2794	5586
St. Catherine	469.97	63	246	525.05	1.62	1	2651	3316
St. James	395.01	66	160	794.44	9.51	1	17100	2544
Manchester	323.43	63	183	375.31	1.97	1	2193	2019
Westmoreland	127.72	28	56.50	173.87	2.86	1	1792	1182
St. Ann	403.88	28	231.50	446.43	2.00	1	2885	2098
Clarendon	235.84	369	160	263.24	3.56	1	2731	1825
St. Thomas	321.98	63	185	322.91	1.63	1	2555	1089
Portland	282.37	63	119.50	444.84	2.82	1	2877	1010
St. Mary	174.70	14	105	209.80	3.59	1	2080	945
Trelawny	362.60	28	198	392.79	1.51	1	2080	1151
Hanover	159.38	28	84	322.10	15.77	1	7656	834
<b>Average/Weighted Average</b>	<b>338.24</b>	<b>192.92</b>	<b>160.00</b>	<b>392.45</b>	<b>4.11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4116.17</b>	<b>1966.58</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>107.16</b>	<b>423.10</b>	<b>58.19</b>	<b>163.73</b>	<b>4.26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4367.28</b>	<b>1368.04</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>-0.28</b>	<b>3.19</b>	<b>-0.37</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>2.35</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2.86</b>	<b>1.92</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 23,599*

*Note 1: The average time to disposition for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for 2022 is 440.28 days*

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the year ended December 31, 2022. The output produces an estimated weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Criminal Division) of approximately 338 days or 11.27 months. The skewness of these times to disposition is a negative 0.28, suggesting that a large proportion of these times were clustered around the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the year, the parish courts of Westmoreland (128 days), Hanover (159 days) and St. Mary (175 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases in the year. The parish courts of St. Catherine (470 days), St. Ann (404 days) and St. James (395 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters resolved during the year. The average variation among

the times to disposition across the parish courts is, however, wide as shown by the moderately high standard deviation (107.16), suggesting inconsistencies in performances on this measure. An interesting finding is that the minimum time taken to dispose of matters across half of the parish courts was 1 day; however, the maximum times are substantially larger, in some cases several years. This result continues to be both a reflection of the relative complexity of cases entering open court over the period as well as the relative strength of case management across the various parish courts. The maximum times to disposition in the sample ranged from a low of 1792 days (59.7 months/5 years) in the Westmoreland parish court to a high of 17100 days (570 months/47.5 years) in the St. James Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a positive 2.86, which is an indication that proportionately more of the maximum times to disposition fell below the overall series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial 23,599 matters cases which were resolved during the 2022 calendar year.

**16.0c: Net and gross criminal case backlog as at the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Net case backlog rate (%)</b>	<b>Gross case backlog rate (%)</b>
Clarendon	0.37	10.35
Corporate area	2.38	17.76
Hanover	0.10	4.08
Manchester	1.98	16.04
Portland	1.54	7.97
St. Ann	3.84	12.26
St. Catherine	0.62	8.81
St. James	0.43	9.80
St. Mary	0.10	9.95
St. Thomas	2.71	8.98
Trelawny	1.44	10.50
Westmoreland	0.15	5.64
<b>Weighted Average</b>	<b>1.37</b>	<b>11.61</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>1.22</b>	<b>3.84</b>

*Note: The net backlog for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for 2022 is 9.50% and the gross backlog is 18.19%*

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

(weighted average) in the criminal division of the parish courts is 1.37 (with a standard deviation of 1.22%) which is satisfies than the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at a commendable 11.61% (with a standard deviation of 3.84%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved criminal cases in the parish courts. This rate is only 1.61 percentage points higher than the prescribed rate of 10%, but seemingly has the potential to meet this standard relatively soon with the application of more aggressive case management practices and reduction in the incidence of delays in the criminal courts. Although the time series used for this computation is only 5 years' worth of cases, the sample set is large and representative of the current direction of the court system. The parish courts of Hanover and St. Mary with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.10% each, Westmoreland with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.15% and Clarendon with an estimated net case backlog rate of 0.37% have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts of St. Ann (3.84%), St. Thomas (2.71%) and Corporate Area Criminal (2.38%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of Hanover (4.08%), Westmoreland (5.64%) and Portland (7.97%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of Corporate Area Criminal Court (17.76%), Manchester (16.04%) and St. Ann (12.26%) have the highest rates. Taken together, these are quite impressive returns for the criminal court system in Jamaica and augur well for future prospects.

**Table 17.0: Distribution of methods of disposition for matters set for trial during the year ended December 31, 2022**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage
Dismissed	1875	34.98
Not guilty	1328	24.78
Guilty plea	973	18.15
Mediated settlement	525	9.79
Guilty	438	8.17
Committed to Circuit	164	3.06
Transferred	57	1.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>5360</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the common methods of disposition for a sample of cases proceeding to trial. It is seen that matters dismissed with 34.98% of the cases disposed, not guilty verdicts with 1328 or 24.78% and disposals by way of guilty pleas with 973 or 18.15% account for the three leading methods of disposition in the sample for the year ended December 31, 2022.

**Methods of Disposal and Conviction Rate**

**Table 18.0: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Parish Court	Guilty Plea	Dismissed	Not Guilty Verdict	Transferred	Mediated Settlement	Guilty Verdict	Committed to Circuit Court	Total
St. Catherine	1845	1521	46	590	909	73	454	5438
Corporate Area Criminal	3558	2380	158	288	111	169	827	7491
Westmoreland	677	549	354	3	247	9	233	2072
St. James	1503	4	1214	364	139	247	235	3706
Manchester	253	1411	323	163	177	209	189	2725
Clarendon	1213	139	403	97	457	49	357	2715
Trelawny	438	599	52	5	147	11	231	1483
Hanover	279	122	484	5	89	57	153	1189
Portland	116	1	469	-	107	9	124	826
St. Mary	224	468	95	-	201	1	201	1190
St. Thomas	463	115	295	38	342	73	163	1489
St. Ann	551	121	281	211	222	4	269	1659
<b>Total</b>	<b>11120</b>	<b>7430</b>	<b>4174</b>	<b>1764</b>	<b>3148</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>3436</b>	<b>31983</b>
<b>Percentage of total</b>	<b>34.77</b>	<b>23.23</b>	<b>13.05</b>	<b>5.52</b>	<b>9.84</b>	<b>2.85</b>	<b>10.74</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Total sample size: 31,983

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts for the 2022 calendar year. From the sample, it is observed that the largest proportion of matters disposed of during the year were by way of a guilty plea with 34.77% of the sample, followed by matters dismissed with 23.23% and not guilty verdicts with 13.05%. Matters committed to Circuit Court with 10.74%, mediated settlements with 9.84%, matters transferred to another court with 5.52% and guilty verdicts with 2.85% account for the remaining disposals in the year. The combined 37.62% of the cases disposed of by way of guilty outcomes represent the estimated criminal conviction rate in the parish courts for the year. This represents a decrease of 13.73 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in 2021.

### Common Reasons for Adjournment

**Table 19.01: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Reasons for Adjournment	Count	Percentage (%)
Defendant Not Appearing (DNA) warrant issued	4095	22.85
File to be completed	2434	13.58
Disclosure	1628	9.08
Re-issue application	1185	6.61
Referral to Mediation	923	5.15
Subpoena investigating officer	504	2.81
Subpoena crown witness	443	2.47
Facilitate restitution	346	1.93
Statement outstanding	248	1.38
Psychiatric evaluation to be done	230	1.28
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>12036</b>	<b>67.17</b>

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 17,920)

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

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

The above table is derived using a sample of 17,920 reasons for adjournments/continuance for matters heard in the across all parish courts. The largest proportion (22.85%) was due to the non-appearance of the accused, leading to the issuing of warrants. Adjournments for files to be completed with 13.58% and adjournments for disclosure with 9.08% account for the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts for the year. Adjournments for the re-issue of applications with 6.61% and referrals to mediation with 5.15%, round of the top five reasons for adjournment in this period. All Five (5) of the top five reasons for adjournment were also featured in the top five for the 2021 calendar year. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 67.17% of the total sample of adjournments.

**The case file integrity rate:**

One factor, which has a significant bearing on the progression of cases through the court system, is the case file integrity rate. A case file is considered to have met the standards of integrity if at the point of a court hearing requiring the use of said file; it is complete, accurate, available and correctly listed for court. Hence reasons for adjournment such as file incomplete, file not ready for court, matter wrongly listed and matter not before the court have an adverse impact on the case file integrity rate of the courts. In the 2022 calendar year, the case file integrity rate for criminal matters across the parish courts was 85.04%, as 14.96% of the total incidence of adjournments was due to the indicated factors, which impair the case file integrity rate. Of these factors, file to be completed accounts for 13.58% of the total incidence of adjournments/continuance and is the greatest contributor, adversely affecting the case file integrity rate. This rate is below the prescribed international standard of 98%-100%. This is an



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

**Table 19.02: Summary of mention court activity for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Parish Court	Average number of mentions per case	Standard Deviation of Mentions Per Case	Skewness of mentions per case	Maximum Mention Court Frequency	Minimum Mention Court Frequency
Clarendon	3.77	2.90	1.58	27	1
Corporate Area	5.65	7.42	3.09	52	1
Hanover	2.67	2.42	2.41	22	1
Manchester	3.19	3.01	2.80	27	1
Portland	4.49	4.00	2.22	27	1
St. Ann	4.02	3.50	1.84	26	1
St. Catherine	3.87	3.52	3.01	40	1
St. James	3.55	2.87	2.82	38	1
St. Mary	3.88	3.17	1.89	23	1
St. Thomas	3.96	3.77	2.60	35	1
Trelawny	3.03	2.26	1.38	12	1
Westmoreland	4.17	4.86	2.15	33	1
<b>Weighted Average</b>	<b>4.63</b>	-	-	<b>30.17</b>	<b>1.00</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>0.76</b>	-	-	<b>10.28</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.87</b>	-	-	<b>0.49</b>	<b>0.00</b>

The above table summarises the number of mention court appearances per case leading towards disposition in the criminal division of the parish courts for matters heard in the 2022 calendar year. The overall average number of mention court appearances per case is 4.63 (i.e. between 4 and 5) with a standard deviation of 0.76 across the courts sampled and a skewness of 0.87. Together, these results suggest that the average number of appearances per case is marginally within the prescribed international standard of a maximum of 5 mentions per case, that a larger proportion of cases have less than the overall average number of appearances and that there isn't on average a wide variation in the number of appearances per case across the courts. Among

the parish courts with the highest number of appearances per cases for matters heard in the 2022 calendar year are the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, the Portland and the Westmoreland Parish Courts, while the Hanover, Trelawny and Manchester Parish Courts were among those with the lowest case appearance incidence per case. In terms of cases disposed, the average mention court appearance for all cases resolved across all the parish courts combined in the 2022 calendar year was 4 with a standard deviation of 0.62.

## Chapter 2.0: Case Demographics and Courtroom Activity

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

**Table 20.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender for the year ended December 31, 2022**

	Male		Female		Total	
Charge	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Assault occasioning bodily harm	2830	76.20	884	23.80	3714	100.00
Unlawful Wounding	2048	78.95	546	21.05	2594	100.00
Breach of the Disaster Risk Management Act	1318	74.34	455	25.66	1773	100.00
Threat	1384	78.10	388	21.90	1772	100.00
Malicious destruction of property	1296	78.17	362	21.83	1658	100.00
Breach of Curfew Order	868	69.27	385	30.73	1253	100.00
Possession of offensive weapon	1164	94.56	67	5.44	1231	100.00
Disorderly conduct	545	68.55	250	31.45	795	100.00
Littering	612	84.18	115	15.82	727	100.00
Simple Larceny	596	83.24	120	16.76	716	100.00

**\*\*\*The gender of persons charged was not available for every matter that was filed in the parish courts hence a sample is used. Sample size (N) = 16,233**

The above table provides a sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender in the year ended December 31, 2022. Based on the data shown in chart 5.0, it is not surprising that males account for the dominant proportion of all these charges. Among the charges listed with the greatest imbalance in the gender distribution are Assault occasioning bodily harm, threat, malicious destruction of property, unlawful wounding, simple larceny and littering for which over 75% of the persons charged were male. More particularly, is seen that possession of offensive weapon with 94.56% of the persons charged being male had the most significant incidence of persons charged being male for the year. Disorderly conduct, breach of

curfew order, and breach of the disaster risk management act saw the highest incidence of female involvement.

The below series of tables provide a sampling distribution of cases by assigned courtroom in the individual parish courts in the 2022 calendar year. These figures are derived from representative datasets from the respective courts and do not necessary add back to the total population of cases outlined in the first few tables of the report.

**Table 21.01: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Westmoreland for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2022	Number of new cases disposed of in 2022	Number of inactive cases in 2022	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	980	817	45	74.64	87.96
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	17	17	0	1.29	100.00
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	9	9	0	0.69	100.00
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	120	82	5	9.14	72.50
Whithorn Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	33	29	0	2.51	87.88
Whithorn Outstation	154	140	6	11.73	94.81
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>1313</b>	<b>1094</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>87.59</b>

*Note 1: There were 14 missing courtrooms/Outstation entries therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.*

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of criminal cases filed in the 2022 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish and outlines the applicable disposal rates. The table separates Lay Magistrates' and night court cases heard in each of the relevant locations for ease of comparison.

The data shows decisively that cases entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse and the outstation in Whithorn accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the year with 980 (74.64%) and 154 (11.73%) cases respectively. Sittings at the Lay Magistrates' court at the main courthouse with 120 cases or 9.14% rank next. The number of cases heard in courtroom one (980 cases), decreased by 531 cases or 35.14% below the 1511 cases recorded in the similar 2021 calendar year. The case disposal rate also decreased by 2.71 percentage points moving down to 87.96% compared to the 90.67% reported in 2021. In terms of cases disposed, sittings in courtroom number 1 with 817 cases accounted for the highest absolute share of cases disposed and had the fourth highest disposal rate of 87.96%. The outstation in Whithorn rank next with 140 disposed cases and recorded the third highest disposal rate of 94.81%, which is only 0.22 percentage points above the 94.59% recorded in the corresponding 2021 calendar year. The single outstation in Westmoreland accounted for 14.24% of the total sample of new cases heard, a decrease of 6.45 percentage points when compared to the 20.69% recorded in the corresponding 2021 calendar year. The main courthouse accounted for the remaining 85.76%, an increase of 6.45 percentage points when compared to the 79.31% recorded in 2021.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. In particular, of the 980 new cases heard in courtroom number one, 19 were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstation. Thirteen (13) of these were disposed of in courtroom 3, five (5) were disposed of in courtroom 2 and one (1) at Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse. Of the 154 cases heard at the Whithorn outstation, 1 case was disposed of in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse.

**Table 21.02: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Corporate Area for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2022	Number of new cases disposed of in 2022	Number of inactive cases in 2022	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	4037	1894	1005	84.00	71.81
Courtroom #6 (main courthouse)	169	65	2	3.52	39.64
Courtroom #7 (main courthouse)	183	81	2	3.81	45.36
Gordon Town Outstation	40	35	0	0.83	87.50
Fast Track	4	3	0	0.08	75.00
Gun Court	100	39	1	2.08	40.00
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	273	173	50	5.68	81.68
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>4806</b>	<b>2290</b>	<b>1060</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>69.70</b>

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

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the year ended December 31, 2022 at the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for the majority of new cases filed in the year with 4037 cases or 84% of the total sample. Lay Magistrates’ sittings at the main courthouse with 273 cases or roughly 5.68% follows this and courtroom number 7 with 183 cases or 3.81%, rounding off the top three proportion of new cases filed in the year. Courtroom number two at the main courthouse accounts for the largest absolute share of cases disposed in the 2022 calendar year with 1894 cases and the fourth highest disposal rate of 71.81%. When compared to the corresponding 2021 calendar year, courtroom number two also accounted for the largest absolute share of cases disposed with 2,943 cases and had a disposal rate of 73.09%. This represents a decrease of 1,049 cases disposed or a 35.64% decrease and 1.28 percentage

points decrease in the disposal rate. The main courthouse in Half-Way-Tree accounted for 99.17% of the total sample of new cases heard in 2022.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. In particular, of the 4037 cases heard in courtroom two, 258 were disposed of in other courtrooms. One hundred and six (106) cases were disposed of at fast track court, forty-nine (49) cases were disposed of at courtroom 4, forty-three (43) were disposed of in courtroom 5, while Courtroom 7 accounted for 27 of these cases. Courtroom 3 disposed of 17 of these cases, thirteen (13) cases were disposed of in courtroom 1 and 3 cases disposed of at Lay magistrates' sittings.

**Table 21.03: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. James for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2022</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2022</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2022</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1731	1326	170	82.35	86.42
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	75	63	9	3.57	96.00
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	209	101	95	9.94	93.78
Cambridge Outstation	86	57	16	4.09	84.88
Justice of the peace	1	1	0	0.05	100.00
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>2102</b>	<b>1548</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>87.44</b>

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the year ended December 31, 2022, at the St. James Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish and outlines the disposal rates of the various courtrooms and outstations. The sample shows that courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse in Montego Bay

accounts for the majority of new cases heard with 1731 cases or 82.35% of the total sample, a decrease of 812 cases or a 31.93% decline below the 2,543 cases recorded in the corresponding 2021 calendar year. This was followed by courtroom number 4 with 209 cases or 9.94% of the total sample. Courtroom number 3 had a disposal rate of 96%, followed by courtroom number 4 with a disposal rate of 93.78%. The main courthouse in Montego Bay accounts for 95.86% of the new cases heard in the 2022 calendar year, 6.01 percentage points above the 89.85% recorded in corresponding 2021 calendar year. The remaining 4.14% was accounted for by the sole outstation (Cambridge) and Justice of the peace.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. Of the 1,731 cases heard in courtroom number two, 39 were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstation. Twenty (20) were disposed of in courtroom 3, ten (10) cases were disposed of in courtroom 4, five (5) were disposed of at the outstation in Cambridge and the remaining 4 cases were disposed of in courtroom 3. Of the 75 cases heard in courtroom 3, nine (9) cases were disposed of in courtroom 2. There were 209 cases heard at courtroom 4, of which 6 cases were disposed of in courtroom 2 at the main courthouse and 1 case at Lay Magistrates' sitting.



**Table 21.04: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Catherine for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2022</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2022</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2022</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	1570	876	271	49.98	73.06
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	126	53	13	4.01	52.38
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	26	15	3	0.83	69.23
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	88	51	3	2.80	61.36
Courtroom #5 (main courthouse)	44	21	7	1.40	63.64
Portmore Outstation (Courtroom #1)	3	1	2	0.10	100.00
Children's Court Portmore Outstation	71	29	4	2.26	46.48
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	113	79	9	3.60	77.88
Linstead Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	25	19	2	0.80	84.00
Linstead Outstation (Courtroom #1)	699	485	63	22.25	78.40
Linstead Outstation (Courtroom #2)	6	6	0	0.19	100.00
Old Harbour Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	19	8	0	0.60	42.11
Old Harbour Outstation (Courtroom #1)	351	259	52	11.17	88.60
<b>Total/ Weighted Average</b>	<b>3141</b>	<b>1902</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>74.21</b>

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the year ended December 31, 2022 at the St. Catherine Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish and outlines the applicable disposal rates. The table separates Lay Magistrates' and night court matters for the relevant locations for ease of comparisons. The data shows decisively that cases entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse in Spanish Town and courtroom 1 at the outstation in Linstead account for the largest share of new cases heard in the year with 49.98% and 22.25% of the cases respectively. Courtroom 1 at the outstation in Old Harbour with 11.17% of new cases filed ranks next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases

disposed with 876 cases, which is a decrease of 54.47% or 1,048 less cases than the 1,924 cases recorded in the corresponding 2021 calendar year. Courtroom 1 also had the seventh highest disposal rate of 73.06%, which is a decrease of 10.08 percentage points below the 83.14% recorded in the comparable 2021 calendar year. Courtroom 2 at outstation in Linstead and Courtroom 1 at the Portmore outstation had the highest disposal rate of 100% each, despite their proportionately low absolute numbers. Courtroom 1 at the Old Harbour Outstation accounted for the third highest disposal rate of 88.60%, followed by Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Linstead Outstation with a disposal rate of 84.00%. The main courthouse in Spanish Town accounts for 62.62% of the total sample of new cases heard in 2022, a decrease of 4.72 percentage points below the 67.34% recorded in the corresponding 2021 calendar year. The outstations combined accounted for the remaining 37.38%.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. In particular, of the 1570 cases heard in courtroom number one at the main courthouse, 394 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstation. Courtroom 2 disposed of 134 cases, while Courtrooms 3 and 4 at the main courthouse accounted for 108 and 104 cases respectively. Thirty-six (36) cases were disposed of in courtroom 5 at the main courthouse, while the remaining 12 cases were disposed of in the Linstead outstation.

**1.05: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Thomas for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2022</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2022</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2022</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Children's Court (main courthouse)	19	5	1	2.71	31.58
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	287	214	10	40.94	78.05
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	176	118	30	25.11	84.09
Yallahs Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	12	1	6	1.71	58.33
Yallahs Outstation	207	148	5	29.53	73.91
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>76.75</b>

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

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the year ended December 31, 2022 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The data shows decisively that cases entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse and the Yallahs outstation account for the highest share of new cases heard in the year with 40.94% and 29.53% respectively. Courtroom number 1 also accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 214 cases and the second highest disposal rate of 78.05%. When compared to the corresponding 2021 calendar year, this represents a decrease of 3.50 percentage points below the disposal rate of 81.55% recorded. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse with a disposal rate of 84.09% (compared to 67% in 2021) accounts for the highest disposal rate in the year.

The main courthouse in Morant Bay accounted for 68.76% of the total new cases heard in the year, which is a decrease of 6.01 percentage points when compared to the 74.77% recorded in the corresponding 2021 calendar year. The remaining 31.24% was accounted for by the Yallahs

outstation, an increase of 6.01 percentage points when compared to the 25.23% recorded in the corresponding 2021 calendar year.

**Table 21.06: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Trelawny for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2022	Number of new cases disposed of in 2022	Number of inactive cases in 2022	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	46	34	3	5.64	80.43
Clarks town Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	14	6	3	1.72	64.29
Falmouth Outstation	381	208	9	46.69	56.96
Falmouth Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	20	9	6	2.45	75.00
Ulster Spring Outstation	255	174	24	31.25	77.65
Ulster Spring Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	15	11	1	1.84	80.00
Clarks Town Outstation (courtroom #1)	85	61	11	10.42	84.71
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>68.63</b>

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

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the year ended December 31, 2022 at the Trelawny Parish Court. The data shows decisively that cases entered in the Falmouth outstation accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the year with 46.69%. The outstation in Ulster Spring and courtroom 1 at the Clarks Town Outstation with 31.25% and 10.42% respectively, followed. Courtroom 1 at the outstation in Clarks Town recorded the largest disposal rate of 84.71%. Courtroom number one at the main courthouse and the Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Ulster Spring outstation ranked next with disposal rates of 80.43% and 80.00% respectively. The outstations in the parish account for 94.36% of the new cases heard in 2022, while the remaining 5.64% were accounted for by the main courthouse. In the corresponding 2021 calendar year, the main courthouse accounted for 3.69% of the new cases heard, while the remaining 96.31% were accounted for by the outstations.

**Table 21.07: Aggregate case statistics for each outstation in the Parish of St. Mary for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2022</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2022</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2022</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Children's Court (main courthouse)	14	2	1	1.92	21.43
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	392	268	18	53.85	72.96
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	25	17	2	3.43	76.00
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	19	12	0	2.61	63.16
Annotto Bay Outstation	135	93	5	18.54	72.59
Gayle Outstation	54	37	2	7.42	72.22
Richmond Outstation	89	62	5	12.23	75.28
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>71.98</b>

*Note 1: There were 8 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.*

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Mary in the 2022 calendar year. The data shows decisively that courtrooms number 1 at the main courthouse and the Annotto Bay Outstation account for the highest share of new cases heard in the year, with 53.85% and 18.54% respectively of the total sample. The outstations in Richmond and Gayle with 12.23% and 7.42% respectively rank next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Port Maria accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 268 cases, a decrease of 34.79% or 143 cases below the 411 cases recorded in the corresponding 2021 calendar year and had a case disposal rate of 72.96%. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse had the highest disposal rate of 76%, followed by the Richmond Bay outstation with a disposal rate of 75.28%. The outstations in the parish account for a combined 38.19% of the total sample of new cases heard in the 2022 calendar year. An increase of 2.81 percentage points above the 35.38% recorded in

the corresponding 2021 calendar year. On the other hand, the main courthouse accounts for 61.81%, which is a decrease of 2.81 percentage point below the 64.62% recorded in 2021.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 392 cases heard in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse, 55 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstations. The Annotto Bay outstation disposed of 10 cases, courtroom 2 disposed of 26 cases, while courtroom 3 disposed of 19 cases. Of the 19 cases heard in courtroom 3, three (3) cases were disposed of in courtroom number 1 and 1 case in the children’s court. Of the 135 cases heard in the Annotto Bay outstation, 17 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms, including ten (10) cases disposed of in courtroom number 1 and 5 cases in courtroom 3. The remaining 2 cases were disposed of in courtroom number 2.

**Table 21.08: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Portland for year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2022</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2022</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2022</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	511	350	32	58.27	74.76
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	6	5	1	0.68	100.00
Courtroom#3 (main courthouse)	11	6	2	1.25	72.73
Buff Bay Outstation (courtroom #1)	205	124	19	23.38	69.76
Buff Bay Outstation (courtroom #2)	1	1	0	0.11	100.00
Buff Bay Outstation (Children’s Court)	26	2	4	2.96	23.08
Manchioneal Outstation	117	83	1	13.34	71.79
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>71.84</b>

*Note 1: There were 147 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.*

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Portland in the 2022 calendar year. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 at the main court in Port Antonio accounts for the majority of new cases heard in the period, with 58.27% of the total sample. In the 2021 calendar year, courtroom one also accounted for the majority of new cases heard with 62.10% of the cases. Courtroom number 1 at the outstation in Buff Bay and the Manchioneal outstation with 23.38% (compared to 20.70% in 2021) and 13.34% (compared to 11.41% in 2021) respectively of the total sample of the new cases heard in the period ranked next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Port Antonio accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 350 cases, a 35.90% decrease or 196 less cases compared to the 546 cases recorded in the corresponding 2021 calendar year; and had the third highest disposal rate of 74.76%. Courtroom number three at the main courthouse and the Manchioneal outstation with rates of 72.73% and 71.79% respectively were among the top five on this measure. The outstations in Portland account for a combined 39.79% of the new cases heard, which is an increase of 5.31 percentage points above the 34.48% recorded in the corresponding 2021 calendar year. The main courthouse in Port Antonio accounts for the remaining 60.21%, which is a decrease of 5.31 percentage below above the 65.52% recorded in the 2021 calendar year.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 511 cases heard in courtroom number one at the main courthouse, 58 cases disposed of in other courtrooms. Courtrooms two and three at the main courthouse disposed of 37 cases and 14 cases respectively, while the Manchioneal outstation disposed of 7 cases. Of the 205 cases heard at the Buff Bay outstation, 6 cases were disposed of in other

courtrooms/outstations. Courtrooms 2 and 1 at the main courthouse disposed of 5 cases and 1 case respectively.

**Table 21.09: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Hanover for the year of ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2022</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2022</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2022</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	229	200	7	32.95	90.39
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	76	65	2	10.94	88.16
Green Island Outstation (courtroom #1)	94	83	2	13.53	90.43
Green Island Outstation (courtroom #2)	1	1	0	0.14	100.00
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	62	43	6	8.92	79.03
Green Island Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	21	17	1	3.02	85.71
Ramble Outstation (courtroom #1)	50	46	2	7.19	96.00
Ramble Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	3	3	0	0.43	100.00
Sandy Bay Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	50	40	3	7.19	86.00
Sandy Bay Outstation (courtroom #1)	109	102	2	15.68	95.41
<b>Total/ Weighted Average</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>89.93</b>

*Note 1: There were 5 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.*

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Hanover in the 2022 calendar year. The data shows decisively that courtroom number one at the main court in Lucea accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the year, with 32.95% of the total sample and is 7.64 percentage points below the 40.59% recorded in the corresponding 2021 calendar year. Courtroom one at Sandy Bay outstation and courtroom one at the outstation in Green Island 15.68% and 13.53% respectively rank next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 200 cases, a 50% decline or 200



less cases than the 400 cases recorded in the corresponding 2021 calendar year. Courtroom 1 at the main courthouse also recorded the sixth highest case disposal rate of 90.39%, which is an increase of 6.18 percentage points above the 84.21% reported in the comparative 2021 calendar year. Despite the relatively low absolute numbers, Lay Magistrates' sittings at the outstation in Ramble and courtroom 2 at the Green Island outstation recorded the highest disposal rate of 100% each. The outstations in the parish account for 47.19% of the new cases heard during the year, which is an increase of 5.45 percentage points above the 41.74% in the 2021 calendar year. The main courthouse accounts for the remaining 52.81%, which is a decrease of 5.45 percentage points below the 58.26% when compared to 2021.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 76 cases heard in court room number 2 at the main courthouse, the Green island and Sandy Bay outstations disposed of 2 cases and 1 case respectively.

**Table 21.10: Aggregate case statistics for each outstation in the Parish of St. Ann for the year of ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2022</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2022</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2022</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
<b>St. Ann's Bay and the Claremont outstation</b>					
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	645	348	171	42.74	80.47
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	270	125	65	17.89	70.37
Claremont Outstation (Children's Court)	6	2	1	0.40	50.00
Claremont Outstation	132	99	15	8.75	86.36
Claremont Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	8	0	4	0.53	50.00
Lay Magistrates' (main Courthouse)	84	16	53	5.57	82.14
<b>Brown's Town</b>					
Children's Court	16	8	0	1.06	50.00
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	277	113	26	18.36	50.18
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	71	18	4	4.71	30.99
<b>Total/ Weighted Average</b>	<b>1509</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>70.78</b>

*Note 1: There were 316 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.*

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Ann in the year ended December 31, 2022.

The data shows that courtroom 1 in both St. Ann's Bay (the main courthouse) and Brown's Town account for the largest shares of new cases heard in the year with 42.74% and 18.36% respectively of the total sample. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse with 17.89% is among the top three largest share of new cases heard. When compared to 2021, the data shows that courtroom 1 in both St. Ann's Bay (main courthouse) and Brown's Town were also among the top three largest share of new cases heard in the year with 33.99% and 23.68% respectively of the total sample. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom 1 at the main courthouse accounts

for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 348 cases and had a disposal rate of 80.47%. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse and the Claremont outstation with disposal rates of 82.14% and 86.36% respectively were among the highest disposal rates for the year. As a whole, the Brown's Town court accounted for approximately 24.12% of the new cases filed in the parish of St. Ann in the 2022 calendar year, which is 6.52 percentage points below the 30.64% recorded in the corresponding 2021 calendar year. The St. Ann's Bay courthouse accounts for 66.20% of the new cases heard in the year and the Claremont outstation accounted for the remaining 9.68% of new cases.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 645 cases heard in courtroom number one at the main courthouse, 3 cases were disposed of in Claremont outstation, 1 case at Lay Magistrates' sittings and 53 cases were disposed of at courtroom 2.

**Table 21.11: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom/outstation in the Parish of Clarendon for year of ended December 31, 2022**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2022	Number of new cases disposed of in 2022	Number of inactive cases in 2022	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	718	539	53	44.29	82.45
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	173	130	5	10.67	78.03
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	79	57	4	4.87	77.22
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	104	60	30	6.42	86.54
Lionel Town Outstation	269	187	20	16.59	76.95
Chapleton Outstation (Courtroom #1)	217	134	20	13.39	70.97
Chapleton Outstation (Courtroom #2)	3	3	0	0.19	100.00
Frankfield Outstation	58	39	5	3.58	75.86
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>1621</b>	<b>1149</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>79.33</b>

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Clarendon in the year ended December 31, 2022. The available data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 in May Pen accounted for highest share of new cases heard in the year, with 44.29% of the total sample. The outstation in Lionel Town and courtroom 1 at the Chapleton outstation account for the next highest shares of new cases heard in the year with 16.59% and 13.39% respectively of the total sample. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 539 cases, a decrease of 30.27% or 234 cases less than the 773 disposed cases recorded for this courtroom in the 2021 calendar year and had the third highest disposal rate of 82.45%. Despite its proportionally low numbers, courtroom 2 at the Chapleton Outstation had the highest disposal rate of 100%, followed by Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse with a disposal rate of 86.54%. The main courthouse in May Pen accounted for 66.25% of cases heard in year, while the remaining 33.75% was accounted for by the outstations, which is a decrease of 2.15 percentage points less than the 35.90% recorded in 2021.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. Of the 718 cases heard in courtroom number one, courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse disposed of 16 cases, while the Lionel Town and Chapleton outstations disposed of 10 cases and 5 cases respectively. There were 269 cases heard at the Lionel Town outstation, of this amount, 19 were disposed of in other courtrooms or outstation. Courtroom 1 accounted for 9 cases and courtroom 2 disposed of 6 cases. The outstation in chapleton and courtroom 3 at the main courthouse disposed or 3 cases and 1 case respectively.

**Table 21.12: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Manchester for the year of ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2022</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2022</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2022</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	328	257	12	22.92	82.01
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	288	182	14	20.13	68.06
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	27	11	1	1.89	44.44
Cottage Outstation	39	23	4	2.73	69.23
Cottage Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	12	6	0	0.84	50.00
Christiana Outstation	187	143	9	13.07	81.28
Christiana Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	52	33	2	3.63	67.31
Spalding Outstation	66	31	4	4.61	53.03
Spalding Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	19	11	3	1.33	73.68
Porus Outstation	54	33	6	3.77	72.22
Porus Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	14	8	0	0.98	57.14
Cross Keys Outstation	40	21	2	2.80	57.50
Cross Keys Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	5	4	0	0.35	80.00
Tax Court	16	8	0	1.12	50.00
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	283	178	35	19.78	75.27
Other	1	0	0	0.07	0.00
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>1431</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>72.75</b>

*Note 1: There were 85 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.*

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Manchester in the year ended December 31, 2022. The data shows courtroom 1 at the main courthouse accounted for the highest share of new cases heard in the year, with 328 cases or 22.92% of the total sample. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse and Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse account for the next highest share of new cases heard in the year with 20.13% and 19.78% respectively of the total sample. The outstation in Christiana and the outstation in Spalding followed, with 187 cases or

13.07% and 66 cases or 4.61% of the total sample of cases filed in the year. In terms of case disposal rate, courtroom 1 at the main courthouse recorded the highest disposal rate of 82.01%. The Christiana Outstation with 81.28%, Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Cross Keys Outstation with 80% were among the highest disposal rates for the year. The main courthouse in Mandeville accounts for 64.72% of the total sample of new cases heard during the 2022 calendar year, which is a decrease of 0.18 percentage point when compared to the 64.90% recorded in the 2021 calendar year. The remaining 35.28% was accounted for by the various outstations.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 288 cases heard in courtroom number two at the main courthouse, courtroom 1 and 3 at the main courthouse disposed of 4 and 2 cases respectively. Of the 27 cases heard in Courtroom 3, the outstations in Cross Key and Cottage accounted for one case each. Of the 39 cases heard at the outstation in Cottage, 11 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms /outstation. Courtrooms number 1 and 3 at the main courthouse disposed of 9 cases and 1 case respectively, while the outstation in Spalding accounted for 1 case.

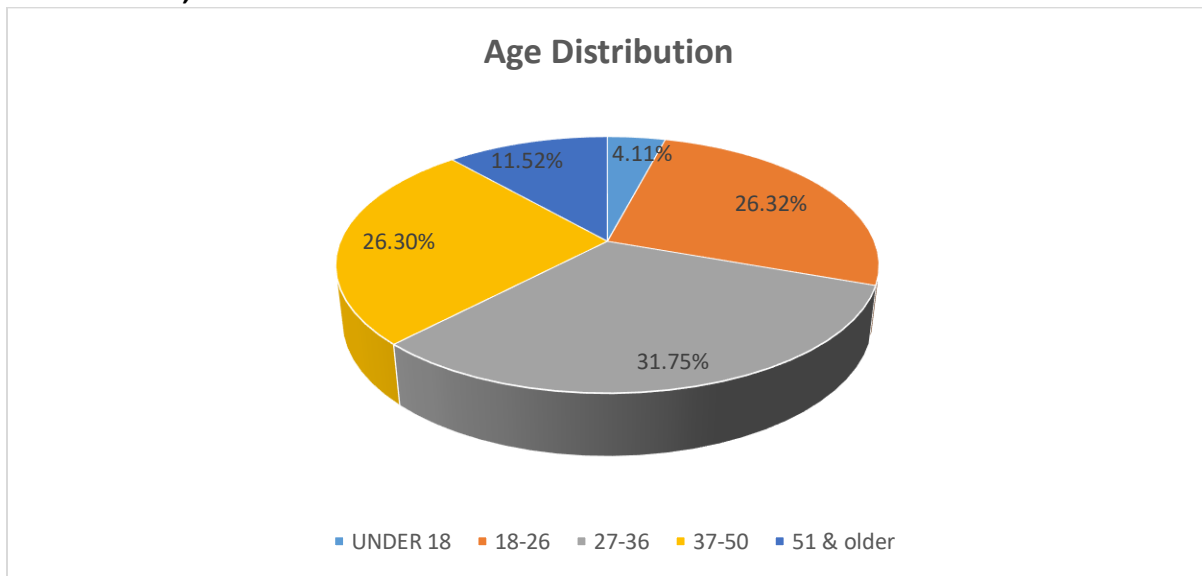
**Table 21.13: proportion of cases heard at the main court and outstation across all parish courts for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Parish</b>	<b>Main Court 2022 (%)</b>	<b>Outstation 2022 (%)</b>
St. James	95.86	4.14
St. Catherine	62.62	37.38
Westmoreland	85.76	14.24
Hanover	52.81	47.19
St. Mary	61.81	38.19
Trelawny	5.64	94.36
St. Thomas	68.76	31.24
Manchester	64.72	35.28
Portland	60.21	39.79
St. Ann	66.2	33.8
Clarendon	66.25	33.75
Corporate Area	99.17	0.83
<b>Simple Averages</b>	<b>65.82</b>	<b>34.18</b>

The above table provides a proxy summary of the distribution of the utilization of the main courthouse locations and combined outstation usage in the hearing of new criminal cases filed. It is seen that 65.82% of new cases filed were entered for initial hearing in the main courthouse locations, while 34.18% were allocated for outstations. There are significant variances in the extent of main courthouse and outstation usage for the hearing of criminal matters across the parishes. It is seen, for example, that in parishes such as Corporate Area (Kingston and St. Andrew), St. James and Westmoreland, in excess of 85% of the new cases filed were entered for initial hearing, with the usage being particularly acute in the Corporate Area Court Criminal Division, which had 99.17% of cases entered for initial hearing at the main courthouse. On the contrary, there are parishes where the level of outstation usage competes with or outruns the usage of the main courthouse in the hearing of criminal cases filed. Trelawny is a good example of courts with significant outstation usage, each registering over 90% for initial hearing of new criminal cases filed in the year ended December 31, 2022. There may be opportunities for greater

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

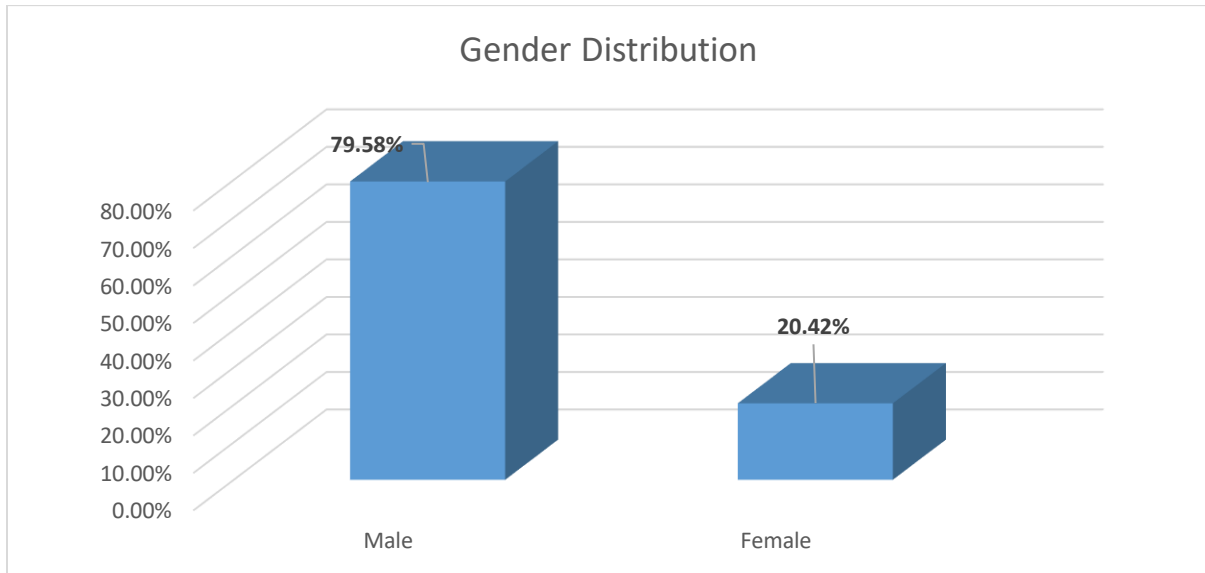
**Chart 4.0: Aggregate age distribution of persons charged for all parish courts for the year ended December 31, 2022**



The above chart summarizes the age distribution of persons charged and brought before the criminal division of the parish courts in the 2022 calendar year. It is shown that the 27-36 age group with 31.75% accounted for the largest share of the persons charged, followed by the 18-26 age group with 26.32%. The lowest shares were attributed to the under 18 age group with 4.11% and 51 and over age group with 11.52%. The remaining proportion was accounted for by the 37-50 age group with 26.30% of the total sample.

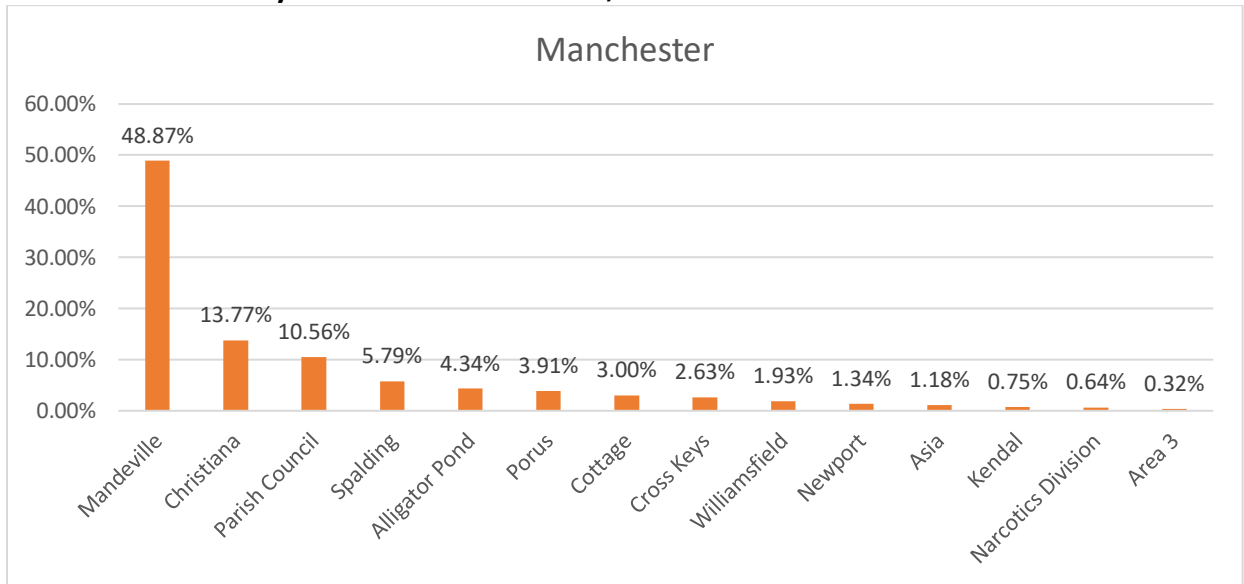


**Chart 5.0: Aggregate gender distribution of persons charged for the year ended December 31, 2022**



The above chart shows that the overwhelming majority of persons charged for the 2022 calendar year were male, accounting for roughly 79.58% of the total sample, while females accounted for approximately 20.42%. The gender distribution of persons charged during the 2022 calendar year was broadly similar to the breakdown for the 2021 calendar year which had a male to female ratio of approximately 77.52% to 22.48%.

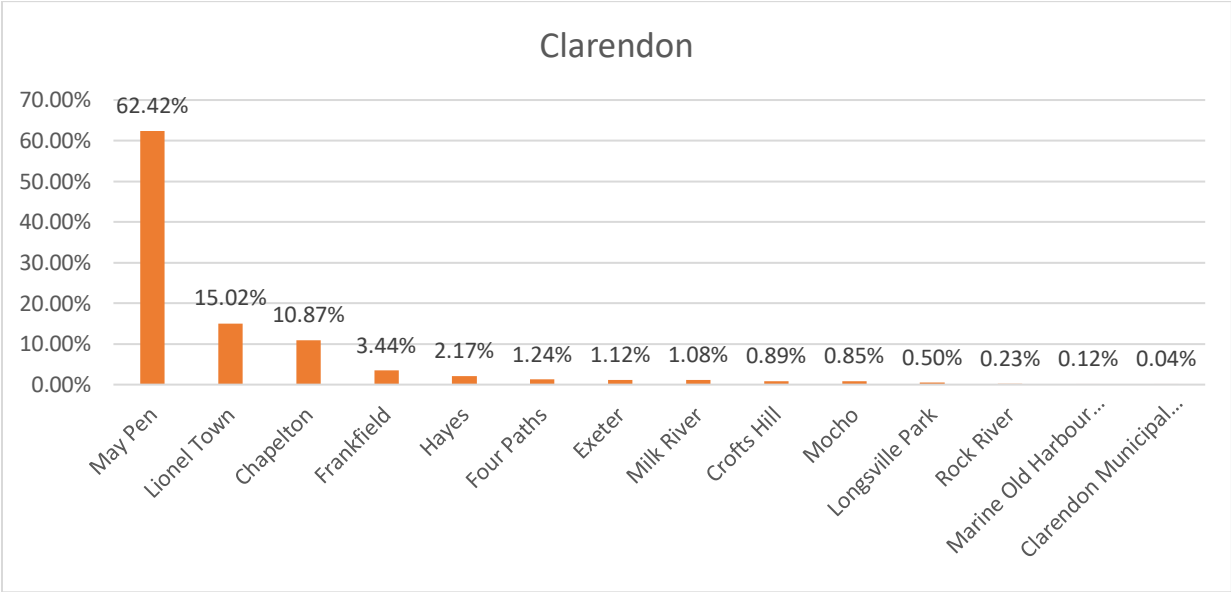
**Chart 6.01: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Manchester Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2021**



The above chart shows the distribution of charges at the Manchester Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 1,866 records indicate that for the 2022 calendar year the highest proportion of charges, 48.87%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Mandeville Police Station. This was followed by the Christiana police station, which accounts for 13.77% of the total sample of matters reported. The Parish Council rounded off the top three with 10.56%. In the corresponding 2021 calendar year, the top three comprised of the Mandeville Police Station, the Christiana Police Station, and the Parish Council.

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

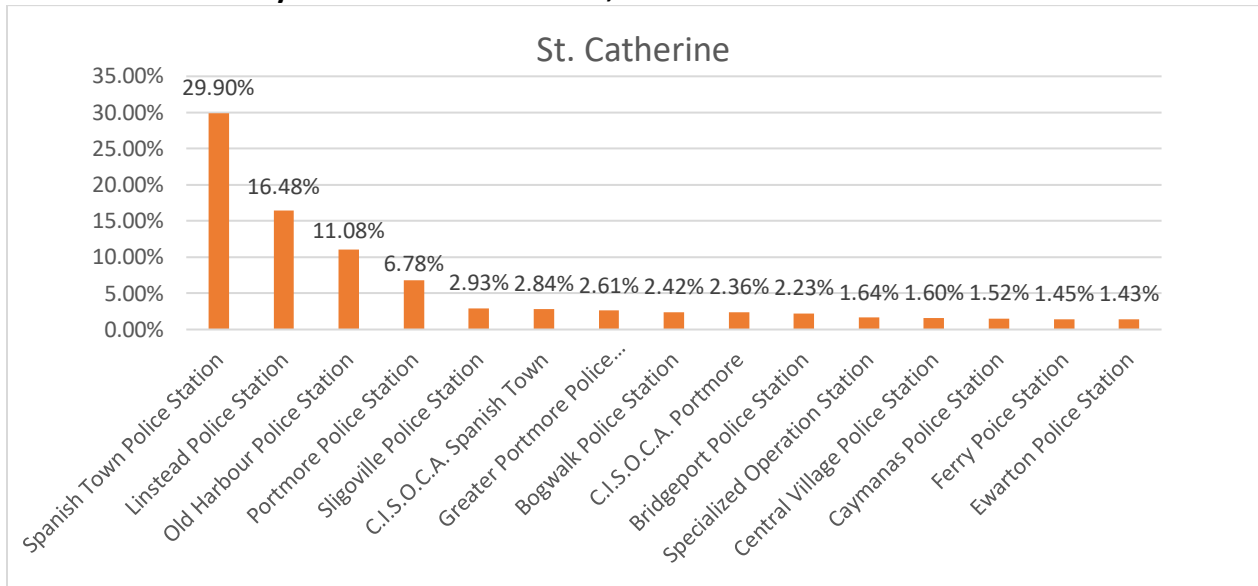
**Chart 6.02: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Clarendon Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2022**



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 2,584 records indicate that for the 2022 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 62.42%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the May Pen Police Station. This was followed by the Lionel Town Police Station which accounts for 15.02% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Chapelton Police with 10.87%. In the previous year, the top three comprised of the May Pen Police Station, the Lionel Town Police Station and the Chapelton Police Station.

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

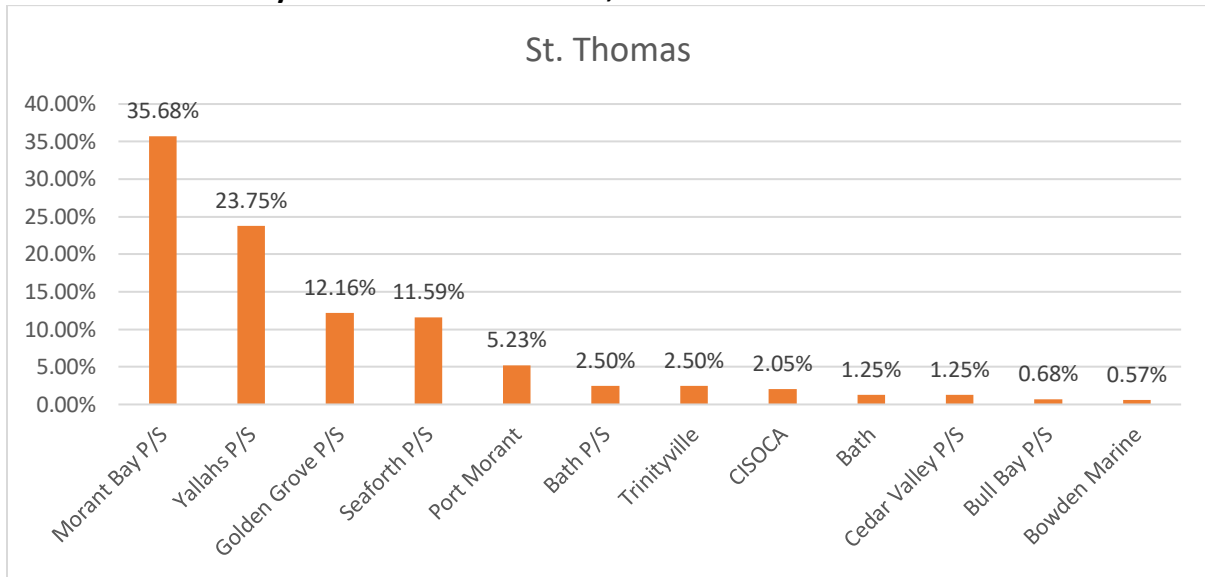
**Chart 6.03: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Catherine Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2022**



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 5,254 records indicate that for the 2022 calendar year, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 29.90%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Spanish Town Police Station. This was followed by the Linstead Police Station which accounts for 16.48% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Old Harbour Police Station with 11.08%. In the previous year, the top three comprised of the Spanish Town Police Station, the Linstead and the Old Harbour Police Stations.

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

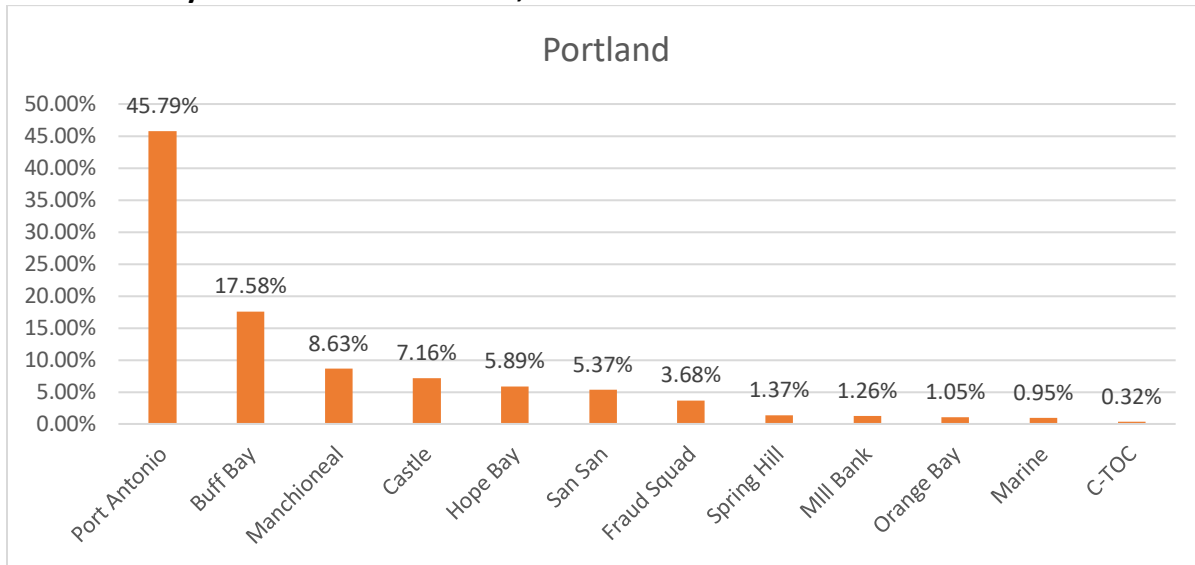
**Chart 6.04: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Thomas Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2022**



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 880 records indicate that for the 2022 calendar year, the highest proportion of criminal matters, 35.68%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Morant Bay Police Station. This was followed by the Yallahs Police Station which accounts for 23.75% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Golden Grove Police Station with 12.16%. In the previous year, the top three comprised of the Morant Bay Police Station, the Yallahs Police Station and the Seaforth Police Station.

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

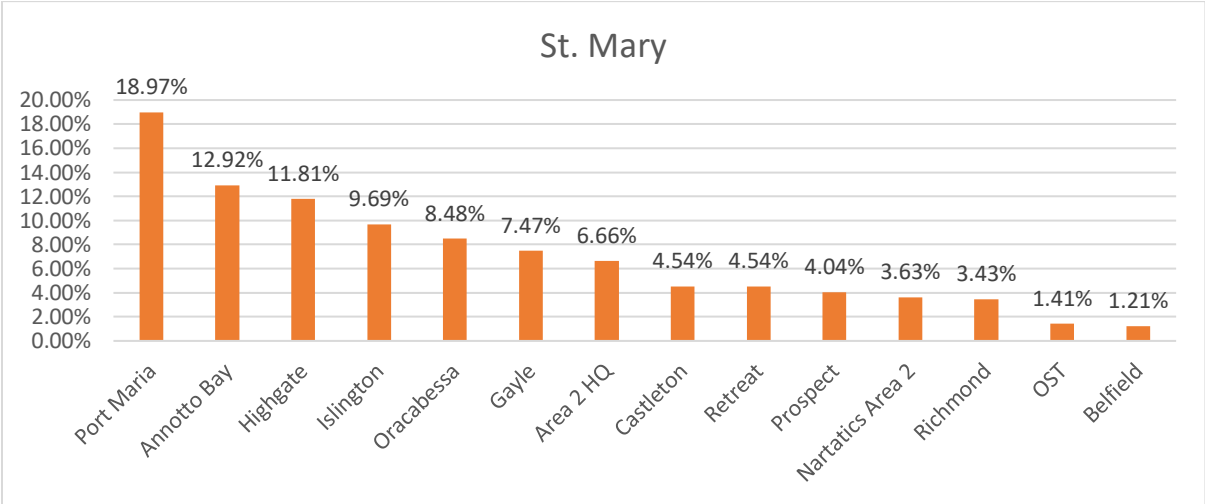
**Chart 6.05: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Portland Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2022**



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Portland Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 950 records indicate that for the 2022 calendar year, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 45.79%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Port Antonio Police Station. This was followed by the Buff Bay Police Station, which accounts for 17.58% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Manchioneal Police Station with 8.63%. In the previous year, the top three comprised of the Port Antonio Police Station, the Buff Bay Police Station and the Manchioneal Police Station.

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

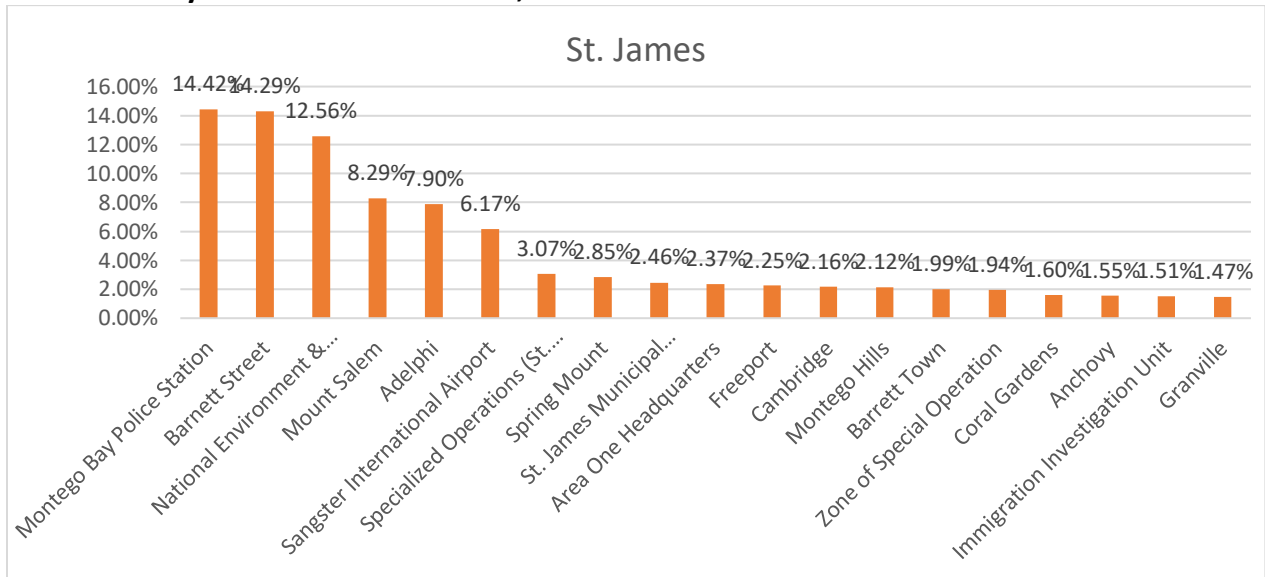
**Chart 6.06: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Mary Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2022**



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 991 records indicate that for the 2022 calendar year, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 18.97%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Port Maria Police Station. This was followed by the Annotto Bay Police Station which accounts for 12.92% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Highgate Police with 11.81%. In the previous year, the top three comprised of the Port Maria Police Station, the Annotto Bay Police Station and the Highgate Police Station.

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

**Chart 6.07: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. James Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2022**

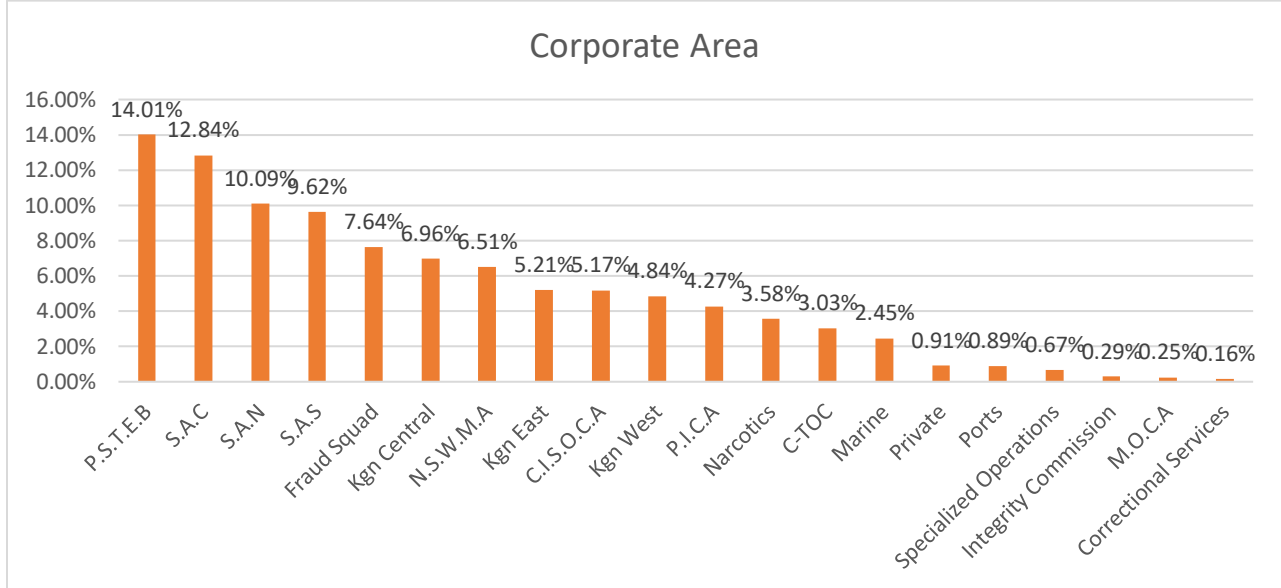


The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. James Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 2,316 records indicate that for the 2022 calendar year, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 14.42%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Montego Bay Police Station. This was followed by the Barnett Street Police Station, which accounts for 14.29% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the by cases reported to the National Environment and planning Agency with 12.56%. In the previous year, the top three comprised of the Barnett Street Police Station, the Montego Bay Police station and the Mount Salem Police Station.

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



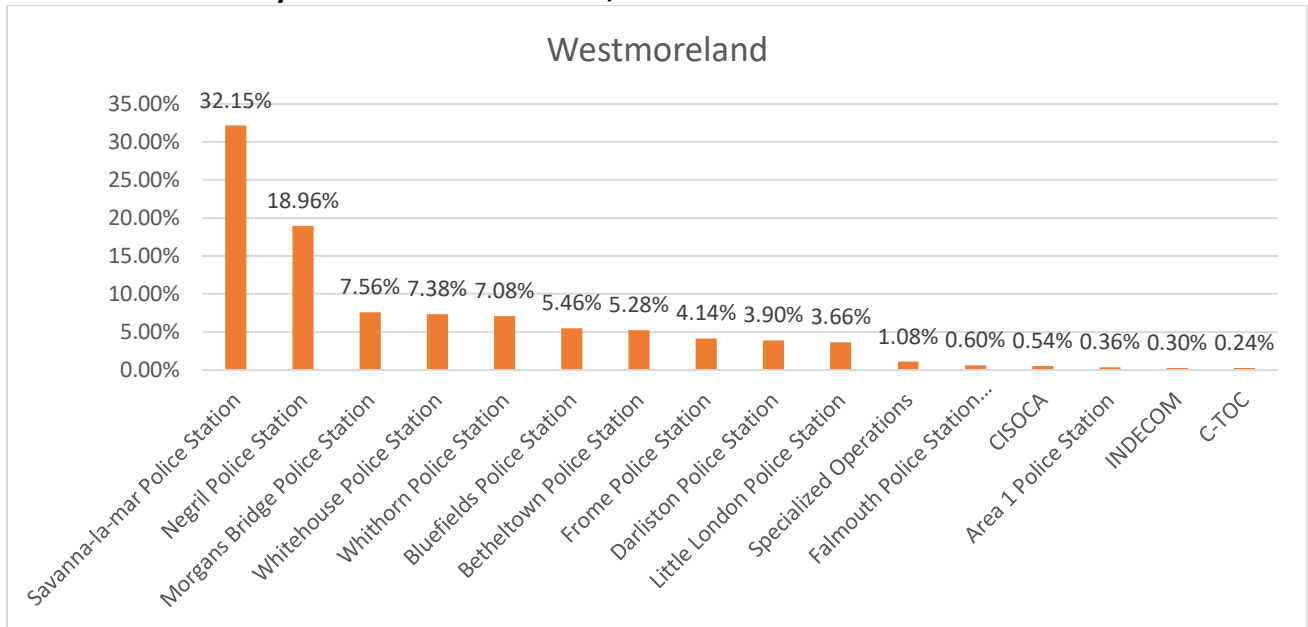
**Chart 6.08: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Corporate Area Criminal Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2022**



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 9,665 records indicate that for the 2022 calendar year, the highest proportion of criminal matters, 14.01%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the P.S.T.E.B Police Station. This was followed by the St. Andrew Central Police Station which accounts for 12.84% of the sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the St. Andrew North Police with 10.09%. In the previous year, the top three comprised of the St. Andrew North Police Station, the St. Andrew South Police Station and the St. Andrew Central Police Station.

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

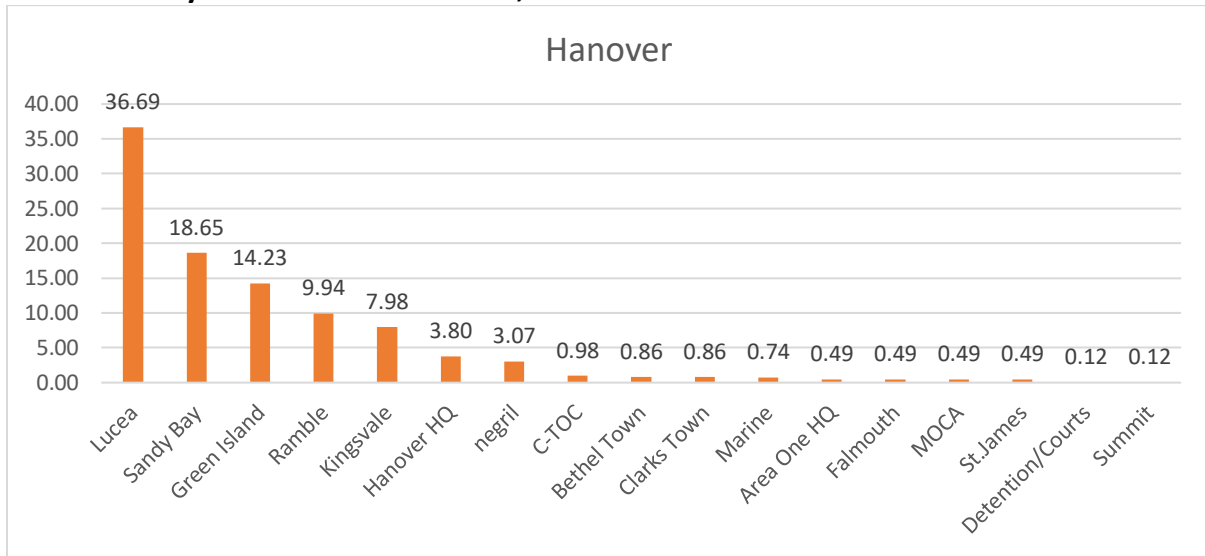
**Chart 6.09: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2022**



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 1,667 records indicate that for the 2022 calendar year, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 32.15%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Savanna-la-mar Police Station. This was followed by the Negril Police Station which accounts for 18.96% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Morgans Bridge Police Station with 7.56%. In the previous year, the top three comprised of the Savanna-la-mar Police Station, the Negril Police Station and Bethel Town Police Station.

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

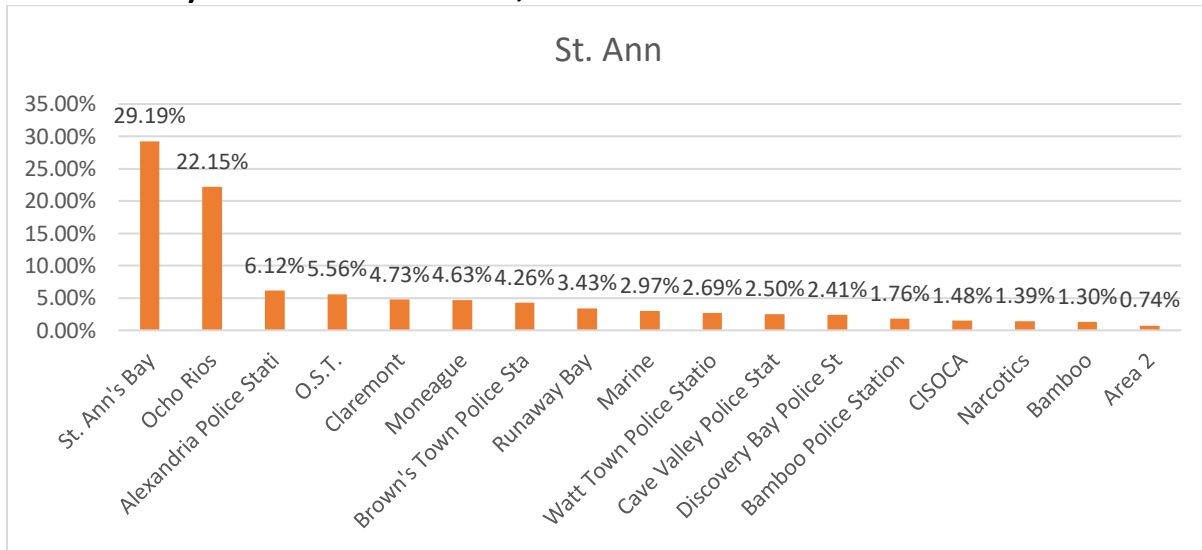
**Chart 6.10: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Hanover Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2022**



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 815 records indicate that for the 2022 calendar year, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 36.69%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Lucea Police Station. This was followed by the Sandy Bay Police Station, which accounts for 18.65% of the sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Green Island Police Station with 14.23%. In the previous year, the top three comprised of the Lucea Police Station, the Hanover Headquarter Police Station and the Sandy Bay Police Station.

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

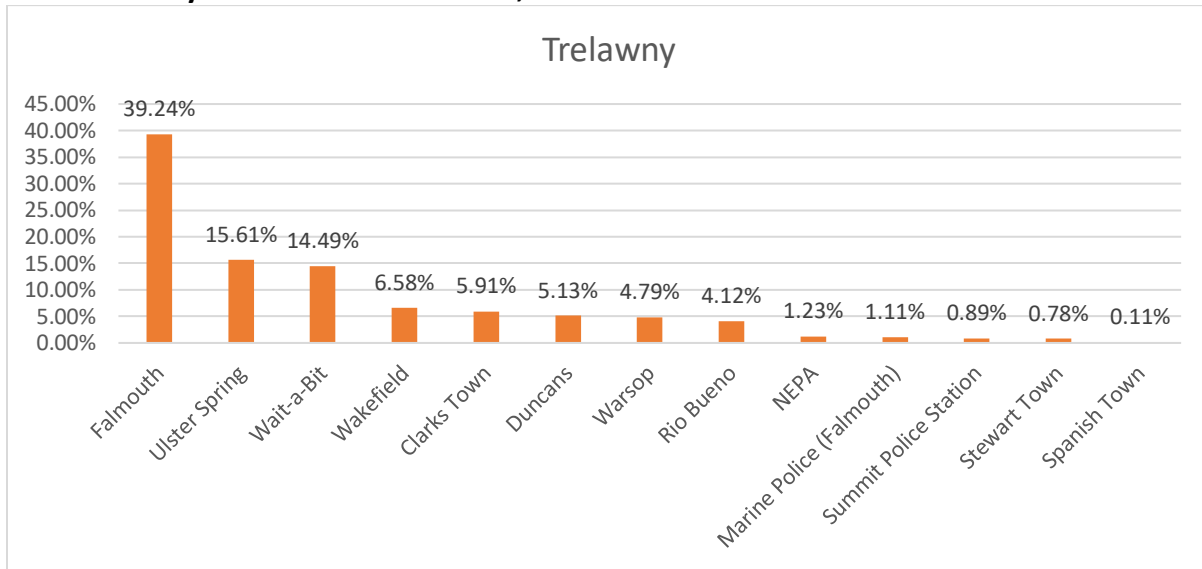
**Chart 6.11: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Ann Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2022**



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 1,079 records indicate that for the 2022 calendar year, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 29.19%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the St. Ann's Bay Police Station. This was followed by the Ocho Rios Police Station which accounts for 22.15% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Alexandria Police Station with 6.12%. In the previous year, the top three comprised of the Ocho Rios Police Station, the St. Ann's Bay Police Station and the Runaway Bay Police Station.

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

**Chart 6.12: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Trelawny Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2022**



The above chart shows the distribution of charges field at the Trelawny Parish Court, using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 897 records indicate that for the 2021 calendar year, the highest proportion of charges, 39.24%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Falmouth Police Station. This was followed by the Ulster Spring Police Station, which accounts for 15.61% of total sample of matters reported. The Wait-a-Bit Police station rounded off the top three with 14.49%. In the previous year, the top three comprised of the Falmouth Police Station, Ulster Spring Police Station and the Wait-a-Bit Police Station.

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

## Conclusion

This report has affirmed the standing of the Jamaican judiciary among the most productive in the Caribbean and Latin American region. Among the most impressive findings from this annual report, the seventh consecutive instalment of its kind, is with regards to the key performance indicators of the case clearance and case disposal rates. The overall case disposal rate fell by 3.08 percentage points, netting out at 74.43%, a strong result which exceeds the prescribed minimum annual disposal rate of 70%, set out in international literature. Nine of the thirteen courts exceeded the prescribed international standard on this measurement. On the even more important measurement of the case clearance rate, the criminal division of the parish courts as a whole recorded a rate of 124.58%, which is 18.11 percentage points higher than the rate recorded in 2021. This case clearance rate is currently among the highest in the Caribbean and Latin American region. All thirteen parish courts satisfied the international standards of between 90% and 110% on this measurement, with all except 1 eclipsing the 100% mark. Concomitantly, the overall case congestion rate in the criminal division of the parish courts fell by 2.13%, reaching its lowest level of 134.01% in recorded history. The crucial measure of the net and gross case backlog rates also reached their lowest levels in recorded history. The overall net case backlog rate stood at one of its lowest rates on record of 1.37%, suggesting that only 1 in every 100 active criminal cases filed over at least the past seven years are in a state of backlog. By any measure, this is a remarkable accomplishment. Overall, the parish courts have now accomplished the feat of having less than 5% of active criminal cases in a state of backlog, attaining one of the key strategic targets set out by the Honourable Chief Justice Bryan Sykes.

## THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S ANNUAL STATISTICS REPORT ON CRIMINAL MATTERS IN THE PARISH COURTS-2022

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

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

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

### Glossary of Statistical Terms

**Clearance rate:** The ratio on incoming to outgoing cases or of new cases filed to cases disposed, regardless of when the disposed cases originated. For example, in a given Term 100 new cases were filed and 110 were disposed (including cases originating before that Term) the clearance rate is 110/100 or 110%.

**Note:** The clearance rate could therefore exceed 100% but the disposal rate has a maximum value of 100%.

A persistent case clearance rate of less than 100% will eventually lead to a backlog of cases in the court system. The inferred international benchmark for case clearance rates is an average of 90%-110 annualized. This is a critical foundation to backlog prevention in the court system. <sup>i</sup>

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

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

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

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



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

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

**Standard deviation:** This is a measure of how widely spread the scores in a data set are **around** the average value of that data set. The higher the standard deviation, the higher the variation of the raw scores in the data set, from the average score. A low standard deviation is an indication that the scores in a data set are clustered around the average.

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

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

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

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

**Case backlog:** A case that is in the court system for more than two years without disposition. The **gross backlog rate** measures the proportion of all cases filed within a given period which remain unresolved for a period of over two years (both active and inactive cases).

The **net backlog rate** on the other hand measures the proportion of active cases filed in a given period which are unresolved for over two years.

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

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

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

**Weighted Average:** Weighted average is a calculation that takes into account the varying degrees of significance of the groups or numbers in a data set. In calculating a weighted average for a particular variable, the individual scores or averages for each group are multiplied by the weight or number of observations in each of those groups, and summed. The outcome is then divided by the summation of the number of observations in all groups combined. For example, if we wish to calculate the weighted average clearance rate for the parish courts, the product of the clearance rate and number of cases for each court are computed, added, and then divided by the total number of cases across all the parish courts. This means that a court with a larger caseload has a greater impact on the case clearance rate than a smaller court.

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

**Continuance and Adjourment:** 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 adjourment. 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 'adjourment'. Here, 'continuance' is used strictly to describe situations in

which future dates are set due to procedural reasons and 'adjournments' is used to describe the circumstances in which future dates of appearance are set due to generally avoidable reasons. For example, adjournments for another stage of hearing, say from a plea and case management hearing to a trial hearing or from the last date of trial to a sentencing date are classified as 'continuance' but delays for say, missing or incomplete files, due to outstanding medical reports or attorney absenteeism are classified as 'adjournments'. Adjournments as defined in this document have an adverse effect on hearing date certainty rates but continuances do not.

**Exponential Smoothing:** Exponential smoothing of time series data assigns exponentially decreasing weights for newest to oldest observations. In other words, the older the data, the less priority ("weight") the data is given; newer data is seen as more relevant and is assigned more weight. Smoothing parameters (smoothing constants)— usually denoted by  $\alpha$ — determine the weights for observations.

Exponential smoothing is usually used to make short term forecasts, as longer term forecasts using this technique can be quite unreliable.

- **Simple (single) exponential smoothing** uses a weighted moving average with exponentially decreasing weights.
- **Holt's trend-corrected double exponential smoothing** is usually more reliable for handling data that shows trends, compared to the single procedure.
- **Triple exponential smoothing** (also called the Multiplicative Holt-Winters) is usually more reliable for parabolic trends or data that shows trends and seasonality.

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<sup>i</sup> Source:

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

<sup>ii</sup> Source:

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

