

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

ANNUAL SUMMARY			
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Case Disposal Rates (%)	51.22	57.28	49.98
Case Clearance Rates (%)	108.41	112.61	94.89
Trial Date Certainty Rates (%)	82	85	82
Courtroom utilization Rate (%)	63.41	65.31	57.78

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This statistical report on criminal matters in the Parish Courts of Jamaica is for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023. It represents a continuation of the enhanced efforts to measure court productivity with a view to providing a concrete basis for placing the analyses of the judicial system into proper perspective and for informing the policymaking and operational planning apparatus of the leadership of the courts. This report interrogates a number of vital measures, which provide insights into the operations of the parish courts on both an individual and an aggregated basis. It forms an important foundation for understanding criminal case activity and delay factors in the parish courts as well as important characteristics of criminal cases. This report creates the framework within which the quantitative and some qualitative targets set out in the strategic plan of the judiciary can be monitored and evaluated. The report further confirms that the criminal division of the parish courts have now sustainably reduced the backlog of active cases such that only about 1 of every 100 new cases filed are likely to enter a backlog classification. In other words, there is only a roughly 1% chance that a criminal case filed in the parish courts will enter a state of backlog while being active. Considering that less than 2% of active cases are appealed, these statistics suggests that the criminal division of the parish court is vastly productive and delivers a high standard justice to the people of Jamaica. By all accounts, this division of the Jamaican judiciary is among the most efficient in the Caribbean and Latin American region at the moment. The Hanover Parish Court is a model criminal court in the Jamaican court system, with a near zero net backlog rate, case clearance rates consistently over 100%, the highest case disposal rate, the lowest average time to

disposition, the lowest mention court frequency per case and the lowest case congestion rate. Several other parish courts are also poised to experience comparable output in 2023.

The aggregate new case count in the parish courts in the first quarter of 2023 was 5277, a marked decrease of 24.58% when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. The Corporate Area Parish Court - Criminal Division with 1250 new cases or 23.69% of the total, followed by the St. Catherine and St. James Parish Courts with 793 cases or 15.08% and 512 cases or 9.70% respectively, account for the three largest proportions of the new criminal cases filed in the period. Taken together, the three parishes with the highest new case count account for 48.42% of the new cases filed in the first quarter of 2023, not dissimilar to the previous year. The parish courts of St. Thomas, St. Elizabeth and St. Thomas accounted for the lowest shares of the aggregate new cases filed in the period, each with under 4.0% of the total new caseload.

The overall average disposal rate for cases originating in the first quarter of 2023 was 51.22%, which is a decrease of 6.06 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. The Hanover Parish Court lead the way with a rate of 73.78%, thereby disposing of new cases the fastest in the period. The Westmoreland and St. James Parish Courts ranked next with case disposal rates of 70.90% and 65.63% respectively, reaffirming western dominance on this metric.

The case clearance rate provides a measure of the number of cases disposed (regardless of date/year of initiation) for every new case filed in a particular period. This is a

productivity index as many of the disposed cases, which are included in its computation, would have originated before the period of focus and is a more instructive statistic on case activity than the case disposal rate. The overall case clearance rate for the first quarter of 2023 was 108.41%, up by 4.20 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. The result suggests that for every 100 new criminal cases that were filed in the parish courts in 2023, roughly 108 cases were disposed. All thirteen parish courts satisfied the international standard of between 90% and 110% the first quarter of 2023. The top three spots on this metric was occupied by the St. Elizabeth Parish Court with 183.73%, the St. Catherine Parish Court with 131.15% and the St. Thomas Parish Court with 127.34%, all announcing their arrival as consistent performers in the upper quintile on this metric.

One highly important measure, which is of keen interest to the leadership of the courts and the policy makers, is the case congestion rate. This is a measure of how well a court is doing in managing its pending caseload, relative to its rates of disposition and clearance and the implied state of resources. The higher the case congestion rate of a court, the more burdensome the caseload and the longer it will take to dispose of cases, again within the context of the existing rates of disposition and clearance and the implied state of resources. The overall case congestion rate recorded for the criminal division of the parish courts in the first quarter of 2023 was 269.64%, an improvement of 0.43 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2022. The parish courts of Hanover, Westmoreland and St. James were least congested court at the end of the quarter. The cases of Westmoreland and St. James are of special interest in this regard

given their relatively large caseloads. There is a long run negative association between the case clearance rate and the case congestion rate, therefore, sustained increases in the case clearance rate will cause the case congestion rate to fall.

Another essential measure, which is an important cornerstone in the drive to bring Jamaica among the best performing court systems in the world is the trial date certainty rate. This provides a measurement of the likelihood that dates set for trial will proceed as scheduled (without adjournment for future dates). The perfect rate of 100% would suggest that all dates set for trial proceed as scheduled in the relevant period. The criminal division of the parish courts recorded an overall 3 percentage points decline in trial date certainty rate when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year, netting out at 82%. The parish courts of Manchester, St. Mary and the Corporate Area Criminal Court were the leaders on this metric.

The proportion of allocated court time that is utilized for hearings in each parish court bears some long run correlation with the case clearance rate, the case congestion rate and overall court performance. The courtroom utilization rate provides a solid measurement of the proportion of time allocated for court hearings, which are utilized throughout the period in each court. The overall courtroom utilization rate across the parish courts in the period was 63.43%, an improvement of 0.18 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. The Westmoreland Parish Court with a courtroom utilization rate of 82.66%, the Catherine Parish Court with 70.35% and the Portland Parish Court with 74.97% 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 the first quarter of 2023 is approximately 37.53%, while roughly 62.47% of cases were heard at the main parish court locations. While outstation court activity in parishes such as St. James and the Corporate Area account for less than 10% of total activity, there are several parishes where outstations are extensively utilized, accounting for over 30% of total case activity. This includes the parish courts of St. Catherine, Hanover 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.

The largest proportion of cases disposed in the first quarter of 2023 was by way of guilty pleas, accounting for 30.16% of the cases disposed. This was followed by cases dismissed, which was responsible for 25.32% of the cases disposed. It is of note that guilty verdicts accounted for roughly 4.07% of the matters disposed while not guilty verdicts accounted for 14.09% of the total. Mediated settlements (of various forms) accounted for roughly 9.47% of the cases disposed during the quarter. Taken together, the data therefore reveals a conviction rate of 34.23 for the quarter. Further analysis of the data suggests that for the cases originating over at least over the past roughly 7.5 years, which are disposed, roughly 33.82% were resolved within 90 days, 54.13% within six months and 74.35% 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 45.46% of all matters. This is followed by summary matters with a roughly 26.80% and matters heard by Lay Magistrates with approximately 13.45% of the total. It is of note that Committal Proceedings accounted for roughly 11.02% of all criminal matters filed in the parish courts during the quarter. Summary matters had an overall conviction rate of 60.96% in the quarter while indictments had a conviction rate of 18.85% 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 quarter were incomplete files with 22.24%, warrants issued due to the non-appearance of defendants with 10.92% and adjournments for disclosure with 8.17%, rounding off the top three. Also featuring prominently on the lists of reasons for adjournment across the parish courts during the quarter 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 of the past few years.

The three most frequent criminal charges filed in the parish courts in the first quarter of 2023 were assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding and malicious destruction of property. The majority of charges filed during the quarter involved accused males, accounting for roughly 78.85%, with females accounting for 21.15%.

The dominant age group of persons charged in period were the 27 – 36 and 18 - 26 age groups, accounting for 32.44% and 26.30% 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 10.90 months to dispose of cases in the first quarter of 2023. The courts which had the shortest times to disposition for cases resolved are the parish courts of Hanover (109 days), Westmoreland (120 days) and St. Mary (131 days). These three courts are also traditionally among the leading performers across several metrics.

Using the method of exponential smoothing, the report forecasts that in the second quarter of 2023, 4899 new criminal cases will be filed in the criminal division of the parish courts while 4874 cases are expected to be disposed and 897 to become inactive. The overall forecasted case clearance rate for second quarter of 2023 in the criminal division of the parish courts is therefore 117.81%. The parish courts of St. Elizabeth, Trelawny and St. Catherine are expected to register the highest case clearance rates in the second quarter of 2023.

With 7.5 years of extensive data on criminal case activity on the parish courts of Jamaica, the Statistics Unit applied Lagrange multiplier techniques to determine that a successful court must meet the following minimum requirements in order to satisfy an efficiency threshold for the sustainable containment of case backlog and provide

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

Parameter	Minimum Required Standard
Case disposal rate	$\geq 75\%$
Case clearance rate	$\geq 100\%$
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	≤ 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 7.5 years. This system captures a wide range of data on the progression of criminal cases from initiation to disposition and is manned by at least one dedicated Data Entry Officer 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 first quarter ended March 31, 2023

This chapter provides an assessment of criminal case activity in the parish courts for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023. This includes analysis of the criminal caseload, rates of case disposal, clearance and congestion as well as cases statuses in the various courts over the period, assessments of courtroom utilization rates, case file integrity rates, trial date certainty rates and forecasts of the core case activity outcomes for the upcoming quarters of 2023. 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 first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Number of inactive cases	Number of disposed cases	Active Pending Case Load	Case disposal Rate (%)
Hanover	225	5	161	59	73.78
St. Catherine	793	52	332	409	48.42
Westmoreland	354	18	233	103	70.90
St. Mary	204	1	91	112	45.10
Clarendon	407	26	203	178	56.27
Portland	251	15	96	140	44.22
St. Elizabeth	166	16	69	81	51.20
Corporate Area Criminal	1250	300	295	655	47.60
St. Thomas	139	9	65	65	53.24
St. James	512	29	307	176	65.63
St. Ann	441	77	92	272	38.32
Trelawny	189	9	73	107	43.39
Manchester	346	17	112	217	37.28
Total	5277	574	2129	2574	-
Average/Weighted Average	405.92	44.15	163.77	198	51.22
Standard deviation	310.17	79.63	98.77	168.04	11.75
Skewness	1.98	3.21	0.67	2.00	0.77

Note: The case disposal rate for the Browns Town outstation for the first quarter of 2023 is 31.19%

The table above shows the aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the first quarter of 2023. A total of 5,277 new criminal cases were filed across the parish courts, 2,703 cases were either disposed or became inactive, resulting in a weighted average case disposal rate of 51.22%. In the corresponding period in 2022, 6,997 cases were filed, while 4,008 cases were either disposed or became inactive which resulted in a weighted average disposal rate of 57.28%, which is 6.06 percentage points higher than the rate for the first quarter of 2023. This comparison reveals that there was a decrease of 1,720 cases or a 24.58% decline in the number of new cases filed and a decrease of 1,305 cases or a 32.56% decline in the number of cases disposed or became inactive when compared to the first quarter of 2022. Of the thirteen parish courts listed above, eleven (11) Parish Courts recorded a decrease in the number of new cases filed, while two (2) recorded an increase. Among the parish courts with the largest decline in new cases filed were the St. Elizabeth Parish Court, decreasing by 54.27%, the St. James Parish Court, which decreased by 35.19% and the Trelawny Parish Court, which decreased by 34.38%.

The Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division with 1250 cases or 23.69% of the new cases, the St. Catherine Parish Court with 793 cases or 15.03% and the St. James Parish Court with 512 or 9.70% accounted for the three largest shares of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2023. These three parish courts with the largest share of new cases filed, cumulatively accounted for 48.42% of the total sample of new criminal cases filed in the first quarter of 2023. On the other end, the parish courts of St. Thomas with 139 cases or 2.63% of the new cases, St. Elizabeth with 166 cases or 3.15% and Trelawny with 189 cases or 3.58% accounted for the lowest shares of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2023. The best performing courts in relation to case disposal rates for the first quarter of 2023 were the Hanover (73.78%), Westmoreland (70.90%), St. James (65.63%) Parish Courts. The bottom three courts on this

measure were the Manchester (37.28%), St. Ann (38.32%) and Trelawny Parish Court (43.39%) parish courts. The parish courts of St. Ann and Trelawny were also among the bottom three courts on this measure in the first quarter of 2022. The skewness of the number of new cases filed, the number of cases disposed, and the active pending new caseload are all positive, which is an indication that the larger proportion of the courts fell below the overall average case count in each of these data series. The overall skewness of the case disposal rates is a low positive figure, which indicates that a large proportion of courts had disposal rates which were clustered around the overall average rate for the quarter.

Refer to Table 3.0 for a graphical comparison of the Case Disposal Rates across all Parish Courts for the first quarter of 2022 and 2023.

Table 2.0a: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court as at March 31, 2023

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed in quarter	Number of Disposed cases in Jan. 1-Mar. 31, 2023	Number of Inactive cases in Jan. 1-Mar. 31, 2023	Grand total number of inactive cases (2016-Jan. 2023)	Grand total number of disposed cases (2016-Jan. 2023)	Grand Active Pending Caseload b/f Jan. 1, 2023	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
Hanover	225	227	7	291	5953	88	104.00	133.76
St. Catherine	793	911	129	3024	21110	1200	131.15	191.63
Westmoreland	354	349	25	1084	10823	190	105.65	145.45
St. Mary	204	186	8	753	5955	241	95.10	229.38
Clarendon	407	364	53	1747	11266	489	102.46	214.87
Portland	251	217	27	757	7171	489	97.21	303.28
St. Elizabeth	166	287	18	-	-	-	183.73	-
Corporate Area Criminal	1250	799	411	10210	33655	4264	96.80	455.70
St. Thomas	139	155	22	563	5761	407	127.34	308.47
St. James	512	493	45	2634	15662	477	105.08	183.83
St. Ann	441	323	100	3791	9170	1108	95.92	366.19
Trelawny	189	185	24	711	5648	436	110.58	299.04
Manchester	346	319	37	1886	9413	760	102.89	310.67
Total	5277	4815	906	27451	141587	10149	-	-
Average/Weighted Average	405.92	370.38	69.69	2287.58	11798.92	845.75	108.41	269.64
Standard deviation	310.17	234.91	108.58	2725.86	8296.67	1128.43	24.27	95.52
Skewness	1.98	1.58	3.00	2.56	1.97	2.94	2.47	0.52

Note 2: The grand total number of active cases from 2016 to the quarter ended March 31, 2023, for all parish courts combined= 10,370

Note 3: The case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for the first quarter of 2023 is 80.73% and the case congestion rate is 795.45%

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 first quarter of 2023 was 269.64%, an indication that the parish courts (criminal division) as a whole are carrying roughly three times the caseload that their current rate of clearance and implied state of resources justifies. This result represents a 0.43 percentage points increase when compared to the first quarter 2022. The parish courts of Corporate Area Criminal (455.70%), St. Ann (366.19%), Manchester (310.67%) and St. Thomas (308.47%) were the courts with the highest case congestion rates in the first quarter of 2023. The Portland (303.28%) and Trelawny (299.04%) Parish Courts rounded off the top 6 most case congested courts in the first quarter of 2023. The parish courts of the Corporate Area Criminal, Manchester, St. Ann, St. Thomas, Portland and Trelawny were also among the most congested courts in the comparative first quarter of 2022. The parish courts of Hanover (133.76%), Westmoreland (145.45%), and St. James (183.83%) performed best on this measure. As with previous reports, variations in caseload and resources do not appear to be a major factor explaining the variances in performance on this measure as some of the courts ranking on either ends of the scale are the larger courts in the island and resource endowment do not vary in a statistically way among the courts. The case congestion rate is a more meaningful measurement over a full year.

The results on the overall case clearance rate for the first quarter of 2023 provide interesting insights into the court-wide progress being made on this measure. The overall weighted average case clearance rate of 108.41%, which is a decrease of 4.20 percentage points when compared to the corresponding first quarter of 2022 and the performance meets the

international standard of 90%-110. This overall case clearance rate of 108.41% suggests that for every 100 new cases filed, roughly 108 cases were disposed of. All thirteen (13) parish courts met or exceeded the international standards of 90%-110%. The parish courts of St. Elizabeth (183.73%), St. Catherine (131.15%), St. Thomas (127.34%), Trelawny (110.58%) and Westmoreland (105.65%) were the leading parish courts on this measure. Traditionally one of the top performers, the parish court of St. Mary (95.10%) had the lowest criminal case clearance rates for the quarter, but still met the international standard of 90%-110%. Six (6) parish courts recorded an increase in clearance rates when compared to first quarter of 2022. The St. Catherine and St. Elizabeth parish courts saw the largest gains, with 25.21 and 24.23 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 3.0 for further comparison of the case clearance rates and the case congestion rates across all parish courts for the first quarter of 2022 and 2023.

Table 2.0b: Percentile rank on selected performance metrics for the criminal division of the parish courts for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

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

The table above provides the percentile ranks of the case disposal and case clearance rates for the first quarter of 2023. 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 first quarter of 2023, an indication that they performed better than the vast proportion of the courts on this measure. The percentile ranks of 100% for the Hanover Parish Court for example means that they performed better than all the courts on case disposal rate in the quarter, while 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 Manchester, St. Ann and Trelawny had the lowest percentile rank on case disposal rate for the quarter. In terms of case clearance rates, the parish courts of St. Elizabeth (100%), St. Catherine (92%) and St. Thomas (83%) had the highest percentile ranks, while the parish courts of St. Mary, St. Ann and Corporate Area Criminal had the lowest.

Table 2.0c: Forecasted case activity statistics for the second quarter of 2023 [April 01 -June 30, 2023]

Parish Court	Forecasted number of new cases	Forecasted number of disposed cases	Forecasted number of inactive cases	Forecasted case clearance rate (%)
Hanover	192	205	9	111.87
Manchester	331	359	45	122.38
St. Mary	192	173	12	96.20
St. James	463	492	76	122.91
St. Catherine	727	822	132	131.23
Portland	223	230	26	115.09
St. Ann	411	381	90	114.62
St. Elizabeth	187	272	22	157.09
Corporate Area Criminal	1116	839	357	107.19
Westmoreland	316	326	21	109.96
St. Thomas	157	178	23	128.11
Clarendon	405	389	52	108.93
Trelawny	179	207	29	131.88
Total/Weighted Average	4899	4874	897	117.81

Note: The forecasted case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for the first quarter of 2023 is 97.87%.

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

The above data shows that the overall forecasted case clearance rates for the criminal division of the parish courts for the second quarter of 2023 is 117.81%, which would be 9.40 percentage points higher than that of the first quarter of 2023. All thirteen (13) parish courts are forecasted to satisfy the international standard on case clearance rate of 90% or more in the second quarter of 2023, led by the St. Elizabeth Parish Court with 157.09%, the Trelawny Parish Court with 131.88% and the St. Catherine Parish Court with 131.23%.

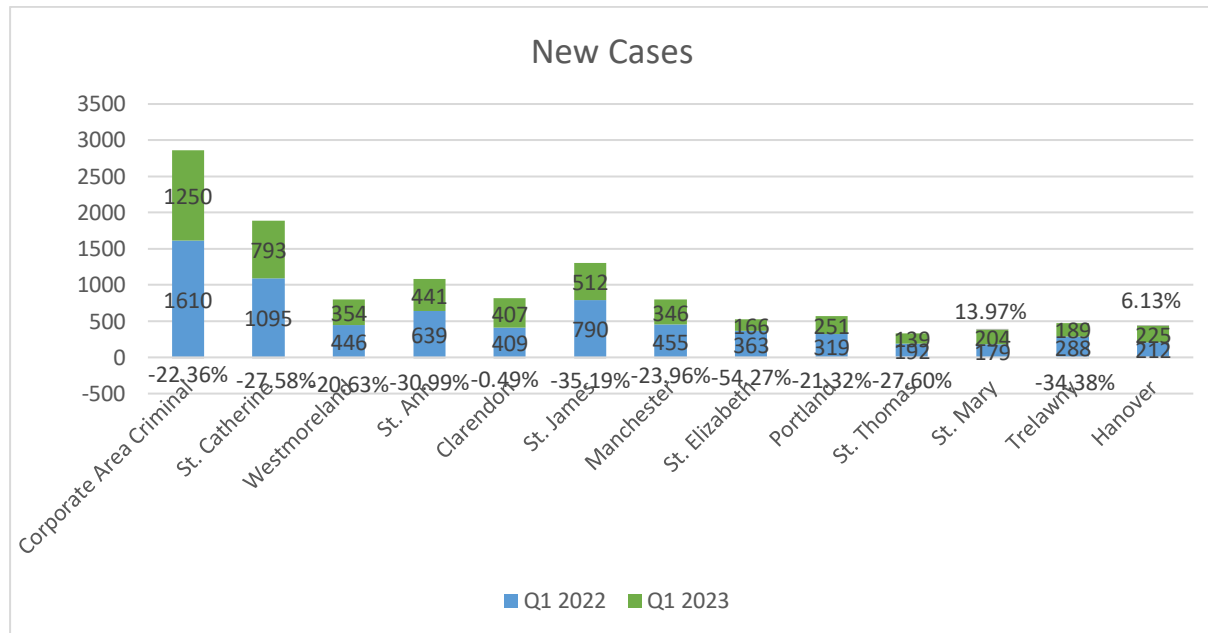
Table 2.0d: Sampling distribution of new cases filed per 10,000 population in the criminal division of the parish courts in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Population size in parish	Case per 10,000 population
Hanover	225	69,533	32
St. Catherine	793	516,218	15
Westmoreland	354	144,103	25
St. Mary	204	113,615	18
Clarendon	407	245,103	17
Portland	251	81,744	31
St. Elizabeth	166	150,205	11
Corporate Area Criminal	1250	662,426	19
St. Thomas	139	93,902	15
St. James	512	183,811	28
St. Ann	441	172,362	26
Trelawny	189	75,164	25
Manchester	346	189,797	18
Total	5277	2697983	20

The above table provides an outline of the number of new criminal cases filed per 10,000 population in the parish courts in the first quarter of 2023. 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 Hanover, which is among the parishes with the smaller population size, and smaller caseloads, registered the largest number of new criminal cases filed per 10,000 population in the first quarter of 2023. Portland, which is among the parishes with the smaller population size and mid-range in caseload, was second on this measurement. St. James, which is among the parishes with the larger caseload and mid-range population sizes, followed. Equally interesting is the result that the St. Elizabeth Parish Court, which is among the parishes with the smaller quarterly caseload and mid-range population size, had the smallest number of

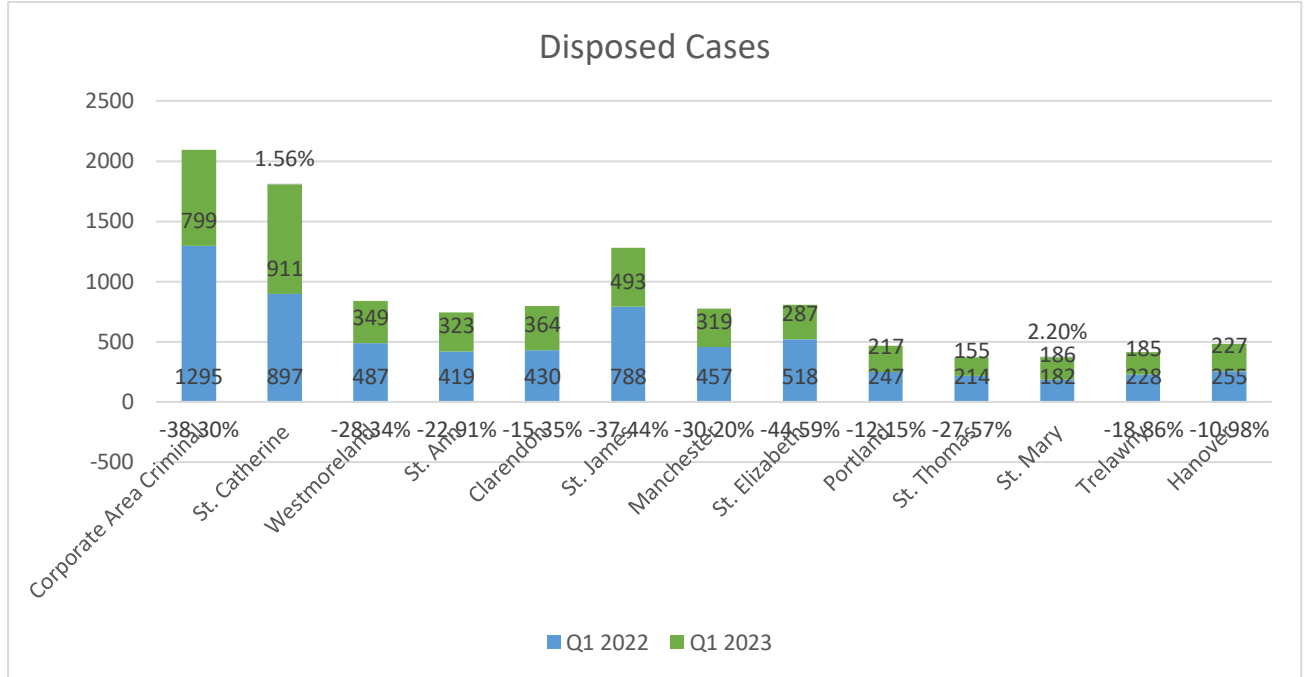
new cases filed per 10,000 population in the quarter. St. Catherine and St. Thomas had the second lowest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population for the quarter.

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



The above chart provides a breakdown of the changes in the number of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2022 and 2023. It is seen that there has been a decrease in new cases filed over the comparative period eleven (11) parish courts and an increase in two (2). Among the parish courts with the largest drop in new cases filed were the St. Elizabeth Parish Court falling by 54.27% and the St. James Parish Court, which fell by 35.19%.

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



The above graph provides a breakdown of the changes in the number of cases disposed in first quarter of 2022 and 2023. It is seen that there has been a decrease in cases resolved over the comparative period in eleven (11) parish courts and an increase in the cases resolved in two (2) parish courts. The St. Elizabeth Parish Court fell by 44.59%, the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division fell by 38.30% and the St. James Parish Court fell by 37.44%. The St. Mary parish court increased by 2.20% and the St. Catherine Parish court increased by 1.56%.

Table 2.0e: Sampling distribution of the Indices of Judge Productivity for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Parish Court	Number of Judges	New criminal cases per Judges	Active pending caseload per Judge at the beginning of Q1 2023	Active caseload per Judge at the end of Q1 2023	Cases disposed per Judge
Hanover	2	112.50	44.00	39.50	113.50
St. Catherine	5	158.60	240.00	190.60	182.20
Westmoreland	2	177.00	95.00	85.00	174.50
St. Mary	3	68.00	80.33	83.67	62.00
Clarendon	3	135.67	163.00	159.67	121.33
Portland	2	125.50	244.50	248.00	108.50
St. Elizabeth	3	55.33	NA	NA	95.67
Corporate Area Criminal	9	138.89	473.78	478.22	88.78
St. Thomas	2	69.50	203.50	184.50	77.50
St. James	5	102.40	95.40	90.20	98.60
St. Ann	3	147.00	369.33	375.33	107.67
Trelawny	3	63.00	145.33	138.67	61.67
Manchester	3	115.33	253.33	250.00	106.33
Total/Weighted Average	45	117.27	225.53	218.76	107.00

The above table provides a distribution of the new cases filed per judge, the cases disposed per judge and the caseload per judge in the criminal division of the parish courts for the first quarter of 2023. The data reveals that the overall weighted average number of new criminal cases filed per judge in the first quarter of 2023 is roughly 117 cases. The parish courts of Westmoreland (177 cases), St. Catherine (159 cases) and St. Ann (147 cases) had the three largest number of new cases filed per judge during the quarter. On the contrary, the parish courts of St. Elizabeth (55 cases), Trelawny (63 cases) and the St. Mary Parish Court (68 cases) had the lowest number of new cases filed per judge in the quarter. In terms of cases disposed per judge, the St. Catherine Parish Court disposed the most cases per judge in the quarter with 182 cases, followed by the Westmoreland Parish Court with 175 cases and the Clarendon Parish Court with 121 cases disposed per judge. The three courts with the smallest number of cases disposed per judge were the Trelawny Parish Court and the St. Mary Parish Court

each with 62 disposed cases per judge and the St. Thomas Parish Court with 78 disposed cases per judge. The overall number of criminal cases disposed per judge was 107 cases. The most crucial of the indicators is the active caseload per judge at the end of the quarter. The data shows that the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division had the highest caseload per judge at the end of the quarter with 478 cases, followed by the St. Ann Parish Court with 375 cases and the Manchester Parish Court with 250 cases per judge. On the lower end, the parish courts of Hanover and St. Mary with 40 and 84 cases per judge respectively, had the lowest active criminal caseload per judge at the end of the quarter, followed by the Westmoreland Parish Court with 85 active criminal cases per judge. The overall average active criminal caseload per judge at the end of the quarter is 219 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 first quarter of 2022 and 2023

Parish Court	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q1 2023	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q1 2022	Change in case disposal rate (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q1 2023	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q1 2022	Change in case clearance rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q1 2023	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q1 2022	Change in case congestion rate (%)
Hanover	73.78	57.08	16.70	104.00	128.30	-24.30	133.76	154.78	-21.02
St. Catherine	48.42	68.49	-20.07	131.15	105.94	25.21	191.63	190	1.63
Westmoreland	70.90	68.83	2.07	105.65	115.02	-9.37	145.45	141.33	4.12
St. Mary	45.10	49.16	-4.06	95.10	111.17	-16.07	229.38	201.01	28.37
Clarendon	56.27	52.08	4.19	102.46	120.54	-18.08	214.87	225.56	-10.69
Portland	44.22	45.77	-1.55	97.21	93.42	3.79	303.28	254.36	48.92
St. Elizabeth	51.20	53.44	-2.24	183.73	159.50	24.23	NA	194.82	NA
Corporate Area Criminal	47.60	59.50	-11.90	96.80	110.62	-13.82	455.70	419.03	36.67
St. Thomas	53.24	54.69	-1.45	127.34	126.04	1.30	308.47	310.33	-1.86
St. James	65.63	68.99	-3.36	105.08	120.00	-14.92	183.83	173.42	10.41
St. Ann	38.32	37.09	1.23	95.92	91.08	4.84	366.19	383.68	-17.49
Trelawny	43.39	42.71	0.68	110.58	102.08	8.50	299.04	299.32	-0.28
Manchester	37.28	48.57	-11.29	102.89	113.85	-10.96	310.67	288.03	22.64
Average /Weighted Average	51.22	57.28	-6.06	108.41	112.61	-4.20	269.64	269.21	0.43
Standard Deviation	11.75	10.13		24.27	17.46		95.52	86.77	
Skewness	0.77	0.14		2.47	1.17		0.52	0.72	

The table above provides a comparison of the case disposal rate, the case clearance rate and the case congestion rate for the first quarter of 2022 and 2023. The weighted average case disposal rate for the first quarter of 2023, was 51.22%, which was a 6.06 percentage points decrease when compared to the first quarter of 2022 which had a weighted average rate of 57.28%. The overall case clearance rate of 108.41% for the first quarter of 2023 was 4.20 percentage points less the 112.61% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2022. The overall case congestion rate for the first quarter of 2023 deteriorated, changing from 269.21% in the first quarter of 2022, to 269.64% in the first quarter of 2023, a 0.43 percentage point increase. Ceteris paribus, there should be a roughly inverse linear association between the

case clearance rates and the case congestion rate. This is more pronounced in the long run than in the short or medium terms.

Chart 2.0: Aggregate summary of case activity metrics for the first quarters of 2022 and 2023

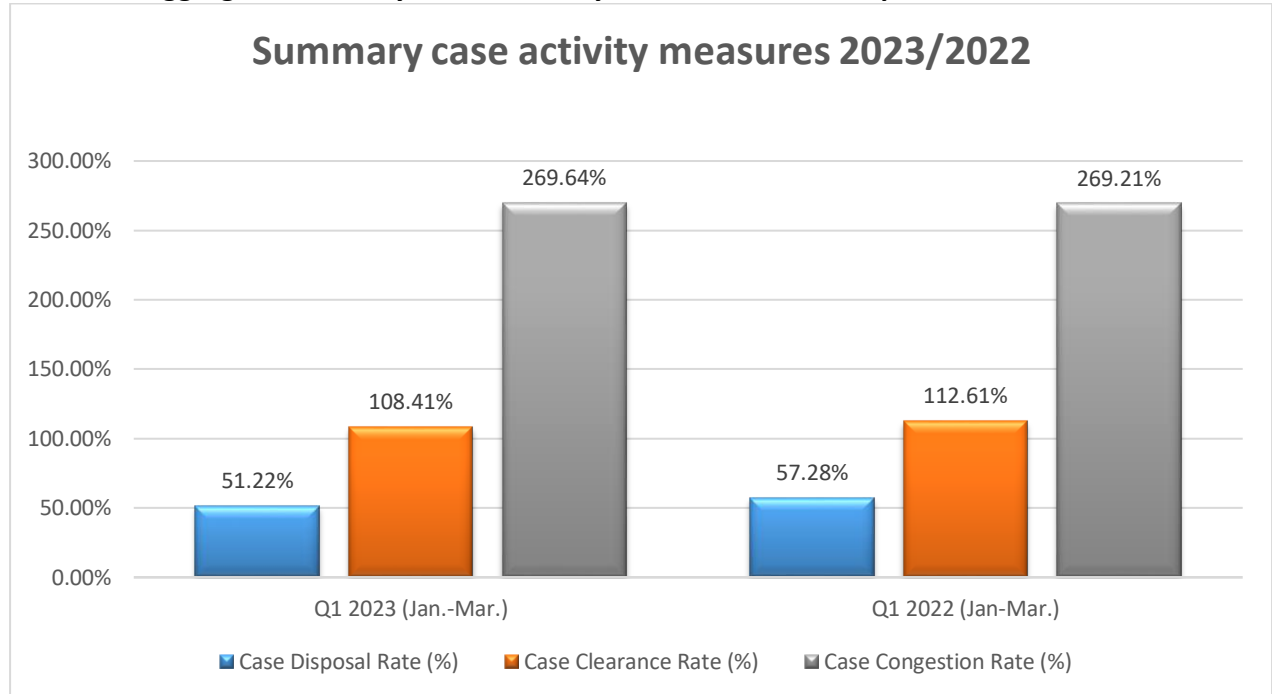


Chart 3.0a: Comparison of case disposal rates across the parish courts for the first quarters of 2022 and 2023

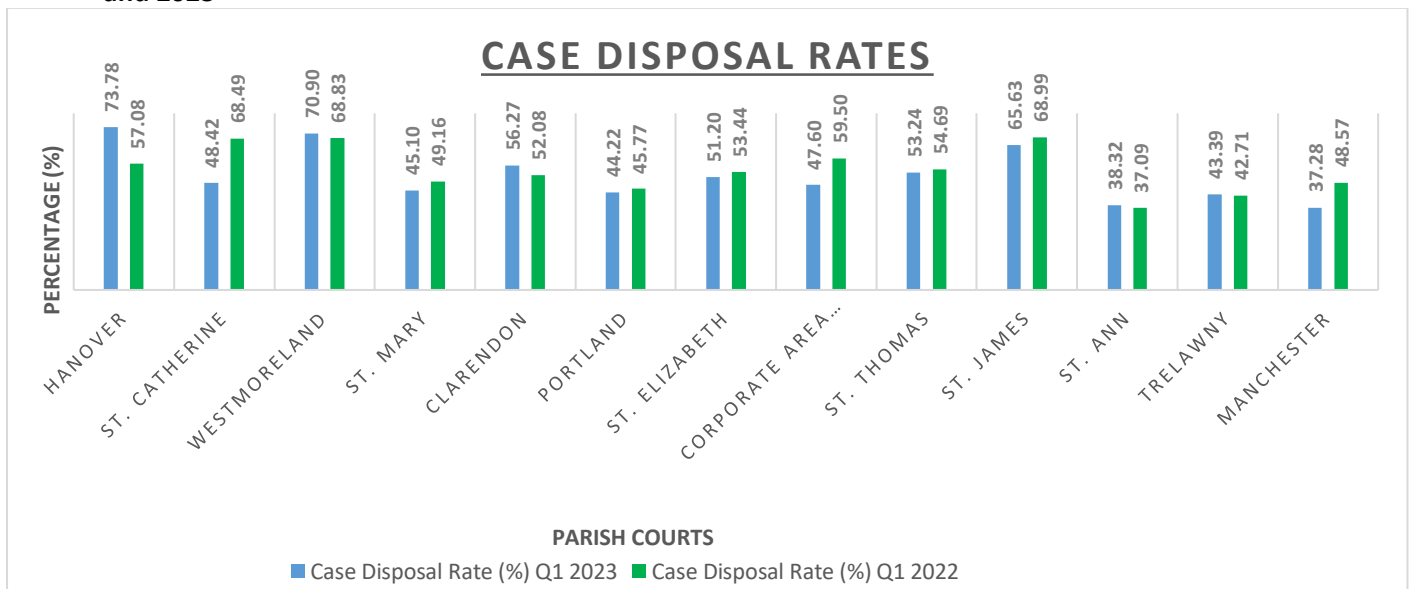


Chart 3.0b: Comparison of case clearance rates across the parish courts for the first quarters of 2022 and 2023

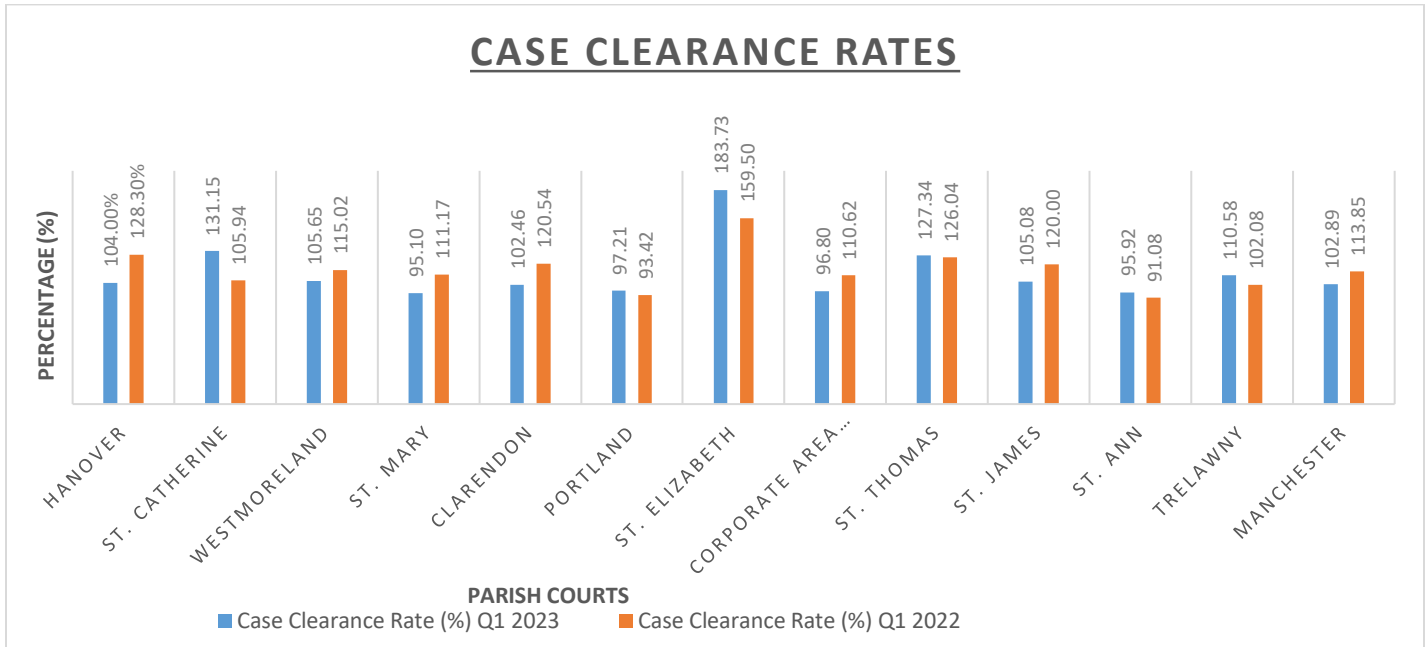


Chart 3.0c: Comparison of case congestion rate across the parish courts for the first quarters of 2022 and 2023

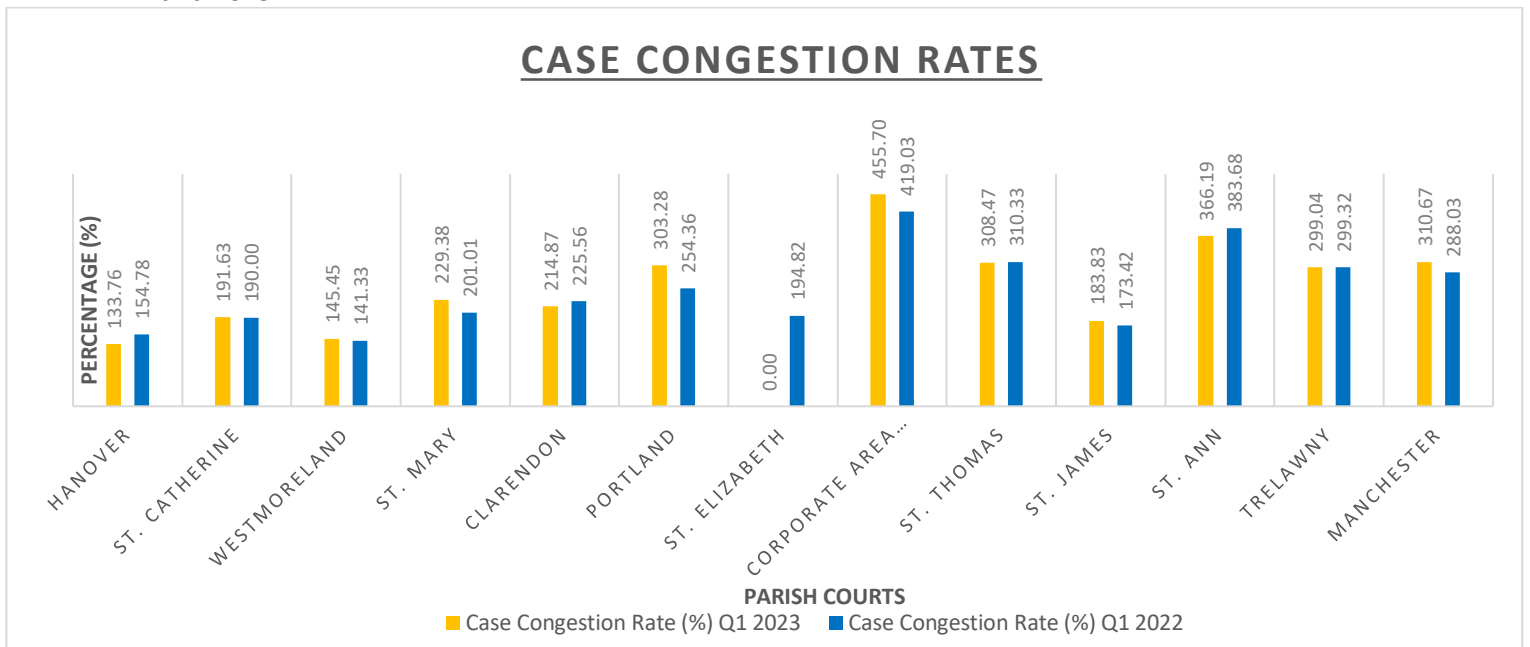


Table 4.0a: Sampling distribution of mention court activity for cases disposed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Parish Court	Overall number of cases disposed	Number of cases disposed in 1 mention	Number of cases disposed in 2 mentions	Number of cases disposed in 3 mentions	Number of cases disposed in 4 mentions	Number of cases disposed in 5 mentions	Number of cases disposed in 6-10 mentions	Number of cases disposed in more than 10 mentions
Hanover	227	30	11	9	3	2	1	2
St. Catherine	911	362	65	46	46	35	57	22
Westmoreland	349	158	76	43	18	15	30	19
St. Mary	186	42	42	14	15	8	15	2
Clarendon	364	84	37	14	8	17	21	6
Portland	217	49	41	31	21	19	38	14
Corporate Area Criminal	799	212	127	113	90	55	181	44
St. Thomas	155	23	30	21	3	1	14	3
St. James	493	15	8	7	4	2	4	4
St. Ann	323	76	51	30	27	11	28	1
Trelawny	185	23	25	12	9	11	14	1
Manchester	319	85	59	23	22	11	21	9
Mean	377.33	96.58	47.67	30.25	22.17	15.58	35.33	10.58
Median	321.00	62.50	41.50	22.00	16.50	11.00	21.00	5.00
Skewness	1.47	1.88	1.29	2.39	2.18	1.75	2.90	1.88
Standard Deviation	243.96	102.43	32.29	29.00	24.68	15.51	48.31	12.74
Total	4528	1159	572	363	266	187	424	127

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 first quarter of 2023. 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 31.58% of the sample of 4,528 cases disposed of during the period were resolved on their first appearance before the court. A further 25.60% of the sample of cases disposed were resolved at first mention, while 12.63% were resolved after two

mentions and 8.02% after three mentions. Cumulatively, roughly 87.83% 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 4.0b: Summary of cases heard during the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Parish Court	Number of cases heard in the quarter	Share of cases heard in the quarter (%)
Clarendon	861	6.93
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	3687	29.66
Hanover	323	2.60
Manchester	846	6.81
Portland	630	5.07
St. Ann	1010	8.13
St. Catherine	2276	18.31
St. James	904	7.27
St. Mary	421	3.39
St. Thomas	392	3.15
Trelawny	545	4.38
Westmoreland	534	4.30
Total/Weighted Average	12429	100.00

The table above provides a summary of the criminal cases heard during the first quarter of 2023 at the parish courts. From a sample of 12,429 cases heard, it is seen that the Corporate Area

Criminal court accounted for the highest share of cases heard with 3,687 cases heard or 29.66% of the sample, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court with 2,276 cases heard or 18.31% and the St. Ann parish court with 1,010 cases or 8.13% of the sample. Cumulatively, the top three courts account for roughly 56.10% of the cases sampled. On the lower end, the parish courts of Hanover with 323 cases of 2.60%, St. Thomas with 392 or 3.15% and St. Mary with 421 or 3.39% of the sample, accounted for the lowest share of cases heard in the first quarter of 2023.

Table 5.0a: Comparison of the trial certainty rates for the first quarters of 2022 and 2023

Parish Court	Trial certainty rate (%) Q1 (2023)	Trial certainty rate (%) Q1 (2022)	Change in the trial certainty rate (%)
Westmoreland	53	57	-4
Clarendon	89	95	-6
St. Ann	47	54	-7
Portland	75	70	5
St. James	100	100	0
Manchester	100	100	0
St. Catherine	57	89	-32
Trelawny	91	98	-7
St. Mary	99	97	2
St. Thomas	96	84	12
Corporate Area Criminal	96	95	1
Hanover	76	82	-6
Total/Average	82	85	-3

Note 1: The trial date certainty rate for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for 2022 is 71%

Note 2: Q1 represents the first quarter i.e. January-March

The trial date certainty rate provides a measure of the extent to which dates, which are set for trial, proceed on schedule without being delayed to start at some future date. The overall trial date certainty rate for the first quarter of 2023 was 82%, a 3-percentage points decrease when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2022. Six (6) of the parish courts met the prescribed international performance standard of a rate between 92% and 100% in the quarter. Leading the way are the parish courts of St. James and Manchester each with a trial certainty rate of 100%,

St. Mary with 99%, St. Thomas and the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division with 96% each and the Trelawny Parish Court with 91%. The Clarendon Parish Court fell just short of the international standard with a trial certainty rate of 89%, but this was still a promising result. The minimum-targeted court-wide trial date certainty rate is 95%. This is consistent with the push to significantly enhance the efficiency of the court system and hence the timely delivery of justice to the Jamaican citizenry. The attainment of this minimum threshold rate will depress the overall criminal case backlog in the Jamaican court system below 5%.

Table 5.0b: Percentile Rank on trial date certainty rate for the criminal division of the parish courts in the first quarters of 2022 and 2023

Parish Court	Percentile Rank – Trial Date Certainty Rate Q1 2023 (%)	Percentile Rank – Trial Date Certainty Rate Q1 2022 (%)
Westmoreland	9	9
Clarendon	45	55
St. Ann	0	0
Portland	27	18
St. James	91	91
Manchester	91	91
St. Catherine	18	45
Trelawny	55	82
St. Mary	82	73
St. Thomas	64	36
Corporate Area Criminal	64	55
Hanover	36	27

The above table provides a summary of the percentile rank of the various parish courts with regards to their performances on the trial date certainty rates for the first quarter of 2022 and 2023. 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 5.0c: Average duration from first trial date set to date of disposal of case for matters resolved by trial in the first quarter of 2023

Parish Court	Average duration of trial
Clarendon	267.03
Corporate Area	291.08
Hanover	127.70
Manchester	455.56
Portland	214.91
St. Ann	155.19
St. Catherine	279.18
St. James	247.81
St. Mary	99.84
St. Thomas	242.68
Trelawny	373.55
Westmoreland	62.68
Weighted average	266.40
Standard Deviation	112.99

The above table summarizes the average durations between first trial date set and the date of case disposal for trial matters resolved in the first quarter of 2023 across the various parish courts. The data shows an overall weighted average interval between the first trial date set and the disposition of such cases in the quarter is 266 days or roughly 8.9 months, with a standard deviation of roughly 113 days or 3.8 months. The Westmoreland and St. Mary Parish Courts had the lowest times between first trial dates set and disposal of cases with roughly 63 days and 100 days respectively, reflective of more ideal standards when compared to most other courts. The Manchester and Trelawny Parish Courts with average interval times of roughly 456 days or 15.2 months and 374 days or roughly 12.5 months respectively had the worst ranks on this measurement for the quarter. Lengthy time intervals between the first trial date and the date of

case disposition are symptoms of case management problems, case readiness and possibly even scheduling and calendar management issues in the particular court.

Table 5.0d: Time interval between major events for cases that had a trial date in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Parish Court	Average time between filing and first court appearance (in days)	Average time between first court appearance and trial (in days)	Average time between trial and disposition (in days)
Clarendon	6.60	298.50	267.03
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	4.22	435.75	291.08
Hanover	9.10	166.17	127.70
Manchester	6.96	282.63	455.56
Portland	6.47	374.62	214.91
St. Ann	11.79	790.68	155.19
St. Catherine	9.13	331.37	279.18
St. James	6.76	1275.65	247.81
St. Mary	4.76	122.11	99.84
St. Thomas	12.45	235.61	242.68
Trelawny	6.22	292.90	373.55
Westmoreland	5.27	223.78	62.68
Weighted average	6.94	484.62	266.40
Standard Deviation	2.62	323.54	112.99

Note 1: The average time between filing a case and the first court appearance for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for the first quarter of 2023 2022 is 16.22 days.

Note 2: The average time between the first appearance and first trial date for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for the first quarter of 2023 is 1042.97 days.

Note 3: The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for the first quarter of 2023 is 335.38 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 16.2 months or 485 days. The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition is roughly 8.9 months or 266 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 5.0e: Trial court activity summary during the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Parish Court	Number of cases heard	Number of cases with a trial date set	Percentage of cases heard which had a trial date set (%)
Clarendon	861	252	29.27
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	3391	714	21.06
Hanover	323	55	17.03
Manchester	846	238	28.13
Portland	630	91	14.44
St. Ann	1010	255	25.25
St. Catherine	2276	641	28.16
St. James	904	65	7.19
St. Mary	421	97	23.04
St. Thomas	392	104	26.53
Trelawny	545	122	22.39
Westmoreland	534	72	13.48
Total/Weighted Average	12133	2706	22.30

Note 1: The Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann had 20.24% of cases heard proceed to trial in the first quarter of 2023.

Note 2: Calculations for the Corporate Area Court-Criminal Division were done using data available from sheets in which a trial date was listed from 2017 onwards, hence, the total number of cases heard may differ from the number of cases heard listed in table 4.0b.

The above table provides a summary of number of cases heard in the first quarter of 2023 in the criminal divisions of the parish courts which had trial dates set, whether in the current quarter, from the previous quarter or a future date. Using a sampling distribution, it is seen that of 12,133 criminal cases heard across the parish courts in the first quarter of 2023, 2,706 cases or 22.30% had a trial date set. The parish courts of St. James (7.19%), Westmoreland (13.48%) and Portland (14.44%) had the lowest proportion of cases proceeding to trial, while the parish courts of Clarendon (29.27%), St. Catherine (28.16%) and Manchester (28.13%) had the highest proportions.

Table 6.0a: Distribution of courtroom utilization rates across the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Parish Court	Average overall courtroom utilization rate (%)	Highest recorded courtroom utilization rate (%)	Lowest recorded courtroom utilization rate (%)	Standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rate (%)	Average courtroom utilization rate for Night Court sittings (%)	Average number of courtroom adjournments per day
St. Catherine	70.35	152.08	1.11	28.00	88.26	1.2
Westmoreland	82.66	140.00	2.00	40.13	NA	NA
Trelawny	64.11	241.39	2.33	33.50	NA	1.0
St. Thomas	54.46	100.00	4.17	22.32	NA	NA
St. Mary	62.58	277.67	0.83	33.68	55.17	1.0
St. James	69.19	268.33	1.67	40.08	NA	NA
Corporate Area Criminal Court	54.69	113.89	4.72	26.79	NA	1.1
St. Ann	63.42	131.94	1.94	30.79	37.29	1.0
Portland	74.97	226.94	2.78	29.39	NA	1.0
Hanover	53.58	126.39	1.39	32.59	NA	1.0
Clarendon	61.79	125.67	14.33	28.66	NA	NA
Manchester	50.13	115.00	4.00	23.35	NA	NA
Overall Averages	63.49	168.28	3.44	30.77	60.24	1.04
Standard Deviation	9.62	65.49	3.65	5.64	29.39	0.54
Skewness	0.52	0.80	2.78	0.34	0.85	1.76

Note: The courtroom utilization rate for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for in the first quarter of 2023 is 60.84%

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the various parish courts in the first quarter of 2023. 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 first quarter of 2023. The overall average courtroom utilization rate across the parish courts in the quarter was 63.49%, which is an indication that on average roughly 63% of the available hours for court hearings were utilized across the parish courts in the first quarter of 2023. This result is roughly 0.18 percentage points above the figure for the corresponding period in 2022. The parish courts recording the highest courtroom utilization rates for the quarter are the Westmoreland and Portland Parish Courts with 82.66% and 74.97% respectively, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court with 70.35% and the St. James Parish Court with 69.19%. The Manchester and Hanover Parish Courts with 50.13% and 53.58% respectively, had the lowest rates, while the St. Thomas Parish Court with 54.46% had the next lowest rate. It is quite commendable that all parish courts exceeded a courtroom utilization rate of 50% for the quarter, a rare accomplishment. 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 6.0b: Percentile Rank on Courtroom utilization rate for the criminal division of the parish courts in the first quarters of 2023 and 2022

Parish Court	Percentile rank Q1 2023 (%)	Percentile rank Q1 2022 (%)
St. Catherine	82	9
Westmoreland	100	100
Trelawny	64	64
St. Thomas	18	0
St. Mary	45	82
St. James	73	27
Corporate Area Criminal Court	27	18
St. Ann	55	73
Portland	91	91
Hanover	9	36
Clarendon	36	55
Manchester	0	45

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

The above table provides a summary of the percentile rank of the various parish courts with regards to their performances on the courtroom utilization rates for the first quarter of 2022 and 2023. The results present a relatively consistent picture across both years for most courts in terms of the performances on this measurement. Some courts experienced gains in the ranking, several others experienced declines, and some courts retained the same ranking. The Westmoreland Parish Court performed better than all courts in the first quarter of 2023 and the first quarter of 2022, with the Manchester Parish Court having the lowest courtroom utilization rate in the first quarter of 2023 and the St. Thomas Parish court with the lowest rate in the first quarter of 2022.

Table 7.0: Types of matters for each Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Parish Court	Indictment	Summary Matters	Lay Magistrates Sittings	Committal Proceedings	Tax	Miscellaneous	LRF	Traffic	NS	Total
Corporate Area Criminal	1157	652	169	291	-	-	-	31	-	2300
St. Catherine	565	358	170	151	53	-	13	-	-	1310
Manchester	246	58	142	41	51	-	2	-	-	540
St. James	248	239	160	75	17	29	-	-	-	768
St. Ann	317	127	119	115	51	-	-	-	-	729
Westmoreland	240	148	67	47	8	-	-	-	-	510
Clarendon	229	238	66	72	-	-	-	-	-	605
Portland	210	124	25	8	-	-	-	-	-	367
St. Mary	168	97	43	26	-	-	-	-	-	334
Trelawny	114	52	45	37	-	-	12	-	-	260
Hanover	159	62	75	27	-	-	1	-	-	324
St. Thomas	101	58	30	20	-	2	-	-	-	211
Total	3754	2213	1111	910	180	31	28	31	0	8258
Percentage	45.46	26.80	13.45	11.02	2.18	0.38	0.34	0.38	0.0	100

*Total number of observations = 8,258 **LRF means Law Reform Fraudulent Transaction, ***NS means not stated

The above table provides a breakdown of the different types of new charges filed in each parish court for the first quarter of 2023. For the quarter, 8,258 charges were filed across the parish courts, a decrease of approximately 2,822 charges or a 25.47% decline when compared to the corresponding first quarter of 2022. The largest proportions of these charges were filed in the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division (2,300), the St. Catherine Parish Court (1,310), the St. James Parish Court with (768) and the St. Ann Parish Court with 729 charges. The largest share of the charges were Indictments (45.46%); followed by summary matters (26.80%), Lay Magistrates’ matters (13.45%) and Committal Proceedings with 11.02% of the total sample. The

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

Types of Charges

Table 8.01: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Charge	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	57	18.33
Unlawful wounding	46	14.79
Malicious destruction of property	28	9.00
Threat	25	8.04
Assault at common law	13	4.18
Sub-total	169	54.34

Number of observations sampled (N): 311

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court for the first quarter of 2023. It is shown that assault occasioning actual bodily harm with 57 or 18.33% and unlawful wounding with 46 or 14.79% of the total sample of charges are the most frequently occurring charges. Malicious destruction of property with 28 or 9% followed this, while threat with 25 or 8.04% and assault at common law with 13 or 4.18% of the total sample rounds off the top five. The five charges quoted above account for an

estimated 54.34% of the total sample of 311 charges filed in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2022 in the Hanover Parish Court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property, threat, breaches of the Curfew Order and breaches of the Disaster Risk Management Act.

Table 8.02: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	64	11.87
Unlawful wounding	52	9.65
Malicious destruction of property	33	6.12
Threat	30	5.57
Disorderly conduct	26	4.82
Sub-total	205	38.03

Number of observations sampled (N): 539

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court for the first quarter of 2023. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 64 or 11.87% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 52 or 9.65% and malicious destruction of property with 33 or 6.12% rank next. The top five is rounded off by threat with 30 or 5.57% and disorderly conduct with 26 or 4.82% of the sample charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 38.03% of the total sample of 539 charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2022 in the Manchester Parish Court included breaches of the Disaster Risk Management Act, malicious destruction of property, assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding and exposing goods for sale.

Table 8.03: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Portland Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Unlawful wounding	62	16.32
Assault occasioning bodily harm	61	16.05
Malicious destruction of property	33	8.68
Threat	29	7.63
Assault at common law	28	7.37
Sub-total	213	56.05

Number of observations sampled (N): 380

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Portland Parish Court in the first quarter of 2023. It is shown that unlawful wounding with 62 or 16.32% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 61 or 16.05% and malicious destruction of property with 33 or 8.68% followed this. The top five is rounded off by threat with 29 or 7.63% and assault at common law with 28 or 7.37% of the sample of charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 56.05% of the total sample of 380 charges filed in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2022 in the Portland parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, threat, malicious destruction of property and breaches of the Disaster Risk Management Act.

Table 8.04: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Threat	93	12.88
Assault occasioning bodily harm	73	10.11
Unlawful wounding	54	7.48
Malicious destruction of property	36	4.99
Littering in a public place	35	4.85
Sub-total	291	40.30

Number of observations sampled (N): 722

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the first quarter of 2023. It is shown that threat with 93 or 12.88% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 73 or 10.11% and unlawful wounding with 54 or 7.48% followed this. Malicious destruction of property with 36 or 4.99% and littering in public with 35 or 4.85% 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 722 charges filed in the quarter at the St. Ann Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2022 in the St. Ann parish court included threat, assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, breaches of the Disaster Risk Management Act, and breaches of the Curfew Order. From a sample of 83 charges, it is seen that the leading charges recorded in the first quarter of 2023 at the Brown’s Town Outstation included threat with 20 or 24.10% of the charges and assault occasioning bodily harm and unlawful wounding with 10 or 12.05% each. Malicious destruction of property with 7 or 8.43% and murder with 7.23% of the sample followed.

Table 8.05: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	211	16.11
Unlawful wounding	98	7.48
Malicious destruction of property	73	5.57
Possession of offensive weapon	73	5.57
Threat	49	3.74
Sub-total	504	38.47

Number of observations sampled (N): 1310

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the first quarter of 2023. It is shown that assault

occasioning bodily harm with 211 or 16.11% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 98 or 7.48%, malicious destruction of property and possession of offensive weapon with 73 or 5.57% each followed this. Threat with 49 or 3.74% of the total sample of charges filed round off the top five. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 38.47% of the total sample of 1,310 charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2022 in the St. Catherine parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, breaches of the disaster risk management act, illegal possession of firearm, unlawful wounding and malicious destruction of property.

Table 8.06: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. James Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	91	11.96
Possession of offensive weapon	82	10.78
Threat	60	7.88
Possession of ganja	38	4.99
Unlawful wounding	38	4.99
Sub-total	309	40.60

Number of observations sampled (N): 761

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges at the St. James Parish Court in first quarter of 2023. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 91 or 11.96% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Possession of offensive weapon with 82 or 10.78% and threat with 60 or 7.88% followed this. The top five is rounded off by possession of ganja and unlawful wounding with 38 or 4.99% each of the total sample. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 40.60% of the sample of 761 charges filed in quarter at the St. James Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2022 in the St. James parish court included

assault occasioning bodily harm, malicious destruction of property, unlawful wounding, threat and breaches of Disaster Risk Management Act.

Table 8.07: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	53	15.68
Unlawful wounding	39	11.54
Threat	32	9.47
Dealing In Ganja	17	5.03
Malicious destruction of property	17	5.03
Possession of Ganja	17	5.03
Sub-total	175	51.78

Number of observations sampled (N): 338

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the first quarter of 2023. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 53 or 15.68% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 39 or 11.54% and threat with 32 or 9.47% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property, dealing in ganja and possession of ganja with 17 or 5.03% of the sample. The charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 51.78% of the total sample of 338 charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2022 in the St. Mary parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, threat, breach of the curfew order and malicious destruction of property.

Table 8.08: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	39	18.22
Unlawful wounding	26	12.15
Possession of offensive weapon	16	7.48
Threat	13	6.07
Malicious destruction of property	10	4.67
Sub-total	104	48.60

Number of observations sampled (N): 214

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in the first quarter of 2023. It is shown assault occasioning bodily harm with 39 or 18.22% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 26 or 12.15%, possession of an offensive weapon with 16 or 7.48% and threat with 13 or 6.07% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 10 or 4.67% of the total sample of charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 48.60% of the sample of 214 charges filed in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2022 in the St. Thomas parish court included breaches of the Disaster Risk Management Act, unlawful wounding, assault occasioning bodily harm, malicious destruction of property and armed with an offensive weapon.

Table 8.09: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	41	15.77
Unlawful wounding	37	14.23
Malicious Destruction of Property	19	7.31
Possession of offensive weapon	15	5.77
Possession of Ganja	15	5.77
Sub-total	127	48.85

Number of observations sampled (N): 260

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the first quarter of 2023. It is shown assault occasioning bodily harm with 41 or 15.77% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 37 or 14.23% and malicious destruction of property with 19 or 7.31% followed this. Possession of offensive weapon and possession of ganja with 15 or 5.77% each of the total sample of charges round of the top five charges filed in the quarter. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 48.85% of the total sample of 260 charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2022 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 knowingly possessing identity information.

Table 8.10: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	94	18.80
Unlawful wounding	50	10.00
Malicious destruction of property	46	9.20
Threat	39	7.80
Offensive weapon	26	5.20
Sub-total	255	51.00

Number of observations sampled (N): 500

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the first quarter of 2023. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 94 or 18.80% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 50 or 10% and malicious destruction of property with 46 or 9.20% followed this. Threat with 39 or 7.80% and offensive weapon with 26 or 5.20% of the

sample rank next. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 51% of the total sample of 500 charges filed in the quarter at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2022 in the Westmoreland parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, threat, unlawful wounding, breach of the Curfew Order and failure to wear a mask.

Table 8.11: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	99	16.36
Being Armed with an offensive weapon	56	9.26
Unlawful wounding	47	7.77
Malicious destruction of property	32	5.29
Possession of ganja	27	4.46
Sub-total	261	43.14

Number of observations sampled (N): 605

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in first quarter of 2023. It is shown that and assault occasioning bodily harm with 99 or 16.36% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Being armed with an offensive weapon with 56 or 9.26% and unlawful wounding with 47 or 7.77% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 32 or 5.29% and possession of ganja with 27 or 4.46%. The charges quoted above account for an estimated 43.14% of the sample of 605 charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2022 in the Clarendon parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, breaches of the Disaster Risk Management Act, breach of curfew order and malicious destruction of property.

Table 8.12: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Littering	264	11.48
Assault occasioning bodily harm	246	10.70
Unlawful wounding	160	6.96
Malicious destruction of property	105	4.57
Armed with an offensive weapon	94	4.09
Sub-total	869	37.78

Number of observations sampled (N): 2300

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division for the first quarter of 2023. It is shown that littering with 264 or 11.48% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 246 or 10.70% and unlawful wounding with 160 or 6.96% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 105 or 4.57% and armed with an offensive weapon with 94 or 4.09% of the charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 37.78% of the total sample of 2,300 charges at filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court –Criminal Division in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2022 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 9.0: Conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Type of case	Number of disposed matters	Number of guilty verdicts	Number of guilty pleas	Aggregate number of guilty outcomes	Estimated conviction rate (%)
Summary	2090	111	1163	1274	60.96
Indictment	3141	53	539	592	18.85

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard across all parish courts in the first quarter of 2023. Summary matters heard in the quarter include charges such as possession of an offensive weapon, possession of ganja, exposing goods for sale and dealing in ganja. The estimated conviction rate for the quarter for summary matters was 60.96%, which is 13.32 percentage points below the conviction rate of 74.28% recorded for the corresponding first quarter of 2022. The estimated conviction rate for indictment matters was significantly lower at 18.85% for the quarter, a rate which is approximately 0.14 percentage points below the 18.99% recorded in the first quarter of 2022. Indictment matters heard in the quarter included charges such as assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property and simple larceny.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges across the parish courts for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Charge	Frequency	Percentage
Assault occasioning bodily harm	1129	13.70
Unlawful wounding	709	8.60
Malicious destruction of property	465	5.64
Threat	454	5.51
Possession of offensive weapon	407	4.94
Littering	304	3.69
Disorderly conduct	229	2.78
Possession of ganja	209	2.54
Assault at common law	187	2.27
Simple larceny	177	2.15
Sub-total	4270	51.82

Number of observations sampled (N): 8240

The above table shows the distribution of the ten most commonly occurring charges across all parish courts for the first quarter of 2023. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 1,129 or 13.70% of the total number of charges sampled is the most frequently occurring charge.

Unlawful wounding with 709 or 8.60% and malicious destruction of property with 465 or 5.64% followed this. The top five is rounded off by threat with 454 or 5.51% and possession of offensive weapon with 407 or 4.94% of the total sample of charges filed in the quarter. These ten most frequently occurring types of charges account for approximately 51.82% of the total sample of charges filed in the quarter.

Table 11.0: Conviction rate for leading occurring charges heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Type of Offence	Number of disposed matters	Number of guilty verdicts	Number of guilty pleas	Aggregate number of guilty outcomes	Estimated conviction rate (%)
Possession of offensive weapon	351	16	279	295	84.05
Possession of ganja	259	23	185	208	80.31
Littering	24	0	19	19	79.17
Disorderly conduct	209	26	105	131	62.68
Simple larceny	160	2	35	37	23.13
Malicious destruction of property	392	3	51	54	13.78
Assault occasioning bodily harm	988	15	99	114	11.54
Unlawful wounding	654	10	60	70	10.70
Assault at common law	185	1	16	17	9.19
Threat	504	9	15	24	4.76

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for the ten (10) leading charges across all parish courts in the first quarter of 2023. It is shown that possession of an offensive weapon had the highest estimated conviction rate on the list with 84.05%. Possession of ganja with 80.31% and littering with 79.17% followed this. The top conviction rates on the list in the quarter is rounded off by disorderly conduct with an estimated conviction rate of 62.68%. Breach of the Disaster Risk Management Act recorded the highest estimated conviction rate in the

corresponding first quarter of 2022 with 89.45%, followed by possession of an offensive weapon with an estimated conviction rate of 88.80%.

Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of the average age of active charges for each parish court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Parish Court	Average age of active charges (days)
Clarendon	40
Trelawny	41
Portland	32
St. Mary	45
Hanover	29
Westmoreland	36
St. Catherine	39
St. Ann	49
St. James	42
St. Thomas	48
Corporate Area Criminal	42
Manchester	35
Overall Average	39.83
Standard Deviation	6.07
Skewness	-0.22

The above table shows the average age of active charges originating in the first quarter of 2023, for charges originating in said quarter. The overall average age of active matters originating in the quarter was approximately 40 days or roughly 1.3 months, roughly 2 days more than the average recorded in the first quarter of 2022. The parish courts of Hanover, Portland and Manchester have the lowest averages on the list. On the contrary, the highest averages were observed in the parish courts of St. Ann, St. Thomas, St. Mary, Corporate Area Criminal, St. James and Trelawny. The standard deviation of the scores was, however, relatively low (6 days), an indication that the individual values for the parish courts were on average close to the overall mean. The negative skewness indicates that most of the individual times to disposition in the data set were clustered around the overall series average. There is an intuitive correlation

between case clearance rates and the average age of cases in the long run, but it does not necessarily manifest empirically in the short run. This means that in the long run, courts with higher clearance rates will in general have a lower case backlog and a lower average age of active cases. Courts which manage to maintain a case clearance rate of between 90% and 110% long enough will eventually eliminate their case backlog, a feat that is quite conceivable with improved case progression management in the respective courts. In such cases, the average time taken to dispose of cases will experience a natural decline, tapering off at a modest, tolerable rate, improving the efficiency of the courts and the enhancing the timely delivery of justice.

Table 13.0: Average age of charges disposed for matters originating in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Parish Court	Average age of disposed charges (days)
Clarendon	29
Trelawny	22
Portland	38
St. Mary	27
Hanover	30
Westmoreland	24
St. Catherine	31
St. Ann	29
St. James	27
St. Thomas	51
Corporate Area Criminal	31
Manchester	30
Overall Average	30.75
Standard Deviation	7.51
Skewness	1.96

The above table shows that the average time taken to dispose of criminal cases filed in the Parish Courts in the first quarter of 2023 is approximately 31 days. This is roughly 2 more days than the time taken to dispose of cases originating in the first quarter of 2022. The standard deviation of the scores was relatively

low (8 days), an indication that the individual values for the parish courts were on average close to the overall mean. The positive skewness, however, indicates that proportionately more of the scores of the individual times to disposition in the data set were below the overall series average. The scores ranged from a low of roughly 22 days at the Trelawny Parish Court to a high of 51 days for the St. Thomas Parish Court.

Table 14.0a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Parishes	Time interval in days							Sample size (n)
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365 days-547 days	548 days-729 days	730 days and over	
Corporate Area Criminal	13581 (36.6%)	7852 (21.2%)	4681 (12.6%)	3217 (8.7%)	3313 (8.9%)	1871 (5.0%)	2547 (6.9%)	37062 (100%)
St. Catherine	5997 (34.4%)	4141 (23.8%)	2339 (13.4%)	1390 (8.0%)	1518 (8.7%)	694 (4.0%)	1346 (7.7%)	17425 (100%)
St. James	5109 (37.7%)	2690 (19.9%)	1502 (11.1%)	1152 (8.5%)	1283 (9.5%)	634 (4.7%)	1174 (8.7%)	13544 (100%)
Manchester	3091 (26.2%)	2086 (17.7%)	1611 (13.6%)	1220 (10.3%)	1493 (12.6%)	936 (7.9%)	1374 (11.6%)	11811 (100%)
Westmoreland	5522 (54.9%)	1830 (18.2%)	1048 (10.4%)	565 (5.6%)	576 (5.7%)	252 (2.5%)	273 (2.7%)	10066 (100%)
St. Ann	2782 (25.9%)	2086 (19.4%)	1306 (12.2%)	1032 (9.6%)	1442 (13.4%)	815 (7.6%)	1278 (11.9%)	10741 (100%)
Clarendon	4844 (42.1%)	2603 (22.6%)	1376 (12.0%)	842 (7.3%)	1048 (9.1%)	371 (3.2%)	420 (3.7%)	11504 (100%)
St. Thomas	1767 (28.9%)	1362 (22.3%)	800 (13.1%)	699 (11.4%)	682 (11.2%)	322 (5.3%)	478 (7.8%)	6110 (100%)
Portland	2601 (37.6%)	1742 (25.2%)	840 (12.2%)	553 (8.0%)	561 (8.1%)	317 (4.6%)	299 (4.3%)	6913 (100%)
St. Mary	3211 (43.4%)	1498 (20.3%)	942 (12.7%)	579 (7.8%)	551 (7.5%)	249 (3.4%)	361 (4.9%)	7391 (100%)
Trelawny	1986 (36.0%)	1021 (18.5%)	636 (11.5%)	483 (8.8%)	536 (9.7%)	317 (5.8%)	533 (9.7%)	5512 (100%)
Hanover	2755 (51.2%)	1204 (22.4%)	548 (10.2%)	314 (5.8%)	259 (4.8%)	147 (2.7%)	152 (2.8%)	5379 (100%)
% of Total	37.12	20.99	12.29	8.40	9.24	4.83	7.13	-
Average	4437.17	2509.58	1469.08	1003.83	1105.17	577.08	852.92	11954.83
Standard Deviation	3208.38	1880.88	1126.97	772.20	822.74	478.41	705.50	8703.42
Skewness	2.37	2.42	2.41	2.41	1.88	2.01	1.32	2.48

Number of charges sampled (N) = 143,458

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the previous 6.6 years

The above table shows the breakdown of the times to disposition for matters filed in the respective parish courts for at least 79 consecutive months (6.6 years) over the period September 2016 to March 2023. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the

charges disposed in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 37.12% 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, 78.80% 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. Catherine had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 7.13% 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. Catherine 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 14.0b: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition for matters completed in first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Parishes	Time interval in days							Sample size (n)
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365 days-547 days	548 days-729 days	730 days and over	
Corporate Area Criminal	331 (24.2%)	365 (26.7%)	193 (14.1%)	149 (10.9%)	128 (9.4%)	111 (8.1%)	88 (6.4%)	1365 (100%)
St. Catherine	183 (20.0%)	155 (17.0%)	119 (13.0%)	58 (6.3%)	56 (6.1%)	43 (4.7%)	300 (32.8%)	914 (100%)
St. James	133 (37.4%)	71 (19.9%)	31 (8.7%)	47 (13.2%)	43 (12.1%)	15 (4.2%)	16 (4.5%)	356 (100%)
Manchester	135 (35.6%)	63 (16.6%)	38 (10.0%)	49 (12.9%)	20 (5.3%)	27 (7.1%)	47 (12.4%)	379 (100%)
Westmoreland	212 (65.8%)	57 (17.7%)	24 (7.5%)	10 (3.1%)	3 (0.9%)	2 (0.6%)	14 (4.3%)	322 (100%)
St. Ann	133 (31.1%)	65 (15.2%)	71 (16.6%)	32 (7.5%)	40 (9.4%)	32 (7.5%)	54 (12.6%)	427 (100%)
Clarendon	143 (38.9%)	67 (18.2%)	29 (7.9%)	24 (6.5%)	61 (16.6%)	9 (2.4%)	35 (9.5%)	368 (100%)
St. Thomas	65 (31.3%)	46 (22.1%)	23 (11.1%)	35 (16.8%)	18 (8.7%)	8 (3.8%)	13 (6.3%)	208 (100%)
Portland	105 (47.3%)	41 (18.5%)	23 (10.4%)	23 (10.4%)	10 (4.5%)	14 (6.3%)	6 (2.7%)	222 (100%)
St. Mary	154 (58.8%)	56 (21.4%)	19 (7.3%)	12 (4.6%)	11 (4.2%)	1 (0.4%)	9 (3.4%)	262 (100%)
Trelawny	46 (23.1%)	42 (21.1%)	23 (11.6%)	8 (4.0%)	33 (16.6%)	12 (6.0%)	35 (17.6%)	199 (100%)
Hanover	108 (73.5%)	22 (15.0%)	4 (2.7%)	1 (0.7%)	2 (1.4%)	4 (2.7%)	6 (4.1%)	147 (100%)
% of Total	33.82	20.31	11.55	8.67	8.22	5.38	12.05	-
Average	145.67	87.50	49.75	37.33	35.42	23.17	51.92	430.75
Standard Deviation	73.96	93.19	54.39	39.44	35.27	30.47	81.88	355.00
Skewness	1.37	2.83	2.08	2.29	1.76	2.51	2.96	2.11

Number of charges sampled (N) =5,169

The table above shows the breakdown of the time disposition for matters disposed parish courts in the quarter ended March 31, 2023. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 33.82% of the disposals. The Corporate Area Court -Criminal Division along with the parish courts

of Westmoreland, St. Catherine and St. Mary are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days. Cumulatively, 74.35% 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 12.05% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts of St. Catherine, Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division and St. Ann had the largest proportion of their disposed matters in the quarter 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 15.0a: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Criminal	244.65	1	138	298.35	2.60	1	2509	37062
St. Catherine	263.38	63	140	360.19	3.00	1	2510	17425
St. James	262.09	66	136	319.97	2.20	1	2029	13544
Manchester	326.33	63	210	332.26	1.71	1	2212	11811
Westmoreland	151.19	28	76	193.34	2.52	1	1792	10066
St. Ann	331.68	63	206	354.23	1.94	1	2314	10741
Clarendon	193.07	63	112	226.58	2.58	1	2452	11504
St. Thomas	266.39	63	172	275.70	1.88	1	2047	6110
Portland	215.06	63	126	264.14	3.09	1	2196	6913
St. Mary	196.25	14	112	230.15	2.14	1	1904	7391
Trelawny	276.31	28	153	324.26	1.97	1	2080	5512
Hanover	155.01	28	84	196.21	2.66	1	1696	5379
Average/Weighted Average	245.98	45.25	138.75	281.28	2.36	1	2145.08	11954.83
Standard Deviation	59.37	23.64	42.05	59.30	0.45	0	270.89	8703.42
Skewness	-0.01	-0.74	0.37	-0.23	0.23	0	-0.11	2.48

Number of charges sampled (N) = 143,458

Note 1: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the previous 6.5 years.

Note 2: The average time to disposition for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann as at March 31, 2023 is 325.70 days

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a large sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at March 31, 2023. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 79-month period over September 2016 – March 2023 for most parish courts and it should be noted that these descriptive statistics are for matters disposed over that sample period. The output produces an estimated weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Criminal Division) of approximately 246 days (8.2 months). The skewness of these times to disposition is a low negative 0.01, suggesting a cluster of scores around the overall mean. For

matters disposed of in the period, the parish courts of Westmoreland (151 days), Hanover (155 days) and Clarendon (193 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Ann (332 days), Manchester (326 days) and Trelawny (276 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 (59.37), 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 0.11, 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 143,458 matters.

Table 15.0b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for matters completed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Criminal	276.88	129	170	285.24	2.19	1	2056	1365
St. Catherine	656.52	66	268	720.34	1.02	2	2348	914
St. James	267.59	56	126	630.95	11.41	1	9723	356
Manchester	314.50	336	154	382.14	2.02	1	2212	379
Westmoreland	120.33	14	53	202.04	3.25	1	1077	322
St. Ann	314.15	63	189	342.98	1.86	1	2012	427
Clarendon	272.84	885	147	329.83	2.45	2	2744	368
St. Thomas	267.00	312	161	306.53	2.71	1	2047	208
Portland	191.27	56	95.50	270.44	4.19	3	2196	222
St. Mary	130.67	14	75	168.76	2.56	3	848	262
Trelawny	387.29	29	219	427.18	1.75	5	2075	199
Hanover	108.73	28	55	182.03	3.02	5	811	147
Average/Weighted Average	327.15	165.67	142.71	354.04	3.20	2.17	2512.42	430.75
Standard Deviation	147.95	251.79	65.86	170.21	2.71	1.53	2352.09	355.00
Skewness	1.51	2.48	0.28	1.21	2.93	1.14	3.03	2.11

Number of charges sampled (N) = 5,169

Note: The average time to disposition for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann in the quarter ended March 31, 2023 is 372.97 days

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the quarter ended March 31, 2023. The output produces an estimated weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Criminal Division) of approximately 327 days or 10.9 months. The skewness of these times to disposition is a positive 1.51, suggesting that a large proportion of these times were below the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the quarter, the parish courts of Hanover (109 days), Westmoreland (120 days) and St. Mary (131 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases in the quarter. The parish courts of

St. Catherine (657 days), Trelawny (387 days) and Manchester (315 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters resolved during the quarter. The average variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts is, however, wide as shown by the moderately high standard deviation (147.95), 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 811 days (27 months/2.3 years) in the Hanover parish court to a high of 9,723 days (324.1 months/27 years) in the St. James Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a positive 3.03, 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 5,169 matters cases which were resolved during the first quarter of 2023.

15.0c: Net and gross criminal case backlog as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Parish Court	Net case backlog rate (%)	Gross case backlog rate (%)
Clarendon	0.38	10.84
Corporate area	2.51	18.46
Hanover	0.10	4.20
Manchester	1.93	15.90
Portland	1.47	8.18
St. Ann	2.35	22.26
St. Catherine	0.65	8.22
St. James	0.43	10.16
St. Mary	0.12	9.84
St. Thomas	2.65	9.17
Trelawny	1.21	10.32
Westmoreland	0.09	7.53
Weighted Average	1.33	12.67
Standard Deviation	1.00	5.09

Note: The net backlog for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for the first quarter of 2023 is 6.85% and the gross backlog is 27.22%

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

the criminal division of the parish courts is 1.33 (with a standard deviation of 1%) which is satisfies than the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at a commendable 12.67% (with a standard deviation of 5.09%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved criminal cases in the parish courts. This rate is only 2.67 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 Westmoreland with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.09%, Hanover with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.10% and St. Mary with an estimated net case backlog rate of 0.12% have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts of St. Thomas (2.65%), Corporate Area Criminal (2.51%) and St. Ann (2.35%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of Hanover (4.20%), Westmoreland (7.53%) and Portland (8.18%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of St. Ann (22.26%), Corporate Area Criminal Court (18.46%) and Manchester (15.90%) 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 16.0c: Distribution of methods of disposition for matters set for trial during the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage
Dismissed	336	36.29
Not Guilty	252	27.21
Guilty plea	167	18.03
Not Guilty Plea - Mediated Settlement	80	8.64
Guilty	66	7.13
Committed to Circuit	14	1.51
Transferred	11	1.19
Total	926	100.00

The above table summarizes the common methods of disposition for a sample of cases proceeding to trial. It is seen that matters dismissed with 36.29% of the cases disposed, not guilty verdicts with 252 or 27.21% and disposals by way of guilty pleas with 167 or 18.03% account for the three leading methods of disposition in the sample for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023.

Methods of Disposal and Conviction Rate

Table 17.0: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Parish Court	Guilty Plea	Dismissed	Not Guilty Verdict	Transferred	Mediated Settlement	Guilty Verdict	Committed to Circuit Court	Total
St. Catherine	379	499	8	155	219	9	105	1374
Corporate Area Criminal	613	571	23	90	8	42	204	1551
Westmoreland	174	132	65	2	75	3	87	538
St. James	308	-	196	48	9	10	61	632
Manchester	-	132	192	8	4	115	63	514
Clarendon	301	41	84	5	103	9	46	589
Trelawny	48	133	8	1	45	4	41	280
Hanover	72	42	127	-	32	10	30	313
Portland	29	-	115	-	39	3	23	209
St. Mary	8	146	40	1	48	43	31	317

St. Thomas	59	13	61	14	38	30	38	253
St. Ann	70	21	44	100	27	-	1	263
Total	2061	1730	963	424	647	278	730	6833
Percentage of total	30.16	25.32	14.09	6.21	9.47	4.07	10.68	100

Total sample size: 6,833

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts for the first quarter of 2023. From the sample, it is observed that the largest proportion of matters disposed of during the quarter were by way of a guilty plea with 30.16% of the sample, followed by matters dismissed with 25.32% and not guilty verdicts with 14.09%. Matters committed to Circuit Court with 10.68%, mediated settlements with 9.47%, matters transferred to another court with 6.21% and guilty verdicts with 4.07% account for the remaining disposals in the quarter. The combined 34.23% of the cases disposed of by way of guilty outcomes represent the estimated criminal conviction rate in the parish courts for the quarter. This represents a decrease of 14.40 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in 2022.

Common Reasons for Adjournment

Table 18.01: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Reasons for Adjournment	Count	Percentage (%)
File To Be Completed	2461	22.24
Defendant Not Appearing (DNA) warrant issued	1209	10.92
Disclosure	904	8.17
Referred to mediation	581	5.25
Statement outstanding	386	3.49
Re-issue application	302	2.73
Subpoena crown witness	274	2.48

Subpoena investigating officer	243	2.20
Facilitate restitution	229	2.07
Psychiatric evaluation to be done	171	1.55
Sub-total	6760	61.08

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 11,067)

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 11,067 reasons for adjournments/continuance for matters heard in the across all parish courts. The largest proportion (22.24%) was for files to be completed. Adjournments due to the nonappearance of the accused, leading to the issuing of warrants with 10.92% and adjournments for disclosure with 8.17% account for the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts for the quarter. Adjournments due to referrals to mediation with 5.25% and statement outstanding with 3.49%, round of the top five reasons for adjournment in this period. Four (4) of the top five reasons for adjournment were also featured in the top five for the first quarter of 2022. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 61.08% of the total sample of adjournments.

The case file integrity rate:

One factor, which has a significant bearing on the progression of cases through the court system, is the case file integrity rate. A case file is considered to have met the standards of integrity if at the point of a court hearing requiring the use of said file; it is complete, accurate, available and correctly listed for court. Hence reasons for adjournment such as file incomplete, file not ready for court, matter wrongly listed and matter not before the court have an adverse impact on the case file integrity rate of the courts. In the first quarter of 2023, the case file integrity rate for criminal matters across the parish courts was 76.83%, as 23.17% 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 22.24% 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 18.2: Summary of mention court activity for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Parish Court	Average number of mentions per case	Standard Deviation of Mentions Per Case	Skewness of mentions per case	Maximum Mention Court Frequency	Minimum Mention Court Frequency
Clarendon	3.57	2.72	1.65	22	1
Corporate Area	7.04	8.42	2.66	55	1
Hanover	2.70	2.38	2.52	15	1
Manchester	3.24	3.18	2.78	25	1
Portland	4.61	4.24	2.02	25	1
St. Ann	3.98	3.52	1.67	19	1
St. Catherine	4.26	3.69	2.58	40	1
St. James	2.49	1.85	1.56	11	1
St. Mary	3.82	3.28	2.15	22	1
St. Thomas	4.42	4.33	3.11	35	1
Trelawny	3.15	2.15	1.22	15	1
Westmoreland	4.54	5.24	2.16	32	1
Weighted Average	5.43	-	-	-	-
Standard Deviation	1.19	-	-	-	-
Skewness	1.45	-	-	-	-

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 first quarter of 2023. The overall average number of mention court appearances per case is 5.43 (i.e. between 5 and 6) with a standard deviation of 1.19 across the courts sampled and a skewness of 1.45. Together, these results suggest that the average number of appearances per case is above the

prescribed international standard of a maximum of 5 mentions per case, that a larger proportion of cases have less than the overall average number of appearances and that there isn't on average a wide variation in the number of appearances per case across the courts. Among the parish courts with the highest number of appearances per cases for matters heard in the first quarter of 2023 are the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, the Portland and the Westmoreland Parish Courts, while the Hanover, Trelawny and St. James 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 first quarter of 2023 was 4 with a standard deviation of 0.61.

Chapter 2.0: Case Demographics and Courtroom Activity

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

Table 19.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Charge	Male Count	Male %	Female Count	Female %	Total Count	Total %
Assault occasioning bodily harm	825	73.40	299	26.60	1124	100
Unlawful wounding	528	75.11	175	24.89	703	100
Malicious destruction of property	357	77.27	105	22.73	462	100
Threat	352	78.92	94	21.08	446	100
Possession of offensive weapon	386	94.84	21	5.16	407	100
Littering	288	94.74	16	5.26	304	100
Disorderly conduct	155	67.69	74	32.31	229	100
Possession of ganja	153	73.21	56	26.79	209	100
Assault at common law	163	87.63	23	12.37	186	100
Simple larceny	131	74.01	46	25.99	177	100

*****The gender of offenders was not available for every matter that was filed in the parish courts hence a sample is used. Sample size (N) = 8,185**

The above table provides a sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023. Based on the data shown in chart 5.0, it is not surprising that males account for the dominant proportion of all these charges. Among the charges listed with the greatest imbalance in the gender distribution are unlawful wounding, threat, malicious destruction of property, assault at common law, and littering for which over 75% of the persons charged were male. More particularly, it is seen that possession of offensive

weapon with 94.84% of the persons charged being male had the most significant incidence of persons charged being male for the quarter. Disorderly conduct, possession of ganja, and assault occasioning bodily harm act saw the highest incidence of female involvement.

The below series of tables provide a sampling distribution of cases by assigned courtroom in the individual parish courts in the first quarter of 2023. 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 20.01: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Westmoreland for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2023	Number of new cases disposed of Q1 in 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	267	201	15	75.42	80.90
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	1	1	0	0.28	100.00
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	28	6	0	7.91	21.43
Whithorn Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	12	2	0	3.39	16.67
Whithorn Outstation	46	23	3	12.99	56.52
Total/Weighted Average	354	233	18	100.00	70.90

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of criminal cases filed in the first quarter of 2023 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 quarter with 267 (75.42%) and 46 (12.99%) cases respectively. Sittings at the Lay Magistrates' court at the main courthouse with 28 cases or 7.91% rank next. The number of cases heard in courtroom one (267 cases), decreased by 40 cases or 13.03% below the 307 cases recorded in the similar first quarter of 2022. The case disposal rate increased by 9.89 percentage points moving up to 80.90% compared to the 71.01% reported in the first quarter of 2022. In terms of cases disposed, sittings in courtroom number 1 with 201 cases accounted for the highest absolute share of cases disposed and had the highest disposal rate of 80.90%. The outstation in Whithorn rank next with 23 disposed cases and recorded the second highest disposal rate of 56.52%, which is 23.81 percentage points below the 80.33% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2022. The single outstation in Westmoreland accounted for 16.38% of the total sample of new cases heard, a decrease of 1.78 percentage points when compared to the 18.16% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2022. The main courthouse accounted for the remaining 83.62%, an increase of 1.78 percentage points when compared to the 81.84% recorded in 2022.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. In particular, of the 267 new cases heard in courtroom number one, 2 cases were

disposed of in other courtrooms/outstation. One (1) of these were disposed of in courtroom 3 and one (1) at Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse.

Table 22.02: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Corporate Area for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q1 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1039	257	290	83.12	52.65
Courtroom #6 (main courthouse)	50	3	0	4.00	6.00
Courtroom #7 (main courthouse)	45	3	1	3.60	8.89
Gordon Town Outstation	10	1	0	0.80	10.00
Fast Track	1	0	0	0.08	NA
Gun Court	24	3	0	1.92	12.50
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	81	28	9	6.48	45.68
Total/Weighted Average	1250	295	300	100.00	47.60

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023 at the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for the majority of new cases filed in the quarter with 1039 cases or 83.12% of the total sample. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse with 81 cases or roughly 6.48% follows this and courtroom number 6 with 50 cases or 4%, rounding off the top three proportion of new cases filed in the quarter. Courtroom number two at the main courthouse accounts for the largest absolute share of cases disposed in the first quarter of 2023 with 257 cases and the highest disposal rate of 52.65%. When compared to the corresponding first quarter of 2022, courtroom number two also accounted for the largest absolute share of cases disposed with 552 cases and had a disposal rate

of 63.31%. This represents a decrease of 295 cases disposed or a 53.44% decrease and 10.66 percentage points decrease in the disposal rate. The main courthouse in Half-Way-Tree accounted for 99.20% of the total sample of new cases heard in the first quarter of 2023.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. In particular, of the 1039 cases heard in courtroom two, 14 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms. Ten (10) cases were disposed of at fast track court, one (1) case was disposed of at courtroom 5 and three (3) were disposed of in courtroom 7.

Table 20.03: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. James for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q1 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	463	281	23	90.43	65.66
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	1	0	0	0.20	NA
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	20	16	3	3.91	95.00
Cambridge Outstation	28	10	3	5.47	46.43
Total/Weighted Average	512	307	29	100.00	65.63

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023, at the St. James Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish and outlines the disposal rates of the various courtrooms and outstations. The sample shows that courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse in Montego Bay accounts for the majority of new cases heard with 463 cases or 90.43% of the total sample, a decrease of 150 cases or a 24.47% decline below the 613 cases recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2022. This was followed by the Cambridge Outstation with 28 cases or 5.47% of the total sample. Courtroom number 2 had the highest disposal rate of 65.66%, followed by the Cambridge Outstation with a disposal rate of 46.43%. The main courthouse in Montego Bay accounts for 94.53% of the new cases heard in the first quarter of 2023, 3.67 percentage points below the 98.20% recorded in corresponding first quarter of 2022. The remaining 5.47% was accounted for by the sole outstation (Cambridge).

Table 20.04: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Catherine for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q1 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	352	135	17	44.39	43.18
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	58	12	6	7.31	31.03
Courtroom #5 (main courthouse)	4	0	0	0.50	NA
Children's Court Portmore Outstation	24	4	1	3.03	20.83
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	32	13	0	4.04	40.63
Linstead Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	15	8	1	1.89	60.00
Linstead Outstation (Courtroom #1)	184	94	11	23.20	57.07
Old Harbour Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	6	2	0	0.76	33.33
Old Harbour Outstation (Courtroom #1)	118	64	16	14.88	67.80
Total/ Weighted Average	793	332	52	100.00	48.42

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023 at the St. Catherine Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish and outlines the applicable disposal rates. The table separates Lay Magistrates' and night court matters for the relevant locations for ease of comparisons. The data shows decisively that cases entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse in Spanish Town and courtroom 1 at the outstation in Linstead account for the largest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 44.39% and 23.20% of the cases respectively. Courtroom 1 at the outstation in Old Harbour with 14.88% 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 135 cases, which is a decrease of 54.08% or 159 less cases than the 294 cases recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2022. Courtroom 1 also had the fourth highest

disposal rate of 43.18%, which is a decrease of 25.41 percentage points below the 68.59% recorded in the comparable first quarter of 2022. Courtroom 1 at outstation in Old Harbour had the highest disposal rate of 67.80%, followed by Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Linstead Outstation with a disposal rate of 60%. The main courthouse in Spanish Town accounts for 56.24% of the total sample of new cases heard in the first quarter of 2023, a decrease of 6.68 percentage points below the 62.92% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2022. The outstations combined accounted for the remaining 43.76%.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. In particular, of the 352 cases heard in courtroom number one at the main courthouse, 10 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstation. Courtroom 2 disposed of 7 cases, while Courtrooms 3 and 4 at the main courthouse accounted for 2 and 1 cases respectively.

20.05: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Thomas for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q1 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Children's Court (main courthouse)	3	0	0	2.22	NA
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	33	21	1	24.44	66.67
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	46	26	5	34.07	67.39
Yallahs Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	1	0	0	0.74	NA
Yallahs Outstation	40	13	1	29.63	35.00
Morant Bay Outstation	12	2	2	8.89	33.33
Total/Weighted Average	135	62	9	100.00	52.59

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

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The data shows decisively that cases entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse and the Yallahs outstation account for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 34.07% and 29.63% respectively. Courtroom number 2 also accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 26 cases and the highest disposal rate of 67.39%. When compared to the corresponding first quarter of 2022, this represents an increase of 11.83 percentage points above the disposal rate of 55.56% recorded. Courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse with a disposal rate of 66.67% (compared to 63.49% in 2022) accounts for the second highest disposal rate in the quarter.

The main courthouse in Morant Bay accounted for 60.74% of the total new cases heard in the quarter, which is a decrease of 2.95 percentage points when compared to the 63.69% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2022. The remaining 39.26% was accounted for by the Yallahs outstation, an increase of 2.95 percentage points when compared to the 36.31% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2022.

Table 20.06: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Trelawny for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q1 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	10	4	0	5.29	40.00
Clarks town Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	1	0	0	0.53	NA
Falmouth Outstation	89	22	4	47.09	29.21
Falmouth Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	13	2	2	6.88	30.77
Ulster Spring Outstation	38	20	3	20.11	60.53
Ulster Spring Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	2	1	0	1.06	50.00
Clarks Town Outstation (courtroom #1)	36	24	0	19.05	66.67
Total/Weighted Average	189	73	9	100.00	43.39

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023 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 quarter with 47.09%. The outstation in Ulster Spring and courtroom 1 at the Clarks Town Outstation with 20.11% and 19.05% respectively, followed. Courtroom 1 at the outstation in Clarks Town recorded the largest disposal rate of 66.67%. The Ulster Spring Outstation and the Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Ulster Spring outstation ranked next with disposal rates of 60.53% and 50% respectively. The outstations in the parish account for 94.71% of the new cases heard in the first quarter of 2023, while the remaining 5.29% were accounted for by the main courthouse. In the corresponding first quarter of 2022, the main courthouse accounted for 4.17% of the new cases heard, while the remaining 95.83% were accounted for by the outstations.

Table 20.07: Aggregate case statistics for each outstation in the Parish of St. Mary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q1 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Children's Court (main courthouse)	6	0	0	3.06	NA
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	77	38	0	39.29	49.35
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	15	7	0	7.65	46.67
Lay Magistrates' (main courthouse)	18	1	0	9.18	5.56
Annotto Bay Outstation	46	20	1	23.47	45.65
Gayle Outstation	18	17	0	9.18	94.44
Richmond Outstation	15	8	0	7.65	53.33
Richmond Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	1	0	0	0.51	NA
Total/Weighted Average	196	91	1	100.00	46.94

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 first quarter of 2023. The data shows decisively that courtrooms number 1 at the main courthouse and the Annotto Bay Outstation account for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 39.29% and 23.47% respectively of the total sample. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse and the Gayle Outstation with 9.18% each rank next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Port Maria accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 38 cases, a decrease of 9.52% or 4 cases below the 42 cases recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2022 and had a case disposal rate of 49.35%. The Gayle Outstation had the highest disposal rate of 94.44%, followed by the Richmond Bay outstation with a disposal rate of 53.33%. The outstations in the parish account for a combined 40.82% of the total sample of new cases heard in the first quarter of 2023, a decrease of 3.56 percentage points below the 44.38% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2022. On the other hand, the main courthouse accounts for 59.18%, which is an increase of 3.56 percentage point above the 55.62% recorded in 2022.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 77 cases heard in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse, 3 cases were disposed of in courtroom 3 at the main courthouse. Of the 46 cases heard in the Gayle Outstation, 2 cases were disposed of in courtroom 3 at the main courthouse.

Table 20.08: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Portland for first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q1 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	121	55	6	56.54	50.41
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	4	0	1	1.87	25.00
Courtroom#3 (main courthouse)	3	1	0	1.40	33.33
Buff Bay Outstation (courtroom #1)	54	27	5	25.23	59.26
Buff Bay Outstation (Children’s Court)	7	2	0	3.27	28.57
Manchioneal Outstation	25	10	0	11.68	40.00
Total/Weighted Average	214	95	12	100.00	50.00

Note 1: There were 56 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Portland in the first quarter of 2023. 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 56.54% of the total sample. In the first quarter of 2022, courtroom one also accounted for the majority of new cases heard with 59.25% of the cases. Courtroom number 1 at the outstation in Buff Bay and Manchioneal outstations with 25.23% (compared to 22.95% in 2022) and 11.68% (compared to 12.33% in 2022) respectively of the total sample of the new cases heard in the period ranked next. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 in Port Antonio accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 55 cases, a 36.05% decrease or 31 less cases compared to the 86 cases recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2022; and had the second highest disposal rate of 50.41%. Courtroom number one at the Buff Bay Outstation and the Manchioneal outstation with disposal rates of 59.26% and 40% respectively were among the top five on this measure. The outstations in Portland account for a combined 40.19% of the new cases heard, which is an increase of 2.18

percentage points above the 38.01% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2022. The main courthouse in Port Antonio accounts for the remaining 59.81%, which is a decrease of 2.18 percentage points below the 61.99% recorded in the first quarter of 2022.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 121 cases heard in courtroom number one at the main courthouse, 7 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms. Courtrooms three and the Manchioneal outstation disposed of 5 cases and 2 cases respectively. Of the 54 cases heard in courtroom one at the Buff Bay outstation, 1 case was disposed of in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse.

Table 20.09: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Hanover for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q1 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	74	58	1	33.04	79.73
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	16	8	0	7.14	50.00
Green Island Outstation (courtroom #1)	44	37	1	19.64	86.36
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	16	5	0	7.14	31.25
Green Island Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	6	2	0	2.68	33.33
Ramble Outstation (courtroom #1)	23	21	2	10.27	100.00
Ramble Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	1	1	0	0.45	100.00
Sandy Bay Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	7	2	0	3.13	28.57
Sandy Bay Outstation (courtroom #1)	37	27	1	16.52	75.68
Total/ Weighted Average	224	161	5	100.00	74.11

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

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Hanover in the first quarter of 2023. 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 quarter, with 33.04% of the total sample and is 0.06 percentage points above the 32.98% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2022. Courtroom one at Green Island outstation and courtroom one at the outstation in Sandy Bay 19.64% and 16.52% 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 58 cases, a 65.71% improvement or 23 more cases than the 35 cases recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2022. Courtroom 1 at the main courthouse also recorded the fourth highest case disposal rate of 79.73%, which is an increase of 18.44 percentage points above the 61.29% reported in the comparative first quarter of 2022. Despite the relatively low absolute numbers, Lay Magistrates' sittings at the outstation in Ramble and courtroom 1 at the outstation in Ramble recorded the highest disposal rate of 100% each. The outstations in the parish account for 52.68% of the new cases heard during the quarter, which is an increase of 5.87 percentage points above the 46.81% in the first quarter of 2022. The main courthouse accounts for the remaining 47.32%, which is a decrease of 5.87 percentage points below the 53.19% when compared to 2022.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 23 cases heard in courtroom number 2 at the Ramble Outstation, courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse disposed of 1 case.

Table 20.10: Aggregate case statistics for each outstation in the Parish of St. Ann for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q1 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
St. Ann's Bay and the Claremont outstation					
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	33	8	2	9.43	30.30
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	173	58	42	49.43	57.80
Claremont Outstation (Children's Court)	3	0	0	0.86	NA
Claremont Outstation	21	6	2	6.00	38.10
Church Hall	2	1	0	0.57	50.00
Lay Magistrates' (main Courthouse)	16	3	6	4.57	56.25
Brown's Town					
Children's Court	1	0	0	0.29	NA
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	86	15	9	24.57	27.91
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	15	1	8	4.29	60.00
Total/ Weighted Average	350	92	69	100.00	46.00

Note 1: There were 98 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Ann in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023. The data shows that courtroom 2 in St. Ann's Bay (the main court) and courtroom 1 at the Brown's Town Outstation account for the largest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 49.43% and 24.57% respectively of the total sample. Courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse with 9.43% is among the top three largest share of new cases heard. When compared to the first quarter of 2022, the data shows that courtroom 1 in St. Ann's Bay (main courthouse) and Brown's Town were also among the top three largest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 37.19% and 20.60% respectively of the total sample. In terms of cases disposed of,

courtroom 2 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 58 cases and had a disposal rate of 57.80%. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse and the Claremont outstation with disposal rates of 56.25% and 38.10% respectively were among the highest disposal rates for the quarter. As a whole, the Brown's Town court accounted for approximately 29.15% of the new cases filed in the parish of St. Ann in the first quarter of 2023, which is 2.52 percentage points above the 26.63% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2022. The St. Ann's Bay courthouse accounts for 63.43% of the new cases heard in the quarter and the Claremont outstation and Church Hall accounted for the remaining 7.42% 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 33 cases heard in courtroom number one at the main courthouse, 2 cases were disposed of in courtroom 2. Of the 173 cases heard in courtroom number two at the main courthouse, 2 cases were disposed of in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse.

Table 20.11: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom/outstation in the Parish of Clarendon for first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q1 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	188	114	8	46.19	64.89
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	43	15	6	10.57	48.84
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	16	8	0	3.93	50.00
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	17	4	2	4.18	35.29
Lionel Town Outstation	60	25	6	14.74	51.67
Chapleton Outstation	71	36	4	17.44	56.34
Frankfield Outstation	12	1	0	2.95	8.33
Total/Weighted Average	407	203	26	100.00	56.27

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 first quarter ended March 31, 2023. The available data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 in May Pen accounted for highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 46.19% of the total sample. The outstation in Chapelton and the Lionel Town outstation account for the next highest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 17.44% and 14.74% respectively of the total sample. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 114 cases, an increase of 34.12% or 29 cases more than the 85 disposed cases recorded for this courtroom in the first quarter of 2022 and had the highest disposal rate of 64.89%. The Chapleton Outstation with a disposal rate of 56.34% ranked next, followed by the Lionel Town Outstation with a disposal rate of 51.67%. The main courthouse in May Pen accounted for 64.86% of cases heard in quarter, while the remaining 35.14% was accounted for by the outstations, which is a decrease of 0.09 percentage points less than the 35.23% recorded in 2022.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. Of the 188 cases heard in courtroom number one, courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse and the Lionel Town outstation disposed of 1 case each. There were 60 cases heard at the Lionel Town outstation, of this amount 4 were disposed of in other courtrooms or outstation. Courtroom 1 at the main courthouse courtroom 2 at the main courthouse disposed of 2 cases each.

Table 20.12: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Manchester for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q1 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	64	29	3	18.77	50.00
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	67	23	3	19.65	38.81
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	10	1	0	2.93	10.00
Cottage Outstation	8	2	0	2.35	25.00
Christiana Outstation	28	15	1	8.21	57.14
Christiana Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	15	4	0	4.40	26.67
Spalding Outstation	18	12	1	5.28	72.22
Spalding Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	6	1	0	1.76	16.67
Porus Outstation	16	3	1	4.69	25.00
Cross Keys Outstation	9	4	0	2.64	44.44
Cross Keys Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	1	0	0	0.29	NA
Tax Court	50	0	0	14.66	NA
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	48	17	8	14.08	52.08
Other	1	0	0	0.29	NA
Total/Weighted Average	341	111	17	100.00	37.54

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

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Manchester in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023. The data shows courtroom 2 at the main courthouse accounted for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 67 cases or 19.65% of the total sample. Courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse and the tax court account for the next highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 18.77% and 14.66% respectively of the total sample. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse and the outstation in Christiana followed, with 48 cases or 14.08% and 28 cases or 8.21% of the total sample of cases filed in the quarter. In terms

of case disposal rate, the Spalding Outstation recorded the highest disposal rate of 72.22%, followed by the Christiana Outstation with 57.14% and Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse with 52.08%. The main courthouse in Mandeville accounts for 55.43% of the total sample of new cases heard during the first quarter of 2023, which is a decrease of 4.47 percentage point when compared to the 59.90% recorded in the first quarter of 2022. The remaining 44.57% 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 28 cases heard at the outstation in Christiana, 3 cases were disposed of in courtroom 3 at the main courthouse.

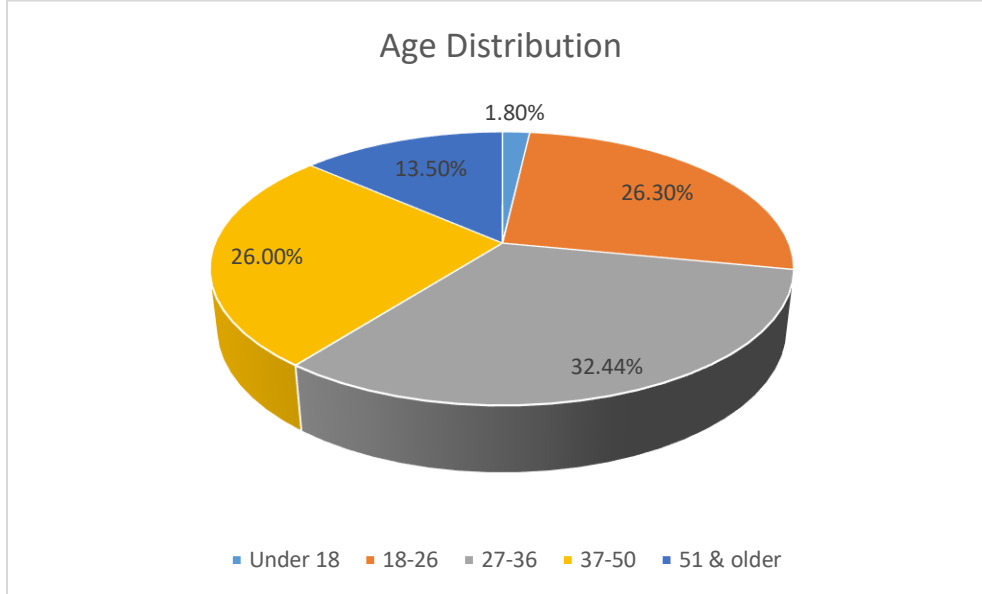
Table 20.13: proportion of cases heard at the main court and outstation across all parish courts for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023

Parish	Main Court Q1 2023 (%)	Outstation Q1 2023 (%)
St. James	94.53	5.47
St. Catherine	56.24	43.76
Westmoreland	83.62	16.38
Hanover	47.32	52.68
St. Mary	59.18	40.82
Trelawny	5.29	94.71
St. Thomas	60.74	39.26
Manchester	55.43	44.57
Portland	59.81	40.19
St. Ann	63.43	36.57
Clarendon	64.86	35.14
Corporate Area	99.20	0.80
Simple Averages	62.47	37.53

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 62.47% of new cases filed were entered for initial hearing in the main courthouse locations, while 37.53% were allocated for outstations. There are significant variances in the extent of main courthouse and outstation usage for the hearing of criminal matters across the parishes. It is seen, for example, that in parishes such as Corporate Area (Kingston and St. Andrew), St. James and Westmoreland, in excess of 80% of the new cases filed were entered for initial hearing, with the usage being particularly acute in the Corporate Area Court Criminal Division, which had 99.20% 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 first quarter ended March 31, 2023. There may be opportunities for

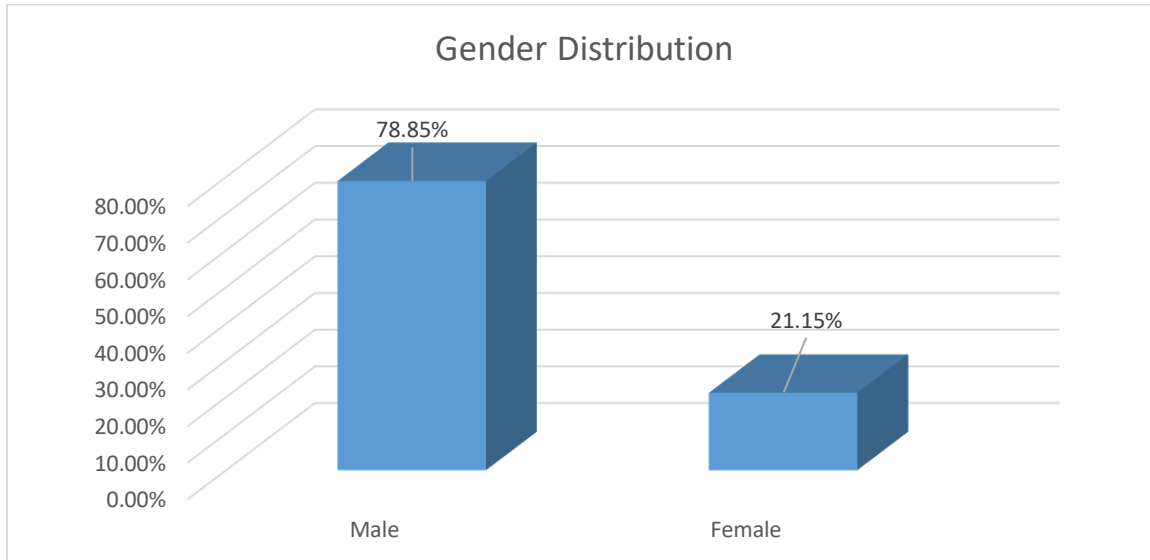
greater utilization of outstations to carry the caseload in some parishes, but such precise determinations require further analyses of total 'demand and supply, in each location.

Chart 4.0: Aggregate age distribution of persons charged for all parish courts for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023



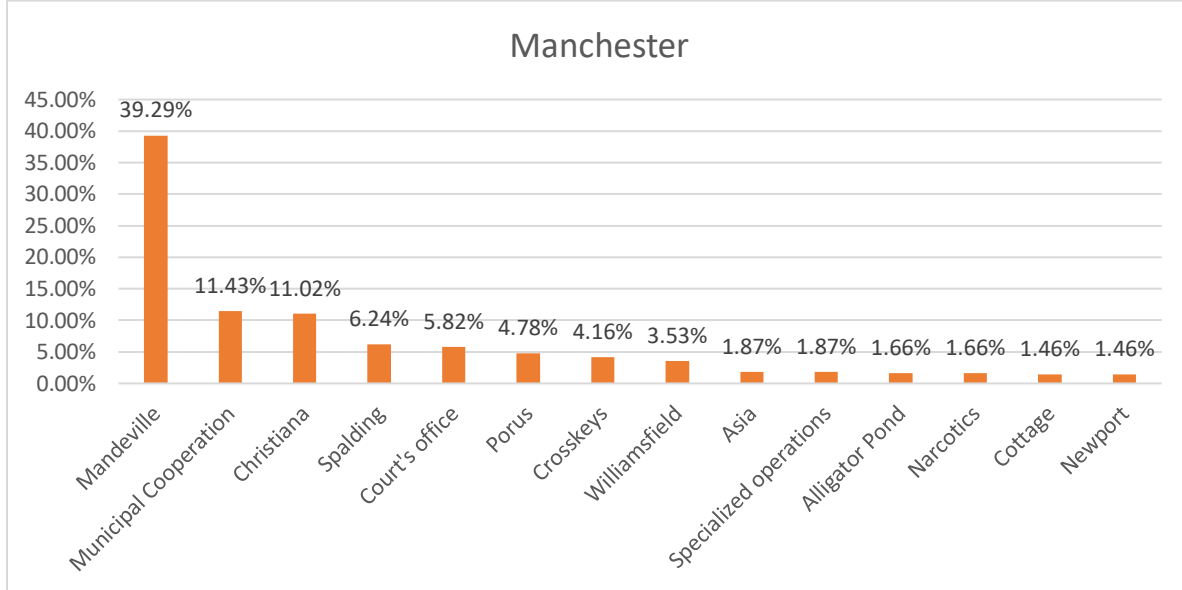
The above chart summarizes the age distribution of persons charged and brought before the criminal division of the parish courts in the first quarter of 2023. It is shown that the 27-36 age group with 32.44% accounted for the largest share of the persons charged, followed by the 18-26 age group with 26.30%. The lowest shares were attributed to the under 18 age group with 1.80% and 51 and over age group with 13.50%. The remaining proportion was accounted for by the 37-50 age group with 26% of the total sample.

Chart 5.0: Aggregate gender distribution of persons charged for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023



The above chart shows that the overwhelming majority of persons charged for the first quarter of 2023 were male, accounting for roughly 78.85% of the total sample, while females accounted for approximately 21.15%. The gender distribution of persons charged during the first quarter of 2023 was broadly similar to the breakdown for the first quarter of 2022 which had a male to female ratio of approximately 77.89% to 22.11%.

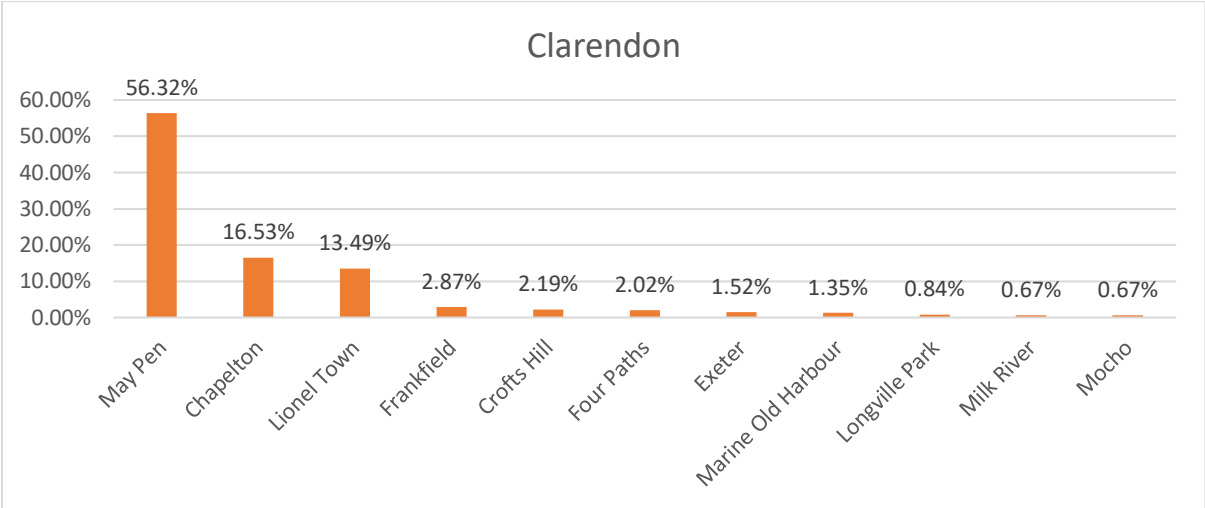
Chart 6.01: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Manchester Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023



The above chart shows the distribution of charges at the Manchester Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 481 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2023 the highest proportion of charges, 39.29%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Mandeville Police Station. This was followed by the Municipal Corporation, which accounts for 11.43% of the total sample of matters reported. The Christiana police station rounded off the top three with 11.02%. In the corresponding first quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the Mandeville Police Station, the Christiana Police Station, and the Alligator Pond Police Station.

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

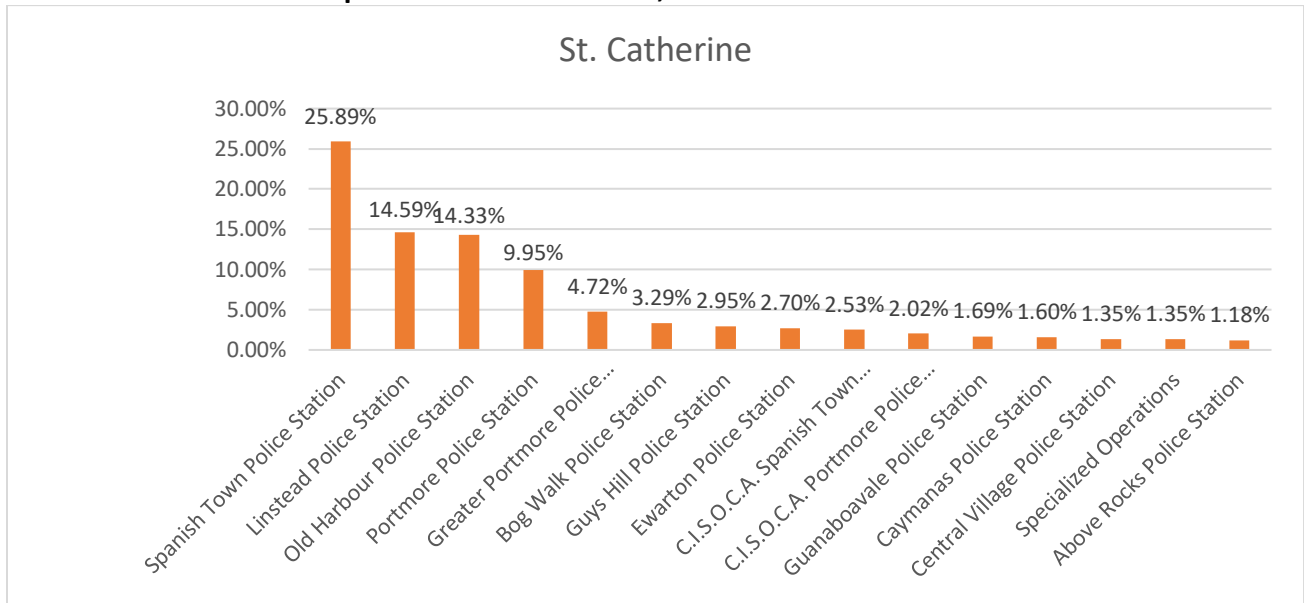
Chart 6.02: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Clarendon Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 593 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2023, the majority of criminal matters, 56.32%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the May Pen Police Station. This was followed by the Chapelton Police Station which accounts for 16.53% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Lionel Town Police Station with 13.49%. In the previous first quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the May Pen Police Station, the Lionel Town and the Chapleton Police Station.

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

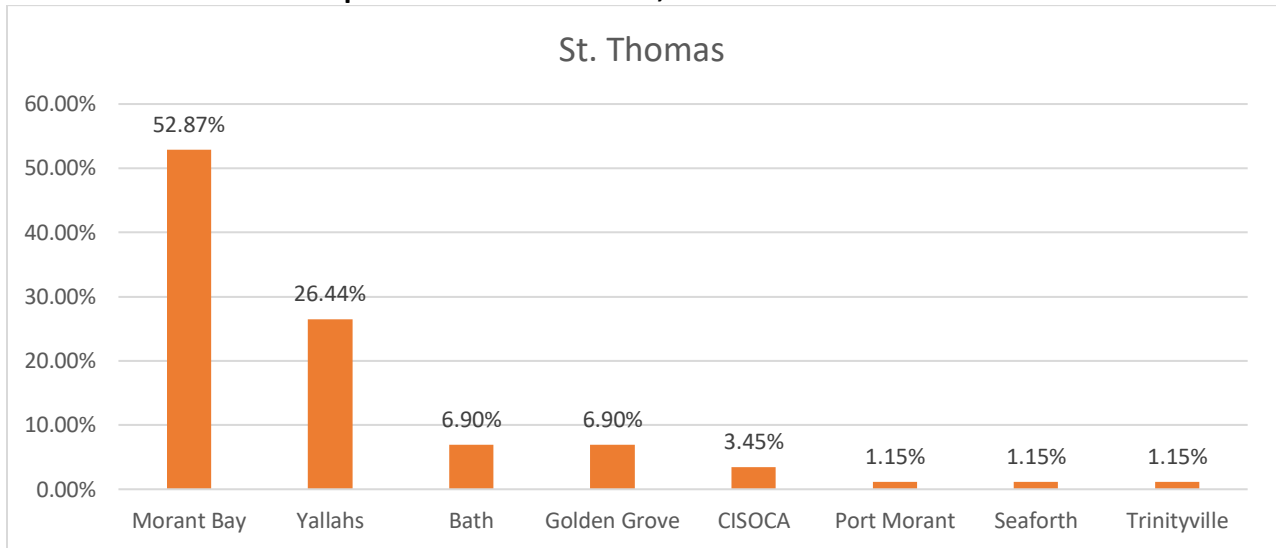
Chart 6.03: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Catherine Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 1,186 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2023, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 25.89%, 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 14.59% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Old Harbour Police Station with 14.33%. In the previous first quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the Spanish Town Police Station, the Linstead and the Old Harbour Police Station.

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

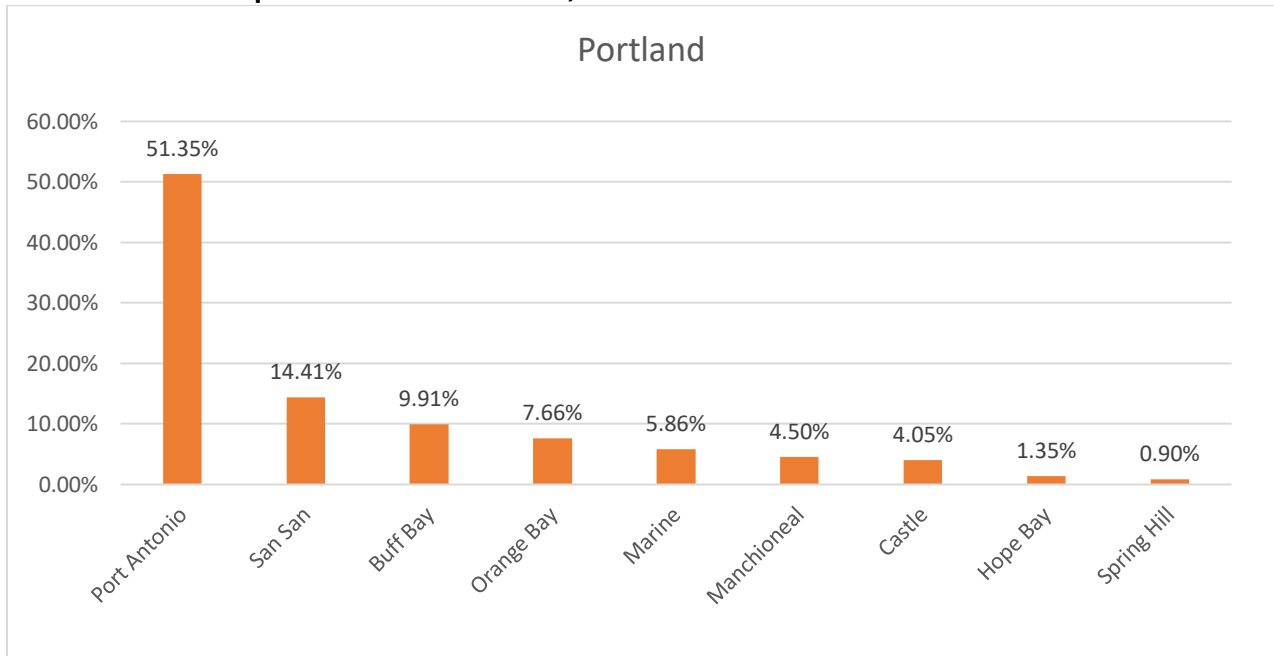
Chart 6.04: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Thomas Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 87 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2023, the majority of criminal matters, 52.87%, 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 26.44% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Bath Police Station with 6.90%. In the previous first quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the Morant Bay Police Station, the Yallahs Police Station and the Golden Grove Police Station.

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

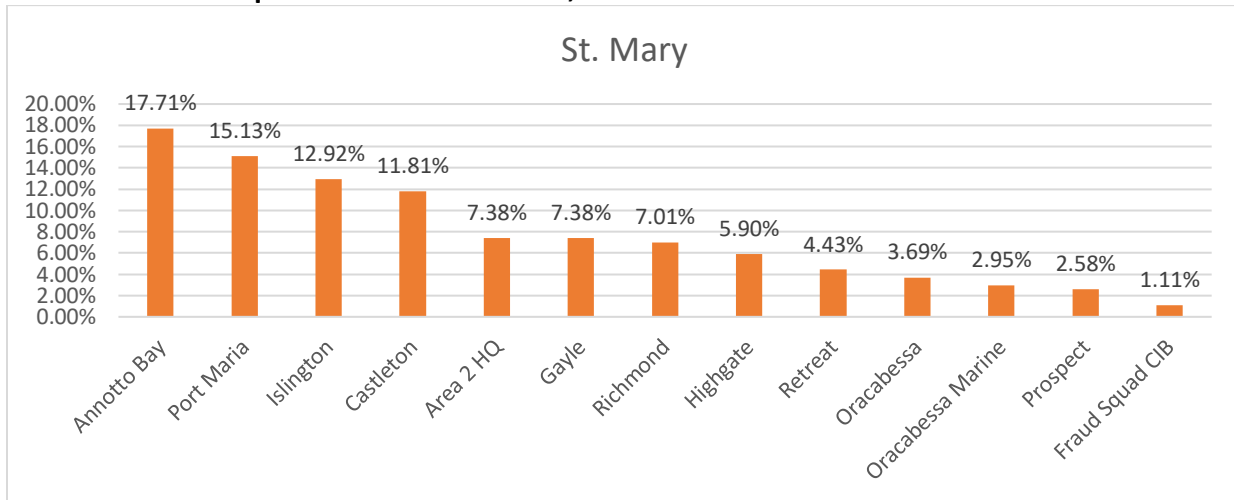
Chart 6.05: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Portland Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Portland Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 222 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2023, the majority of criminal matters, 51.35%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Port Antonio Police Station. This was followed by the San San Police Station, which accounts for 14.41% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Buff Bay Police Station with 9.91%. In the previous first quarter of 2022, 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.

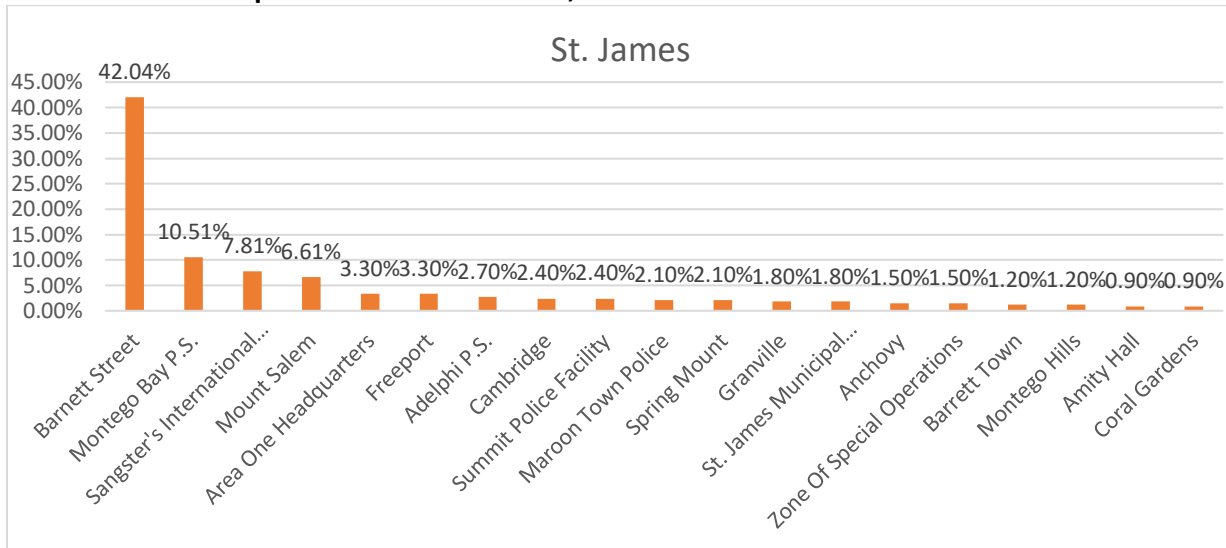
Chart 6.06: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Mary Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 271 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2023, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 17.71%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Annotto Bay Police Station. This was followed by the Port Maria Police Station which accounts for 15.13% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Islington Police Station with 12.92%. In the previous first quarter of 2022, 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.

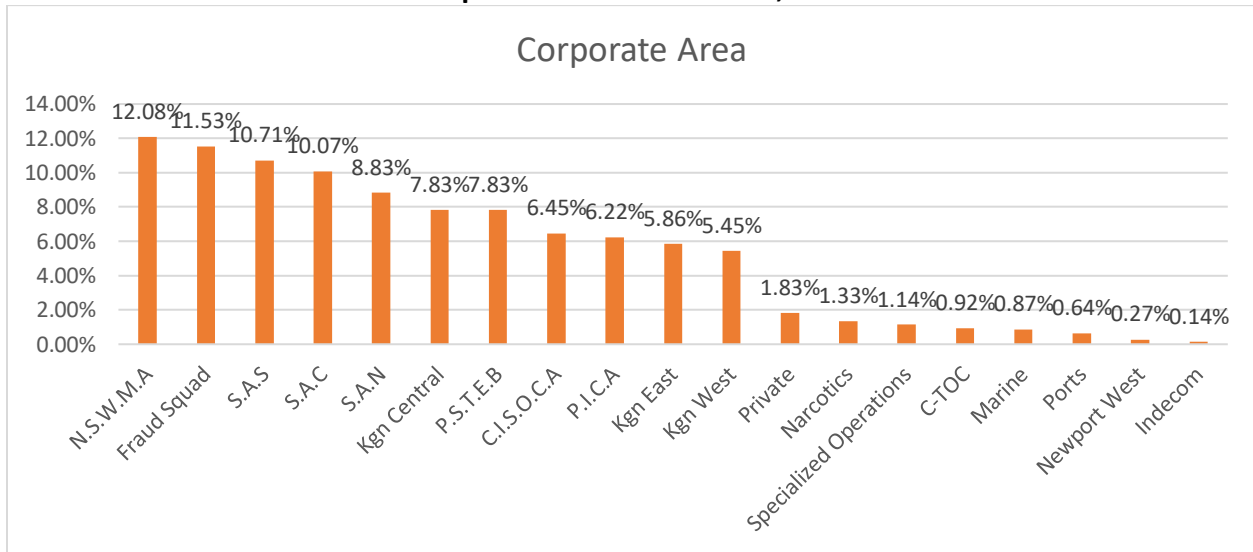
Chart 6.07: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. James Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. James Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 333 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2023, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 42.04%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Barnett Street Police Station. This was followed by the Montego Bay Police Station, which accounts for 10.51% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Sangster’s International Airport Police Station with 7.81%. In the previous first quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the Barnett Street Police Station, the Montego Bay Police station and the Adelphi Police Station.

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

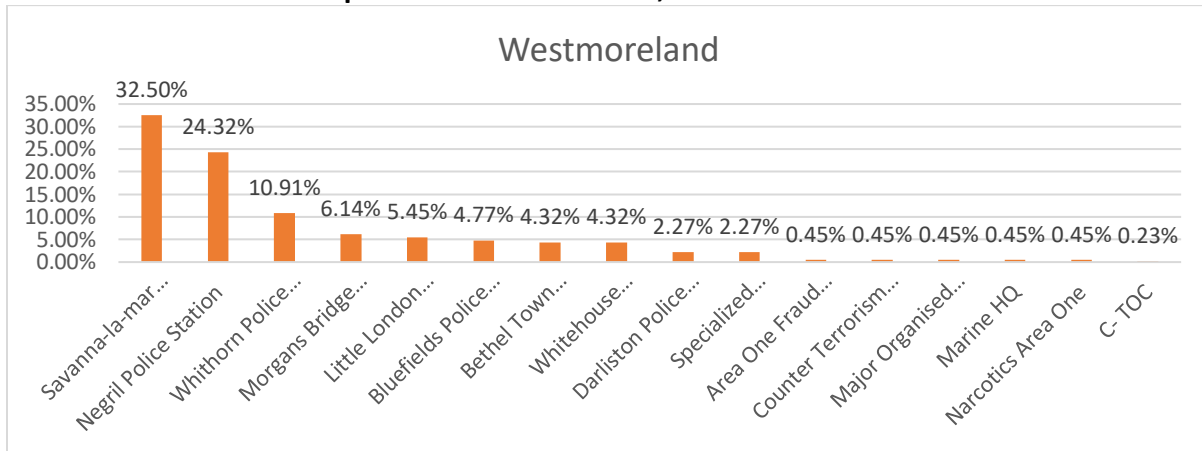
Chart 6.08: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Corporate Area Criminal Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 2,185 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2023, the highest proportion of criminal matters, 12.08%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the N.S.W.M.A Police. This was followed by the Fraud Squad which accounts for 11.53% of the sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the St. Andrew South Police Station with 10.71%. In the previous first quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the St. Andrew North Police Station, the P.S.T.E.B Police and the St. Andrew Central Police Station.

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

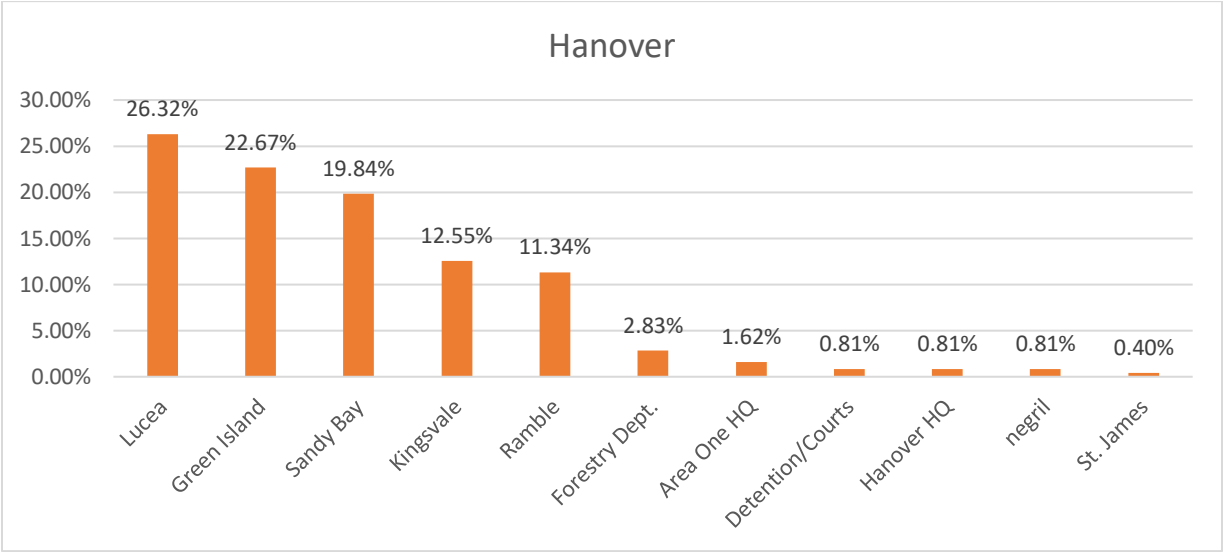
Chart 6.09: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 440 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2023, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 32.50%, 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 24.32% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Whithorn Police Station with 10.91%. In the previous first quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the Savanna-la-mar Police Station, the Negril Police Station and Frome Police Station.

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

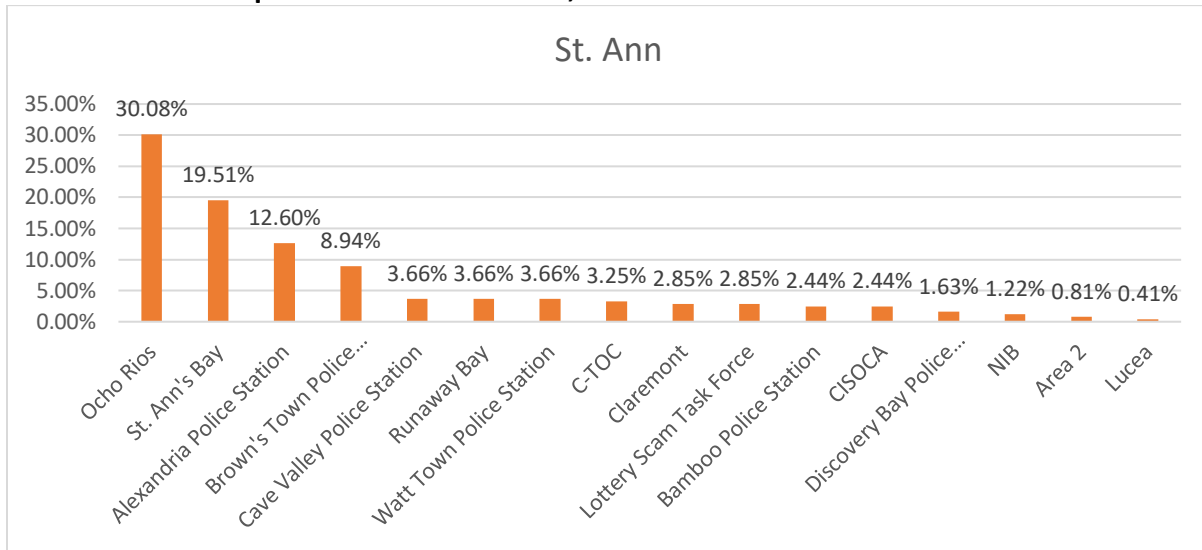
Chart 6.10: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Hanover Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 247 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2023, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 26.32%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Lucea Police Station. This was followed by the Green Island Police Station, which accounts for 22.67% of the sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Sandy Bay Police Station with 19.84%. In the previous first quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the Lucea Police Station, Ramble Police Station and the Sandy Bay Police Station.

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

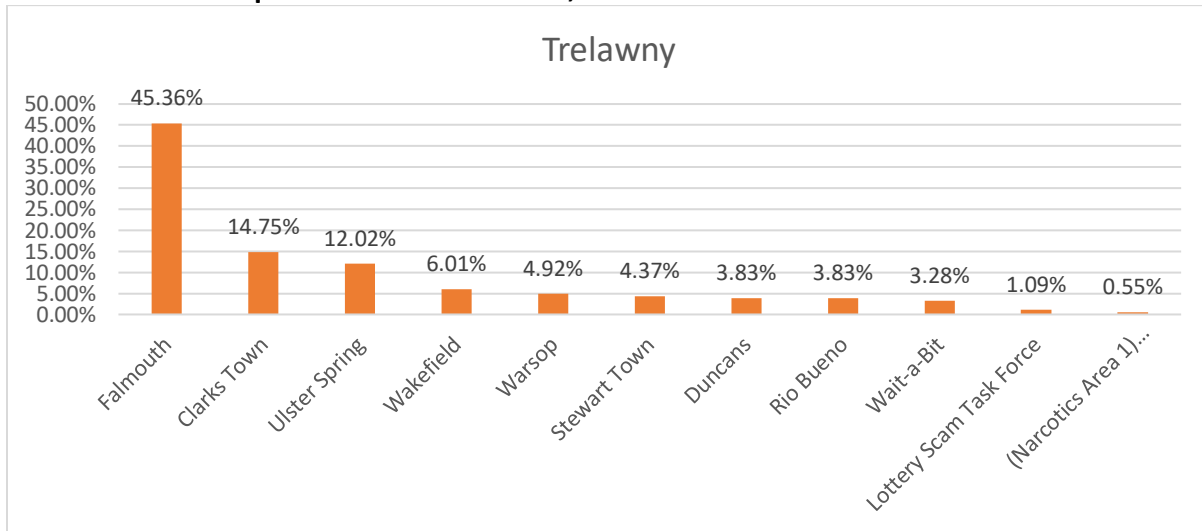
Chart 6.11: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Ann Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 246 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2023, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 30.08%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Ocho Rios Police Station. This was followed by the St. Ann's Police Station which accounts for 19.51% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Alexandria Police Station with 12.60%. In the previous first quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the Ocho Rios Police Station, the St. Ann's Bay Police Station and the O.S.T Police.

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 first quarter ended March 31, 2023



The above chart shows the distribution of charges field at the Trelawny Parish Court, using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 183 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2023, the highest proportion of charges, 45.36%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Falmouth Police Station. This was followed by the Clarks Town Police Station, which accounts for 14.75% of total sample of matters reported. The Ulster Spring Police station rounded off the top three with 12.02%. In the previous first quarter of 2022, 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 first quarter statistics report for 2023 represents another step in establishing the use of statistics as the basis for informing judicial planning and strategic decisions in the Jamaican judiciary. Among the most impressive findings from this quarterly report is in relation to the case clearance rate. The criminal division of the parish courts as a whole recorded a rate of 108.41%, an improvement of 4.20 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in 2022. All thirteen parish courts satisfied the international standards of between 90% and 110% on this measurement, with 9 eclipsing the 100% mark. The overall net case backlog rate stood at one of its lowest rates on record of 1.33%, suggesting that only 1 in every 100 active criminal cases filed over at least the past 7.5 years are in a state of backlog. By any measure, this is a remarkable accomplishment. The Parish Courts have already 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.

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

The required minimum annual parameters are summarized below:

Parameter	Minimum Required Standard
Case disposal rate	>=70%
Case clearance rate	>=100%
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 7.5 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 0.15% 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. ⁱ

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.ⁱⁱ

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Continuance and Adjournment: In a general sense, any delay in the progression of a hearing in which a future date/time is set or anticipated for continuation is a form of adjournment. However, in order to make a strict distinction between matters which are adjourned for procedural factors and those which are generally avoidable, court statistics utilizes the terms 'continuance' and 'adjournment'. Here, 'continuance' is used strictly to describe situations in

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

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

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

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

ⁱ Source:

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

ⁱⁱ Source:

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

