

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

**THIRD QUARTER SUMMARY**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Case Disposal Rates (%)	51.48	45.15	54.65
Case Clearance Rates (%)	100.46	109.42	98.81
Trial Date Certainty Rates (%)	89	89	83
Courtroom utilization Rate (%)	67.97	62.36	56.03

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This statistical report for the third quarter of 2023 is for the criminal division of the parish courts. The criminal division of the parish courts has already achieved one of its main key strategic targets, that of reducing the overall net case backlog rate to less than 5%, as it continues to sustain exceptionally high case clearance rates. From all available statistical accounts, the criminal division of the parish courts is now among the most efficient in the Caribbean and Latin American region in the timely delivery of justice.

It is now critical that the criminal division of the parish courts strive to reduce the overall average time taken to dispose of cases and in so eventually reduce the net case backlog rate to the point that it can be classified as a whole as being backlog free.

The aggregate new case count in the parish courts in the third quarter of 2023 was 4984, an increase of 7.97% when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. The Corporate Area Parish Court - Criminal Division with 1182 new cases or 23.72% of the total, followed by the St. Catherine and St. James Parish Courts with 799 cases or 16.03% and 480 cases or 9.63% 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 49.38% of the new cases filed in the third quarter of 2023, not dissimilar to the previous year. The parish courts of Hanover, St. Thomas and Trelawny accounted for the lowest shares of the aggregate new cases filed in the period, each with under 5.0% of the total new caseload.

The overall average disposal rate for cases originating in the third quarter of 2023 was 51.48%, which is a decline of 6.33 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. The St. James Parish Court leads the way with a disposal rate of 66.25%, thereby resolving new cases the fastest in the period. The Hanover and Westmoreland Parish Courts ranked next with case disposal rates of 62.82% and 62.32% respectively, continuing 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 third quarter of 2023 was 100.46%, a decline of 8.96 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 the third quarter of 2023, roughly 100 cases were disposed. 10 of the 13 parish courts satisfied the international standard of between 90% and 110% the third quarter of 2023. For the second quarter in a row, the top spot was occupied by the Portland Parish Court with an impressive rate of 145.99% while the St. Elizabeth Parish Court with 115.03% and the St. Ann Parish Court with 114.39% rounded off the top three performers on this key 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 third quarter of 2023 was 305.71%, an improvement of 4.41 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2022. The parish courts of Hanover, Westmoreland and St. James continue to be the 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 trial date certainty rate of 89% in the third quarter of 2023, the same as the corresponding period in 2022. The parish courts of St. Thomas, the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division and St. Mary 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 67.97%, an improvement of 5.61 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. The parish courts of Westmoreland, St. James and St. Ann were the leaders on this metric during the quarter.

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 third quarter of 2023 is approximately 36.20%, while roughly 64.80% 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 third quarter of 2023 was by way of guilty pleas, accounting for 31.26% of the cases disposed. This was followed by cases dismissed, which was responsible for 30.25% of the cases disposed. It is of note that guilty verdicts accounted for roughly 3.79% of the matters disposed while not guilty verdicts accounted for 12.16% of the total. Mediated settlements (of various forms) accounted for roughly 14.54% of the cases disposed during the quarter. Taken together, the data therefore reveals a conviction rate of 35.05% for the quarter. Further analysis of the data suggests that for the cases originating over at least over the past roughly 8 years, which are disposed, roughly 37.99% were resolved within 90 days, 57.99% within six months and 75.97% 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 40.88% of all matters. This is followed by summary matters with a roughly 28.63% and committal proceedings which accounted for 15.16%. Summary matters had an overall conviction rate of 59.57% in the quarter while indictments had a conviction rate of 18.40% 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 16.54%, adjournments for disclosure which accounted for 11.05%, warrants issued due to the non-appearance of defendants with 10.16% and adjournments for referral to mediation with 4.10%, rounding off the top four incidences. Also featuring prominently on the lists

of reasons for adjournment across the parish courts during the quarter are adjournments for disclosure, absent defendants, medical reports outstanding and subpoena of investigating officers. 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 third quarter of 2023 were assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding and possession of offensive weapon. The majority of charges filed during the quarter involved accused males, accounting for roughly 81.01%, with females accounting for 18.99%. The dominant age group of persons charged in period were the 27 – 36 and 18 - 26 age groups, accounting for 30.16% and 27.08% respectively of the total.

One of the most decisive and instructive findings from this quarterly 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 9 months to dispose of cases in the third quarter of 2023. The courts which had the shortest times to disposition for cases resolved are the parish courts of Westmoreland (72 days), St. Mary (107 days) and Hanover (122 days).

Using the method of exponential smoothing, the report forecasts that in the fourth quarter of 2023, 4914 new criminal cases will be filed in the criminal division of the parish courts while 5455 are expected to be disposed or become inactive during the period. The overall forecasted case clearance rate for fourth quarter of 2023 in the criminal division of the parish courts is therefore roughly 111%. The parish courts of St.

Elizabeth, Portland and St. Catherine are forecasted to register the highest case clearance rates in the fourth quarter of 2023.

With 8 years of extensive data on criminal case activity on the parish courts of Jamaica, the Statistics Unit applied Lagrange multiplier techniques to determine that a successful court must meet the following minimum requirements in order to satisfy an efficiency threshold for the sustainable containment of case backlog and provide optimal service to the public. The required minimum annual parameters are summarized below:

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Minimum Required Standard</b>
Case disposal rate	$\geq 75\%$
Case clearance rate	$\geq 100\%$
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	$\leq 3$

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

### **METHODOLOGY**

Guaranteeing the reliability and validity of the data used to produce the periodic statistical reports for the Jamaican Courts is of utmost importance as we seek to produce a data driven enterprise for policymaking and operational decisions. As a result, a robust and verifiable system of data production has been created in both the parish courts and the Supreme Court. At the parish courts, a data capture system for

criminal matters, called the CISS (Case Information Statistical System) has been operational in all courts for the past 8 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

This chapter provides an assessment of criminal case activity in the parish courts for the third quarter ended September 30, 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Number of inactive cases	Number of disposed cases	Active Pending Case Load	Case disposal Rate (%)
Hanover	156	3	95	58	62.82
St. Catherine	799	76	320	403	49.56
Westmoreland	406	19	234	153	62.32
St. Mary	210	1	77	132	37.14
Clarendon	365	27	166	172	52.88
Portland	137	7	57	73	46.72
St. Elizabeth	153	10	66	77	49.67
Corporate Area Criminal	1182	345	279	558	52.79
St. Thomas	158	6	66	86	45.57
St. James	480	48	270	162	66.25
St. Ann	410	83	92	235	42.68
Trelawny	224	14	92	118	47.32
Manchester	304	10	103	191	37.17
<b>Total</b>	<b>4984</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>1917</b>	<b>2418</b>	
<b>Average/Weighted Average</b>	<b>383.38</b>	<b>49.92</b>	<b>147.46</b>	<b>186.00</b>	<b>51.48</b>
<b>Standard deviation</b>	<b>302.69</b>	<b>92.72</b>	<b>94.53</b>	<b>143.86</b>	<b>9.21</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.85</b>	<b>3.11</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>1.83</b>	<b>0.36</b>

*Note: The case disposal rate for the Browns Town outstation for the third quarter of 2023 is 26.74%*

The table above shows the aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the third quarter of 2023. A total of 4,984 new criminal cases were filed across the parish courts while 2,566 of these cases were either disposed or became inactive during the period, resulting in a weighted average case disposal rate of 51.48%. In the corresponding period in 2022, 4,616 cases were filed, while 2,084 cases were either disposed or became inactive which resulted in a weighted average disposal rate of 45.15%, which is 6.33 percentage points lower than the rate for the third quarter of 2023. This comparison reveals that there was an increase of 368 cases or a 7.97% climb in the number of new cases filed and an increase of 482 cases or a 23.13% improvement in the number of new cases disposed of or became inactive when compared to the third quarter of 2022. Of the thirteen parish courts listed above, five (5) Parish Courts recorded a decrease in the number of new cases filed, while eight (8) recorded an increase. Among the parish courts with the largest decline in new cases filed were the Portland Parish Court, decreasing by 42.19%, the Clarendon Parish Court, which decreased by 22.51% and the St. Elizabeth Parish Court, which decreased by 10.53%. Among the parish courts with the largest improvement in new cases filed were the Westmoreland Parish Court, increasing by 49.26%, the Trelawny Parish Court, which increased by 30.99% and the St. Catherine Parish Court, which experienced an increase of 23.30%.

The Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division with 1,182 cases or 23.72% of the new cases filed, the St. Catherine Parish Court with 799 cases or 16.03% and the St. James Parish Court with 480 or 9.63% accounted for the three largest shares of new cases filed in the third quarter of 2023. These three parish courts with the largest share of new cases filed, cumulatively accounted for 49.38% of the total sample of new criminal cases filed in the third quarter of 2023. On the other end, the parish courts of Portland with 137 cases or 2.75% of the new cases, St. Elizabeth with 153 cases or 3.07% and Hanover with 156 cases or 3.13%

accounted for the lowest shares of new cases filed in the third quarter of 2023. The best performing courts in relation to case disposal rates for the third quarter of 2023 were the St. James (66.25%), Hanover (62.82%), Westmoreland (62.32%) Parish Courts. The bottom three courts on this measure were the St. Mary (37.14%), Manchester (37.17%) and St. Ann (42.68%) parish courts. 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 third quarter of 2022 and 2023.*

**Table 2.0a: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court as at September 30, 2023**

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed in quarter	Number of Disposed cases in Apr. 1-Sept. 30, 2023	Number of Inactive cases in Apr. 1-Sept. 31, 2023	Grand total number of inactive cases (2016-Sept. 2023)	Grand total number of disposed cases (2016-Sept. 2023)	Grand Active Pending Caseload b/f Jul. 1, 2023	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
Hanover	156	137	6	292	6282	67	91.67	155.94
St. Catherine	799	644	136	3236	22540	1240	97.62	261.41
Westmoreland	406	343	22	1119	11462	213	89.90	169.59
St. Mary	210	162	9	761	6299	289	81.43	291.81
Clarendon	365	300	48	1795	11881	456	95.34	235.92
Portland	137	187	13	776	7682	460	145.99	298.50
St. Elizabeth	153	163	13	NA	NA	NA	115.03	NA
Corporate Area Criminal	1182	708	428	11266	35398	4420	96.11	493.13
St. Thomas	158	158	18	582	6089	374	111.39	302.27
St. James	480	450	68	2710	16615	505	107.92	190.15
St. Ann	410	335	134	4025	9795	1146	114.39	331.77
Trelawny	224	208	34	748	6057	393	108.04	254.96
Manchester	304	261	22	1919	10048	760	93.09	375.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>4984</b>	<b>4056</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>29229</b>	<b>150148</b>	<b>10323</b>	-	-
<b>Average/Weighted Average</b>	<b>383.38</b>	<b>312.00</b>	<b>73.15</b>	<b>2435.75</b>	<b>12512.33</b>	<b>860.25</b>	<b>100.46</b>	<b>305.71</b>
<b>Standard deviation</b>	<b>302.69</b>	<b>186.15</b>	<b>115.43</b>	<b>3016.11</b>	<b>8737.50</b>	<b>1175.00</b>	<b>16.42</b>	<b>93.84</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.85</b>	<b>1.26</b>	<b>2.79</b>	<b>2.62</b>	<b>1.95</b>	<b>2.95</b>	<b>1.36</b>	<b>0.87</b>

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

*Note 2: The grand total number of active cases from 2016 to the quarter ended September 30, 2023, for all parish courts combined= 10,276*

*Note 3: The case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for the third quarter of 2023 is 89.53% and the case congestion rate is 981.82%.*

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 third quarter of 2023 was 305.71%, an indication that the parish courts (criminal division) as a whole are carrying over three times the caseload that their current rate of clearance and implied state of resources justifies. This result represents a 4.41 percentage points decrease when compared to the third quarter of 2022. The Corporate Area Court- Criminal Division (493.13%) and the parish courts of Manchester (375.97%), St. Ann (331.77%) and St. Thomas (302.27%) were the courts with the highest case congestion rates in the third quarter of 2023. The Portland (298.50%) and St. Mary (291.81%) Parish Courts rounded off the top 6 most case congested courts in the third quarter of 2023. The parish courts of St. Ann, Portland, Manchester and Corporate Area-Criminal Division were also among the most congested courts in the comparative third quarter of 2022. The parish courts of Hanover (155.94%), Westmoreland (169.59%), and St. James (190.15%) 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 third quarter of 2023 provide interesting insights into the court-wide progress being made on this measure. The overall weighted average case clearance rate of 100.46%, which is a decrease of 8.96 percentage points when

compared to the corresponding third quarter of 2022, however, the performance meets the international standard of 90%-110. This overall case clearance rate of 100.46% suggests that for every 100 new cases filed, roughly 100 cases were disposed of. Eleven (11) parish courts met or exceeded the international standards of 90%-110%. The parish courts of Portland (145.99%), St. Elizabeth (115.03%), St. Ann (114.39%), St. Thomas (111.39%) and Trelawny (108.04%) were the leading parish courts on this measure. The parish courts of St. Mary (81.43%) and Westmoreland (89.90%) had the lowest criminal case clearance rates for the quarter and were the only courts that didn't meet the international standard of 90%-100%. Three (3) parish courts recorded an increase in clearance rates when compared to third quarter of 2022, while ten (10) parish courts recorded a decrease in clearance rates when compared to third quarter of 2022. The Portland and St. Ann parish courts saw the largest gains, with 40.50 and 10.60 percentage points improvement respectively. The St. Thomas and Trelawny parish courts saw the largest decline, with 67.33 and 31.73 percentage points decline respectively. The data in the table above were positively skewed to various degrees, indicating that for the most part, proportionately more of the scores in that data set fell below their respective series means.

*Refer to Table 3.0 for further comparison of the case clearance rates and the case congestion rates across all parish courts for the third quarter of 2022 and 2023.*

**Table 2.0b: Percentile rank on selected performance metrics for the criminal division of the parish courts for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

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

The table above provides the percentile ranks of the case disposal and case clearance rates for the third 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 St. James (100%), Hanover (92%) and Westmoreland (83%) had the highest percentile ranks on case disposal rate for the third 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 St. James Parish Court for example, means that they performed better than all the courts on case disposal rate in the quarter, while Hanover Parish Court performed better than 92% of the parish courts and the Westmoreland Parish Court performed better than 83% of all the parish courts on this measurement. The parish courts of St. Mary, Manchester and St. Ann had the lowest percentile rank on case disposal rate for the quarter. In terms of case clearance rates, the

parish courts of Portland (100%), Elizabeth (92%) and St. Ann (83%) had the highest percentile ranks, while the parish courts of St. Mary, Westmoreland and Hanover had the lowest.

**Table 2.0c: Forecasted case activity statistics for the fourth quarter of 2023 [October 01 - December 31, 2023]**

Parish Court	Forecasted number of new cases	Forecasted number of disposed cases	Forecasted number of inactive cases	Forecasted case clearance rate (%)
Hanover	166	177	7	110.17
Manchester	316	324	29	111.92
St. Mary	203	171	10	89.20
St. James	463	493	56	118.68
St. Catherine	769	782	134	119.09
Portland	186	227	18	131.76
St. Ann	407	336	105	108.54
St. Elizabeth	167	215	18	139.35
Corporate Area Criminal	1170	799	402	102.66
Westmoreland	358	322	23	96.44
St. Thomas	153	162	18	117.47
Clarendon	357	350	44	110.65
Trelawny	198	198	31	116.06
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>4914</b>	<b>4558</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>111.00</b>

*Note: The forecasted case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for the third quarter of 2023 is 86.95%.*

The above table forecasts core case activity for the criminal division of each parish court and overall for the fourth 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 fourth quarter of 2023 is 111%, which would be 10.54 percentage points higher than that of the third quarter of 2023. Twelve (12) parish courts are forecasted to satisfy the international standard on case clearance rate of 90% or more in the third quarter

of 2023, led by the St. Elizabeth Parish Court with 139.35%, the Portland Parish Court with 131.76% and the St. Catherine Parish Court with 119.09%.

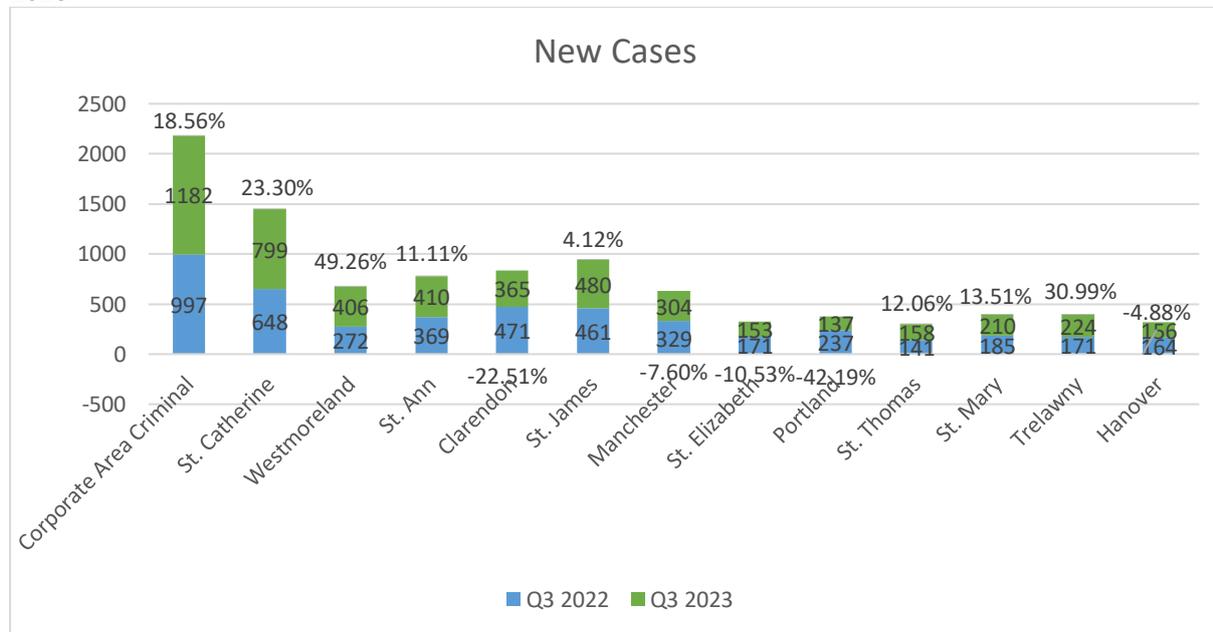
**Table 2.0d: Sampling distribution of new cases filed per 10,000 population in the criminal division of the parish courts in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Population size in parish</b>	<b>Case per 10,000 population</b>
Hanover	156	69,533	22
St. Catherine	799	516,218	15
Westmoreland	406	144,103	28
St. Mary	210	113,615	18
Clarendon	365	245,103	15
Portland	137	81,744	17
St. Elizabeth	153	150,205	10
Corporate Area Criminal	1182	662,426	18
St. Thomas	158	93,902	17
St. James	480	183,811	26
St. Ann	410	172,362	24
Trelawny	224	75,164	30
Manchester	304	189,797	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>4984</b>	<b>2697983</b>	<b>18</b>

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

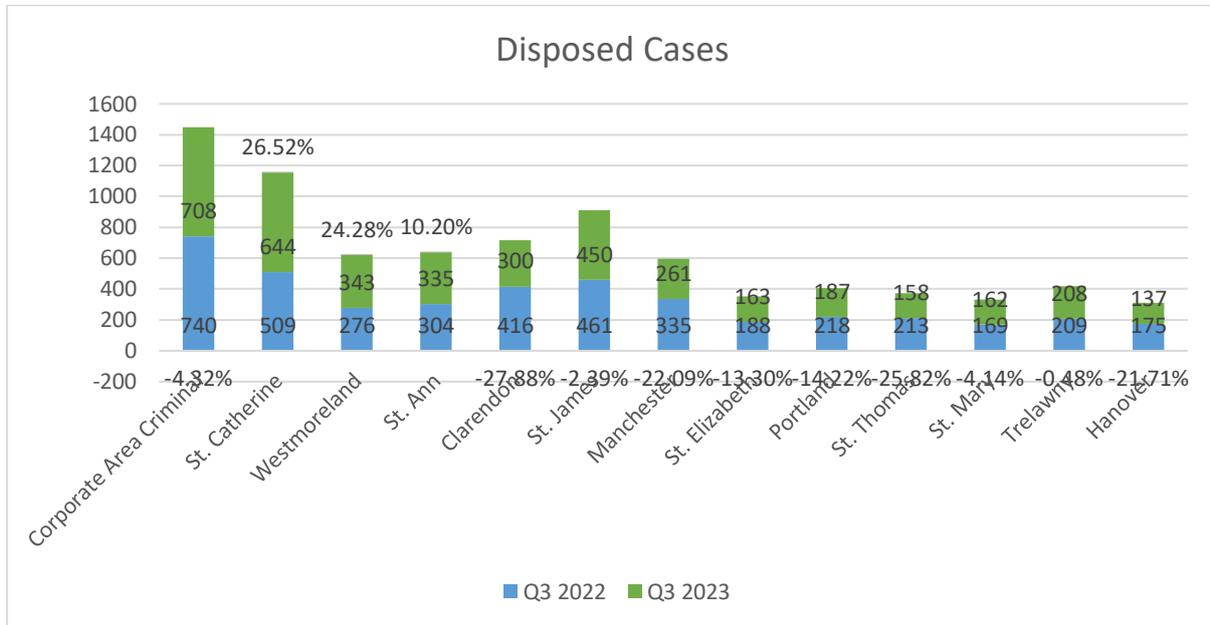
quarterly caseload and mid-range population size, had the smallest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population in the quarter. Clarendon and St. Catherine had the second lowest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population for the quarter.

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



The above chart provides a breakdown of the changes in the number of new cases filed in the third quarter of 2022 and 2023. It is seen that there has been a decrease in new cases filed over the comparative period five (5) parish courts and an increase in eight (8). Among the parish courts with the largest rise in new cases filed were the Westmoreland Parish Court increasing by 49.26% and the Trelawny Parish Court, which increased by 30.99%. The Portland parish court fell by 42.19% and the Clarendon Parish court fell by 22.51%.

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



The above graph provides a breakdown of the changes in the number of cases disposed of in third quarter of 2022 and 2023. It is seen that there has been a decrease in cases resolved over the comparative period in ten (10) parish courts and an increase in the cases resolved in three (3) parish courts. The Clarendon Parish Court fell by 27.88%, the St. Thomas Parish fell by 25.82% and the Manchester Parish Court fell by 22.09%. The St. Catherine parish court increased by 26.52%, the Westmoreland Parish court increased by 24.28% and the St. Ann Parish court increased by 10.20%.

**Table 2.0e: Sampling distribution of the Indices of Judge Productivity for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Parish Court	Number of Judges	New criminal cases per Judges	Active pending caseload per Judge at the beginning of Q3 2023	Active caseload per Judge at the end of Q3 2023	Cases disposed per Judge
Hanover	2	78.00	33.50	40.00	68.50
St. Catherine	5	159.80	248.00	251.80	128.80
Westmoreland	2	203.00	106.50	127.00	171.50
St. Mary	3	70.00	96.33	109.33	54.00
Clarendon	3	121.67	152.00	157.67	100.00
Portland	2	68.50	230.00	198.50	93.50
St. Elizabeth	3	51.00	NA	NA	54.33
Corporate Area Criminal	9	131.33	491.11	496.22	78.67
St. Thomas	2	79.00	187.00	178.00	79.00
St. James	5	96.00	101.00	93.40	90.00
St. Ann	3	136.67	382.00	362.33	111.67
Trelawny	3	74.67	131.00	125.00	69.33
Manchester	3	101.33	253.33	260.33	87.00
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>110.76</b>	<b>229.40</b>	<b>229.40</b>	<b>90.13</b>

The above table provides a distribution of the new cases filed per judge, the cases disposed per judge and the caseload per judge in the criminal division of the parish courts for the third quarter of 2023. The data reveals that the overall weighted average number of new criminal cases filed per judge in the third quarter of 2023 is roughly 111 cases. The parish courts of Westmoreland (203 cases), St. Catherine (160 cases) and St. Ann (137 cases) had the three largest number of new cases filed per judge during the quarter. On the contrary, the parish courts St. Elizabeth (51 cases), Portland (69 cases) and the St. Mary Parish Court (70 cases) had the lowest number of new cases filed per judge in the quarter. In terms of cases disposed of per judge, the Westmoreland Parish Court disposed of the most cases per judge in the quarter with 172 cases, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court with 129 cases and the St.

Ann Parish Court with 112 cases disposed per judge. The three courts with the smallest number of cases disposed per judge were the St. Mary Parish Court and the St. Elizabeth Parish Court with 54 disposed cases per judge each and the Hanover Parish Court with 69 disposed cases per judge. The overall number of criminal cases disposed per judge was 90 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 496 cases, followed by the St. Ann Parish Court with 362 cases and the Manchester Parish Court with 260 cases per judge. On the lower end, the parish courts of Hanover and St. James with 40 and 93 cases per judge respectively, had the lowest active criminal caseload per judge at the end of the quarter, followed by the St. Mary Parish Court with 109 active criminal cases per judge. The overall average active criminal caseload per judge at the end of the quarter is 229 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.



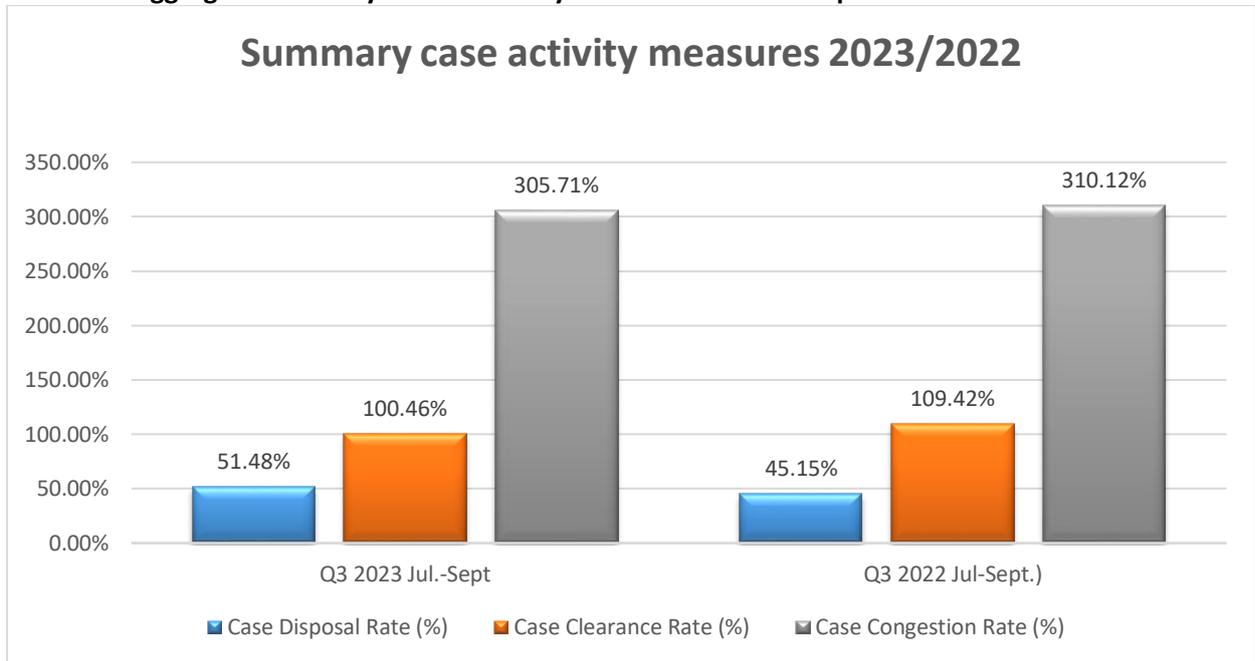
**Table 3.0: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the third quarter of 2022 and 2023**

Parish Court	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q3 2023	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q3 2022	Change in case disposal rate (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q3 2023	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q3 2022	Change in case clearance rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q3 2023	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q3 2022	Change in case congestion rate (%)
Hanover	62.82	53.05	9.77	91.67	118.29	-26.62	155.94	174.74	-18.80
St. Catherine	49.56	45.06	4.50	97.62	97.53	0.09	261.41	279.27	-17.86
Westmoreland	62.32	65.07	-2.75	89.90	105.88	-15.98	169.59	155.21	14.38
St. Mary	37.14	49.73	-12.59	81.43	99.46	-18.03	291.81	217.39	74.42
Clarendon	52.88	50.96	1.92	95.34	101.27	-5.93	235.92	223.06	12.86
Portland	46.72	30.8	15.92	145.99	105.49	40.50	298.50	287.2	11.30
St. Elizabeth	49.67	66.67	-17.00	115.03	122.81	-7.78	NA	NA	NA
Corporate Area Criminal	52.79	40.72	12.07	96.11	100.3	-4.19	493.13	539.4	-46.27
St. Thomas	45.57	42.55	3.02	111.39	178.72	-67.33	302.27	266.27	36.00
St. James	66.25	57.48	8.77	107.92	121.48	-13.56	190.15	202.68	-12.53
St. Ann	42.68	30.62	12.06	114.39	103.79	10.60	331.77	429.24	-97.47
Trelawny	47.32	35.67	11.65	108.04	139.77	-31.73	254.96	289.96	-35.00
Manchester	37.17	31.61	5.56	93.09	116.11	-23.02	375.97	320.16	55.81
<b>Average /Weighted Average</b>	<b>51.48</b>	<b>45.15</b>	<b>6.33</b>	<b>100.46</b>	<b>109.42</b>	<b>-8.96</b>	<b>305.71</b>	<b>310.12</b>	<b>-4.41</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>9.21</b>	<b>12.36</b>		<b>16.42</b>	<b>22.40</b>		<b>93.84</b>	<b>109.24</b>	
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>0.29</b>		<b>1.36</b>	<b>2.06</b>		<b>0.87</b>	<b>1.34</b>	

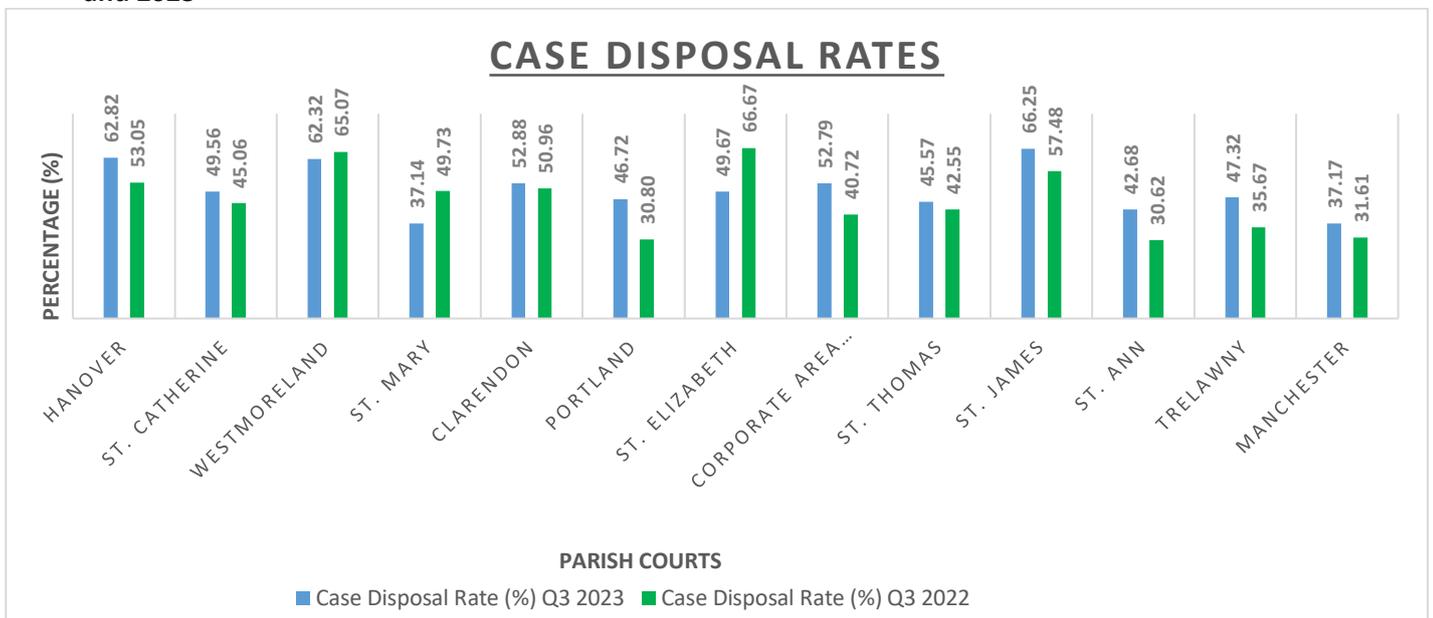
The table above provides a comparison of the case disposal rate, the case clearance rate and the case congestion rate for the third quarter of 2022 and 2023. The weighted average case disposal rate for the third quarter of 2023, was 51.48%, which was a 6.33 percentage points increase when compared to the third quarter of 2022 which had a weighted average rate of 45.15%. The overall case clearance rate of 100.46% for the third quarter of 2023 was 8.96 percentage points less the 109.42% recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2022. The overall case congestion rate for the third quarter of 2023 improved, changing from 310.12% in the third quarter of 2022, to 305.71% in the third quarter of 2023, a 4.41 percentage point decrease. Ceteris paribus, there should be a roughly inverse linear association between the

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

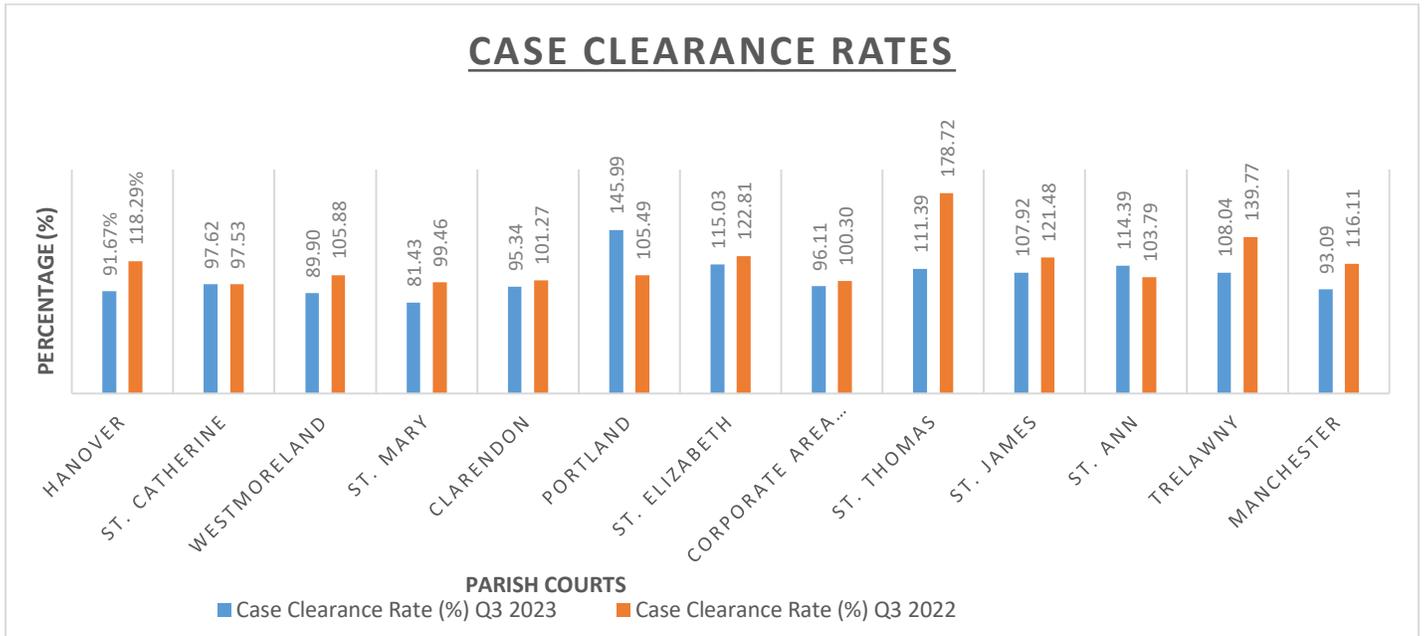
**Chart 2.0: Aggregate summary of case activity metrics for the third quarters of 2022 and 2023**



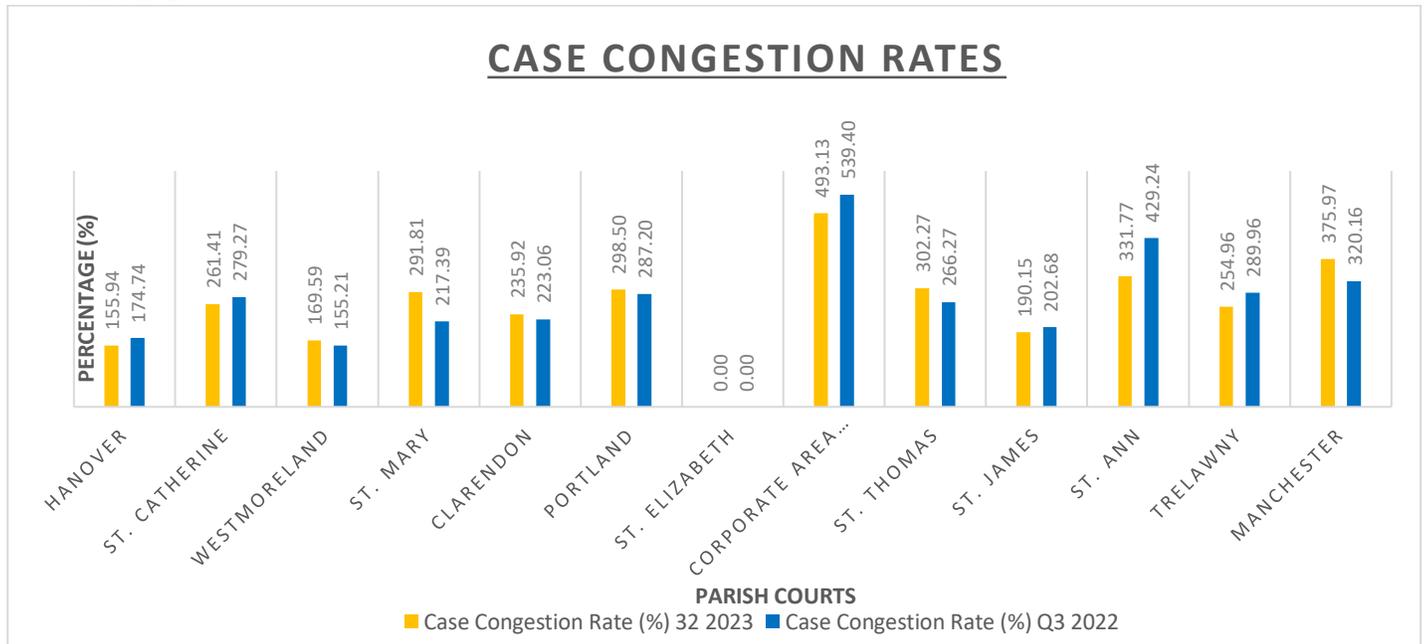
**Chart 3.0a: Comparison of case disposal rates across the parish courts for the third quarters of 2022 and 2023**



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



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



**Table 4.0a: Sampling distribution of mention court activity for cases disposed of in the third quarter ended September 30, 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	137	22	12	1	2	2	-	-
St. Catherine	644	110	64	38	36	25	55	25
Westmoreland	343	157	93	34	20	8	22	8
St. Mary	162	38	19	17	7	6	14	-
Clarendon	300	48	25	12	12	11	18	1
Portland	187	59	17	40	16	14	29	10
Corporate Area Criminal	708	243	114	60	57	37	137	61
St. Thomas	158	20	20	12	8	6	10	2
St. James	450	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
St. Ann	335	48	27	27	34	11	18	3
Trelawny	208	26	23	8	25	11	14	-
Manchester	261	55	31	19	15	13	22	2
<b>Mean</b>	<b>324.42</b>	<b>69.00</b>	<b>40.45</b>	<b>24.36</b>	<b>21.09</b>	<b>13.09</b>	<b>33.90</b>	<b>14.00</b>
<b>Median</b>	<b>280.50</b>	<b>48.00</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>19.00</b>	<b>16.00</b>	<b>11.00</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>5.50</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.15</b>	<b>1.76</b>	<b>1.48</b>	<b>0.73</b>	<b>1.15</b>	<b>1.66</b>	<b>2.62</b>	<b>2.14</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>188.72</b>	<b>69.27</b>	<b>34.32</b>	<b>17.33</b>	<b>16.05</b>	<b>9.88</b>	<b>38.37</b>	<b>20.56</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3893</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>112</b>

The above sampling distribution provides critical insights into mention court activity for a representative sample of criminal cases disposed across the parish courts over the third 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 39.17% of the sample of 3,893 cases disposed of during the period were resolved on their first appearance before the court. A further 21.27% of the sample of cases disposed were resolved at first mention, while 11.43% were resolved after two mentions and 6.88% after three mentions. Cumulatively, roughly 88.41% 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Number of cases heard in the quarter</b>	<b>Share of cases heard in the quarter (%)</b>
Clarendon	767	6.76
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	3481	30.68
Hanover	218	1.92
Manchester	585	5.16
Portland	519	4.57
St. Ann	1063	9.37
St. Catherine	1943	17.12
St. James	807	7.11
St. Mary	418	3.68
St. Thomas	367	3.23
Trelawny	569	5.01
Westmoreland	610	5.38
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>11347</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The table above provides a summary of the criminal cases heard during the third quarter of 2023 at the parish courts. From a sample of 11,347 cases heard, it is seen that the Corporate Area Criminal court accounted for the highest share of cases heard with 3,481 cases heard or 30.68% of the sample, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court with 1,943 cases heard or 17.12% and

the St. Ann parish court with 1,063 cases or 9.37% of the sample. Cumulatively, the top three courts account for roughly 57.17% of the cases sampled. On the lower end, the parish courts of Hanover with 218 cases or 1.92%, St. Thomas with 367 or 3.23% and St. Mary with 418 or 3.68% of the sample, accounted for the lowest share of cases heard in the third quarter of 2023.

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

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Trial certainty rate (%) Q3 (2023)</b>	<b>Trial certainty rate (%) Q3 (2022)</b>	<b>Change in the trial certainty rate (%)</b>
Westmoreland	84	75	9
Clarendon	95	81	14
St. Ann	94	67	27
Portland	80	77	3
St. James	NA	100	NA
Manchester	81	99	-18
St. Elizabeth	NA	NA	NA
St. Catherine	95	95	0
Trelawny	87	95	-8
St. Mary	97	95	2
St. Thomas	100	92	8
Corporate Area Criminal	98	97	1
Hanover	65	89	-24
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>0</b>

*Note 1: The trial date certainty rate for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for Q3 2023 is 98%*

*Note 2: Q3 represents the third quarter i.e. July-September*

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 third quarter of 2023 was 89%, roughly the same rate recorded in 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. Thomas with a trial date certainty rate of 100%, Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division with 98%, St. Mary with 97%, Clarendon and St. Catherine with 95% each and

St. Ann with 94%. The Trelawny Parish Court fell just short of the international standard with a trial certainty rate of 87%, 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 third quarters of 2022 and 2023**

Parish Court	Percentile Rank – Trial Date Certainty Rate Q3 2023 (%)	Percentile Rank – Trial Date Certainty Rate Q3 2022 (%)
Westmoreland	30	9
Clarendon	60	27
St. Ann	50	0
Portland	10	18
St. James	NA	100
Manchester	20	91
St. Elizabeth	NA	NA
St. Catherine	60	55
Trelawny	40	55
St. Mary	80	55
St. Thomas	100	45
Corporate Area Criminal	90	82
Hanover	0	36

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 third 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average duration of trial</b>
Clarendon	321.90
Corporate Area	363.09
Hanover	243.69
Manchester	239.70
Portland	129.44
St. Ann	265.55
St. Catherine	450.83
St. James	488.33
St. Mary	146.96
St. Thomas	312.92
Trelawny	248.34
Westmoreland	158.56
<b>Weighted average</b>	<b>345.84</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>113.45</b>

The above table summarizes the average durations between first trial date set and the date of case disposal for trial matters resolved in the third 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 346 days or roughly 11.5 months, with a standard deviation of roughly 113 days or 3.8 months. The Portland and St. Mary Parish Courts had the lowest times between first trial dates set and disposal of cases with roughly 129 days and 147 days respectively, reflective of more ideal standards when compared to most other courts. The St. James and St. Catherine Parish Courts with average interval times of roughly 488 days or 16.3 months and 451 days or roughly 15 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average time between filing and first court appearance (in days)</b>	<b>Average time between first court appearance and trial (in days)</b>	<b>Average time between trial and disposition (in days)</b>
Clarendon	5.13	280.42	321.90
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	3.80	404.06	363.09
Hanover	8.34	179.89	243.69
Manchester	10.17	189.71	239.70
Portland	5.66	393.78	129.44
St. Ann	7.83	579.99	265.55
St. Catherine	9.48	356.03	450.83
St. James	3.44	587.39	488.33
St. Mary	3.88	154.09	146.96
St. Thomas	15.47	230.12	312.92
Trelawny	6.33	279.54	248.34
Westmoreland	6.24	134.16	158.56
<b>Weighted average</b>	<b>6.55</b>	<b>368.88</b>	<b>345.84</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>3.43</b>	<b>154.46</b>	<b>113.45</b>

*Note 1: The average time between filing a case and the first court appearance for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for the third quarter of 2023 is 7.82 days.*

*Note 2: The average time between the first appearance and first trial date for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for the third quarter of 2023 is 799.05 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 third quarter of 2023 is 539.25 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 12.3 months or 369 days. The average

duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition is roughly 11.5 months or 346 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 third quarter ended September 30, 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	767	185	24.12
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	3481	644	18.50
Hanover	218	32	14.68
Manchester	585	118	20.17
Portland	519	47	9.06
St. Ann	1063	205	19.29
St. Catherine	1943	557	28.67
St. James	807	25	3.10
St. Mary	418	77	18.42
St. Thomas	367	71	19.35
Trelawny	569	106	18.63
Westmoreland	610	88	14.43
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>11347</b>	<b>2155</b>	<b>18.99</b>

*Note 1: The Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann had 13.41% of cases heard proceed to trial in the third 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 third 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 11,347 criminal cases heard across the parish courts in the third quarter of 2023, 2,155 cases or 18.99% had a trial date set. The parish courts of St. James (3.10%), Portland (9.06%) and Westmoreland (14.43%) had the lowest proportion of cases proceeding to trial, while the parish courts of St. Catherine (28.67%), Clarendon (24.12%) and Manchester (20.17%) had the highest proportions.

**Table 6.0a: Distribution of courtroom utilization rates across the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the third quarter ended September 30, 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	66.41	136.11	5.56	29.73	NA	1.1
Westmoreland	96.38	238.67	1.67	44.80	NA	NA
Trelawny	67.33	160.00	2.33	30.07	NA	1.0
St. Thomas	59.59	90.28	13.89	20.13	NA	NA
St. Mary	65.39	206.94	2.33	33.59	NA	1.0
St. James	71.63	261.67	10.00	36.25	NA	NA
Corporate Area Criminal Court	58.72	218.33	1.39	32.19	NA	NA
St. Ann	69.70	125.00	1.67	28.82	45.40	1.0
Portland	66.84	131.67	6.94	29.84	NA	1.0
Hanover	63.10	121.11	1.39	34.83	NA	NA
Clarendon	64.03	289.33	17.00	51.91	85.83	1.0
Manchester	66.57	154.00	1.33	33.30	NA	1.0
<b>Overall Averages</b>	<b>67.97</b>	<b>177.76</b>	<b>5.46</b>	<b>33.79</b>	<b>65.62</b>	<b>1.01</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>9.68</b>	<b>63.30</b>	<b>5.44</b>	<b>8.07</b>	<b>28.59</b>	<b>0.04</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>2.57</b>	<b>0.48</b>	<b>1.26</b>	<b>0.92</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2.65</b>

*Note: The courtroom utilization rate for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for in the third quarter of 2023 is 76.94%*

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the various parish courts in the third 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 third quarter of 2023. The overall average courtroom utilization rate across the parish courts in the quarter was 67.97%, which is an indication that on average roughly 68% of the available hours for court hearings were utilized across the parish courts in the third quarter of 2023. This result is roughly 5.61 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 St. James Parish Courts with 96.38% and 71.63% respectively, followed by the St. Ann Parish Court with 69.70% and the Trelawny Parish Court with 67.33%. The Corporate Area Criminal Parish Court and St. Thomas Parish Courts with 58.72% and 59.59% respectively, had the lowest rates, while the Hanover Parish Court with 63.10% had the next lowest rate. It is quite commendable that all parish courts exceeded a courtroom utilization rate of 50% for the quarter. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates was relatively low, suggesting that on average the rates for the individual courts did not vary widely from the overall mean. The positive skewness of the data suggests that proportionately more of the sample are below the overall mean.

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

**Table 6.0b: Percentile Rank on Courtroom utilization rate for the criminal division of the parish courts in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Parish Court	Percentile rank Q3 2023 (%)	Percentile rank Q3 2022 (%)
St. Catherine	45	45
Westmoreland	100	100
Trelawny	73	73
St. Thomas	9	27
St. Mary	36	36
St. James	91	82
Corporate Area Criminal Court	0	18
St. Ann	82	55
Portland	64	91
Hanover	18	9
Clarendon	27	0
Manchester	55	64

**Note: Q3 represents the first quarter i.e. July-September**

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 third 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 third quarter of 2023 and in the third quarter of 2022. The Corporate Area Criminal Parish Court had the lowest courtroom utilization rate in the third quarter of 2023 and the Clarendon Parish Court with the lowest rate in the third quarter of 2022.

**Table 7.0: Types of matters for each Parish Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Parish Court	Indictment	Summary Matters	Lay Magistrates Sittings	Committal Proceedings	Tax	Miscellaneous	LRF	Traffic	NS	Total
Corporate Area Criminal	912	641	184	327	-	-	-	9	-	2073
St. Catherine	505	468	142	228	11	-	11	-	-	1365
Manchester	223	56	124	66	8	-	5	-	-	482
St. James	244	256	130	65	13	38	-	-	-	746
St. Ann	191	170	101	105	-	-	-	5	-	572
Westmoreland	274	108	106	66	6	-	-	-	-	560
Clarendon	195	213	48	61	-	-	1	-	-	518
Portland	155	23	41	12	-	-	2	-	-	233
St. Mary	135	69	34	110	5	-	-	-	-	353
Trelawny	106	84	46	64	4	-	11	-	-	315
Hanover	109	42	58	23	-	-	3	-	-	235
St. Thomas	108	81	27	44	-	-	11	-	-	271
<b>Total</b>	<b>3157</b>	<b>2211</b>	<b>1041</b>	<b>1171</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7723</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>40.88</b>	<b>28.63</b>	<b>13.48</b>	<b>15.16</b>	<b>0.61</b>	<b>0.49</b>	<b>0.57</b>	<b>0.18</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-</b>

\*Total number of observations = 7,723\*\*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 third quarter of 2023. For the quarter, 7,723 charges were filed across the parish courts, a decrease of approximately 218 charges or a 2.75% decline when compared to the corresponding third quarter of 2022. The largest proportions of these charges were filed in the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division (2,073), the St. Catherine Parish Court (1,365), the St. James Parish Court with (746) and the St. Ann Parish Court with 572 charges. The largest share of the charges were Indictments (40.88%); followed by summary matters (28.63%), committal proceedings (15.16%) and Lay Magistrates’ matters with 13.48% 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, Westmoreland and St. James. The Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division accounted for the largest share of summary matters filed, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court and the St. James Parish Court. The largest proportion of Lay Magistrates’ matters was filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court– Criminal Division, followed by the parish courts of St. Catherine and St. James. The Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court and the St. Mary 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 and the St. Ann Parish Court.

### Offence Types

**Table 8.01: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	31	13.25
Threat	29	12.39
Unlawful wounding	29	12.39
Malicious destruction of property	16	6.84
Assault at common law	9	3.85
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>48.72</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 234

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court for the third quarter of 2023. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 31 or 13.25% and threat and unlawful wounding with 29 or 12.39% each of the total sample of charges are the most frequently occurring charges. Malicious destruction of property with 16 or 6.84% followed this, while assault at common law with 9 or 3.85% of the total

sample rounds off the top five. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 48.72% of the total sample of 234 charges filed in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the third quarter of 2022 in the Hanover Parish Court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property, threat, assault at common law and rape.

**Table 8.02: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	67	13.90
Exposing goods for sale	50	10.37
Embezzlement	41	8.51
Unlawful wounding	41	8.51
Malicious destruction of property	33	6.85
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>48.13</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 482

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court for the third quarter of 2023. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 67 or 13.90% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Exposing goods for sale with 50 or 10.37% and embezzlement and unlawful wounding with 41 or 8.51% each rank next. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 33 or 6.85% of the sample charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 48.13% of the total sample of 482 charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the third quarter of 2022 in the Manchester Parish Court included threat, 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	37	16.02
Illegal Entry	29	12.55
Threat	28	12.12
Unlawful wounding	27	11.69
Assault at common law	15	6.49
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>58.87</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 231

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Portland Parish Court in the third quarter of 2023. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 37 or 16.02% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Illegal entry with 29 or 12.55% and threat with 28 or 12.12% ranked next. The top five is rounded off by unlawful wounding with 27 or 11.69% and assault at common law with 15 or 6.49% of the sample of charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 58.87% of the total sample of 231 charges filed in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the third quarter of 2022 in the Portland parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, threat, malicious destruction of property and assault at common law.

**Table 8.04: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Threat	76	13.31
Assault occasioning bodily harm	56	9.81
Unlawful wounding	52	9.11
Littering	37	6.48
Malicious destruction of property	32	5.60
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>44.31</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 571

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the third quarter of 2023. It is shown that threat with 76 or 13.31% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 56 or 9.81% and unlawful wounding with 52 or 9.11% followed this. Littering with 37 or 6.48% and malicious destruction of property with 32 or 5.60% of the total sample rounds of the top charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 44.31% of the total sample of 571 charges filed in the quarter at the St. Ann Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the third quarter of 2022 in the St. Ann parish court included threat, assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property, and simple larceny. From a sample of 98 charges, it is seen that the leading charges recorded in the third quarter of 2023 at the Brown’s Town Outstation included threat with 24 or 24.49% of the charges, unlawful wounding and assault occasioning bodily harm with 18 or 18.37% each. Malicious destruction of property with 10 or 10.20% and littering with 5.10% 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	130	9.52
Possession of an offensive weapon	123	9.01
Malicious destruction of property	77	5.64
Unlawful wounding	67	4.91
Exposing goods for sale	57	4.18
Smoking in a public place	57	4.18
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>37.44</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 1,365

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

occasioning bodily harm with 130 or 9.52% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Possession of offensive weapon with 123 or 9.01%, malicious destruction of property with 77 or 5.64% and unlawful wounding with 67 or 4.91% followed this. Exposing goods for sale and smoking in a public place with 57 or 4.18% each of the total sample of charges filed round off the top five. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 37.44% of the total sample of 1,365 charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the third quarter of 2022 in the St. Catherine parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, threat, possession of offensive weapon, 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Possession of offensive weapon	80	10.72
Assault occasioning bodily harm	76	10.19
Unlawful wounding	40	5.36
Threat	39	5.23
Malicious destruction of property	34	4.56
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>36.06</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 746

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges at the St. James Parish Court in third quarter of 2023. It is shown that possession of an offensive weapon with 80 or 10.72% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 76 or 10.19% and unlawful wounding with 40 or 5.36% followed this. The top five is rounded off by threat with 39 or 5.23% and malicious destruction of property with 34 or 4.56% of the total sample. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 36.06% of the sample of 746 charges filed in quarter at the St. James Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the third quarter of 2022 in the St. James

parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, possession of offensive weapon, breach of Endangered Species Act, threat and Breach of Wildlife Protection Act.

**Table 8.07: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	43	12.18
Unlawful wounding	36	10.20
Threat	23	6.52
Malicious destruction of property	22	6.23
Assault at common law	19	5.38
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>40.51</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 353

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the third quarter of 2023. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 43 or 12.18% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 36 or 10.20% and threat with 23 or 6.52% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 22 or 6.23% and assault at common law with 19 or 5.38% of the sample. The charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 40.51% of the total sample of 353 charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the third quarter of 2022 in the St. Mary parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, threat, possession of ganja 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	31	11.52
Unlawful wounding	26	9.67
Smoking in a Public Place	18	6.69
Possession of offensive weapon	17	6.32
Malicious destruction of property	11	4.09
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>38.29</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 269

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in the third quarter of 2023. It is shown assault occasioning bodily harm with 31 or 11.52% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 26 or 9.67%, smoking in a public place with 18 or 6.69% and possession of an offensive weapon with 17 or 6.32% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 11 or 4.09% of the total sample of charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 38.29% of the sample of 269 charges filed in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the third quarter of 2022 in the St. Thomas parish court included malicious destruction of property, unlawful wounding, assault occasioning bodily harm, threat and illegal possession of firearm.

**Table 8.09: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Assault occasioning bodily harm	38	12.06
Unlawful wounding	35	11.11
Possession of an offensive Weapon	27	8.57
Smoking in a Public Place	26	8.25
Threat	18	5.71
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>45.71</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 315

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the third quarter of 2023. It is shown assault occasioning bodily harm with 38 or 12.06% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 35 or 11.11% and possession of an offensive weapon with 27 or 8.57% followed this. Smoking in a public place with 26 or 8.25% and threat with 18 or 5.71% 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 45.71% of the total sample of 315 charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the third quarter of 2022 in the Trelawny parish court included unlawful wounding, assault occasioning bodily harm, malicious destruction of property, threat, and simple larceny.

**Table 8.10: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	105	18.85
Threat	63	11.31
Unlawful wounding	50	8.98
Malicious destruction of property	42	7.54
Possession of offensive Weapon	33	5.92
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>52.60</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 557

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the third quarter of 2023. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 105 or 18.85% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Threat with 63 or 11.31% and unlawful wounding with 50 or 8.98% and malicious destruction of property with 42 or 7.54% followed this. Possession of offensive weapon with 33 or 5.92% of the sample rank next. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 52.60% of the total sample of 557 charges filed in the quarter at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the third quarter of 2022 in the Westmoreland parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, threat, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property, dealing in ganja and possession of ganja.

**Table 8.11: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	68	13.13
Smoking in a Public Place	67	12.93
Unlawful wounding	49	9.46
Possession of an offensive weapon	35	6.76
Threat	33	6.37
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>48.65</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 518

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in third quarter of 2023. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 68 or 13.13% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Smoking in a public place with 67 or 12.93% and unlawful wounding with 49 or 9.46% followed this. The top five is rounded off by possession of an offensive weapon with 35 or 6.76% and threat with 33 or 6.37%. The charges quoted above account for an estimated 48.65% of the sample of 518 charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the third quarter of 2022 in the Clarendon parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, being armed with an offensive weapon, smoking in a public place and larceny as a servant.

**Table 8.12: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Littering	278	13.41
Assault occasioning bodily harm	216	10.42
Unlawful wounding	131	6.32
Possession of an offensive weapon	83	4.00
Malicious destruction of property	74	3.57
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>37.72</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 2073

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 third quarter of 2023. It is shown that littering with 278 or 13.41% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 216 or 10.42% and unlawful wounding with 131 or 6.32% followed this. The top five is rounded off by possession of an offensive weapon with 83 or 4% and malicious destruction of property with 74 or 3.57% of the charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 37.72% of the total sample of 2,073 charges at filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court –Criminal Division in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the third quarter of 2022 in the Corporate Area parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property, littering, possession of an offensive weapon and disorderly conduct.

**Table 9.0: Conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 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	1887	71	1053	1124	59.57
Indictment	2777	48	463	511	18.40

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard across all parish courts in the third 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 59.57%, which is 11.63 percentage points above the conviction rate of 47.94% recorded for the corresponding third quarter of 2022. The estimated conviction rate for indictment matters

was significantly lower at 18.40% for the quarter, a rate which is approximately 1.14 percentage points below the 19.54% recorded in the third 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Charge	Frequency	Percentage
Assault occasioning bodily harm	904	11.72
Unlawful wounding	583	7.56
Possession of offensive weapon	449	5.82
Threat	418	5.42
Malicious destruction of property	385	4.99
Littering	324	4.20
Smoking in a Public Place	211	2.74
Assault at common law	192	2.49
Exposing goods for sale	178	2.31
Simple larceny	170	2.20
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>3814</b>	<b>49.44</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 7,714

The above table shows the distribution of the ten most commonly occurring charges across all parish courts for the third quarter of 2023. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 904 or 11.72% of the total number of charges sampled is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 583 or 7.56% and possession of an offensive weapon with 449 or 5.82% followed this. The top five is rounded off by threat with 418 or 5.42% and malicious destruction of property with 385 or 4.99% of the total sample of charges filed in the quarter. These ten most frequently occurring types of charges account for approximately 49.44% of the total sample of charges filed in the quarter.

**Table 11.0: Conviction rate for leading occurring charges heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Type of Offence	Number of disposed matters	Number of guilty verdicts	Number of guilty pleas	Aggregate number of guilty outcomes	Estimated conviction rate (%)
Smoking in a Public Place	162	1	156	157	96.91
Exposing goods for sale	177	47	120	167	94.35
Littering	17	0	16	16	94.12
Possession of offensive weapon	386	20	322	342	88.60
Simple larceny	170	3	26	29	17.06
Malicious destruction of property	355	2	47	49	13.80
Threat	256	5	24	29	11.33
Unlawful wounding	569	15	47	62	10.90
Assault occasioning bodily harm	864	11	69	80	9.26
Assault at common law	148	2	9	11	7.43

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for the ten (10) leading charges across all parish courts in the third quarter of 2023. It is shown that smoking in a public place had the highest estimated conviction rate on the list with 96.91%. Exposing goods for sale with 94.35% and littering with 94.12% followed this. The top conviction rates on the list in the quarter is rounded off by possession of an offensive weapon with an estimated conviction rate of 88.60%. possession of an offensive weapon recorded the highest estimated conviction rate in the corresponding third quarter of 2022 with 86.62%, followed by disorderly conduct with an estimated conviction rate of 70.48%.

**Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of the average age of active charges for each parish court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average age of active charges (days)</b>
Clarendon	36
Trelawny	43
Portland	51
St. Mary	34
Hanover	38
Westmoreland	27
St. Catherine	31
St. Ann	45
St. James	45
St. Thomas	36
Corporate Area Criminal	37
Manchester	31
<b>Overall Average</b>	<b>37.83</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>6.98</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.38</b>

The above table shows the average age of active charges originating in the third quarter of 2023, for charges originating in said quarter. The overall average age of active matters originating in the quarter was approximately 38 days or roughly 1.3 months, roughly 1 more day than the average recorded in the third quarter of 2022. The parish courts of Westmoreland, St. Catherine and Manchester have the lowest averages on the list. On the contrary, the highest averages were observed in the parish courts of Portland, St. James, St. Ann, Trelawny and Hanover. The standard deviation of the scores was, however, relatively low (7 days), an indication that the individual values for the parish courts were on average close to the overall mean. The positive 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average age of disposed charges (days)</b>
Clarendon	38
Trelawny	32
Portland	14
St. Mary	27
Hanover	26
Westmoreland	23
St. Catherine	22
St. Ann	38
St. James	32
St. Thomas	34
Corporate Area Criminal	31
Manchester	46
<b>Overall Average</b>	<b>30.25</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>8.54</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>-0.08</b>

The above table shows that the average time taken to dispose of criminal cases filed in the Parish Courts in the third quarter of 2023 is approximately 30 days. This is roughly 5 less days than the time taken to dispose of cases originating in the third quarter of 2022. The standard deviation of the scores was relatively low (9 days), an indication that the individual values for the parish courts were on average close to the overall mean. The negative skewness, however, indicates that proportionately more of the scores of the individual times to disposition in the data set were

close to the overall series average. The scores ranged from a low of roughly 14 days at the Portland Parish Court to a high of 46 days for the Manchester Parish Court.

**Table 14.0a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the third quarter ended September 30, 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	14310 (36.3%)	8284 (21.0%)	4949 (12.6%)	3440 (8.7%)	3642 (9.2%)	1987 (5.0%)	2789 (7.1%)	39401 (100%)
St. Catherine	6454 (34.0%)	4438 (23.4%)	2522 (13.3%)	1503 (7.9%)	1615 (8.5%)	781 (4.1%)	1649 (8.7%)	18962 (100%)
St. James	5474 (38.2%)	2838 (19.8%)	1546 (10.8%)	1213 (8.5%)	1360 (9.5%)	669 (4.7%)	1216 (8.5%)	14316 (100%)
Manchester	3363 (26.9%)	2291 (18.3%)	1661 (13.3%)	1267 (10.1%)	1545 (12.4%)	967 (7.7%)	1407 (11.3%)	12501 (100%)
Westmoreland	5897 (55.7%)	1911 (18.1%)	1081 (10.2%)	573 (5.4%)	583 (5.5%)	257 (2.4%)	278 (2.6%)	10580 (100%)
St. Ann	3043 (26.3%)	2268 (19.6%)	1379 (11.9%)	1117 (9.6%)	1505 (13.0%)	867 (7.5%)	1404 (12.1%)	11583 (100%)
Clarendon	5079 (41.9%)	2772 (22.9%)	1462 (12.1%)	886 (7.3%)	1081 (8.9%)	398 (3.3%)	443 (3.7%)	12121 (100%)
St. Thomas	1890 (28.8%)	1458 (22.3%)	847 (12.9%)	740 (11.3%)	702 (10.7%)	345 (5.3%)	570 (8.7%)	6552 (100%)
Portland	2839 (37.7%)	1911 (25.4%)	910 (12.1%)	592 (7.9%)	628 (8.3%)	337 (4.5%)	306 (4.1%)	7523 (100%)
St. Mary	3461 (44.1%)	1580 (20.1%)	993 (12.7%)	606 (7.7%)	584 (7.4%)	258 (3.3%)	366 (4.7%)	7848 (100%)
Trelawny	2116 (35.5%)	1083 (18.2%)	689 (11.6%)	527 (8.9%)	605 (10.2%)	354 (5.9%)	579 (9.7%)	5953 (100%)
Hanover	2927 (51.9%)	1240 (22.0%)	564 (10.0%)	343 (6.1%)	261 (4.6%)	148 (2.6%)	152 (2.7%)	5635 (100%)
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>37.16</b>	<b>20.97</b>	<b>12.16</b>	<b>8.37</b>	<b>9.22</b>	<b>4.82</b>	<b>7.29</b>	-
<b>Average</b>	<b>4737.75</b>	<b>2672.83</b>	<b>1550.25</b>	<b>1067.25</b>	<b>1175.92</b>	<b>614.00</b>	<b>929.92</b>	<b>12747.92</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>3368.78</b>	<b>1985.38</b>	<b>1194.49</b>	<b>826.97</b>	<b>902.09</b>	<b>508.06</b>	<b>782.46</b>	<b>9265.94</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>2.34</b>	<b>2.39</b>	<b>2.41</b>	<b>2.42</b>	<b>2.01</b>	<b>1.99</b>	<b>1.29</b>	<b>2.47</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 152,975*

*Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the previous 7.1 years*

The above table shows the breakdown of the times to disposition for matters filed in the respective parish courts for at least 85 consecutive months (7.1 years) over the period September 2016 to September 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 37.16% 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, 78.66% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year, a continued positive indicator of the potential effectiveness of the courts in sustaining overall productivity and realizing the objective of becoming the best in the Caribbean region in three years and among the best in the world in six years. From the data set, the parish courts of Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, St. Catherine and Manchester had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 7.29% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts of Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, St. Catherine and Manchester 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 the third quarter ended September 30, 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	275 (28.3%)	185 (19.0%)	105 (10.8%)	86 (8.8%)	182 (18.7%)	45 (4.6%)	94 (9.7%)	972 (100%)
St. Catherine	214 (28.5%)	151 (20.1%)	65 (8.6%)	47 (6.3%)	45 (6.0%)	36 (4.8%)	194 (25.8%)	752 (100%)
St. James	161 (50.6%)	44 (13.8%)	14 (4.4%)	38 (11.9%)	19 (6.0%)	16 (5.0%)	26 (8.2%)	318 (100%)
Manchester	88 (35.3%)	92 (36.9%)	16 (6.4%)	14 (5.6%)	22 (8.8%)	6 (2.4%)	11 (4.4%)	249 (100%)
Westmoreland	217 (81.3%)	37 (13.9%)	4 (1.5%)	1 (0.4%)	1 (0.4%)	3 (1.1%)	4 (1.5%)	267 (100%)
St. Ann	147 (31.1%)	108 (22.8%)	36 (7.6%)	49 (10.4%)	31 (6.6%)	25 (5.3%)	77 (16.3%)	473 (100%)
Clarendon	92 (37.1%)	53 (21.4%)	41 (16.5%)	30 (12.1%)	12 (4.8%)	13 (5.2%)	7 (2.8%)	248 (100%)
St. Thomas	59 (34.9%)	42 (24.9%)	21 (12.4%)	14 (8.3%)	12 (7.1%)	7 (4.1%)	14 (8.3%)	169 (100%)
Portland	99 (42.1%)	91 (38.7%)	15 (6.4%)	9 (3.8%)	15 (6.4%)	3 (1.3%)	3 (1.3%)	235 (100%)
St. Mary	119 (61.3%)	34 (17.5%)	19 (9.8%)	13 (6.7%)	6 (3.1%)	3 (1.5%)	-	194 (100%)
Trelawny	59 (28.8%)	27 (13.2%)	15 (7.3%)	35 (17.1%)	35 (17.1%)	18 (8.8%)	16 (7.8%)	205 (100%)
Hanover	56 (60.2%)	10 (10.8%)	12 (12.9%)	13 (14.0%)	1 (1.1%)	1 (1.1%)	-	93 (100%)
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>37.99</b>	<b>20.93</b>	<b>8.69</b>	<b>8.36</b>	<b>9.13</b>	<b>4.22</b>	<b>10.68</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>132.17</b>	<b>72.83</b>	<b>30.25</b>	<b>29.08</b>	<b>31.75</b>	<b>14.67</b>	<b>44.60</b>	<b>347.92</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>71.79</b>	<b>53.63</b>	<b>28.78</b>	<b>23.81</b>	<b>49.21</b>	<b>14.23</b>	<b>61.31</b>	<b>261.03</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.79</b>	<b>1.01</b>	<b>1.92</b>	<b>1.24</b>	<b>3.02</b>	<b>1.15</b>	<b>1.93</b>	<b>1.71</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 4,175*

The table above shows the breakdown of the time disposition for matters disposed parish courts in the quarter ended September 30, 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 37.99% of the disposals. The Corporate Area Court -Criminal Division along with the parish courts

of Westmoreland, St. Catherine and St. James are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days. Cumulatively, 75.97% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year, a positive indicator of the potential effectiveness of the courts in increasing overall productivity and realizing the objective of becoming the best in the Caribbean region in three years and among the best in the world in six years. From the data set, the parish courts of Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, St. Catherine and St. Ann had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 10.68% 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Criminal	248.94	1	140	306.26	2.72	1	2653	39401
St. Catherine	271.48	28	143	367.67	2.90	1	2593	18962
St. James	259.82	66	134	318.85	2.24	1	2679	14316
Manchester	320.40	63	205	331.95	1.79	1	2647	12501
Westmoreland	147.88	28	76	191.28	2.56	1	1792	10580
St. Ann	331.67	63	203	357.42	1.95	1	2314	11583
Clarendon	193.30	63	112	227.37	2.65	1	2685	12121
St. Thomas	273.15	63	173	286.53	1.85	1	2047	6552
Portland	212.13	63	124	259.75	3.14	1	2196	7523
St. Mary	192.84	14	108	226.90	2.16	1	1904	7848
Trelawny	281.32	28	154	330.38	2.05	1	2366	5953
Hanover	152.30	28	84	193.53	2.68	1	1696	5635
<b>Average/Weighted Average</b>	<b>247.51</b>	<b>42.33</b>	<b>138.00</b>	<b>283.16</b>	<b>2.39</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>2297.67</b>	<b>12747.92</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>60.67</b>	<b>23.41</b>	<b>41.31</b>	<b>62.08</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>367.02</b>	<b>9265.94</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>-0.15</b>	<b>-0.41</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>-0.26</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>#DIV/0!</b>	<b>-0.44</b>	<b>2.47</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 152,975*

*Note 1: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the previous 7.1 years.*

*Note 2: The average time to disposition for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann as at September 30, 2023 is 326.57 days*

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a large sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at September 30, 2023. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least an 85-month period over September 2016 – September 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 248 days (8.3 months). The skewness of these times to disposition is a low negative 0.15, suggesting a cluster of scores around the overall

mean. For matters disposed of in the period, the parish courts of Westmoreland (148 days), Hanover (152 days) and St. Mary (193 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Ann (332 days), Manchester (320 days) and Trelawny (281 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters disposed over the period. The average variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts is, however, wide as shown by the moderately high standard deviation (60.67), 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 2685 days (89.50 months/7.5 years) in the Clarendon Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a negative 0.44, 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 152,975 matters.

**Table 15.0b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for matters completed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Criminal	306.96	377	201	328.39	2.40	1	2387	972
St. Catherine	402.66	849	195.50	473.94	2.11	1	2593	752
St. James	355.32	35	83.50	789.18	3.76	1	3739	318
Manchester	202.53	63	113	266.09	3.50	5	2099	249
Westmoreland	71.87	71	31	138.08	5.09	1	1116	267
St. Ann	330.91	903	161	398.21	1.97	1	2163	473
Clarendon	202.07	56	126	211.63	2.27	1	1456	248
St. Thomas	254.57	28	154	308.02	2.38	1	1757	169
Portland	131.11	102	102	151.79	2.54	3	962	235
St. Mary	106.78	14	63	121.10	2.08	2	643	194
Trelawny	354.55	518	278	435.83	2.90	2	2366	205
Hanover	121.59	20	63	133.30	1.30	4	661	93
<b>Average/Weighted Average</b>	<b>279.99</b>	<b>253.00</b>	<b>130.92</b>	<b>312.96</b>	<b>2.69</b>	<b>1.92</b>	<b>1828.50</b>	<b>347.92</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>113.00</b>	<b>330.80</b>	<b>70.58</b>	<b>193.87</b>	<b>1.01</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>914.09</b>	<b>261.03</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>-0.03</b>	<b>1.31</b>	<b>0.64</b>	<b>1.36</b>	<b>1.28</b>	<b>1.42</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>1.71</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 4,175*

*Note: The average time to disposition for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann in the quarter ended September 30, 2023 is 160.87 days*

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the quarter ended September 30, 2023. The output produces an estimated weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Criminal Division) of approximately 280 days or 9.3 months. The skewness of these times to disposition is a negative 0.03, suggesting that a large proportion of these times were clustered around the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the quarter, the parish courts of Westmoreland (72 days), St. Mary (107 days) and Hanover (122 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases in the quarter. The parish courts of St. Catherine (403 days), St. James (355 days) and Trelawny (355 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 (113), suggesting inconsistencies in performances on this measure. The average minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 1.92 days; 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 643 days (21.4 months/1.8 years) in the St. Mary parish court to a high of 3,739 days (124.6 months/10.4 years) in the St. James Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a positive 0.50 which is an indication that proportionately more of the maximum times to disposition were clustered the overall series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial 4,175 matters cases which were resolved during the third quarter of 2023.

**15.0c: Net and gross criminal case backlog as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Net case backlog rate (%)</b>	<b>Gross case backlog rate (%)</b>
Clarendon	0.52	11.33
Corporate area	2.16	20.04
Hanover	0.12	4.64
Manchester	1.93	15.84
Portland	1.36	8.61
St. Ann	5.51	12.56
St. Catherine	0.64	9.39
St. James	0.39	11.29
St. Mary	0.20	10.01
St. Thomas	2.30	9.13
Trelawny	1.01	10.41
Westmoreland	0.10	7.63
<b>Weighted Average</b>	<b>1.49</b>	<b>12.62</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>1.53</b>	<b>3.96</b>

**Note: The net backlog for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for the third quarter of 2023 is 7.84% and the gross backlog is 28.71%**

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 1.49 (with a standard deviation of 1.53%) which is satisfies than the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at a commendable 12.62% (with a standard deviation of 3.96%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved criminal cases in the parish courts. This rate is only 2.62 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 6 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 0.10%, Hanover with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.12% and St. Mary with an estimated net case backlog rate of 0.20% have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts St. Ann (5.51%), St. Thomas (2.30%) and of Corporate Area Criminal (2.16%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of Hanover (4.64%), Westmoreland (7.63%) and Portland 8.61%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of Corporate Area Criminal Court (20.04%), Manchester (15.84%) and St, Ann (12.56%) 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Methods of Disposition</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Dismissed	360	42.86
Guilty plea	134	15.95
Not guilty	134	15.95
Mediated Settlement	125	14.88
Guilty	56	6.67
Transferred	16	1.90
Committed to Circuit	15	1.79
<b>Total</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the common methods of disposition for a sample of cases proceeding to trial. It is seen that matters dismissed with 42.86% of the cases disposed, guilty pleas and disposals by way of not guilty verdicts with 134 or 15.95% each account for the three leading methods of disposition in the sample for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023.

## Methods of Disposal and Conviction Rate

**Table 17.0: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Parish Court	Guilty Plea	Dismissed	Not Guilty Verdict	Transferred	Mediated Settlement	Guilty Verdict	Committed to Circuit Court	Total
St. Catherine	344	339	18	233	233	15	62	1244
Corporate Area Criminal	548	395	37	26	103	10	157	1276
Westmoreland	145	132	62	2	91	-	32	464
St. James	306	-	232	41	3	2	19	603
Manchester	-	62	48	1	70	139	59	379
Clarendon	193	22	33	19	97	4	66	434
Trelawny	70	119	5	8	31	4	62	299
Hanover	34	13	119	-	1	11	15	193
Portland	52	-	64	-	49	-	67	232
St. Mary	2	99	22	-	54	35	36	248
St. Thomas	86	6	34	22	77	6	29	260
St. Ann	99	30	57	119	65	2	7	379
<b>Total</b>	<b>1879</b>	<b>1217</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>6011</b>
<b>Percentage of total</b>	<b>31.26</b>	<b>20.25</b>	<b>12.16</b>	<b>7.84</b>	<b>14.54</b>	<b>3.79</b>	<b>10.16</b>	<b>-</b>

Total sample size: 6,011

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts for the third 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 31.26% of the sample, followed by matters dismissed with 20.25% and mediated settlements with 14.54%. Not guilty verdicts with 12.16%, matters committed to Circuit Court with 10.16%, matters transferred to another court with 7.84% and guilty verdicts with 3.79% account for the remaining disposals in the quarter. The combined 35.05% 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 an increase of 4.6 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Reasons for Adjournment	Count	Percentage (%)
File to be completed	1921	16.54
Disclosure	1283	11.05
Defendant Not Appearing (DNA) warrant issued	1180	10.16
Referred to Mediation	476	4.10
Statement Outstanding	302	2.60
Subpoena investigating officer	298	2.57
Medical report unavailable	246	2.12
Re-issue application	231	1.99
Adjournment request - crown	214	1.84
Facilitate restitution	190	1.64
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>6341</b>	<b>54.60</b>

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance =11,614)

*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 11,614 reasons for adjournments/continuance for matters heard in the across all parish courts. The largest proportion (16.54%) was for files to be completed. Adjournments for disclosure with 11.05% and adjournments due to the nonappearance of the accused, leading to the issuing of warrants with 10.16% account for the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts for the quarter. Adjournments due to referrals to mediation with 4.10% and statement outstanding with 2.60%, 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 third quarter of 2022. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 54.60% 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 third quarter of 2023, the case file integrity rate for criminal matters across the parish courts was 82.55%, as 17.45% 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 16.54% 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 18.02: Summary of mention court activity for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average number of mentions per case</b>	<b>Standard Deviation of Mentions Per Case</b>	<b>Skewness of mentions per case</b>	<b>Maximum Mention Court Frequency</b>	<b>Minimum Mention Court Frequency</b>
Clarendon	3.62	2.86	1.94	18	1
Corporate Area	7.60	8.94	2.58	74	1
Hanover	1.89	1.86	3.62	14	1
Manchester	2.65	2.27	2.39	19	1
Portland	4.33	4.37	2.37	25	1
St. Ann	3.18	2.89	2.85	24	1
St. Catherine	4.82	3.92	1.52	34	1
St. James	3.31	4.04	2.61	16	1
St. Mary	3.44	3.09	2.43	23	1
St. Thomas	4.44	4.78	4.13	40	1
Trelawny	3.27	2.48	1.29	15	1
Westmoreland	4.15	4.67	2.41	26	1
<b>Weighted Average</b>	<b>5.73</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>1.42</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.57</b>	-	-	-	-

The above table summarises the number of mention court appearances per case leading towards disposition in the criminal division of the parish courts for matters heard in the third quarter of 2023. The overall average number of mention court appearances per case is 5.73 (i.e. between 5 and 6) with a standard deviation of 1.42 across the courts sampled and a skewness of 1.57. 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 third quarter of 2023 are the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, the St. Catherine and the

St. Thomas Parish Courts, while the Hanover, Manchester and St. Ann 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 third quarter of 2023 was 4 with a standard deviation of 1.04.

## Chapter 2.0: Case Demographics and Courtroom Activity

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

**Table 19.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

	Male		Female		Total	
Charge	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Assault occasioning bodily harm	684	75.66	220	24.34	904	100
Unlawful wounding	456	78.22	127	21.78	583	100
Possession of offensive weapon	424	94.43	25	5.57	449	100
Threat	342	82.01	75	17.99	417	100
Malicious destruction of property	300	77.92	85	22.08	385	100
Littering	312	96.30	12	3.70	324	100
Smoking in a Public Place	199	94.31	12	5.69	211	100
Assault at common law	161	83.85	31	16.15	192	100
Exposing goods for sale	128	71.91	50	28.09	178	100
Simple larceny	128	75.29	42	24.71	170	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) = 3,813**

The above table provides a sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender in the third quarter ended September 30, 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 malicious destruction of property, unlawful wounding, threat and assault at common law for which over 75% of the persons charged were male. More particularly, it is seen that littering with 96.30, possession of an offensive weapon with 94.43% and smoking in a public place with 94.31% of the persons charged being male had the most significant incidence of persons charged being male for the quarter. Exposing goods for sale, simple larceny, and assault occasioning bodily harm saw the highest incidence of female involvement.

The below series of tables provide a sampling distribution of cases by assigned courtroom in the individual parish courts in the third 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in Q3 2023</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in Q3 2023</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in Q3 2023</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	286	174	15	71.50	66.08
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	52	8	4	13.00	23.08
Whithorn Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	6	4	0	1.50	66.67
Whithorn Outstation	56	43	0	14.00	76.79
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>62.00</b>

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

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of criminal cases filed in the third 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 sittings at the Whithorn Outstation account for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 286 (71.50%) and 56 (14%) cases respectively. Sittings at the Lay Magistrates' court at the main courthouse with 52 cases or 13% rank next. The number of cases heard in courtroom one (286 cases), increased by 63 cases or 28.25% above the 223 cases recorded in the similar third quarter of 2022. The case disposal rate decreased by 4.77 percentage points moving down to 66.08% compared to the 70.85% reported in the third quarter of 2022. In terms of cases

disposed of, sittings in courtroom number 1 with 174 cases accounted for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of and had the third highest disposal rate of 66.08%. The outstation in Whithorn rank next with 43 disposed cases and recorded the highest disposal rate of 76.79%, which is 24.79 percentage points above the 52% recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2022. The single outstation in Westmoreland accounted for 15.50% of the total sample of new cases heard, an increase of 4.47 percentage points when compared to the 11.03% recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2022. The main courthouse accounted for the remaining 84.50%, a decrease of 4.47 percentage points when compared to the 88.97% recorded in 2022.

**Table 22.02: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Corporate Area for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q3 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q3 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q3 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1023	247	336	86.55	56.99
Courtroom #6 (main courthouse)	29	0	0	2.45	NA
Courtroom #7 (main courthouse)	30	1	0	2.54	3.33
Gordon Town Outstation	17	7	0	1.44	41.18
Gun Court	28	2	0	2.37	7.14
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	55	22	9	4.65	56.36
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>1182</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>52.79</b>

**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 third quarter ended September 30, 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 1,023 cases or 86.55% of the total sample. Lay

Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse with 55 cases or roughly 4.65% follows this and courtroom number 7 with 30 cases or 2.54%, 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 of in the third quarter of 2023 with 247 cases and the highest disposal rate of 56.99%. When compared to the corresponding third quarter of 2022, courtroom number two also accounted for the largest absolute share of cases disposed of with 216 cases and had a disposal rate of 44.28%. This represents an increase of 31 cases disposed of or a 14.35% increase and 12.71 percentage points increase in the disposal rate. The main courthouse in Half-Way-Tree accounted for 98.56% of the total sample of new cases heard in the third 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 1023 cases heard in courtroom two, 10 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms. Five (5) cases were disposed of at courtroom 8 at the main courthouse, four (4) cases were disposed of at Fast Track court and one (1) was disposed of at the Outstation in Gordon Town.

**Table 20.03: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. James for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q3 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q3 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q3 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	444	246	47	92.50	65.99
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	1	1	0	0.21	100.00
Cambridge Outstation	35	23	1	7.29	68.57
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>66.25</b>

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 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 444 cases or 92.50% of the total sample, an increase of 33 cases or an 8.03% improvement above the 411 cases recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2022. This was followed by the Cambridge Outstation with 35 cases or 7.29% of the total sample. Courtroom number 4 had the highest disposal rate of 100%, despite the relatively low numbers, followed by the Cambridge Outstation with a disposal rate of 68.57%. The main courthouse in Montego Bay accounts for 92.71% of the new cases heard in the third quarter of 2023, 3.81 percentage points below the 96.52% recorded in corresponding third quarter of 2022. The remaining 7.29% 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q3 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q3 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q3 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	426	169	49	53.32	51.17
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	66	17	3	8.26	30.30
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	3	1	0	0.38	33.33
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	1	0	0	0.13	NA
Courtroom #5 (main courthouse)	8	3	0	1.00	37.50
Children's Court Portmore Outstation	17	1	0	2.13	5.88
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	23	2	0	2.88	8.70
Linstead Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	10	5	0	1.25	50.00
Linstead Outstation (Courtroom #1)	116	56	5	14.52	52.59
Old Harbour Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	7	3	0	0.88	42.86
Old Harbour Outstation (Courtroom #1)	122	63	19	15.27	67.21
<b>Total/ Weighted Average</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>49.56</b>

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 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 Old Harbour account for the largest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 53.32% and 15.27% of the cases respectively. Courtroom 1 at the outstation in Linstead with 14.52% of new cases filed ranks next. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 169 cases, which is an increase of 67.33% or 68 more cases than the 101 cases

recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2022. Courtroom 1 also had the third highest disposal rate of 51.17%, which is an increase of 10.19 percentage points above the 40.98% recorded in the comparable third quarter of 2022. Courtroom 1 at outstation in Old Harbour had the highest disposal rate of 67.21% and courtroom number 1 at the Linstead Outstation with a disposal rate of 52.59% also featured among the top 3 disposal rates recorded in the quarter. The main courthouse in Spanish Town accounts for 65.97% of the total sample of new cases heard in the third quarter of 2023, a decrease of 3.01 percentage points below the 68.98% recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2022. The outstations combined accounted for the remaining 34.03%.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. In particular, of the 426 cases heard in courtroom number one at the main courthouse, 9 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstation. Courtroom 2 disposed of 8 cases, while Courtrooms 3 at the main courthouse accounted for 1 case. Of the 66 cases heard in courtroom number two at the main courthouse, courtrooms one and four at the main courthouse each disposed of 1 case.

**20.05: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Thomas for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in Q3 2023</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in Q3 2023</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in Q3 2023</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Children's Court (main courthouse)	8	1	0	5.16	12.50
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	83	45	4	53.55	59.04
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	22	5	2	14.19	31.82
Yallahs Outstation	42	13	0	27.10	30.95
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>45.16</b>

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

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The data shows decisively that cases entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse and the Yallahs outstation account for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 53.55% and 27.10% respectively. Courtroom number 1 also accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 45 cases and the highest disposal rate of 59.04%. When compared to the corresponding third quarter of 2022, this represents an increase of 13.09 percentage points above the disposal rate of 45.95% recorded. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse with a disposal rate of 31.82% (compared to 63.16% in 2022) accounts for the second highest disposal rate in the quarter. The main courthouse in Morant Bay accounted for 72.90% of the total new cases heard in the quarter, which is an increase of 2.90 percentage points when compared to the 70% recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2022. The remaining 27.10% was accounted for by the Yallahs

outstation, a decrease of 2.90 percentage points when compared to the 30% recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2022.

**Table 20.06: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Trelawny for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q3 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q3 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q3 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	6	3	0	2.68	50.00
Clarks town Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	9	0	3	4.02	33.33
Falmouth Outstation	61	22	2	27.23	39.34
Falmouth Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	3	0	0	1.34	NA
Ulster Spring Outstation	30	10	0	13.39	33.33
Ulster Spring Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	2	0	0	0.89	NA
Clarks Town Outstation (courtroom #1)	113	57	9	50.45	58.41
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>47.32</b>

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023 at the Trelawny Parish Court. The data shows decisively that cases entered in courtroom 1 at the Clarks Town Outstation accounts for the majority of new cases heard in the quarter with 50.45%. The Falmouth Town Outstation and the Ulster Spring Outstation with 27.23% and 13.39% respectively, followed. Courtroom 1 at the Clarks Town Outstation recorded the highest disposal rate of 58.41%, followed by courtroom 1 at the main courthouse and Falmouth outstation with disposal rates of 50% and 39.34% respectively. The outstations in the parish account for 97.32% of the new cases heard in the third quarter of 2023, while the remaining 2.68% were accounted for by the main courthouse. In the corresponding third quarter of 2022, the main courthouse accounted for 7.60% of the new cases heard, while the remaining 92.40% were accounted for by the outstations.

**Table 20.07: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Mary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q3 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q3 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q3 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Children's Court (main courthouse)	2	0	0	0.98	NA
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	110	41	0	53.92	37.27
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	2	0	0	0.98	NA
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	1	0	0	0.49	NA
Lay Magistrates' (main courthouse)	13	0	0	6.37	NA
Annotto Bay Outstation	33	14	1	16.18	45.45
Gayle Outstation	14	5	0	6.86	35.71
Gayle Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	2	0	0	0.98	NA
Richmond Outstation	26	17	0	12.75	65.38
Richmond Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	1	0	0	0.49	NA
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>38.24</b>

*Note 1: There were 6 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 third 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 53.92% and 16.18% respectively of the total sample. Sittings at the Richmond outstation with 12.75% and the Gayle Outstation with 6.86% rank next. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 in Port Maria accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 41 cases, roughly 5 less number of cases or a 10.87% decline when compared to the corresponding third quarter of 2022 and had a case disposal rate of 37.27%. The Richmond outstation had the highest disposal rate of 65.38%, followed by the Annotto Bay Outstation with a disposal rate of 45.45%. The outstations in the parish account for a combined 37.26% of the total sample of new cases heard in the third quarter of 2023, a decrease of 8.29 percentage points below the 45.55% recorded in

the corresponding third quarter of 2022. On the other hand, the main courthouse accounts for 62.74%, which is an increase of 8.29 percentage point above the 54.45% 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 110 cases heard in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse, 3 cases were disposed of in courtroom 3 at the main courthouse and 1 case was disposed of at the Children’s Court. Of the 26 cases heard in the Richmond Bay Outstation, 1 case was disposed of in courtroom 2 at the main courthouse.

**Table 20.08: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Portland for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q3 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q3 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q3 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	60	31	1	55.05	53.33
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	1	0	0	0.92	NA
Buff Bay Outstation (courtroom #1)	35	18	4	32.11	62.86
Buff Bay Outstation (Children’s Court)	5	0	0	4.59	NA
Manchioneal Outstation	8	6	0	7.34	75.00
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>55.05</b>

*Note 1: There were 39 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 third 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 55.05% of the total sample. In the third quarter of 2022, courtroom one also accounted for the highest share of new cases heard with 43.30% of the cases. Courtroom number 1 at the outstation in Buff Bay and Manchioneal outstation with 32.11% (compared to 31.44% in 2022) and 7.34% (compared to 22.68% 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 31 cases, a 29.17% increase or 7 more cases compared to the 24 cases recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2022; and had the third highest disposal rate of 53.33%. The Manchioneal outstation and courtroom number one at the Buff Bay Outstation with disposal rates of 75% and 62.86% respectively ranked first and second on this measure. The outstations in Portland account for a combined 44.04% of the new cases heard, which is a decrease of 11.63 percentage points below the 55.67% recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2022. The main courthouse in Port Antonio accounts for the remaining 55.96%, which is an increase of 11.63 percentage above the 44.33% recorded in the third quarter of 2022.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 8 cases heard in Manchioneal Outstation, 1 case was disposed of in courtroom 2 at the main courthouse.

**Table 20.09: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Hanover for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q3 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q3 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q3 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	34	22	1	21.79	67.65
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	31	11	0	19.87	35.48
Green Island Outstation (courtroom #1)	39	30	2	25.00	82.05
Green Island Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	8	3	0	5.13	37.50
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	12	6	0	7.69	50.00
Ramble Outstation (courtroom #1)	2	2	0	1.28	100.00
Ramble Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	4	2	0	2.56	50.00
Sandy Bay Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	6	2	0	3.85	33.33
Sandy Bay Outstation (courtroom #1)	20	17	0	12.82	85.00
<b>Total/ Weighted Average</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>62.82</b>

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Hanover in the third quarter of 2023. The data shows decisively that courtroom number one at the courtroom number 1 at the Green Island outstation accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 25% of the total sample and is 12.80 percentage points above the 12.20% recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2022. Courtroom one at the main courthouse and courtroom two at the main courthouse with 21.79% and 19.87% respectively rank next. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 at the Green Island Outstation accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 30 cases, a 275% improvement or 22 more cases than the 8 cases recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2022. Courtroom 1 at the Green Island Outstation also recorded the third highest case disposal rate of 82.05%, which is an increase of 32.05 percentage points above the 50% reported in the comparative third quarter of 2022. Despite the relatively low absolute numbers, courtroom 1 at the outstation in Ramble recorded the highest disposal rate of 100%. The outstations in the parish account for 50.64% of the new cases heard during the quarter, which is an increase of 13.43 percentage points above the 37.21% in the third quarter of 2022. The main courthouse accounts for the remaining 49.36%, which is a decrease of 13.43 percentage points below the 62.79% when compared to 2022.

**Table 20.10: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Ann for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q3 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q3 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q3 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
<b>St. Ann's Bay and the Claremont outstation</b>					
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	183	64	52	58.65	63.39
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	10	1	2	3.21	30.00
Claremont Outstation (Children's Court)	12	1	1	3.85	16.67
Claremont Outstation	7	6	0	2.24	85.71
Claremont Outstation (Lay Magistrates' court)	7	0	3	2.24	42.86
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	7	1	5	2.24	85.71
<b>Brown's Town</b>					
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	76	9	9	24.36	23.68
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	10	1	4	3.21	50.00
<b>Total/ Weighted Average</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>50.96</b>

*Note 1: There were 139 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023. The data shows that courtroom 1 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 58.65% and 24.36% respectively of the total sample. When compared to the third 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 55.28% and 19.92% respectively of the total sample. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom 1 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 64 cases and had a disposal rate of 63.39%. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main

courthouse and the Claremont outstation with disposal rates of 85.71% each account the highest disposal rates for the quarter. As a whole, the Brown’s Town court accounted for approximately 27.57% of the new cases filed in the parish of St. Ann in the third quarter of 2023, which is 3.99 percentage points above the 23.58% recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2022. The St. Ann’s Bay courthouse accounts for 64.10% of the new cases heard in the quarter and the Claremont outstation accounted for the remaining 8.33% 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 183 cases heard in courtroom number one at the main courthouse, 2 cases were disposed of in courtroom two at the main courthouse. Of the 7 cases heard in the Claremont Outstation, 1 case was disposed of in courtroom two at the main courthouse.

**Table 20.11: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Clarendon for third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q3 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q3 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q3 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	156	81	13	42.74	60.26
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	45	23	4	12.33	60.00
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	18	4	0	4.93	22.22
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	25	8	4	6.85	48.00
Lionel Town Outstation	61	26	1	16.71	44.26
Chapleton Outstation	36	9	3	9.86	33.33
Frankfield Outstation	24	15	2	6.58	70.83
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>52.88</b>

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

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Clarendon in the third quarter ended September 30, 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 42.74% of the total sample. The Lionel Town outstation and courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse and account for the next highest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 16.71% and 12.33% 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 81 cases, a decrease of 19% or 19 cases less than the 100 disposed cases recorded for this courtroom in the third quarter of 2022 and had the second highest disposal rate of 60.26%. The Frankfield Outstation with a disposal rate of 70.83% had the highest disposal rate and courtroom 2 at the main courthouse with a disposal rate of 60% was featured among the top 3. The main courthouse in May Pen accounted for 66.85% of cases heard in quarter, while the remaining 33.15% was accounted for by the outstations, which is a decrease of 3.37 percentage points less than the 36.52% recorded in 2022. As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. There were 156 new cases heard courtroom 1 at the main courthouse, of this amount, 1 was disposed of in courtroom 2 at the main courthouse.

**Table 20.12: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Manchester for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in Q3 2023</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in Q3 2023</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in Q3 2023</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	60	29	4	20.76	55.00
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	51	18	0	17.65	35.29
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	3	0	0	1.04	NA
Cottage Outstation	6	4	1	2.08	83.33
Cottage Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	3	0	0	1.04	NA
Christiana Outstation	28	11	0	9.69	39.29
Christiana Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	15	6	0	5.19	40.00
Spalding Outstation	14	3	0	4.84	21.43
Spalding Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	1	0	0	0.35	NA
Porus Outstation	14	1	1	4.84	14.29
Porus Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	5	0	0	1.73	NA
Cross Keys Outstation	12	1	0	4.15	8.33
Cross Keys Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	6	0	0	2.08	NA
Tax Court	8	0	0	2.77	NA
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	63	42	4	21.80	73.02
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>43.25</b>

*Note 1: There were 21 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023. The data shows Lay Magistrate’s sittings at the main courthouse accounted for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 63 cases or 21.80% of the total sample. Courtroom 1 at the main courthouse and courtroom 2 at the main courthouse account for the next highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 20.76% and 17.65% respectively of the total sample. In terms of case disposal rate, the Cottage Outstation recorded the highest disposal rate of 83.33%, despite its proportionally low numbers, followed by Lay Magistrates’ sittings at the main courthouse with 73.02% and courtroom 1 at the main courthouse with 55%.

The main courthouse in Mandeville accounts for 61.25% of the total sample of new cases heard during the third quarter of 2023, which is a decrease of 4.13 percentage point when compared to the 65.38% recorded in the third quarter of 2022. The remaining 38.75% 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 60 cases heard in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse, 2 cases were disposed of in courtroom 2 at the main courthouse and 1 case was disposed of in courtroom 3 at the main courthouse.

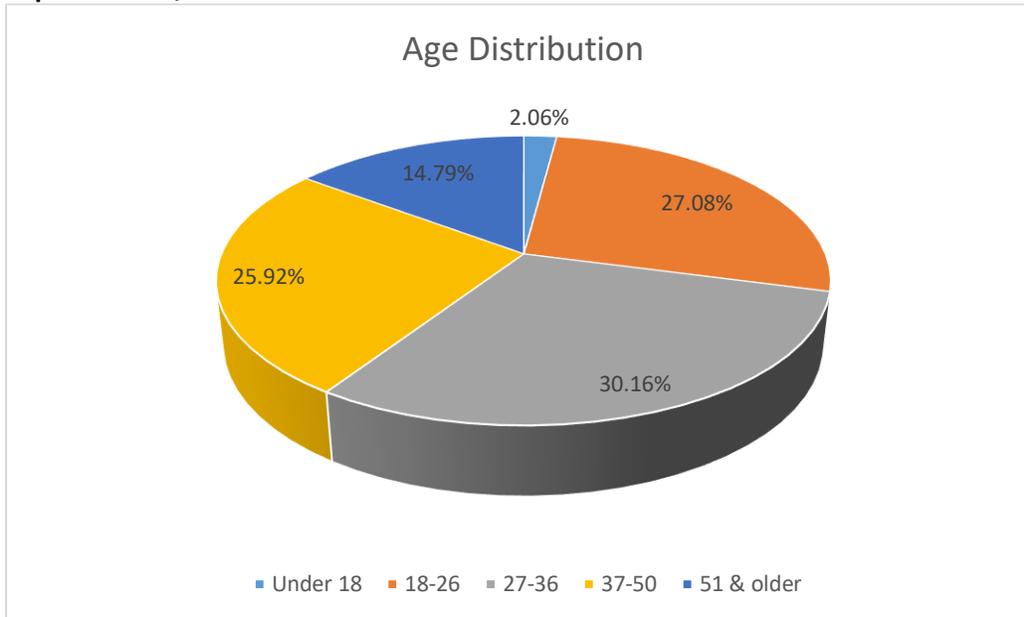
**Table 20.13: proportion of cases heard at the main court and outstation across all parish courts for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Parish</b>	<b>Main Court Q3 2023 (%)</b>	<b>Outstation Q3 2023 (%)</b>
St. James	92.71	7.29
St. Catherine	65.97	34.03
Westmoreland	84.50	15.50
Hanover	49.36	50.64
St. Mary	62.74	37.26
Trelawny	2.68	97.32
St. Thomas	72.90	27.10
Manchester	61.25	38.75
Portland	55.96	44.04
St. Ann	64.10	35.90
Clarendon	66.85	33.15
Corporate Area	98.56	1.44
<b>Simple Averages</b>	<b>64.80</b>	<b>35.20</b>

The above table provides a proxy summary of the distribution of the utilization of the main courthouse locations and combined outstation usage in the hearing of new criminal cases filed. It is seen that 64.80% of new cases filed were entered for initial hearing in the main courthouse locations, while 35.20% 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 98.56% of cases entered for initial hearing at the main courthouse. On the contrary, there are parishes where the level of outstation usage competes with or outruns the usage of the main courthouse in the hearing of criminal cases filed. Trelawny is a good example of courts with significant outstation usage, registering over 90% for initial hearing of new criminal cases filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023. There may be opportunities for

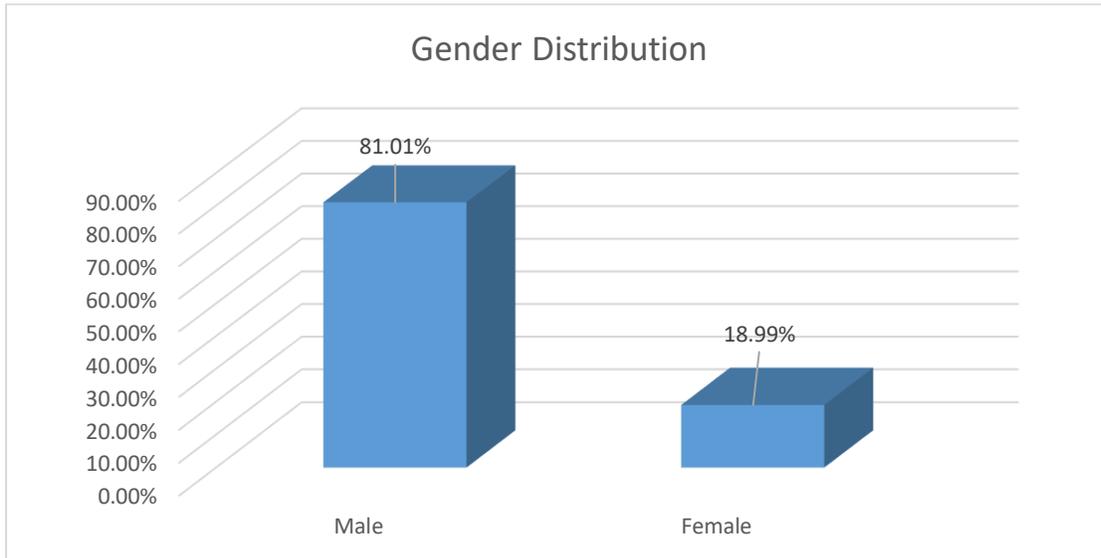
greater utilization of outstations to carry the caseload in some parishes, but such precise determinations require further analyses of total 'demand and supply, in each location.

**Chart 4.0: Aggregate age distribution of persons charged for all parish courts for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**



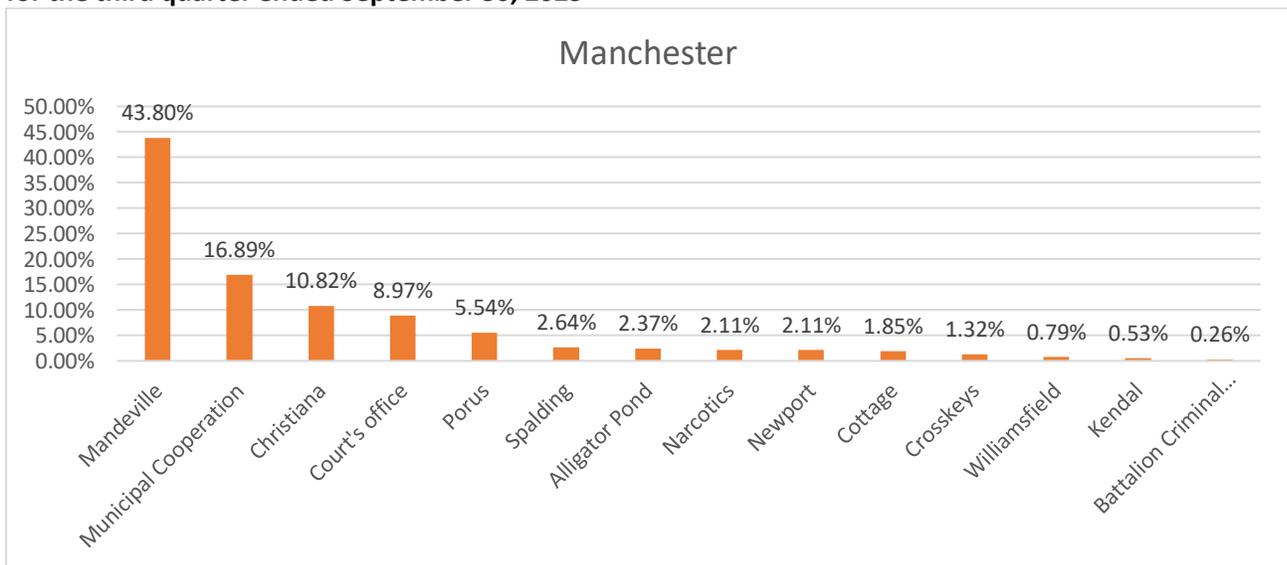
The above chart summarizes the age distribution of persons charged and brought before the criminal division of the parish courts in the third quarter of 2023. It is shown that the 27-36 age group with 30.16% accounted for the largest share of the persons charged, followed by the 18-26 age group with 27.08%. The lowest shares were attributed to the under 18 age group with 2.06% and 51 and over age group with 14.79%. The remaining proportion was accounted for by the 37-50 age group with 25.92% of the total sample.

**Chart 5.0: Aggregate gender distribution of persons charged for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**



The above chart shows that the overwhelming majority of persons charged for the third quarter of 2023 were male, accounting for roughly 81.01% of the total sample, while females accounted for approximately 18.99%. The gender distribution of persons charged during the third quarter of 2023 was broadly similar to the breakdown for the third quarter of 2022 which had a male to female ratio of approximately 80.20% to 19.80%.

**Chart 6.01: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Manchester Parish Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

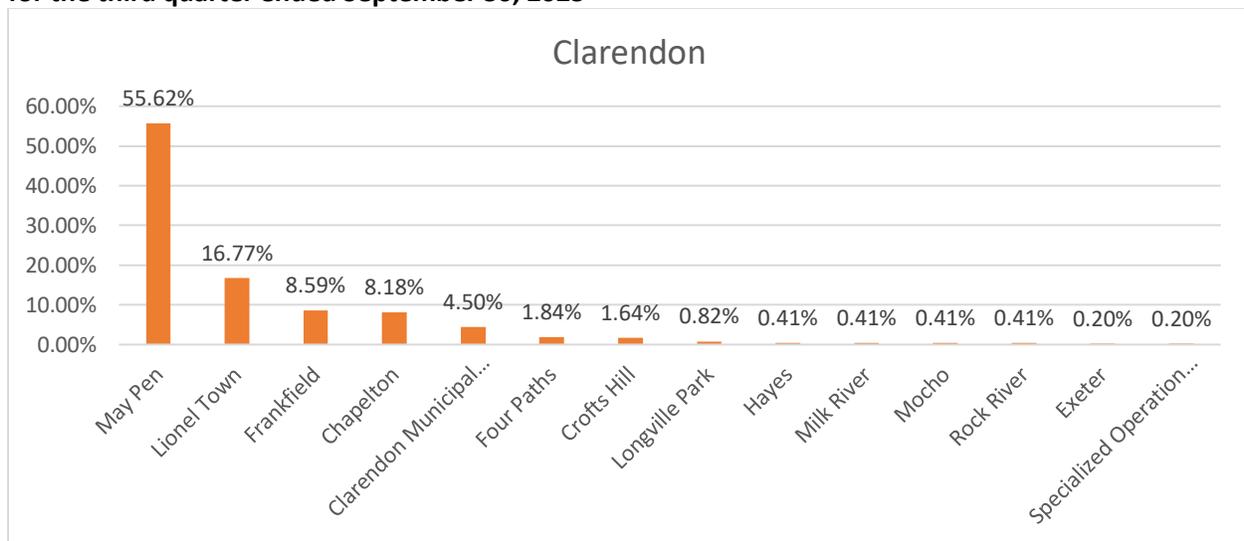


## THE CHIEF JUSTICE’S ANNUAL STATISTICS REPORT ON CRIMINAL MATTERS IN THE PARISH COURTS-2022

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 379 records indicate that for the third quarter of 2023 the highest proportion of charges, 43.80%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Mandeville Police Station. This was followed by the Municipal Corporation, which accounts for 16.89% of the total sample of matters reported. The Christiana police station rounded off the top three with 10.82%. In the corresponding third quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the Mandeville Police Station, the Spalding Police Station, and the Parish council.

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

**Chart 6.02: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Clarendon Parish Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

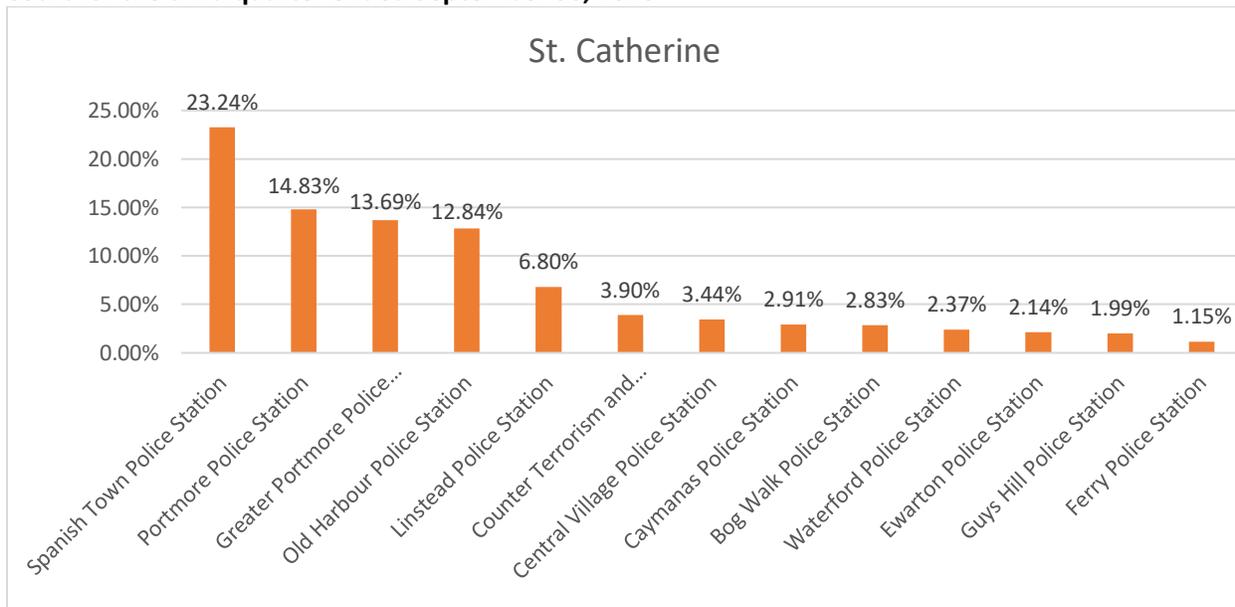


The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 489 records indicate that for the third quarter of 2023, the majority of criminal matters, 55.62%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the May Pen Police Station. This was followed by the Lionel Town Police Station which accounts for 16.77% of the total sample matters reported. The

top three was rounded off by the Frankfield Police Station with 8.59%. In the previous third 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.

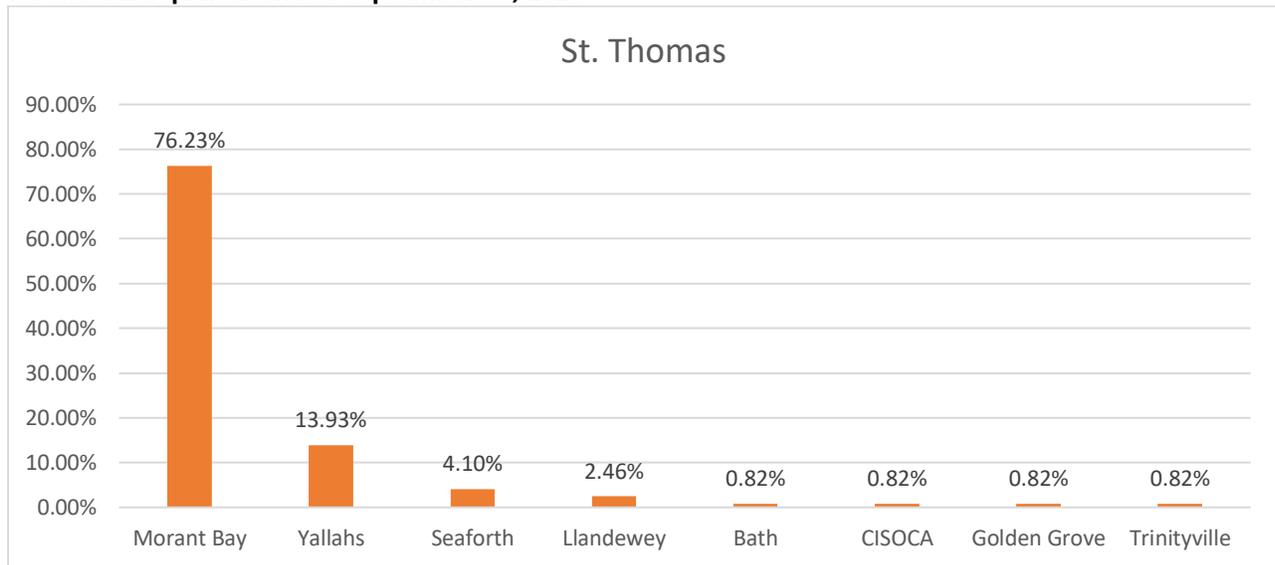
**Chart 6.03: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Catherine Parish Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**



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 1,308 records indicate that for the third quarter of 2023, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 23.24%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Spanish Town Police Station. This was followed by the Portmore Police Station which accounts for 14.83% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by Greater Portmore Police Station with 13.69%. In the previous third 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.

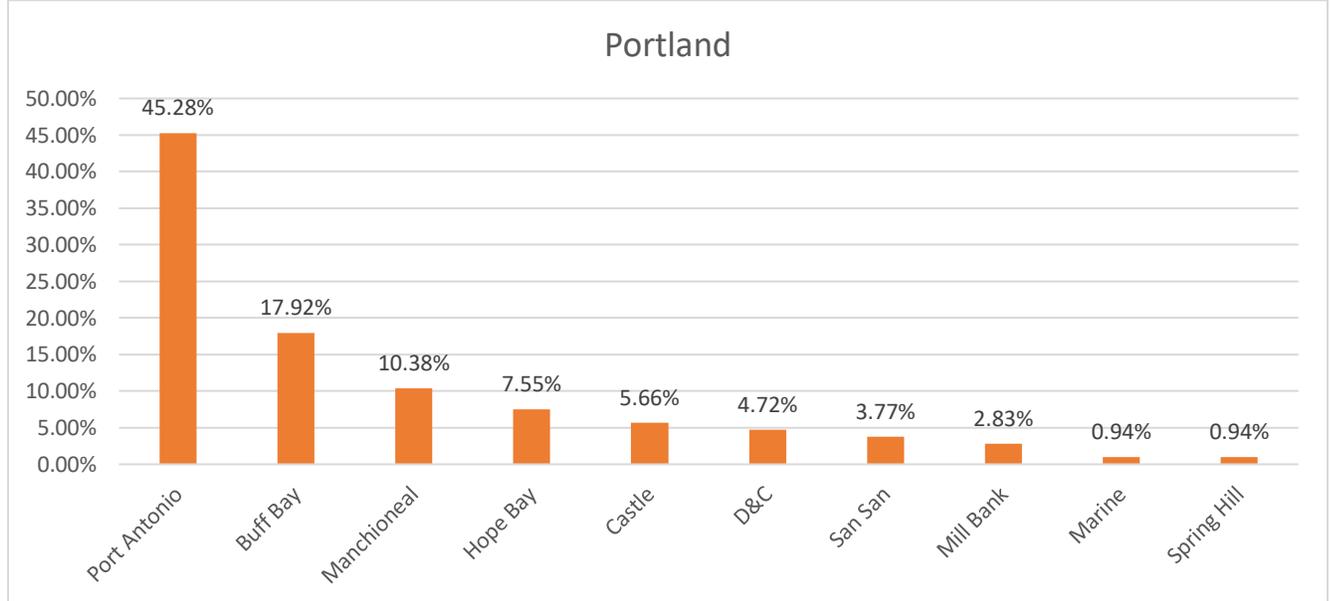
**Chart 6.04: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Thomas Parish Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**



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 122 records indicate that for the third quarter of 2023, the majority of criminal matters, 76.23%, 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 13.93% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Seaforth Police Station with 4.10%. In the previous third quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the Morant Bay Police Station, the Yallahs Police Station and the Seaforth Police Station.

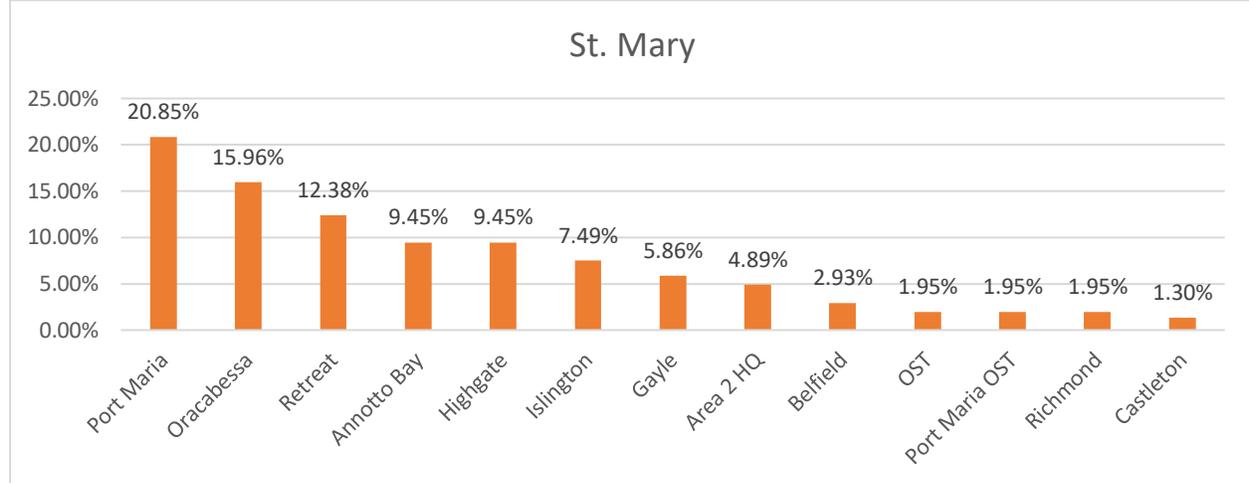
This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 6.05: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Portland Parish Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 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 106 records indicate that for the third quarter of 2023, the highest proportion of criminal matters, 45.28%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Port Antonio Police Station. This was followed by the Buff Bay Police Station, which accounts for 17.92% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Manchioneal Police Station with 10.38%. In the previous third quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the Port Antonio Police Station, the Buff Bay Police Station and the Castle Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

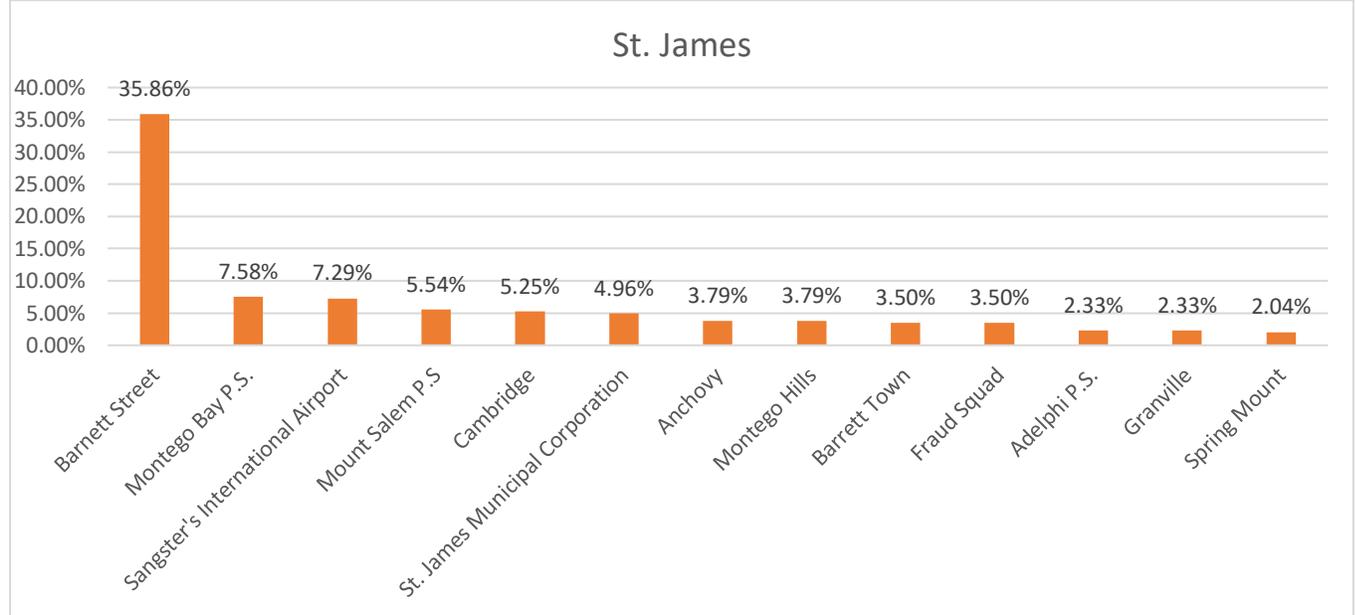
**Chart 6.06: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Mary Parish Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**



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 307 records indicate that for the third quarter of 2023, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 20.85%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Port Maria Police Station. This was followed by the Oracabessa Police Station which accounts for 15.96% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Retreat Police Station with 12.38%. In the previous third quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the Port Maria Police Station, the Annotto Bay Police Station and the Islington Police Station.

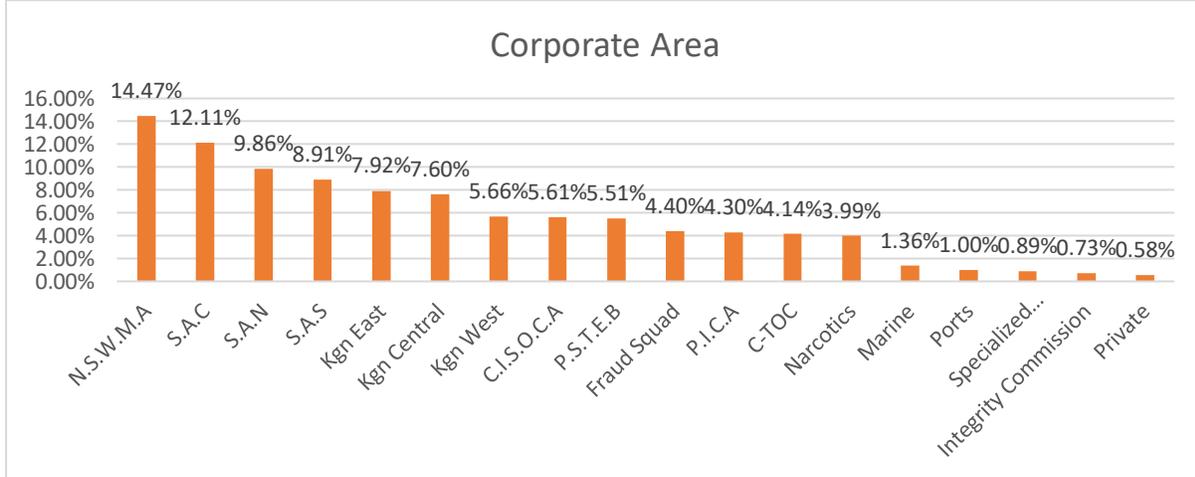
This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 6.07: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. James Parish Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**



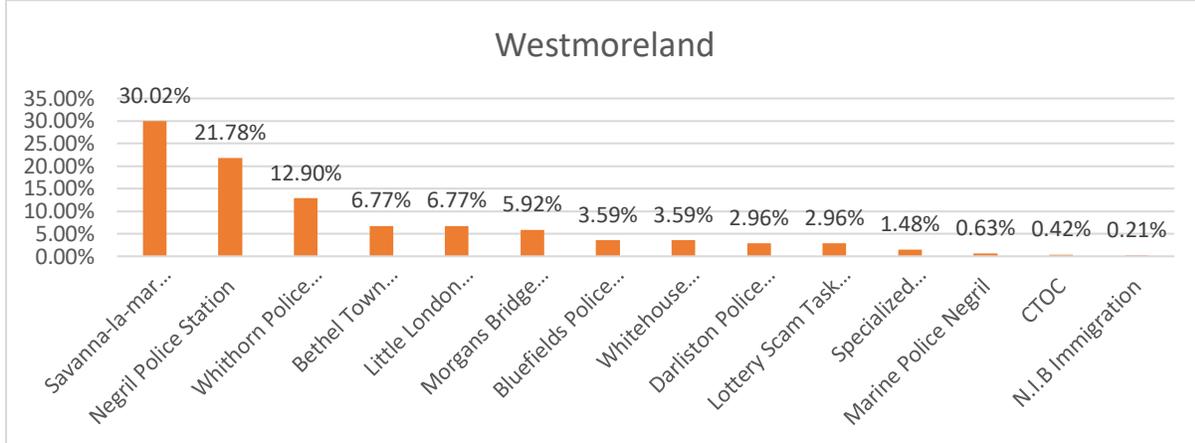
The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. James Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 343 records indicate that for the third quarter of 2023, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 35.86%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Barnett Street Police Station. This was followed by the Montego Bay Police Station, which accounts for 7.58% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Sangster’s International Airport Police Station with 7.29%. In the previous third quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the Barnett Street Police Station, the Montego Bay Police station and the St. James Municipal Corporation. 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**



Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 1,907 records indicate that for the third quarter of 2023, the highest proportion of criminal matters, 14.47%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the N.S.W.M.A Police Station. This was followed by the St. Andrew Central Police Station which accounts for 12.11% of the sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the St. Andrew North Police Station with 9.86%. In the previous third quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the St. Andrew Central Police Station, the P.S.T.E.B Police and the St. Andrew South Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

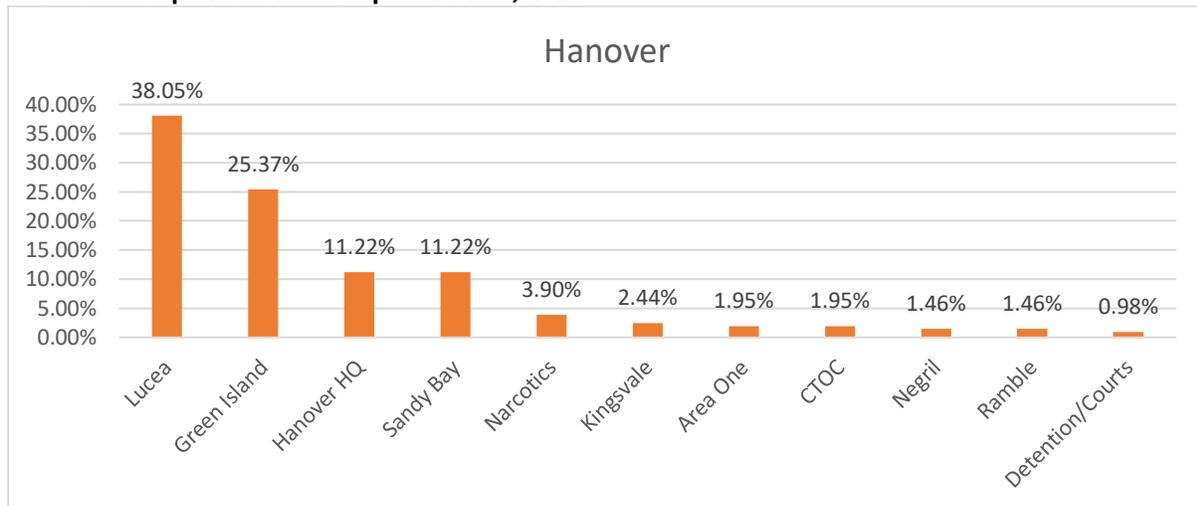
**Chart 6.09: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**



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 473 records indicate that for the third quarter of 2023, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 30.02%, 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 21.78% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Whithorn Police Station with 12.90%. In the previous third quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the Savanna-la-mar Police Station, the Negril Police Station and Morgan’s Bridge Police Station.

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

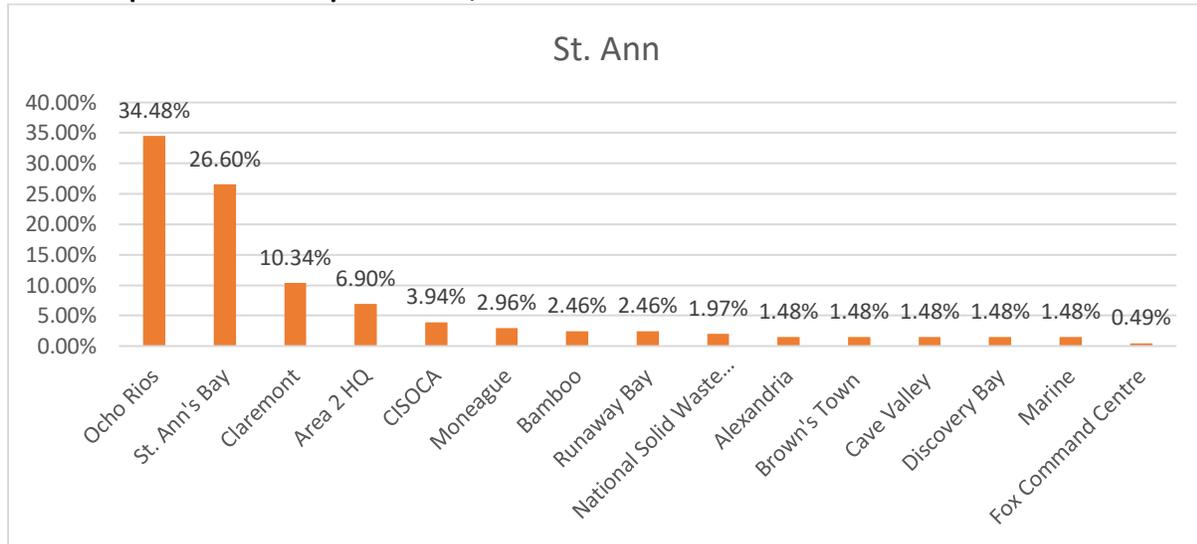
**Chart 6.10: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Hanover Parish Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**



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 205 records indicate that for the third quarter of 2023, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 38.05%, 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 23.37% of the sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Hanover Headquarters Police Station with 11.22%. In the previous third quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the Lucea Police Station, Green Island Police Station and the Sandy Bay Police Station.

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

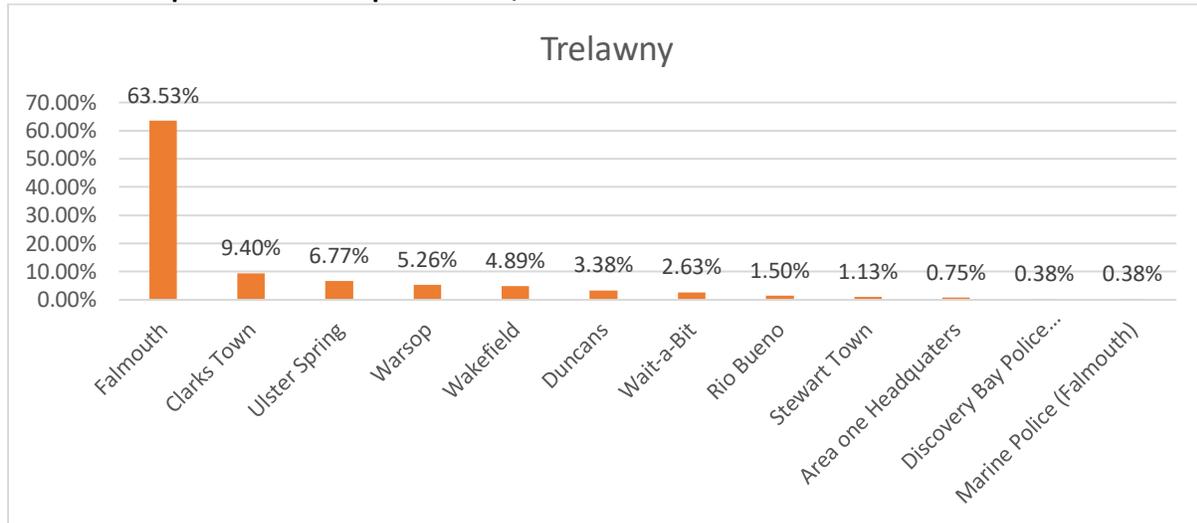
**Chart 6.11: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Ann Parish Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**



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 203 records indicate that for the third quarter of 2023, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 34.48%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Ocho Rios Police Station. This was followed by the St. Ann's Bay Police Station which accounts for 26.60% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Claremont Police Station with 10.34%. In the previous third quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the Ocho Rios Police Station, the St. Ann's Bay Police Station and the Bamboo Police Station.

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

**Chart 6.12: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Trelawny Parish Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 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 266 records indicate that for the third quarter of 2023, the majority of charges, 63.53%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Falmouth Police Station. This was followed by the Clarks Town Police Station, which accounts for 9.40% of total sample of matters reported. The Ulster Spring Police station rounded off the top three with 6.77%. In the previous third quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the Falmouth Police Station, Wakefield 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.

### **Inferential Statistics and Conclusion**

The third quarter of 2023 represents the continuation of an impressive trend in the criminal division of the parish courts where a steady state equilibrium average case clearance rate of over 100% and net case backlog rate of under 2.0% has been sustainably achieved. With this kind of consistency in output, the criminal division of the parish courts is by all accounts among the top performing in the Caribbean and Latin American region at present.

Among the key highlights from the second quarter statistical report for 2023 is that the criminal division of the parish courts as a whole recorded an overall case clearance rate of 100.46%, with ten of the thirteen courts attaining or exceeding the international standard on this metric. The overall net case backlog rate in the courts is firmly below 2% at 1.49% with the Hanover, Westmoreland and St. Mary Parish Courts having near zero net backlog rates. The overall gross case backlog rate which takes into account inactive cases declined slightly by 0.41 percentage points to 12.62%, reflecting a general decline in the inactive caseload in the criminal division of the parish courts. The overall time taken to dispose of cases in the criminal division of the parish courts in the third quarter of 2023 is roughly 9 months, with the average time taken to dispose of cases in some parish courts such as Hanover, St. Mary and Westmoreland parish Courts in the quarter being 3 months or more less than the overall average. As a whole roughly 76% of the cases disposed during the third quarter of 2023 took a year or less to be resolved. The overall trial date certainty rate recorded was 89% which is still below the targeted minimum of 95% but has improved cumulatively by over 18 percentage points when compared to the past four years. These statistical highlights, among several others which are detailed in this report strongly suggest that the criminal division of

the parish courts are on the right path of excellence. Among the main areas of concern are the persistence of the gross case backlog rate over 10%, which suggests that there is a relatively high incidence of inactive cases as a percentage of the total caseload, particularly for courts like the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division and the St. Ann Parish Court.

Additionally, the rate of case adjournments remains moderately high, which is one of the reasons that the trial date adjournments have failed to meet the desired target. Among these are adjournments due to files to be completed, adjournments due to the non-appearance of the accused and adjournments for mediation.

Inferential analysis the size of a court as measured by its caseload did not make a statistically significant difference to performance as measured by the case clearance rate during the third quarter of 2023. This was established using the Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) test which reveals an observed level of significance of greater than 5%, leading to a failure to reject the null hypothesis that court size made no difference to performance.

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

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THE PARISH COURTS-2022**

The required minimum annual parameters are summarized below:

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Minimum Required Standard</b>
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 0.30% of active cases, meaning that there is a close to zero probability that a case filed at this court will remain active for more than two years, an outstanding accomplishment which is worthy of acclaim. The Parish Courts of Jamaica are poised to be among the best performing in the world within the coming years.

### Glossary of Statistical Terms

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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<sup>i</sup> Source:

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

<sup>ii</sup> Source:

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

