Parish Courts of Jamaica The Chief Justice's Second Quarter Statistics Report for 2020

	APRIL TO JUNE 2019 2020 2017 2017					
Case Disposal Rates (%)	<u>2019</u> 47.01	<u>2020</u> 24.79				
Case Clearance Rates (%)	107.38	51.50				
Trial Date Certainty Rates (%) Courtroom utilization Rate (%)	79 62.98	65 40.27				

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executve Summary	2
Methodology	10
Chapter 1.0: Criminal Case Actvity Statistics	11
Chapter 2.0: Case Demographics and Courtroom Activity	52
Conclusion	90
Chapter 4.0: Glossary of Terms	93

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This statistical report on criminal matters in the Parish Courts of Jamaica is for second guarter of 2020 (April – June). It comes at a very unique and interesting time in the human history and the history of the courts. The second quarter of 2020 saw a dramatic reduction in court activity due to the COVID-19 pandemic as only the month of June had any semblance of regularity in court operations. Creative strategies in using virtual platforms to conduct some hearings were also pursued in an effort to cushion the impact on case activity however the inevitable result has been a considerable decline in nearly all key quantitative measures and output. These declines will have a short term impact on the targets set out by the Chief Justice as part of the strategic plan of the judiciary to become the best in the Caribbean Region by the end of the 2021/2022 fiscal year and among the best globally by the end of the 2023/2024 fiscal year. At the close off 2019, the judiciary was ahead of the annual targets necessary to stay on course with these strategic objectives. Among the key quantitative targets set out by the Chief Justice as part of the strategic plan is the attainment of a court-wide case clearance rate of 130%, a court-wide trial date certainty rate of 95% and concomitantly a net and gross case backlog rate of 5% and 10% respectively. As case activity progresses towards a greater semblance of normality over the third and fourth quarters of 2020 and as the judiciary aggressively pursues ways of enhancing the use of virtual platforms, it is expected that the adverse effects of the second quarter output on overall court productivity will be gradually reversed, placing the courts back on course to achieve the key quantitative targets outlined.

The aggregate new case count in the parish courts in the second quarter of 2020 was 3066, down by 55.21% when compared to the 6845 new cases recorded in the second quarter of 2019. The Corporate Area Parish Court - Criminal Division with 727 new cases or 23.71% of the

total, followed by the St. Catherine and Clarendon Parish Courts with 326 cases or 10.63% and 266 cases or 8.68% respectively, account for the three largest proportions of the new cases filed in the second quarter of 2020. These three courts have consistently ranked in the top five on new caseload over the past few years. Taken together, these three parish courts account for 43.02% of the new cases filed in the second quarter of 2020. The parish courts of Trelawny, St. Thomas and Portland accounted for the lowest shares of the aggregate new cases filed, each with under 4% of the new caseload in the period. All parish courts experienced a decline in the number of new cases filed in the second quarter of 2020 when compared to the corresponding period in 2019.

The overall average disposal rate for cases originating in the second quarter of 2020 was 24.79%, which is a decrease of 22.22 percentage points when compared to corresponding period in 2019. The Hanover Parish Court disposed of new cases at the fastest rate in the quarter, with a disposal rate of 42.92%, followed by the parish courts of St. Thomas and Westmoreland with 30.25%% and 29.76% respectively. The St. Catherine and Portland Parish Courts with disposal rates of 27.61% and 26.89% rounds off the top five performing courts on this metric in the second quarter of 2020. The St. Ann Parish Court (9.28%), the Manchester Parish Court (10.6%) and the Clarendon Parish Court (26.05%) had the lowest case disposal rates in second quarter of 2020.

A measure which is closely related to the case disposal rate is the case clearance rate, which provides a measure of the number of cases disposed (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 second quarter of 2020 was 51.50%, a dramatic decline of 55.88 percentage points when compared to the second quarter of 2019. The result suggests that for every 100 new criminal cases that were filed in the parish courts in the second quarter of 2020, roughly 56 were disposed (including cases originating prior to 2020). Only two of the thirteen parish courts met or exceeded the minimum international standard of a 90% case clearance rate for the quarter, namely he Portland Parish Court with a resilient 114.29% and the St. Thomas Parish Court with 90.76%. The comparatively significant fall in the number of new cases filed in these courts partly accounted for these contextually abnormal results. The Westmoreland Parish Court with a case clearance rate of 67.86% for the second guarter had the next best results while the parish courts of Manchester (24.66%), Clarendon (30.08%) and Trelawny (37.38%) registered the lowest case clearance rates in the guarter. The Portland Parish Court was the only court to record an increase in case clearance rate in the second quarter of 2020 when compared to the similar period in 2019 while the St. Elizabeth Parish Court registered the biggest decline in case clearance rate over the same comparative period. The decline in the case clearance and case disposal rates correlated with an expected increase in the case congestion rates due to the unusually low number of cases disposed. Within this context, the case congestion rates for this single quarter do not provide the basis for significant statistical inferences.

Another essential measure, which is an important cornerstone in the drive to bring Jamaica among the best performing court systems in the world in six years, is the trial date certainty rate. This provides a measurement of the likelihood that dates set for trial will 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. In the second quarter of 2020, dates vacated due to the suspension of court resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic were isolated from the calculation of the trial date certainty rate however other dates set which may have been indirectly or in some cases directly affected were included. The overall average trial date certainty rate for criminal matters across the parish courts in the second quarter of 2020 was 65%, a 14-percentage points decrease when compared to the second quarter of 2019. The parish court of St. Thomas and Trelawny Parish Courts had the highest trial date certainty rates for the quarter while the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division and the Westmoreland Parish Court recorded the lowest rates. Given the peculiarities of the quarter, these results do not constitute the basis for any generalizations.

On the matter of caseload distribution in the individual parishes, the data shows that in many cases the outstation courts in the respective parishes are carrying a notable share of the caseload. The overall average number of new cases heard in the outstations in the second quarter of 2020 is approximately 27.45%, down by 2.55 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in 2019 while roughly 72.55% were heard at the main parish courthouse 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 well over 25% of total case activity. This includes the parish courts of Trelawny, St. Ann and St. Elizabeth, 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 and net case backlog rates.

It is not surprising, given the mentioned dramatic reduction in court activity, that there was a sizeable decline in courtroom utilization rates across the courts in the second quarter of 2020. The overall rate for the courts in this period was 40.27%, a decline of 22.71 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in 2019. This measurement only took into account days in which the courts were able to sit in the quarter. All courts experienced declines in the courtroom utilization rate. The Westmoreland Parish Court maintained its familiar position among the courts with the highest overall courtroom utilization rate with 55.35%, followed by the St. Ann Parish Court with 53.43%. The decline in courtroom utilization rate for the night court was similarly dramatic, netting out at 40.92%, a 12.52 percentage points decline. The Westmoreland Parish Court utilization rate with an output of 54.57% over the period, followed by the St. Mary Parish Court with 52.76%. Like many other measurements, the courtroom utilization rate will experience a rebound during the last half of the year and into 2021 as case activity improves.

The largest proportion of cases disposed in the first quarter of 2020 was by way of guilty pleas, accounting for 36.70% of the cases disposed. This was followed by cases dismissed, which was responsible for 26.24% of the cases disposed. It is of note that guilty verdicts accounted for roughly 2.08% of the matters disposed while not guilty verdicts accounted for 14.81% of the total. Mediated settlements (of various forms) accounted for roughly 10.83% of the cases disposed during the quarter. Taken together, the data therefore reveals a conviction rate of 38.78% for the second quarter of 2020. Further analysis of the data suggests that for the cases originating over the past 3.5 years, which are disposed, roughly 41.04% were resolved within 90 days and 83.73% within a year, which are quite positive outcomes as the court system continues the push to significantly reduce the net criminal case backlog. 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 37.53% of all matters. This is followed by Summary matters with a roughly 30.89% and matters heard by Lay Magistrates with approximately 15.26% of the total. It is of note that committal proceedings accounted for roughly 13.70% of all criminal matters heard in the parish courts during the quarter. Summary matters had an overall conviction rate of 56.47% while indictments had a conviction rate of 18.50% in the second quarter across all parish courts combined.

An important delay factor, which affects the efficiency with which cases move towards disposition, is the incidence of adjournments in the parish courts. The data suggests that the dominant reasons for adjournments for the first quarter were due to the issuance of warrants for defendants not appearing (DNA- warrant issued) with an estimated 10.83% of the incidence of adjournments, files not found with 9.12% and referrals to mediation with roughly 6.78%. Ranking next are adjournments for subpoena of investigating officers with 4.8% and due to outstanding medical reports with 4.37%. The majority of the top ten reasons for adjournment in the second quarter of 2020 featured prominently throughout 2019.

The three most frequent criminal charges filed in the parish courts in the second quarter of 2020 were assault occasioning bodily harm with 10.34%, unlawful wounding with 8.16% and threats with 7.81% of the total number of charges filed. These have also been among the dominant offences filed over the past three years in the parish courts. Interestingly, breach of curfew order with 3.25% of the charges filed ranked among the leading charges across several courts in the second quarter of 2020, largely owing to infractions of the Government imposed COVID-19 curfews. The vast majority of offences were committed by males, accounting for roughly 77.53% of all charges filed in second quarter of 2020. The dominant age group of

offenders were the 27 – 36 and 20 - 26 age groups, accounting for 28.85% and 25.30% respectively of the total number of charges filed in the second quarter of 2020.

Amidst the general decline in court activity and productivity in the second quarter of 2020, one of the most profound findings from this report is that the net criminal case backlog rate, when using the past 3.5 years as a sample period was an impressive 2.77%, well within the prescribed 5% (or less) based on international standards. Similarly, the gross case backlog rate over the same period was 11.76%, slightly ahead of the desirable 10% (or less). Although these estimates would have been greater over a longer time series, these results are very instructive, affirming decisively that the probability of criminal cases in the parish courts being disposed before reaching a backlog classification has increased markedly in recent years, a very encouraging sign for proclivity of the Jamaican court system to become the best in the Caribbean Region within the next few years.

METHODOLOGY

Guaranteeing the reliability and validity of the data used to produce the periodic statistical reports for the Jamaican Courts is of utmost importance as we seek to produce a data driven enterprise for policymaking and operational decisions. As a result, a robust and verifiable system of data production has been created in both the parish courts and the Supreme Court. At the parish courts, a data capture system for criminal matters, called the CISS (Case Information Statistical System) has been operational in all courts for the past two years. This system captures a wide range of data on the progression of criminal cases from initiation to disposition and is manned by at least one dedicated Data Entry Officer in each court. The Data Entry Officers update the system on a daily basis so that the data produced is as close as possible to real time. The electronic data sheets for each parish court are then validated and backed-up to the network at the end of each month and the data submitted to a centralized, secure medium for processing by the Statistics Unit at the Supreme Court. A monthly statistical report is produced using the data submissions, culminating in Quarterly Reports and eventually the Annual Report of this nature. All Quarterly and Annual Parish Court reports are published on the website of the Supreme Court; however, interim data required by stakeholders may be requested through the Office of the Chief Justice.

Disclaimer

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

Chapter 1.0: Criminal Case Activity Statistics in the Parish Courts for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020.

This chapter provides an assessment of criminal case activity in the parish courts for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020. 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, as well as assessments of courtroom utilization rates, case file integrity rates and trial date certainty rates. This chapter also explores the common methods of disposition, reasons for adjournment, leading charges and case types across the parish courts and associated conviction rates.

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Number of inactive cases	Number of disposed cases	Active Pending Case Load	Case disposal Rate (%)
Hanover	212	21	70	121	42.92
St. Thomas	119	2	34	83	30.25
Westmoreland	252	14	61	177	29.76
Corporate Area Criminal	727	49	155	523	28.06
St. Catherine	326	7	83	236	27.61
Portland	119	2	30	87	26.89
St. Mary	136	14	18	104	23.53
St. Elizabeth	174	0	38	136	21.84
St. James	172	4	33	135	21.51
Trelawny	107	0	23	84	21.50
Clarendon	266	0	56	210	21.05
Manchester	219	5	19	195	10.96
St. Ann	237	8	14	215	9.28
Total	3066	126	634	2306	
Average/Weighted Average	235.85	9.69	48.77	177.38	24.79
Standard deviation	161.55	13.46	38.46	116.74	0.09
Skewness	2.63	2.36	1.94	2.38	0.19

Table 1.0: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the second quarter ended June30, 2020

The table above shows the aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020. A total of 3,066 new criminal cases were filed across the parish courts in this second quarter, 760 of which were either disposed or became inactive, resulting in a weighted average disposal rate of 24.79%. In the corresponding second quarter of 2019, 6,845 new cases were filed, 3,218 of which were either disposed or became inactive in that period, resulting in a weighted average disposal rate of 47.01%, which is 22.22 percentage points higher than the rate for the second quarter of 2020. When compared to the second quarter of 2019, there was decrease of 3779 or 55.21% in the number of new cases filed and a decrease of 2458 or 76.38% in the number of new cases that became disposed or inactive. All thirteen (13) parish courts recorded notable declines in the number of new cases filed. This result is not surprising given that most court operations were suspended in the quarter due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the Parish Courts with the largest drop in new cases filed was the St. Catherine Parish Court falling by 66.56%, Trelawny, which fell by 59.62% and Portland, which fell by 58.68%.

The Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division with 727 or 23.71% of the new cases, the St. Catherine Parish Court with 326 cases or 10.63% and the Clarendon Parish Court with 266 or 8.68% accounted for the three largest shares of new cases filed in the second quarter of 2020. These three parish courts with the largest share of new cases filed, cumulatively accounted for 43.02% of the total number of new criminal cases filed in the second quarter of 2020. On the lower end, the parish courts of Trelawny with 107 or 3.49% of the new cases, Portland and St. Thomas both with 119 or 3.88% accounted for the lowest share of new cases filed in the second quarter of 2020.

The best performing courts in relation to case disposal rates for the second quarter of 2020 were the Hanover Parish Court (42.92%), St. Thomas Parish Court (30.25%) and the

Westmoreland Parish Court (29.76%). The bottom four courts on this measure were the Parish Courts of St. Ann (9.28%), Manchester (10.96%), Clarendon (21.05%) and Trelawny (21.50). Similarly, the parish courts of Manchester and St. Ann were also among the bottom four courts on this measure in the second quarter of 2019.

The skewness of the number of new cases filed, the number of cases disposed of and the active pending caseload are all positive, which is an indication that the larger proportion of the courts fell below the average count in each of these data series. The overall skewness of the case disposal rates is notably a low positive figure, which indicates that there was a cluster of courts near the overall average rate for the period.

Refer to Table 3.0 for a graphical comparison of the Case Disposal Rates across all Parish Courts for the second quarter (April-June) of 2019 and 2020.

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed in quarter	Number of Disposed cases in AprJun. Quarter	Number of Inactive cases in Apr Jun. Quarter	Grand total number of inactive cases (2016- June 30, 2020)	Grand total number of disposed cases (2016- June 30, 2020)	Grand Active Pending Caseload b/f April 1, 2020	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Case Congestio n Rate (%)
Hanover	212	100	27	175	3098	194	59.91	319.69
Manchester	219	37	17	1539	4988	1334	24.66	2875.93
St. Mary	136	69	5	614	3584	286	54.41	570.27
St. James	172	70	10	1701	9123	972	46.51	1430.00
St. Catherine	326	127	20	2157	11776	877	45.09	818.37
Portland	119	125	11	676	3793	592	114.29	522.79
St. Ann	237	83	9	2222	4712	1265	38.82	1632.61
St. Elizabeth	174	74	2	468	3734	510	43.68	900.00
Corporate Area Criminal	727	325	69	4098	13888	2032	54.20	700.25
Westmoreland	252	153	18	814	5887	656	67.86	530.99
St. Thomas	119	94	14	356	3403	608	90.76	673.15
Clarendon	266	79	1	830	5440	1847	30.08	2641.25

 Table 2.0a: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court as at June 30, 2020

Trelawny	107	40	0	208	2806	848	37.38	2387.50
Total	3066	1376	203	15858	76232	12021		
Average/Weighte								
d Average	235.85	105.85	15.62	1219.85	5864.00	924.69	51.50	955.48
Standard								
deviation	161.55	73.72	17.94	1114.53	3527.45	560.32	24.82	883.38
Skewness	2.63	2.43	2.43	1.57	1.48	0.81	1.37	0.96

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

The table above is an extension of table 1.0. Among the 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 implied state of 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 quarter was 955.48%, an indication that the parish courts (criminal division) as a whole had a significant build up in pending cases due to the significantly lower than normal case disposal and case clearance rates owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. This result represents a 676.11 percentage points increase when compared to the second quarter of 2019 but under the circumstances the case congestion rate is to be interpreted sparingly, particularly since its is solely based on a single quarter of case activity. The parish courts of Manchester (2875.93%), Clarendon (2641.25%) and Trelawny (2387.50%) are the courts with the highest case congestion rates in the second quarter of 2020. These results have minimal practical significance as they are directly linked to the unusual downturn in court activity emerging from COVID19. The Trelawny

Note: the grand total of active cases from 2016 to the quarter ended June 30, 2020 for all parish court combined=13817

and Clarendon Parish Courts also ranked among the most case congested courts in 2019. In general, a high case congestion rates can be a product of resource deficiencies and slow case clearance and case disposal rates along with a rapidly rising number of new cases. Ceteris paribus, it is expected that higher disposal rates, supported by high hearing and trial date certainty will substantially reduce the case congestion in a court in the medium to long run. The parish courts of Hanover (319.69), Portland (522.79) and Westmoreland (530.99) performed best on this measure for the second quarter.

The results on the overall case clearance rate for the second quarter of 2020 provide interesting insights into the court-wide progress being made on this measure. The overall weighted average case clearance rate of 51.50% is a decline of 55.88 percentage points when compared to the corresponding 2019 period. This result is also not surprising given that most court hearings were suspended in the quarter due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The performance fell well below the required international standard of 90%-110% for the first time in over two years in any single quarter. This overall case clearance rate of 51.50% suggests that for every 100 new cases filed in the quarter, roughly 51 were disposed of. Only one of the thirteen parish courts exceeded the 100% mark for the criminal case clearance rate in the guarter with the parish court of Portland (114.29%). One other parish court also met the international standard of 90%-100%, namely the St. St. Thomas Parish Court (90.76%). The Portland Parish Court was the only parish court that saw an improvement on this measure in the second quarter of 2020 when compared to the similar period in 2019. The Portland Parish Court improved by 10.47 percentage points, disposing of 1 more case for every 10 new cases filed in the second quarter of 2020. The Manchester Parish Court had the lowest case clearance rate in the quarter with 24.66%. The St. Elizabeth Parish Court had the biggest decline in case clearance rate, falling by 117.27 percentage points to 43.68%, when compared to the second quarter of 2019. The data

series for all variables in the above table were positively skewed to various degrees, indicating

that proportionately more of the scores in that data set fell below the 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 2019 and 2020 calendar years.

Parish Court	Percentile Rank - Case Disposal Rate (%)	Percentile Rank- Case Clearance Rate (%)
		nace (70)
Hanover	100	75
St. Thomas	92	92
Westmoreland	83	83
Corporate Area		
Court – Criminal		
Division	75	58
St. Catherine	67	42
Portland	58	100
St. Mary	50	67
St. Elizabeth	42	33
St. James	33	50
Trelawny	25	17
Clarendon	17	8
Manchester	8	0
St. Ann	0	25

Table 2.0b: Percentile rank on selected	l performance metrics	for the criminal	division of the
parish courts in the second quarter end	ed June 30, 2020		

The table above provides the percentile ranks of the case disposal rate, the case clearance rate and the case congestion rate for the second quarter of 2020. The percentile rank gives an indication of where a particular court falls on each of the metrics relative to the other courts. The parish courts of Hanover (100%), St. Thomas (92%) and Westmoreland (83%) had the highest percentile ranks on case disposal rate for the second quarter of 2020, an indication that they performed better than the vast proportion of the courts on his measure. The percentile rank of 100% for the Hanover Parish Court for example means that they performed better than all courts on case disposal rate in the quarter while the St. Thomas Parish Court performed better than 92% of the parish courts and the Westmoreland Parish Court performed better than 83% of the parish courts on this measurement. The parish courts of Clarendon, 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%), ranking higher than all other parish courts on this metric, St. Thomas (92%) and Westmoreland (83%) had the highest percentile ranks while the parish courts of Manchester, Clarendon and Trelawny had the lowest.

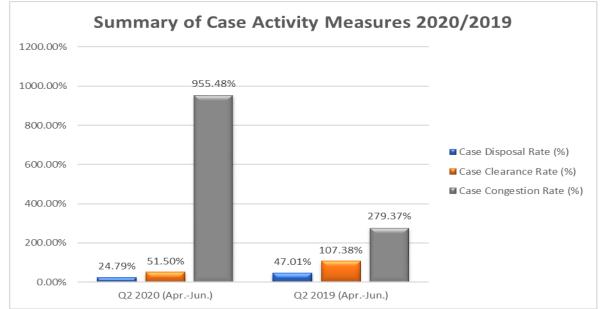
Table 3.0: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the second quarter (April-June) 2019 & 2020

Parish Court	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q2 2020	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q2 2019	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q2 2020	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q2 2019	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q2 2020	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q2 2019
Hanover	42.92	59.92	59.91	92.31	319.69	300.44
St. Thomas	30.25	48.61	90.76	110.36	673.15	291.70
Westmoreland	29.76	39.30	67.86	98.49	530.99	180.65
Corporate Area Criminal	28.06	54.48	54.20	108.17	700.25	218.77
St. Catherine	27.61	55.08	45.09	102.67	818.37	192.71
Portland	26.89	38.89	114.29	103.82	522.79	294.98
St. Mary	23.53	47.99	54.41	116.72	570.27	221.49
St. Elizabeth	21.84	40.05	43.68	160.95	900.00	143.28
St. James	21.51	56.80	46.51	133.76	1430.00	202.87
Trelawny	21.50	39.62	37.38	116.23	2387.50	337.99
Clarendon	21.05	49.44	30.08	79.00	2641.25	784.47
Manchester	10.96	34.50	24.66	107.36	2875.93	312.45
St. Ann	9.28	28.24	38.82	80.04	1632.61	588.31
Weighted Average	24.79	47.01	51.50	107.38	955.48	279.37
Standard Deviation	0.09	9.64	24.82	21.64	883.38	180.23
Skewness	0.19	-0.17	1.37	1.05	0.96	1.91

*Q2- Refers to quarter two (April to June of 2020 and 2019 respectively)

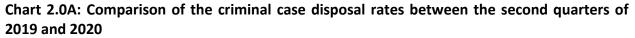
Note: Weighted averages from second quarter of 2019 are used in the comparisons above. In the published second quarter report in 2019, simple averages are used.

The table above provides a comparison of the case disposal rate, the case clearance rate and the case congestion rate for the second quarter of 2020 and 2019. The weighted average case disposal rate for second quarter of 2020 was 24.79%, which was 22.22 percentage points decline from the 2019 weighted average rate of 47.01%. The case clearance rate of 51.50% for 2020 was 55.88 percentage points below the 107.38% recorded in the second quarter of 2019. The 2020 case congestion rate also deteriorated, moving from 279.37% in the second quarter of 2019 to 955.48% in the current second quarter of 2020, a 676.11 percentage points fall, though as discussed earlier this does not have great practical significance in the current context. Ceteris paribus, there should be a roughly linear inverse association between the case clearance rates and the case congestion rates as well as between the case disposal rates and the case congestion rate. This is more pronounced in the long run than in the short or medium terms.



Graph 1.0: Aggregate summary of case activity metrics for the second quarter of 2019 and 2020

The above graph provides a comparison of the overall case disposal, case clearance and case congestion rate for second quarter of 2020 and 2019. It is seen that there has been a worsening of all three metrics over the comparative period. The disposal rate moved from 47.01 to 24.79%, a fall of 22.22 percentage points. The case clearance rate moved from 107.38% in the second quarter of 2019 to 51.50% in the current 2020 second quarter. The Congestion rate also had a deteriorating.





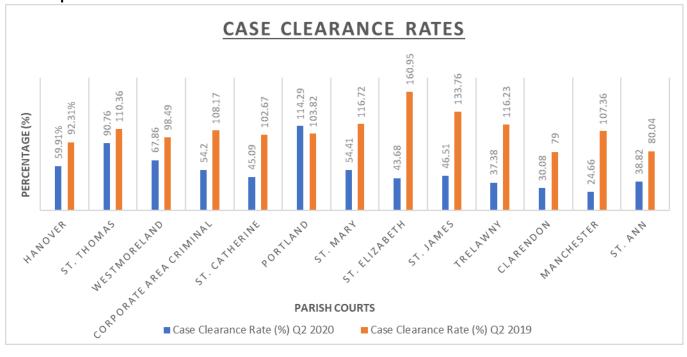
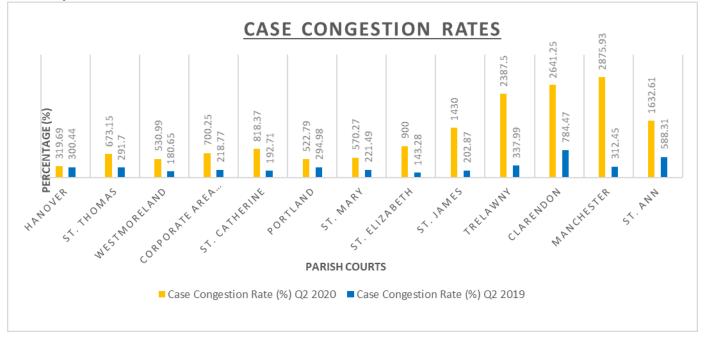


Chart 2.0B: Comparison of criminal case clearance rates across the parish courts for the second quarters of 2019 and 2020

Chart 2.0C: Comparison of criminal case congestion rate across the parish courts for the second quarters of 2019 and 2020



Parish Court	Trial certainty rate (%) Q2 (2020)	Trial certainty rate (%) Q2 (2019)
Westmoreland	33	98
Clarendon	51	79
St. Ann	67	84
Portland	71	92
St. James	74	92
Manchester	71	84
St. Elizabeth	73	84
St. Catherine	72	80
Trelawny	74	80
St. Mary	67	82
St. Thomas	72	70
Corporate Area Criminal	48	56
Hanover	72	48
Approximate Average	65	79

 Table 4.0a: Comparison of the trial certainty rates for the second quarters of 2019 and 2020

Q2 represents the second quarter

2020 rates exclude dates vacated over the period of suspension of court activity but does not exclude other cases which may have been indirectly (or in some cases directly) impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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. A number of trial dates had to be vacated or rescheduled in the second quarter of 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The overall trial date certainty rate for the second quarter of 2020 was 65%, a 14 percentage point drop when compared to the corresponding period in 2019. All parish courts experienced a decline in trial date certainty rate over the period, with the exception of the Hanover Parish Court which had comparatively few trial dates set over the period. The results from this quarter should not however be used for generalization due to the exceptional circumstances which has led to less than 25% of the typical court activity.

Table 4.0b: Percentile Rank on trial date certainty rate for the criminal division of the parish courts in the second quarter of 2019 and 2020

Parish Court	Percentile Rank – Trial Date Certainty Rate 2020 (%)	Percentile Rank – Trial Date Certainty Rate 2019 (%)
Westmoreland	0	100
Clarendon	8	25
St. Ann	25	58
Portland	42	83
St. James	92	83
Manchester	42	58
St. Elizabeth	83	58
St. Catherine	58	33
Trelawny	92	33
St. Mary	25	50
St. Thomas	58	17
Corporate Area		
Criminal	17	8
Hanover	50	0

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 both 2019 and 2020. The results present a very 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 – a case in point is the Westmoreland Parish Court which performed better than all other courts on this measurement in the second quarter of 2019 but was last on the list for 2020. Given the peculiarities of the significant downturn in court activity as a result of COVID-19, the comparisons across the two years should not be utilized for meaningful statistical interpolations.

Table 5.0: Distribution of courtroom utilization rates across the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

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	32.45	111.67	0.00	26.24	-	1.1
Westmoreland	55.35	285.00	1.67	41.28	54.57	0
Trelawny	28.12	102.50	1.67	24.95	-	1
St. Thomas	39.56	101.67	1.39	28.85	44.02	1
St. Mary	46.01	251.67	4.17	30.80	52.76	1
St. James	46.80	123.33	6.33	28.75	50.53	1.6
Corporate Area Criminal Court	38.45	112.00	4.17	22.00	48.32	1
St. Ann	53.43	130.00	2.78	33.04	34.08	1.2
Portland	43.03	213.06	0.56	38.74	-	1.1
Hanover	35.91	120.00	2.22	24.38	-	1.1
Clarendon	25.95	96.33	2.08	16.49	14.67	0
Manchester	39.85	91.67	1.11	25.61	29.02	0
St. Elizabeth	38.61	94.44	1.67	23.99	40.28	1
Overall						
Averages	40.27	141.03	2.29	28.09	40.92	0.85
Standard Deviation	8.77	64.79	1.71	6.72	22.36	0.51
Skewness	0.13	1.53	1.15	0.55	-1.05	-0.99

Note: Courtroom utilization rates for the second quarter of 2020 only took into account the days in which courts were able to sit.

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the various parish courts in the second quarter of 2020. The courtroom utilization rate provides a measurement of the proportion of available hours for open court hearings in all courtroom (including outstations) which are actually utilized. If the usage of any courtroom exceeds the available hours, then the utilization rate will exceed 100% and the rate will fall below 100% if less than the available hours are utilized. The prescribed international standard for the courtroom utilization rate is 100%, which means that all hours 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 well below this level in the second quarter of 2020. The overall average courtroom utilization rate across the parish courts in the quarter was 40.27%, which is an indication that on average roughly 40% of the available hours for court hearings were utilized across the parish courts in the second quarter of 2020 (excluding the days in which court operations were suspended due to the COVID- 19 pandemic). This result is roughly 22.71 percentage points lower than the closing figure in 2019, largely on account of the downturn in court activity due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The parish courts recording the highest courtroom utilization rates for the second guarter are the Westmoreland and St. Ann Parish Courts with 55.35% and 53.43% respectively, followed by the St. James Parish Court with 46.80%. The Clarendon and Trelawny Parish Courts with 25.95% and 28.12% respectively, had the lowest rates, while the St. Catherine Parish Court with 32.45% had the next lowest rate. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates was relatively low, suggesting that on average the rates for the individual courts did not vary widely from the overall mean. This is affirmed by the low positive skewness of the data. The data also isolates the courtroom utilization rate for night court sittings. A part of the designation of night courts is to bolster the capacity of the courts to hear and dispose of more cases in a timely manner. At an overall courtroom utilization rate of 40.92%, the night courts use only 0.65 percentage points more of the allotted time than regular day court sittings. The Westmoreland Parish Court with a night court utilization rate of 54.57% and the St. Mary Parish Court with 52.76% ranked highest for the quarter, with the St. James Parish Court ranking next with 50.53%. At the lower end of the courtroom utilization rates for night court sittings were the parish courts of Clarendon (14.67%), Manchester (29.02%) and St. Ann with 34.08%.

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 computed in this quarter \pm 2.5%.

Parish Court	Indictment	Summary Matters	Lay Magistrates Sittings	Committal Proceedings	Тах	Miscellaneous	LRF	Traffic	NS	Total
Corporate Are Criminal	525	453	187	124	-	-	-	21	-	1310
St. Catherine	241	128	82	79	-	-	3	-	-	533
Manchester	178	95	62	70	63	-	-	-	-	468
St. James	111	92	34	33	2	26	-	-	-	298
St. Ann	137	81	97	52	-	-	-	-	-	367
Westmoreland	144	116	76	65	-	-	-	-	-	401
Clarendon	157	181	67	92	15	-	-	-	-	512
Portland	68	49	31	9	-	-	-	-	-	157
St. Elizabeth	93	105	43	25	-	-	-	-	-	266
St. Mary	93	45	36	88	8	-	-	-	-	270
Trelawny	51	73	22	17	-	-	-	-	-	163
Hanover	127	137	54	38	-	-	-	-	-	356
St. Thomas	65	83	18	35	-	-	-	-	-	201
Total	1990	1638	809	727	88	26	3	21	-	5302
Percentage	37.53	30.89	15.26	13.71	1.66	0.49	0.0 6	0.40	-	

Table 6.0: Types of matters for each Parish Court for the second guarter ended June 30, 2020

*Total number of observations = 5302 **LRF means Law Reform Fraudulent Transaction, ***NS means not stated

The above table provides a breakdown of the different types of new charges filed in each parish court for the second quarter of 2020. For the quarter, 5,302 charges were filed across the parish courts, a decrease of approximately 48.50% when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2019. The largest proportions of these charges were filed in the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division (1,310), the St. Catherine Parish Court (533), and the Clarendon Parish

Court with (512) and the Manchester Parish Court with 468 charges. The largest share of the charges were Indictments (37.53%); followed by Summary matters (30.89%), Lay Magistrates' matters (15.26%) and Committal Proceedings with 13.71% of the total. The Corporate Area Court-Criminal Division accounted for the largest proportion of Indictments filed, followed by the parish courts of St. Catherine, Manchester and Clarendon. The Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division accounted for the largest share of summary matters filed, followed by the Clarendon Parish Court and the Hanover Parish Court. The largest proportion of Lay Magistrates' matters was filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division followed by the Clarendon Parish Court and the St. Mary Parish Court accounted for the largest individual shares of Committal Proceedings filed 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.

Offence Types

Table 7.1: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Corporate Area
Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	124	10.54
Littering	78	6.63
Unlawful Wounding	72	6.12
Disorderly Conduct	68	5.78
Malicious destruction of property	42	3.57
Total	384	32.65

Number of observations sampled (N): 1176

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 second quarter of 2020. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 124 or 10.54% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Littering with 78 or 6.63% and unlawful

wounding with 72 or 6.12% followed this. The top five is rounded off by disorderly conduct with 68 or 5.78% and malicious destruction of property with 42 or 3.57% of the charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 32.65% of the total sample of 1176 charges at filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court in the quarter.

Table 7.2: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	60	13.89
Shooting with intent	39	9.03
Unlawful Wounding	37	8.56
Threat	26	6.02
Illegal Possession of Ammunition	21	4.86
Illegal Possession of Firearm	21	4.86
Malicious Destruction of Property	21	4.86
Total	225	52.08

Number of observations sampled (N): 432

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in second quarter of 2020. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 60 or 13.89% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Shooting with intent with 39 or 9.03% and unlawful wounding with 37 or 8.56% followed this. The top five is rounded off by threats with 26 or 6.02% and illegal possession of ammunition, illegal possession of firearm and malicious destruction of property with 21 or 4.86% each. The charges quoted above account for an estimated 52.08% of the sample of 432 charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the quarter.

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Curfew Order	64	19.22
Unlawful wounding	42	12.61
Assault occasioning bodily harm	39	11.71
Threat	21	6.31
Malicious destruction of property	16	4.80
Total	182	54.65

Table 7.3: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court for the second quarter of 2020. It is shown that breach of curfew order with 64 or 19.22% and unlawful wounding with 42 or 12.61% of the total sample of charges are the most frequently occurring charges. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 39 or 11.71% followed this, while threat with 39 or 11.71% and malicious destruction of property with 16 or 4.80% of the total sample rounds off the top five. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 54.65% of the total sample of 333 charges filed in the quarter.

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	26	6.19
Illegal possession of firearm	21	5.00
Malicious Destruction of Property	21	5.00
Unlawful Wounding	20	4.76
Larceny as a servant	19	4.52
Total	107	25.48

 Table 7.4: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Manchester

 Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court for the second quarter of 2020. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 26 or 6.19% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Illegal possession of firearm and malicious destruction of property with 21 or 5% each followed this. The top five is rounded off by unlawful wounding with 20 or 4.76% and larceny as a servant with 19 or 4.52% of the sample charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 25.48% of the total sample of 420 charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court in the quarter.

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Threat	29	19.08
Assault occasioning bodily		
harm	17	11.18
Unlawful wounding	13	8.55
Simple larceny	11	7.24
Breach of Curfew Order	7	4.61
Illegal possession of firearm	7	4.61
Unlawful possession of property	7	4.61
Total	91	59.87

Table 7.5: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Portland Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Portland Parish Court in the second quarter of 2020. It is shown that threat with 29 or 19.08% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 17 or 11.18% and unlawful wounding with 13 or 8.55% followed this. The top five is rounded off by simple larceny with 11 or 7.24% and breach of curfew order, illegal possession of firearm and unlawful possession of property with 7 or 4.61% each of the sample of charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 59.87% of the total sample of 152 charges filed in the quarter.

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Threat	85	23.35
Unlawful wounding	35	9.62
Assault occasioning bodily harm		
	29	7.97
Illegal possession of firearm	20	5.49
Malicious destruction of property	20	5.49
Total	189	51.92

Table 7.6: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the second quarter of 2020. It is shown that threat with 85 or 23.35% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 35 or 9.62% and assault occasioning bodily harm with 29 or 7.97% followed this. Illegal possession of fire arm and malicious destruction of property with 20 or 5.49% each of the total sample rounds of the top charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 51.92% of the total sample of 364 charges filed in the quarter at the St. Ann Parish Court.

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	74	14.42
Unlawful wounding	42	8.19
Illegal possession of firearm	35	6.82
Threat	34	6.63
Malicious destruction of property	26	5.07
Total	211	41.13

 Table 7.7: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Catherine

 Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the second quarter of 2020. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 74 or 14.42% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 42 or 8.19% and illegal possession of firearm with 35 or 6.82% followed this. Threat with 34 or 6.63% and malicious destruction of property with 26 or 5.07% of the total sample of charges filed round off the top five. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 41.13% of the total sample of 513 charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the quarter.

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Threat	39	16.74
Unlawful wounding	25	10.73
Illegal possession of firearm	22	9.44
Assault occasioning bodily harm	17	7.30
Robbery with aggravation	15	6.44
Total	118	50.64

Table 7.8: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court in the second quarter of 2020. It is shown that threat with 39 or 16.74% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 25 or 10.73% and illegal possession of firearm with 22 or 9.44% followed this. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 17 or 7.30% and robbery with aggravation accounted for 15 or 6.44% of the sample of charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 50.64% of the total sample of 233 charges filed in the quarter at the St. Elizabeth parish Court.

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Threat	27	10.67
Selling foreign Currency without being an authorized dealer	24	9.49
Unlawful Wounding	19	7.51
Possession of identity information	18	7.11
Assault occasioning bodily harm	13	5.14
Total	101	39.92

Table 7.9: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. James Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second guarter ended June 30, 2020

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges at the St. James Parish Court in second quarter of 2020. It is shown that threat with 27 or 10.67% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Selling foreign currency without being an authorized dealer24 or 9.49% and unlawful wounding with 19 or 7.51% followed this. The top five is rounded off by possession of identity information with 18 or 7.11% and assault occasioning bodily harm with 13 or 5.14% of the total sample. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 39.92% of the sample of 253 charges filed in quarter at the St. James Parish Court.

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Threat	29	12.29
Unlawful wounding	24	10.17
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	19	8.05
Illegal possession of ammunition	12	5.08
Malicious destruction of property	11	4.66
Sexual intercourse with a person under 16	11	4.66
Total	106	44.92

Table 7.10 Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

Number of observations sampled (N): 236

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the second quarter of 2020. It is shown that threat with 29 or 12.29% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 24 or 10.17% and assault occasioning bodily harm with 19 or 8.05% followed this. The top five is rounded off by illegal possession of ammunition with 12 or 5.08%, malicious destruction of property and sexual intercourse with a person under 16 with 11 or 4.66% each of the sample. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 44.92% of the total sample of 236 charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the quarter.

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Unlawful wounding	22	11.76
Assault occasioning bodily harm	20	10.70
Threat	13	6.95
Possession of offensive weapon	16	8.56
Possession of ganja	10	5.35
Total		

81

Table 7.11: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. ThomasParish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

Number of observations sampled (N): 187

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in the second quarter of 2020. It is shown that unlawful wounding with 22 or 11.76% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 20 or 10.70% and threat with 13 or 6.95% followed this. The top five is rounded off by possession of offensive weapon with 16 or 8.56% and possession of ganja with 10 or 5.35% of the total sample of charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 43.32% of the sample of 187 charges filed in the quarter.

43.32

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Curfew Order	31	19.02
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	16	9.82
Threat	16	9.82
Dealing in ganja	15	9.20
Possession of ganja	15	9.20
Total	93	57.06

Table 7.12: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second guarter ended June 30, 2020

Number of observations sampled (N): 163

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the second quarter of 2020. It is shown that breach of curfew order with 31 or 19.02% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm and threat with 16 or 9.82% each followed this. Dealing in ganja and possession of ganja with 15 or 9.20% each of the total sample of charges round of the top five charges filed in the quarter. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 57.06% of the total sample of 163 charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the quarter.

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm		
	41	11.26
Unlawful wounding	38	10.44
Threat	36	9.89
Disorderly conduct	18	4.95
Murder	13	3.57
Rape	13	3.57
Total	159	43.68

Table 7.13: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the WestmorelandParish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

Number of observations sampled (N): 364

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the second quarter of 2020. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 41 or 11.26% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 38 or 10.44% and threat with 36 or 9.89% followed this. Disorderly conduct with 18 or 4.95%, murder and rape with 13 or 3.57% each of the sample rank next. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 43.68% of the total sample of 364 charges filed in the quarter at the Westmoreland Parish Court.

Table 8.0: Conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard in the second quarter
ended June 30, 2020

Type of case	Number of disposed matters	Number of guilty verdicts	Number of guilty pleas	Aggregate number of guilty outcomes	Estimated conviction rate (%)
Summary	889	19	483	502	56.47
Indictment	1000	29	156	185	18.50

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard across all parish courts in the second quarter of 2020. 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 56.47%. The estimated conviction rate for indictment matters was significantly lower at 18.50% for the quarter. Indictment matters heard in the quarter included charges such as assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property and simple larceny.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges across the parish courts for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

Charge	Frequency	Percentage
Assault occasioning bodily harm	499	10.34
Unlawful wounding	394	8.16
Threat	377	7.81
Malicious destruction of property	203	4.21
Breach of Curfew Order	157	3.25
Illegal possession of firearm	150	3.11
Disorderly conduct	136	2.82
Armed with an offensive weapon	125	2.59
Possession of ganja	117	2.42
Simple larceny	110	2.28
Total	2268	47.00

Number of observations sampled (N): 4826

The above table shows the distribution of the ten most commonly occurring charges across all parish courts for the second quarter of 2020. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 499 or 10.34% of the total number of charges sampled is the most frequently occurring. Unlawful wounding with 394 or 8.16% and threat with 377 or 7.81% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 203 or 4.21% and breach of curfew order with 157 or 3.25% of the total sample of charges filed in the quarter. These ten most frequently occurring types of charges account for approximately 47% of the total sample of charges filed in the quarter.

Table 10.0: Conviction rate for leading occurring charges heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

Type of Offence	Number of disposed matters	Number of guilty verdicts	Number of guilty pleas	Aggregate number of guilty outcomes	Estimated conviction rate (%)
Possession of Offensive weapon	114	1	93	94	82.46
Breach of Curfew Order	89	2	68	70	78.65
Possession of ganja	102	1	70	71	69.61
Disorderly conduct	78	0	52	52	66.67
Simple larceny	52	3	14	17	32.69
Threat	59	0	13	13	22.03
Unlawful wounding	201	2	28	30	14.93
Malicious destruction of property	91	0	12	12	13.19
Assault occasioning bodily harm	268	8	18	26	9.70
Illegal possession of firearm	58	0	0	0	0.00

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for the ten leading charges across all parish courts in the second quarter of 2020. It is shown that possession of offensive weapon had the highest estimated conviction rate with 82.46%. Breach of curfew order with 78.65% and possession of ganja with 69.61% followed this. The top conviction rates in the quarter are rounded off by disorderly conduct with an estimated conviction rate of 66.67%. Illegal possession of firearm had the lowest estimated conviction rate with 0%, followed by assault occasioning bodily harm with 9.70%. Malicious destruction of property with 13.19% and unlawful wounding with an estimated conviction rate of 14.93% had the next lowest conviction rates on the list. Threat with an estimated conviction rates.

Parish Court	Average age of active charges (days)
Clarendon	40
Trelawny	29
Portland	33
St. Mary	47
Hanover	29
Westmoreland	26
St. Catherine	38
St. Elizabeth	26
St. Ann	40
St. James	41
St. Thomas	18
Corporate Area Criminal	37
Manchester	32
Overall Average	33.54
Standard Deviation	7.91
Skewness	-0.25

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the average age of active charges originating in each parish court during the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

The above table shows the average age of active charges originating in the second quarter of 2020, for charges originating in said quarter. The overall average age of active matters originating in the quarter was approximately 34 days or roughly 1.1 months, roughly 29 days shorter than the average in the second quarter of 2019. The parish courts of St, Thomas, Westmoreland, St. Elizabeth, Hanover and Trelawny have the lowest averages on the list. On the contrary, the highest averages were observed for in the parish courts of St. Mary, St. James, St. Ann and Clarendon. The standard deviation of the scores was however relatively low (8 days), an indication that the individual values for the parish courts were on average close to the overall mean. This result is affirmed by the weak negative skewness. There is an intuitive correlation between clearance rates and the average age of cases in the long run, but it does not necessarily manifest empirically in the short run. This means that in the 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 case backlog, a feat that is quite conceivable with improved case progression management in the respective courts. In such cases, the average time taken to dispose of cases will experience a natural decline, tapering off at a modest, tolerable rate and improving the efficiency of the courts and the enhancing the timely delivery

of justice.

Table 12.0: Average age of charges disposed for matters originating in the second quarter
ended June 30, 2020

Parish Court	Average age of disposed charges (days)
Clarendon	15
Trelawny	2
Portland	24
St. Mary	16
Hanover	5
Westmoreland	24
St. Catherine	9
St. Elizabeth	74
St. Ann	44
St. James	15
St. Thomas	37
Corporate Area Criminal	7
Manchester	10
Overall Average	21.69
Standard Deviation	19.96
Skewness	1.71

The above table shows that the average time taken to dispose of criminal cases filed in the second quarter of 2020, which were filed in the Parish Courts, is 21.69 days. This is 13.69 days less than time taken to dispose of cases originating in the second quarter of 2019, which were disposed. The standard deviation of roughly 19.96 days is an indication that the individual times to disposition for the individual parish courts were fairly widely dispersed, a result that is affirmed by the positive skewness which indicates that proportionately more of the individual times to disposition in the data set fell below the overall series average. The scores ranged from

a low of roughly 2 days at the Trelawny Parish Court to a high of 74 days for the St. Elizabeth

Parish Court.

Table 13.0: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the second quarter ended
June 30, 2020

Parishes	Time interval in days						
	0-89 days 90-179 180-269 270-364 3				365 days	Sample size	
		days	days	days	and over	(n)	
Corporate Area	6930	3300	1759	1141	2022	15152	
Criminal	(45.7%)	(21.8%)	(11.6%)	(7.5%)	(13.3%)	(100%)	
St. Catherine	3806	2459	1320	761	1561	9907	
	(38.4%)	(24.8%)	(13.3%)	(7.7%)	(15.8%)	(100%)	
St. James	3009	1634	845	655	1190	7333	
	(41.0%)	(22.3%)	(11.5%)	(8.9%)	(16.2%)	(100%)	
Manchester	1529	1113	869	654	1378	5543	
	(27.6%)	(20.1%)	(15.7%)	(11.8%)	(24.9%)	(100%)	
Westmoreland	2973	1034	570	296	410	5283	
	(56.3%)	(19.6%)	(10.8%)	(5.6%)	(7.8%)	(100%)	
St. Ann	1606	1135	642	523	1492	5398	
	(29.8%)	(21.0%)	(11.9%)	(9.7%)	(27.6%)	(100%)	
Clarendon	2518	1259	554	340	710	5381	
	(46.8%)	(23.4%)	(10.3%)	(6.3%)	(13.2%)	(100%)	
St. Thomas	834	676	367	322	438	2637	
	(31.6%)	(25.6%)	(13.9%)	(12.2%)	(16.6%)	(100%)	
Portland	1302	911	448	331	728	3720	
	(35.0%)	(24.5%)	(12.0%)	(8.9%)	(19.6%)	(100%)	
St. Mary	1927	898	574	294	940	4633	
	(41.6%)	(19.4%)	(12.4%)	(6.3%)	(20.3%)	(100%)	
St. Elizabeth	1611	1051	521	265	534	3982	
	(40.5%)	(26.4%)	(13.1%)	(6.7%)	(13.4%)	(100%)	
Trelawny	1021	526	310	223	392	2472	
	(41.3%)	(21.3%)	(12.5%)	(9.0%)	(15.9%)	(100%)	
Hanover	1361	651	268	158	266	2704	
	(50.3%)	(24.1%)	(9.9%)	(5.8%)	(9.8%)	(100%)	
% of Total	41.04	22.45	12.20	8.04	16.27		
Average	2340.54	1280.54	695.92	458.69	927.77	5703.46	
Standard							
Deviation	1634.00	783.64	424.05	277.47	552.54	3498.64	
Skewness	2.06	1.82	1.62	1.37	0.63	1.88	

Number of charges sampled (N) = 74,145

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least a 45-month period over September 2016 – June 2020 for most parish courts.

The table above shows the breakdown of the time disposition for matters filed in the respective

parish courts for at least 45 consecutive months over the period September 2016 to June 2020.

The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed of in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 41.04% of the disposals. The Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division along with the parish courts of St. Catherine, St. James and Westmoreland are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days. This trend is broadly similar to that seen over the past 24 months. Cumulatively, 83.73% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year, a continued positive indicator of the potential effectiveness of the courts in increasing overall productivity and realizing the objective of becoming the best in the Caribbean region in three years and among the best in the world in six years. 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 skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample range from relatively weak to moderate positive which is an indication that for disposed cases, the times 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.

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Criminal	170.66	1	102	189.07	1.87	1	1257	15152
St. Catherine	220.82	63	122	339.20	5.95	1	5321	9907
St. James	196.15	49	117	212.70	2.05	1	1454	7333
Manchester	268.16	63	189	304.18	6.99	1	9044	5543
Westmoreland	130.17	28	76	155.58	3.56	1	1974	5283
St. Ann	273.65	63	174.50	312.72	6.01	1	8875	5398
Clarendon	163.38	63	96	183.96	1.97	1	1179	5381
St. Thomas	205.34	119	141	187.49	1.57	1	1191	2637
Portland	250.80	63	137	336.46	3.39	1	3702	3720
St. Mary	253.29	63	118	383.90	4.16	1	5684	4633
St. Elizabeth	183.97	28	112	218.13	2.79	1	1568	3982
Trelawny	195.09	28	195	206.64	1.79	1	1225	2472
Hanover	164.50	35	87	249.02	4.79	1	2409	2704
Total/Weighted								
Average	202.98	51.23	128.19	252.23	3.61	1.00	3452.54	5703.46
Standard Deviation	44.85	28.63	37.88	73.80	1.84	0.00	2888.00	3498.64
Skewness	0.13	0.64	0.64	0.48	0.61	0.00	1.18	1.88

Table 14.0: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

Number of charges sampled (N) = 74,145

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least a 45-month period over September 2016 – June 2020 for most parish courts.

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed of for each parish court as at June 30, 2020. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 45-month period over September 2016 – June 2020 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 203 days, roughly the 63 more than as at the of the corresponding quarter in 2019. The skewness of these times to disposition is a very low positive 0.13, suggesting that these times were clustered around the overall mean. For matters

disposed of in the period, the parish courts of Westmoreland (130 days), Clarendon (163 days) and Hanover (165 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Ann (274 days), Manchester (268 days) and St. Mary (253 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters disposed over the period of analysis. The average variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts is however wide as shown by the moderately high standard deviation (44.85), 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 1179 days (39.3 months/3.28 years) in the Clarendon Parish Court to a high of 9044 days (301 months/25.12 years) in the Manchester Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is moderately positive 1.18, which is an indication that proportionately more of the maximum times to disposition fell below the overall series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial and representative 74,145 matters.

Parish Court	Net case backlog rate (%)	Gross case backlog rate (%)
Clarendon	22.37	29.13
Corporate Area	1.40	13.65
Hanover	0.71	3.13
Manchester	3.54	16.81
Portland	2.47	10.13
St. Ann	2.61	16.60
St. Catherine	0.37	8.01
St. Elizabeth	1.07	8.38
St. James	1.88	10.36
St. Mary	0.37	7.45
St. Thomas	2.39	6.56
Trelawny	7.14	11.62
Westmoreland	0.58	12.45
Weighted Averages	2.77	11.7
Standard deviation	5.92	6.49

Table 14.0b: Net and gross criminal case backlog as at the second quarter ended June 30,2020

Note: These backlog rates relate only to cases filed since January 2017 and are therefore proxies.

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 gross case backlog rate provides a measurement of the proportion of cases filed in a given period of over two years which are either active or inactive (i.e. are unresolved) as at the date of reporting. The closely related net case backlog rate is the proportion of all cases filed in a given period of over two years which are still active at the time of reporting. The net case backlog rate therefore excludes inactive cases which are unresolved. Based on international best practices a gross case backlog rate of under 10% is desirable while a net case backlog rate of under 5% is prescribed. The results revealed are quite outstanding as using a 3.5 years' time series, the net case backlog rate

(weighted average) in the criminal division of the parish courts is 2.77% (with a standard deviation of 5.92%) which is decidedly better than the international standard. The gross case backlog rate also stands at a commendable 11.76% (with a standard deviation of 6.49%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved criminal cases in the parish courts. This rate is only 1.76 percentage points higher than the desired rate of 10% but seemingly has the potential to meet this standard relatively soon with the application of more aggressive case management practices by the criminal courts. Although the time series used for this computation is only 3.5 years' worth of cases, the same set is large and representative of the current direction of the court system.

The parish courts of St. Mary and St. Catherine each with net case disposal rate of 0.37% and the parish court of Hanover with 0.71% have the lowest (best) net case backlog rate in the time series while the parish courts of Clarendon (22.37%), Trelawny (7.14%) and Manchester (3.54%) have the highest rates. As for the gross backlog rate, the parish courts of Hanover (3.13%), St. Thomas (6.56%) and St. Mary (7.45%) have the lowest (best) gross backlog rates in the series while the parish courts of Clarendon (29.13%), Manchester (16.60%) and the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division (13.65%) have the highest rates. Taken together, these are quite impressive returns for the criminal court system in Jamaica and augur well for future prospects.

Methods of Disposal and Conviction Rate

Parish Court	Guilty Plea	Dismissed	Not Guilty Verdict	Transferred	Mediated Settlement	Guilty Verdict	Committed to Circuit Court	Total
St. Catherine	41	44	8	84	33	1	8	219
			_	6			6	
Corporate Area Criminal	311	139	35	b	40	18	b	555
Westmoreland	59	206	61	2	24	1	14	367
St. James	45	0	21	0	23	1	0	90
Manchester	17	40	0	0	2	1	3	63
Clarendon	43	10	52	12	11	0	5	133
St. Elizabeth	41	0	30	2	28	1	9	111
Trelawny	19	13	22	6	0	2	5	67
Hanover	106	12	27	1	7	9	3	165
Portland	9	0	25	3	8	7	0	52
St. Mary	19	36	3	0	32	0	13	103
St. Thomas	60	8	31	0	19	2	12	132
St. Ann	23	59	5	3	7	2	5	104
Total	793	567	320	119	234	45	83	2161
Percentage of								
total	36.70%	26.24%	14.81%	5.51%	10.83%	2.08%	3.84%	100.00

Table 15.0: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the second quarter ended
June 30, 2020

Sample size: 2,161

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts for the second quarter of 2020. 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 36.70% of the sample, followed by matters dismissed with 26.24% and not guilty verdicts with 14.81%. Mediated settlements with 10.83%, matters transferred to another court with 5.51%, matters committed to Circuit Court with 3.84% and guilty verdicts with 2.08% account for the remaining disposals in the quarter. The combined 38.78% of the cases disposed of by way of guilty outcomes represent the estimated criminal conviction rate in the parish courts for the quarter.

This represents a decline of 20.65 percentage points when compared to the corresponding

period in 2019.

Common Reasons for Adjournment

Table 16.1: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment formatters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

Reasons for Adjournment	Count	Percentage (%)
Defendant Not Appearing (DNA) warrant issued	751	10.83
File to be completed	632	9.12
Referred to Mediation	470	6.78
Subpoena investigating officer	339	4.89
Medical report unavailable	317	4.57
For disclosure	315	4.54
Re-issue application	258	3.72
File not before court	257	3.71
Psychiatric evaluation to be done	158	2.28
Subpoena complainant	146	2.11
Total	3643	52.55

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance =6,932)

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 6,932 reasons for adjournments/continuance for matters heard in the second quarter of 2020 across all parish courts. The largest proportion (10.83%) was because of adjournments due to the non-appearance of the accused, leading to the issuing of warrants. Adjournments for files to be completed with 9.12% and adjournments for referrals to mediation with 6.78% rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts. Adjournments for the subpoena of investigating officer with 4.89% and medical report unavailable with 4.57%, round of the top five reasons for adjournment for the

quarter. Four of the top five reasons for adjournment were also featured in the top five for the second quarter of 2019. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 52.55% 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 the file; it is complete, accurate, available and correctly listed for court. Hence reasons for adjournment such as file incomplete, file not ready for court, matter wrongly listed and matter not before the court have an adverse impact on the case file integrity rate of the courts. In the second quarter of 2020, the case file integrity rate for criminal matters across the parish courts was 85.85% as 14.15% 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 9.12% of the total incidence of adjournments and is the greatest contributor, adversely affecting the case file integrity rate. This rate is below the prescribed international standard of 98%-100%. Herein lays 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.

Reasons for Continuance	Count	Percentage (%)
Sentencing	776	11.19
Part-heard	558	8.05
Bail application	124	1.79
Total	1458	21.03

Table 16.2: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for continuance for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 6,932

The analysis of adjournments makes a distinction between those incidences, which may be considered avoidable due to either internal or external factors, and those, which are intrinsic to the progression of a case. The above table highlights the primary reasons for adjournment gleaned from the sample, which may be considered as simply intrinsic to the progression of some cases. These reasons are classified as reasons for 'continuance.' As seen in the above table, adjournments for sentencing, part heard matters and those for bail application featured prominently among such reasons. Sentencing in particular, accounted for 11.19% of the total incidence of adjournments/continuance sampled.

Chapter 2.0: Case Demographics and Courtroom Activity

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

	Male		Female		Total	
	Wate		remare		Total	
Charge	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Possession of Offensive weapon	114	89.06	14	10.94	128	100
Breach of Curfew Order	130	83.33	26	16.67	156	100
Possession of ganja	104	85.25	18	14.75	122	100
Disorderly conduct	82	59.85	55	40.15	137	100
Simple larceny	88	77.19	26	22.81	114	100
Threat	302	78.65	82	21.35	384	100
Unlawful wounding	326	78.93	87	21.07	413	100
Malicious destruction of property	178	82.41	38	17.59	216	100
Assault occasioning bodily harm	386	74.52	132	25.48	518	100
Illegal possession of firearm	149	98.68	2	1.32	151	100

Table 17.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

***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) = 2,339

The above table provides a sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020. Based on the data shown in chart 4.0, it is not surprising that males account for the dominant proportion of all these charges. Among the

offences listed with the greatest imbalance in the gender distribution is breach of curfew order, malicious destruction of property, and unlawful wounding for which over 75% of the offenders were male. More particularly, is seen that illegal possession of firearm with 98.68% of offenders being male and possession of an offensive weapon with 89.06% had the most significant incidence of offenders being male for the quarter. Disorderly conduct, assault occasioning bodily harm and simple larceny saw the highest incidence of female involvement among the offences, which appeared most frequently.

The below series of tables provide a sampling distribution of cases by assigned courtroom in the individual parish courts in the second quarter of 2020. These figures are derived from representative data 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.

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the second quarter of 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in the second quarter of 2020	Number of new cases filed which became inactive in the second quarter of 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	156	38	11	61.90	31.41
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	7	2	0	2.78	28.57
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	31	5	0	12.30	16.13
Night Court (main courthouse)	17	7	1	6.75	47.06
Whithorn Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	18	0	0	7.14	0.00
Whithorn Outstation	23	11	2	9.13	56.52
Total/Average	252	63	14	100	30.56

 Table 18.1: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of

 Westmoreland for the second quarter of ended June 30, 2020

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 criminal cases filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020 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 matters heard in each of the relevant locations for ease of comparison. The data shows decisively that matters entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse and the Whithorn outstation accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 156 (61.90%) and 41 (16.27%) matters respectively. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse with 31 or 12.20% rank next. The number of matters heard in courtroom number one (156 cases), decreased by 53.43% falling below the 335 cases recorded in the similar quarter of 2019. The disposal rate however increased by 0.66 percentage points moving up to 31.41% compared to the 30.75% reported in 2019. In terms of cases disposed, sittings in courtroom number 1 with 38 cases account for the highest absolute share of disposals, relative to the number of new cases filed and had the third highest disposal rate of 31.41%. Despite the decrease of 179 cases below the 335 cases recorded in the similar quarter of 2019, there was an increase in the disposal rate of 0.66 percentage points from the 30.75% recorded in the corresponding period in 2019. Sittings at the outstation in Whithorn had 11 disposed cases and recorded the highest disposal rate of 56.52%, a 9.38 percentage points increase when compared to the 47.14% recorded in the corresponding quarter in 2019. The night court sittings at the main courthouse rank next and registered an absolute share of 7 cases disposed in quarter, which led to a disposal rate of 47.06%, a decline of 14.43 percentage points than the 61.49% recorded in guarter two of 2019.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. In particular, of the 156 new cases heard in courtroom number one, 15 were disposed

of in other courtrooms/outstation. Nine (9) of these were disposed of at night court sittings,

four (4) were disposed of on courtroom 2 while one was disposed of at the outstation in

Whithorn.

Table 18.2: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Corporate Areafor the second quarter of ended June 30, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the second quarter of 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in the second quarter of 2020	Number of new cases filed which became inactive in the second quarter of 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	608	141	46	83.75	30.76
Courtroom #6 (main courthouse)	37	1	0	5.10	2.70
Courtroom #7 (main courthouse)	27	0	1	3.72	3.70
Courtroom #8 (main courthouse)	1	0	0	0.14	0.00
Lay Magistrates' Court (main					
courthouse)	46	16	4	6.34	43.48
Gordon Town Outstation	7	1	1	0.96	28.57
Total/Average	726	159	52	100.00	29.06

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

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020 at the Corporate Area Court– Criminal Division. Courtroom number 2 accounted for the highest proportion of new cases filed in the quarter with 83.75% of the total.

The Lay Magistrates Court with roughly 6.34% follows this and courtroom number 6 with

5.10%, rounding off the top three proportions of new cases filed in the quarter. Courtroom

number 2 accounts for the largest absolute share of cases disposed in quarter two in 2020 with

608 matters and a disposal rate of 30.76%. Similarly, in the corresponding quarter of 2019,

courtroom number 2 also accounted for the largest absolute share of cases disposed with 1037 matters and a disposal rate of 58.43%. This represents a decline of 429 new cases filed and 27.67 percentage points decrease in the disposal rate. The lay magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse accounts for the second largest share of disposed cases with 46 cases and the highest disposal rate of 43.48%. The outstation in Gordon Town round off the top three highest disposal rates with 28.57%, however, falling by 13.85 percentage points when compared to the 42.42% recorded in the corresponding 2019 period. The main courthouse in Half-Way-Tree accounted for 99.04% of the total number of new matters heard in 2020, while the remaining 0.96% was accounted for by the single outstation (Gordon Town).

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. In particular, of the 608 cases heard in courtroom two, 99 were disposed of in other courtrooms. In particular, night court sittings accounted for 30 of these disposed cases, courtroom 8 disposed of 24 cases, courtroom 4 accounted for 16 of these cases and fast track court disposed of 21 of these cases. Courtrooms five and three disposed of 2 and 1 cases respectively, while Lay Magistrates' sittings accounted for 2 cases disposed. Courtroom six, seven and drug court accounted for 1 disposed case each. Of the 37 cases heard in courtroom number six, courtroom seven accounted for 1 disposed case. One of the 46 cases heard at Lay Magistrate's sittings was disposed of at night court sitting. Of the 7 cases heard at the Gordon Town outstation, 1 was disposed of at night court sittings.

57

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the second quarter of 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in the second quarter of 2020	Number of new cases filed which became inactive in the second quarter of 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	101	27	2	90.99	28.71
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	6	5	0	5.41	83.33
Cambridge Outstation	4	2	0	3.60	50.00
Total/Average	111	34	2	100.00	32.43

Table 18.3: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. James for the second guarter of ended June 30, 2020

Note 1: There were 61 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 cases filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020 at the St. James Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish and outlines the disposal rates of the various courtrooms and outstations. Courtroom 2 at the main courthouse had the largest number of new cases filed with 101 cases, which are 437 cases less than the 538 cases reported in the corresponding quarter of 2019. The sample also shows that courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse in Montego Bay accounts for the highest share of new cases heard with 90.99%, which is 1.02 percentage points above the 89.97% recorded in the corresponding 2019 period. This was followed by courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse with 5.41% of the sample, and Cambridge outstation with 3.60% followed. The main courthouse in Montego Bay accounts for 96.40% of the new cases heard in 2020. This is 0.92 percentage points below the 97.32% recorded in 2019. The remaining 3.60% was accounted for by the sole outstation (Cambridge).

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were

disposed of in said rooms. Of the 101 cases heard in courtroom number one, 2 cases were

disposed of in courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse.

Table 18.4: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St.
Catherine for the second guarter of ended June 30, 2020.

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the second quarter of 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in the second quarter of 2020	Number of new cases filed which became inactive in the second quarter of 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	199	63	5	60.86	34.17
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	17	10	0	5.20	58.82
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	8	2	0	2.45	25.00
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	16	4	0	4.89	25.00
Courtroom #5 (main courthouse)	9	1	0	2.75	11.11
Children's Court	13	1	0	3.98	7.69
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	24	1	2	7.34	12.50
Linstead Outstation #1 (Lay Magistrates)	5	0	0	1.53	0.00
Linstead Outstation(courtroom #1)	15	3	0	4.59	20.00
Old Harbour Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	6	0	0	1.83	0.00
Old Harbour Outstation(courtroom #1)	15	1	0	4.59	6.67
Total/Average	327	86	7	100.00	28.44

Note 1: There was 1 missing courtrooms/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 second quarter ended June 30, 2020 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 disposal rates of the various courtrooms and

outstations.

The data shows decisively that matters entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse in Spanish Town and Night Court sittings at Lay Magistrates' sittings accounts for the largest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 60.86% and 7.34% respectively. Courtroom number 2 with 5.20% of the new cases heard ranks next.

In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 63 cases, which is 154 cases less than the 217 recorded in the second quarter of 2019, and had the second highest disposal rate of 34.17%, a decline of 24.11 percentage points when compared to the 58.28% recorded in 2019. Courtrooms number 3 and 4 followed this with disposal rates of 25% each. The main courthouse in Spanish Town accounts for 87.46% of the total number of new cases heard in 2020, 26.13 percentage points above the 61.33% recorded in the corresponding 2019 quarter. The outstations combined accounted for the remaining 12.54%.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 199 cases heard in courtroom one, 23 were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstation. Eleven of these cases were disposed of in courtroom 5, seven (7) were disposed in courtroom number 4. A total of three (3) were disposed of in courtroom 3, two (2) were disposed of at night court sittings and the outstation in Linstead. Of the 17 cases heard in courtroom number 2, one (1) was disposed of in courtroom 3. Of the 16 cases heard in courtroom 4, courtrooms 1 and 3 accounted for 1 disposed case each. Fifteen (15) cases were heard at the Linstead outstation, of this amount 1 was disposed of in courtroom 5. Of the 15 cases heard at the Old Harbour outstation, 1 was disposed of in courtroom 1. Of the nine (9)

60

cases heard in courtroom 5, five (5) were disposed of in other courtrooms. Courtrooms 1 and 3

accounted for four (4) disposed cases and 1 disposed case respectively.

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the second quarter of 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in the second quarter of 2020	Number of new cases filed which became inactive in the second quarter of 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Children's Court	3	1	0	2.52	33.33
Courtroom #1 (main					
courtroom)	84	25	1	70.59	30.95
Courtroom #2 (main					
courtroom)	10	0	1	8.40	10.00
Lay Magistrates' Court- Yallahs					
Outstation	1	0	0	0.84	0.00
Yallahs Outstation	21	9	0	17.65	42.86
Total/Average	119	35	2	100	31.09

18.5: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Thomas
for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The data shows decisively that matters entered in courtroom numbers 1 at the main courthouse in Morant Bay and thee Yallahs outstation account for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 70.59% and 17.65% respectively. Courtroom number 1 also accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 25 matters and the third highest disposal rate of 30.95%. When compared to the corresponding 2019 period, this represents a decline of 19 cases disposed below the 44 cases disposed of in 2019 and a 45.72 percentage points decrease in the disposal rate recorded in 2019 of 76.67%. The outstation in Yallahs and children's court the main courthouse with

disposal rates of 42.86% (compared to 52.73% in 2019) and 33.33% (compared to 4.76% in 2019) respectively accounts for the first and second highest disposal rates respectively.

The main courthouse in Morant Bay accounted for 81.51% of the total cases heard in 2020, which is a decline of 3.42 percentage points when compared to the 78.09% recorded in the corresponding 2019 period. The remaining 18.49% was accounted for by the Yallahs outstation, which is a decline of 3.42 percentage points when compared to the 21.91% in the corresponding 2049 second quarter.

Table 18.6: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Trelawny for the second quarter of ended June 30, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the second quarter of 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in the second quarter of 2020	Number of new cases filed which became inactive in the second quarter of 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main		_	_		
courthouse)	30	9	0	28.04	30.00
Falmouth Outstation	33	6	0	30.84	18.18
Falmouth Outstation (Lay					
Magistrates)	7	0	0	6.54	0.00
Ulster Spring Outstation	7	4	0	6.54	57.14
Ulster Spring Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	3	0	0	2.80	0.00
Clarks Town Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	6	0	0	5.61	0.00
Clarks Town					
Outstation(courtroom #1)	21	5	0	19.63	23.81
Total/Average	107	24	0	100.00	22.43

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 second

quarter ended June 30, 2020 at the Trelawny Parish Court. The data shows that matters

entered in the Falmouth outstation account for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 30.84%. Courtroom 1 at the main courthouse and courtroom 1 at the outstation in the Clarks Town with 28.04% and 19.63% respectively, followed. Ulster spring outstation despite having proportionately low absolute number of cases disposed, had the highest disposal rate of 57.14%. Courtroom 1 at the main courthouse and the Clarks Town outstation ranked next with disposal rates of 30% and 23.81% respectively. The outstations account for 71.96% of the new cases heard in 2020, while the remaining 28.04% were accounted for by the main courthouse. In 2019, the main courthouse accounted for 73.96% of the new cases heard, while the remaining 26.04% were accounted for by the outstations.

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the second quarter of 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in the second quarter of 2020	Number of new cases filed which became inactive in the second quarter of 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Children's Court (main courthouse)	2	1	0	1.47	50.00
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	72	9	0	52.94	12.50
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	6	2	0	4.41	33.33
Richmond Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	3	0	0	2.21	0.00
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	21	0	13	15.44	61.90
Annotto Bay Outstation	10	2	1	7.35	30.00
Annotto Bay Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	1	0	0	0.74	0.00
Gayle Outstation	7	0	0	5.15	0.00
Richmond Outstation	14	5	0	10.29	35.71
Total/Average	136	19	14	100.00	24.26

Table 18.7: Aggregate case statistics for each outstation in the Parish of St. Mary for the second quarter of ended June 30, 2020

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 St. Mary in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 and lay magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse account for the highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 52.94% and 15.44% respectively of the total. The outstation in Richmond with 10.29% of the new cases heard in the quarter ranked next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Port Maria accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 9, a decrease of 46 matters or an 83.64% decrease, below the 55 matters recorded in the corresponding 2019 second quarter and had the second highest case disposal rate of 50.00%, an increase of 8.71 percentage points above the 41.29% recorded in the comparable 2019 quarter two period. Lay Magistrates sittings with the highest disposal rate of 61.90% and the outstation in Richmond with 35.71% were among the top three disposal rates in the quarter.

The outstations in the parish account for a combined 23.52% of the total number of new cases heard in the quarter, 3.40 percentage points below 26.93% recorded in the corresponding 2019 period. On the other hand, the main courthouse accounts for roughly 76.48% an increase of 3.1 percentage point above the 73.37% recorded in the similar 2019 second quarter.

As mentioned not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 72 cases heard in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse, two were disposed of in courtroom number 3 while night court sittings and courtroom 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 1 case each. Of the 10 cases heard at the outstation in Annotto Bay there were 4 cases disposed of in other courtrooms. Children's court and courtroom number two disposed of 2 cases each. Of the 14 cases heard at the outstation in

Richmond 5 were disposed of in other courtrooms. Four (4) were disposed of in courtroom

number 3 at the main courthouse and 1 case was disposed of in courtroom 1.

Table 18.8: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of
Portland for the second quarter of ended June 30, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the second quarter of 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in the second quarter of 2020	Number of new cases filed which became inactive in the second quarter of 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Children's Court (main					
courthouse)	1	0	0	1.28	0.00
Courtroom #1 (main					
courthouse)	41	11	0	52.56	26.83
Courtroom #2 (main					
courthouse)	15	7	0	19.23	46.67
Courtroom #3 (main					
courthouse)	4	0	0	5.13	0.00
Buff Bay Outstation					
(courtroom#1)	6	3	0	7.69	50.00
Manchioneal Buff Bay					
Outstation	11	5	0	14.10	45.45
Total/Average	78	26	0	100	33.33

Note 1: There were 41 missing courtrooms/outstation entries therefore the number in this table may not equate to the total in table 1.0.

Note 2: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in slight 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 quarter ended June 30, 2020. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 at the main court in Port Antonio accounts for the highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 52.56% of the total. In quarter two of 2019 courtroom one also accounted for the highest share of new matters heard with 62.73%. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse and the outstation in Manchioneal with 19.23% and 14.10% respectively of the total number of the new cases heard in the quarter

rank next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Port Antonio accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 11 matters, 47 matters or 81.03% decline compared to the 58 matters recorded in the second quarter of 2019. Despite having proportionately low absolute numbers courtroom number 1 at the Buff Bay outstation recorded the highest disposal rate of 50%. Courtroom 2 and the Manchioneal outstation with a rate of 46.67% and 45.45%% were among the top three on this measure. The outstations in Portland account for a combined 21.79% of the new cases heard a decrease of 12.16 percentage points below the 33.95% recorded in the corresponding 2019 second quarter. The above the 66.05% recorded in the second quarter of 2019.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 41 cases heard in courtroom 1, there were two cases disposed of in other courtrooms, 1 in courtroom 2 and 1 in courtroom 3. Of the fifteen cases heard in courtroom 2, two were disposed of in courtroom 1.

Table 18.9: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Hanover for the second guarter of ended June 30, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the second quarter of 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in the second quarter of 2020	Number of new cases filed which became inactive in the second quarter of 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courtroom)	137	51	20	65.24	51.82
Courtroom #2 (main courtroom)	21	10	0	10.00	47.62
Green Island Outstation (courtroom #1)	13	4	1	6.19	38.46
Lay Magistrates' Court(main courthouse)	9	0	0	4.29	0.00
Green Island Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	3	0	0	1.43	0.00
Ramble Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	2	1	0	0.95	50.00
Ramble Outstation (courtroom #1)	10	4	0	4.76	40.00
Sandy Bay Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	2	0	0	0.95	0.00
Sandy Bay Outstation(courtroom #1)	13	2	0	6.19	15.38
Total/Average	210	72	21	100.00	44.29

Note 1: There were 2 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 new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Hanover in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020. The data shows decisively that courtrooms number one at the main court in Lucea accounts for the highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 65.24% of the total, 21.12 percentage points above the 44.12% recorded in the corresponding period in 2019. Courtroom 2 and the outstations in Green Island with 10% and 7.62% rank next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Lucea accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 51 matters, 2 less matters than the 53 matters recorded in 2019 and recorded the third highest case disposal rate of 51.82%, a marginal increase of less than 1

THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S SECOND QUARTER STATISTICS REPORT ON CRIMINAL MATTERS IN THE PARISH COURTS – 2020

percentage points above the 51.38% reported in the second quarter of 2019. Lay magistrates' sitting at the outstation in Ramble (50%), Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse (47.62%), courtroom number 1 at the Ramble outstation (40%), and courtroom 1 at the Green Island outstation (38.46%) were among the top five disposal rates. The outstations in the parish account for 20.48% of the new cases heard during the second quarter, a decrease of 6.24 percentage points below the 26.72% in 2019. The main courthouse accounts for the remaining 79.52%, an increase of 6.24 percentage points above the 73.28% when compared to the similar quarter of 2019.

As mentioned not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 137 cases heard in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse, cases were disposed of at other outstations. Outstations in Ramble and Green Island accounted for 2 cases each. Of the 21 cases heard in courtroom number 2, 1 was disposed of at the outstation in Ramble. Thirteen (13) cases were heard in Courtroom number 1 at the Green Island outstation, of this amount 1 case was disposed of in courtroom one at the main courthouse. Of the 9 cases heard at Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse 1 was disposed of in courtroom number 1. Thirteen cases were heard at the outstation in sandy Bay, of this amount 2 cases were disposed of in other courtroom/ outstation. The outstation in Ramble and courtroom 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 1 case each.

Table 18.10: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St.
Elizabeth for the second quarter of ended June 30, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the second quarter of 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in the second quarter of 2020	Number of new cases filed which became inactive in the second quarter of 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rates (%)
Santa Cruz (Children's Court)	2	0	0	1.15	0.00
Courtroom #1 (main courtroom)	62	17	1	35.63	29.03
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courtroom)	15	0	0	8.62	0.00
Balaclava Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	1	0	0	0.57	0.00
Balaclava Outstation (courtroom #1)	9	3	0	5.17	33.33
Santa Cruz Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	22	0	0	12.64	0.00
Santa Cruz Outstation (courtroom#1)	63	19	0	36.21	30.16
Total/Average	174	39	1	100	22.99

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 St. Elizabeth in the second ended June 30, 2020. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 at the Santa Cruz outstation and Courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse in Black River accounted for highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 35.63% and 36.21% respectively of the total. When compared to quarter 2 of 2019 both afore mentioned courtrooms also accounted for the highest share of new cases heard with 56.39% and 20.05% respectively., Lay Magistrates sittings at the Santa Cruz outstation with (12.64%), Lay Magistrates sittings at the main courthouse (8.62%) and courtroom number 1 at the Balaclava outstation (5.17%) rounded off the top five share of new cases heard. Although the numbers are proportionately low,

courtroom number 1 at the Balaclava outstation with disposal rates of 33.33 was among those with the highest disposal rates in 2020. The Santa Cruz outstation accounts for the highest proportion of new cases heard in 2020 with 50%, a decrease of 8.90 percentage points when compared to the 58.90% recorded in the corresponding 2019 period while outstations accounted for the remaining 50% of the cases heard.

As mentioned not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 62 cases heard in courtroom 1, there were 4 cases disposed of in other courtrooms/outstations, courtrooms 1 and 2 at the outstation in Santa Cruz accounted for 3 cases and 1 case respectively. Of the 63 cases heard in courtroom 1 at the Santa Cruz outstation, 3 cases were disposed of courtroom 1.

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the second quarter of 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in the second quarter of 2020	Number of new cases filed which became inactive in the second quarter of 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
ST.ANN'S BAY and the					
Claremont outstation					
Claremont (Children's Court)	3	0	1	2.46	33.33
Courtroom #1 (main					
courthouse)	34	7	0	27.87	20.59
Claremont Outstation	1	0	0	0.82	0.00
BROWNS TOWN					
Children's Court	1	0	0	0.82	0.00
Courtroom #1 (main					
courthouse)	46	10	1	37.70	23.91
Lay Magistrates' Court	37	0	3	30.33	8.11
Total/Average	122	17	5	100.00	18.03

Table 18.11: Aggregate case statistics for each outstation in the Parish of St. Ann for the second quarter of ended June 30, 2020

Note 1: There were 115 missing courtrooms/Outstation entries therefore the number in this table may not equate to the total in table 1.0.

Note 2: 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 St. Ann in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020. The data shows that courtroom 1 in both St. Ann's Bay (the main court) and Browns Town account for the largest shares of new cases heard in the guarter with 27.87% and 37.70% respectively of the total. When compared to 2019, the data shows that courtroom 1 in both St. Ann's Bay (main courthouse) and Browns Town also accounted for the largest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 46.79% and 21.10% respectively of the total. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 Browns town accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed of with 10 cases, 11 or 52.38% below the 21 matters recorded in the corresponding 2019 quarter and had the third highest case disposal rate of 23.91%. Cases heard in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse with a disposal rate of 20.59% and children's court at the outstation in Claremont with 33.33% disposal rate accounts for the highest disposal rates in 2020. As a whole, the Brown's Town court accounted for approximately 73.77% of the new cases filed in the parish of St. Ann in the second quarter of 2020. The St. Ann's Bay courthouse accounts for 27.87% of the new cases heard in the quarter. As a whole, outstation activity (including Brown's Town) accounted for 72.13% of the new cases heard in the second quarter of 2020.

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the second quarter of 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in the second quarter of 2020	Number of new cases filed which became inactive in the second quarter of 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	89	24	0	33.58	26.97
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	62	12	0	23.40	19.35
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	28	5	0	10.57	17.86
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	10	1	0	3.77	10.00
Night Court (main courthouse)	1	1	0	0.38	100.00
Lionel Town Outstation	26	6	0	9.81	23.08
Chapleton Outstation	42	8	0	15.85	19.05
Frankfield Outstation	7	0	0	2.64	0.00
Total/Average	265	56	1	100.00	21.51

Table 18.12: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom/outstation in the Parish of Clarendon for the second quarter of ended June 30, 2020

Note 1: There was 1 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate the total in table 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 second quarter ended June 30, 2020. The available data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 in May Pen accounted for highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 33.58% of the total. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse and Chapleton outstation accounts for the next highest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 23.40% and 15.85% respectively of the total. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in May Pen accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 24 matters, 19 cases fewer that the 43 disposed cases recorded for this courtroom in 2019. Courtroom number 2 also had the second highest disposal rate of 26.97% a decline of 34.50% below the 41.18% recorded in the corresponding 2019 quarter. Despite its proportionately low absolute numbers Night court sittings had the highest disposal rate of 100%. Outstation in Lionel Town with (23.08%), Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse (19.35%), outstation in Chapleton (19.05%) and Courtroom # 3 at the main courthouse (17.86%) and were among the highest disposal rates in 2020.

An estimated 28.30% of new cases heard in Clarendon during the second quarter occurred in the outstation locations with the remaining 71.70% taking place in the main court in May Pen. As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. Of the 89 cases heard in courtroom number one, 1 was disposed of in Night court 1 was disposed in courtroom number one at the main courthouse. Of the 26 cases heard at the outstation in Lionel Town, 1 was disposed of in courtroom number one.

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the second quarter of 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in the second quarter of 2020	Number of new cases filed which became inactive in the second quarter of 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	80	6	2	38.46	10.00
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	49	5	0	23.56	10.20
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	8	0	0	3.85	0.00
Night Court (main courthouse)	1	0	0	0.48	0.00
Cottage Outstation	3	1	0	1.44	33.33
Christiana Outstation	2	0	0	0.96	0.00
Christiana Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	2	1	0	0.96	50.00
Spalding Outstation	5	4	0	2.40	80.00

Table 18.13: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Manchester for the second quarter of ended June 30, 2020

Total/Average	208	21	2	100	11.06
Tax Court (main courthouse)	20	0	0	9.62	0.00
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	27	4	0	12.98	14.81
Cross Keys Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	3	0	0	1.44	0.00
Cross Keys Outstation	1	0	0	0.48	0.00
Porus Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	5	0	0	2.40	0.00
Porus Outstation	2	0	0	0.96	0.00

Note 1: There were 8 missing courtroom/outstation entries therefore the number in this table may not equate to the total in table 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.

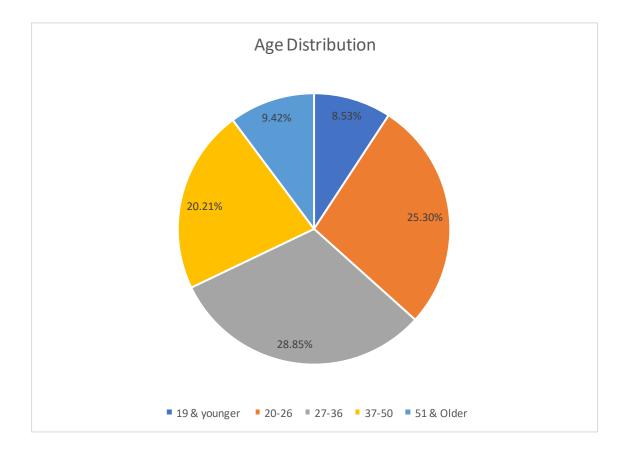
The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Manchester in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020. The data shows that courtroom 1 at the main courthouse accounted for the highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 80 cases or 38.46% of the total. In 2019, Courtroom 1 at the main courthouse accounted for 30 cases or 23.77% of the total number of new cases filed. Courtroom number 1 and Courtroom number two accounts for the next highest share of new cases heard in the guarter with 38.46% and 23.56% respectively of the total. When compared to 2019, both courtrooms 2 and 1 were also among the top three highest shares of new cases with 23.77% and 17.09% respectively. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom 1 at the main court in Mandeville accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 6 matters, 24 matters or 80% fewer than the 32 cases recorded in 2019 and had the sixth highest case disposal rate of 10%. Although the absolute numbers are proportionately low, the outstation in Spalding and the Lay Magistrates' sitting at the outstation in Christiana had the two highest shares of disposal rates for the parish in the quarter with 80% and 50% respectively. The main courthouse in Mandeville accounts for 88.94% of the total number of new cases heard during the 2020 period a decrease of 0.25

percentage point when compared to the 89.19% recorded in 2019. The remaining 11.06% 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 80 cases heard in courtroom 1, there were nine cases disposed of in other courtrooms/outstations; 2 were disposed of in courtrooms 2 and Children's court at the main courthouse. The outstation and Children's court in Porus accounted for 1 case each, while three cases were disposed if in courtroom 3. Forty-nine cases were heard in courtroom 2 at the main courthouse, of this amount 5 cases were disposed of in other courtroom/outstations. Night court sittings at the main courthouse accounted for 2 cases. Courtroom number one at the main courthouse, outstation in cross keys and the drug treatment court each accounted for 1 case. Of the 8 cases heard in courtroom three, 1 was disposed of in courtroom one and 1 at the main courthouse. There was 1 case heard at night court sittings at the main courthouse, this case was disposed of in courtroom 2 at the main courthouse. Of the 3 cases heard at the outstation in Cottage1 was disposed of in courtroom 3 at the main courthouse. 27 cases were heard at Lay Magistrates sittings at the main courthouse, of this amount 1 case were disposed of in children's court at the main courthouse. Of the two cases heard at the outstation in Porus, 1 was disposed of in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse.

Chart 3.0: Aggregate age distribution of persons charged for all parish courts for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

This subsection now turns to an examination of gender and age distribution for cases filed across the parish courts as a whole in the second quarter of 2020, as well as the breakdown of the police stations and related entities from which cases have originated in each parish.



The above chart shows that of the total number of persons charged, for which age data was readily available for the April to June quarter, 2020; the largest proportion, 28.85% were from the 27-36 age cohorts. This category is followed by the 20-26 age group with 25.30%, the 37-50 age group with 20.21% and the oldest age cohorts 51 years and older accounting for 9.42%. The youngest age cohort in the distribution accounted for the lowest proportions with the 19 and younger category accounting for 8.53% and of the number of persons charged.

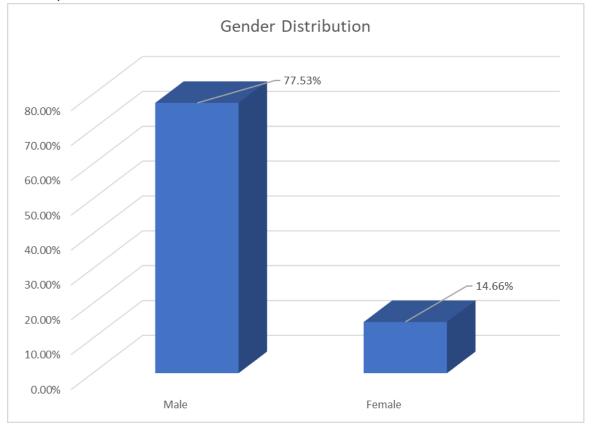


Chart 4.0: Aggregate gender distribution of persons charged for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

The above chart shows that the overwhelming majority of persons charged for the April to June quarter, 2020 were male, accounting for roughly 77.53% of the total while, females accounted for approximately 14.66%. The gender distribution of persons charged in the first quarter is consistent with the breakdown for second quarter with approximately 84.12% to 15.88% male to female ratio.

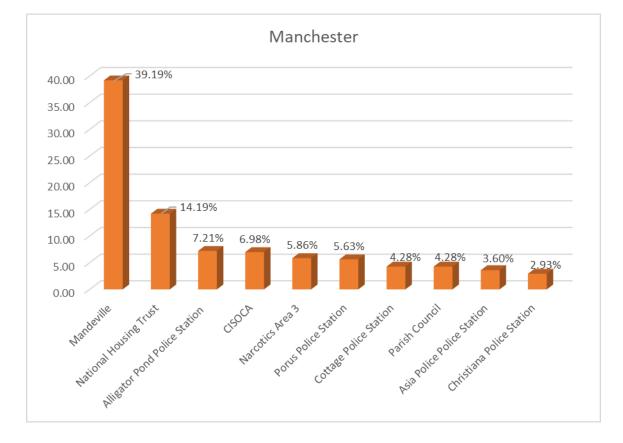
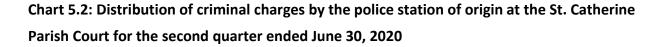
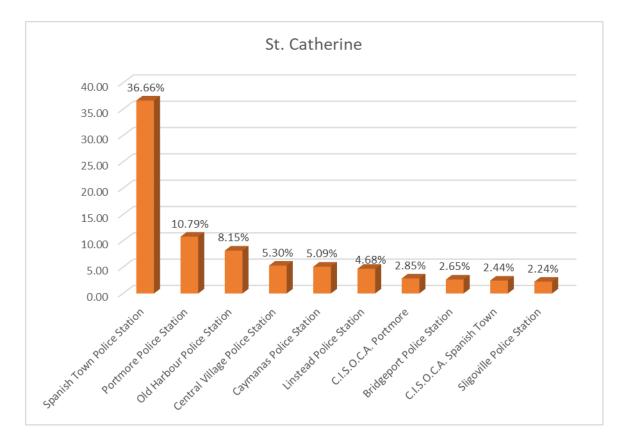


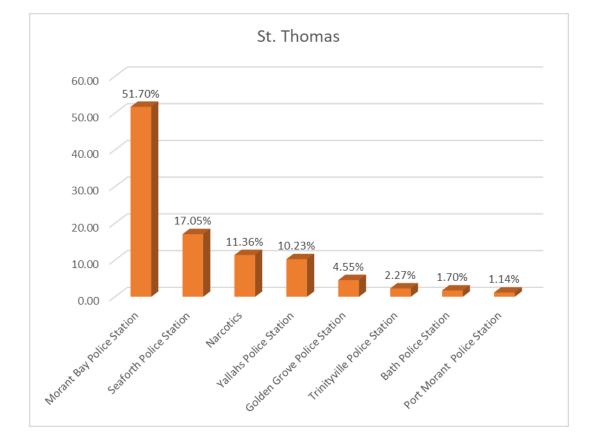
Chart 5.1: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Manchester Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

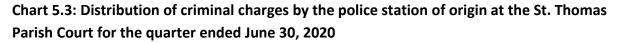
The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 444 records indicate that for the April to June quarter, 2020 the largest proportion of the matters, 39.19%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Mandeville Police Station. This was followed by the National Housing Trust which accounts for 14.19% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Alligator Pond Police with 7.21%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Mandeville, Parish Council and Christiana Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.





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 a total of 491 records indicate that for the April to June quarter, 2020 the largest proportion of criminal matters, 36.66%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Spanish Town Police Station. This was followed by the Portmore Police Station which accounts for 10.79% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Old Harbour Police with 8.15%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Spanish Town, Bridgeport and Portmore Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.





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 a total of 176 records indicate that for the April to June quarter, 2020 the largest proportion of criminal matters, 51.70%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Morant Bay Police Station. This was followed by the Seaforth Police Station which accounts for 17.05% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Narcotics with 11.36%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Morant Bay Police, Yallahs Police and Narcotics. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

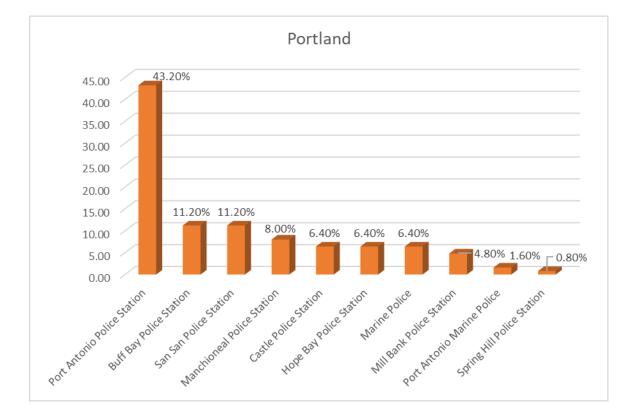


Chart 5.4: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Portland Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

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 a total of 125 records indicate that for the April to June quarter, 2020 the largest proportion of criminal matters, 43.20%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Port Antonio Police Station. This was followed by the Buff Bay Police Station which accounts for 11.20% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the San San Police with 11.20%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Port Antonio, Buff Bay and Hope Bay Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

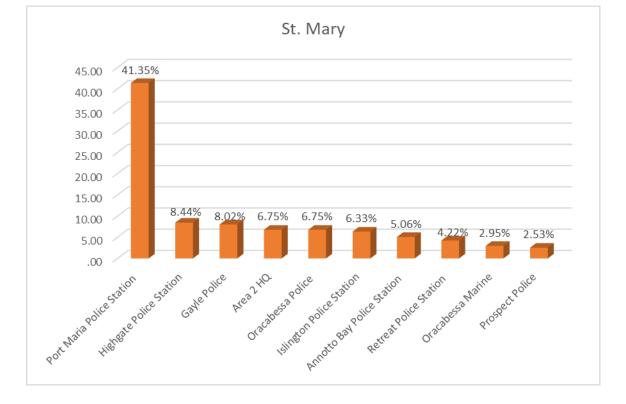
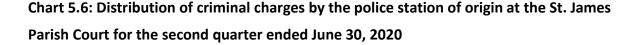
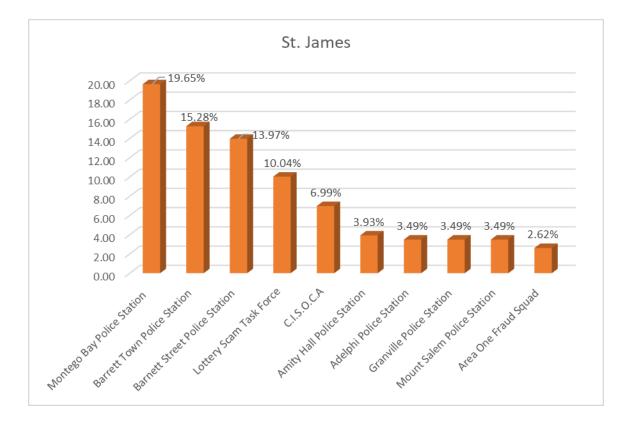


Chart 5.5: Distribution of criminal charges filed by the police station of origin at the St. Mary Parish Court for the quarter ended June 30, 2020

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 a total of 237 records indicate that for the April to June quarter, 2020 the largest proportion of criminal matters, 41.35%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Port Maria Police Station. This was followed by the Highgate Police Station which accounts for 8.44% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Gayle Police with 8.02%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Annotto Bay, Port Antonio and Oracabessa Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.





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 a total of 229 records indicate that for the April to June quarter, 2020 the largest proportion of criminal matters, 19.65%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Montego Bay Police Station. This was followed by the Barrett Town Police Station which accounts for 15.28% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Barnett Street Police with 13.97%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Barnett Street Police, Montego Bay Police and C.I.S.O.C.A. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

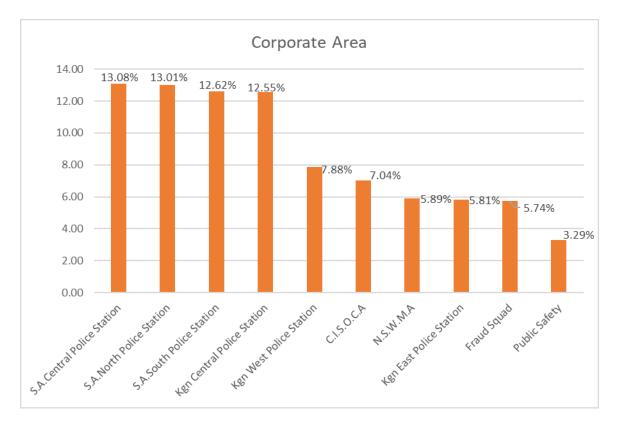


Chart 5.7: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Corporate Area Criminal Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 1307 records indicate that for the April to June quarter, 2020 the largest proportion of criminal matters, 13.08%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in St. Andrew Central Police Station. This was followed by the St. Andrew North Police Station which accounts for 13.01% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the St. Andrew South Police with 12.62%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Kingston Central, St. Andrew Central and Kingston West Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

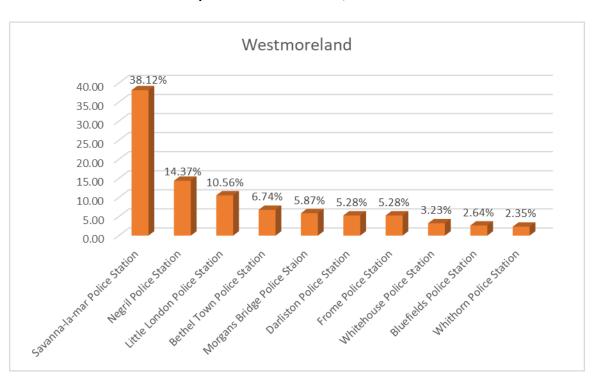


Chart 5.8: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

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 a total of 341 records indicate that for the April to June quarter, 2020 the largest proportion of criminal matters, 38.12%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Savanna-lamar Police. This was followed by the Negril Police Station which accounts for 14.37% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Little London Police with 10.56%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Savanna-la-mar Police, Negril Police and Area 3 Narcotics Division. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

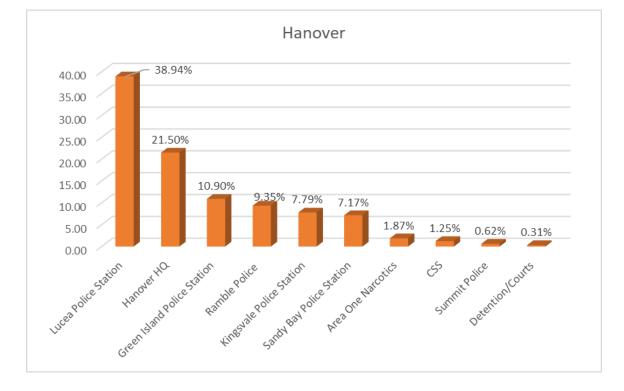


Chart 5.9: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Hanover Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

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 a total of 321 records indicate that for the April to June quarter, 2020 the largest proportion of criminal matters, 38.94%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Lucea Police Station. This was followed by the Hanover HQ Police which accounts for 21.50% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Green Island Police with 10.90%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Lucea, Hanover HQ and Green Island Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

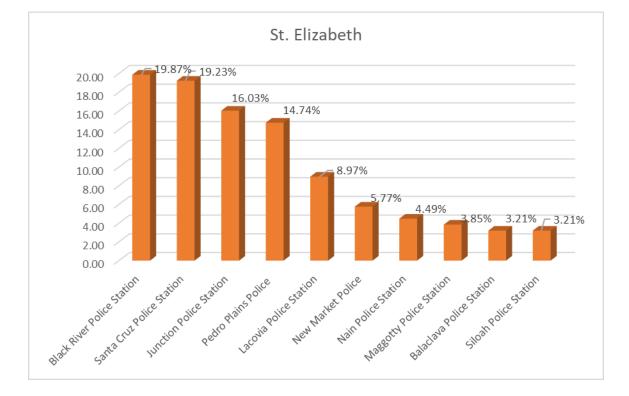


Chart 5.10: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 156 records indicate that for the April to June quarter, 2020 the largest proportion of criminal matters, 19.87%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Black River Police Station. This was followed by the Santa Cruz Police Station which accounts for 19.23% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Junction Police with 16.03%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Black River, Santa Cruz and Junction Police Station.

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

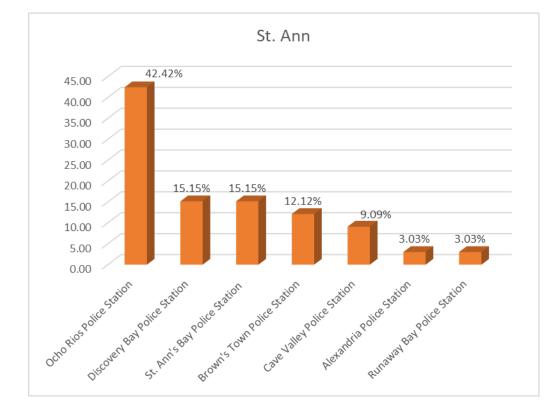


Chart 3.11: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Ann Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges at the St. Ann Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 33 records indicate that for the April to June quarter, 2020 the largest proportion of criminal matters, 42.42%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Ocho Rios Police Station. This was followed by the Discovery Bay Police Station which accounts for 15.15% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the St. Ann's Bay Police with 15.15%. In the previous quarter the top three Police Stations were similar to this quarter. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

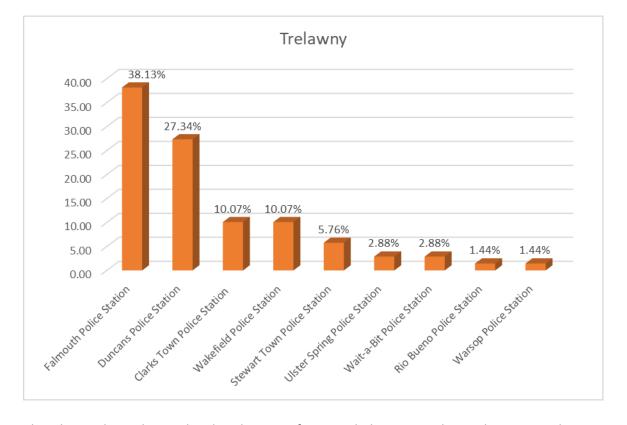


Chart 5.12: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Trelawny Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges at the Trelawny Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 139 records indicate that for the April to June quarter, 2020 the largest proportion of criminal matters, 38.13%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Falmouth Police Station. This was followed by the Duncans Police Station which accounts for 27.34% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Clarks Town Police with 10.07%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Falmouth, Clarks Town and Duncan's Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

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

Conclusion

At the beginning of 2020, the criminal division of the Jamaican parish courts were poised to have a very strong year on all performance measurements, buoyed by its highest case clearance rates in recorded history and downward trending gross and net case backlog rates. With the numerical targets in mind of attaining a court-wide weighted average case clearance rate of 130%, a court-wide weighted average trial date certainty rate of 95% and net and gross case backlog rates of under 5% and 10% respectively, the criminal division of the parish courts ended 2019 well above target. With court activity suspended in the latter part of the last month of the first quarter of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the courts still managed to maintain a healthy case clearance rate of over 90%. In the second quarter there was only one month (June) with any semblance of full capacity and some hearings were conducted virtually. As a result, the courts experienced a significant overall drop in all major performance measurements, recording an overall weighted average case clearance rate of 51.50%, a decline of 55.88 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in 2019. For the first time in almost three years only two courts (St. Thomas and Portland) met the international standard on this measurement for the guarter and these courts were aided by the proportionately sizeable dip in the number of new cases filed at those locations. The trial date certainty rate also declined sharply by 14 percentage points, ending the quarter at 65% and a large number of matters were vacated or rescheduled. The statistical results for the second quarter of 2020 do not provide any serious basis for wider application. If anything, the output is a proxy measurement of the resilience of the courts which managed to achieve what may be considered as respectable returns under the circumstances. There has being a slight slowing down of the momentum towards attaining

some of the quantitative goals set out by the Chief Justice as part of the judiciary's strategic plan but as court activity starts to see a return to some greater semblance of normality over the second half of 2020 it is expected that the courts will gradually bounce back and by mid 2021 they should, ceteris paribus, be firmly back on track. The damages to the key outputs in the second quarter are in no way irreparable in the short run.

Indeed, one of the most positive results emerging from this second quarter statistics report comes from the analysis of the net and gross case backlog rates which are the most recent additions to these reports. Using the last 3.5 years of extensive data, the criminal division of the Jamaican parish courts recorded an overall net case backlog rate of 2.77% which means that only this proportion of the over 74145 matters sampled were active cases over two years old as at the end of the second quarter of 2020. Despite the relatively short time series, this is a remarkable result by any measure. Furthermore, using the same period of analysis and extensive sample size, the gross case backlog rate was 11.76% which means that only this proportion of the cases filed over the past 3.5 years in the criminal division of the parish courts were over 2 years old and either in an active or inactive status as at the end of the second quarter of 2020. These results are interpreted within the context that the desirable gross case backlog rate is under 10% while the prescribed net case backlog rate is under 5%. The use of a longer time series would certainly produce less impressive output but this sample from the past 3.5 years provides key insights into the contemporary state of affairs in the criminal division of the parish courts. The data further suggests that only about 16.27% of the cases filed over the past 3.5 years in the criminal division of the parish courts which were disposed, took a year or more. This offers additional anchor for the promising

positioning of the criminal division of the parish courts to significantly reduce its case backlog

in the coming months and years.

Glossary of Statistical Terms

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

set are assigned an identical weight.

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

^{&#}x27; Source:

http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/bestpractice/BestPracticeCaseAgeClearanceRate s.pdf " Source:

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