

Parish Courts of Jamaica
The Chief Justice's Third Quarter Statistics
Report on Criminal Matters for 2020

JULY TO SEPTEMBER

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Case Disposal Rates (%)	47.58	39.30
Case Clearance Rates (%)	102.78	78.31
Trial Date Certainty Rates (%)	76	77
Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)	58.66	52.48

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There has been a general reduction in total court activity in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This reduction was particularly significant in the abbreviated second quarter of the year, which as a result experienced a significant decline in several key productivity metrics. Third quarter criminal court activity in the parish courts was as expected less than normal but there were some important signs of recovery in vital areas. At the beginning of 2020, the Jamaican criminal courts were set to achieve some of the key quantitative targets outlined in the strategic plan of the judiciary, possibly ahead of the initially forecasted period. Although the declines so far in 2020, especially over the second and third quarters is significant, there is no clear empirical indication at this time that the criminal division of the parish courts will be unable to restore the momentum that is required to stay on course to attaining a court-wide case clearance rate of roughly 130%, a trial date certainty rate of 95% and the concomitant net case backlog rate of under 5%, among other targets in the next few years. The resilience shown in the third quarter is an indication that over the next 2-3 quarters pre-COVID performance levels can be restored and soon thereafter exceeded, but it will not be an easy feat. The outcomes in the last quarter of 2020 and first quarter of 2021 will be particularly decisive as the court system continues on the journey to becoming the most productive court systems in the Caribbean by March 2023 and among the bests in the world by March 2025.

There were some vital findings on the key performance metrics for the third quarter of 2020. The first of these is that the courts recorded an overall case disposal rate of 39.30% in the quarter, an 8.28 percentage points decline when compared to the third quarter of 2019. 6091 new cases were filed across the criminal division of the parish courts in the period, a decline of

3.21 percent when compared to the corresponding period in 2019. The Corporate Area Criminal Court, and the parish courts of St. Catherine and St. James accounted for the largest share of new case filings in the quarter, together accounting for 41.41% of all new criminal cases filed. The parish courts of St. Thomas, Trelawny and St. Mary accounted for the lowest shares of new cases filed, each with under 5% of the total. The parish courts of Hanover (54.55%), St. James (50.29%) and Clarendon (46.58%) recorded the highest case disposal rates for the period while Portland, Manchester and St. Ann recorded the lowest disposal rates.

The criminal division of the parish courts also experienced a decline in case clearance rate when compared to the corresponding period in 2019 but a significant recovery when compared to the second quarter of 2020. The 2020 third quarter case clearance rate of 78.31% is 24.47 percentage points less than the corresponding period in 2019 but 26.85 percentage points higher than the second quarter of 2020. The St. James Parish Court with a case clearance rate of 97.52%, the St. Mary Parish Court with 95.55% and the Hanover Parish Court with 94.24% were the best performing courts on this measure in the third quarter of 2020, which saw six of the parish courts satisfying the international standard with rates of over 90% although none exceeded the 100% mark and eleven of the thirteen declined when compared to the corresponding period in 2019.

The criminal division of the parish courts also experienced a decline in the key measurement of the courtroom utilization rate in the third quarter of 2020 when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2019. These courts recorded an overall courtroom utilization rate of 52.48%, 6.18 percentage points below the corresponding rate in 2019. The night courts registered an overall courtroom utilization rate of 47.63%, a decline of 4.85 percentage points

when compared to the third quarter of 2019. The parish courts of St. James, St. Ann and St. Mary recorded the three highest overall courtroom utilization rates in the quarter while the parish courts of St. Ann, St. James and Westmoreland were the leaders on the night court utilization rate.

Another vital statistical metric which is a predictor of various other productivity outcomes is the trial date certainty rate. The criminal division of the parish courts had a better than expected result at the end of the third quarter of 2020, with a rate of 77%, 1 percentage point higher than that of the corresponding quarter in 2019, with four of the courts satisfying the international standard. The parish courts of St. James, St. Thomas and Manchester were the leaders on this measurement and overall these results represent a tremendous showing of resilience and adaptability, even as the courts make an essential transition to blended and virtual hearings for some matters.

The case file integrity rate, a key measurement of case file readiness also showed resilient results in the third quarter of 2020, netting out at a rate of 85.11%, which is still below the international standard but roughly comparable to the 2019 outcome in the corresponding period and poised for further improvement as the Jamaican court system readies itself for a massive transformation from a manual to an over 90% digital way of doing business in 2021/22. This thrust is expected to be facilitated by the phased introduction of the Judicial Case Management System (JCMS), built on one of the most modern and sophisticated operating systems.

Possibly the most significant of all the findings from this third quarter statistics report emerge from the analysis of the net and gross case backlog rates. The net case backlog rate for criminal

cases filed over the past 3.75 years across the parish courts was found to be 2.65%. In practice, this means that only 2.65% of all new cases filed over the 3.75 years were still active and aged over two years as at the end of the third quarter of 2020. When both inactive and active cases aged over two years are taken into account, 12.12% (representing the estimated gross backlog rate) of those cases filed over the past 3.75 years were unresolved and aged over two years old. Despite the shortened time series used to compute these outcomes, the results are very instructive and show that the criminal division of the parish courts are doing a good job in preventing the vast majority of especially the newer cases (filed over the past 2.75 – 3.75 years) from falling into a state of backlog. The results decisively suggest that it is conceivable that the parish courts will attain the internationally prescribed standard of an overall net case backlog rate of under 5% and an overall gross case backlog rate of under 10% over the next two years.

The distribution of cases types suggests that Indictments with 40.22% of new cases filed, summary matters with 30.61% and matters of the Lay Magistrates' court with 30.61% accounted for the three largest case types for new cases filed. Notably, committal proceedings matters accounted for 11.02% of the new cases filed. Assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, threats and malicious destruction of property accounted for the largest share of the new charges filed across the parish courts during the quarter. As far as demographics in the third quarter of 2020 is concerned, males continued to dominate the distribution of persons brought before the courts, accounting for 82.53% of new cases filed with females accounting for 17.47%, while the dominant age groups of the persons charged on these new cases entering the parish courts was the 27 - 36 age group with 30.85% followed by the 37 - 50 age group with 25.49%.

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 summary 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 and the parish court; however, interim data required by stakeholders may be requested.

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 quarter ended September 30, 2020.

This chapter provides an assessment of criminal case activity in the parish courts for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020. This includes analysis of the criminal caseload, rates of case disposal, clearance and congestion as well as case statuses in the various courts over the period, assessments of trial certainty rates, common methods of disposition and reasons for adjournment.

Table 1.0: Aggregate new case statistics for each parish court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Number of inactive cases	Number of disposed cases	Active Pending Caseload	Case disposal Rate (%)
Hanover	330	19	161	150	54.55
St. Catherine	724	62	248	414	42.82
Westmoreland	445	14	176	255	42.70
St. Mary	292	27	98	167	42.81
Clarendon	395	47	137	211	46.58
Portland	316	15	95	206	34.81
St. Elizabeth	439	39	157	243	44.65
Corporate Area Criminal	1273	170	202	901	29.22
St. Thomas	213	14	69	130	38.97
St. James	525	52	212	261	50.29
St. Ann	496	65	86	345	30.44
Trelawny	281	23	91	167	40.57
Manchester	362	16	99	247	31.77
Total	6091	563	1831	3697	
Average/Weighted Average	468.54	43.31	140.85	284.38	39.30
Standard deviation	275.17	42.34	56.68	201.29	7.65
Skewness	2.367	2.505	0.523	2.735	0.031

The table above shows the aggregate new case statistics for each parish court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020. A total of 6,091 new criminal cases were filed across the parish courts, of which 2,394 cases were either disposed or became inactive, resulting in a weighted average disposal rate of 39.30%. In the corresponding 2019 quarter 6,293 cases were filed, while 2,994 cases were either disposed or inactive resulting in a weighted average disposal rate of 47.58%, which is 8.28 percentage points higher than the rate for the third quarter of 2020. When

compared to the third quarter of 2019, there was decrease of 202 or 3.21% in the number of new cases filed and a decrease of 600 or 20.04% in the number of new cases that became disposed or inactive. Seven (7) Parish Courts recorded declines in the number of new cases filed, while six (6) recorded an increase. Among the Parish Courts with the largest drop in new cases filed were the Manchester Parish Court falling by 30.78%, Clarendon, which fell by 27.79% and St. James, which fell by 27.49%.

The Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division with 1273 or 20.90% of the new cases, the St. Catherine Parish Court with 724 cases or 11.89% and the St. James Parish Court with 525 or 8.62% accounted for the three largest shares of new cases filed in the third quarter of 2020. These three parish courts with the largest share of new cases filed, cumulatively accounted for 41.41% of the total number of new criminal cases filed in the third quarter of 2020. On the lower end, the parish courts of St. Thomas with 213 or 3.50% of the new cases, Trelawny with 281 or 4.61% and St. Mary with 292 or 4.79% accounted for the lowest share of new cases filed in the third quarter of 2020.

The best performing courts in relation to case disposal rates for the third quarter of 2020 were the parish courts of Hanover (54.55%), St. James (50.29%) and Clarendon (46.58%). The bottom four courts on this measure were the parish courts of Portland (34.81%), Manchester (31.77%) St. Ann (30.44%), and Corporate Area Criminal Division (29.22%). Similarly, the parish courts of Manchester and St. Ann were also among the bottom four courts on this measure in the third quarter of 2019. The skewness of the number of new cases filed, the number of cases disposed and the active pending caseload are all positive, which is an indication that the larger proportion of the courts fall below the overall average case 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 somewhat 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 third quarter (July- September) of 2019 and 2020.

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

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed in quarter	Number of disposed cases in Jul.-Sep Quarter	Number of inactive cases in Jul.-Sep. Quarter	Grand total number of inactive cases (2016-Sep.30, 2020)	Grand total number of disposed cases (2016-Sep. 30, 2020)	Grand active pending caseload b/f Jul. 1,2020	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
Hanover	330	263	48	214	3354	286	94.24	198.07
Manchester	362	293	36	1517	5210	1498	90.88	565.35
St. Mary	292	251	28	637	3838	349	95.55	229.75
St. James	525	403	109	1170	9756	761	97.52	251.17
St. Catherine	724	434	173	2290	12317	1041	83.84	290.77
Portland	316	255	34	702	4167	570	91.46	306.57
St. Ann	496	230	17	2562	5730	1190	49.80	682.59
St. Elizabeth	439	258	18	555	4087	617	62.87	382.61
Corporate Area Criminal	1273	552	314	4454	14508	1841	68.03	359.58
Westmoreland	445	344	33	831	6394	782	84.72	325.46
St. Thomas	213	157	43	394	3561	694	93.90	453.50
Clarendon	395	221	53	914	5833	911	69.37	476.64
Trelawny	281	170	33	461	3002	912	72.24	587.68
Total	6091	3831	939	16701	81757	11452		
Average/Weighted Average	468.54	294.69	72.23	1284.69	6289.00	880.92	78.31	367.78
Standard deviation	275.17	111.71	84.44	1190.47	3649.48	436.64	15.10	150.17
Skewness	2.37	1.11	2.37	1.84	1.41	0.87	-0.78	0.61

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

Note 2: The Grand Total number of active cases from 2016 to the quarter ended September30, 2020 for all parish courts combined=15,666

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

The weighted average case congestion rate among the parish courts in the quarter was 367.78%, an indication that the courts as a whole are carrying over three times the caseload that their current rate of clearance and implied state of resources justifies. This result represents a 70.44 percentage points increase when compared to the third quarter of 2019. The parish courts of St. Ann (682.59%), Trelawny (587.68%) and Manchester (565.35%) are the courts with the highest case congestion rates in the third quarter of 2020. The Clarendon Parish Court (476.64%) and the St. Thomas Parish Court (453.50%) rounded off the top 5 most case congested courts in the third quarter of 2020. The parish courts of Trelawny (498.54%) and Clarendon (667.12%) were the most congested courts in the comparative third quarter of 2019. In general, a high case congestion rate can be a product of resource deficiencies and slow case clearance and case disposal rates. Thus, improved resource efficiencies and higher case clearance and case 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 (198.71%), St. Mary (229.75%) and St. James (251.17%) performed best on this measure. As with previous reports, variations in caseload and resources do not appear to be a major factor explaining the variances in performance on this measure as some of the courts ranking on either ends of the scale are the larger courts in the island and resource endowment do not vary in a statistically way among the courts.

The results on the overall case clearance rate for the third quarter of 2020 provide interesting insights into the court-wide progress being made. The overall weighted average case clearance rate of 78.31% is a decline of 24.47 percentage points when compared to the corresponding 2019 period. However, it was a 26.81 percentage points above the 51.50% recorded in the second quarter of 2020. This result is also not surprising given that greater levels of normalcy in court operations began in this quarter after being significantly impacted from the end of the first quarter and most of the second quarter due to the COVID -19 pandemic. The performance fell

below the required international standard of 90%-100% for the second time in over two years in any single quarter, both troughs occurring consecutively in the second and third quarters of 2020. This overall case clearance rate of 78.31% suggests that for every 100 new cases filed in the quarter, roughly 78 were disposed of. Six of the thirteen parish courts met international standard of 90%-100%. These are the parish courts of St. James (97.52%), St. Mary (95.55%), Hanover (94.24%), St. Thomas (93.90%), Portland (91.46%) and Manchester (90.88%). Eleven parish courts recorded a decrease in clearance rates when compared to the third quarter of 2019, with the St. Thomas and Trelawny parish courts being the only ones that saw an improvement on the rate. The St. Thomas parish court improved by 3.71 percentage points and the Trelawny parish court improved by 4.15 percentage points. The St. Ann parish court had the lowest case clearance rate in the quarter with 49.80% and recorded the largest decline of 66.95 percentage points when compared to the 116.75% recorded in the comparable 2019 third quarter. The data in the table above were mostly positively skewed to various degrees, indicating that for the most part, proportionately more of the scores in that data set fell below their respective series means.

Refer to Table 3.0 for further comparison of the case clearance rates and the case congestion rates across all parish courts for the 2019 and 2020 calendar years.

Table 2.0b: Percentile rank on selected performance metrics for the criminal division of the parish courts in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

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

Clarendon	83	25
Manchester	17	58
St. Ann	8	0

The table above provides the percentile ranks of the case disposal and the case clearance for the third quarter of 2020. The percentile rank gives an indication of where particular courts falls on each of the metrics relative to the other courts. The parish courts of Hanover (100%), St. James (92%) and Clarendon (83%) had the highest percentile ranks on case disposal rate for the third quarter of 2020, an indication that they performed better than the vast proportion of the courts on this measure. The percentile ranks of 100% for the Hanover Parish Court for example, means that they performed better than all the courts on case disposal rate in the quarter, while the St. James Parish Court performed better than 92% of the parish courts and the Clarendon Parish Court performed better than 83% of all the parish courts on this measurement. The parish courts of Manchester, Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division and St. Ann had the lowest percentile rank on case disposal rate for the third quarter. In terms of case clearance rates, the parish courts of St. James (100%), St. Mary (92%) and Hanover (83%) had the highest percentile ranks, while the parish courts of Corporate Area-Criminal Division, St. Elizabeth and St. Ann had the lowest.

Table 3.0: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the third quarter (July-September) 2019 and 2020

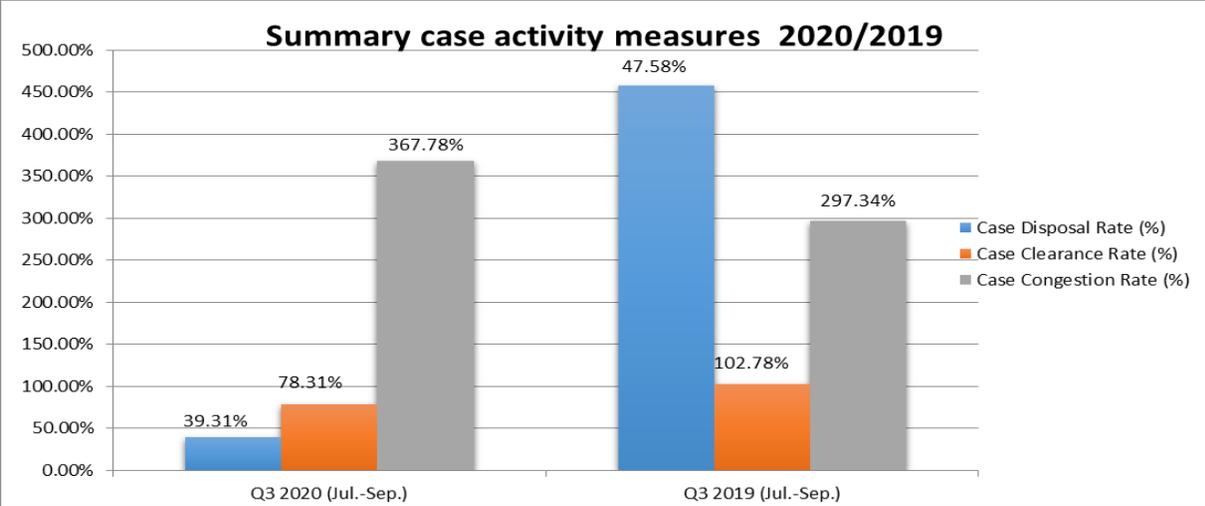
Parish Court	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q3 2020	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q3 2019	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q3 2020	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q3 2019	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q3 2020	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q3 2019
Hanover	54.55	51.55	94.24	106.7	198.71	284.54
St. Catherine	42.82	57.19	83.84	106.88	290.77	182.52
Westmoreland	42.70	51.43	84.72	97.32	325.43	238.70
St. Mary	42.81	42.66	95.55	119.23	229.75	220.23
Clarendon	46.58	45.52	69.37	81.17	476.64	667.12
Portland	34.81	57.61	91.46	109.71	306.57	274.63
St. Elizabeth	44.65	43.45	62.87	93.45	382.61	285.67
Corporate Area Criminal	29.22	52.35	68.03	123.45	359.58	238.66
St. Thomas	38.97	39.77	93.90	87.5	453.50	354.11

St. James	50.29	53.87	97.52	99.17	251.17	246.94
St. Ann	30.44	29.48	49.80	116.75	682.59	387.47
Trelawny	40.57	40.74	72.24	69.36	587.68	498.54
Manchester	31.77	31.55	90.88	99.62	565.35	349.52
Average /Weighted Average	39.31	47.58	78.31	102.78	367.78	297.34
Standard Deviation	7.65	9.08	15.10	15.50	150.17	132.45
Skewness	0.03	-0.49	-0.78	-0.49	0.61	1.67

Q3- Refers to quarter three (July to September 2020 and 2019 respectively). Weighted averages from third quarter of 2019 are used in comparisons above. In the published third 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 third quarter of 2020 and 2019. The weighted average case disposal rate for the third quarter of 2020, was 39.31%, which was 8.27 percentage points decline below the 2019 weighted average rate of 47.58%. The case clearance rate of 78.31% for 2020 was 24.47 percentage points below the 102.78% recorded in quarter three of 2019. The 2020 case congestion rate also deteriorated, moving from 297.34% in the third quarter of 2019 to 367.78% in the current third quarter of 2020, a 70.44 percentage points increase, 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 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 third quarters of 2019 and 2020



The above graph provides a summary of the progression of the overall case disposal, case clearance and case congestion rate for the third quarters 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 47.58% to 39.31%, a decline of 8.27 percentage points. The case clearance rate moved from 102.78% in the third quarter of 2019 to 78.31% in the current 2020 third quarter. The congestion rate also deteriorated from 297.34% to 367.78% in the quarter.

Chart 2.0A: Comparison of case disposal rates across the parish courts for the third quarters of 2019 and 2020

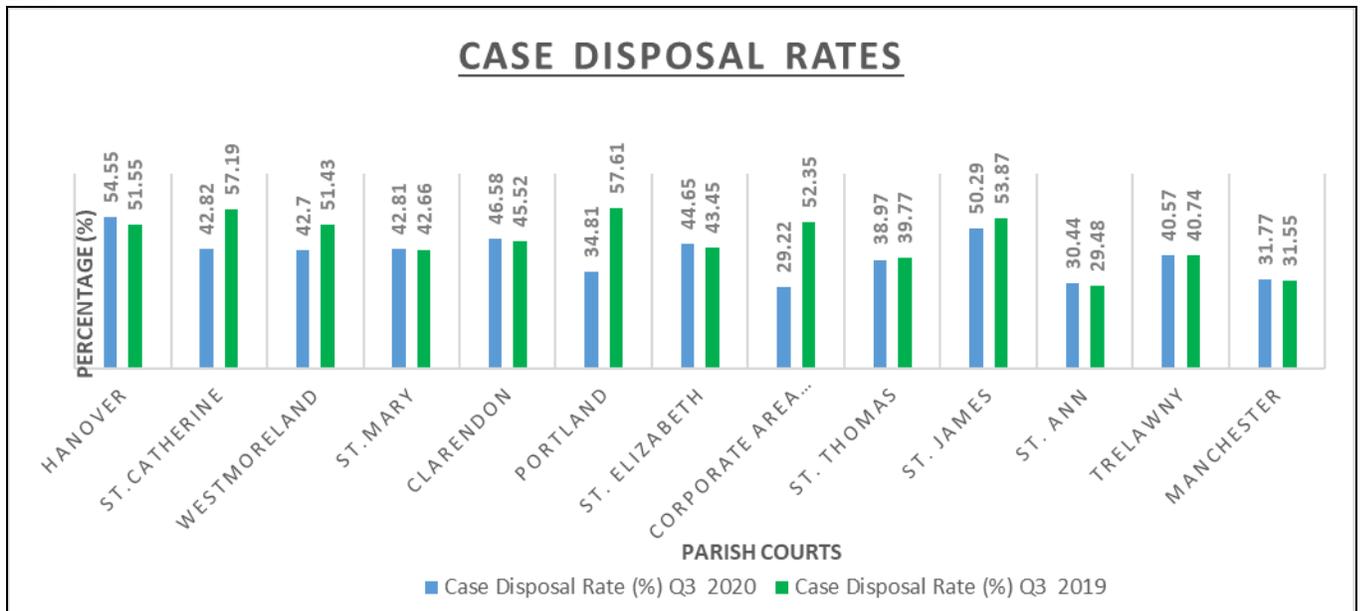


Chart 2.0B: Comparison of case clearance rates across the parish courts for the third quarters of 2019 and 2020

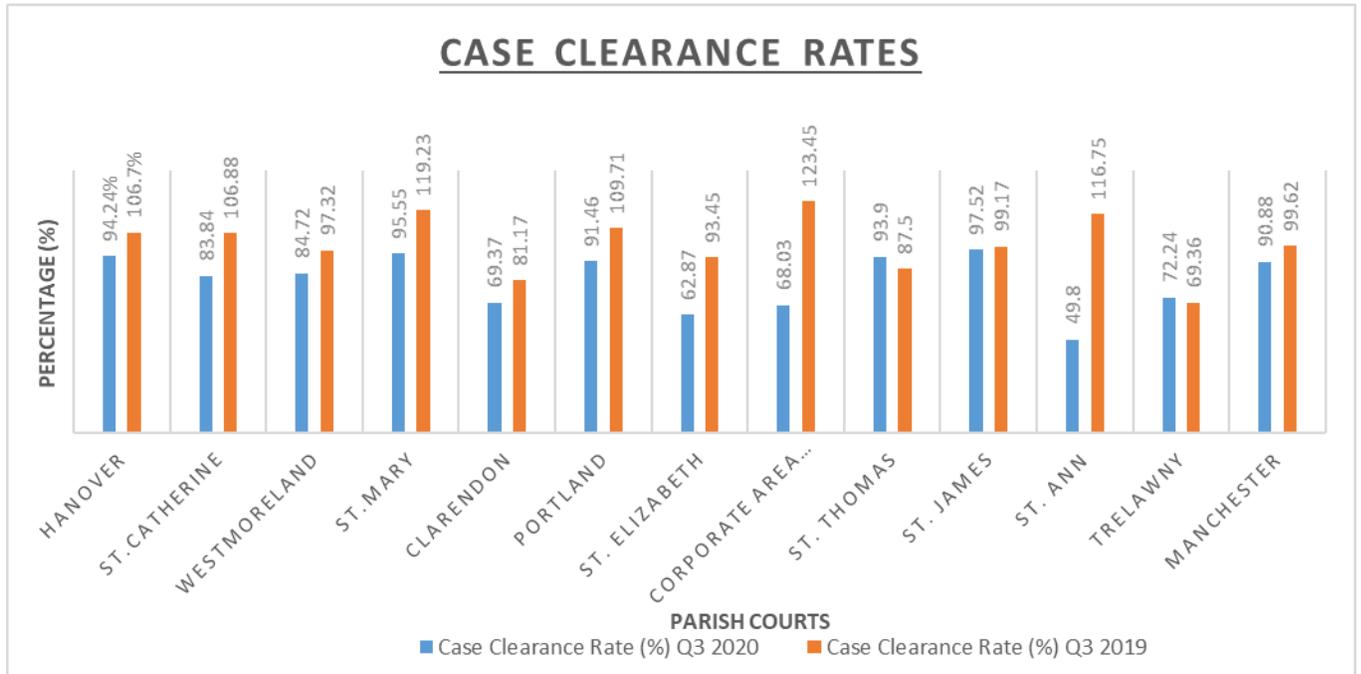


Chart 2.0C: Comparison of case congestion rate across the parish courts for the third quarters of 2019 and 2020

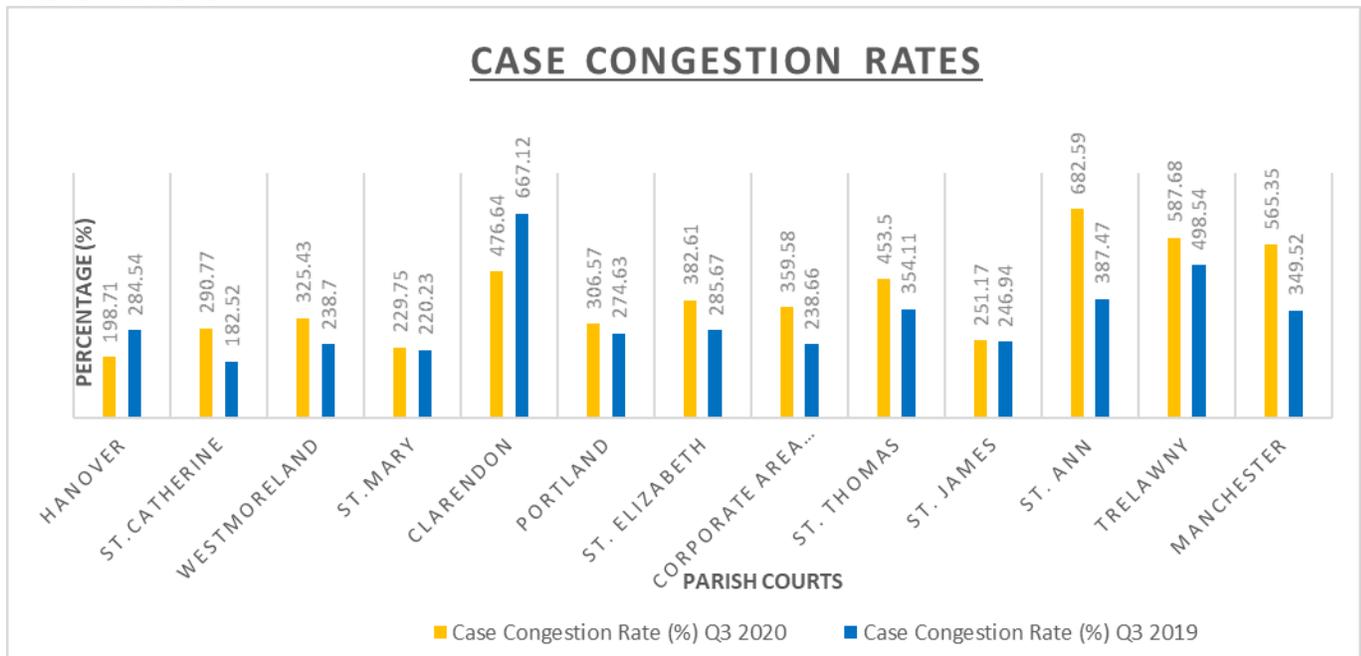


Table 4.0a: Comparison of the trial certainty rates for the third quarters of 2019 and 2020

Parish Court	Trial certainty rate (%) Q3 (2020)	Trial certainty rate (%) Q3 (2019)
Westmoreland	63	90
Clarendon	40	75
St. Ann	60	78
Portland	81	81
St. James	100	86
Manchester	97	79
St. Elizabeth	83	78
St. Catherine	94	83
Trelawny	77	71
St. Mary	71	77
St. Thomas	98	75
Corporate Area Criminal	51	58
Hanover	89	60
Total/Average	77	76

Q3 represents current quarter i.e. July-September

The trial date certainty rate provides a measure of the extent to which dates, which are set for trial, proceed on schedule without being delayed to start at some future date. The overall trial date certainty rate for the third quarter of 2020 was 77%, a 1 percentage point improvement when compared to the corresponding period in 2019. Four of the parish courts met the prescribed international performance standard of a rate between 92% and 100% in the quarter. Leading the way are the parish courts of St. James with a trial certainty rate of 100%, St. Thomas with 98%, Manchester with 97% and St. Catherine with 94%. The Hanover Parish Court fell just short of the international standard with a trial certainty rate of 89%, but this was still a promising result. The minimum-targeted court-wide trial date certainty rate, which has been set out by the Honourable Chief Justice for the judiciary for the next 5-6 years, is 95%.

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

Parish Court	Percentile Rank – Trial Date Certainty Rate for Q3 2020 (%)	Percentile Rank – Trial Date Certainty Rate for Q3 2019 (%)
Westmoreland	25	100
Clarendon	0	25
St. Ann	17	50
Portland	50	75
St. James	100	92
Manchester	83	67
St. Elizabeth	58	50
St. Catherine	75	83
Trelawny	42	17
St. Mary	33	42
St. Thomas	92	25
Corporate Area Criminal	8	0
Hanover	67	8

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 third quarter of 2019 but only performed better than 25% of the courts on the list for 2020.

Table 5.0: Distribution of courtroom utilization rates across the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the third quarter ended September 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	46.08	225	0.83	32.07	-	1.2
Westmoreland	56.35	150	1.67	39.24	50.76	-
Trelawny	47.66	269.33	3	35.95	-	1
St. Thomas	48.65	108.61	1.11	27.86	39.62	1.3
St. Mary	64.66	270	1.67	42.80	46.25	1
St. James	65.59	160	5	42.10	56.70	1.4
Corporate Area Criminal Court	55.66	131.67	8.33	26.65	42.98	1.1
St. Ann	74.54	135.56	1.11	40.17	74	1
Portland	57.88	270	0	42.74	-	1.1
Hanover	32.83	98.06	1.67	22.83	45.83	1
Clarendon	32.14	109.67	0.67	22.14	25.28	-
Manchester	52.05	140	0.67	28.63	49.05	1
St. Elizabeth	48.17	118.33	3.33	25.78	45.86	1
Overall Averages	52.48	168.17	2.24	33.00	47.63	1.10
Standard Deviation	12.11	65.93	2.27	7.82	23.49	0.43
Skewness	-0.08	0.80	1.88	0.02	0.53	1.30

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the various parish courts in the third 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 below this level in the third quarter of 2020. The overall average courtroom utilization rate across the parish courts in the quarter was 52.48%, which is an indication that on average roughly 52% of the

available hours for court hearings were utilized across the parish courts in the third quarter of 2020. This result is roughly 6.18 percentage points lower than the closing figure in 2019. The parish courts recording the highest courtroom utilization rates for the third quarter are the St. Ann and St. James Parish Courts with 74.54% and 65.59% respectively, followed by the St. Mary Parish Court with 64.66%. The Clarendon and Hanover Parish Courts with 32.14% and 32.83% respectively, had the lowest rates, while the St. Catherine Parish Court with 46.08% had the next lowest rate. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates was relatively low, suggesting that on average the rates for the individual courts did not vary widely from the overall mean. This is affirmed by the low negative 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 47.63%, the night courts use 4.85 percentage points less of the allotted time than regular day court sittings. The St. Ann Parish Court with a night court utilization rate of 74% and the St. James Parish Court with 56.70% ranked highest for the quarter, with the Westmoreland Parish Court ranking next with 50.76%. At the lower end of the courtroom utilization rates for night court sittings were the parish courts of Clarendon (25.28%), St. Thomas (39.62%) and the Corporate Area Criminal Court with 42.98%.

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 $\pm 2.5\%$.

Table 6.0: Types of matters for each Parish Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Parish Court	Indictment	Summary Matters	Lay Magistrates Sittings	Committal Proceedings	Tax	Miscellaneous	LRF	Traffic	NS	Total
Corporate Area Criminal	836	835	345	273	-	-	-	22	-	2311
St. Catherine	564	355	168	141	44	-	12	-	-	1284
Manchester	237	125	185	62	28	-	-	-	-	637
St. James	233	262	145	116	21	51	-	-	-	828
St. Ann	285	182	167	64	-	-	-	12	-	710
Westmoreland	364	203	78	91	-	-	-	-	-	736
Clarendon	220	219	98	87	42	-	-	-	-	666
Portland	321	34	50	25	-	-	-	-	-	430
St. Elizabeth	262	281	70	49	10	-	6	8	-	686
St. Mary	246	81	52	67	3	-	-	-	-	449
Trelawny	179	178	65	62	-	-	16	-	-	500
Hanover	231	172	102	47	-	-	-	-	-	552
St. Thomas	99	176	40	33	-	-	1	-	-	349
Total	4077	3103	1565	1117	148	51	35	42	-	10138
Percentage	40.22	30.61	15.44	11.02	1.46	0.50	0.35	0.41	-	

*Total number of observations = 10,138 **LRF means Law Reform Fraudulent Transaction, ***NS means not stated

The above table provides a breakdown of the different types of new charges filed in each parish court for the third quarter of 2020. For the quarter, 10,138 charges were filed across the parish courts, a decrease of approximately 5.9% when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2019. The largest proportions of these charges were filed in the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division (2311), the St. Catherine Parish Court (1284), the St. James Parish Court with (828) and the Westmoreland Parish Court with 736 charges. The largest share of the charges were Indictments (40.22%); followed by Summary matters (30.61%), Lay Magistrates’ matters (15.44%) and Committal Proceedings with 11.02% 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, Westmoreland and Portland. The Corporate Area Parish Court –

Criminal Division accounted for the largest share of summary matters filed, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court and the St. Elizabeth Parish Court. The largest proportion of Lay Magistrates' matters was filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division followed by the parish courts of Manchester and St. Catherine. The Corporate Area Criminal Court followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court and the St. James 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, the St. Ann Parish Court and the St. Elizabeth Parish Court.

Offence Types

Table 7.1: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Charge	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	72	14.52
Unlawful wounding	50	10.08
Threat	46	9.27
Malicious destruction of property	40	8.06
Breach of Curfew Order	31	6.25
Sub-total	239	48.18

Number of observations sampled (N): 496

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court for the third quarter of 2020. It is shown that Assault occasioning bodily harm with 72 or 14.52% and unlawful wounding with 50 or 10.08% of the total sample of charges are the most frequently occurring charges. Threat with 46 or 9.27% followed this, while malicious destruction of property with 40 or 8.06% and breach of curfew order with 31 or 6.25% of the total sample rounds off the top five. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 48.18% of the total sample of 496 charges filed in the quarter.

Table 7.2: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Charge	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Unlawful Wounding	73	11.74
Assault occasioning bodily harm	67	10.77
Threat	47	7.56
Disorderly conduct	35	5.63
Exposing goods for sale	30	4.82
Sub-total	252	40.51

Number of observations sampled (N): 622

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court for the third quarter of 2020. It is shown that unlawful with 73 or 11.74% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. assault occasioning bodily harm with 67 or 10.77% and threat with 47 or 7.56% rank next. The top five is rounded off by disorderly conduct with 35 or 5.63% and exposing goods for sale with 30 or 4.82% of the sample charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 40.51% of the total sample of 622 charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court in the quarter.

Table 7.3: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Portland Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Charge	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	96	22.59
Unlawful wounding	66	15.53
Malicious destruction of property	57	13.41
Threat	51	12.00
Assault at common law	25	5.88
Sub-total	295	69.41

Number of observations sampled (N): 425

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Portland Parish Court in the third quarter of 2020. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 96 or 22.59% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 66 or 15.53% and malicious destruction of property

with 57 or 13.41% followed this. The top five is rounded off by threat with 51 or 12% and assault at common law with 25 or 5.88% of the sample of charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 69.41% of the total sample of 425 charges filed in the quarter.

Table 7.4: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Charge	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Threat	132	20.00
Unlawful wounding	80	12.12
Assault occasioning bodily harm	54	8.18
Malicious destruction of property	31	4.70
Littering in a public place	26	3.94
Sub-total	323	48.94

Number of observations sampled (N): 660

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the third quarter of 2020. It is shown that threat with 132 or 20% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 80 or 12.12% and assault occasioning bodily harm with 54 or 8.18% followed this. Malicious destruction of property with 31 or 4.70% and littering in a public place with 26 or 3.94% of the total sample rounds of the top charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 48.94% of the total sample of 660 charges filed in the quarter at the St. Ann Parish Court.

Table 7.5: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Charge	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	176	15.49
Unlawful wounding	120	10.56
Malicious destruction of property	76	6.69
Threat	66	5.81
Illegal possession of firearm	45	3.96
Sub-total	483	42.52

Number of observations sampled (N): 1136

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the third quarter of 2020. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 176 or 15.49% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 120 or 10.56% and malicious destruction of property with 76 or 6.69% followed this. Threat with 66 or 5.81% and illegal possession of firearm with 45 or 3.96% of the total sample of charges filed round off the top five. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 42.52% of the total sample of 513 charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the quarter.

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

Charge	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Unlawful wounding	79	12.97
Assault occasioning bodily harm	58	9.52
Armed with an offensive weapon	40	6.57
Malicious destruction of property	40	6.57
Threat	29	4.76
Sub-total	246	40.39

Number of observations sampled (N): 609

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court in the third quarter of 2020. It is shown that unlawful wounding with 79 or 12.97% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 58 or 9.52%, armed with an offensive weapon and malicious destruction of property with 40 or 6.57% each followed this. Threat accounted for 29 or 4.76% of the sample of charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 40.39% of the total sample of 609 charges filed in the quarter at the St. Elizabeth parish Court.

Table 7.7: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. James Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Charge	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	70	10.06
Unlawful wounding	52	7.47
Threat	44	6.32
Possession of offensive Weapon	44	6.32
Malicious Destruction of Property	36	5.17
Sub-total	246	35.34

Number of observations sampled (N): 696

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges at the St. James Parish Court in third quarter of 2020. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 70 or 10.06% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 52 or 7.47%, threat and possession of offensive weapon with 44 or 6.32% each followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 36 or 5.17% of the total sample. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 35.34% of the sample of 696 charges filed in quarter at the St. James Parish Court.

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

Charge	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	67	15.58
Unlawful wounding	63	14.65
Threat	44	10.23
Malicious destruction of property	27	6.28
Simple larceny	12	2.79
Sub-total	213	49.53

Number of observations sampled (N): 430

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the third quarter of 2020. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 67 or 15.58% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently

occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 63 or 14.65% and threat with 44 or 10.23% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 27 or 6.28% and simple larceny with 12 or 2.79% of the sample. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 49.53% of the total sample of 430 charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the quarter.

Table 7.9: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Charge	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	36	10.65
Unlawful wounding	29	8.58
Possession of offensive weapon	28	8.28
Possession of ganja	23	6.80
Breach of Curfew Order	18	5.33
Sub-total	134	39.64

Number of observations sampled (N): 338

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in the third quarter of 2020. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 36 or 10.65% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 29 or 8.58% and possession of offensive weapon with 28 or 8.28% followed this. The top five is rounded off by possession of ganja with 23 or 6.80% and breach of curfew order with 18 or 5.33% of the total sample of charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 39.64% of the sample of 338 charges filed in the quarter.

Table 7.10: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Charge	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Unlawful wounding	70	15.22
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	42	9.13
Breach of Curfew Order	31	6.74
Possession of ganja	27	5.87
Dealing in ganja	24	5.22
Malicious destruction of property	24	5.22
Sub-total	218	47.39

Number of observations sampled (N): 460

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the third quarter of 2020. It is shown that unlawful wounding with 70 or 15.22% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 42 or 9.13% and breach of curfew order with 31 or 6.74% followed this. Possession of ganja with 27 or 5.87%, dealing in ganja and malicious destruction of property with 24 or 5.22% 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 47.39% of the total sample of 460 charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the quarter.

Table 7.11: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	115	17.11
Unlawful wounding	83	12.35
Malicious Destruction of Property	72	10.71
Threat	33	4.91
Possession of identity information	29	4.32
Sub-total	332	49.40

Number of observations sampled (N): 672

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the third quarter of 2020. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 115 or 17.11% of the total sample of charges is the most

frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 83 or 12.35% and malicious destruction of property with 72 or 10.71% followed this. Threat with 33 or 4.91% and possession of identity information with 29 or 4.32% each of the sample rank next. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 49.40% of the total sample of 672 charges filed in the quarter at the Westmoreland Parish Court.

Table 7.12: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Charge	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm	72	12.48
Unlawful Wounding	59	10.23
Threat	41	7.11
Malicious Destruction of Property	35	6.07
Possession of ganja	33	5.72
Sub-total	240	41.59

Number of observations sampled (N): 577

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in third quarter of 2020. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 72 or 12.48% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 59 or 10.23% and threat with 41 or 7.11% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 35 or 6.07% and possession of ganja with 33 or 5.72%. The charges quoted above account for an estimated 41.59% of the sample of 577 charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the quarter.

Table 7.13: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Charge	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	211	10.28
Littering	208	10.14
Unlawful Wounding	123	5.99
Disorderly conduct	101	4.92
Armed with an offensive weapon	59	2.88
Sub-total	702	34.21

Number of observations sampled (N): 2052

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division for the third quarter of 2020. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 211 or 10.28% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Littering with 208 or 10.14% and unlawful wounding with 123 or 5.99% followed this. The top five is rounded off by disorderly conduct with 101 or 4.92% and armed with an offensive weapon with 59 or 2.88% of the charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 34.21% of the total sample of 2052 charges at filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court –Criminal Division in the quarter.

Table 8.0: Conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard in the quarter ended September 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	2398	133	1387	1520	63.39
Indictment	2908	100	466	566	19.46

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard across all parish courts in the third 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 63.39%. The estimated conviction rate for indictment matters was significantly lower at 19.46% 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Charge	Frequency	Percentage
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	1136	12.38
Unlawful wounding	947	10.32
Threat	625	6.81
Malicious destruction of property	538	5.87
Armed with an offensive weapon	308	3.36
Possession of ganja	278	3.03
Disorderly conduct	260	2.83
Littering	237	2.58
Dealing in ganja	236	2.57
Sexual intercourse with a person under 16	197	2.15
Sub-total	4762	51.91

Number of observations sampled (N): 9173

The above table shows the distribution of the ten most commonly occurring charges across all parish courts for the third quarter of 2020. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 1136 or 12.38% of the total number of charges sampled is the most frequently occurring. Unlawful wounding with 947 or 10.32% and threat with 625 or 6.81% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 538 or 5.87% and armed with an offensive weapon with 308 or 3.36% of the total sample of charges filed in the quarter. These ten most frequently occurring types of charges account for approximately 51.91% of the total sample of charges filed in the quarter.

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

Charge	Number of disposed matters	Number of guilty verdicts	Number of guilty pleas	Aggregate number of guilty outcomes	Estimated conviction rate (%)
Armed with an offensive weapon	285	13	231	244	85.61
Littering	18	-	15	15	83.33
Possession of ganja	251	4	188	192	76.49
Dealing in ganja	208	3	150	153	73.56
Disorderly conduct	148	6	95	101	68.24

Malicious destruction of property	325	9	48	57	17.54
Unlawful wounding	673	17	70	87	12.93
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	840	14	92	106	12.62
Threat	358	9	27	36	10.06

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for the nine leading charges across all parish courts in the third quarter of 2020. It is shown that armed with an offensive weapon had the highest estimated conviction rate on the list with 85.61%. Littering with 83.33% and possession of ganja with 76.49% followed this. The top conviction rates on the list in the quarter are rounded off by dealing in ganja with an estimated conviction rate of 73.56% and disorderly conduct with an estimated conviction rate of 68.24%. Threats had the lowest estimated conviction rate on the list with 10.06%. assault occasioning bodily harm with 12.62% and unlawful wounding with an estimated conviction rate of 12.93% had the next lowest conviction rates on the list. Malicious destruction of property with an estimated conviction rate of 17.54% also had a relatively low estimated conviction rate.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the average age of active charges for each parish court for the third quarter ended September 3, 2020

Parish Court	Average age of active charges (days)
Clarendon	49
Trelawny	40
Portland	27
St. Mary	41
Hanover	37
Westmoreland	40
St. Catherine	42
St. Elizabeth	40
St. Ann	39
St. James	43
St. Thomas	54
Corporate Area Criminal	50
Manchester	42
Overall Average	41.85
Standard Deviation	6.64
Skewness	-0.24

The above table shows the average age of active charges originating in the third quarter of 2020, for charges originating in said quarter. The overall average age of active matters originating in the quarter was approximately 42 days or roughly 1.4 months, roughly 19 days shorter than the average in the third quarter of 2019. The parish courts of Portland, Hanover, St. Ann, St. Elizabeth and Westmoreland have the lowest averages on the list. On the contrary, the highest averages were observed for in the parish courts of St. Thomas, Corporate Area Criminal, St. James, St. Catherine and Manchester. The standard deviation of the scores was however relatively low (6 days), an indication that the individual values for the parish courts were on average close to the overall mean. 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Parish Court	Average age of disposed charges (days)
Clarendon	38
Trelawny	32
Portland	39
St. Mary	29
Hanover	30
Westmoreland	29
St. Catherine	25
St. Elizabeth	31
St. Ann	28
St. James	31
St. Thomas	45
Corporate Area Criminal	33

Manchester	30
Overall Average	32.31
Standard Deviation	5.38
Skewness	1.24

The above table shows that the average time taken to dispose of criminal cases filed in the third quarter of 2020, which were filed in the Parish Courts, is 32.31 days. This is 1.54 days less than time taken to dispose of cases originating in the third quarter of 2019, which were disposed. The standard deviation of the scores was relatively low (5 days), an indication that the individual values for the parish courts were on average close to the overall mean. The positive skewness, However, indicates that proportionately more of the individual times to disposition in the data set fell below the overall series average. The scores ranged from a low of roughly 25 days at the St. Catherine Parish Court to a high of 45 days for the St. Thomas Parish Court.

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

Parishes	Time interval in days					Sample size (n)
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365 days and over	
Corporate Area Criminal	7219 (44.7)	3540 (21.9)	1939 (12.0)	1258 (7.8)	2185 (13.5)	16141 (100)
St. Catherine	3939 (38.3%)	2525 (24.6%)	1362 (13.3%)	801 (7.8%)	1652 (16.1%)	10279 (100%)
St. James	3112 (40.5%)	1665 (21.7%)	893 (11.6%)	686 (8.9%)	1325 (17.3%)	7681 (100%)
Manchester	1676 (27.7%)	1158 (19.2%)	928 (15.4%)	690 (11.4%)	1588 (26.3%)	6040 (100%)
Westmoreland	3185 (56.3%)	1094 (19.3%)	613 (10.8%)	323 (5.7%)	446 (7.9%)	5661 (100%)
St. Ann	1632 (28.7%)	1175 (20.7%)	711 (12.5%)	549 (9.7%)	1613 (28.4%)	5680 (100%)
Clarendon	2631 (46.1%)	1327 (23.2%)	608 (10.6%)	365 (6.4%)	780 (13.7%)	5711 (100%)
St. Thomas	850 (30.5%)	691 (24.8%)	396 (14.2%)	327 (11.7%)	521 (18.7%)	2785 (100%)
Portland	1370 (35.1%)	938 (24.1%)	474 (12.2%)	349 (9.0%)	767 (19.7%)	3898 (100%)
St. Mary	1798 (38.9%)	921 (19.9%)	628 (13.6%)	310 (6.7%)	971 (21.0%)	4628 (100%)
St. Elizabeth	1702 (40.5%)	1094 (26.0%)	566 (13.5%)	273 (6.5%)	566 (13.5%)	4201 (100%)
Trelawny	1069 (41.3%)	538 (20.8%)	331 (12.8%)	228 (8.8%)	425 (16.4%)	2591 (100%)
Hanover	1484	682	282	174	281	2903

	(51.1%)	(23.5%)	(9.7%)	(6.0%)	(9.7%)	(100%)
% of Total	40.50	22.18	12.44	8.10	16.78	
Average	2435.92	1334.46	748.54	487.15	1009.23	6015.31
Standard Deviation	1702.66	834.94	458.77	303.63	600.78	3712.15
Skewness	2.06	1.90	1.71	1.51	0.61	1.92

Number of charges sampled (N) = 78,199

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least a 48-month period over September 2016 – September 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 48 consecutive months over the period September 2016 to September 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 40.50% 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, 83.22% 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.

Table 14.0a: Descriptive statistics on the times to disposition for cases disposed as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Criminal	174.36	1	105	193.98	1.95	1	1342	16141
St. Catherine	221.24	63	124	336.01	5.91	1	5321	10279
St. James	203.12	49	119	224.35	2.15	1	1635	7681
Manchester	275.74	63	190	307.72	6.32	1	9044	6040
Westmoreland	131.24	7	76	158.57	3.48	1	1974	5661
St. Ann	280.95	63	182	299.75	2.65	1	4394	5680
Clarendon	167.03	63	98	186.62	1.96	1	1302	5711
St. Thomas	222.83	119	152	216.58	1.82	1	1489	2785
Portland	250.86	63	137	334.54	3.36	1	3702	3898
St. Mary	262.48	28	130	381.82	4.14	1	5684	4628
St. Elizabeth	184.17	28	113	217.37	2.75	1	1568	4201
Trelawny	199.12	28	119	214.09	1.84	1	1225	2591
Hanover	163.92	35	84	250.36	4.66	1	2409	2903
Total/Weighted Average	206.98	46.92	125.31	255.52	3.31	1	3160.69	6015.31
Standard Deviation	46.85	30.84	33.91	68.91	1.54	0.00	2373.52	3712.15
Skewness	0.08	0.71	0.64	0.47	0.93	0.00	1.46	1.92

Number of charges sampled (N) = 78,199

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least a 48-month period over September 2016 – September 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 September 30, 2020. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 48-month period over September 2016 – September 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 207 days, roughly the 67 more days than as at the of the corresponding quarter in 2019. The skewness of these times to disposition is a very low positive 0.08, suggesting that these times were clustered around the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the period, the parish courts of Westmoreland (131 days), Hanover (164 days) and Clarendon (167 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The

parish courts of St. Ann (281 days), Manchester (276 days) and St. Mary (262 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 is not wide as shown by the standard deviation (46.85). 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 1225 days (40.8 months/3.4 years) in the Trelawny 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 a moderately positive 1.46, 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 78,199 matters.

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

Parish Court	Net case backlog rate (%)	Gross case backlog rate (%)
Clarendon	13.80	18.37
Corporate Area	1.35	14.04
Hanover	0.67	3.09
Manchester	3.86	17.74
Portland	2.60	10.54
St. Ann	3.03	20.23
St. Catherine	0.43	8.67
St. Elizabeth	1.27	8.68
St. James	2.04	10.94
St. Mary	0.36	8.52
St. Thomas	2.19	6.53
Trelawny	4.21	11.35
Westmoreland	0.95	7.30
Weighted Average	2.65	12.12
Standard Deviation	3.53	5.06

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 estimated gross case backlog rate provides a measurement of the proportion of cases filed for a given period (of over two years) which are either active or inactive (i.e. are unresolved) and are over two years old at the date of reporting. The closely related estimated net case backlog rate is the proportion of all cases filed for a given period (of over two years) which are still active and exceeding two years old at the time of reporting. The estimated net case backlog rate therefore excludes inactive cases which are unresolved. Based on international best practices an estimated gross case backlog rate of under 10% is desirable, while an estimated net case backlog rate of under 5% is prescribed. The results revealed are quite outstanding as using a 3.75 years' time series, the net case backlog rate (weighted average) in the criminal division of the parish courts is 2.65% (with a standard deviation of 3.53%) which is decidedly better than the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at a commendable 12.12% (with a standard deviation of 5.06%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved criminal cases in the parish courts. This rate is only 2.12 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 3.8 years' worth of cases, the sample set is large and representative of the current direction of the court system. The parish courts of St. Mary with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.36% and St. Catherine with an estimated net case backlog rate of 0.43% and the parish court of Hanover with 0.67% have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts of Clarendon (13.8%), Trelawny (4.21%) and Manchester (3.86%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of

Hanover (3.09%), St. Thomas (6.53%) and St. Mary (7.45%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series while the parish courts of St. Ann (20.23%), Clarendon (18.37%) and Manchester (17.74%) 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

Table 15.0: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Parish Court	Guilty Plea	Dismissed	Not Guilty Verdict	Transferred	Mediated Settlement	Guilty Verdict	Committed to Circuit Court	Total
St. Catherine	254	214	49	160	141	16	55	889
Corporate Area Criminal	442	342	61	24	49	25	98	1041
Westmoreland	146	173	146	29	29	16	21	560
St. James	338	-	119	11	40	80	5	593
Manchester	154	212	5	131	68	5	68	643
Clarendon	197	16	155	32	71	2	24	497
St. Elizabeth	208	19	87	-	64	9	31	418
Trelawny	65	51	91	1	6	37	7	258
Hanover	176	69	95	21	37	42	18	458
Portland	23	1	136	-	22	13	23	218
St. Mary	70	128	9	-	137	11	26	381
St. Thomas	113	21	46	13	23	24	20	260
St. Ann	76	132	23	31	10	6	1	279
Total	2262	1378	1022	453	697	286	397	6495
Percentage of total	34.83	21.22	15.74	6.97	10.73	4.40	6.11	100

Total sample size: 6,495

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts for the third 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 34.83% of the sample, followed by matters dismissed with 21.22% and not guilty verdicts with 15.74%. Mediated settlements with 10.73%, matters transferred to another court with 6.97%, matters committed to Circuit Court with 6.11% and guilty verdicts with 4.40% account for the remaining disposals in

the quarter. The combined 39.23% of the cases disposed of by way of guilty outcomes represent the estimated criminal conviction rate in the parish courts for the quarter. This represents a decline of 4.47 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 for the quarter ended September 30, 2020

Reasons for Adjournment	Count	Percentage (%)
File to be completed	1305	12.27
Defendant Not Answering (DNA) warrant issued	1151	10.82
Referred to Mediation	956	8.99
Re-issue Application	560	5.27
For Disclosure	547	5.14
Subpoena investigating officer	501	4.71
Defendant absent	440	4.14
Medical report unavailable	332	3.12
Subpoena crown witness	256	2.41
Subpoena complainant	243	2.29
Sub-total	6291	59.16

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance =10,634)

*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 10,634 reasons for adjournments/continuance for matters heard in the third quarter of 2020 across all parish courts. The largest proportion (12.27%) was for files to be completed. Adjournments due to the non-appearance of the accused, leading to the issuing of warrants with 10.82% and adjournments for referrals to mediation with 8.99% rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts. Adjournments for the re-issue of applications with 5.27% and for disclosure with 5.14%, round of the top five reasons for adjournment for the quarter. Only two of the top five reasons

for adjournment were also featured in the top five for the third quarter of 2019. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 59.16% 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 third quarter of 2020, the case file integrity rate for criminal matters across the parish courts was 85.11% as 14.89% 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 12.27% of the total incidence of adjournments/continuance and is the greatest contributor, adversely affecting the case file integrity rate. This rate is below the prescribed international standard of 98%-100%. 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.

Table 16.2: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for continuance for the quarter ended September 30, 2020

Reasons for Continuance	Count	Percentage (%)
Sentencing	729	6.86
Part Heard	503	4.73
Bail application	147	1.38
Sub-total	1379	12.97

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 10,634)

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 6.86% 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 persons charged, as well as a sample estimate of the geographical distribution of charges based on the police station where matters are reported. This section also examines the distribution of new cases heard in the quarter by the respective courtrooms and outstations in each parish.

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

Charge	Male		Female		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Armed with an offensive weapon	284	92.51	23	7.49	307	100
Littering	212	89.83	24	10.17	236	100
Possession of ganja	224	80.87	53	19.13	277	100
Dealing in ganja	194	82.55	41	17.45	235	100
Disorderly conduct	171	65.77	89	34.23	260	100
Malicious destruction of property	418	77.99	118	22.01	536	100
Unlawful wounding	728	76.96	218	23.04	946	100
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	842	74.19	293	25.81	1135	100
Threat	449	73.13	165	26.87	614	100
Sexual intercourse with a person under 16	195	98.98	2	1.02	197	100

***The gender of offenders was not available for every matter that was filed in the parish courts hence a sample is used. Sample size (N) =4,743

The above table provides a sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender in the third quarter ended September 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 possession of ganja, dealing in ganja, and littering for which over 80% of the offenders were male. More particularly,

is seen that sexual intercourse with a person under 16 with 98.98% of offenders being male and armed with an offensive weapon with 92.51% had the most significant incidence of offenders being male for the quarter. Disorderly conduct, threat and assault occasioning bodily harm 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 third 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.

Table 18.1: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Westmoreland for the quarter of ended September 30, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in 2020	Number of inactive cases in 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	276	115	13	63.16	46.38
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	18	7	0	4.12	38.89
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	1	0	0	0.23	
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	35	4	0	8.01	11.43
Night Court (main courthouse)	29	17	1	6.64	62.07
Whithorn Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	4	1	0	0.92	25.00
Whithorn Outstation	74	31	0	16.93	41.89
Total/Average	437	175	14	100	43.25

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 third quarter ended September 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 276 (63.16%) and 74 (16.93%) matters respectively. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse with 35 or 8.01% rank next. The number of matters heard in courtroom one (276 cases), increased by 9.96% going above the 251 cases recorded in the similar quarter of 2019. The disposal rate also increased by 9.33 percentage points moving up to 46.38% compared to the 37.05% reported in the corresponding quarter in 2019. In terms of cases disposed, sittings in courtroom number 1 with 115 cases accounted for the highest absolute share of cases disposed, relative to the number of new cases filed and had the second highest disposal rate of 46.38%. Night court sittings at the main court had 17 disposed cases and recorded the highest disposal rate of 62.07%, a 24.55 percentage points decrease when compared to the 86.62% recorded in the corresponding quarter in 2019. The outstation in Whithorn rank next and registered an absolute share of 31 cases disposed in the quarter, which led to a disposal rate of 41.89%, a decline of 18.82 percentage points below the 60.71% recorded in quarter three of 2019. The single outstation in Westmoreland accounted for 17.84% of the total number of new cases heard, a slight increase of 2.65 percentage point when compared to the 15.19% recorded in the corresponding 2019 quarter three period. The main courthouse accounted for the remaining 82.16%, a decline of 2.65 percentage points when compared to the 84.81% recorded in the corresponding 2019 quarter.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. In particular, of the 276 new cases heard in courtroom number one, 28 were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstation. Sixteen (16) of these were disposed of in courtroom 2, nine (9) were disposed of at night court sittings, while three were disposed of in courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse. Of the 18 cases heard in courtroom number two, 4 were disposed of in

other courtrooms/outstations. Three were disposed of at night court sittings while one (1) was disposed of in courtroom number one. Of the 29 cases heard at night court sittings at the main courthouse two were disposed of at Lay Magistrates’ sittings. One of the four cases heard at the outstation in Whithorn was disposed of in courtroom one at the main courthouse.

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

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in 2020	Number of inactive cases in 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1054	203	168	82.80	35.20
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	1	0	0	0.08	0.00
Courtroom #6 (main courthouse)	40	3	1	3.14	10.00
Courtroom #7 (main courthouse)	64	2	2	5.03	6.25
Courtroom #8 (main courthouse)	3	1	0	0.24	33.33
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	103	1	1	8.09	1.94
Gordon Town Outstation	8	0	0	0.63	0.00
Total/Average	1273	210	172	100.00	30.01

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020 at the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for the highest proportion of new cases filed in the quarter with 82.80% of the total. The Lay Magistrates’ Court with roughly 8.09% follows this and courtroom number 7 at the main courthouse with 5.03%, round off the top three proportion of new cases filed in the third quarter. The main courthouse in Half Way Tree accounted for 99.37% of the total number of new matters heard in 2020, while the remaining 0.63% was accounted for by the single outstation (Gordon Town).

Courtroom number two accounts for the largest absolute share of cases disposed in quarter one 2020 with 203 matters and the highest disposal rate of 35.20%. When compared to the corresponding 2019 quarter three period courtroom number two also accounted for the largest absolute share of cases disposed with 308 matters and a disposal rate of 56.04%. There was a decline of 105 new cases filed and 20.84 percentage points in the disposal rate. Courtroom 6 accounts for the second largest share of disposed cases with 3 cases and the third highest disposal rate of 10%. Courtroom number eight was among the top three highest disposal rates with 33.33%.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. In particular, of the 1054 cases heard in courtroom two, 108 were disposed of in other courtrooms. In particular, night court sittings accounted for 14 of these disposed cases, courtroom 8 disposed of 14 cases, courtroom 4 accounted for 27 of these cases and fast track court disposed of 21 of these cases. Courtrooms 5 and 3 disposed of 12 and 8 cases respectively, while Lay Magistrates' sittings accounted for 3 cases. Courtrooms 7 and 1 accounted for 4 and 3 cases respectively while Courtroom 6 and Drug court accounted for 1 case each. Of the 3 cases heard in courtroom number eight, courtroom 2 accounted for 1 case. One of the 103 cases heard at Lay Magistrates' sittings was disposed of in Courtroom 2 at the main courthouse.

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

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in 2020	Number of inactive cases in 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	448	189	46	90.51	52.46
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	11	7	0	2.22	63.64
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	11	1	5	2.22	54.55
Cambridge Outstation	25	15	0	5.05	60.00
Total/Average	495	212	51	100.00	53.13

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 third quarter ended September 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. 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 90.51%, followed by the Cambridge outstation with 5.05%, courtrooms number 2 and 3 with 2.22% each of the sample followed. The main courthouse in Montego Bay accounts for 94.95% of the new cases heard in 2020. This is 3.07 percentage points below the 98.02% recorded in 2019. The remaining 5.05% was accounted for by the sole outstation (Cambridge). Courtroom number 3 had the highest disposal rate of 63.64%, followed by the outstation in Cambridge with a disposal rate of 60.00%. Courtrooms 4 and 2 followed with rates of 54.55% and 52.46% respectively.

As mentioned not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. Of the 448 cases heard in courtroom one, 5 were disposed of in other courtrooms. Four (4) were disposed of in courtroom number 3, while the remaining one was disposed of in courtroom number one.

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

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in 2020	Number of inactive cases in 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	313	129	21	43.23	47.92
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	48	19	6	6.63	52.08
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	7	2	0	0.97	28.57
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	17	5	1	2.35	35.29
Courtroom #5 (main courthouse)	10	6	0	1.38	60.00
Children's Court (main courthouse)	13	4	0	1.80	30.77
Lay Magistrates' Court(main courthouse)	59	0	13	8.15	22.03
Linstead Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	10	1	2	1.38	30.00
Linstead Outstation (Courtroom #1)	153	53	13	21.13	43.14
Old Harbour Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	6	0	0	0.83	0.00
Old Harbour Outstation (Courtroom #1)	88	30	7	12.15	42.05
Total/Average	724	249	63	100.00	43.09

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 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 applicable disposal rates. The table separates Lay Magistrates' and night court matters for the relevant locations for ease of comparisons. The data shows decisively that matters entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse in Spanish Town and Linstead outstation accounts for the largest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 43.23% and 21.13% respectively. The outstation in Old Harbour with 12.15% of the new cases heard ranks next. The main courthouse in Spanish Town accounts for 64.50% of the total number of new cases heard in the third quarter, 13.06 percentage points below the 51.44%

recorded in the corresponding 2019 quarter. The outstations combined accounted for the remaining 35.50%.

In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 129 cases, which is 17 cases less than the 146 cases recorded in the third quarter of 2019, and had the third highest disposal rate of 47.92% which is an increase of 1.81 percentage points when compared to the 46.11% recorded in 2019. Courtroom number 5 and 2 with disposal rates of 60.00% and 52.08% respectively ranks first and second on this measure.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 313 cases disposed of in courtroom one, 6 were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstation. three of these cases were disposed of in courtroom 4, while courtroom 2, 3 and children’s court accounted for 1 case each. Of the 48 cases heard in courtroom number 2, six (6) were disposed of in other courtrooms. four (4) were disposed of in courtroom 1, while courtrooms 3 and 4 accounted for 1 case each. Of the 17 cases heard in courtroom 4, courtrooms 1 and 3 accounted for 2 cases and 1 case respectively. Ten (10) cases were heard in courtroom 5 of this amount 4 were disposed of in other courtrooms. Courtroom 1 accounted for 3 while courtroom number 4 accounted for 1 case.

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

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in 2020	Number of inactive cases in 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Children's Court (main courthouse)	6	1	0	2.84	16.67
Courtroom #1 (main courtroom)	128	46	10	60.66	43.75
Courtroom #2 (main courtroom)	15	0	3	7.11	20.00
Yallahs Outstation (Lay Magistrates' Court)	2	0	0	0.95	0.00
Yallahs Outstation	60	25	1	28.44	43.33
Total/Average	211	72	14	100	40.76

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 the movement of cases filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The data shows decisively that matters entered in courtroom numbers 1 at the main court in Morant Bay and the Yallahs outstation accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 60.66% and 28.44% respectively. Courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse also accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 46 matters and the highest disposal rate of 43.75%. When compared to the corresponding 2019 period, this represents a decline of 48 cases or 51.06% below the 94 cases disposed in 2019 and a 1.12 percentage points decrease in the disposal rate recorded of 44.87%. The outstation in Yallahs and courtroom 2 at the main courthouse with disposal rates of 43.33% (compared to 45.10% in 2019) and 20% (compared to 39.17% in 2019) respectively accounts for the second and third highest disposal rates respectively. The main courthouse in Morant Bay accounted for 70.62% of the total new cases heard in 2020, a decline of 9.91 percentage points when compared to the 80.53% recorded in the corresponding 2019 period. The remaining 29.38% was accounted for by the Yallahs outstation, an increase of 9.91 percentage points when compared to the 19.47% recorded in the corresponding third quarter of 2019.

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

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in 2020	Number of inactive cases in 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	48	20	8	17.08	58.33
Falmouth Outstation	136	42	6	48.40	35.29
Falmouth Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	7	2	1	2.49	42.86
Ulster Spring Outstation	54	17	7	19.22	44.44
Ulster Spring Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	4	0	0	1.42	0.00
Clarks Town Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	3	0	0	1.07	0.00
Clarks Town Outstation (courtroom #1)	29	12	4	10.32	55.17

Total/Average	281	93	26	100.00	42.35
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Note: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020 at the Trelawny Parish Court. The data shows decisively that matters entered in the Falmouth outstation accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 48.40%. The outstation in Ulster Spring and courtroom 1 at the main courthouse with 19.22% and 17.08% respectively, followed. The outstations accounts for 82.92% of the new cases heard in 2020 while the remaining 17.08% were accounted for by the main courthouse. In 2019, the main courthouse accounted for 58.59% of the new cases heard while the remaining 41.41% were accounted for by the outstations. Courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse recorded the highest disposal rate of 58.33%, courtroom 1 at the Clarks Town outstation and the ulster spring outstation ranked next with disposal rates of 55.17% and 44.44%.

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

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in 2020	Number of inactive cases in 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Children's Court (main courthouse)	9	0	0	3.09	0.00
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	136	42	9	46.74	37.50
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	3	1	0	1.03	33.33
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	5	5	0	1.72	100.00
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	15	1	11	5.15	80.00
Night Court (main courthouse)	1	0	1	0.34	100.00
Annotto Bay Outstation	68	29	4	23.37	48.53
Gayle Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	4	0	0	1.37	0.00
Gayle Outstation	17	3	0	5.84	17.65
Richmond Outstation	33	18	3	11.34	63.64
Total/Average	291	99	28	100.00	43.64

Note 1: There was 1 missing courtroom/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 St. Mary in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020. The data shows decisively that courtrooms number 1 and the Annotto Bay outstation accounts for the highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 46.74% and 23.37% respectively of the total. The outstations in Richmond and Gayle with 11.34% and 5.84% ranks next. The outstations in the parish account for a combined 41.92% of the total number of new cases heard in the quarter, 7.88 percentage points above 34.04% recorded in the corresponding 2019 period. On the other hand, the main courthouse accounts for roughly 58.08%, which is a decline of 7.88 percentage point below the 65.96% recorded in the corresponding 2019 third quarter.

In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Port Maria accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 42, an increase of 25 matters or 147%, above the 17 matters recorded in the corresponding 2019 third quarter and had the fifth highest case disposal rate of 37.50%. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse with a disposal rate of 80% had the second highest disposal rate in the quarter.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 5 cases heard in courtroom 3 at the main courthouse, four were disposed of in other courtroom/outstation. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Richmond outstation, night court sittings and courtroom number one disposed of 1 case each. Of the 15 cases heard at Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse, 2 were disposed of at night court sittings. The one case that was heard at the night court sittings was disposed of at circuit court. Of the 68 cases heard at the Annotto Bay outstation, 6 were disposed of at other courtroom/outstation. Two were disposed of in courtroom 1 and 2 were disposed of in courtroom 2, night court sittings and Lay magistrates' sittings at the Annotto Bay outstation disposed of 1 case each. Of the 33 cases heard at the Richmond outstation, 7 were disposed of in other

courtroom/outstation, four (4) were disposed of in courtroom 3, two were disposed of in courtroom 2 and 1 was disposed of at Lay Magistrates' sittings at the outstation in Richmond.

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

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in 2020	Number of inactive cases in 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Children's Court (main courthouse)	10	1	0	3.77	10.00
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	157	43	10	59.25	33.76
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	4	0	0	1.51	0.00
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	1	0	0	0.38	0.00
Buff Bay Outstation (courtroom#1)	50	19	0	18.87	38.00
Buff Bay Outstation (courtroom#2)	3	1	0	1.13	33.33
Manchioneal Outstation	40	21	0	15.09	52.50
Total/Average	265	85	10	100	35.85

Note 1: There were 52 missing courtrooms/Outstation entry 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 Portland in the third quarter ended September 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 59.25% of the total. In the corresponding period 2019, courtroom one also accounted for the highest share of new matters heard with 63.86%. Courtroom 1 at the outstation in Buff Bay and Manchioneal outstations with 18.87% and 15.09% respectively of the total number of the new cases heard in the quarter rank next. The outstations in Portland account for a combined 35.09% of the new cases heard, which is an increase of 8.18 percentage points above the 26.91% recorded in the corresponding 2019 third quarter. The main courthouse in Port Antonio accounts for the

remaining 64.91% and decreased by a similar 8.18% below the 73.09% recorded in the third quarter of 2019.

In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Port Antonio accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 43 matters, 64 matters or 59.81% decline compared to the 107 matters recorded in the third quarter of 2019 and had the third highest disposal rate. The outstation in Manchioneal and Buff Bay with a rate of 52.50% and 38.00% were among the top three on this measure.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 157 cases heard in courtroom 1, there were two cases disposed of in other courtrooms with 1 being disposed of in courtroom 2 and 1 in the outstation in Manchioneal.

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

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in 2020	Number of inactive cases in 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courtroom)	132	60	7	40.00	50.76
Courtroom #2 (main courtroom)	30	13	1	9.09	46.67
Green Island Outstation (courtroom #1)	55	31	8	16.67	70.91
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	17	9	0	5.15	52.94
Green Island Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	7	1	0	2.12	14.29
Ramble Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	2	0	0	0.61	0.00
Ramble Outstation (courthouse #1)	21	12	1	6.36	61.90
Sandy Bay Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	17	3	1	5.15	23.53
Sandy Bay Outstation (courthouse #1)	49	32	3	14.85	71.43
Total/Average	330	161	21	100.00	55.15

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 third quarter ended September 30, 2020. The data shows decisively that courtrooms number one at the main courthouse in Lucea accounts for the highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 40% of the total, which is a 20.63 percentage points above the 19.37% recorded in the corresponding period in 2019. Courtroom 2 and the outstation in Sandy Bay with 16.67% and 14.85% respectively rank next. The outstations in the parish account for 45.75% of the new cases heard during the third quarter, a decrease of 19.57 percentage points above the 26.18% in the corresponding period in 2019. The main courthouse accounts for the remaining 54.25%, a decrease of 19.57 percentage points below the 73.82% when compared to the similar quarter of 2019.

In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Lucea accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 60 matters, 41 more matters than the 19 matters recorded in the comparative 2019 period and recorded the fifth highest case disposal rate of 50.76%. Courtroom 1 at the Sandy Bay Outstation (71.43%), Green Island outstation (70.91%), courtroom number 1 at the Ramble outstation (61.90%), and Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse (52.94%) were among the top five disposal rates.

As mentioned not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 132 cases heard in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse, 5 cases were disposed of at other courtrooms/outstations. Outstations in Sandy Bay and Green Island accounted for 3 cases and 1 case respectively. The remaining 1 case was disposed of in courtroom 2 at the main courthouse.

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

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in 2020	Number of inactive cases in 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rates (%)
Santa Cruz (Children's Court)	1	1	0	0.23	100.00
Courtroom #1 (main courtroom)	63	20	6	14.35	41.27
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courtroom)	9	0	0	2.05	0.00
Balaclava Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	2	1	1	0.46	100.00
Balaclava Outstation (courtroom #1)	37	13	5	8.43	48.65
Santa Cruz Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	14	1	1	3.19	14.29
Santa Cruz Outstation (courtroom#1)	312	121	26	71.07	47.12
Santa Cruz Outstation (courtroom#2)	1	0	0	0.23	0.00
Total/Average	439	157	39	100	44.65

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Elizabeth in the third ended September 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 71.07% and 14.35% respectively of the total sample. When compared to quarter 3 of 2019, both afore mentioned courtrooms also accounted for the highest share of new cases heard with 63.10% and 13.39% respectively. This data represents an increase accounted for by both courtrooms of 7.97 percentage points and 0.96 percentage point respectively. Courtroom #1 at the Balaclava outstation with 8.43%, Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Santa Cruz outstation and Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse, with 3.19% and 2.05% respectively rounded off the top five share of new cases heard in the third quarter. Although the numbers are proportionately low, Children's' court at the Santa Cruz outstation and Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Balaclava outstation with disposal rates of 100% each were among those with the highest disposal rates in 2020. Courtroom number 1 at the Balaclava and Santa Cruz outstations ranked next with disposal rates of 48.65% and 47.12% respectively. As

mentioned above, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said courtrooms. In particular, of the 37 cases heard in courtroom 1 at the Balaclava outstation, there were 2 cases disposed of in other courtrooms/outstations, courtrooms 1 at the Santa Cruz outstation and at the main courthouse disposed of 1 case each. Of the 312 cases heard in courtroom 1 at the Santa Cruz outstation, 11 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstations. Courtroom #2 at the Santa Cruz outstation accounted for 5 cases while courtroom #1 at the Balaclava outstation accounted for 3 cases. Courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse and Children's court at the Santa Cruz outstation disposed of 2 and 1 case respectively.

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

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in 2020	Number of inactive cases in 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
St. Ann's Bay and the Claremont Outstation					
Claremont (Children's Court)	3	1	0	1.07	33.33
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	56	7	9	19.93	28.57
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	24	5	6	8.54	45.83
Claremont Outstation	21	3	1	7.47	19.05
Claremont Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	3	0	3	1.07	100.00
BROWNS TOWN					
Children's Court	3	0	0	1.07	0.00
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	93	9	27	33.10	38.71
Lay Magistrates' Court	78	10	6	27.76	20.51
Total/Average	281	35	52	100.00	30.96

Note 1: There were 207 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 variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Ann in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020. The data shows that courtroom 1 in both St. Ann's Bay (the main courthouse) and Browns Town account for the largest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 18.93% and 33.10% respectively of the total. Lay Magistrates' sittings in Browns Town with 27.76% is

among the top three largest share of new cases heard. 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 49.63% and 28.21% respectively of the total. As a whole, the Brown’s Town Court accounted for approximately 61.92% of the new cases filed in the parish of St. Ann in the third quarter of 2020, 33.53 percentage points above the 28.39% recorded in the corresponding 2019 period. The St. Ann’s Bay courthouse accounts for the remaining 38.07% of the new cases heard in the quarter, which is a decline of 33.54 percentage points, below the 71.61% recorded in the corresponding period in 2019. As a whole, outstation activity (including Brown’s Town) accounted for 71.53% of the new cases heard in the third quarter of 2020.

In terms of cases disposed of, Lay Magistrates’ sittings at the Browns Town court accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed of with 10 cases, and a disposal rate of 20.51%. despite having proportionately low absolute numbers Lay Magistrates’ sittings at the outstation in Claremont recorded the highest disposal rate of 100%. Cases heard in courtroom 2 at the main courthouse with a disposal rate of 45.83% and courtroom 1 in Browns Town with 38.71% disposal rate accounts for the second and third highest disposal rates in the third quarter.

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

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in 2020	Number of inactive cases in 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	135	56	10	35.62	48.89
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	42	9	15	11.08	57.14
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	30	9	2	7.92	36.67
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	38	11	14	10.03	65.79
Night Court (main courthouse)	3	3	0	0.79	100.00
Lionel Town Outstation	79	35	1	20.84	45.57
Chapleton Outstation	40	14	1	10.55	37.50

Frankfield Outstation	12	0	2	3.17	16.67
Total/Average	379	137	45	100.00	48.02

Note 1: There was 16 missing courtroom/Outstation entry 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 Clarendon in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020. The available data shows decisively that courtroom number 2 in May Pen accounted for highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 35.62% of the total. The outstation in Lionel Town and courtroom 2 at the main courthouse accounts for the next highest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 20.84% and 11.08% 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 56 matters, 17 cases fewer than the 73 disposed cases recorded for this courtroom in 2019 and had the fourth highest disposal rate of 48.89%. Despite its proportionately low absolute numbers, Night court sittings at the main courthouse had the highest disposal rate of 100%. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse with (65.49%), courtroom number 2 with (57.14%) and the outstation in Lionel Town with (45.57%) were among the highest disposal rates for the third quarter of 2020. An estimated 34.56% of new cases heard in Clarendon during the third quarter occurred in the outstation locations, with the remaining 65.44% 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 56 cases heard in courtroom number one, 1 was disposed of in night court. Of the 14 cases heard at the outstation in Chapleton, 1 was disposed of in courtroom number one.

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

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in 2020	Number of inactive cases in 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	72	20	3	20.06	31.94
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	78	18	3	21.73	26.92
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	10	5	1	2.79	60.00
Children's Court (main courthouse)	2	1	0	0.56	50.00
Porus (Children's Court)	2	0	0	0.56	0.00
Night Court (main courthouse)	1	0	0	0.28	0.00
Cottage Outstation	2	0	0	0.56	0.00
Cottage Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	5	0	0	1.39	0.00
Christiana Outstation	46	20	3	12.81	50.00
Christiana Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	16	7	0	4.46	43.75
Spalding Outstation	17	2	0	4.74	11.76
Spalding Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	4	0	0	1.11	0.00
Porus Outstation	16	6	0	4.46	37.50
Cross Keys Outstation	14	3	0	3.90	21.43
Cross Keys Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	4	0	0	1.11	0.00
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	58	20	2	16.16	37.93
Tax Court (main courthouse)	12	2	2	3.34	33.33
Total/Average	359	104	14	100	32.87

Note 1: There were 3 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 variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Manchester in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020. The data shows courtroom 2 at the main courthouse accounted for the highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 78 cases or 21.73% of the total. In 2019, courtroom 1 at the main courthouse accounted for 102 cases or 19.77% of the total. Courtroom number 1 and Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse accounts for the next highest

share of new cases heard in the quarter with 20.06% and 16.16% respectively of the total. When compared to 2019, both courtrooms 1 and Lay Magistrates’ sittings were also among the top three highest share of new cases with 21.51% and 19.77% respectively. The main courthouse in Mandeville accounts for 64.90% of the total number of new cases heard during the 2020 period, which is a decrease of 24.04 percentage points when compared to the 88.94% recorded in 2019. The remaining 35.10% was accounted for by the various outstations.

In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom 1 at the main court in Mandeville, the outstation in Christiana and Lay Magistrates’ sittings at the main courthouse accounted for 20 cases each. Despite its proportionately low absolute numbers Courtroom 3 had the highest case disposal rate of 60.00%. The outstation in Christiana with 50% was also among those with the highest disposal rates. Lay Magistrates’ sittings at the Christiana outstation was among the top five disposal rates with 43.75%.

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, there was one case disposed of in courtroom number 2. Of the 78 cases heard in courtroom number two, 1 was disposed of in courtroom 1. Lay Magistrates’ sittings at the outstation in Christiana heard 16 cases of this amount 1 was disposed of at Lay Magistrates’ sittings at the main courthouse.

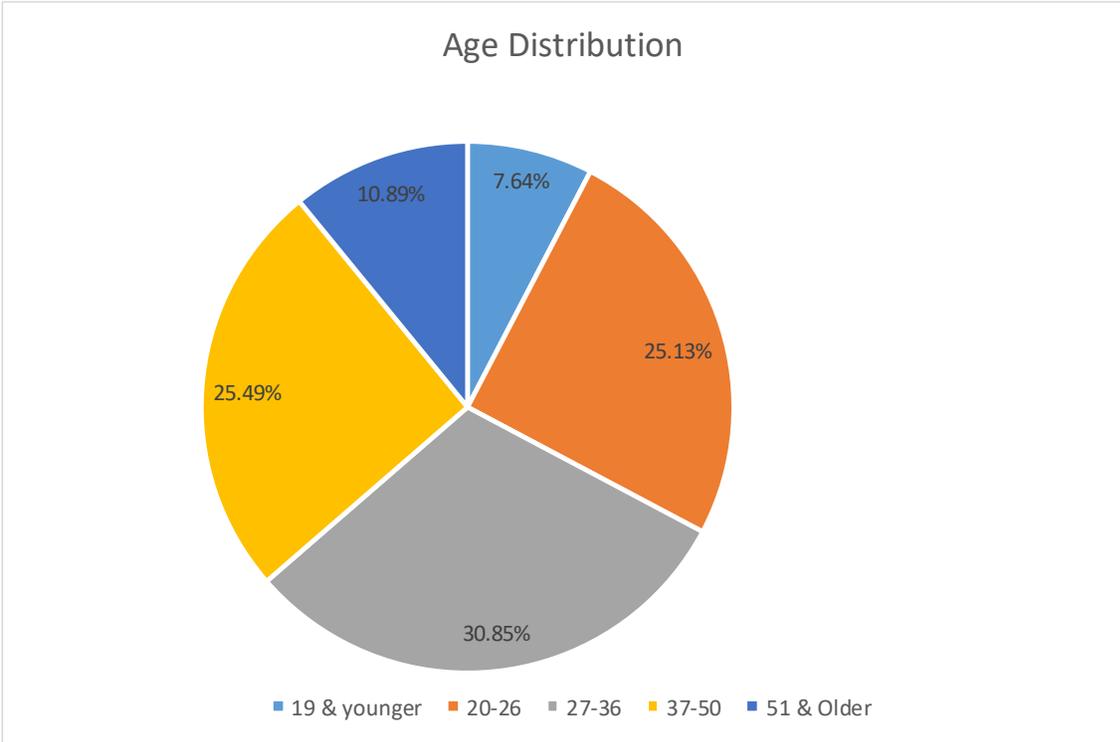
Table 18.14: proportion of cases heard at the main court and outstation across all parish courts for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Parish	Main Court 2020 (%)	Outstation 2020 (%)
St. James	94.95	5.05
St. Catherine	64.50	35.50
Westmoreland	82.15	17.85
Hanover	54.24	45.76
St. Mary	58.08	41.92
Trelawny	17.08	82.92
St. Thomas	70.61	29.39
St. Elizabeth	16.40	83.60
Manchester	64.90	35.10
Portland	64.91	35.09

St. Ann	71.53	28.47
Clarendon	65.44	34.56
Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division	99.37	0.63
Simple Averages (%)	63.49	36.60

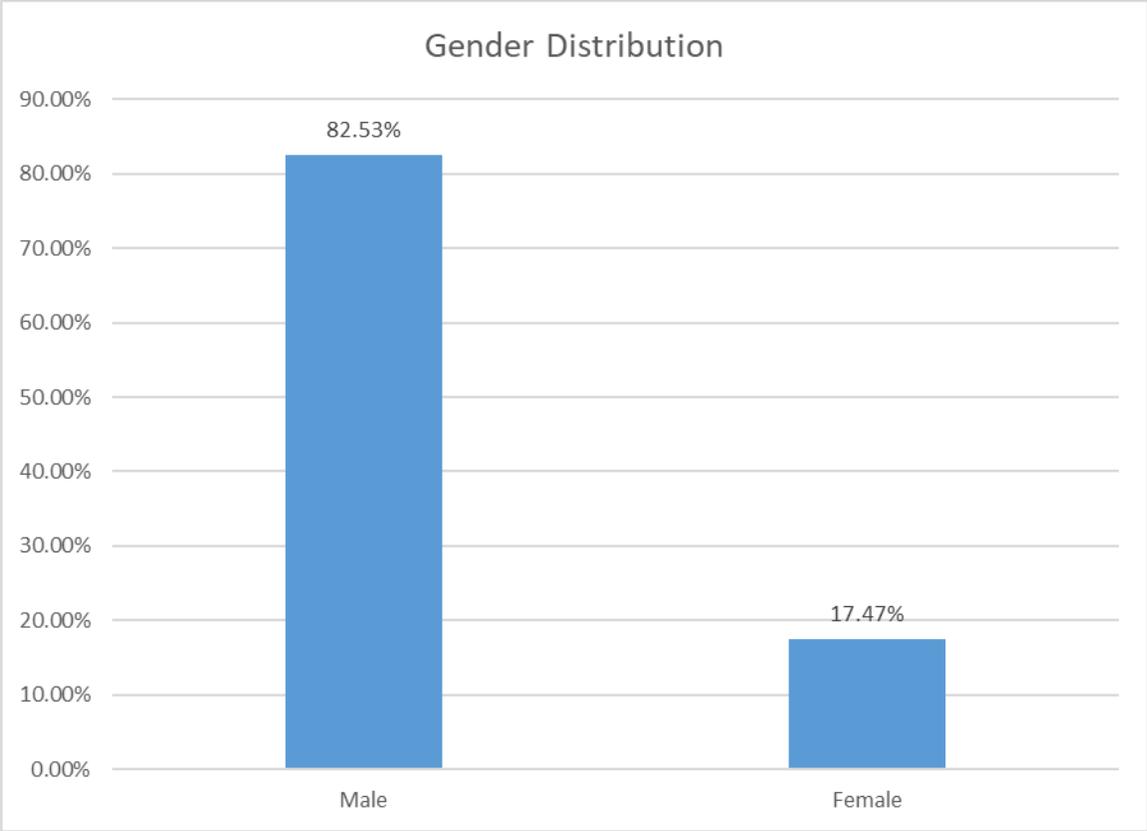
The above table provides a proxy summary of the distribution of the utilization of the main courthouse locations and combined outstation usage in the hearing of new criminal cases filed. It is seen that the 63.49% of new cases filed were entered for initial hearing in the main courthouse locations while a notable 36.60% were allocated for outstations. There are significant variances in the extend of main courthouse and outstation usage for the hearing of criminal matters across the parishes. It is seen for example that in parishes such as the Corporate Area (Kingston and St. Andrew), Westmoreland and St. James, in excess of 80% of the new cases filed were entered for initial hearing with the usage being particularly acute in the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division which had 99.37% entered for initial hearing at the main courthouse. On the contrary there are parishes where the level of outstation usage competes with or outruns the usage of the main courthouse in the hearing of criminal cases filed. St. Elizabeth, Trelawny and St. Ann are good examples of courts with significant outstation usage, each registering over 45% for initial hearing of new criminal cases filed in the third quarter of 2020. There may be opportunities for greater utilization of outstations to carry the caseload in some parishes but such precise determinations require further analyses of total ‘demand and supply’ in each location.

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



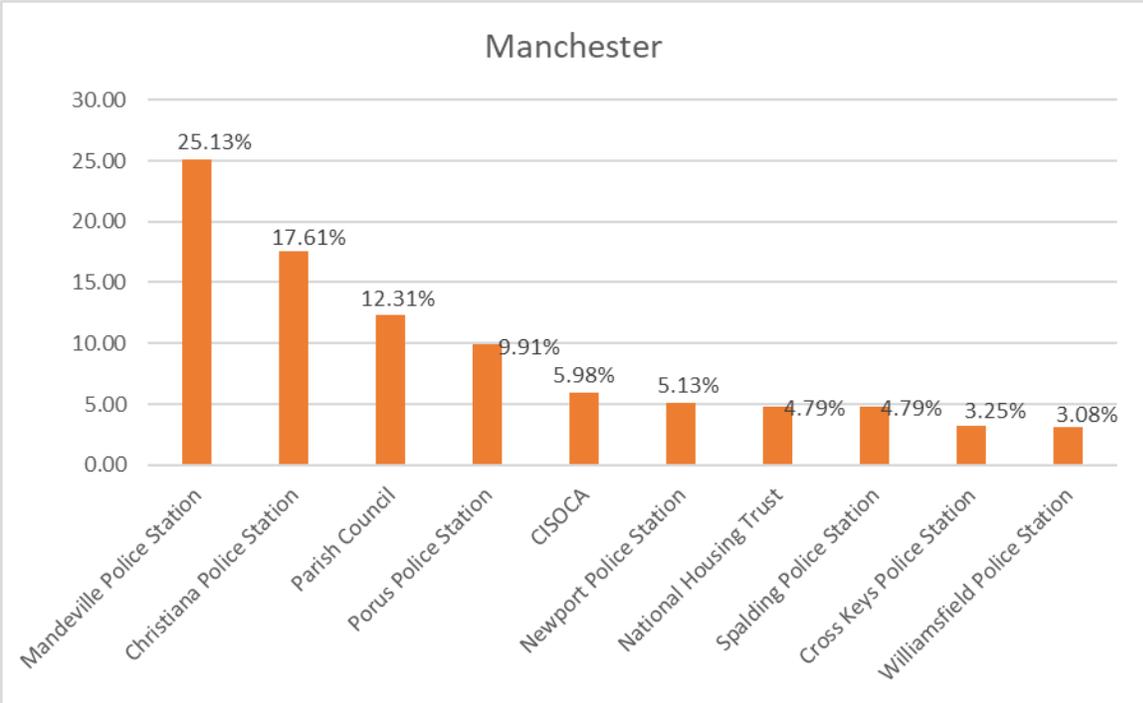
The above chart shows that of the total number of persons charged, for which age data was readily available for the July to September quarter, 2020; the largest proportion, 30.85% were from the 27-36 age cohorts. This category is followed by the 37-50 age group with 25.49%, the 20-26 age group with 25.13% and the oldest age cohorts 51 years and older accounting for 10.89%. The youngest age cohort in the distribution accounted for the lowest proportions with the 19 and younger category accounting for 7.64% and of the persons charged.

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



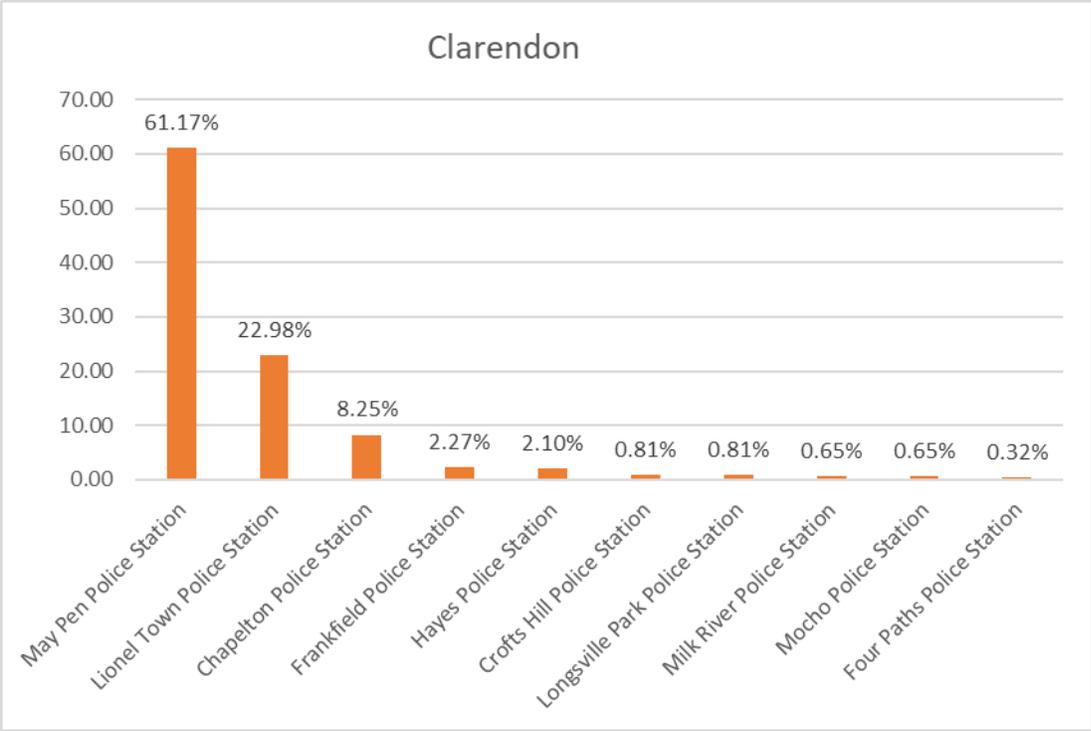
The above chart shows that the overwhelming majority of persons charged for the July to September quarter, 2020 were male, accounting for roughly 82.53% of the total while, females accounted for approximately 17.47%. The gender distribution of offenders for the third quarter was quite similar to this breakdown for second quarter with approximately 82.80% to 17.09% male to female ratio.

Chart 5.0: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Manchester Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2020



The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Manchester Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 585 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2020 the majority of criminal matters, 25.13%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Mandeville Police Station. This was followed by the Christiana Police which accounts for 17.61% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Parish Council with 12.31%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Mandeville, National Housing Trust and Alligator Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

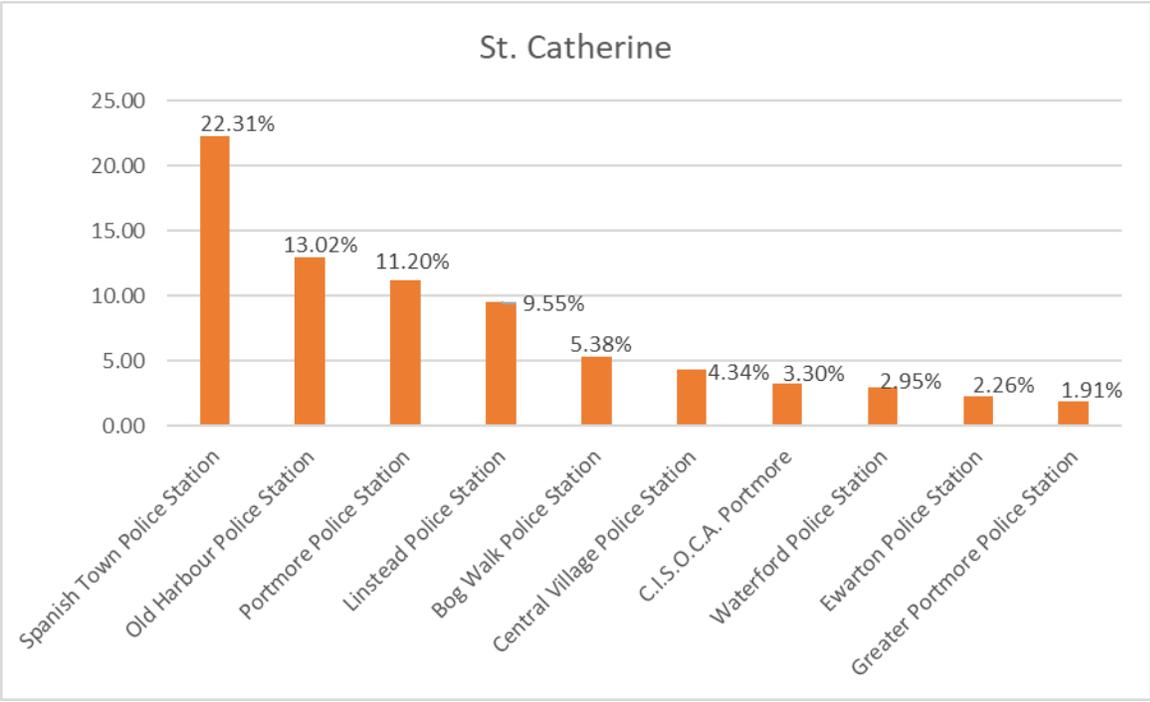
Chart 5.1: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Clarendon Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2020



The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Clarendon Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 618 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2020 the majority of criminal matters, 61.17%, which were brought before the Court were reported in May Pen Police Station. This was followed by the Lionel Town Police Station which accounts for 22.98% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Chapleton Police with 8.25%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of May Pen, Chapleton and Lionel Town Police Station.

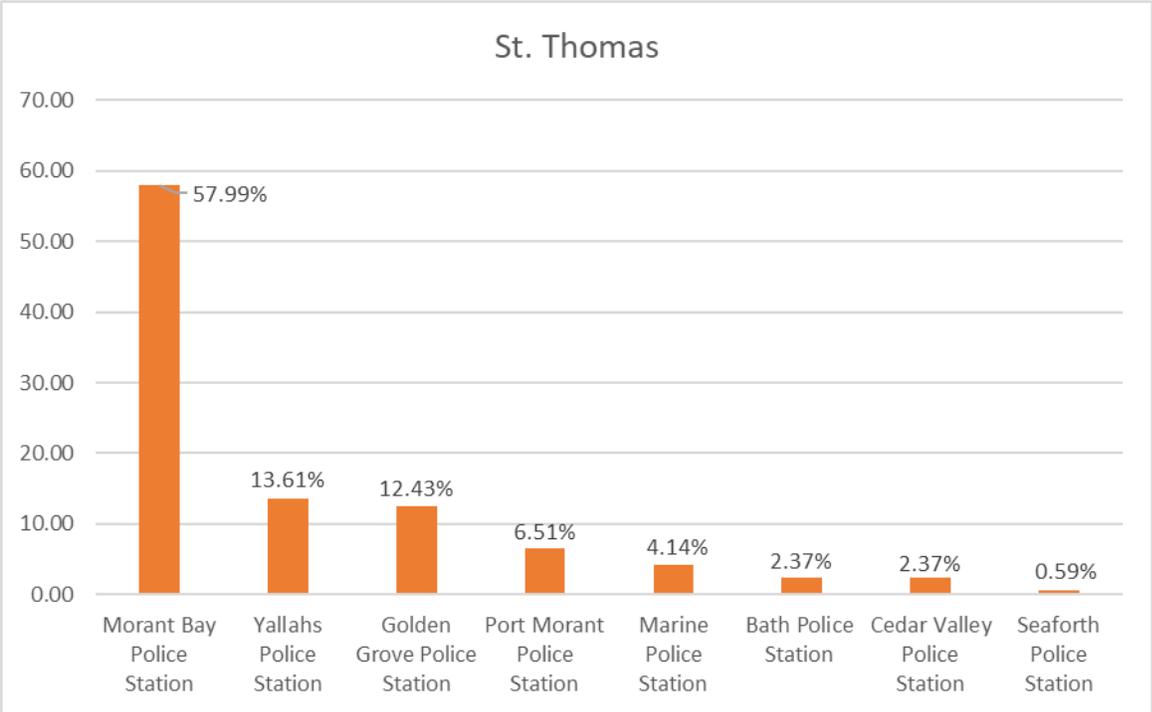
This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 5.2: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Catherine Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2020



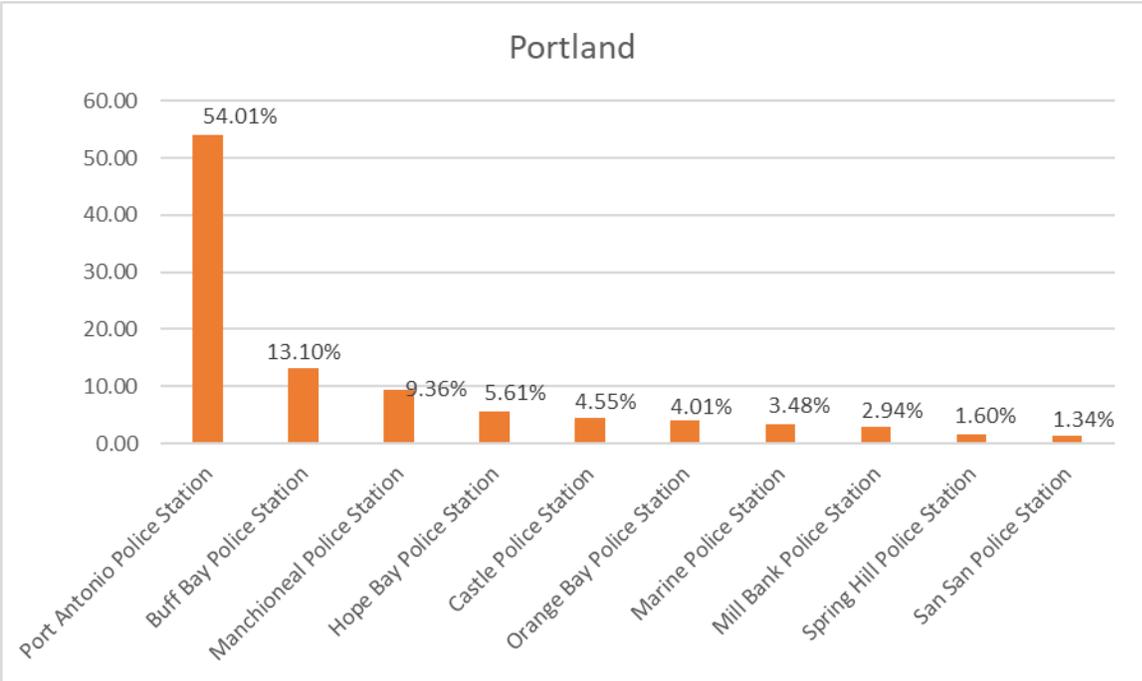
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Catherine Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 1152 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2020 the majority of criminal matters, 22.31%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Spanish Town Police Station. This was followed by the Old Harbour Police Station which accounts for 13.02% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Portmore Police with 11.20%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Spanish Town, Portmore and Old Harbour Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 5.3: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Thomas Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2020



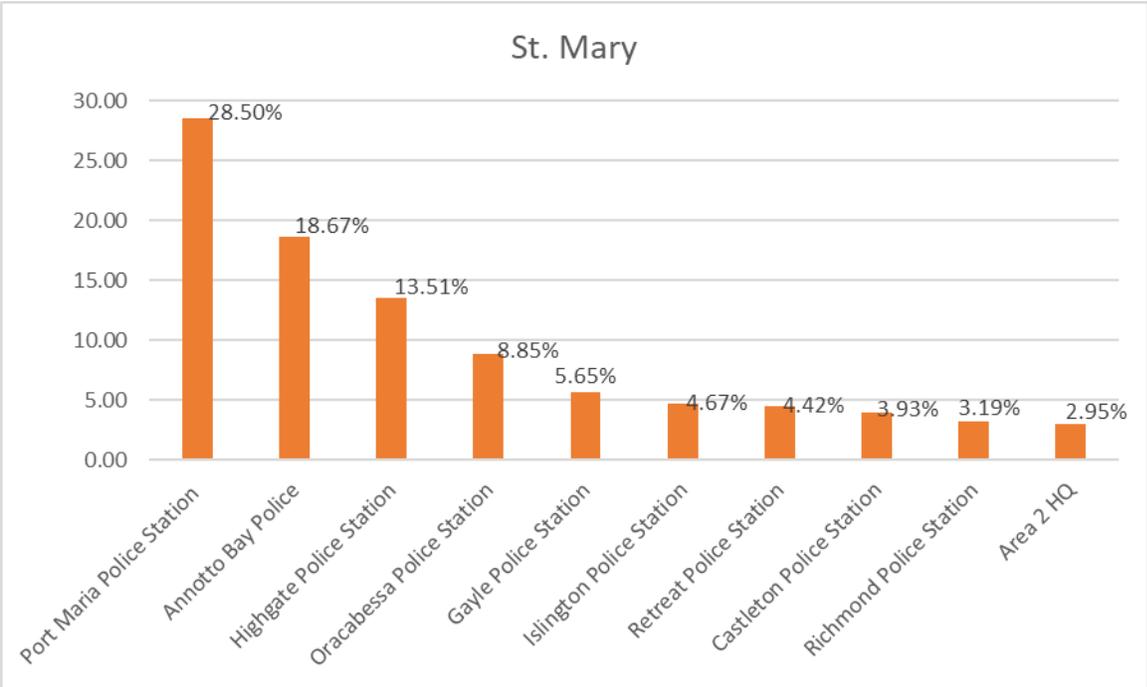
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Thomas Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 169 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2020 the majority of criminal matters, 57.99%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Morant Bay Police Station. This was followed by the Yallahs Police Station which accounts for 13.61% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by Golden Grove Police with 12.43%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Morant Bay Police, Seaforth 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 offences by the police station of origin at the Portland Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2020



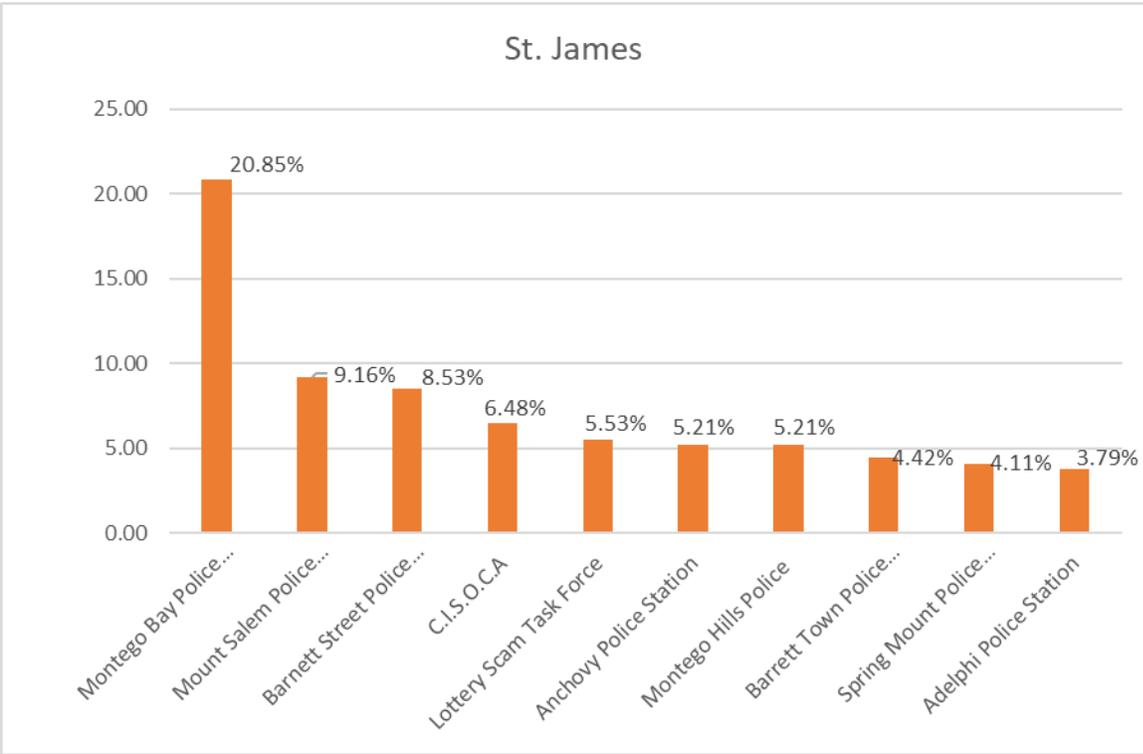
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Portland Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 374 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2020 the majority of criminal matters, 54.01%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Port Antonio Police Station. This was followed by the Buff Bay Police Station which accounts for 13.10% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Manchioneal Police with 9.36%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Port Antonio, Buff Bay and San Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

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



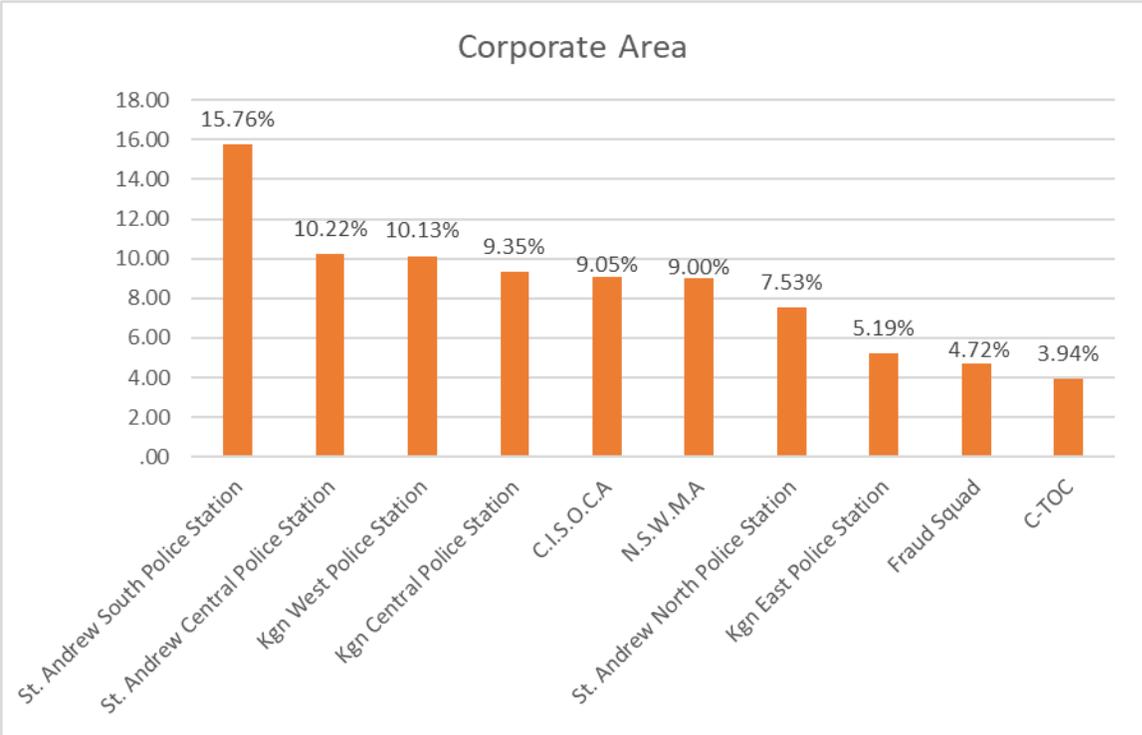
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Mary Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 407 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2020 the majority of criminal matters, 28.50%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Port Maria Police Station. This was followed by the Annotto Bay Police Station which accounts for 18.67% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Highgate Police with 13.51%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Annotto Bay, Highgate and Gayle Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 5.6: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. James Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2020



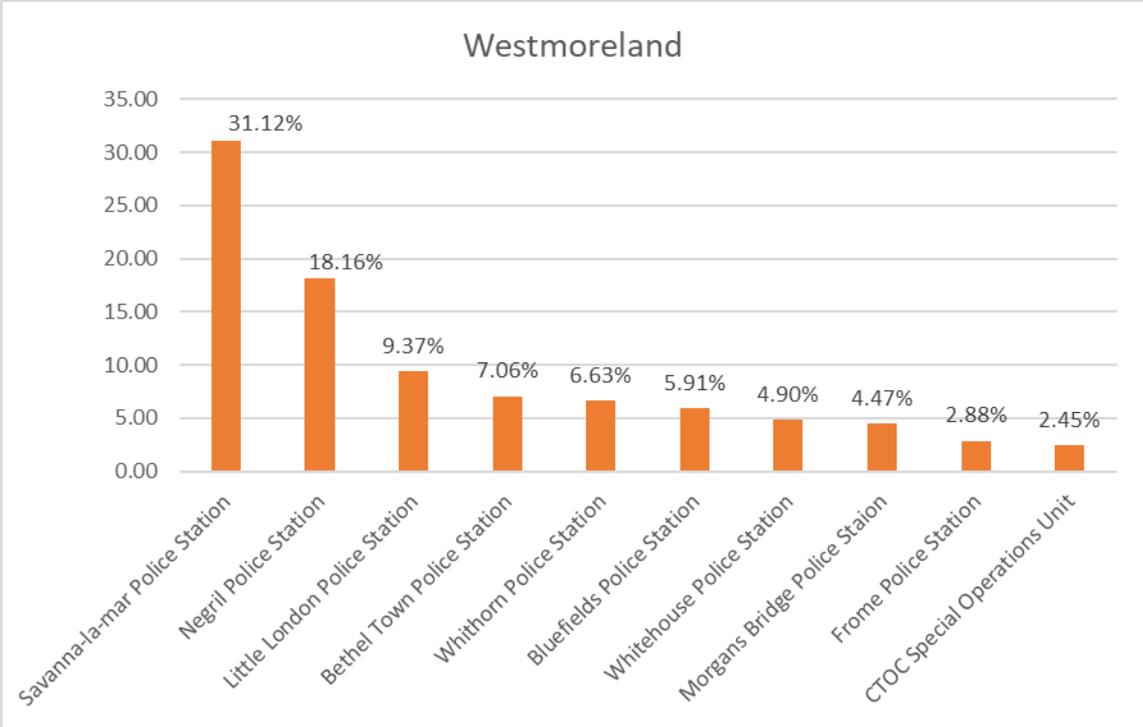
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. James Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 633 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2020 the majority of criminal matters, 20.85%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Montego Bay Police Station. This was followed by the Mount Salem Police Station which accounts for 9.16% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Barnett Street Police with 8.53%. 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 offences by the police station of origin at the Corporate Area Criminal Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2020



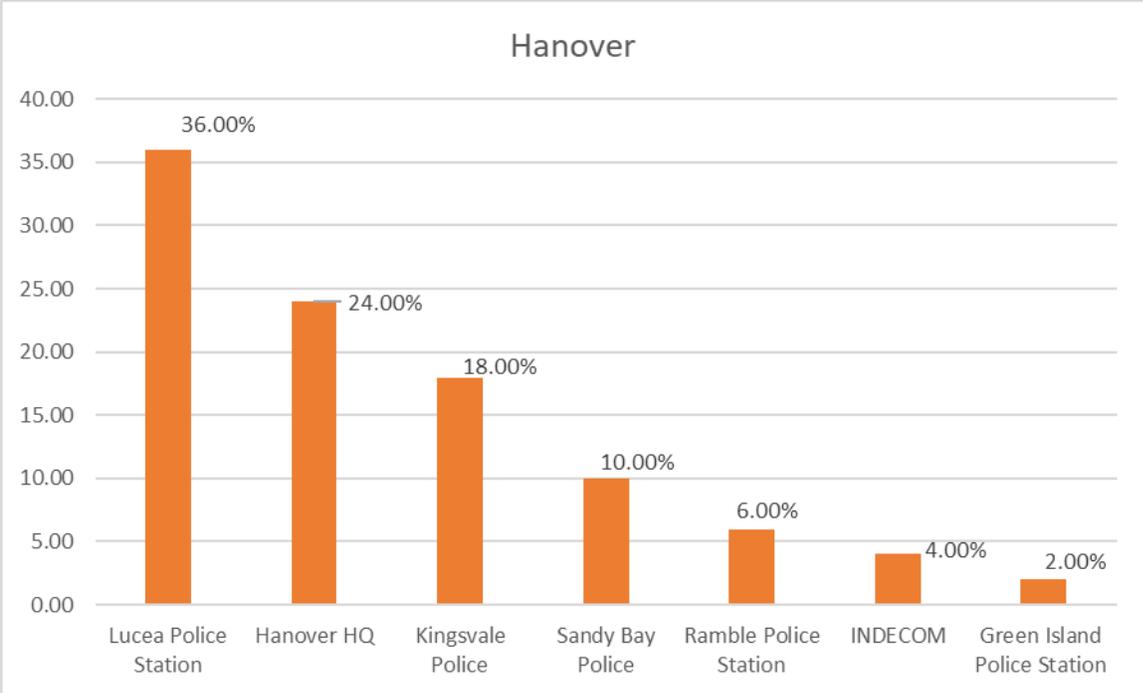
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Corporate Area Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 1307 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2020 the majority of criminal matters, 15.76%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in St. Andrew South Police Station. This was followed by the St. Andrew Central Police Station which accounts for 10.22% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Kingston West Police with 10.13%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of St. Andrew Central, St. Andrew North and St. Andrew South Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

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



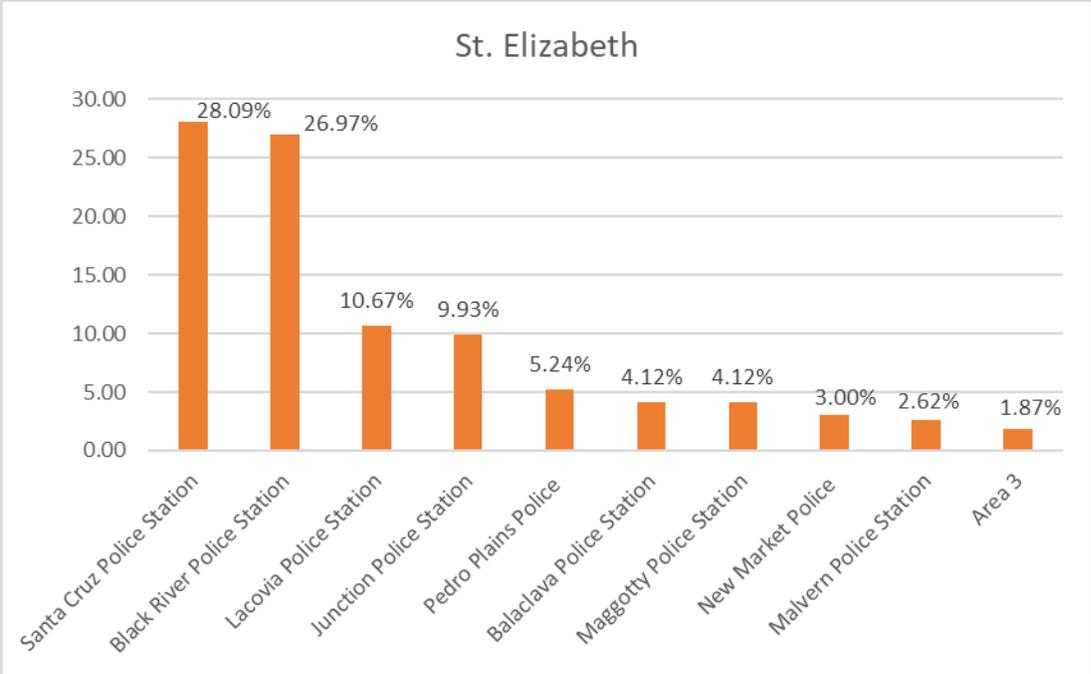
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Westmoreland Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 694 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2020 the majority of criminal matters, 31.12%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Savanna-la-mar Police. This was followed by the Negril Police Station which accounts for 18.16% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Little London Police with 9.37%. In the previous quarter the top three Police Station was similar to this quarter. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

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



The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Hanover Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 50 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2020 the majority of criminal matters, 36%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Lucea Police Station. This was followed by the Hanover HQ Police which accounts for 24% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Kingsvale Police with 18%. 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.

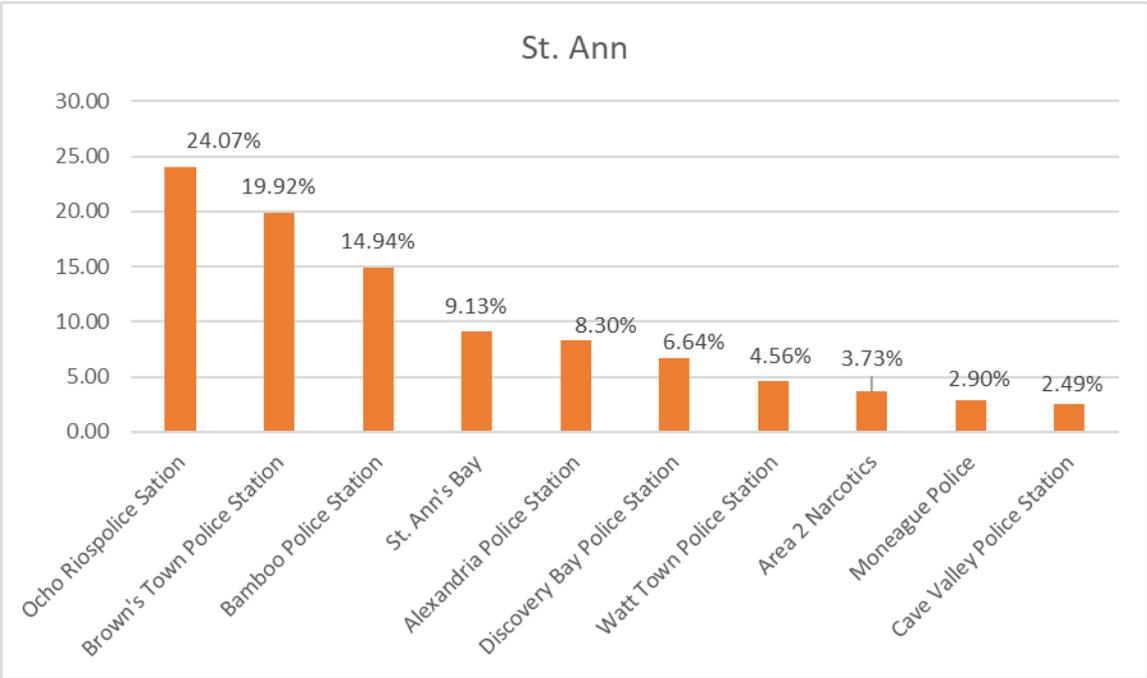
Chart 5.10: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2020



The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 534 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2020 the majority of criminal matters, 28.09%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Santa Cruz Police Station. This was followed by the Black River Police Station which accounts for 26.97% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Lacovia Police with 10.67%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Black River, Santa Cruz and Junction Police Station.

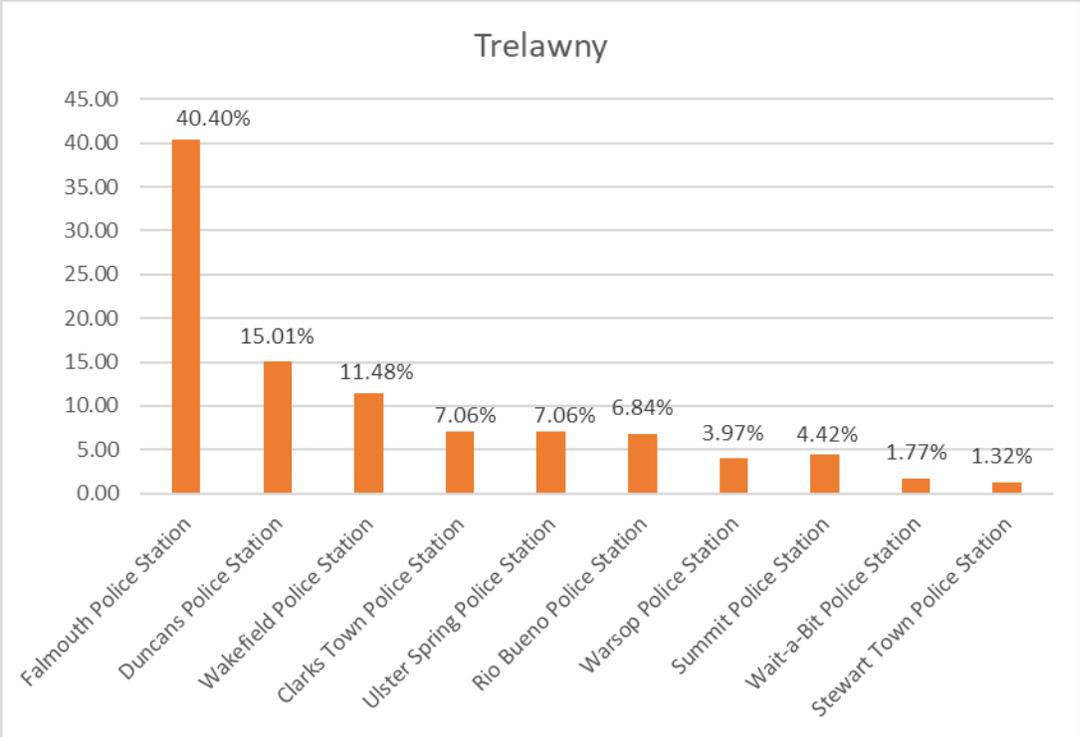
This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 5.11: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Ann Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2020



The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Ann Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 241 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2020 the majority of criminal matters, 24.07%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Ocho Rios Police Station. This was followed by the Brown’s Town Police Station which accounts for 19.92% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Bamboo Police with 14.94%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Ocho Rios, Discovery Bay and St. Ann’s Bay Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

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



The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Trelawny Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 453 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2020 the majority of criminal matters, 40.40%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Falmouth Police Station. This was followed by the Duncans Police Station which accounts for 15.01% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Wakefield Police with 11.48%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Falmouth, Duncans and Clarks Town Police Station.

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

Overall, this quarter shows an increase in the total number of matters/cases distributed across the many Police Stations/Agencies for most parish within the island.

Conclusion

2020 has been a very challenging year for the Jamaican court system which has greatly tested its resilience and adaptability and to a large extent the adjustments have been successful so far. There have been some losses in momentum on some key performance measurements but certainly no loss in vision or mission and the losses up to the end of the third quarter on various key performance indicators are expected to be quickly reversed over the next 2-3 quarters. The third quarter results also showed significant signs of recovery on these vital statistical measurements when compared to the shortened second quarter of 2020, in which the court system recorded its weakest results in over three years for any single quarter. In fact, in some instances, the third quarter outcomes were quite comparable to those in the corresponding period in 2019 and outshone in a few instances. The key performance measurements of the case clearance and case disposal rates both experienced overall declines when compared to the corresponding period in 2019 with output of 78.31% and 39.30% respectively. The clearance rate outcome represents a decline of 24.47 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2019 while the case disposal rate lost 8.28 percentage points when compared to the similar period. Naturally, as a result of these declines, there was an overall surge in the case congestion rates. While none of the courts managed to record a case clearance rate of over 100% which had become customary practice up to the end of the first quarter of 2020, it is of note that there were six courts which still satisfied the international standard. Overall, eleven of the courts recorded a dip in case clearance rate when compared to the corresponding period in 2019. The crucial measurement of the overall courtroom utilization rate as well as the night court utilization rate also declined when compared to the corresponding period in 2019. The overall courtroom utilization rate in the third quarter of 2020 was 52.48%, a decline of 6.18 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in 2019. Night court sittings

recorded a utilization rate of 47.63% but this was 4.85 percentage points below 2019. The overall trial date certainty rate showed immense resilience with an overall rate of 77%, 1 percentage point above the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2019. The overall case file integrity rate of 85.11% was also quite comparable with the outcomes recorded in the similar period of 2019.

One of the most profound findings of this third quarter report is that as at the end of the third quarter of 2020, only 2.65% of criminal cases filed since Jan 2017 were still active and more than 24 months old, thus constituting the proxy net case backlog rate as at the end of this reporting period. This outcome is superior to the proxy net case backlog rate of 5.92% which was reported at the end of the second quarter of 2020 and indicates quite decisively that the cumulative gains that the criminal courts have made over the past three plus years is on course to creating a court system where the net case criminal rate will be sustainably under 5%, the international benchmark. The limitation of this result is of course that it only takes matters filed within the last 3.75 years into account and is therefore not the full picture but it has become clear that if the current trend continues, it is in fact conceivable that in two years' time, Jamaica could have near backlog free criminal courts in the parish court jurisdiction. The criminal courts also recorded a gross clearance rate of 12.12% at the end of the third quarter of 2020, which is 2.12 percentage points higher than the internal standard but the signs from this measurement are also quite promising.

All told, the Jamaican court system has lost some ground but the resilience shown on key measurements is encouraging and as a result, as at the end of the third quarter of 2020, the courts remain broadly on course to meet the target of becoming the best in the Caribbean

region by March 2023 and among the bests in the world by March 2025. Since some lagged effect of the general reduction in court activity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is to be expected, the next two quarters will provide decisive information on the impact of the pandemic on key strategic targets and overall court productivity.

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

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

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

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

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

Percentile ranks are useful when you want to quickly understand how a particular score compares to the other scores in a distribution of scores. For instance, knowing a court disposed 300 cases in a given period doesn't tell you much. You don't know how many case disposals

were possible, and even if you did, you wouldn't know how that court's score compared to the rest of the courts. If, however, you were told that the court scored at the 80th percentile, then you would know that this court did as well or better than 80% of the courts in case disposals.

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

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

Continuance and Adjourment: In a general sense, any delay in the progression of a hearing in which a future date/time is set or anticipated for continuation is a form of 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.

ⁱ Source:

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

ⁱⁱ Source:

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

