

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

JANUARY TO MARCH

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Case Disposal Rates (%)	53.74	48.59
Case Clearance Rates (%)	103.46	96.47
Trial Date Certainty Rates (%)	82	84
Courtroom utilization Rate (%)	59.85	57.78

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Chief Justice's Message

This first quarter report of 2020 for the Parish Courts shows that the courts have continued on the trajectory of significant improvements. The data shows that the case clearance rate is now consistently at 95% across all criminal courts. Notably, four Parish Courts – Hanover, St Mary, Manchester and St James – had clearance rates of over 100% while another three Parish Courts – St Catherine, Portland, and St Ann – had clearance rates of 90% or above.

The hearing date certainty for the period was 84%, representing a 2-percentage points increase over the same quarter in 2019. While commendable, the rate remains 11% less than where the courts need to be if the case backlog is to be eliminated in the next five to six years. It must be noted that St Thomas, St James and Portland were at 95% or above on this measure.

Courtroom utilization during this period was 57.78%, which means that 42.22% of the time allocated for open court hearings were not utilized. This further suggests that as impressive as the clearance rate and hearing date certainty are, they could be improved with greater courtroom utilization.

It must be noted that for the period September 2016 to March 2020, 41.01% of criminal cases in the Parish Courts were disposed of in less than 90 days. In addition to that, 83.77% of cases were disposed of in less than one year.

Overall, the report shows that while the Parish Courts have been productive, there is need for further improvements as there are still too many cases, which take longer than 24 months from filing to disposition. For the time standard of 24 months from filing to

disposition to be achieved and maintained for all cases, except in circumstances beyond the courts' control, there must be continued refinement in case management and case flow management techniques. With continued training and implementation of best practices we will achieve our objective to be the best in the Caribbean in three years and one of the best globally in six years.

Bryan Sykes OJ, CD
Chief Justice of Jamaica

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This statistical report on criminal matters in the Parish Courts of Jamaica is for first quarter of 2020. It represents a continuation of the enhanced efforts to measure court productivity with a view to providing a concrete basis for placing the analyses of the judicial system into proper perspective and for informing the policymaking and operational planning apparatus of the leadership of the courts. This report interrogates a number of vital measures, which provide insights into the operations of the parish courts on both an individual and an aggregated basis. It forms an important foundation for understanding criminal case activity and delay factors in the parish courts as well as important characteristics of criminal cases. It further creates a framework within which the quantitative and some qualitative targets set out by the Honourable Chief Justice in the recently launched Strategic Plan for the judiciary can be monitored and evaluated. In seeking to significantly reduce the case backlog in the court system, the Chief Justice has set out to achieve a court-wide case clearance rate of 130% in the next 5-6 years and an overall trial date certainty rate of 95%. If these are achieved, the court-wide net case backlog rate will fall below 5% by the end of December 2025, placing Jamaica among the best performing court systems in the world. This report highlights several critical strides made so far in moving towards the stated targets and comes at a particularly interesting period in the history of the judiciary as the COVID-19 pandemic caused major disruption in court activity towards the end of the first quarter of 2020 and for much of the second quarter. This has dramatically affected the case activity schedule in all courts and in some situations, the mode used to conduct hearings. While the overall results for the first quarter suggest that the parish courts have demonstrated resilience, the true effects of these disruptions on performance will be seen

in the subsequent quarters. The manner in which the courts are able to adjust over the next 12 months will have a profound impact on the extent to which the vital quantitative targets are able to remain in sight.

The aggregate new case count in the parish courts in the first quarter of 2020 was 6088, down by 10.30% when compared to the 6787 new cases recorded in the first quarter of 2019. The Corporate Area Parish Court - Criminal Division with 1114 new cases or 18.30% of the total, followed by the St. Catherine and Westmoreland Parish Courts with 1013 cases or 16.64% and 564 cases or 9.26% respectively, account for the three largest proportions of the new cases filed in the first quarter of 2020. These three courts have consistently ranked in the top five on new caseload over the past few years. For the first quarter of 2020 however, the Westmoreland Parish Court displaced the St. James Parish Court, which traditionally occupies the number 3 spot. Taken together, these three parish courts account for 44.20% of the new cases filed in the first quarter of 2020. The parish courts of Trelawny, St. Mary and St. Thomas accounted for the lowest shares of the aggregate new cases filed, each with under 5% of the new caseload in the period. Ten of the thirteen parish courts experienced a decline in the number of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2020 when compared to the corresponding period in 2019.

The overall average disposal rate for cases originating in the first quarter of 2020 was 48.59%, which is a decrease of 5.15 percentage points when compared to corresponding period on 2019. The Hanover Parish Court disposed of new cases at the fastest rate in the quarter, with a disposal rate of 62.37%, followed by the St. Catherine and St. Mary Parish Courts with 58.54% and 55.85% respectively. The St. Mary and Clarendon Parish Courts

with disposal rates of 52.52% and 51.62% round off the top five performing court on this metric in the first quarter of 2020. The parish courts of St. Ann, Trelawny and Manchester had the lowest case disposal rates in first quarter of 2020, all with rates under 41%. Given the rescheduling of several cases brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic over the past few months, the Jamaican court system will be hard pressed to rebound to pre-COVID-19 rates of performance over the next two quarters. The application of creative case management and scheduling practices will be crucial in this regard and the court's leadership is aggressively pursuing such.

A measure, which is closely related to the case disposal rate, is the case clearance rate, which provides a measure of the number of cases disposed (regardless of date/year of initiation) for every new case filed in a particular period. This is a productivity index as many of the disposed cases, which are included in its computation, would have originated before the period of focus and is a more instructive statistic on case activity than the case disposal rate. The overall case clearance rate for the first quarter of 2020 was 96.47%, a decline of 6.99 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2019. The result suggests that for every 100 new criminal cases that were filed in the parish courts in the first quarter of 2020, roughly 96 were disposed (including cases originating prior to 2020). Seven of the thirteen parish courts met or exceeded the minimum international standard of a 90% case clearance rate, four of which exceeded the 100% mark. The four parish courts with the highest criminal case clearance rate in the first quarter of 2020 were the Hanover Parish Court with 128.49%, the St. Mary Parish Court with 124.37%, and the Manchester Parish Court with 124.16% and the St. James Parish Court with 117.61%. The Hanover Parish Court, which also topped the case disposal rate for the quarter was the most impressive

mover for the period, leaping by 31.75 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in 2019, thereby becoming the top performer on case clearance rate. The parish courts of Trelawny, Portland and St. Ann also exceeded the 90% clearance rate yardstick while the St. Elizabeth Parish Court fell just short with approximately 89%.

One highly important measure, which is of keen interest to the leadership of the courts and the policy makers, is the case congestion rate, however this measurement is more meaningful when examined over a longer time period (for example a year or longer). This is a measure of how well a court is doing in managing its pending caseload, relative to its rates of disposition and clearance and the implied state of resources. The higher the case congestion rate of a court, the more burdensome the caseload, again within the context of the existing rates of disposition and clearance and the implied state of resources. The overall case congestion rate recorded in the first quarter of 2020 was 306.35%, a continued suggestion that the parish courts as a whole are carrying a higher caseload than their implied state of resources and rate of clearance would suggest about their capacity.

Another essential measure, which is an important cornerstone in the drive to bring Jamaica among the best performing court systems in the world in six years, is the trial date certainty rate. This provides a measurement of the likelihood that dates set for trial will proceed as scheduled (without adjournment for future dates). The perfect rate of 100% would suggest that all dates set for trial proceed as scheduled in the relevant period. The overall average trial date certainty rate for criminal matters across the parish courts in the first quarter of 2020 was 84%, a 2-percentage points increase when compared to the first quarter of 2019. The parish court of St. Thomas, Portland and St. James had the highest trial date certainty

rates on the first quarter of 2020. The Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division and the St. Ann Parish Court ranked lowest on this measurement.

The proportion of allocated court time that is utilized for hearings in each parish court bears some long run correlation with the case clearance rate, the case congestion rate and overall court performance. The courtroom utilization rate provides a solid measurement of the proportion of time allocated for court hearings, which are utilized throughout a given period in each court. The overall courtroom utilization rate across the parish courts in the first quarter of 2020 was 57.78% while the overall rate for night courts was 48.52%. The St. Ann Parish Court had the highest courtroom utilization rate in the quarter with 80.95%, followed by the Westmoreland and St. Mary Parish Courts with 68.27% and 63.30% respectively. The Clarendon, Hanover and St. Catherine Parish Courts ranked in the lowest quintile on this measurement for the quarter. The parish courts of Westmoreland, St. Ann and St. Mary ranked as the three courts with the best night court utilization rates for the first quarter of 2020.

On the matter of caseload distribution in the individual parishes, the data shows that in many cases the outstation courts in the respective parishes are carrying a notable share of the caseload. The overall average number of new cases heard in the outstations in the first quarter of 2020 is approximately 29.44%, down by 1.56 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in 2019 while roughly 70.56% were heard at the main parish court locations. While outstation court activity in parishes such as St. James and the Corporate Area account for less than 10% of total activity, there are several parishes where outstations are extensively utilized, accounting for well over 20% of total

case activity. This includes the parish courts of St. Catherine, Manchester, Clarendon and St. Elizabeth, among others. The evidence suggests that there is the potential in many parishes for outstations to be utilized to a greater degree to ease the caseload carriage in the main courts, thus potentially enhancing case clearance and disposal rates by reducing the case congestion.

The largest proportion of cases disposed in the first quarter of 2020 was by way of guilty pleas, accounting for 38.09% of the cases disposed. This was followed by cases dismissed, which was responsible for 21.42% of the cases disposed. It is of note that guilty verdicts accounted for roughly 3.19% of the matters disposed while not guilty verdicts accounted for 12.60% of the total. Mediated settlements (of various forms) accounted for roughly 11.74% of the cases disposed during the quarter. Taken together, the data therefore reveals a conviction rate of 41.28% for the first quarter of 2020. Further analysis of the data suggests that for the cases originating over the past 42 months, which are disposed, roughly 41.01% were resolved within 90 days and 83.77% within a year, which are quite positive outcomes as the court system continues the push to significantly reduce the net criminal case backlog. In terms of the distribution of case types, the report highlights that the largest proportion of the criminal cases filed in the parish courts were Indictments with approximately 40.30% of all matters. This is followed by Summary matters with a roughly 32.07% and matters heard by Lay Magistrates with approximately 15.75% of the total. It is of note that Committal Proceedings accounted for roughly 8.22% of all criminal matters heard in the parish courts during the quarter. Summary matters had an overall conviction rate of 69.37% while Indictments had a conviction rate of 21.13% in the quarter across all parish courts.

An important delay factor, which affects the efficiency with which cases move towards disposition, is the incidence of adjournments in the parish courts. The data suggests that the dominant reasons for adjournments for the first quarter were due to the issuance of warrants for defendants not appearing (DNA- warrant issued) with an estimated 16.03% of the incidence of adjournments and referrals to mediation with roughly 12.52%. Ranking next are adjournments due to incomplete files with approximately 11.70% and matters reissued on application with 8.0%. Also featuring prominently on the lists of reasons for adjournment across the courts are medical reports outstanding and subpoena of investigating officers. This probability distribution for the reasons for adjournments was markedly similar to that of 2019.

The three most frequent criminal charges filed in the parish courts in the first quarter of 2020 were assault occasioning bodily harm with 12.20%, unlawful wounding with 8.93% and armed with an offensive weapon with 6.97% of the total number of charges filed. These were also the dominant offences filed in the previous three years. The vast majority of offences were committed by males, accounting for roughly 84.12% of all charges filed in first quarter of 2020. The dominant age group of offenders were the 27 – 36 and 37 -50 age groups, accounting for 30.03% and 26.64% respectively of the total number of charges filed in the first quarter of 2020.

The estimated gross backlog of criminal cases in the parish courts at the end of the first quarter of 2020 is 21,251 cases, which represents an 8.39% when compared to the figure at the end of December 2019. A criminal case is considered to be in backlog if it has been in the court system for more than two years without disposal.

METHODOLOGY

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

Disclaimer

The numbers that are reflected in the case activity summary in the annual report may vary slightly from those quoted in the individual quarterly reports throughout the year due to occasional constraints with timely access to all records and other mitigating factors.

Chapter 1.0: Criminal Case Activity Statistics in the Parish Courts for the quarter ended March 31, 2020.

This chapter provides an assessment of criminal case activity in the parish courts for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020. This includes analysis of the criminal caseload, rates of case disposal, clearance and congestion as well as cases statuses in the various courts over the period as well as assessments of courtroom utilization rates, case file integrity rates and trial date certainty rates. This chapter also explores the common methods of disposition, reasons for adjournment, leading charges and case types across the parish courts and associated conviction rates.

Table 1.0: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Number of inactive cases	Number of disposed cases	Active Pending Case Load	Case disposal Rate (%)
Hanover	186	22	94	70	62.37
St. Catherine	1013	149	444	420	58.54
Westmoreland	564	31	284	249	55.85
St. Mary	238	32	93	113	52.52
Clarendon	432	66	157	209	51.62
Portland	380	32	156	192	49.47
St. Elizabeth	383	19	165	199	48.04
Corporate Area Criminal	1114	142	376	596	46.50
St. Thomas	276	20	102	154	44.20
St. James	426	57	132	237	44.37
St. Ann	492	114	84	294	40.24
Trelawny	199	0	67	132	33.67
Manchester	385	32	88	265	31.17
Total	6088	716	2242	3130	
Average/Weighted Average	468	55	172	241	48.59
Standard deviation	287.33	49.00	120.18	138.98	9.09
Skewness	1.529	1.128	1.473	1.523	-0.299

The table above shows the aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the quarter ended March 31, 2020. A total of 6,088 new criminal cases were filed across the parish courts in this first quarter, 2,958 of which were either disposed or became, resulting in a weighted average disposal rate of 48.59%. In the corresponding 2019 quarter, 6,787 new cases were filed, 3,647 of which were either disposed or became inactive in that period, resulting in a weighted average disposal rate of 53.74%, which is 5.15 percentage points higher than the rate for the current quarter of 2020. This comparison reveals that over the corresponding quarter, there was decrease of 699 or 10.30% in the number of new cases filed and a decrease of 689 or 18.89% in the number of new cases that became disposed or inactive. Of the thirteen parish courts listed above ten (10) recorded a decline in the number of new cases filed, while three (3) recorded an increase. This result is not surprising given that the overall court operations were drastically reduced in the last few weeks of the quarter due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the Parish Courts with the largest drop in new cases filed were the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division court falling by 31.45% and Trelawny, which fell by 31.14%.

The Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division with 1114 or 18.30% of the new cases, the St. Catherine Parish Court with 1,013 cases or 16.64% and the Westmoreland Parish Court with 564 or 9.26% accounted for the three largest shares of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2020. The Westmoreland Parish Court entered the top three on new caseload for the first time since this type of reporting began, displacing the St. James Parish Court. These three parish courts with the largest share of new cases filed, cumulatively accounted for 44.20% of the total number of new criminal cases filed in the first quarter of 2020. On the lower end, the parish courts of Hanover with 186 or 3.06% of the new cases, Trelawny with 199 or 3.27% and St. Mary with 238 or 3.91% accounted for the lowest share of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2020.

The best performing courts in relation to case disposal rates for the first quarter of 2020 were the Hanover Parish Court (62.37%), St. Catherine Parish Court (58.54%) and the Westmoreland Parish Court (55.85%). The bottom four courts on this measure were the Parish Courts of St. James (44.37%), St. Ann (40.24%), Trelawny (33.67%) and Manchester (31.17). These results bear some similarity with the first quarter of 2019 as the St. Catherine Parish Court as well as the Westmoreland Parish Court were among the top four courts on this measure. Similarly, the parish courts of Manchester and St. Ann were also among the bottom four courts on this measure in the first quarter of 2019.

The skewness of the number of new cases filed, the number of cases disposed of and the active pending caseload are all positive, which is an indication that the larger proportion of the courts fell below the average count in each case. The skewness of the case disposal rates is however slight negative, which indicates that the larger proportion of the courts were above the average/mean rate on this measure.

Refer to Table 5.0 for a graphical comparison of the Case Disposal Rates across all Parish Courts for the first quarter (Jan.-March) of 2019 and 2020.

Table 2.0: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court as at March 31, 2020

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed in quarter	Number of Disposed cases in Jan-Mar. Quarter	Number of Inactive cases in Jan.-Mar. Quarter	Grand total number of inactive cases (2016-March 31, 2020)	Grand total number of disposed cases (2016-March 31, 2020)	Grand Active Pending Case Load b/f Jan. 01,2020	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
Hanover	186	198	41	209	2929	252	128.49	183.26
Manchester	385	330	148	2062	4194	1439	124.16	381.59
St. Mary	238	262	34	719	3410	330	124.37	191.89
St. James	426	385	116	2097	8688	1023	117.61	289.22
St. Catherine	1013	753	242	3112	10678	825	98.22	184.72
Portland	380	307	43	863	3457	532	92.11	260.57
St. Ann	492	312	135	2808	4036	1311	90.85	403.36
St. Elizabeth	383	313	29	585	3339	484	89.30	253.51
Corporate Area Criminal	1114	726	268	5098	11027	1721	89.23	285.21
Westmoreland	564	427	56	1057	5492	558	85.64	232.30
St. Thomas	276	194	37	423	3240	567	83.70	364.94
Clarendon	432	266	93	963	5237	2063	83.10	694.99
Trelawny	199	157	1	246	2723	799	79.40	631.65
Total	6088	4630	1243	20242	68450	11904	-	-
Average/Weighted Average	468	356	96	1557	5262	916	96.47	306.35
Standard deviation	287.33	185.97	83.57	1432.41	2930.11	562.36	17.90	162.97
Skewness	1.529	1.462	1.101	1.409	1.289	0.841	0.770	1.387

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

Note: the grand total of active cases from 2016 to the quarter ended March 31, 2020 for all parish court combined= 11460

The table above is an extension of table 1.0. Among the critical performance measures reported in this table is the case congestion rate across the parish courts. This provides a measure of manageability of a court's existing caseload. In particular, it provides an indication of the caseload burden relative to implied state of resources and the pace of case clearance. As an empirical measurement of case carriage load, the case congestion rate is more meaningful over longer

period, typically a year or more; hence, the quarterly results are to be interpreted in a guarded way.

The weighted average case congestion rate among the parish courts in the quarter is 306.35%, an indication that the parish courts (criminal division) as a whole are carrying just over three times the caseload that their current rate of clearance and implied state of resources justifies. This represents a 21.08 percentage points increase when compared to the first quarter of 2019. The parish courts of Clarendon (694.99%), Trelawny (631.65%) and St. Ann (403.36%) are the courts with the highest case congestion rates in the first quarter of 2020. The Trelawny and Clarendon Parish Courts also ranked among the most case congested courts in 2019. High case congestion rates can be a product of resource deficiencies and slow case clearance and case disposal rates along with a rapidly rising number of new cases. *Ceteris paribus*, it is expected that higher disposal rates, supported by high hearing and trial date certainty will substantially reduce the case congestion in a court in the medium to long run. The parish courts of St. Catherine (184.82), Hanover (183.72) and St. Mary (191.89) performed best on this measure in the quarter, largely because of the consistency demonstrated in sustaining strong case disposal and clearance rates. As with previous reports, caseload and resources do not appear to be a major factor explaining the differences in performance here as the courts ranking on either ends of the scale are the larger courts in the island and resource endowment does not vary in a statistically significant way among the courts.

The results on the overall case clearance rate for the first quarter of 2020 provide interesting insights into the court-wide progress being made on this measure. The overall weighted average case clearance rate of 96.47%, is a decline of 6.99 percentage points when compared to the corresponding 2019 period; however, the performance still met the required international

standard of 90%-110%. This overall case clearance rate of 96.47% suggests that for every 100 new cases filed in the quarter, roughly 96 were disposed of. Four of the thirteen parish courts exceeded the 100% mark for the criminal case clearance rate with the parish courts of Hanover (128.49%), St. Mary (124.37%), Manchester (124.16%), and St. James (117.61%). Three other parish courts also met the international standard of 90%-100%, namely the St. Catherine Parish Court (98.22%), the Portland Parish Court (92.11%) and the St. Ann Parish Court (90.85%). The parish courts of St. Elizabeth and Corporate Area Parish Court- Criminal Division, with clearance rates of 89.30% and 89.23% respectively, fell just short of satisfying the international benchmark, but still demonstrated promising results. The parish courts that made the greatest strides on this measure in the first quarter of 2020 when compared to the similar period in 2019, were the Hanover Parish Court and the Trelawny Parish Court. The Hanover Parish Court improved by 31.75 percentage points, disposing of 32 more cases for every 100 new cases filed in the first quarter of 2020. The Trelawny Parish Court improved by 30.27 percentage points; thus, disposing of 30 more cases for every 100 cases filed the quarter. Despite this increase, the Trelawny Parish Court had the lowest clearance rate in the quarter, as was the case in the first quarter of 2019. The Portland Parish Court had the biggest decline in case clearance rate, falling by 44.90 percentage points to 92.11%, when compared to the first quarter of 2019. The St. Mary Parish Court continues its remarkable consistency by ranking in the top three, a feat it has achieved repeatedly over the past 18 months. The data series for all variables in the above table were positively skewed to various degrees, indicating that proportionately more of the scores in that data set fell below the respective series means.

Refer to Table 4.0 for further comparison of the case clearance rates and the case congestion rates across all parish courts for the 2018 and 2019 calendar years.

Table 3.0: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for first quarter (Jan.-Mar.) 2019 & 2020

Parish Court	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q1 2020	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q1 2019	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q1 2020	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q1 2019	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q1 2020	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q1 2019
Hanover	62.37	47.91	128.49	96.74	183.26	297.12
St. Catherine	58.54	60.76	98.22	129.82	184.72	114.59
Westmoreland	55.85	64.09	85.64	97.25	232.30	192.40
St. Mary	52.52	50.38	124.37	162.12	191.89	185.05
Clarendon	51.62	43.69	83.10	74.77	694.99	997.59
Portland	49.47	46.62	92.11	137.01	260.57	244.94
St. Elizabeth	48.04	42.11	89.30	91.23	253.51	253.57
Corporate Area Criminal	46.50	63.75	89.23	105.56	285.21	202.68
St. Thomas	44.20	48.48	83.70	94.32	364.94	311.24
St. James	44.37	56.97	117.61	104.71	289.22	253.82
St. Ann	40.24	32.35	90.85	81.85	403.36	644.10
Trelawny	33.67	49.13	79.40	49.13	631.65	669.72
Manchester	31.17	45.12	124.16	119.53	582.22	339.11
Average /Weighted Average	48.59	53.74	96.47	104.82	306.35	285.27
Standard Deviation	9.09	9.17	17.90	28.99	176.66	253.21
Skewness	-0.298	0.033	0.770	0.271	1.046	1.663

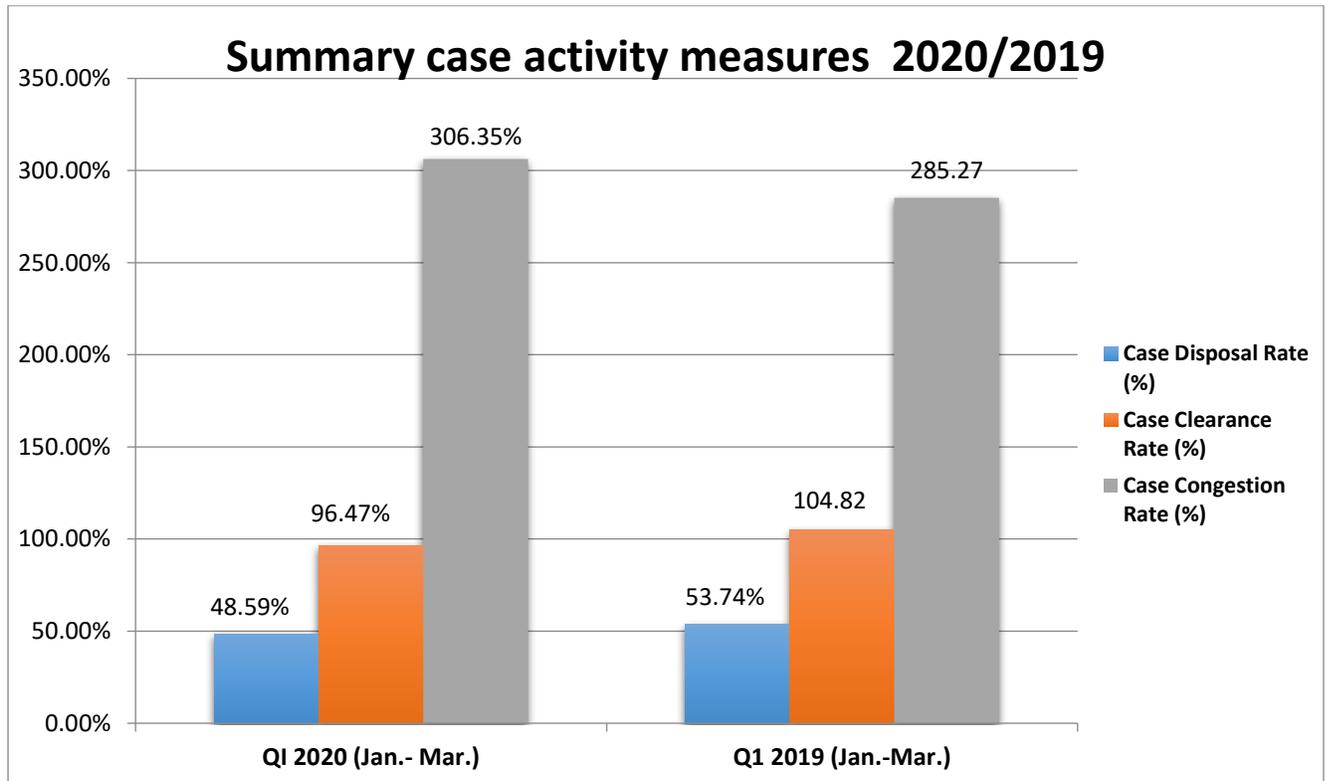
*Q1- Refers to quarter one (January to March of 2020 and 2019 respectively)

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

The table above provides a comparison of the case disposal rate, the case clearance rate and the case congestion rate for the first quarter of 2020 and 2019. The average case disposal rate for first quarter of 2020 was 48.59%, which was 5.15 percentage points decline below the 2019 weighted average rate of 53.74%. The case clearance rate of 96.47% for 2020 was 8.35 percentage points below the 104.82% recorded in the first quarter of 2019. The 2020 case congestion rate also deteriorated, moving 285.27% in the first quarter of 2019 to 306.35% in the current first quarter of 2020, a 21.08 percentage points fall. Ceteris paribus, there should be a roughly linear inverse association between the case clearance rates and the case congestion rates

as well as between the case disposal rates and the case congestion rate. This is more pronounced in the long run than in the short or medium terms.

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



The above graph provides a comparison of the overall case disposal, case clearance and case congestion rate for first quarter of 2020 and 2019. It is seen that there has been a worsening of all three metrics over the comparative period. The disposal rate moved from 53.74% to 48.59%, a fall of 5.15 percentage points. The case clearance rate moved from 104.82% in the first quarter of 2019 to 96.47% in the current 2020 first quarter. The Congestion rate also had a deteriorating result going up by 21.08 percentage points, which is an indication that cases are taking a longer time to disposition. The results here imply the existence of strong linear associations among the three measures.

Chart 2.0A: Comparison of the criminal case disposal rates between the first quarters of 2019 and 2020

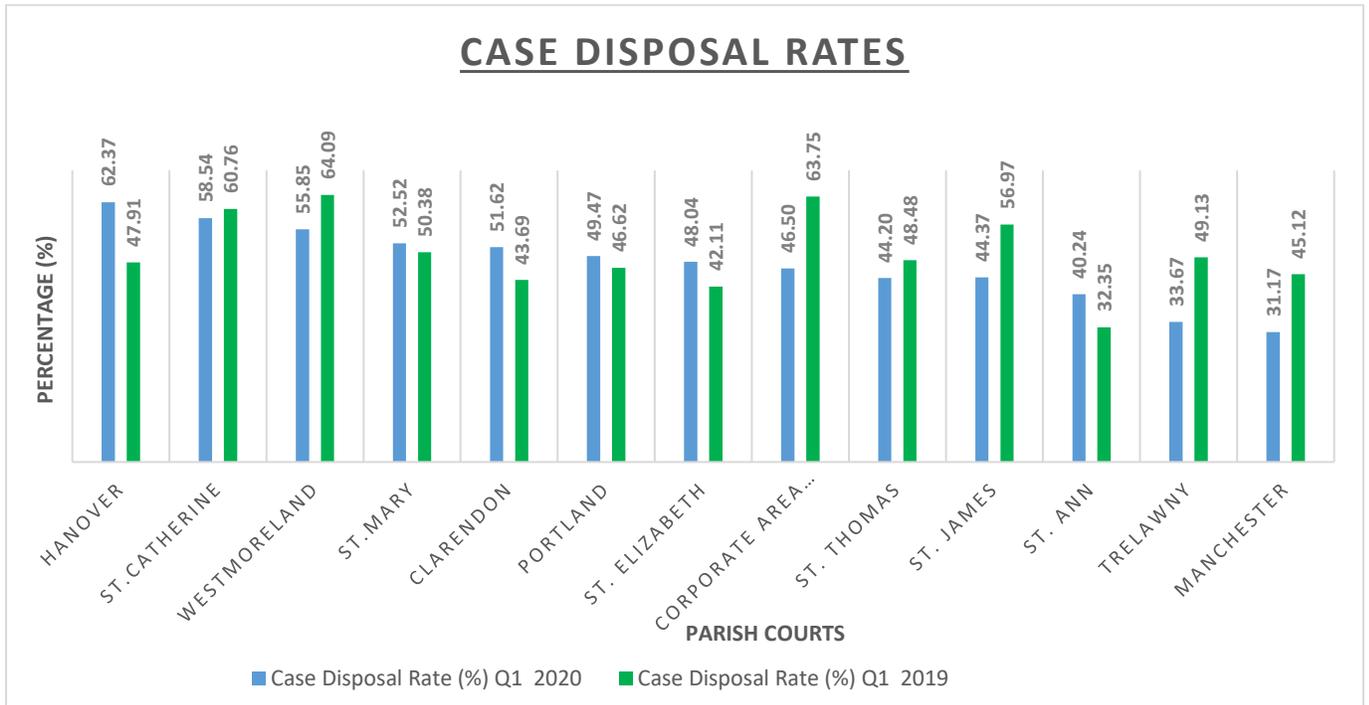


Chart 2.0B: Comparison of criminal case clearance rates across the parish courts for the first quarters of 2019 and 2020

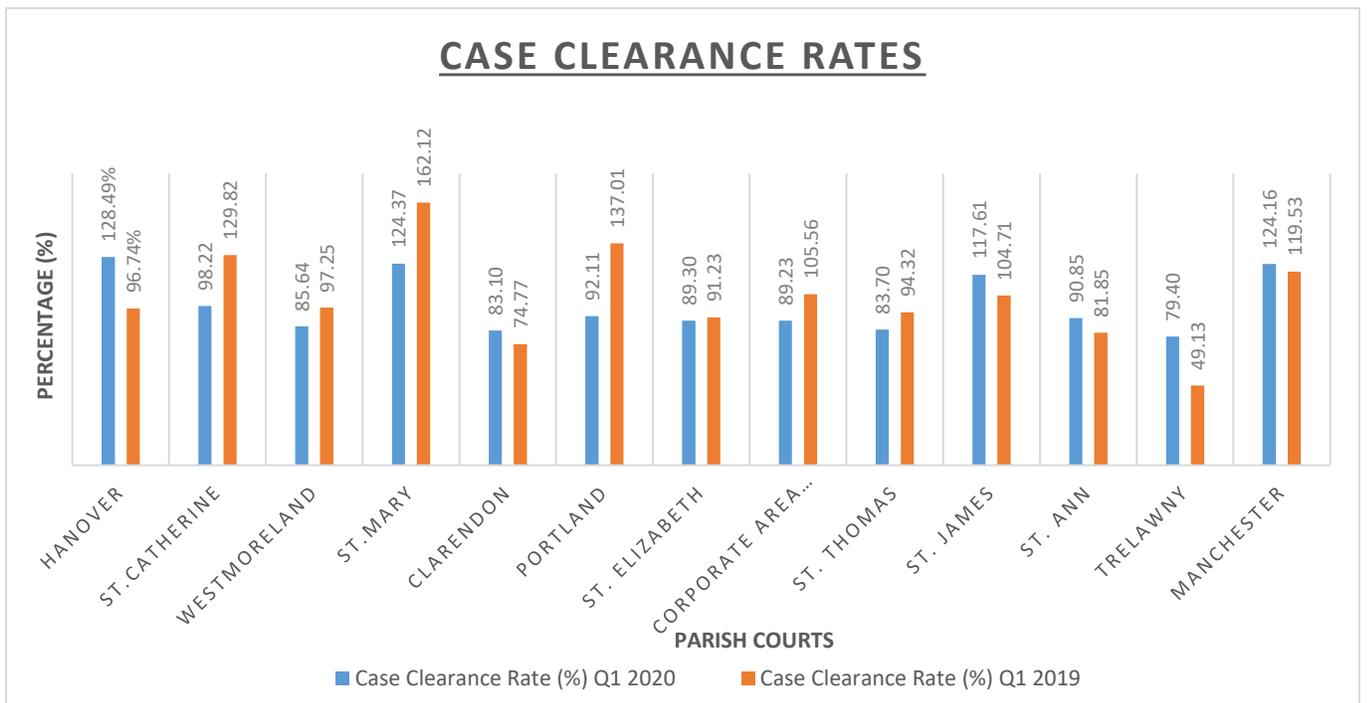


Chart 2.0C: Comparison of criminal case congestion rate across the parish courts for the first quarters of 2019 and 2020

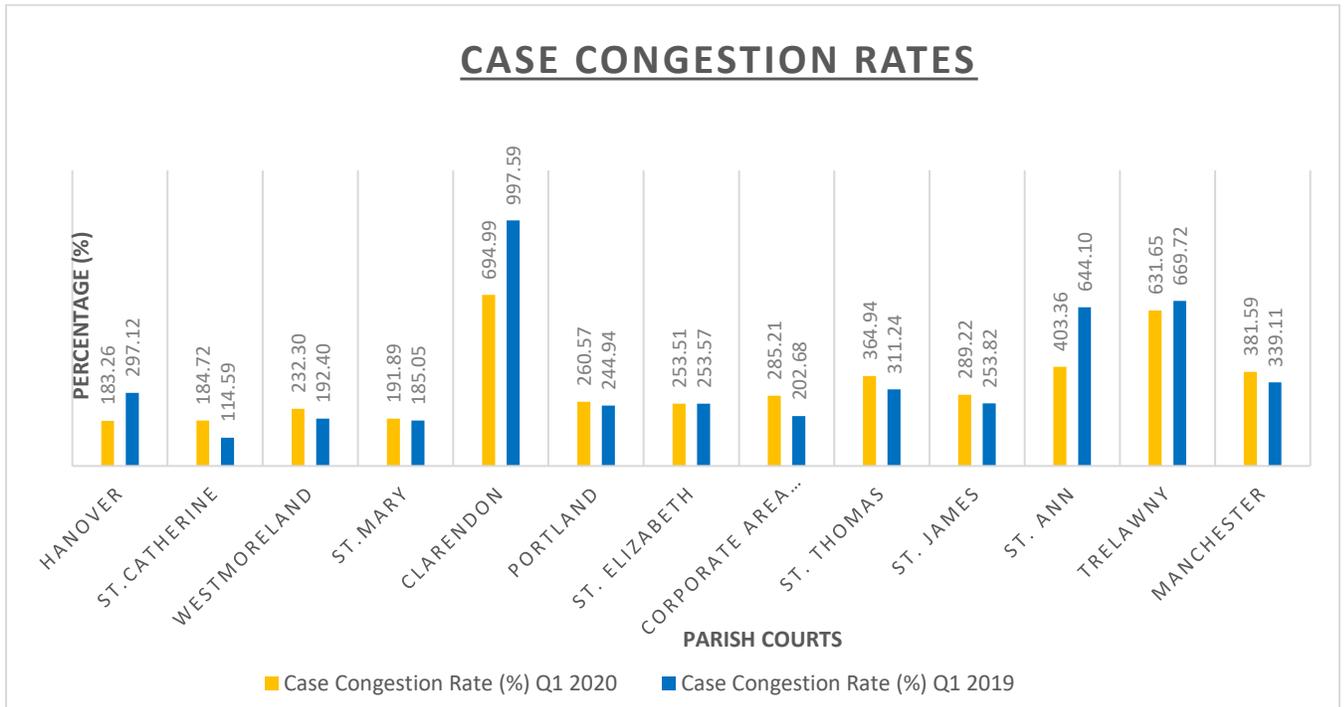


Table 4.0: Comparison of the trial certainty rates for the first quarters of 2019 and 2020

Parish Court	Trial certainty rate (%) Q1 (2020)	Trial certainty rate (%) Q1 (2019)
Westmoreland	76	100
Clarendon	77	100
St. Ann	66	100
Portland	97	100
St. James	95	98
Manchester	82	80
St. Elizabeth	92	91
St. Catherine	91	75
Trelawny	94	100
St. Mary	89	56
St. Thomas	99	75
Corporate Area Criminal	52	58
Hanover	76	28
Total/Average	84	82

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

Trial date adjournments linked to the suspension of court activity towards the end of March 2020 were isolated in computation of the trial certainty rate for the first quarter of 2020.

The trial date certainty rate provides a measure of the extent to which dates, which are set for trial, proceed on schedule without being delayed to start at some future date. The overall trial date certainty rate for the first quarter of 2020 was 84%, a 2-percentage points improvement when compared to the corresponding period in 2019. Five of the parish courts met the prescribed international performance standard of a rate between 92% and 100% in the quarter. Leading the way are the parish courts of St. Thomas with a trial certainty rate of 99%, Portland with 97%, St. James with 95% and Trelawny with 94%. The St. Catherine Parish Court fell just short of the international standard with a trial certainty rate of 91%, 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%. This is consistent with the push to significantly enhance the efficiency of the court system and hence the timely delivery of justice to the Jamaican citizenry. The attainment of this minimum threshold rate will depress the overall criminal case backlog in the Jamaican court system below 5%.

Table 5.0: Distribution of courtroom utilization rates across the Parish Courts of Jamaica for quarter ended March 31, 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	48.95	123.33	4.17	25.56	53.64	1.3
Westmoreland	68.27	306.67	1.67	48.63	64.24	0
Trelawny	51.99	281	4.17	38.25	25.24	1.1
St. Thomas	55.52	110.28	0.83	27.34	46.21	1
St. Mary	63.30	256.67	3.33	33.34	59.10	1
St. James	57.01	133.67	5	30.66	43.19	1.1
Corporate Area Criminal Court	55.51	125	5.67	26.22	55.80	1
St. Ann	80.95	225	3.33	33.67	64.51	1
Portland	62.48	255	0.56	41.31	49.46	2
Hanover	43.48	166.67	2.78	25.75	48.67	1.1

Clarendon	46.36	133.33	2	24.72	32.60	1.6
Manchester	62.29	195.83	1.39	29.36	43.60	1
St. Elizabeth	55.01	120	1	26.40	44.53	1
Overall Averages	57.78	187.11	2.76	31.63	48.52	1.09
Standard Deviation	9.94	69.86	1.67	7.27	11.42	0.44
Skewness	0.87	0.48	0.30	1.28	-0.49	-0.47

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the various parish courts in the first quarter of 2020. The courtroom utilization rate provides a measurement of the proportion of available hours for open court hearings in all courtroom (including outstations) which are actually utilized. If the usage of any courtroom exceeds the available hours, then the utilization rate will exceed 100% and the rate will fall below 100% if less than the available hours are utilized. The prescribed international standard for the courtroom utilization rate is 100%, which means that all hours allocated for court hearings in any court, on any given day should be utilized. The data suggests that as a whole, the parish courts of Jamaica performed well below this level in the first quarter of 2020. The overall average courtroom utilization rate across the parish courts in the quarter was 57.78%, which is an indication that on average roughly 58% of the available hours for court hearings were utilized across the parish courts in the first quarter of 2020 (excluding the days in which court operations were suspended due to the COVID- 19 pandemic). This result is roughly 2 percentage points lower than the closing figure in 2019. The parish courts recording the highest courtroom utilization rates for the first quarter are the St. Ann and Westmoreland Parish Courts with 80.95% and 68.27% respectively, followed by the St. Mary Parish Court with 63.30%. The Hanover and Clarendon Parish Courts with 43.48% and 46.36% respectively, had the lowest rates, while the St. Catherine Parish Court with 48.95% had the next lowest rate. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates is moderate, suggesting that on average the rates for the individual courts did not vary widely from the overall mean. This is affirmed by the

moderate positive skewness of the data. The data also isolates the courtroom utilization rate for night court sittings. A part of the designation of night courts is to bolster the capacity of the courts to hear and dispose of more cases in a timely manner. At an overall courtroom utilization rate of 48.52%, the night courts use 9.26 percentage points less of the allotted time than regular day court sittings. The St. Ann Parish Court with a night court utilization rate of 64.51% and the Westmoreland Parish Court with 64.24% ranked highest for the quarter, with the St. Mary Parish Court ranking next with 59.10%. At the lower end of the courtroom utilization rates for night court sittings were the parish courts of Trelawny (25.24%), Clarendon (32.60%) and St. James with 43.19%.

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 first quarter ended March 31, 2020

Parish Court	Indictment	Summary Matters	Lay Magistrates Sittings	Committal Proceedings	Tax	Miscellaneous	LRF	Traffic	NS	Total
Corporate Are Criminal	864	598	312	117	-	-	-	9	-	1900
St. Catherine	494	608	187	123	85	-	8	-	-	1505
Manchester	401	117	168	56	26	-	-	-	-	768
St. James	240	194	150	49	26	9	-	-	-	668
St. Ann	268	276	143	47	-	-	-	1	-	735
Westmoreland	295	375	98	78	32	-	-	-	-	878
Clarendon	223	186	95	52	89	-	-	-	-	645
Portland	209	109	56	28	-	-	-	-	-	402
St. Elizabeth	211	174	70	45	31	-	-	4	-	535

St. Mary	183	68	68	58	7	-	-	-	-	384
Trelawny	117	75	44	40	-	-	11	-	-	287
Hanover	140	62	43	23	-	-	-	-	-	268
St. Thomas	148	177	49	58	6	-	-	-	-	438
Total	3793	3019	1483	774	302	9	19	14	-	9413
Percentage	40.30%	32.07%	15.75%	8.22%	3.21%	0.10%	0.20%	0.15%	-	

*Total number of observations = 9413 **LRF means Law Reform Fraudulent Transaction, ***NS means not stated

The above table provides a breakdown of the different types of new charges filed in each parish court for the first quarter of 2020. For the quarter, 9,413 charges were filed across the parish courts, a decrease of approximately 8.29% when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2019. The largest proportion of these charges were filed in the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division (1900), the St. Catherine Parish Court (1,505), the Manchester Parish Court with (768) and the St. James Parish Court with 668 charges. The largest share of the charges were Indictments (40.30%); followed by Summary matters (32.07%), Lay Magistrates’ matters (15.75%) and Committal Proceedings with 8.22% of the total. The Corporate Area Court-Criminal Division accounted for the largest proportion of Indictments filed, followed by the parish courts of St. Catherine, Manchester and St. James. The St. Catherine Parish Court accounted for the largest share of summary matters filed, followed by the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division and the Westmoreland Parish Court. The largest proportion of Lay Magistrates’ matters was filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division followed by the parish courts of St. Catherine and Manchester. The St. Catherine Parish Court followed by the Corporate Area Criminal Court and the Westmoreland 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.

Distribution of types of offences filed in the first quarter of 2020**Table 7.1: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division in quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	207	10.91
Unlawful wounding	133	7.01
Exposing goods for sale	102	5.37
Possession of offensive weapon	93	4.90
Disorderly conduct	89	4.69
Total	624	32.88

Number of observations (N): 1898

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division for the first quarter of 2020. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 207 or 10.91% of the total incidence of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 133 or 7.01% and exposing goods for sale with 102 or 5.37% followed this. The top five is rounded off by possession of offensive weapon with 93 or 4.90% and disorderly conduct with 89 or 4.69% of the total charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 32.88% of the total incidence of charges at filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court in the quarter.

Table 7.2: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court-Criminal Division in quarter ended March 31, 2020

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Larceny as a servant	98	13.14
Assault occasioning bodily harm	84	11.26
Unlawful wounding	77	10.32
Exposing goods for sale	56	7.51
Threat	42	5.63
Total	357	47.86

Number of observations (N): 746

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court for the first quarter of 2020. It is shown that larceny as servant with 98 or 13.14% of the total incidence of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 84 or 11.26% and unlawful wounding with 77 or 10.32% followed this. The top five is rounded off by exposing goods for sale with 56 or 7.51% and threat with 42 or 5.63% of the total charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 47.86% of the total incidence of charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court in the quarter.

Table 7.3: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court-Criminal Division in quarter ended March 31, 2020

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	96	18.08
Unlawful wounding	45	8.47
Threat	39	7.34
Possession of ganja	30	5.65
Malicious Destruction of Property	23	4.33
Dealing in ganja	23	4.33
Total	256	48.21

Number of observations (N): 531

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in first quarter of 2020. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 96 or 18.08% of the total incidence of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 45 or 8.47% and threat with 39 or 7.34% followed this. The top five is rounded off by possession of ganja with 30 or 5.65% and malicious destruction of property and dealing in ganja with 23 or 4.33% each. The charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 48.21 % of the incidence of charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the quarter.

Table 7.4: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court-Criminal Division in quarter ended March 31, 2020

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	184	12.51
Possession of offensive weapon	180	12.24
Smoking in a public place	160	10.88
Unlawful wounding	96	6.53
Threat	74	5.03
Total	694	47.18

Number of observations (N): 1471

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the first quarter of 2020. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 184 or 12.51% of the total incidence of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Possession of offensive weapon with 180 or 12.24% and smoking in a public place with 160 or 10.88% followed this. Unlawful wounding with 96 or 6.53% and threat with 74 or 5.03% of the total charges filed round off the top five. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 47.18% of the total incidence of charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the quarter.

Table 7.5: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court-Criminal Division in quarter ended March 31, 2020

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Possession of offensive weapon	54	12.86
Unlawful wounding	34	8.10
Assault occasioning bodily harm	27	6.43
Possession of ganja	26	6.19
Smoking in a public place	26	6.19
Total	167	39.76

Number of observations (N): 420

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in the first quarter of 2020. It is shown that possession of offensive weapon with 54 or 12.86% of the total incidence of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 34 or 8.10% and Assault occasioning bodily harm with 27 or 6.43% followed this. The top five is rounded off by possession of ganja and smoking in a public place with 26 or 6.19% of the total charges each. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 39.76% of the incidence of charges filed in the quarter.

Table 7.6: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Portland Parish Court-Criminal Division in quarter ended March 31, 2020

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	66	16.42
Unlawful wounding	59	14.68
Threat	41	10.20
Possession of an offensive weapon	34	8.46
Exposing goods for sale	25	6.22
Total	225	55.97

Number of observations (N): 402

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Portland Parish Court in the first quarter of 2020. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 66 or 16.42% of the total incidence of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 59 or 14.68% and threat with 41 or 10.20% followed this. The top five is rounded off by possession of an offensive weapon with 34 or 8.46% and exposing goods for sale with 25 or 6.22% of the total charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 55.97% of the total incidence of charges filed in the quarter.

Table 7.7: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court-Criminal Division in quarter ended March 31, 2020

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Unlawful wounding	55	14.99
Assault occasioning bodily harm	38	10.35
Threat	35	9.53
Possession of ganja	21	5.72
Dealing in ganja	18	4.90
Total	167	45.50

Number of observations (N): 367

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the first quarter of 2020. It is shown that unlawful wounding with 55 or 14.99% of the total incidence of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 38 or 10.35% and threat with 35 or 9.53% followed this. The top five is rounded off by possession of ganja with 21 or 5.72% and dealing in ganja with 18 or 4.90% of the charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 45.50% of the total incidence of charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the quarter.

Table 7.8: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. James Parish Court-Criminal Division in quarter ended March 31, 2020

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	67	10.67
Possession of offensive weapon	55	8.76
Unlawful wounding	52	8.28
Threat	49	7.80
Malicious destruction of property	35	5.57
Total	258	41.08

Number of observations (N): 628

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges at the St. James Parish Court in first quarter of 2020. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 67 or 10.67% of the total incidence of charges is the most frequently occurring charge.

Possession of an offensive weapon with 55 or 8.76% and unlawful wounding with 52 or 8.28% followed this. The top five is rounded off by threat with 49 or 7.80% and malicious destruction of property with 35 or 5.57% of the total charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 41.08% of the incidences of charges filed in quarter at the St. James Parish Court.

Table 7.9: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Criminal Division in quarter ended March 31, 2020

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	111	13.25
Possession of offensive weapon	59	7.04
Unlawful wounding	53	6.32
Possession of ganja	51	6.09
Malicious Destruction of Property	43	5.13
Total	317	37.83

Number of observations (N): 838

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the first quarter of 2020. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 111 or 13.25% of the total incidence of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Possession of offensive weapon with 59 or 7.04% and unlawful wounding with 53 or 6.32% followed this. Possession of ganja with 51 or 6.09% and malicious destruction of property with 43 or 5.13% of the total charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 37.83% of the total incidence of charges filed in the quarter at the Westmoreland Parish Court.

Table 7.10: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court-Criminal Division in quarter ended March 31, 2020

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Unlawful wounding	44	17.25
Assault occasioning bodily harm	44	17.25
Malicious destruction of property	26	10.20
Threat	18	7.06
Assault at common law	13	5.10
Total	145	56.86

Number of observations (N): 255

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court for the first quarter of 2020. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm and unlawful wounding each with 44 or 17.25% of the total incidence of charges are the most frequently occurring charges. Malicious destruction of property with 26 or 10.20% followed this while threat with 18 or 7.06% and assault at common law with 13 or 5.10% of the total charges rounds off the top five. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 56.86% of the total incidence of charges filed in the quarter.

Table 7.11: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court-Criminal Division in quarter ended March 31, 2020

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	76	14.90
Unlawful wounding	53	10.39
Possession of offensive weapon	48	9.41
Threat	43	8.43
Malicious destruction of property	24	4.71
Total	244	47.84

Number of observations (N): 510

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court in the first quarter of 2020. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 76 or 14.90% of the total incidence of charges is the most frequently occurring

charge. Unlawful wounding with 53 or 10.39% and possession of offensive weapon with 48 or 9.41% followed this. Threat with 43 or 8.43% and malicious destruction of property with 24 or 4.71% of the total charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 47.84% of the total incidence of charges filed in the quarter at the St. Elizabeth parish Court.

Table 7.12: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court-Criminal Division in quarter ended March 31, 2020

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Threat	111	16.77
Assault occasioning bodily harm	67	10.12
Unlawful wounding	61	9.21
Littering in a public place	47	7.10
Illegal possession of firearm	22	3.32
Total	308	46.53

Number of observations (N): 662

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the first quarter of 2020. It is shown that threat with 111 or 16.77% of the total incidence of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 67 or 10.12% and unlawful wounding with 61 or 9.21% followed this. Littering in a public place with 47 or 7.10% and illegal possession of firearm with 22 or 3.32% of the total charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 46.53% of the total incidence of charges filed in the quarter at the St. Ann Parish Court.

Table 7.13: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court-Criminal Division in quarter ended March 31, 2020

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Unlawful wounding	44	14.86
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	34	11.49
Possession of offensive Weapon	26	8.78
Malicious destruction of property	15	5.07
Possession of ganja	14	4.73
Total	133	44.93

Number of observations (N): 296

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the first quarter of 2020. It is shown that Unlawful wounding with 44 or 14.86% of the total incidence of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 34 or 11.49% and possession of offensive weapon with 26 or 8.78% followed this. Malicious destruction of property with 15 or 5.07% and possession of ganja with 14 or 4.73% of the total charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 44.93% of the total incidence of charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the quarter.

Table 8.0: Conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard in the quarter ended March 31, 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	2782	82	1848	1930	69.37
Indictment	3431	108	617	725	21.13

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard across all parish courts in the first 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 69.37% for the quarter. The estimated conviction rate for indictment matters was significantly lower at 21.13% 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 quarter ended March 31, 2019

Charge	Count	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	1101	12.20
Unlawful wounding	806	8.93
Possession of offensive weapon	629	6.97
Threat	558	6.18
Malicious destruction of property	399	4.42
Possession of ganja	316	3.50
Exposing goods for sale	313	3.47
Smoking in a public place	262	2.90
Dealing in ganja	240	2.66
Disorderly conduct	239	2.65
Total	4863	53.88

Number of observations (N): 9024

The above table shows the distribution of the ten most commonly occurring charges across all parish courts for the first quarter of 2020. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 1101 or 12.2% of the total number of charges is the most frequently occurring. Unlawful wounding with 806 or 8.93% and possession of an offensive weapon with 629 or 6.97% followed this. The top five is rounded off by threat with 558 or 6.18% and malicious destruction of property with 399 or 4.42% of the total number of charges filed in the quarter. These ten most frequently occurring types of charges account for approximately 53.88% of the total incidence of charges filed in the quarter.

Table 10.0: Conviction rate for leading occurring charges heard in the quarter ended March 31, 2020

Type of Offence	Number of disposed matters	Number of guilty verdicts	Number of guilty pleas	Aggregate number of guilty outcomes	Estimated conviction rate (%)
Smoking in a public place	191	1	180	181	94.76
Possession of offensive weapon	546	6	500	506	92.67
Exposing goods for sale	303	5	268	273	90.10
Possession of ganja	292	7	232	239	81.85
Dealing in ganja	228	4	151	155	67.98
Disorderly conduct	187	11	110	121	64.71
Threat	307	22	35	57	18.57
Malicious destruction of property	407	5	55	60	14.74
Unlawful wounding	785	25	89	114	14.52
Assault occasioning bodily harm	969	22	95	117	12.07

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for the ten leading charges across all parish courts in the first quarter of 2020. It is shown that smoking in a public place had the highest estimated conviction rate with 94.76%. Possession of offensive weapon with 92.67% and exposing goods for sale with 90.10% closely followed this. The top five is rounded off by possession of ganja with an estimated conviction rate of 81.85% and dealing in ganja with 67.98%. Disorderly conduct also had an estimated conviction rate above 50% with a rate of 64.71%. Assault occasioning bodily harm had the lowest estimated conviction rate with 12.07%, followed closely by unlawful wounding with 14.52%. Malicious destruction of property with 14.74% and threat with an estimated conviction rate of 18.57% had the next lowest conviction rates on the list.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the average age of active charges originating in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020

Parish Court	Average age of active charges (days)
Clarendon	37
Trelawny	46
Portland	42
St. Mary	48
Hanover	40
Westmoreland	43
St. Catherine	40
St. Elizabeth	41
St. Ann	41
St. James	45
St. Thomas	50
Corporate Area Criminal	38
Manchester	55
Overall Average	43.54
Standard Deviation	5.13
Skewness	0.96

The above table shows the average age of active charges originating in the first quarter of 2020, for charges originating in said quarter. The overall average age of active matters originating in the quarter was approximately 44 days or roughly 1.5 months, roughly 19 days shorter than the average in the first quarter of 2019. The parish courts of Clarendon, the Corporate Area, Hanover, and St. Catherine have the lowest averages on the list. On the contrary, the highest averages were observed for in the parish courts of Manchester, St. Thomas and St. Mary. 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. The

standard deviation of the scores was low (5 days), an indication that the individual values for the parish courts were on average close to the overall mean. The weak positive skewness shown is an indication that slightly more of the average age of active cases for the various courts fell below the overall mean.

Table 12.0: Average age of charges disposed for matters originating in the quarter ended March 31, 2019

Parish Court	Average age of disposed charges (days)
Clarendon	35
Trelawny	17
Portland	32
St. Mary	31
Hanover	23
Westmoreland	19
St. Catherine	27
St. Elizabeth	29
St. Ann	28
St. James	30
St. Thomas	22
Corporate Area Criminal	24
Manchester	31
Overall Average	26.77
Standard Deviation	5.39
Skewness	-0.43

The above table shows that the average time taken to dispose of criminal cases filed in the first quarter of 2020, which were filed in the Parish Courts, is 26.77 days or just under a month. This is 10.38 days less than time taken to dispose of cases originating in the first quarter of 2019, which were disposed. The standard deviation of roughly 5.39 days is an indication that the individual times to disposition for the individual parish courts were on average close to the overall mean. The scores ranged from a low of roughly 17 days at the Trelawny to a high of 35 days for the Clarendon Parish Court. The low negative skewness of roughly -0.43 is an indication that slightly more of the times to disposition fell above the overall series average.

Table 13.0: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the quarter ended March 31, 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	6844 (46.0%)	3246 (21.8%)	1715 (11.5%)	1119 (7.5%)	1969 (13.2%)	14893 (100%)
St. Catherine	3769 (38.4%)	2450 (24.9%)	1315 (13.4%)	749 (7.6%)	1539 (15.7%)	9822 (100%)
St. James	2982 (41.1%)	1629 (22.4%)	832 (11.5%)	645 (8.9%)	1170 (16.1%)	7258 (100%)
Manchester	1518 (27.6)	1108 (20.2%)	866 (15.8%)	649 (11.8%)	1350 (24.6%)	5491 (100%)
Westmoreland	2867 (57.5%)	975 (19.5%)	468 (9.4%)	293 (5.9%)	387 (7.8%)	4990 (100%)
St. Ann	1580 (29.9%)	1121 (21.2%)	629 (11.9%)	520 (9.8%)	1443 (27.3%)	5293 (100%)
Clarendon	2465 (46.5%)	1255 (23.7%)	551 (10.4%)	338 (6.4%)	693 (13.1%)	5302 (100%)
St. Thomas	831 (32.5%)	642 (25.1%)	371 (14.5%)	295 (11.5%)	417 (16.3%)	2556 (100%)
Portland	1287 (35.8%)	848 (23.6%)	437 (12.2%)	326 (9.1%)	697 (19.4%)	3595 (100%)
St. Mary	1620 (38.5%)	841 (20.0%)	553 (13.1%)	282 (6.7%)	917 (21.8%)	4213 (100%)
St. Elizabeth	1598 (40.8%)	1023 (26.1%)	511 (13.0%)	265 (6.8%)	523 (13.3%)	3920 (100%)
Trelawny	1016 (41.6%)	517 (21.2%)	306 (12.5%)	221 (9.0%)	383 (15.7%)	2443 (100%)
Hanover	1320 (50.1%)	630 (23.9%)	265 (10.1%)	157 (6.0%)	261 (9.9%)	2633 (100%)
% of Total	41.01%	22.49%	12.18%	8.09%	16.23%	100.00%
Average	2284	1253	678	451	904	5570
Standard Deviation	1620	783	419	273	542	3468
Skewness	2.09	1.78	1.60	1.35	0.62	1.88

Number of charges sampled (N) = 72, 409

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least a 42-month period over September 2016 – March 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 42 consecutive months over the period September 2016 to March 2020.

The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed of in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 41.01% 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, 83.77% 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 weak positive 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 14.0: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at the quarter ended March 31, 2020

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Criminal	169.79	1	101	188.39	1.87	1	1184	14893
St. Catherine	220.08	63	122	338.48	6.01	1	5321	9822
St. James	194.75	49	117	210.27	2.03	1	1454	7258
Manchester	266.67	63	186	298.46	6.84	1	9044	5491
Westmoreland	128.45	28	76	156.70	3.57	1	1974	4990
St. Ann	271.12	63	172	310.60	6.19	1	8875	5293
Clarendon	163.07	63	96.50	181.82	1.95	1	1179	5302
St. Thomas	202.26	119	140	184.71	1.57	1	1191	2556
Portland	250.34	63	136	339.17	3.41	1	3702	3595
St. Mary	270.39	28	130	393.60	4.07	1	5684	4213
St. Elizabeth	183.04	28	112	216.73	2.79	1	1568	3920

Trelawny	192.38	28	114	201.06	1.70	1	1115	2443
Hanover	165.88	35	87	249.67	4.82	1	2406	2633
Total/Average	206.02	48.54	122.27	251.51	3.60	1.00	3438.23	5569.92
Standard Deviation	46.42	29.07	31.36	75.77	1.86	0.00	2899.98	3467.60
Skewness	0.18	0.88	0.70	0.57	0.58	0.00	1.17	1.88

Number of charges sampled (N) = 72, 409

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least a 39-month period over September 2016 – March 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 March 31, 2019. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 42-month period over September 2016 – March 2019 for most parish courts and it should be noted that these descriptive statistics are for matters disposed over that sample period. The output produces an estimated weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Criminal Division) of approximately 203 days, roughly the same as the of the corresponding quarter in 2019. The skewness of these times to disposition is a very low positive 0.18, suggesting that these times were clustered around the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the period, the parish courts of Westmoreland (128 days), Clarendon (163 days) and Hanover (166 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Ann (271 days), St. Mary (270 days) and Manchester (267 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters disposed over the period. The average variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts is however wide as shown by the moderately high standard deviation (46.42), suggesting inconsistencies in performances on this measure. An interesting finding is that the minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 1 day; however, the maximum times are substantially larger, in some cases several years. This result continues to be both a reflection of the relative complexity of cases entering open court over the period as well as the relative strength of case management across

the various parish courts. The maximum times to disposition in the sample ranged from a low of 1115 days (37.17 months) in the Trelawny Parish Court to a high of 9044 days (25.12 years) in the Manchester Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is moderately positive 1.17, 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 72409 matters.

Methods of Disposition and Conviction Rate

Table 15.0: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020

Parish Court	Guilty Plea	Dismissed	Not Guilty Verdict	Transferred	Mediated Settlement	Guilty Verdict	Committed to Circuit Court	Total
St. Catherine	559	311	34	104	247	17	84	1356
Corporate Area Criminal	846	466	110	42	97	53	67	1681
Westmoreland	272	226	78	16	48	6	56	702
St. James	245	1	179	6	62	34	51	578
Manchester	194	209	3	70	105	18	95	694
Clarendon	197	13	190	33	86	10	76	605
St. Elizabeth	194	18	99	9	110	24	61	515
Trelawny	84	32	70	1	4	27	9	227
Hanover	72	79	86	9	18	27	42	333
Portland	65	43	120	8	28	24	10	298
St. Mary	148	132	9	0	90	6	94	479
St. Thomas	152	14	37	11	27	11	45	297
St. Ann	100	215	20	57	42	5	8	447
Total	3128	1759	1035	366	964	262	698	8212
Percentage of total	38.09%	21.42%	12.60%	4.46%	11.74%	3.19%	8.50%	100.00%

Total sample size: 8,212

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts for the first 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 38.09% of the sample, followed by matters dismissed with 21.42% and not guilty verdicts with 12.60%. Mediated

settlements with 11.74%, matters committed to Circuit Court with 8.50%, guilty verdicts with 3.19% and matters transferred with 4.46% account for the remaining disposals in the quarter. The combined 41.28% of the cases disposed of by way of guilty outcomes represent the criminal conviction rate in the parish courts for the quarter. This represents a decline of 18.59 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 March 31, 2020

Reasons for Adjournment	Count	Percentage (%)
Defendant Not Appearing (DNA) warrant issued	503	16.03
Referred to mediation*	393	12.52
File to be completed	367	11.70
Re-issue application	251	8.00
Medical report unavailable	118	3.76
For disclosure	102	3.25
Legal representative to be settled	89	2.84
Subpoena investigating officer	86	2.74
Fingerprint outstanding	79	2.52
Total	1918	63.36

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance =3138)

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 3,138 reasons for adjournments/continuance in the first quarter of 2020 across all parish courts. The largest proportion (16.03%) were because of adjournments due to the non-appearance of the accused, leading to the issuing of warrants. Adjournments for referrals to mediation with 12.52% and adjournments for files to be completed with 11.70% rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts. Adjournments for the re-issue of applications with 8% and medical report unavailable with 3.76%,

round of the top five reasons for adjournment for the quarter. The top five reasons for adjournment were also featured in the top five for the first quarter of 2019. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 63.36% 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 first quarter of 2020, the case file integrity rate for criminal matters across the parish courts was 84.89% as 15.11% 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 11.70% 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 lies 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 March 31, 2020

Reasons for Continuance	Count	Percentage (%)
Sentencing	345	10.99
Bail application	108	3.44
Part heard	10	0.32
Sub Total	463	14.75

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 3138)

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 10.99% of the total incidence of adjournments/continuance sampled.

Chapter 2.0: Case Demographics

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

Table 17.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender for the first quarter ended April 03, 2020

	Male		Female		Total	
Charge	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Assault occasion bodily harm	847	77.07	252	22.93	1099	100
Unlawful wounding	631	78.39	174	21.61	805	100
Possession of offensive weapon	594	94.89	32	5.11	626	100
Threat	415	75.18	137	24.82	552	100
Malicious destruction of property	307	77.33	90	22.67	397	100
Possession of ganja	277	87.66	39	12.34	316	100
Exposing goods for sale	248	79.23	65	20.77	313	100
Dealing in ganja	211	87.92	29	12.08	240	100
Smoking in a public place	249	95.40	12	4.60	261	100
Disorderly conduct	168	70.59	70	29.41	238	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) = 4,847**

The above table provides a sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020. Based on the data shown in chart 2.0, 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 are assault occasioning

bodily harm, unlawful wounding, and possession of ganja for which over 75% of the offenders were male. It is shown that smoking in a public place with 95.40% of offenders being male and possession of an offensive weapon with 94.89% had the most significant incidence of offenders being male for the year. 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 first 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 new case activity statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Westmoreland for the quarter ended March 31, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2020	Number of new cases disposed in the first quarter of 2020	Number of new cases which became inactive in the first quarter of 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	249	95	11	44.15	42.57
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1	0	0	0.18	0.00
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	1	0	0	0.18	0.00
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	43	4	0	7.62	9.30
Night Court	198	158	16	35.11	87.88
Whithorn (Lay Magistrates)	6	1	0	1.06	16.67
Whithorn	66	34	3	11.70	56.06
Total/Average	564	292	30	100	57.09

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of criminal cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 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 and the night court in Savanna La Mar accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 249 (44.15%) and 198 (35.11%) matters respectively. The number of matters heard in courtroom number one decreased by 1.56% when compared to the 43.47% in the similar quarter of 2019. The disposal rate for this courtroom fell by 8.02 percentage points when compared to the 50.59% reported in the corresponding period in 2019. The Whithorn outstation with 66 or 11.70% of new matters heard in the parish rank next, followed by Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main court with 43 matters or 7.62%. In terms of cases disposed, night court sittings in Savanna-La-Mar with 158 cases account for the highest absolute share of disposals, relative to the number of new cases filed and had the highest disposal rate of 87.88%. Despite the increase of 9 cases above the 149 cases recorded in the similar quarter of 2019 and a 1.6 percentage point increase in the proportion of new cases filed, there was a decline in the disposal rate of 5.97 percentage points down from the 93.85% recorded in the corresponding period in 2019. The outstation in Whithorn and courtroom number one at the main courthouse with rates 56.06% and 42.57% respectively rounds off the top three highest disposal rates for quarter one 2020.

The single outstation in Westmoreland accounted for 12.76% of the total number of new cases heard, a slight increase of 0.75 percentage point when compared to the 12.01% recorded in the corresponding 2019 quarter one period. The main courthouse accounted for the remaining 87.24%, an increase of 0.73-percentage point when compared to quarter 1 of 2019.

Not all new cases that were first heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 249 heard in the courtroom number one, 11 were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstations. Nine (9) of these were disposed at night court sittings, while courtrooms 2 and 3 accounted for 1 matter each. There were 198 new cases heard in night court sittings, of which 8 were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstations. Four cases were disposed of at Lay Magistrate's sittings, while courtrooms two and three accounted for 3 and 2 cases respectively.

Table 18.2: Aggregate new case activist statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Corporate Area for the quarter ended March 31, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in the first quarter of 2020	Number of new cases which became inactive in the first quarter of 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	931	364	107	83.57	50.59
Courtroom #6 (main courthouse)	35	1	0	3.14	2.86
Courtroom #7 (main courthouse)	28	0	0	2.51	0.00
Courtroom #8 (main courthouse)	5	1	0	0.45	20.00
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	103	43	11	9.25	52.43
Night Court (main courthouse)	1	0	0	0.09	0.00
Gordon Town	11	1	0	0.99	9.09
Total/Average	1114	410	118	100.00	47.40

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of new cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 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 accounted for the highest proportion of new cases filed in the quarter with 83.57% of the total. The Lay Magistrates' Court with roughly 9.25%

follows this and courtroom number 6 with 3.14%, rounding off the top three proportion of new cases filed in the quarter. Courtroom number two accounts for the largest absolute share of cases disposed in quarter one 2020 with 364 cases and a disposal rate of 50.59%. When compared to the corresponding 2019 quarter one period, courtroom number two also accounted for the largest absolute share of cases disposed with 1393 matters and a disposal rate of 68.05%. This represents a decline of 462 new cases filed and 17.05 percentage points in the disposal rate. The Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse accounts for the second largest share of disposed cases with 43 cases and the highest disposal rate of 52.43%. Courtroom number eight rounds off the top three highest disposal rates with 20%. The main courthouse in Half Way Tree accounted for 99.01% of the total number of new cases heard in 2020 while the less than 1% remaining were accounted for by the single outstation (Gordon Town).

Not all new cases that were first heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the new 931 cases first heard in courtroom two, 160 were disposed in other courtrooms. Night court sittings accounted for 30 of these disposed cases, courtroom 8 disposed of 51 cases, courtroom 4 accounted for 28 of these cases and fast track court disposed of the remaining 27 cases. Courtrooms 5 and 3 disposed of 10 and 7 cases respectively, while Lay Magistrates' sittings accounted for two cases. Courtroom 6 and the plea and case management court accounted for one case each. Of the 35 new cases heard in courtroom number 6, night court sittings and courtroom 7 accounted for one each of the disposals. Two of the 103 cases heard at night court sittings were disposed in courtroom number two. Of the 11 new cases heard at the Gordon Town outstation, 3 were disposed of at night court sittings. The single new case, which had its first hearing in the night court, was disposed of courtroom number two.

Table 18.3: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. James for the quarter ended March 31, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2020	Number of new cases disposed of in the first quarter of 2020	Number of new cases filed which became inactive in the first quarter of 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	3	1	0	0.76	33.33
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	346	123	28	87.59	43.64
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	24	11	9	6.08	83.33
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	2	0	0	0.51	0.00
Cambridge Outstation	20	8	1	5.06	45.00
Total/Average	*395	143	38	100.00	45.82

**This figure represents a sample of all new cases filed in the first quarter of 2020.*

The above table summarizes the sampling distribution of the movement of cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 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 these courtrooms and outstations. Courtroom 2 at the main courthouse had the largest number of new cases filed with 346 cases, which is 193 cases less than the 539 cases reported in the first quarter of 2019. The sample also shows that courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse in Montego Bay accounts for the highest share of new cases heard with 87.59%, 3 percentage points below the 90.59% recorded in the corresponding 2019 period. This was followed by courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse with 6.08% of the sample, and Cambridge outstation with 5.06% followed. The main courthouse in Montego Bay, accounts for 94.94% of the new cases heard in 2020, 5.06 percentage points lower than the first quarter of 2019. The remaining 5.06% was accounted for by the sole outstation (Cambridge).

As mentioned not all new cases that were first heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the sample of 346 new cases heard in courtroom number two, 20 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstation. Thirteen (13) of these new cases were disposed in courtroom 3, three (3) in courtroom one, two (2) in courtroom 4 and one (1) at the outstation in Cambridge. Of the twenty-four (24) new cases that were heard in courtroom three, one (1) was disposed of in courtroom number 2.

Table 18.4: Aggregate new case activity statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Catherine for the quarter ended March 31, 2020.

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2020	Number of new cases disposed in the first quarter of 2020	Number of new cases filed which became inactive in the first quarter of 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	373	151	24	36.82	46.92
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	40	20	7	3.95	67.50
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	3	0	0	0.30	0.00
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	16	6	0	1.58	37.50
Courtroom #5 (main courthouse)	4	0	0	0.39	0.00
Children's Court	41	18	0	4.05	43.90
Lay Magistrates' Court	50	1	26	4.94	54.00
Portmore #1 (Night Court)	267	185	41	26.36	84.64
Linstead #1 (Lay Magistrates)	20	0	3	1.97	15.00
Linstead #1	105	58	6	10.37	60.95
Old Harbour (Lay Magistrates)	9	1	4	0.89	55.56
Old Harbour #1	84	42	3	8.29	53.57
Portmore #1	1	0	0	0.10	0.00
Total/Average	1013	482	114	100.00	58.84

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 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 Night Court sittings at the Portmore outstation accounts for the largest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 36.82% and 26.36% respectively. The outstation in Linstead with 10.37% of the new cases heard ranks next.

In terms of cases disposed, night court sittings at the Portmore outstation accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 185 cases, 163 cases more than the 22 recorded in the first quarter of 2019, and had the highest disposal rate of 84.64% an increase of 4.64 percentage points when compared to the 80% recorded in 2019. Courtroom number 2 and the outstation in Linstead followed with disposal rates of 67.50% and 60.95% respectively. Evidently, the outstations in Portmore not only carry a significant proportion of the new caseload but also appears to be relatively productive with the disposition of cases. The main courthouse in Spanish Town accounts for 47.98% of the total number of new cases heard in 2020, 15.47 percentage points below the 63.45% recorded in the corresponding 2019 quarter. The outstations combined accounted for the remaining 52.02%.

Not all new cases that were first heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 373 new cases disposed of in courtroom 1, 35 were disposed in other courtrooms/outstation. Eleven of these cases were disposed in courtroom 2, seven (7) each were disposed in courtroom numbers 3 and 5. Another (6) of these cases were disposed in courtroom 4, two were disposed of at Lay Magistrates' sittings while night court sittings and the outstation in Linstead accounted for 1 case each. Of the 40 new cases heard in courtroom number 2, four

(4) were disposed of in courtroom 1. Three (3) cases were heard in courtroom 3 of this amount 3 were disposed of in courtroom number one. Of the 16 new cases heard in courtroom 4, courtrooms 1 and 3 each accounted for 1 case disposal. One hundred and five (105) new cases were heard at the Linstead outstation; of this amount, five were disposed in other courtrooms/outstations, 4 at Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Linstead outstation and 1 in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse. Of the 84 new cases in courtroom 1 at the Old Harbour outstation, five were disposed in other courtrooms/outstations. Courtrooms 4 and 1 accounted for two cases each of these disposals while Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Old Harbour outstation accounted for the other.

18.5: Aggregate new case activity statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Thomas for the quarter ended March 31, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2020	Number of new cases disposed in the first quarter of 2020	Number of new cases filed which became inactive in the first quarter of 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Children's Court	20	0		7.60	0.00
Courtroom #1 (main courtroom)	101	45	7	38.40	51.49
Courtroom #2 (main courtroom)	85	38	5	32.32	50.59
Lay Magistrates' Court-Yallahs	2	0	0	0.76	0.00
Yallahs	55	26	0	20.91	47.27
Total/Average	*263	109	12	100	46.01

**This is a sample of the total number of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2020*

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The data shows decisively that matters entered in courtroom numbers 1 and 2 at the main court in Morant Bay accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 38.40% and 32.32% respectively. Courtroom

number 1 also accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 45 matters and the highest disposal rate of 51.49%. When compared to the corresponding 2019 period, this represents a decline of 49 cases or 52.13% below the 94 cases disposed in 2019 and a 1.45 percentage points decrease in the disposal rate. Courtroom number 2 at the main court and the outstation in Yallahs with disposal rates of 50.59% (compared to 46.67% in 2019) and 47.27% (compared to 48.72% in 2019) respectively accounts for the second and third highest disposal rates respectively.

The main courthouse in Morant Bay accounted for 78.33% of the new cases heard in 2020, a decline of 5.26 percentage points when compared to the 83.59% recorded in the corresponding 2019 period. The remaining 21.67% was accounted for by the Yallahs outstation, an increase of 5.26 percentage points when compared to the 16.41% in the corresponding quarter one of 2019. As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 101 new cases heard in courtroom 1, six (6) were disposed in courtroom number 2. Of the 85 new cases heard in courtroom 2, three (3) were disposed in other courtrooms/outstations. Courtroom 1 accounted for one of these disposals while the outstation in Yallahs disposed of the remaining two cases. Fifty-five (55) cases were heard at the outstation in Yallahs, one of which was disposed via night court sittings.

Table 18.6: Aggregate new case activity statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Trelawny for the quarter ended March 31, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2020	Number of new cases disposed in the first quarter of 2020	Number of new cases filed which became inactive in the first quarter of 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
CH-Clarks Town (Children's Court)	3	0	0	1.51	0.00
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	13	4	0	6.53	30.77
Falmouth	99	37	0	49.75	37.37
Falmouth (Lay Magistrates)	4	0	0	2.01	0.00
Ulster Spring	38	11	0	19.10	28.95
Ulster Spring (Lay Magistrates')	1	0	0	0.50	0.00
Clarks Town (Lay Magistrates')	3	2	0	1.51	66.67
Clarks Town #1	38	16	0	19.10	42.11
Total/Average	199	70	0	100.00	35.18

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the second quarter ended March 31, 2020 at the Trelawny Parish Court. The data shows decisively that matters entered in the Falmouth accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 49.75%. The Ulster Spring outstation and Lay Magistrates sittings at the Clarks Town outstation with 19.10% each of the new cases filed ranks next. However, in the Falmouth court there was a decline of 7.94 percentage points when compared to the 57.69% recorded in the corresponding the first quarter of 2019 while on the contrary there was an increase of 6.16 percentage points in the Ulster Spring outstation when compared to the 12.94 recorded in the similar first quarter of 2019. The Falmouth Court accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 37 matters and one of the highest disposal rates of 37.37%. Although the absolute numbers are proportionately low, Lay Magistrates sittings in Clarks Town and courtroom number 1 at the Clarks Town outstation rank among the highest disposal rates for the parish in the quarter with 66.67% and 42.11% respectively. The outstations accounts for 93.47% of the new cases

heard in 2020 while the remaining 6.53% were accounted for by the main courthouse. In the first quarter of 2019, the main courthouse accounted for 65.73% of the new cases heard while the remaining 34.27% were accounted for by the outstations.

As mentioned not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 13 new cases heard in courtroom 1, two were disposed of in other courtrooms; one (1) was disposed of at the outstation in Clarks Town and 1 at the Falmouth outstation. Of the 99 new cases heard at the outstation in Falmouth, 3 were disposed of at Lay Magistrates sittings at the Falmouth outstation. Courtroom 1 at the Clarks Town outstation had 7 cases disposed of in other courtroom/outstation. Four (4) cases were disposed of at the outstation in Falmouth, 3 cases were disposed of in courtroom 3 and night court sittings at the Falmouth outstation accounted for the other disposal.

Table 18.7: Aggregate new case activity statistics for each outstation in the Parish of St. Mary for the quarter ended March 31, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2020	Number of new cases disposed in the first quarter of 2020	Number of new cases filed which became inactive in the first quarter of 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Children's Court (main courthouse)	21	6	0	8.82	28.57
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	106	47	8	44.54	51.89
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1	0	0	0.42	0.00
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	4	1	0	1.68	25.00
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	29	1	18	12.18	65.52
Night Court (main courthouse)	2	0	0	0.84	0.00
Annotto Bay	46	30	1	19.33	67.39
Annotto Bay (Lay Magistrates)	2	0	0	0.84	0.00
Gayle	10	5	0	4.20	50.00
Richmond	17	7	1	7.14	47.06

Total/Average	238	97	28	100.00	52.52
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The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Mary in the first quarter ended March 31, 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 44.54% and 19.33% respectively of the total. Lay Magistrates Court at the main courthouse with 12.18% of the new cases heard in the quarter rank next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Port Maria accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 47, a decrease of 12 matters or 20.34%, below the 59 matters recorded in the corresponding first quarter in 2019 and had the third highest case disposal rate of 51.89%. The Annotto Bay outstation and Lay Magistrates sittings with disposal rates of 67.39% and 65.52% had the top two disposal rates in the quarter. The outstations in the parish account for a combined 31.52% of the total number of new cases heard in the quarter, 4.89 percentage points above 26.62% recorded in the corresponding 2019 period. On the other hand, the main courthouse accounts for roughly 68.46% a decline of 4.92 percentage point below the 73.38% recorded in the similar 2019 first quarter.

As mentioned not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 21 new cases heard in children's court at the main courthouse, one (1) was disposed of in courtroom number 1. Of the 106 new cases heard in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse, there were 29 cases disposed of in other courtrooms. Eleven of these cases were disposed in courtroom 3, and another ten cases were disposed of in courtroom 2. Children's court and outstation in Richmond disposed of 1 case each, while Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse, outstation in Annotto Bay and Lay Magistrates sittings at the Annotto Bay outstation accounted for 2 cases each. One new case was heard in

courtroom number 2 and was disposed in courtroom number 1. Of the 4 new cases heard in courtroom number three, one (1) was disposed of at Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse. The two new cases that were heard at night court sittings at the main courthouse were disposed of at Lay Magistrates sittings at the Richmond outstations and children's court. Forty-six new cases were heard at the Annotto Bay outstation, of which seven were disposed in other courtroom/outstations while two were disposed of in courtroom 1, 1 at night court sittings at the main courthouse and 4 cases at Lay Magistrates sittings at the Annotto Bay outstation. Of the 10 new cases heard at the outstation in Gayle, two were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstation, namely courtroom two and Lay Magistrates sittings at the outstation in Gayle accounted for one case each. Seventeen (17) new cases were heard in Richmond outstation, of which courtroom 1 and the Lay Magistrates sittings in Richmond accounted for one each of the disposals.

Table 18.8: Aggregate new case activity statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Portland for the quarter ended March 31, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2020	Number of new cases disposed in the first quarter of 2020	Number of new cases filed which became inactive in the first quarter of 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Children's Court (main courthouse)	23	4	1	9.13	21.74
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	138	67	11	54.76	56.52
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	7	2	0	2.78	28.57
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	9	0	0	3.57	0.00
Buff Bay (courtroom#1)	20	10	0	7.94	50.00
Buff Bay (courtroom #2)	21	14	0	8.33	66.67
Manchioneal	34	12	0	13.49	35.29
Total/Average	252	109	12	100	48.02

*This is a sample of the number of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2020.

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Portland in the first quarter ended March 31 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 54.76% of the total. In 2019 courtroom number one also accounted for the highest share of new matters heard with 56.58%. The Manchioneal outstations and children's court with 13.49% and 9.13% respectively of the number of the new cases heard in the quarter rank next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Port Antonio accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 67 matters, 7 matters or 11.67% increase compared to the 60 matters recorded in the first quarter of 2019 and had the second highest case disposal rate of 56.52%. Courtroom 2 and 1 at the Buff Bay outstation with a rate of 66.67% and 50.00%% were among the top three on this measure.

The outstations in Portland account for a combined 29.76% of the new cases heard a decrease of 5.47 percentage points below the 32.23% recorded in the corresponding 2019 first quarter. The main courthouse in Port Antonio accounts for the remaining 70.24% and decreased by a similar 5.47% below the 64.77% recorded in the first quarter of 2019.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 138 new cases heard in courtroom 1, there were two cases disposed of in other courtrooms, 1 in courtroom 2 and 1 in courtroom 3. Of the seven new cases heard in courtroom 2, one was disposed of in courtroom 1. There were nine cases heard in courtrooms three, of which two were disposed at children's court and one in courtroom #1 at the Buff Bay outstation.

Table 18.9: Aggregate new case activity statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Hanover for the quarter ended March 31, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2020	Number of new cases disposed in the first quarter of 2020	Number of new cases filed which became inactive in the first quarter of 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courtroom)	107	57	12	57.53	64.49
Courtroom #2 (main courtroom)	8	5	0	4.30	62.50
OC-Green Island #1	23	12	2	12.37	60.87
Lay Magistrates' Court(main courthouse)	9	5	0	4.84	55.56
Green Island (Lay Magistrates')	1	0	0	0.54	0.00
Ramble (Lay Magistrates)	1	0	0	0.54	0.00
Ramble #1	15	11	0	8.06	73.33
Sandy Bay (Lay Magistrates)	4	4	0	2.15	100.00
Sandy Bay #1	18	8	0	9.68	44.44
Total/Average	186	102	14	100.00	62.37

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Hanover in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020. The data shows decisively that courtroom number one at the main court in Lucea accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 57.53% of the total, 12.22 percentage points below the 45.33% recorded in the corresponding period in 2019. The outstation in Green Island and the Sandy Bay outstation with 12.37% and 9.68% respectively rank next. In terms of disposals, courtroom number 1 in Lucea accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 57 cases, 10 more than the 47 matters recorded in 2019 and recorded the third highest case disposal rate of 64.49%, an increase of 16.04 percentage points above the 48.45% reported in the first quarter of 2019. Lay Magistrates sittings at the Sandy Bay outstation

(100%), courtroom number 1 at the Ramble outstation (73.33%), courtroom 2 at the main courthouse (62.50%) and courtroom 1 at the Green Island outstation (60.87%) were among the top five disposal rates. The outstations in the parish account for 33.33% of the new cases heard during the first quarter, a decrease of 2.18 percentage points below the 35.51% in 2019. The main courthouse accounts for the remaining 66.67%, an increase of 2.18 percentage points above the 64.49% when compared to the similar quarter of 2019.

As mentioned not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 107 new cases heard in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse, one was disposed of in courtroom 1 at the Sandy Bay outstation while of the 18 new cases heard in courtroom number 1 at the Sandy Bay outstation; one was disposed in courtroom number one at the main courthouse. Twenty-three (23) new cases were heard in courtroom number 1 at the Green Island outstation, of which 4 cases were disposed in other courtrooms/outstation, namely 2 were disposed of in courtroom one at the main courthouse while courtroom number 1 at the Sandy Bay outstation and courtroom 2 at the main courthouse each accounted for 1 of these disposals.

Table 18.10: Aggregate new case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Elizabeth for the quarter ended March 31, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2020	Number of new cases disposed in the first quarter of 2020	Number of new cases filed which became inactive in the first quarter of 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rates (%)
CH-Balaclava (Children's Court)	1	0	0	0.26	0.00
CH-Santa Cruz (Children's Court)	9	5	0	2.36	55.56
Courtroom #1 (main courtroom)	103	44	2	27.03	44.66
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courtroom)	16	1	0	4.20	6.25
Balaclava (Lay Magistrates)	4	0	0	1.05	0.00
Balaclava (courtroom #1)	16	6	0	4.20	37.50
Santa Cruz (Lay Magistrates)	16	3	0	4.20	18.75
Santa Cruz (courtroom#1)	215	114	9	56.43	57.21
Santa Cruz (courtroom#2)	1	0	1	0.26	100.00
Total/Average	*381	173	12	100	48.56

**This figure represents a sample of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2020.*

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 if the first quarter ended March 31, 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 56.43% and 27.03% respectively of the sample. When compared to quarter 1 of 2019 both afore mentioned courtrooms also accounted for the highest share of new cases heard with 50.66% and 21.78% respectively. This data represents an increase accounted for by these two courtrooms in 2020 of 5.77 percentage points and 5.25 percentage points respectively.

Lay Magistrates sittings at the main courthouse, courtroom #1 at the Balaclava outstation, and Lay Magistrates sittings at the Santa Cruz outstation rounded off the top five share of new cases heard with 4.20% each. Although the numbers are proportionately low, courtroom number 2 at the Santa Cruz outstation and courtroom 1 at the outstation in Santa Cruz with disposal rates of 100% and 57.21% were among those with the highest disposal rates in 2020. The children's court at the outstation in Santa Cruz and courtroom number one at the main courthouse in Black River ranked next with 55.56% and 44.66% respectively. The Santa Cruz outstation accounts for the highest proportion of new cases heard in 2020 with 63.25%, an increase of 7.34 percentage points when compared to the 55.91% recorded in the corresponding 2019 period while the main courthouse in Black River accounts for 31.23%. The remaining 12.86% is accounted for by the other outstation courts.

As mentioned not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 103 new cases heard in courtroom 1, 14 were disposed in other courtrooms/outstations while 10 were disposed of in courtroom 1 at the Santa Cruz outstation and 2 at the children's court at the outstation in Santa Cruz. Lay Magistrates sittings at the main courthouse and courtroom number two at the Santa Cruz outstation shared the balance equally. Of the 16 new cases heard in courtroom # 1 at the Balaclava outstation, one was disposed of in courtroom 2 at the outstation in Santa Cruz. Additionally, of the 215 cases heard in courtroom 1 at the Santa Cruz outstation, eight cases were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstations. Five of these cases were disposed of in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, 2 were disposed of in courtroom 2 at the outstation in Santa Cruz and the remaining 1 was disposed of in children's court at the Santa Cruz outstation.

Table 18.11: Aggregate new case activity statistics for each outstation in the Parish of St. Ann for the quarter ended March 31, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2020	Number of new cases disposed in the first quarter of 2020	Number of new cases filed which became inactive in the first quarter of 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
ST.ANN'S BAY and the Claremont outstation					
Claremont (Children's Court)	4	1	0	0.96	25.00
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	115	37	12	27.51	42.61
Lay Magistrates' Court (main court)	41	7	20	9.81	65.85
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	107	18	58	25.60	71.03
Claremont	17	5	0	4.07	29.41
Claremont (Lay Magistrates')	4	0	0	0.96	0.00
BROWNS TOWN					
Children's Court	3	0	1	0.72	33.33
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	76	9	5	18.18	18.42
Lay Magistrates' Court	51	1	6	12.20	13.73
Total/Average	*418	78	102	100.00	43.06

**This figure is a sample of the number of new cases heard in the first quarter of 2020*

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Ann in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020. The data shows that courtroom 1 in both St. Ann's Bay (the main court) and Browns Town account for the largest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 27.51% and 18.18% respectively of the total. Courtroom 2 in St. Ann's Bay with 25.60% 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 51.87% and 16.57% respectively of the sample. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 at the St. Ann's Bay parish court accounts for the highest

absolute share of matters disposed of with 37 cases, 31 or 45.59% below the 68 matters recorded in the corresponding 2019 quarter and had the third highest case disposal rate of 42.61%. Cases heard in courtroom 2 at the main courthouse with a disposal rate of 71.03% and Lay Magistrates court in St. Ann's Bay with 65.85% disposal rate accounts for the highest disposal rates in the first quarter of 2020. As a whole, the Brown's Town Court accounted for approximately 31.10% of the new cases filed in the parish of St. Ann in 2020. The St. Ann's Bay courthouse accounts for 65.90% of the new cases heard in the quarter, a decline of 5.89 percentage points. The outstations apart from Brown's Town accounts for approximately 6% of the new cases filed 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 107 new cases heard in courtroom 2 (main courthouse), 19 were disposed in courtroom number 1 and one (1) each in the children's court in Claremont outstation and Lay Magistrates sittings at the main courthouse. Of the 17 cases that were heard at the outstation in Claremont there was one case disposed of in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse.

Table 18.12: Aggregate new case activity statistics for each courtroom/outstation in the Parish of Clarendon for the quarter ended March 31, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2020	Number of new cases disposed in the first quarter of 2020	Number of new cases filed which became inactive in the first quarter of 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	104	45	1	24.19	44.23
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	139	50	42	32.33	66.19
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	25	13	0	5.81	52.00
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	28	6	5	6.51	39.29
Night Court (main courthouse)	9	4	1	2.09	55.56
Lionel Town	39	11	4	9.07	38.46
Chapleton	73	28	8	16.98	49.32
Frankfield	13	2	3	3.02	38.46
Total/Average	*430	159	64	100.00	51.86

**This is a sample of the number of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2020.*

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Clarendon in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020. The available data shows decisively that courtroom number 2 in May Pen accounted for highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 32.33% of the total. Courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse in May Pen and the Chapleton outstation accounts for the next highest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 24.19% and 16.98% respectively of the total. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 2 in May Pen accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 50 matters, 5 cases fewer than the 55 disposed cases recorded for this courtroom in 2019. Courtroom number 1 also had the highest disposal rate of 66.19% an increase of 75.91% from the 36.36% recorded in the corresponding quarter in 2019. Night court sittings at the main courthouse (55.56%), courtroom # 3 at the main courthouse (52.00%) and outstation

in Chapleton (49.32%) were among the highest disposal rates in 2020. An estimated 29.07% of new cases heard in Clarendon during the first quarter occurred in the outstation locations with the remaining 70.93% 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 104 new cases heard in courtroom number one, one was disposed of in night court sittings at the main courthouse. There were 25 new cases heard in courtroom number 3, of which 1 was disposed of in night court sittings at the main courthouse. Of the 39 new cases heard at the outstation in Lionel Town, courtroom 3 at the main courthouse and Children’s Court disposed of 1 case each.

Table 18.13: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Manchester for the quarter ended March 31, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2020	Number of new cases disposed in the first quarter of 2020	Number of new cases filed which became inactive in the first quarter of 2020	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
CH-PORUS (Children's Court)	9	2	0	2.37	22.22
Children's Court (main courthouse)	1	0	0	0.26	0.00
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	83	17	1	21.84	21.69
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	58	13	1	15.26	24.14
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	8	1	0	2.11	12.50
Night Court (main courthouse)	10	2	0	2.63	20.00
Cottage	4	1	0	1.05	25.00
Christiana	27	11	2	7.11	48.15
Christiana (Lay Magistrates)	9	1	0	2.37	11.11
Spalding	21	1	0	5.53	4.76
Spalding (Lay Magistrates)	3	0	0	0.79	0.00

Porus	17	7	0	4.47	41.18
Porus (Lay Magistrates)	2	0	0	0.53	0.00
Cross Keys	24	6	2	6.32	33.33
Cross Keys (Lay Magistrates)	5	0	2	1.32	40.00
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	88	28	10	23.16	43.18
Tax Court (main courthouse)	11	8	1	2.89	81.82
Total/Average	*380	98	19	100	30.79

**This figure represents a sample of the number of new cases filed.*

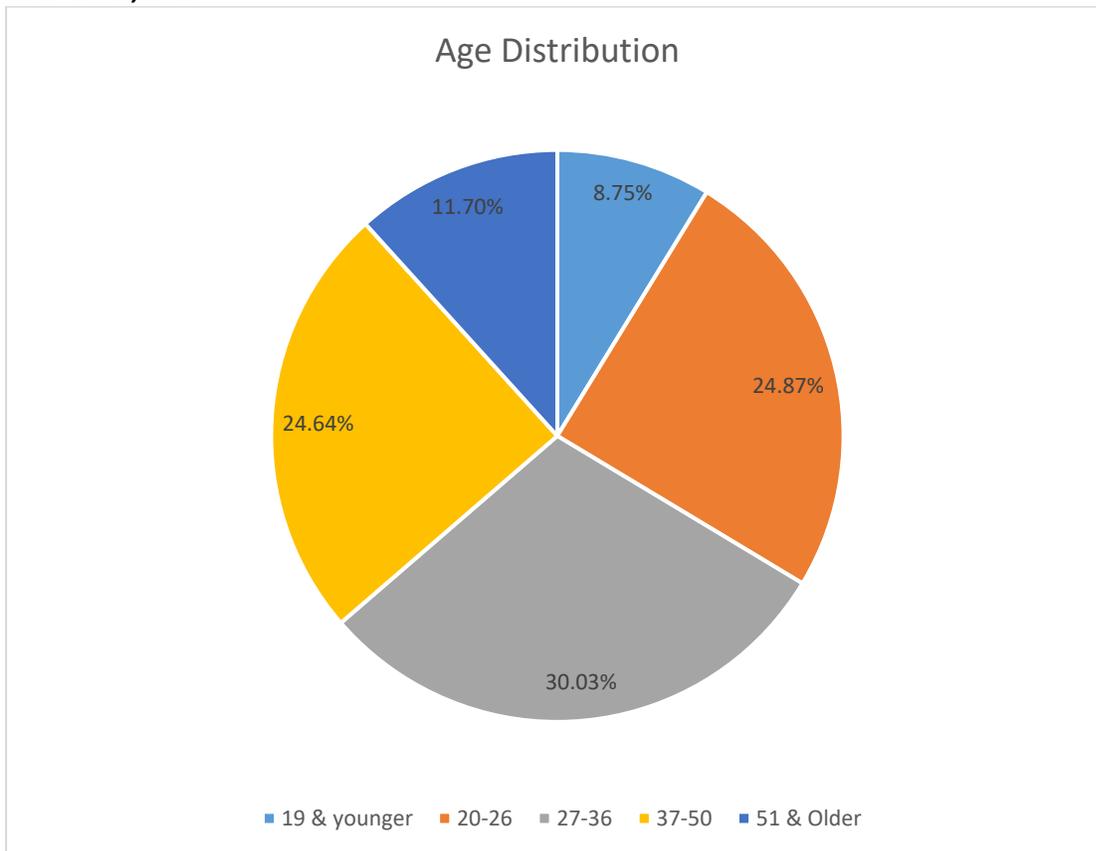
The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Manchester in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020. The data shows that Lay Magistrates sittings at the main courthouse accounted for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 88 cases or 23.16% of the sample. In 2019, Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse also accounted for the highest share of new matters heard with 62 cases or 25.67% of the total. Courtroom number 1 and courtroom number two accounts for the next highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 21.84% and 15.26% respectively of the total. When compared to 2019, both courtrooms 1 and 2 were also among the top three highest share of new cases heard with 23.32% and 22.54% respectively. In terms of cases disposed of, Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main court in Mandeville accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 28 matters which is 34 matters or 54.84% fewer than the 62 cases recorded in the corresponding period in 2019 and had the third highest case disposal rate of 43.18%. Although the absolute numbers are proportionately low, the Tax Court at the main courthouse and the outstation in Christiana had the two highest share of disposal rates for the parish in the quarter with 81.82% and 48.15% respectively. The main courthouse in Mandeville accounts for 68.16% of the total number of new cases heard during the quarter, which is a decrease of 12.80 percentage points when compared to the 80.96% recorded in 2019. The remaining 31.84% was accounted for by the various outstations. Continuous increases in

outstation activity are expected in the short run due to a recent disaster at the main courthouse in Mandeville.

As mentioned not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 83 new cases heard in courtroom 1, there were five cases disposed in other courtrooms/outstations; 2 were disposed of at night court sittings at the main courthouse while courtroom 3 at the main courthouse, courtroom 2 at the main courthouse and children's court at the outstation in Porus disposed of 1 each of these cases. Fifty-eight new cases were heard in courtroom 2 at the main courthouse and of this number, 3 cases were disposed of in other courtroom/outstations. Courtroom 3, courtroom 1 and children's court at the Porus outstation disposed of 1 each of these cases. Of the 8 cases heard in courtroom three, 1 was disposed of in courtroom one and 1 at the outstation in cross keys. There were 10 new cases heard at night court sittings at the main courthouse and of this number, 8 cases were disposed in other courtroom/outstation, 5 of these cases were disposed of in courtroom 1, while the outstation in Spaulding, Lay Magistrates sittings at the main courthouse and children's court in Porus disposed of 1 each of these cases. Of the 27 new cases heard at the outstation in Christiana, 5 were disposed of on other courtroom/outstation, 1 was disposed of at Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse while courtroom number 1 and the outstation in Spaulding accounted for 2 each of these disposals. There were 21 new cases heard at the Spaulding outstation, 1 was disposed at the outstation in Christiana and 1 was disposed in children's court at the outstation in Porus.

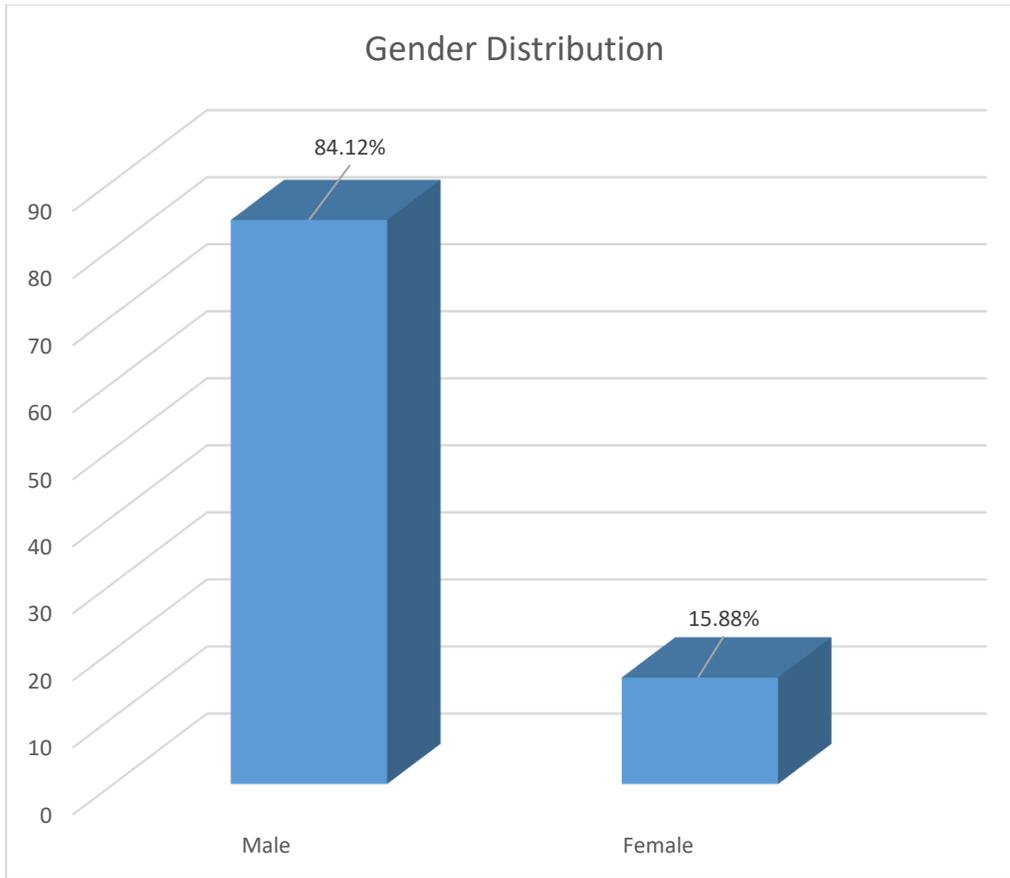
This subsection now turns to an examination of gender and age distribution for cases filed across the parish courts as a whole in the first quarter of 2020, as well as the breakdown of the police stations and related entities from which cases have originated in each parish.

Chart 3.0: Aggregate age distribution of offenders for all parish courts for the quarter ended March 31, 2020



The above chart shows that of the total number of offenders, for which age data was readily available for the January to March quarter, 2020; the largest proportion, 30.03% were from the 27-36 age cohorts. This category is followed by the 20-26 age group with 24.87%, the 37-50 age group with 24.64% and the oldest age cohorts 51 and over accounting for 11.70%. The youngest age cohort in the distribution accounted for the lowest proportions with the 19 years and younger accounting for 8.75% and of total offenders.

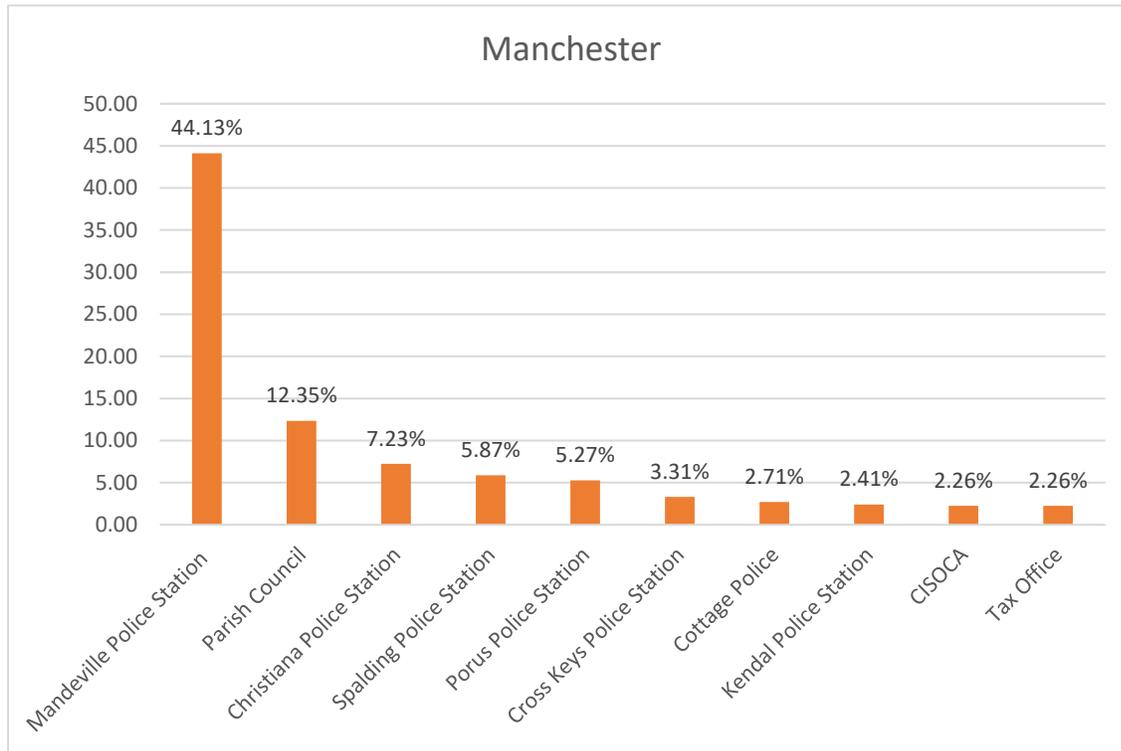
Chart 4.0: Aggregate gender distribution of offenders for the quarter ended March 31, 2020



As with previous reports, the above chart shows that the overwhelming majority of offenders for the January to March quarter, 2020 were male, accounting for roughly 84.12% of the total, while females accounted for approximately 15.88%.

Distribution of charges filed by Police Station of origin for the various parish courts.

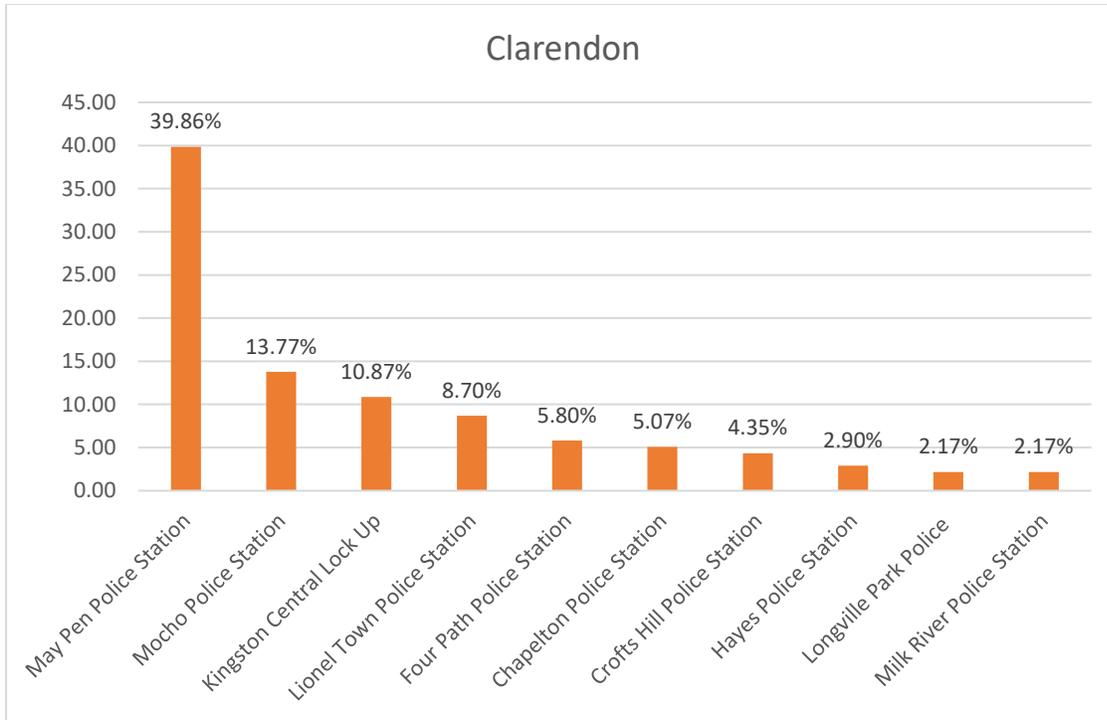
Chart 5.1: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Manchester Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2020



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 664 records indicate that for the January to March quarter, 2020 the majority of criminal matters, 44.13%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Mandeville Police Station. This was followed by the Parish Council, which accounts for 12.35% of total matters reported. The Christiana Police rounded off the top three with 7.23%.

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

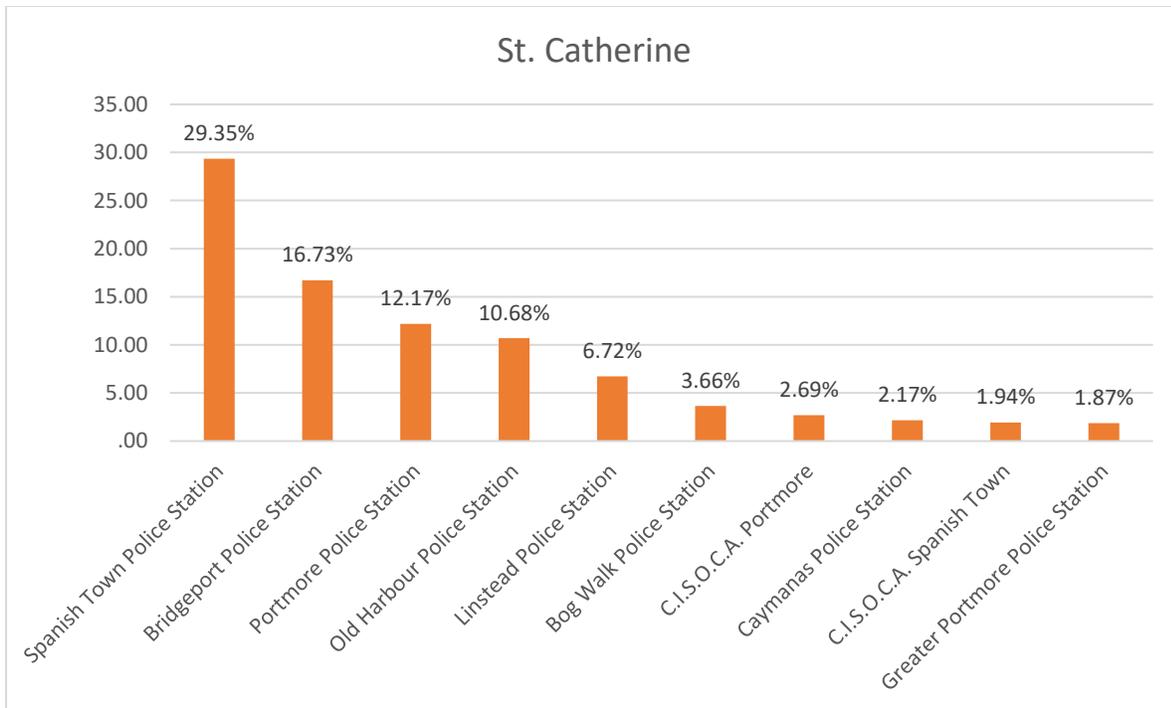
Chart 5.2: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Clarendon Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2020



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 138 records indicate that for the January to March quarter, 2020 the majority of criminal matters, 39.86%, which were brought before the Court were reported in May Pen Police Station. This was followed by the Mocho Police Station, which accounts for 13.77% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Kingston Central Lock-up with 10.87%.

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

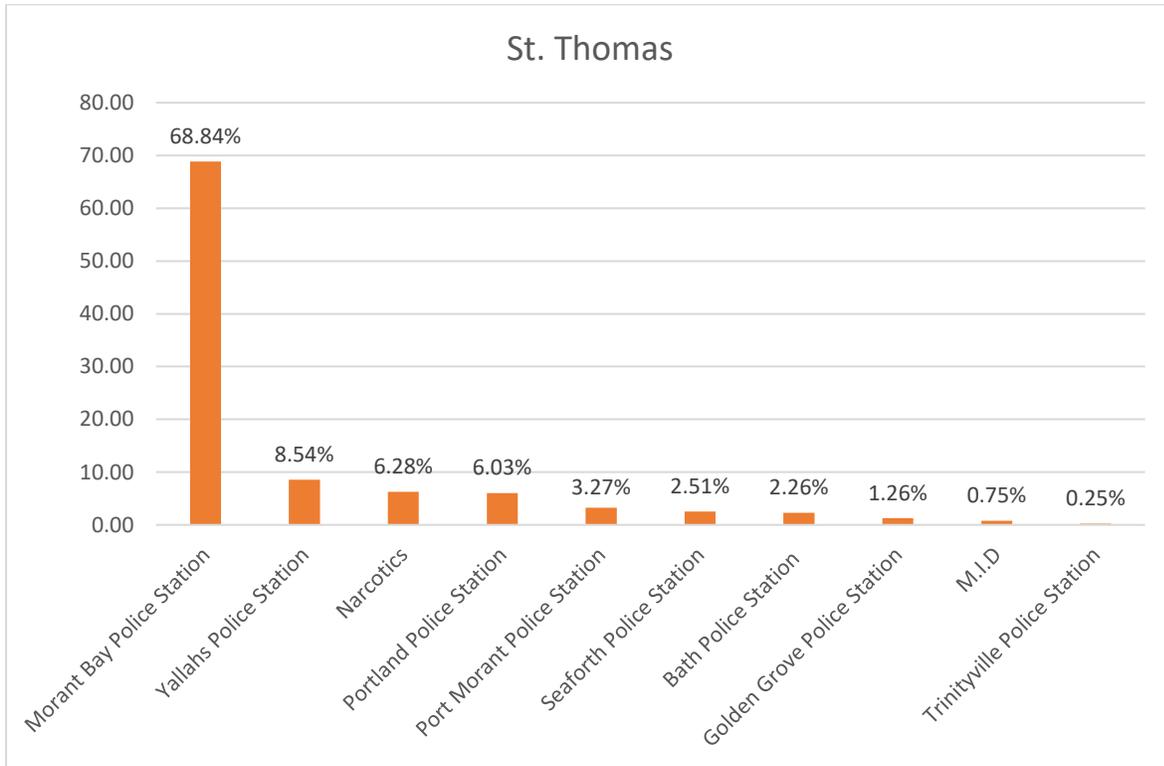
Chart 5.3: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Catherine Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2020



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 1339 records indicate that for the January to March quarter, 2020 the majority of criminal matters, 29.35%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Spanish Town Police Station. This was followed by the Bridgeport Police Station, which accounts for 16.73% of total matters reported. The Portmore Police rounded off the top three with 12.17%.

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

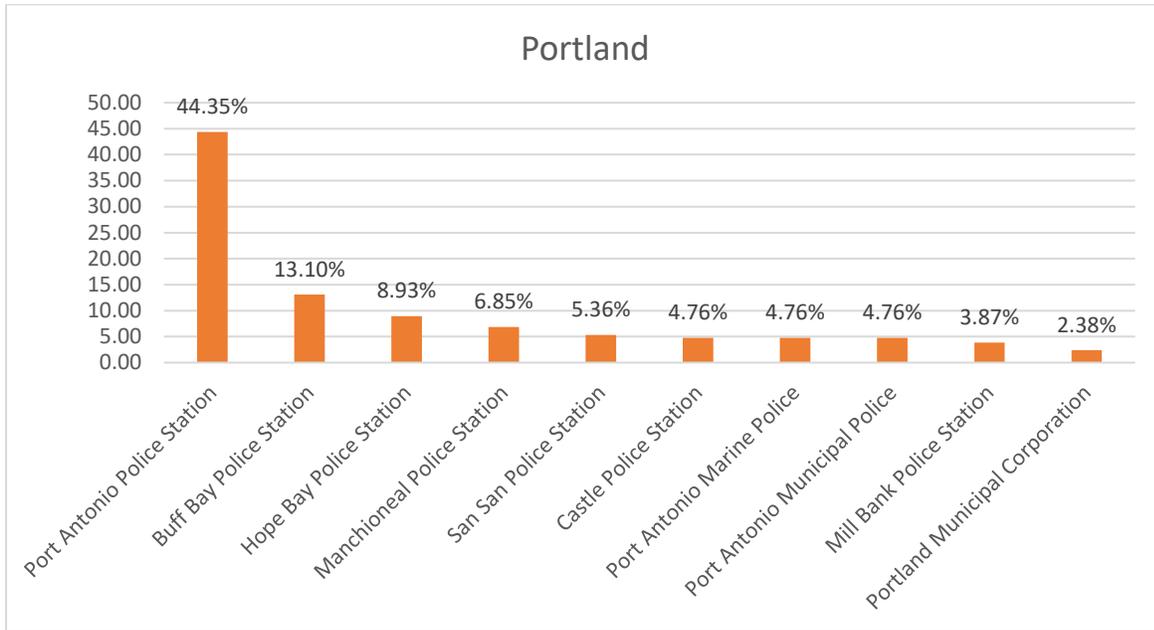
Chart 5.4: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Thomas Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2020



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 398 records indicate that for the January to March quarter, 2020 the majority of criminal matters, 68.84%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Morant Bay Police Station. This was followed by the Yallahs Police Station, which accounts for 8.54% of total matters reported. The Narcotics Police rounded off the top three with 6.28%.

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

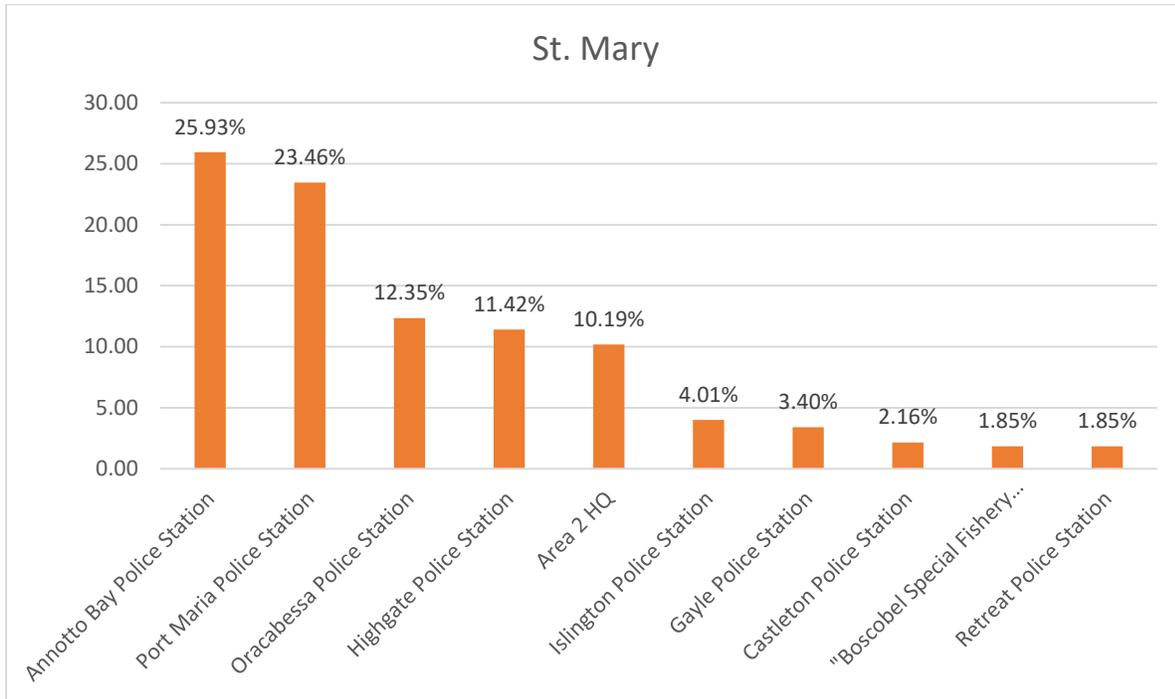
Chart 5.5: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Portland Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2020



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 336 records indicate that for the January to March quarter, 2020 the majority of criminal matters, 44.35%, 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 Hope Bay Police rounded off the top three with 8.93%.

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

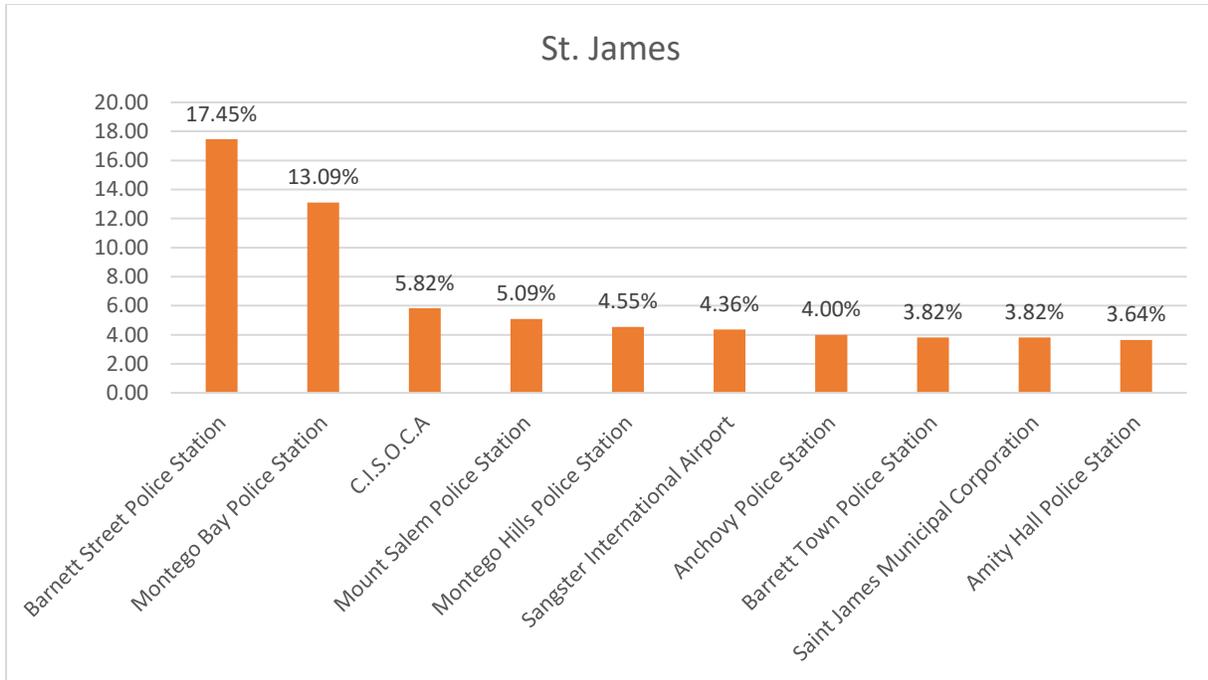
Chart 5.6: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Mary Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2020



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 324 records indicate that for the January to March quarter, 2020 the majority of criminal matters, 25.93%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Annotto Bay Police Station. This was followed by the Port Maria Police Station, which accounts for 23.46% of total matters reported. The Oracabessa Police rounded off the top three with 12.35%.

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 St. James Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 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 550 records indicate that for the January to March quarter, 2020 the majority of criminal matters, 17.45%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Barnett Street Police Station. This was followed by the Montego Bay Police Station, which accounts for 13.09% of total matters reported. The C.I.S.O.C.A Police rounded off the top three with 5.82%.

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

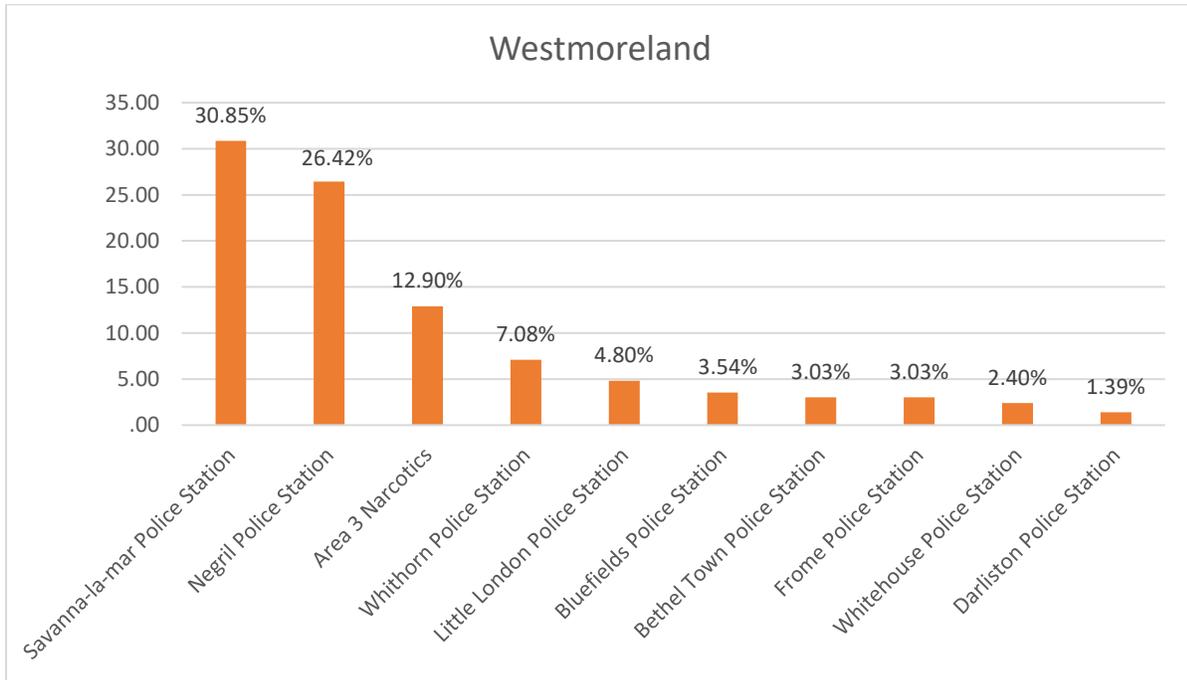
Chart 5.8: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Corporate Area Criminal Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2020



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 1913 records indicate that for the January to March quarter, 2020 the majority of criminal matters, 16.78%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Kingston Central Police Station. This was followed by the St. Andrew Central Police Station, which accounts for 15.53% of total matters reported. The Kingston West Police rounded off the top three with 11.71%.

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

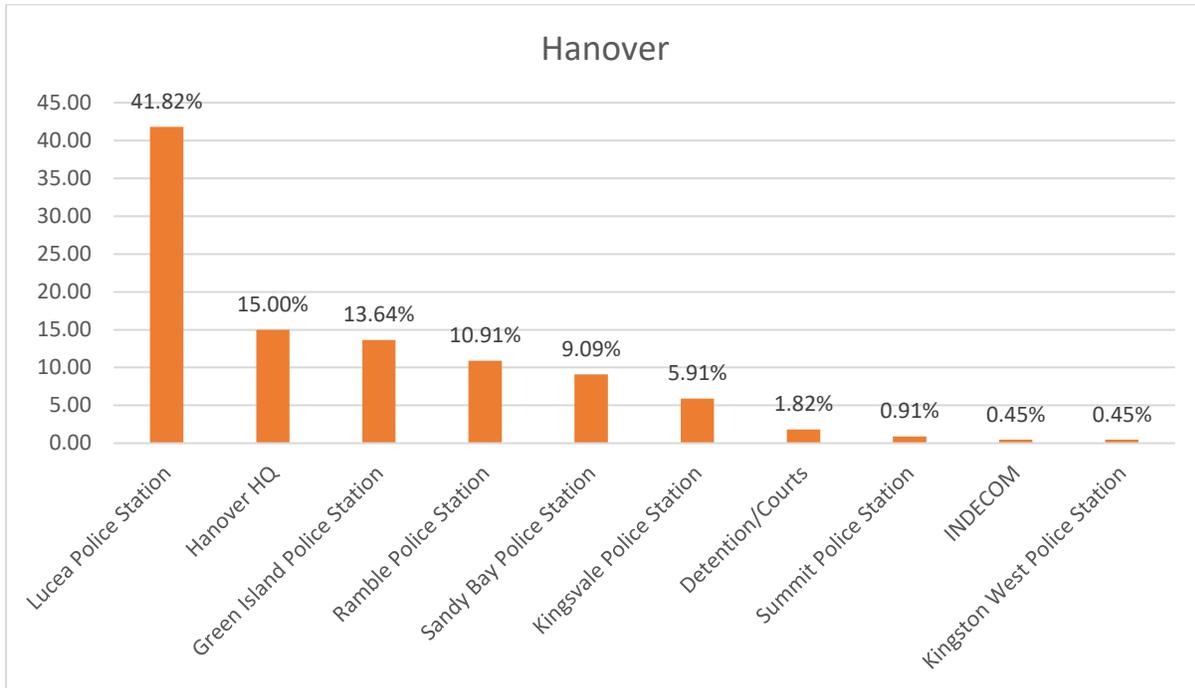
Chart 5.9: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2020



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 791 records indicate that for the January to March quarter, 2020 the majority of criminal matters, 30.85%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Savanna-la-mar Police Station. This was followed by the Negril Police Station, which accounts for 26.42% of total matters reported. The Area 3 Narcotics Police rounded off the top three with 12.90%.

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

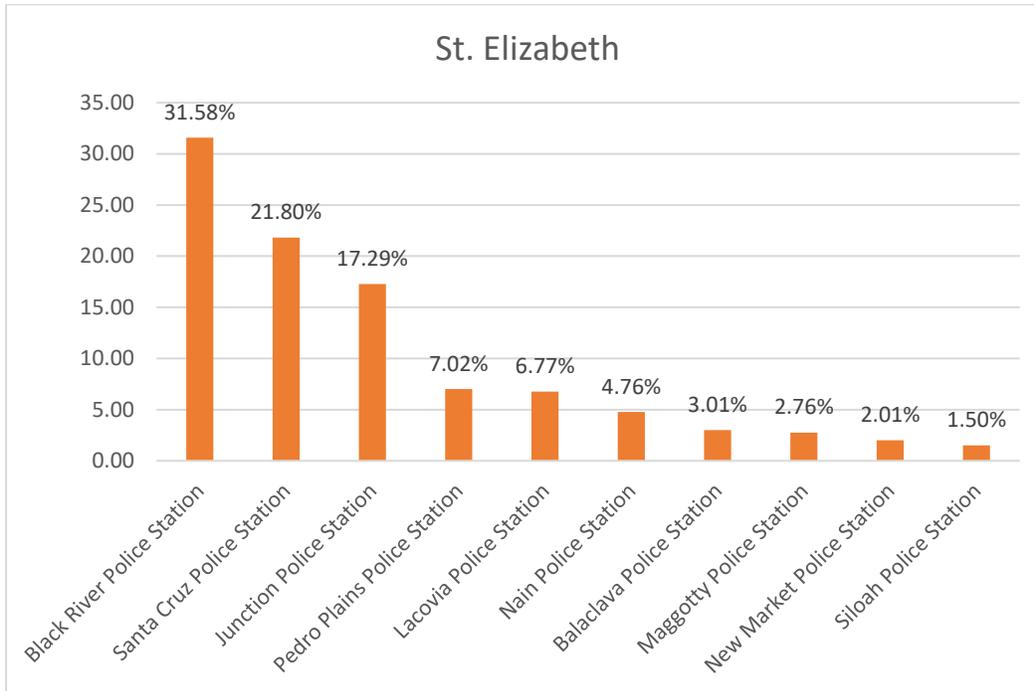
Chart 5.10: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Hanover Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2020



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 220 records indicate that for the January to March quarter, 2020 the majority of criminal matters, 41.82%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Lucea Police Station. This was followed by the Hanover HQ Police, which accounts for 15% of total matters reported. The Green Island Police rounded off the top three with 13.64%.

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

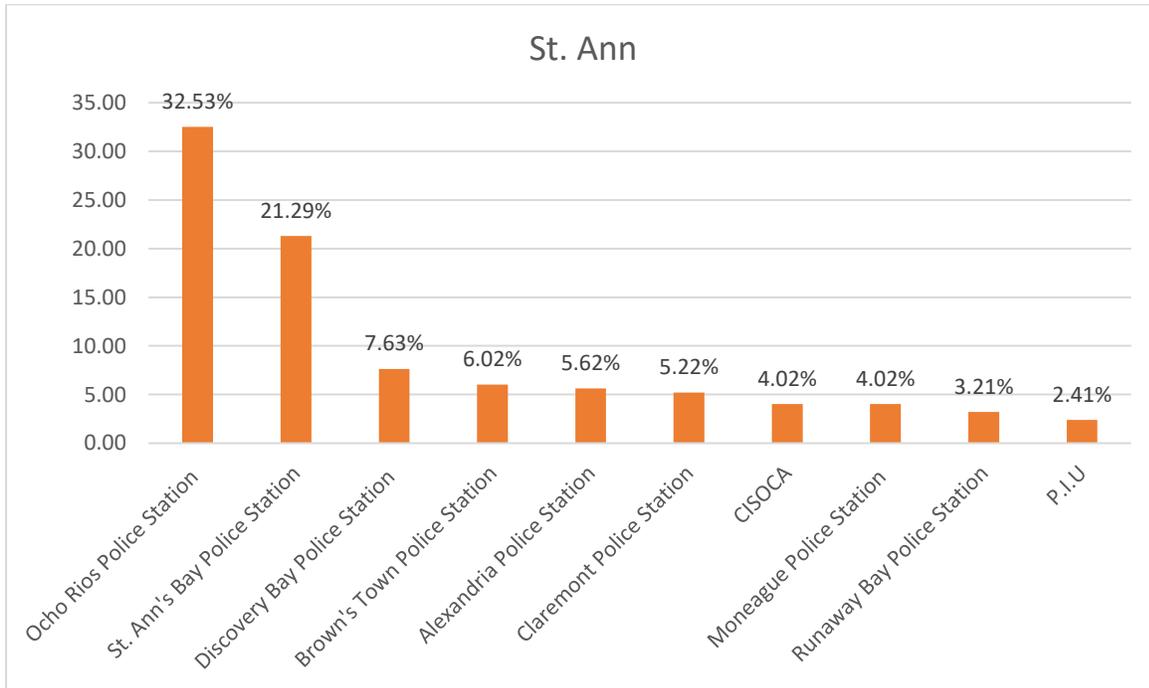
Chart 5.11: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2020



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 399 records indicate that for the January to March quarter, 2020 the majority of criminal matters, 31.58%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Black River Police Station. This was followed by the Santa Cruz Police Station, which accounts for 21.80% of total matters reported. The Junction Police rounded off the top three with 17.29%.

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

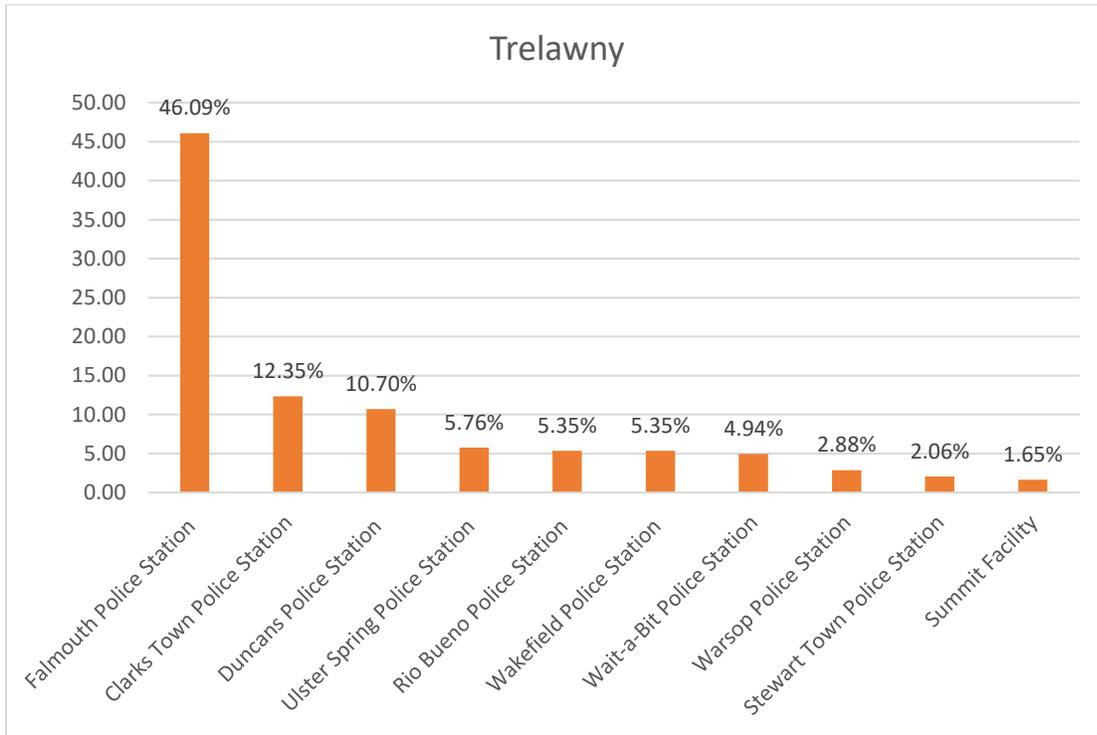
Chart 5.12: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Ann Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2020



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 249 records indicate that for the January to March quarter, 2020 the majority of criminal matters, 32.53%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Ocho Rios Police Station. This was followed by the St. Ann's Bay Police Station, which accounts for 21.29% of total matters reported. The Discovery Bay Police rounded off the top three with 7.63%.

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

Chart 5.13: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Trelawny Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 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 243 records indicate that for the January to March quarter, 2020 the majority of criminal matters, 46.09%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Falmouth Police Station. This was followed by the Clarks Town Police Station, which accounts for 12.35% of total matters reported. The Duncans Police rounded off the top three with 10.70%.

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

Conclusion

The Parish Courts of Jamaica have made considerable strides over the past three years in improving productivity and the efficiency of case handling. Most productivity metrics have made significant strides over this period, not least of which is the case clearance rate which now solidly averages over 95% for criminal cases across the parish courts. Such strides are critical to reducing the criminal case backlog to an acceptable rate of under 10% of active criminal matters. In order to achieve such feat the case clearance rate must consistently exceed 100% and should be supported by advances in other key statistical indicators such as the trial date certainty rate. Thus, as part of the determined efforts of the judiciary to significantly improve the quality of the services offered to the public by the courts and in so doing become one of the best court system in the world over the next 5-6 years, key quantitative targets have been established. Chief of these targets is the attainment of a weighted average case clearance rate of 130% across the courts as well as a weighted average trial date certainty rate of 95%. The simultaneous attainment of these targets will almost certainly reduce the net criminal case backlog rate to below 10% within the next 5-6 years, propelling the court system into the pantheons of the better performing court systems across the world and significantly improving efficiency.

The first quarter of 2020 was a particularly challenging period for the Jamaican court system. The COVID -19 pandemic has had a dramatic effect on the global economy and society and the court system has not been spared as open court activity across the Jamaican courts was largely suspended towards the end of the first quarter. This adversely affecting the ability of the courts to sustain an optimal rate of disposal and a case clearance rate in excess of 100%. The

more severe effects on case activity and productivity will however be seen in the data on the second and third quarters of 2020. Despite the loss of court time in the first quarter, the parish courts still managed to maintain a weighted average case clearance rate of 96.47%, an indication that for every 100 new cases filed in the first quarter of 2020, roughly 96 were disposed. This represents a fall of 6.99 percentage points when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2019, suggesting that there were 7 less cases disposed for every 100 new cases filed in the first quarter of 2020. Not surprisingly, the proportion of new cases filed which were disposed also decreased. This is conferred by the 5.15 percentage points decline in the case disposal rate in the first quarter of 2020 when compared to the corresponding period in 2019. Another important measurement, which saw a fall in output, was the case congestion rate, which netted out the first quarter at 306.35%, an increase of 53.14 percentage points when compared to the 253.21% recorded in the first quarter of 2019. This data suggests that the reduced case activity in the first quarter of 2020 contributed to increased case congestion but the true picture is not expected to be reflected until the second and third quarters. The courts also saw a marginal dip in the courtroom utilization rate, which fell by 2.07 percentage points when compared to ending figure in 2019. Despite the decline in several important measurements, the courts made a two-percentage points gain in trial date certainty rate when trial adjournments linked to the suspension of court activity towards the end of March are isolated. Several parish courts were resilient despite the general decline in court activity, maintaining their record of high performance standards on several key metrics. The parish courts of St. Mary, St. James, St. Catherine and Westmoreland for example continued to show consistently strong returns across several of the performance indicators

while courts such as the Manchester and Hanover Parish Courts are showing signs of generally steady improvements.

There is no doubt that many of the critical quantitative targets set out by the Chief Justice, as part of the court's strategic plan will be compromised by the reductions in open court activity resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Several cases have been rescheduled and longer average times to disposition are anticipated. The resilience of the court system will be tested in several ways over the coming 12 months in particular as the leadership seeks to rebalance towards sustaining a high level of efficiency and keeping the quantitative and qualitative targets in sight. Despite the declines in several key measures in the first quarter of 2020, the criminal division of the parish courts remained broadly on course to meet the major quantitative targets outlined in the strategic plan for the judiciary. The output over the next three quarters could therefore prove quite decisive.

Glossary of Statistical Terms

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

scores in the data set are at the lower end. If the skewness is negative as revealed by a negative value for this measure, it generally suggests that a greater proportion of the scores are at the higher end. If the skewness measure is approximately 0, then there is roughly equal distribution of scores on both the higher and lower ends of the average figure.

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

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

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

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

Continuance and 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>

