



PARISH COURTS OF JAMAICA – CRIMINAL DIVISION (APRIL 1, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2024)

Court Metrics	April - June Highlights				
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Case Disposal Rates (%)	49.91	51.56	49.74	58.28	47.01
Case Clearance Rates (%)	112.79	107.18	118.66	111.61	107.38
Trial Date Certainty Rates (%)	86	80	86	83	79
Courtroom Utilization Rates (%)	65.84	63.91	65.11	59.62	62.98

Prepared by the Court Statistics and Data Division with the support of the ICT Department, Supreme Court of Jamaica, Kings Street Kingston.

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Chief Justice's Message Second Quarter Criminal Parish Court 2024

As part of our ongoing commitment to transparency and accountability, this report details the performance of the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the second quarter of 2024 (April 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024). This report confirms the Parish Courts of Jamaica's position as a leading performer within the Caribbean judicial system. Notably, the Criminal Division has achieved a net backlog of under 5% and a clearance rate exceeding 112%. Furthermore, hearing date certainty stands at 86%. Importantly, these performance enhancements have been achieved without compromising the quality of justice. There is no indication that prosecution witnesses or defendants have experienced unfair hearings or denials of justice. Our commitment remains unwavering: to provide citizens with an efficient, fair, and balanced system of justice.

While these achievements are significant, we recognize the potential for further advancement towards becoming a world-class court at this level of the judicial hierarchy. Specifically, courtroom utilization, currently at 65.84%, indicates an average of approximately 3 hours of court proceedings within a 5-hour court day. Increasing this utilization rate would directly translate to reduced wait times for cases, enabling faster decisions for our citizens. This, in turn, would lead to reduced costs associated with accessing justice, including fewer adjournments, minimized travel for witnesses, and more efficient allocation of financial, material, and human resources for the courts, litigants, police, and probation services.

Another area requiring focused improvement is case file integrity. For the second quarter of 2024, case file integrity was recorded at 88.18%. Our target is to achieve a consistent rate of 98% to 100%, ensuring that files are complete, accurate, available, and correctly scheduled for hearings.

These examples illustrate how targeted improvements can yield substantial gains in productivity, resulting in the expedited delivery of high-quality justice. We are committed to continuous improvement in these areas to maximize efficiency.

Finally, I extend my sincere gratitude to the judges, staff, police, attorneys-at-law, probation services, and all other stakeholders for their invaluable contributions to this outstanding performance.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD
Chief Justice of Jamaica

Executive Summary

The Criminal Division of the Parish Courts has successfully achieved a key strategic objective: reducing the overall net case backlog rate to below 5%. This accomplishment is further highlighted by the continued exceptional case clearance rates reported for the second quarter of 2024 (April 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024). Statistically, the criminal division ranks among the most efficient in the Caribbean and Latin American regions for the timely delivery of justice. The Judiciary of Jamaica continue to make strides in the opportunity to further reduce the average time taken to dispose of cases, ultimately aiming for a backlog-free system.

The total number of new criminal cases filed in the parish courts during the second quarter of 2024 was 5,193, marking a 3.37% decrease compared to the same period in the previous year. The Corporate Area Parish Court - Criminal Division accounted for the largest share with 1,146 new cases (22.07% of the total), followed by St. Catherine (760 cases, 14.64%) and St. James (483 cases, 9.30%). These three courts collectively accounted for 46.01% of all new cases, consistent with the previous year's distribution. In contrast, the parish courts of Hanover, St. Thomas, and Portland each accounted for less than 5.0% of the total new caseload.

The overall case disposal rate for the second quarter of 2024 was 49.91%, representing a decline of 1.65 percentage points compared to the same period in the prior year. Hanover Parish Court led the division with the fastest disposal rate of 59.73%, followed closely by St. James (59.63%) and St. Catherine (56.45%).

The case clearance rate, a productivity index reflecting cases disposed of relative to new cases filed, stood at 112.79% for the second quarter of 2024. This was an improvement of 5.61 percentage points compared to the same period last year, indicating that for every 100 new cases filed, approximately 113 cases were resolved. Ten of the 13 parish courts met the international standard of 90% to 110%. The highest performing courts included St. Elizabeth (195.59%), St. Mary (179.06%), and the Corporate Area (130.63%).

The case congestion rate, a key measure of how effectively a court is managing its backlog, improved by 19.05 percentage points, reaching 254.28% in the second quarter of 2024. Hanover, St. Mary, and St. James had the lowest case congestion rates, with St. James standing out due to its relatively high caseload. A sustained increase in case clearance rates is expected to continue reducing case congestion.

Trial date certainty, which measures the likelihood of trial dates proceeding as scheduled, improved by 6 percentage points, reaching 86% in the second quarter of 2024. St. Ann, Manchester, and St. James recorded the highest rates of trial date certainty.

Courtroom utilization, which measures the proportion of allocated court time used for hearings, increased by 1.93 percentage points to 65.84%. The top performers in this metric included St. Mary, Clarendon, and the Corporate Area Parish Court - Criminal Division.

Outstation courts in various parishes played a significant role in managing caseloads. Approximately 32.51% of new cases were heard in outstation courts, with certain parishes, such as St. James, Trelawny, St. Ann, and Hanover, utilizing outstations extensively. Expanding outstation court activity could further ease congestion and improve case clearance rates.

The largest proportion of cases disposed of in the second quarter of 2024 were resolved through guilty pleas (24.50%), followed by dismissed cases (18.92%). The conviction rate for the quarter was 31.46%, with 36.88% of cases disposed of within 90 days, 57.14% within six months, and 76.81% within a year. Indictments comprised 42.23% of the total new cases filed, with summary matters and Lay Magistrates' matters representing 25.46% and 16.27%, respectively.

Adjournments remain a significant factor in case delays. The most common reasons for adjournments in the second quarter of 2024 were for disclosure (11.91%), incomplete files (10.19%), and warrants due to defendant non-appearance (9.05%). The patterns for adjournment reasons were consistent with previous years.

The three most frequent criminal charges filed in the second quarter of 2024 were assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, and threats. Males accounted for 81.47% of those charged, while females made up 18.53%. The most commonly charged age groups were 27-36 years (31.32%) and 37-50 years (26.77%).

The average time taken to dispose of cases in the second quarter of 2024 was approximately 10 months. Hanover (89 days), Manchester (90 days), and Westmoreland (104 days) had the shortest times to disposition in quarter two 2024.

Based on exponential smoothing forecasts, the third quarter of 2024 is expected to see 5,174 new cases filed, with 4,750 cases disposed of or rendered inactive. The forecasted case clearance rate for the third quarter is 110.57%, with St. Elizabeth, Clarendon, and St. Mary expected to achieve the highest clearance rates.

The report indicates significant progress in the criminal division; continued efforts to streamline processes and improve efficiency will make even further gains in the reduction of backlogs within the criminal division of the parish courts.

With over eight years of extensive data on case activity in the parish courts of Jamaica, Lagrange multiplier techniques were applied to determine the minimum requirements that a highly successful court must meet in order to satisfy an efficiency threshold for the sustainable containment of case backlog and to provide optimal service to the public. The minimum annual required standards for each key parameter are summarized in the table below:

Table i: Key Performance Metrics of High-Performing Courts

Parameter	Minimum Annual Required Standard
Case Disposal Rate	$\geq 75\%$
Case Clearance Rate	$\geq 100\%$
Case Congestion Rate	$\leq 115\%$
Trial Date Certainty Rate	$\geq 85\%$
Net Case Backlog Rate	$\leq 5\%$
Gross Case Backlog Rate	$\leq 10\%$
Average Number of Mentions	≤ 3

If any court or jurisdiction can consistently achieve these rates, it will attain a high level of efficiency and service excellence, characteristic of high performing courts.

Methodology

Guaranteeing the reliability and validity of the data used to produce the periodic statistical reports for the Jamaican Courts is of utmost importance as we seek to produce a data driven enterprise for policymaking and operational decisions. As a result, a robust and verifiable system of data production has been created in both the parish courts and the Supreme Court. At the parish courts, a data capture system for criminal matters, called the CISS (Case Information Statistical System) has been operational in all courts for the past 8 years. This system captures a wide range of data on the progression of criminal cases from initiation to disposition and is manned by at least one dedicated Data Entry Officer in each court. The Data Entry Officers update the system on a daily basis so that the data produced is as close as possible to real time. The electronic data sheets for each parish court are then validated and backed up to the network at the end of each month and the data submitted to a centralized, secure medium for processing by the Statistics Unit at the Supreme Court. A robust data validation mechanism is in place to periodically sample criminal case files in all parish courts on a quarterly basis. A representative sample of case files are taken in each case and crosschecked against the electronic data to detect and eliminate errors of omission and commission.

Monthly statistical data is processed using the data submissions, culminating in Quarterly Reports and eventually the Annual Report of this nature. All Quarterly and Annual Parish Court reports are published on the website of the Supreme Court; however, interim data required by stakeholders may be requested through the Office of the Chief Justice.

Disclaimer

The numbers that are reflected in the case activity summaries in the annual statistics report may vary slightly from those quoted in the individual quarterly reports throughout the year due to occasional constraints with timely access to all records and other mitigating factors. Methodological adjustments may also result in slight variations in comparative figures across periods. It should also be noted that there have been progressive improvements in the strength of the data collection mechanism in some courts such as the Clarendon Parish Court, which have positive measurement outcomes.

Chapter 1.0: Criminal Case Activity Statistics in the Parish Courts for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

This chapter provides an assessment of criminal case activity in the parish courts for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. This includes analysis of the criminal caseload, rates of case disposal, clearance and congestion as well as cases statuses in the various courts over the period, assessments of courtroom utilization rates, case file integrity rates, trial date certainty rates and forecasts of the core case activity outcomes for the upcoming quarters of 2024. This chapter also explores the common methods of disposition, reasons for court delay, leading charges and case types across the parish courts and associated conviction rates.

Table 1.01: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Number of inactive cases	Number of disposed cases	Active Pending Case Load	Case disposal Rate (%)
Hanover	149	1	88	60	59.73
St. Catherine	760	43	386	331	56.45
Westmoreland	463	34	181	248	46.44
St. Mary	191	5	70	116	39.27
Clarendon	430	24	185	221	48.60
Portland	190	9	67	114	40.00
St. Elizabeth	204	3	59	142	30.39
Corporate Area Criminal	1146	250	389	507	55.76
St. Thomas	175	10	50	115	34.29
St. James	483	22	266	195	59.63
St. Ann	407	57	98	252	38.08
Trelawny	225	20	85	120	46.67
Manchester	370	18	172	180	51.35
Total	5193	496	2096	2601	-
Average/Weighted Average	399.46	38.15	161.23	200.08	49.91
Standard deviation	284.20	65.72	118.90	118.44	9.72
Skewness	1.74	3.23	1.13	1.55	-0.14

Note: The case disposal rate for the Browns Town outstation for the second quarter of 2024 is 26.89%

The table above shows the aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the second quarter of 2024. A total of 5,193 new criminal cases were filed across the parish courts while 2,592 of these cases were either disposed or became inactive during the period, resulting in a weighted average case disposal rate of 49.91%. In the corresponding period in 2023, 5,374 cases were filed, while 2,771 cases were either disposed or became inactive which resulted in a weighted average disposal rate of 51.56%, which is 1.65 percentage points more than the rate for the second quarter of 2024. This comparison reveals that there was a decrease of 181 cases or a 3.37% decline in the number of new cases filed and a decrease of 179 cases or a 6.46% decline in the number of new cases disposed of or became inactive when compared to the second quarter of 2023. Of the thirteen parish courts listed above, seven (7) Parish Courts recorded a decrease in the number of new cases filed, while six (6) recorded an increase. Among the parish courts with the largest decline in new cases filed were the Portland Parish Court, decreasing by 19.83%, the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, which decreased by 16.90% and the St. Catherine Parish Court, which decreased by 13.44%. Among the parish courts with the largest improvement in new cases filed were the Clarendon Parish Court, increasing by 35.65%, the Westmoreland Parish Court, which increased by 28.97% and the Trelawny Parish Court, which experienced an increase of 17.19%.

The Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division with 1,146 cases or 22.07% of the new cases filed, the St. Catherine Parish Court with 760 cases or 14.64% and the St. James Parish Court with 483 or 9.30% accounted for the three largest shares of new cases filed in the second quarter of 2024. These three parish courts with the largest share of new cases filed, cumulatively accounted

for 46.01% of the total sample of new criminal cases filed in the second quarter of 2024. On the other end, the parish courts of Hanover with 149 cases or 2.87% of the sample of new cases, St. Thomas with 175 cases or 3.37% and Portland with 190 cases or 3.66% accounted for the lowest shares of new cases filed in the second quarter of 2024. The best performing courts in relation to case disposal rates for the second quarter of 2024 were the Hanover (59.73%), St. James (59.63%) and St. Catherine (56.45%) Parish Courts. The bottom three courts on this measure were the St. Elizabeth (30.39%), St. Thomas (34.29%) and St. Ann (38.08%) parish courts. The parish court of St. Ann was also among the bottom three courts on this measure in the second quarter of 2023. The skewness of the number of new cases filed, the number of cases disposed, and the active pending new caseload are all positive, which is an indication that the larger proportion of the courts fell below the overall average case count in each of these data series. The overall skewness of the case disposal rates is a low negative figure, which indicates that a large proportion of courts had disposal rates which were clustered around the overall average rate for the quarter.

Refer to Table 3.0 for a graphical comparison of the Case Disposal Rates across all Parish Courts for the second quarter of 2023 and 2024.

Table 1.02a: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court as at June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed in quarter	Number of Disposed cases in Apr. 1-Jun. 30, 2024	Number of Inactive cases in Apr. 1-Jun. 30, 2024	Grand total number of inactive cases (2016-Jun. 2024)	Grand total number of disposed cases (2016-Jun. 2024)	Grand Active Pending Caseload b/f Apr. 1, 2024	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
Hanover	149	146	2	295	6745	86	99.33	158.78
St. Catherine	760	847	101	4351	24926	1156	124.74	202.11
Westmoreland	463	300	45	1216	12348	317	74.51	226.09
St. Mary	191	327	15	480	6887	356	179.06	159.94
Clarendon	430	379	45	1741	12509	445	98.6	206.37
Portland	190	217	22	630	8120	491	125.79	284.94
St. Elizabeth	204	372	27	NA	NA	NA	195.59	NA
Corporate Area Criminal	1146	1107	390	12872	37670	3633	130.63	319.24
St. Thomas	175	89	15	536	6022	301	59.43	457.69
St. James	483	447	43	2761	17949	452	101.45	190.82
St. Ann	407	317	106	4407	11615	1095	103.93	355.08
Trelawny	225	208	47	776	6451	472	113.33	273.33
Manchester	370	221	22	1915	10783	896	65.68	520.99
Total	5193	4977	880	31980	162025	9700	-	-
Average/Weighted Average	399.46	382.85	67.69	2665.00	13502.08	808.33	112.79	254.28
Standard deviation	284.2	286.52	101.75	3519.02	9398.72	948.08	39.79	116.13
Skewness	1.74	1.78	3.06	2.56	1.86	2.78	0.82	1.05

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

Note 2: The grand total number of active cases from 2016 to the quarter ended June 30, 2024, for all parish courts combined= 9,525

Note 3: The case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for the second quarter of 2024 is 80.67% and the case congestion rate is 820.83%

The table above is an extension of table 1.0. Among the critical performance measures reported in this table is the case congestion rate across the parish courts. This provides a measure of manageability of a court’s existing caseload. In particular, it provides an indication of the caseload

burden relative to existing resources and the pace of case clearance. As an empirical measurement of case carriage load, the case congestion rate is more meaningful over longer period, typically a year or more; hence, the quarterly results are to be interpreted in a guarded way.

The weighted average case congestion rate among the parish courts in the second quarter of 2024 was 254.28%, an indication that the parish courts (criminal division) as a whole are carrying roughly three times the caseload that their current rate of clearance and implied state of resources justifies. This result represents a 19.05 percentage points decrease when compared to the second quarter of 2023. The Manchester Parish Court (520.99%) and the parish courts of St. Thomas (457.69%), St. Ann (355.08%) and Corporate Area Criminal (319.24%) were the courts with the highest case congestion rates in the second quarter of 2024. The Portland (284.94%) and Trelawny (273.33%) Parish Courts rounded off the top 6 most case congested courts at the end of the second quarter of 2024. The parish courts of St. Ann, St. Thomas, Manchester, Trelawny and Corporate Area-Criminal Division were also among the most congested courts in the comparative second quarter of 2023. The parish courts of Hanover (158.78%), St. Mary (159.94%), and St. James (190.82%) performed best on this measure. As with previous reports, variations in caseload and resources do not appear to be a major factor explaining the variances in performance on this measure as some of the courts ranking on either ends of the scale are the larger courts in the island and resource endowment do not vary in a statistically way among the courts. The case congestion rate is a more meaningful measurement over a full year.

The results on the overall case clearance rate for the second quarter of 2024 provide interesting insights into the court-wide progress being made on this measure. The overall weighted average case clearance rate of 112.79%, which is an increase of 5.61 percentage points when compared to the corresponding second quarter of 2023 and the performance exceeds the international standard of 90%-110%. This overall case clearance rate of 112.79% suggests that for every 100 new cases filed, roughly 113 cases were disposed of. Ten (10) parish courts met or exceeded the international standards of 90%-110%. The parish courts of St. Elizabeth (195.59%), St. Mary (179.06%), Corporate Area Criminal (130.63%), Portland (125.79%) and St. Catherine (124.74%) were the leading parish courts on this measure. The parish courts of St. Thomas (59.43%), Manchester (65.68%) and Westmoreland (74.51%) had the lowest criminal case clearance rates for the quarter. Five (5) parish courts recorded an increase in clearance rates when compared to second quarter of 2023, while eight (8) parish courts recorded a decrease in clearance rates when compared to second quarter of 2023. The St. Mary and St. Elizabeth parish courts saw the largest gains, with 86.27 and 79.18 percentage points improvement respectively. The Manchester and St. Thomas parish courts saw the largest decline, with 49.19 and 46.38 percentage points decline respectively. The data in the table above were positively skewed to various degrees, indicating that for the most part, proportionately more of the scores in that data set fell below their respective series means.

Refer to Table 3.0 for further comparison of the case clearance rates and the case congestion rates across all parish courts for the second quarter of 2023 and 2024.

Table 1.02b: Percentile rank on selected performance metrics for the criminal division of the parish courts for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

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

The table above provides the percentile ranks of the case disposal and case clearance rates for the second quarter of 2024. The percentile rank gives an indication of where particular courts falls on a metric relative to the other courts. The parish courts of Hanover (100%), St. James (92%) and St. Catherine (83%) had the highest percentile ranks on case disposal rate for the second quarter of 2024, an indication that they performed better than the vast proportion of the courts on this measure.

The percentile ranks of 100% for the Hanover Parish Court for example, means that they performed better than all the courts on case disposal rate in the quarter, while the St. James Parish Court performed better than 92% of the parish courts and the St. Catherine Parish Court performed better than 83% of all the parish courts on this measurement. The parish courts of St. Elizabeth, St. Thomas and St. Ann had the lowest percentile rank on case disposal rate for the quarter.

In terms of case clearance rates, the parish courts of St. Elizabeth (100%), St. Mary (92%) and Corporate Area Criminal (83%) had the highest percentile ranks, while the parish courts of St. Thomas, Manchester and Westmoreland had the lowest.

Table 1.02c: Forecasted case activity statistics for the third quarter of 2024 [July 01 - September 30, 2023]

Parish Court	Forecasted number of new cases	Forecasted number of disposed cases	Forecasted number of inactive cases	Forecasted case clearance rate (%)
Hanover	153	149	5	100.65
Manchester	338	235	23	76.33
St. Mary	192	224	11	122.40
St. James	476	452	51	105.67
St. Catherine	772	762	120	114.25
Portland	187	210	16	120.86
St. Ann	430	338	116	105.58
St. Elizabeth	193	263	24	148.70
Corporate Area Criminal	1248	929	457	111.06
Westmoreland	382	325	30	92.93
St. Thomas	156	132	16	94.87
Clarendon	419	534	66	143.20
Trelawny	228	197	36	102.19
Total/Weighted Average	5174	4750	971	110.57

Note: The forecasted case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for the second quarter of 2024 is 87.30%.

The above table forecasts core case activity for the criminal division of each parish court and overall for the third quarter of 2024. The forecasts are generated using the method of exponential smoothing which uses weighted averages from past observations with weights decaying exponentially as the observations get older. See further explanation of the mathematical science behind the method of exponential smoothing in the glossary of terms. The above data shows that the overall forecasted case clearance rates for the criminal division of the

parish courts for the third quarter of 2024 is 110.57%, which would be 2.22 percentage points lower than that of the second quarter of 2024. Twelve (12) parish courts are forecasted to satisfy the international standard on case clearance rate of 90% or more in the third quarter of 2024, led by the St. Elizabeth Parish Court with 148.70%, the Clarendon Parish Court with 143.20% and the St. Mary Parish Court with 122.40%.

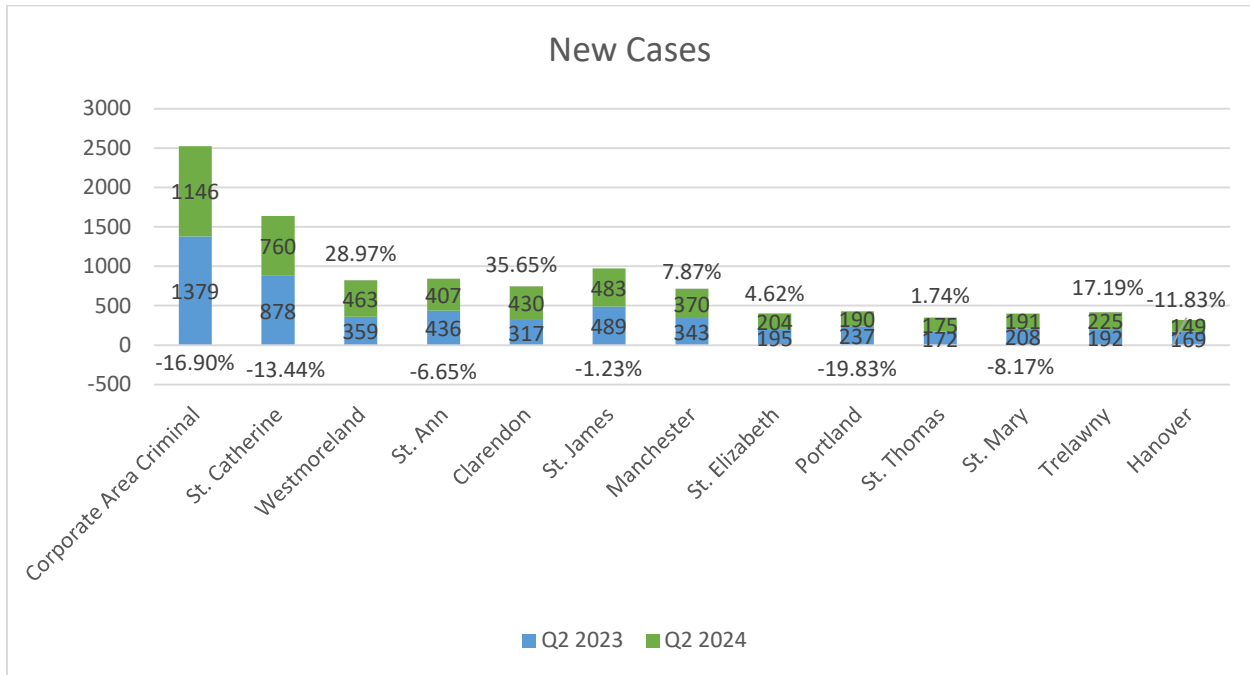
Table 1.02d: Sampling distribution of new cases filed per 10,000 population in the criminal division of the parish courts in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Population size in parish	Case per 10,000 population
Hanover	149	69,533	21
St. Catherine	760	516,218	15
Westmoreland	463	144,103	32
St. Mary	191	113,615	17
Clarendon	430	245,103	18
Portland	190	81,744	23
St. Elizabeth	204	150,205	14
Corporate Area Criminal	1146	662,426	17
St. Thomas	175	93,902	19
St. James	483	183,811	26
St. Ann	407	172,362	24
Trelawny	225	75,164	30
Manchester	370	189,797	19
Total	5193	2,697,983	19

The above table provides an outline of the number of new criminal cases filed per 10,000 population in the parish courts in the second quarter of 2024. The population sizes used are based on the last published national population census in 2011 and therefore the data does not have full current value. Nevertheless, this kind of data provides interesting insights into the demand for adjudication in criminal matters in the various parishes.

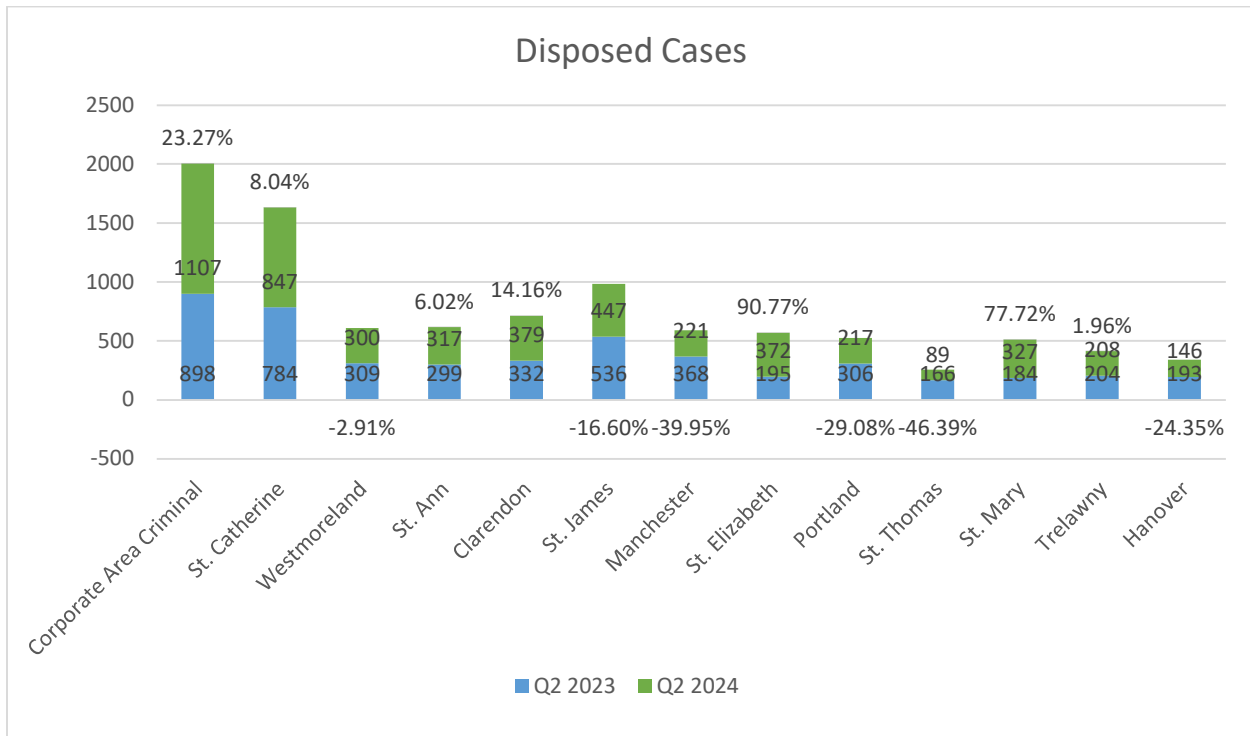
It is seen that the parish of Westmoreland, which is midrange in population size, and among the parishes with a larger caseload, registered the largest number of new criminal cases filed per 10,000 population in the second quarter of 2024. Trelawny, which is among the parishes with a smaller population size and modest caseloads, was second on this measurement. St. James, which is among the parishes with a higher caseload and population sizes, followed. Equally interesting is the result that the St. Elizabeth Parish Court, which is among the parishes with a modest quarterly caseload and midrange population size, had the smallest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population in the quarter. St. Catherine had the second lowest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population for the quarter, followed by St. Mary.

Chart 1.01a: Summary of changes in the number of new cases filed in the second quarters of 2023 and 2024



The above chart provides a breakdown of the changes in the number of new cases filed in the second quarter of 2023 and 2024. It is seen that there has been a decrease in new cases filed over the comparative period seven (7) parish courts and an increase in six (6). Among the parish courts with the largest rise in new cases filed were the Clarendon Parish Court increasing by 35.65% and the Westmoreland Parish Court, which increased by 28.97%. Among the parish courts with the largest decline in new cases filed were the Portland parish court which fell by 19.83% and the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division fell by 16.90%.

Chart 1.01b: Summary of changes in the number of cases disposed in the second quarters of 2023 and 2024



The above graph provides a breakdown of the changes in the number of cases disposed of in the second quarter of 2023 and 2024. It is seen that there has been a decrease in cases resolved over the comparative period in six (6) parish courts and an increase in the cases resolved in seven (7) parish courts.

Among the parish courts with the largest rise in cases resolved were the St. Elizabeth Parish Court increasing by 90.77% and the St. Mary Parish Court, which increased by 77.72%. Among the parish courts with the largest decline in cases resolved were the St. Thomas parish court fell by 46.39% and the Manchester Parish court fell by 39.95%.

Table 1.02e: Sampling distribution of the Indices of Judge Productivity for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Number of Judges	New criminal cases per Judges	Active pending caseload per Judge at the beginning of Q2 2024	Active caseload per Judge at the end of Q2 2024	Cases disposed per Judge
Hanover	2	74.50	43.00	43.50	73.00
St. Catherine	5	152.00	231.20	193.60	169.40
Westmoreland	2	231.50	158.50	217.50	150.00
St. Mary	3	63.67	118.67	68.33	109.00
Clarendon	3	143.33	148.33	150.33	126.33
Portland	2	95.00	245.50	221.00	108.50
St. Elizabeth	3	68.00	NA	NA	124.00
Corporate Area Criminal	9	127.33	403.67	364.67	123.00
St. Thomas	2	87.50	150.50	186.00	44.50
St. James	5	96.60	90.40	89.00	89.40
St. Ann	3	135.67	365.00	359.67	105.67
Trelawny	3	75.00	157.33	147.33	69.33
Manchester	3	123.33	298.67	341.00	73.67
Total/Weighted Average	45	115.40	215.56	205.13	110.60

The above table provides a distribution of the new cases filed per judge, the cases disposed per judge and the caseload per judge in the criminal division of the parish courts for the second quarter of 2024. The data reveals that the overall weighted average number of new criminal cases filed per judge in the second quarter of 2024 is roughly 115 cases. The parish courts of Westmoreland (232 cases), St. Catherine (152 cases) and Clarendon (143 cases) had the three largest number of new cases filed per judge during the quarter. On the contrary, the parish courts St. Mary (64 cases), St. Elizabeth (68 cases) and the Hanover (75 cases) had the lowest number of new cases filed per judge in the quarters.

In terms of cases disposed of per judge, the St. Catherine Parish Court disposed of the most cases per judge in the quarter with 169 cases, followed by the Westmoreland Parish Court with 150 cases and the Clarendon Parish Court with 126 cases disposed per judge. The three courts with the smallest number of cases disposed per judge were the St. Thomas Parish Court and the Trelawny Parish Court with 45 and 69 disposed cases per judge respectively and the Hanover Parish Court with 73 disposed cases per judge. The overall number of criminal cases disposed per judge was 111 cases. The most crucial of the indicators is the active caseload per judge at the end of the quarter. The data shows that the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division had the highest caseload per judge at the end of the quarter with 365 cases, followed by the St. Ann Parish Court with 360 cases and the Manchester Parish Court with 341 cases per judge. On the lower end, the parish courts of Hanover and St. Mary with 44 and 68 cases per judge respectively, had the lowest active criminal caseload per judge at the end of the quarter, followed by the St. James Parish Court with 89 active criminal cases per judge. The overall average active criminal caseload per judge at the end of the quarter is 205 cases. The active caseload is a proxy for the existing demand for judicial services in the respective courts and the anecdotal evidence suggests that some courts with a higher caseload per judge are generally more hard pressed to sustain high productivity rates.

Table 1.03: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q2 2024	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q2 2023	Change in case disposal Rate (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q2 2024	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q2 2023	Change in case clearance Rate (%)	Case congestion rate (%) Q2 2024	Case congestion Rate (%) Q2 2023	Change in case Congestion Rate (%)
Hanover	59.73	74.56	-14.83	99.33	118.34	-19.01	18.78	131.50	-112.72
St. Catherine	56.45	54.78	1.67	124.74	107.29	17.45	202.11	228.24	-26.13
Westmoreland	46.44	59.33	-12.89	74.51	93.87	-19.36	226.09	159.35	66.74
St. Mary	39.27	33.17	6.1	179.06	92.79	86.27	159.94	240.41	-80.47
Clarendon	48.6	51.42	-2.82	98.60	116.09	-17.49	206.37	218.48	-12.11
Portland	40	41.77	-1.77	125.79	137.55	-11.76	284.94	231.90	53.04
St. Elizabeth	30.39	55.38	-24.99	195.59	116.41	79.18	NA	NA	NA
Corporate Area Criminal	55.76	52.57	3.19	130.63	99.27	31.36	319.24	418.99	-99.75
St. Thomas	34.29	41.86	-7.57	59.43	105.81	-46.38	457.69	301.10	156.59
St. James	59.63	67.69	-8.06	101.45	118.2	-16.75	190.82	171.28	19.54
St. Ann	38.08	33.72	4.36	103.93	92.66	11.27	355.08	381.93	-26.85
Trelawny	46.67	47.4	-0.73	113.33	125	-11.67	273.33	255.00	18.33
Manchester	51.35	42.57	8.78	65.68	114.87	-49.19	520.77	290.86	229.91
Average/Weighted Average	49.91	51.56	-1.65	112.79	107.18	5.61	254.28	273.33	-19.05
Standard Deviation	9.72	12.26		39.79	13.59		116.03	85.57	
Skewness	-0.14	0.44		0.82	0.24		1.05	0.66	

The table above provides a comparison of the case disposal rate, the case clearance rate and the case congestion rate for the second quarter of 2024 and 2023. The weighted average case disposal rate for the second quarter of 2024, was 49.91%, which was a 1.65 percentage points decline when compared to the second quarter of 2023, which had a weighted average rate of 51.56%. The overall case clearance rate of 112.79% for the second quarter of 2024 was 5.61 percentage points more than the 107.18% recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2023. The overall case congestion rate for the second quarter of 2024 improved, changing from

273.33% in the second quarter of 2023, to 254.28% in the second quarter of 2024, a 19.05 percentage point decrease. Ceteris paribus, there should be a roughly inverse linear association between the case clearance rates and the case congestion rate. This is more pronounced in the long run than in the short or medium terms.

Chart 1.2.01: Aggregate summary of case activity metrics for the second quarters of 2023 and 2024

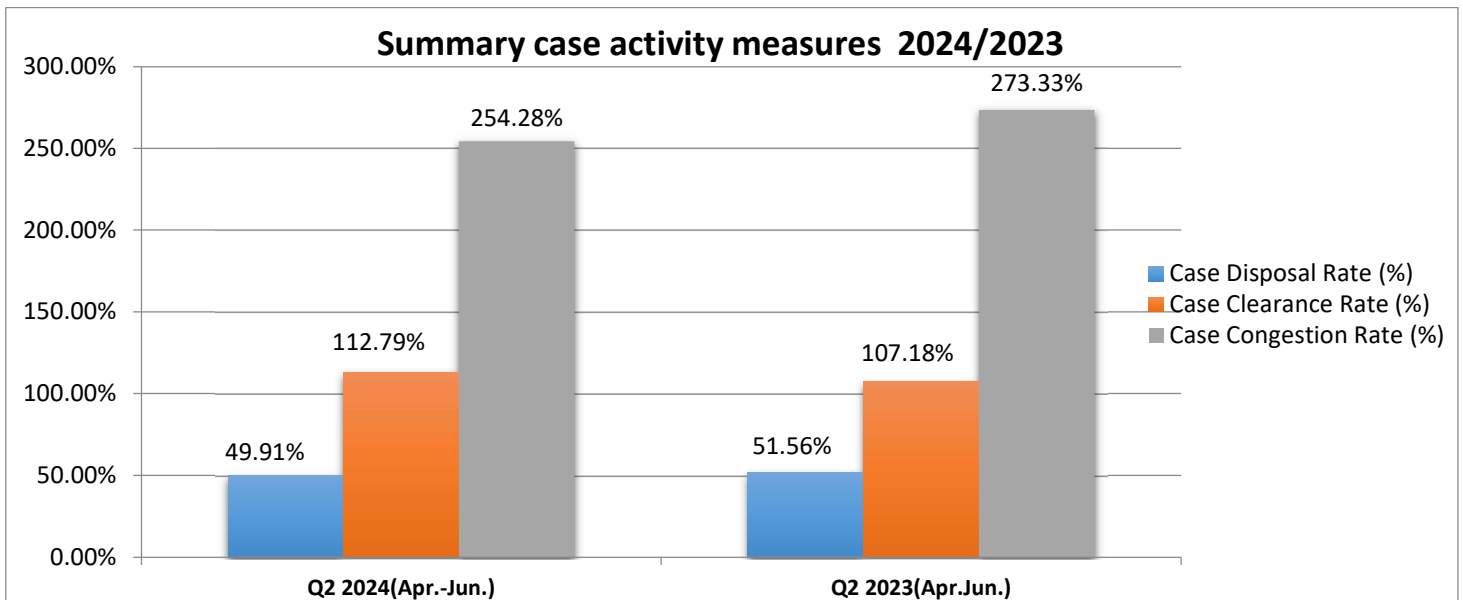


Chart 1.2.02a: Comparison of case disposal rates across the parish courts for the second quarters of 2023 and 2024

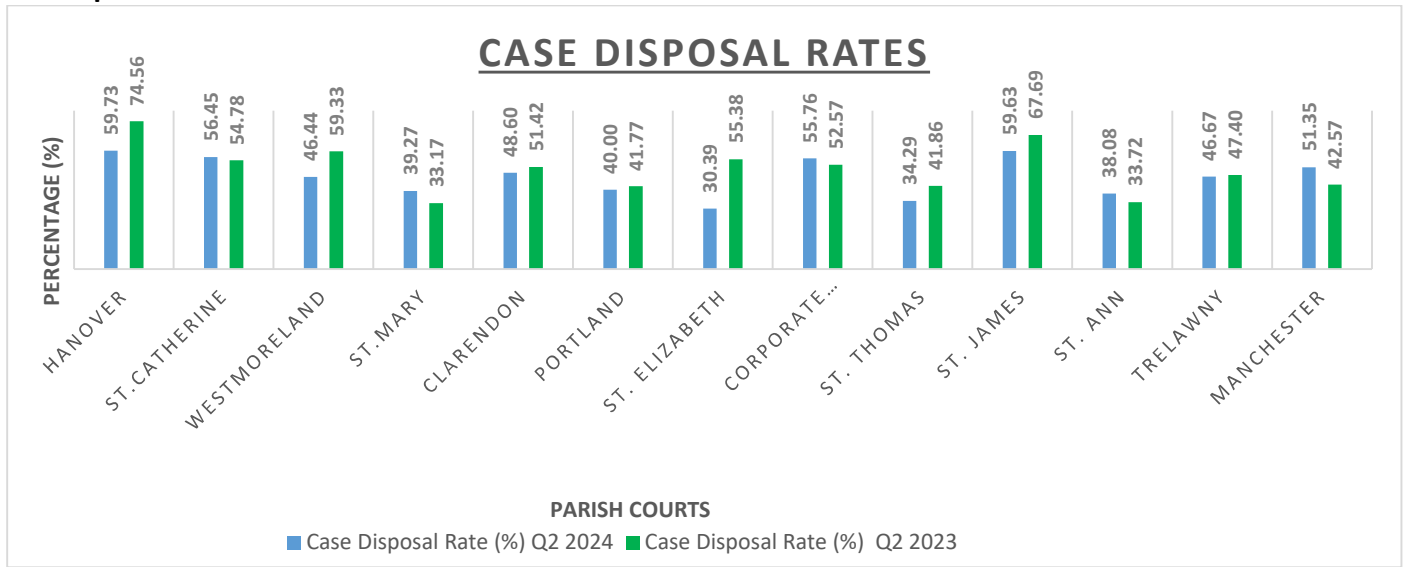


Chart 1.2.02b: Comparison of case clearance rates across the parish courts for the second quarters of 2023 and 2024

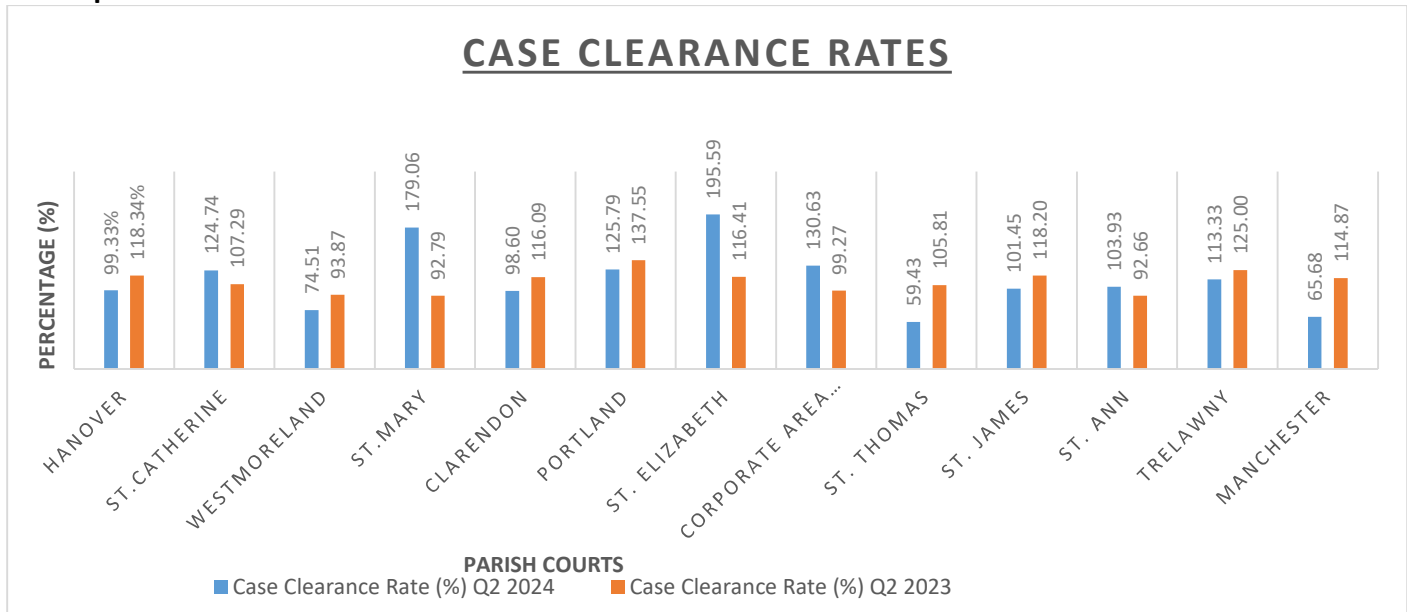


Chart 1.2.02c: Comparison of case congestion rate across the parish courts for the second quarters of 2023 and 2024

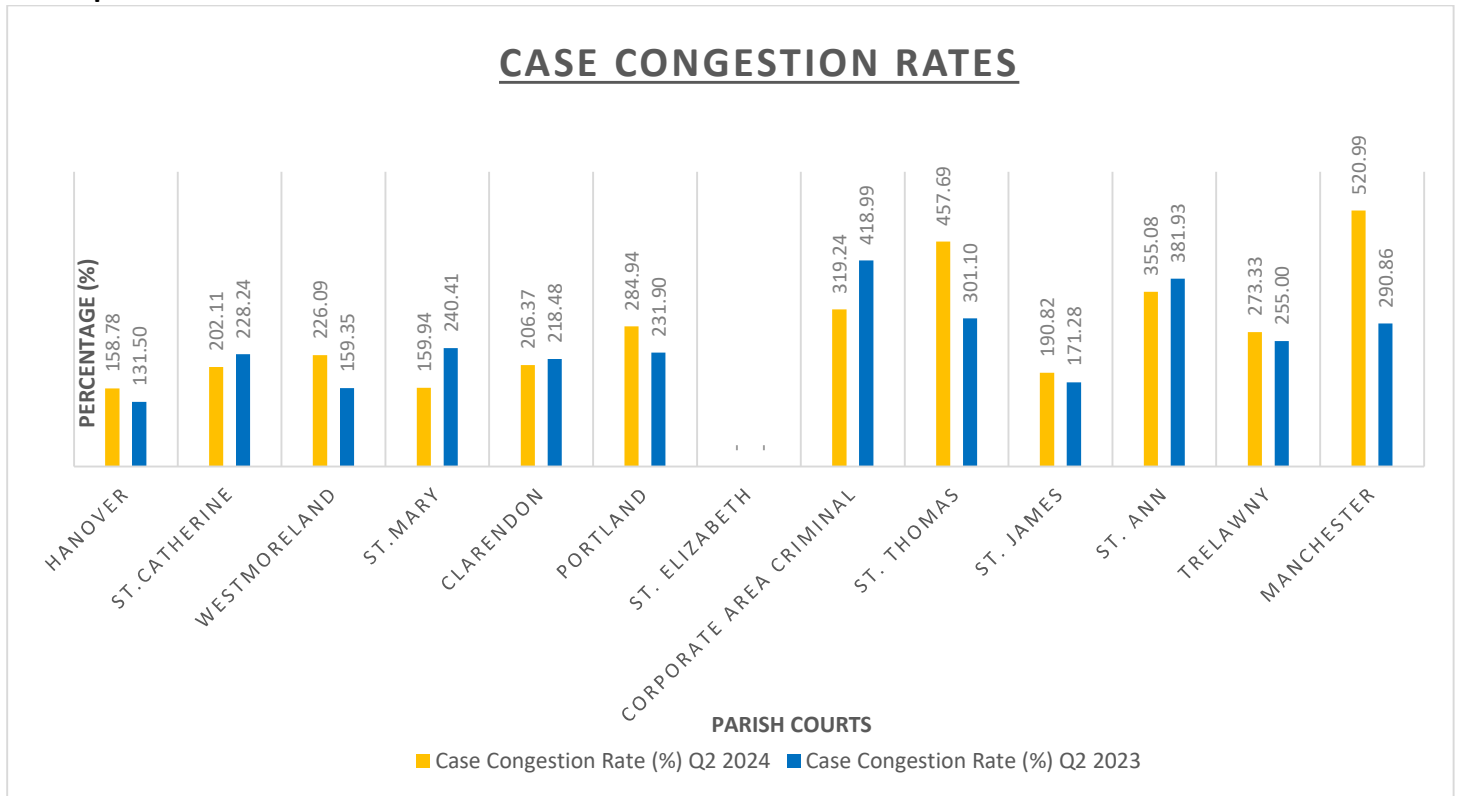


Table 1.04a: Sampling distribution of mention court activity for cases disposed of in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Overall number of cases disposed	Number of cases disposed in 1 case management date	Number of cases disposed in 2 management dates	Number of cases disposed in 3 management dates	Number of cases disposed in 4 management dates	Number of cases disposed in 5 management dates	Number of cases disposed in 6-10 management dates	Number of cases disposed in more than 10 management date
Hanover	146	24	10	5	6	NA	1	NA
St. Catherine	847	168	105	62	33	29	110	18
Westmoreland	300	142	60	34	21	15	29	7
St. Mary	327	80	45	42	22	17	42	5
Clarendon	379	58	42	28	15	10	16	5
Portland	217	53	35	38	22	16	44	8
Corporate Area Criminal	1107	330	191	155	121	72	174	89
St. Thomas	89	26	9	5	NA	3	4	2
St. James	447	222	44	26	7	5	NA	NA
St. Ann	317	61	27	21	9	9	6	3
Trelawny	208	37	31	23	12	4	8	NA
Manchester	221	46	29	8	7	1	7	NA
Mean	383.75	103.92	52.33	37.25	25.00	16.45	40.09	17.13
Median	308.50	59.50	38.50	27.00	15.00	10.00	16.00	6.00
Skewness	1.72	1.52	2.23	2.52	2.94	2.45	1.90	2.68
Standard Deviation	299.24	94.40	50.36	40.59	32.94	20.12	54.46	29.46
Total	4605	1247	628	447	275	181	441	137

The above sampling distribution provides critical insights into case management date activity for a representative sample of criminal cases disposed across the parish courts over the second quarter of 2024. In general, the fewer the number of case management dates per case, the more efficient the case flow progression. A maximum of five case management dates per case is considered to be desirable based on international best practices. A notable 27.12% of the sample of 4,605 cases disposed of during the period were resolved on their first appearance before the court. A further 27.08% of the sample of cases disposed of were resolved at first appearance, while 13.64% were resolved after two appearances and 9.71% after three appearances. Cumulatively, roughly 87.45% of the cases sampled were resolved in five or less case management dates, inclusive of those resolved on first appearance before the courts. This is an impressive outcome by any measure. Although there are some variances across the parish courts, the overall outcomes were consistently observed for all courts. In other words, the vast majority of the cases sampled were disposed in five or less case management appearance in all courts and matters disposed on first appearance before the court or within the first few appearances accounted for the largest share of the activity across the courts. These outcomes are not surprising given the consistently high case clearance rates in the parish courts in the last few years. These collective results augur well for the probability of relatively quick and efficient resolution of criminal cases across the parish courts.

Table 1.04b: Summary of cases heard during the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Number of cases heard in the quarter	Share of cases heard in the quarter (%)
Clarendon	903	7.61
Corporate Area -Criminal Division	3690	31.09
Hanover	216	1.82
Manchester	477	4.02
Portland	547	4.61
St. Ann	1217	10.25
St. Catherine	1796	15.13
St. James	789	6.65
St. Mary	517	4.36
St. Thomas	316	2.66
Trelawny	635	5.35
Westmoreland	767	6.46
Total /Weighted Average	11870	100

The table above provides a summary of the criminal cases heard during the second quarter of 2024 at the parish courts. From a sample of 11,870 cases heard, it is seen that the Corporate Area Criminal court accounted for the highest share of cases heard with 3,690 cases heard or 31.09% of the sample, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court with 1,796 cases heard or 15.13% and the St. Ann parish court with 1,217 cases or 10.25% of the sample. Cumulatively, the top three courts account for roughly 56.47% of the cases sampled. On the lower end, the parish courts of Hanover with 216 cases or 1.82%, St. Thomas with 316 or 2.66% and Manchester with 477 or 4.02% of the sample, accounted for the lowest share of cases heard in the second quarter of 2024.

Table 1.05a: Comparison of the trial certainty rates for the second quarters of 2023 and 2024

Parish Court	Trial certainty rate (%) Q2 (2024)	Trial certainty rate (%) Q2 (2023)	Change in the trial certainty rate (%)
Westmoreland	75	60	15
Clarendon	95	92	3
St. Ann	100	75	25
Portland	82	79	3
St. James	99	100	-1
Manchester	100	96	4
St. Catherine	88	82	6
Trelawny	66	76	-10
St. Mary	84	75	9
St. Thomas	85	54	31
Corporate Area Criminal	95	91	4
Hanover	63	84	-21
Total/Average	86	80	6

Note 1: The trial date certainty rate for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for Q1 2024 is 100%

Note 2: Q2 represents the second quarter i.e. April-June

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 second quarter of 2024 was 86%, a 6-percentage points improvement when compared to the corresponding second quarter of 2023. Five (5) 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. Ann and Manchester each with an estimated trial certainty rate of 100%, followed by St. James with 99% and Clarendon and Corporate Area-Criminal Division with 95% each. The St. Catherine Parish Court-Criminal Division fell just short of the international standard with a trial certainty rate of 88%, 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 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 assist in sustaining the current net case backlog rate of less than 5%.

Table 1.05b: Percentile Rank on trial date certainty rate for the criminal division of the parish courts in the second quarters of 2023 and 2024

Parsh Court	Percentile Rank-Trial Date Certainty Rate Q2 2024 (%)	Percentile Rank-Trial Date Certainty Rate Q2 2023 (%)
Westmoreland	18	9
Clarendon	64	82
St. Ann	91	18
Portland	27	45
St. James	82	100
Manchester	91	91
St. Catherine	55	55
Trelawny	9	36
St. Mary	36	18
St. Thomas	45	0
Corporate Area Criminal	64	73
Hanover	0	64

The above table provides a summary of the percentile rank of the various parish courts with regards to their performances on the trial date certainty rates for the second quarter of 2023 and 2024. The results present a mixed picture across both years for most courts in terms of the relative performances on this measurement. Some courts experienced gains in the ranking and several others experienced declines, while some courts remained the same. There were, however, no dramatic changes in ranking for any court over the comparable period.

Table 1.05c: Average duration from first trial date set to date of disposal of case for matters resolved by trial in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Average duration of trial (in days)
Clarendon	312.09
Corporate Area	429.27
Hanover	55.32
Manchester	213.78
Portland	102.00
St. Ann	357.90
St. Catherine	537.57
St. James	306.32
St. Mary	583.26
St. Thomas	258.95
Trelawny	91.38
Westmoreland	68.36
Weighted average	405.57
Standard Deviation	179.79

The above table summarizes the average durations between first trial date set and the date of case disposal for trial matters resolved in the second quarter of 2024 across the various parish courts. The data shows an overall weighted average interval between the first trial date set and the disposition of such cases in the quarter is 406 days or roughly 13.5 months, with a standard deviation of roughly 180 days or 6 months. The Hanover and Westmoreland Parish Courts had the lowest times between first trial dates set and disposal of cases with roughly 55 days and 68 days respectively, reflective of more ideal standards when compared to most other courts. The St. Mary and St. Catherine Parish Courts with average interval times of roughly 583 days or 19.4 months and 538 days or roughly 17.9 months respectively had the worst ranks on this measurement for the quarter. Lengthy time intervals between the first trial date and the date of case disposition are symptoms of case management problems, case readiness and possibly even scheduling and calendar management issues in the particular court.

Table 1.05d: Time interval between major events for cases that had a trial date in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Average time between filing and first court appearance (in days)	Average time between first court appearance and trial (in days)	Average time between trial and disposition (in days)
Clarendon	5.28	275.28	312.09
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	3.72	509.57	429.27
Hanover	10.89	100.40	55.32
Manchester	5.00	114.09	213.78
Portland	5.24	319.89	102.00
St. Ann	8.32	594.60	357.90
St. Catherine	9.29	332.20	537.57
St. James	5.43	930.24	306.32
St. Mary	14.49	151.01	583.26
St. Thomas	6.88	188.05	258.95
Trelawny	4.66	232.34	91.38
Westmoreland	4.93	360.56	68.36
Weighted average	5.76	480.72	405.57
Standard Deviation	3.18	238.52	179.79

Note 1: The average time between filing a case and the first court appearance for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for the second quarter of 2024 is 11.57 days.

Note 2: The average time between the first appearance and first trial date for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for the second quarter of 2024 is 581.29 days.

Note 3: The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for the second quarter of 2024 is 272.67 days.

Tracking the times between the occurrence of major hearing events along the case flow continuum is important to establishing precise points of possible delay in case progression. The above table provides a summary of the average times between filing a case and the first court appearance, the average time between first court appearance and the first date of trial and the average duration between the first trial date and disposition.

Overall, it is seen that the average time between filing a criminal case and the first court appearance is approximately 6 days, while the overall average time between first appearance of a criminal matter in the parish courts and the first trial date is, however, much longer at roughly 16 months or 481 days. The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition is roughly 13.5 months or 406 days. These findings indicate that there may be imprecisions in the science of scheduling trial dates which may at times face long delays after a first date set is postponed. Since roughly less than a quarter of criminal cases filed in the parish courts will proceed to trial, these findings may not have a dramatic impact on the overall time to disposition of criminal cases but are nonetheless critical for monitoring case activity.

Table 1.05e: Trial court activity summary during the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Number of cases heard	Number of cases with a trial date set	Percentage of cases heard which had a trial date set (%)
Clarendon	903	205	22.70
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	3442	702	20.40
Hanover	216	30	13.89
Manchester	477	70	14.68
Portland	547	60	10.97
St. Ann	1217	153	12.57
St. Catherine	1796	559	31.12
St. James	789	179	22.69
St. Mary	517	79	15.28
St. Thomas	316	46	14.56
Trelawny	635	146	22.99
Westmoreland	767	113	14.73
Total/Weighted Average	11622	2342	20.15

Note 1: The Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann had 7.66% of cases heard proceed to trial in the second quarter of 2024.

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

The above table provides a summary of number of cases heard in the second quarter of 2024 in the criminal divisions of the parish courts which had trial dates set, whether in the current quarter, from the previous quarter or a future date. Using a sampling distribution, it is seen that of 11,622 criminal cases heard across the parish courts in the second quarter of 2024, 2,342 cases or 20.15% had a trial date set. The parish courts of Portland (10.97%), St. Ann (12.57%) and Hanover (13.89%) had the lowest proportion of cases proceeding to trial, while the parish courts of St. Catherine (31.12%), Trelawny (22.99%) and Clarendon (22.70%) had the highest proportions.

Table 1.06a: Distribution of courtroom utilization rates across the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Average overall courtroom utilization rate (%)	Highest recorded courtroom utilization rate (%)	Lowest recorded courtroom utilization rate (%)	Standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rate (%)	Average courtroom utilization rate for Night Court sittings (%)	Average number of courtroom adjournments per day
St. Catherine	70.56	127.22	1.11	28.51	70.45	1.0
Westmoreland	50.05	125.00	4.67	33.12	NA	NA
Trelawny	67.78	147.33	1.67	29.31	NA	1.0
St. Thomas	55.49	95.83	22.22	25.55	NA	NA
St. Mary	77.97	143.00	8.00	28.42	NA	1.0
St. James	63.53	145.00	5.00	33.39	NA	1.0
Corporate Area Criminal Court	72.22	136.67	4.67	30.29	NA	1.1
St. Ann	67.03	129.17	2.50	29.80	57.26	1.0
Portland	60.44	122.22	1.39	26.88	NA	1.0
Hanover	62.36	131.94	1.39	34.20	NA	1.0
Clarendon	73.92	257.33	19.67	40.04	86.67	NA
Manchester	68.77	129.17	11.67	29.41	NA	1.0
Overall Averages	65.84	140.82	7.00	30.74	71.46	1.01
Standard Deviation	7.93	39.09	7.24	3.91	14.73	0.03
Skewness	-0.56	2.69	1.39	1.18	0.31	3.00

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the various parish courts in the second quarter of 2024. The courtroom utilization rate provides a measurement of the proportion of available hours for open court hearings in all courtrooms (including outstations) which are actually utilized. If the usage of any courtroom exceeds the available hours, then the utilization rate will exceed 100% and the rate will fall below 100% if less than the available hours are utilized.

The prescribed international standard for the courtroom utilization rate is 100%, which means that all hours allocated for court hearings in any court, on any given day should be utilized. The data suggests that as a whole, the parish courts of Jamaica performed below this level in the second quarter of 2024. The overall average courtroom utilization rate across the parish courts in the quarter was 65.84%, which is an indication that on average roughly 66% of the available hours for court hearings were utilized across the parish courts in the second quarter of 2024. This result is roughly 1.93 percentage points above the figure for the corresponding period in 2023. The parish courts recording the highest courtroom utilization rates for the quarter are the St. Mary and Clarendon Parish Courts with 77.97% and 73.92% respectively, followed by the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division with 72.22% and the St. Catherine Parish Court with 70.56%. The Westmoreland Parish Court and St. Thomas Parish Courts with 50.05% and 55.49% respectively, had the lowest rates, while the Portland Parish Court with 60.44% had the next lowest rate. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates was relatively low, suggesting that on average the rates for the individual courts did not vary widely from the overall mean. The positive skewness of the data suggests that proportionately more of the sample are below the overall mean.

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

Table 1.06b: Percentile Rank on Courtroom utilization rate for the criminal division of the parish courts in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Percentile rank Q2 2024 (%)	Percentile rank Q2 2023 (%)
St. Catherine	73	64
Westmoreland	0	73
Trelawny	55	45
St. Thomas	9	0
St. Mary	100	18
St. James	36	82
Corporate Area Criminal Court	82	9
St. Ann	45	55
Portland	18	100
Hanover	27	91
Clarendon	91	36
Manchester	64	27

Note: Q2 represents the second quarter i.e. April-June

The above table provides a summary of the percentile rank of the various parish courts with regards to their performances on the courtroom utilization rates for the second quarter of 2023 and 2024. The results present a relatively consistent picture across both years for most courts in terms of the performances on this measurement. Some courts experienced gains in the ranking, several others experienced declines, and some courts retained the same ranking. The St. Mary Parish Court performed better than all courts in the second quarter of 2024, while the Portland Parish Court performed better than all courts in the second quarter of 2023. The St. Thomas Parish Court had the lowest courtroom utilization rate in the second quarter of 2023 and the Westmoreland Parish Court with the lowest rate in the second quarter of 2024.

Table 1.07: Types of matters for each Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Indictment	Summary Matters	Lay Magistrates Sittings	Committal Proceedings	Tax	Miscellaneous	LRF	Traffic	NS	Total
Corporate Area Criminal	902	561	258	185	-	-	-	27	36	1969
St. Catherine	602	307	168	211	19	-	5	-		1312
Manchester	228	89	174	52	-	-	17	-	1	561
St. James	184	189	168	62	38	65	-	-	8	714
St. Ann	127	103	87	92	-	-	-	3	-	412
Westmoreland	259	155	124	127	-	-	-	-	-	665
Clarendon	357	297	57	84	-	-	-	-	1	796
Portland	110	109	68	17	3	-	8	-	-	315
St. Mary	165	59	36	70	3	-	-	-	-	333
Trelawny	200	36	72	28	1	0	10	-	3	350
Hanover	85	47	37	26	-	-	22	-	2	219
St. Thomas	133	69	42	43	-	1	3	-	-	291
Total	3352	2021	1291	997	64	66	65	30	51	7937
Percentage	42.23	25.46	16.27	12.56	0.81	0.83	0.82	0.38	0.64	-

***Total number of observations = 7,937**LRF means Law Reform Fraudulent Transaction,**

*****NS means not stated**

The above table provides a breakdown of the different types of new charges filed in each parish court for the second quarter of 2024. For the quarter, 7,937 charges were filed across the parish courts, a decrease of approximately 488 charges or a 5.79% decline when compared to the corresponding second quarter of 2023. The largest proportions of these charges were filed in the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division (1,969), the St. Catherine Parish Court (1,312), the Clarendon Parish Court with (796) and the St. James Parish Court with 714 charges. The largest share of the charges were Indictments (42.23%); followed by summary matters (25.46%), Lay Magistrates' matters (16.27%) and committal proceedings with 12.56% of the total sample.

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

Offence Types

Table 1.08.01: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	24	12.00
Malicious destruction of property	22	11.00
Threat	21	10.50
Unlawful wounding	20	10.00
Possession of identity information	18	9.00
Sub-total	105	52.50

Number of observations sampled (N): 200

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court for the second quarter of 2024. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 24 or 12% and malicious destruction of property with 22 or 11% of the total sample of charges are the most frequently occurring charges. Threat with 21 or 10.50% followed this, while unlawful wounding with 20 or 10% and possession of identity information with 18 or 9% of the total sample rounds off the top five. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 52.50% of the total sample of 200 charges filed in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the second quarter of 2023 in the Hanover Parish Court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property, threat and assault at common law.

Table 1.08.02: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Exposing goods for sale	66	12.57
Assault occasioning bodily harm	64	12.19
Unlawful wounding	59	11.24
Threat	41	7.81
Malicious destruction of property	26	4.95
Sub-total	256	48.76

Number of observations sampled (N): 525

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court for the second quarter of 2024. It is shown that exposing goods for sale with 66 or 12.57% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 64 or 12.19% and unlawful wounding with 59 or 11.24% rank next. The top five is rounded off by threat with 41 or 7.81% and malicious destruction of property with 26 or 4.95% of the sample charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 48.76% of the total sample of 525 charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the second quarter of 2023 in the Manchester Parish Court included threat, malicious destruction of property, assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding and exposing goods for sale.

Table 1.08.03: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Portland Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	43	14.83
Threat	35	12.07
Unlawful wounding	29	10.00
Illegal Entry	18	6.21
Being Armed with an offensive weapon	16	5.52
Sub-Total	141	48.62

Number of observations sampled (N): 290

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Portland Parish Court in the second quarter of 2024. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 43 or 14.83% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Threat with 35 or 12.07% and unlawful wounding with 29 or 10% ranked next. The top five is rounded off by illegal entry with 18 or 6.21% and being armed with an offensive weapon with 16 or 5.52% of the sample of charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 48.62% of the total sample of 290 charges filed in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the second quarter of 2023 in the Portland parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, threat, malicious destruction of property and assault at common law.

Table 1.08.04: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Threat	87	17.83
Assault occasioning bodily harm	66	13.52
Unlawful wounding	49	10.04
Malicious destruction of property	39	7.99
Littering in a public place	18	3.69
Sub-Total	259	53.07

Number of observations sampled (N): 488

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the second quarter of 2024. It is shown that threat with 87 or 17.83% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 66 or 13.52% and unlawful wounding with 49 or 10.04% followed this. Malicious destruction of property with 39 or 7.99% and littering in public with 18 or 3.69% of the total sample rounds of the top charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 53.07% of the total sample of 488 charges filed in the quarter at the St. Ann Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the second quarter of 2023 in the St. Ann parish court included threat, assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, obtaining money by false pretences, and littering in a public place. From a sample of 142 charges, it is seen that the leading charges recorded in the second quarter of 2024 at the Brown's Town Outstation included assault occasioning bodily harm with 33 or 23.24% of the charges, threat with 29 or 20.42% and unlawful wounding with 24 or 16.90%. Malicious destruction of property with 22 or 15.49% and wounding with intent with 2.82% of the sample followed.

Table 1.08.05: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	209	17.24
Unlawful wounding	109	8.99
Malicious destruction of property	66	5.45
Smoking in a Public Place	51	4.21
Threat	47	3.88
Sub-Total	482	39.77

Number of observations sampled (N): 1212

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the second quarter of 2024. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 209 or 17.24% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 109 or 8.99%, malicious destruction of property with 66 or 5.45% and smoking in a public place with 51 or 4.21% followed this. Threat with 47 or 3.88% of the total sample of charges filed round off the top five. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 39.77% of the total sample of 1,212 charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the second quarter of 2023 in the St. Catherine parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, smoking in a public place, possession of offensive weapon, unlawful wounding and malicious destruction of property.

Table 1.08.06: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. James Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Possession of offensive weapon	45	10.27
Threat	33	7.53
Assault occasioning bodily harm	30	6.85
Possession of ganja	21	4.79
Unlawful wounding	21	4.79
Sub-Total	150	34.25

Number of observations sampled (N): 438

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges at the St. James Parish Court in second quarter of 2024. It is shown that possession of offensive weapon with 45 or 10.27% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Threat with 33 or 7.53% and assault occasioning bodily harm with 30 or 6.85% followed this. The top five is rounded off by possession of ganja and unlawful wounding with 21 or 4.79% each of the total sample. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 34.25% of the sample of 438 charges filed in quarter at the St. James Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the second quarter of 2023 in the St. James parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, possession of offensive weapon, unlawful wounding, threat and destruction of property.

Table 1.08.07: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	48	15.84
Unlawful wounding	37	12.21
Malicious destruction of property	26	8.58
Possession of Ganja	19	6.27
Dealing In Ganja	18	5.94
Sub-Total	148	48.84

Number of observations sampled (N): 303

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the second quarter of 2024. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 48 or 15.84% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 37 or 12.21% and malicious destruction of property with 26 or 8.58% followed this. The top five is rounded off by possession of ganja with 19 or 6.27% and dealing in ganja with 18 or 5.94% of the sample. The charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 48.84% of the total sample of 303 charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the second quarter of 2023 in the St. Mary parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, threat, assault at common law and malicious destruction of property.

Table 1.08.08: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	47	16.79
Unlawful Wounding	29	10.36
Possession of Offensive Weapon	19	6.79
Threat	19	6.79
Malicious destruction of property	18	6.43
Sub-Total	132	47.14

Number of observations sampled (N): 280

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in the second quarter of 2024. It is shown assault occasioning bodily harm with 47 or 16.79% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 29 or 10.36%, possession of offensive weapon and threat with 19 or 6.79% each followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 18 or 6.43% of the total sample of charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 47.14% of the sample of 280 charges filed in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the second quarter of 2023 in the St. Thomas parish court included smoking in a public place, unlawful wounding, assault occasioning bodily harm, threat and malicious destruction of property.

Table 1.08.09: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	77	22.19
Unlawful Wounding	47	13.54
Malicious destruction of property	26	7.49
Disorderly Conduct	17	4.90
Possession of offensive weapon	17	4.90
Sub-Total	184	53.03

Number of observations sampled (N): 347

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the second quarter of 2023. It is shown assault occasioning bodily harm with 77 or 22.19% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 47 or 13.54% and malicious destruction of property with 26 or 7.49% followed this. Disorderly conduct and possession of offensive weapon with 17 or 4.90% each of the total sample of charges round of the top five charges filed in the quarter. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 53.03% of the total sample of 347 charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the second quarter of 2023 in the Trelawny parish court included unlawful wounding, assault occasioning bodily harm, malicious destruction of property, possession of offensive weapon, and knowingly possessing identity information.

Table 1.08.10: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	83	8.37
Unlawful Wounding	68	6.85
Threat	61	6.15
Malicious destruction of property	40	4.03
Possession of identity information	38	3.83
Sub-Total	290	29.23

Number of observations sampled (N): 992

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the second quarter of 2024. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 83 or 8.37% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 68 or 6.85% and threat with 61 or 6.15% and malicious destruction of property with 40 or 4.03% followed this. Possession of identity information with 38 or 3.83% of the sample rank next. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 29.23% of the total sample of 992 charges filed in the quarter at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the second quarter of 2023 in the Westmoreland parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, threat, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property and offensive weapon.

Table 1.08.11: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	97	13.36
Unlawful wounding	53	7.30
Being Armed with an offensive weapon	45	6.20
Malicious destruction of property	43	5.92
Larceny as a servant	37	5.10
Sub-Total	275	37.88

Number of observations sampled (N): 726

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in second quarter of 2024. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 97 or 13.36% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 53 or 7.30% and being armed with an offensive weapon with 45 or 6.20% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 43 or 5.92% and larceny as a servant with 37 or 5.10%. The charges quoted above account for an estimated 37.88% of the sample of 726 charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the second quarter of 2023 in the Clarendon parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, being armed with an offensive weapon, threat and malicious destruction of property.

Table 1.08.12: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	208	10.76
Littering	181	9.36
Unlawful wounding	137	7.09
Armed with an offensive weapon	104	5.38
Exposing goods for sale	84	4.35
Sub-Total	714	36.94

Number of observations sampled (N): 1933

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division for the second quarter of 2024. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 208 or 10.76% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Littering with 181 or 9.36% and unlawful wounding with 137 or 7.09% followed this. The top five is rounded off by armed with an offensive weapon with 104 or 5.38% and exposing goods for sale with 84 or 4.35% of the charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 36.94% of the total sample of 1,933 charges at filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court –Criminal Division in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the second quarter of 2023 in the Corporate Area parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property, littering and armed with an offensive weapon.

Table 1.09: Conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Type of case	Number of disposed matters	Number of guilty verdicts	Number of guilty pleas	Aggregate number of guilty outcomes	Estimated conviction rate (%)
Summary	1629	234	737	971	59.61
Indictment	3591	116	489	605	16.85

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard across all parish courts in the second quarter of 2024. Summary matters heard in the quarter include charges such as possession of an offensive weapon, possession of ganja, exposing goods for sale and dealing in ganja. The estimated conviction rate for the quarter for summary matters was 59.61%, which is 6.31 percentage points below the conviction rate of 65.92% recorded for the corresponding second quarter of 2023. The estimated conviction rate for indictment matters was significantly lower at 16.85% for the quarter, a rate which is approximately 2.60 percentage points below the 19.45% recorded in the second quarter of 2023. Indictment matters heard in the quarter included charges such as assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property and simple larceny.

Table 1.10: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges across the parish courts for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Charge	Frequency	Percentage
Assault occasioning bodily harm	1043	12.40
Unlawful wounding	750	8.92
Threat	459	5.46
Malicious destruction of property	455	5.41
Disorderly conduct	291	3.46
Exposing goods for sale	273	3.25
Armed with an offensive weapon	205	2.44
Littering	204	2.43
Simple larceny	198	2.35
Assault at common law	181	2.15
Sub-Total	4059	48.26

Number of observations sampled (N): 8,411

The above table shows the distribution of the ten most commonly occurring charges across all parish courts for the second quarter of 2024. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 1,043 or 12.40% of the total number of charges sampled is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 750 or 8.92% and threat with 459 or 5.46% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 455 or 5.41% and disorderly conduct with 291 or 3.46% of the total sample of charges filed in the quarter. These ten most frequently occurring types of charges account for approximately 48.26% of the total sample of charges filed in the quarter.

Table 1.11: Conviction rate for leading occurring charges heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Type of Offence	Number of disposed matters	Number of guilty verdicts	Number of guilty pleas	Aggregate number of guilty outcomes	Estimated conviction rate (%)
Exposing goods for sale	187	75	94	169	90.37
Armed with an offensive weapon	367	78	247	325	88.56
Littering	29	-	21	21	72.41
Disorderly conduct	217	28	116	144	66.36
Simple larceny	199	2	30	32	16.08
Malicious destruction of property	409	9	40	49	11.98
Threat	393	6	24	30	7.63
Assault occasioning bodily harm	1001	11	63	74	7.39
Unlawful wounding	705	10	38	48	6.81
Assault at common law	183	2	7	9	4.92

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for the ten (10) leading charges across all parish courts in the second quarter of 2024. It is shown that exposing goods for sale had the highest estimated conviction rate on the list with 90.37%. Armed with an offensive weapon with 88.56% and littering with 72.41% followed this. The top conviction rates on the list in the quarter is rounded off by disorderly conduct with an estimated conviction rate of 66.36%. Smoking in a public place recorded the highest estimated conviction rate in the corresponding second quarter of 2023 with 94.58%, followed by armed with an offensive weapon with an estimated conviction rate of 91.77%.

Table 1.12: Sampling distribution of the average age of active charges for each parish court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Average age of active charges (days)
Clarendon	43
Trelawny	43
Portland	46
St. Mary	36
Hanover	42
Westmoreland	40
St. Catherine	39
St. Ann	35
St. James	39
St. Thomas	38
Corporate Area Criminal	45
Manchester	45
Overall Average	40.98
Standard Deviation	3.63
Skewness	-0.18

The above table shows the average age of active charges originating in the second quarter of 2024, for charges originating in said quarter. The overall average age of active matters originating in the quarter was approximately 41 days or roughly 1.4 months, roughly 7 days more than the average recorded in the second quarter of 2023. The parish courts of St. Ann, St. Mary and St. Thomas have the lowest averages on the list. On the contrary, the highest averages were observed in the parish courts of Portland, Manchester, Corporate Area Criminal, Trelawny and Clarendon. The standard deviation of the scores was, however, relatively low (4 days), an indication that the individual values for the parish courts were on average close to the overall mean. The negative skewness indicates that most of the individual times to disposition in the data set were clustered around the overall series average.

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

Table 1.13: Average age of charges disposed for matters originating in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Average age of disposed charges (days)
Clarendon	44
Trelawny	31
Portland	37
St. Mary	38
Hanover	31
Westmoreland	29
St. Catherine	22
St. Ann	25
St. James	24
St. Thomas	32
Corporate Area Criminal	33
Manchester	28
Overall Average	31.17
Standard Deviation	6.31
Skewness	0.53

The above table shows that the average time taken to dispose of criminal cases filed in the Parish Courts in the second quarter of 2024 is approximately 31 days. This is roughly 3 more days than the time taken to dispose of cases originating in the second quarter of 2023. The standard deviation of the scores was relatively low (6 days), an indication that the individual values for the parish courts were on average close to the overall mean. The positive skewness, however, indicates that proportionately more of the scores of the individual times to disposition in the data set were close to the overall series average. The scores ranged from a low of roughly 22 days at the St. Catherine Parish Court to a high of 44 days for the Clarendon Parish Court.

Table 1.14a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parishes	Time interval in days							Sample size (n)
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365 days-547 days	548 days-729 days	730 days and over	
Corporate Area Criminal	20148 (35.9%)	10847 (19.3%)	6358 (11.3%)	4516 (8.0%)	5288 (9.4%)	3278 (5.8%)	5753 (10.2%)	56188 (100%)
St. Catherine	7356 (33.2%)	4941 (22.3%)	2905 (13.1%)	1757 (7.9%)	1962 (8.9%)	957 (4.3%)	2277 (10.3%)	22155 (100%)
St. James	5985 (37.1%)	3008 (18.6%)	1646 (10.2%)	1271 (7.9%)	1381 (8.6%)	706 (4.4%)	2138 (13.3%)	16135 (100%)
Manchester	3709 (27.9%)	2515 (18.9%)	1723 (13.0%)	1304 (9.8%)	1587 (12.0%)	966 (7.3%)	1476 (11.1%)	13280 (100%)
Westmoreland	6402 (56.0%)	2095 (18.3%)	1164 (10.2%)	607 (5.3%)	610 (5.3%)	263 (2.3%)	291 (2.5%)	11432 (100%)
St. Ann	3427 (26.8%)	2537 (19.8%)	1529 (11.9%)	1188 (9.3%)	1627 (12.7%)	887 (6.9%)	1605 (12.5%)	12800 (100%)
Clarendon	5563 (41.9%)	3033 (22.8%)	1574 (11.8%)	994 (7.5%)	1146 (8.6%)	443 (3.3%)	539 (4.1%)	13292 (100%)
St. Thomas	2084 (29.8%)	1545 (22.1%)	890 (12.7%)	743 (10.6%)	699 (10.0%)	347 (5.0%)	674 (9.7%)	6982 (100%)
Portland	3055 (38.4%)	1989 (25.0%)	903 (11.4%)	597 (7.5%)	627 (7.9%)	328 (4.1%)	452 (5.7%)	7951 (100%)
St. Mary	3757 (42.5%)	1781 (20.1%)	1162 (13.1%)	639 (7.2%)	627 (7.1%)	268 (3.0%)	613 (6.9%)	8847 (100%)
Trelawny	2304 (35.3%)	1201 (18.4%)	754 (11.6%)	558 (8.5%)	671 (10.3%)	377 (5.8%)	663 (10.2%)	6528 (100%)
Hanover	3218 (52.6%)	1328 (21.7%)	617 (10.1%)	353 (5.8%)	265 (4.3%)	149 (2.4%)	192 (3.1%)	6122 (100%)
% of Total	36.88	20.26	11.68	7.99	9.07	4.94	9.18	-
Average	5584.00	3068.33	1768.75	1210.58	1374.17	747.42	1389.42	15142.67
Standard Deviation	4885.87	2649.42	1568.92	1117.29	1338.45	847.75	1547.07	13733.06
Skewness	2.77	2.68	2.65	2.71	2.59	2.79	2.31	2.82

Number of charges sampled (N) = 181,712

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the previous 7.8 years

The above table shows the breakdown of the times to disposition for matters filed in the respective parish courts for at least 94 consecutive months (7.8 years) over the period September 2016 to June 2024. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 36.88% of the disposals. The Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division along with the parish courts of St. Catherine, Westmoreland and St. James are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed within 90 days. This trend is broadly similar to that seen over the past 24 months. Cumulatively, 76.81% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year, a continued positive indicator of the potential effectiveness of the courts in sustaining overall productivity and realizing the objective of becoming the best in the Caribbean region in three years and among the best in the world in six years. From the data set, the parish courts of Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, St. Catherine and St. James had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 9.18% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts of Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, St. Catherine and St. James also had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than 2 years. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample range from weak positive to moderate positive, which is an indication that for disposed cases, the distributions of the times taken do not vary dramatically across the courts. The difference, however, is the proportion of cases disposed, relative to the caseload, which as shown earlier, indicates that some courts are performing much better.

Table 1.14b: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition for matters completed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parishes	Time interval in days							Sample size (n)
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365 days-547 days	548 days-729 days	730 days and over	
Corporate Area Criminal	648 (41.0%)	316 (20.0%)	146 (9.2%)	67 (4.2%)	26 (1.6%)	151 (9.6%)	225 (14.2%)	1579 (100%)
St. Catherine	342 (29.9%)	201 (17.6%)	164 (14.4%)	97 (8.5%)	101 (8.8%)	47 (4.1%)	190 (16.6%)	1142 (100%)
St. James	145 (49.3%)	51 (17.3%)	36 (12.2%)	24 (8.2%)	13 (4.4%)	13 (4.4%)	12 (4.1%)	294 (100%)
Manchester	121 (66.5%)	50 (27.5%)	NA	1 (0.5%)	8 (4.4%)	2 (1.1%)	NA	182 (100%)
Westmoreland	137 (58.8%)	54 (23.2%)	24 (10.3%)	12 (5.2%)	6 (2.6%)	NA	NA	233 (100%)
St. Ann	114 (31.2%)	92 (25.2%)	39 (10.7%)	10 (2.7%)	78 (21.4%)	9 (2.5%)	23 (6.3%)	365 (100%)
Clarendon	129 (37.9%)	112 (32.9%)	26 (7.6%)	26 (7.6%)	15 (4.4%)	12 (3.5%)	20 (5.9%)	340 (100%)
St. Thomas	93 (56.7%)	29 (17.7%)	27 (16.5%)	NA	6 (3.7%)	NA	9 (5.5%)	164 (100%)
Portland	116 (49.8%)	50 (21.5%)	30 (12.9%)	15 (6.4%)	5 (2.1%)	5 (2.1%)	12 (5.2%)	233 (100%)
St. Mary	139 (27.6%)	77 (15.3%)	116 (23.0%)	54 (10.7%)	20 (4.0%)	5 (1.0%)	93 (18.5%)	504 (100%)
Trelawny	98 (39.0%)	70 (27.9%)	35 (13.9%)	20 (8.0%)	24 (9.6%)	NA	4 (1.6%)	251 (100%)
Hanover	89 (67.4%)	21 (15.9%)	16 (12.1%)	6 (4.5%)	NA	NA	NA	132 (100%)
% of Total	40.06	20.72	12.16	6.13	5.57	4.50	10.85	-
Average	180.92	93.58	59.91	30.18	27.45	30.50	65.33	451.58
Standard Deviation	161.56	84.64	54.19	29.92	31.94	50.73	85.35	446.05
Skewness	2.66	2.03	1.28	1.39	1.81	2.45	1.33	2.03

Number of charges sampled (N) = 5,419

The table above shows the breakdown of the time disposition for matters disposed parish courts in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly

40.06% of the disposals. The Corporate Area Court -Criminal Division along with the parish courts of St. Catherine, St. James and St. Mary are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days. Cumulatively, 79.07% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year, a positive indicator of the potential effectiveness of the courts in increasing overall productivity and realizing the objective of becoming the best in the Caribbean region in three years and among the best in the world in six years. From the data set, the parish courts of Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, St. Catherine and St. Mary had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 10.85% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts of Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, St. Catherine and St. Mary had the largest proportion of their disposed matters in the year taking more than 2 years. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample range from weak positive to moderate positive, which is an indication that for disposed cases, the distributions of the time taken do not vary dramatically across the courts. The difference, however, is the proportion of cases disposed of, relative to the caseload, which as shown earlier, indicates that some courts are performing much better.

Table 1.15a: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Criminal	288.34	1	148	370.81	2.61	1	3278	56188
St. Catherine	301.21	28	150	432.07	3.41	1	7091	22155
St. James	432.12	66	145	1015.83	6.38	1	17100	16135
Manchester	317.84	63	193.50	354.86	3.16	1	9044	13280
Westmoreland	145.92	28	73	192.49	2.85	1	1974	11432
St. Ann	339.49	63	198	398.40	3.09	1	8875	12800
Clarendon	198.44	63	112	246.13	3.42	1	3824	13292
St. Thomas	283.78	63	168	326.40	2.42	1	3104	6982
Portland	235.46	63	122	336.06	3.51	1	2877	7951
St. Mary	238.47	14	115	382.67	4.34	1	5684	8847
Trelawny	286.12	28	154	341.84	2.11	1	2366	6528
Hanover	160.79	35	82	278.24	11.60	1	9333	6122
Average/Weighted Average	283.60	42.92	138.38	389.65	4.08	1.00	6212.50	15142.67
Standard Deviation	79.65	23.11	39.25	208.16	2.62	0.00	4393.15	13733.06
Skewness	0.28	-0.49	-0.15	2.82	2.55	0.00	1.45	2.82

Number of charges sampled (N) = 181,712

Note 1: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the previous 7.8 years.

Note 2: The average time to disposition for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann as at June 30, 2024 is 368.67 days

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a large sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at June 30, 2024. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 94-month period over September 2016 – June 2024 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 284 days (9.5 months).

The skewness of these times to disposition is a low negative 0.28, suggesting a cluster of scores around the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the period, the parish courts of Westmoreland (146 days), Hanover (161 days) and Clarendon (198 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. James (432 days), St. Ann (339 days) and Manchester (318 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 (79.65), 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 1,974 days (65.8 months/5.5 years) in the Westmoreland parish court to a high of 17,100 days (570 months/47.5 years) in the St. James Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a positive 1.45, which is an indication that most of the maximum times to disposition were below around the overall series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial 181,712 matters.

Table 1.15b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for matters completed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Criminal	315.69	559	127	430.63	2.43	1	2925	1579
St. Catherine	436.71	2162	205	641.32	2.72	1	7091	1142
St. James	201.59	62	91	356.30	5.38	1	2945	294
Manchester	89.87	35	63	112.90	3.22	1	672	182
Westmoreland	103.81	49	63	98.79	1.68	1	507	233
St. Ann	262.66	461	140	305.89	2.55	1	2283	365
Clarendon	203.76	140	111.50	239.91	2.26	7	1190	340
St. Thomas	170.05	78	78	258.83	4.06	7	1688	164
Portland	190.44	56	91	286.57	3.35	2	1561	233
St. Mary	568.22	251	222.50	859.53	1.71	5	2773	504
Trelawny	181.51	49	124	273.15	5.68	5	2172	251
Hanover	89.29	62	62	79.68	1.58	6	346	132
Average/Weighted Average	309.68	330.33	114.83	328.63	3.05	3.17	2179.42	451.58
Standard Deviation	144.49	602.67	53.31	227.69	1.37	2.59	1800.56	446.05
Skewness	1.34	2.99	1.08	1.32	0.96	0.54	1.94	2.03

Number of charges sampled (N) = 5,419

Note: The average time to disposition for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann in the quarter ended June 30, 2024 is 198.24 days

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the quarter ended June 30, 2024. The output produces an estimated weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Criminal Division) of approximately 310 days or 10.3 months. The skewness of these times to disposition is a negative 1.34, suggesting that a large proportion of these times were below the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the quarter, the parish courts of Hanover (89 days), Manchester (90 days) and Westmoreland (104 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases in the quarter. The parish courts

of the St. Mary (568 days), St. Catherine (437 days) and Corporate Area-Criminal Division (316 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters resolved during the quarter. The average variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts is, however, wide as shown by the moderately high standard deviation (144.49), suggesting inconsistencies in performances on this measure. The average minimum time taken to dispose of matters across half of the parish courts was 3.17 days; however, the maximum times are substantially larger, in some cases several years. This result continues to be both a reflection of the relative complexity of cases entering open court over the period as well as the relative strength of case management across the various parish courts. The maximum times to disposition in the sample ranged from a low of 346 days (11.5 months) in the Hanover parish court to a high of 7,091 days (236.4 months/19.7 years) in the St. Catherine Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a positive 1.94, which is an indication that proportionately more of the maximum times to disposition were below the overall series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial 5,419 matters cases which were resolved during the second quarter of 2024.

Table 1.15c: Net and gross criminal case backlog as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Net case backlog rate (%)	Gross case backlog rate (%)
Clarendon	0.39	11.39
Corporate Area	4.41	24.97
Hanover	0.07	4.53
Manchester	2.07	16.01
Portland	0.84	7.37
St. Ann	1.24	14.26
St. Catherine	0.39	10.92
St. James	0.76	13.07
St. Mary	0.30	6.70
St. Thomas	1.95	8.91
Trelawny	0.89	10.63
Westmoreland	0.04	8.21
Weighted Average	2.15	16.22
Standard Deviation	1.23	5.39

Note: The net backlog for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for the second quarter of 2024 is 6.56% and the gross backlog is 28.27%

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

The results revealed are quite outstanding, revealing a net case backlog rate (weighted average) in the criminal division of the parish courts is 2.15% (with a standard deviation of 1.23%) which is satisfies than the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at 16.22% (with a standard deviation of 5.39%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved criminal cases in the parish courts. This rate is 6.22 percentage points higher than the prescribed rate of 10% but seemingly has the potential to meet this standard relatively soon with the application of more aggressive case management practices and reduction in the incidence of delays in the criminal courts. The sample set is large and representative of the current direction of the court system. The parish courts of Westmoreland and Hanover with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.04% and 0.07% respectively and St. Mary with an estimated net case backlog rate of 0.30% have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts Corporate Area Criminal (4.41%), Manchester (2.07%) and St. Thomas (1.95%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of Hanover (4.53%), St. Mary (6.70%) and Portland (7.37%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of Corporate Area Criminal Court (24.97%), Manchester (16.01%) and St. Ann (14.26%) have the highest rates. Taken together, these are quite impressive returns for the criminal court system in Jamaica and augur well for future prospects.

Table 1.16: Distribution of methods of disposition for matters set for trial during the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage
Dismissed	315	28.28
Not guilty	306	27.47
Guilty Plea	238	21.36
Not Guilty Plea - Mediated Settlement	123	11.04
Committed to Circuit	71	6.37
Guilty	41	3.68
Transferred	20	1.80
Total	1114	100.00

The above table summarizes the common methods of disposition for a sample of cases proceeding to trial. It is seen that matters disposed by being dismissed with 28.28% of the cases disposed, matters disposed by not guilty verdicts with 306 or 27.47% and disposals by way of guilty pleas with 238 or 21.36% account for the three leading methods of disposition in the sample for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024.

Methods of Disposal and Conviction Rate

Table 1.17: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Guilty Plea	Dismissed	Not Guilty Verdict	Transferred	Mediated Settlement	Guilty Verdict	Committed to Circuit Court	Total
St. Catherine	342	413	27	184	469	1	202	1638
Corporate Area Criminal	703	566	453	87	165	7	126	2107
Westmoreland	129	82	80	3	82	2	27	405
St. James	-	5	274	15	3	283	55	635
Manchester	-	44	45	2	73	138	52	354
Clarendon	287	39	42	5	105	-	70	548
Trelawny	75	89	142	-	2	3	29	340
Hanover	65	10	75	-	31	12	25	218
Portland	46	-	92	-	6	1	29	174
St. Mary	3	168	97	-	22	56	219	565
St. Thomas	55	-	36	47	32	2	40	212
St. Ann	130	1	37	62	44	16	5	295
Total	1835	1417	1400	405	1034	521	879	7491
Percentage of total	24.50	18.92	18.69	5.41	13.80	6.96	11.73	-

Total sample size: 7,491

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts for the second quarter of 2024. 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 24.50% of the sample, followed by matters dismissed with 18.92% and not guilty verdicts with 18.69%. Mediated settlements with 13.80%, matters committed to Circuit Court with 11.73%, guilty verdicts with 6.96% and matters transferred to another court with 5.41% account for the remaining disposals in the quarter. The combined 31.46% of the cases disposed of by way of guilty outcomes represent the estimated criminal conviction rate in the parish courts for the quarter.

This represents a decrease of 4.96 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in 2023.

Common Reasons for Adjournment

Table 1.18.01: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Reasons for Adjournment	Count	Percentage (%)
Disclosure	1296	11.91
File To Be Completed	1109	10.19
Defendant Not Appearing (DNA) warrant issued	985	9.05
Referred to mediation	580	5.33
Defendant Not Appearing (DNA) warrant issued Execution Stayed	302	2.77
Facilitate restitution	276	2.54
Re-Issue Application	220	2.02
Adjournment request - crown	195	1.79
Medical report unavailable	177	1.63
Subpoena investigating officer	163	1.50
Sub-total	5303	48.72

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 10,884)

Note: DNA means that the accused 'did not appear'

***Referral to mediation encompasses referrals to Probation and to the Dispute Resolution Foundation**

The above table is derived using a sample of 10,884 reasons for adjournments/continuance for matters heard in the across all parish courts. The largest proportion (11.91%) was for disclosure. Adjournments for files to be completed with 10.19% and adjournments due to the nonappearance of the accused, leading to the issuing of warrants with 9.05% account for the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts for the quarter.

Adjournments due to referrals to mediation with 5.33% and adjournments due to the nonappearance of the accused, leading to the issuing of warrants, execution stayed with 2.77%, round of the top five reasons for adjournment in this period. Four (4) of the top five reasons for adjournment were also featured in the top five for the second quarter of 2023. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 48.72% of the total sample of adjournments.

The case file integrity rate:

One factor, which has a significant bearing on the progression of cases through the court system, is the case file integrity rate. A case file is considered to have met the standards of integrity if at the point of a court hearing requiring the use of said file; it is complete, accurate, available and correctly listed for court. Hence reasons for adjournment such as file incomplete, file not ready for court, matter wrongly listed and matter not before the court have an adverse impact on the case file integrity rate of the courts. In the second quarter of 2024, the case file integrity rate for criminal matters across the parish courts was 88.18%, as 11.82% of the total incidence of adjournments was due to the indicated factors, which impair the case file integrity rate. Of these factors, file to be completed accounts for 12.70% 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%. This is an area in which major operational interventions need to be undertaken across the parish courts to improve the availability, completeness, accuracy and correct scheduling of case files for court.

Table 1.18.02: Summary of case management date activity for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Average number of case management dates per case	Standard Deviation of case management dates Per Case	Skewness of case management dates per case	Maximum case management dates Frequency	Minimum case management dates Frequency
Clarendon	3.65	2.88	2.1	23	1
Corporate Area	8.61	9.92	2.38	96	1
Hanover	1.83	1.38	3.33	11	1
Manchester	1.55	1.07	2.23	7	1
Portland	4.79	4.47	2.04	26	1
St. Ann	2.94	3.806	3.46	31	1
St. Catherine	4.21	3.45	1.96	40	1
St. James	1.42	0.91	2.52	7	1
St. Mary	4.09	2.79	0.71	12	1
St. Thomas	2.87	3.13	5.46	40	1
Trelawny	3.21	2.50	2.37	19	1
Westmoreland	5.51	7.48	2.75	38	1
Weighted Average	3.72	-	-	29.17	1
Standard Deviation	2.00	-	-	24.39	0
Skewness	1.28	-	-	2.01	0

The above table summarises the number of case management dates per case leading towards disposition in the criminal division of the parish courts for matters heard in the second quarter of 2024. The overall average number of case management dates per case is 3.72 (i.e. between 3 and 4) with a standard deviation of 2 across the courts sampled and a skewness of 1.28. Together, these results suggest that the average number of appearances per case is below the prescribed international standard of a maximum of 5 mentions per case, that a larger proportion of cases have less than the overall average number of case management dates and that there isn't on average a wide variation in the number of case management dates per case across the courts.

Among the parish courts with the highest number of case management dates per cases for matters heard in the second quarter of 2024 are the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, the Westmoreland and the Portland Parish Courts, while the St. James, Manchester and Hanover Parish Courts were among those with the lowest case management dates per case. In terms of cases disposed, the average case management dates for all cases resolved across all the parish courts combined in the second quarter of 2024 was 3.92 with a standard deviation of 1.12.

Chapter 2.0: Case Demographics and Courtroom Activity

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

Table 2.01: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Charge	Male		Female		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Assault occasioning bodily harm	752	75.58	243	24.42	995	100
Unlawful wounding	518	76.74	157	23.26	675	100
Threat	351	80.14	87	19.86	438	100
Malicious destruction of property	329	77.41	96	22.59	425	100
Disorderly conduct	189	72.14	73	27.86	262	100
Exposing goods for sale	164	73.54	59	26.46	223	100
Armed with an offensive weapon	365	95.05	19	4.95	384	100
Littering	196	94.69	11	5.31	207	100
Simple larceny	116	81.69	26	18.31	142	100
Assault at common law	141	87.04	21	12.96	162	100

*****The gender of offenders was not available for every matter that was filed in the parish courts hence a sample is used. Sample size (N) = 3,913**

The above table provides a sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. Based on the data shown in chart 5.0, it is not surprising that males account for the dominant proportion of all these charges.

Among the charges listed with the greatest imbalance in the gender distribution are unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property, threat, simple larceny, and assault at common law for which over 75% of the persons charged were male. More particularly, is seen that littering with 94.69% and armed with an offensive weapon with 95.05% of the persons charged being male had the most significant incidence of persons charged being male for the quarter. Disorderly conduct, exposing goods for sale, and assault occasioning bodily harm act saw the highest incidence of female involvement.

The series of tables below provide a sampling distribution of cases by assigned courtroom in the individual parish courts in the second quarter of 2024. These figures are derived from representative datasets from the respective courts and do not necessary add back to the total population of cases outlined in the first few tables of the report.

Table 2.02.01: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Westmoreland for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q2 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in Q2 2024	Number of inactive cases in Q2 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	317	118	20	68.47	43.53
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	2	1	0	0.43	50.00
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	36	4	5	7.78	25.00
Whithorn Outstation	99	55	9	21.38	64.65
Whithorn Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	9	3	0	1.94	33.33
Total/Weighted Average	463	181	34	100.00	46.44

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of criminal cases filed in the second quarter of 2024 at the Westmoreland Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish and outlines the applicable disposal rates. The table separates Lay Magistrates' and night court cases heard in each of the relevant locations for ease of comparison. The data shows decisively that cases entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse and sittings at the Whithorn Outstation account for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 317 (68.47%) and 96 (21.38%) cases respectively.

Sittings at the Lay Magistrates' court at the main courthouse with 36 cases or 7.78% rank next. The number of cases heard in courtroom one (317 cases), increased by 67 cases or 26.80% above the 250 cases recorded in the similar second quarter of 2023. The case disposal rate decreased by 19.27 percentage points moving down to 43.53% compared to the 62.80% reported in the second quarter of 2023. In terms of cases disposed of, sittings in courtroom number 1 with 118 cases accounted for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of and had the third highest disposal rate of 43.53%. The outstation in Whithorn rank next with 55 disposed cases and recorded the highest disposal rate of 64.65%, which is 16.60 percentage points below the 81.25% recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2023. The single outstation in Westmoreland accounted for 23.32% of the total sample of new cases heard, an increase of 9.07 percentage points when compared to the 14.25% recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2023. The main courthouse accounted for the remaining 76.68%, a decrease of 9.07 percentage points when compared to the 85.75% recorded in 2023.

Table 2.02.02: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Corporate Area for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q2 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in Q2 2024	Number of inactive cases in Q2 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	944	337	241	82.37	61.23
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	1	0	0	0.09	NA
Courtroom #6 (main courthouse)	53	1	0	4.62	1.89
Courtroom #7 (main courthouse)	35	1	1	3.05	5.71
Gordon Town Outstation	24	13	1	2.09	58.33
Gun Court	26	0	0	2.27	NA
Fast Track	1	0	0	0.09	NA
Drug Court	1	1	0	0.09	100.00
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	61	36	7	5.32	70.49
Total/Weighted Average	1146	389	250	100.00	55.76

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024 at the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for the majority of new cases filed in the quarter with 944 cases or 82.37% of the total sample. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse with 61 cases or roughly 5.32% follows this and courtroom number 6 with 53 cases or 4.62%, rounding off the top three proportion of new cases filed in the quarter. Courtroom number two at the main courthouse accounts for the largest absolute share of cases disposed of in the second quarter of 2024 with 337 cases and the third highest disposal rate of 61.23%.

When compared to the corresponding second quarter of 2023, courtroom number two also accounted for the largest absolute share of cases disposed of with 356 cases and had a disposal rate of 57.44%. This represents a decrease of 19 cases disposed of or a 5.34% decrease and 3.79 percentage points increase in the disposal rate. The main courthouse in Half-Way-Tree accounted for 97.91% of the total sample of new cases heard in the second quarter of 2024.

Table 2.02.03: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. James for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q2 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in Q2 2024	Number of inactive cases in Q2 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	431	230	19	89.23	57.77
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	51	35	3	10.56	74.51
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	1	1	0	0.21	100.00
Total/Weighted Average	483	266	22	100.00	59.63

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024, at the St. James Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish and outlines the disposal rates of the various courtrooms and outstations. The sample shows that courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse in Montego Bay accounts for the majority of new cases heard with 431 cases or 89.23% of the total sample, a decrease of 11 cases or an 2.49% decline below the 442 cases recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2023.

This was followed by courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse with 51 cases or 10.56% of the total sample. Courtroom number 4 had the highest disposal rate of 100%, despite the relatively low numbers, followed by courtroom number 3 and with a disposal rate of 74.51% and courtroom number 2 with a disposal rate of 57.77%. The main courthouse in Montego Bay accounts for 100% of the new cases heard in the second quarter of 2024, 9% percentage points above the 91% recorded in corresponding second quarter of 2023.

Table 2.02.04: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Catherine for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q2 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in Q2 2024	Number of inactive cases in Q2 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Children's Court (main courthouse)	40	5	1	5.26	15
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	451	246	25	59.34	60.09
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	40	14	3	5.26	42.5
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	2	2	0	0.26	100
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	2	2	0	0.26	100
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	34	11	0	4.47	32.35
Linstead Outstation (courtroom #1)	93	53	3	12.24	60.22
Linstead Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	7	1	1	0.92	28.57
Old Harbour Outstation (courtroom #1)	89	50	10	11.71	67.42
Old Harbour Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	2	2	0	0.26	100
Total/Weighted Average	760	386	43	100	56.45

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024 at the St. Catherine Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish and outlines the applicable disposal rates. The table separates Lay Magistrates' and night court matters for the relevant locations for ease of comparisons.

The data shows decisively that cases entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse in Spanish Town and courtroom 1 at the outstation in Linstead account for the largest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 59.34% and 12.24% of the cases respectively. Courtroom 1 at the outstation in Old Harbour with 11.71% of new cases filed ranks next.

In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 246 cases, which is a decrease of 0.81% or 2 less cases than the 248 cases recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2023. Courtroom 1 also had the sixth highest disposal rate of 60.09%, which is a decrease of 0.28 percentage points below the 60.37% recorded in the comparable second quarter of 2023.

Lay Magistrates' sittings at the outstation in Old Harbour and Courtroom 4 and 3 at the main courthouse jointly had the highest disposal rate of 100% each, despite their proportionally low numbers, followed by courtroom 1 at the Old Harbour Outstation with a disposal rate of 67.42%. The main courthouse in Spanish Town accounts for 74.87% of the total sample of new cases heard in the second quarter of 2024, an increase of 8.39 percentage points above the 66.48% recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2023. The outstations combined accounted for the remaining 25.13%.

Table 2.02.05: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Thomas for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q2 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in Q2 2024	Number of inactive cases in Q2 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Children's Court (main Courthouse)	10	0	0	5.71	NA
Courtroom #1 (main Courthouse)	95	29	3	54.29	33.68
Courtroom #2 (main Courthouse)	42	18	7	24.00	59.52
Yallahs Outstation	28	3	0	16.00	10.71
Total/Weighted Average	175	50	10	100.00	34.29

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The data shows decisively that cases entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse and courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse account for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 54.29% and 24% respectively. Courtroom number 1 also accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 29 cases and the second highest disposal rate of 33.68%. When compared to the corresponding second quarter of 2023, this represents a decrease of 9.91 percentage points below the disposal rate of 43.59% recorded. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse with a disposal rate of 59.52% (compared to 42.11% in 2023) accounts for the highest disposal rate in the quarter. The main courthouse in Morant Bay accounted for 84% of the total new cases heard in the quarter, which is an increase of 11.91 percentage points when compared to the 72.09% recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2023. The remaining 16% was accounted for by the Yallahs outstation, a decrease of 11.91 percentage points when compared to the 27.91% recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2023.

Table 2.02.06: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Trelawny for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q2 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in Q2 2024	Number of inactive cases in Q2 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	7	3	0	3.11	42.86
Clarks town Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	6	1	4	2.67	83.33
Falmouth Outstation	53	18	2	23.56	37.74
Falmouth Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	9	2	2	4.00	44.44
Ulster Spring Outstation	40	15	2	17.78	42.50
Ulster Spring Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	2	1	0	0.89	50.00
Clarks Town Outstation	108	45	10	48.00	50.93
Total/Weighted Average	225	85	20	100.00	46.67

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024 at the Trelawny Parish Court. The data shows decisively that cases entered in the Clarks Town Outstation accounts for the highest proportion of new cases heard in the quarter with 48%. The Falmouth Town Outstation and the Ulster Spring Outstation with 23.56% and 17.78% respectively, followed. The Clarks Town Outstation recorded a disposal rate of 50.93% and the Falmouth outstation and Ulster Spring outstation had disposal rates of 37.74% and 42.50% respectively. The outstations in the parish account for 96.89% of the new cases heard in the second quarter of 2024, while the remaining 3.11% were accounted for by the main courthouse. In the corresponding second quarter of 2023, the main courthouse accounted for 2.60% of the new cases heard, while the remaining 97.40% were accounted for by the outstations.

Table 2.02.07: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Mary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q2 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in Q2 2024	Number of inactive cases in Q2 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Children's Court (main courthouse)	11	1	0	5.79	9.09
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	108	39	5	56.84	40.74
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	2	1	0	1.05	50.00
Annotto Bay Outstation	28	13	0	14.74	46.43
Annotto Bay Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	1	0	0	0.53	0.00
Gayle Outstation	6	3	0	3.16	50.00
Richmond Outstation	16	10	0	8.42	62.50
Lay Magistrates' (main Courthouse)	18	2	0	9.47	11.11
Total/Weighted Average	190	69	5	100.00	38.95

Note 1: There was 6 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Mary in the second quarter of 2024. The data shows decisively that courtrooms number 1 at the main courthouse and the Annotto Bay Outstation account for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 56.84% and 14.74% respectively of the total sample. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse with 9.47% and sittings at the Richmond Outstation with 8.42% rank next. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 in Port Maria accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 39 cases, roughly 6 more number of cases or a 18.18% improvement when compared to the corresponding second quarter of 2023 and had a case disposal rate of 40.74%. The Richmond Outstation had the highest disposal rate of 62.50%, followed by the Gayle Outstation and courtroom 3 at the main courthouse with a disposal rate of 50% each.

The outstations in the parish account for a combined 26.85% of the total sample of new cases heard in the second quarter of 2024, a decrease of 11.53 percentage points below the 38.38% recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2023. On the other hand, the main courthouse accounts for 73.15%, which is an increase of 11.53 percentage point above the 61.62% recorded in 2023.

Table 2.02.08: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Portland for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q2 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in Q2 2024	Number of inactive cases in Q2 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	98	40	8	63.64	48.98
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	3	2	0	1.95	66.67
Courtroom#3 (main courthouse)	1	0	0	0.65	NA
Buff Bay Outstation (courtroom #1)	29	13	0	18.83	44.83
Buff Bay Outstation (courtroom #2)	1	1	0	0.65	100.00
Buff Bay Outstation (Children's Court)	2	1	1	1.30	100.00
Manchioneal Outstation	20	4	2	12.99	30.00
Total/Weighted Average	154	61	11	100.00	46.75

Note 1: There were 43 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Portland in the second quarter of 2024. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 at the main court in Port Antonio accounts for the majority of new cases heard in the period, with 63.64% of the total sample. In the second quarter of 2023, courtroom one also accounted for the majority of new cases heard with 63.04% of the cases. Courtroom number 1 at the outstation in Buff Bay and Manchioneal outstation with 18.83% (compared to 16.85% in 2023) and 12.99% (compared to 5.98% in 2023) respectively of the total sample of the new cases heard in the period ranked next.

In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 in Port Antonio accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 40 cases, a 34.43% decrease or 21 less cases compared to the 61 cases recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2023; and had the fourth highest disposal rate of 48.98%. Sittings at Children's court at Buff Bay outstation and courtroom number 2 at the Buff Bay Outstation with disposal rates of 100% each ranked first on this measure, despite their relatively low numbers. The outstations in Portland account for a combined 33.77% of the new cases heard, which is an increase of 0.61 percentage points above the 33.16% recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2023. The main courthouse in Port Antonio accounts for the remaining 66.23%, which is a decrease of 0.61 percentage below the 66.84% recorded in the second quarter of 2023.

Table 2.02.09: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Hanover for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q2 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in Q2 2024	Number of inactive cases in Q2 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courtroom)	47	25	0	31.76	53.19
Courtroom #2 (main courtroom)	21	13	0	14.19	61.90
Green Island Outstation (Courtroom #1)	11	8	0	7.43	72.73
Green Island Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	6	0	0	4.05	NA
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	13	8	0	8.78	61.54
Ramble Outstation (Courtroom #1)	8	8	0	5.41	100.00
Ramble Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	3	0	0	2.03	NA
Sandy Bay Outstation (Courtroom #1)	31	20	0	20.95	64.52
Sandy Bay Outstation (Courtroom #2)	1	1	0	0.68	100.00
Sandy Bay Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	7	4	0	4.73	57.14
Total/Weighted Average	148	87	0	100.00	58.78

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

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Hanover in the second quarter of 2024. The data shows decisively that courtroom number one at the courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 31.76% of the total sample and is 8.72 percentage points below the 40.48% recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2023. Courtroom one at the Sandy Bay outstation and courtroom two at the main courthouse with 20.95% and 14.19% respectively rank next.

In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 25 cases, a 50% decline or 25 less cases than the 50 cases recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2023. Courtroom 1 at the main courthouse also had a case disposal rate of 53.19%, which is a decrease of 23.28 percentage points below the 76.47% reported in the comparative second quarter of 2023. Despite the relatively low absolute numbers, courtroom 1 at the outstation in Ramble and courtroom 2 at the outstation in Sandy Bay recorded the highest disposal rate of 100% each. The outstations in the parish account for 45.28% of the new cases heard during the quarter, which is a decrease of 1.75 percentage points below the 47.03% in the second quarter of 2023. The main courthouse accounts for the remaining 54.72%, which is an increase of 1.75 percentage points above the 52.97% when compared to 2023.

Table 2.02.10: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Ann for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q2 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in Q2 2024	Number of inactive cases in Q2 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
St. Ann's Bay and the Claremont outstation					
Warmsville	13	1	10	4.61	84.62
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	134	53	16	47.52	51.49
Claremont Outstation (Children's Court)	7	1	0	2.48	14.29
Claremont Outstation	4	2	0	1.42	50.00
Claremont Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	8	3	4	2.84	87.50
Brown's Town					
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	91	23	5	32.27	30.77
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	25	2	2	8.87	16.00
Total/Weighted Average	282	85	37	100.00	43.26

Note 1: There were 122 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Ann in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. The data shows that courtroom 2 at the main courthouse in St. Ann's Bay and courtroom 1 in Brown's Town Outstation account for the largest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 47.52% and 32.27% respectively of the total sample. When compared to the second quarter of 2023, the data shows that courtroom 2 in St. Ann's Bay (main courthouse) and Courtroom one in Brown's Town were also among the top three largest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 40.15% and 32.43% respectively of the total sample.

In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom 2 in St. Ann's Bay (main courthouse) accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 53 cases and had a disposal rate of 51.49%. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Claremont Outstation and Warmsville with disposal rates of 87.50% and 84.62% respectively account the highest disposal rates for the quarter. As a whole, the Brown's Town court accounted for approximately 41.14% of the new cases filed in the parish of St. Ann in the second quarter of 2024, which is 0.99 percentage points above the 40.15% recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2024. The St. Ann's Bay courthouse accounts for 47.52% of the new cases heard in the quarter and the with the other outstations accounted for the remaining 11.34% of new cases.

Table 2.02.11: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Clarendon for second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q2 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in Q2 2024	Number of inactive cases in Q2 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	176	83	12	40.93	53.98
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	45	18	0	10.47	40.00
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	41	19	2	9.53	51.22
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	9	5	2	2.09	77.78
Lionel Town Outstation	70	29	3	16.28	45.71
Chapleton Outstation (Courtroom #1)	73	26	5	16.98	42.47
Frankfield Outstation	16	5	0	3.72	31.25
Total/Weighted Average	430	185	24	100.00	48.60

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Clarendon in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. The available data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 in May Pen accounted for highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 40.93% of the total sample. Courtroom number 1 at the Chapleton outstation and the Lionel Town Outstation account for the next highest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 16.98% and 16.28% respectively of the total sample. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 83 cases, an increase of 9.21% or 7 cases more than the 76 disposed cases recorded for this courtroom in the second quarter of 2023 and had the second highest disposal rate of 53.98%.

Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse with a disposal rate of 77.78% had the highest disposal rate, despite proportionally low numbers and courtroom three at the main courthouse with a disposal rate of 51.22% was featured among the top 3. The main courthouse in May Pen accounted for 63.02% of cases heard in quarter, while the remaining 36.98% was accounted for by the outstations, which is an increase of 7.01 percentage points less than the 29.97% recorded in 2023.

Table 2.02.12: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Manchester for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q2 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in Q2 2024	Number of inactive cases in Q2 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	111	42	4	33.13	41.44
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	43	20	1	12.84	48.84
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	8	5	0	2.39	62.50
Cottage Outstation	7	3	0	2.09	42.86
Cottage Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	1	1	0	0.30	100.00
Christiana Outstation	21	13	2	6.27	71.43
Christiana Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	15	7	2	4.48	60.00
Spalding Outstation	39	20	2	11.64	56.41
Porus Outstation	14	7	0	4.18	50.00
Cross Keys Outstation	7	3	0	2.09	42.86
Cross Keys Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	1	0	0	0.30	NA
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	68	41	5	20.30	67.65
Total/Weighted Average	335	162	16	100.00	53.13

Note 1: There were 45 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Manchester in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. The data shows courtroom 1 at the main courthouse accounted for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 111 cases or 33.13% of the total sample. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse and courtroom 2 at the main courthouse account for the next highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 20.30% and 12.84% respectively of the total sample.

In terms of case disposal rate, Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Cottage outstation recorded the highest disposal rate of 100%, despite its relatively low numbers, followed by Christiana Outstation with 71.43% and Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse with 67.65%. The main courthouse in Mandeville accounts for 68.66% of the total sample of new cases heard during the second quarter of 2024, which is an increase of 0.37 percentage point when compared to the 68.29% recorded in the second quarter of 2023. The remaining 31.34% was accounted for by the various outstations.

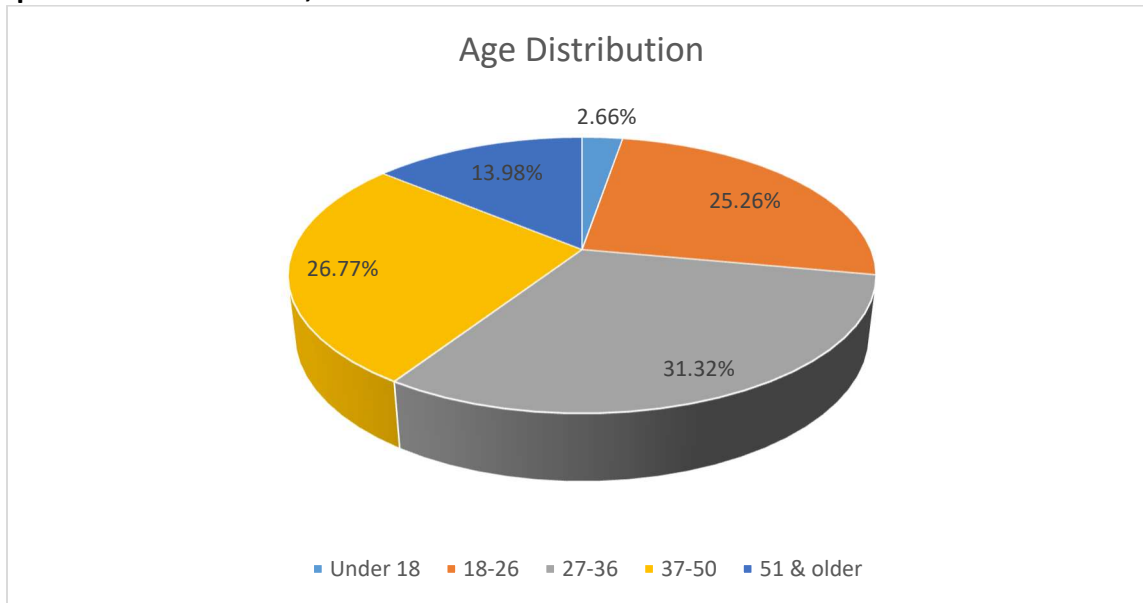
Table 2.02.13: proportion of cases heard at the main court and outstation across all parish courts for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish	Main Court Q2 2024 (%)	Outstation Q2 2024 (%)
St. James	100	0
St. Catherine	74.87	25.13
Westmoreland	76.68	23.32
Hanover	54.72	45.28
St. Mary	73.15	26.85
Trelawny	3.11	96.89
St. Thomas	84.00	16.00
Manchester	68.66	31.34
Portland	66.23	33.77
St. Ann	47.52	52.48
Clarendon	63.02	36.98
Corporate Area	97.91	2.09
Simple Averages	67.49	32.51

The above table provides a proxy summary of the distribution of the utilization of the main courthouse locations and combined outstation usage in the hearing of new criminal cases filed. It is seen that 67.49% of new cases filed were entered for initial hearing in the main courthouse locations, while 32.51% were allocated for outstations. There are significant variances in the extent of main courthouse and outstation usage for the hearing of criminal matters across the parishes. It is seen, for example, that in parishes such as Corporate Area (Kingston and St. Andrew), St. James, Westmoreland and St. Thomas, in excess of 75% of the new cases filed were entered for initial hearing, with the usage being particularly acute in the St. James Parish Court which had 100% of cases entered for initial hearing at the main courthouse. On the contrary, there are parishes where the level of outstation usage competes with or outruns the usage of the main courthouse in the hearing of criminal cases filed.

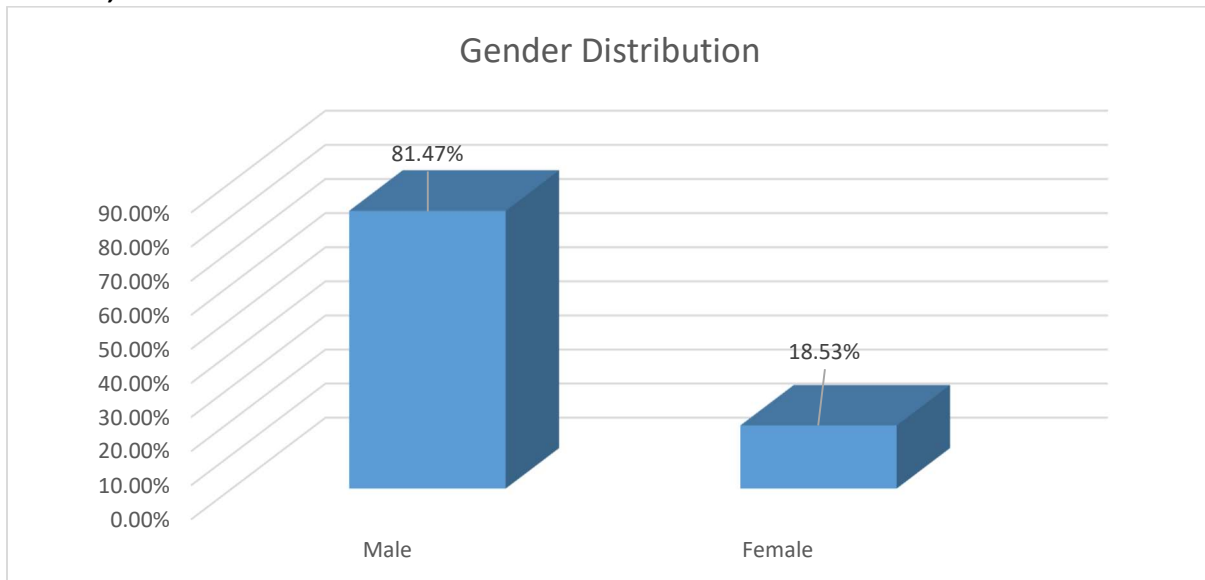
Trelawny is a good example of courts with significant outstation usage, registering over 90% for initial hearing of new criminal cases filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. There may be opportunities for greater utilization of outstations to carry the caseload in some parishes, but such precise determinations require further analyses of total 'demand and supply, in each location.

Chart 2.01: Aggregate age distribution of persons charged for all parish courts for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024



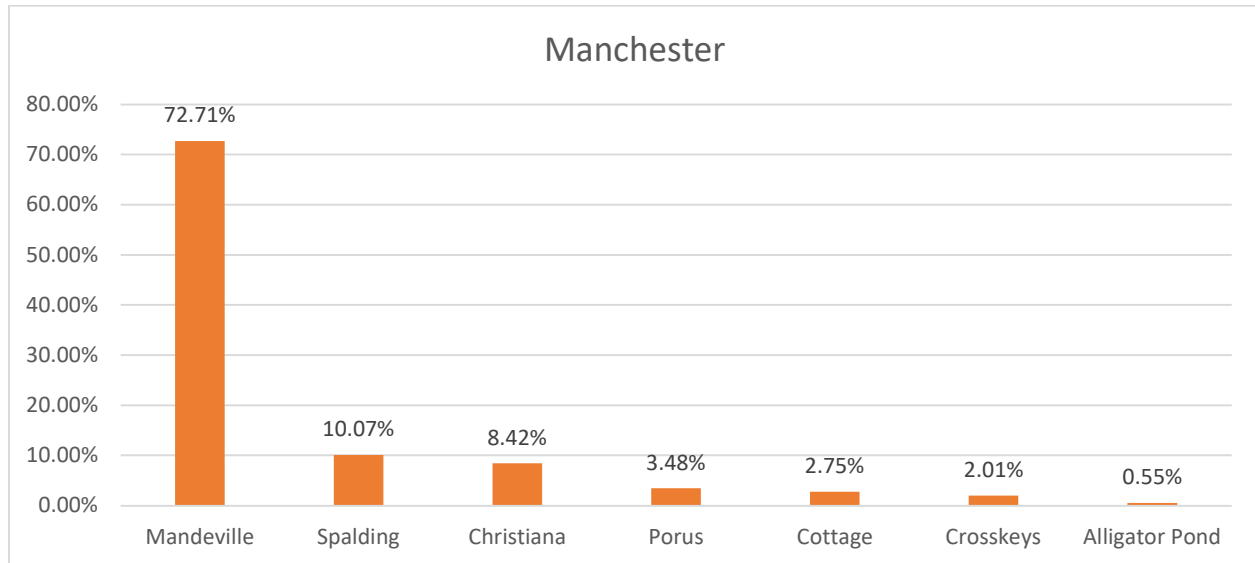
The above chart summarizes the age distribution of persons charged and brought before the criminal division of the parish courts in the second quarter of 2024. It is shown that the 27-36 age group with 31.32% accounted for the largest share of the persons charged, followed by the 37-50 age group with 26.77%. The lowest shares were attributed to the under 18 age group with 2.66% and 51 and over age group with 13.98%. The remaining proportion was accounted for by the 18-26 age group with 25.26% of the total sample.

Chart 2.02: Aggregate gender distribution of persons charged for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024



The above chart shows that the overwhelming majority of persons charged for the second quarter of 2024 were male, accounting for roughly 81.47% of the total sample, while females accounted for approximately 18.53%. The gender distribution of persons charged during the second quarter of 2023 was broadly similar to the breakdown for the second quarter of 2023 which had a male to female ratio of approximately 80.06% to 19.94%.

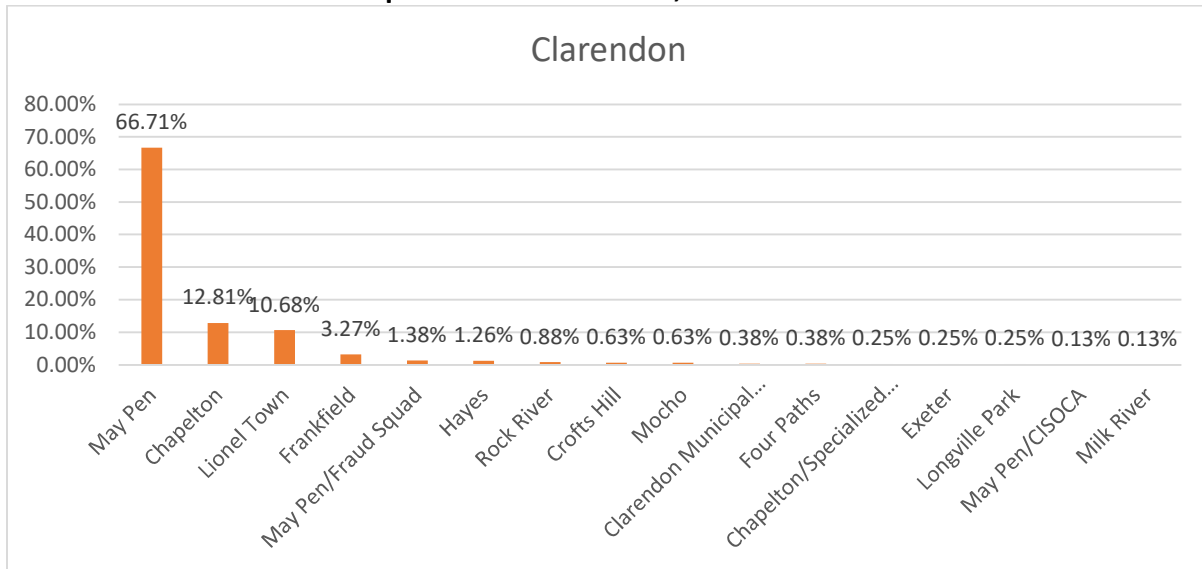
Chart 2.03.01: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Manchester Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024



The above chart shows the distribution of charges at the Manchester Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 546 records indicate that for the second quarter of 2024 the majority of charges, 72.71%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Mandeville Police Station. This was followed by the Spalding Police Station, which accounts for 10.07% of the total sample of matters reported. The Christiana police station rounded off the top three with 8.42%. In the corresponding second quarter of 2023, the top three comprised of the Mandeville Police Station, the Christiana Police Station, and the Municipal Corporation.

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

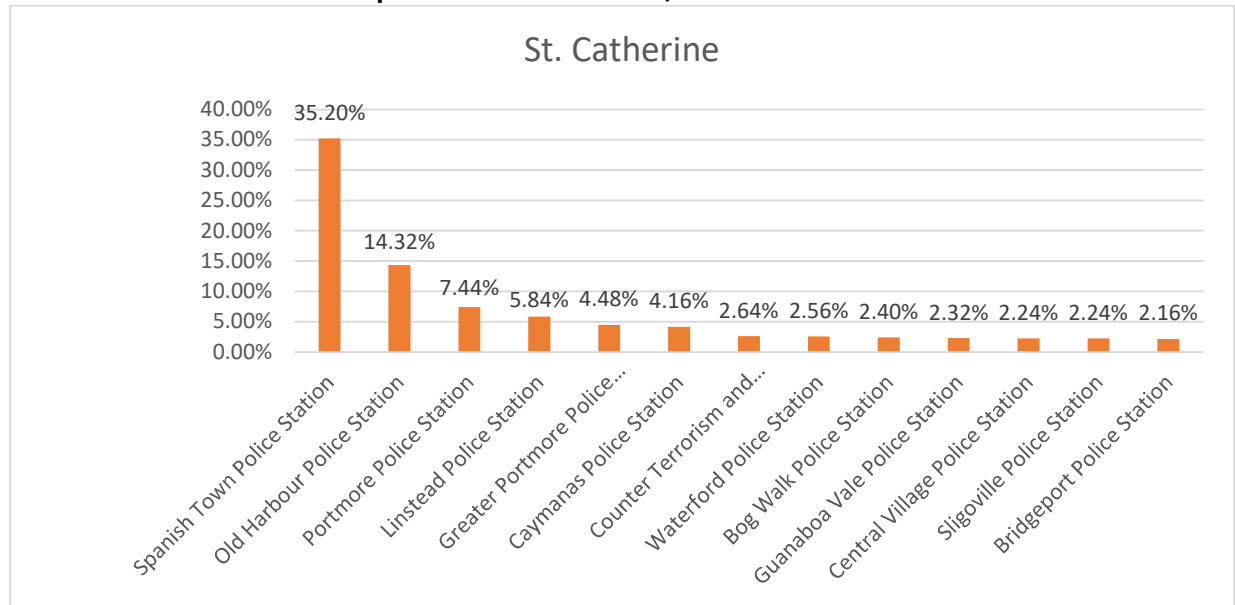
Chart 2.03.02: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Clarendon Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 796 records indicate that for the second quarter of 2024, the majority of criminal matters, 66.71%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the May Pen Police Station. This was followed by the Chapelton Police Station, which accounts for 12.81% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Lionel Town Police Station with 10.68%. In the previous second quarter of 2023, the top three comprised of the May Pen Police Station, the Lionel Town and the Chapleton Police Station.

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

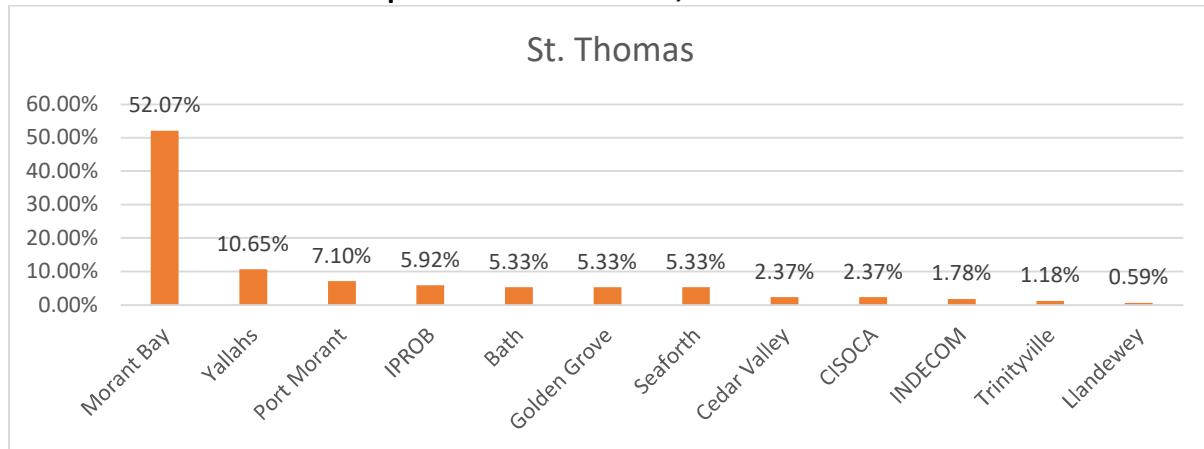
Chart 2.03.03: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Catherine Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 1,250 records indicate that for the second quarter of 2024, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 35.20%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Spanish Town Police Station. This was followed by the Old Harbour Police Station which accounts for 14.32% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Portmore Police Station with 7.44%. In the previous second quarter of 2023, the top three comprised of the Spanish Town Police Station, the Greater Portmore and the Old Harbour Police Station.

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

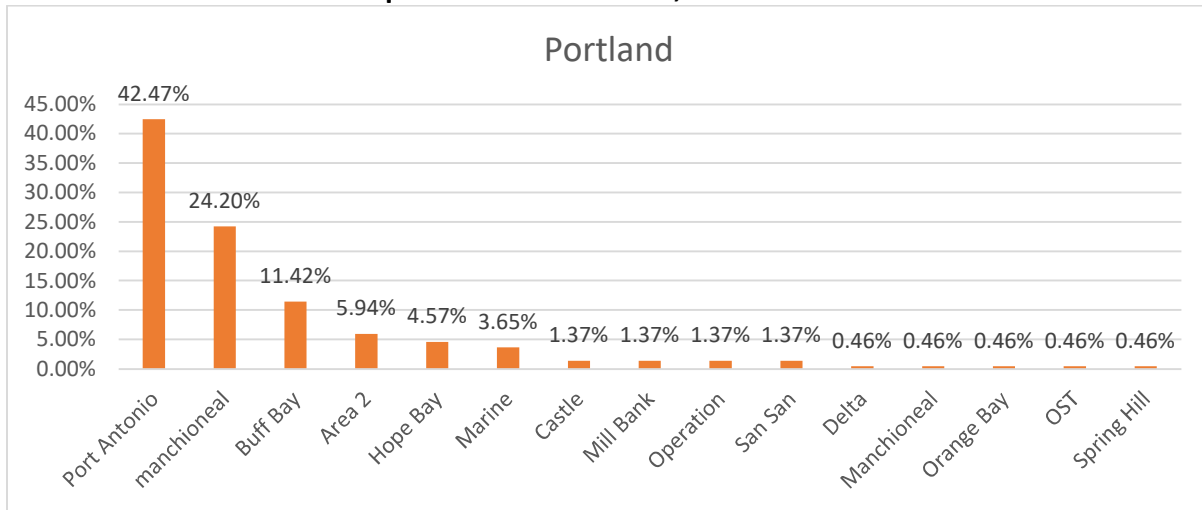
Chart 2.03.04: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Thomas Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 169 records indicate that for the second quarter of 2024, the majority of criminal matters, 52.07%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Morant Bay Police Station. This was followed by the Yallahs Police Station which accounts for 10.65% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Port Morant Police Station with 7.10%. In the previous second quarter of 2023, the top three comprised of the Morant Bay Police Station, the Yallahs Police Station and the Golden Grove Police Station.

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

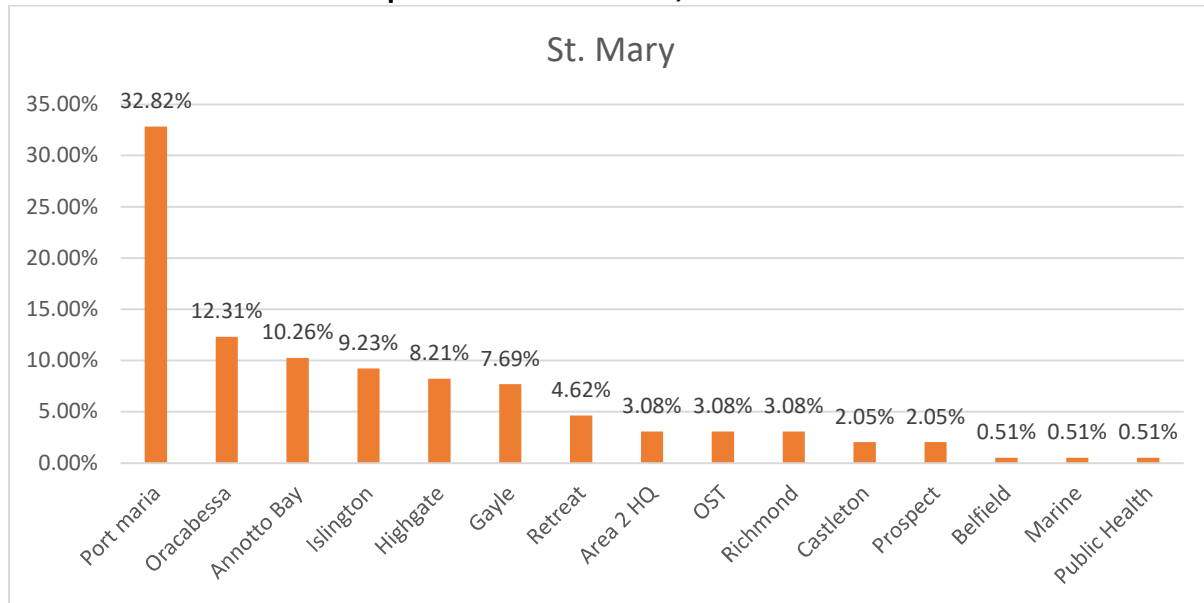
Chart 2.03.05: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Portland Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Portland Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 219 records indicate that for the second quarter of 2024, the highest proportion of criminal matters, 42.47%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Port Antonio Police Station. This was followed by the Manchioneal Police Station, which accounts for 24.20% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Buff Bay Police Station with 11.42%. In the previous second quarter of 2023, the top three comprised of the Port Antonio Police Station, the Buff Bay Police Station and the Hope Bay Police Station.

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

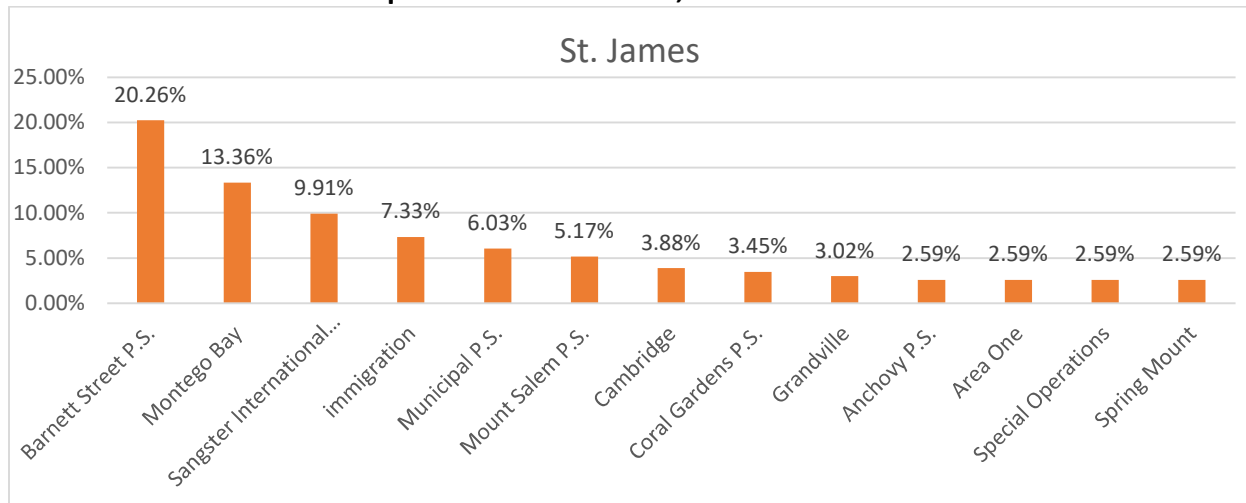
Chart 2.03.06: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Mary Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 195 records indicate that for the second quarter of 2024, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 32.82%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Port Maria Police Station. This was followed by the Oracabessa Police Station which accounts for 12.31% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Annotto Bay Police Station with 10.26%. In the previous second quarter of 2023, the top three comprised of the Port Maria Police Station, the Annotto Bay Police Station and the Highgate Police Station.

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

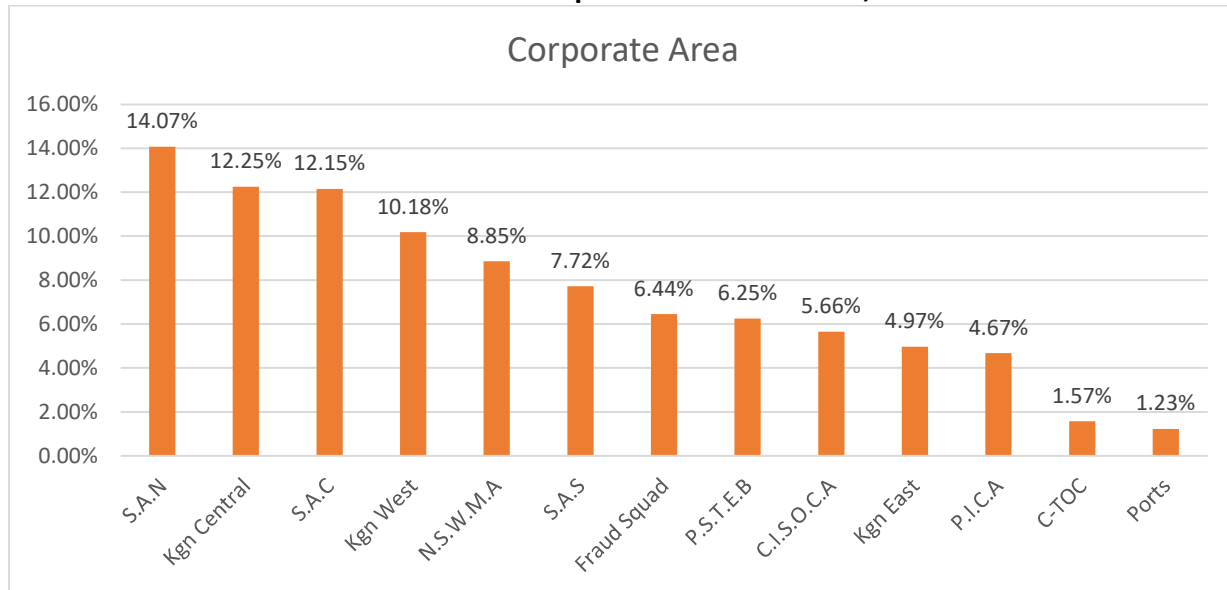
Chart 2.03.07: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. James Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. James Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 232 records indicate that for the second quarter of 2024, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 20.26%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Barnett Street Police Station. This was followed by the Montego Bay Police Station, which accounts for 13.36% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Sangster's International Airport Police Station with 9.91%. In the previous second quarter of 2023, the top three comprised of the Barnett Street Police Station, the Montego Bay Police station and the Sangster's International Airport Police Station.

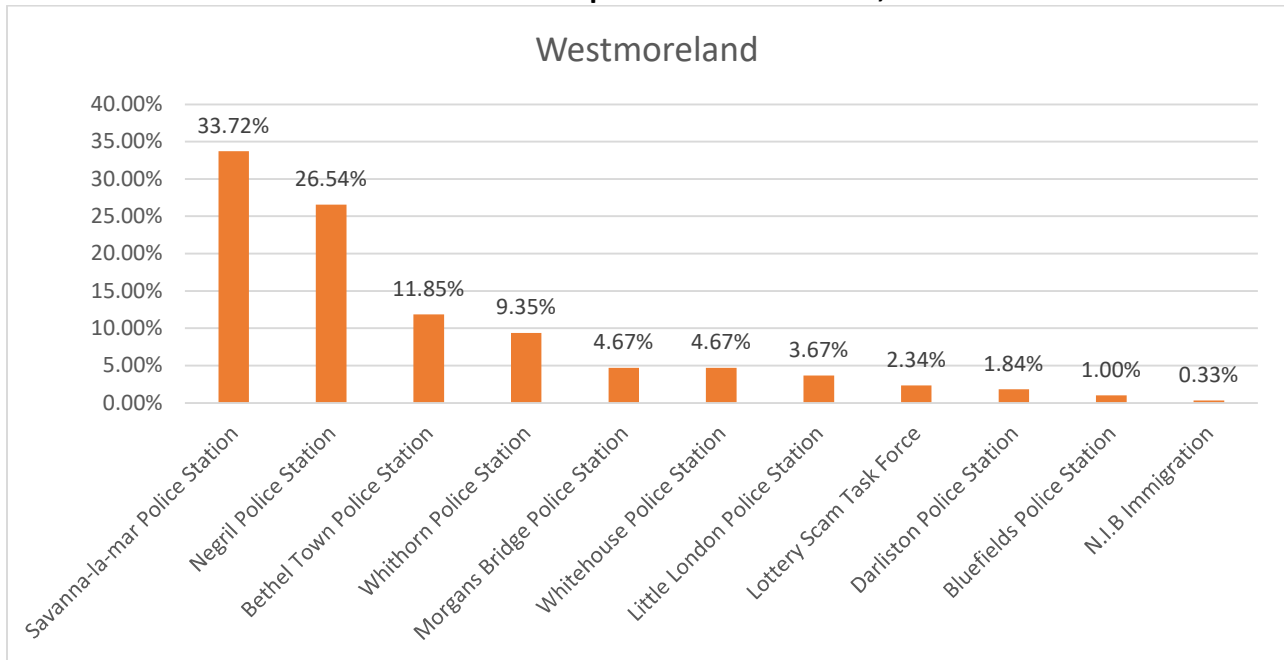
This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 2.03.08: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Corporate Area Criminal Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 2,033 records indicate that for the second quarter of 2024, the highest proportion of criminal matters, 14.07%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the St. Andrew North Police Station. This was followed by the Kingston Central Police Station, which accounts for 12.25% of the sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the St. Andrew Central Police Station with 12.15%. In the previous second quarter of 2023, the top three comprised of the St. Andrew South Police Station, the N.S.W.M.A Police and the St. Andrew Central Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

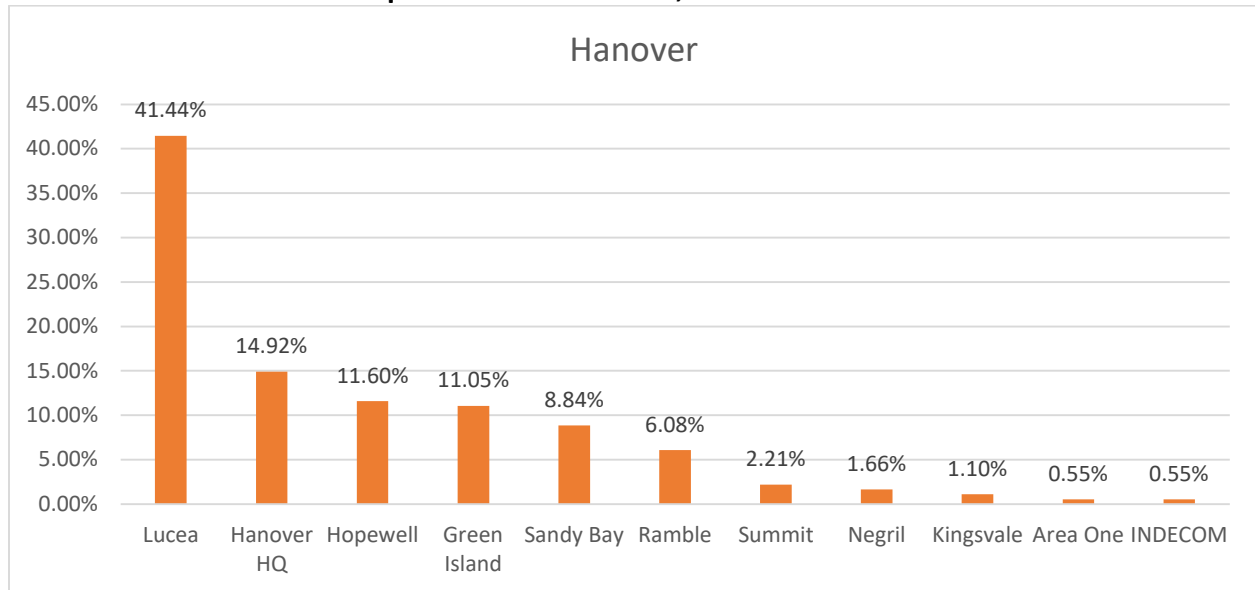
Chart 2.03.09: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 599 records indicate that for the second quarter of 2024, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 33.72%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Savanna-la-mar Police Station. This was followed by the Negril Police Station which accounts for 26.54% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Bethel Town Police Station with 11.85%. In the previous second quarter of 2023, the top three comprised of the Savanna-la-mar Police Station, the Negril Police Station and Morgans Bridge Police Station.

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

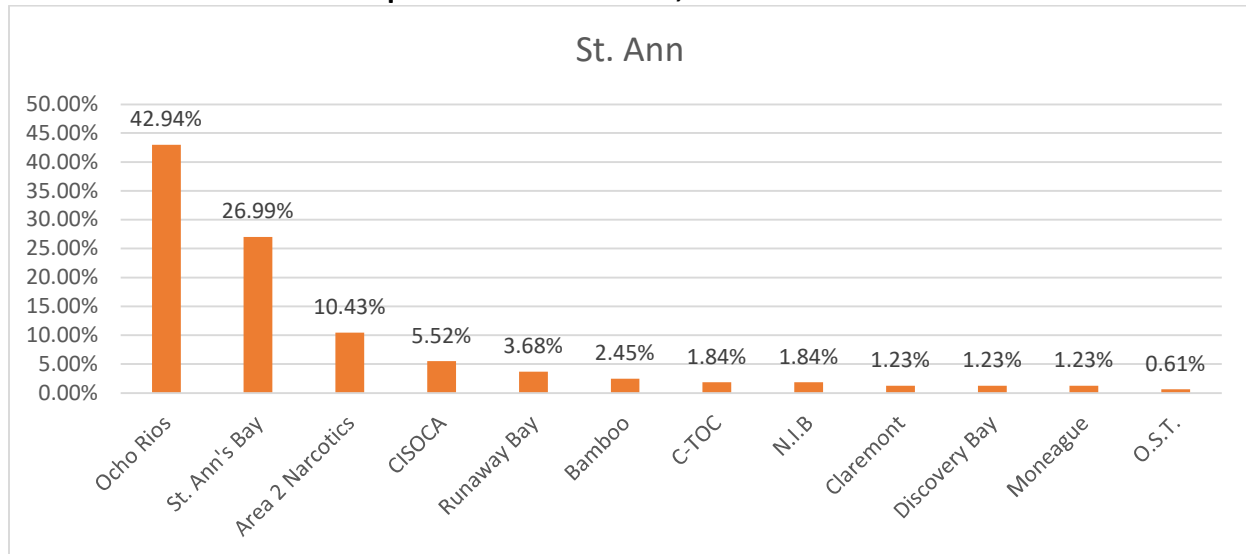
Chart 2.03.10: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Hanover Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 181 records indicates that for the second quarter of 2024, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 41.44%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Lucea Police Station. This was followed by the Hanover HQ Police Station, which accounts for 14.92% of the sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Hopewell Police Station with 11.60%. In the previous second quarter of 2023, the top three comprised of the Lucea Police Station, Green Island Police Station and the Kingsvale Police Station.

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

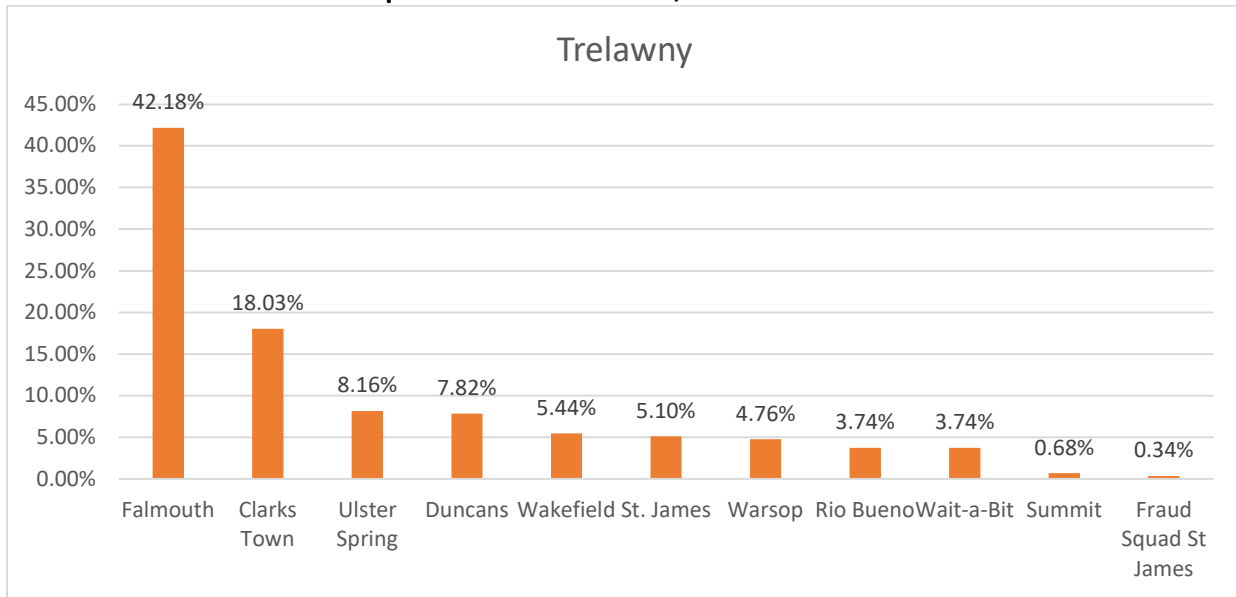
Chart 2.03.11: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Ann Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 163 records indicate that for the second quarter of 2024, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 42.94%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Ocho Rios Police Station. This was followed by the St. Ann's Police Station which accounts for 26.99% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Area 2 Narcotics Police Station with 10.43%. In the previous second quarter of 2023, the top three comprised of the Ocho Rios Police Station, the St. Ann's Bay Police Station and the Claremont Police Station.

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

Chart 2.03.12: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Trelawny Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024



The above chart shows the distribution of charges field at the Trelawny Parish Court, using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 294 records indicate that for the second quarter of 2024, the highest proportion of charges, 42.18%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Falmouth Police Station. This was followed by the Clarks Town Police Station, which accounts for 18.03% of total sample of matters reported. The Ulster Spring Police station rounded off the top three with 8.16%. In the previous second quarter of 2023, the top three comprised of the Falmouth Police Station, Ulster Spring Police Station and the Clarks Town Police Station.

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

Inferential Statistics and Conclusion

The second quarter of 2024 represents the continuation of an impressive trend in the criminal division of the parish courts where a steady state equilibrium average case clearance rate of over 100% and net case backlog rate of a little above 2.0% has been sustainably achieved. With this kind of consistency in output, the criminal division of the parish courts is by all accounts among the top performing in the Caribbean and Latin American region at present.

Among the key highlights from the second quarter statistical report for 2024 is that the criminal division of the parish courts as a whole recorded an overall case clearance rate of 112.79%, with ten of the thirteen courts attaining or exceeding the international standard on this metric.

The overall net case backlog rate in the courts is above 2% at 2.15% with the Westmoreland, Hanover and St. Mary Parish Courts having near zero net backlog rates. The overall gross case backlog rate which takes into account inactive cases increase by 3.19 percentage points to 16.22%, reflecting a general increase in the inactive caseload in the criminal division of the parish courts.

The overall time taken to dispose of cases in the criminal division of the parish courts in the second quarter of 2024 is roughly 10 months, with the average time taken to dispose of cases in some parish courts such as Hanover, Manchester and Westmoreland parish Courts in the quarter being 3 months or more, less than the overall average. As a whole roughly 79% of the cases disposed during the second quarter of 2024 took a year or less to be resolved.

The overall trial date certainty rate recorded was 86%, which is still below the targeted minimum of 95%, but has improved cumulatively by over 13 percentage points when compared to the past four years.

These statistical highlights, in conjunction with the other metrics detailed in this report, strongly suggest that the criminal division of the parish courts are on the path of excellence. Among the main areas of concern are the persistence of the gross case backlog rate over 10%, which suggests that there is a relatively high incidence of inactive cases as a percentage of the total caseload, particularly for courts like the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division and the Manchester Parish Court.

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

Inferential analysis the size of a court as measured by its caseload did not make a statistically significant difference to performance as measured by the case clearance rate during the second quarter of 2024. This was established using the Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) test which reveals an observed level of significance of greater than 5%, leading to a failure to reject the null hypothesis that court size made no difference to performance.

The parish courts of Westmoreland, Hanover and St. Mary have the enviable status of less than 0.30% of active cases in backlog, meaning that there is a close to zero probability that a case filed at this court will remain active for more than two years, an outstanding accomplishment which is worthy of acclaim. The Parish Courts of Jamaica, having demonstrated significant progress, are well-positioned to further contribute to Jamaica's Vision 2030 National Goal 2, "The Jamaican Society is Secure, Cohesive and Just," and the 2030 Global Agenda Goal 16, "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions."

Glossary of 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 systemⁱ.

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 systemⁱⁱ.

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 casefile integrity is 100%.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

However, in order to make a strict distinction between matters which are adjourned for procedural factors and those which are generally avoidable, court statistics utilizes the terms ‘continuance’ and ‘adjournment.’ Here, ‘continuance’ is used strictly to describe situations in which future dates are set due to procedural reasons and ‘adjournments’ is used to describe the circumstances in which future dates of appearance are set due to generally avoidable reasons.

For example, adjournments for another stage of hearing, say from a plea and case management hearing to a trial hearing or from the last date of trial to a sentencing date are classified as ‘continuance’ but delays for say, missing or incomplete files, due to outstanding medical reports or attorney absenteeism are classified as ‘adjournments’. Adjournments as defined in this document have an adverse effect on hearing date certainty rates, but continuances do not.

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

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

- Simple (single) exponential smoothing uses a weighted moving average with exponentially decreasing weights.
- Holt's trend-corrected double exponential smoothing is usually more reliable for handling data that shows trends, compared to the single procedure.

Triple exponential smoothing (also called the Multiplicative Holt-Winters) is usually more reliable for parabolic trends

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>