



## Parish Courts Of Jamaica

# The Chief Justice's Third Quarter Statistics Report on Criminal Matters in the Parish Courts

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This statistical report on criminal matters in the Parish Courts of Jamaica is for the third quarter ended September 30, 2019. This report interrogates a number of vital measures, which provides insights into the operations of the parish courts on both an individual and an aggregated basis. It forms an important basis for understanding criminal case activity and delay factors in the parish courts as well as important characteristics of criminal cases. The quarterly and annual statistics reports also provide the foundation for monitoring critical performance metrics which have been set out by the Honourable Chief Justice, among which is the attainment of a court-wide average of a 95% trial date certainty rate over the next six years and a minimum court-wide clearance rate of 130%. The simultaneous attainment of these rates is necessary to eliminate the criminal case backlog.

The aggregate new case count in the parish courts for the quarter was 6293 cases, down by 8.06% when compared to the previous quarter of 2019 but an increase of 5.31 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2018. The St. Catherine Parish Court with 974 or 15.48% of the new cases filed accounts for the largest share while the Corporate Area Parish Court- Criminal Division and the St. James Parish Court rank next with 892 or 14.17% and 724 or 11.50% respectively. These three courts also ranked first to third in terms of share of aggregate new cases filed throughout 2018. The parish courts of Portland, St. Thomas and Trelawny accounted for the lowest shares of the aggregate new cases filed, each with under 5.0% of the total caseload in the quarter.

The overall average disposal rate for cases originating in the third quarter was 45.94%, a 6.41 percentage points increase when compared to the third quarter of 2018. The three parish courts

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with the highest case disposal rates in the quarter were the St. Catherine Parish Court (57.19%), the Portland Parish Court (57.61%) and the St. James Parish Court with 53.87%. Since the disposal rate measures the proportion of new cases disposed in the quarter, the top performing courts on this measure again demonstrates commendable output. The parish courts of Manchester, St. Thomas and Trelawny demonstrate the lowest disposal rates for the quarter. The Manchester Parish Court had a disposal rate of 31.55%, while the St. Thomas and Trelawny Parish Courts had disposal rates of 39.77% and 40.74% respectively. As the court system strives towards improving productivity and achieving higher disposal rates, the probability of attaining such standards can be greatly strengthened by continuous advances in case management across the courts, the optimization of resource alignments and the adoption of a more scientific method of scheduling cases for open court.

A metric, which is closely related to the case disposal rate, is the case clearance rate, which provides a measure of the number of cases disposed for every new case filed in a particular period. This is simply a productivity index as the disposed cases, which are included in its computation, could have originated before the period of focus. The island's largest criminal court – the Corporate Area Criminal Court topped the case clearance rate for the first time since this type of reporting began, registering a strong output of 123.54%. This is a significant stride for the court system given that this court typically accounts for between 15% and 20% of criminal cases filed annually in the Jamaican parish courts. The St. Mary Parish Court continues its impressive output in 2019, ranking second with a clearance rate of 119.23% while the St. Ann Parish Court entered the top three for the first time since this type of reporting began. The Trelawny, Clarendon and St. Thomas Parish Courts, all with clearance rates between 80% and 88% ranked lowest on this measure but are within striking distance of meeting the minimum prescribed international standard. The overall case clearance

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rate for the third quarter was a promising 100.80%, down by 7.65 percentage points when compared to the record 108.45% registered in the second quarter of 2019 but 4.40 percentage points higher than the third quarter of 2018. This output suggests that for every 100 new cases that were filed in the parish courts, roughly 101 were disposed (including cases originating prior to the quarter). There is a direct association between the case disposal and case clearance rates as a poor case disposal rate will generally result from the persistence of poor case clearance rates. It is important to point out that a persistent case clearance rate of fewer than 100% will accelerate the case backlog and therefore the standard, which should be attained on an annual basis, is between 90% and 110%, based on International best practices in developed jurisdictions. It is of note that 10 of the parish courts exceeded a clearance rate of 90% in the third quarter, with 6 scoring above 100%, reminiscent of an impressive trend in late 2018 through 2019 year to date.

One highly important measure, which is of keen interest to the leadership of the courts and the policy makers, is the case congestion rate. This is a measure of how well a court is doing in managing its pending caseload, relative to its rates of disposition and clearance and implied state of resources. The higher the case congestion rate of a court, the more burdensome the caseload, again within the context of the existing rates of clearance and the implied state of resources. The case congestion rate for any single quarter is quite insightful, however, a longer time series of typically a year or over is idea when generalizing from this metric. It is not surprising that most of the parish courts, which have demonstrated a longer time series of high case clearance and case disposal rates, are among those with the lowest case congestion rates. In particular, parish court such as St. Catherine and Westmoreland which have consistently been among those with the highest productivity rates for the past three years, ranking in the top quintile (best performers) on case congestion rate. Notably, the St Mary Parish Court which in 2019 became one of the top three

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performing courts has since seen dramatic declines its case congestion rate, placing it among the three courts with the lowest case congestion ratio in the third quarter of 2019. The rarely attained prescribed benchmark of 100% case congestion rate would mean that a court is operating optimally and that it is realizing its maximum clearance rate potential. All parish courts exceeded this figure in the third quarter of 2019, an indication that there is either capacity to improve on the efficiency with which existing resources are used and/or in improving the case clearance rates. The lowest case congestion rates were recorded by the St. Catherine Parish Court with 182.52% and the parish courts of Westmoreland and St. Mary with 220.23% and 238.70% respectively.

The idea of more efficient use of resources positively influencing the case congestion rates is underscored by the results on the courtroom utilization rate, which suggests that the overall rate in the parish courts for the third quarter is roughly 59%, down by 4 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2019. This implies that on average 3 out of every 5 available hours for open court hearings were utilized in the third quarter. The unutilized 41% suggests that with more efficient scheduling and case management, the productivity of the courts could significantly increase, reducing the case congestion rates to far more manageable levels. The parish courts of Portland (90.29%), St. Ann (79.27%) and Westmoreland (68.88%) had the highest overall courtroom utilization rate in the third quarter of 2019. This measure will become more instructive when a longer time series is built up. The prescribed international standard for the courtroom utilization rate is 100%.

Another essential measure, which is an important cornerstone in the drive to bring Jamaica among the best performing court systems in the world in six years, is the trial date certainty rate. This

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provides a measurement of the likelihood that dates set for trial will commence as scheduled (without being adjourned to future dates). The perfect rate of 100% would suggest that all dates set for trial proceed as scheduled in the relevant period. The overall trial date certainty in the third quarter was 76.23%, down from 81% in the corresponding quarter in 2018, down by 2.92 percentage points when compared to the second quarter of 2019. The top three parish courts on this measure were Westmoreland (90%) and Portland and St. James and Portland with 86% and 81% respectively for the quarter while six other parish courts recorded a rate of 80% or over for the quarter. The parish courts of Hanover (48%) and the Corporate Area (56%) had the lowest trial date certainty rates for the third quarter of 2019.

On the matter of caseload distribution in the individual parishes, the data shows that in many cases the outstation courts in the respective parishes are carrying a notable share of the caseload. The overall average number of new cases heard in outstations in the third quarter of 2018 is 29%, while 71% were heard at the main parish court locations, roughly similar to the distribution throughout 2018 and the first two quarters of 2019. The variance is however quite wide among the parish courts as it seen that in parishes like Hanover, St. Catherine, Manchester, Clarendon, St. Elizabeth and St. Ann the use of outstation courts is 25% or over, while in parishes like St. James and the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division, under 10% of new cases were heard in such courts. The evidence again suggests that there is the potential in many parishes for outstations to be utilized to a greater degree to ease the caseload carriage in the main courts, thus potentially enhancing case clearance and disposal rates by easing the case congestion.

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The largest proportion of cases disposed in the first quarter was by way of guilty pleas, accounting for 39.28% of the cases disposed. This was followed by cases dismissed, which was responsible for 21.24% of the cases disposed. It is of note that guilty verdicts accounted for 4.42% of the matters disposed, while mediated settlements accounted for 9.69% and not guilty verdicts 14.82%. Taken together, the data therefore reveals a conviction rate of 43.70% for the third quarter of 2019, a decline of 16.84 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2018. Further analysis of the data suggests that among the cases originating over the past 34 months which were disposed in the third quarter of 2019; roughly 42.68% were disposed within 90 days, which is quite an encouraging result that is consistent with the generally improved clearance rates seen across the parish courts throughout 2019.

In terms of the distribution of case types, the report highlights that the largest proportion of the criminal cases filed in the courts were Indictments with approximately 38.90% of all matters. This is followed by Summary Matters with a roughly 31.09% and Lay Magistrates' matters with approximately 16.09% of the total. It is of note that Committal Proceedings accounted for 6.44% of all criminal matters filed in the parish courts during the quarter.

An important delay factor, which affects the efficiency with which cases move towards disposition, is the incidence of adjournments in the parish courts. The report suggests that the dominant reasons for adjournments for the quarter were due to mediation referrals with 16.25%, the issuance of warrants for non-appearance of the accused (DNA- warrant issued) with an estimated 12.06% of all adjournments, and outstanding fingerprints with roughly 11.51% of the total. Also featuring prominently on the lists of reasons for adjournment across the courts are outstanding medical reports and subpoenas of investigating officers.

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The three most frequent criminal charges filed in the parish courts in the quarter were assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding and threats. The vast majority of offences were committed by males, accounting for roughly 81.15% of all charges filed during the quarter. The dominant age group of offenders was the 20 - 26 and 27 – 36 age groups accounting for roughly 26.08% and 29.37% respectively of all offences filed in the parish courts in the third quarter of 2019.

The most up to date estimated backlog of criminal cases in the parish courts is 23451 cases, which is below the combined annual criminal caseload. This represents incremental and sustained reductions over the past 27 months. A criminal case is considered to be in backlog if it has been in the court system for more than two years without disposal.

**METHODOLOGY**

Guaranteeing the reliability and validity of the data used to produce the periodic statistical reports for the Jamaican Courts is of utmost importance as we seek to produce a data driven enterprise for policy making and operational decisions. As a result, a robust and verifiable system of data production has been created in both the parish courts and the Supreme Court. At the parish courts, a data capture system for criminal matters, called the CISS (Case Information Statistical System) has been operational in all courts for the past two years. This system captures a wide range of data on the progression of criminal cases from initiation to disposition and is manned by at least one dedicated Data Entry Officer in each court. The Data Entry Officers update the system on a daily basis so that the data produced is as close as possible to real time. The electronic data sheets for each parish court are then validated and backed-up to the network at the end of each month and the data submitted to a centralized, secure medium for processing by the Statistics Unit based 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. The primary data used to produce this report is for a continuous period of at least 33 months for each court. The Corporate Area Criminal Court has the shortest time series among the courts. The metrics used in the report adjust for time period variations, thus placing no court at a disadvantage in terms of comparisons.

A monthly statistical report is produced using the data submissions, culminating in Quarterly Reports and eventually the Annual Report of this nature. All Quarterly and Annual Parish Court

reports are published on the website of the Supreme Court; however, interim data required by stakeholders may be requested from the Statistics Unit through the Office of the Chief Justice.

### **Structure of report**

The report is divided into two main sections. Chapter 1.0 explores case activity statistics by examining the caseload carried by each parish court in aggregate and by quarter as well the associated disposal rates, clearance rates and case congestion rates as appropriate. This section also examines the distribution of the different types of cases filed in the respective courts as well as the most commonly occurring charges and the trial date certainty ratios. The common reasons for adjournment and the distribution of the methods of case disposition are also examined in this section along with the overall conviction rate.

Chapter 2.0 examines the distribution of case activity by courtroom and outstation as well as case demographics including age and gender distribution of offenders as well as a sample estimate of the geographical distribution of charges based on the police station where matters are reported. This section also examines the distribution of new cases heard in the quarter by the respective outstations in each parish.

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## Chapter 1.0: Criminal Case Activity Statistics in the Parish Courts from Jul. -Sept. 2019

This chapter provides an assessment of criminal case activity in the parish courts for the third quarter ended September 30, 2019. This includes analysis of the criminal caseload, rates of case disposal, clearance and congestion as well as cases statuses in the various courts over the period as well as assessments of trial certainty rates, common methods of disposition and reasons for adjournment.

**Table 1.0: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the quarter ended September 30, 2018**

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Number of inactive cases	Number of disposed cases	Active Pending Case Load	Case disposal Rate (%)
Corporate Area Criminal	892	156	311	425	52.35
St. Elizabeth	336	21	125	190	43.45
Portland	309	22	156	131	57.61
St. Ann	424	82	43	299	29.48
St. Catherine	974	424	133	417	57.19
St. James	724	109	281	334	53.87
Hanover	194	1	99	94	51.55
Westmoreland	523	53	216	254	51.43
Clarendon	547	55	194	298	45.52
St. Mary	286	18	104	164	42.66
Trelawny	297	5	116	176	40.74
St. Thomas	264	8	97	159	39.77
Manchester	523	33	132	358	31.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>6293</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>3299</b>	
<b>Average/Weighted Average</b>	<b>484.08</b>	<b>75.92</b>	<b>154.38</b>	<b>253.77</b>	<b>45.94</b>
<b>Standard deviation</b>	<b>247.32</b>	<b>114.03</b>	<b>76.66</b>	<b>109.93</b>	<b>9.08</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.921</b>	<b>2.724</b>	<b>0.917</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>-0.492</b>

The table above shows the aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the quarter ended September 30, 2019. A total of 6,293 new criminal cases were filed across the parish courts, a decrease of 552 cases or 8.77% when compared to the previous quarter (April-June 2019). A total of 2,994 cases were either disposed or became inactive, resulting in a gross disposal rate of 45.94%. In the corresponding

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quarter in 2018, 6,646 cases were filed, while 2,775 cases were either disposed or became inactive which resulted in a gross disposal rate of 41.75%. When compared to the corresponding quarter in 2018, there was a decrease of 353 or 5.31% in the number of cases filed and a decrease of 219 or 9.84% in the number of cases disposed. The overall case disposal rate however increased by 6.41 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2018 and by 0.33 percentage points when compared to the second quarter of 2019.

The best performing courts in relation to case disposal rates for the third quarter of 2019 were the Portland Parish Court with (57.19%), the St. Catherine Parish Court (57.19%), the St. James parish Court (53.87%), the Corporate Area Parish Court (52.35%) and the Hanover Parish Court (51.55%). The second quarter of 2019 had the Hanover Parish Court (59.92%), the St. James Parish Court (56.80%), the St. Catherine Parish Court (55.08%), the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division (54.48%) and the Clarendon Parish Court (49.44%) as the top 5 performing Courts. The bottom three courts on this measure were St. Thomas (39.77%), Manchester (31.55%) and St. Ann (29.48%) parish courts. The Portland parish court moved from a disposal rate of 30.77% in the similar quarter of 2018 to roughly 58% in the current Jul.-Sept. 2019 third quarter showing the most pronounced increase in case disposal rate, both in comparison to the second quarter of 2019 and the corresponding period in 2018. The three bottom courts were also among the courts with the weakest output in the corresponding third quarter of 2018.

The skewness of the number of new cases filed, the number of cases disposed and the active pending case load all ranged from moderate to highly positive, which is an indication that the majority of the courts fall below the average count in each case, these inferences are supported by the moderately high standard deviations which indicate some amount of variability of the scores from the mean individual series. The skewness of the case disposal rate is however low negative, which is an indication that the larger proportion of the courts had disposal rates falling below the overall average.

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**Table 2.0: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court as at Sept.30, 2019.**

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed in quarter	Number of Disposed cases in Jul. - Sept. Quarter	Number of Inactive cases in Jul.- Sept. quarter	Grand total number of inactive cases (2016-2019)	Grand total number of disposed cases (2016-2019)	Grand Active Pending Case Load b/f Jul.01,2019	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
Corporate Area Criminal	892	792	310	4707	9821	1738	123.54	238.66
St. Mary	286	310	31	639	2821	465	119.23	220.23
St. Ann	424	409	86	2351	3711	1494	116.75	387.47
Portland	309	301	38	782	2872	622	109.71	274.63
St. Catherine	974	768	273	2706	9140	926	106.88	182.52
Hanover	194	206	1	159	2493	395	106.70	284.54
Manchester	523	382	139	2339	2502	1298	99.62	349.52
St. James	724	545	173	2006	7836	1049	99.17	246.94
Westmoreland	523	434	75	963	4674	692	97.32	238.70
St. Elizabeth	336	294	20	552	2782	561	93.45	285.67
St. Thomas	264	206	25	338	2808	554	87.50	354.11
Clarendon	547	366	78	730	3895	2415	81.17	667.12
Trelawny	297	188	18	239	2366	730	69.36	498.54
<b>Total</b>	<b>6293</b>	<b>5201</b>	<b>1267</b>	<b>18511</b>	<b>57721</b>	<b>12939</b>	<b>12939</b>	
<b>Average</b>	<b>484.08</b>	<b>400.08</b>	<b>97.46</b>	<b>1423.92</b>	<b>4440.08</b>	<b>995.31</b>	<b>100.80</b>	<b>325.28</b>
<b>Standard deviation</b>	<b>247.32</b>	<b>196.25</b>	<b>99.69</b>	<b>1326.77</b>	<b>2673.97</b>	<b>594.55</b>	<b>15.50</b>	<b>132.45</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.92</b>	<b>1.12</b>	<b>1.27</b>	<b>1.37</b>	<b>1.33</b>	<b>1.31</b>	<b>-0.48</b>	<b>1.67</b>

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

The table above is an extension of table 1.0. Among the data reported on in this table is the case congestion rate across the parish courts. This provides a measure of manageability of a courts existing caseload. In particular, it provides an indication of the caseload burden relative to existing resources and the pace of case disposal. The Clarendon Parish Court has the largest case congestion rate over the period measured with 667.12%. Despite this large case congestion rate it was an improvement from the previous quarter with a congestion rate of 784.47%, this showed a 117.35 percentage points increase and also

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104.13 percentage points increase when compared to the corresponding 2018 period. The Parish Courts of St. Catherine, St. Mary and the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division performed best on this measure, mostly on account of moderate to strong case disposal and case clearance rates for much of the past three years. As with previous reports, caseload and resources do not appear to be a major factor explaining the differences in performance here as the courts ranking on either ends of the scale are among the larger courts in the island and resource endowment do not vary in a statistically significant way among the courts. The Hanover Parish Court improved its clearance rate by 20.45 percentage points moving from 86.25% in the third quarter of 2018 to 106.70% in the third quarter of 2019. This performance also represented an increase of 14.39 percentage points above the 92.31% recorded in the second quarter of 2019. The St. Ann Parish Court was the most improved court on this measure with an increase of 41.07 percentage points moving from 75.68% in the third quarter of 2018 to 116.75% in the third quarter of 2019. This improvement also represents a climb of 36.71 percentage points when compared to the second quarter of 2019 and is positively correlated with a decline in the case congestion rate at the St. Ann Parish Court, moving from 588.31% in the second quarter of 2019 to 387.47% in the current 2019 third quarter. The Trelawny Parish Court recorded the largest decline in its clearance rate when compared to the second quarter of 2019 moving from 116.23% to 69.36%, a fall of 46.87 percentage points. Meanwhile there was a 160.55 percentage points increase in the congestion rate moving from 337.99% in the second quarter of 2019 to 498.54% in the third quarter of 2019.

The third quarter list of case clearance rates is led by the parish courts of Corporate Area-Criminal Division (123.54%), St. Mary (119.23%) and St. Ann (116.75%). The three lowest ranked courts on this measure in this quarter were the parish courts of St. Thomas (87.50%), Clarendon (81.17%) and Trelawny (69.36%).

Overall, the parish courts moved from an average clearance rate of 96.40% in the third quarter of 2018 to 100.80% in the current 2019 quarter an increase of 4.4 percentage points. When compared to the second

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quarter of 2019 there was a 7.65 percentage points decline, moving from 108.45%. Six parish courts had clearance rates of over 100% for the third quarter of 2019 while 10 exceeded 90%.

There is generally linear empirical association between the case clearance rate and the case congestion rate, such that an increase in the case clearance rate should, ceteris paribus result in a reduction in the case clearance rate. Based on the way in which the case congestion rate is mathematically computed it is however theoretically possible that a modest increase in the clearance rate could coincide with a similarly modest increase in the case congestion rate. The congestion rate is shown to be positively skewed which indicates that proportionately more of the scores fall below the average/mean. However the clearance rate depicts a low negative skewness which indicates that slightly more scores fall above the average/mean.

**Table 2.1: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the period Jul.-Sept. 2019**

Parish Court	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q3,(2019)	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q3, (2018)	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q3,(2019)	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q3,(2018)	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q3 (2019)	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q3, (2018)
Westmoreland	51.43	50.49	97.32	106.65	238.70	132.84
Corporate Area Criminal	52.35	47.42	123.54	111.60	238.66	182.91
St. Catherine	57.19	55.17	106.88	118.53	182.52	170.98
St. James	53.87	51.05	99.17	94.02	246.94	253.09
Hanover	51.55	42.01	106.70	86.25	284.54	224.57
St. Elizabeth	43.45	34.50	93.45	103.83	285.67	204.62
Portland	57.61	30.77	109.71	97.63	274.63	249.39
Manchester	31.55	35.88	99.62	113.44	349.52	259.37
St. Mary	42.66	38.19	119.23	100.69	220.23	251.03
St. Thomas	39.77	36.79	87.50	88.21	354.11	316.04
Trelawny	40.74	37.10	69.36	89.11	498.54	347.51
Clarendon	45.52	25.75	81.17	67.61	667.12	771.25
St. Ann	29.48	28.83	116.75	75.68	387.47	417.86
<b>Average/weighted Average</b>	<b>45.94</b>	<b>39.53</b>	<b>100.80</b>	<b>96.40</b>	<b>325.28</b>	<b>290.88</b>
<b>Standard deviation</b>	<b>9.08</b>	<b>9.13</b>	<b>15.50</b>	<b>14.94</b>	<b>132.45</b>	<b>163.12</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>-0.49</b>	<b>0.32</b>	<b>-0.48</b>	<b>-0.411</b>	<b>1.67</b>	<b>2.38</b>

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**Table 3.0: Comparison of the trial certainty rates for the third quarters of 2018 and 2019**

Parish Court	Trial certainty rate (%) Q3 (2019)	Trial certainty rate (%) Q3 (2018)
Westmoreland	90	100
Clarendon	75	73
St. Ann	78	92
Portland	81	100
St. James	86	100
Manchester	79	91
St. Elizabeth	78	68
St. Catherine	83	89
Trelawny	71	100
St. Mary	77	61
St. Thomas	75	58
Corporate Area Criminal	58	64
Hanover	60	60
<b>Average</b>	<b>76.23%</b>	<b>81%</b>

*\*Q3 represents the third quarter i.e. July-September*

The trial date certainty rate provides a measure of the extent to which dates, which are set for trial proceed on schedule without being delayed to some future date. The overall trial date certainty rate for the third quarter of 2019 was 76.23%, a 4.77 - percentage points decline when compared to the corresponding period in 2018. None 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 Westmoreland, St. Catherine and St. James with trial date certainty rates of 83% or higher in the quarter. The minimum-targeted trial date certainty rate, which has been set out by the Honourable Chief Justice for the judiciary for the next six years, is 95%. This is consistent with the push to significantly enhance the efficiency of the court system and hence the timely delivery of justice to the Jamaican citizenry. The attainment of this minimum threshold rate will depress the overall criminal case backlog in the Jamaican court system below 5%.

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**Table 4.0: Distribution of courtroom utilization rates across the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the third quarter of 2019**

Parish Court	Average overall courtroom utilization rate (%)	Highest Recorded Courtroom Utilization rate (%)	Lowest Recorded Courtroom Utilization rate (%)	Standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates (%)	Average courtroom utilization rate for Night Court sittings (%)	Average number of courtroom adjournments per day
St. Catherine	53.74	148	2	25.27	45.0	1.2
Westmoreland	68.88	294	3.33	43.29	62.85	1.1
Trelawny	43.14	257	3	31.06	43.02	1.2
St. Thomas	45.64	113	8	22.13	48.61	1.1
St. Mary	58.54	273	1	35.29	49.16	1.2
St. James	52.77	92	17	22.45	64.59	1.2
Corporate Area Criminal Court	62.84	130	0	8.80	58.34	1.2
St. Ann	79.27	302	4	39.45	83.90	1.1
Portland	90.29	278	8	54.52	-	1.2
Hanover	40.65	106	1	22.41	41.48	1.1
Clarendon	44.86	107	3	24.53	33.26	1.20
Manchester	70.89	127	6	29.62	41.56	1.3
St. Elizabeth	51.12	130	5.67	23.57	44.88	1.2
<b>Overall Averages</b>	<b>58.66</b>	<b>181.31</b>	<b>4.77</b>	<b>29.41</b>	<b>51.39</b>	<b>1.18</b>
<b>Standard deviation</b>	<b>15.10</b>	<b>83.62</b>	<b>4.48</b>	<b>11.59</b>	<b>13.81</b>	<b>0.06</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.81</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>1.81</b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>1.22</b>	<b>0.65</b>

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the various parish courts in the third quarter of 2019. The courtroom utilization rate provides a measurement of the proportion of available hours for open court hearings in all courtroom (including outstations) which are actually utilized. If the usage of any courtroom exceeds the available hours then the utilization rate will exceed 100% and the rate will fall below 100% if less than the available hours are utilized. The prescribed international standard for the courtroom utilization rate is 100%, which means that all hours allocated for court hearings in any court, on any given day should be utilized. The data suggests that as a whole the parish courts of Jamaica are performed well below this level in the second quarter of 2019. The overall average courtroom utilization rate across the

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parish courts in this period was 58.66%, which is an indication that on average roughly 59% of the available hours for court hearings were utilized across the parish courts in the third quarter of 2019. This represents a decline of roughly 4 percentage points when compared to the previous quarter but still translates into an average of roughly three of every five available hours being utilized. The parish courts recording the highest courtroom utilization rates for the second quarter are the Portland and St. Ann Parish Courts with 90.29% and 79.27% respectively, followed by the Manchester Parish Court with 70.89%. The Trelawny and Hanover Parish Courts with 43.14% and 40.65% respectively had the lowest rates, while the Clarendon Parish Court with 44.86% had the next lowest rate. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates is moderate, suggesting that on average the rates for the individual courts did not vary widely from the overall mean. This is affirmed by the low positive skewness of the data. The data also isolates the courtroom utilization rate for Night Courts. Apart of the designation of Night Courts is to bolster the capacity of the courts to hear and dispose more cases in a timely manner. At an overall courtroom utilization rate of 51.39%, the Night Courts use 7.90 percentage points less of the available time than regular day court. The St. Ann Parish Court with a Night Court utilization rate of 83.90% and the St. James Parish Court with 64.59% ranked highest for the third quarter with the Westmoreland Parish Court ranking next with 62.85%. At the lower end of the courtroom utilization rates for Night Court sittings were the parish courts of Clarendon (33.26%), Manchester (41.56%) and Hanover with 41.48%.

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  $\pm 2.5\%$ .

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**Table 5.0: Types of matters for each Parish Court for the for the third quarter ended September 30, 2019**

Parish Court	Indictment	Summary Matters	Lay Magistrates Sittings	Committal Proceedings	Tax	Miscellaneous	LRF	Traffic	NS	Total
Corporate Area Criminal	1008	553	350	178	-	-	-	22	-	2111
St. Catherine	487	668	207	248	198	-	2	-	-	1785
Manchester	318	190	210	119	56	-	-	-	-	893
St. James	288	452	114	52	-	43	-	-	-	929
St. Ann	382	268	209	45	7	-	-	2	-	913
Westmoreland	275	245	131	90	25	-	-	-	-	766
Clarendon	345	284	129	68	-	-	-	-	-	826
Portland	212	66	55	30	2	-	-	-	-	365
St. Elizabeth	206	110	105	43	37	-	-	9	-	510
St. Mary	258	36	59	83	38	-	-	-	-	474
Trelawny	219	139	59	22	-	-	17	-	-	456
Hanover	29	142	69	53	-	-	-	-	-	293
St. Thomas	147	175	29	57	-	-	-	-	-	408
<b>Total</b>	<b>4174</b>	<b>3328</b>	<b>1726</b>	<b>1088</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,774</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>38.90</b>	<b>31.09</b>	<b>16.09</b>	<b>10.14</b>	<b>3.38</b>	<b>0.40</b>	<b>0.18</b>	<b>0.31</b>	<b>-</b>	

\*Total number of matters in the sample = 10,774. \*\*LRF means Law Reform Fraudulent Transaction, \*\*\*NS means not stated

The above table provides a breakdown of the different types of new charges filed in each parish court for the third quarter of 2019. For the quarter, 10,774 charges were filed across the parish courts, an increase of approximately 4.65% when compared to the previous quarter. The majority of these charges were filed in the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division (2,111), the St. Catherine Parish Court (1,785), the St. James Parish Court with (929) and the Manchester Parish Court with 893 charges. The majority of the charges were Indictments (38.90%); followed by Summary matters (31.09%), Lay Magistrates’ matters (16.09%) and Committal Proceedings with 10.14% of the total. The Corporate Area Court-Criminal Division accounted for the largest proportion of Indictments filed, followed by the parish courts of St. Catherine, St. Ann and Clarendon. The St. Catherine Parish Court accounted for the largest share of summary matters filed, followed by the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division

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

## Offence Types

**Table 6.0: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges across the parish courts for the third quarter ended September 30, 2019**

Parish Court	Assault Occasioning bodily harm	Unlawful wounding	Threat	Malicious destruction of Property	Possession of Offensive Weapon	Exposing goods for Sale
Manchester	118	68	45	39	24	93
Clarendon	114	81	62	38	34	3
St. Catherine	84	51	51	33	98	63
St. Thomas	43	36	15	22	24	4
Portland	94	70	47	42	11	15
St. Mary	80	89	22	29	3	-
St. James	79	84	31	34	63	34
Corporate Area Criminal	262	160	46	96	114	46
Westmoreland	110	65	55	30	32	49
Hanover	54	26	29	16	15	-
St. Elizabeth	63	58	48	35	29	-
St. Ann	88	81	136	36	8	3
Trelawny	66	44	23	25	28	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1255</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>313</b>
<b>Percentage of total</b>	<b>31.00</b>	<b>22.55</b>	<b>15.07</b>	<b>11.73</b>	<b>11.93</b>	<b>7.73</b>

\*\*\*Number of observations (N) = 4049

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the six most commonly occurring types of charges across all parish courts for the third quarter of the 2019. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 1255 or 31% of the sample of charges is the most frequently occurring. Unlawful wounding

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with 913 or 22.55% and possession of offensive weapon with 610 or 15.07% followed this. The top six is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 475 or 11.73%, threats with 483 or 11.93% and exposing goods for sale with 313 or 7.73% of the sample. This sample size accounts for 37.58% of the total population of charges filed during the quarter, roughly 4 percentage points smaller than that of the previous quarter of 2019.

**Table 7.0: Average age of active charges for each parish court for charges filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2019**

Parish Court	Average Age of Active charges (days)
Clarendon	60
Trelawny	72
Portland	65
St. Mary	57
Hanover	56
Westmoreland	45
St. Catherine	52
St. Elizabeth	60
St. Ann	55
St. James	59
St. Thomas	73
Corporate Area Criminal	72
Manchester	70
<b>Overall Average</b>	<b>61.33</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>8.67</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>-0.10</b>

The above table shows the average age of active charges originating in the third quarter of 2019, for charges originating in said quarter. The average age of active matters originating in the quarter was approximately 61.33 days or roughly 2 months, roughly the same as the previous quarter of 2019. The parish courts of Westmoreland, St. Mary and St. Catherine have the lowest averages on the list. On the contrary, the highest averages were observed for in the parish courts of St. Thomas, Trelawny and the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division. There is an intuitive correlation between clearance rates and the average age of cases in the long run but it does not necessarily manifest empirically in the short-run.

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This means that in the end, 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 clearance rate of between 90% and 110% long enough will eventually eliminate case backlog, a feat that is quite conceivable with improved case progression management in the respective courts. In such cases, the average time taken to dispose of cases will experience a natural decline, tapering off at a modest, tolerable rate thus improving the efficiency of the courts and the enhancing the timely delivery of justice. The standard deviation of the scores was a moderate at roughly 9 days, an indication that the individual values for the parish courts were on average abstemiously close to the overall mean. The low negative skewness shown is an indication that the average age of active cases across the parish courts were generally clustered around the overall mean.

**Table 8.0: Average age of charges disposed for matters originating in the quarter ended September 30, 2019**

Parish Court	Average Age of Disposed charges (days)
St. Catherine	39
St. Thomas	33
St. Ann	30
Corporate Area Criminal	25
Manchester	36
Portland	28
St. James	35
Hanover	31
Westmoreland	43
St. Elizabeth	28
St. Mary	37
Clarendon	41
Trelawny	34
<b>Overall Average</b>	33.85
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	5.38
<b>Skewness</b>	0.10

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The above table shows that the average time taken to dispose of criminal cases filed in the third quarter of 2019, which were filed in the Parish Courts, is 33.85 days or just over a month. This is similar to the time taken to dispose of cases originating in the previous quarter, which were disposed. The standard deviation of roughly 5 days is an indication that there were moderate variations in the distribution of the scores, which ranged from a low of roughly 25 days at the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division to a high of 43 days for the Westmoreland Parish Court. The weak positive skewness of roughly 0.10 is an indication that a significant proportion of the scores were clustered around the overall average score though slightly more fell below it.

**Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the quarter ended September 30, 2019**

Parishes	Time intervals in days					Sample size (n)
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365 days and over	
Corporate Area Criminal	2567 (58.27%)	956 (21.70%)	413 (9.38%)	156 (3.54%)	313 (7.11%)	4405 (100%)
St. Catherine	604 (24.90)	576 (23.74%)	362 (14.92%)	334 (13.77%)	550 (22.67%)	2426 (100%)
St. James	1567 (41.61%)	823 (21.85%)	512 (13.59%)	476 (12.64%)	388 (10.30%)	3766 (100%)
Manchester	656 (26.46%)	459 (18.52%)	376 (15.17%)	345 (13.92%)	643 (25.94%)	2479 (100%)
Westmoreland	665 (60.07%)	167 (15.09%)	101 (9.12%)	89 (8.04%)	85 (7.68%)	1107 (100%)
St. Ann	389 (38.90%)	165 (16.50%)	119 (11.90%)	103 (10.30%)	224 (22.40%)	1000 (100%)
Clarendon	798 (59.11%)	215 (15.93%)	110 (8.15%)	102 (7.56%)	125 (9.26%)	1350 (100%)
St. Thomas	115 (25.39%)	69 (15.23%)	72 (15.89%)	95 (20.97%)	102 (22.52%)	453 (100%)
Portland	105 (21.74)	95 (19.67%)	85 (17.60%)	75 (15.53%)	123 (25.47%)	483 (100%)
St. Mary	185 (36.35%)	121 (23.77%)	95 (18.66%)	67 (13.16%)	89 (17.49%)	509 (100%)
St. Elizabeth	215	125	81	65	109	595

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	(36.13%)	(21.00%)	(13.61%)	(10.92%)	(18.32%)	(100%)
Trelawny	115 (35.71%)	76 (23.60%)	34 (10.56%)	44 (13.66%)	53 (16.46%)	322 (100%)
Hanover	321 (57.53)	135 (24.19%)	60 (10.75%)	23 (4.12%)	19 (3.41%)	558 (100%)
% of total	<b>42.68</b>	<b>20.47</b>	<b>12.44</b>	<b>10.15</b>	<b>14.51</b>	<b>100.00</b>
Average	<b>639</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>1496</b>
Standard Deviation	<b>706</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>1355</b>
Skewness	<b>2.04</b>	<b>1.37</b>	<b>1.05</b>	<b>1.48</b>	<b>1.25</b>	<b>1.25</b>

**Number of charges sampled (N) = 19,453**

**Note: The data in this table covers case activity for a roughly 3-year period over September 2016 – September 2019 for most parish courts.**

The table above shows the breakdown of the time disposition for matters filed in the respective parish courts for roughly three consecutive years over the period September 2016 to September 2019. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 42.68% of the disposals. As with the previous quarter, the parish courts of Clarendon, Westmoreland, and the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division are among the courts with the largest proportion of cases disposed within 90 days. This trend is broadly similar to that seen over the past 21 months. Cumulatively, 85.74% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year, a continued positive indicator of the potential effectiveness of the courts in increasing overall productivity and realizing the objective of becoming the best in the Caribbean region in three years and among the best in the world in six years. From the data set, the parish courts of Portland, St. Ann and Manchester had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample again did not vary dramatically either within or across the time intervals, particularly for the higher times to disposition. This is an

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indication that for disposed cases, the times taken are not markedly different 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 9.0: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at the quarter ended September 30, 2019**

Parish Court	Time to disposition (in days)							Sample size (N)
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	
Clarendon	101.35	15	45	135.24	1.25	1	854	<b>1350</b>
Corporate Area Criminal	110.25	10	68	142.14	0.94	1	875	<b>4405</b>
Westmoreland	100.45	21	53.34	125.65	1.12	1	985	<b>1107</b>
St. Catherine	172.13	115.67	165	142.67	0.15	1	1134	<b>2426</b>
Hanover	85.89	43	68	98.24	0.55	1	962	<b>558</b>
Trelawny	75.28	60	69	56.17	0.34	2	398	<b>322</b>
St. Mary	97.56	34	51	101.23	1.38	1	671	<b>509</b>
St. Elizabeth	167.45	41	95.15	112.35	1.93	1	951	<b>595</b>
St. Thomas	155.45	45	81.24	103.45	2.15	1	1123	<b>453</b>
Portland	195.24	43	101.25	112.34	2.51	1	1187	<b>483</b>
St. James	145.34	73	105	86.54	1.40	1	1213	<b>3766</b>
Manchester	195.21	51	125.76	94.23	2.21	1	1387	<b>2476</b>
St. Ann	161.12	76	115.45	123.45	1.11	1	1110	<b>1000</b>
<b>Std. Deviation</b>	<b>42.04</b>	<b>28.44</b>	<b>34.46</b>	<b>24.37</b>	<b>3.82</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>2.56</b>	<b>1354</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.97</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>-0.62</b>	<b>3.43</b>	<b>3.61</b>	<b>-0.89</b>	<b>1.25</b>

Number of charges sampled (N) = 19,450

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for roughly 3 years spanning September 2016 – September 2019 for most Parish Courts.

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The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at September 30, 2019. For each parish court, the estimates cover roughly 3 years spanning September 2016 to September 2019 and it should be noted that these descriptive statistics are for matters disposed over that sample period. The output produces a weighted average estimated time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Criminal Division) of 138 days over the period, markedly higher than the corresponding period in 2018. The skewness of these times to disposition is 0.04, suggesting that these times were clustered around the overall mean. For matters disposed in the period, the parish courts of Trelawny (75 days), Hanover (86days) and St. Mary (98 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of Portland (205 days), St. Thomas (212 days) and Manchester (198 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters disposed during the quarter. The variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts are however fairly wide as shown by the moderately high standard deviation (42.04), suggesting inconsistencies in performance 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 398 days (13.27 months) in the Trelawney Parish Court to a high of 1387 days (3.85 years) in the Manchester Parish Court. The skewness of the maximum times to disposition is moderately negative -0.89, which is an indication that proportionately more of the maximum times to disposition fell above the overall average of these scores. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was 19450, which is statistically significant and representative.

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## Methods of Disposal and Criminal Conviction Rate

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposal for the quarter ended September 30, 2019**

Parish Court	Guilty Plea	Dismissed	Not Guilty Verdict	Transferred	Mediated settlement	Guilty verdict	Committed to Circuit Court	Total
St Catherine	81	204	34	134	150	15	81	699
Corporate Area Criminal	920	379	54	33	1	50	30	1467
Westmoreland	169	296	88	3	25	13	28	622
St. James	258	25	69	5	27	10	35	429
Manchester	174	118	-	18	81	19	3	413
Clarendon	216	40	132	43	79	33	98	641
St. Elizabeth	211	14	59	-	106	4	18	412
Trelawny	106	38	64	5	15	14	5	247
Hanover	58	17	83	1	18	26	5	208
Portland	182	115	350	13	62	76	29	827
St. Mary	47	71	2	3	53	15	40	231
St. Thomas	146	24	48	-	10	4	36	268
St. Ann	43	71	2	15	17	15	20	183
<b>Total</b>	<b>2611</b>	<b>1412</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>644</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>6647</b>
<b>Percentage of Total</b>	<b>39.28</b>	<b>21.24</b>	<b>14.82</b>	<b>4.11</b>	<b>9.69</b>	<b>4.42</b>	<b>6.44</b>	<b>100</b>

Total sample size = 6647

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts for the third quarter of 2019. From the sample, it is observed that the majority of matters disposed during the quarter were by way of guilty plea with 39.28% of the sample, followed by matters dismissed with 21.24% and Not Guilty Verdicts with 14.82%. Mediated Settlements with 9.69%, matters committed to Circuit with 6.44%, guilty verdicts with 4.42% and matters transferred with 4.11% account for the remaining disposals in the quarter. The combined 43.70% of the cases disposed by way of guilty outcomes represents the criminal conviction rate in the parish courts for the quarter, a decline of 15.73% when compared to the third quarter of 2018.

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## Common Reasons for Adjournment

**Table 10.1: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for the quarter ended September 30, 2019**

Reasons for Adjournment/Continuance	Count	Percentage
Referred to mediation	264	16.25
DNA – Warrant issued	196	12.06
Fingerprint outstanding	187	11.51
Medical report unavailable	85	5.23
Subpoena of Investigating Officer	83	5.10
Referral to Restorative Justice Centres	67	4.12
Reissue of application	65	4.00
Forensic report outstanding	49	3.02
Subpoena of complainant	50	3.08
For legal aid assignment	41	2.52
For disclosure	39	3.46
<b>Total</b>	<b>1126</b>	<b>69.29</b>

**(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 1,625)**

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

The above table shows that from a sample of 1,625 reasons for adjournments/continuance in the third quarter of 2019 across all parish courts, the largest proportion (16.25%) were because of adjournments due for referral to mediation. Adjournments for the issuance of warrants for the non-appearance of the accused with 12.06% and adjournments for outstanding fingerprints with 11.51% rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts. Matters adjourned due

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to medical reports outstanding (5.23%) and for the subpoena of Investigating Officer (5.10%), rounds off the top five reasons for adjournment for the third quarter of 2019. These top five reasons for adjournment have repeatedly featured among the leading reasons for adjournment. The 11 reasons for adjournment quoted above account for the 69.29% of the total sample of adjournments.

### **The case file integrity rate:**

One factor, which has a significant bearing on the progression of cases through the court system, is the case file integrity rate. A case file is considered to have met the standards of integrity if at the point of a court hearing requiring the use of said file; it is complete, accurate, available and correctly listed for court. Hence, reasons for adjournment such as file incomplete, file not ready for court, matter wrongly listed and matter not before the court have an adverse impact on the case file integrity rate of the courts. In the third quarter of 2019, the case file integrity rate for criminal matters across the parish courts was 86.54% as 13.46% of the total incidence of adjournments was due to factors, which impair the case file integrity rate. This represents a 0.58% percentage point improvement when compared to the previous quarter's results. Despite the improvement, the case file integrity rate remains below the prescribed international standard of 98%-100%. Herein 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 11.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for continuance for the quarter ended September 30, 2019**

Reasons for Adjournment/Continuance	Count	Percentage
Sentencing	154	9.48
Bail application	51	3.14

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 1,625)

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The analysis of adjournments makes a distinction between those incidences, which may be considered avoidable due to either internal or external factors, and those, which are intrinsic to the progression of a case. The above table highlights the primary reasons for adjournment gleaned from the sample, which may be considered as simply intrinsic to the progression of some cases. These reasons are classified as reasons for ‘continuance.’ As seen in the above table, adjournments for sentencing and those for bail application featured prominently among such reasons.

## Chapter 2.0: Case Demographics

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

**Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender for the quarter ended September 30, 2019**

	Male		Female		Total	
Charge	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	915	81.33	210	18.67	1125	100%
Unlawful wounding	574	77.36	168	22.64	742	100%
Threat	412	77.0	123	29.85	535	100%
Malicious destruction of property	482	78.63	131	21.37	613	100%
Armed with an offensive weapon	472	87.41	68	12.59	540	100%
Exposing goods for sale	245	71.85	96	28.15	341	100%
Disorderly conduct	232	70.94	95	29.05	327	100%
Possession of ganja	215	77.34	63	22.66	278	100%

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Simple larceny	97	78.86	26	21.14	123	100%
<b>TOTAL</b>	3644	-	980	-	4624	<b>100%</b>

**\*\*\*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) = 4624**

The above table provides a sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender in the first quarter ended September 30, 2019. Based on the data shown in chart 2.0, it is not surprising that males account for the dominant proportion of all these charges. Among the offences listed with the greatest imbalance in the gender distribution is assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, and being armed with an offensive weapon for which over 75% of the offenders were male. Exposing good for sale, disorderly conduct and threats saw the highest incidence of female involvement among the offences, which appeared most frequently.

Subsection 2.0 of this report details the distribution of case activity by courtrooms and outstations in each parish during the third quarter of 2019.

### 2.1 Distribution of case activity by courtrooms and outstations

**Table 14.1: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Westmoreland for the quarter ended Sept.30, 2019**

Courtroom/ Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the Quarter	Number of Cases disposed (of Those Originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of New cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom#1 (main court)	251	79	14	48.27	37.05
Night Court (main court)	142	106	17	27.31	86.62
Whithorn Outstation	56	32	2	10.77	60.71

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Lay Magistrates (main court)	37	9	1	7.12	27.03
Whithorn Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	23	7	2	4.42	39.13
Courtroom#2 (main court)	7	3	1	1.35	57.14
Courtroom#3 (main court)	4	0	0	0.77	0
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>52.50</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2019 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 Magistrate and Night Court matters heard in each of the relevant locations, for ease of comparison. The data shows decisively that matters entered in courtroom number 1 and the Night Court in Savannah La Mar accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter as was the case in quarter two, with 251 (48.27%) and 142 (27.31%) matters respectively. There was a decline of 1 case or 0.40% below the 252 cases heard in courtroom 1 and 27 cases or 23.48% above the 115 cases heard in Night Court in Savanna La Mar in the corresponding quarter ended September 30, 2018. The Whithorn Outstation with 56 or 10.77% of the new matters heard in the parish ranks next, decreasing however by 6 cases or 9.68% when compared to the similar Jul.-Sept.2018 period. There was also a 1.41 percentage points decrease when compared to the 12.18% recorded in quarter two of 2019. In terms of cases disposed, Night Court sittings accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 106 cases and had the highest disposal rate for the current quarter of 86.62%, compared to the 86.69% recorded in the corresponding 2018 quarter. This shows a marginal decline of 0.07 percentage point. In comparison to quarter two (Apr.-Jun.2019) Night Court showed an increase in the absolute number of cases disposed, moving from 83 cases, an increase of 23 cases or 27.71%. Courtroom 1 was next with 79 disposed cases and a disposal rate of 37.05%, a 4.2 percentage

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points decline compared to the 41.26% recorded in the corresponding 2018 quarter. Courtroom 1 registered an absolute figure of 91 cases disposed of in quarter three of 2018. The single outstation in Westmoreland accounted for 15.19% of the total number of new cases heard in the quarter, with the main courthouse accounting for the remaining 84.81% compared to the 87.03% recorded in the corresponding 2018 quarter and 87.10% recorded in the second quarter of 2019 (Apr.-Jun.). This represented a decline in both instances of 2.22 and 2.29 percentage points respectively.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 251 cases heard in courtroom 1, there were 14 cases disposed in other courtrooms. Seven (7) cases were disposed of in courtroom 3, Three (3) in courtroom 2 and Night court sittings. Of the 106 cases heard in Night court, there were 4 cases disposed of in courtroom one. Of the 32 cases heard in Whithorn 2 were disposed in Whithorn Petty session. Of the 23 cases heard in Whithorn petty session 2 were disposed of in Whithorn outstation. Of the seven cases heard in courtroom 2 one was disposed of in courtroom 3.

**Table 14.2: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Corporate Area for the quarter ended Sept. 30, 2019**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Proportion of total new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom #2 (main court)	737	308	105	82.62	56.04
Lay magistrates (main court)	74	33	15	8.30	64.86
Courtroom #6 (main court)	33	4	2	3.70	18.18
Gordon Town outstation	10	1	2	1.12	30

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Courtroom #7 (main court)	28	1	-	3.14	3.57
Courtroom # 8 (main court)	8	4	-	0.90	50
Night Court	2	0	0	0.22	-
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>53.07</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the second quarter ended September 30, 2019 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 in the parish, and outlines the applicable disposal rates. It is seen that courtroom number two accounts for the highest proportion of new cases filed in the quarter with 82.62% of the total, while in quarter two that same courtroom accounted for 67.53%, also being the highest proportion. The Lay magistrates Court with roughly 8.30% follows this and courtroom # 6 with 3.70%, rounding off the top three proportions for new cases filed in the quarter. Similarly in the third quarter of the corresponding 2018 period courtroom 2 had the highest proportion of new cases with 67.53% of the total and Petty Session Court and Night court rounded off the top three with approximately 8.16% and 6.01% respectively. In terms of disposal rates the data also shows that Lay Magistrates with disposal rates of 64.86% and Courtroom 2 with 56.04% were among the highest disposal rates for the period, as was the case in quarter 1 with Gordon Town outstation recording 68.75% and courtroom 2 with 68.05%. However in the previous quarter Courtroom number 2 and Gordon town outstation accounted for the highest disposal rates of 58.43% and 42.42% respectively. Courtroom number 2 accounts for the largest absolute share of cases disposed in the quarter with 308 matters, a decrease of 98 matters or 24.14% compared to the 406 matters disposed of in the previous quarter and 4 matters less than the 312 matters recorded in the corresponding 2018 period. The main courthouse in Half Way Tree accounted for 98.88% of the total number of new matters heard in the third quarter compared to the 97.38% recorded in the previous quarter and 97.16% recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2018. The remaining 1.12% was accounted for by the one outstation.

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As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 737 cases heard in courtroom 2, one (1) was disposed in the fast track court. Of the 74 cases heard in the Lay Magistrates' court, 1 was disposed in courtroom 2. Of the 33 cases heard in courtroom 6 at the main court, 1 was disposed in the fast track court. Of the 8 cases heard in courtroom 8, one (1) was disposed at Night Court sittings.

**Table 14.3: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. James for the quarter ended Sept. 30, 2019**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Proportion of total new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom#2 (main court)	667	294	73	94.21	55.02
Courtroom#4(main court)	26	6	19	3.67	96.15
Courtroom #3 (main court)	1	-	1	0.14	100
Cambridge Outstation	14	1	2	1.98	21.43
<b>*Total/Average</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>55.93</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2019 at the St. James Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish, and outlines the disposal rates of the various courtrooms and outstations. Courtroom 2 had the largest number of new cases filed with 667; this is 129 cases more than the 538 recorded in the previous April to June 2019 quarter. When compared to the corresponding period in 2018 the number of cases filed increased by 469 or 236.87% from 198 cases. The sample also shows that, courtroom number 2 at the main court in Montego Bay accounts for the highest share of new

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cases heard with 94.21%, followed by courtrooms number 3 and Cambridge outstation with 3.67% and 1.98% respectively of the total number. Courtroom number 4 however has a substantially higher disposal rate in this quarter of 96.15% compared to the 25% recorded in the second quarter of 2019. However, there was a decline of 3.85 percentage point when compared to the corresponding 2018 quarter. The main courthouse in Montego Bay accounts for 98.02% of new cases filed in the third quarter compared to 97.32% in the previous quarter (Apr.-Jun. 2019), and 86% in the corresponding 2018 period, an increase of 0.7 and 12.02 percentage points respectively.

**Table 14.4: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Catherine for the quarter ended Sept. 30, 2019**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom#1 (main court)	373	146	26	38.30	46.11
Linstead Outstation (courtroom #1)	187	119	8	19.20	13.04
Old Harbour Outstation	69	33	9	7.08	60.87
Lay Magistrates' (Main Court)	49	4	21	5.03	51.02
Courtroom#2 (main court)	42	16	4	4.31	47.62
Portmore Outstation(Children's Court)	26	2	1	2.67	11.54
Courtroom#4 (main court)	15	8	0	1.54	53.33
Portmore Outstation (Night Court)	177	135	21	18.17	88.14
Linstead (petty court)	16	4	2	1.64	37.50
Old Harbour Outstation (Petty Session)	14	0	5	1.44	35.71

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Courtroom#5 (main court)	5	1	0	0.51	20
Courtroom #3 (main court)	1	0	0	0.10	0
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>58.01</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the first quarter ended September 30, 2019 at the St. Catherine Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish, and outlines the applicable disposal rates. The table separates Lay Magistrates 'and Night Court matters for the relevant locations for ease of comparisons. The data shows decisively that matters entered in Courtroom number 1 at the main court in Spanish Town and the Linstead outstation accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 38.30% and 19.20% respectively, similarly in quarter two with 45.23% and 14.97% respectively. Old Harbour with 7.08% of the new cases heard ranks next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 146 matters and had the fifth highest disposal rate of 46.11%. There was a similar result in the corresponding 2018 quarter, as courtroom number 1 had the highest absolute share of cases disposed with an amount of 223 and a disposal rate of 58.62%, the third highest disposal rate during that period. As it relates to the previous quarter (quarter 2) courtroom number 1 also had the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 217 matters and a disposal rate of 58.28%, this was 12.17 percentage points higher than what was recorded in the current third quarter. Courtroom number 1 had 373 new cases filed in the current Jul.-Sept.2019 quarter, 62 cases below the 435 new cases filed in the corresponding 2018 period, a 14.25% decrease and 68 cases or 15.42% below the 441 cases recording in the previous quarter (Apr.-Jun. 2019). Portmore outstation (night court) had the highest disposal rate with 88.14%, a marginal increase of 0.14 percentage points from the 88% recorded in the previous quarter. The Old Harbour outstation and courtroom number 4 followed with disposal rates of 60.87% and 53.33% respectively

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rounded off the top three on this measure. Evidently, the outstations in St. Catherine not only carry a significant new caseload but also appear to be relatively productive with the disposition of cases. The main courthouse in Spanish Town accounted for 51.44% of the total number of new cases heard in the quarter, compared to the 61.33% recorded in the previous quarter (Apr.-Jun.2019), representing a decrease of 9.89 percentage points. The outstations combined accounted for the remaining 48.56%, compared to the 38.67% recorded in quarter 2.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 373 cases heard in courtroom 1 at the main court, there were 10 cases disposed in other courtrooms. Four (4) of these cases each were disposed in courtroom 3 and courtroom 2 and two (2) were disposed in courtroom 4. Of the 187 cases heard in courtroom number 1 in Linstead, two (2) were disposed of in other courtrooms; one was disposed of at children's court and the other at the Linstead outstation (courtroom #2). Of the 15 cases heard in Courtroom 4, four (4) were disposed in other courtrooms, three (3) in courtroom 3 and one (1) in courtroom 1.

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### 14.5: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Thomas for the quarter ended Sept. 30, 2019

Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom#1 (main court)	78	35	-	29.77	44.87
Yallahs Outstation	51	23	-	19.47	45.10
Children's Court	10	1	-	3.82	10.00
Courtroom#2 (main court)	120	40	7	45.80	39.17
Lay magistrates court	3	0	-	1.15	0
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>40.46</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2019 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The data shows decisively that matters entered in Courtroom number 2 and Courtroom number 1 at the main court accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 45.80% and 29.77% respectively. Courtroom number 2 accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 40 matters, 5 less than the 45 matters disposed in quarter 2 and had the third highest disposal rate of 39.17%. Courtroom number 1 at the main court and the Yallahs outstation with disposal rates of 44.87% and 45.10% respectively accounts for the first and second highest disposal rates respectively. This represents a decline from the 76.67% and 52.73% respectively recorded in the previous quarter. The main courthouse in Morant Bay accounted for 80.53% of the total number of new cases heard in quarter 2.44 percentage points above the 78.09% recorded in the previous quarter. The remaining outstations accounted for 19.47% of the total.

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As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 120 cases heard in courtroom 2, there were 7 cases disposed in other courtrooms. Six (6) cases were disposed in courtroom 1, while 1 was disposed of at the Yallahs outstation.

**Table 14.6: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Trelawny for the quarter ended Sept.30, 2019**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Proportion of total new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Falmouth Court (main court)	124	48	1	41.75	39.52
Ulster Spring outstation	56	26	-	18.86	46.43
Clarks Town (Children's Court)	6	2	-	2.02	33.33
Falmouth (Lay Magistrates)	13	3	-	4.38	23.08
Courtroom#1 (main court)	36	17	-	12.12	47.22
Ulster Spring (Lay Magistrates')	8	-	-	2.69	-
Clarks Town (Lay Magistrates')	6	-	4	2.02	66.67
Falmouth (Night Court)	1	-	-	0.34	-
Clarks Town Outstation (Courtroom #1)	47	22	-	15.82	46.81
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>41.41</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the second quarter ended September 30, 2019 at the Trelawny Parish Court. The data shows decisively that matters entered in the Falmouth court and the Ulster Spring Outstation accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 41.75% and 18.86% respectively of the total. This represents

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a decrease of 11.83 percentage points for the Falmouth court when compared to the 53.58% recorded in the previous quarter (Apr.-Jun.), while on the contrary there was an increase of 5.65 percentage points in the Ulster Spring outstation when compared to the 13.21% also recorded in the previous quarter i.e. quarter two (Apr.-Jun). When compared to the corresponding 2018 period it shows that there was a decline of 14.38 percentage points at the Falmouth Court, with 56.13%. The Falmouth Court accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 48 cases and a disposal rate of 39.52%. Similarly, in quarter 2, the Falmouth Court recorded the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 55 matters, 7 more than what was recorded in quarter 3 and a disposal rate of 38.73%. Although the absolute numbers are proportionately low, Clarks Town Lay Magistrates' Court and the Clarks Town outstation rank among the highest disposal rates for the parish in the quarter with 66.67% and 46.81% respectively. The main court accounts for 58.59% outstations accounts for 41.41% of the new cases heard in the quarter .

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. In particular, of the 124 cases heard at the Falmouth Court, there were 4 cases disposed in other courtrooms. Night Court accounted for 3 of these cases while Clark's Town outstation accounted for 1 case. Of the 56 cases heard at the Ulster spring outstation, 1 was disposed of at courtroom number one (main court). Of the 36 cases heard at courtroom 1 (main court), 2 were disposed in other courtrooms – namely one was disposed of at Falmouth Night Court and one at the Falmouth main court.

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**Table 14.7: Aggregate case statistics for each outstation in the Parish of St. Mary for the quarter ended Sept. 30, 2019**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in the Quarter</b>	<b>Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)</b>	<b>Proportion of total new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case Disposal Rate (%)</b>
Courtroom#1 (main court)	129	60	1	45.26	47.29
Courtroom#2 (main court)	24	6	1	8.42	29.17
Annotto Bay (OA) Outstation	31	13		10.88	41.94
Night court	2	-	-	0.70	0
Richmond (Lay Magistrates')	2	-	-	0.70	0
Richmond Outstation	18	7	-	6.32	38.89
Children's Court	14	1	-	4.91	7.14
Gayle Outstation	18	13	-	6.32	72.22
Courtroom #3	14	3	1	4.91	28.57
Lay Magistrates' Court (main court location)	20	1	14	7.01	75
Gayle Outstation (Petty Session)	30	-	-	10.23	0
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>42.46</b>

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The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Mary in the third quarter ended September 30, 2019. The data shows decisively that courtrooms number 1 and Annotto Bay Outstation account for the highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 45.26% and 10.88% respectively of the total. Gayle outstation (Petty session) with 10.23% of the new cases heard in the quarter rank next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Port Maria accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 60 matters, an increase of 5 matters or 9.09% when compared to the 55 matters recorded in the previous quarter. This courtroom had the second highest case disposal rate of 47.29%. The Gayle outstation with 72.22% and the Annotto Bay outstation with 41.94% all rank among the top five disposal rates for the quarter. Lay magistrates' sittings in St. Mary recorded the highest disposal rate of 75% in the third quarter. The outstations in the parish account for a combined 34.04% of the total number of new cases heard in the quarter, 7.41 percentage points above the 26.63% recorded in the previous quarter (Apr.-Jun.2019). On the other hand the main courthouse accounts for roughly 65.96%, a similar 7.41 percentage points below the 73.37% recorded in the previous quarter.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. In particular, of the 129 cases heard courtroom 1, there were 16 cases disposed of in other courtrooms. Night court accounted for 3 of these cases while courtroom 2 and 3 accounted for 5 and 6 respectively, while 2 cases were disposed elsewhere. Of the 24 cases heard in courtroom 2, one (1) was disposed in courtroom 3 and one at children's court. There were 18 cases heard at Gayle outstation, of which 2 was disposed of in courtroom 3.

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**Table 14.8: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Portland for the quarter ended Sept. 30, 2019**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in the quarter</b>	<b>Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case Disposal Rate (%)</b>
Courtroom#1 (main court)	159	107	14	63.86	76.10
Buff Bay Outstation	50	25	1	20.08	52
Manchioneal Outstation	17	8	1	6.83	52.94
Children’s Court	17	4	1	6.83	29.41
Courtroom#2 (main court)	3	2	-	1.20	66.67
Courtroom #3 (main court)	3	-	-	1.20	-
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>65.46</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Portland in the third quarter ended September 30, 2019. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 at the main court in Port Antonio accounts for the highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 63.86% of the total, a 4.69 percentage point increase above the 59.17% recorded in the corresponding 2018 third quarter and 1.13 percentage points above the 62.73% recorded in quarter two of 2019. Buff Bay and Manchioneal Outstations with 20.08% and 6.83% respectively of the total number of the new cases heard in the quarter rank next. Both outstations followed a similar pattern in quarter 2, Buff Bay with 22.14% and Manchioneal with 11.81% ranked second and third respectively. The Children’s Court also accounted for 6.83% of new cases filed in the

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quarter. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Port Antonio accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 107 matters, 49 matters or 84.48%, an increase when compared to the 58 matters recorded in the previous quarter of 2019 and had the third highest case disposal rate of 76.10%. Courtroom 2 with a disposal rate of 66.67% and the Manchioneal outstation with a rate of 52.94% rounded off the top three on this measure. The outstations in Portland account for a combined 26.91% of the new cases heard, an increase of 7.04 percentage points over the second quarter of 2019. The main courthouse in Port Antonio accounts for the remaining 73.09% and also saw an increase of 7.04% above the 66.05% recorded in the previous quarter of 2019.

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**Table 14.9: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Hanover for the quarter ended Sept. 30, 2019**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of cases inactive (of those originating in the quarter)	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main court)	37	19	-	19.37	51.35
Sandy Bay Outstation #1	19	12	-	9.95	63.16
Green Island (main court)	21	12	1	10.99	61.90
Ramble Outstation (Courtroom #1)	27	15	-	14.14	55.56
Sandy Bay (Lay Magistrates')	12	3	-	6.28	25
Courtroom #2 (main court)	56	33	-	29.32	58.93
Green Island Outstation (Petty Session)	4	1	-	2.09	25
Ramble (Lay Magistrates')	2	-	-	1.05	0
Lay Magistrates Court	13	1	-	6.81	7.69
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>50.79</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Hanover in the third quarter ended September 30, 2019. The data shows decisively that courtrooms number 2 at the main court in Lucea accounts for the highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 29.32% of the total. When compared to the previous quarter courtroom #1 accounted for the highest share of new matters heard with 44.12% of the total. The Ramble and Green Island outstations with 14.14% and 10.99% respectively rank next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Lucea accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 19 matters, 34 more than was reported in the second quarter of 2019 and had the fifth highest case disposal rate of 51.35%, a marginal decrease of 0.03 percentage points below the 51.38% recorded in the previous

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quarter. The Sandy Bay and Green Island outstations recorded disposal rates of 63.16% and 61.90% respectively and were among the top three disposal rates. The outstations in the parish account for roughly 26.18% of the new cases heard during the quarter while the main courthouse accounts for the remaining 73.82%, compared to the 73.28% recorded in the previous period and 76.83% in the corresponding 2018 period.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 56 cases heard in courtroom 1, eight (8) were disposed of in courtroom #1 at the main court.

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**Table 14.10: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Elizabeth for the quarter ended Sept. 30, 2019**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Santa Cruz Outstation (Courtroom number #1)	212	87	10	63.10	45.75
Santa Cruz Outstation (Courtroom #2)	2	2	-	0.60	100
Balaclava (Courtroom #1)	41	18	3	12.20	51.22
Santa Cruz (Petty Session)	22	4	-	6.55	18.18
Courtroom #1 (main court)	45	24	2	13.39	57.78
Lay magistrates	6	-	-	1.79	0
Santa Cruz (night court)	2	1	-	0.60	50
Santa Cruz (Children's Court)	1	-	-	0.30	0
Balaclava Outstation (Children's Court)	-	-	-	-	-
Balaclava (Petty Session)	5	-	1	1.49	20
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>45.24</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Elizabeth in the third quarter ended September 30, 2019. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 at the Santa Cruz outstation accounted for highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 63.10% of the total, 6.71 percentage points above the 56.39% recorded in the previous quarter and 33.61 percentage points above the 29.49% recorded in the corresponding 2018 period. Courtroom

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number 1 at the main court in Black River and Balaclava courtroom number 1 accounts for the next highest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 13.39% and 12.20% respectively of the total. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom 1 with case disposal rate of 57.78%, and Balaclava courtroom with 51.22% were among the courtrooms with the highest disposal rates for the quarter. Although the absolute numbers are proportionately low, the Santa Cruz outstation (courtroom 2) accounted for the highest case disposal rate of 100%. The outstation in Santa Cruz accounts for the highest proportion of new cases heard in the quarter with 63.69% while the main courthouse in Black River accounts for roughly 36.31%.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. In particular, of the 212 cases heard in Santa Cruz Outstation, two (2) were disposed in courtroom 1. Of the 41 cases heard in Balaclava courtroom 1, two (2) were disposed of at the Santa Cruz outstation (courtroom #1).

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**Table 14.11: Aggregate case statistics for each outstation in the Parish of St. Ann for the quarter ended Sept. 30, 2019**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in the quarter</b>	<b>Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case Disposal Rate (%)</b>
<b>ST.ANN’S BAY</b>					
Courtroom #1 (main court)	271	56	30	49.63	31.73
Lay Magistrates’ Court	88	7	24	16.12	35.23
Claremont Outstation (Petty Session)	9	2	1	1.65	33.33
Children’s Court - Claremont	8	2	-	1.46	25
Claremont outstation	15	-	-	2.75	-
<b>BROWNS TOWN</b>					
Courtroom #1	154	29	34	28.21	40.91
Children’s Court	1	1	-	0.18	100
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>34.07</b>

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 September 30, 2019. The data shows that courtroom 1 in both St. Ann’s Bay (the main court) and the Browns Town account for the largest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 49.63% and 28.21% respectively of the total. In quarter 2 the same two courts recorded the highest share of new cases with 46.79% and 21.10% respectively. This showed an increase in the St. Ann’s Bay (Courtroom 1) and also an increase in Browns Town (Courtroom 1) with 2.84 percentage points and 7.11 percentage points respectively. In the corresponding quarter of 2018, Courtroom 1 in St. Ann’s

## THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS REPORT ON CRIMINAL MATTERS IN THE PARISH COURTS

Bay and courtroom 1 in Browns Town accounted for 47.93% and 21.26%. The Lay Magistrates' Court in St. Ann's Bay accounts for the third largest share of new cases filed with 16.12%, and also accounted for the largest disposal rate of 35.23%. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 at the St. Ann's Bay Parish Court accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 56 matters and had the fifth highest case disposal rate of 31.73%. Matters heard at the Lay Magistrate's Court in St. Ann's Bay with a 33.33% disposal rate and courtroom 1 in Browns Town with a rate of 40.91% accounts for the top disposal rates in the quarter. As a whole, the Brown's Town court accounted for approximately 28.39% of the new cases filed in the parish of St. Ann during the quarter, a decrease of 0.60 percentage points below the 28.89% recorded in the previous quarter. The St. Ann's Bay courthouse accounts for 71.61% of the new cases heard in the quarter, an increase of 7.21 percentage points up from the 64.40% recorded in the previous quarter and a decrease of 3.17 percentage points below the 67.21% recorded in the corresponding 2018 quarter.

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE’S THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS REPORT ON CRIMINAL MATTERS IN THE PARISH COURTS**

**Table 14.12: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom/outstation in the Parish of Clarendon for the quarter ended Sept. 30, 2019**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in the quarter</b>	<b>Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)</b>	<b>Proportion of total new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case Disposal Rate (%)</b>
Courtroom#1 (main court)	168	73	7	30.77	47.62
Lionel Town outstation	75	36	3	13.74	52
Courtroom#2 (main court)	154	41	22	28.21	40.91
Chapleton outstation	60	23	2	10.99	41.67
Courtroom#3 (main Court)	5	3	-	0.92	60
Children’s Court (main court)	11	1	-	2.01	9.09
Frankfield Outstation	18	5	2	3.30	38.89
Night Court (main court)	5	3	-	0.92	60
Lay Magistrates’ Court	50	10	19	9.16	56
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>45.60</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Clarendon in the third quarter ended September 30, 2019. The available data shows decisively that courtroom number 2 in May Pen accounted for highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 31.60% of the total, an increase of 3.39 percentage points above the 31.60% recorded in the previous quarter. Courtroom number 1 and Lionel Town outstation accounts for the next two highest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 28.21% and 13.14% respectively of the total. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number one in May Pen accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 73 matters an increase of

## THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS REPORT ON CRIMINAL MATTERS IN THE PARISH COURTS

10 matters above the 63 matters recorded in previous quarter and had the highest case disposal rate of 47.62%. Night court sittings with a disposal rate of 60% and Courtroom #3 also with 60% had the highest disposal rates in the parish in the third quarter of 2019, although the absolute numbers are proportionately low. Similarly in quarter two, night court sittings recorded disposal rates of 62.50%. An estimated 28.02% of new cases heard in Clarendon during the third quarter occurred in the outstation locations with the remaining 71.98% taking place in the main court in May Pen a marginal decrease of 0.14 percentage points below the 72.12% recorded in the previous quarter (Apr.-Jun. 2019).

THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS REPORT ON CRIMINAL MATTERS IN THE PARISH COURTS

**Table 13.13: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Manchester for the quarter ended Sept. 30, 2019**

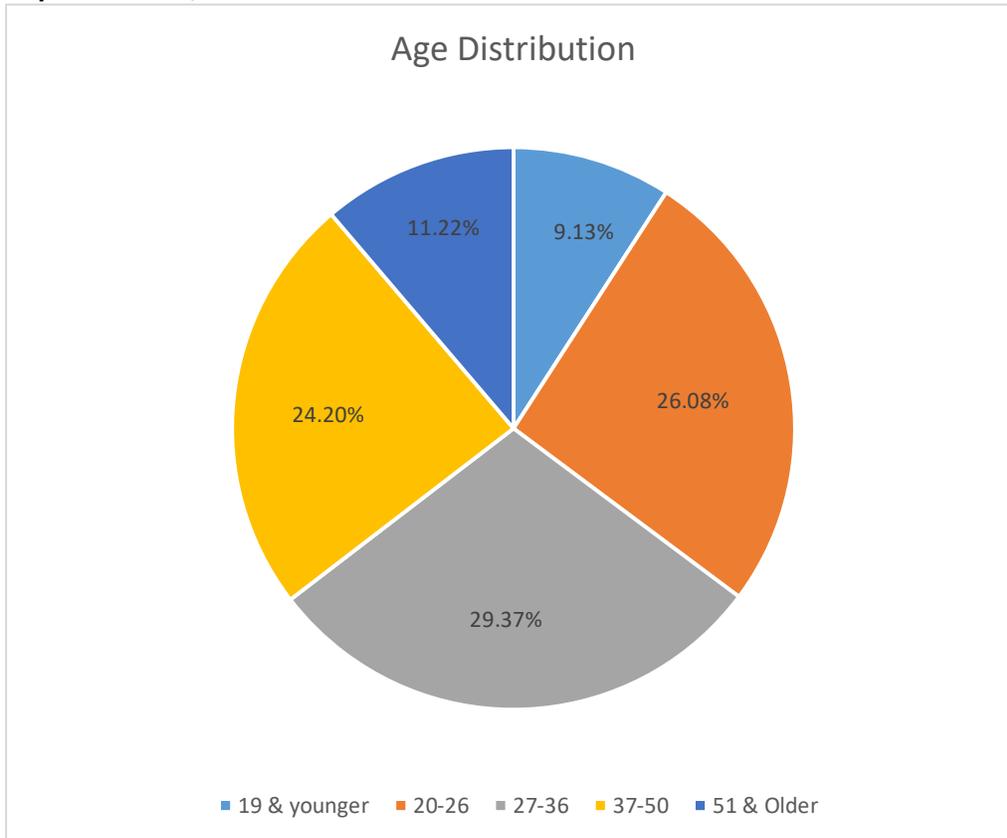
Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Proportion of total new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom#1 (main court)	111	30	2	21.51	28.82
Courtroom#2 (main court)	102	26	1	19.77	26.47
Lay Magistrates' (main court)	137	55	9	26.55	46.72
Christiana Outstation	36	14	1	6.98	41.67
Spaulding Outstation	16	-	2	3.10	12.5
Christiana (Petty Session)	18	6	5	3.49	61.11
Tax Court (main court)	6	1	1	1.16	33.33
Porus (main court)	11	3	-		
Cross Keys (main court)	18	1	-	3.49	5.56
Spaulding(Petty Session)	4	-	1	0.78	25
Porus (Children's Court)	4	-	-	0.78	-
Cottage Outstation	10	2	-	1.94	20
Courtroom #3 (main court)	22	1	-	4.26	4.55
Cross Keys Outstation (Petty Session)	1	-	-	0.19	-
Children's Court (main court)	1	-	-	0.19	-
Night Court (main court)	16	4	-	3.10	25
Cottage (Petty Session)	3	1	-	0.58	33.33
Porus (Petty Session)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>31.78</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Manchester in the third quarter ended September 30, 2019. The data shows that Lay Magistrates' court (main court) accounted for highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 26.55% of the total, compared to 29.27% in the second quarter of 2019, a decrease of 2.72 percentage

points. Courtroom number 1 and Courtroom number 2 accounts for the next highest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 21.51% and 19.77% respectively of the total. There was a decrease of 2.26 percentage points for Courtroom 1 and an increase of 2.68 percentage points for courtroom 2 respectively when compared to the 23.77% and 17.09% recorded in the previous quarter. In terms of cases disposed, Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main court in Mandeville accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 55 matters, 13 matters or 19.11% below the 68 matters recorded in the previous Apr.-Jun.2019 quarter and had the second highest case disposal rate of approximately 47%, 5.83 percentage points lower than the 52.35% recorded in quarter two of 2019. Lay Magistrates' sittings in Christiana, with disposal rates of 61.11% accounts for the highest disposal rate in the parish for the quarter. However, in the previous quarter, the Lay Magistrates court in Porus accounted for the highest disposal rate with 66.67%. The main courthouse in Mandeville accounts for 87.79% of the total number of new cases heard in the quarter, a decrease of 1.4 percentage points below the 89.19% recorded in the previous quarter. The remaining 12.21% were accounted for by the various outstations. This however showed an increase of 1.4 percentage points above the 10.81% recorded in the previous quarter and 16.41 percentage points below the 28.62 reported in the corresponding 2018 third quarter.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 111 cases heard in courtroom 1, there were 2 cases disposed of at the night court sittings at the main court. Of the 87 cases heard in courtroom 2, one was disposed of in courtroom number 2. There were 2 cases disposed in courtroom 1 of the 36 heard at the Christiana Outstation.

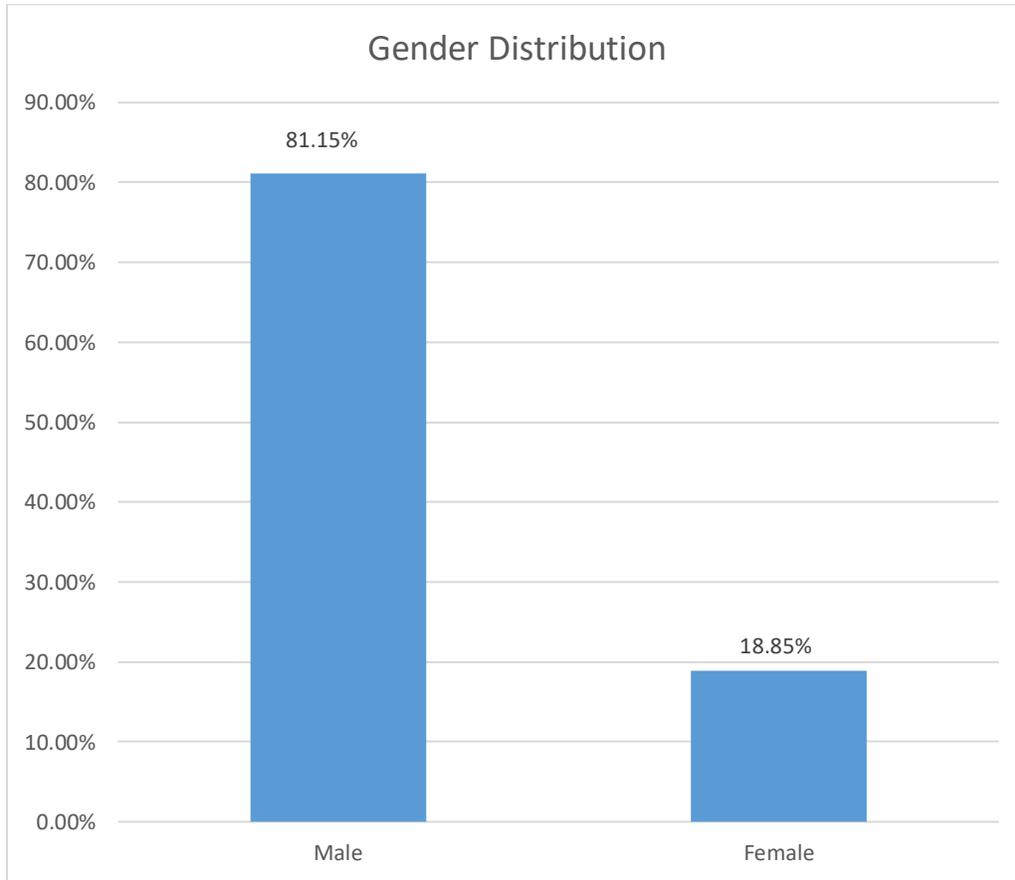
**Chart 1.0: Aggregate age distribution of offenders for all parish courts for the quarter ended September 30, 2019**



The above chart shows that of the total number of offenders, for which age data was readily available for the July to September quarter, 2019; the largest proportion, 29.37% were from the 27-36 age cohorts. This category is followed by the 20-26 age group with 26.08%, the 37-50 age group with 24.20% and the oldest age cohorts 51 and over category accounting for 11.22%.

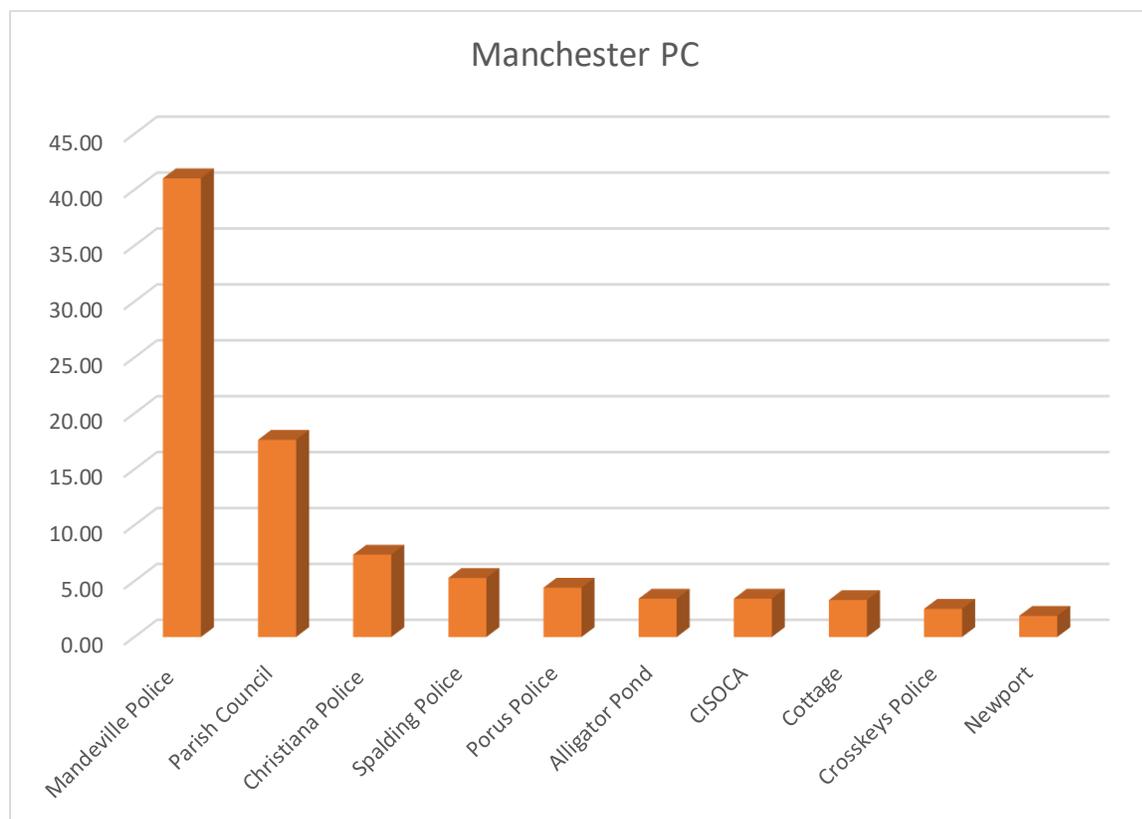
The youngest age cohort in the distribution accounted for the lowest proportions with the 19 years and younger accounting for 9.13% and of total offenders.

**Chart 2.0: Aggregate gender distribution of offenders for the quarter ended September 30, 2019**



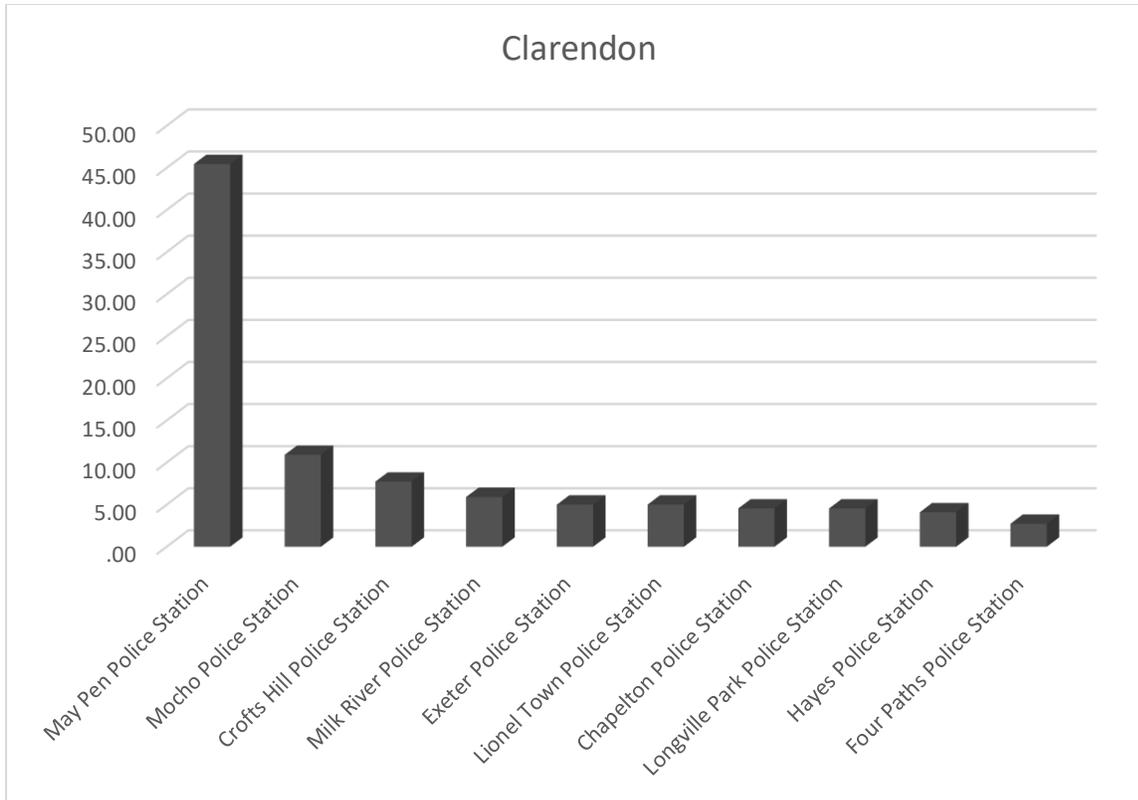
The above chart shows that the overwhelming majority of offenders for the July to September quarter, 2019 were male, accounting for roughly 81.15% of the total while females accounted for approximately 18.85%. The gender distribution of offenders for the second quarter was quite similar to this breakdown for third quarter with approximately 82.08% to 17.94% male to female ratio.

**Chart 3.0: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Manchester Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2019**



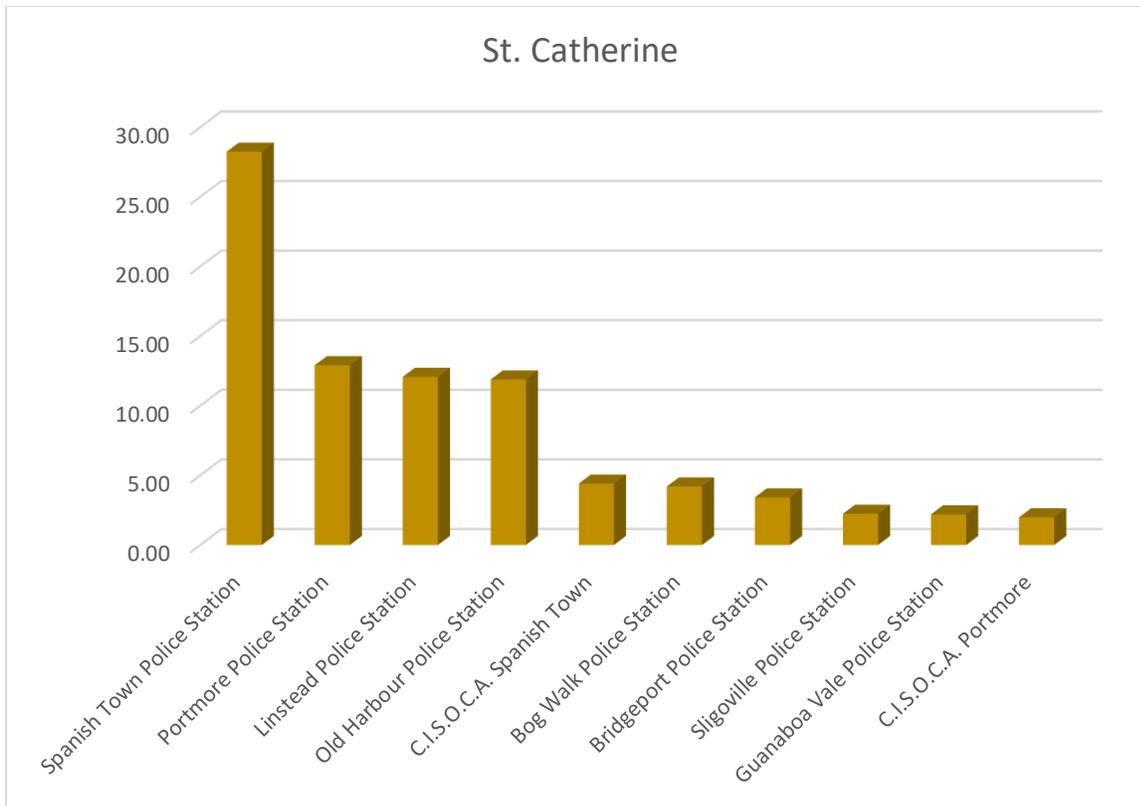
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Manchester Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 2540 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 41%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Mandeville Police Station. This was followed by the Parish Council which accounts for 17.64% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Christiana Police with 7.36%. In the previous quarter the top three Police Stations were similar to this quarter. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.1: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Clarendon Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2019**



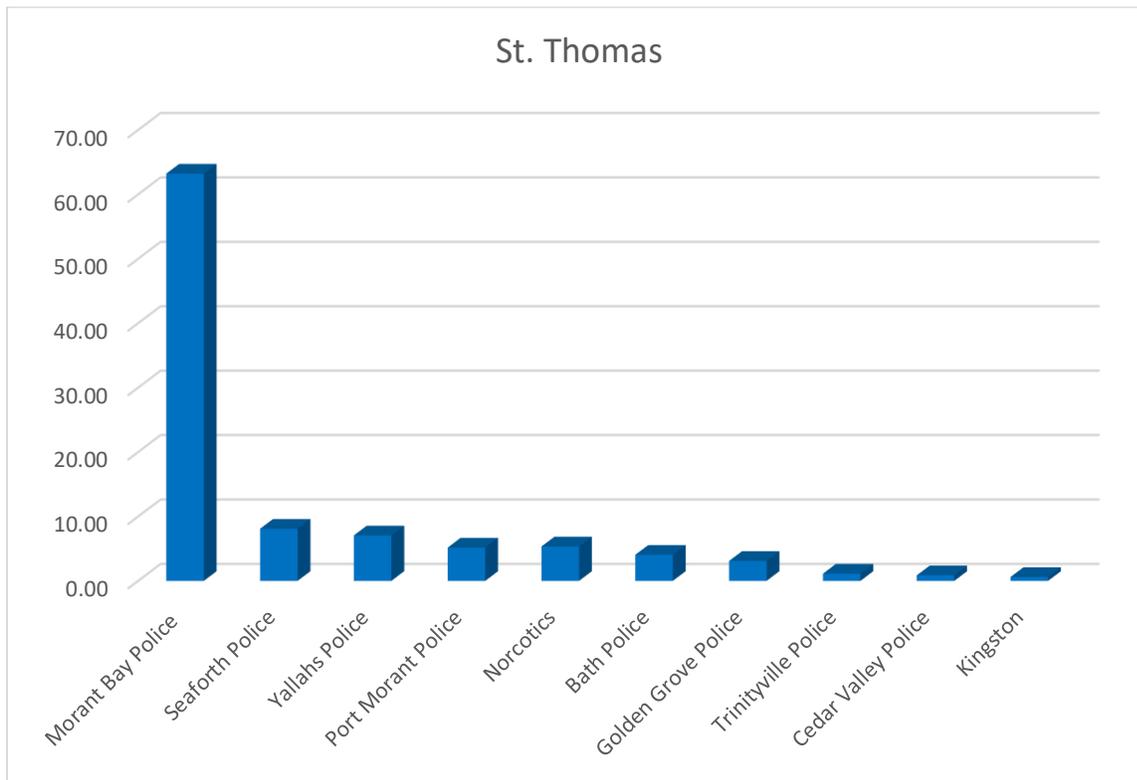
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Clarendon Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 220 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 45.45%, which were brought before the Court were reported in May Pen Police Station. This was followed by the Mocho Police Station which accounts for 10.91% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Crofts Hill Police with 7.73%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of May Pen, Chapelton and Hayes Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.2: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Catherine Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2019**



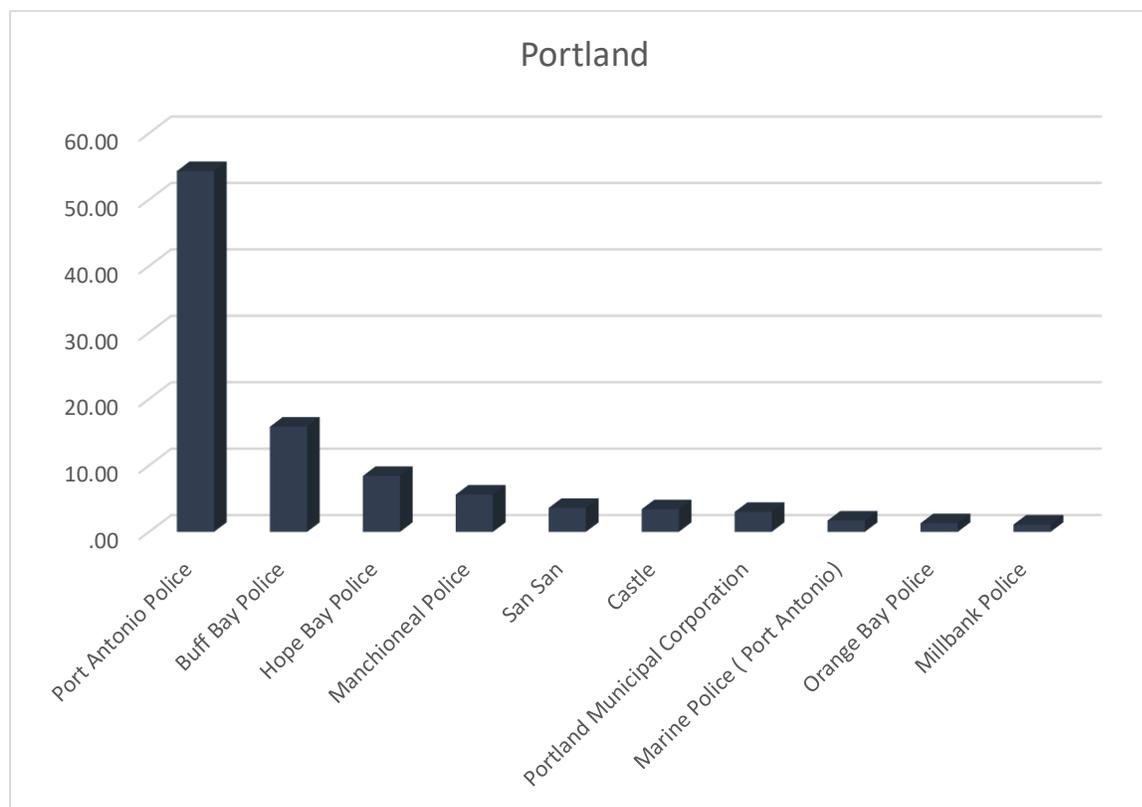
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Catherine Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 4331 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 28.24%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Spanish Town Police Station. This was followed by the Portmore Police Station which accounts for 12.91% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Linstead Police Station with 12.08%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Spanish Town, Linstead and Portmore Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.3: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Thomas Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2019**



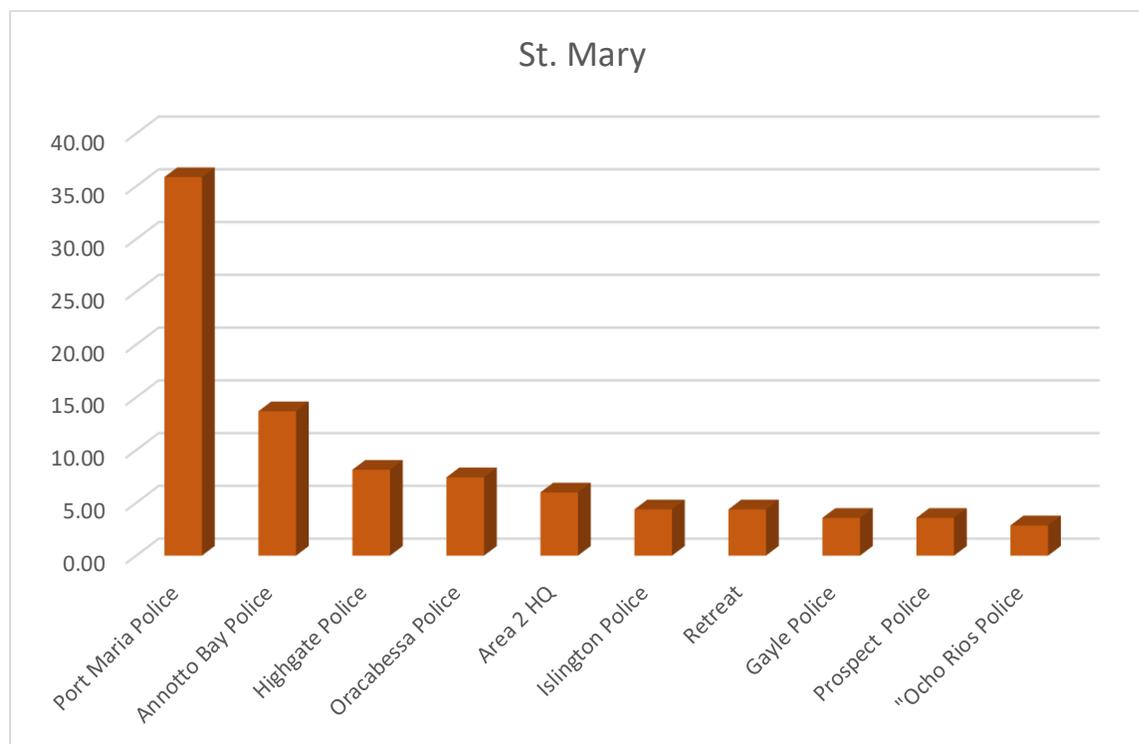
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Thomas Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 1161 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 63.22%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Morant Bay Police Station. This was followed by the Seaforth Police Station which accounts for 8.10% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Yallahs Police with 7.06%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Morant Bay, Yallahs and Port Morant Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.4: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Portland Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2019**



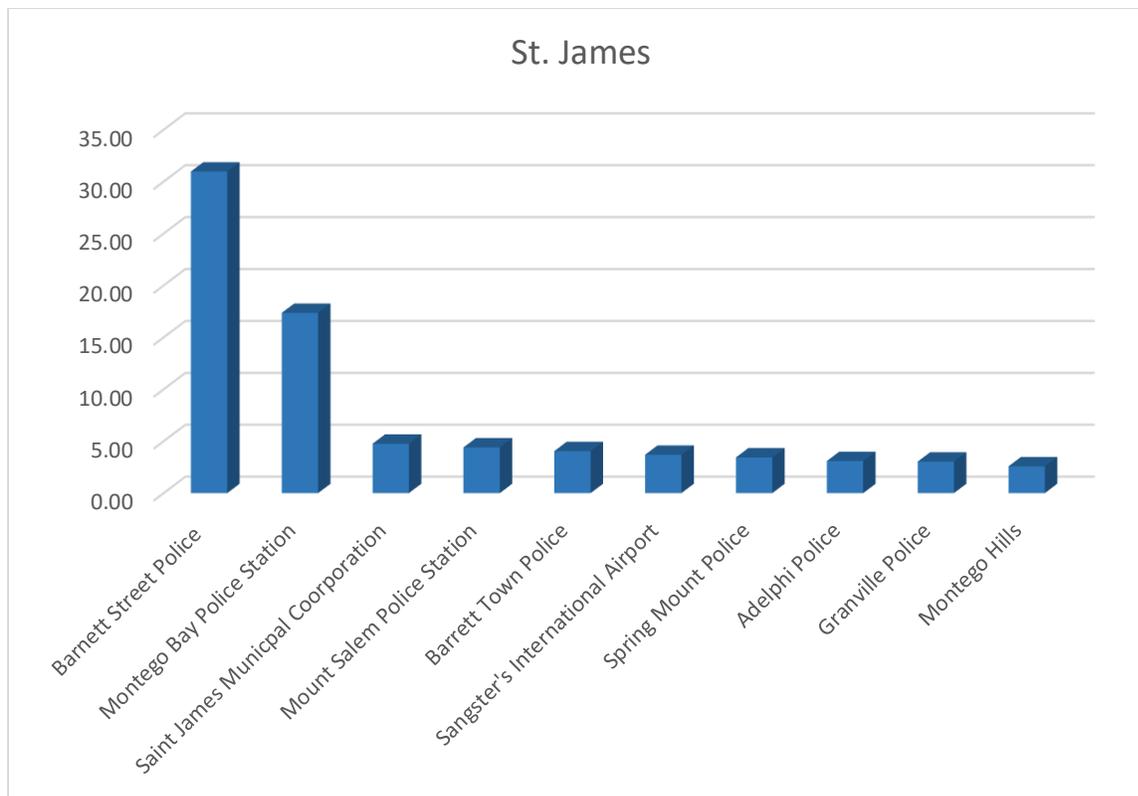
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Portland Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 989 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 54.31%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Port Antonio Police Station. This was followed by the Buff Bay Police Station which accounts for 15.83% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Hope Bay Police with 8.42%. In the previous quarter the top three Police Stations were similar to this quarter. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.5: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Mary Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2019**



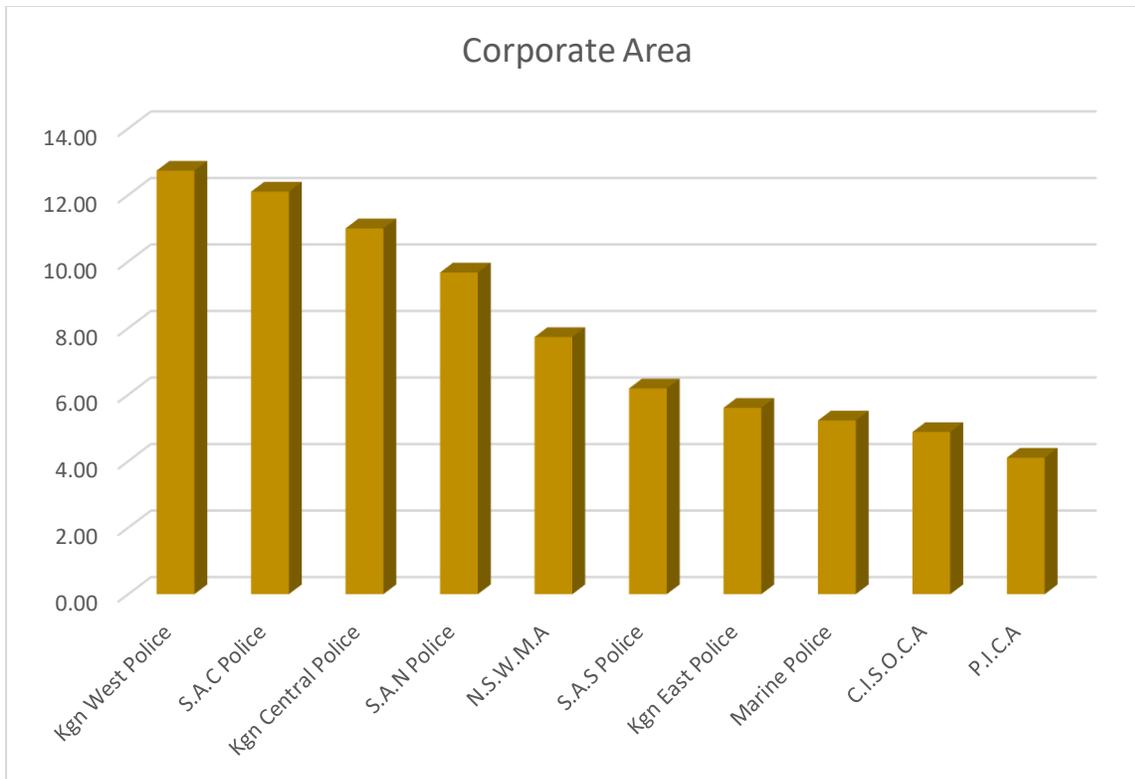
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Mary Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 1118 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 35.87%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Port Maria Police Station. This was followed by the Annotto Bay Police Station which accounts for 13.69% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Highgate Police with 8.14%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of port Maria, Annotto Bay and Oracabessa Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.6: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. James Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2019**



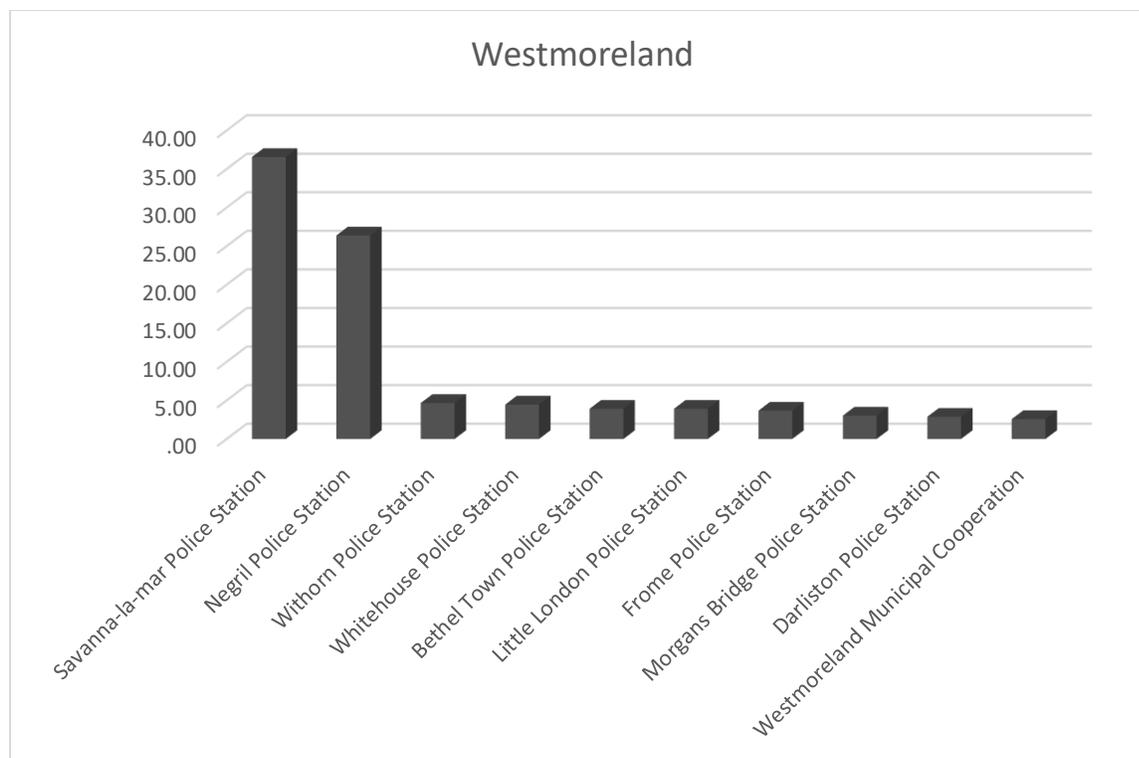
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. James Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 1976 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 30.97%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Barnett Street Police Station. This was followed by the Montego Bay Police Station which accounts for 17.36% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the St. James Municipal Corporation with 4.76%. In the previous quarter the top three Police Stations were similar to this quarter. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.7: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Corporate Area Criminal Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2019**



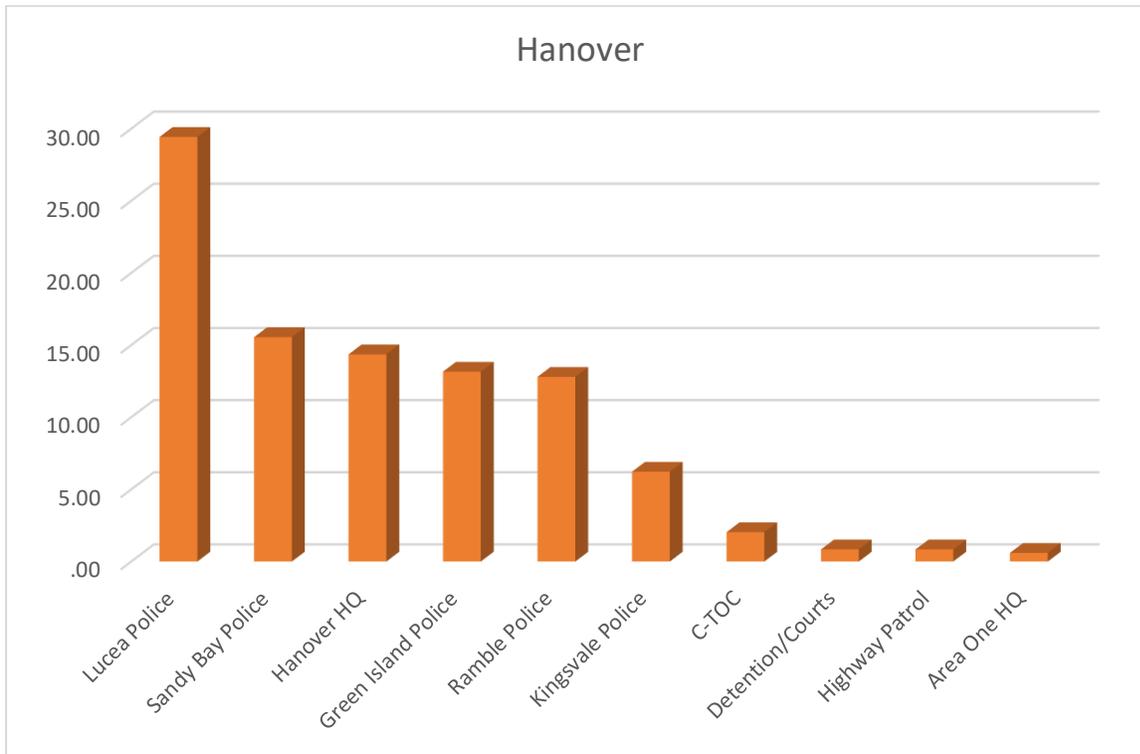
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Corporate Area Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 6338 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 12.73%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Kingston West Police Station. This was followed by the St. Andrew Central Police Station which accounts for 12.10% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Kingston Central Police with 11%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of St. Andrew Central, Kingston Central and St. Andrew North Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.8: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2019**



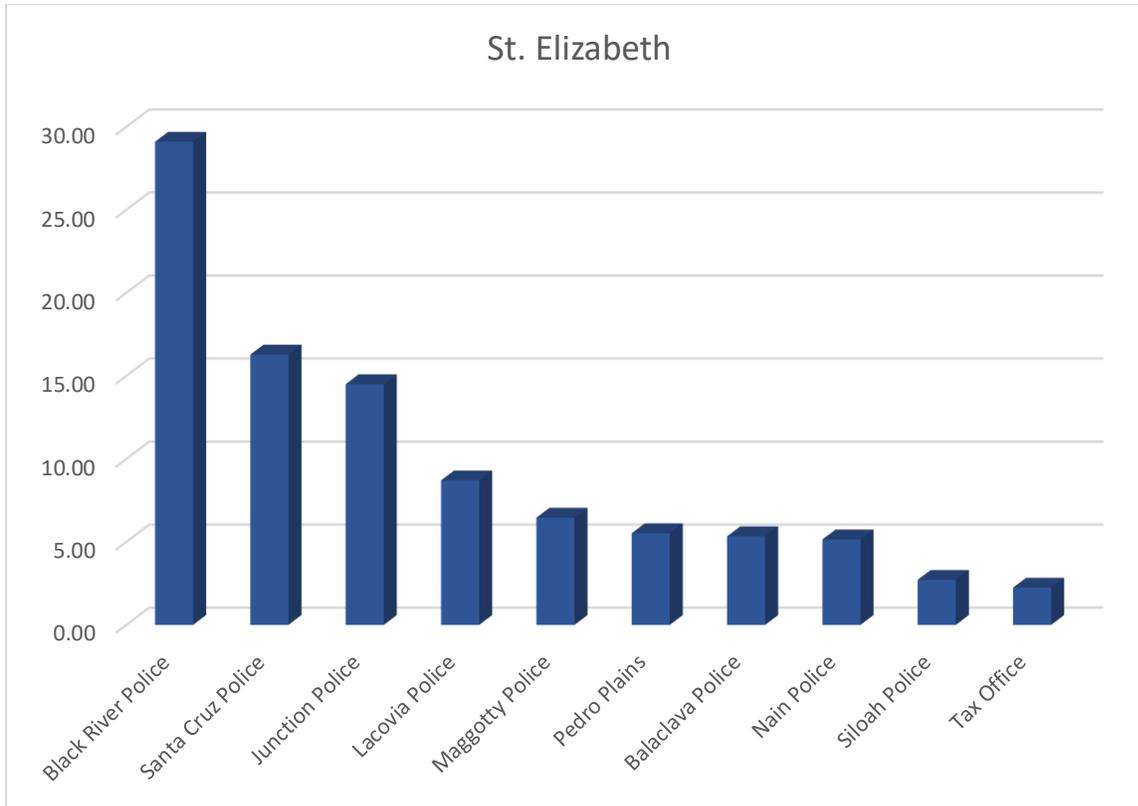
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Westmoreland Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 2016 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 36.56%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Savanna-la-mar Police. This was followed by the Negril Police Station which accounts for 26.36% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Withorn Police with 4.66%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Savanna-la-mar, Negril Police and Bethel Town Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.9: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Hanover Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2019**



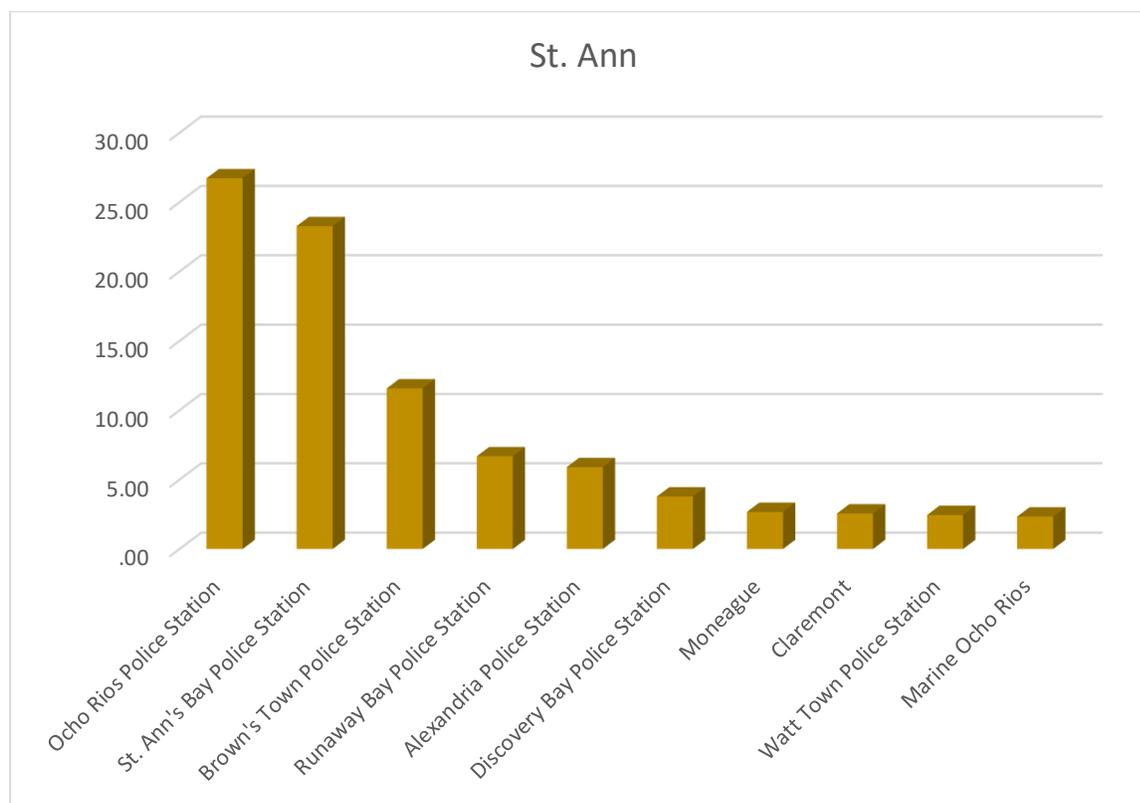
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Hanover Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 836 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 29.43%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Lucea Police Station. This was followed by the Sandy Bay Police Station which accounts for 15.55% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Hanover HQ with 14.35%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Lucea, Green Island and Sandy Bay Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.10: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2019**



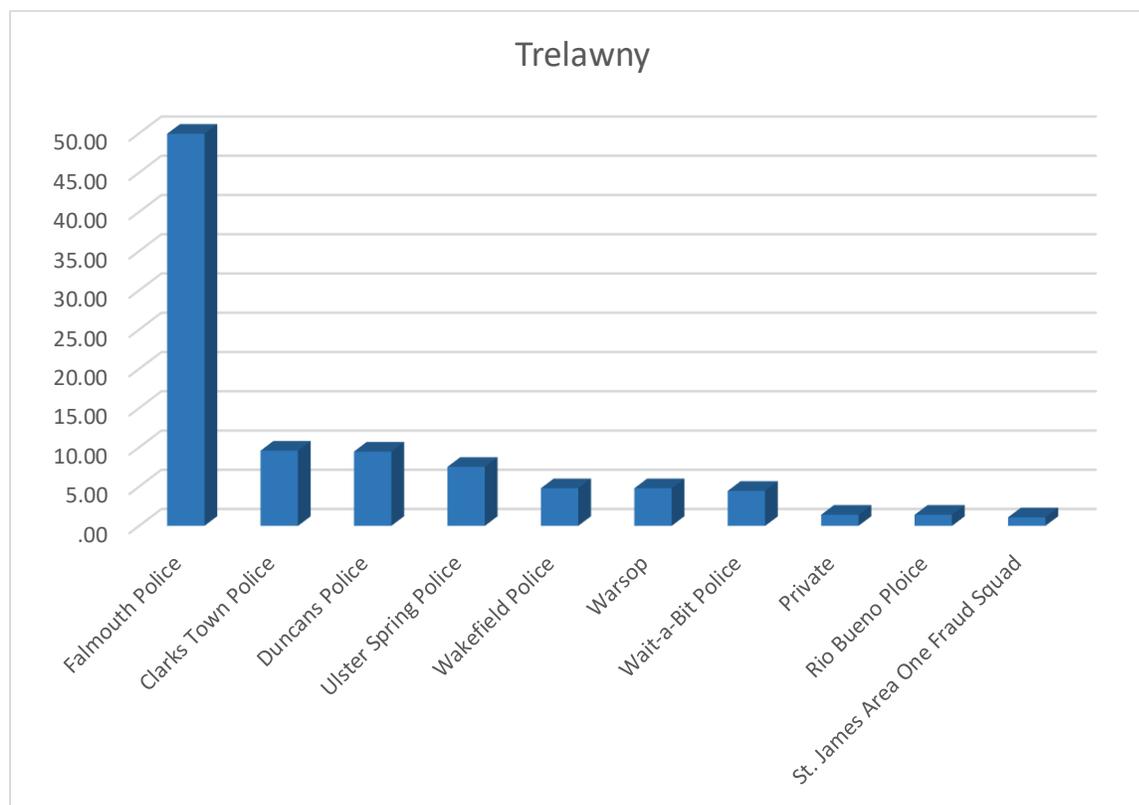
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 1069 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 29.09%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Black River Police Station. This was followed by the Santa Cruz Police Station which accounts for 16.28% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Junction Police Station with 14.50%. In the previous quarter the top three Police Stations were similar to this quarter. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.11: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Ann Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2019**



The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Ann Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 898 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 26.73%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Ocho Rios Police Station. This was followed by the St. Ann’s Bay Police Station which accounts for 23.27% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Brown’s Town Police with 11.58%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Brown’s Town, Alexandria and Watt Town Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

**Chart 3.12: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Trelawny Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2019**



The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Trelawny Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 919 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2019 the majority of criminal matters, 49.85%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Falmouth Police Station. This was followed by Clarks Town Police Station which accounts for 9.58% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Duncans Police Station with 9.47%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Falmouth, Private Entity and Duncan’s Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

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

## Conclusion

This report provides a range of essential insights into criminal case activity in the parish courts for the third quarter ended September 30, 2019 representing a continuation of the trend in comprehensive and consistent reporting on criminal case activity in the parish courts. The findings from this report provide the basis for important policy and operational decisions. Among these key findings is that the overall criminal case clearance rate across the parish continues to exceed the 100% mark in 2019, recording 100.80% suggesting that for every 100 new cases filed across the parish courts in the period, 101 were disposed. Although this is a decline when compared to the previous two quarters of 2019, the overall progress continues to augur well for the accomplishment of the target of raising the overall average criminal clearance rate to roughly 130% over the next six-year period. This is seen as necessary to reduce the criminal case backlog rate below the 5% mark. Impressively, 10 of the parish courts exceeded the minimum prescribed international standard of a 90% clearance rate; among the highest ever recorded. Notably, six of these courts exceeded a rate of 100% clearance rate mark. These results provide another solid anchorage for the major effort underway to eliminate the criminal case backlog in the courts within six years. The generally improved productivity of the courts in 2019 can be attributed to the number of factors, including the strengthening of the case management process and the adoption of a data driven approach to decision making in the court system. In all parish courts, data on the status of the criminal cases as well as key delay factors and complexity indicators are electronically available to multiple internal stakeholders by way of the Case Information Statistical System (CISS). There is no necessary short term positive linear correlation between the case disposal rate and the case clearance rate though in the long run the association could be strictly positive. The third quarter saw a leap of over of 6 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in 2018.

In reinforcement of the improved results on the case clearance rates was the finding that sample data on cases disposed over the past 31 months across the parish courts indicate that roughly 42.68% were disposed of in three months or less. This is again quite a promising sign for continuous efforts to improve the timely resolution of cases in the criminal court system.

As with the previous quarter, the data affirms that despite the improvements noted, mathematically all parish courts, based on current rates of disposal and the implied resource endowments are carrying higher caseloads than their existing capacities seem to suggest. This was derived from the analysis of the case congestion rates, which shows that most courts are carrying caseloads, which are well above what their current capacity seems to portend. The resource constraints faced by the courts are evident from these results; however, there continues to be a number of critical delay factors, which must be addressed in order to improve efficiency. Among these factors are the high incidences of adjournments, which increase the average time taken to dispose of cases and thus foster a sub-optimal use of judicial time. Among the leading delay factors in this regard continue to be outstanding medical reports, outstanding forensic reports and the non-appearance of parties and investigating officers for court hearings. Such factors invariably have a direct association with the incidence of mention and trial and thus trial and hearing date certainty, which currently varies by parish court but overall falls short of the international standards. It is critical that robust interventions be pursued to engage the necessary stakeholders to redress those delay factors that are outside the court's direct control, for example, outstanding medical certificates for which the Hospitals would be largely culpable and more decisive police action could militate against the frequency of the non-appearance of parties for court. There are however many common reasons for adjournment over which the parish courts have some degree of direct control, such as those

factors outlined earlier which have an impact on the case file integrity rates, including matters adjourned due to the lack of readiness of files for court, matters left off court lists or matters wrongly listed for court. These can be mitigated by a more robust system of scheduling matters for court and generally more robust case management practices. The new case management system, which is anticipated within the next 3 - 6 months, should make a positive impact in this regard. A superior system of scheduling is also expected to have a positive impact on the courtroom utilization rate which stands at 59% for this quarter, suggesting that despite the improved clearance rates, a spare capacity of 41% still exists to improve productivity in the criminal courts. Hence, the apparent congestion of the courts can be aided by a more efficient utilization of courtrooms through stronger scheduling and case management practices.

### **Recommendations**

Earlier in this report, it was pointed out that what gets measured gets attention, an adage that is bearing out strongly in the Jamaican court system, seen in the strides made in improving productivity. Constant access to absolute and comparative data for the various courts is having an unquestionable effect on driving court performance. It is hereby recommended that such access become available on the go, in near real time to the various internal stakeholders of the court by way of a ***court performance app (CPA)*** which will allow the Judiciary to continuously access data, charts, forecasts, projections and variances for the respective courts and business lines. This is proposed to form part of a broader technological transformation, which will improve the science of case management in the Jamaican court system.

The nucleus of improved court performance lies in enhancing the strength of the case management process in the criminal courts. This is necessary to ensure that more sound scheduling practices are employed and that the electronic and other monitoring mechanisms are fully utilized to ensure that the probability of cases lagging in the court system and entering backlog classification are substantially lessened. As mentioned, a strong and direct engagement of external stakeholders, which are at least partly responsible for the lengthy and frequent delays in criminal matters are critical to the way forward. Slow but steady strides are being made in improving the critical performance indicators such as the case clearance rates and trial certainty ratios; however, the system is still a long way from reaching a state of self-sustaining equilibrium.

Bolstering the technical and human resources at the disposition of the courts is also vital in realising the desired advances in the near future. Below are two strategies, which can be employed court wide in an effort to alter the status quo and create new paths to optimizing efficiency, subject to the existing constraints.

Firstly, we propose the employment of a Differentiated Case Management (DCM) mechanism. Differentiated case management is a technique that courts can use to create an efficient, tight-fitting assignment of cases for judges based on the specific characteristics of each case, much like putting a jigsaw puzzle together. By balancing complex cases that involve more time and resources with simpler cases that require less time and resources, a court can better utilize its judges and courtrooms. The way this can work is that when a case is filed, a determination of the expected time to complete the case should be made. Depending on the complexity of the case, it can be assigned to one of four tracks, from the least to most complex. A less complex

case would be assigned to an expedited track. Cases in this track would have limited pre-trial deadlines and trials could possibly be set within 90 days of filing. By contrast, the most complex cases would be assigned to an extended track, where the trial date was set at months away. There could also two other intermediate tracks between the expedited and extended tracks, with varying trial date schedules. This kind of approach could potentially enhance hearing/trial date certainty, improve courtroom utilization rates and over time significantly expedite the disposition of cases. For this mechanism to work effectively, it is important that time standards/expected times for the disposition of cases of varying complexity be firmly established. Backlog monitoring groups within each parish court, called the Backlog Reduction, Evaluation and Assessment Committee (BREAC) – parish court version, could marshal the Differentiated Case Management (DCM) in these courts, forming the ethos of the second facet of my proposal. The purpose of these groups would be to track the aged caseload in the different courts. For this purpose all 'older' cases on the trial list of the courts, however aged can be categorized by complexity, state of readiness and age in the court system. This list can be used on an ongoing basis as the basis of informing the work of the **BREAC** group. The goal is to sustain reductions in the pre-existing case backlog in the parish courts and to marshal the process of revising the scheduling practices of the respective courts, thus making backlog prevention a priority. The Case Progression Officers, under the guidance of the Judges could anchor such groups.

The differentiated case management system can be supplemented by the employment of the Weighted Caseload Model (**WCM**). By weighting different types of cases to account for variations in complexity and the need for judicial attention, workload assessment translates the number of cases that come before the court into the total judicial work required to dispose

those cases. The weighted caseload method calculates judicial need based on total judicial workload. This employment of this scientific model can significantly enhance case scheduling practices throughout the courts.

The report notes that despite the steady strides being made in improving the case clearance rates, the courts still grapple with a high congestion rate, implying that the current caseload is more than what the implied state of resources and rate of clearance would suggest that they are capable of carrying. The overall courtroom utilization rate of 63% however suggests that much can be done to improve the overall case congestion and general productivity of the courts by improving the efficiency with which courtrooms are utilized.

As with the Supreme Court, the parish courts are indeed showing much resilience amidst the constraints experienced however, there is much to be done to accomplish the desired international benchmarks in efficiency and timely delivery of justice, universally. The current operational policy revisions pursued bears much promise in this regard. A serious examination of the causes of wide variations in the rank of the different parish courts on the various performance indicators should be pursued and the best practices adopted and standardized.

### Glossary of Statistical Terms

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

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

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

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

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

- 3) **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%
- 4) **Court room 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
- 5) **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.
- 6) **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.
- 7) **Outlier:** An outlier is a value that is too small or too large, relative to the majority of scores/trend in a data set.
- 8) **Skewness:** This is measure of the distribution of scores in a data set. It gives an idea of where the larger proportion of the scores in a data set can be found. Generally, if skewness is positive as revealed by a positive value for this measure, this suggests that a

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

- 9) **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.

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*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>

