

## PARISH COURTS OF JAMAICA CRIMINAL DIVISION (JANUARY 1, 2024 – DECEMBER 31, 2024)

Court Metrics	January - December Highlights				
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Case Disposal Rates (%)	74.69	74.47	74.43	77.51	64.57
Case Clearance Rates (%)	105.55	106.61	124.58	106.47	96.09
Trial Date Certainty Rates (%)	77	75	72	74	74
Courtroom Utilization Rates (%)	65.46	65.72	63.61	59.74	54.68

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## **Chief Justice’s Message Annual Criminal Parish Court 2024**

This year confirms the high performance of the Parish Courts (Criminal Division). The net backlog, overall, has been reduced to a prescribed level below 5%. This third consecutive year of a net backlog rate under 5% makes the Parish Courts one of the best performing courts at that level in the Commonwealth Caribbean and possibly in Latin America. The judges, staff, attorneys-at-law, and other stakeholders are to be commended for the great effort needed to get us to this point.

The data show that the average time for the disposal of cases is 11 months, and 76% of cases were disposed of in 12 months. With that in mind, the time standard for cases in the Parish Courts has been reduced for the year 2025. A case will be considered in backlog if it is older than 20 months.

In spite of this very impressive performance, the Parish Courts can still improve further by increasing the hearing date certainty from 77% to 95%. The objective is to reduce the time and cost of disposing of cases in the Parish Courts to their irreducible minimum; that is, a time period below which it is not possible to go for justice to be done for litigants. This is another way to improve the value proposition for our stakeholders.

Further evidence that there is still room for improvement in service delivery, particularly reduced time, is suggested by the data indicating that the average court room utilisation rate was 65.46%. This is just over three hours out of a five-hour day. This indicates that there is room for more matters to be disposed of on a given day. I accept that some days may go beyond the usual end time of 4:00 pm and some days will be shorter, but if the overall average is just over three hours, then it suggests that there are many days that may be below the three hours, and hence the average is pulled down. If the vast majority of days the courts sat over 90% or even 80%, then the overall average would be higher.

The critical point being made here is that reduced time, reduced cost, increased hearing date certainty, and improved court room utilisation will result in enhanced service delivery to all stakeholders. Add to this the goal of reducing the gross backlog rate to under 10%, and one can immediately see how much more improved our Parish Courts can be.

This brings me to the important point of the contribution appropriate technology can make. The Parish Courts have achieved this level of efficiency in a paper-based system. Think of the greater efficiency that can be achieved through automation, artificial intelligence to assist with the preparation of documentation, and having electronic court sheets.

The Judiciary is not waiting for better technology to arrive in the courts. The investment in human development is taking place. This objective is to improve service delivery and to create an environment that supports efficiency, courtesy, and the delivery of services in accordance with established time standards.

The Jamaican Judiciary remains committed to improving continuously to make our stakeholders’ interaction with our courts better, simpler, and less stressful.

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

## Executive Summary

In 2024, the criminal division of the Parish Courts achieved one of its main key strategic targets, successfully reducing its net case backlog rate to less than 5%. This statistical report details how the criminal division of the Parish Courts has maintained exceptionally high case clearance rates, making it one of the most efficient in the Caribbean and Latin American region for the timely delivery of justice. The critical next step for the criminal division of the Parish Courts is to further reduce the overall average time taken to dispose of cases, with the goal of becoming a truly backlog-free court.

The aggregate new case count in the Parish Courts in the 2024 calendar year was 20,459, an increase of 0.35% when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. The Corporate Area Parish Court - Criminal Division with 4,936 new cases or 24.13% of the total sample, followed by the St. Catherine and St. James Parish Courts with 2,748 cases or 13.43% and 1,873 cases or 9.15% respectively, account for the three largest proportions of the new criminal cases filed in the period. Taken together, the three parishes with the highest new case count account for 46.71% of the new cases filed in the 2024 calendar year, not dissimilar to the previous year. The Parish Courts of St, Thomas, Hanover and St. Mary accounted for the lowest shares of the aggregate new cases filed in the period, each with under 5.0% of the total new caseload.

The overall average disposal rate for cases originating in the 2024 calendar year was 74.69%, which is an improvement of 0.22 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. The Hanover Parish Court leads the way with a disposal rate of 89.44%, thereby resolving new cases the fastest in the period. The St. James and St. Elizabeth Parish Courts ranked next with case disposal rates of 87.03% and 80.47% respectively, continuing western dominance on this metric.

The case clearance rate provides a measure of the number of cases disposed (regardless of date/year of initiation) for every new case filed in a particular period. This is a productivity index as many of the disposed cases, which are included in its computation, would have originated before the period of focus and is a more instructive statistic on case activity than

the case disposal rate. The overall case clearance rate for the 2024 calendar year was 105.55%, a decline of 1.06 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. The result suggests that for every 100 new criminal cases that were filed in the Parish Courts in the 2024 calendar year, roughly 106 cases were disposed of. Ten (10) of the 13 Parish Courts satisfied the international standard of between 90% and 110% in the 2024 calendar year. The best performing court on this measure was the St. Mary Parish Court with an impressive rate of 162.12%, while the St. Elizabeth Parish Court with 121.38% and the St. Catherine Parish Court with 115.79% rounded off the top three performers on this key metric.

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 the implied state of resources. The higher the case congestion rate of a court, the more burdensome the caseload and the longer it will take to dispose of cases, again within the context of the existing rates of disposition and clearance and the implied state of resources. The overall case congestion rate recorded for the criminal division of the Parish Courts in the 2024 calendar year was 142.21%, which is a deterioration of 1.72 percentage points when compared to the 2023 calendar year. The Parish Courts of St. Mary, Hanover and St. James continue to be among the least congested court at the end of the year. The case of St. James is of special interest in this regard given its relatively large caseload. There is a long run negative association between the case clearance rate and the case congestion rate, therefore, sustained increases in the case clearance rate will cause the case congestion rate to fall.

Another essential measure, which is an important cornerstone in the drive to bring Jamaica among the best performing court systems in the world is the trial date certainty rate. This provides a measurement of the likelihood that dates set for trial will proceed as scheduled (without adjournment for future dates). The perfect rate of 100% would suggest that all dates set for trial proceed as scheduled in the relevant period. The criminal division of the Parish Courts recorded an overall trial date certainty rate of 77% in the 2024 calendar year, a 2-percentage points improvement when compared to the same as the corresponding period in 2023. The Parish Courts of St. Ann, St. James and Manchester were the leaders on this metric.

The proportion of allocated court time that is utilized for hearings in each Parish Court bears some long run correlation with the case clearance rate, the case congestion rate and overall court performance. The courtroom utilization rate provides a solid measurement of the proportion of time allocated for court hearings, which are utilized throughout the period in each court. The overall courtroom utilization rate across the Parish Courts in the period was 65.46%, a decline of 0.26 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. The Parish Courts of St. Mary, St. Catherine and Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division were the leaders on this metric during the year.

On the matter of caseload distribution in the individual parishes, the data show that in many instances the outstation courts in the respective parishes are carrying a notable share of the caseload. The overall average number of new cases heard in the outstations in the 2024 calendar year is approximately 35.70%, while roughly 64.30% of cases were heard at the main Parish Court locations. While outstation court activity in parishes such as St. James and the Corporate Area account for less than 10% of total activity, there are several parishes where outstations are extensively utilized, accounting for over 30% of total case activity. This includes the Parish Courts of Trelawny, St. Elizabeth and Hanover, among others. The evidence continues to suggest that there is the potential in many parishes for outstations to be utilized to a greater degree to ease the caseload carriage in the main courts, thus potentially enhancing case clearance and disposal rates by reducing the case congestion.

The largest proportion of cases disposed in the 2024 calendar year was by way of guilty pleas, accounting for 25.14% of the cases disposed of. This was followed by cases dismissed, which was responsible for 19.76% of the cases disposed of. It is of note that guilty verdicts accounted for roughly 6.37% of the matters disposed of, while not guilty verdicts accounted for 18.49% of the total sample. Mediated settlements (of various forms) accounted for roughly 13.44% of the cases disposed of during the year. The combined 31.51% of the cases disposed of by way of guilty outcomes represent the estimated criminal conviction rate in the parish courts for the year. Further analysis of the data suggests that for the cases originating over at least, approximately, the past 8 years, which are disposed of, an estimated 36.66% were resolved within 90 days, 56.96% within six months and 76.70% within a year.

In terms of the distribution of case types, the report highlights that the largest proportion of the criminal cases filed in the Parish Courts were indictments with approximately 42.99% of all matters. This is followed by summary matters with a roughly 27.02% and Lay Magistrates' matters which accounted for 13.83%. Summary matters had an overall conviction rate of 59.22% in the year, while indictments had a conviction rate of 16.83% across the Parish Courts.

An important delay factor, which affects the efficiency with which cases move towards disposition is the incidence of adjournments in the Parish Courts. The data suggests that the dominant reasons for adjournments for year were warrants issued due to the non-appearance of defendants with 22.66%, incomplete files which accounted for 9.35%, adjournments for disclosure with 7.56% and adjournments for referral to mediation with 5.22%, rounding off the top four incidences. Also featuring prominently on the lists of reasons for adjournment across the Parish Courts during the year are adjournments to facilitate restitution, adjournment at the request of the crown, medical reports unavailable and subpoena of investigating officers. This probability distribution for the reasons for adjournment was broadly similar to that of the past few years.

The three most frequent criminal charges filed in the Parish Courts in the 2024 calendar year were assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding and malicious destruction of property. The majority of charges filed during the year involved accused males, accounting for roughly 80.73%, with females accounting for 19.27%. The dominant age group of persons charged in period were the 27 – 36 and 18 - 26 age groups, accounting for 30.72% and 27.52% respectively of the total sample.

One of the most decisive and instructive findings from this yearly report comes from the analysis of the distribution of times to disposition in the Parish Courts. The report reveals that on average, the criminal division of the Parish Courts took roughly 11 months to dispose of cases in the 2024 calendar year. The courts which had the shortest times to disposition for cases resolved are the Parish Courts of Hanover (122 days), Westmoreland (122 days) and Manchester (178 days).

Using the method of exponential smoothing, the report forecasts that in the 2025 calendar year, 22,833 new criminal cases will be filed in the criminal division of the Parish Courts, while 24,796 are expected to be disposed of or become inactive during the period. The overall forecasted case clearance rate for the 2025 calendar year in the criminal division of the Parish Courts is therefore roughly 108.60%. The Parish Courts of St. Mary, St. Elizabeth and St. Catherine are forecasted to register the highest case clearance rates in the 2025 calendar year.

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

**Table i: Key Performance Metrics of High-Performing Courts**

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Minimum Annual Required Standard</b>
<b>Case Disposal Rate</b>	<b>&gt;=75%</b>
<b>Case Clearance Rate</b>	<b>&gt;=100%</b>
<b>Case Congestion Rate</b>	<b>&lt;=115%</b>
<b>Trial Date Certainty Rate</b>	<b>&gt;=85%</b>
<b>Net Case Backlog Rate</b>	<b>&lt;=5%</b>
<b>Gross Case Backlog Rate</b>	<b>&lt;=10%</b>
<b>Average Number of Mentions</b>	<b>&lt;=3</b>

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

## **Methodology**

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

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

**Disclaimer**

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

**Chapter 1.0: Criminal Case Activity Statistics in the Parish Courts for the year ended December 31, 2024**

This chapter provides an assessment of criminal case activity in the Parish Courts for the year ended December 31, 2024. This includes analysis of the criminal caseload, rates of case disposal, clearance and congestion as well as cases statuses in the various courts over the period, assessments of courtroom utilization rates, case file integrity rates, trial date certainty rates and forecasts of the core case activity outcomes for the upcoming 2025 calendar year. This chapter also explores the common methods of disposition, reasons for court delay, leading charges and case types across the Parish Courts and associated conviction rates.

**Table 1.01: Aggregate case statistics for each Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Number of inactive cases	Number of disposed cases	Active Pending Case Load	Case disposal Rate (%)
Hanover	663	11	582	70	89.44
St. Catherine	2748	232	1898	618	77.51
Westmoreland	1761	183	1131	447	74.62
St. Mary	718	16	545	157	78.13
Clarendon	1663	108	1179	376	77.39
Portland	864	48	551	265	69.33
St. Elizabeth	809	35	616	158	80.47
Corporate Area Criminal	4936	1259	2486	1191	75.87
St. Thomas	589	25	294	270	54.16
St. James	1873	130	1500	243	87.03
St. Ann	1685	348	858	479	71.57
Trelawny	791	58	461	272	65.61
Manchester	1359	64	662	633	53.42
<b>Total</b>	<b>20459</b>	<b>2517</b>	<b>12763</b>	<b>5179</b>	-
<b>Average/Weighted Average</b>	<b>1573.77</b>	<b>193.62</b>	<b>981.77</b>	<b>398.38</b>	<b>74.69</b>
<b>Standard deviation</b>	<b>1193.99</b>	<b>335.00</b>	<b>643.15</b>	<b>294.27</b>	<b>10.82</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>2.08</b>	<b>3.10</b>	<b>1.31</b>	<b>1.73</b>	<b>-0.66</b>

*Note: The case disposal rate for the Browns Town outstation for 2024 is 52.77%*

The table above shows the aggregate case statistics for each Parish Court for the 2024 calendar year. A total of 20,459 new criminal cases were filed across the Parish Courts while 15,280 of these cases were either disposed or became inactive during the period, resulting in a weighted average case disposal rate of 74.69%. In the corresponding period in 2023, 20,388 cases were filed, while 15,182 cases were either disposed or became inactive which resulted in a weighted average disposal rate of 74.47%, which is 0.22 percentage points less than the rate for the 2024 calendar year. This comparison reveals that there was an increase of 71 cases or a 0.35% increase in the number of new cases filed and an increase of 98 cases or a 0.65% increase in the number of new cases disposed of or became inactive when compared to the 2023 calendar year. Of the thirteen Parish Courts listed above, nine (9) Parish Courts recorded a decrease in the number of new cases filed, while four (4) recorded an increase. Among the Parish Courts with the largest decline in new cases filed were the St. Catherine Parish Court, decreasing by 13.80%, the St. Mary Parish Court, which decreased by 6.87% and the Hanover Parish Court, which decreased by 6.22%. Among the Parish Courts with the largest increase in new cases filed were the St. Elizabeth Parish Court, increasing by 27%, the Westmoreland Parish Court-Criminal Division, which increased by 23.67% and the Clarendon Parish Court, which experienced an increase of 16.54%.

The Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division with 4,936 cases or 24.13% of the new cases filed, the St. Catherine Parish Court with 2,748 cases or 13.43% and the St. James Parish Court with 1,873 or 9.15% accounted for the three largest shares of new cases filed in the 2024 calendar year. These three Parish Courts with the largest share of new cases filed, cumulatively accounted for 46.71% of the total sample of new criminal cases filed in the 2024 calendar year. On the other end, the Parish Courts of St. Thomas with 589 cases or 2.88% of the new cases, Hanover with 663 cases or 3.24% and St. Mary with 718 cases or 3.51%

accounted for the lowest shares of new cases filed in the 2024 calendar year. The best performing courts in relation to case disposal rates for the 2024 calendar year were the Hanover (89.44%), St. James (87.03%) and St. Elizabeth (80.47%) Parish Courts. The bottom three courts on this measure were the Manchester (53.42%), St. Thomas (54.16%) and Trelawny (65.61%) Parish Courts. The Parish Court of Trelawny was also among the bottom three courts on this measure in the 2023 calendar year. The skewness of the number of new cases filed, the number of cases disposed, and the active pending new caseload are all positive, which is an indication that the larger proportion of the courts fell below the overall average case count in each of these data series. The overall skewness of the case disposal rates is a low negative figure, which indicates that a large proportion of courts had disposal rates which were close to the overall average rate for the year.

*Refer to Table 1.04 for a graphical comparison of the Case Disposal Rates across all Parish Courts for 2023 and 2024.*

**Table 1.02a: Aggregate case statistics for each Parish Court as at the year ended December 31, 2024**

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed in year	Number of Disposed cases in 2024	Number of Inactive cases in 2024	Grand total number of inactive cases (2016 - Dec. 2024)	Grand total number of disposed cases (2016 - Dec. 2024)	Grand Active Pending Caseload b/f Jan. 1, 2024	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
Hanover	663	674	13	284	7156	95	103.62	110.33
St. Catherine	2748	2828	354	3587	26358	1144	115.79	122.31
Westmoreland	1761	1339	199	1346	13278	241	87.34	130.17
St. Mary	718	1134	30	443	7679	322	162.12	89.35
Clarendon	1663	1589	136	1892	13895	451	103.73	122.55
Portland	864	823	66	777	8871	442	102.89	146.91
St. Elizabeth	809	915	67	941	8404	926	121.38	176.68
Corporate Area Criminal	4936	3984	1524	20241	64353	3679	111.59	156.41
St. Thomas	589	439	34	609	6749	338	80.31	195.98
St. James	1873	1879	149	2827	19335	438	108.28	113.95
St. Ann	1685	1288	404	4701	12468	1053	100.42	161.82
Trelawny	791	704	92	845	7195	392	100.63	148.62
Manchester	1359	855	75	2033	11415	728	68.43	224.41
<b>Total</b>	<b>20459</b>	<b>18451</b>	<b>3143</b>	<b>40526</b>	<b>207156</b>	<b>10249</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Average/Weighted Average</b>	<b>1573.77</b>	<b>1419.31</b>	<b>241.77</b>	<b>3117.38</b>	<b>15935.08</b>	<b>788.38</b>	<b>105.55</b>	<b>142.21</b>
<b>Standard deviation</b>	<b>1193.99</b>	<b>994.31</b>	<b>403.80</b>	<b>5312.69</b>	<b>15601.26</b>	<b>925.98</b>	<b>22.38</b>	<b>37.44</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>2.08</b>	<b>1.75</b>	<b>3.09</b>	<b>3.23</b>	<b>2.88</b>	<b>2.90</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>0.65</b>

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

*Note 2: The grand total number of active cases from 2016 to the year ended December 31, 2023, for all Parish Courts combined= 12,345*

*Note 3: The case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for 2024 is 83.86% and the case congestion rate is 318.39%*

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

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

The weighted average case congestion rate among the Parish Courts in the 2024 calendar year was 142.21%, an indication that the Parish Courts (criminal division) as a whole are carrying roughly 40% more than the caseload that their current rate of clearance and implied state of resources justifies. This result represents a 1.72 percentage points increase when compared to the 2023 calendar year. The Manchester Parish Court (224.41%) and the Parish Courts of St. Thomas (195.98%), St. Elizabeth (176.68%) and St. Ann (161.82%) were the courts with the highest case congestion rates in the 2024 calendar year. The Corporate Area Court- Criminal Division (156.41%) and Trelawny (148.62%) Parish Courts rounded off the top 6 most case congested courts in the 2024 calendar year. The Parish Courts of St. Ann, St. Elizabeth, Manchester, and Corporate Area-Criminal Division were also among the most congested courts in the comparative 2023 calendar year. The Parish Courts of St. Mary (89.35%), Hanover (110.33%), and St. James (113.95%) performed best on this measure. As with previous reports, variations in caseload and resources do not appear to be a major factor explaining the variances in performance on this measure as some of the courts ranking on either ends of the scale are the larger courts in the island and resource endowment do not vary in a statistically way among the courts. The case congestion rate is a more meaningful measurement over a full year.

The results on the overall case clearance rate for the 2024 calendar year provide interesting insights into the court-wide progress being made on this measure. The overall weighted average case clearance rate of 105.55%, which is a decrease of 1.06 percentage points when

compared to the corresponding 2023 calendar year, however, the performance meets the international standard of 90%-110. This overall case clearance rate of 105.55% suggests that for every 100 new cases filed, roughly 106 cases were disposed of. Ten (10) Parish Courts met or exceeded the international standards of 90%-110%. The Parish Courts of St. Mary (162.12%), St. Elizabeth (121.38%), St. Catherine (115.79%), Corporate Area Criminal (111.59%) and St. James (108.28%) were the leading Parish Courts on this measure. The Parish Courts of Manchester (68.43%), St. Thomas (80.31%) and Westmoreland (87.34%) had the lowest criminal case clearance rates for the year. Four (4) Parish Courts recorded an increase in clearance rates when compared to 2023 calendar year, while nine (9) Parish Courts recorded a decrease in clearance rates when compared to the 2023 calendar year. The St. Mary and Hanover Parish Courts saw the largest gains, with 55.96 and 12.70 percentage points improvement respectively. The St. Thomas and Manchester Parish Courts saw the largest decline, with 33.33 and 31.41 percentage points decline respectively. The data in the table above were positively skewed to various degrees, indicating that for the most part, proportionately more of the scores in that data set fell below their respective series means. *Refer to Table 1.04 for further comparison of the case clearance rates and the case congestion rates across all Parish Courts for 2023 and 2024.*

**Table 1.02b: Percentile rank on selected performance metrics for the criminal division of the Parish Courts for the year ended December 31, 2024**

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

The table above provides the percentile ranks of the case disposal and case clearance rates for the 2024 calendar year. The percentile rank gives an indication of where particular courts falls on a metric relative to the other courts. The Parish Courts of Hanover (100%), St. James (92%) and St. Elizabeth (83%) had the highest percentile ranks on case disposal rate for the 2024 calendar year, an indication that they performed better than the vast proportion of the courts on this measure. The percentile ranks of 100% for the Hanover Parish Court for example, means that they performed better than all the courts on case disposal rate in the year, while the St. James Parish Court performed better than 92% of the Parish Courts and the St. Elizabeth Parish Court performed better than 83% of all the Parish Courts on this measurement. The Parish Courts of Manchester, St. Thomas and Trelawny had the lowest percentile rank on case disposal rate for the year. In terms of case clearance rates, the Parish Courts of St. Mary (100%), St. Elizabeth (92%) and St. Catherine (83%) had the highest percentile ranks, while the Parish Courts of Manchester, St. Thomas and Westmoreland had the lowest.

**Table 1.02c: Forecasted case activity statistics for the 2025 calendar year [January 01 - December 31, 2025]**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Forecasted number of new cases</b>	<b>Forecasted number of disposed cases</b>	<b>Forecasted number of inactive cases</b>	<b>Forecasted case clearance rate (%)</b>
Hanover	806	841	29	108.01
Manchester	1413	1268	133	99.17
St. Mary	785	921	43	122.83
St. James	2238	2196	279	110.61
St. Catherine	3410	3230	546	110.73
Portland	1002	992	96	108.55
St. Ann	1835	1478	510	108.32
St. Elizabeth	1049	1114	120	117.54
Corporate Area Criminal	5271	4171	1612	109.71
Westmoreland	1687	1575	154	102.50
St. Thomas	701	669	57	103.58
Clarendon	1758	1627	182	102.87
Trelawny	879	851	103	108.60
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>22833</b>	<b>20931</b>	<b>3865</b>	<b>108.60</b>

*Note: The forecasted case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for 2025 is 76.12%.*

The above table forecasts core case activity for the criminal division of each Parish Court and overall for the 2025 calendar year. The forecasts are generated using the method of exponential smoothing which uses weighted averages from past observations with weights decaying exponentially as the observations get older. See further explanation of the mathematical science behind the method of exponential smoothing in the glossary of terms.

The above data shows that the overall forecasted case clearance rate for the criminal division of the Parish Courts for the 2025 calendar year is 108.60%, which would be 3.05 percentage points higher than that of the 2024 calendar year. All thirteen (13) Parish Courts are forecasted to satisfy the international standard on case clearance rate of 90% or more in the 2025 calendar year, led by the St. Mary Parish Court with 122.83%, the St. Elizabeth Parish Court with 117.54% and the St. Catherine Parish Court with 110.73%.

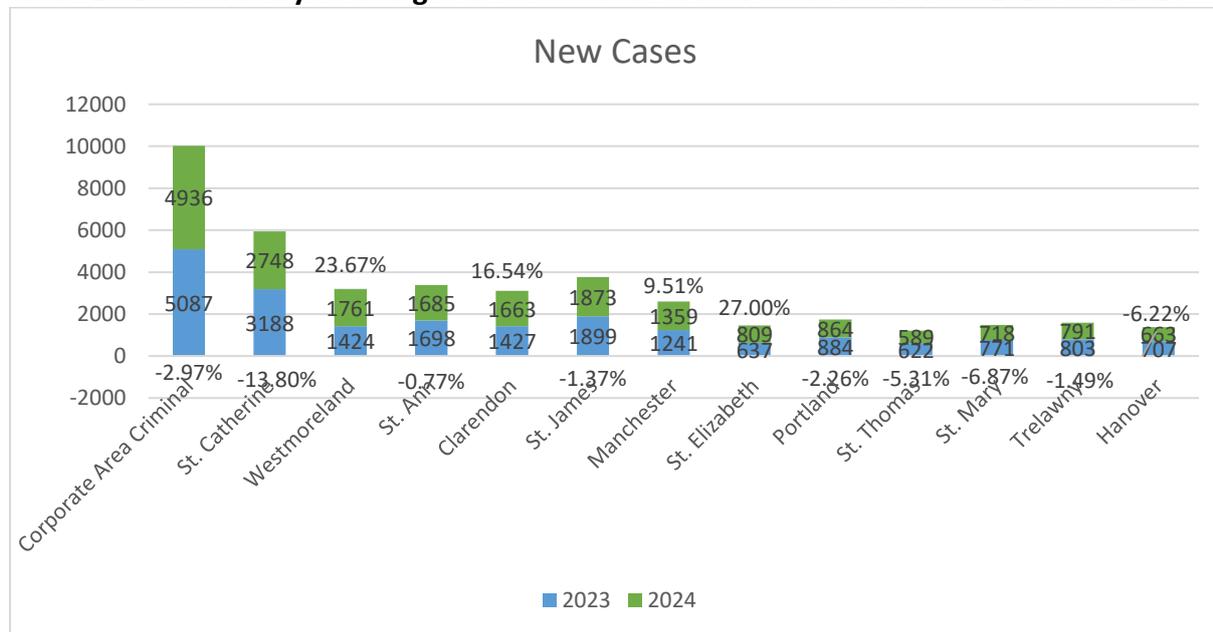
**Table 1.02d: Sampling distribution of new cases filed per 10,000 population in the criminal division of the Parish Courts in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Population size in parish	Case per 10,000 population
Hanover	663	69,533	95
St. Catherine	2748	516,218	53
Westmoreland	1761	144,103	122
St. Mary	718	113,615	63
Clarendon	1663	245,103	68
Portland	864	81,744	106
St. Elizabeth	809	150,205	54
Corporate Area Criminal	4936	662,426	75
St. Thomas	589	93,902	63
St. James	1873	183,811	102
St. Ann	1685	172,362	98
Trelawny	791	75,164	105
Manchester	1359	189,797	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>20459</b>	<b>2697983</b>	<b>76</b>

The above table provides an outline of the number of new criminal cases filed per 10,000 population in the Parish Courts in the 2024 calendar year. The population sizes used are based on the last published national population census in 2011 and therefore the data does not have full current value. Nevertheless, this kind of data provides interesting insights into the demand for adjudication in criminal matters in the various parishes. It is seen that the parish of Westmoreland, which is among the parishes with a modest population size, and larger caseloads, registered the largest number of new criminal cases filed per 10,000 population in the 2024 calendar year. Portland, which is among the parishes with the smaller population sizes, and modest caseloads, was second on this measurement. Trelawny, which is among the parishes with the smaller caseload and population sizes, followed. Equally interesting is the result that the St. Catherine Parish Court, which is among the parishes with the larger yearly caseload and larger population size, had the smallest number of new cases filed per 10,000

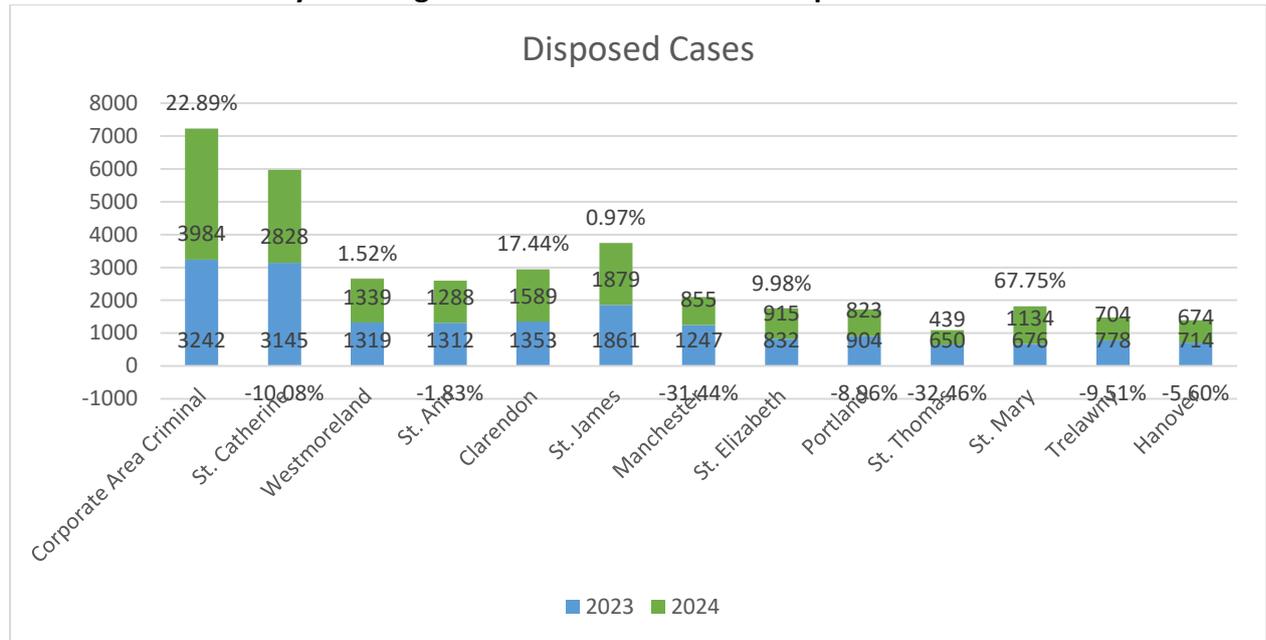
population in the year. St. Elizabeth had the second lowest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population for the year, followed by St. Thomas.

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



The above chart provides a breakdown of the changes in the number of new cases filed in the 2023 and 2024 calendar years. It is seen that there has been a decrease in new cases filed over the comparative period nine (9) Parish Courts and an increase in four (4). Among the Parish Courts with the largest rise in new cases filed were the St. Elizabeth Parish Court increasing by 27% and the Westmoreland Parish Court, which increased by 23.67%. The St. Catherine Parish Court fell by 13.80% and the St. Mary Parish Court fell by 6.87%.

**Chart 1.01b: Summary of changes in the number of cases disposed of in 2022 and 2023**



The above graph provides a breakdown of the changes in the number of cases disposed of in 2023 and 2024 calendar years. It is seen that there has been a decrease in cases resolved over the comparative period in seven (7) Parish Courts and an increase in the cases resolved in six (6) Parish Courts. Among the Parish Courts with the largest rise in cases resolved were the St. Mary Parish Court increasing by 67.75% and the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, which increased by 22.89%. Among the Parish Courts with the largest decline in cases resolved were the St. Thomas Parish Court fell by 32.46% and the Manchester Parish Court fell by 31.44%.

**Table 1.02e: Sampling distribution of the Indices of Judge Productivity for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Parish Court	Number of Judges	New criminal cases per Judges	Active pending caseload per Judge at the beginning of 2024	Active caseload per Judge at the end of 2024	Cases disposed per Judge
Hanover	2	331.50	47.50	35.50	337.00
St. Catherine	5	549.60	228.80	142.00	565.60
Westmoreland	2	880.50	120.50	232.00	669.50
St. Mary	3	239.33	107.33	-41.33	378.00
Clarendon	3	554.33	150.33	129.67	529.67
Portland	2	432.00	221.00	208.50	411.50
St. Elizabeth	3	269.67	308.67	251.00	305.00
Corporate Area Criminal	9	548.44	408.78	345.22	442.67
St. Thomas	2	294.50	169.00	227.00	219.50
St. James	5	374.60	87.60	56.60	375.80
St. Ann	3	561.67	351.00	348.67	429.33
Trelawny	3	263.67	130.67	129.00	234.67
Manchester	3	453.00	242.67	385.67	285.00
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>454.64</b>	<b>227.76</b>	<b>202.53</b>	<b>410.02</b>

The above table provides a distribution of the new cases filed per judge, the cases disposed per judge and the caseload per judge in the criminal division of the Parish Courts for the 2024 calendar year. The data reveals that the overall weighted average number of new criminal cases filed per judge in the 2024 calendar year is roughly 455 cases. The Parish Courts of Westmoreland (881 cases), St. Ann (562 cases) and Clarendon (554 cases) had the three largest number of new cases filed per judge during the year. On the contrary, the Parish Courts St. Mary (239 cases), Trelawny (264 cases) and the St. Elizabeth Parish Court (270 cases) had the lowest number of new cases filed per judge in the year. In terms of cases disposed of per judge, the Westmoreland Parish Court disposed of the most cases per judge in the year with 670 cases, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court with 566 cases and the Clarendon Parish Court with 530 cases disposed per judge. The three courts with the smallest number of cases disposed per judge were the St. Thomas Parish Court and the Trelawny Parish

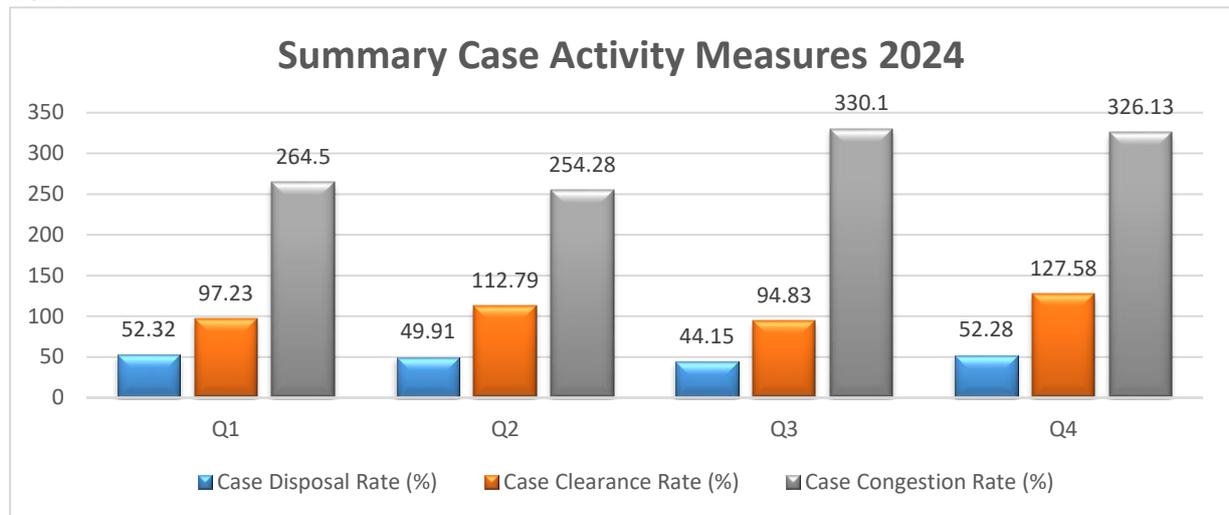
Court with 220 and 235 disposed cases per judge respectively and the Manchester Parish Court with 285 disposed cases per judge. The overall number of criminal cases disposed per judge was 410 cases. The most crucial of the indicators is the active caseload per judge at the end of the year. The data shows that the Manchester Prish Court had the highest caseload per judge at the end of the year with 386 cases, followed by the St. Ann Parish Court with 349 cases and the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division with 345 cases per judge. On the lower end, the Parish Courts of St. Mary and Hanover with -41 and 36 cases per judge respectively, had the lowest active criminal caseload per judge at the end of the year, followed by the St. James Parish Court with 57 active criminal cases per judge. The overall average active criminal caseload per judge at the end of the year is 203 cases. The active caseload is a proxy for the existing demand for judicial services in the respective courts and the anecdotal evidence suggests that some courts with a higher caseload per judge are generally more hard pressed to sustain high productivity rates.

**Table 1.03: Aggregate summary case statistics for each Parish Court for the period Jan.-Dec. 2024**

<b>Statistical Measurements</b>	<b>Case Disposal Rate (%) Q4</b>	<b>Case Disposal Rate (%) Q3</b>	<b>Case Disposal Rate (%) Q2</b>	<b>Case Disposal Rate (%) Q1</b>	<b>Case Clearance Rate (%) Q4</b>	<b>Case Clearance Rate (%) Q3</b>	<b>Case Clearance Rate (%) Q2</b>	<b>Case Clearance Rate (%) Q1</b>	<b>Case Congestion Rate (%) Q4</b>	<b>Case Congestion Rate (%) Q3</b>	<b>Case Congestion Rate (%) Q2</b>	<b>Case Congestion Rate (%) Q1</b>
<b>Weighted Average</b>	52.28	44.15	49.91	52.32	127.58	94.83	112.79	97.23	326.13	330.10	254.28	264.50
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	13.85	14.22	9.72	14.10	20.92	25.24	39.79	18.90	160.95	315.57	116.13	97.80
<b>Skewness</b>	0.07	-0.10	-0.14	-0.42	-0.50	-1.52	0.82	0.20	0.79	3.06	1.05	0.71

The above table provides a detailed quantitative summary of the progression of the key measures discussed so far, namely the case disposal rate, the case clearance rate and the case congestion rate across the four quarters of 2024 for all Parish Courts combined. A pictorial representation of this data follows.

**Chart 1.02: Aggregate summary of selected case activity metrics over the four quarters of 2024**



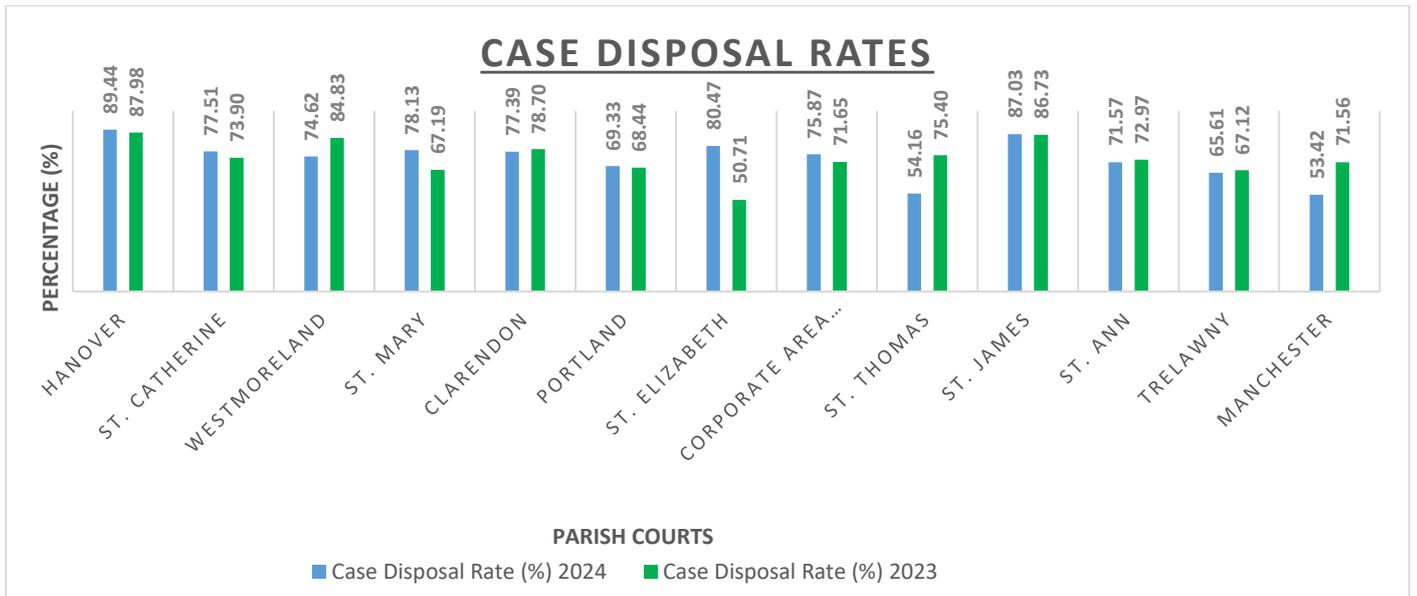
The above graph provides a summary of the progression of the overall case disposal, case clearance and case congestion rate over the four quarters of 2024 for all Parish Courts combined. It is seen that there was some number of fluctuations in the progression of all three metrics over the four quarters throughout the year. The overall case disposal rate varied within a band of a low of 44.15% in the third quarter and a high of 52.32% in the first quarter. The case clearance rate ranged from a low of 94.83% in the third quarter to 127.58% in the fourth quarter of 2024, while the case congestion rate was at its lowest in second quarter with 254.28% and at its highest in the third quarter with a rate of 330.10%.

**Table 1.04: Aggregate summary case statistics for each Parish Court for 2023 and 2024**

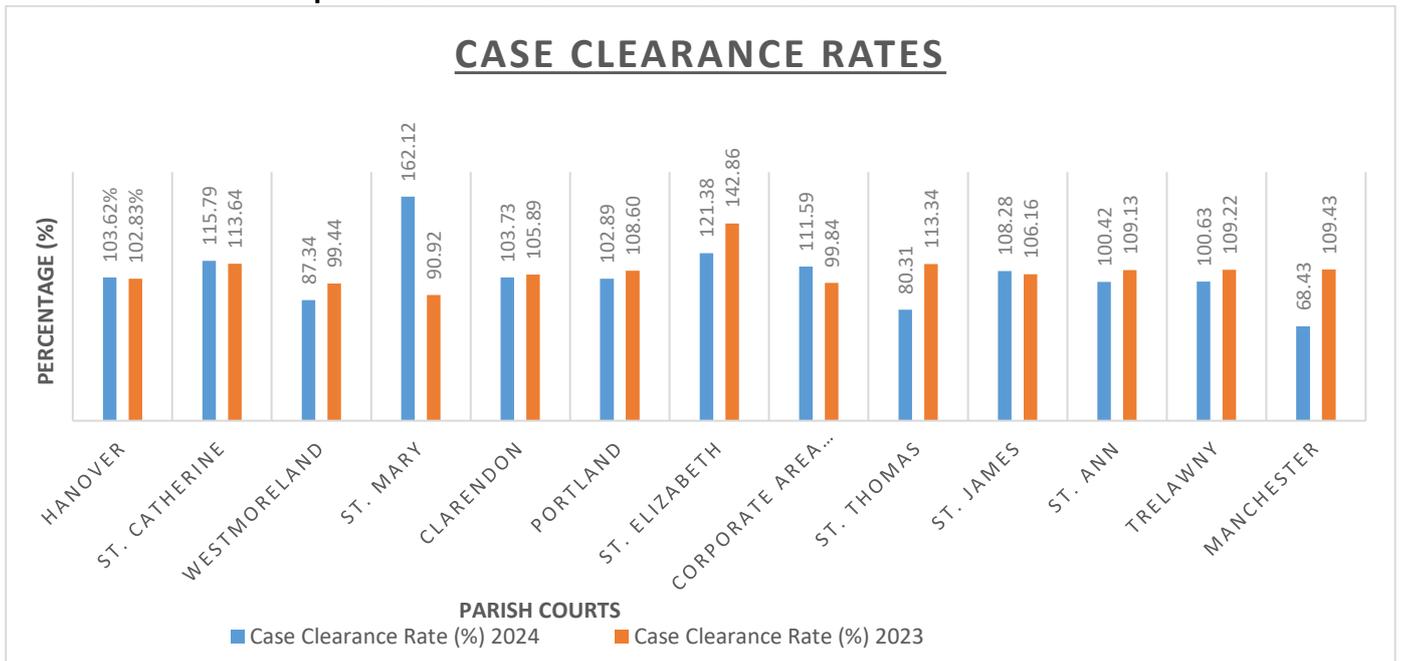
Parish Court	Case Disposal Rate (%) 2024	Case Disposal Rate (%) 2023	Change in case disposal rate (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%) 2024	Case Clearance Rate (%) 2023	Change in case clearance rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%) 2024	Case Congestion Rate (%) 2023	Change in case Congestion Rate (%)
Hanover	89.44	87.98	1.46	103.62	102.83	0.79	110.33	109.35	0.98
St. Catherine	77.51	73.9	3.61	115.79	113.64	2.15	122.31	121.12	1.19
Westmoreland	74.62	84.83	-10.21	87.34	99.44	-12.10	130.17	113.98	16.19
St. Mary	78.13	67.19	10.94	162.12	90.92	71.20	89.35	144.37	-55.02
Clarendon	77.39	78.7	-1.31	103.73	105.89	-2.16	122.55	126.8	-4.25
Portland	69.33	68.44	0.89	102.89	108.6	-5.71	146.91	143.02	3.89
St. Elizabeth	80.47	50.71	29.76	121.38	142.86	-21.48	176.68	NA	NA
Corporate Area Criminal	75.87	71.65	4.22	111.59	99.84	11.75	156.41	184.11	-27.70
St. Thomas	54.16	75.4	-21.24	80.31	113.34	-33.03	195.98	145.96	50.02
St. James	87.03	86.73	0.30	108.28	106.16	2.12	113.95	117.86	-3.91
St. Ann	71.57	72.97	-1.40	100.42	109.13	-8.71	161.82	151.43	10.39
Trelawny	65.61	67.12	-1.51	100.63	109.22	-8.59	148.62	141.28	7.34
Manchester	53.42	71.56	-18.14	68.43	109.43	-41.00	224.41	147.35	77.06
<b>Average / Weighted Average</b>	<b>74.69</b>	<b>74.47</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>105.55</b>	<b>106.61</b>	<b>-1.06</b>	<b>142.21</b>	<b>140.49</b>	<b>1.72</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>10.82</b>	<b>9.90</b>		<b>22.38</b>	<b>12.05</b>		<b>37.44</b>	<b>20.76</b>	<b>90.58</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>-0.66</b>	<b>-0.61</b>		<b>1.06</b>	<b>1.88</b>		<b>0.65</b>	<b>0.75</b>	<b>0.48</b>

The table above provides a comparison of the case disposal rate, the case clearance rate and the case congestion rate for the 2023 and 2024 calendar years. The weighted average case disposal rate for the 2024 calendar year, was 74.69%, which was a 0.22 percentage points increase when compared to the 2023 calendar year, which had a weighted average rate of 74.47%. The overall case clearance rate of 105.55% for the 2024 calendar year was 1.06 percentage points less the 106.61% recorded in the corresponding 2023 calendar year. The overall case congestion rate for the 2024 calendar year deteriorated, changing from 140.49% in the 2023 calendar year, to 142.21% in the 2024 calendar year, a 1.72 percentage point increase. Ceteris paribus, there should be a roughly inverse linear association between the case clearance rates and the case congestion rate. This is more pronounced in the long run than in the short or medium terms.

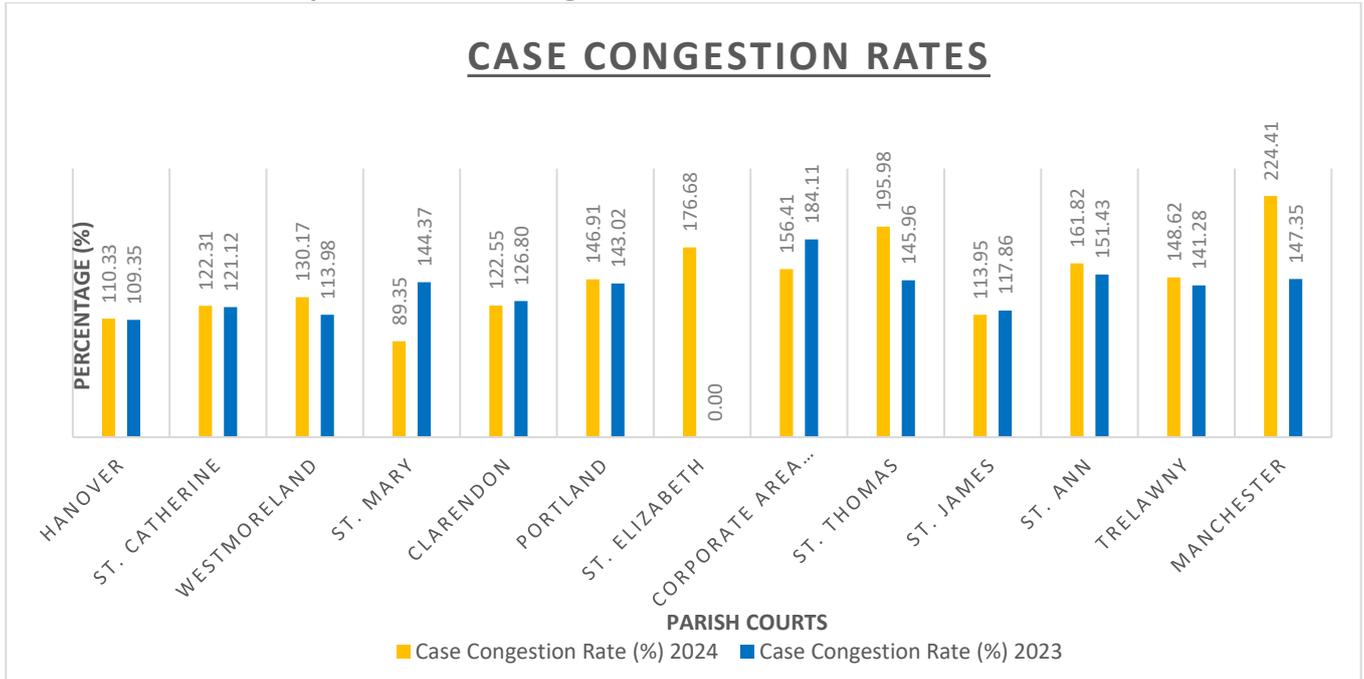
**Chart 1.03a: Comparison of case disposal rates across the Parish Courts for the 2023 and 2024**



**Chart 1.03b: Comparison of case clearance rates across the Parish Courts for 2023 and 2024**



**Chart 1.03c: Comparison of case congestion rate across the Parish Courts for 2023 and 2024**



**Table 1.05a: Sampling distribution of mention court activity for cases disposed of in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Parish Court	Overall number of cases disposed	Number of cases disposed in 1 case management date	Number of cases disposed in 2 management dates	Number of cases disposed in 3 management dates	Number of cases disposed in 4 management dates	Number of cases disposed in 5 management dates	Number of cases disposed in 6-10 management dates	Number of cases disposed in more than 10 management dates
Hanover	674	120	50	26	13	3	3	1
St. Catherine	2828	551	333	234	135	120	283	72
Westmoreland	1339	597	257	158	89	64	106	50
St. Mary	1134	223	115	109	62	37	97	26
Clarendon	1589	294	144	86	66	47	87	23
Portland	823	208	142	116	88	66	151	48
Corporate Area Criminal	3984	1389	765	466	309	229	499	365
St. Thomas	439	93	61	29	19	20	23	9
St. James	1879	961	262	171	88	30	12	1
St. Ann	1288	263	149	99	55	35	44	10
Trelawny	704	112	91	70	45	34	52	10
Manchester	855	193	147	63	38	20	22	5
<b>Mean</b>	<b>1461.33</b>	<b>417.00</b>	<b>209.67</b>	<b>135.58</b>	<b>83.92</b>	<b>58.75</b>	<b>114.92</b>	<b>51.67</b>
<b>Median</b>	<b>1211.00</b>	<b>243.00</b>	<b>145.50</b>	<b>104.00</b>	<b>64.00</b>	<b>36.00</b>	<b>69.50</b>	<b>16.50</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.63</b>	<b>1.66</b>	<b>2.41</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>2.41</b>	<b>2.26</b>	<b>2.08</b>	<b>3.17</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>1026.39</b>	<b>398.59</b>	<b>194.40</b>	<b>120.02</b>	<b>78.53</b>	<b>61.45</b>	<b>143.79</b>	<b>101.22</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>17536</b>	<b>5004</b>	<b>2516</b>	<b>1627</b>	<b>1007</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>1379</b>	<b>620</b>

The above sampling distribution provides critical insights into case management date activity for a representative sample of criminal cases disposed across the Parish Courts over the 2024 calendar year. In general, the fewer the number of case management dates per case, the more efficient the case flow progression. A maximum of five case management dates per case is considered to be desirable based on international best practices. A notable 26.68% of the sample of 17,536 cases disposed of during the period were resolved on their first appearance before the court. A further 28.54% of the sample of cases disposed of were resolved after 1 case management date, while 14.35% were resolved after 2 case management dates and 9.28% after 3 case management dates. Cumulatively, roughly 88.60% of the cases sampled were resolved in five or less case management dates, inclusive of those resolved on first appearance before the courts. This is an impressive outcome by any measure. Although there are some variances across the Parish Courts, the overall outcomes were consistently observed for all courts. In other words, the vast majority of the cases sampled were disposed in five or less case management appearance in all courts and matters disposed on first appearance before the court or within the first few appearances accounted for the largest share of the activity across the courts. These outcomes are not surprising given the consistently high case clearance rates in the Parish Courts in the last few years. These collective results augur well for the probability of relatively quick and efficient resolution of criminal cases across the Parish Courts.

**Table 1.05b: Summary of cases heard during the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Number of cases heard in the year</b>	<b>Share of cases heard in the year (%)</b>
Clarendon	2221	7.74
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	7708	26.88
Hanover	756	2.64
Manchester	1699	5.92
Portland	1224	4.27
St. Ann	2294	8.00
St. Catherine	3960	13.81
St. Elizabeth	1149	4.01
St. James	2314	8.07
St. Mary	1347	4.70
St. Thomas	787	2.74
Trelawny	1189	4.15
Westmoreland	2031	7.08
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>28679</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The table above provides a summary of the criminal cases heard during the 2024 calendar year at the Parish Courts. From a sample of 28,679 cases heard, it is seen that the Corporate Area Criminal court accounted for the highest share of cases heard with 7,708 cases heard or 26.88% of the sample, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court with 3,960 cases heard or 13.81% and the St. James Parish Court with 2,314 cases or 8.07% of the sample. Cumulatively, the top three courts account for roughly 48.76% of the cases sampled. On the lower end, the Parish Courts of Hanover with 756 cases or 2.64%, St. Thomas with 787 or 2.74% and St. Elizabeth with 1,149 or 4.01% of the sample, accounted for the lowest share of cases heard in the 2024 calendar year.

**Table 1.06a: Comparison of the trial certainty rates for 2023 and 2024**

Parish Court	Trial certainty rate (%) (2024)	Trial certainty rate (%) (2023)	Change in the trial certainty rate (%)
Westmoreland	65	67	-2
Clarendon	48	62	-14
St. Ann	100	75	25
Portland	95	81	14
St. James	100	91	9
Manchester	99	99	0
St. Catherine	56	52	4
St. Elizabeth	91	NA	NA
Trelawny	57	64	-7
St. Mary	65	77	-12
St. Thomas	66	81	-15
Corporate Area Criminal	84	82	2
Hanover	74	67	7
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>2</b>

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

The trial date certainty rate provides a measure of the extent to which dates, which are set for trial, proceed on schedule without being delayed to start at some future date. The overall trial date certainty rate for the 2024 calendar year was 77%, a 2-percentage points improvement when compared to the 2023 calendar year. Four (4) of the Parish Courts met the prescribed international performance standard of a rate between 92% and 100% in the year. Leading the way are the Parish Courts of St. Ann and St. James each with an estimated trial certainty rate of 100%, followed by Manchester with 99% and Portland with 95%. The St. Elizabeth Parish Court fell just short of the international standard with a trial certainty rate of 91%, but this was still a promising result. The minimum-targeted court-wide trial date certainty rate which has been set out by the Honourable Chief Justice for the judiciary is 95%. This is consistent with the push to significantly enhance the efficiency of the court system and hence the timely delivery of justice

to the Jamaican citizenry. The attainment of this minimum threshold rate will assist in sustaining the current net case backlog rate of less than 5%.

**Table 1.06b: Percentile Rank on trial date certainty rate for the criminal division of the Parish Courts in 2023 and 2024**

Parish Court	Percentile Rank – Trial Date Certainty Rate 2024 (%)	Percentile Rank – Trial Date Certainty Rate 2023 (%)
Westmoreland	25	27
Clarendon	0	9
St. Ann	92	45
Portland	75	64
St. James	92	91
Manchester	83	100
St. Catherine	8	0
St. Elizabeth	67	NA
Trelawny	17	18
St. Mary	25	55
St. Thomas	42	64
Corporate Area Criminal	58	82
Hanover	50	27

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

**Table 1.06c: Average duration from first trial date set to date of disposal of case for matters resolved by trial in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Parish Court	Average duration of trial
Clarendon	351.30
Corporate Area	445.42
Hanover	200.91
Manchester	292.30
Portland	443.21
St. Ann	449.22
St. Catherine	435.67
St. James	164.28
St. Mary	440.14
St. Thomas	204.79
Trelawny	296.65
Westmoreland	85.40
<b>Weighted average</b>	<b>384.11</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>129.47</b>

The above table summarizes the average durations between first trial date set and the date of case disposal for trial matters resolved in the 2024 calendar year across the various Parish Courts. The data shows an overall weighted average interval between the first trial date set and the disposition of such cases in the year is 384 days or roughly 12.8 months, with a standard deviation of roughly 129 days or 4.3 months. The Westmoreland and St. James Parish Courts had the lowest times between first trial dates set and disposal of cases with roughly 85 days and 164 days respectively, reflective of more ideal standards when compared to most other courts. The St. Ann and Corporate Area-Criminal Division Parish Courts with average interval times of roughly 449 days or 15 months and 445 days or roughly 14.8 months respectively had the worst ranks on this measurement for the year. Lengthy time intervals between the first trial date and the date of

case disposition are symptoms of case management problems, case readiness and possibly even scheduling and calendar management issues in the particular court.

**Table 1.06d: Time interval between major events for cases that had a trial date in the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average time between filing and first court appearance (in days)</b>	<b>Average time between first court appearance and trial (in days)</b>	<b>Average time between trial and disposition (in days)</b>
Clarendon	5.42	255.73	351.30
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	5.39	467.33	445.42
Hanover	11.05	116.82	200.91
Manchester	7.77	186.23	292.30
Portland	4.82	329.27	443.21
St. Ann	10.17	477.52	449.22
St. Catherine	7.15	275.09	435.67
St. James	5.83	733.49	164.28
St. Mary	11.33	156.12	440.14
St. Thomas	8.65	227.58	204.79
Trelawny	6.28	232.13	296.65
Westmoreland	6.60	307.09	85.40
<b>Weighted average</b>	<b>6.63</b>	<b>392.36</b>	<b>384.11</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>2.28</b>	<b>172.08</b>	<b>129.47</b>

**Note 1: The average time between filing a case and the first court appearance for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for 2024 is 13.45 days.**

**Note 2: The average time between the first appearance and first trial date for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for 2024 is 964.81 days.**

**Note 3: The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for 2024 is 827.96 days.**

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

average duration between the first trial date and disposition. Overall, it is seen that the average time between filing a criminal case and the first court appearance is approximately 7 days, while the overall average time between first appearance of a criminal matter in the Parish Courts and the first trial date is, however, much longer at roughly 13.1 months or 392 days. The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition is roughly 12.8 months or 384 days. These findings indicate that there may be imprecisions in the science of scheduling trial dates which may at times face long delays after a first date set is postponed. Since roughly less than a quarter of criminal cases filed in the Parish Courts will proceed to trial, these findings may not have a dramatic impact on the overall time to disposition of criminal cases but are nonetheless critical for monitoring case activity.

**Table 1.06e: Trial court activity summary during the year ended December 31, 2024**

Parish Court	Number of cases heard	Number of cases with a trial date set	Percentage of cases heard which had a trial date set (%)
Clarendon	2221	414	18.64
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	7429	1176	15.83
Hanover	756	129	17.06
Manchester	1699	302	17.78
Portland	1224	124	10.13
St. Ann	2294	403	17.57
St. Catherine	3960	1035	26.14
St. James	2314	328	14.17
St. Mary	1347	187	13.88
St. Thomas	787	105	13.34
Trelawny	1189	255	21.45
Westmoreland	2031	228	11.23
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>27251</b>	<b>4686</b>	<b>17.20</b>

**Note 1: The Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann had 7.55% of cases heard proceed to trial 2024**

**Note 2: Calculations for the Corporate Area Court-Criminal Division were done using data available from sheets in which a trial date was listed from 2017 onwards, hence, the total number of cases heard may differ from the number of cases heard listed in table 6.0b.**

The above table provides a summary of number of cases heard in the 2024 calendar year in the criminal divisions of the Parish Courts which had trial dates set, whether in the current year, from the previous year or a future date. Using a sampling distribution, it is seen that of 27,251 criminal cases heard across the Parish Courts in the 2024 calendar year, 4,686 cases or 17.20% had a trial date set. The Parish Courts of Portland (10.13%), Westmoreland (11.23%) and St. Thomas (13.34%) had the lowest proportion of cases proceeding to trial, while the Parish Courts of St. Catherine (26.14%), Trelawny (21.45%) and Clarendon (18.64%) had the highest proportions.

**Table 1.07a: Distribution of courtroom utilization rates across the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Parish Court	Average overall courtroom utilization rate (%)	Highest recorded courtroom utilization rate (%)	Lowest recorded courtroom utilization rate (%)	Standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rate (%)	Average courtroom utilization rate for Night Court sittings (%)	Average number of courtroom adjournments per day
St. Catherine	72.38	229.44	0.28	29.90	66.78	1.0
Westmoreland	65.94	151.67	1.33	40.39	NA	NA
Trelawny	64.37	147.33	1.33	29.89	NA	1.0
St. Thomas	55.12	109.72	8.06	23.61	NA	NA
St. Mary	76.51	150.00	2.67	29.72	NA	1.0
St. James	64.91	268.33	5.00	32.53	NA	1.2
Corporate Area Criminal Court	69.40	276.33	3.00	31.65	NA	1.1
St. Ann	64.24	231.67	1.94	31.14	47.99	1.0
Portland	59.76	231.67	1.39	31.23	NA	1.0
Hanover	59.03	131.94	0.83	33.63	NA	1.0
Clarendon	67.01	298.67	2.33	39.57	78.96	NA
Manchester	66.83	159.33	0.33	30.72	67.22	1.1
<b>Overall Averages</b>	<b>65.46</b>	<b>198.84</b>	<b>2.37</b>	<b>32.00</b>	<b>65.24</b>	<b>1.04</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>5.83</b>	<b>64.06</b>	<b>2.22</b>	<b>4.45</b>	<b>12.81</b>	<b>0.07</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>1.78</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>-0.80</b>	<b>1.50</b>

**Note: The courtroom utilization rate for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for 2024 is 68.36%**

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

The prescribed international standard for the courtroom utilization rate is 100%, which means that all hours allocated for court hearings in any court, on any given day should be utilized. The data suggests that as a whole, the Parish Courts of Jamaica performed below this level in the 2024 calendar year. The overall average courtroom utilization rate across the Parish Courts in the year was 65.46%, which is an indication that on average roughly 65% of the available hours for court hearings were utilized across the Parish Courts in the 2024 calendar year. This result is roughly 0.26 percentage points below the figure for the corresponding period in 2023. The Parish Courts recording the highest courtroom utilization rates for the year are the St. Mary and St. Catherine Parish Courts with 76.51% and 72.38% respectively, followed by the Corporate Area Parish Court- Criminal Division with 69.40% and the Clarendon Parish Court with 67.01%. The St. Thomas Parish Court and Hanover Parish Courts with 55.12% and 59.03% respectively, had the lowest rates, while the Portland Parish Court with 59.76% had the next lowest rate. It is quite commendable that all Parish Courts exceeded a courtroom utilization rate of 50% for the year. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates was relatively low, suggesting that on average the rates for the individual courts did not vary widely from the overall mean. The positive skewness of the data suggests that proportionately more of the sample are clustered around the overall mean.

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

**Table 1.07b: Percentile Rank on Courtroom utilization rate for the criminal division of the Parish Courts in the year ended December 31, 2024**

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

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

**Table 1.08: Types of matters for each Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Parish Court	Indictment	Summary Matters	Lay Magistrates Sittings	Committal Proceedings	Tax	Miscellaneous	LRF	Traffic	NS	Total
Corporate Area Criminal	4128	2797	771	1202	-	-	-	79	-	8977
St. Catherine	2309	1266	661	766	63	-	16	-	-	5081
Manchester	818	508	575	256	5	-	48	-	-	2210
St. James	877	815	553	225	134	256	-	-	-	2860
St. Ann	1032	690	469	426	1	-	-	7	-	2625
Westmoreland	999	594	507	531	19	-	-	-	-	2650
Clarendon	1119	1125	271	268	-	-	-	-	-	2783
Portland	722	263	193	98	3	-	80	-	-	1359
St. Mary	595	183	168	363	13	-	-	-	-	1322
Trelawny	647	246	210	187	21	-	44	-	-	1355
Hanover	473	189	147	135	-	-	48	-	-	992
St. Thomas	464	241	186	142	-	1	20	-	-	1054
St. Elizabeth	636	397	55	117	-	-	-	-	-	1205
<b>Total</b>	<b>14819</b>	<b>9314</b>	<b>4766</b>	<b>4716</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>42.99</b>	<b>27.02</b>	<b>13.83</b>	<b>13.68</b>	<b>0.75</b>	<b>0.75</b>	<b>0.74</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>100</b>

**\*Total number of observations = 34,473\*\*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 2024 calendar year. For the year, 34,473 charges were filed across the Parish Courts, an increase of approximately 2,109 charges or a 6.52% improvement when compared to the corresponding 2023 calendar year. The largest proportions of these charges were filed in the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division (8,977), the St. Catherine Parish Court (5,081), the St. James Parish Court with (2,860) and the Clarendon Parish Court with 2,783 charges. The largest

share of the charges were Indictments (42.99%); followed by summary matters (27.02%), Lay Magistrates’ matters (13.83%) and committal proceedings with 13.68% of the total sample. The Corporate Area Court-Criminal Division accounted for the largest proportion of Indictments filed, followed by the Parish Courts of St. Catherine, Clarendon and St. Ann. The Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division accounted for the largest share of summary matters filed, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court and the Clarendon Parish Court. The largest proportion of Lay Magistrates’ matters was filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court– Criminal Division, followed by the Parish Courts of St. Catherine and Manchester. The Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court and the Westmoreland Parish Court accounted for the largest individual shares of Committal Proceedings in the year. As for criminal matters, which are traffic related, the only incidences of these in the year were in the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division and the St. Ann Parish Court.

### Offence Types

**Table 1.09.01: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	131	13.48
Unlawful wounding	118	12.14
Threat	99	10.19
Malicious destruction of property	73	7.51
Possession of identity information	44	4.53
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>47.84</b>

**Number of observations sampled (N): 972**

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court for the 2024 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning

bodily harm with 131 or 13.48%, unlawful wounding with 118 or 12.14% and threat with 99 or 10.19% of the total sample of charges are the most frequently occurring charges. Malicious destruction of property with 73 or 7.51% followed this, while possession of identity information with 44 or 4.53% of the total sample rounds off the top five. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 47.84% of the total sample of 972 charges filed in the year. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2023 calendar year in the Hanover Parish Court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property, threat, and assault at common law.

**Table 1.09.02: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Assault occasioning bodily harm	249	11.26
Unlawful wounding	199	9.00
Exposing goods for sale	186	8.41
Threat	122	5.52
Possession of offensive weapon	92	4.16
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>38.35</b>

**Number of observations sampled (N): 2211**

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court for the 2024 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 249 or 11.26% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 199 or 9%, exposing goods for sale with 186 or 8.41% and threat with 122 or 5.52% rank next. The top five is rounded off by possession of offensive weapon with 92 or 4.16% of the sample charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 38.35% of the total sample of 2,211 charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court in the year. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2023 calendar year in

the Manchester Parish Court included breach of the threat, malicious destruction of property, assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding and exposing goods for sale.

**Table 1.09.03: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Portland Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	189	13.93
Unlawful wounding	141	10.39
Threat	140	10.32
Malicious destruction of property	84	6.19
Possession of Offensive Weapon	71	5.23
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>46.06</b>

**Number of observations sampled (N): 1357**

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Portland Parish Court in the 2024 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 189 or 13.93% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 141 or 10.39% and threat with 140 or 10.32% ranked next. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 84 or 6.19% and possession of offensive weapon with 71 or 5.23% of the sample of charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 46.06% of the total sample of 1,357 charges filed in the year. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2023 calendar year in the Portland Parish Court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, threat, malicious destruction of property and assault at common law.

**Table 1.09.04: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Threat	334	12.85
Assault occasioning bodily harm	296	11.39
Unlawful wounding	191	7.35
Malicious destruction of property	159	6.12
Littering	127	4.89
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1107</b>	<b>42.59</b>

**Number of observations sampled (N): 2599**

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the 2024 calendar year. It is shown that threat with 334 or 12.85% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 296 or 11.39% and unlawful wounding with 191 or 7.35% followed this. Malicious destruction of property with 159 or 6.12% and littering with 127 or 4.89% of the total sample rounds of the top charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 42.59% of the total sample of 2,599 charges filed in the year at the St. Ann Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2023 calendar year in the St. Ann Parish Court included threat, assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property, and littering. From a sample of 544 charges, it is seen that the leading charges recorded in the 2024 calendar year at the Brown's Town Outstation included assault occasioning bodily harm with 121 or 22.24% of the charges, threat with 102 or 18.75% and unlawful wounding with 82 or 15.07%. Malicious destruction of property with 59 or 10.85% and indecent assault with 3.13% of the sample followed.

**Table 1.09.05: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Assault occasioning bodily harm	710	14.00
Unlawful wounding	369	7.27
Malicious destruction of property	269	5.30
Possession offensive weapon	192	3.78
Threat	178	3.51
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1718</b>	<b>33.87</b>

**Number of observations sampled (N): 5073**

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the 2024 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 710 or 14% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 369 or 7.27%, malicious destruction of property with 269 or 5.30% and possession of offensive weapon with 192 or 3.78% followed this. Threat with 178 or 3.51% of the total sample of charges filed round off the top five. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 33.87% of the total sample of 5,073 charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the year. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2023 calendar year in the St. Catherine Parish Court included assault occasioning bodily harm, smoking in a public place, possession of offensive weapon, unlawful wounding and malicious destruction of property.

**Table 1.09.06: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	230	18.79
Unlawful wounding	181	14.79
Malicious destruction of property	89	7.27
Possession of offensive weapon	89	7.27
No Food Handlers Permit	74	6.05
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>54.17</b>

**Number of observations sampled (N): 1224**

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court in the 2024 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 230 or 18.79% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 181 or 14.79% and malicious destruction of property and possession of offensive weapon with 89 or 7.27% each followed this. The top five is rounded off by no food handler’s permit with 74 or 6.05% of the total sample. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 54.17% of the sample of 1,224 charges filed in year at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court.

**Table 1.09.07: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. James Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Possession of offensive weapon	280	9.77
Assault occasioning bodily harm	242	8.44
Threat	207	7.22
Unlawful wounding	170	5.93
Malicious destruction of property	121	4.22
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1020</b>	<b>35.58</b>

**Number of observations sampled (N): 2867**

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges at the St. James Parish Court in the 2024 calendar year. It is shown that possession of an offensive

weapon with 280 or 9.77% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 242 or 8.44% and threat with 207 or 7.22% followed this. The top five is rounded off by unlawful wounding with 170 or 5.93% and malicious destruction of property with 121 or 4.22% of the total sample. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 35.58% of the sample of 2,867 charges filed in year at the St. James Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2023 calendar year in the St. James Parish Court included assault occasioning bodily harm, possession of offensive weapon, unlawful wounding, threat and malicious destruction of property.

**Table 1.09.08: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	159	12.03
Unlawful wounding	151	11.42
Malicious destruction of property	97	7.34
Threat	93	7.03
Possession of Ganja	49	3.71
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>41.53</b>

**Number of observations sampled (N): 1322**

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the 2024 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 159 or 12.03% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 151 or 11.42% and malicious destruction of property with 97 or 7.34% followed this. The top five is rounded off by threat with 93 or 7.03% and possession of ganja with 49 or 3.71% of the sample. The charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 41.53% of the total sample of 1,322 charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the year. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2023 calendar year in the St. Mary Parish

Court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, threat, assault at common law and malicious destruction of property.

**Table 1.09.09: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Assault occasioning bodily harm	153	13.34
Unlawful Wounding	96	8.37
Malicious destruction of property	68	5.93
Simple Larceny	65	5.67
Threat	64	5.58
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>38.88</b>

**Number of observations sampled (N): 1147**

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in the 2024 calendar year. It is shown assault occasioning bodily harm with 153 or 13.34% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 96 or 8.37%, malicious destruction of property with 68 or 5.93% and simple larceny with 65 or 5.67% followed this. The top five is rounded off by threat with 64 or 5.58% of the total sample of charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 38.88% of the sample of 1,147 charges filed in the year. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2023 calendar year in the St. Thomas Parish Court included smoking in a public place, unlawful wounding, assault occasioning bodily harm, threat and possession of offensive weapon.

**Table 1.09.10: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	203	14.95
Unlawful Wounding	151	11.12
Malicious destruction of property	84	6.19
Possession of offensive weapon	83	6.11
Disorderly Conduct	49	3.61
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>41.97</b>

**Number of observations sampled (N): 1358**

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the 2024 calendar year. It is shown assault occasioning bodily harm with 203 or 14.95% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 151 or 11.12% and malicious destruction of property with 84 or 6.19% followed this. Possession of offensive weapon with 83 or 6.11% and disorderly conduct with 49 or 3.61% of the total sample of charges round of the top five charges filed in the year. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 41.97% of the total sample of 1,358 charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the year. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2023 calendar year in the Trelawny Parish Court included unlawful wounding, assault occasioning bodily harm, possession of offensive weapon, knowingly possessing identity information, and malicious destruction of property.

**Table 1.09.11: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	402	15.23
Unlawful Wounding	214	8.11
Threat	181	6.86
Possession of offensive weapon	154	5.83
Malicious destruction of property	135	5.11
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1086</b>	<b>41.14</b>

**Number of observations sampled (N): 2640**

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the 2024 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 402 or 15.23% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 214 or 8.11% and threat with 181 or 6.86% and possession of offensive weapon with 154 or 5.83% followed this. Malicious destruction of property with 135 or 5.11% of the sample rank next. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 41.14% of the total sample of 2,640 charges filed in the year at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2023 calendar year in the Westmoreland Parish Court included assault occasioning bodily harm, threat, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property, and possession of offensive weapon.

**Table 1.09.12: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	358	12.86
Unlawful wounding	217	7.80
Smoking in a Public Place	211	7.58
Possession of offensive Weapon	169	6.07
Malicious destruction of property	166	5.96
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1121</b>	<b>40.28</b>

**Number of observations sampled (N): 2783**

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the 2024 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 358 or 12.86% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 217 or 7.80% and smoking in a public place with 211 or 7.58% followed this. The top five is rounded off by and possession of offensive weapon with 169 or 6.07% and malicious destruction of property with 166 or 5.96%. The charges quoted above account for an estimated 40.28% of the sample of 2,783 charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the year. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2023 calendar year in the Clarendon Parish Court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, threat, malicious destruction of property and possession of offensive Weapon.

**Table 1.09.13: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Littering	907	10.10
Assault occasioning bodily harm	863	9.61
Unlawful wounding	616	6.86
Possession of offensive weapon	353	3.93
Disorderly conduct	345	3.84
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>3084</b>	<b>34.35</b>

**Number of observations sampled (N): 8977**

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division for the 2024 calendar year. It is shown that littering with 907 or 10.10% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 863 or 9.61% and unlawful wounding with 616 or 6.86% followed this. The top five is rounded off by possession of an offensive weapon with 353 or 3.93% and disorderly conduct with 345 or 3.84% of the charges. The five charges quoted above

accounts for an estimated 34.35% of the total sample of 8,977 charges at filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court –Criminal Division in the year. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the 2023 calendar year in the Corporate Area Parish Court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property, littering and possession of an offensive weapon.

**Table 1.10: Conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Type of case	Number of disposed matters	Number of guilty verdicts	Number of guilty pleas	Aggregate number of guilty outcomes	Estimated conviction rate (%)
Summary	7494	851	3587	4438	59.22
Indictment	14513	408	2035	2443	16.83

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard across all Parish Courts in the 2024 calendar year. Summary matters heard in the year include charges such as possession of an offensive weapon, possession of ganja, exposing goods for sale and dealing in ganja. The estimated conviction rate for the year for summary matters was 59.22%, which is 3.45 percentage points below the conviction rate of 62.67% recorded for the corresponding 2023 calendar year. The estimated conviction rate for indictment matters was significantly lower at 16.83% for the year, a rate which is approximately 2.95 percentage points below the 19.78% recorded in the 2023 calendar year. Indictment matters heard in the year included charges such as assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property and simple larceny.

**Table 1.11: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges across the Parish Courts for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Charge	Frequency	Percentage
Assault occasioning bodily harm	4185	12.12
Unlawful wounding	2814	8.15
Malicious destruction of property	1761	5.10
Possession of offensive weapon	1694	4.91
Threat	1672	4.84
Littering	1057	3.06
Disorderly conduct	1022	2.96
Simple larceny	784	2.27
Possession of ganja	774	2.24
Exposing goods for sale	749	2.17
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>16512</b>	<b>47.82</b>

**Number of observations sampled (N): 34530**

The above table shows the distribution of the ten most commonly occurring charges across all Parish Courts for the 2024 calendar year. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 4,185 or 12.12% of the total number of charges sampled is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 2,814 or 8.15% and malicious destruction of property with 1,761 or 5.10% followed this. The top five is rounded off by possession of an offensive weapon with 1,694 or 4.91% and threat with 1,672 or 4.84% of the total sample of charges filed in the year. These ten most frequently occurring types of charges account for approximately 47.82% of the total sample of charges filed in the year.

**Table 1.12: Conviction rate for leading occurring charges heard in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Type of Offence	Number of disposed matters	Number of guilty verdicts	Number of guilty pleas	Aggregate number of guilty outcomes	Estimated conviction rate (%)
Exposing goods for sale	645	183	376	559	86.67
Possession of offensive weapon	1478	255	1021	1276	86.33
Possession of ganja	781	169	441	610	78.10
Disorderly conduct	826	104	475	579	70.10
Littering	121	0	76	76	62.81
Simple larceny	732	19	115	134	18.31
Malicious destruction of property	1685	30	173	203	12.05
Unlawful wounding	2792	60	178	238	8.52
Assault occasioning bodily harm	4048	47	267	314	7.76
Threat	1705	29	91	120	7.04

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for the ten (10) leading charges across all Parish Courts in the 2024 calendar year. It is shown that exposing goods for sale had the highest estimated conviction rate on the list with 86.67%. Possession of offensive weapon with 86.33% and possession of ganja with 78.10% followed this. The top conviction rates on the list in the year is rounded off by disorderly conduct with an estimated conviction rate of 70.10% and littering with 62.81%. Exposing goods for sale recorded the highest estimated conviction rate in the corresponding 2023 calendar year with 91.31%, followed by possession of offensive weapon with an estimated conviction rate of 89.01%.

**Table 1.13: Sampling distribution of the average age of active charges for each Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average age of active charges (days)</b>
Clarendon	181
Trelawny	168
Portland	131
St. Mary	124
Hanover	110
Westmoreland	141
St. Catherine	140
St. Ann	119
St. James	86
St. Thomas	156
Corporate Area Criminal	151
Manchester	151
<b>Overall Average</b>	<b>138.17</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>26.14</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>-0.36</b>

The above table shows the average age of active charges originating in the 2024 calendar year, for charges originating in said year. The overall average age of active matters originating in the year was approximately 138 days or roughly 4.6 months, roughly 9 more days than the average recorded in the 2023 calendar year. The Parish Courts of St. James, Hanover and St. Ann have the lowest averages on the list. On the contrary, the highest averages were observed in the Parish Courts of Clarendon, Trelawny, St. Thomas, Corporate Area Criminal and Manchester. The standard deviation of the scores was, however, relatively low (26 days), an indication that the individual values for the Parish Courts were on average close to the overall mean. The negative skewness indicates that most of the individual times to disposition in the data set were clustered around the overall series average. There is an intuitive correlation between case clearance rates and the average age of cases in the long run, but it does not necessarily manifest empirically in

the short run. This means that in the long run, courts with higher clearance rates will in general have a lower case backlog and a lower average age of active cases. Courts which manage to maintain a case clearance rate of between 90% and 110% long enough will eventually eliminate their case backlog, a feat that is quite conceivable with improved case progression management in the respective courts. In such cases, the average time taken to dispose of cases will experience a natural decline, tapering off at a modest, tolerable rate, improving the efficiency of the courts and the enhancing the timely delivery of justice.

**Table 1.14: Average age of charges disposed for matters originating in the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average age of disposed charges (days)</b>
Clarendon	94
Trelawny	96
Portland	84
St. Mary	88
Hanover	59
Westmoreland	78
St. Catherine	88
St. Ann	85
St. James	81
St. Thomas	86
Corporate Area Criminal	94
Manchester	82
<b>Overall Average</b>	<b>84.58</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>9.77</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>-1.62</b>

The above table shows that the average time taken to dispose of criminal cases filed in the Parish Courts in the 2024 calendar year is approximately 85 days. This is roughly 7 more days than the time taken to dispose of cases originating in the 2023 calendar year. The standard deviation of

the scores was relatively low (10 days), an indication that the individual values for the Parish Courts were on average close to the overall mean. The negative skewness, however, indicates that proportionately more of the scores of the individual times to disposition in the data set were above the overall series average. The scores ranged from a low of roughly 59 days at the Hanover Parish Court to a high of 96 days for the Trelawny Parish Court.

**Table 1.15a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the year ended December 31, 2024**

Parishes	Time interval in days							Sample size (n)
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365 days-547 days	548 days-729 days	730 days and over	
Corporate Area Criminal	20786 (35.2%)	11299 (19.1%)	6688 (11.3%)	4759 (8.1%)	5687 (9.6%)	3527 (6.0%)	6334 (10.7%)	59080 (100%)
St. Catherine	7829 (32.9%)	5264 (22.1%)	3117 (13.1%)	1967 (8.3%)	2123 (8.9%)	1046 (4.4%)	2440 (10.3%)	23786 (100%)
St. James	6370 (37.2%)	3283 (19.1%)	1820 (10.6%)	1299 (7.6%)	1464 (8.5%)	750 (4.4%)	2159 (12.6%)	17145 (100%)
Manchester	3951 (28.6%)	2632 (19.0%)	1802 (13.0%)	1342 (9.7%)	1605 (11.6%)	997 (7.2%)	1503 (10.9%)	13832 (100%)
Westmoreland	6719 (55.9%)	2232 (18.6%)	1213 (10.1%)	665 (5.5%)	633 (5.3%)	264 (2.2%)	299 (2.5%)	12025 (100%)
St. Ann	3742 (27.5%)	2696 (19.8%)	1641 (12.1%)	1244 (9.1%)	1673 (12.3%)	918 (6.7%)	1702 (12.5%)	13616 (100%)
Clarendon	5863 (41.4%)	3321 (23.4%)	1711 (12.1%)	1031 (7.3%)	1180 (8.3%)	476 (3.4%)	581 (4.1%)	14163 (100%)
St. Thomas	2244 (29.8%)	1665 (22.1%)	986 (13.1%)	776 (10.3%)	774 (10.3%)	368 (4.9%)	705 (9.4%)	7518 (100%)
Portland	3404 (38.2%)	2216 (24.8%)	1030 (11.5%)	653 (7.3%)	710 (8.0%)	369 (4.1%)	540 (6.1%)	8922 (100%)
St. Mary	3985 (41.9%)	1907 (20.0%)	1235 (13.0%)	699 (7.3%)	662 (7.0%)	279 (2.9%)	749 (7.9%)	9516 (100%)
Trelawny	2438 (34.9%)	1283 (18.4%)	845 (12.1%)	595 (8.5%)	724 (10.4%)	388 (5.6%)	708 (10.1%)	6981 (100%)
Hanover	3464 (53.3%)	1396 (21.5%)	643 (9.9%)	365 (5.6%)	282 (4.3%)	150 (2.3%)	203 (3.1%)	6503 (100%)
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>36.66</b>	<b>20.30</b>	<b>11.77</b>	<b>7.97</b>	<b>9.07</b>	<b>4.94</b>	<b>9.28</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>5899.58</b>	<b>3266.17</b>	<b>1894.25</b>	<b>1282.92</b>	<b>1459.75</b>	<b>794.33</b>	<b>1493.58</b>	<b>16090.58</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>5007.68</b>	<b>2751.23</b>	<b>1643.83</b>	<b>1179.84</b>	<b>1437.65</b>	<b>913.55</b>	<b>1690.61</b>	<b>14406.12</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>2.75</b>	<b>2.63</b>	<b>2.62</b>	<b>2.68</b>	<b>2.64</b>	<b>2.81</b>	<b>2.43</b>	<b>2.81</b>

**Number of charges sampled (N) = 193,087**

**Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the previous 8.3 years**

The above table shows the breakdown of the times to disposition for matters filed in the respective Parish Courts for at least 100 consecutive months (8.3 years) over the period September 2016 to December 2024. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 36.66% of the disposals. The Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division along with the Parish Courts of St. Catherine, Westmoreland and St. James are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed within 90 days. This trend is broadly similar to that seen over the past 24 months. Cumulatively, 76.70% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year, a continued positive indicator of the potential effectiveness of the courts in sustaining overall productivity and realizing the objective of becoming the best in the Caribbean region in three years and among the best in the world in six years. From the data set, the Parish Courts of Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, St. Catherine and St. James had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 9.28% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The Parish Courts of Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, St. Catherine and St. James also had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than 2 years. The skewness of the times taken by the respective Parish Courts to dispose of matters in this sample range from weak positive to moderate positive, which is an indication that for disposed cases, the distributions of the times taken do not vary dramatically across the courts. The difference, however, is the proportion of cases disposed, relative to the caseload, which as shown earlier, indicates that some courts are performing much better.

**Table 1.15b: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition for matters completed in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Parishes	Time interval in days							Sample size (n)
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365 days-547 days	548 days-729 days	730 days and over	
Corporate Area Criminal	1383 (24.4%)	972 (17.1%)	673 (11.9%)	491 (8.7%)	637 (11.2%)	509 (9.0%)	1009 (17.8%)	5674 (100%)
St. Catherine	1102 (30.5%)	687 (19.0%)	463 (12.8%)	378 (10.5%)	375 (10.4%)	165 (4.6%)	447 (12.4%)	3617 (100%)
St. James	711 (45.7%)	372 (23.9%)	219 (14.1%)	53 (3.4%)	83 (5.3%)	65 (4.2%)	52 (3.3%)	1555 (100%)
Manchester	467 (51.0%)	215 (23.5%)	95 (10.4%)	49 (5.3%)	34 (3.7%)	22 (2.4%)	34 (3.7%)	916 (100%)
Westmoreland	606 (56.5%)	245 (22.8%)	87 (8.1%)	80 (7.5%)	38 (3.5%)	4 (0.4%)	13 (1.2%)	1073 (100%)
St. Ann	540 (35.6%)	338 (22.3%)	206 (13.6%)	92 (6.1%)	148 (9.7%)	36 (2.4%)	158 (10.4%)	1518 (100%)
Clarendon	610 (37.3%)	478 (29.2%)	222 (13.6%)	105 (6.4%)	71 (4.3%)	57 (3.5%)	92 (5.6%)	1635 (100%)
St. Thomas	266 (39.5%)	164 (24.3%)	117 (17.4%)	29 (4.3%)	57 (8.5%)	18 (2.7%)	23 (3.4%)	674 (100%)
Portland	414 (42.9%)	245 (25.4%)	102 (10.6%)	41 (4.3%)	68 (7.1%)	27 (2.8%)	67 (7.0%)	964 (100%)
St. Mary	465 (29.6%)	275 (17.5%)	225 (14.3%)	122 (7.8%)	76 (4.8%)	21 (1.3%)	389 (24.7%)	1573 (100%)
Trelawny	272 (33.5%)	164 (20.2%)	130 (16.0%)	56 (6.9%)	95 (11.7%)	28 (3.4%)	68 (8.4%)	813 (100%)
Hanover	410 (62.0%)	127 (19.2%)	68 (10.3%)	23 (3.5%)	15 (2.3%)	0 (0%)	18 (2.7%)	661 (100%)
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>35.05</b>	<b>20.71</b>	<b>12.61</b>	<b>7.35</b>	<b>8.21</b>	<b>4.61</b>	<b>11.46</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>603.83</b>	<b>356.83</b>	<b>217.25</b>	<b>126.58</b>	<b>141.42</b>	<b>79.33</b>	<b>197.50</b>	<b>1722.75</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>331.21</b>	<b>248.95</b>	<b>179.25</b>	<b>148.89</b>	<b>182.34</b>	<b>142.17</b>	<b>293.65</b>	<b>1477.23</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.51</b>	<b>1.68</b>	<b>1.87</b>	<b>1.99</b>	<b>2.31</b>	<b>2.96</b>	<b>2.27</b>	<b>2.17</b>

**Number of charges sampled (N) = 20673**

The table above shows the breakdown of the time disposition for matters disposed Parish Courts in the year ended December 31, 2024. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly

35.05% of the disposals. The Corporate Area Court -Criminal Division along with the Parish Courts of St. Catherine, St. James and Clarendon are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days. Cumulatively, 75.72% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year, a positive indicator of the potential effectiveness of the courts in increasing overall productivity and realizing the objective of becoming the best in the Caribbean region in three years and among the best in the world in six years. From the data set, the Parish Courts of Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, St. Catherine and St. Mary had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 11.46% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The Parish Courts of Corporate Area-Criminal Division, St. Catherine, and St. Mary had the largest proportion of their disposed matters in the year taking more than 2 years. The skewness of the times taken by the respective Parish Courts to dispose of matters in this sample range from weak positive to moderate positive, which is an indication that for disposed cases, the distributions of the time taken do not vary dramatically across the courts. The difference, however, is the proportion of cases disposed of, relative to the caseload, which as shown earlier, indicates that some courts are performing much better.

**Table 1.16a: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at the year ended December 31, 2024**

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Criminal	295.66	1	153	377.01	2.55	1	3278	59080
St. Catherine	301.56	28	154	426.76	3.37	1	7091	23786
St. James	417.54	66	142	988.61	6.56	1	17100	17145
Manchester	313.51	63	189	353.26	3.16	1	9044	13832
Westmoreland	145.23	28	74	192.07	3.01	1	2555	12025
St. Ann	339.92	28	195	413.73	3.17	1	8875	13616
Clarendon	198.65	63	113	246.92	3.39	1	3824	14163
St. Thomas	281.99	63	168	325.66	2.51	1	3469	7518
Portland	239.53	63	124	342.43	3.47	1	2877	8922
St. Mary	260.92	14	119	436.95	3.93	1	5684	9516
Trelawny	288.01	28	156	346.01	2.16	1	2585	6981
Hanover	157.60	35	77	258.71	9.98	1	9333	6503
<b>Average/Weighted Average</b>	<b>285.36</b>	<b>40.00</b>	<b>138.67</b>	<b>392.34</b>	<b>3.94</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>6309.58</b>	<b>16090.58</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>76.86</b>	<b>22.54</b>	<b>38.81</b>	<b>202.06</b>	<b>2.20</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4304.59</b>	<b>14406.12</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>-0.02</b>	<b>-0.17</b>	<b>-0.35</b>	<b>2.62</b>	<b>2.30</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1.52</b>	<b>2.81</b>

**Number of charges sampled (N) = 193,087**

**Note 1: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the previous 8.3 years.**

**Note 2: The average time to disposition for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann as at the year ended December 31, 2024 is 391.26 days**

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a large sample of matters disposed for each Parish Court as at December 31, 2028. For each Parish Court, the estimates cover case activity for at least an 100-month period over September 2016 – December 2024 for most Parish Courts and it should be noted that these descriptive statistics are for matters disposed over that sample period. The output produces an estimated weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in

the Parish Courts (Criminal Division) of approximately 285 days (9.5 months). The skewness of these times to disposition is a low negative 0.02, suggesting a cluster of scores around the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the period, the Parish Courts of Westmoreland (145 days), Hanover (158 days) and Clarendon (199 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The Parish Courts of St. James (418 days), St. Ann (340 days) and Manchester (314 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters disposed over the period. The average variation among the times to disposition across the Parish Courts is, however, wide as shown by the moderately high standard deviation (76.86), suggesting inconsistencies in performances on this measure. An interesting finding is that the minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all Parish Courts was 1 day; however, the maximum times are substantially larger, in some cases several years. This result continues to be both a reflection of the relative complexity of cases entering open court over the period as well as the relative strength of case management across the various Parish Courts. The maximum times to disposition in the sample ranged from a low of 2,555 days (85.2 months/7.1 years) in the Westmoreland Parish Court to a high of 17,100 days (570 months/47.5 years) in the St. James Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a positive 1.52, which is an indication that most of the maximum times to disposition were below the overall series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial 193,087 matters.

**Table 1.16b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for matters completed in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Criminal	405.57	559	241	455.25	2.21	1	3094	5674
St. Catherine	345.41	2162	187	457.46	2.50	1	2680	3617
St. James	182.14	28	97	266.69	4.63	1	2945	1555
Manchester	177.52	28	84	301.58	4.35	1	2080	916
Westmoreland	122.34	28	72	169.63	6.12	1	2555	1073
St. Ann	295.69	28	135	468.81	3.53	1	2903	1518
Clarendon	209.59	63	123	278.29	3.44	1	2985	1635
St. Thomas	199.88	78	119	268.70	4.51	5	2686	674
Portland	236.52	42	112	382.41	3.72	1	2590	964
St. Mary	646.20	49	203	894.13	1.38	2	3304	1573
Trelawny	284.83	28	159	386.05	2.84	1	2585	813
Hanover	121.86	28	63	194.11	4.21	1	1232	661
<b>Average/Weighted Average</b>	<b>319.77</b>	<b>260.08</b>	<b>132.92</b>	<b>376.93</b>	<b>3.62</b>	<b>1.42</b>	<b>2636.58</b>	<b>1722.75</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>146.53</b>	<b>617.47</b>	<b>54.95</b>	<b>191.72</b>	<b>1.27</b>	<b>1.16</b>	<b>542.77</b>	<b>1477.23</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.68</b>	<b>3.15</b>	<b>0.68</b>	<b>1.87</b>	<b>0.11</b>	<b>3.14</b>	<b>-1.68</b>	<b>2.17</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 20673*

*Note: The average time to disposition for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann in the year ended December 31, 2024 is 436.45 days*

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each Parish Court in the year ended December 31, 2024. The output produces an estimated weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the Parish Courts (Criminal Division) of approximately 320 days or 10.7 months. The skewness of these times to disposition is a positive 1.68, suggesting that a large proportion of these times were below the overall mean. For matters disposed of in

the year, the Parish Courts of Hanover (122 days), Westmoreland (122 days) and Manchester (178 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases in the year. The Parish Courts of St. Mary (646 days), Corporate Area Criminal (406 days) and St. Catherine (345 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters resolved during the year. The average variation among the times to disposition across the Parish Courts is, however, wide as shown by the moderately high standard deviation (147), suggesting inconsistencies in performances on this measure. The average minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all Parish Courts was 1.42 days; however, the maximum times are substantially larger, in some cases several years. This result continues to be both a reflection of the relative complexity of cases entering open court over the period as well as the relative strength of case management across the various Parish Courts. The maximum times to disposition in the sample ranged from a low of 1,232 days (41.1 months/3.4 years) in the Hanover Parish Court to a high of 3,304 days (110.1 months/9.2 years) in the St. Mary Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a negative 1.68 which is an indication that proportionately more of the maximum times to disposition were above the overall series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial 20,673 matters cases which were resolved during the 2024 calendar year.

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Net case backlog rate (%)</b>	<b>Gross case backlog rate (%)</b>
Clarendon	0.41	11.53
Corporate area	4.22	24.55
Hanover	0.08	4.29
Manchester	2.49	16.30
Portland	1.34	8.50
St. Ann	2.79	24.90
St. Catherine	0.23	10.89
St. Elizabeth	4.07	12.57
St. James	0.71	12.78
St. Mary	0.44	5.87
St. Thomas	2.23	9.77
Trelawny	0.98	10.61
Westmoreland	0.05	7.88
<b>Weighted Average</b>	<b>2.24</b>	<b>16.51</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>1.48</b>	<b>6.30</b>

**Table 1.16c: Net and gross criminal case backlog as at the year ended December 31, 2024 for cases over 24 months**

*Note: The net backlog for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for 2024 is 9.59% and the gross backlog is 30.83%.*

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

under 10% is desirable, while an estimated net case backlog rate of under 5% is prescribed. The results revealed are quite outstanding, revealing a net case backlog rate for cases over 24 months old (weighted average) in the criminal division of the Parish Courts is 2.24% (with a standard deviation of 1.48%) which is satisfies than the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at 16.51% (with a standard deviation of 6.30%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved criminal cases in the Parish Courts. This rate is 6.30 percentage points higher than the prescribed rate of 10% but seemingly has the potential to meet this standard relatively soon with the application of more aggressive case management practices and reduction in the incidence of delays in the criminal courts. The sample set is large and representative of the current direction of the court system. The Parish Courts of Westmoreland with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.05%, Hanover with 0.08% and St. Catherine with an estimated net case backlog rate of 0.23% have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the Parish Courts Corporate Area Criminal (4.22%), St. Elizabeth (4.07%) and St. Ann (2.79%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the Parish Courts of Hanover (4.29%), St. Mary (5.87%) and Westmoreland (7.88%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the Parish Courts of St. Ann (24.90%), Corporate Area Criminal Court (24.55%) and Manchester (16.30%) have the highest rates. Taken together, these are quite impressive returns for the criminal court system in Jamaica and augur well for future prospects.

**Table 1.16d: Net and gross criminal case backlog as at the year ended December 31, 2024 for**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Net case backlog rate (%)</b>	<b>Gross case backlog rate (%)</b>
Clarendon	0.47	11.77
Corporate area	4.34	25.28
Hanover	0.09	4.34
Manchester	2.87	16.91
Portland	1.46	8.91
St. Ann	2.98	25.90
St. Catherine	0.34	11.35
St. Elizabeth	4.86	13.75
St. James	0.74	12.97
St. Mary	0.50	5.96
St. Thomas	2.30	9.99
Trelawny	1.23	11.11
Westmoreland	0.07	8.07
<b>Weighted Average</b>	<b>2.38</b>	<b>17.06</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>1.62</b>	<b>6.55</b>

**cases over 20 months**

**Note: The net backlog for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for 2024 is 10.20% and the gross backlog is 32.25%.**

The net and gross case backlog rates provide one of the most decisive indicators of court performance as they are strongly influenced by most of the other critical court performance metrics such as the case clearance, case disposal, trial and hearing date certainty rates and are also directly correlated with the case congestion rate.

The Honourable Chief Justice of Jamaica has established<sup>1</sup> that 20 months is considered the maximum time that any criminal case should take to be disposed, regardless of complexity dynamics. Hence, any unresolved criminal case that is over 20 months old is considered to be in a state of backlog.

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<sup>1</sup> Effective December 1, 2023

Table 1.16d presents the estimated gross case backlog rate; a measurement of the proportion of cases filed for a given period (of over 20 months) which are either active or inactive (i.e. are unresolved) and are over 20 months old at the date of reporting. The closely related estimated net case backlog rate is the proportion of all cases filed for a given period (of over twenty months) which are still active and exceeding twenty months old at the time of reporting. The estimated net case backlog rate therefore excludes inactive cases which are unresolved. Based on international best practices an estimated gross case backlog rate of under 10% is desirable, while an estimated net case backlog rate of under 5% is prescribed. The results revealed are quite outstanding, revealing a net case backlog rate for cases over 20 months old (weighted average) in the criminal division of the Parish Courts is 2.38% (with a standard deviation of 1.62%) which is satisfies than the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at 17.06% (with a standard deviation of 6.55%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved criminal cases in the Parish Courts. This rate is 7.06 percentage points higher than the prescribed rate of 10% but seemingly has the potential to meet this standard relatively soon with the application of more aggressive case management practices and reduction in the incidence of delays in the criminal courts. The sample set is large and representative of the current direction of the court system. The Parish Courts of Westmoreland with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.07%, Hanover with 0.09% and St. Catherine with an estimated net case backlog rate of 0.34% have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the Parish Courts St. Elizabeth (4.86%), Corporate Area Criminal (4.34%) and St. Ann (2.98%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the Parish Courts of Hanover (4.34%), St.

Mary (5.96%) and Westmoreland (8.07%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the Parish Courts of St. Ann (25.90%), Corporate Area Criminal Court (25.28%) and Manchester (16.91%) have the highest rates. Taken together, these are quite impressive returns for the criminal court system in Jamaica and augur well for future prospects.

**Table 1.17: Distribution of methods of disposition for matters set for trial during the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Methods of Disposition</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Dismissed	1405	30.62
Not guilty	1396	30.42
Guilty Plea	754	16.43
Not Guilty Plea - Mediated Settlement	475	10.35
Guilty	280	6.10
Committed to Circuit	215	4.69
Transferred	64	1.39
<b>Total</b>	<b>4589</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the common methods of disposition for a sample of cases proceeding to trial. It is seen that matters dismissed with 30.62% of the cases disposed, not guilty verdicts with 1,396 or 30.42% and disposals by way of guilty pleas with 16.43% account for the three leading methods of disposition in the sample for the year ended December 31, 2024.

## Methods of Disposal and Conviction Rate

**Table 1.18: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Parish Court	Guilty Plea	Dismissed	Not Guilty Verdict	Transferred	Mediated Settlement	Guilty Verdict	Committed to Circuit Court	Total
St. Catherine	1055	1354	185	701	1512	45	545	5397
Corporate Area Criminal	2789	2137	1644	278	387	31	432	7698
Westmoreland	595	290	378	57	371	7	183	1881
St. James	242	6	1046	57	9	896	406	2662
Manchester	2	213	226	20	234	479	199	1373
Clarendon	1165	184	236	53	406	15	391	2450
Trelawny	254	417	208	3	51	13	161	1107
Hanover	204	65	336	34	160	39	190	1028
Portland	132	-	344	-	58	33	174	741
St. Mary	3	706	345	-	82	238	472	1846
St. Thomas	212	9	157	102	179	28	111	798
St. Ann	444	24	317	318	128	29	26	1286
St. Elizabeth	309	417	25	12	384	23	25	1195
<b>Total</b>	<b>7406</b>	<b>5822</b>	<b>5447</b>	<b>1635</b>	<b>3961</b>	<b>1876</b>	<b>3315</b>	<b>29462</b>
<b>Percentage of total</b>	<b>25.14</b>	<b>19.76</b>	<b>18.49</b>	<b>5.55</b>	<b>13.44</b>	<b>6.37</b>	<b>11.25</b>	<b>-</b>

**Total sample size: 29,462**

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all Parish Courts for the 2024 calendar. From the sample, it is observed that the largest proportion of matters disposed of during the year were by way of a guilty plea with 25.14% of the sample, followed by matters dismissed with 19.76% and not guilty verdicts with 18.49%. Mediated settlements with 13.44%, matters committed to Circuit Court with 11.25%, guilty verdicts with 6.37% and matters transferred to another court with 5.55% account for the remaining disposals in the year. The combined 31.51% of the cases disposed of by way of guilty outcomes represent

the estimated criminal conviction rate in the Parish Courts for the year. This represents a decline of 3 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in 2023.

### Common Reasons for Adjournment

**Table 1.19.01: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Reasons for Adjournment	Count	Percentage (%)
Defendant Not Appearing (DNA) warrant issued	4199	22.66
File to be completed	1732	9.35
Disclosure	1401	7.56
Referred to Mediation	968	5.22
Adjournment request - crown	725	3.91
Re-issue application	515	2.78
Facilitate restitution	351	1.89
Medical report unavailable	301	1.62
Psychiatric evaluation to be done	269	1.45
Subpoena investigating officer	247	1.33
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>10708</b>	<b>57.79</b>

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 18,529)

**Note: DNA means that the accused ‘did not appear’**

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

The above table is derived using a sample of 18,529 reasons for adjournments/continuance for matters heard in the across all Parish Courts. The largest proportion (22.66%) adjournments due to the nonappearance of the accused, leading to the issuing of warrants. Adjournments for files to be completed with 9.35% and adjournments for disclosure with 7.56% account for the top three reasons for adjournment across the Parish Courts for the year. Adjournments due to referrals to mediation with 5.22% and adjournments at the request of the crown with 3.91%, round of the top five reasons for adjournment in this period. Four (4) of the top five reasons for

adjournment were also featured in the top five for the 2024 calendar year. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 57.79% 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 2024 calendar year, the case file integrity rate for criminal matters across the Parish Courts was 89.74%, as 10.26% of the total incidence of adjournments was due to the indicated factors, which impair the case file integrity rate. Of these factors, file to be completed accounts for 9.35% of the total incidence of adjournments/continuance and is the greatest contributor, adversely affecting the case file integrity rate. This rate is below the prescribed international standard of 98%-100%. This is an area in which major operational interventions need to be undertaken across the Parish Courts to improve the availability, completeness, accuracy and correct scheduling of case files for court.

**Table 1.19.02: Summary of case management date activity for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Parish Court	Average number of mentions per case	Standard Deviation of Mentions Per Case	Skewness of mentions per case	Maximum Mention Court Frequency	Minimum Mention Court Frequency
Clarendon	3.50	2.97	2.45	29	1
Corporate Area	6.70	8.88	3.01	96	1
Hanover	2.13	1.60	2.51	11	1
Manchester	2.69	2.32	4.04	33	1
Portland	4.56	4.29	2.14	28	1
St. Ann	3.50	3.61	3.08	31	1
St. Catherine	4.17	3.60	1.89	40	1
St. James	1.89	1.30	2.46	17	1
St. Mary	3.95	3.10	1.58	23	1
St. Thomas	3.18	3.55	5.39	40	1
Trelawny	3.49	2.73	2.32	26	1
Westmoreland	4.47	5.78	3.35	40	1
<b>Weighted Average</b>	<b>4.89</b>	-	-	<b>34.50</b>	<b>1.00</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>1.27</b>	-	-	<b>21.37</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.95</b>	-	-	<b>2.37</b>	<b>0.00</b>

The above table summarises the number of case management dates per case leading towards disposition in the criminal division of the Parish Courts for matters heard in the 2024 calendar year. The overall average number of case management dates per case is 4.89 (i.e. between 4 and 5) with a standard deviation of 1.27 across the courts sampled and a skewness of 0.95. Together, these results suggest that the average number of appearances per case is below the prescribed international standard of a maximum of 5 mentions per case, that a larger proportion of cases have less than the overall average number of case management dates and that there isn't on average a wide variation in the number of case management dates per case across the courts. Among the Parish Courts with the highest number of case management dates per cases for matters heard in the 2024 calendar year are the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division,

the Portland and the Westmoreland Parish Courts, while the St. James, Hanover and Manchester Parish Courts were among those with the lowest case management dates per case. In terms of cases disposed, the average case management dates for all cases resolved across all the Parish Courts combined in the 2024 calendar year was 3.84 with a standard deviation of 0.91.

## Chapter 2.0: Case Demographics and Courtroom Activity

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

**Table 2.01: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Charge	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
	Count		Count		Count	
Assault occasioning bodily harm	2954	74.78	996	25.22	3950	100
Unlawful wounding	2022	77.06	602	22.94	2624	100
Malicious destruction of property	1301	77.95	368	22.05	1669	100
Possession of offensive weapon	1504	94.00	96	6.00	1600	100
Threat	1282	77.32	376	22.68	1658	100
Littering	983	95.72	44	4.28	1027	100
Disorderly conduct	721	71.25	291	28.75	1012	100
Simple larceny	514	67.81	244	32.19	758	100
Possession of ganja	553	76.91	166	23.09	719	100
Exposing goods for sale	541	72.52	205	27.48	746	100

**\*\*\*The gender of offenders was not available for every matter that was filed in the Parish Courts hence a sample is used. Sample size (N) = 33,167**

The above table provides a sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender in the year ended December 31, 2024. Based on the data shown in chart 2.02, it is not surprising that males account for the dominant proportion of all these charges. Among the charges listed with the greatest imbalance in the gender distribution are possession of Ganja, unlawful wounding, threat and malicious destruction of property for which over 75% of the

persons charged were male. More particularly, it is seen that possession of an offensive weapon with 94% and littering with 95.72% of the persons charged being male had the most significant incidence of persons charged being male for the year. Simple larceny, disorderly conduct and exposing goods for sale saw the highest incidence of female involvement.

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

**Table 2.02.01: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Westmoreland for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in 2024	Number of inactive cases in 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	1252	799	120	71.18	73.40
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	9	1	0	0.51	11.11
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	5	2	0	0.28	40.00
Night Court (main Courthouse)	1	1	0	0.06	100.00
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	128	68	29	7.28	75.78
Whithorn Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	27	17	2	1.53	70.37
Whithorn Outstation	337	243	32	19.16	81.60
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>1759</b>	<b>1131</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>74.70</b>

*Note 1: There were 2 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.*

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of criminal cases filed in the 2024 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and

outstations in the parish and outlines the applicable disposal rates. The table separates Lay Magistrates' and night court cases heard in each of the relevant locations for ease of comparison. The data shows decisively that cases entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse and sittings at the Whithorn Outstation account for the highest share of new cases heard in the year with 1,252 (71.18%) and 337 (19.16%) cases respectively. Sittings at the Lay Magistrates' court at the main courthouse with 128 cases or 7.28% rank next. The number of cases heard in courtroom one (1,252 cases), increased by 234 cases or 22.99% above the 1,018 cases recorded in the similar 2023 calendar year. The case disposal rate decreased by 13.44 percentage points moving down to 73.40% compared to the 86.84% reported in the 2023 calendar year. In terms of cases disposed of, sittings in courtroom number 1 with 799 cases accounted for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of and had the fourth highest disposal rate of 73.40%. The outstation in Whithorn rank next with 243 disposed cases and recorded the second highest disposal rate of 81.60%, which is 6.90 percentage points below the 88.50% recorded in the corresponding 2023 calendar year. The single outstation in Westmoreland accounted for 20.69% of the total sample of new cases heard, an increase of 4.52 percentage points when compared to the 16.17% recorded in the corresponding 2023 calendar year. The main courthouse accounted for the remaining 79.31%, a decrease of 4.52 percentage points when compared to the 83.83% recorded in 2023.

**Table 2.02.02: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Corporate Area for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2024</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2024</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2024</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	3	0	0	0.06	0.00
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	4177	2172	1195	84.62	80.61
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	1	1	0	0.02	100.00
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	1	0	0	0.02	0.00
Courtroom #6 (main courthouse)	163	30	8	3.30	23.31
Courtroom #7 (main courthouse)	138	18	10	2.80	20.29
Drug Court	1	1	0	0.02	100.00
Fast Track	1	1	0	0.02	100.00
Gordon Town Outstation	62	42	4	1.26	74.19
Gun Court (main courthouse)	104	18	0	2.11	17.31
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	283	203	42	5.73	86.57
Plea and Case Management	2	0	0	0.04	0.00
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>4936</b>	<b>2486</b>	<b>1259</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>75.87</b>

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the year ended December 31, 2024 at the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for the majority of new cases filed in the year with 4,177 cases or 84.62% of the total sample. Lay Magistrates’ sittings at the main courthouse with 283 cases or roughly 5.73% follows this and courtroom number 6 with 163 cases or 3.30%, rounding off the top three proportion of new cases filed in the year. Courtroom number two at the main courthouse accounts for the largest absolute share of cases disposed of in the 2024 calendar year with 2,172 cases and the fifth highest disposal rate of 80.61%. When compared to the corresponding 2023 calendar year, courtroom number two also

accounted for the largest absolute share of cases disposed of with 1,758 cases and had a disposal rate of 74.72%. This represents an increase of 414 cases disposed of or a 23.55% increase and 5.89 percentage points increase in the disposal rate. The main courthouse in Half-Way-Tree accounted for 98.74% of the total sample of new cases heard in the 2024 calendar year, while the Gordon Outstation accounted for 1.26%.

**Table 2.02.03: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. James for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2024</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2024</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2024</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	1	1	0	0.05	100.00
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1747	1393	123	93.82	86.78
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	63	56	4	3.38	95.24
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	2	2	0	0.11	100.00
Cambridge (outstation)	49	42	3	2.63	91.84
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>1862</b>	<b>1494</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>97.31</b>	<b>87.22</b>

*Note 1: There were 11 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.*

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the year ended December 31, 2024, at the St. James Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish and outlines the disposal rates of the various courtrooms and outstations. The sample shows that courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse in Montego Bay accounts for the majority of new cases heard with 1,747 cases or 93.82% of the total sample, an increase of 12 cases or an 0.69% improvement above the 1,735 cases recorded in the

corresponding 2023 calendar year. This was followed by the courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse with 63 cases or 3.38% of the total sample. Courtroom number 4 and 1 at the main courthouse had the highest disposal rate of 100% each, despite their relatively low numbers, followed by the courtroom number 3 with a disposal rate of 95.24%. The main courthouse in Montego Bay accounts for 97.37% of the new cases heard in the 2024 calendar year, 4.37 percentage points above the 93% recorded in corresponding 2023 calendar year. The remaining 2.63% was accounted for by the sole outstation (Cambridge).

**Table 2.02.04: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Catherine for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2024</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2024</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2024</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	1589	1076	122	57.82	75.39
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	197	131	20	7.17	76.65
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	6	4	0	0.22	66.67
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	7	5	0	0.25	71.43
Courtroom #5 (main courthouse)	2	1	0	0.07	50.00
Courtroom #6 (main courthouse)	2	1	0	0.07	50.00
Children's Court (main courthouse)	97	36	5	3.53	42.27
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	124	81	17	4.51	79.03
Linstead Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	35	26	6	1.27	91.43
Linstead Outstation (courtroom #1)	397	336	17	14.45	88.92
Linstead Outstation (courtroom #2)	2	2	0	0.07	100.00
Old Harbour Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	12	8	3	0.44	91.67
Old Harbour Outstation (courtroom #1)	278	191	42	10.12	83.81
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>2748</b>	<b>1898</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>77.51</b>

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the year ended December 31, 2024 at the St. Catherine Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish and outlines the applicable disposal rates. The table separates Lay Magistrates' and night court matters for the relevant locations for ease of comparisons. The data shows decisively that cases entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse in Spanish Town and courtroom 1 at the outstation in Linstead account for the largest share of new cases heard in the year with 57.82% and 14.45% of the cases respectively. Courtroom 1 at the outstation in Old Harbour with 10.12% of new cases filed ranks next. In terms of cases disposed

of, courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 1,076 cases, which is an increase of 8.69% or 86 more cases than the 990 cases recorded in the corresponding 2023 calendar year. Courtroom 1 also had the eighth highest disposal rate of 75.39%, which is an increase of 2.39 percentage points above the 73% recorded in the comparable 2023 calendar year. Sittings at courtroom 2 at outstation in Linstead had the highest disposal rate of 100%, followed by Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Old Harbour Outstation with a disposal rate of 91.67% and Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Linstead Outstation with a disposal rate of 91.43%. The main courthouse in Spanish Town accounts for 73.64% of the total sample of new cases heard in the 2024 calendar year, an increase of 11.63 percentage points above the 62.01% recorded in the corresponding 2023 calendar year. The outstations combined accounted for the remaining 26.36%.

**Table 2.02.05: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Thomas for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2024</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2024</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2024</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Children's Court (main courthouse)	29	3	1	4.92	13.79
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	224	140	4	38.03	64.29
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	201	103	12	34.13	57.21
Yallahs Outstation	126	47	3	21.39	39.68
Yallahs Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	9	1	5	1.53	66.67
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>54.16</b>

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the year ended December 31, 2024 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The data shows decisively that cases entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse and courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse account for the highest share of new cases heard in the year with 38.03% and 34.13% respectively. Courtroom number 1 also accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 140 cases and the second highest disposal rate of 64.29%. When compared to the corresponding 2023 calendar year, this represents a decrease of 17.81 percentage points below the disposal rate of 82.10% recorded. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Yallahs Outstation with a disposal rate of 66.67% (compared to 33.33% in 2023) accounts for the highest disposal rate in the year. The main courthouse in Morant Bay accounted for 77.08% of the total new cases heard in the year, which is an increase of 6.50 percentage points when compared to the 70.58% recorded in the corresponding 2023 calendar year. The remaining 22.92% was accounted for by

the Yallahs outstation, a decrease of 6.50 percentage points when compared to the 29.42% recorded in the corresponding 2023 calendar year.

**Table 2.02.06: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Trelawny for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2024</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2024</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2024</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	25	13	0	3.16	52.00
Clarks town Outstation (Petty session)	9	3	3	1.14	66.67
Falmouth Outstation	224	140	15	28.32	69.20
Falmouth Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	22	14	4	2.78	81.82
Ulster Spring Outstation	142	76	11	17.95	61.27
Ulster Spring Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	9	7	1	1.14	88.89
Clarks Town Outstation (courtroom #1)	356	208	24	45.01	65.17
Clarks Town Outstation (courtroom #1)	4	0	0	0.51	NA
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>65.61</b>

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the year ended December 31, 2024 at the Trelawny Parish Court. The data shows decisively that cases entered in courtroom 1 at the Clarks Town Outstation accounts for the highest proportion of new cases heard in the year with 45.01% of the sample. The Falmouth Town Outstation and the Ulster Spring Outstation with 28.32% and 17.95% respectively, followed. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Ulster Spring Outstation recorded the highest disposal rate of 88.89%, but had a relatively low number of cases, followed by Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Falmouth outstation and the Falmouth outstation with disposal rates of 81.82% and 69.20% respectively. The outstations in the parish account for 96.84% of the new cases heard in the 2024 calendar year, while the remaining 3.16% were accounted for by the main courthouse. In the corresponding 2023

calendar year, the main courthouse accounted for 3.36% of the new cases heard, while the remaining 96.64% were accounted for by the outstations.

**Table 2.02.07: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Mary for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2024</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2024</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2024</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Annotto Bay Outstation	102	84	1	14.21	83.33
Annotto Bay Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	6	4	0	0.84	66.67
Children's Court (main courthouse)	29	16	1	4.04	58.62
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	385	286	12	53.62	77.40
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	3	2	0	0.42	66.67
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	5	3	0	0.70	60.00
Gayle Outstation	30	27	0	4.18	90.00
Lay Magistrates' (Main Courthouse)	79	63	1	11.00	81.01
Richmond Outstation	72	55	1	10.03	77.78
Richmond Outstation (Petty Session)	7	5	0	0.97	71.43
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>78.13</b>

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Mary in the 2024 calendar year. The data shows decisively that courtrooms number 1 at the main courthouse and the Annotto Bay Outstation account for the highest share of new cases heard in the year, with 53.62% and 14.21% respectively of the total sample. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse with 11% and sittings at the Richmond Outstation with 10.03% rank next. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 in Port Maria accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 286 cases, roughly 48 more cases or a 20.17% improvement when compared to the corresponding 2023 calendar year and had a case disposal rate of 77.40%. The Gayle outstation

had the highest disposal rate of 90%, followed by the Annotto Bay Outstation with a disposal rate of 83.33%. The outstations in the parish account for a combined 30.23% of the total sample of new cases heard in the 2024 calendar year, a decrease of 7.42 percentage points below the 37.65% recorded in the corresponding 2023 calendar year. On the other hand, the main courthouse accounts for 69.77%, which is an increase of 7.42 percentage point above the 62.35% recorded in 2023.

**Table 2.02.08: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Portland for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in 2024	Number of inactive cases in 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	450	289	37	62.41	72.44
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	11	6	0	1.53	54.55
Courtroom#3 (main courthouse)	4	2	0	0.55	50.00
Buff Bay Outstation (Courtroom #1)	132	89	4	18.31	70.45
Buff Bay Outstation (Courtroom #2)	2	1	0	0.28	50.00
Children’s Court (main courthouse)	19	9	1	2.64	52.63
Manchioneal Outstation	103	68	6	14.29	71.84
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>71.01</b>

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

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Portland in the 2024 calendar year. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 at the main court in Port Antonio accounts for the majority of new cases heard in the period, with 62.41% of the total sample. In the 2023 calendar year, courtroom one also accounted for the majority of new cases heard with 55.87% of the

sample of cases. Courtroom number 1 at the outstation in Buff Bay and Manchioneal outstation with 18.31% (compared to 23.88% in 2023) and 14.29% (compared to 11.17% in 2023) respectively of the total sample of the new cases heard in the period ranked next. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 in Port Antonio accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 289 cases, a 0.69% decline or 2 less cases compared to the 291 cases recorded in the corresponding 2023 calendar year; and had the highest disposal rate of 72.44%. The Manchioneal Outstation and courtroom number one at the Buff Bay Outstation with disposal rates of 71.84% and 70.45% respectively ranked second and third on this measure. The outstations in Portland account for a combined 32.88% of the new cases heard, which is a decrease of 8.32 percentage points below the 41.20% recorded in the corresponding 2023 calendar year. The main courthouse in Port Antonio accounts for the remaining 67.12%, which is an increase of 8.32 percentage above the 58.80% recorded in the 2023 calendar year.

**Table 2.02.09: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Hanover for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2024</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2024</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2024</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	197	179	2	29.80	91.88
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	98	82	0	14.83	83.67
Green Island Outstation (courtroom #1)	96	90	2	14.52	95.83
Green Island Outstation (courtroom #2)	1	0	0	0.15	NA
Green Island Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	21	16	0	3.18	76.19
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	52	40	4	7.87	84.62
Ramble Outstation (courtroom #1)	42	38	2	6.35	95.24
Ramble Outstation (courtroom #2)	1	1	0	0.15	100.00
Ramble Outstation (Petty session)	15	12	0	2.27	80.00
Sandy Bay Outstation (courtroom #1)	102	98	0	15.43	96.08
Sandy Bay Outstation (courtroom #2)	1	1	0	0.15	100.00
Sandy Bay Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	35	23	1	5.30	68.57
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>89.41</b>

*Note 1: There were 2 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.*

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Hanover in the 2024 calendar year. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the year, with 29.80% of the total sample and is 3.06 percentage points below the 32.86% recorded in the corresponding 2023 calendar year. Courtroom one at the Sandy Bay Outstation and courtroom 2 at the main courthouse with 15.43% and 14.83% respectively rank next. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 179 cases, a 9.14%

decline or 18 less cases than the 197 cases recorded in the corresponding 2023 calendar year. Courtroom 1 at the main courthouse also recorded the sixth highest case disposal rate of 91.88%, which is an increase of 6.17 percentage points above the 85.71% reported in the comparative 2023 calendar year. Despite the relatively low absolute numbers, courtroom 2 at the outstation in Ramble and courtroom 2 at the outstation in Sandy Bay recorded the highest disposal rate of 100% each. The outstations in the parish account for 47.50% of the new cases heard during the year, which is a decrease of 1.14 percentage points below the 48.64% recorded in the 2023 calendar year. The main courthouse accounts for the remaining 52.50%, which is an increase of 1.14 percentage points above the 51.36% when compared to 2023.

**Table 2.02.10: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Ann for the Year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2024</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2024</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2024</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
<b>St. Ann’s Bay and the Claremont outstation</b>					
Church Hall	16	8	6	1.04	87.50
Claremont Outstation	83	51	8	5.37	71.08
Claremont Outstation (Lay Magistrates’)	25	8	13	1.62	84.00
Claremont Outstation Children’s Court	27	21	6	1.75	100.00
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	380	253	47	24.60	78.95
Courtroom#1 (main courthouse)	487	241	58	31.52	61.40
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	87	16	16	5.63	36.78
Night Court (main courthouse)	3	3	0	0.19	100.00
Warmsville	27	12	15	1.75	100.00
<b>Brown’s Town</b>					
Children's Court (main courthouse)	12	6	6	0.78	100.00
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	311	139	34	20.13	55.63
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	87	16	16	5.63	36.78
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>1545</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>64.66</b>

*Note 1: There were 833 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.*

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Ann in the year ended December 31, 2024.

The data shows that courtroom 1 in St. Ann’s Bay (the main court) and courtroom 2 in St. Ann’s Bay (the main court) account for the largest shares of new cases heard in the year with 31.52% and 24.60% respectively of the total sample. When compared to the 2023 calendar year, the data

shows that courtroom 2 in St. Ann's Bay (main courthouse) and courtroom 1 in St. Ann's Bay (main courthouse) were also accounted for the two largest share of new cases heard in the year with 31.68% and 25.98% respectively of the total sample. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom 2 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 253 cases and had a disposal rate of 78.95%. Sittings at Children's court at the main courthouse and the Claremont outstation, sittings at Warmsville and sittings at Children's court at the Brown's Town outstation with disposal rates of 100% each, were the highest disposal rates for the year. As a whole, the Brown's Town court accounted for approximately 26.54% of the new cases filed in the parish of St. Ann in the 2024 calendar year, which is 3.43 percentage points below the 29.97% recorded in the corresponding 2023 calendar year. The St. Ann's Bay courthouse accounts for 64.72% of the new cases heard in the year and the Claremont outstation accounted for the remaining 8.74% of new cases.

**Table 2.02.11: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Clarendon for year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2024</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2024</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2024</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Chapleton Outstation (Courtroom #1)	204	141	16	12.30	76.96
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	670	486	46	40.41	79.40
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	204	149	4	12.30	75.00
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	146	113	6	8.81	81.51
Frankfield Outstation	60	41	8	3.62	81.67
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	75	53	10	4.52	84.00
Lionel Town Outstation	299	196	18	18.03	71.57
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>1658</b>	<b>1179</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>77.62</b>

*Note 1: There were 5 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.*

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Clarendon in the year ended December 31, 2024. The available data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 in May Pen accounted for highest share of new cases heard in the year, with 40.41% of the total sample. The Lionel Town outstation account for the next highest shares of new cases heard in the year with 18.03% of the total sample. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 486 cases, an increase of 2.97% or 14 cases more than the 472 disposed cases recorded for this courtroom in the 2023 calendar year and had the fourth highest disposal rate of 79.40%. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse with a disposal rate of 84% had the highest disposal rate and Frankfield outstation with a disposal rate of 81.67% was featured among the top 3. The main courthouse in May Pen

accounted for 66.04% of cases heard in year, while the remaining 33.96% was accounted for by the outstations, which is an increase of 0.83 percentage points more than the 33.13% recorded in 2023.

**Table 2.02.12: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Manchester for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in 2024</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in 2024</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in 2024</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Christiana Outstation	106	64	3	9.60	63.21
Christiana Outstation (Lay Magistrates,)	33	19	2	2.99	63.64
Cottage Outstation	24	13	0	2.17	54.17
Cottage Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	6	3	0	0.54	50.00
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	334	203	15	30.25	65.27
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	138	80	9	12.50	64.49
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	41	24	1	3.71	60.98
Cross Keys Outstation	33	21	1	2.99	66.67
Cross Keys Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	3	0	0	0.27	NA
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	219	145	18	19.84	74.43
Porus Outstation	37	19	0	3.35	51.35
Porus Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	3	0	0	0.27	NA
Spalding (Lay Magistrates')	2	0	0	0.18	NA
Spalding Outstation	120	68	14	10.87	68.33
Tax Court (main courthouse)	5	0	0	0.45	NA
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>1104</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>65.40</b>

*Note 1: There were 255 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.*

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Manchester in the year ended December 31, 2024. The data shows courtroom number one at the main courthouse accounted for the highest share of new cases heard in the year, with 334 cases or 30.25% of the total sample. Lay

Magistrates’ sittings at the main courthouse and courtroom 2 at the main courthouse account for the next highest share of new cases heard in the year with 19.84% and 12.50% respectively of the total sample. In terms of the case disposal rate, Lay Magistrates’ sittings at the main courthouse recorded the highest disposal rate of 74.43%, followed by the Spalding Outstation with 68.33% and Cross Keys Outstation with 66.67%. The main courthouse in Mandeville accounts for 66.75% of the total sample of new cases heard during the 2024 calendar year, which is a decrease of 2.96 percentage point when compared to the 69.71% recorded in the 2023 calendar year. The remaining 33.25% was accounted for by the various outstations.

**Table 2.02.13: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Elizabeth for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in 2024	Number of new cases disposed of in 2024	Number of inactive cases in 2024	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Balaclava (Outstation)	88	57	1	10.97	65.91
Courtroom #1 (main courtroom)	156	120	8	19.45	82.05
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	2	0	0	0.25	NA
Santa Cruz Outstation (courtroom #1)	78	50	2	9.73	66.67
Santa Cruz Outstation (courtroom #2)	478	389	22	59.60	85.98
<b>Total/ Weighted Average</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>80.92</b>

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

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Elizabeth in the year ended December 31, 2024. The data shows courtroom number two at the Santa Cruz Outstation accounted for the majority of new cases heard in the year, with 478 cases or 59.60% of the total sample. Sittings at

courtroom 1 at the main courthouse and the Balaclava Outstation account for the next highest share of new cases heard in the year with 19.45% and 10.97% respectively of the total sample. In terms of the case disposal rate, courtroom number two at the Santa Cruz Outstation recorded the highest disposal rate of 85.98%, followed by courtroom 1 at the main courthouse with 82.05% and courtroom number one at the Santa Cruz Outstation with 66.67%. The outstations in the parish accounts for 80.30% of the total sample of new cases heard during the 2024 calendar year, while the remaining 19.70% was accounted for by the main courthouse in Black River.

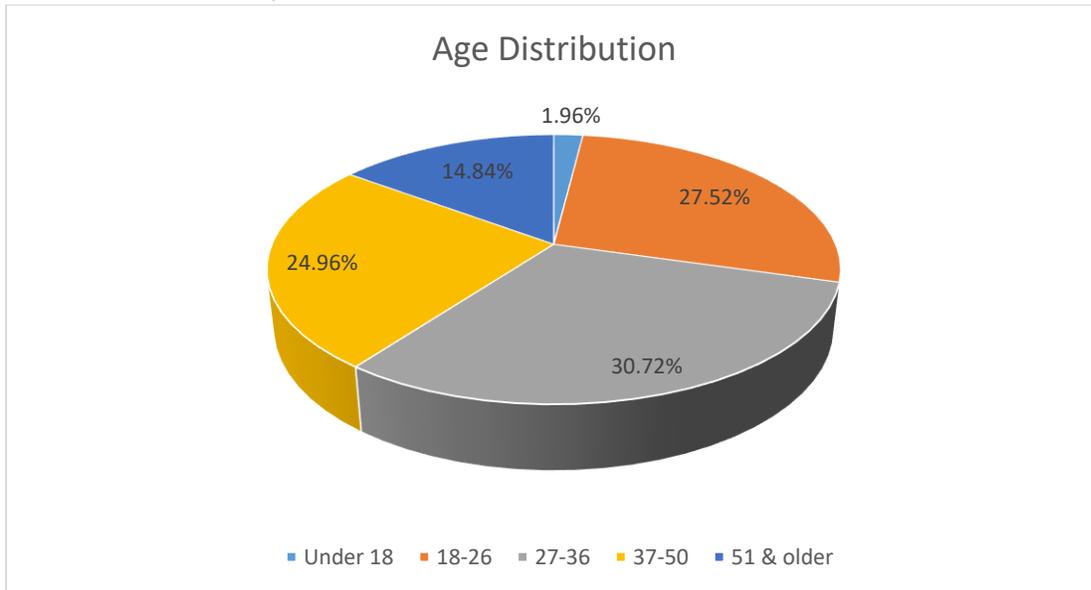
**Table 2.02.14: proportion of cases heard at the main court and outstation across all Parish Courts for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Parish	Main Court 2024 (%)	Outstation 2024 (%)
St. James	97.37	2.63
St. Catherine	73.64	26.36
Westmoreland	79.31	20.69
Hanover	52.50	47.50
St. Mary	69.77	30.23
Trelawny	3.16	96.84
St. Thomas	77.08	22.92
Manchester	66.75	33.25
Portland	67.12	32.88
St. Ann	64.72	35.28
Clarendon	66.04	33.96
Corporate Area	98.74	1.26
St. Elizabeth	19.70	80.30
<b>Simple Averages</b>	<b>64.30</b>	<b>35.70</b>

The above table provides a proxy summary of the distribution of the utilization of the main courthouse locations and combined outstation usage in the hearing of new criminal cases filed. It is seen that 64.30% of new cases filed were entered for initial hearing in the main courthouse locations, while 35.70% were allocated for outstations. There are significant variances in the extent of main courthouse and outstation usage for the hearing of criminal matters across the

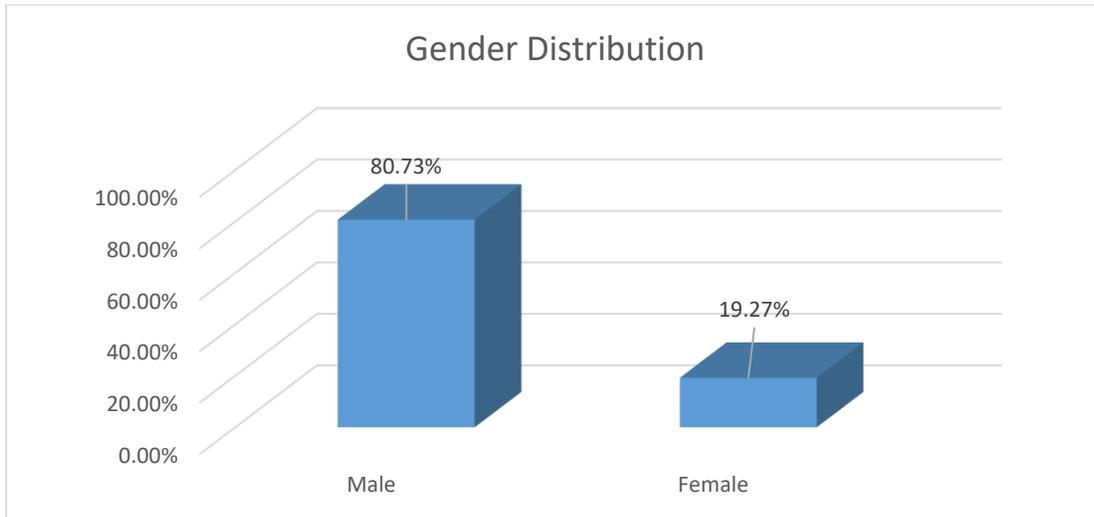
parishes. It is seen, for example, that in parishes such as Corporate Area (Kingston and St. Andrew), St. James, Westmoreland and St. Thomas, in excess of 75% of the new cases filed were entered for initial hearing, with the usage being particularly acute in the Corporate Area Court Criminal Division, which had 98.74% of cases entered for initial hearing at the main courthouse. On the contrary, there are parishes where the level of outstation usage competes with or outruns the usage of the main courthouse in the hearing of criminal cases filed. Trelawny is a good example of courts with significant outstation usage, registering over 90% for initial hearing of new criminal cases filed in the year ended December 31, 2024. There may be opportunities for greater utilization of outstations to carry the caseload in some parishes, but such precise determinations require further analyses of total 'demand and supply, in each location.

**Chart 2.01: Aggregate age distribution of persons charged for all Parish Courts for the year ended December 31, 2024**



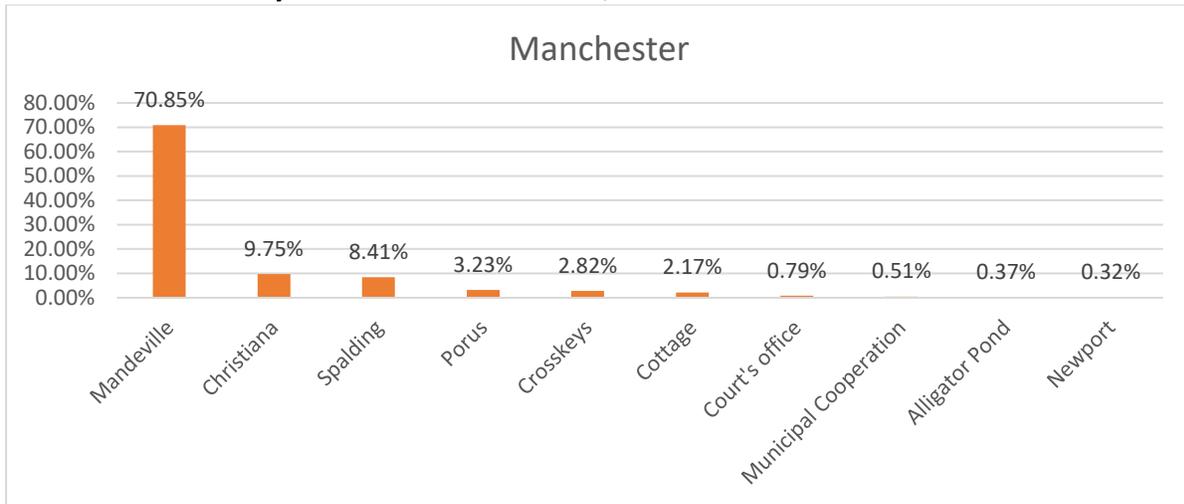
The above chart summarizes the age distribution of persons charged and brought before the criminal division of the Parish Courts in the 2024 calendar year. It is shown that the 27-36 age group with 30.72% accounted for the largest share of the persons charged, followed by the 18-26 age group with 27.52%. The lowest shares were attributed to the under 18 age group with 1.96% and 51 and over age group with 14.84%. The remaining proportion was accounted for by the 37-50 age group with 24.96% of the total sample.

**Chart 2.02: Aggregate gender distribution of persons charged for the year ended December 31, 2024**



The above chart shows that the overwhelming majority of persons charged for the 2024 calendar year were male, accounting for roughly 80.73% of the total sample, while females accounted for approximately 19.27%. The gender distribution of persons charged during the 2024 calendar year was broadly similar to the breakdown for the 2023 calendar year which had a male to female ratio of approximately 80.25% to 19.75%.

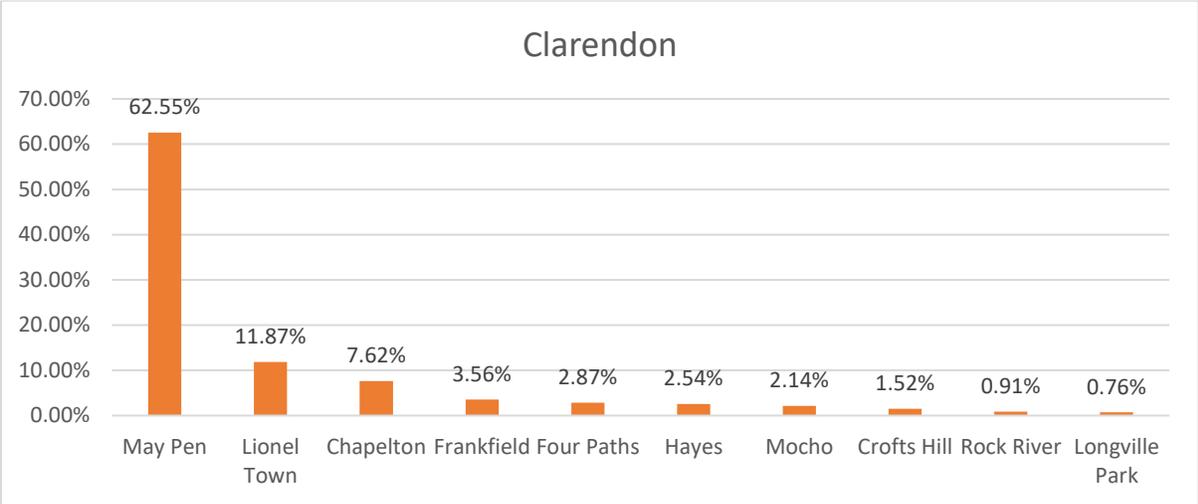
**Chart 2.03.01: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Manchester Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2024**



The above chart shows the distribution of charges at the Manchester Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 2,165 records indicate that for the 2024 calendar year the majority of charges, 70.85%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Mandeville Police Station. This was followed by the Christiana Police Station, which accounts for 9.75% of the total sample of matters reported. The Spalding police station rounded off the top three with 8.41%. In the corresponding 2023 calendar year, the top three comprised of the Mandeville Police Station, the Christiana Police Station, and the Municipal Corporation.

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

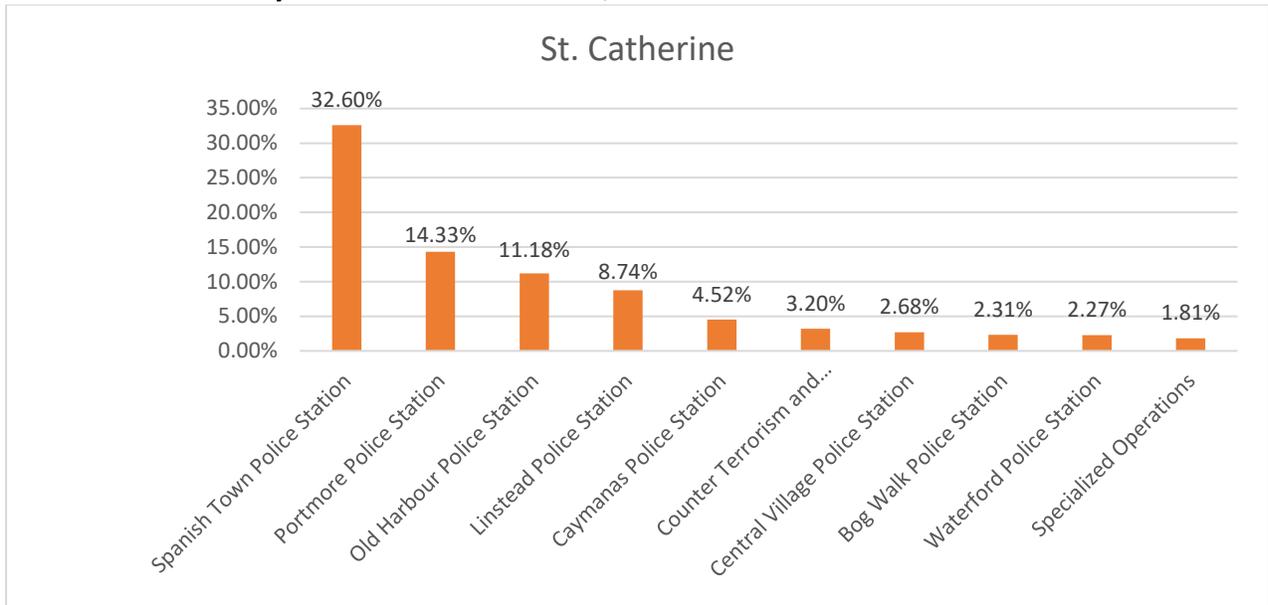
**Chart 2.03.02: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Clarendon Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2024**



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 2,756 records indicate that for the 2024 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 62.55%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the May Pen Police Station. This was followed by the Lionel Town Police Station which accounts for 11.87% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Chapelton Police Station with 7.62%. In the previous 2023 calendar year, the top three comprised of the May Pen Police Station, the Lionel Town and the Chapleton Police Station.

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

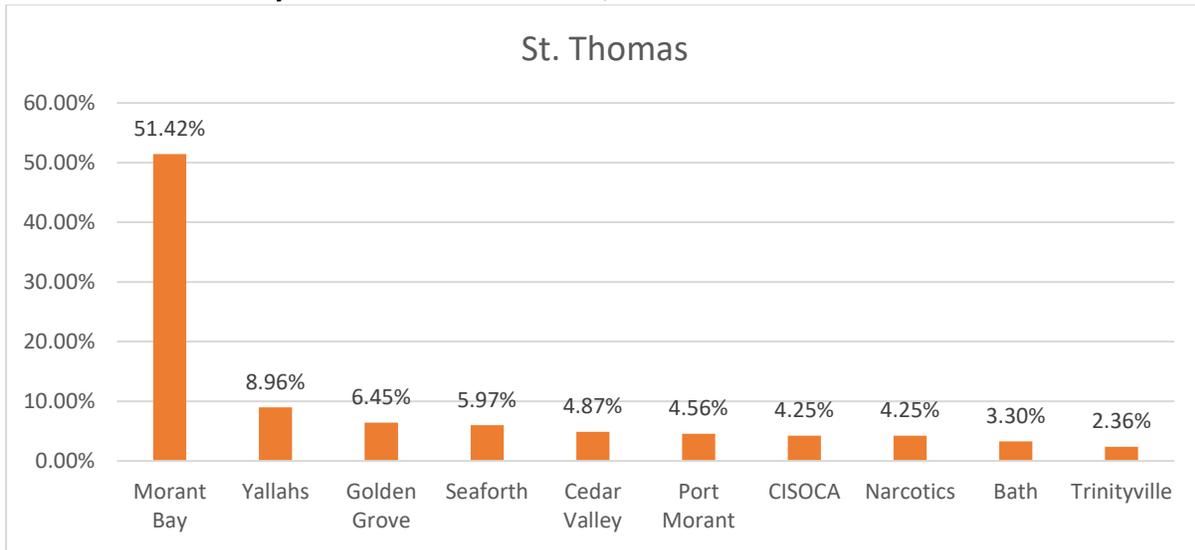
**Chart 2.03.3: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Catherine Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2024**



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 4,849 records indicate that for the 2024 calendar year, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 32.60%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Spanish Town Police Station. This was followed by the Portmore Police Station which accounts for 14.33% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by Old Harbour Police Station with 11.18%. In the previous 2023 calendar year, the top three comprised of the Spanish Town Police Station, the Portmore and the Old Harbour Police Station.

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

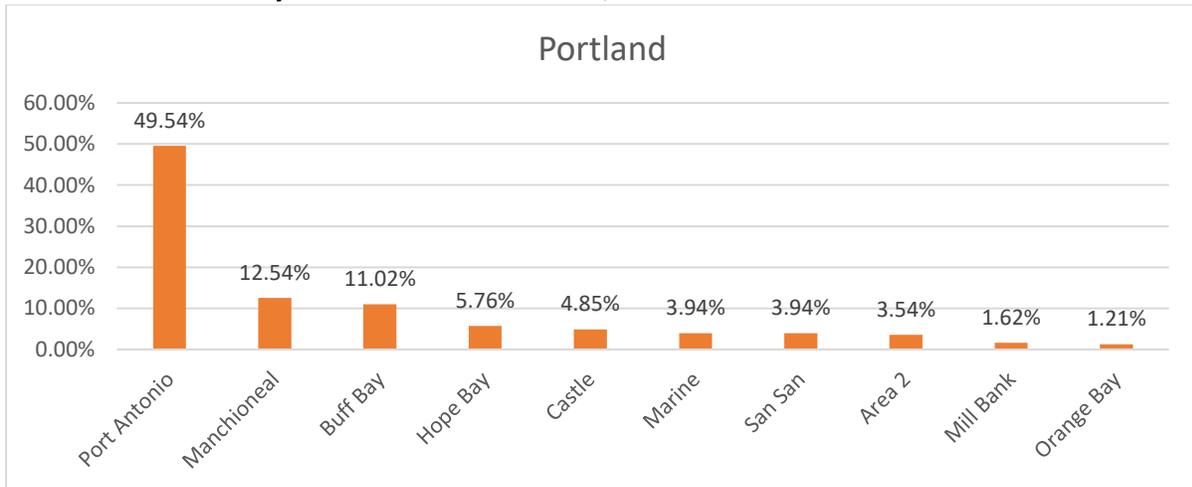
**Chart 2.03.04: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Thomas Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2024**



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 636 records indicate that for the 2024 calendar year, the majority of criminal matters, 51.42%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Morant Bay Police Station. This was followed by the Yallahs Police Station which accounts for 8.96% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Golden Grove Police Station with 6.45%. In the previous 2023 calendar year, the top three comprised of the Morant Bay Police Station, the Yallahs Police Station and the Golden Grove Police Station.

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

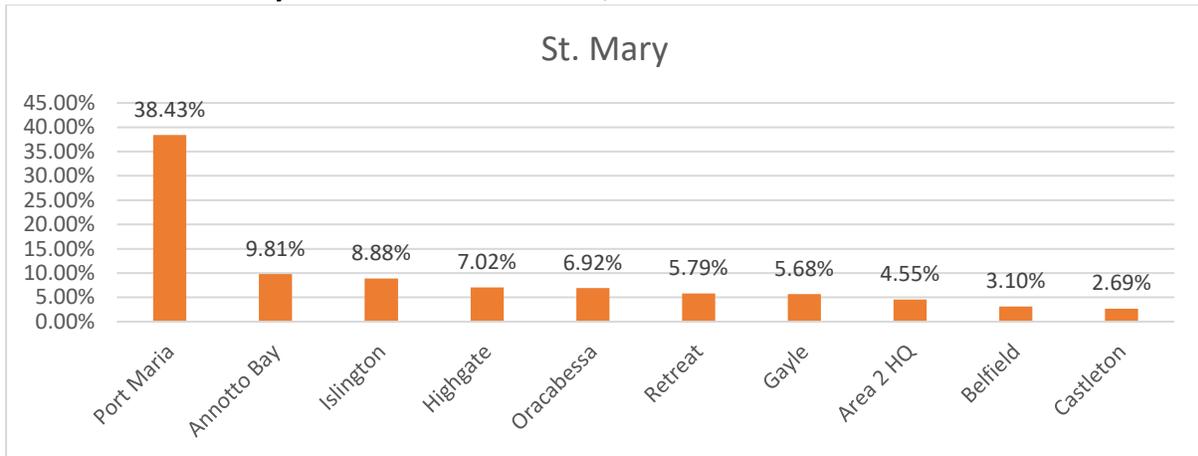
**Chart 2.03.05: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Portland Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2024**



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Portland Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 989 records indicate that for the 2024 calendar year, the highest proportion of criminal matters, 49.54%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Port Antonio Police Station. This was followed by the Manchioneal Police Station, which accounts for 12.54% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Buff Bay Police Station with 11.02%. In the previous 2023 calendar year, the top three comprised of the Port Antonio Police Station, the Buff Bay Police Station and the San San Police Station.

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

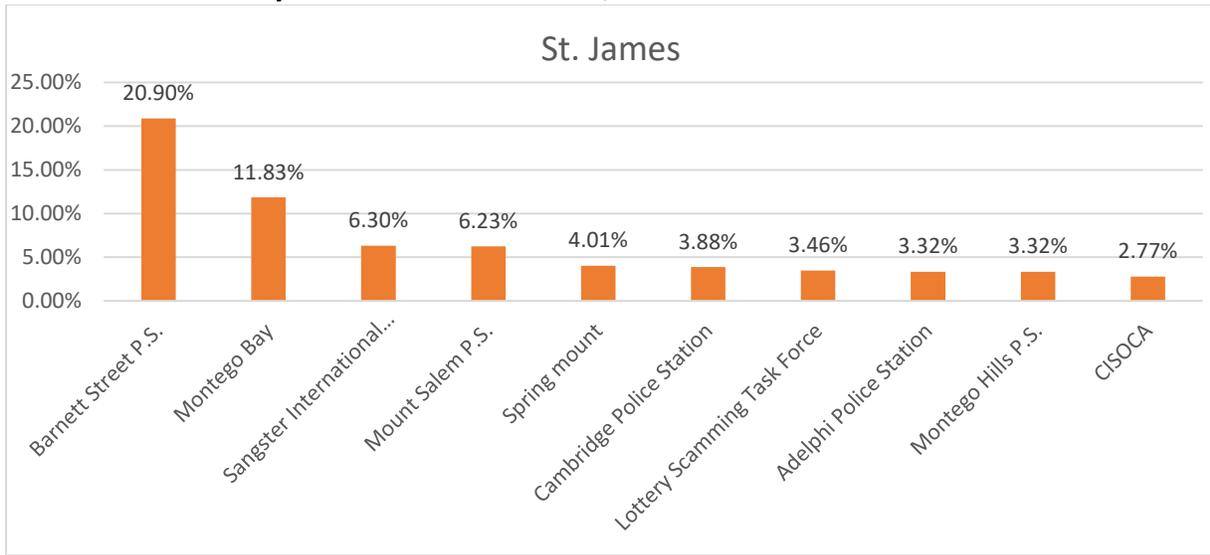
**Chart 2.03.06: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Mary Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2024**



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 968 records indicate that for the 2024 calendar year, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 38.43%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Port Maria Police Station. This was followed by the Annotto Bay Police Station which accounts for 9.81% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Islington Police Station with 8.88%. In the previous 2023 calendar year, the top three comprised of the Port Maria Police Station, the Annotto Bay Police Station and the Highgate Police Station.

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

**Chart 2.03.07: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. James Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2024**



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. James Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 1,445 records indicate that for the 2024 calendar year, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 20.90%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Barnett Street Police Station. This was followed by the Montego Bay Police Station, which accounts for 11.83% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Sangster’s International Airport Police Station with 6.30%. In the previous 2023 calendar year, the top three comprised of the Barnett Street Police Station, the Montego Bay Police station and the Sangster’s International Airport Police Station.

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

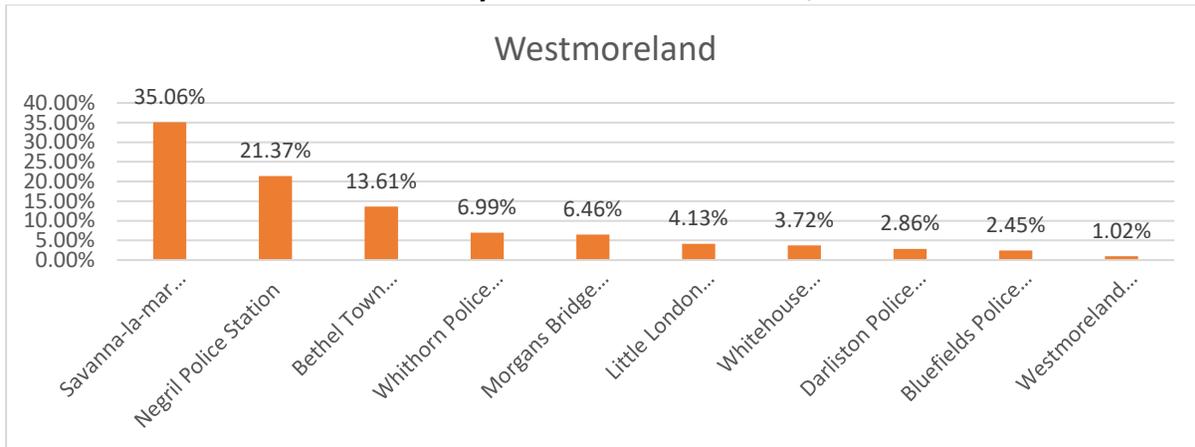
**Chart 2.03.08: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Corporate Area Criminal Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2024**



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 8,395 records indicate that for the 2024 calendar year, the highest proportion of criminal matters, 11.75%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Kingston Central Police Station. This was followed by the St. Andrew Central Police Station which accounts for 11.47% of the sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the N.S.W.M.A police with 10.74%. In the previous 2023 calendar year, the top three comprised of the St. Andrew Central Police Station, the N.S.W.M.A Police and the St. Andrew South Police Station.

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

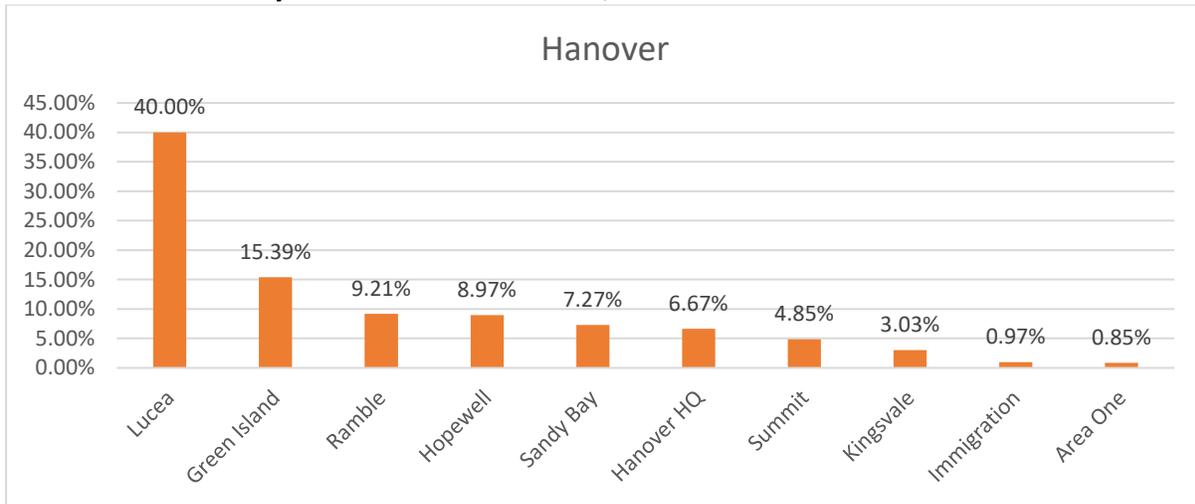
**Chart 2.03.09: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2024**



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 2,447 records indicate that for the 2024 calendar year, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 35.06%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Savanna-la-mar Police Station. This was followed by the Negril Police Station which accounts for 21.37% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Bethel Police Station with 13.61%. In the previous 2023 calendar year, the top three comprised of the Savanna-la-mar Police Station, the Negril Police Station and Whithorn Police Station.

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

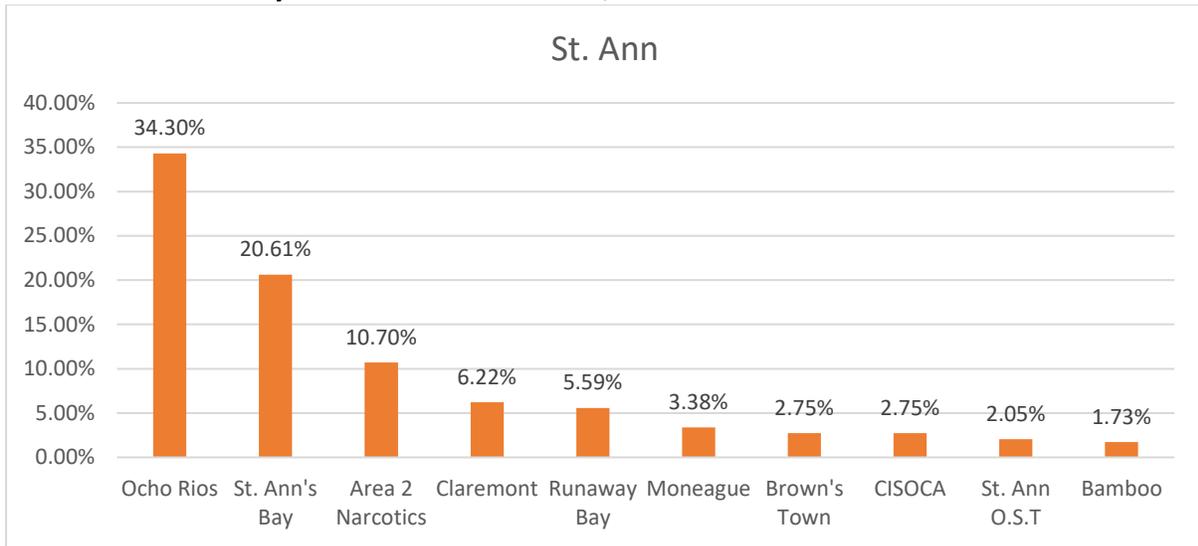
**Chart 2.03.10: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Hanover Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2024**



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 825 records indicate that for the 2024 calendar year, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 40%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Lucea Police Station. This was followed by the Green Island Police Station, which accounts for 15.39% of the sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Ramble Police Station with 9.21%. In the previous 2023 calendar year, the top three comprised of the Lucea Police Station, Green Island Police Station and the Sandy Bay Police Station.

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

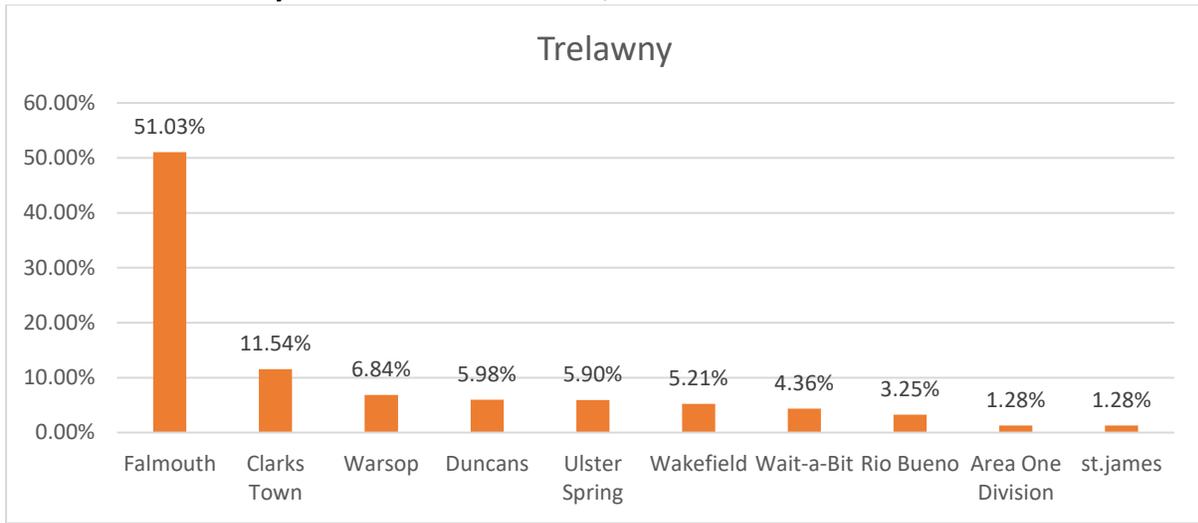
**Chart 2.03.11: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Ann Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2024**



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 1,271 records indicate that for the 2024 calendar year, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 34.30%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Ocho Rios Police Station. This was followed by the St. Ann's Bay Police Station which accounts for 20.61% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Area 2 Narcotics Police with 10.70%. In the previous 2023 calendar year, the top three comprised of the Ocho Rios Police Station, the St. Ann's Bay Police Station and the Claremont Police Station.

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

**Chart 2.03.12: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Trelawny Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2024**



The above chart shows the distribution of charges field at the Trelawny Parish Court, using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 1,170 records indicate that for the 2024 calendar year, the majority of charges, 51.03%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Falmouth Police Station. This was followed by the Clarks Town Police Station, which accounts for 11.54% of total sample of matters reported. The Warsop Police station rounded off the top three with 6.84%. In the previous 2023 calendar year, the top three comprised of the Falmouth Police Station, Ulster Spring Police Station and the Clarks Town Police Station.

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

## Inferential Statistics and Conclusion

The 2024 calendar year represents the continuation of an impressive trend in the criminal division of the Parish Courts where a steady state equilibrium average case clearance rate of over 100% and net case backlog rate of a little above 2.0% has been sustainably achieved. With this kind of consistency in output, the criminal division of the Parish Courts is by all accounts among the top performing in the Caribbean and Latin American region at present. Among the key highlights from the yearly statistical report for 2024 is that the criminal division of the Parish Courts as a whole recorded an overall case clearance rate of 105.55%, with ten (10) of the thirteen courts attaining or exceeding the international standard on this metric.

The overall net case backlog rate for cases over 24 months old in the courts is above 2% at 2.24%, with the Westmoreland, Hanover and St. Catherine Parish Courts having near zero net backlog rates. The overall gross case backlog rate which takes into account inactive cases, decreased by 0.41 percentage points to 16.51%, reflecting a general decrease in the inactive caseload in the criminal division of the Parish Courts.

The overall net case backlog rate for cases over 20 months old<sup>2</sup> in the courts is above 2% at 2.38%, with the Westmoreland, Hanover and St. Catherine Parish Courts having near zero net backlog

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<sup>2</sup> Effective December 1, 2023

20 months is considered the maximum time that any criminal case should take to be disposed, regardless of complexity dynamics.

Hence, any unresolved criminal case that is over 20 months old is considered to be in a state of backlog

rates. The overall gross case backlog rate for cases above 20 months which takes into account inactive cases for the 2024 calendar year was 17.06%.

The overall time taken to dispose of cases in the criminal division of the Parish Courts in the 2024 calendar year is roughly 11 months, with the average time taken to dispose of cases in some Parish Courts such as Hanover, Manchester and Westmoreland Parish Courts in the year being 5 months or more less than the overall average. As a whole roughly 76% of the cases disposed during the 2024 calendar year took a year or less to be resolved. The overall trial date certainty rate recorded was 77%, which is still below the targeted minimum of 95%, but has improved cumulatively by over 5 percentage points when compared to the past four years.

These statistical highlights, among several others which are detailed in this report strongly suggest that the criminal division of the Parish Courts are on the right path of excellence. Among the main areas of concern are the persistence of the gross case backlog rate over 10%, which suggests that there is a relatively high incidence of inactive cases as a percentage of the total caseload, particularly for courts like the Corporate Area Court - Criminal Division and the St. Ann Parish Court. Additionally, the rate of case adjournments remains moderately high, which is one of the reasons that the trial date adjournments have failed to meet the desired target. Among these are adjournments due to files to be completed, adjournments due to the non-appearance of the accused and adjournments for mediation.

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

The Parish Courts of Westmoreland, Hanover and St. Catherine have the enviable status of less than 0.40% of active cases in backlog, meaning that there is a close to zero probability that a case filed at this court will remain active for 20 months, an outstanding accomplishment which is worthy of acclaim. The Parish Courts of Jamaica, having demonstrated significant progress, are well-positioned to further contribute to Jamaica's Vision 2030 National Goal 2, "The Jamaican Society is Secure, Cohesive and Just," and the 2030 Global Agenda Goal 16, "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions."

## **Glossary of Terms**

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

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

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

**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>.

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

The international standard for this measure is between 92% and 100%.

**Courtroom utilization rate:** The proportion of courtrooms in full use on a daily basis or the

proportion of hours utilized in a courtroom on a daily basis.

The international standard for this rate is 100%.

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

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

The international benchmark for casefile integrity is 100%.

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

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

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

higher end. If the skewness measure is approximately 0, then there is an approximately equal distribution of scores on both the higher and lower ends of the average figure.

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

**Case backlog:** A case that is in the court system for more than the established time standard<sup>3</sup> without disposition. The gross backlog rate measures the proportion of all cases filed (both active and inactive cases) within a given period which remain unresolved for the established time standard.

The net backlog rate on the other hand measures the proportion of active cases filed in a given period which are unresolved for the established time standard.

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

Percentile ranks are useful when you want to quickly understand how a particular score compares to the other scores in a distribution of scores. For instance, knowing a court disposed 300 cases in a given period doesn't tell you much. You don't know how many case disposals were possible, and even if you did, you wouldn't know how that court's score compared to the rest of

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<sup>3</sup> Effective December 1, 2023

20 months is considered the maximum time that any criminal case should take to be disposed, regardless of complexity dynamics.

Hence, any unresolved criminal case that is over 20 months old is considered to be in a state of backlog

the courts. If, however, you were told that the court scored at the 80th percentile, then you would know that this court did as well or better than 80% of the courts in case disposals.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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<sup>i</sup> Source :

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

<sup>ii</sup> Source :

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