

Parish Courts of Jamaica  
The Chief Justice's Second Quarter Statistics  
Report for 2023  
(Criminal Matters)

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Case Disposal Rates (%)	51.56	49.74	58.28
Case Clearance Rates (%)	107.18	118.66	111.61
Trial Date Certainty Rates (%)	80	86	83
Courtroom utilization Rate (%)	63.91	65.11	59.62

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This statistical report for the second quarter of 2023 is for the criminal division of the parish courts. It represents the first published statistical report on this division for the new fiscal year, heralding the start of a new period of strategic planning for the Jamaican judiciary. As this new period commences, this division of the parish courts remains a trend setter across a range of key performance indicators, as the first to achieve many of the main quantitative goals sets out by the Honourable Chief Justice Mr. Bryan Sykes, among which is a net case backlog rate under 5% and a cumulative clearance rate of 130%.

The aggregate new case count in the parish courts in the second quarter of 2023 was 5374, an increase of 0.37% when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. The Corporate Area Parish Court - Criminal Division with 1379 new cases or 25.66% of the total, followed by the St. Catherine and St. James Parish Courts with 878 cases or 16.34% and 489 cases or 9.10% 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 51.10% of the new cases filed in the second quarter of 2023, not dissimilar to the previous year. The parish courts of Hanover, St. Thomas and Trelawny 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 second quarter of 2023 was 51.56%, which is an increase of 1.82 percentage points when compared to the

corresponding period in the previous year. The Hanover Parish Court leads the way with a rate of 74.56%, thereby disposing of new cases the fastest in the period. The St. James Parish and Westmoreland Parish Courts ranked next with case disposal rates of 67% and 59.33% respectively, reaffirming 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 second quarter of 2023 was 107.18%, a decline of 11.48 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 second quarter of 2023, roughly 107 cases were disposed. All thirteen parish courts satisfied the international standard of between 90% and 110% the second quarter of 2023. The top three spots on this metric were occupied by the Portland Parish Court with 137.53%, the Trelawny Parish Court with 125% and conventional leaders, the Hanover Parish Court with 118.3%.

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 second quarter of 2023 was 273.33%, an increase of 5.76 percentage points when compared to the second quarter of 2022. The parish courts of Hanover, Westmoreland and St. James continue to be the least congested court at the end of the quarter. The cases of Westmoreland and St. James are of special interest in this regard given their relatively large caseloads. 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 6 percentage points decline in trial date certainty rate when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year, netting out at 82%. The parish courts of St. James, Manchester and Clarendon 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 63.91%, an improvement of 1.20 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. The Portland Parish Court with a courtroom utilization rate of 72.04%, the Hanover Parish Court with 69.62% and the St. James Parish Court with 68.78% were the top performers on this metric.

On the matter of caseload distribution in the individual parishes, the data shows 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 second quarter of 2023 is approximately 34.41%, while roughly 65.59% 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 St. Catherine, Hanover and Trelawny, 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 second quarter of 2023 was by way of guilty pleas, accounting for 31.97% of the cases disposed. This was followed by cases dismissed, which was responsible for 17.25% of the cases disposed. It is of note that guilty verdicts accounted for roughly 4.45% of the matters disposed while not guilty

verdicts accounted for 14.20% of the total. Mediated settlements (of various forms) accounted for roughly 15.03% of the cases disposed during the quarter. Taken together, the data therefore reveals a conviction rate of 36.42 for the quarter. Further analysis of the data suggests that for the cases originating over at least over the past roughly 7.5 years, which are disposed, roughly 38.41% were resolved within 90 days, 58.62% within six months and 77.75% 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 43.07% of all matters. This is followed by summary matters with a roughly 29.66% and matters heard by Lay Magistrates with approximately 13.50% of the total. It is of note that Committal Proceedings accounted for roughly 11.61% of all criminal matters filed in the parish courts during the quarter. Summary matters had an overall conviction rate of 65.92% in the quarter while indictments had a conviction rate of 19.95% 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 quarter were incomplete files with 16.13%, warrants issued due to the non-appearance of defendants with 10.42% and adjournments for referral to mediation with 10.35%, rounding off the top three. Also featuring prominently on the lists of reasons for adjournment across the parish courts during the quarter are adjournments for disclosure, absent defendants, medical reports

outstanding and subpoena of investigating officers. This probability distribution for the reasons for adjournments was broadly similar to that of the past few years.

The three most frequent criminal charges filed in the parish courts in the second quarter of 2023 were assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding and malicious destruction of property. The majority of charges filed during the quarter involved accused males, accounting for roughly 80.06%, with females accounting for 19.96%. The dominant age group of persons charged in period were the 27 – 36 and 18 - 26 age groups, accounting for 31.92% and 28.55% respectively of the total.

One of the most decisive and instructive findings from this annual 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 8.80 months to dispose of cases in the second quarter of 2023. The courts which had the shortest times to disposition for cases resolved are the parish courts of Hanover (76 days), Westmoreland (94 days) and St. Mary (155 days). These three courts are also traditionally among the leading performers across several metrics.

Using the method of exponential smoothing, the report forecasts that in the third quarter of 2023, 4899 new criminal cases will be filed in the criminal division of the parish courts while 4874 cases are expected to be disposed and 897 to become inactive. The overall forecasted case clearance rate for third quarter of 2023 in the criminal division of the parish courts is therefore 117.81%. The parish courts of St. Elizabeth,

Trelawny and St. Thomas are forecasted to register the highest case clearance rates in the third quarter of 2023.

With 7.5 years of extensive data on criminal case activity on the parish courts of Jamaica, the Statistics Unit applied Lagrange multiplier techniques to determine that a successful court must meet the following minimum requirements in order to satisfy an efficiency threshold for the sustainable containment of case backlog and provide optimal service to the public. The required minimum annual parameters are summarized below:

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Minimum Required Standard</b>
Case disposal rate	$\geq 75\%$
Case clearance rate	$\geq 100\%$
Case congestion rate	$\leq 115\%$
Trial Date Certainty Rate	$\geq 85\%$
Net case backlog rate	$\leq 5\%$
Gross case backlog rate	$\leq 10\%$
Average number of mentions per case	$\leq 3$

The Statistics Unit has determined that if any court or jurisdiction can consistently achieve these rates, it will attain a high level of efficiency and service excellence.

## **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 7.5 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 positively measurement outcomes.

**Chapter 1.0: Criminal Case Activity Statistics in the Parish Courts for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

This chapter provides an assessment of criminal case activity in the parish courts for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023. This includes analysis of the criminal caseload, rates of case disposal, clearance and congestion as well as cases statuses in the various courts over the period, assessments of courtroom utilization rates, case file integrity rates, trial date certainty rates and forecasts of the core case activity outcomes for the upcoming quarters of 2023. 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 1.0: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Number of inactive cases	Number of disposed cases	Active Pending Case Load	Case disposal Rate (%)
Hanover	169	5	121	43	74.56
St. Catherine	878	82	399	397	54.78
Westmoreland	359	15	198	146	59.33
St. Mary	208	5	64	139	33.17
Clarendon	317	19	144	154	51.42
Portland	237	11	88	138	41.77
St. Elizabeth	195	27	81	87	55.38
Corporate Area Criminal	1379	343	382	654	52.57
St. Thomas	172	5	67	100	41.86
St. James	489	25	306	158	67.69
St. Ann	436	58	89	289	33.72
Trelawny	192	11	80	101	47.40
Manchester	343	10	136	197	42.57
<b>Total</b>	<b>5374</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>2155</b>	<b>2603</b>	-
<b>Average/Weighted Average</b>	<b>413.38</b>	<b>47.38</b>	<b>165.77</b>	<b>200.23</b>	<b>51.56</b>
<b>Standard deviation</b>	<b>348.77</b>	<b>91.70</b>	<b>119.66</b>	<b>164.43</b>	<b>12.26</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>2.17</b>	<b>3.25</b>	<b>1.22</b>	<b>2.07</b>	<b>0.44</b>

*Note: The case disposal rate for the Browns Town outstation for the second quarter of 2023 is 14.42%*

The table above shows the aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the second quarter of 2023. A total of 5,374 new criminal cases were filed across the parish courts, 2,771 cases were either disposed or became inactive, resulting in a weighted average case disposal rate of 51.56%. In the corresponding period in 2022, 5,354 cases were filed, while 2,663 cases were either disposed or became inactive which resulted in a weighted average disposal rate of 49.74%, which is 1.82 percentage points lower than the rate for the second quarter of 2023. This comparison reveals that there was an increase of 20 cases or a 0.37% improvement in the number of new cases filed and an increase of 108 cases or a 4.06% improvement in the number of cases disposed or became inactive when compared to the second quarter of 2022. Of the thirteen parish courts listed above, six (6) Parish Courts recorded a decrease in the number of new cases filed, while seven (7) recorded an increase. Among the parish courts with the largest decline in new cases filed were the St. Elizabeth Parish Court, decreasing by 26.14%, the St. Thomas Parish Court, which decreased by 24.89% and the Clarendon Parish Court, which decreased by 23.98%. Among the parish courts with the largest improvement in new cases filed were the St. Mary Parish Court, increasing by 12.43%, the Portland Parish Court, which increased by 12.32% and the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, which experienced an increase of 12.21%.

The Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division with 1,379 cases or 25.66% of the new cases filed, the St. Catherine Parish Court with 878 cases or 16.34% and the St. James Parish Court with 489 or 9.10% accounted for the three largest shares of new cases filed in the second quarter of 2023. These three parish courts with the largest share of new cases filed, cumulatively accounted for 51.10% of the total sample of new criminal cases filed in the second quarter of 2023. On the other end, the parish courts of Hanover with 169 cases or 3.14% of the new cases, St. Thomas with 172 cases or 3.20% and Trelawny with 192 cases or

3.57% accounted for the lowest shares of new cases filed in the second quarter of 2023. The best performing courts in relation to case disposal rates for the second quarter of 2023 were the Hanover (74.56%), St. James (67.69%), Westmoreland (59.33%) Parish Courts. The bottom three courts on this measure were the St. Mary (33.17%), St. Ann (33.72%) and Portland (41.77%) parish courts. 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 positive figure, which indicates that a large proportion of courts had disposal rates which were clustered around the overall average rate for the quarter.

*Refer to Table 3.0 for a graphical comparison of the Case Disposal Rates across all Parish Courts for the second quarter of 2022 and 2023.*

**Table 2.0a: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court as at June 30, 2023**

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed in quarter	Number of Disposed cases in Apr. 1-Jun. 30, 2023	Number of Inactive cases in Apr. 1-Jun. 31, 2023	Grand total number of inactive cases (2016-Jun. 2023)	Grand total number of disposed cases (2016-Jun. 2023)	Grand Active Pending Caseload b/f Apr. 1, 2023	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
Hanover	169	193	7	292	6147	94	118.34	131.50
St. Catherine	878	784	158	3146	21894	1272	107.29	228.24
Westmoreland	359	309	28	1102	11137	178	93.87	159.35
St. Mary	208	184	9	752	6134	256	92.79	240.41
Clarendon	317	332	36	1769	11593	487	116.09	218.48
Portland	237	306	20	763	7494	519	137.55	231.90
St. Elizabeth	195	195	32	-	-	-	116.41	-
Corporate Area Criminal	1379	898	471	10578	34645	4357	99.27	418.99
St. Thomas	172	166	16	570	5933	376	105.81	301.10
St. James	489	536	42	2660	16190	501	118.20	171.28
St. Ann	436	299	105	3913	9471	1107	92.66	381.93
Trelawny	192	204	36	727	5854	420	125.00	255.00
Manchester	343	368	26	1907	9791	803	114.87	290.86
<b>Total</b>	<b>5374</b>	<b>4774</b>	<b>986</b>	<b>28179</b>	<b>146283</b>	<b>10370</b>	-	-
<b>Average/Weighted Average</b>	<b>413.38</b>	<b>367.23</b>	<b>75.85</b>	<b>2348.25</b>	<b>12190.25</b>	<b>864.17</b>	<b>107.18</b>	<b>273.33</b>
<b>Standard deviation</b>	<b>348.77</b>	<b>234.11</b>	<b>126.05</b>	<b>2829.62</b>	<b>8546.92</b>	<b>1155.68</b>	<b>13.59</b>	<b>85.57</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>2.17</b>	<b>1.51</b>	<b>2.99</b>	<b>2.57</b>	<b>1.96</b>	<b>2.92</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>0.66</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 quarter ended June 30, 2023, for all parish courts combined= 10,323*

*Note 3: The case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for the second quarter of 2023 is 64.40% and the case congestion rate is 1071.64%.*

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

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

The weighted average case congestion rate among the parish courts in the second quarter of 2023 was 273.33%, an indication that the parish courts (criminal division) as a whole are carrying roughly three times the caseload that their current rate of clearance and implied state of resources justifies. This result represents a 5.76 percentage points increase when compared to the second quarter 2022. The Corporate Area Court- Criminal Division (418.99%) and the parish courts of St. Ann (381.93%), St. Thomas (301.10%) and Manchester (290.86%) were the courts with the highest case congestion rates in the second quarter of 2023. The Trelawny (255%) and St, Mary (240.41%) Parish Courts rounded off the top 6 most case congested courts in the second quarter of 2023. The parish courts of St. Ann, St. Thomas, Trelawny Manchester and Corporate Area-Criminal Division were also among the most congested courts in the comparative second quarter of 2022. The parish courts of Hanover (131.50%), Westmoreland (159.35%), and St. James (171.28%) performed best on this measure. As with previous reports, variations in caseload and resources do not appear to be a major factor explaining the variances in performance on this measure as some of the courts ranking on either ends of the scale are the larger courts in the island and resource endowment do not vary in a statistically way among the courts. The case congestion rate is a more meaningful measurement over a full year.

The results on the overall case clearance rate for the second quarter of 2023 provide interesting insights into the court-wide progress being made on this measure. The overall weighted average case clearance rate of 107.18%, which is a decrease of 11.48 percentage points when compared to the corresponding second quarter of 2022, however, the performance meets the international standard of 90%-110. This overall case clearance rate of

107.18% suggests that for every 100 new cases filed, roughly 107 cases were disposed of. All thirteen (13) parish courts met or exceeded the international standards of 90%-110%. The parish courts of Portland (137.55%), Trelawny (125%), Hanover (118.34%), St. James (118.20%) and St. Elizabeth (116.41%) were the leading parish courts on this measure. Three (3) parish courts recorded an increase in clearance rates when compared to second quarter of 2022, while ten (10) parish courts recorded a decrease in clearance rates when compared to second quarter of 2022. The Clarendon and Hanover parish courts saw the largest gains, with 19.69 and 18.34 percentage points improvement respectively. The St. Ann and Trelawny parish courts saw the largest decline, with 49.45 and 44.52 percentage points decline respectively. The data in the table above were positively skewed to various degrees, indicating that for the most part, proportionately more of the scores in that data set fell below their respective series means.

*Refer to Table 3.0 for further comparison of the case clearance rates and the case congestion rates across all parish courts for the second quarter of 2022 and 2023.*

**Table 2.0b: Percentile rank on selected performance metrics for the criminal division of the parish courts for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

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

The table above provides the percentile ranks of the case disposal and case clearance rates for the second quarter of 2023. 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 Westmoreland (83%) had the highest percentile ranks on case disposal rate for the second quarter of 2023, an indication that they performed better than the vast proportion of the courts on this measure. The percentile ranks of 100% for the Hanover Parish Court for example means that they performed better than all the courts on case disposal rate in the quarter, while St. James Parish Court performed better than 92% of the parish courts and the Westmoreland Parish Court performed better than 83% of all the parish courts on this measurement. The parish courts of St. Mary, St. Ann and Portland had the lowest percentile rank on case disposal rate for the quarter. In terms of case clearance rates, the parish courts of Portland (100%), Trelawny (92%) and Hanover (83%) had the highest percentile ranks, while the parish courts of St. Ann, St. Mary and Westmoreland had the lowest.

**Table 2.0c: Forecasted case activity statistics for the third quarter of 2023 [July 01 - September 30, 2023]**

<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	178	198	10	116.86
Manchester	333	353	35	116.78
St. Mary	199	178	11	95.23
St. James	471	508	57	119.95
St. Catherine	765	779	136	119.67
Portland	232	253	24	119.75
St. Ann	410	319	91	100.04
St. Elizabeth	178	228	24	141.41
Corporate Area Criminal	1191	834	382	102.14
Westmoreland	326	307	23	101.07
St. Thomas	152	174	22	129.59
Clarendon	377	376	46	111.89
Trelawny	182	197	30	124.94
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>4993</b>	<b>4706</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>112.11</b>

**Note: The forecasted case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for the third quarter of 2023 is 81.08%.**

The above table forecasts core case activity for the criminal division of each parish court and overall for the third quarter of 2023. The forecasts are generated using the method of exponential smoothing which uses weighted averages from past observations with weights decaying exponentially as the observations get older. See further explanation of the mathematical science behind the method of exponential smoothing in the glossary of terms.

The above data shows that the overall forecasted case clearance rates for the criminal division of the parish courts for the third quarter of 2023 is 112.11%, which would be 4.93 percentage points higher than that of the second quarter of 2023. All thirteen (13) parish courts are forecasted to satisfy the international standard on case clearance rate of 90% or more in the third quarter of 2023, led by the St. Elizabeth Parish Court with 141.41%, the St. Thomas Parish Court with 129.59% and the Trelawny Parish Court with 124.94%.

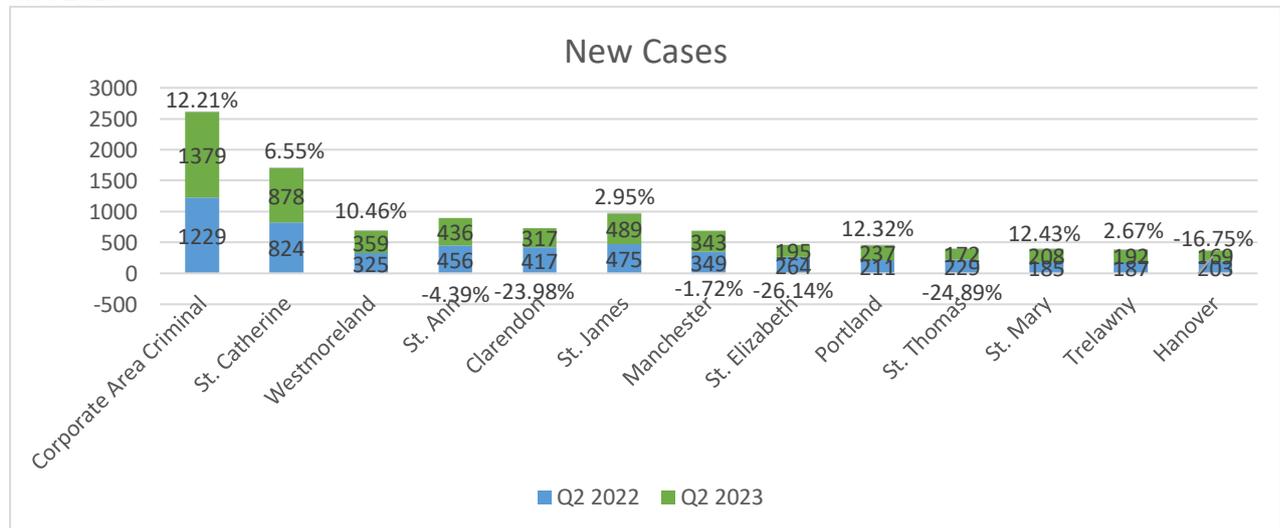
**Table 2.0d: Sampling distribution of new cases filed per 10,000 population in the criminal division of the parish courts in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Population size in parish</b>	<b>Cases per 10,000 population</b>
Hanover	169	69,533	24
St. Catherine	878	516,218	17
Westmoreland	359	144,103	25
St. Mary	208	113,615	18
Clarendon	317	245,103	13
Portland	237	81,744	29
St. Elizabeth	195	150,205	13
Corporate Area Criminal	1379	662,426	21
St. Thomas	172	93,902	18
St. James	489	183,811	27
St. Ann	436	172,362	25
Trelawny	192	75,164	26
Manchester	343	189,797	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>5374</b>	<b>2697983</b>	<b>20</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 second quarter of 2023. 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 Portland, which is among the parishes with the smaller population sizes, and modest caseloads, registered the largest number of new criminal cases filed per 10,000 population in the second quarter of 2023. St. James, which is among the parishes with a mid-range population size and larger caseload, 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. Elizabeth Parish Court, which is among the parishes with the smaller quarterly caseload and mid-range population size, had the smallest number of

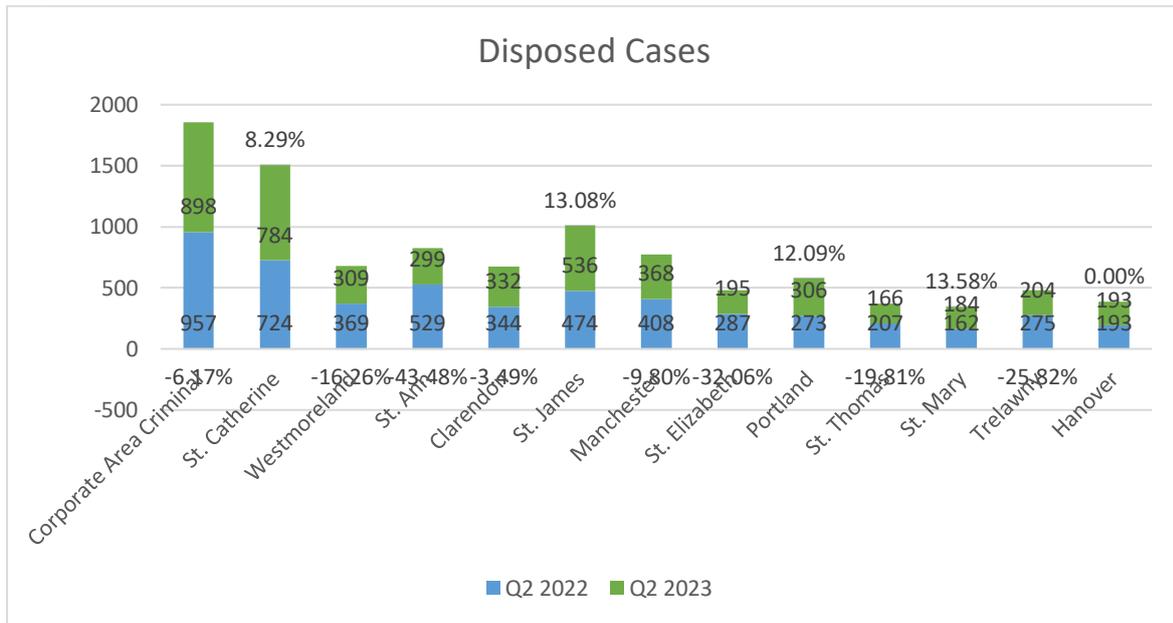
new cases filed per 10,000 population in the quarter. Clarendon and St. Catherine had the second lowest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population for the quarter.

**Chart 1.0a: Summary of changes in the number of new cases filed in the second quarters of 2022 and 2023**



The above chart provides a breakdown of the changes in the number of new cases filed in the second quarter of 2022 and 2023. It is seen that there has been a decrease in new cases filed over the comparative period six (6) parish courts and an increase in seven (7). Among the parish courts with the largest rise in new cases filed were the St. Mary Parish Court increasing by 12.43% and the Portland Parish Court, which increased by 12.32%. The St. Elizabeth parish court fell by 26.14% and the St. Thomas Parish court fell by 24.89%.

**Chart 1.0b: Summary of changes in the number of cases disposed in second quarters of 2022 and 2023**



The above graph provides a breakdown of the changes in the number of cases disposed in second quarter of 2022 and 2023. It is seen that there has been a decrease in cases resolved over the comparative period in eight (8) parish courts and an increase in the cases resolved in four (4) parish courts. The St. Ann Parish Court fell by 43.48%, the Elizabeth Parish fell by 32.06% and the Trelawny Parish Court fell by 25.82%. The St. Mary parish court increased by 13.58% and the St. James Parish court increased by 13.08%.

**Table 2.0e: Sampling distribution of the Indices of Judge Productivity for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Parish Court	Number of Judges	New criminal cases per Judges	Active pending caseload per Judge at the beginning of Q2 2023	Active caseload per Judge at the end of Q2 2023	Cases disposed per Judge
Hanover	2	84.50	47.00	31.50	96.50
St. Catherine	5	175.60	254.40	241.60	156.80
Westmoreland	2	179.50	89.00	100.00	154.50
St. Mary	3	69.33	85.33	90.33	61.33
Clarendon	3	105.67	162.33	145.33	110.67
Portland	2	118.50	259.50	215.00	153.00
St. Elizabeth	3	65.00	-	-	65.00
Corporate Area Criminal	9	153.22	484.11	485.22	99.78
St. Thomas	2	86.00	188.00	183.00	83.00
St. James	5	97.80	100.20	82.40	107.20
St. Ann	3	145.33	369.00	379.67	99.67
Trelawny	3	64.00	140.00	124.00	68.00
Manchester	3	114.33	267.67	250.67	122.67
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>119.42</b>	<b>230.44</b>	<b>222.58</b>	<b>106.09</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 second quarter of 2023. The data reveals that the overall weighted average number of new criminal cases filed per judge in the second quarter of 2023 is roughly 119 cases. The parish courts of Westmoreland (180 cases), St. Catherine (176 cases) and Corporate Area Criminal (153 cases) had the three largest number of new cases filed per judge during the quarter. On the contrary, the parish courts Trelawny (64 cases), St. Elizabeth (65 cases) and the St. Mary Parish Court (69 cases) had the lowest number of new cases filed per judge in the quarter. In terms of cases disposed per judge, the St. Catherine Parish Court disposed the most cases per judge in the quarter with 157 cases, followed by the Westmoreland Parish Court with 155 cases and the Portland Parish Court with 153 cases disposed per judge. The three courts with the smallest number of cases disposed per judge were the St. Mary Parish Court with 61 disposed cases per judge, the St. Elizabeth Parish Court with 65 disposed cases per judge and

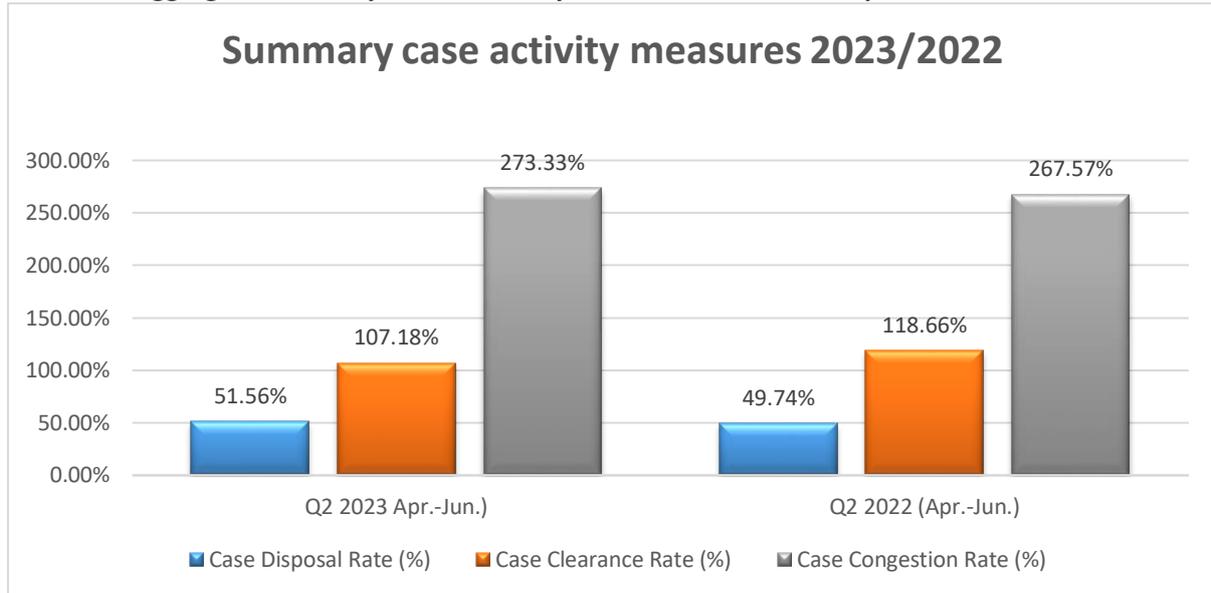
the Trelawny Parish Court with 68 disposed cases per judge. The overall number of criminal cases disposed per judge was 106 cases. The most crucial of the indicators is the active caseload per judge at the end of the quarter. The data shows that the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division had the highest caseload per judge at the end of the quarter with 485 cases, followed by the St. Ann Parish Court with 380 cases and the Manchester Parish Court with 251 cases per judge. On the lower end, the parish courts of Hanover and St. James with 32 and 82 cases per judge respectively, had the lowest active criminal caseload per judge at the end of the quarter, followed by the St. Mary Parish Court with 90 active criminal cases per judge. The overall average active criminal caseload per judge at the end of the quarter is 223 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 3.0: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the second quarter of 2022 and 2023**

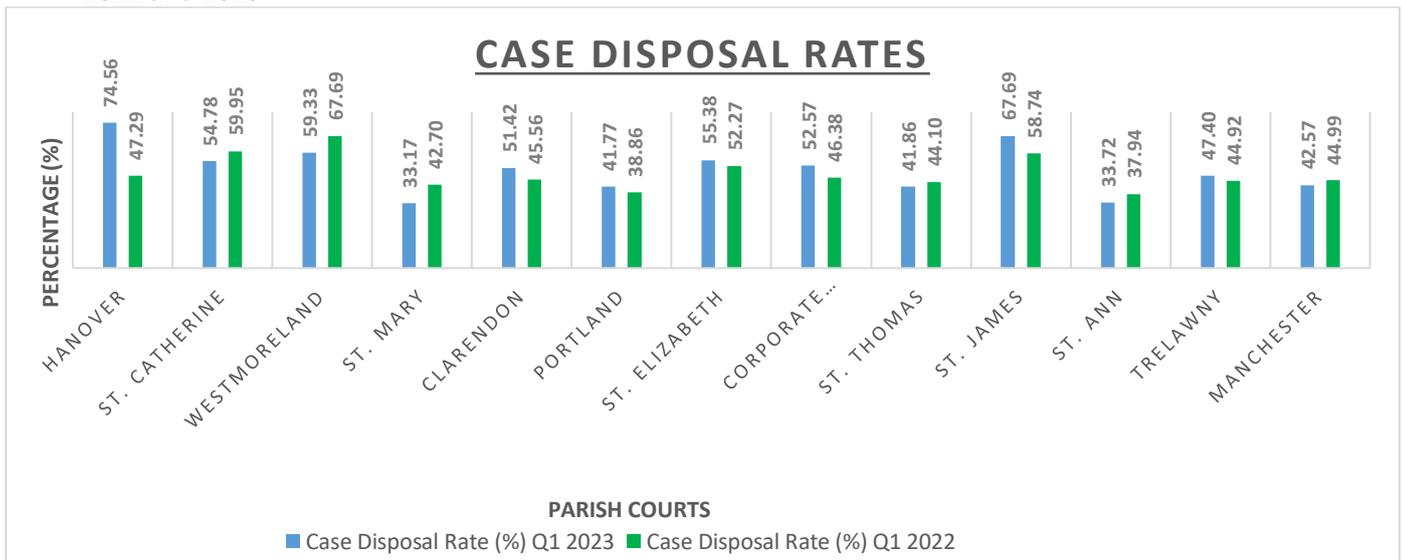
Parish Court	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q2 2023	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q2 2022	Change in case disposal rate (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q2 2023	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q2 2022	Change in case clearance rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q2 2023	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q2 2022	Change in case congestion rate (%)
Hanover	74.56	47.29	27.27	118.34	100	18.34	131.50	184.24	-52.74
St. Catherine	54.78	59.95	-5.17	107.29	108.74	-1.45	228.24	216.85	11.39
Westmoreland	59.33	67.69	-8.36	93.87	120.62	-26.75	159.35	140.56	18.79
St. Mary	33.17	42.7	-9.53	92.79	95.68	-2.89	240.41	216.38	24.03
Clarendon	51.42	45.56	5.86	116.09	96.4	19.69	218.48	256.22	-37.74
Portland	41.77	38.86	2.91	137.55	142.65	-5.10	231.90	233.22	-1.32
St. Elizabeth	55.38	52.27	3.11	116.41	123.86	-7.45	NA	NA	NA
Corporate Area Criminal	52.57	46.38	6.19	99.27	111.96	-12.69	418.99	411.85	7.14
St. Thomas	41.86	44.1	-2.24	105.81	100	5.81	301.10	324.45	-23.35
St. James	67.69	58.74	8.95	118.20	129.26	-11.06	171.28	204.23	-32.95
St. Ann	33.72	37.94	-4.22	92.66	142.11	-49.45	381.93	302.62	79.31
Trelawny	47.40	44.92	2.48	125.00	169.52	-44.52	255.00	245.74	9.26
Manchester	42.57	44.99	-2.42	114.87	134.96	-20.09	290.86	286.2	4.66
<b>Average /Weighted Average</b>	<b>51.56</b>	<b>49.74</b>	<b>1.82</b>	<b>107.18</b>	<b>118.66</b>	<b>-11.48</b>	<b>273.33</b>	<b>267.57</b>	<b>5.76</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>12.26</b>	<b>8.73</b>		<b>13.59</b>	<b>22.17</b>		<b>85.57</b>	<b>71.82</b>	<b>90.58</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>1.04</b>		<b>0.24</b>	<b>0.73</b>		<b>0.66</b>	<b>0.81</b>	<b>0.65</b>

The table above provides a comparison of the case disposal rate, the case clearance rate and the case congestion rate for the second quarter of 2022 and 2023. The weighted average case disposal rate for the second quarter of 2023, was 51.56%, which was a 1.82 percentage points increase when compared to the second quarter of 2022 which had a weighted average rate of 49.74%. The overall case clearance rate of 107.18% for the second quarter of 2023 was 11.48 percentage points less the 118.66% recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2022. The overall case congestion rate for the second quarter of 2023 deteriorated, changing from 267.57% in the second quarter of 2022, to 273.33% in the second quarter of 2023, a 5.76 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.

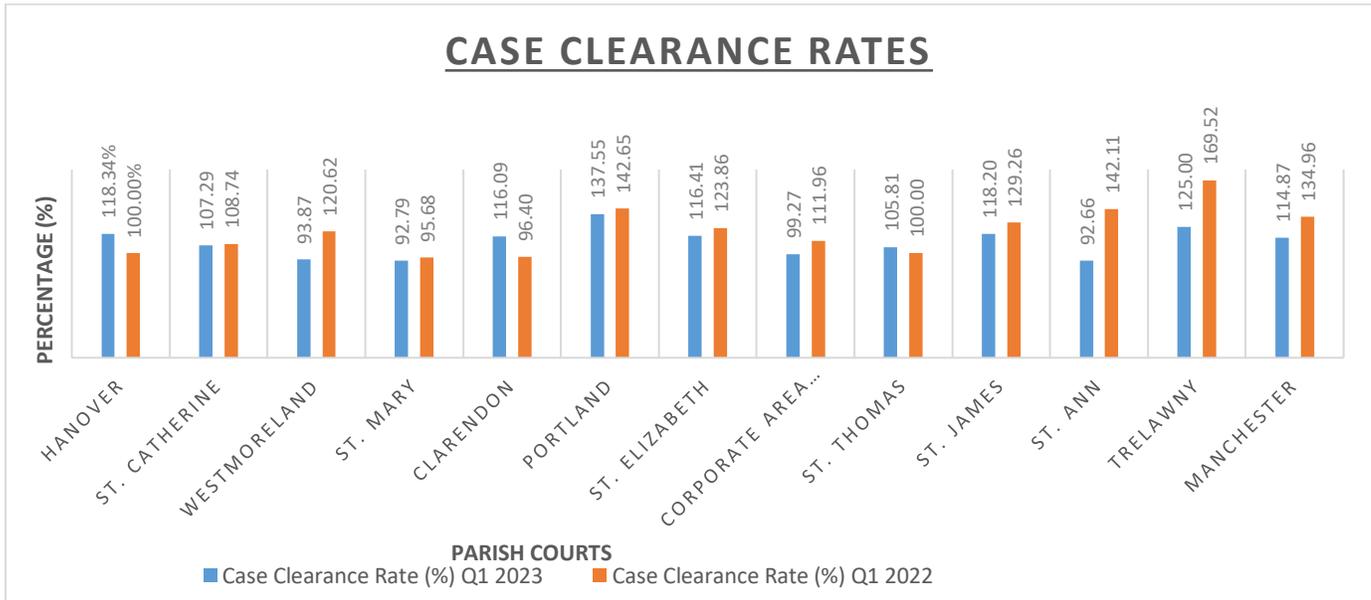
**Chart 2.0: Aggregate summary of case activity metrics for the second quarters of 2022 and 2023**



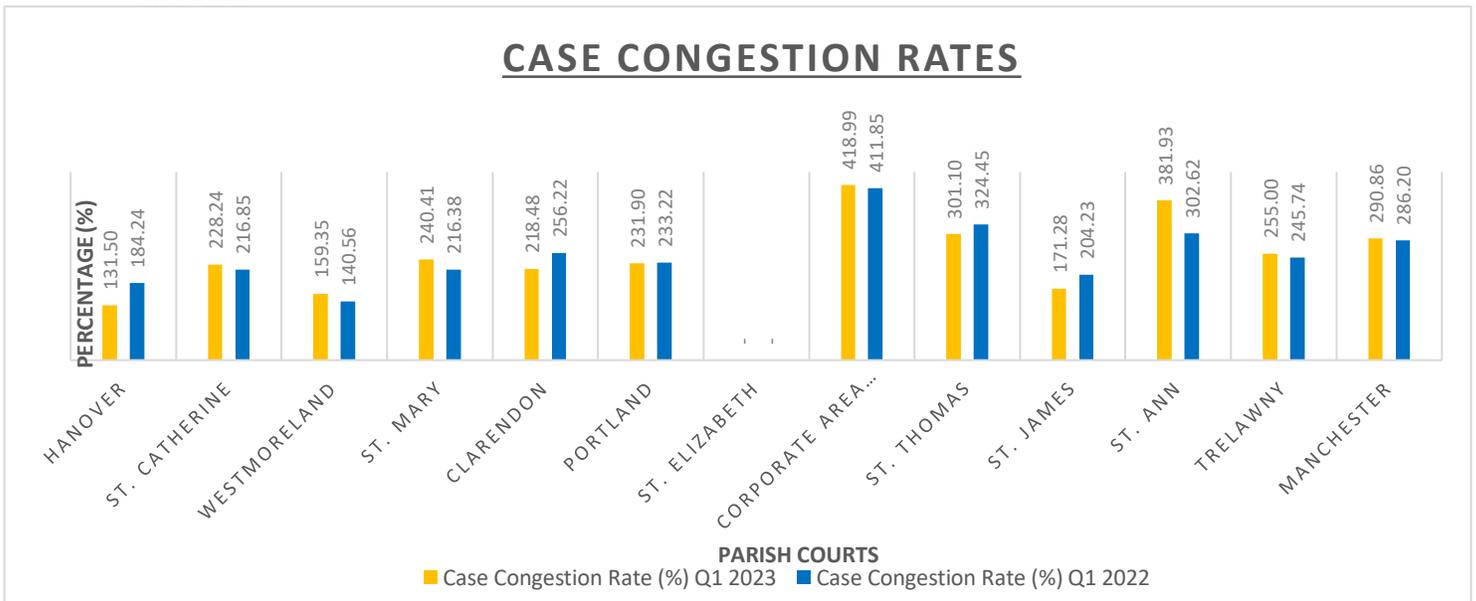
**Chart 3.0a: Comparison of case disposal rates across the parish courts for the second quarters of 2022 and 2023**



**Chart 3.0b: Comparison of case clearance rates across the parish courts for the second quarters of 2022 and 2023**



**Chart 3.0c: Comparison of case congestion rate across the parish courts for the second quarters of 2022 and 2023**



**Table 4.0a: Sampling distribution of mention court activity for cases disposed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Parish Court	Overall number of cases disposed	Number of cases disposed in 1 mention	Number of cases disposed in 2 mentions	Number of cases disposed in 3 mentions	Number of cases disposed in 4 mentions	Number of cases disposed in 5 mentions	Number of cases disposed in 6-10 mentions	Number of cases disposed in more than 10 mentions
Hanover	193	36	13	6	7	-	1	-
St. Catherine	784	111	69	57	48	37	74	28
Westmoreland	309	153	53	37	19	13	22	15
St. Mary	184	51	34	15	19	7	18	4
Clarendon	332	71	24	32	19	16	33	5
Portland	306	41	55	53	28	32	55	30
Corporate Area Criminal	898	311	140	103	89	68	161	36
St. Thomas	166	34	16	18	8	4	13	13
St. James	536	5	6	2	2	-	1	2
St. Ann	299	55	58	24	20	10	19	2
Trelawny	204	41	23	19	13	8	10	1
Manchester	368	80	48	43	27	15	37	7
<b>Mean</b>	<b>381.58</b>	<b>82.42</b>	<b>44.92</b>	<b>34.08</b>	<b>24.92</b>	<b>21.00</b>	<b>37.00</b>	<b>13.00</b>
<b>Median</b>	<b>307.50</b>	<b>53.00</b>	<b>41.00</b>	<b>28.00</b>	<b>19.00</b>	<b>14.00</b>	<b>20.50</b>	<b>7.00</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>2.27</b>	<b>1.71</b>	<b>1.40</b>	<b>2.11</b>	<b>1.77</b>	<b>2.24</b>	<b>0.87</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>238.47</b>	<b>81.94</b>	<b>36.15</b>	<b>27.79</b>	<b>23.47</b>	<b>19.68</b>	<b>44.61</b>	<b>12.70</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4579</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>143</b>

The above sampling distribution provides critical insights into mention court activity for a representative sample of criminal cases disposed across the parish courts over the second quarter of 2023. In general, the fewer the number of mentions per case, the more efficient the case flow progression. A maximum of five mentions per case is considered to be desirable based on international best practices. A notable 33.76% of the sample of 4,579 cases disposed of during the period were resolved on their first appearance before the court. A further 21.60% of the sample of cases disposed were resolved at first mention, while 11.77% were resolved after two

mentions and 8.93% after three mentions. Cumulatively, roughly 87.18% of the cases sampled were resolved in five or less mentions, 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 mentions in all courts and matters disposed on first appearance before the court or within the first few mentions 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 4.0b: Summary of cases heard during the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Number of cases heard in the quarter</b>	<b>Share of cases heard in the quarter (%)</b>
Clarendon	766	6.26
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	3814	31.15
Hanover	259	2.12
Manchester	787	6.43
Portland	618	5.05
St. Ann	1074	8.77
St. Catherine	2141	17.48
St. James	888	7.25
St. Mary	431	3.52
St. Thomas	384	3.14
Trelawny	547	4.47
Westmoreland	536	4.38
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>12245</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The table above provides a summary of the criminal cases heard during the second quarter of 2023 at the parish courts. From a sample of 12,245 cases heard, it is seen that the Corporate Area

Criminal court accounted for the highest share of cases heard with 3,814 cases heard or 31.15% of the sample, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court with 2,141 cases heard or 17.48% and the St. Ann parish court with 1,074 cases or 8.77% of the sample. Cumulatively, the top three courts account for roughly 57.40% of the cases sampled. On the lower end, the parish courts of Hanover with 259 cases of 2.12%, St. Thomas with 384 or 3.14% and St. Mary with 431 or 3.52% of the sample, accounted for the lowest share of cases heard in the second quarter of 2023.

**Table 5.0a: Comparison of the trial certainty rates for the second quarters of 2022 and 2023**

Parish Court	Trial certainty rate (%) Q2 (2023)	Trial certainty rate (%) Q2 (2022)	Change in the trial certainty rate (%)
Westmoreland	60	66	-6
Clarendon	92	90	2
St. Ann	75	64	11
Portland	79	90	-11
St. James	100	95	5
Manchester	96	96	0
St. Catherine	82	84	-2
Trelawny	76	91	-15
St. Mary	75	100	-25
St. Thomas	54	83	-29
Corporate Area Criminal	91	97	-6
Hanover	84	80	4
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>-6</b>

*Note 1: The trial date certainty rate for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for Q2 2023 is 100%*

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

The trial date certainty rate provides a measure of the extent to which dates, which are set for trial, proceed on schedule without being delayed to start at some future date. The overall trial date certainty rate for the second quarter of 2023 was 80%, a 6-percentage points decrease when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2022. Three (3) of the parish courts met the prescribed international performance standard of a rate between 92% and 100% in the quarter. Leading the way are the parish courts of St. James with a trial certainty rate of 100%, Manchester with 96%

and Clarendon with 92%. The Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division 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 is 95%. This is consistent with the push to significantly enhance the efficiency of the court system and hence the timely delivery of justice to the Jamaican citizenry. The attainment of this minimum threshold rate will depress the overall criminal case backlog in the Jamaican court system below 5%.

**Table 5.0b: Percentile Rank on trial date certainty rate for the criminal division of the parish courts in the second quarters of 2022 and 2023**

Parish Court	Percentile Rank – Trial Date Certainty Rate Q2 2023 (%)	Percentile Rank – Trial Date Certainty Rate Q2 2022 (%)
Westmoreland	9	9
Clarendon	82	45
St. Ann	18	0
Portland	45	45
St. James	100	73
Manchester	91	82
St. Catherine	55	36
Trelawny	36	64
St. Mary	18	100
St. Thomas	0	27
Corporate Area Criminal	73	91
Hanover	64	18

The above table provides a summary of the percentile rank of the various parish courts with regards to their performances on the trial date certainty rates for the second quarter of 2022 and 2023. 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 5.0c: Average duration from first trial date set to date of disposal of case for matters resolved by trial in the second quarter of 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average duration of trial</b>
Clarendon	217.90
Corporate Area	322.47
Hanover	76.52
Manchester	300.22
Portland	236.69
St. Ann	235.99
St. Catherine	451.95
St. James	252.93
St. Mary	167.94
St. Thomas	430.52
Trelawny	259.33
Westmoreland	111.28
<b>Weighted average</b>	<b>307.27</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>112.16</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 second quarter of 2023 across the various parish courts. The data shows an overall weighted average interval between the first trial date set and the disposition of such cases in the quarter is 307 days or roughly 10.2 months, with a standard deviation of roughly 112 days or 3.7 months. The Hanover and Westmoreland Parish Courts had the lowest times between first trial dates set and disposal of cases with roughly 77 days and 111 days respectively, reflective of more ideal standards when compared to most other courts. The St. Catherine and St. Thomas Parish Courts with average interval times of roughly 452 days or 15.1 months and 431 days or roughly 14.4 months respectively had the worst ranks on this measurement for the quarter. Lengthy time intervals between the first trial date and the date of case disposition are symptoms of case management problems, case readiness and possibly even scheduling and calendar management issues in the particular court.

**Table 5.0d: Time interval between major events for cases that had a trial date in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

<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	5.20	294.91	217.90
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	3.75	427.12	322.47
Hanover	9.39	186.70	76.52
Manchester	8.69	279.38	300.22
Portland	6.48	328.06	236.69
St. Ann	10.39	781.38	235.99
St. Catherine	8.04	341.02	451.95
St. James	6.88	1305.05	252.93
St. Mary	5.36	125.77	167.94
St. Thomas	7.09	230.97	430.52
Trelawny	7.20	298.54	259.33
Westmoreland	5.21	228.76	111.28
<b>Weighted average</b>	<b>6.27</b>	<b>479.47</b>	<b>307.27</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>1.93</b>	<b>328.69</b>	<b>112.16</b>

*Note 1: The average time between filing a case and the first court appearance for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for the second quarter of 2023 is 17.59 days.*

*Note 2: The average time between the first appearance and first trial date for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for the second quarter of 2023 is 799.05 days.*

*Note 3: The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for the second quarter of 2023 is 539.25 days.*

Tracking the times between the occurrence of major hearing events along the case flow continuum is important to establishing precise points of possible delay in case progression. The above table provides a summary of the average times between filing a case and the first court appearance, the average time between first court appearance and the first date of trial and the average duration between the first trial date and disposition. Overall, it is seen that the average time between filing a criminal case and the first court appearance is approximately 6 days, while the overall average time between first appearance of a criminal matter in the parish courts and

the first trial date is, however, much longer at roughly 16 months or 479 days. The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition is roughly 10.2 months or 307 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 5.0e: Trial court activity summary during the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

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	766	218	28.46
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	3814	725	19.01
Hanover	259	52	20.08
Manchester	787	223	28.34
Portland	618	78	12.62
St. Ann	1074	256	23.84
St. Catherine	2141	644	30.08
St. James	888	50	5.63
St. Mary	431	83	19.26
St. Thomas	384	77	20.05
Trelawny	547	124	22.67
Westmoreland	536	81	15.11
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>12245</b>	<b>2611</b>	<b>21.32</b>

*Note 1: The Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann had 17.62% of cases heard proceed to trial in the second quarter of 2023*

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

The above table provides a summary of number of cases heard in the second quarter of 2023 in the criminal divisions of the parish courts which had trial dates set, whether in the current

quarter, from the previous quarter or a future date. Using a sampling distribution, it is seen that of 12,245 criminal cases heard across the parish courts in the second quarter of 2023, 2,611 cases or 21.32% had a trial date set. The parish courts of St. James (5.63%), Portland (12.62%) and Westmoreland (15.11%) had the lowest proportion of cases proceeding to trial, while the parish courts of St. Catherine (30.08%), Clarendon (28.46%) and Manchester (28.34%) had the highest proportions.

**Table 6.0a: Distribution of courtroom utilization rates across the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

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	66.96	146.39	0.83	28.36	53.75	1.0
Westmoreland	67.81	145.00	3.33	46.55	NA	NA
Trelawny	63.23	133.33	1.00	31.11	NA	1.0
St. Thomas	53.34	103.06	2.78	26.69	NA	1.0
St. Mary	58.64	130.00	10.00	25.34	NA	1.0
St. James	68.78	274.33	5.00	40.70	NA	NA
Corporate Area Criminal Court	57.72	120.56	2.78	28.70	NA	1.1
St. Ann	64.11	226.39	1.39	32.95	38.06	1.0
Portland	72.04	227.78	8.33	33.01	NA	1.0
Hanover	69.62	206.94	1.39	38.39	NA	1.0
Clarendon	62.67	121.33	7.33	26.56	NA	NA
Manchester	62.04	131.00	1.39	29.55	NA	1.0
<b>Overall Averages</b>	<b>63.91</b>	<b>163.84</b>	<b>3.80</b>	<b>32.33</b>	<b>45.91</b>	<b>1.01</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>5.48</b>	<b>54.98</b>	<b>3.15</b>	<b>6.48</b>	<b>18.18</b>	<b>0.46</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>-0.43</b>	<b>0.94</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>1.14</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3.00</b>

*Note: The courtroom utilization rate for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for in the second quarter of 2023 is 66.34%.*

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the various parish courts in the second quarter of 2023. The courtroom utilization rate provides a measurement of the proportion of available hours for open court hearings in all courtrooms (including outstations) which are actually utilized. If the usage of any courtroom exceeds the available hours, then the utilization rate will exceed 100% and the rate will fall below 100% if less than the available hours are utilized. The prescribed international standard for the courtroom utilization rate is 100%, which means that all hours allocated for court hearings in any court, on any given day should be utilized. The data suggests that as a whole, the parish courts of Jamaica performed below this level in the second quarter of 2023. The overall average courtroom utilization rate across the parish courts in the quarter was 63.91%, which is an indication that on average roughly 64% of the available hours for court hearings were utilized across the parish courts in the second quarter of 2023. This result is roughly 1.20 percentage points below the figure for the corresponding period in 2022. The parish courts recording the highest courtroom utilization rates for the quarter are the Portland and Hanover Parish Courts with 72.04% and 69.62% respectively, followed by the St. James Parish Court with 68.78% and the Westmoreland Parish Court with 67.81%. The St. Thomas and Corporate Area Criminal Parish Courts with 53.34% and 57.72% respectively, had the lowest rates, while the St. Mary Parish Court with 58.64% had the next lowest rate. It is quite commendable that all parish courts exceeded a courtroom utilization rate of 50% for the quarter. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates was relatively low, suggesting that on average the rates for the individual courts did not vary widely from the overall mean. The positive skewness of the data suggests that proportionately more of the sample are below the overall mean.

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 6.0b: Percentile Rank on Courtroom utilization rate for the criminal division of the parish courts in the second quarters of 2023 and 2022**

Parish Court	Percentile rank Q2 2023 (%)	Percentile rank Q2 2022 (%)
St. Catherine	64	27
Westmoreland	73	100
Trelawny	45	82
St. Thomas	0	36
St. Mary	18	18
St. James	82	73
Corporate Area Criminal Court	9	9
St. Ann	55	55
Portland	100	91
Hanover	91	0
Clarendon	36	64
Manchester	27	45

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

The above table provides a summary of the percentile rank of the various parish courts with regards to their performances on the courtroom utilization rates for the second quarter of 2022 and 2023. 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 Portland Parish Court performed better than all courts in the second quarter of 2023 and the Westmoreland Parish Court performed better than all courts in the second quarter of 2022. The St. Thomas Parish Court had the lowest courtroom utilization rate in the second quarter of 2023 and the Hanover Parish Court with the lowest rate in the second quarter of 2022.

**Table 7.0: Types of charges filed in each Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Parish Court	Indictment	Summary Matters	Lay Magistrates Sittings	Committal Proceedings	Tax	Miscellaneous	LRF	Traffic	NS	Total
Corporate Area Criminal	1239	843	169	221	-	-	-	10	-	2482
St. Catherine	577	534	159	166	18	-	11	-	-	1465
Manchester	248	73	158	77	15	-	5	-	-	576
St. James	240	245	146	43	24	18	-	-	-	716
St. Ann	292	133	136	119	2	-	-	-	-	682
Westmoreland	173	155	98	101	8	-	-	-	-	535
Clarendon	187	174	51	66	-	-	1	-	-	479
Portland	159	73	44	7	-	-	-	-	-	283
St. Mary	150	54	54	90	1	-	-	-	-	349
Trelawny	103	88	36	21	-	-	30	-	-	278
Hanover	133	42	46	21	-	-	35	-	-	277
St. Thomas	128	85	40	46	-	-	4	-	-	303
<b>Total</b>	<b>3629</b>	<b>2499</b>	<b>1137</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8425</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>43.07</b>	<b>29.66</b>	<b>13.50</b>	<b>11.61</b>	<b>0.81</b>	<b>0.21</b>	<b>1.02</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

\*Total number of observations = 8,425\*\*LRF means Law Reform Fraudulent Transaction, \*\*\*NS means not stated

The above table provides a breakdown of the different types of new charges filed in each parish court for the second quarter of 2023. For the quarter, 8,425 charges were filed across the parish courts, a decrease of approximately 76 charges or a 0.89% decline when compared to the corresponding second quarter of 2022. The largest proportions of these charges were filed in the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division (2,482), the St. Catherine Parish Court (1,465), the St. James Parish Court with (716) and the St. Ann Parish Court with 682 charges. The largest share of the charges were Indictments (43.07%); followed by summary matters (29.66%), Lay Magistrates’ matters (13.50%) and Committal Proceedings with 11.61% 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, St. Ann and Manchester. The Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division accounted for the largest share of summary matters filed, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court and the St. James Parish Court. The largest proportion of Lay Magistrates’ matters was filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court– Criminal Division, followed by the parish courts of St. Catherine and Manchester. The Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court and the St. Ann Parish Court accounted for the largest individual shares of Committal Proceedings in the quarter. As for criminal matters, which are traffic related, the only incidences of these in the quarter were in the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division.

### Offence Types

**Table 8.01: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	47	16.97
Unlawful wounding	40	14.44
Threat	20	7.22
Malicious destruction of property	17	6.14
Assault at common law	10	3.61
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>48.38</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 277

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court for the second quarter of 2023. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 47 or 16.97% and unlawful wounding with 40 or 14.44% of the total sample of charges are the most frequently occurring charges. Threat with 20 or 7.22% followed this, while malicious destruction of property with 17 or 6.14% and assault at common law with

10 or 3.61% of the total sample rounds off the top five. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 48.38% of the total sample of 277 charges filed in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the second quarter of 2022 in the Hanover Parish Court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property, threat and stone throwing.

**Table 8.02: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Assault occasioning bodily harm	70	12.15
Exposing goods for sale	62	10.76
Unlawful wounding	48	8.33
Malicious destruction of property	31	5.38
Threat	24	4.17
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>40.80</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 576

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court for the second quarter of 2023. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 70 or 12.15% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Exposing goods for sale with 62 or 10.76% and unlawful wounding with 48 or 8.33% rank next. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 31 or 5.38% and threat with 24 or 4.17% of the sample charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 40.80% of the total sample of 576 charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the second quarter of 2022 in the Manchester Parish Court included threat, malicious destruction of property, assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding and exposing goods for sale.

**Table 8.03: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Portland Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Unlawful wounding	41	14.34
Threat	40	13.99
Assault occasioning bodily harm	40	13.99
Malicious destruction of property	12	4.20
Assault at common law	10	3.50
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>50.00</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 286

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Portland Parish Court in the second quarter of 2023. It is shown that unlawful wounding with 41 or 14.34% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm and threat with 40 or 13.99% each ranked next. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 12 or 4.20% and assault at common law with 10 or 3.50% of the sample of charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 50% of the total sample of 286 charges filed in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the second quarter of 2022 in the Portland parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, threat, malicious destruction of property and assault at common law.

**Table 8.04: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Threat	111	16.32
Assault occasioning bodily harm	67	9.85
Unlawful wounding	53	7.79
Obtaining money by false pretences	49	7.21
Littering in a public place	39	5.74
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>46.91</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 680

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the second quarter of 2023. It is shown that threat with 111 or 16.32% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 67 or 9.85% and unlawful wounding with 53 or 7.79% followed this. Obtaining money by false pretences with 49 or 7.21% and littering in public with 39 or 5.74% of the total sample rounds of the top charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 46.91% of the total sample of 680 charges filed in the quarter at the St. Ann Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the second quarter of 2022 in the St. Ann parish court included threat, assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property, and breaches of the Curfew Order. From a sample of 140 charges, it is seen that the leading charges recorded in the second quarter of 2023 at the Brown’s Town Outstation included threat with 49 or 35% of the charges, unlawful wounding with 18 or 12.86% and assault occasioning bodily harm with 14 or 10%. Simple larceny with 8 or 5.71% and malicious destruction of property with 4.29% of the sample followed.

**Table 8.05: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Assault occasioning bodily harm	211	14.40
Possession of offensive weapon	126	8.60
Smoking in a public place	112	7.65
Unlawful wounding	90	6.14
Malicious destruction of property	76	5.19
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>41.98</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 1465

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the second quarter of 2023. It is shown that assault

occasioning bodily harm with 211 or 14.40% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Possession of offensive weapon with 126 or 8.60%, smoking in a public place with 112 or 7.65% and unlawful wounding with 90 or 6.14% followed this. Malicious destruction of property with 76 or 5.19% of the total sample of charges filed round off the top five. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 41.98% of the total sample of 1,465 charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the second quarter of 2022 in the St. Catherine parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, breaches of the disaster risk management act, possession of offensive weapon, unlawful wounding and malicious destruction of property.

**Table 8.06: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. James Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	79	10.97
Possession of offensive weapon	64	8.89
Unlawful wounding	51	7.08
Threat	47	6.53
Malicious destruction of property	39	5.42
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>38.89</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 720

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges at the St. James Parish Court in second quarter of 2023. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 79 or 10.97% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Possession of offensive weapon with 64 or 8.89% and unlawful wounding with 51 or 7.08% followed this. The top five is rounded off by threat with 47 or 6.53% and malicious destruction of property with 39 or 5.42% of the total sample. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 38.89% of the sample of 720 charges filed in quarter at the St. James Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the second quarter of 2022 in the St.

James parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, possession of offensive weapon, unlawful wounding, threat and possession of ganja.

**Table 8.07: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	38	10.89
Unlawful wounding	31	8.88
Threat	28	8.02
Malicious destruction of property	24	6.88
Assault at common law	22	6.30
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>40.97</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 349

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the second quarter of 2023. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 38 or 10.89% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 31 or 8.88% and threat with 28 or 8.02% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 24 or 6.88% and assault at common law with 22 or 6.30% of the sample. The charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 40.97% of the total sample of 349 charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the second quarter of 2022 in the St. Mary parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, threat, possession of offensive weapon and malicious destruction of property.

**Table 8.08: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	45	15.25
Unlawful wounding	31	10.51
Smoking in a Public Place	23	7.80
Malicious destruction of property	15	5.08
Threat	13	4.41
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>43.05</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 295

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in the second quarter of 2023. It is shown assault occasioning bodily harm with 45 or 15.25% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 31 or 10.51%, smoking in a public place with 23 or 7.80% and malicious destruction of property with 15 or 5.08% followed this. The top five is rounded off by threat with 13 or 4.41% of the total sample of charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 43.05% of the sample of 295 charges filed in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the second quarter of 2022 in the St. Thomas parish court included smoking in a public place, unlawful wounding, assault occasioning bodily harm, threat and armed with an offensive weapon.

**Table 8.09: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	32	11.51
Unlawful wounding	31	11.15
Offensive Weapon	25	8.99
Knowingly Possessing Identity Information	21	7.55
Malicious Destruction of Property	19	6.83
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>46.04</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 278

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the second quarter of 2023. It is shown assault occasioning bodily harm with 32 or 11.51% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 31 or 11.15% and offensive weapon with 25 or 8.99% followed this. Knowingly possessing identity information with 21 or 7.55% and malicious destruction of property with 19 or 6.83% of the total sample of charges round of the top five charges filed in the quarter. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 46.04% of the total sample of 278 charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the second quarter of 2022 in the Trelawny parish court included unlawful wounding, assault occasioning bodily harm, malicious destruction of property, possession of ganja, and knowingly possessing identity information.

**Table 8.10: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	87	16.35
Threat	59	11.09
Unlawful wounding	40	7.52
Offensive Weapon	40	7.52
Malicious destruction of property	32	6.02
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>48.50</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 532

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the second quarter of 2023. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 87 or 16.35% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Threat with 59 or 11.09% and unlawful wounding and offensive weapon with 40 or 7.52% each followed this. Malicious destruction of property with 32 or 6.02% of the sample rank next. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 48.50% of the total sample

of 532 charges filed in the quarter at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the second quarter of 2022 in the Westmoreland parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, threat, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property and possession of identity information.

**Table 8.11: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Assault occasioning bodily harm	61	12.73
Unlawful wounding	46	9.60
Being Armed with an offensive weapon	36	7.52
Malicious destruction of property	34	7.10
Threat	28	5.85
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>42.80</b>

Number of observations sampled (N): 479

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in second quarter of 2023. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 61 or 12.73% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 46 or 9.60% and being armed with an offensive weapon with 36 or 7.52% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 34 or 7.10% and threat with 28 or 5.85%. The charges quoted above account for an estimated 42.80% of the sample of 479 charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the second quarter of 2022 in the Clarendon parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, being armed with an offensive weapon, possession of ganja and malicious destruction of property.

**Table 8.12: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Littering	284	11.45%
Assault occasioning bodily harm	240	9.67%
Unlawful wounding	164	6.61%
Armed with an offensive weapon	125	5.04%
Malicious destruction of property	107	4.31%
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>37.08%</b>

**Number of observations sampled (N): 2481**

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division for the second quarter of 2023. It is shown that littering with 284 or 11.45% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 240 or 9.67% and unlawful wounding with 164 or 6.61% followed this. The top five is rounded off by armed with an offensive weapon with 125 or 5.04% and malicious destruction of property with 107 or 4.31% of the charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 37.08% of the total sample of 2,481 charges at filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court –Criminal Division in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the second quarter of 2022 in the Corporate Area parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property, littering and disorderly conduct.

**Table 9.0: Conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Type of case	Number of disposed matters	Number of guilty verdicts	Number of guilty pleas	Aggregate number of guilty outcomes	Estimated conviction rate (%)
Summary	2048	95	1255	1350	65.92
Indictment	3409	101	562	663	19.45

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard across all parish courts in the second quarter of 2023. Summary matters heard in the quarter include charges such as possession of an offensive weapon, possession of ganja, exposing goods for sale and dealing in ganja. The estimated conviction rate for the quarter for summary matters was 65.92%, which is 5.09 percentage points above the conviction rate of 60.83% recorded for the corresponding second quarter of 2022. The estimated conviction rate for indictment matters was significantly lower at 19.45% for the quarter, a rate which is approximately 1.28 percentage points below the 20.73% recorded in the second quarter of 2022. Indictment matters heard in the quarter included charges such as assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property and simple larceny.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges across the parish courts for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

<b>Charge</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Assault occasioning bodily harm	1017	12.08
Unlawful wounding	666	7.91
Armed with an offensive weapon	477	5.67
Malicious destruction of property	441	5.24
Threat	437	5.19
Littering	331	3.93
Exposing goods for sale	244	2.90
Smoking in a public place	215	2.55
Disorderly conduct	213	2.53
Possession of ganja	203	2.41
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>4244</b>	<b>50.42</b>

**Number of observations sampled (N): 8,418**

The above table shows the distribution of the ten most commonly occurring charges across all parish courts for the second quarter of 2023. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 1,017 or 12.08% of the total number of charges sampled is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 666 or 7.91% and armed with an offensive weapon with 477 or 5.67% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 441 or 5.24% and threat with 437 or 5.19% of the total sample of charges filed in the quarter. These ten most frequently occurring types of charges account for approximately 50.42% of the total sample of charges filed in the quarter.

**Table 11.0: Conviction rate for leading occurring charges heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Type of Offence	Number of disposed matters	Number of guilty verdicts	Number of guilty pleas	Aggregate number of guilty outcomes	Estimated conviction rate (%)
Smoking in a public place	166	0	157	157	94.58
Armed with an offensive weapon	401	18	350	368	91.77
Exposing goods for sale	196	34	145	179	91.33
Possession of ganja	185	27	119	146	78.92
Littering	23	1	17	18	78.26
Disorderly conduct	189	15	123	138	73.02
Assault occasioning bodily harm	1013	15	100	115	11.35
Threat	360	4	35	39	10.83
Unlawful wounding	658	13	53	66	10.03
Malicious destruction of property	437	13	55	38	8.70

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for the ten (10) leading charges across all parish courts in the second quarter of 2023. It is shown that smoking in a public place had the highest estimated conviction rate on the list with 94.58%. Armed with an offensive weapon with 91.77% and exposing goods for sale with 91.33% followed this. The top conviction rates on the list in the quarter is rounded off by possession of ganja with an estimated conviction rate of 78.92% and littering with an estimated conviction rate of 78.26%. Armed with an offensive weapon recorded the highest estimated conviction rate in the corresponding second quarter of 2022 with 89.45%, followed by possession of ganja with an estimated conviction rate of 80%.

**Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of the average age of active charges for each parish court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average age of active charges (days)</b>
Clarendon	36
Trelawny	33
Portland	36
St. Mary	27
Hanover	25
Westmoreland	34
St. Catherine	37
St. Ann	29
St. James	32
St. Thomas	41
Corporate Area Criminal	38
Manchester	37
<b>Overall Average</b>	<b>33.75</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>4.77</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>-0.54</b>

The above table shows the average age of active charges originating in the second quarter of 2023, for charges originating in said quarter. The overall average age of active matters originating in the quarter was approximately 34 days or roughly 1.1 months, roughly 6 days less than the average recorded in the second quarter of 2022. The parish courts of Hanover, St. Mary and St. Ann have the lowest averages on the list. On the contrary, the highest averages were observed in the parish courts of St. Thomas, Corporate Area Criminal, Manchester, St. Catherine, Portland and Clarendon. The standard deviation of the scores was, however, relatively low (5 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 13.0: Average age of charges disposed for matters originating in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average age of disposed charges (days)</b>
Clarendon	34
Trelawny	34
Portland	31
St. Mary	22
Hanover	23
Westmoreland	20
St. Catherine	25
St. Ann	29
St. James	24
St. Thomas	36
Corporate Area Criminal	33
Manchester	28
<b>Overall Average</b>	<b>28.25</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>5.40</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>-0.06</b>

The above table shows that the average time taken to dispose of criminal cases filed in the Parish Courts in the second quarter of 2023 is approximately 28 days. This is roughly 4 less days than the time taken to dispose of cases originating in the second quarter of 2022. The standard deviation of the scores was relatively low (5 days), an indication that the individual values for the parish courts were on average close to the overall mean. The

positive skewness, however, indicates that proportionately more of the scores of the individual times to disposition in the data set were below the overall series average. The scores ranged from a low of roughly 20 days at the Westmoreland Parish Court to a high of 36 days for the St. Thomas Parish Court.

**Table 14.0a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

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	14024 (36.5%)	8087 (21.1%)	4851 (12.6%)	3353 (8.7%)	3450 (9.0%)	1948 (5.1%)	2660 (6.9%)	38373 (100%)
St. Catherine	6240 (34.3%)	4286 (23.5%)	2456 (13.5%)	1458 (8.0%)	1570 (8.6%)	734 (4.0%)	1466 (8.1%)	18210 (100%)
St. James	5315 (37.9%)	2795 (19.9%)	1532 (10.9%)	1179 (8.4%)	1341 (9.6%)	654 (4.7%)	1203 (8.6%)	14019 (100%)
Manchester	3282 (26.8%)	2200 (17.9%)	1645 (13.4%)	1258 (10.3%)	1524 (12.4%)	961 (7.8%)	1395 (11.4%)	12265 (100%)
Westmoreland	5683 (55.1%)	1875 (18.2%)	1077 (10.4%)	572 (5.5%)	583 (5.6%)	254 (2.5%)	275 (2.7%)	10319 (100%)
St. Ann	2895 (26.1%)	2160 (19.4%)	1343 (12.1%)	1067 (9.6%)	1478 (13.3%)	839 (7.6%)	1327 (11.9%)	11109 (100%)
Clarendon	4986 (42.0%)	2713 (22.9%)	1421 (12.0%)	856 (7.2%)	1069 (9.0%)	385 (3.2%)	436 (3.7%)	11866 (100%)
St. Thomas	1832 (28.7%)	1415 (22.2%)	826 (12.9%)	727 (11.4%)	691 (10.8%)	339 (5.3%)	555 (8.7%)	6385 (100%)
Portland	2744 (37.4%)	1861 (25.4%)	893 (12.2%)	581 (7.9%)	610 (8.3%)	336 (4.6%)	304 (4.1%)	7329 (100%)
St. Mary	3346 (43.7%)	1546 (20.2%)	974 (12.7%)	593 (7.7%)	579 (7.6%)	255 (3.3%)	363 (4.7%)	7656 (100%)
Trelawny	2058 (35.8%)	1056 (18.4%)	673 (11.7%)	492 (8.6%)	571 (9.9%)	336 (5.8%)	563 (9.8%)	5749 (100%)
Hanover	2878 (51.9%)	1227 (22.1%)	552 (9.9%)	329 (5.9%)	264 (4.8%)	147 (2.6%)	152 (2.7%)	5549 (100%)
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>37.15</b>	<b>20.98</b>	<b>12.26</b>	<b>8.38</b>	<b>9.23</b>	<b>4.83</b>	<b>7.19</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>4606.92</b>	<b>2601.75</b>	<b>1520.25</b>	<b>1038.75</b>	<b>1144.17</b>	<b>599.00</b>	<b>891.58</b>	<b>12402.42</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>3304.05</b>	<b>1935.55</b>	<b>1169.78</b>	<b>806.76</b>	<b>854.22</b>	<b>497.55</b>	<b>737.19</b>	<b>9009.33</b>

<b>Skewness</b>	<b>2.37</b>	<b>2.40</b>	<b>2.41</b>	<b>2.42</b>	<b>1.92</b>	<b>2.02</b>	<b>1.31</b>	<b>2.48</b>
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*Number of charges sampled (N) = 148, 829*

*Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the previous 6.8 years*

The above table shows the breakdown of the times to disposition for matters filed in the respective parish courts for at least 82 consecutive months (6.8 years) over the period September 2016 to June 2023. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 37.15% 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, 78.77% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year, a continued positive indicator of the potential effectiveness of the courts in 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, Manchester and St. Catherine had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 7.19% 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 Manchester 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 14.0b: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition for matters completed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

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	416 (34.1%)	233 (19.1%)	144 (11.8%)	126 (10.3%)	126 (10.3%)	74 (6.1%)	102 (8.4%)	1221 (100%)
St. Catherine	244 (31.0%)	145 (18.4%)	117 (14.9%)	68 (8.6%)	52 (6.6%)	47 (6.0%)	114 (14.5%)	787 (100%)
St. James	207 (43.3%)	105 (22.0%)	30 (6.3%)	27 (5.6%)	57 (11.9%)	20 (4.2%)	32 (6.7%)	478 (100%)
Manchester	185 (42.0%)	113 (25.6%)	33 (7.5%)	37 (8.4%)	27 (6.1%)	25 (5.7%)	21 (4.8%)	441 (100%)
Westmoreland	157 (64.3%)	45 (18.4%)	27 (11.1%)	6 (2.5%)	6 (2.5%)	2 (0.8%)	1 (0.4%)	244 (100%)
St. Ann	114 (32.3%)	72 (20.4%)	37 (10.5%)	36 (10.2%)	21 (5.9%)	24 (6.8%)	49 (13.9%)	353 (100%)
Clarendon	145 (39.2%)	109 (29.5%)	45 (12.2%)	14 (3.8%)	25 (6.8%)	14 (3.8%)	18 (4.9%)	370 (100%)
St. Thomas	57 (23.0%)	41 (16.5%)	23 (9.3%)	26 (10.5%)	8 (3.2%)	16 (6.5%)	77 (31.0%)	248 (100%)
Portland	132 (37.5%)	73 (20.7%)	52 (14.8%)	27 (7.7%)	47 (13.4%)	17 (4.8%)	4 (1.1%)	352 (100%)
St. Mary	130 (50.4%)	46 (17.8%)	32 (12.4%)	14 (5.4%)	28 (10.9%)	6 (2.3%)	2 (0.8%)	258 (100%)
Trelawny	70 (29.9%)	34 (14.5%)	37 (15.8%)	9 (3.8%)	33 (14.1%)	19 (8.1%)	32 (13.7%)	234 (100%)
Hanover	123 (72.8%)	26 (15.4%)	4 (2.4%)	15 (8.9%)	1 (0.6%)	-	-	169 (100%)
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>38.41</b>	<b>20.21</b>	<b>11.27</b>	<b>7.86</b>	<b>8.36</b>	<b>5.12</b>	<b>8.77</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>165.00</b>	<b>86.83</b>	<b>48.42</b>	<b>33.75</b>	<b>35.92</b>	<b>24.00</b>	<b>41.09</b>	<b>429.58</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>94.98</b>	<b>59.30</b>	<b>40.51</b>	<b>33.53</b>	<b>33.48</b>	<b>20.23</b>	<b>39.99</b>	<b>297.72</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.78</b>	<b>1.43</b>	<b>1.75</b>	<b>2.22</b>	<b>1.89</b>	<b>1.75</b>	<b>0.89</b>	<b>2.06</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 5,155*

The table above shows the breakdown of the time disposition for matters disposed parish courts in the quarter ended June 30, 2023. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 38.41% of the disposals. The Corporate Area Court -Criminal Division along with the parish courts of St. Catherine, St. James and Manchester are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days. Cumulatively, 77.75% 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. James had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 8.77% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts of St. Catherine, Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division and St. Thomas had the largest proportion of their disposed matters in the quarter 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 15.0a: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Criminal	245.60	1	139	298.46	2.58	1	2756	38373
St. Catherine	266.53	63	141	362.61	2.94	1	2510	18210
St. James	261.30	66	135	319.92	2.22	1	2263	14019
Manchester	322.55	63	210	332.49	1.77	1	2647	12265
Westmoreland	149.97	28	76	192.47	2.55	1	1792	10319
St. Ann	331.70	63	205	355.59	1.94	1	2314	11109
Clarendon	193.19	63	112	227.74	2.65	1	2685	11866
St. Thomas	273.55	63	174	285.65	1.83	1	2047	6385
Portland	214.37	63	126	262.58	3.13	1	2196	7329
St. Mary	194.73	14	111.50	228.23	2.15	1	1904	7656
Trelawny	279.04	28	154	326.55	1.96	1	2080	5749
Hanover	152.81	28	84	194.43	2.68	1	1696	5549
<b>Average/Weighted Average</b>	<b>246.48</b>	<b>45.25</b>	<b>138.96</b>	<b>282.23</b>	<b>2.37</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>2240.83</b>	<b>12402.42</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>60.05</b>	<b>23.64</b>	<b>42.12</b>	<b>60.35</b>	<b>0.45</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>354.60</b>	<b>9009.33</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>-0.10</b>	<b>-0.74</b>	<b>0.34</b>	<b>-0.27</b>	<b>0.21</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>2.48</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 148, 829*

*Note 1: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the previous 6.8 years.*

*Note 2: The average time to disposition for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann as at June 30, 2023 is 332.20 days*

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a large sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at June 30, 2023. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least an 82-month period over September 2016 – June 2023 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 246 days (8.2 months). The skewness of these times to disposition is a low negative 0.01, suggesting a cluster of scores around the overall mean. For

matters disposed of in the period, the parish courts of Westmoreland (150 days), Hanover (153 days) and Clarendon (193 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Ann (332 days), Manchester (323 days) and Trelawny (279 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 (60.05), 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 1696 days (56.5 months/4.7 years) in the Hanover parish court to a high of 2756 days (91.9 months/7.7 years) in Corporate Area Criminal Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a positive 0.02, which is an indication that most of the maximum times to disposition were clustered around the overall series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial 148,829 matters.

**Table 15.0b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for matters completed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Criminal	265.95	56	154	285.02	1.81	1	1565	1221
St. Catherine	327.83	145	183	389.35	1.93	2	2380	787
St. James	294.31	530	106	760.60	9.36	1	10077	478
Manchester	224.62	49	119	326.78	3.73	1	2647	441
Westmoreland	93.62	14	46	117.29	2.80	1	846	244
St. Ann	328.07	63	162	401.12	1.99	1	1822	353
Clarendon	218.09	49	112	372.19	6.21	1	3824	370
St. Thomas	462.92	1239	287	433.40	0.69	2	1316	248
Portland	214.03	63	129.50	245.81	3.76	1	2168	352
St. Mary	154.95	56	88	161.63	1.51	1	797	258
Trelawny	340.86	247	208	357.96	1.52	3	1546	234
Hanover	75.61	35	42	88.89	1.96	1	433	169
<b>Average/Weighted Average</b>	<b>264.69</b>	<b>212.17</b>	<b>136.38</b>	<b>328.34</b>	<b>3.11</b>	<b>1.33</b>	<b>2451.75</b>	<b>429.58</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>110.71</b>	<b>353.98</b>	<b>68.91</b>	<b>177.88</b>	<b>2.45</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>2573.23</b>	<b>297.72</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.11</b>	<b>2.65</b>	<b>0.72</b>	<b>1.05</b>	<b>1.82</b>	<b>1.93</b>	<b>2.73</b>	<b>2.06</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 5,155*

*Note: The average time to disposition for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann in the quarter ended June 30, 2023 is 692.33 days*

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the quarter ended June 30, 2023. The output produces an estimated weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Criminal Division) of approximately 265 days or 8.8 months. The skewness of these times to disposition is a positive 0.11, suggesting that a large proportion of these times were clustered around the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the quarter, the parish courts of Hanover (76 days), Westmoreland (94 days) and St. Mary (155 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases in the quarter. The parish courts of St. Thomas (463 days), Trelawny (341 days) and St. Ann (328 days) demonstrate the highest

times to disposition for matters resolved during the quarter. The average variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts is, however, wide as shown by the moderately high standard deviation (110.71), suggesting inconsistencies in performances on this measure. An interesting finding is that the minimum time taken to dispose of matters across half of the 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 433 days (14 months/1.2 years) in the Hanover parish court to a high of 10,077 days (335.9 months/28 years) in the St. James Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a positive 2.73, which is an indication that proportionately more of the maximum times to disposition fell below the overall series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial 5,155 matters cases which were resolved during the second quarter of 2023.

**15.0c: Net and gross criminal case backlog as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Net case backlog rate (%)</b>	<b>Gross case backlog rate (%)</b>
Clarendon	0.44	11.10
Corporate area	2.84	19.31
Hanover	0.11	4.34
Manchester	1.82	15.80
Portland	1.47	8.54
St. Ann	2.46	22.67
St. Catherine	0.48	7.97
St. James	0.36	10.53
St. Mary	0.16	9.98
St. Thomas	2.36	8.96
Trelawny	1.00	10.27
Westmoreland	0.09	7.56
<b>Weighted Average</b>	<b>1.37</b>	<b>13.03</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>1.02</b>	<b>5.25</b>

*Note: The net backlog for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for the second quarter of 2023 is 7.09% and the gross backlog is 27.56%*

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

the criminal division of the parish courts is 1.37 (with a standard deviation of 1.02%) which is satisfies than the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at a commendable 13.03% (with a standard deviation of 5.25%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved criminal cases in the parish courts. This rate is only 3.03 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. Although the time series used for this computation is only 6 years' worth of cases, 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 0.09%, Hanover with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.11% and St. Mary with an estimated net case backlog rate of 0.16% have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts of Corporate Area Criminal (2.84%), St. Ann (2.46%) and St. Thomas (2.36%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of Hanover (4.34%), Westmoreland (7.56%) and St. Catherine (7.97%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of St. Ann (22.67%), Corporate Area Criminal Court (19.31%) and Manchester (15.80%) 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 16.0c: Distribution of methods of disposition for matters set for trial during the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

<b>Methods of Disposition</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Dismissed	333	32.78
Not Guilty	269	26.48
Guilty plea	165	16.24
Not Guilty Plea-Mediated settlement	145	14.27
Guilty	74	7.28
Committed to Circuit	19	1.87
not guilty	10	0.98
Transferred	1	0.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>1016</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 32.78% of the cases disposed, not guilty verdicts with 269 or 26.48% and disposals by way of guilty pleas with 165 or 16.24% account for the three leading methods of disposition in the sample for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023.

## Methods of Disposal and Conviction Rate

**Table 17.0: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Parish Court	Guilty Plea	Dismissed	Not Guilty Verdict	Transferred	Mediated Settlement	Guilty Verdict	Committed to Circuit Court	Total
St. Catherine	438	292	9	150	306	8	133	1336
Corporate Area Criminal	701	426	76	58	120	63	206	1650
Westmoreland	133	111	38	-	96	-	57	435
St. James	449	-	312	16	4	1	63	845
Manchester	-	137	109	3	80	165	104	598
Clarendon	239	26	43	7	117	3	89	524
Trelawny	83	130	16	-	27	4	50	310
Hanover	42	25	122	6	52	5	21	273
Portland	47	1	103	-	87	5	51	294
St. Mary	3	66	55	-	44	54	69	291
St. Thomas	79	10	74	25	99	3	30	320
St. Ann	64	5	55	74	39	6	6	249
<b>Total</b>	<b>2278</b>	<b>1229</b>	<b>1012</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>1071</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>879</b>	<b>7125</b>
<b>Percentage of total</b>	<b>31.97</b>	<b>17.25</b>	<b>14.20</b>	<b>4.76</b>	<b>15.03</b>	<b>4.45</b>	<b>12.34</b>	<b>-</b>

Total sample size: 7, 125

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts for the second quarter of 2023. From the sample, it is observed that the largest proportion of matters disposed of during the quarter were by way of a guilty plea with 31.97% of the sample, followed by matters dismissed with 17.25% and mediated settlements with 15.03%. Not guilty verdicts with 14.20%, matters committed to Circuit Court with 12.34%, matters transferred to another court with 4.76% and guilty verdicts with 4.45% account for the remaining disposals in the quarter. The combined 36.42% of the cases disposed of by way of guilty outcomes represent the estimated criminal conviction rate in the parish courts for the quarter. This represents a decrease of 0.45 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in 2022.

## Common Reasons for Adjournment

**Table 18.01: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Reasons for Adjournment	Count	Percentage (%)
File To Be Completed	1993	16.13
Disclosure	1287	10.42
Defendant Not Appearing (DNA) warrant issued	1279	10.35
Referred to mediation	535	4.33
Subpoena investigating officer	310	2.51
Re-issue application	256	2.07
Subpoena crown witness	252	2.04
Facilitate restitution	237	1.92
Adjournment request - crown	221	1.79
Medical report unavailable	220	1.78
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>6590</b>	<b>53.34</b>

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance =12,355)

*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 12,355 reasons for adjournments/continuance for matters heard in the across all parish courts. The largest proportion (16.13%) was for files to be completed. Adjournments for disclosure with 10.42% and adjournments due to the nonappearance of the accused, leading to the issuing of warrants with 10.35% account for the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts for the quarter. Adjournments due to referrals to mediation with 4.33% and subpoena investing officer with 2.51%, round of the top five reasons for adjournment in this period. All five (5) of the top five reasons for adjournment were also featured in the top five for the second quarter of 2022. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 53.34% of the total sample of adjournments.

**The case file integrity rate:**

One factor, which has a significant bearing on the progression of cases through the court system, is the case file integrity rate. A case file is considered to have met the standards of integrity if at the point of a court hearing requiring the use of said file; it is complete, accurate, available and correctly listed for court. Hence reasons for adjournment such as file incomplete, file not ready for court, matter wrongly listed and matter not before the court have an adverse impact on the case file integrity rate of the courts. In the second quarter of 2023, the case file integrity rate for criminal matters across the parish courts was 83.19%, as 16.81% 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 16.13% 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 18.2: Summary of mention court activity for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average number of mentions per case</b>	<b>Standard Deviation of Mentions Per Case</b>	<b>Skewness of mentions per case</b>	<b>Maximum Mention Court Frequency</b>	<b>Minimum Mention Court Frequency</b>
Clarendon	3.88	2.85	1.90	23	1
Corporate Area	7.20	8.57	2.69	66	1
Hanover	2.48	2.19	2.00	14	1
Manchester	3.47	3.00	2.62	25	1
Portland	5.02	4.32	1.92	25	1
St. Ann	3.69	3.32	1.89	19	1
St. Catherine	4.88	3.84	1.86	40	1
St. James	3.27	4.15	3.15	20	1
St. Mary	3.53	3.44	2.49	23	1
St. Thomas	4.72	4.70	3.47	40	1
Trelawny	3.16	2.22	1.37	14	1
Westmoreland	5.14	6.15	1.90	28	1
<b>Weighted Average</b>	<b>5.72</b>	-	-	<b>28.08</b>	<b>1.00</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>1.26</b>	-	-	<b>14.58</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.13</b>	-	-	<b>1.79</b>	<b>0.00</b>

The above table summarises the number of mention court appearances per case leading towards disposition in the criminal division of the parish courts for matters heard in the second quarter of 2023. The overall average number of mention court appearances per case is 5.72 (i.e. between 5 and 6) with a standard deviation of 1.26 across the courts sampled and a skewness of 1.13. Together, these results suggest that the average number of appearances per case is above 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 appearances and that there isn't on average a wide variation in the number of appearances per case across the courts. Among the parish courts with the highest number of appearances per cases for matters heard in the second quarter of 2023 are the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, the Westmoreland and

the Portland Parish Courts, while the Hanover, Trelawny and St. James Parish Courts were among those with the lowest case appearance incidence per case. In terms of cases disposed, the average mention court appearance for all cases resolved across all the parish courts combined in the second quarter of 2023 was 4 with a standard deviation of 0.88.

## 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 19.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Charge	Male		Female		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Assault occasioning bodily harm	740	72.91	275	27.09	1015	100
Unlawful wounding	505	75.83	161	24.17	666	100
Armed with an offensive weapon	456	95.60	21	4.40	477	100
Malicious destruction of property	326	74.09	114	25.91	440	100
Threat	343	78.85	92	21.15	435	100
Littering	309	93.35	22	6.65	331	100
Exposing goods for sale	187	76.64	57	23.36	244	100
Smoking in a public place	200	93.02	15	6.98	215	100
Disorderly conduct	147	69.01	66	30.99	213	100
Possession of ganja	160	78.82	43	21.18	203	100

**\*\*\*The gender of offenders was not available for every matter that was filed in the parish courts hence a sample is used. Sample size (N) = 4,239**

The above table provides a sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023. Based on the data shown in chart 5.0, it is not surprising that males account for the dominant proportion of all these charges. Among the charges listed with the greatest imbalance in the gender distribution are unlawful wounding, threat, possession of ganja, exposing goods for sale, littering and smoking in a public place for which over 75% of the persons charged were male. More particularly, it is seen that armed with an offensive weapon with 95.60% of the persons charged being male had the most significant incidence of persons charged being male for the quarter. Disorderly conduct, malicious destruction of property, and assault occasioning bodily harm 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 second quarter of 2023. 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 20.01: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Westmoreland for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q2 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q2 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q2 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	250	145	12	69.83	62.80
Night Court (main courthouse)	1	1	0	0.28	100.00
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	56	16	0	15.64	28.57
Whithorn Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	3	0	0	0.84	NA
Whithorn Outstation	48	36	3	13.41	81.25
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>59.50</b>

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

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of criminal cases filed in the second quarter of 2023 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 Lay Magistrates' court at the main courthouse account for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 250 (69.83%) and 56 (15.64%) cases respectively. Sittings at the

Whithorn outstation with 48 cases or 13.41% rank next. The number of cases heard in courtroom one (250 cases), increased by 13 cases or 5.49% above the 237 cases recorded in the similar second quarter of 2022. The case disposal rate decreased by 8.93 percentage points moving down to 62.80% compared to the 71.73% reported in the second quarter of 2022. In terms of cases disposed, sittings in courtroom number 1 with 145 cases accounted for the highest absolute share of cases disposed and had the third highest disposal rate of 62.80%. The outstation in Whithorn rank next with 36 disposed cases and recorded the second highest disposal rate of 81.25%, which is 7.25 percentage points above the 74% recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2022. The single outstation in Westmoreland accounted for 14.25% of the total sample of new cases heard, a decrease of 2.05 percentage points when compared to the 16.30% recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2022. The main courthouse accounted for the remaining 85.75%, an increase of 2.05 percentage points when compared to the 83.70% recorded in 2022.

**Table 22.02: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Corporate Area for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q2 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q2 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q2 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1196	356	331	86.73	57.44
Courtroom #6 (main courthouse)	40	0	1	2.90	2.50
Courtroom #7 (main courthouse)	52	3	1	3.77	7.69
Gordon Town Outstation	5	0	0	0.36	NA
Gun Court	18	0	0	1.31	NA
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	68	23	10	4.93	48.53
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>1379</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>52.57</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 second quarter ended June 30, 2023 at the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for the majority of new cases filed in the quarter with 1,196 cases or 86.73% of the total sample. Lay Magistrates’ sittings at the main courthouse with 68 cases or roughly 4.93% follows this and courtroom number 7 with 52 cases or 3.77%, rounding off the top three proportion of new cases filed in the quarter. Courtroom number two at the main courthouse accounts for the largest absolute share of cases disposed in the second quarter of 2023 with 356 cases and the highest disposal rate of 57.44%. When compared to the corresponding second quarter of 2022, courtroom number two also accounted for the largest absolute share of cases disposed with 267 cases and had a disposal rate of 51.61%. This represents an increase of 89 cases disposed or a 33.33% increase and 5.83 percentage points increase in the disposal rate. The main courthouse in Half-Way-Tree accounted for 99.64% of the total sample of new cases heard in the second quarter of 2023.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. In particular, of the 1196 cases heard in courtroom two, 21 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms. Nineteen (19) cases were disposed of at fast track court, one (1) case was disposed of at courtroom 7 and one (1) were disposed of in courtroom 8.

**Table 20.03: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. James for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in Q2 2023</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in Q2 2023</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in Q2 2023</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	442	275	24	90.39	67.65
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	3	3	0	0.61	100.00
Cambridge Outstation	44	28	1	9.00	65.91
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>67.69</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 second quarter ended June 30, 2023, 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 442 cases or 90.39% of the total sample, an increase of 68 cases or a 18.18% improvement above the 374 cases recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2022. This was followed by the Cambridge Outstation with 44 cases or 9% of the total sample. Courtroom number 3 had the highest disposal rate of 100%, despite the relatively low numbers, followed by courtroom number 2 with a disposal rate of 67.65%. The main courthouse in Montego Bay accounts for 91% of the new cases heard in the second quarter of 2023, 4.79 percentage points below the 95.79% recorded in corresponding second quarter of 2022. The remaining 9% was accounted for by the sole outstation (Cambridge).

**Table 20.04: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Catherine for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q2 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q2 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q2 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	492	248	49	56.10	60.37
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	57	15	4	6.50	33.33
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	2	0	0	0.23	NA
Courtroom #5 (main courthouse)	12	1	1	1.37	16.67
Children's Court Portmore Outstation	24	2	0	2.74	8.33
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	20	11	0	2.28	55.00
Linstead Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	10	5	1	1.14	60.00
Linstead Outstation (Courtroom #1)	135	56	6	15.39	45.93
Old Harbour Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	9	2	0	1.03	22.22
Old Harbour Outstation (Courtroom #1)	116	59	21	13.23	68.97
<b>Total/ Weighted Average</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>54.85</b>

*Note 1: There was 1 missing courtrooms/Outstation entries therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.*

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023 at the St. Catherine Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish and outlines the applicable disposal rates. The table separates Lay Magistrates' and night court matters for the relevant locations for ease of comparisons. The data shows decisively that cases entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse in Spanish Town and courtroom 1 at the outstation in Linstead account for the largest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 56.10% and 15.39% of the cases respectively. Courtroom 1 at the outstation in Old Harbour with 13.23% of new cases filed ranks next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases

disposed with 248 cases, which is an increase of 47.62% or 80 more cases than the 168 cases recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2022. Courtroom 1 also had the second highest disposal rate of 60.37%, which is an increase of 0.99 percentage points above the 59.38% recorded in the comparable second quarter of 2022. Courtroom 1 at outstation in Old Harbour had the highest disposal rate of 68.97% and Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Linstead Outstation with a disposal rate of 60% also featured among the top 3 disposal rates recorded in the quarter. The main courthouse in Spanish Town accounts for 66.48% of the total sample of new cases heard in the second quarter of 2023, an increase of 5.68 percentage points above the 60.80% recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2022. The outstations combined accounted for the remaining 33.52%.

Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed of in said rooms. In particular, of the 492 cases heard in courtroom number one at the main courthouse, 13 cases were disposed of in other courtrooms/outstation. Courtroom 2 disposed of 9 cases, while Courtrooms 3 and 4 at the main courthouse accounted for 3 and 1 cases respectively.

**20.05: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Thomas for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q2 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q2 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q2 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Children's Court (main courthouse)	8	1	0	4.65	12.50
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	78	31	3	45.35	43.59
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	38	14	2	22.09	42.11
Yallahs Outstation	48	21	0	27.91	43.75
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>41.86</b>

*Note 1: There were 4 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 second quarter ended June 30, 2023 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The data shows decisively that cases entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse and the Yallahs outstation account for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 45.35% and 27.91% respectively. Courtroom number 1 also accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 31 cases and the second highest disposal rate of 43.59%. When compared to the corresponding second quarter of 2022, this represents a decrease of 8.10 percentage points below the disposal rate of 51.69% recorded. The Yallahs Outstation with a disposal rate of 43.75% (compared to 39.66% in 2022) accounts for the highest disposal rate in the quarter. The main courthouse in Morant Bay accounted for 72.09% of the total new cases heard in the quarter, which is a decrease of 1.7 percentage points when compared to the 73.79% recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2022. The remaining 27.91% was accounted for by the Yallahs outstation, an increase of 1.7 percentage points when compared to the 26.21% recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2022.

**Table 20.06: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Trelawny for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in Q2 2023</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in Q2 2023</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in Q2 2023</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	4	3	0	2.08	75.00
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1	1	0	0.52	100.00
Clarks town Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	2	0	1	1.04	50.00
Falmouth Outstation	93	32	5	48.44	39.78
Falmouth Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	2	1	0	1.04	50.00
Ulster Spring Outstation	31	13	1	16.15	45.16
Ulster Spring Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	2	1	0	1.04	50.00
Clarks Town Outstation (courtroom #1)	57	29	4	29.69	57.89
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>47.40</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 second quarter ended June 30, 2023 at the Trelawny Parish Court. The data shows decisively that cases entered in the Falmouth outstation accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 48.44%. Courtroom 1 at the Clarks Town Outstation and the Ulster Spring Outstation with 29.69% and 16.15% respectively, followed. Courtroom 2 at the main courthouse recorded the largest disposal rate of 100%, despite relative low numbers. Courtroom 1 at the main courthouse and courtroom one at the Clarks Town outstation ranked next with disposal rates of 75% and 57.89% respectively. The outstations in the parish account for 97.40% of the new cases heard in the second quarter of 2023, while the remaining 2.60% were accounted for by the main courthouse. In the corresponding second quarter of 2022, the main courthouse accounted for 8.56% of the new cases heard, while the remaining 91.44% were accounted for by the outstations.

**Table 20.07: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Mary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q2 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q2 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q2 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Children's Court (main courthouse)	9	0	0	4.55	NA
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	99	33	3	50.00	36.36
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1	1	0	0.51	100.00
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	2	2	0	1.01	100.00
Lay Magistrates' (main courthouse)	11	1	0	5.56	9.09
Annotto Bay Outstation	47	18	1	23.74	40.43
Annotto Bay Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	3	0	0	1.52	NA
Gayle Outstation	11	4	0	5.56	36.36
Gayle Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	1	0	0	0.51	NA
Richmond Outstation	13	5	0	6.57	38.46
Richmond Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	1	0	1	0.51	100.00
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>34.85</b>

*Note 1: There were 10 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.*

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Mary in the second quarter of 2023. The data shows decisively that courtrooms number 1 at the main courthouse and the Annotto Bay Outstation account for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 50% and 23.74% respectively of the total sample. Sittings at the Richmond outstation with 6.57% and Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse and the Gayle Outstation with 5.56% each rank next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Port Maria accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 33 cases, roughly the same number of cases recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2022 and had a case disposal rate of 36.36%. Courtrooms 3 and 2 at the main courthouse, as well as Lay Magistrates' sittings at Richmond Outstation, despite their relative low numbers, each has a disposal rate of 100%. The outstations in the parish

account for a combined 38.38% of the total sample of new cases heard in the second quarter of 2023, an increase of 2.82 percentage points above the 35.56% recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2022. On the other hand, the main courthouse accounts for 61.62%, which is a decrease of 2.82 percentage point below the 64.44% recorded in 2022.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 99 cases heard in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse, 2 cases were disposed of in courtroom 2 at the main courthouse and 1 case was disposed of at the Annotto Bay Outstation. Of the 47 cases heard in the Annotto Bay Outstation, 1 case was disposed of in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse.

**Table 20.08: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Portland for second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q2 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q2 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q2 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	116	61	4	63.04	56.03
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	7	2	0	3.80	28.57
Buff Bay Outstation (courtroom #1)	31	11	2	16.85	41.94
Buff Bay Outstation (Children's Court)	19	0	0	10.33	NA
Manchioneal Outstation	11	2	3	5.98	45.45
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>46.20</b>

*Note 1: There were 58 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.*

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Portland in the second quarter of 2023. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 at the main court in Port Antonio accounts for the majority of new cases heard in the period, with 63.04% of the total sample. In the second

quarter of 2022, courtroom one also accounted for the majority of new cases heard with 60.42% of the cases. Courtroom number 1 at the outstation in Buff Bay and Children's Court at the outstation in Buff Bay with 16.85% (compared to 19.27% in 2022) and 10.33% (compared to 2.08% in 2022) respectively of the total sample of the new cases heard in the period ranked next. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 in Port Antonio accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 61 cases, a 35.56% increase or 16 more cases compared to the 45 cases recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2022; and had the highest disposal rate of 56.03%. The Manchioneal outstation and courtroom number one at the Buff Bay Outstation with disposal rates of 45.45% and 41.94 respectively ranked next on this measure. The outstations in Portland account for a combined 33.16% of the new cases heard, which is a decrease of 4.33 percentage points below the 37.49% recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2022. The main courthouse in Port Antonio accounts for the remaining 66.84%, which is an increase of 4.33 percentage above the 62.51% recorded in the second quarter of 2022. Not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 116 cases heard in courtroom number one at the main courthouse, 3 cases were disposed of in courtroom 3 at the main courthouse.

**Table 20.09: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Hanover for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed in Q2 2023</b>	<b>Number of new cases disposed of in Q2 2023</b>	<b>Number of inactive cases in Q2 2023</b>	<b>Proportion of new cases (%)</b>	<b>Case disposal rate (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	68	50	2	40.48	76.47
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	13	4	1	7.74	38.46
Green Island Outstation (courtroom #1)	33	26	2	19.64	84.85
Green Island Outstation (courtroom #2)	1	1	0	0.60	100.00
Green Island Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	6	2	0	3.57	33.33
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	8	5	0	4.76	62.50
Ramble Outstation (courtroom #1)	10	6	0	5.95	60.00
Sandy Bay Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	3	2	0	1.79	66.67
Sandy Bay Outstation (courtroom #1)	26	24	0	15.48	92.31
<b>Total/ Weighted Average</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>74.40</b>

*Note 1: There were 4 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.*

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Hanover in the second quarter of 2023. The data shows decisively that courtroom number one at the main court in Lucea accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 40.48% of the total sample and is 8.90 percentage points above the 31.58% recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2022. Courtroom one at Green Island outstation and courtroom one at the outstation in Sandy Bay 19.64% and 15.48% respectively rank next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 50 cases, a 51.52% improvement or 17 more cases than the 33 cases recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2022. Courtroom 1 at the main courthouse also recorded the fourth highest case

disposal rate of 76.47%, which is an increase of 18.14 percentage points above the 58.33% reported in the comparative second quarter of 2022. Despite the relatively low absolute courtroom 1 at the outstation in Green Island recorded the highest disposal rate of 100%. The outstations in the parish account for 47.03% of the new cases heard during the quarter, which is a decrease of 6.14 percentage points below the 53.17% in the second quarter of 2022. The main courthouse accounts for the remaining 52.97%, which is an increase of 6.14 percentage points above the 46.83% when compared to 2022.

**Table 20.10: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Ann for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q2 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q2 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q2 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
<b>St. Ann's Bay and the Claremont outstation</b>					
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	25	7	1	9.65	32.00
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	104	36	24	40.15	57.69
Claremont Outstation (Children's Court)	6	0	0	2.32	NA
Claremont Outstation	19	10	0	7.34	52.63
Claremont Outstation (Lay Magistrates' court)	1	0	1	0.39	100.00
<b>Brown's Town</b>					
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	84	6	5	32.43	13.10
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	20	0	4	7.72	20.00
<b>Total/ Weighted Average</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>36.29</b>

*Note 1: There were 297 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.*

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Ann in the second quarter ended June 30,

2023. The data shows that courtroom 2 in St. Ann's Bay (the main court) and courtroom 1 at the Brown's Town Outstation account for the largest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 40.15% and 32.43% respectively of the total sample. Courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse with 9.65% is among the top three largest share of new cases heard. When compared to the second quarter of 2022, the data shows that courtroom 1 in St. Ann's Bay (main courthouse) and Brown's Town were also among the top three largest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 48.45% and 27.02% 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 36 cases and had a disposal rate of 57.69%. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Claremont outstation and the Claremont outstation with disposal rates of 100% and 52.63% respectively were among the highest disposal rates for the quarter. As a whole, the Brown's Town court accounted for approximately 40.15% of the new cases filed in the parish of St. Ann in the second quarter of 2023, which is 8.16 percentage points above the 31.99% recorded in the corresponding second quarter of 2022. The St. Ann's Bay courthouse accounts for 49.80% of the new cases heard in the quarter and the Claremont outstation accounted for the remaining 10.05% of new cases.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 104 cases heard in courtroom number two at the main courthouse, 8 cases were disposed of in courtroom one at the main courthouse.

**Table 20.11: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Clarendon for second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q2 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q2 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q2 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	136	76	9	42.90	62.50
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	51	14	1	16.09	29.41
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	18	7	1	5.68	44.44
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	17	5	1	5.36	35.29
Lionel Town Outstation	34	15	4	10.73	55.88
Chapleton Outstation	37	17	1	11.67	48.65
Frankfield Outstation	24	10	2	7.57	50.00
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>51.42</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 new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Clarendon in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023. The available data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 in May Pen accounted for highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 42.90% of the total sample. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse and the Chapleton outstation account for the next highest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 16.09% and 11.67% respectively of the total sample. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 76 cases, a decrease of 8.43% or 7 cases less than the 83 disposed cases recorded for this courtroom in the second quarter of 2022 and had the highest disposal rate of 62.50%. The Lionel Town Outstation with a disposal rate of 55.88% ranked next, followed by the Frankfield Outstation with a disposal rate of 50%. The main courthouse in May Pen accounted for 70.03% of cases heard in quarter, while the remaining

29.97% was accounted for by the outstations, which is a decrease of 2.16 percentage points less than the 32.13% recorded in 2022.

As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. There were 34 cases heard at the Lionel Town outstation, of this amount 2 were disposed of in other courtrooms or outstation. Courtroom 1 at the main courthouse courtroom 2 at the main courthouse disposed of 1 case each.

**Table 20.12: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Manchester for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q2 2023	Number of new cases disposed of in Q2 2023	Number of inactive cases in Q2 2023	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	105	51	3	32.01	51.43
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	33	19	0	10.06	57.58
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	12	3	0	3.66	25.00
Cottage Outstation	6	0	0	1.83	NA
Christiana Outstation	20	4	1	6.10	25.00
Christiana Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	26	3	0	7.93	11.54
Spalding Outstation	20	8	2	6.10	50.00
Spalding Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	3	1	0	0.91	33.33
Porus Outstation	8	2	0	2.44	25.00
Porus Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	1	0	0	0.30	NA
Cross Keys Outstation	1	0	0	0.30	NA
Cross Keys Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	8	2	0	2.44	25.00
Tax Court	11	0	0	3.35	NA
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	74	41	4	22.56	60.81
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>43.90</b>

*Note 1: There were 37 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.*

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

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Manchester in the second quarter ended

June 30, 2023. The data shows courtroom 1 at the main courthouse accounted for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 105 cases or 32.01% of the total sample. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse and courtroom 1 at the main courthouse account for the next highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 22.56% and 10.06% respectively of the total sample. In terms of case disposal rate, Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse recorded the highest disposal rate of 60.81%, followed by courtroom 2 at the main courthouse with 57.58% and courtroom 1 at the main courthouse with 51.43%. The main courthouse in Mandeville accounts for 68.29% of the total sample of new cases heard during the second quarter of 2023, which is a decrease of 1.50 percentage point when compared to the 69.79% recorded in the second quarter of 2022. The remaining 31.71% was accounted for by the various outstations.

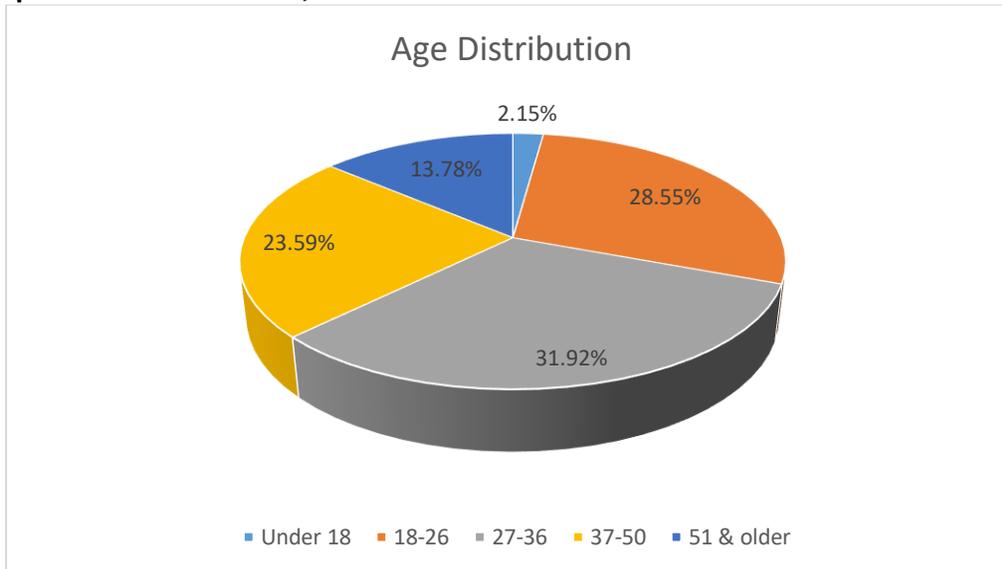
As mentioned, not all new cases that were heard in the listed courtrooms/outstations were disposed in said rooms. In particular, of the 105 cases heard in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse, 1 case was disposed of in courtroom 3 at the main courthouse.

**Table 20.13: proportion of cases heard at the main court and outstation across all parish courts for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

Parish	Main Court Q2 2023 (%)	Outstation Q2 2023 (%)
St. James	91.00	9.00
St. Catherine	66.48	33.52
Westmoreland	85.75	14.25
Hanover	52.97	47.03
St. Mary	61.62	38.38
Trelawny	2.60	97.40
St. Thomas	72.09	27.91
Manchester	68.29	31.71
Portland	66.84	33.16
St. Ann	49.80	50.20
Clarendon	70.03	29.97
Corporate Area	99.64	0.36
<b>Simple Averages</b>	<b>65.59</b>	<b>34.41</b>

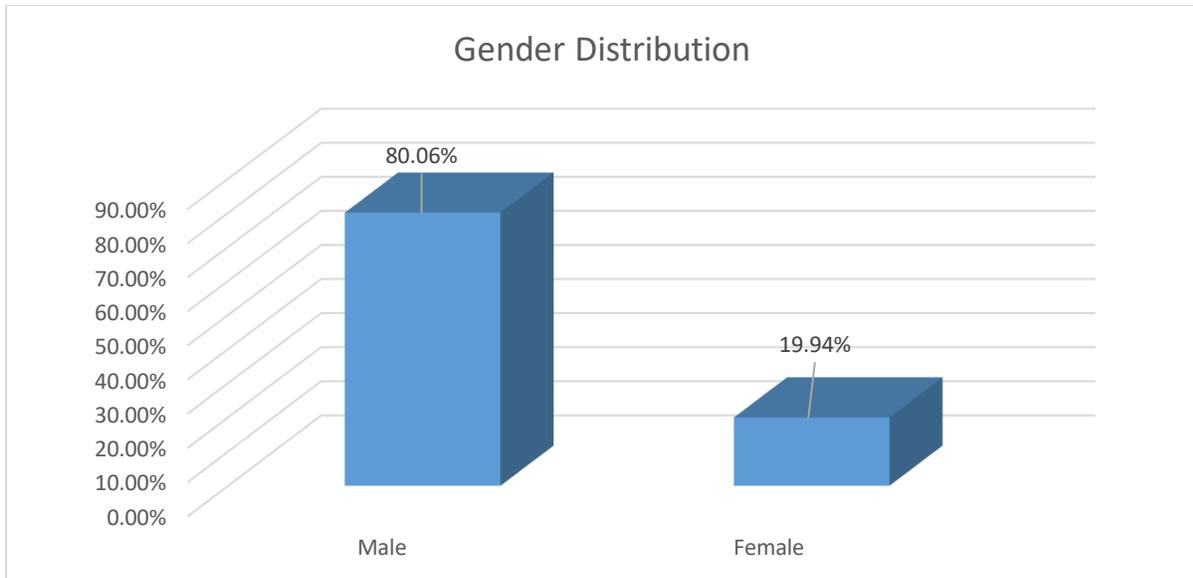
The above table provides a proxy summary of the distribution of the utilization of the main courthouse locations and combined outstation usage in the hearing of new criminal cases filed. It is seen that 65.59% of new cases filed were entered for initial hearing in the main courthouse locations, while 34.41% 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 and Westmoreland, in excess of 80% of the new cases filed were entered for initial hearing, with the usage being particularly acute in the Corporate Area Court Criminal Division, which had 99.64% of cases entered for initial hearing at the main courthouse. On the contrary, there are parishes where the level of outstation usage competes with or outruns the usage of the main courthouse in the hearing of criminal cases filed. Trelawny is a good example of courts with significant outstation usage, registering over 90% for initial hearing of new criminal cases filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023. 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 4.0: Aggregate age distribution of persons charged for all parish courts for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**



The above chart summarizes the age distribution of persons charged and brought before the criminal division of the parish courts in the second quarter of 2023. It is shown that the 27-36 age group with 31.92% accounted for the largest share of the persons charged, followed by the 18-26 age group with 28.55%. The lowest shares were attributed to the under 18 age group with 2.15% and 51 and over age group with 13.78%. The remaining proportion was accounted for by the 37-50 age group with 23.59% of the total sample.

**Chart 5.0: Aggregate gender distribution of persons charged for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**



The above chart shows that the overwhelming majority of persons charged for the second quarter of 2023 were male, accounting for roughly 80.06% of the total sample, while females accounted for approximately 19.94%. The gender distribution of persons charged during the second quarter of 2023 was broadly similar to the breakdown for the second quarter of 2022 which had a male to female ratio of approximately 80.47% to 19.53%.

**Chart 6.01: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Manchester Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

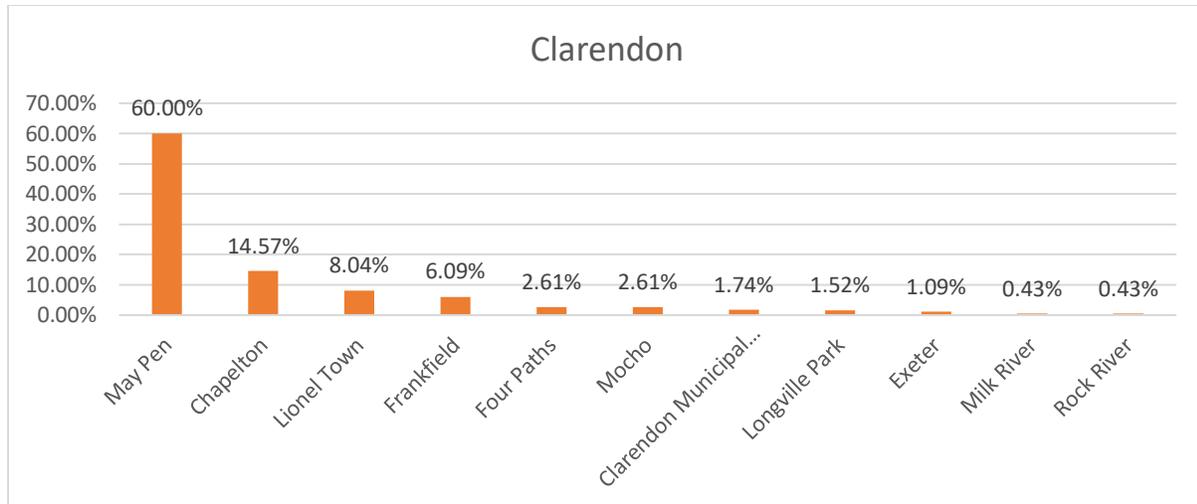
THE CHIEF JUSTICE’S ANNUAL STATISTICS REPORT ON CRIMINAL MATTERS IN THE PARISH COURTS-2022



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 556 records indicate that for the second quarter of 2023 the highest proportion of charges, 48.38%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Mandeville Police Station. This was followed by the Municipal Corporation, which accounts for 15.11% of the total sample of matters reported. The Christiania police station rounded off the top three with 6.12%. In the corresponding second quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the Mandeville Police Station, the Christiania Police Station, and the Parish council.

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

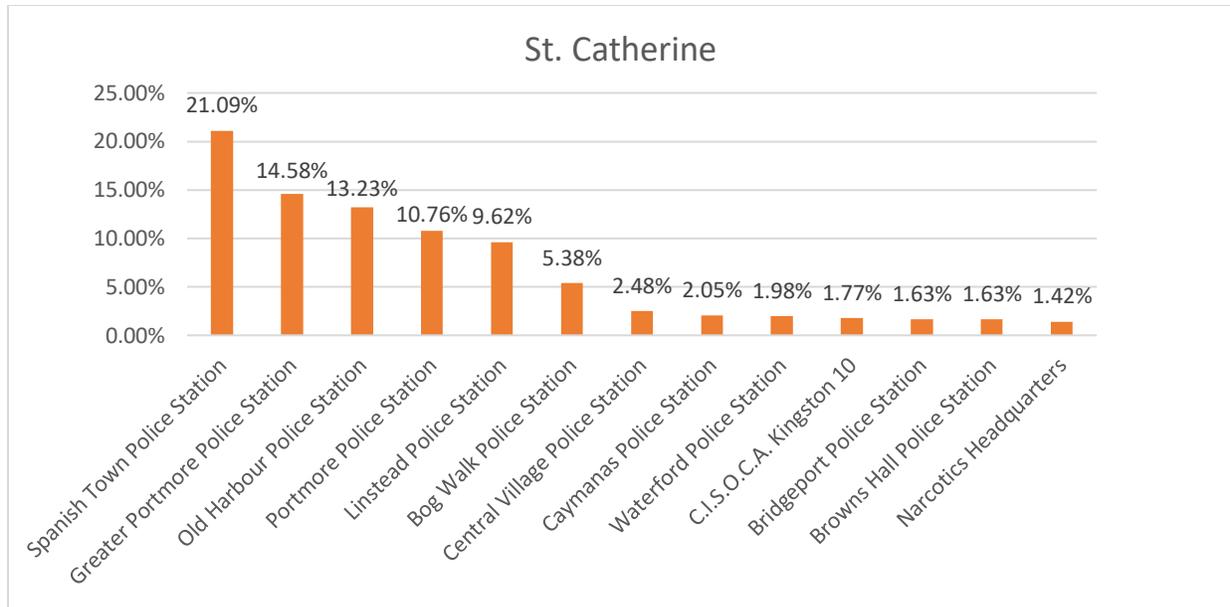
**Chart 6.02: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Clarendon Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**



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 460 records indicate that for the second quarter of 2023, the majority of criminal matters, 60%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the May Pen Police Station. This was followed by the Chapelton Police Station which accounts for 14.57% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Lionel Town Police Station with 8.04%. In the previous second quarter of 2022, 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 6.03: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Catherine Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

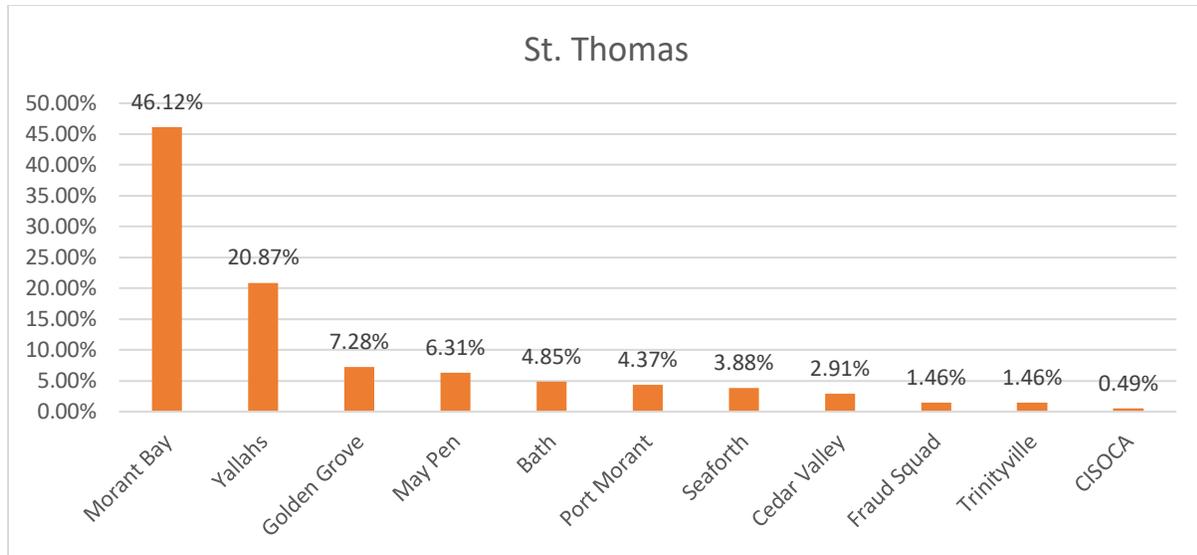


The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 1,413 records indicate that for the second quarter of 2023, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 21.09%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Spanish Town Police Station. This was followed by the Greater Portmore Police Station which accounts for 14.58% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Old Harbour Police Station with 13.23%. In the previous second quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the Spanish Town Police Station, the Linstead and the Old Harbour Police Station.

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

**Chart 6.04: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Thomas Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

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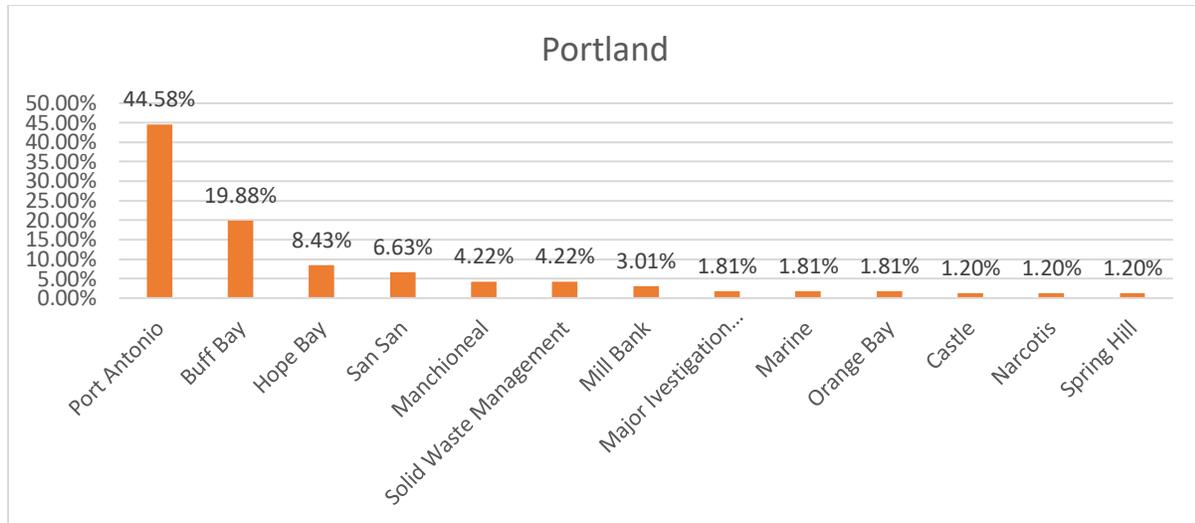


The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 206 records indicate that for the second quarter of 2023, the highest proportion of criminal matters, 46.12%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Morant Bay Police Station. This was followed by the Yallahs Police Station which accounts for 20.87% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Golden Grove Police Station with 7.28%. In the previous second quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the Morant Bay Police Station, the Yallahs Police Station and the Seaforth Police Station.

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

**Chart 6.05: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Portland Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

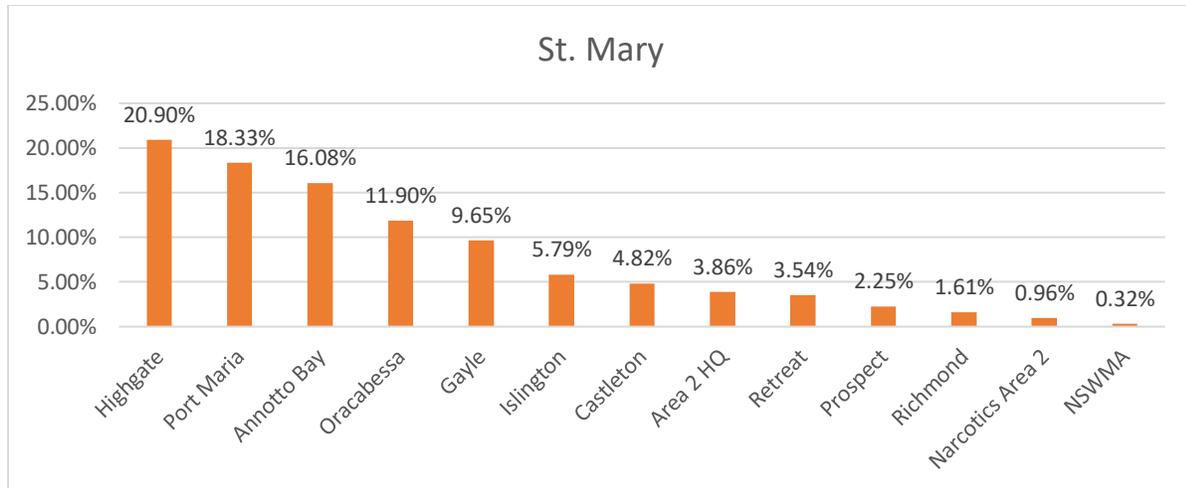
THE CHIEF JUSTICE’S ANNUAL STATISTICS REPORT ON CRIMINAL MATTERS IN THE PARISH COURTS-2022



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 166 records indicate that for the second quarter of 2023, the highest proportion of criminal matters, 44.58%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Port Antonio Police Station. This was followed by the Buff Bay Police Station, which accounts for 19.88% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Hope Bay Police Station with 8.43%. In the previous second quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the Port Antonio Police Station, the Buff Bay Police Station and the Castle Police Station.

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

**Chart 6.06: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Mary Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

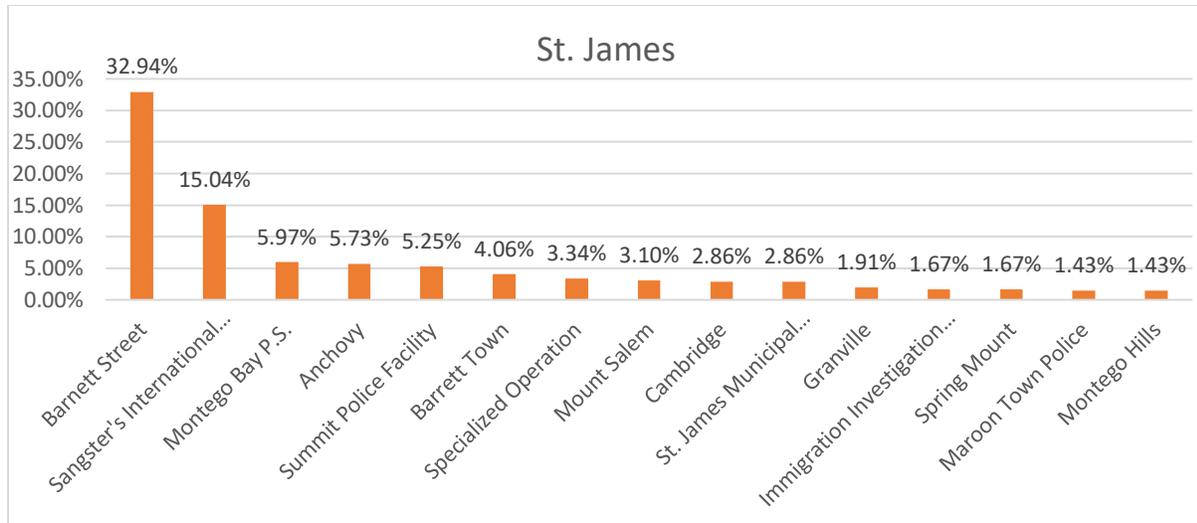


The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 311 records indicate that for the second quarter of 2023, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 20.90%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Highgate Police Station. This was followed by the Port Maria Police Station which accounts for 18.33% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Annotto Bay Police Station with 16.08%. In the previous second quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the Port Maria Police Station, the Oracabessa Police Station and the Highgate Police Station.

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

**Chart 6.07: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. James Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

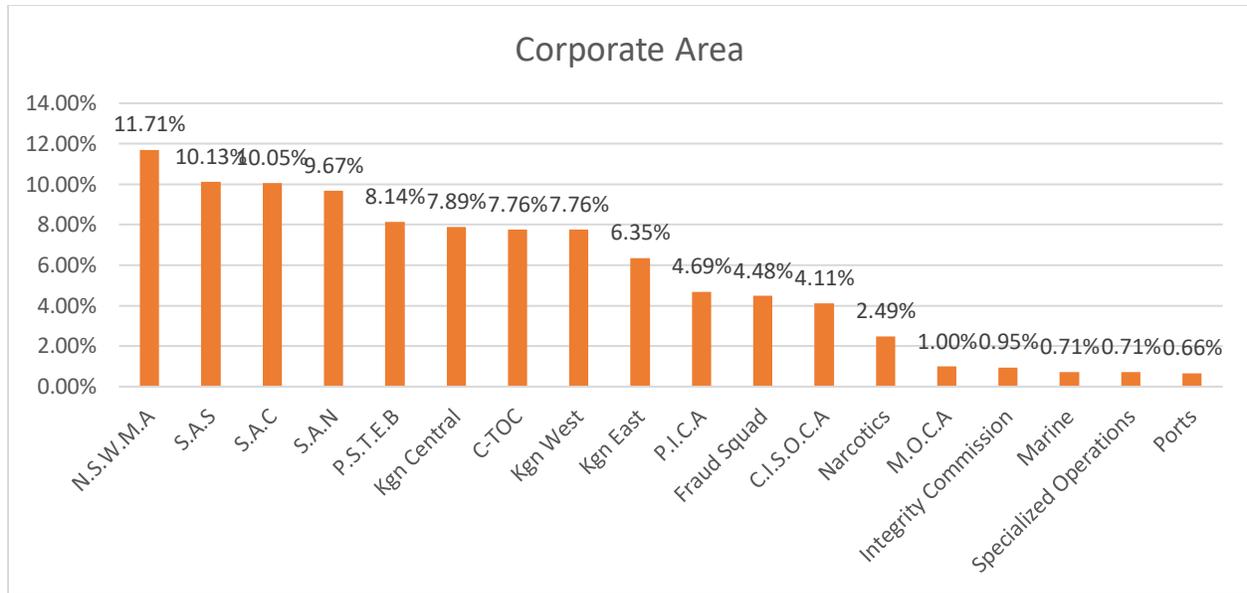
THE CHIEF JUSTICE’S ANNUAL STATISTICS REPORT ON CRIMINAL MATTERS IN THE PARISH COURTS-2022



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 419 records indicate that for the second quarter of 2023, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 32.94%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Barnett Street Police Station. This was followed by the Sangster’s International Airport Police Station, which accounts for 15.04% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Montego Bay Police Station with 5.97%. In the previous second quarter of 2022, 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 6.08: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Corporate Area Criminal Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

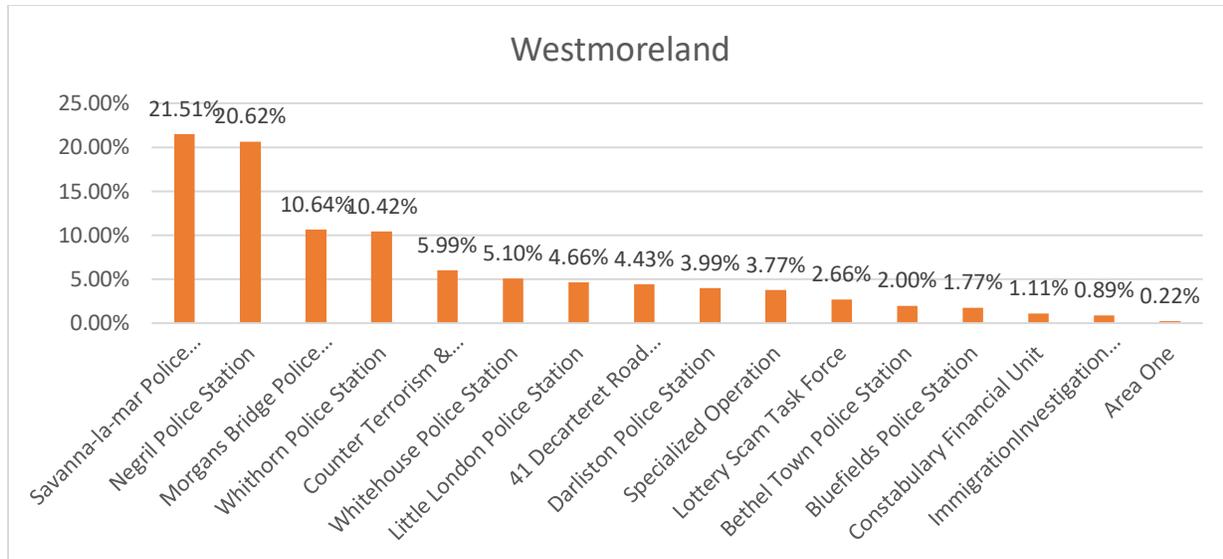


The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 2,409 records indicate that for the second quarter of 2023, the highest proportion of criminal matters, 11.71%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the N.S.W.M.A Police. This was followed by the St. Andrew South Police Station which accounts for 10.13% of the sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the St. Andrew Central Police Station with 10.05%. In the previous second quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the St. Andrew North Police Station, the P.S.T.E.B Police and the St. Andrew Central Police Station.

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

**Chart 6.09: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

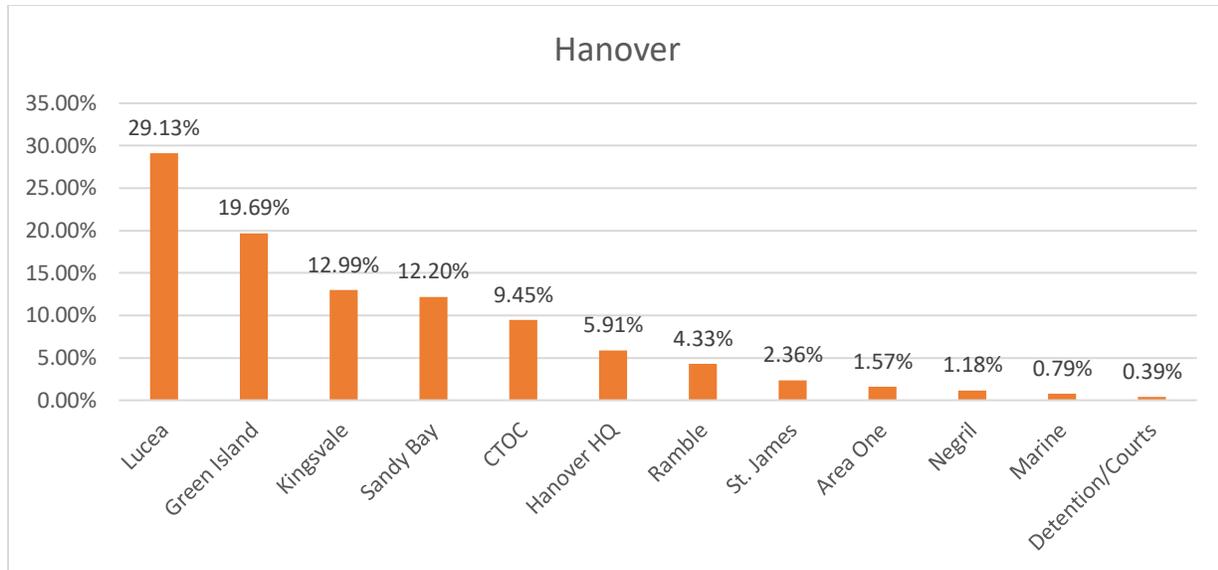
THE CHIEF JUSTICE’S ANNUAL STATISTICS REPORT ON CRIMINAL MATTERS IN THE PARISH COURTS-2022



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 451 records indicate that for the second quarter of 2023, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 21.51%, 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 20.62% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Morgans Bridge Police Station with 10.64%. In the previous second quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the Savanna-la-mar Police Station, the Negril Police Station and Bluefields Police Station.

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

**Chart 6.10: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Hanover Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

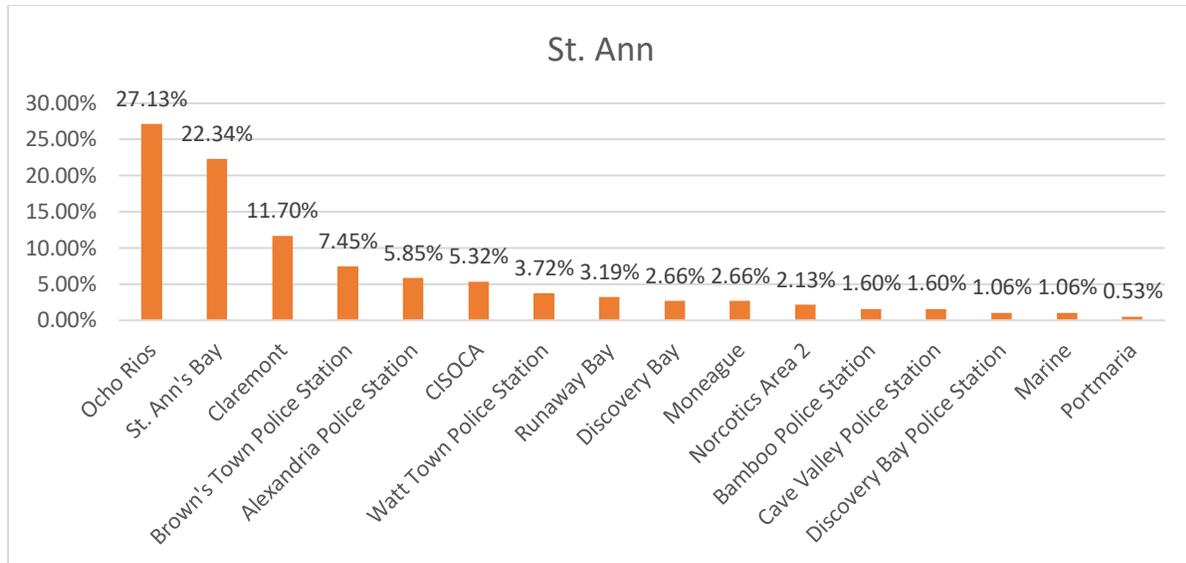


The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 254 records indicate that for the second quarter of 2023, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 29.13%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Lucea Police Station. This was followed by the Green Island Police Station, which accounts for 19.69% of the sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Kingsvale Police Station with 12.99%. In the previous second quarter of 2022, 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 6.11: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Ann Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

THE CHIEF JUSTICE’S ANNUAL STATISTICS REPORT ON CRIMINAL MATTERS IN THE PARISH COURTS-2022

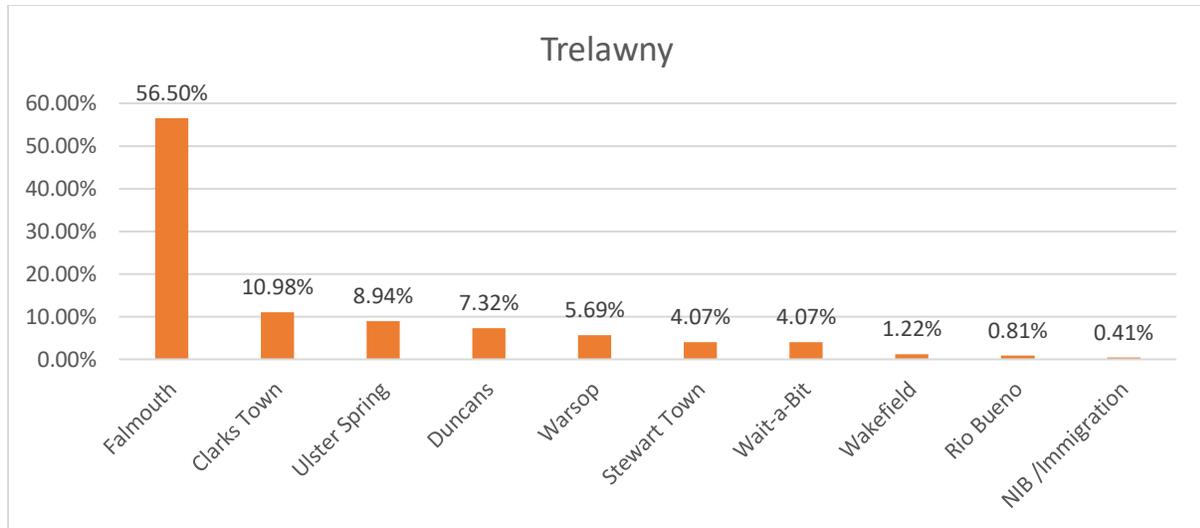


The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 188 records indicate that for the second quarter of 2023, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 27.13%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Ocho Rios Police Station. This was followed by the St. Ann’s Police Station which accounts for 22.34% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Claremont Police Station with 11.70%. In the previous second quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the Ocho Rios Police Station, the St. Ann’s Bay Police Station and the Moneague Police Station.

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

**Chart 6.12: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Trelawny Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023**

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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 246 records indicate that for the second quarter of 2023, the majority of charges, 56.50%, 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 10.98% of total sample of matters reported. The Ulster Spring Police station rounded off the top three with 8.94%. In the previous second quarter of 2022, the top three comprised of the Falmouth Police Station, Ulster Spring Police Station and the Rio Beuno Police Station.

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

### **Statistical Inferences and Conclusion**

The second quarter of 2023 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 under 2% has been sustainably achieved. The criminal division of the parish courts have therefore reached a point of optimality in performance based on its key performance parameters and based on comparative data around the region, now ranks as one of the most productive judiciaries in the Caribbean and Latin American Region. This accomplishment is particularly significant in a country that is heavily impacted by crime as there is now a growing body of empirical evidence which suggests that strong and consistent, published court performance may be an important deterrent for crime among rational actors.

Among the key highlights from the second quarter statistical report for 2023 is that the criminal division of the parish courts as a whole recorded an overall case clearance rate of 107.18%, with all courts satisfying the international standard and nine exceeding the 100% mark. The overall net case backlog rate in the courts is firmly below 2% at 1.37% with the Hanover, Westmoreland and St. Mary Parish Courts having near zero net backlog rates. The overall gross case backlog rate which takes into account inactive cases has however climbed to 13.03%, reflecting an increase in the inactive caseload in the criminal division of the parish courts. The overall time taken to dispose of cases in the criminal division of the parish courts in the second quarter of 2023 is roughly 8.8 months, with the average time taken to dispose of cases in the Hanover and Westmoreland Parish Courts in the quarter standing at 3 months or less. As a whole, roughly 78% of the cases disposed during the second quarter of 2023 took

a year or less to be resolved. The overall trial date certainty rate recorded was 80% which is still below the targeted minimum of 95% but has improved cumulatively by over 15 percentage points over the past four years. Four parish courts exceeded the 90% mark during the quarter. 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 path of excellence. Among the main areas of concerns are the increasing gross backlog rate which suggests that there is a growth in the inactive cases as a percentage of the total caseload. Additionally, the rate of case adjournments remains moderately high, which is one of the reasons that the overall trial date certainty rates have failed to meet the desired target. Among the reasons for these adjournments are files to be completed, adjournments due to the non-appearance of the accused and adjournments for mediation.

Inferential analysis the size of a court as measured by its caseload did not make a statistically significant difference to performance as measured by the case clearance rate during the second quarter of 2023. 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.

With over seven years of extensive data on criminal case activity in the parish courts of Jamaica, the Statistics Unit applied Lagrange multiplier techniques to determine that a highly successful court must meet the following minimum requirements in order to satisfy the efficiency threshold for the sustainable containment of the case backlog and to provide optimal service to the public.

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE’S ANNUAL STATISTICS REPORT ON CRIMINAL MATTERS IN  
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The required minimum annual parameters are summarized below:

Parameter	Minimum Required Standard
Case disposal rate	>=70%
Case clearance rate	>=100%
Case congestion rate	<=115%
Trial Date Certainty Rate	>=85%
Net case backlog rate	<=5%
Gross case backlog rate	<=10%
Average number of mentions per case	<=3

The Statistics Unit has determined that if any court or jurisdiction can consistently achieve these rates, it will attain a high level of efficiency and service excellence. These have been illustrated in the criminal divisions of several parish courts over the past 7.5 years in the Jamaican court system, including the parish courts of Westmoreland, Hanover and St. Mary. These courts have the enviable status of less than 0.20% of active cases, meaning that there is a close to zero probability that a case filed at this court will remain active for more than two years, an outstanding accomplishment which is worthy of acclaim. The Parish Courts of Jamaica are poised to be among the best performing in the world within the coming years.

### Glossary of Statistical Terms

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Percentile ranks are useful when you want to quickly understand how a particular score compares to the other scores in a distribution of scores. For instance, knowing a court disposed 300 cases in a given period doesn't tell you much. You don't know how many case disposals were possible, and even if you did, you wouldn't know how that court's score compared to the rest of the courts. If, however, you were told that the court scored at the 80th percentile, then you would know that this court did as well or better than 80% of the courts in case disposals.

**Difference between percentage and 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 or data that shows trends and seasonality.

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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/BestPracticeCaseAgeClearanceRate>

